



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick City**  
& County Council

## **Meeting of the Environment Strategic Policy Committee**

**held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019**

### **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”.

### **Reply:**

Limerick City & County Council is aware of the national target of CO<sub>2</sub> reduction and the acceptance that, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ireland may not meet the CO<sub>2</sub> reduction target. The financial cost of failing to meet the CO<sub>2</sub> target may be recovered under a carbon tax on fuel, which is being addressed at a national level.

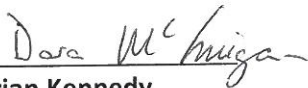
The local authority has a number of objectives in the existing City and County development plans which address energy efficiency in buildings and the need to increase renewable energy. In addition, Limerick City has submitted a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) as part of our commitment to our membership of the European Covenant of Mayors.

Limerick local authority has been proactive in the areas of energy and climate change, publishing the first local energy and emissions balances in 2006 and 2012. Limerick County Council was the first local authority in Ireland to install photovoltaic panels in public buildings in 2007 (Dooradoyle, Lissanalta House and Newcastle West Machinery Yard) and piloted Ireland's first Home Energy Saving Scheme in 2008, which went on to become the national Better Energy Homes programme.

The Energy Performance Buildings Directive will influence all future building developments, requiring a Near Zero Energy Building (NZEB) standard to apply to all new buildings occupied after 31st December 2020. For Public Sector bodies, the standard will apply to all new buildings owned and occupied for the first time after 31st December 2018. Currently, all new housing stock being designed is being designed in accordance with the NZEB standard. Significant energy efficiency improvements are also required in building renovation works under the government Long Term Renovation Strategy.

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act of 2015, has established a policy framework to develop Climate Adaptation and Mitigation plans at a regional and local level. Under the Act, Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO) have been established to advise on the development a number of plans, including the Limerick Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, that will be completed by September 2019. The Strategy is proposing that Climate Adaptation is mainstreamed across all Council policies, plans and operations including City and County Development plans, Local Area Plans and strategic land use planning documents.

On a practical level, Limerick City and County Council has secured €6.5 million in funding under the Horizon 2020 programme. The funding will establish Limerick City as Ireland's first Lighthouse city, which promotes energy efficiency, sustainable transport and low carbon development.



PP **Brian Kennedy**  
**Director of Service**  
**Physical Development Directorate**  
**24<sup>th</sup> April, 2019.**