



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

DATE: 4 November, 2019.

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

**Chairperson's Report for the Travel & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee Meeting
of 15 October, 2019.**

Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

The Chairperson Cllr. Joe Leddin welcomed the Members to the first Travel and Transportation SPC Meeting of the new Council. Director of Service, Mr Kennedy introduced the Team to the Members. He stated that this Committee will set out future strategic transport policy and added that the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS) will form a major element of this.

Item 2: Update on Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS) - Robert Gallagher, S.E.

Mr Gallagher introduced the presentation on the LSMATS by stating that the Strategy is being formed in conjunction with the National Transport Authority (NTA) and will be a very important document, in that funding will be available to undertake schemes which will come out of the Strategy. He stated that the population in Limerick is predicted to grow to 150,000 by 2040, and that we need to plan now and develop the infrastructure to encourage public transport and active modes i.e. walking and cycling. These modes of transport will be very important going forward and there will be an emphasis on behavioural change and a period of transition from private cars to other modes. He advised that the Strategy will focus on Limerick city, but that transport links with the county will also be considered in the Strategy.

He advised that a draft of the Strategy should be completed by January 2020. A workshop will be arranged to allow the Members to consider the draft prior to its going on public display.

Mr. Gallagher continued by outlining the Projects, which are already at the early stages including : UL to City Centre bus corridor; O'Connell Street Revitalisation; LIT and MIC to City Centre cycle schemes.

Members commented on the importance of early and in-depth consultation with the public on the LSMATS, and on how it was important to promote the transition to alternative modes of transport. Mr. Kennedy suggested that a workshop with the Members of the SPC could be arranged when the outline proposals of the Strategy have emerged, and suggested extending the invitation to the workshop to all Members of the Council.

Item 3: Update on Public Realm Projects – Mr. Dan Slavin, E.E.

Mr. Slavin gave an update on the status of current Public Realm Projects including: Castletroy Urban Greenway; R445 Dublin Road Improvements; Castletroy Link Road & Golf Links Road; Park Road Bridge; Plassey Park Road/Plassey Road Junction Improvements, LIT and MIC to City Centre Cycle Lanes, St Paul's Roundabout, Raheen Study; Raheen Roundabout to Quinn's Cross & Fr Russell Road Cycle Lanes; Newcastle West Public Realm and Movement Plan; Abbeyfeale Traffic Calming; Parnell St/Wickham St Upgrade and public realm associated with the Limerick Flood Relief Scheme.

Mr. Kennedy added that the current Major Infrastructure Schemes in progress are: N21/N69 Foynes to Limerick Road Scheme (including Adare Bypass); N/M20Cork to Limerick Road Scheme; Limerick Northern Distributor Road and Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale Bypasses/ Relief Roads.

The Members welcomed the update.

Item 4: Traffic Management Update

Cllr J. Leddin began by stating that he had requested this item to be placed on the agenda of the meeting. He stated that motorists parking illegally at bus stops in Limerick city still remains an issue. He advised that Bus Éireann has highlighted the fact that buses cannot pull in to bus stops because of cars parked at the stops, which results in the buses remaining on the roadway holding up traffic. While commending the Council's Traffic Wardens he noted that they are off duty at 6p.m. He stated that the issue has to be seriously dealt with and opened the floor for suggestions and solutions.

The Members discussed the option of a zero tolerance approach to illegal parking, and also advocated that behavioural change was required to address the situation.

Mr. Kennedy advised that bus stops are already painted red and confirmed that there were 345 tickets issued up to end of August for illegally parking on bus stops. He also stated that Wednesday to Saturday evenings there is a big night time economy, and parking illegally will not be easy to solve. He agreed campaigning and educating through the schools would be a positive step, and undertook to look at all options.

Item 5: Update on Study Visit to Utrecht, Netherlands looking at Cycling Infrastructure - Cllr. Elisa O' Donovan.

Cllr. O' Donovan gave a presentation on her recent study visit to Utrecht looking at cycling infrastructure. She stated that Utrecht is the fourth largest city in Holland and like Limerick is a medieval city. It is growing within the same limited space so the use of public space is no longer in the balance. Therefore, a sustainable urban mobility plan was put in place, giving way to pedestrians and cyclists. These included cycle networks parking areas, changing the public transport system and shifting car traffic from the city. She added that Dutch towns are thriving, the bicycle is clean, silent, and economical and the people are happy and healthy.

The Members welcomed the update.

Item 6. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. B. Leddin (deferred from Full Council Meeting)

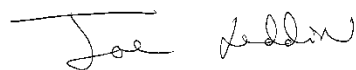
"I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council will allocate 10% of its transport budget to Cycling."

Cllr. B. Leddin stated that the presentation on LSMATS was a perfect rationale for a strategy on cycling infrastructure and a network for public transport. He stressed that the emphasis needs to be changed from private cars. He advised that one in 200 girls and one in 50 boys cycle to school and stated that statistically there is an increasing number of young girls driving to school. He added that the Council should aim to make Limerick more cycle-friendly by following the Utrecht Model. Cllr. Butler seconded this motion.

In a written response the Director of Service advised that the Council gets most of its roads funding from three primary funding bodies: TII, DTTAS and NTA. An allocation of €2.56 million has been made to Limerick by the NTA for a variety of schemes, all of which contain the provision of cycling infrastructure, whether as part of a scheme or in totality. Mr. Kennedy added that now is the time to develop a comprehensive Cycling Network for Limerick. He added that there will be difficult decisions to be made, but it is for the future development of Limerick.

The Meeting then concluded.

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Chairperson of the Travel & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee