



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick City**  
& County Council

Forbairt Gheilleagrach,  
Ceanncheathrú Chorparáideach,  
Cé na gCeannaithe,  
Luimneach

Economic Development,  
Limerick City and County Council,  
Merchants Quay,  
Limerick

EIRCODE V94 EH90

t: +353 (0) 61 556 000  
e: [forwardplanning@limerick.ie](mailto:forwardplanning@limerick.ie)

**18<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

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

**Chairperson's Report for the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning  
Strategic Policy Committee Meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**A Chomhairleoir, a chara,**

**Item 1 - Presentation on Limerick City and County Council's Proposed Climate  
Adaptation Action Plan**

Mr. Tom O'Neill, Heritage Officer advised the committee that a Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019 - 2024 had been prepared by Limerick City and County Council in accordance with the requirements of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Act 2015 and the National Adaptation Framework. The local authority is one of 12 sectors nationally which are charged with producing climate adaptation strategies in 2019.

The Strategy aims 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.

Mr. O'Neill assured members that climate action will be considered in all strategies and will extend across all activities in the local authority not just in emergency situations.

Members expressed concern regarding recent flooding in the Limerick area and suggested that the River Shannon/tributaries in Limerick area be cleaned up in order to prevent further flooding. Mr. O'Neill confirmed that Limerick City and County Council would work in conjunction with the Office of Public Works in terms of climate adaptation actions.

The Draft Strategy will be put on public display for a month in the next few weeks, where all submissions will be greatly received and the deadline for adoption of the strategy is 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2019.

Members queried if the public consultation process could include displays in public areas such as shopping centres and on-street consultations to maximise the number of submissions received from the general public.

## Item 2 - Update on EU Projects

Dr. Bilauca, Head of EU Projects and Mr. Terry Connolly, EU Project Manager gave a joint presentation on Update of EU Projects.

Dr. Bilauca pointed out that in the last 4 years, Limerick City and County Council had completed 5 projects to the value of €1.6million and they hoped to double the level of EU funding received over the next few years. He stated that their ambition was to align EU Funding with Limerick City and County Council's objectives.

He referred to six strategic areas of European Funding and the projects that they would be focussing on over the next three years:

- Economy and Innovation – TECHTOWN, MMIAH (Maritime Military & Industrial Atlantic Heritage), City-as-a-Startup\*
- Community and Citizenship – Place-EE (Age Friendly City)
- Culture and Entertainment – EOAA-LSS (Limerick School of Spectacle)
- Movement and Transport – LUCROC (O'Connell Street)
- Urban Places and Spaces – LUCROC, CAPITEN
- Environment and Energy – LIFE 18\*, +CityxChange
- 

Mr. Connolly focussed on the +CityxChange (Positive City Exchange) Project. He stated that Limerick and its Irish Partners had been awarded a substantial grant under HORIZON 2020, for a smart cities and communities project worth €6.5m to the city. The project consortium will receive €20 million in funding from Horizon 2020 which has over €80 billion of funding available over 7 year (2014-2020).

Over the next 5 years Limerick city along with the city of Trondheim in Norway will work with five other follower cities, Alba Iulia (Romania), Pisek (Czech Republic), Sestao (Spain), Smoylan (Bulgaria) and Voru (Estonia) to develop together through citizen engagement a series of demonstration projects on how to become smart positive energy cities. Together with their citizens, they will develop solutions that will help generate more energy than they consume and exchange experiences with cities across Europe to learn faster, together.

Limerick will become the first Irish 'Lighthouse Smart City' – Lighthouse cities are ones that develop and test integrated innovative solutions at district scale and act as exemplars for their region and other cities and regions across Europe.

The members thanked both Dr. Bilauca and Mr. Connolly for a very comprehensive presentation and complimented them on their work to date. They were very encouraged by the level of funding being received for the revitalisation of the city centre, which will hopefully encourage more residents into the city centre.

While, Dr. Bilauca assured members that he was collaborating with SME's in the redevelopment of the city, some members suggested that he would arrange a briefing for companies in Limerick to inform them on the different EU Projects available.

Members queried if sufficient expertise was available to them as the application process can be very detailed. Dr. Bilauca stated that they work with all departments in Limerick City and County Council depending on the project in hand in order to access relevant expertise.

**Mise le meas**

Councillor Vivienne Crowley

Chairperson

Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC

