

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE AND PLANNING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MERCHANTS QUAY, LIMERICK ON MONDAY 8th October 2018 at 2 PM.

Present in the Chair: Councillor V. Crowley

Members Present:

Councillors: D. Butler, S. Browne, J. Collins, L. Galvin, E. Hogan, S. Keary, J. Leddin, S. O’Ceallaigh, E. Ryan, J. Sheahan, K. Sheahan.

Sectoral representatives Present: Mr J. Walsh

Council Members Present: Cllr M. Hurley, Cllr M. McCreesh

Officials Present:

P. Daly, DoS Economic Development; G Daly, DoS Social Development; P. Fitzgerald, Economic Development; M Woods, Forward Planning; K Burke, Forward Planning; K Reeves Forward Planning; S Duclot, Development Management; M Bilauca, Digital Strategy; E Humphries, Social Development; E O’Donovan, Innovate Limerick; O Borthwick, MWAPJ.

At the outset of the meeting the Chairperson stated that all Council members were invited to attend this meeting in order to hear the Update on the Urban and Rural Regeneration and Development Fund applications

Item 1.

Adoption of minutes from Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC Meeting of the 23rd July 2018.

The draft minutes were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. J Leddin, seconded by Cllr. L Galvin subject to the inclusion of the following sentence to Item 5; ‘It was noted that Cllrs O’Ceallaigh and Browne spoke against the notice of motion’.

Item 2.

Notice of Motion from Cllr A. Teskey referred from the full Council meeting on 23rd July 2018.

“I will move at the next meeting that Limerick City & County Council review its schedule of development levies so as to ensure that such charges apply exclusively to new build scenarios’.

The Chairperson explained that Cllr Teskey could not attend the meeting and he asked that the Notice of Motion be deferred to the next meeting of the SPC.

This was agreed by the members.

Item 3.

Notice of Motion from Cmhlr Ó Ceallaigh referred from the full Council meeting held on 24th September 2018.

'I will move at the next meeting that this Council invite the Minister for Tourism and Fáilte Ireland to the Council Chamber in order to give a briefing as to the reasons for the lack of tourism support and inclusion that Limerick has received in recent years.'

Concern was expressed that Limerick was not featuring in Failte Irelands brand products of the Wild Atlantic Way, Irelands Ancient East or Irelands Hidden Heartlands. Members felt that Limerick was being overlooked when it came to marketing of tourism projects nationally and internationally and thus losing out on visitors to the region. Members felt that Limerick City & County Council has invested heavily in tourism products in recent years and it should be supported by the national tourism bodies. Tourism products outside the metropolitan area also need to be high-lighted and promoted. It was stated that Limerick has no high profile state supported festival in its calendar of events.

Even though visitor numbers were increasing in Limerick but it was felt that with greater levels of support from Failte Ireland visitor tourist numbers could rise dramatically.

The Council was commended in its work on the Tourism Strategy and in the investment in various projects such as the Great Southern Greenway, Lough Gur, various festivals and events, etc.

Details of FI's Festival Innovation Programme were outlined to the meeting.

It was agreed that Failte Ireland would be invited to the next SPC Meeting to brief the members on their plans for the promotion and investment in Limerick.

Item 4.

Update on the Urban and Rural Regeneration and Development Fund Applications.

Members received presentation on the projects submitted under both funding calls. The submissions were made on 27th/28th September 2018 respectfully.

Twelve applications were submitted under the URDF to the value of €20.5m. Ten of the projects are being led by the Council while the remaining two focussed on the Limerick Docklands and the International Rugby Museum. Council projects included; the Opera Project, O'Connell Street Revitalisation, Great Streets, Living Georgian City, World Class Waterfront, Mungret Residential Initiative, Digital Collaboration and VR Centre, etc.

Seven projects were submitted for funding under the RRDF. Five are Council led (Regional Athletics Hub, Great Southern Greenway, Croom Distributor Road, West Limerick Tourism Gateway, and Glin Public Realm Project). The value of the Council led projects is €9.3m

Members were also briefed on other projects submitted by other state agencies and community led Organisations. Decisions on the applications are expected in November 2018.

Members expressed a huge gratitude to all associated with the preparation and submission of the applications. The applications showed that the Council and other

agencies are hugely ambitious for the Limerick. The City region requires investment on this scale if it is to act as a counterbalance to the east coast. Members supported all applications but were conscious of the absence of the Patrickswell and Kildimo initiatives. Officials address the issues surrounding both initiatives

Members will be kept updated on the applications as they progress through the selection process.

Item 5.

Update on EU Projects and Initiatives

It was agreed to defer this item to a future meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting

Signed: _____
Councillor Vivienne Crowley
Chairperson