



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Luimnigh

Limerick City
& County Council

Forbairt Gheilleagrach,
Ceanncheathrú Chorpáraideach,
Cé na gCeannaithe,
Luimneach

Economic Development,
Limerick City and County Council,
Merchants Quay,
Limerick

EIRCODE V94 EH90

t: +353 (0) 61 556 000
e: forwardplanning@limerick.ie

3rd March, 2020

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 17th February 2020**

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

The third meeting of the above SPC took place on 17th February 2020. Outlined below is a summary of the key items considered by the committee.

Item 1 – Limerick Food Strategy - Update

James Burke, Facilitator of Limerick Food Strategy, informed members of a new website LimerickFood.ie, which was recently launched to promote and develop Limerick's food and drink industry, by showcasing the wealth of high quality food and drink on offer across Limerick city and county. The website has currently 29 producer's profiles.

He outlined the following plans for 2020:

- Food Seminar in April – regional focus
- Irish Quality Food Awards – based in Limerick
- Limerick Show 2020 – Food Village with up to 30 exhibitors
- Food Related Training – supported by LEO
- Designation of Limerick Ham as Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) Status
- Launch of a new Map – to develop West Limerick as food destination.

It was suggested by the elected members to create a Limerick Food Trail, which would seek to link all food producers, hotels and restaurants in the area, which would increase business and address a major gap in the tourism market in Limerick. Mr Burke agreed to explore this suggestion.

While members welcomed the presentation, they also expressed concern over the cost of producing a specialised product, getting local produce into restaurants, stringent legislation applying to food producers and low prices being paid for high quality beef, which was unsustainable for local farmers.

They also expressed concern over the lack of funding and support available to the Milk Market in Limerick City which is a huge tourism draw in the region.

Replying to members on how to get people to purchase local produce, James Burke suggested that schools be invited to include the food programme into the transition year curriculum and educate students on making food accessible to all. He also suggested an interesting dynamic would be to include a condition of 'local produce only' in any tenders for large catering facilities in the future.

B. Moloney advised members that LEO provide a large range of mentoring programmes, free expert advice and a Green Start programme, which is available to larger companies through Enterprise Ireland, to encourage companies to use environmental best practice to improve their competitiveness.

Item 2 – Forward Planning Work Programme

M. Woods, A/Senior Planner stated that work will commence on the first Joint City and County Development Plan on 31st May, 2020 and it is hoped to be adopted by Q1, 2022. She outlined the scope and the timeline of the proposed Development Plan. She stated that it was a reserved function of elected members to make the Development Plan and it was important that they work closely with the executive during this process. The inaugural meeting of the steering group had taken place and it was agreed that seven different sub groups would be formed to consider the following topics: City & Environs, County Towns, Local Area Plans, Infrastructure, Recreation & Social, Economic Development and Climate Change. Workshops and training will be provided for elected members.

She also updated members on the following:

- **RSES** – adopted on 31/1/20 and working with Regional Assembly on implementation of the objectives.
- **Development Contribution Scheme** – to be reviewed and new draft scheme to be prepared.
- **Supplementary Contribution Scheme** – for the provision of future phases of Mungret Link Rd to be prepared.
- **URDF** – Call for proposals to close on 31/3/20. All applications to be made by local authorities, however collaboration with other public bodies and with the private sector is encouraged. All projects must be capable of completion by end of 2027 and match-funding requirement is a minimum of 25%. She stated that they are currently preparing a number of applications, with the view of bundling various projects together.
- **Local Area Plan (LAP) Programme** – Updated members on LAPs - she pointed out that both the Adare and Askeaton LAPs had been extended and that the Southern Environ LAP is to be reviewed and incorporated into the proposed Development Plan.
- **Retail Strategy** – Joint Plan to be prepared with Clare County Council.
- **Height Strategy** – will be included as part of proposed Development Plan
- **Limerick Shannon MATS** – working with National Transport Authority - will be incorporated into proposed Development Plan.

Many members raised serious concerns with regard to the National Planning Framework rural housing policy and the interpretation by An Bord Pleanála of social and economic need. The restriction on rural housing is threatening the viability of rural communities – schools, clubs, community life etc.. Some members stated that they will have reservations on adopting a development plan that contains this type of policy.

Members welcomed the opportunity to review the Council policies on protected structures.

Reference was also made to Living City Initiative Scheme, which offers tax incentives to develop Georgian buildings in the city and the low level of take up in Limerick City and asked that the scheme be reviewed. V. Murray stated that he would arrange an update on the Living City Initiative at the next meeting.

Members also raised the issue of a possible de-zoning of residential land in the new plan.

It was clarified that should the new Development Plan not be adopted by the Council then the responsibility for its adoption would fall to the Executive.

Item 3 – A.O.B.

- Next Meeting: Monday, 14th April 2020.

Mise le meas

Eddie Ryan

Cllr. Eddie Ryan

Chairperson

Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning

