



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Forbairt Gheilleagrach,
Ceanncheathrú Chorpáraideach,
Cé na gCeannaithe,
Luimneach

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

13th July 2018

**Chairpersons Report for the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning
Strategic Policy Committee Meeting of 11th June 2018**

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

Item 1 – Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr D Butler

'I call at the next meeting of Limerick City & County Council to develop a database of information on the reasons behind business closure in the city in order to inform the development of a more effective policy of supporting city centre business.'

The NoM was proposed by Cllr D Butler and seconded by Cllr S O Ceallaigh. The members supported the thrust of the motion and were concerned that the city centre was not performing as it could to support sustainable business, particularly retail. It was agreed that the motion would be amended to read as follows;

'That Limerick City & County Council conducts consultation and research on the reasons behind business closure in the city in order to inform the development of a more effective policy of supporting city centre business'

It was agreed that the revised motion should be referred back to the full Council for consideration and ratification.

Item 2. – Presentation on Regional Skills

Member received a presentation on Regional Skills by the Regional Skills Co-ordinator, Mr J Leddin. The presentation covered the following areas;

- National Context
- Skills Strategy
- Skills Eco-system
- Work of the Regional Skills Forum
- Why should Education and Industry collaborate
- PWC HR Survey 2017
- Implications on future skill needs

- Value Proposition
- Employer Role
- Responding to Skill Needs
- Strategic Initiatives
- Mid-West Apprenticeships App
- Employment Projections 2018

The members welcomed the presentation. Regional skills provide a structure for employers and the Further Education/Higher Education systems to work together. Unique selling points for the Mid-West have been identified as quality of life, lack of congestion, education institutions, and affordable housing. The focus has changed from catering for those seeking employment to those already in employment. As a response to skill needs, there is a number of further education opportunities available in Limerick.

New apprenticeship programmes are being launched following extensive participation to deliver new skills required to enable companies to remain innovative and competitive. This is a new model whereby the individual will be an employee of the company, therefore addressing the issue of employment security.

Currently up to 50% of advertised jobs are in the STEM area, Introduction to STEM needs to be incorporated into primary school level with a particular emphasis on female participation.

Item 3 – Presentation from the Shannon Region Conference and Sports Bureau

Member received a presentation from Ms Karen Brosnahan, SRCBSB.

The presentation covered the following issues;

- Public Private Partnership Model
- Service Level Agreement with Failte Ireland
- Limerick City Office
- Two full time employees
- Partnership approach to winning business and sports tourism

Members welcomed the presentation. It was stressed by members that Limerick needed a conference centre/multiuse venue of scale. Currently Limerick cannot bid for large scale events due to the lack of a large, year round venue. Members also raised the issue of elected member participation on the board of the Bureau. There was a consensus that Limerick needed another hotel to meet rising demand.

Item 4. – A.O.B. Notice of Motion from Cllr. K Sheahan.

With the permission of the Chairperson the following Notice of Motion was discussed.

‘That this committee would call on the Taoiseach and his government to legislate to ensure that employees who have a recognised degree would be legally entitled to be paid a liveable wage and that their employers would not obstruct these graduates from being in pensionable and unionised jobs, and that this recommendation be circulated for each Local Authority in the country, and to the LAMA and the ALLG.

There was general support for the proposal from the members and after some discussion it was agreed to refer it to the full Council for consideration.

Recommendation No 1

'That Limerick City & County Council conducts consultation and research on the reasons behind business closure in the city in order to inform the development of a more effective policy of supporting city centre business'.

Recommendation No 2

'That this committee would call on the Taoiseach and his government to legislate to ensure that employees who have a recognised degree would be legally entitled to be paid a liveable wage and that their employers would not obstruct these graduates from being in pensionable and unionised jobs, and that this recommendation be circulated for each Local Authority in the country, and to LAMA and the AILG.

Mise le meas

Councillor Vivienne Crowley

Chairperson

Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC