

COUNCILLORS REPORT ON CONFERENCE WHICH THEY ATTENDED

REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED UNDER SECTION 142(5) (f) and (fa) OF THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

Organiser of Conference Dept. of Justice

Name of Conference "Politics Needs Women"

Location of Conference Convention Centre, Dublin

Date of Conference 14th Dec 2018

Summary of Conference Content

The Conference comprised of short presentations from Oireachtas members & a conversation with Prof. Mary McAleese on her experience as Head of State / President (prior to Pres. Higgins).
This was followed by a panel discussion with Cllrs; a video featuring current female Ministers giving their views from Cabinet, experiences of travel; reflections on the year of celebration (i.e. Bóil 100); an MEP perspective (i.e. Mairead McGuinness), First VP of the European Parliament.

Signature: M. Hurley

Print Name: Maeve Hurley



THIS FORM TO BE SUBMITTED WITH CLAIM FORM FOR TRAVEL AND
SUBSISTENCE

COUNCILLORS REPORT ON CONFERENCE WHICH THEY ATTENDED

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

Organiser of Conference _____

Name of Conference The Cohesion Policy 2014 - 2020 -

Location of Conference The four seasons conference - Louth -

Date of Conference 14 - 16 Dec.

Summary of Conference Content

* A Big Discussion on European Structural
Investment funds - Agr. fund - Social fund -
Regional fund - Fisheries fund

1.2 Billion allocated from European Regional Investment
fund

A Discussion on youth employment initiative

~~The~~ ~~of~~ The Glas Scheme - Leader funding
organic farming also discussed

Big challenges for farming Re Carbon emissions
To be honest a lot to take in that
would need pages to report

Signature: Liam Galvin

Print Name: LIAM GALVIN

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

Organiser of Conference _____

Name of Conference FINANCE ACT 2019

Location of Conference CASLING FORD, Co. LOUTH

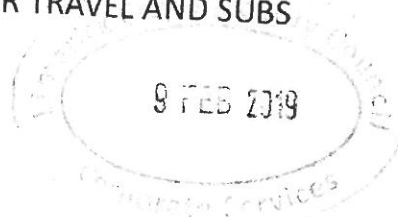
Date of Conference 11-13 JANUARY

Summary of Conference Content

CONFERENCE PROVIDED A SUMMARY OF THE
IMPACT BREXIT WILL HAVE ON THE ECONOMY,
ACROSS SEVERAL INDUSTRY SECTORS BUT PARTICULARLY
AGRICULTURE,
DETAILS ON THE NEW TAXATION CHANGES
ANNOUNCED IN THE BUDGET FOR 2019 WERE ALSO
OUTLINED INCLUDING CHANGES TO THE USC RATES.
ALSO THE NEW CHANGES IMPACTING ON THOSE
IN RECEIPT OF SOCIAL WELFARE WERE ALSO
SHOWN.

Signed: Fae Fiddin

THIS FORM TO BE SUBMITTED WITH CLAIM FORM FOR TRAVEL AND SUBS





Councillor Francis Foley

Bóthar Chill Airne,
Mainistir na Féile,
Co. Luimnigh.

Killarney Road,
Abbeyfeale,
Co. Limerick.

t: 068 31878
m: 087 6391305
e: francis.foley@limerick.ie

15/1/19.
CONFERENCE. THE COHESION Policy 2014-2200.
FOUR SEASONS HOTEL CARLINGFORD. CO LOUTH.
14th - 16th DEC 2018.

ONE THIRD of THE TOTAL EU Budget for 2014-2220,
325 BILLION HAS BEEN ALLOCATED TO COHESION Policy.
THE FUNDS WILL BE USED TO HELP DELIVER TO EUROPE
2020 GOALS FOR CREATING GROWTH AND JOBS, TACKLING
CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY CHANGE.

Francis Foley

15 JAN 2019

COUNCILLORS REPORT ON CONFERENCE WHICH THEY ATTENDED

REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED UNDER SECTION 142(5) (f) and (fa) OF THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

Organiser of Conference Celtic Conferences

Name of Conference Finance Act 2018

Location of Conference Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford

Date of Conference January 11th to 13th

Summary of Conference Content

The conference set out the main changes in the areas of taxation, social welfare, health, housing, education, employment and other areas. This year there was a particular focus on Brexit. Below is an overview of the content of the conference on measures announced in the Finance Act 2018.

Taxation:

We covered changes of the threshold for the higher tax rate of income tax (40%) increasing by €750. The home carer tax credit earned income tax credit both saw increases.

The VAT rate was reintroduced at the 13.5 figure while USC rate was reduced to 4.5% with an increase in the ceiling for it. Capital Acquisitions Tax increased to €320,000.

Excise Duties

Tobacco excise duty increased by 50 cent for a pack of 20 and duty on bets placed in the state will increase to 2% and to 25% on commissions earned by intermediaries.

Social Welfare

Weekly social welfare payments increased by €5 as did jobseekers. Child allowance increased by €2.20 for a child under 12 and €5.20 for over 12s.

Parental benefit will be introduced with 2 weeks for insured and self employed people. There is an increase in back to school allowance by €25.

PRSI will increase to €386 from €376.

Housing

A total of 2.3 billion to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for housing. €1.25 billion has been allocated for the delivery of 10,000 social homes in 2019. The energy efficiency programme will receive €25 million.

Homeless services will increase by €30 million with a further €60 million being made available to fund additional emergency accommodation and family hubs.

€23 million has been allocated for the mortgage to rent scheme for 2019.

€41 million was allocated to the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund. €72 million was allocated to the National Regeneration Programme. An extra 4.6 million will be provided to the residential tenancies board to enforce rent caps.

Employment and Business

The minimum wage will increase to €9.80. A new Future Growth Loan Scheme will offer loans over 7-10 years to allow businesses make strategic investments after Brexit. A new €500 million fund will be established to invest in disruptive technologies and applications.

Education

There will be an extra 372 teaching posts in schools. 10 additional psychologists will be recruited to the National Education Psychological Service to support wellbeing in schools. €50 million is allocated to upgrade ICT infrastructure in all schools.

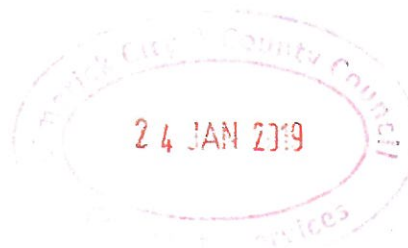
Health

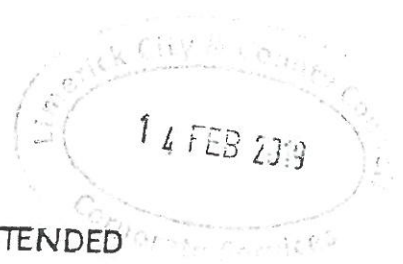
Prescription charge for medical card holders over the age of 70 will be reduced to €1.50. The drugs payment scheme threshold will be reduced to €124.

Signature: 

Print Name: Daniel Butler

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COUNCILLORS REPORT ON CONFERENCE WHICH THEY ATTENDED

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

Organiser of Conference Celtic Conference
Name of Conference Finance Oct
Location of Conference Farm Doon Hotel, Carlingford Road
Date of Conference 11-13th Oct 2019

Summary of Conference Content

See Content attached

Signature: Michael Sheehan

Print Name: MICHAEL SHEEHAN

THIS FORM TO BE SUBMITTED WITH CLAIM FORM FOR TRAVEL AND
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Clld. Michael Sheehan
Finance Act 2018. 4 Seasons Hotel Ceeleppod 11th 13th Jan 19

1. Brexit Preparations

2. Taxation

3. Excise, Duties

4. Social Welfare

5. Payments to People in direct provision

6. Employers PRSI

7. Community Employment

8. Social Insurance Payments

9. Social Assistance Payments

10. Working Family Payment

11. Child Benefit

12. Guardians Payment

13. Fuel Allowance

14. Domiciliary Care Allowance

15. Carers Support Grant

16. Back to School Clothing/Footwear Allowance

17. Widowed or Surviving Civil Partners Grant

18. Housing

19. Employment and Business

20. Education, Skills, Child and Family Support

21. Youth, Tourism and Sport

22. Health

23. Environment

24. Agriculture

25. Gender and Equality Budgeting Report

26. Data Protection Commission Funding

27. Rainy Day Fund

28. Overseas Development Aid

Finance Act 2018

Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co Louth

11TH - 13TH January 2019

Brexit preparations

Measures to prepare for Brexit, including the possibility of a "no-deal" Brexit, are being put in place across government departments. Funding of over €110 million has been allocated to Brexit measures. These include:

Agriculture, Food and the Marine: a package to address challenges arising from Brexit in the farm and food sectors, including funding for Bord Bia to support Brexit-related promotion and development work, investment in food innovation facilities, and investment in food companies to improve productivity and competitiveness.

Business, Enterprise and Innovation: loans under a new Future Growth Scheme to allow businesses (including farmers) to make strategic investments after Brexit; expanding the global footprint of enterprise agencies to take advantage of opportunities that may arise from Brexit; IDA property investment in further regional locations; strengthening and resourcing of the Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement; and resourcing the Local Enterprise Offices to help fund local and indigenous enterprises to meet the challenge of Brexit.

Foreign Affairs and Trade: extra resources to the Passport Service to meet rising demand, including Brexit-specific increases; developing a whole-of-Government Brexit Preparedness Communications Plan; increasing support to organisations that promote reconciliation and understanding between communities in Northern Ireland, and between North and South; and ongoing implementation of the Global Ireland Initiative.

Transport, Tourism and Sport: programme to support the tourism industry, help prepare it to address the impact of Brexit and grow alternative markets in the context of Brexit and a decline in UK visitors.

Education and Skills: upskilling and reskilling for sectors and regions most vulnerable to Brexit.

Taxation

Income tax

The threshold for the higher rate of income tax (40%) will increase by €750. This means, for example, an increase from €34,550 to €35,300 for single individuals and an increase from €43,550 to €44,300 for married couples with one earner (from 1 January 2019).

The **Home Carer Tax Credit** will increase from €1,200 to €1,500.

The **Earned Income Tax Credit** for self-employed people will increase from €1,150 to €1,350.

Revenue's **updated PAYE system** will be fully operational from 1 January 2019.

VAT

The VAT rate for the tourism sector will increase from 9% to 13.5% (from 1 January 2019).

The rate for newspapers and sporting facilities will continue at 9%. The VAT rate for e-books and electronically supplied newspapers will be reduced from 23% to 9% (from 1 January 2019).

Universal Social Charge (USC)

The 4.75% rate of USC will reduce to 4.5%.

The ceiling of the 2% band will increase from €19,372 to €19,874, so that the salary of a full-time worker on the minimum wage will remain outside the higher rates of USC.

Incomes of €13,000 or less will continue to be exempt from USC in 2019. Once your income is over this limit, the following rates will apply (from 1 January 2019):

- €0 to €12,012 @ 0.5%
- €12,012 to €19,874 @ 2%
- €19,874 to €70,044 @ 4.5%
- €70,044+ @ 8%
- Self-employed income over €100,000: 3% surcharge

The weekly income threshold for the higher rate of employer's PRSI will increase from €376 to €386 to ensure that there is no incentive to reduce the working hours for a full-time employee on the increased minimum wage.

Capital Acquisitions Tax (CAT)

The Group A tax-free threshold, which applies primarily to gifts and inheritances from parents to their children, will be increased from €310,000 to €320,000. This increase applies to gifts or inheritances received on or after 10 October 2018.

Stamp duty

The exemption for young trained farmers from stamp duty on agricultural land transactions continues for another 3 years to the end of 2021.

2 **Excise duties**

Tobacco products tax

From midnight on 9 October 2018, the excise duty on a packet of 20 cigarettes increased by 50 cent (including VAT) with a pro-rata increase on other tobacco products. There will be an additional 25 cent on roll-your-own tobacco.

There is an increase in the minimum excise duty on tobacco products, so that all cigarettes sold below €11 have the same excise applied as those sold at €11 and above.

Betting duty

The duty on bets placed by customers in the State will increase from 1% to 2% for bookmakers, and from 15% to 25% on the commissions earned by betting intermediaries.

3 **Social welfare**

The total social protection budget in 2019 will be €20.5 billion.

Increases in social welfare payments

The maximum rate of all **weekly social welfare payments** will increase by €5 per week with proportional increases for qualified adults and people on reduced rates of payment. This also applies to **employment programmes** such as Community Employment (CE), Tús and the Rural Social Scheme (from week beginning 25 March 2019).

People aged 25 and under who are getting a **reduced rate of Jobseeker's Allowance** will get the full €5 increase (from week beginning 25 March 2019).

The **weekly rate for a qualified child** will increase by €2.20 from €31.80 to €34 for children under 12 years of age. It will increase by €5.20 from €31.80 to €37 for children aged 12 years and over (from week beginning 25 March 2019).

Christmas Bonus

A Christmas Bonus of 100% will be paid in December 2018 to people getting a long-term social welfare payment (minimum payment of €20). (December 2018)

Parental Benefit

A new scheme will be introduced providing 2 weeks' Parental Benefit for insured employees and self-employed people. It will be paid at the same rate as Maternity Benefit and Paternity Benefit (from November 2019).

Self-employed people

Jobseeker's Benefit will be extended to self-employed people (late 2019).

One-parent families

The earnings disregard for the **One-Parent Family Payment** and the **Jobseeker's Transition payment** will increase by €20 per week, from €130 to €150 per week.

Working Family Payment

A maintenance disregard of €95.23 per week for housing costs, with the remainder assessed at 50%, will be introduced for the Working Family Payment to bring it in line with other social assistance schemes.

3 Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance

The Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance will increase by €25 per child, from €125 to €150 for children aged 4-11 and from €250 to €275 for children aged 12-22 in full-time second-level education.

Fuel Allowance

The Fuel Allowance season will be extended by 1 week, from 27 to 28 weeks. The extra week will apply to the current fuel season

Domiciliary Care Allowance

Domiciliary Care Allowance will continue to be paid for 3 months in cases where the child being cared for has died.

Cost of disability

€300,000 will be provided to commission research on the cost of living with a disability.

4 Payments to people in direct provision

Daily Expenses Allowance (formerly called a Direct Provision Allowance) weekly rate will increase from €21.60 to €29.80 for children and €38.80 for adults.

5 Employer's PRSI

The weekly threshold for employer's PRSI will increase from €376 to €386 (from 1 January 2019).

6 Community Employment

Additional funding of €2 million for materials will be made available in 2019.

Social insurance payments							
Maximum weekly rates (week starting 25 March 2019)	Personal rate, €		Increase for a Qualified Adult, €		Increase for a Qualified Child, €		
Social insurance payments	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019, under 12	2019, aged 12 and over
State Pension (Contributory)							
Personal rate - under age 80	243.30	248.30			31.80	34.00	37.00
Personal rate - age 80 and over	253.30	258.30			31.80	34.00	37.00
Increase for Qualified Adult - under 66			162.10	165.40			
Increase for Qualified Adult - 66 and Over			218.00	222.50			
Widow's/Widower's/Surviving Civil Partner's (Contributory) Pension/Deserted Wife's Benefit							
Under age 66	203.50	208.50			31.80	34.00	37.00
Aged 66 and under age 80	243.30	248.50			31.80	34.00	37.00
Aged 80 and over	253.30	258.30			31.80	34.00	37.00
Invalidity Pension	203.50	208.50	145.30	148.90	31.80	34.00	37.00
Carer's Benefit/Constant Attendance Allowance	215.00	220.00			31.80	34.00	37.00
Disablement Benefit	229.00	234.00			31.80	34.00	37.00

Jobseeker's/Illness/Health and Safety/Injury Benefit	198.00	203.00	131.40	134.70	31.80	34.00	37.00
Maternity/Adoptive Benefit/ Paternity	240.00	245.00					
Death Benefit							
Under age 66	228.50	233.50			31.80	34.00	37.00
Aged 66 and under age 80	247.70	252.70			31.80	34.00	37.00
Aged 80 and over	257.70	262.70			31.80	34.00	37.00

Social assistance payments

Maximum weekly rates	Personal rate, €		Increase for a Qualified Adult, €		Increase for a Qualified Child, €		
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019, under 12	2019, aged 12 and over
State Pension (Non-Contributory)							
Aged 66 and under Age 80	232.00	237.00			31.80	34.00	37.00
Age 80 and over	242.00	247.00			31.80	34.00	37.00
Increase for Qualified Adult, under 66			153.30	156.60			
Carer's Allowance							
Under 66	214.00	219.00			31.80	34.00	37.00
Aged 66 and over	252.00	257.00			31.80	34.00	37.00
Disability Allowance/Blind Pension	198.00	203.00	131.40	134.70	31.80	34.00	37.00
Widow's/Widower's /Surviving Civil Partner's (Non-Contributory) Pension	198.00	203.00			31.80	34.00	37.00
One-Parent Family Payment	198.00	203.00			31.80	34.00	37.00
Pre-Retirement/Deserted Wife's Allowance	198.00	203.00	131.40	134.70	31.80	34.00	37.00
Jobseeker's Allowance Aged 26 or over	198.00	203.00	131.40	134.70	31.80	34.00	37.00

Aged 25	152.80	157.80	131.40	134.70			
Aged 18-24	107.70	112.70	107.70	112.70			
Supplementary Welfare Allowance, aged 26 or Over	196.00	201.00	131.40	134.70	31.80	34.00	37.00
Aged 25	152.80	157.80	131.40	134.70			
Aged 18-24	107.70	112.70	107.70	112.70			
Farm Assist	198.00	203.00	131.40	134.70	31.80	34.00	37.00

Working Family Payment (formerly Family Income Supplement)

Family size	2018 income limit, €	2019 income limit, €
1 child	521.00	521.00
2 children	622.00	622.00
3 children	723.00	723.00
4 children	834.00	834.00
5 children	960.00	960.00
6 children	1,076.00	1,076.00
7 children	1,212.00	1,212.00
8 children or more	1,308.00	1,308.00

The level of WFP payment will continue to be based on 60% of the shortfall between net weekly family income and the applicable weekly family threshold.

Child Benefit

	2018, €	2019, €
Monthly rate	140.00 per child	140.00 per child

Twins: Child Benefit is paid at one and half times (150%) the normal monthly rate for each child.
All other multiple births: Child Benefit is paid at double (200%) the normal monthly rate for each child.

Other social welfare payments

	2018 weekly, €	2019 weekly, €
Guardian's Payment (Contributory)	181.00	186.00

12	Guardian's Payment (Non-Contributory)	181.00	186.00
13	Fuel Allowance	22.50	22.50
14	Domiciliary Care Allowance	2018 monthly, €	2019 monthly, €
		309.50	309.50
	Carer's Support Grant	2018 annually	2019 annually
		1,700.00	1,700.00
15	Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance	2018 annually, €	2019 annually, €
	Each qualified child aged 4 - 11	125.00	150.00
	Each qualified child aged 12 and over	250.00	275.00
16	Widowed or Surviving Civil Partner Grant	2018 - once off payment, €	2019 - once off payment, €
		6,000.00	6,000.00

17 Housing

A total of €2.3 billion is allocated to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for housing in 2019. In addition, local authorities will spend an extra €93 million on housing programmes, funded from Local Property Tax surpluses. This brings the total spending on housing to almost €2.4 billion for 2019.

Social housing support

€1.25 billion has been allocated for the delivery of 10,000 new social homes in 2019. These homes will be delivered through a combination of construction, acquisition and leasing.

An increase of €40 million has been allocated to the **Social Housing Current Expenditure Programme**, bringing the total to €155 million. This will allow the continued delivery of 14,000 leased homes and 4,800 additional social homes in 2019.

Funding for the **Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)** scheme is increasing by €121 million to €423 million. This will provide an additional 16,760 HAP tenancies in 2019, as well as supporting those already on the HAP scheme.

Funding of €134 million is allocated to the **Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)** to provide for an additional 600 new tenancies under the scheme, as well as the ongoing cost of households already supported under RAS.

Funding of €13 million is allocated for a range of **Traveller-specific accommodation schemes**.

The **energy efficiency programme** will receive funding of €25 million in 2019 to improve the energy efficiency of 9,000 social homes.

Supports for homeless people

The current allocation for **homeless services** will increase by €30 million, to €146 million in 2019. This will be used to fund emergency accommodation and help people transition from homelessness into long-term housing.

It is intended that 5,000 adults will exit homelessness in 2019.

The **Housing First initiative** and the **Family Hub programme** will continue to be funded and rolled out in 2019.

An extra €60 million will be made available to fund additional **emergency accommodation** and family hubs for winter 2018.

People in mortgage arrears

€23 million has been allocated to the **mortgage to rent scheme** for 2019. This will allow over 400 households to avail of the scheme, which lets people in mortgage difficulty switch from owning their home to renting their home as a social housing tenant.

Affordability

€89 million is provided in 2019 for a **Serviced Sites Fund**. This fund will deliver at least 6,000 subsidised affordable homes on local authority sites over its lifetime. The scheme will apply to new homes for single people earning up to €50,000 and couples earning up to €75,000.

€41 million has been allocated to the **Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)** in 2019. This fund accelerates the provision of public infrastructure (such as roads and bridges) to allow for the development of land for housing, some of which will be used for social and affordable homes.

Regeneration, adaptations and remediation

The **National Regeneration Programme** will receive funding of €72 million.

Funding for **housing adaptation grants** is increased to €57 million to enable up to 11,800 home adaptations for people with disabilities and older people.

Funding of €32 million is allocated for the remediation of a further 460 houses affected by pyrite.

Private rented housing

The interest relief that landlords can claim against loans used to buy, improve or repair a rental property has increased from 80% to 100%. (This will be effective from 1 January 2019).

An additional €4.6 million will be provided to the **Residential Tenancies Board (RTB)** in 2019, bringing its allocation to €11.5 million. This increase will help the RTB to enforce rent caps and expand its programme of rental inspections.

The **Housing Agency** will also receive additional funding of €2.8 million, bringing its funding for 2019 to €10 million. This additional budget reflects the Housing Agency's expanded role in the delivery of housing supports and services.

Employment and business

National Minimum Wage

The national minimum wage will increase from €9.55 per hour to €9.80 per hour (from 1 January 2019).

Key Employee Engagement Programme (KEEP)

KEEP facilitates the use of a share-based remuneration by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to attract key employees. It is available for qualifying share options granted between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2023. Budget 2019 has introduced changes to help SMEs to compete for skilled staff, which include:

- Increased ceiling on maximum annual market value of shares that may be awarded to equal the amount of the salary (up from 50%)
- Introduction of a lifetime limit
- Increased overall value of options that can be awarded per employee from €250,000 to €300,000

Earned Income Tax Credit

The Earned Income Tax Credit will increase from €1,150 to €1,350. This is relevant for taxpayers earning self-employed trading or professional income in certain cases and for business owners or managers who are not eligible for a Pay As You Earn (PAYE) credit on their salary income.

VAT rate

The VAT rate on the tourism and services sector will increase from 9% to 13.5% with the exception of newspapers and sporting facilities (from 1 January 2019).

Future Growth Loan Scheme

A new Future Growth Loan Scheme will offer loans over 7-10 years to allow businesses make strategic investments after Brexit. The scheme will be delivered by the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland through participating finance providers. The scheme will add to the existing supports including the Revised Credit Guarantee Scheme, Microfinance Ireland, the Enterprise Ireland Seed and Venture Capital Scheme and the short-term Brexit Loan Scheme.

Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund (DTIF)

A €500 million fund will invest in research, development and deployment of disruptive technologies and applications.

Crowdfunding

The Government will start work in conjunction with the Central Bank on the regulation of crowdfunding.

Three Year Start Up Relief (Section 486C)

Three Year Start Up Relief provides corporation tax relief for profit-making start-up companies which create and maintain jobs. The relief is being extended a further three years, until the end of 2021.

Education, skills and child and family support

Education

Primary and post-primary schools

From September 2019, there will be an extra 372 **teaching posts** in schools. 271 of these are in response to rising numbers of pupils and 101 are to provide additional special classes.

The **standard capitation grant** will increase by 5% from September 2019.

A further 950 **Special Needs Assistants (SNAs)** will be recruited, bringing the total number to over 15,900. The Comprehensive Review of the SNA Scheme is to be implemented and €4.75 million in funding is provided to start this.

Teaching principals in primary schools will get one additional release day. Those in schools with special classes will get four additional release days.

From September 2019, funding will be provided for 23 administrative deputy principal posts in special schools that have a principal and 15 class teachers or more.

10 additional psychologists will be recruited to the **National Education Psychological Service** to support wellbeing in schools.

A pilot programme to provide **hot school meals** will be delivered in up to 36 DEIS schools.

Investment projects include new and replacement school buildings. €50 million is allocated to upgrade **ICT infrastructure** in all schools.

Higher education, further education and skills

3,500 extra places will be provided in higher education. Counselling services in higher education will be strengthened. 1,000 additional **Springboard+** places will be introduced.

There will be 1,200 new **apprenticeships**, 1,100 new traineeship enrolments and 10 new apprenticeship schemes in 2019.

