

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE AND PLANNING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK ON WEDNESDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2019, at 2 PM.**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:** Councillor Stephen Keary

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors: Daniel Butler, Bridie Collins, John Egan, Liam Galvin, Brian Leddin, Michael Murphy, Jerry O'Dea, Olivia O'Sullivan, Martin Ryan, Catherine Slattery.

**SECTORAL INTERESTS:** Awaiting nominations.

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

P. Fitzgerald, Economic Development, M. Woods, K. Burke, Forward Planning, D.O'Donohue, Planning, P. Ryan, Regional Film Co-Ordinator, B Burke, Economic Development.

**APOLOGIES:**

Cllrs. Eddie Ryan, Richard O'Donoghue, Jerome Scanlan.  
Eamon Ryan, Mike Cantwell, Stephane Duclot.

**Item 1**

**Introductory Remarks - Chairperson**

As Cllr. Ryan had sent apologies, it was agreed that Cllr. Keary would chair the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed D. Ryan, Chief Executive, Limerick Chamber of Commerce to the meeting.

He also welcomed V. Murray to his new role as Acting Director of Service, Economic Development Directorate.

P. Fitzgerald informed members that the sectoral interest representatives had not yet been approved and it was hoped that they would be in place by November.

V. Murray introduced Paul Ryan, who had been appointed as Regional Film Co-Ordinator and whose role is to attract film related business and increase jobs in the region.

**Recommendation of Draft Standing Orders**

Draft Standing Orders were circulated at the meeting, outlining rules for meetings. V. Murray informed members that 4 meetings per year would be held, and more if necessary, and the quorum required for meetings was 8 members. On the proposition of Cllr. Ryan, seconded by Cllr. Collins, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Draft Standing Orders.

## **Item 2**

### **Presentation by Economic Development Department on**

#### **(a) Role of SPC**

#### **(b) Economic Development Department Activities**

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 2030, a Development Activity Company (DAC), whose aim is to plan and develop key strategic sites in Limerick city and county so that it will act as an anchor for enterprise and investment development across Limerick.

He assured members that all units within the directorate work closely together and regular meetings of the directors are convened at which all projects are discussed and planned.

A number of issues were raised by the members, including overhead lines in the Georgian Area of the City, the work-plan and funding of Innovate Limerick and the recently published Copenhagen Report on Aviation Policy.

It was agreed that Limerick Chamber of Commerce would be invited to make a presentation on the Copenhagen Report to the next meeting. It was further agreed that Innovate Limerick would brief the Committee on their activities and plans.

## **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 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 Newcastlewest 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

While members thanked Maria for her update on RSES a number of members expressed concern over the level of restrictions on expansion of rural / family businesses, which are the heartbeat of most communities. She acknowledged that not all rural areas were sufficiently serviced and that they hoped to identify settlements to develop services in the new joint development plan, to encourage enterprise in rural towns.

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

It was stated that the economic benefits of a comprehensive greenway strategy (local and regional) should be examined in order to revitalise many small towns and villages.

On the proposal of Cllr. Galvin, seconded by Cllr. Keary, it was unanimously agreed to suspend Standing Orders in order to allow the completion of the meeting.

#### **Item 4**

#### **Any Other Business – 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 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.

V. Murray informed members that board members from the Land Development Agency will be convening a meeting in Limerick in the next few weeks to look at various options.

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. Galvin, it was unanimously agreed that Limerick City and County Council would agree to work with the Land Development Agency in developing a Masterplan for sites in Limerick City.

**Next Meeting: Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2019.**

That concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Councillor Stephen Keary**  
**Deputy Chairperson**