



8th November, 2021

EIRCODE: V94 EH90

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

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**Chairperson's Report for the Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee
Meeting of the 4th October, 2021.**

A Chomhairleoir, A Chara,

Item 1: Adoption of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr M Donegan, seconded by Cllr S Kiely, the minutes of the previous committee meeting held on the 8th July, 2021 were adopted.

Item 2: Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

Item 3: To consider a notice of motion from Cllr Azad Talukder (Referred from the Metropolitan District of Limerick meeting held on 19th July, 2021)

“I will move at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that consideration by given to the provision of a cricket ground within the Limerick Metropolitan District area”

G Daly advised the members that the Council has commenced work on the preparation of a Sports and Recreation Facilities Strategy for Limerick City & County Council owned and managed facilities. The development of this strategy has been delayed by Covid 19 restrictions.

This notice of motion will be considered as part of the ongoing strategic study that is being prepared. This strategy will come back to the SPC for consideration at a future date

Item 4: To consider a notice of motion from Cllr Sharon Benson and Cllr John Costeloe (Referred from the Metropolitan District of Limerick meeting held on 20th September, 2021)

“I will move at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council begin the process of identifying funding options for the delivery of a much needed Community Centre in Garryowen, whilst working alongside stakeholders to progress plans for delivery”

The members discussed the motion in detail. It was accepted that funding would be a key issue if the need identified in the audit for a community centre in Garryowen is to be progressed.

G Daly advised the members that he was not aware of any specific funding programmes for such facilities in the City area at this time. However, he stated that the Council Executive will pursue state funding options to see if the centre proposed could be delivered.

Item 5: Draft Autism Working Group Discussion paper

The members received a detailed update on the recommendations that arose from the findings of the Autism Working Group. Recommendations are as follows that:

- Limerick City and County Council be the pilot organisation in the development of an Autism Friendly City and County (Phase 1) in areas of *Support Services, Economic Development & Enterprise, Transport & Mobility, Community, Tourism & Culture, Housing, Planning, Environment & Place-Making*
- As a pilot Autism Friendly organisation Limerick City and County Council will aim to ensure any agreed actions must be deliverable, meaningful and sustainable, collaborate with other key stakeholders and seek expert advice with regard to autism where appropriate.

Following the discussion, the members agreed that the next stage is for to commence recommendations that they will form an action plan that will go back to the SPC for consideration in 2022.

Item 6: Update on the Culture Sub Committee

The members received an update on the Culture Sub-committee for the recovery of the Arts and Culture Sector in Limerick, following the impact of COVID-19 on the sector. The sub-committee met on 28th September and agreed terms of reference. The impact of Covid on the arts and culture sector in Limerick has been discussed by the committee members. The SPC members were advised that the Arts Office have begun the process to engage a research evaluator who will work with the Sub-Committee to agree the research methodology with the group. They will draft a call out for information, surveys, analyse received data and write up the final research report, with recommendations. These recommendations will be informed by relevant Limerick City and County Council policies and strategies and National reports and policies. They will present this information to the Sub-Committee and the SPC.

An online briefing meeting with the Arts Council has been organized for Tuesday 12th October. Further briefing meetings are in progress with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts Gaeltacht, Sports and Media and National Campaign for the Arts

Item 7: Update on the Audit of Community Facilities

The members received a further update on the Audit of Community & Cultural Facilities. The members were advised that findings of the study have already informed some council operations such as the Community Enhancement Programme funding stream where funding for adaptations to community buildings/facilities were given priority. The next step is to prepare the summary report of the audit as a publication of the Council, and to host an “in person” workshop in coming weeks, when Covid restrictions allow, to inform the preparation of a Council Strategy on the provision of community facilities.

Item 8: Date of next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Community, Leisure and Culture SPC will take place on Monday 6th December 2021 at 3pm.

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Cllr. Kieran O' Hanlon
Chairperson
Community, Leisure and Culture SPC