

15th May 2018

To the Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council

**Chairperson's Report for the Travel & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee Meeting
of 9th April 2018**

Item 1: Adoption of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Butler, seconded by Cllr. Sheahan (M), the minutes of the previous committee meeting held on the 12th February 2018 were unanimously adopted.

Item 2: To Consider the Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Lynch

"I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council (a) support the establishment of an Annual National "Make Way Day;" (b) call on the Government to support the establishment and funding of an Annual National "Make Way Day" with a local campaign in each region; and (c) promote a local "Make Way Limerick" campaign as part of the wider "Make Way Day."

Cllr. Lynch was unable to attend and sent his apologies to the meeting.

Ms. Geraldine Dollard, Access Officer, Limerick City & County Council gave a briefing to the Members on a recent update in relation to the "Make Way Day".

Ms. Dollard advised the Members that Limerick City & County Council has appointed two access officers to oversee the Council's responsibilities under the Disability Act 2005.

She explained that the role of the access officers is to help customers with disabilities to access the Council's buildings, services and information.

Ms. Dollard further advised the Members that the Council is working closely with the Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI) to identify ways that it can support and promote the “Make Way Day”.

She advised that a suitable date for the “Make Way Day” is yet to be identified.

Ms. Dollard further explained that the Disability Federation of Ireland are drawing up proposals at present. She confirmed that the Council is committed to this initiative and will actively promote the “Make Way Day” concept.

Item 3 and Item 4

Cllr. Galvin had offered apologies in relation to being unable to attend at the meeting and therefore the Chairperson agreed to defer Item 3 and Item 4 to a future meeting.

Item 5: Presentation on Age Friendly Limerick and Rural Transport

Ms. Carmel Lynch, Senior Executive Engineer delivered a presentation to the Members in relation to Age Friendly Limerick and Rural Transport.

Ms. Lynch explained that Age Friendly Limerick has a five year strategy aimed at improving key areas of infrastructure, services, information and overall social response to older person’s issues in Limerick.

She explained that the five year strategy contains a number of Age Friendly Themes, outlining that the focus of this presentation was the transportation theme.

Ms. Lynch outlined the partners involved in the transport element of the strategy and discussed the issues identified by older people in relation to transport services. She also outlined and explained the actions required to address these issues under the strategy.

Ms. Lynch also outlined the services provided by the rural bus transport service Local Link. She advised the Members that Local Link has established and operates a number of transport routes in rural areas across the county.

She explained that Local Link is actively working with the National Transport Authority on the expansion of its bus services and its transport routes. She further explained that Local Link and Bus Eireann are exploring the potential of aligning services.

Ms. Lynch outlined that the next steps for 2018 include;

- The establishment of a transport working group to examine potential for making better use of school, HSE and other bus services to benefit the elderly in the City and County.
- The identification of an area with limited or no transport service for the elderly and pilot potential for integrated transport services.
- Investigation of an option of extending existing community bus services to serve adjacent area with no service.
- Continued liaison with the Older People's Council (OPC) to identify and prioritise where transport services are required.

Members pointed out that engagement and communication between all relevant stakeholders including the Council, the National Transport Authority and Bus Eireann is central to the success of the transport element of the strategy.

Members offered the opinion that Bus Eireann had altered some bus routes without full consideration of the effects that such alterations had in relation to the provision of a necessary service to some communities.

Members explained that a lack of transport services in rural areas including bus services is a significant issue, pointing out that the absence of such services can lead to increased incidences of isolation and loneliness for people living in rural areas.

Members expressed their support for the volunteer driver service, which provides transport for cancer patients to and from scheduled hospital appointments. They pointed out that this service is particularly helpful to patients in rural areas with limited access to other transport options. Members suggested that retired people and particularly retired members of the Gardaí could potentially play an important role in the delivery of this voluntary service.

Members outlined the need for the provision of additional bus shelters in parts of the county and requested that the Council engage with the National Transport Authority in this regard. They also suggested that the Council engage with private operators such as UBER to explore the possibility of availing of their services through the provision of initiatives such as additional community buses etc.

Ms. Lynch advised that the Council is actively engaging with the National Transport Authority in relation to the provision of additional bus shelters. She confirmed that a list of required bus shelters is being prepared for submission to the NTA.

Ms. Lynch also advised that the Council is engaging with Bus Eireann in relation to the recent alteration of bus routes.

The Meeting then concluded.

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Chairperson of the Travel & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee