

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

Chairperson's Report of the Meeting of the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee of Tuesday 13 December, 2022.

Item 1: Adopt minutes of the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 18th October, 2022 .

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th October 2022 were proposed by Cllr Collins (B) and seconded by Cllr Hartigan.

Item 2 : Update on Climate Action Plan

Rosie Webb, Senior Architect, Climate Action and Innovation, gave an update on the Limerick City and County Council Climate Action Plan. It is a 5 year action plan. The plan is critical and needs to be ambitious, have a place-based approach, is deliverable and consistent with relevant legislation.

The Council is currently in the process of building the evidence base upon which the CAP actions will be based. This phase will be completed in March 2023, and the 12-month Statutory Plan Making Phase will commence after that.

Ms Webb advised members that under the Community Climate Action Programme 2021-2024 there was funding available to communities to support the development of low carbon communities. The overall funding approved nationally is €24 million of which €811k has been provisionally allocated to Limerick City and County Council.

Item 3 : Update on draft Limerick Tree Policy

Dara McGuigan, Administrative Officer, Planning gave an update on the draft Limerick Tree Policy.

The main headings discussed and considered were:

- International Policy Context
- National Policy Context
- Local Policy Context
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The main aims of this policy will include the appointment of a designated tree officer/ecologist/biodiversity officer, better public awareness, a tree management software package together with clear rationale for all decisions made and the efficient use of public funds which will achieve value for money.

The next steps in the process to be carried out are an Appropriate Assessment followed by a Public Consultation on the draft policy.

Item 4: Update on the draft Westfields Wetlands Management Plan

Cathal Brodie, Senior Executive Scientist, Environmental Strategy, gave an update on the draft Westfields Wetlands Management Plan. The plan is progressing and is at Appropriate Assessment stage.

The long term management plan for the Wetlands is to focus on the wildlife and birds species who inhabit the wetlands, introduce further walking trails and review grassland management. There will be more detail in the New Year on the Management Plan.

Item 5: Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan (referred from the Metropolitan District Meeting 24 October, 2022)

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the waste placed in recycling public bins within the city is recycled and an education campaign is run to inform people of appropriate recyclable waste

In proposing the Motion Cllr O'Donovan advised that in a response she had received to a Question at the June 2022 Metropolitan District monthly meeting, Limerick City and County Council advised that it did not currently recycle recyclable material from street bins. Cllr O'Donovan stated that this was a breach of the Council's obligations under the EU Waste Directive Framework.

The Motion was seconded by Cllr Collins(B). Several members supported the Motion.

In response to the Motion, Ms N Gallagher, Director of Service advised that all materials collected from public mixed waste and recycling bins goes to a materials recovery facility where they are sorted, with the different recycling streams removed and exported for recycling. The residual non-recyclable element is then sent to landfill for disposal.

During Q4 of 2022 the waste being collected from recycling bins has been monitored for contamination. Misuse of recycling bins does occur and results in contamination. An education campaign would help to reduce this problem. In early 2023 Limerick City and County Council hopes to trial the transport the waste from recycling bins directly to the Council's waste processor as dry mixed recyclables with a view to continuing this practice on a permanent basis.

The new "Draft National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy" is due to be published by the Regional Lead Authorities in Quarter 1 2023. This new policy document for the local authority sector puts a big emphasis on contamination of the Recycling Bin to reduce the rate to 10%. This needs to be achieved in street bins and will only be achieved by education and awareness and adaption of apertures to increase the input quality to the recycle. As we transition to a circular economy, it does require us to maximise the circular potential of the recycle.

Cllr O'Donovan thanked the Director for her response and requested a copy of the response to be circulated after the meeting.

Item 6: Question submitted by Ms. A. Ní Chofaigh on behalf of the PPN Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Linkage Group

Limerick PPN's Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment linkage group asks Limerick City and County Council's Environmental Department for a breakdown of the average annual, and average 24 hour, readings for each of the pollutants measured in each of the Air Quality Monitors (AQMs) throughout the City and County Council that fall below the WHO Air Quality Guidelines (2021). We ask

that these readings include from the EPA AQMs, as these we referred to at the previous CABE SPC meeting (18th October 2022) as part of LCCC's monitoring of air pollution in Limerick.

A copy of the response to the Question was circulated to all Committee Members prior to the meeting.

Next meeting of the CABE SPC - **Tuesday 14th February, 2023 at 2.30pm at Council Chamber, Dooradoyle.**

The Chair wished the members and staff a happy Christmas, and concluded the meeting.

Is mise le meas,

Liam Galvin

**Chairperson of the Climate Action Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee
13 January, 2023**