



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Stiúrthóireacht Forbartha Eacnamaíochta,
Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Luimnigh,
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11th January 2021

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 14th December 2020**

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

A virtual special meeting of the SPC on 14th December 2020. I am outlining below the business transacted at the meeting.

Item 1

Presentation from the Land Development Agency on the Colbert Quarter Project

Members from LDA and the Design Team gave a presentation on the Colbert Quarter Project. In October 2019, LDA in partnership with Limerick City and County Council, CIE and the HSE announced plans to examine the potential for development of a 50 hectare site in Limerick City Centre near Colbert Station. A Design Team was established, led by the Royal Institute of Architects (RIA) to undertake a Design Review for the Colbert Station Quarter to identify five high level design ideas and concepts that could be considered for future development.

Following public consultation on the Draft Design Review over 100 submissions were received, which outlined the importance of integration of new and existing communities, a mix of accommodation for all ages and inclusion of retail and office space to encourage job creation and facilities to encourage arts, culture and sporting activities.

A number of stakeholder meetings took place and feedback from these will inform the next stage of the project, which will be the creation of a Spatial Framework, which will include key

objectives for the future development of Limerick Colbert Station Quarter and will feed into the new Development Plan 2022-2028.

A new website Colbert Station Quarter.ie has also been created, where public can access up-to-date information on the project.

Further engagement and public consultation will take place during January/February 2021 to ensure that plans being proposed for the site will be deliverable in the short / long-term.

While members thanked the LDA Team for the presentation they queried who was funding the project and were informed that the LDA is funding the current study to assist with the master planning of the site.

Members also queried plans for the Foynes Line and were informed that Iarnrod Eireann had plans for reinstatement of the Line in the future.

A copy of the LDA presentation has been circulated to members.

Item 2

Overview of the CE Report on the pre-draft public consultation stage for the proposed Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028

M. Woods, A/Senior Planner gave an overview of the CE Report on the pre-draft public consultation stage for the proposed Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028. She stated that

- 38 Meetings took place with key stakeholders
- 5 public meetings were held in each Municipal District in September
- Over 30 face to face meetings were held
- 229 valid submissions were received following public consultation from 15/8/20 – 12/10/2020

The key recommendations from the above meetings were outlined and a CE Report was prepared on the submissions received during the pre-draft consultation process.

Maria also outlined the schedule of works for the next number of months, which includes holding workshops with elected members and preparation of the Draft Development Plan by Feb/March 2021.

Members thanked Maria for the concise presentation and raised queries regarding density criteria, one-off rural housing and renewal of towns and villages.

She stated that densities varied according to location and that An Bord Pleanála required high-level densities in the city centre with low levels more viable in rural areas.

Regarding the Irish Water's Town & Village Renewal initiative, she stated that €6.6m had been allocated under the Scheme and that some towns required larger investments than others and she was hopeful that a number of towns would benefit under the Scheme.

Maria stated that the NPF and RSES sets out the main guidelines in relation to rural housing.

She stated that a workshop would be organised for elected members to discuss rural housing, development of towns and villages and the promotion of use of serviced sites.

It was confirmed that a list of protected structures in each of the Municipal Areas had been circulated to Elected Members and that an updated list would be circulated to the Sectoral Interests and PPN representatives.

She confirmed that a workshop on protected structures would be organised with members of the SPC early in the New Year.

Replying to B. Thompson, Maria confirmed that she would organise a briefing session with the PPN Linkage Group to discuss the criteria for selecting protected structures.

V. Murray informed members that a Working Group will be put in place in the New Year to review the list of Protected Structures.

Maria assured members that no constraints will be applied to development at Foynes Port once it complied with the Renewable Energy Strategy.

Following concerns raised by members regarding the issuing of Derelict Site Notices, the Chairperson agreed to invite Gordon Daly, Director of Community & Enterprise to the next SPC meeting to discuss this matter.

A copy of the Forward Planning presentation has been circulated to members.

Item 3

Consideration of Notice of Motion referred from adjourned Council meeting held on 3rd July, 2020 submitted by Cllr. E. O'Brien.

I will move at the next meeting that the Chief Executive deliver the report and findings of the Riverway Design Enabling Review, commissioned in June 2017 and undertaken by Senior Architect, Rosie Webb.

As this item had been deferred at two previous meetings of the Committee it was decided to proceed with the presentation.

Rosie Webb gave a presentation on the City Riverway Design Enabling Review Report for the River Shannon. She stated that the Design Enabling Review was carried out to examine options for the Riverway Project and to make recommendations for appropriate infrastructural provisions to capitalize on the potential of the River Shannon and to improve access and use of the River in the City and to address the impacts of the recommendations of the CFRAM Study.

In response to a query MsWebb stated that the report offered a view on a particular bridge proposal for the Shannon river

V. Murray informed members that the Report will be presented to Waterways Ireland for their consideration as they have responsibility for the management of the river.

A copy of the presentation has been circulated to members.

Item 4

Consideration of Notice of Motion referred from Metropolitan District Meeting, held on 16th November 2020, submitted by Cllr. C. Sheehan;

I will move at the next Metropolitan Meeting of the Council that the Council develop a policy for the taking in charge of estates to ensure that all estates are taken in charge within a defined period of 7 years post completion.

This item was deferred to next meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: *Eddie Ryan*

**Councillor Eddie Ryan,
Chairperson**