



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae Luimnigh

Limerick City  
& County Council

11<sup>th</sup> September, 2019.

Seirbhísí Corparáideacha,  
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh,  
Ceanncheathrú Chorparáideach,  
Cé na gCeannaithe,  
Luimneach

Corporate Services,  
Limerick City and County Council,  
Corporate Headquarters,  
Merchants Quay,  
Limerick

To / The Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council

EIRCODE V94 EH90

t: +353 (0) 61 557150

Attendance at The European Green Leaf Awards in Oslo, Norway 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2019 f: +353 (0) 61 415 266

A Chomhairleoir, a Chara,

As stated in previous Report, I travelled, as part of a delegation from Limerick City and County Council, to the European Green Leaf Awards in Oslo, Norway, 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2019. I led the delegation which also included Laura Ryan, Communications and Marketing, Sinead McDonnell, Environment Awareness Officer, Simon Jennings, Physical Strategy and Karen Burke, Forward Planning. This delegation successfully competed for the European Green Leaf Award (#EGLA) for Limerick City for 2020.

The #EGLA is open to all towns and cities across Europe with a population of between 20,000 and 100,000 inhabitants. A successful EGLA application was submitted by Limerick City and County Council in October 2018. Limerick City was shortlisted for a competitive presentation in Oslo in June 2019.

The cross directorate team from the Council presented in front of the #EGLA jury of expert adjudicators.

Over the course of the event the team participated in the following activities :

**Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2019**

Preparation of Presentation

**Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2019**

Rehearsal in the Jury Room

#EGLA presentation followed by network meeting

**Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2019**

Green Cities Symposium

Green City tours, Urban Farm, Revitalised Business and Living Quarter, Walkable Oslo Award Announcement – The 2020 European Green Leaf title was jointly awarded to Limerick and Mechelen in Belgium.

Is mise le meas,

COUNCILLOR MICHAEL SHEAHAN

MAYOR OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF LIMERICK

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**16<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

### **Re Report on the Mayoral Visit to Hangzhou, China**

A Chomhairleoir, a Chara,

In response to an invitation from the Mayor of Hangzhou, Mr Xu Liyi, I led a small Limerick delegation to Hangzhou, China from 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019. The delegation also included Mr Pat Fitzgerald, Economic Development and Dr Katherine Chan Mullen, Hon Chairperson of the Irish Chinese Association. The delegation was also accompanied to the events by the Irish Consul General, Ms Therese Healy, based in Shanghai.

The principal reason for the visit was to participate in the 2019 Hangzhou International Sisters City Mayors Conference. The themes of the conference were 1) Digital Economy, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, 2) Smart Cities and the Upcoming 5g Era, and, 3) Artificial Intelligence City Applications. I was asked to present a paper on the first day of the conference outlining Limerick's experience in the digital economy. After presenting the conference paper to over 300 Chinese and International delegates I was interviewed for Chinese television and printed media.

The Limerick delegation attended the Belt and Road Local Co-operation Council Meeting, of which Limerick is a member. This is a forum where cities and regions from Europe and Asia that have formal relationships with Hangzhou meet and discuss potential areas of mutual co-operation.

On the second day the Limerick delegation participated in the 2019 Hangzhou International Day, attended the International Exhibition, and visited the Headquarters of Alibaba as well as various historical and archaeological sites. I also paid an official visit to the Hangzhou Dental Hospital Group Headquarters at the invitation of its CEO/Chairman, Mr Yang Zhanyou, who had visited Limerick in February of this year. Meetings were also held with representatives of the United Family Healthcare Group China and the Consul General of Iran, Mr Ali Razmi Ganji.

The Limerick delegation had discussions with a potential investor who wishes to expand its operations into Western Europe. Follow up contact is to be organised through the Irish Chinese Association in Ireland.

The Mayor of Hangzhou and a delegation from the City Government (incl. Education) were invited to visit Limerick in 2020 when the links forged during the visits can be further deepened.

**Is mise, le meas,**



**Councillor Michael Sheahan,  
Mayor of the City & County of Limerick**



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**18<sup>th</sup> September, 2019**

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**Visit to Spokane**

As Members are aware, an invitation was received from the Mayor of Spokane the same day Councillor Michael Sheahan was nominated to the position of Mayor at the AGM on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2019, to attend Spokane Annual 'Our Town Gala' and to the dedication of a Riverfront Park as The Sister City Garden on 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2019.

Due to the unavailability of Mayor Michael Sheahan because of other official commitments, I travelled to Spokane as Deputy Mayor for this event accompanied by Ms. Caroline Curley, Director of Service.

The Limerick-Spokane Sister City Relationship officially commenced on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 1990 when the Mayors of Spokane and Limerick signed a joint agreement linking the two cities.

As a sign of relationships, the City of Spokane has developed a Sister City Garden at Riverfront Park. The Park is an urban oasis for residents and visitors and the Sister City Garden will be a prominent show of their commitment to diversity, education and cultural appreciation. Sculptures and information representing each of 'Spokane's Sister Cities are displayed in the garden and I attended the official dedication of this Garden on 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2019.

On Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 I travelled, along with Caroline Curley, Director of Service, to Spokane, Washington State. Mr. Éamon Ó Cuív, T.D., also visited Spokane for the dedication of the Riverfront Park as 'Sister City Garden'.

On Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2019, we had a meeting with Council President Stuckard and Council Member Breean Beggs and other Council Members in Spokane City Hall. Following this meeting we joined Ben Stuckart for a taping of Spokane insights which is his television programme on City Channel 5. We were then taken on a tour of Spokane highlights to include the Duncan Gardens and the University District that includes Eastern Washington University, Washington State University and new Medical School, Whitworth College, University of Washington Medical School and Gonzaga University. A detailed tour of Gonzaga University campus followed. That evening a meeting took place with Spokane-Limerick Sister Cities Association.

On Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2019, the official dedication of Sister Cities Garden on Riverfront Park took place. Also in attendance were Mayors from Spokane's five Sister Cities – Hishinomiya, Japan; Jecheon, South Korea; Limerick, Ireland, Jilin, China and Cagli, Italy. The Spokane-Limerick Irish Harp Sculpture by Sister Paula Mary Turnbull was also dedicated at the ceremony. Following the dedication ceremony a guided tour of the newly remodelled Riverfront Park, site of the world's first environmental exposition, EXP074 took place. 'Our Town Gala' event then took place with proceeds from same going to selected local charities.

On Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2019, a meeting took place with Limerick Board Members followed by gathering with city officials and board Members for Dinner.

On Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2019, we travelled to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho and met with Limerick Member, Ilene Moss. Final farewell took place with presentation of gifts with Spokane-Limerick Sister City Society, Friendly Sons of St. Patrick Members and City Elected Officials.

Is mise, le meas,



**Councillor Adam Teskey**  
**Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick**