

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE AND PLANNING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 23<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY, 2022 at 2PM IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE AND ONLINE.**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:** Councillor Jerome Scanlan

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors: Daniel Butler, James Collins, John Egan, Stephen Keary, Michael Murphy, John O'Donoghue, Olivia O'Sullivan, Martin Ryan, Eddie Ryan, Sasa Novak Uí Chonchúir

**SECTORAL INTERESTS/ PPN NOMINEES:** Declan Hehir, Madeleine Lyes

**OTHERS:** Cllrs. Sharon Benson, Adam Teskey, Sarah Kiely and Dan McSweeney

**MEDIA:** Nick Rabbitts, Limerick Leader; Ryan O'Rourke, Irish Examiner.

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

Vincent Murray, Economic Development; Mike Cantwell, Bernie Moloney LEO/Innovate; Alan Dooley, Digital Services; Paraic Rattigan, MWREP; Nuala Gallagher, Nuala O'Connell, Planning, Environment & Place making; Pat Fitzgerald, Rory Corbett and Brid Burke, Trade & Investment, Aedin Foley, Corporate Services and Katie Bedford, Forward Planning.

**Apologies:** Brian Thompson, PPN

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, it was unanimously agreed that Cllr. J. Scanlan would Chair the meeting as Cllr. E. Ryan was vocally unfit to chair the meeting.

**Item 1**

**Adoption of Minutes from Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC Meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2021**

The draft minutes were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. J. Collins, seconded by Cllr. J. Egan and unanimously agreed.

**Item 2**

**To consider Notice of Motion referred from adjourned meeting of the Council held on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 submitted by the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale Councillors A. Teskey (Proposer), B. Collins, S. Keary, E. O'Brien, J. O'Donoghue, K. Sheahan**

*We will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council ensure that Development Fund monies are divided evenly between all Districts of the Council.*

V. Murray informed members that Development Fund monies could not be allocated on a municipal district basis.

Members queried the availability of funding for maintenance of playgrounds and was informed by V. Murray that monies in the development fund only covered capital projects. He stated that he would refer their concerns regarding the maintenance of playgrounds to the Community, Tourism and Culture Directorate, who dealt with this matter.

### **Item 3**

**To consider Notice of Motion referred from Council meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 submitted by Councillor O. O'Sullivan**

*I will move at the next Meeting that this Local Authority create and adopt a Local Food Purchasing Policy in line with the Environmental Protection Agency's Green Public Procurement principles in the procurement of sustainable food and beverages, and catering services, helping to support the local food system in increasing demand, improving the availability of local produce, and increasing employment within the local food sector.*

Following discussion on the item, the Council executive response was outlined.

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Sullivan, seconded by Mayor D. Butler, it was agreed that the wording would be revised to incorporate 'that the Council would write to the relevant Minister with responsibility for Public Procurement to seek guidance in relation to the development of a policy on the procurement of sustainable food and beverages, and catering services'.

### **Item 4**

**To consider Notice of Motion referred from Council meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 submitted by Councillor S. Benson**

*I will move at the next Meeting that this Council invite CLES (the National Organisation for Local Economies, UK) to give a presentation to all Councillors on the Community Wealth Building Model.*

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Benson, seconded by Cllr. J. Scanlan, it was unanimously agreed that Limerick City and County Council invite CLES (the National Organisation for Local Economies UK) to give a presentation to all Councillors on the Community Wealth Building Model. An invitation from this SPC would issue to CLES to present to the next meeting. All Councillors would be invited to attend the SPC meeting for this item.

### **Item 5**

#### **Presentation on Mid-West Regional Enterprise Plan**

Paraic Rattigan, Programme Manager, Mid-West Regional Enterprise Plan gave a presentation on the newly launched Mid-West Regional Enterprise Plan (MWREP), which covers Counties Limerick, Clare and Tipperary. The MWREP was developed by a Regional Steering Committee, which includes Enterprise Agencies, Local Enterprise Offices, Local Authorities, Regional Assembly, Higher and Further Education Bodies and local industry leaders. The Plan was designed to generate projects, which create jobs and help companies to grow across the region and contains a number of key strategic objectives to be delivered over the next two years. The new Regional Enterprise Development Fund (REDF) will provide up to €180 million funding nationally to support the development and implementation of collaborative and innovative projects, e.g.

- Strengthen the Mid-West as a national centre for advanced manufacturing,
- Deliver innovative projects to enable a sustainable Film Industry in the Mid-West
- Deliver collaborative initiatives/projects to solve healthcare problems using digital solutions
- Establish the region as a national leader in the Sports-tech and eSports sectors
- Progress regional Data Centre capacity with an emphasis on innovative/sustainable projects

The MWREP replaced the Regional Action Plan for Jobs 2015-2017, which secured funding for the Engine Collaboration Centre, the Future Mobility Campus in Shannon and the National Bio-Economy Campus in Co. Tipperary.

While members welcomed the presentation and commended the level of collaboration between the stakeholders, they expressed concern over the lack of skilled workforce / trained apprentices to take up the new jobs being created and requested that funding be directed to SMEs to enable them recover from the downturn in business during the pandemic.

Mr. Rattigan informed members that Companies were being kept up-to-date with any new developments in the region and informed of any opportunities available to them.

A Working Group had been set up in conjunction with the Regional Skills Forum to provide training/upskilling in various disciplines, including Renewable Energy.

From the €180m funding, which was made available nationally under the Regional Enterprise Development Fund, it was proposed that the Mid-West Region would receive approx. €20m and it would be necessary to tap into other funding available also. Work was ongoing in preparing projects for funding and only “the best projects” could be put forward, as Enterprise Ireland applied very strict requirements in the drawdown of funding.

### **Item 6**

#### **Update on Draft Development Plan process**

V. Murray informed members that work continued on the preparation of the Draft Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028, with further workshops held with Elected Members to consider the Chief Executives report on the submissions received during the draft plan public consultation period. At a Special Council meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> February the Elected Members passed a resolution to make material amendments to the Draft Plan. The material amendments will be placed on public display for 4 weeks from 5<sup>th</sup> March. A further Chief Executive’s report will be prepared on submissions received and a Special Council Meeting has been scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> June to approve the Development Plan.

### **Item 7**

#### **Any Other Business**

Councillors queried the building regulations covering provision of chimneys in house construction. The Development Management Dept. would provide guidance on this matter to committee members.

Cllr. Keary referred to proposals for development on Shannon Estuary by Shannon LNG Plant and requested that full support be provided to the Company, by the Local Authority.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Councillor Jerome Scanlan,  
Deputy Chairperson**