An extra €6 million is provided for **Skillnet Ireland** and €11 million for employee skills development initiatives.

A new **Human Capital Initiative** will allocate €300 million over the years 2020-2024 to meet future skills needs and provide extra investment at levels 6-8 in higher education.

21 Child and family support

Childcare

Extra funding of €89 million allows for increased income thresholds for the **Affordable Childcare Scheme** and ongoing development of the scheme, along with measures to improve early years inspections.

Tusla

Additional funding of €33m is allocated to Tusla to implement HIQA recommendations on the management of child sexual abuse allegations, deliver on commitments to unaccompanied minor refugees, address cost pressures in private residential and foster care, and allow for further investment in family and domestic, sexual and gender-based violence support services.

22 Travel, tourism and sport

The **VAT rate on goods and services in the tourism sector** will increase from to 13.5% (from January 2019).

€35m is allocated to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport to provide **targeted supports for the tourism sector**, including €4.5 million for regional initiatives such as

Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and the Wild Atlantic Way, and nearly €10 million for the further development of the greenways.

Vehicle Registration Tax (VRT) relief available for **hybrid electric vehicles** is being extended until the end of 2019.

A 1% VRT surcharge (applied across all VRT bands) is being introduced for diesel engine passenger vehicles registered in the State (from 1 January 2019).

The 0% benefit-in-kind rate for electric vehicles introduced in Budget 2018 is being extended for a period of 3 years, with a cap of €50,000 on the Original Market Value of the vehicle.

A new capital allowances scheme is announced for gas-propelled vehicles and refuelling equipment to encourage the uptake of gas-propelled commercial vehicles as an alternative to diesel. The use of natural gas and biogas as a substitute for diesel is seen as a more environmentally friendly fuel for large vehicles such as HGVs and buses.

The Dublin Airport Authority (DAA) is investing €320 million to enhance capacity at **Dublin Airport** and €587 million will be invested in the ports of **Dublin, Cork and Shannon Foynes** to enhance national and international connectivity.

Funding has been allocated to roll out the new **Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund** and to provide support for programmes aimed at increasing participation in sport and supporting high-performance sport.

Health, environment and other announcements

Health

The **prescription charge** for medical card holders over the age of 70 will be reduced from €2 per item to €1.50 per item. Prescription charges will be phased out for people in emergency accommodation.

The weekly income limit for the **GP visit card** will be increased by €25.

The monthly threshold for the **Drugs Payment Scheme** will be reduced from €134 to €124.

€9 million is provided to support the introduction of the HPV screening test for **cervical cancer** and to extend the HPV vaccination programme to boys.

€12 million is provided to develop public health services for **termination of pregnancy**.

100 new therapy posts will address backlogs in **assessment of need applications for children with disabilities** and increase access to therapies for children.

Environment

Climate change and waste management

The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment will invest over €164 million in 2019 to help achieve Ireland's **energy efficiency and renewable energy objectives**, in line with the Government's National Mitigation Plan.

€103.5m will be provided for improvements in grant and premium rates for **planting forests**.

Additional funding of €70m will be provided for the **Environment and Waste Management Programme**.

Agriculture

The introduction of the **Beef Environmental Efficiency Pilot (BEEP) scheme**, to further improve the carbon efficiency of beef production.

€70m will be provided for the **Targeted Agriculture Modernisation Scheme (TAMS)**.

Gas-propelled vehicles and refuelling equipment

Measures will be introduced to encourage the uptake of gas-propelled commercial vehicles as an economic and environmentally friendly alternative to diesel. This includes a new accelerated capital allowances scheme for gas-propelled commercial vehicles and refuelling equipment.

As set out in the National Development Plan, Ireland will no longer purchase diesel-only buses for the urban public service obligation (PSO) bus fleets after July 2019.

Other announcements

A pilot on gender and **equality budgeting** will be extended to include information on the impact of budgets in the areas of poverty, socioeconomic inequality and disability.

Funding for the **Data Protection Commission** will increase by €3.5 million to €15.2 million, which will allow for the recruitment of about 40 additional staff.

A **Rainy Day Fund**, set up with €1.5 billion from the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund, will be supplemented with an annual contribution of €500 million from 2019.

Overseas Development Aid will increase by €110 million to €817 million.

COUNCILLORS REPORT ON CONFERENCE WHICH THEY
ATTENDED

REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED UNDER SECTION 142(5) (f)
and (fa) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

Organiser of
Conference Celtic Conference

Name of
Conference Good Governance of Community, Voluntary, Charity Orgs

Location of
Conference O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty

Date of
Conference 23/2/19

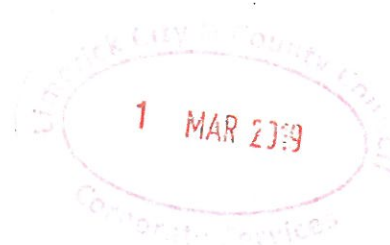
Summary of Conference Content

Over Page

Signature: Seán Ó Ceallaigh

Print Name: SEIGHIN Ó CEALLAIGH

THIS FORM TO BE SUBMITTED WITH CLAIM FORM FOR
TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE



This Conference looked at the many aspects of Governance in the Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisation Sectors in Ireland.

