

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019

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

**Chairperson's Report for the Community, Leisure and Emergency Services Strategic Policy  
Committee Meeting of the 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2019.**

A Chomhairleoir, A Chara,

**Summary Report/Main Issues:**

Three presentations were made to the SPC members.

**Presentation 1: Presentation on University of Limerick UL Practicum**

The members received a presentation from Anne Warren Perkinson, Project Manager, UL Practicum – Inside Out. Ms. Perkinson introduced herself to the members present and advised members that the UL practicum uses an innovative approach to student engagement and is the only example of this approach in Ireland. A practicum provides practical experience, skills development for future careers and opportunities to apply the disciplinary knowledge to real world projects. International students aged between 19-24yrs engage with the programme over 1 semester and the modules are linked to course credits. There is a direct benefit to the city, as an average spend per student per annum is estimated at in excess of €10,000. A new approach which has been adopted includes a common brand, partnership with LCCC, a lifecycle approach, off UL campus themed content, a range of community partners, digital first and an insistence that all sessions take place in the city. Key stages of the practicum include (promotion, welcome to Limerick, local engagement, recognition, Alumni network) and there is extreme demand for placement on the programme. The practicum is centred on partnership and the vision is to create a portfolio going forward, focused on project co-creation, a Limerick Inside Out Passport, specific themes and links to LCCC strategies.

The members of the SPC thanked Ms. Perkinson for her presentation and were very complimentary regarding the work carried out by UL.

**Presentation 2: Presentation on the life and works of Max Arthur Macauliffe**

Anne Rizzo informed members that her presentation was on the life and contribution of Max Arthur Macauliffe to Sikh Culture and religion. A meeting with members of the Sikh community in April 2018 led to a further meeting of interested parties including local historians, members of the Irish Sikh community, representatives of Limerick and Dublin Interfaith forums, Professor Tadhg Foley NUIG, Dr. Matthew Potter and staff of LCCC. A working group was set up in September 2018 and actions were defined. Ms. Rizzo gave a detailed description on Mr McAuliffe's family background, his early life, his education, career and publications. Ms. Rizzo then explained the background to Sikhism. She further explained that there are 27 million Sikhs living worldwide, the majority of whom originated mainly in the Punjab. Sikh communities are flourishing on every inhabited continent and there are 2,000+ Sikhs currently living in Ireland. Ms. Rizzo advised that following a presentation to the elected members for the Newcastlewest Municipal District, a total of five events were agreed upon. Those five events are, a commemoration ceremony to be held in Templeglantine, together with the unveiling of a plaque in memory of Max Arthur Macauliffe, a donation of books on Sikh culture and religion to the Library Service, a one day seminar on the life and works of Max Arthur Macauliffe, the launch of a publication on the life of Max Arthur Macauliffe, and an Urban Turban day. The members acknowledged the contribution Mr. Macauliffe made and thanked Ms. Rizzo for the presentation, which they found very interesting.

### **Presentation3: Presentation of the work of the SPC over the past five years**

The members were given a presentation by Seamus O Connor on the works of the SPC for the past five years. Mr. O'Connor indicated that between 2014 and 2019 there were 17 SPC meetings held, 47 presentations were made to members. There was an average attendance of 16 members per meeting and 7 recommendations were passed by the members. Mr. O Connor explained that one key recommendation that was ratified by full Council was that LCCC ensures that "accessibility for all," is embedded in all council policy documents going forward. The Migrant Integration Strategy that was also formally adopted by Council. It highlights how progressive and forward thinking LCCC is. Mr. O Connor reminded members that again resulting from a recommendation from the SPC, LCCC has substantially increased its water safety budget. LCCC is engaged in preparing a strategy for the provision of swimming facilities subject to funding being available, a sports and recreation strategy incorporating a swimming strategy, an audit of community facilities and a Burial Grounds / Interment strategy, all supported by the SPC. A suicide prevention sub-group of the SPC has also been established during the life of the current SPC. The members thanked Mr. O'Connor for his report, and commented that the themed structure of meetings made it possible for the work outlined to be completed.

### **Any Other Business**

Cllr. Hurley thanks all speakers and SPC members. Cllrs. Costello, Lynch and Sheahan expressed their thanks for the work of the SPC over the past five years.

Mr. O Connor advised all members that a Community Grants Scheme has been announced in the last week. He indicated details of same will be emailed to all.

The Chair advised that no date has been set for the next SPC meeting until the calendar of meetings for the incoming council has been agreed.

As there were no other matters for discussion, the meeting was brought to a close.

**Is mise, le meas,**

**Cllr. Marian Hurley**

**Chairperson**

**Community, Leisure and Emergency Services SPC.**