



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae Luimnigh

Limerick City  
& County Council

Stiúrthóireacht na Forbartha Pobail,  
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh  
Ceanncheathrú Chorparáideach,  
Cé na gCeannaithe,  
Luimneach.

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8<sup>th</sup> March 2020

To the Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council  
A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

### **Bridging Finance –EU LEADER Rural Development Programme/West Limerick Resources**

The Limerick Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) is the Local Action Group (LAG) for the delivery and management of the EU LEADER Programme in Limerick. The LEADER Programme is delivered on a partnership basis between the LCDC, the two rural Local Development Companies (Ballyhoura Ltd and West Limerick Resources Ltd) and the Council who are the financial partners. The budget for the 2014-2020 was €9.276 million and an additional €500.000 was allocated to Limerick in 2018. As part of a transitional arrangement between the last programme which ended in December 2020 and the beginning of the next LEADER Programme which is part of the Common Agriculture Programme a sum of €1.1 million has been allocated to Limerick for 2021.

A number of Food Initiative and Cooperation Projects with other LCDC's have also been approved by the Limerick LCDC and these projects are funded from separate national budgets.

West Limerick Resources have responsibility for the delivery of a number of these co-operation projects and other internal projects. The EU LEADER Programme rules require that service providers/contractors engaged to deliver these projects are paid by the promoters (in these cases West Limerick Resources) in advance of LEADER funds being drawn down. West Limerick resources have requested that Limerick City and County Council consider the provision of bridging finance to the value of €200,000 up to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2022 being made available to assist in the delivery of the projects referred to above.

**Recommendation:**

A loan of €200,000 be made to West Limerick Resources to be used for bridging finance to assist in the delivery of the EU LEADER Programme in accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.

Sean Coughlan

Sean Coughlan  
Director of Service

Gordon Daly

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Director of Service