

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

Chairperson's Report of the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 8 December, 2020.

Item 1: Adopt Minutes of Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee of the 13 October 2020:

The minutes were proposed by Mr. Hedderman, seconded by Cllr. Hartigan, and adopted.

Item 2: Director's Report:

Mr. Kennedy presented the Director's Report and referred to the correspondence received from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. Darragh O'Brien TD regarding reviewing legislation relating to the display of election posters.

Mr. Kennedy agreed that a copy of the correspondence from the Minister would be circulated to all members. Cllr Hartigan welcomed the Minister's response.

Item 3. Update on the Climate Action and Low Carbon (Amendment) Bill 2020: (Dara McGuigan, A/Senior Executive Officer)

Mr. McGuigan gave an update on the Climate Action and Low Carbon (Amendment) Bill 2020, which is currently making its way through the Houses of the Oireachtas.

He noted that under Section 12 of the Bill each Local Authority will be required to make a 5-year Climate Action Plan. Each local authority must, within 12 months of receipt of the Minister's direction, develop a climate action plan which shall specify the mitigation measures and the adaptation measures to be adopted by the local authority.

Item 4. Update on the Water Framework Directive and Water Quality in Limerick (Anne Goggin, Senior Executive Engineer, LCCC)

Ms. Goggin showed a video by the EPA on the Water Framework Directive in Ireland and then gave a specific presentation on water quality in Limerick. A new River Basin Management Plan for the period 2021-2027 is currently being finalised. She noted that Limerick's water quality status has gone from being 6% of water bodies with high status to 1% in the past 10 years and noted her concern.

Item 5. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr S. Hartigan (Referred from Full Council meeting)

'I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council assess the possibility of providing a roadside tree maintenance grant scheme. This scheme would provide some financial assistance to communities and groups that undertake roadside tree maintenance and the cutting of overhanging trees to assist landowners in complying with their responsibilities under Section 70 of the Roads Act, 1993'.

Cllr Hartigan stated that the thinking behind the proposal was to encourage owners to maintain trees to protect biodiversity and improve air quality.

Cllr Sheahan (J) seconded the motion.

Mr. Kennedy confirmed presently the responsibility lies with the landowner to maintain trees and hedgerows, but the Council will review and consider the motion and will revert to the SPC in due course.

Signed:

Jerome Scanlan

Chairperson

4 January, 2021.