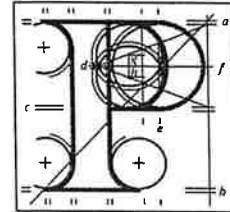


Our Ref: ABP-304028-19



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Matthew Thomas
Shannon Group
Shannon Airport
Co. Clare

Date: 10th June 2019

Re: 10 year permission for opera site re-development including a mixed use scheme of primarily offices, supported by a range of retail and non-retail services, cafes/restaurants, licenced premises, apart-hotel, civic/cultural uses (including a city library in the existing town hall), residential, refurbishment of existing protected buildings and open space.
Site bounded by Michael Street, Ellen Street, Rutland Street, Patrick Street and Bank Place, Limerick.

Dear Sir,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

A receipt for the fee lodged is enclosed.

Please note that the proposed development shall not be carried out unless the Board has approved it or approved it with conditions.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned officer of the Board.

Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,


Kieran Somers
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-873 7107

Teil (01) 858 8100
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Láithreán Gréasáin www.pleanala.ie
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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde 64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1 Dublin 1
D01 V902 D01 V902



28 May 2019

An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
LDG- <u>016265-19</u>	
ABP- _____	
29 MAY 2019	
Fee: € <u>50</u>	Type: <u>Reg Fee</u>
Time: <u>9.32</u>	By: <u>Chape</u>

RE ABP-304028-19 Opera Site Development, Limerick City Planning Application

Dear Sir/Madam

I write in connection with the above planning application and wish to offer Shannon Group's support to the proposal.

Shannon Group is an advocate for the Government's ambition for more balanced regional development and the aim for 75% of future growth to be outside Dublin and its suburbs as set out in Ireland 2040. Growing the population of our second-tier city regions is critical to the long-term sustainability of our regional economy. Ireland 2040 and the research underlying this policy recognises that if regions want to be successful in growing their populations, it is critical that there is an environment that supports employment growth. It is well known that the availability of premises and attractive urban areas are important factors in attracting industry to a region, and in driving regional economic performance and population growth. The proposed mixed-use development will significantly add to creating an attractive environment for people to live and work and is reflective of the strategic objectives of Ireland 2040.

In today's global world, cities as much as nations directly compete for jobs and investment in modern economies. Thus, regional cities such as Limerick will need to continuously evolve to broaden the region's appeal as a location to establish and/or expand a business. Considering this, the presence of redeveloped Opera site would heighten Limerick's international competitiveness and hence send strong signals internationally in relation to both Limerick and the region's competitiveness as a centre for commerce.

As a centrally-located and large-scale development, the Opera site would also provide a modern addition to the city centre and would enhance the appeal of the area which is culturally, architecturally, and historically fundamental to the fabric of Limerick City. The site, which will incorporate a public square as well as cafés/restaurants and a library, could supplement existing

local tourist attractions such as King John's Castle and could provide a fresh and unique vista for visitors to the city centre.

Taking account of the aforementioned issues, Shannon Group is supportive of Limerick City and County Council in advancing this development.

Your faithfully



Matthew Thomas
Chief Executive Officer

