



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick City
& County Council**



Daniel Butler

Án Comhairleoir

Méara Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh

Councillor

Mayor of the City and County of Limerick

Oifig na Mhéara,
Cé na gCeannaithe,
Luimneach,
V94 EH90.

Office of the Mayor,
Merchant's Quay,
Limerick,
V94 EH90.

t: +353 (0) 61 557334

e: +353 (0) 86 2907173

m: mayor@limerick.ie

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

July 2022

Report on the visit to Austin Texas and Santa Clara/San Francisco, California, USA – June 2022

A Chomhairleoir, a Chara,

An official delegation recently travelled from the Council to Austin and Santa Clara, USA following invitations from the Mayor of Austin and Mayor of Santa Clara to visit.

- **Austin - Saturday 4th June to Wednesday 7th June**
(Depart Shannon at 12 noon and arrived in Austin at Midnight)
The delegation was comprised of Cllr. Daniel Butler, Mayor of Limerick, Pat Fitzgerald, SEO and Vincent Murray, A/DoS, Economic Development & Enterprise
- **San Francisco Wednesday 7th June to Saturday 11th June 2022**
The delegation was comprised of Cllr. Daniel Butler, Mayor of Limerick and Vincent Murray, A/DoS, Economic Development & Enterprise

Members of the delegation took part in a number of activities and events during their visit with the objective of promoting Limerick, developing deeper business relationships, developing our sister city links and engaging with the Limerick diaspora community.

I am satisfied that the economic and civic objectives of this trip were met and that suitable high quality engagement with Austin City Council, Santa Clara City Council, our diaspora and business community was achieved. I am particularly pleased with the passion, pride and

energy for Limerick that I experienced from meeting people in Austin and Santa Clara and in particular from Limerick's people abroad.

The meetings and events that were attended by the delegation during our visit are summarised below:

Sunday 5th June – Meeting and Dinner with Irish Business & Diaspora Groups

The delegation attended an event where they met senior representatives of the business community in Austin with business interests in Limerick as well as senior members of the Limerick/Irish Diaspora Community Groups.

Monday 6th June – Event 1 - Meet the Mayor of Austin at City Hall.

The delegation attended a meeting at City Hall in Austin where we met the Pro-Tem Mayor of Austin, Mayor Alison Atler, & her Economic Team led by Julia Campbell where links between Limerick and Austin were discussed including the ongoing success the relationship between the cities is delivering. Discussions took place around how this relationship can be further strengthened and programs that can be delivered over the next 12 to 18 months.

Monday 6th June – Event 2 - Meeting with the IDA, Enterprise Ireland and the Consul General.

The delegation attended a meeting with Sean McWilliams from the IDA, Jessica Baker from Enterprise Ireland, Consul General Robert Hull and the Vice Consul Niamh Clark. This was an opportunity to update our IDA and EI colleagues on recent economic and enterprise developments taking shape in Limerick, including progress on the Limerick Development Plan, Limerick 2030 progress and updates on major infrastructure projects like the M20, LSMATS and Foynes/Adare Limerick Road scheme. The delegation also discussed recent successes the IDA had at delivering new FDI investment into Limerick and discussed what the current trends in inquiries were and what the main criteria investors were examining before making new investment decisions. This was also an opportunity to discuss the work to be done to assist Limerick and Midwest companies exporting into and tendering for work in America and to discuss where Enterprise Ireland saw future opportunities emerging particularly around new start-ups in the ICT sector.

Monday 6th June – Event 3 - The Consul General hosted an event at his offices for representatives of Irish Business and Diaspora community.

This was an excellent networking opportunity for the Limerick delegation to meet business leaders across many of the top companies in Austin.

Tuesday 7th June – Event 1 – Meeting at Texas State Capitol Building with the Asst. Secretary of States & Staff.

The delegation attended a meeting at the Capital Building in Austin where we met with the assistant secretary of state and his staff and discussed links between our two cities and opportunities for extending these. We were also treated to a tour of the building and the new extension.

Tuesday 7th June – Event 2 - Meeting with Austin Sisters Cities; David Barrutia, Kirsti Briant and Aditi Josh

This meeting took place at West 14th Street and the purpose was to discuss the MoU signed several years ago between the two cities and to discuss the potential of moving this forward to a full Sister City relationship. The meeting also discussed areas of common interest where our relationships can be further strengthened.

Tuesday 7th June – Event 3 – Meeting with Texas International Education Consortium; Dr Robin Lerner and Anna Charnitski

This meeting discussed areas where educational institutes in Texas and Limerick can further develop relationships in areas of research, Erasmus and teaching. Our delegation have committed to working with our universities and vocational training organisations to increase cooperation.

Tuesday 7th June – Event 4 – Visit and tour of The Capital Factory Austin.

