



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Forbairt Gheilleagrach,
Ceanncheathrú Chorpáraideach,
Cé na gCeannaithe,
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30th October 2019

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

**Chairperson's Report for the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning
Strategic Policy Committee Meeting of 16th October 2019**

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

The inaugural meeting of the above SPC took place on 16th October 2019. The meeting took place in the absence of the sectoral representatives. It is expected that the sectoral representatives will be in situ for the next meeting of the committee on 9th December 2019. In the absence of the Committee Chairperson, Cllr Eddie Ryan, Cllr. Stephen Keary was nominated to chair the meeting.

Item 1 – Standing Orders

Draft Standing Orders were circulated at the meeting, outlining rules and procedures for meetings.

The standing orders provide for the holding of four meetings per year, and more if necessary. The quorum required for meetings was eight members.

On the proposition of Cllr. Ryan, seconded by Cllr. Collins, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Draft Standing Orders.

Item 2 – Role of SPC and Functions of the Economic Development Directorate

V. Murray A/DoS, gave an overview of the role of Strategic Policy Committees in advising and assisting the Council in the formulation, development and review of policy.

He also outlined the activities of the Economic Development Directorate covering the following sections: Trade and Investment, Strategic and Forward Planning, Local Enterprise Office, Innovate Limerick, Marketing and Communications, Urban Innovation and Limerick Twenty Thirty DAC, whose aim is to plan and develop key strategic sites in Limerick so that it will act as an anchor for enterprise and investment development across Limerick.

It was agreed that Innovate Limerick would make a presentation at the next meeting on its current and future plans.

It was further agreed that the Limerick Chamber of Commerce would be invited to present the findings of their Assessment of Aviation Policy as a Driver of Economic Growth in the West and Mid-West of Ireland Report to the next meeting to which all members of the Council can be invited.

Item 3 - Update on Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy

Ms. M. Woods, A/Senior Planner, gave a comprehensive presentation on the update of the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Southern Region.

The purpose of the RSES is to support the implementation of National Planning Framework. It will influence and guide Limerick's Development Plan and Local Area Plans over the next 12 years and will influence decisions on government investment. Cllrs. John Sheahan, Michael Collins and Frankie Daly are the 3 representatives from Limerick sitting on the Regional Assembly(RA).

She informed the members of the following progress to date:

- Pre draft consultation 27th Nov 2017 – 16th Feb 2018
- Oct 2018 working draft considered by RA members
- Nov 2018 members approved draft for consultation
- 18th Dec 2018 to 8th March 2019 draft RSES consultation (205 submissions)
- April 2019 Director's Report issued
- 10th May 2019 RA members considered the Directors report – 94 motions submitted for amendments
- 12th September 2019 to 11th October 2019 Material amendments public display (145 material amendments)

She highlighted some of the key issues raised by Limerick City and County Council and the responses received from the Director of the RA:

- Over emphasis on Cork in terms of balanced regional growth – to be amended in final RSES.
- Lack of emphasis on the Primacy of Limerick City – to be amended in final RSES
- Prematurity of South Clare SDZ pending development of city centre – amendments to proposed SDZ not carried.
- MASP fails to set out a clear strategic and co-ordinated approach for the future growth, development and investment of the Metropolitan Area – to be amended.
- Potential for development of Newcastle West was undersold – to be amended.
- Lack of associated actions for Climate Resilient City – to be amended.
- Request for ban on incineration in the Southern Region – a matter for national government.

She stated that the RSES will be adopted by the Assembly Members by the end of the year and preparation for the 1st Joint Limerick City and County Development Plan is to commence within 26 weeks from date of adoption. She informed members that background work has already commenced on preparing research papers and the

process will formally commence in April 2020. Workshops and training will be carried out with elected members in the preparation of the Development Plan.

A number of members expressed concern over the level of restrictions on expansion of rural / family businesses, which are the heartbeat of most communities.

Members also expressed concern that RSES was not in alignment with the National Planning Framework due to lack of actions for climate change.

Item 4 – A.O.B.

- Land Development Agency (LDA)

M. Woods, A/Senior Planner gave a presentation on the role of the Land Development Agency, which was established in September, 2018 to drive the development of State lands, develop land for housing and work to put collaborations in place between private and public bodies.

She stated that the LDA have been invited to view two large tracts of land in the Dock Road area and lands in the vicinity of the Colbert Railway Station, with the purpose of developing a Masterplan for the development of these sites.

M. Woods assured members that LCCC will be working in collaboration with the LDA in developing a masterplan for the areas, with the purpose of increasing employment and residential in the city centre. She stated that the local authority would not have the financial resources itself to carry out such a masterplan.

It was agreed that the Council would engage with the LDA in relation to the master planning of development sites in the City and that Metropolitan District members would be kept fully briefed on the initiative.

- Next Meeting: Monday, 9th December, 2019.

Mise le meas

Cllr. Stephen Keary
Chairperson
Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC

