



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Luimnigh

Limerick City
& County Council



Daniel Butler

An Comhairleoir

Méara Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh

Councillor

Mayor of the City and County of Limerick

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To: The Mayor and each Member of Limerick City & County Council

9th March 2022

Re Report on the Mayoral Visit to London and Manchester 14th – 17th of February 2022

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

As members will be aware, I travelled to London and Manchester from 14 February to 17 February 2022. The primary purpose of this trip was to engage with Limerick Diaspora in both cities and to explore opportunities to strengthen the connection between Limerick and Limerick's people around the world. I was accompanied on this trip by Vincent Murray, A/Director of Service, Economic Development and Rory Corbett, Trade & Investment.

On the first day of official duties, 15th of February, I paid a visit to IDA and Enterprise Ireland offices in central London. During this visit I held meetings with IDA official Niamh Breslin, EI Regional Director Marina Donohoe and Patrick Rochford, Counsellor from the Economic & Commercial Section of the Irish Embassy in London. These meetings were an opportunity to update Embassy, EI and IDA colleagues on recent economic developments in Limerick and to get some insights into post BREXIT Britain and some of the opportunities and challenges presented.

Later that morning I paid a courtesy visit to the Deputy Lord Mayor and Sheriff of the City of London, Nicholas Lyons. The Sheriff of the City of London has a strong focus and responsibility for the financial services sector. We had an interesting discussion with Mr. Lyons about the challenges the City is facing in light of BREXIT.

After lunch, I was invited to visit the Irish Cultural Center in Hammersmith. I was greeted at the Cultural Center by the Lord Mayor of Islington Mr. Troy Gallagher and his consort, Mary Roberts, who is from Newcastle West in Limerick. Mr. Gallagher and I have been invited to lead the St Patrick's Day parade in London on March 12th. We were also greeted by some members of the Limerick diaspora community in London. The Irish Cultural Center in Hammersmith promotes Irish language, film, music and theatre and has been a supportive organisation and outlet for many Limerick people living in London.

That evening, I hosted a dinner for 25 members of the Limerick Exiles Association in London. During this event, I formally recognised and acknowledged one key member of our global community. Mr. Conn Dee, originally from Murroe and now president of the Limerick Exiles Association, has been instrumental to its conception, development and success over the last 40 years. It was an honour and pleasure to formally recognise him for his role in promoting Limerick abroad and supporting our global community.

Early on the morning of Wednesday the 16th of February, we travelled by train from London to Manchester. Our first appointment in Manchester was a meeting with the Mayor of the Greater Manchester Local Authority, Mr. Andy Burnham. Items on the agenda for this meeting included discussions on the Manchester experience of the Directly Elected Mayor, economic and social relations between the North West of England and examination of shared experiences in the area of the provision of local government services.

Later that afternoon we paid a courtesy visit to the new Irish Consulate office in Manchester. We held a meeting with the new Consul General for the region, Sarah Mangan, her colleague Carina O'Brien, and Enterprise Ireland official Laura Brocklebank. This meeting gave us the opportunity to update EI and DFA officials on developments, economic and otherwise, in Limerick.

We had an early start on Thursday morning and were given a guided tour of Media City, in Salford Manchester, by Limerick native PJ Leyden. Media City is an impressive Docklands development by the Peel Group, which transformed an otherwise derelict area of Greater Manchester. There were many similarities between the site at Media City and the Cleeves site in Limerick and these were explored.

That afternoon I hosted lunch for 20 members of the Limerick diaspora community living in Manchester. During this event I again had the opportunity to formally acknowledge and recognise one member of our global community living abroad. Dr. Gerard Collins, a Patrickswell native and now Consultant Urological Surgeon at Stepping Hill Hospital, was described as a pillar of support and beacon of light during the dark days of the COVID-19 pandemic in Manchester.

Later that afternoon we departed Manchester Airport and returned to Dublin.

I am satisfied that the economic objectives of this trip were met and that suitable engagement with our diaspora community was achieved. I am particularly pleased with the passion, pride and energy for Limerick, which I experienced from meeting Limerick's people abroad.

Yours sincerely,



**Councillor Daniel Butler,
Mayor of the City and County of Limerick.**

COUNCILLORS REPORT ON CONFERENCE WHICH THEY ATTENDED

REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED UNDER SECTION 142(5) (f) and (fa) OF THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

Organiser of Conference Celtic Conferences

Name of Conference: The Finance Act

Location of Conference Carlingford

Date of Conference 7th-9th January 2022

Summary of Conference Content

Briefing on budget 2022 covering the primary changes in taxation including USC rates, personal tax bands and additional funding towards Social Protection €365 million, €45 million for return to work initiatives and €650 million to support agriculture, enterprise and tourism. New income tax relief for remote workers at 30% for allowable vouched expenses such as utility bills.

The Help to Buy scheme for first time buyers is being extended for another two years while an additional 2.5 billion is being allocated towards new housing provision. To help improve energy efficiency in local authority homes a new fund totalling €25 million is being made available for local authority applications.

Introduction of a new zoned land tax and an extension of the help to buy scheme. The Abhaile scheme has been extended for a further 3 years to continue to provide support and advice for people in mortgage arrears.

Funding of €130 million is being provided for the Urban and Regeneration Development Fund. The fund is intended to help to rejuvenate significant but underused areas in Ireland's 5 cities and other large towns. A second call for proposals for 2020 will be made shortly.

The National Regeneration Programme which supports regeneration projects in economically disadvantaged communities is allocated funding of €72 million in 2022.



The Living City Initiative that provides tax relief for money spent on refurbishing or converting residential or commercial properties in specified cities has been extended until 31 December 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Leddin", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Signature: _____

Print Name: __Joe Leddin

THIS FORM TO BE SUBMITTED WITH CLAIM FORM FOR TRAVEL AND
SUBSISTENCE

COUNCILLORS REPORT ON CONFERENCE WHICH THEY ATTENDED

REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED UNDER SECTION 142(5) (f) and (fa) OF THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001



Organiser of Conference Celtic Conferences.

Name of Conference The Finance act 2021

Location of Conference Carlingford.

Date of Conference 7/01/2022

Summary of Conference Content

The Conference gave us an in depth insight
into the taxation and budgetary measures.
that were passed by the Dail on 12th
of October the speaker was Mr.
Peter Hayes from Cork. The Conference was
into detail about certain tax exemptions
and tax increases.

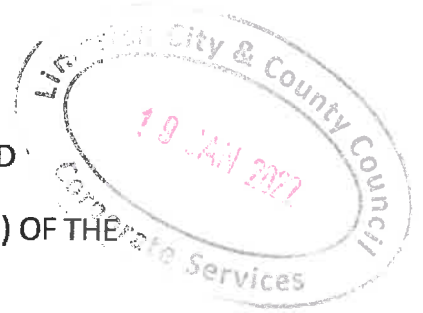
Signature: Adam Tesley

Print Name: Adam Tesley.

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COUNCILLORS REPORT ON CONFERENCE WHICH THEY ATTENDED

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001



Organiser of Conference celtic conferences

Name of Conference The Finance Act 2021

Location of Conference The Four seasons Hotel, carlingford co. Louth.

Date of Conference 7/8/9 January 2022

Summary of Conference Content

The Finance Bill 2021 sets out The proposed
legislative changes from announcements made
on Budget day 12/october/2021
TAX credits increased in personal tax from
€1500 to €1550

Increase in the USC threshold

Introduction of a new Zoned Land TAX.

TAX exemption for the first €200 from

supplying electricity to the grid.

The Bill was signed into Law

on 26/12/2021.

Signature: Fergus Kilcoyne

Print Name: Fergus Kilcoyne

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COUNCILLORS REPORT ON CONFERENCE WHICH THEY ATTENDED

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Organiser of Conference

Celtic Conferences

Name of Conference

Finance Oct 2021

Location of Conference

Carlingford Co. Louth

Date of Conference

7th to 10th Jan 2021

Summary of Conference Content

See accompanying Report

Signature:

Michael Sheehan

Print Name:

MICHAEL SHEEHAN

THIS FORM TO BE SUBMITTED WITH CLAIM FORM FOR TRAVEL AND
SUBSISTENCE

Celtic Conference

7th.to 9th.of January,2021

Carlingford,Co.Louth

Report submitted by Cllr.Ml.Sheahan

Finance Act 2021

COVID-19 Recovery-

€7 billion of funding is available to support the response to Covid-19 including
€200m.to support the tourism,hospitality and live entertainment sectors,
€500m.for Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme extension to April 2022,
€100m.for Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) for Jan.2022,
€800m.for vaccinations,testing and contact tracing and the HSE winter plan,
€150m.for safe running of schools and extra educational and training places,
€200m.to support public transport transport.

Taxation-

Income tax rates to stay the same.

The standard rate tax band will increase by €1,500.

Personal Tax Credit,Employee Tax Credit,Earned Income Tax Credit and Widowed Person or Surviving Civil Partner(without dependant child) Tax Credit will increase by €50.

Tax relief on vouched remote working expenses will be available at 30%.

The 2% USC band ceiling will increase by €608 to €21,295.

Carbon Tax will increase by €7.50 per tonne of carbon dioxide emitted,from €33.50 to €41.00 -immediately for auto fuels and from May 2022 for all other fuels.

Vehicle Reg.Tax rates will increase from Jan.2022.

The weekly income threshold for the higher rate of Employer's PRSI will increase from €398 to €410 .

The reduced VAT rate of 9% for the hospitality sector will continue until the end of Aug.2022.

The waiving of commercial rates due to local authorities will be extended to support businesses impacted by COVID-19.

Extra funding of €15m.will be provided for the Covid Credit Guarantee Scheme providing low cost loans for businesses negatively impacted by COVID-19.

A new tax credit for the digital gaming sector will be introduced for games funding and testing at a rate of 32% on eligible expenditure of up to €25m.

A new Corporation tax rate of 15% will be introduced for businesses with a turnover of more than €750m.per yr.

The Section 486C corporation tax relief for certain start up companies will be extended to the end of 2026, with a 5 yr.qualification window.

Changes to the Employment and Investment Scheme will -extend the Scheme for a further 3 yrs,open up to a wider range of investment funds,relax rules around the 'capital redemption window for investors and remove the 30% expenditure rule.

Disruptive Technologies Fund-

An additional €17m. will be invested in research, development and deployment of disruptive technologies and applications.

Enterprise Transition Green Fund-

A new E.T.G.F. will be established for foreign and indigenous businesses.

Regional Property Programme-

€10m. will be allocated to the programme to facilitate the IDA in preparing state of the art facilities around the country in order to attract investors to set up and create jobs.

Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media-

€1,197m. allocated.

€50m. allocated to business continuity supports in the tourist industry.

€39m. funding allocated for tourism marketing and product development.

Artists Income Guarantee-

A new basic income guarantee for artists will be introduced on a pilot basis from Jan. 2022.

Social Welfare-

The max. rate of all weekly social welfare payments will increase by €5.

CE, Tús and Rural Social Scheme participants will also qualify.

A Christmas Bonus of 100% will be paid in Dec. 2021.

The Fuel Allowance will increase by €5 from Oct. 13th. 2022.

The Fuel Allowance income threshold will increase by €20 from Jan. 2022.

The Living Alone Increase will increase by €3 from Jan. 2022.

The Working Family Payment threshold will increase by €10 across all family sizes from June 2022.

The weekly income limit for one-parent households will be increased to the same as two parent households from June 2022.

Disability and Illness Payments-

The min. paid PRSI contributions required to qualify for Treatment Benefit will decrease from 5 yrs. to 9 mths. for people aged between 25 and 28 from Jun. 28th. 2022.

A grant of 50% up to €500 towards the cost of wigs, hairpieces or hair replacement systems due to illness will be introduced under the Treatment Purchase Scheme from June 2022.

The income disregard for Carer's Allowance from €332.50 to €350 for a single person and from €665 to €750 for a couple and the capital disregard will increase from €20,000 to €50,000 from June 2022.

The period during which Carer's Allowance and Domiciliary Care Allowance can be paid for children in hospital will be extended from 3 mths.to 6 mths.from Jan.2022.

The earnings limit on Disability Allowance will increase by €25 and the weekly means disregard will increase by €5.10 from June 2022.

PhD scholarships will be disregarded in the means test for Blind Persons from Jan.2022.

The list of agri-environmental schemes that attract a disregard under the Farm Assist Scheme will be amended from Oct.2022.

Health-

The Dept.of Health has been allocated &22.2 billion to include funding for testing ,tracing booster vaccines delivery and for personal protective equipment.

The Drugs Payment Scheme Threshold will be reduced by €14 per mth.

Dental treatment Medical Cardholders increased access will be introduced as will be free GP care for 6 and 7 yr olds.

Employment and Business-

€898m.is allocated to the Dept.of Enterprise Trade and Employment in 2022.An additional €17m.is allocated for once off COVID-19 business supports in 2022.

Women's Health Package -

€31m.will-

- *Fund free contraception for women between aged 17 to 25 from Aug.2022,

- *Provide additional funding for sexual assault units,

- *Progress the Nat.Maternity Strategy and the Gynaecology Model of Care,

- *Add 7,000 new posts across the health system,

- *Use €24m.to develop mental health services and €250 m.to tackle hospital waiting lists,

- *Use €8m.to build the capacity of the Nat.Ambulance Service.

National Minimum Wage-

will increase by €0.30 to €10.50 per hr.from Jan.2022.

Parental Leave and Parent's Benefit-

will be extended by 2 wks.to 7 wks.from July 2022.

Education and Training

Primary and Post -primary schools-

Dept.of Ed.allocation will be €9.2 billion.

School Transport Scheme will get an additional € 30m.

An additional 350 teachers will be appointed.

980 new teachers will be recruited to support children with special needs and 1165 new SNA's will be recruited.

The Hot Schools Meals Pilot Programme will be extended to the remaining DEIS primary schools who have applied to join the scheme.

Higher education,further education and skills-

Allocation for 2022 will be €3.7 billion.

3320 new CAO places will be created.

The current Post Leaving Certificate course contribution fee of €200 will be abolished.

