

18th October 2018

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

**Chairperson's Report for the Community, Leisure and Emergency Services
Strategic Policy Committee Meeting of the 15th October, 2018.**

A Chomhairleoir, A Chara,

Summary Report/Main Issues:

Two presentations, were made to the SPC members.

Item 1: Presentation on Tobacco-Free Policy

The members received a presentation from M. Foley Walsh, Healthy Limerick Co-ordinator on Limerick City and County Council Draft Tobacco Free Policy. The draft policy is about Limerick City and County Council supporting Healthy Ireland objectives locally. The focus of the draft policy is solely on places and spaces in Limerick where children and young people are likely to be and that are within the remit of Limerick City and County Council. The draft policy aims to help protect children and young people from second-hand smoke exposure, contribute to the denormalisation of smoking for children and young people, reduce the environmental nuisance, cost of cleaning and damage that discarded tobacco products create and signpost to HSE Quit services. The draft policy was prepared in partnership with the HSE and various departments within Limerick City and County Council and is based on best national and international practice. The presentation was followed by a Q & A session.

Item 2: Presentation on Swimmable Limerick

The members received a presentation from Elisa O'Donovan, Swimmable Limerick, a group set up in 2017, to promote open water/river swimming in Limerick. Ms. O'Donovan highlighted accessibility points on the river at Curraghower Boat Club, Clancy Strand and St. Michael's Rowing Club. She outlined that regular swims were organised particularly during festivals, which proved to be very popular.

The Groups focus going forward is to build linkages with Community Groups and also to advocate for the provision of a designated bathing/river swimming area in the City.

Item 3: Consider recommendation for Limerick City and County Council to prepare a Swimming Facilities Strategy for Limerick City and County

Director of Service, Mr. Gordon Daly advised the members that there is not currently a strategy in place with regard to swimming facilities in Limerick City and County. Mr. Daly submitted a report to the SPC giving the background on the need for a strategy of this nature. Mr. Daly asked the members to support the preparation of a strategy for the Provision of swimming facilities subject to funding being available.

Any Other Business

The members were advised, their proposal that a substantial increase in the Water Safety Budget be considered, was agreed by full Council.

Mo Foley Walsh and those involved in the Breast Feeding Friendly Initiative were congratulated on the launch event that took place on 26th September. Congratulations were also extended to all the communities involved in Going for Gold & those involved in the launch of the Migrant Integration Plan 2017-2021, held in Thomond Park on September 28th last.

The dates for the remaining meetings of the Community, Leisure & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee for 2018/2019 were agreed as follows:

17 th December, 2018	2.30 p.m.	Council Chamber, Dooradoyle
18 th February, 2019	2.30 p.m.	Council Chamber, Merchant's Quay
15 th April, 2019	2.30 p.m.	Council Chamber, Dooradoyle

Recommendations:

It is recommended by the SPC members that Limerick City and County Council commence the preparation of a strategy for the provision of swimming facilities, subject to funding being available.

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**Cllr. Marian Hurley
Chairperson
Community, Leisure and Emergency Services SPC.**