

**10 December, 2021**

**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 of 7 December, 2021.**

The Chair, Cllr. Jerome Scanlan opened the meeting and introduced Ms Ailís Ní Chofaigh and welcomed her to her first meeting of the SPC.

**Item 1: Adopt minutes of the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy  
Committee Meeting that was held on 5 October, 2021.**

The minutes were proposed by Cllr. Galvin, seconded by Cllr. Collins (B), and adopted.

**Item 2: To agree dates for the CABE SPC Meetings for June, October and December 2022:**

- 21 June 2022
- 18 October 2022
- 13 December 2022

The proposed meeting dates were approved by the Committee.

**Item 3: Director's Update:**

Ms. Gallagher provided an update on steps taken to date on addressing the future Climate Change agenda.

She confirmed that the Council, in its budget for 2022, has provided for the recruitment of two posts – a Climate Action Co-ordinator and an Energy and Emissions Officer. It is anticipated that recruitment for these posts will begin in early 2022, to allow for the commencement of the process for the development of the local authority Climate Action Plan as soon as Ministerial direction issues.

#### **Item 4. Update on the Blue-Green Infrastructure Strategy (Nick James, LUC Consultants).**

Mr. James, Director of Land Use Consultancy (LUC), gave a presentation on progress on the development of the Blue Green Infrastructure Strategy for Limerick City and Environs. He advised that the principles contained in the BGI Strategy were not restricted to the study area and would be transferrable across the whole of the city and county.

He outlined progress to date. Stage 1 compilation of background information; identification of themed approaches; Stage 2 technical workshops with internal stakeholders and an audit of current provision. They are currently preparing for Stage 3, which is an interim report, which will include for the identification of potential BGI actions. He advised that the timeline is as follows: Stage 3 to January 2022; Stage 4 – draft Strategy to SPC February 2022; public consultation February-March 2022; final Strategy April 2022. Mr. James invited members for their input.

Members welcomed the presentation and raised the following issues which were addressed at the meeting: that similar plans be developed for county towns; examination of natural linkages to support habitat linkages; protection and enhancement of green spaces in housing estates and BGI in future developments; recommendation on a minimum percentage for communal green space in developments; inclusion of the Groody Valley area in the strategy.

The Chair thanked Mr. James for the presentation, and it was confirmed that a copy of the presentation would be circulated to all members.

#### **Item 5. Briefing on the draft River Basin Management Plan: (Simon Jennings)**

Mr. Jennings advised that members that the second round of River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) was concluding in 2022 and that the third round was commencing. A draft of the River Basin Management Plan was currently on public display, and the closing date for submissions was 31 March, 2022.

He advised that there would be grant funding for community initiatives in 2022. A total of €380,000 was available, with the maximum grant for communities set at €25,000.

Members welcomed the presentation and raised the following issues: the need for adequate funding for projects dealing with non-native invasive species; rivers trusts; addition of orthophosphates to drinking water affecting water quality.

The Chair thanked Mr. Jennings for the presentation, and it was confirmed that a copy of the presentation would be circulated to all members.

#### **Item 6. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Kiely (referred from the Metropolitan District Meeting October 2021).**

“I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the possibility of litter bin sponsorship be examined as a way to provide revenue for the provision of more bins in the city and its environs and to support local businesses to be more visible on their respective streets / areas.”

Cllr. Kiely had extended her apologies to the Chair and requested that the Motion be forwarded to the next meeting of the Committee. The Chair was agreeable to this.

**Item 7. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor B. Collins (referred from the Adare-Rathkeale District Meeting November 2021).**

“I will move that a promotional and physical campaign policy be considered by the Environment SPC to address the issues of waste cigarette butts and plastic bottles at its next meeting.”

In proposing the Motion, Cllr. Collins (B) said that her experience of the work of the Tidy Towns Committee in Adare was that there was a proliferation of cigarette butt and plastic bottle litter, and called for a promotional campaign to highlight the options available for their proper and safe disposal. She noted an initiative named No Butts.ie <https://www.facebook.com/nobutts.ie/> that provided receptacles for cigarette butts, which were then recycled to minimise the waste product. The motion was seconded by Cllr. Secas.

Ms. Gallagher replied that the current Litter Management Plan 2019-2022, continues to promote anti-littering messaging, with an emphasis on plastic bottles and cigarette butts, through a variety of schemes and initiatives. The Council will be reviewing the Litter Management Plan in 2022, which will set the policy direction in relation to litter prevention, reduction and enforcement for the period 2022-2025. Consideration will be given as to how we deal with cigarette butts and plastic bottles as part of this process. She thanked Cllr Collins for the advice on the No Butts campaign and said that we would look into it.

Cllr Collins (B) thanked the Director for her reply.

**Item 8: Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Novak Uí Chonchúir (referred from the Metropolitan District Meeting November 2021).**

“I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Chief Executive should conduct a feasibility study on how to improve accessibility to recycling facilities throughout the Metropolitan area and put in place plans to implement the necessary changes to ensure that recycling facilities, including bottle banks, can be accessed by everyone.”

In proposing the Motion Cllr. Novak Uí Chonchúir stated that as 20% of households in Limerick, according to Census 2016, did not have a car, people had difficulties in accessing bring bank facilities. She added that the closure of the Park Road Recycling facility and the placement of bottlebanks – Mill Road in Corbally in particular – made accessibility more challenging. The Motion was seconded by Cllr. Hartigan.

In response the Director stated that the Environment, Recreation and Climate Change department manage the recycling facilities provided by the bottle bank network throughout City and County. The Council will assess the feasibility of improving accessibility to these facilities and will implement the outcome of the feasibility study when this service is being retendered.

Cllr. Novak Uí Chonchúir thanked the Director for her reply.

The Chair thanked the members and wished them a happy and healthy Christmas and a Covid-free 2022, and advised that the next meeting is scheduled for 4pm on Tuesday 8 February, 2022.

The meeting then concluded.

Is mise le meas,

**Jerome Scanlan**  
**Chairperson of the Climate Action Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee**