



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**

**Re: Mayoral Visit to Austin, Texas, United States of America**

14<sup>th</sup> September 2018

A Chomhairleoir, a Chara,

In recognition of the strong economic and cultural linkages between Austin, Texas and Limerick, the local authorities of Limerick City & County Council and the City of Austin, Texas have agreed to sign an Economic Memorandum of Understanding (draft attached). The MoU is intended to establish and maintain a long-term collaborative relationship in business, technology, manufacturing, professional services, education, the creative industries, culture as well as any other area of interest that will be of benefit to the respective communities.

The Councils have been working with the Irish Consulate in Austin, various business organisations, individual companies as well as the Irish/Limerick community in Austin to formulate a series of initiatives/programmes to give effect to the MoU.

A small delegation from Limerick led by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick is due to visit Austin in November 2018 (dates to be confirmed). The purpose of this visit is to formally sign the MoU and to launch the initiative in Austin. The Council itinerary will also include meetings with the Irish Consul General, the IDA, and Enterprise Ireland as well as meetings with business interests.

The estimated costs involved (flights and accommodation - 3 nights) will be in the region of €1,800.

In accordance with Section 142(5) of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended, the approval of the Council is hereby sought for the proposed visit to Austin.

Is mise/le meas

**Pat Fitzgerald**

A/ Director of Services,  
Economic Development



# Memorandum of Understanding Between City of Austin and Limerick City & County Council

In recognition of the economic and cultural linkages between Austin, Texas, United States of America and Limerick, Ireland, a formal relationship between the two Councils is to be established. The undersigned hereby agree to enter into an economic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the City of Austin and Limerick City & County Council (the Parties). The Memorandum is intended to establish and maintain a long term, collaborative relationship in business, technology, manufacturing, professional services, education, the creative industries, culture, as well as any other area of interest and benefit to both communities.

## Objectives

The formal bilateral trade and investment relationship envisioned by the MoU will result in the following outcomes for both parties:

1. Creation of employment opportunities
2. Expansion of foreign direct investment
3. Strengthen competitive advantage of business
4. Accelerated convergence of key technologies within targeted industry sectors
5. Increase trade on goods, services and knowledge
6. Engage small and medium size firms, within targeted sectors in global trade
7. Participation in a global network of leading technology and innovation centres
8. Contribution at all levels to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math initiatives
9. Growth in the cultural and creative industries
10. Enhance collaboration between 3<sup>rd</sup> Level Education Institutions
11. Strengthen the linkages between communities in Austin and Limerick

## Areas of Collaboration

The Parties to this MoU pledge, within their abilities to co-operate in the following initiatives;

1. Organization of bi-lateral city government to city/county government, trade, economic development exchange missions
2. Promotion of capital exchange and investment. Linkage of the financial and investment sectors in an effort to promote foreign direct investment in both communities
3. Development of joint educational programmes and exchange opportunities between Austin and Limerick universities and colleges.
4. Development of business focused cultural exchanges projects between the creative industry sectors
5. Establishment and promotion of joint resources which strengthen entrepreneurs, small and medium sized companies as they seek to export or import to/from their partner community, including;

- Facilitation of trade by establishing business to business meetings or connections, including video conferencing
  - Exchanges of knowledge and best practice in business incubation, acceleration and other supporting resources for high technology start-ups
  - Identification and promotion of business to business ventures between the two communities
  - Development and distribution of promotional, materials which describe resources available to businesses within targeted sectors of each community
  - Identification and availability of soft-landing, co-working and incubation space in both communities
6. Broker international relationships between individuals and organisations within the areas of;
- Innovative high technology
  - Advanced manufacturing / engineering
  - Creative industries
  - Telecommunications / ICT
  - Energy, Climate and Environment
  - Med Tech (at company and academic level)
  - Agri Food
  - Professional Services
  - Tourism & Hospitality
  - Other industry sectors as agreed including initiatives designed to have social as well as economic impact in communities.

### **Organisation**

Both parties agree that the Memorandum of Understanding is approved at a political level. A working Group will meet at an administrative level to agree the initiation of initiatives, discuss achievements, and plan for on-going and future initiatives. The parties may agree on further organizational measures as appropriate.

### **Implementation**

Representatives of Austin and Limerick will conduct all activities on a foundation of openness, mutual trust and equality.

The Parties will develop and update an Annual Work Plan.

The Work Plan will;

- Outline the efforts to achieve the initiatives within the specified areas of collaboration
- Provide applicable timelines and identify responsible parties for actionable items
- Identify performance metrics as well as report on completed collaborative projects

### **Renewal, Modification or Withdrawal**

This MoU will have a term of five years. At the end of the five-year term, this MoU may be extended by evaluation and written consent of both parties for a further specified period.

The MoU may be amended during its term by mutual agreement of the parties in writing, specifying the date of the amendment. Either party may withdraw their participation in the MoU by providing written notice to the other party setting out the reasons for such withdrawal. The termination of the MoU by one party will not affect the completion of activities, projects, or programmes of co-operation that may have become formalized by the other participating parties during the term of the MoU.

In witness thereof, this document is signed below by the duly authorized representatives of the City of Austin, Texas, United States of America and Limerick City & County Council, Limerick, Ireland.

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Steve Adler.  
Mayor,  
City of Austin, Texas, USA

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councillor James Collins.  
Mayor,  
Limerick City & County Limerick, Ireland

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director  
Economic Development Department  
City of Austin, Texas, USA

\_\_\_\_\_  
Conn Murray  
Chief Executive  
Limerick City & County Council, Ireland

