

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

Chairperson's Report for the Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee

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The Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee meeting was held on 4th December 2023. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd October 2023 were adopted.

Matters Arising

Seamus O'Connor advised members that a reply was received in relation to query raised regarding the Artwork feature for O'Connell Street as part of the works recently completed. Following detailed consideration, including interviews with the shortlisted artists, the panel took a consensus decision not to proceed with the shortlisted proposal. The decision was based on the relevance and complexity of the concept, budget and maintenance costs arising. The Council will explore further opportunities to commission a public art piece for O'Connell Street as part of the next phase of the project.

SOC updated the members on the Notice of Motion from Cllr. J. Leddin which was passed at the previous Meeting regarding the identification of suitable land in the Dooradoyle area to facilitate the construction of a new children's playground. The members were advised that the Planning, Environment and Place-Making Directorate will liaise with Councillor Leddin and the Limerick City West Councillors.

Consideration of the Draft Age Friendly Strategy 2024-2028 (Presentation)

A Presentation was given to the members on the Draft Age Friendly Strategy 2024-2028. The external consultation process undertaken and consultation within the Local Authority was outlined by the Consultants. The Age Friendly Programme Manager advised that workshops were held with the Age Friendly Alliance and the Old Persons Executive which identified a set of actions to be carried out which have been included in the Draft Strategy. The Presentation also included details relating to the eight Age Friendly Themes contained in the Draft Strategy.

A discussion took place among the members. The issue of social isolation among older people was raised by some members and how this could be addressed. Housing and Transport were two of the areas that were also discussed.

The Chairperson thanked the Consultants for the Presentation and advised he would like to see an Annual Report on the Age Friendly Project from the various Agencies involved. He advised that disability groups have lobbied him regarding parking and obstructions on the street and asked if the council could do a public awareness campaign. He also would encourage businesses to have Age Friendly parking and Age Friendly seating. The members were advised that training for the businesses sector to encourage them to develop more Age Friendly initiatives is an action in the strategy

The SPC members agreed unanimously that the Draft Age Friendly Strategy 2024-2028 be presented to the full Council Meeting on 22nd January 2024 for Noting.

The Library is the Place: Information, Recreation, Inspiration – National Public Library Strategy 2023-2027

A presentation was given to the members in relation to on the new National Public Library Strategy 2023-2027.

The strategy sets out 66 strategic actions focussing on 3 Strategic Themes (People, Space, Connections) and 3 Strategic enablers (Data, Marketing, Library Team) to help deliver the strategy for public libraries over the next five years. The strategy looks to improve access, use and visibility of public libraries along with enhanced digital services and extended opening hours.

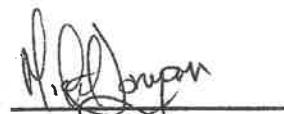
A public consultation programme was undertaken over a five week period in June and July 2022 and the results of this consultation helped frame the final version of the Strategy. An implementation plan is to be developed to set out the steps to deliver the strategy.

A discussion took place among the members regarding the strategy.

Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 12th February 2024.

Recommendation: The Draft Age Friendly Strategy 2024-2028 be presented to the full Council Meeting on 22nd January 2024 for Noting.



Cllr Michael Donegan
Chairperson
Community, Leisure and Culture SPC
10 January 2024