The role of leadership figures in the sectors & the important role that good leaders played in their organisations.

Planning for the short term and long term for the organisations as well as setting out targets that the organisations wished to achieve. Engaging with staff & volunteers at all levels of the organisation to ensure that teamwork and a good environment were in place.

Ensuring that communication was strong within and between all levels of the organisation and that there was strong engagement.

Making sure that the organisation worked well as a whole & that any new appointments or requirements in the organisation were well integrated and didn't upset or impact on the work of the organisation.

That respect, fairness, understanding were key to the running of the organisation & the relationships between staff & those in a leadership role.

Seán Ó'Callaghan

27th October 2019



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

Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh
Ceanncheathrú Chorpáraideach
Cé n gCeannaithe
Luimneach

Limerick City and County Council
Corporate Headquarters
Merchants Quay
Limerick
T: +353 (0) 61 407 100
F: +353 (0) 61 415 266

6th of March 2019

To: The Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council

**Visit to Smart City World Congress
Barcelona, November 11th - 14th 2018**

As members will be aware a delegation travelled to represent Limerick City and County Council at the Smart City World Congress in Barcelona between 11th to 14th of November 2018. The delegation consisted of Cllr. Michael Collins - Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Mr. Pat Stephens - Manager of Limerick Clare Energy Agency and myself.

The Smart City World Congress in Barcelona is World's largest smart cities event attracting over 21,000 visitors and representatives from over 700 cities and 146 countries. With the award of €20m EU funding under Horizon 2020 programme for the +CityxChange project Limerick City and Trondheim City in Norway have become European Lighthouse Smart Cities. This event was therefore the ideal opportunity to meet and establish connections with other European smart cities, to gain a better understanding of the type of projects and collaborations that Limerick could develop to attract further EU funding and adopt best practice and specially to see demonstrations of cutting-edge technologies that could be implemented in Limerick City and County to deliver better services.

During the event we have attended technology demonstrations for smart parking, smart bins, autonomous vehicles, data analytics solutions, citizen engagement platforms, traffic counting and categorization, etc. As the +CityxChange project aims to develop innovative solutions for better energy management our focus was on energy management solutions and smart homes and smart buildings. We attended talks on best practice for financial investment models and data sharing solutions.

During the event the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Michael Collins has formally been introduced to Mr. Morten Wolden, the CEO of Trondheim Kommune, our +CityxChange project partners and Prof. Annemie Wyckmans, the +CityxChange Project Co-ordinator from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology. The discussions focused on our common challenges and opportunities and on potential future collaborations. We established a stronger collaboration with the +CityxChange project partners which is essential to deliver a successful project.

We have also established connections with other European Smart Cities and Communities Projects such as IRIS, Sharing Cities, Replicate, MATCHUP and Triangulum.

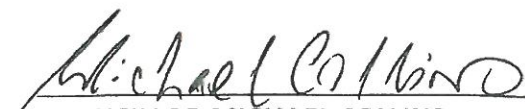


Fig 1: EU Smart Cities and Communities Projects.
Limerick is the first EU Lighthouse (blue) Smart City in Ireland.

In particular, the connection established in Barcelona with the Nordic Edge, a partnership between the smart cities of Norway, Sweden and Finland shows a great potential for future collaborations between Irish cities and regions and the cities and regions from the Nordic countries. Aiming to establish a forum where Irish and Nordic policies and business opportunities within smart city solutions are presented and long-term partnerships between Irish and Nordic stakeholders are created a smart cities conference will take place in May 2019 in Dublin while a similar event will be organised in September 2019 in Norway.

The attendance at the Smart City World Congress in Barcelona has shown the importance of our leaders being more aware of how cities and regions in Europe and Worldwide are adopting digital technologies to deliver better, more efficient services and how we can develop Limerick as a Sustainable Smart City-Region.

Is mise le meas,


COUNCILLOR MICHAEL COLLINS
DEPUTY MAYOR OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF LIMERICK



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& Contae Luimnigh

Limerick City
& County Council

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Luimneach

Corporate Services,
Limerick City and County Council,
Corporate Headquarters,
Merchants Quay,
Limerick

EIRCODE V94 EH90

t: +353 (0) 61 557150

f: +353 (0) 61 415 266

1st March, 2019.

To / The Mayor and Each Member of The City and County of Limerick

Attendance at Limerick Association of London Function

On Saturday, 26th January, 2019, I attended a Limerick Association of London event at the Clayton Crown Hotel, Cricklewood, London.

The Limerick Association, which exists to support Limerick people in London, held a special reception at the Clayton Crown Hotel, Cricklewood, to coincide with The Limerick Senior Footballers visit to London for their National Football League game against London on Sunday, 27th January, 2019 at McGovern Park in Ruislip.

More than 80 people attended the Reception on Saturday, 26th January in Cricklewood. The invited guests included people from Limerick City and County, Limerick GAA County Board Officials and Management Team for the Limerick Senior Footballers. Mr. John Giltenan, Chairman, Limerick Association of London and I spoke at the event.

The following day I attended the National Football League game between The Limerick Senior Footballers and London where Limerick were victorious on the day.

Councillor Eddie Ryan
Cathaoirleach

Municipal District of Cappamore - Kilmallock



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To: The Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council
Visit to Queens County, New York- March 2019

As members will be aware, at the invitation of members of the Irish community at Rockaway Beach, I travelled to Queens County to attend the St. Patrick's Day celebrations, in my capacity as Deputy Mayor. The visit took place from Thursday 1st March to Monday 4th March 2019. While a number of events were arranged in advance of the trip, additional opportunities arose during our stay to promote business and tourism links in Limerick with the people that we met.

I was accompanied on the trip by Aoife Duke, Director of Service, Housing Development.

Thursday 1st March.

I met with a representative of Analog Devices from their Boston offices at a networking event held in the Lexington Hotel. We discussed the work of Limerick City and County Council in terms of Digital Strategy and the innovative initiatives being rolled out to enhance service delivery throughout the Council. A discussion regarding the use of sensors throughout the City took place with particular emphasis on the use of such technologies in our Housing stock to allow the gathering of key information which could in turn would feed in to a planned maintenance programme. The representative will be travelling to Limerick to attend the Adlek conference in November 2019 and will make contact to meet with key representatives of our Council to assess potential areas of collaboration in relation to the use of sensors.

Friday 2nd March.

Site visits to Clenn construction were scheduled for this trip. It was envisaged that a visit to the factory where the homes are manufactured would take place. It was also envisaged that site visits could be facilitated to allow a review of on-site activities. The trip could not take place on the Friday or the Monday due to weather conditions. At the time of our visit New York faced a snow storm which saw temperatures drop to a thirty year low making travel treacherous.

Saturday 3rd March.

We travelled to Rockaway Beach in Queens for 9 am mass attended by the Irish community in the area. Michael Clenn introduced me to the congregation and the attendees of the parade which facilitated very interesting discussions and meeting opportunities for those with a connection to Limerick. The day consisted of the following events



9am- Mass

10.30am- Breakfast Networking

12.30am- Parade commenced

2pm- Parade review in viewing stand



3pm- End of Parade gathering

4pm- Departed Rockaway Beach

Throughout the visit to Rockaway Beach, I had an opportunity to highlight our Limerick story in terms of industry and tourism. I did this while speaking at the breakfast networking event and also from the parade stand as the parade took place.

I was introduced to and had detailed conversations with the following individuals;

Letitia "Tish" A. James, an American lawyer, activist and politician currently serving as the Attorney General of New York.

Eric Ulrich, a Member of the New York City Council representing the 32nd District, (Queens) and tipped to be the Next Mayor of New York City.

Stacey Pheffer Amato, a member of the New York State Assembly, representing the 23rd District.

Audrey I. Pheffer, an American Democratic Party politician from New York, currently serving as Queens County Clerk.

Thomas A. Callahan, President and Business Manager IUOE Local 15 A, B, C, D, G and H. Building trades leader.

Gregory Weldon Meeks, U.S. Representative for New York's 5th Congressional District,

Bergen Irish Association

On the evening of the 2nd March I attended an evening reception in Hayworth, New Jersey, held by the Bergen Irish Association to honor JJ and Maureen Donegan. We were warmly welcomed to the event and introduced to guests as the Deputy Mayor of Limerick. I spoke at the event in relation to the deep ties and connections that exist between the association and Ireland and in particular Limerick. I used the opportunity to speak about what we are doing in Limerick and encouraged people to come and visit and see what we are about- a 'Cead Mile Failte'. I presented gifts to the Donegan family, which included a print of Limerick and some Ballyhoura pottery.



Overall the events attended provided very beneficial networking opportunities and an opportunity to encourage guest to visit Ireland and in particular Limerick City and County.

Is mise le meas,

Councillor Michael Collins

Deputy Mayor- Limerick City and County Council.

8th March 2019.



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Limerick City and County Council,
Corporate Headquarters,
Merchants Quay,
Limerick

EIRCODE V94 EH90

t: +353 (0) 61 557150

f: +353 (0) 61 415 266

13th March 2019

To: The Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council

Visit to Queens New York - Gael of the Year Award 2019

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

As Members will be aware, I travelled to Queens, New York, on 6th - 10th February, 2019 to accept The Gael of the Year Award 2019 from Queens County St Patrick's Day Parade and Cultural Committee at it's Annual Awards ceremony. Over 650 people attended the prestigious event in which I was the Guest of Honour. The Annual Awards Ceremony provided me with the opportunity to promote Limerick as one of Europe's most dynamic investment and tourism locations.

The promotion of Limerick was very well received and I have no doubt will assist in generating more valuable New York & US based investment and tourism visits for Limerick Region in the future.

Meetings took place during the visit with the Limerickmen's Association of New York on opportunities for new networks. Meetings also took place with The Honorary Consul Ireland on the Limerick Diaspora, with representatives of The Ireland - US Council on emerging trade and investment links and also with Origin Productions, a creative industry organisation interested in developing business in Ireland.

Is mise le meas,

COUNCILLOR KIERAN O'HANLON

✉ customerservices@limerick.ie

🌐 www.limerick.ie

🐦 [@LimerickCouncil](https://twitter.com/LimerickCouncil)

☎ 061 - 557150