The Capital Factory in Austin is the centre of gravity for entrepreneurs in Texas, the number one startup state in the U.S. Thousands of entrepreneurs, programmers and designers gather day and night, in-person and online for meetups, classes and coworking in their facilities in the centre of down town Austin. Our delegation was attended a meeting where

we learned about what makes Capital Factory work, how it drives success and how it is able to attract millions in venture capital annually. We then were treated to a tour of the facility where we saw the different entrepreneurs and start up companies at work.

Tuesday 7th June – Event 5 – Meeting with the Celtic Cowboys – Austin

The delegation met with Mr Pat Doab (Limerick Exile) and representatives of the Celtic Cowboys Sports Club in Austin. This organization is very proud to play and promote the traditions of the G.A.A in the Greater Austin area and along the Central Texas Corridor and competes in leagues across North America. The delegation heard about the work of the organization and the benefits and challenges of organizing Gaelic games in Texas.

Wednesday 8th June – AM – Travel Austin to San Francisco

Wednesday 8th June – PM, Event 1 – Team Ireland Cyber Security Networking Reception at Ireland House San Francisco.

The Consulate General in San Francisco, hosted a meeting and a networking reception for the Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform Ossian Smyth T.D and leading Irish business people in the ICT and Cyber Security Sector that our delegation attended. This was an excellent networking opportunity. This event was part of the wider RSA Conference for the cybersecurity community.

Thursday 9th June – Event 1, Visit to Enterprise Ireland, San Francisco

Our delegation attended a meeting at the Enterprise Ireland offices and had a meeting with Dáire Boylan and his team. This was an opportunity to discuss the work being done to assist Limerick and Midwest companies exporting into and tendering for work in West Coast America and to discuss where Enterprise Ireland saw future opportunities emerging particularly around new ICT start-ups looking to expand from the US into Europe.

Thursday 9th June – Event 2, Meeting with IDA in Mountain View California

Our delegation made a planned visit to IDA offices in Mountain View, California who have responsibility for promoting Ireland as an investment location on the west coast of USA and in particular Silicone Valley. We held a meeting with Paraic Hayes, John Hearty, Owen Chambers and Jacqueline Walker. This was an opportunity to update our IDA colleagues on recent economic and enterprise developments taking shape in Limerick, including progress on the Limerick Development Plan, Limerick 2030 progress and updates on major infrastructure projects like the M20, LSMATS and Foynes/Adare Limerick Road scheme. The delegation also discussed recent successes the IDA had at delivering new FDI investment into Limerick from west coast USA and discussed what were the current trends in inquiries and what the main criteria investors were examining before making new investment decisions. In particular, we discussed how to promote Limerick as a European destination for new US, IT start-ups and Life Sciences companies.

Thursday 9th June – Event 3, Meeting with the Mayor of Santa Clara, Mayor Lisa Gilmore and her team and also with the Santa Clara Sister Cities committee, Margaret Horoszko, President, and former president Kathy Watanabe, committee member.

The Mayor of Santa Clara, Lisa Gilmore hosted a meeting for our delegation at City Hall, Santa Clara that was also attended by the Santa Clara city manager Rajeev Batra, and members of the Santa Clara Sisters City committee, Margaret Horoszko, Kathy Watanabe and Tedra DiLorenzo. We got a very warm welcome and we had extensive discussions around the existing relationship between our cities, the Sister City Agreement and how it all developed. Santa Clara are very keen to develop these links further and keen to explore where links between Limerick and Austin can be strengthened further particularly in areas around education, research, enterprise and tourism. Discussions took place around how this relationship can be strengthened and programs that can be delivered over the next 12 to 18 months. The Santa Clara team are hoping to visit Limerick during 2023. The two councils exchanged gifts and have agreed to follow up this meeting with a Teams meeting very soon.

Friday 10th June – Visit to Nautilus Data Technologies, the Port of Stockton, California

Our delegation visited Nautilus Data Technologies at the Port of Stockton where we met their management and technical team to hear about the success of the roll out of their new prototype Data Centre in the port.

Nautilus Data Technologies is a global pioneer in data centre technology, leading a fundamental shift in the data centre industry. Nautilus' patented design water cooling technology is at the core of its design, delivering a waterborne data centre that operates more efficiently and less expensively than traditional land-based facilities while achieving higher environmental standards. The Nautilus technology was validated with the launch of Project Nautilus in Stockton and has demonstrated how its water-cooling technology reduces power usage, decreases air pollution, lowers greenhouse gas emissions, eliminates water consumption, and cuts costs.

Nautilus Data Technologies have agreement in place with the Port of Limerick and planning consent from Limerick City & County Council to develop their first data centre in Europe at the Ted Russel Dock in Limerick. We got an update from Nautilus on their program for the delivery of the Limerick Data Centre and work in expected to commence on delivery in the second half of 2022.

Home

The group departed San Francisco on Saturday 11th June and arrived back in Shannon on Sunday 12th taken account of travel time, lay over and time difference.



Councillor Daniel Butler,

Mayor of the City and County of Limerick.