



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

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

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Date: 23rd April, 2019.

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

**Chairperson's Report for the Environment Strategic Policy Committee Meeting
of 23rd April, 2019.**

Item 1: Minutes of Environment SPC Meeting held on the 25th February, 2019

The Minutes of the meeting of the Environment SPC Meeting held on 25th February 2019 were proposed by Cllr. O'Hanlon, and seconded by Cllr. Gilligan and unanimously adopted.

Item 2: Presentation on the Draft Litter Management Plan 2019-2022 - Dara McGuigan A/S.E.O.

Mr Dara McGuigan (A/SEO) delivered a presentation to the Members in relation to the Draft Litter Management Plan 2019-2022. He explained that the recommendation of the Environment SPC is being sought to enable the Draft Plan to go forward to the Full Council for consideration at its Meeting to be held on the 29th April 2019 whereupon the Draft Plan may be approved for publication and a public consultation process will be undertaken.

Mr McGuigan explained that the Draft Plan illustrates the significant efforts undertaken by the Council and local communities to eradicate litter in Limerick. These initiatives include the Team Limerick Clean-Up events; the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System; Limerick Going for Gold; Tidy Town Groups; Green Schools; Conscious Cup; and the Single-Use Plastics Policy.

Mr McGuigan stated that the positive impact of these initiatives can be seen in Limerick's improved performance under the Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) survey.

The Members commended the Draft Plan and also the efforts of communities and Council staff in reducing the presence of litter in the City and County over the last three years.

It was proposed by Cllr Hurley, and seconded by Cllr Secas, and unanimously agreed, that the Draft Litter Management Plan 2019-2022 be published and that a public consultation be undertaken in accordance with sections 10 to 13 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997.

Cllr Gilligan expressed the view that chewing gum presents a particularly intractable litter problem, and that significant costs are incurred trying to remove chewing gum from footpaths. He expressed the view that an environmental levy similar to that applied to the purchase of plastic bags could enable the Council to fund the removal of chewing gum litter.

It was proposed by Cllr Gilligan, and seconded by Cllr Hurley, and unanimously agreed, that the Council write to the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment requesting that he consider the introduction of an environmental levy on chewing gum to enable local authorities to fund the removal of chewing gum litter from public footpaths.

Item 3: Presentation on the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 - Dara McGuigan A/S.E.O.

Mr McGuigan (A/SEO) delivered a presentation in relation to the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024. He explained that under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 and the National Adaptation Framework the Council must adopt a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy no later than the 30th September 2019.

Mr McGuigan explained that with the recommendation of the Environment SPC, the Draft Strategy will go forward to the Full Council for consideration at its Meeting to be held on the 29th April 2019, whereupon the Full Council may approve the publication of the Draft Strategy and the undertaking of a public consultation in relation to the Draft Strategy.

It was proposed by Cllr Secas, and seconded by Cllr Hurley, and unanimously agreed, that the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy be published, and that a public consultation be undertaken in relation to the Draft Strategy.

Item 4: Presentation on the Maigne River Trust – Anne Goggin, S.E.E.

Ms Goggin delivered a presentation to the Members updating them in relation to the activities of the Maigne River Trust. She explained that the River Trust is a bottom-up initiative that seeks to facilitate broad engagement amongst stakeholders in relation to the environmental management of the River Maigne catchment area. Accordingly, she confirmed that the board of trustees is composed of people from a broad cross section of society including academics, environmentalists, farmers, community activists and local representatives.

Ms Goggin also advised the Members that River Trust is organising a Festival of the Maigne on the weekend of the 14th-15th June 2019, which will including a number of public events including music and kayaking.

The Members thanked Ms Goggin for her work in assisting the Rivers Trust over the last five years.

Item 5: Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J Gilligan

“I will move at the next Meeting, as Ireland has failed to reach its carbon emission reduction target, we will have to pay a fine for exceeding our quota. As this will constitute an extra cost on all our building activities, I propose that this be factored in on all our major developments”.

Cllr Gilligan expressed the view that national and international policy currently lacks the urgency to adequately address the problem of climate change. He explained that having regard to recent scientific findings he is concerned at potential climactic impacts and that the cost of pollution needs to be fully accounted for in order to motivate an adequate response to the problem.

It was proposed by Cllr Gilligan, seconded by Cllr O’Hanlon, and unanimously agreed, that the Council factor the financial cost of carbon emissions exceeding the carbon emission reduction target for the local authority sector, into all our major developments.

Item 6: Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor K. O’Hanlon

“I will move at the next meeting that the Council consider installing a network of drinking fountains in appropriate locations to cut the number of plastic bottles being used.”

Cllr O’Hanlon explained that the students of Thomond Community College have recently undertaken an initiative to eliminate the use of single use plastic bottles in their school through the provision of water fountains and reusable containers. He stated that this initiative has resulted in a reduction in the use of up to 5,000 plastic bottles per week.

Cllr O’Hanlon expressed the view that the implementation of a similar initiative by the Council in public places could result in a significant decrease in single use plastics. He also suggested that the installation of public water fountains could be incorporated as a condition for planning permission for appropriate developments.

The motion was proposed by Cllr O’Hanlon, and seconded by Cllr Hurley, and unanimously agreed.

Recommendation 1:

That the Draft Litter Management Plan 2019-2022 be published, and that a public consultation be undertaken in accordance with sections 10 to 13 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997.

Recommendation 2:

That the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 be published, and that a public consultation be undertaken in relation to the Draft Strategy.

Recommendation 3:

That the Council write to the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment requesting that he consider the introduction of an environmental levy on chewing gum to enable local authorities to fund the removal of chewing gum litter from public footpaths.

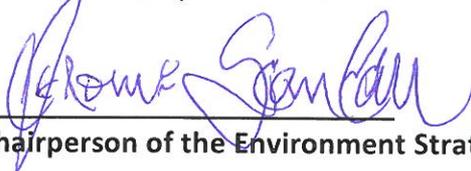
Recommendation 4:

That the Council factor the financial cost of carbon emissions exceeding the carbon emission reduction target for the local authority sector, into all our major developments.

Recommendation 5:

That the Council consider installing a number of drinking fountains in appropriate locations to cut the number of plastic bottles being used.

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Chairperson of the Environment Strategic Policy Committee