The Student Maintenance Grant will increase by €200.The cut-off eligibility threshold will increase by €1,000.The travel distance for the 'non adjacent' rate will decrease to 30km.from 45 km.

Additional apprenticeship supports will include- a new Employer Apprenticeship Grant and 7000 off-the -job training places for craft apprentices affected by COVID-19 restrictions.

Lifelong Learning Literacy, Digital and Numeracy Skills-

€3m.will be provided to support this programme for adults.

Childcare and Parenting-

€716m.childcare funding.

The Universal Subsidy under the National Childcare Scheme will be extended to children up to 15 from Sept.2022.

Hours spent in pre-school or school will no longer be deducted from hrs.subsidised by the National Childcare Scheme.

Environment and Climate-

€700m.allocated to the Dept.of Environment,Climate and Communications in capital expenditure for 2022.

Housing-

€6 billion allocated to the Dept.of Housing,Local Govt.and Heritage.

The Help to Buy Incentive Scheme will be extended to the end of 2022 with a full review in 2022.

Capital funding of. €2.5 billion will be allocated for Social and Affordable Housing for 2022,including 9,000 new build social housing units and more than 4,000 affordable homes.All to be delivered through various funding channels including the Land Development Agency and the First Home Scheme.

Funding for the HAP Scheme will be increased by €168m.

Funding for the Rental Accommodation Scheme of €133m.will be provided.

€18m.will be provided for Traveller Accommodation.

€194m.will be provided for Homeless Services.

€50m.will be allocated to start the Croí Cónaithe Fund to help to service sites and refurbish town and village properties and to increase owner occupier apartment development in city centres.

€65m.will be allocated to provide for 11,000 grants for home adaption of older people and people with disabilities.

The Pyrite Remediation Scheme will provide €20m.In addition funding for the remediation of homes affected by defective concrete blocks has been increased to €40m.

Funding of €30m.will support the remediation of over 1,500 voids(vacant dwellings in need of repair) in 2022.

Zoned Land Tax-

A new tax of 3% will be introduced to replace the Vacant Sites Levy.Pre letting expenses will be allowed in certain circumstances.

Transport-

€3.4 billion will be allocation in 2022 to cover public transport,electric vehicle,cycling,walking, Greenway,National /regional and public roads,Maritime and coastguard and Safe Route to School programmes and projects.

A new Youth Travel Card will enable people aged 19 to 23 to get 50% reduction in public transport fares.

Justice-

€3.2 billion will be allocated in 2022 for the following-

- *An extra 800 Garda recruits and an extra 400 Garda staff for specialist roles and office functions,

- *Improved mental health services in prisons and additional staff to improve healthcare services in prisons,

- *Additional psychologists to engage with people convicted of sexual offences,

- *Modernisation of the Court Service including cyber security measures,

- *Awareness campaigns to combat sexual violence,gender-based violence and domestic violence.

Brexit-

Ireland will get €1.1 billion once off payment under the Brexit Adjustment Reserve from EU to fund measures to address the economic and social consequences of UK withdrawal.

Rural and Community Development -

€376m.allocated for rural regeneration and development,town and village renewal, Outdoor Infrastructure Investment Scheme,LEADER Programme and the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (to focus on under-represented groups).

Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora-

€25m.allocated which is a doubling of the 2021 allocation to -

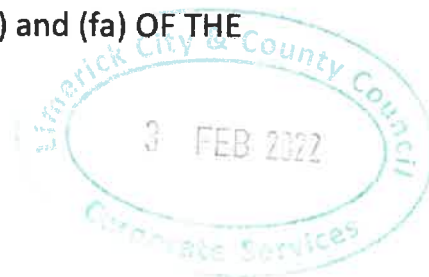
- *Improve passport services,develop consular services in Irish embassies and consulates,
- *Fund emigrant support programmes and diaspora engagement,
- *Continue to promote North/South reconciliation and mutual understanding.

Signed :

Sent from my iPad

COUNCILLORS REPORT ON CONFERENCE WHICH THEY ATTENDED

**REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED UNDER SECTION 142(5) (f) and (fa) OF THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001**



Organiser of Conference: National transport Authority

Name of Conference; Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan

Location of Conference: Online

Date of Conference: 4/11/21

Summary of Conference Content

Conference outlined a five-year programme of public transport improvements consisting of a range of regional and local bus service improvements and pilots of complementary non-conventional transport improvements.

Connecting Ireland will offer a viable alternative to the car & a partnership approach to public transport .Aim is to improve integration of commercial and PSO Bus Services, work with Irish Rail on rail service improvements & rollout of services based on greatest need.

Conference outlined enhanced interurban connections between Limerick City, Ennis and Galway & new local bus services into Newcastle West from Ballingarry, Athea, Mountcollins, and Toornafulla.

Signature: Sean A. [Signature]

Print Name: S / 2 / 22

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