



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**  
**Limerick City**  
& County Council

Stiúrthóireacht na Forbartha Tithíochta  
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh  
Ceanncheathrú Chorporáideach  
Cé na gCeannaithe  
Luimneach

Housing Development Directorate  
Limerick City and County Council  
Corporate Headquarters  
Merchant's Quay  
Limerick

5<sup>th</sup> March 2019

EIRCODE: V94 EH90

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

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Chairperson's Report for the **Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee Meeting of the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019.**

**A Chomhairleoir, a chara,**

**Summary Report/Main Issues:**

**Item 3: Presentation on Limerick City and County Council Climate Adaptation Plan**

Mr. Dara McGuigan advised the committee that the Physical Development Directorate, in conjunction with Economic Development Directorate, was preparing a draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in accordance with the requirements of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Act 2015 and the National Adaptation Framework.

The Strategy would attempt to address how the Council will adapt its plans, processes and policies to take account of the current and future effects of climate change-related extreme weather events, to minimise the harmful effects and exploit any beneficial opportunities of climate change.

The local authority sector is one of twelve sectors nationally which are charged with producing climate adaptation strategies in 2019. The deadline for adoption of the Strategies is 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019. He advised that the Strategy was being drafted at present, and that the Members would have an opportunity to comment on it during a public consultation period later in the process.

The members thanked Mr. McGuigan for the presentation, among the key issues raised were:

- Responding to severe weather events now having a significant impact on Council resources
- Flooding and river erosion is a significant issue and threat to homes. The need for adequate flood defenses was emphasized. In reply, Mr. McGuigan advised that four schemes had been approved for Castleconnell, Athea, Rathkeale and Limerick City.
- The need to improve the energy efficiency of Council stock, in particularly with regard to the materials used in construction and the source of heating. In reply, Mr. Seamus Hanrahan advised that newly constructed units achieve a high energy rating (BER A and B). The utilization of photovoltaic panels, high insulation standards and the elimination of open fireplaces in recently completed housing schemes was noted. He also advised

that an extensive programme of retrofitting of existing stock had been undertaken with properties achieving a C rating.

#### **Item 4: Granny Flat Policy Discussion & Item 6: Update on Downsizing Policy**

Ms. Aoife Duke advised the meeting that the Council is currently developing policies under both of these connected areas. These policies will be developed in the context of the national 'Housing Options for Our Ageing Population' policy statement due to be published by the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government and the Department of Health. Further discussions and consultations will be held, in particular with Cllr. Galvin regarding his Notice of Motion on the provision of Granny Flats. A proposal will be developed which will be submitted to the Department for consideration and to develop a funding model.

#### **Item 5: Update on Choice Based Letting**

Ms. Sarah Newell advised the members that work on implementing the Choice Based Letting (CBL) scheme is progressing. The systems, which are used, by Meath County Council and Cork City Council are being analysed. An electronic survey will also be undertaken to gather feedback.

Clarification was sought as to when the system would commence. In reply, Aoife Duke advised that the system would be piloted in the Newcastle West area and would then be rolled out to the other Municipal Districts and the Metropolitan Area. This will allow any problems, which may arise with the system to be remedied.

The members expressed a welcome for the new scheme, as the experience in other Local Authorities is that it has led to lower refusal rates and quicker re-letting of properties.

#### **Item 7: Notice of Motion referred to the Home and Social Development SPC**

The following motions were put forward for discussion:

##### **From Cllr. Joe Leddin**

Limerick Metropolitan Council to re-evaluate the housing strategy for Ballinacurra Weston and Prospect so that clarity can be provided to residents in terms of housing upgrades, new builds, new roads and demolitions.

In conjunction to the formal response which was circulated at the meeting, the matter was discussed. It was agreed that the Director would meet with Councillor Leddin in the areas to review progress to date and future actions for those areas. Following this meeting, the matter can be listed for discussion at the next SPC to assess the appropriate next steps.

From Cllr Sean O’Ceallaigh

Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh to investigate the possibility of developing a pilot project for a modular home Council development in the Metropolitan District.

In conjunction with the formal response which was circulated at the meeting, welcome was given to the fact that such a project is underway at present. Interest in same was noted and an update to the next SPC on this and future plans will be provided.

Is mise le meas,

Cllr. William O’Donnell.

Chairperson

Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee