

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

Chairperson's Report of the Meeting of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee of Thursday, 30 April, 2024.

Item 1

Adoption of Minutes from Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC Meeting of 19th February 2024.

The draft minutes were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Sasa Novak Ui Chonchuir, seconded by Cllr. Joe Pond.

Item 2

Adoption of Minutes from Special Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC Meeting of 28th March 2024.

The draft minutes were adopted on the proposal of Brian Thompson, seconded by Cllr. Olivia O'Sullivan.

Item 3

To receive update on and recommend the Draft Final Framework Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2028 – Seamus O'Connor, Senior Executive Officer, Community Development.

Mr. O' Connor provided an update on the Limerick Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024 - 2028 and there was some minor amendments to the plan presented at SPC on 28th March. The plan is has been reviewed by the Regional Assembly, and its amendments have been included. It is now consistent with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. The final draft plan will be presented to the Full Council in May. The plan will then go to the Minister.

Item 4

To receive an update on the Limerick Tourism Development Strategy 2019-2023 and Introduction to the new Tourism Strategy 2024-2029 process – Eileen Coleman, Senior Executive Officer, Tourism.

Mr. Daly introduced the Limerick Tourism Development Strategy 2019-2023 and Introduction to the new Tourism Strategy 2024-2029 and said that the presentation will outline key achievements. Mr. Daly would like to get the views of members before final approval of documents for the forthcoming Strategy.

The presentation by Ms. Coleman outlined key achievements under the Limerick Tourism Development Strategy 2019-2023 such as:

- Brand Limerick launched in 2020.
- The establishment of Discover Limerick DAC in 2021.
- Festival & Events Strategy launched in 2023.
- Limerick is a Wild Atlantic Gateway City and is now designated as part of Ireland's Hidden Heartlands.
- Limerick Greenway opened in 2021.
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The challenges facing the forthcoming Tourism Strategy 2024-2029 include:

- Climate Change
- Recovery from the Covid-19 Pandemic
- Geopolitics
- The cost of business
- Recruitment of Staff

The presentation outlined the key opportunities that Limerick will look to capitalise on such as our temperate climate and hosting the Ryder Cup in 2027.

Finally the guiding principles of the strategy is to promote Limerick as a diverse city and a great place to live.

The members made the following contributions:

- Limerick needs to better understand its tourism offer and where that positions Limerick in Ireland's tourism product.
- Funding for upfront festivals costs.
- Host more events.
- Milk Market needs to be further developed.
- Focus more on independent tourism and target people with higher disposable incomes.
- Develop food tourism in Limerick.
- LCCC should look at a more holistic approach to the Greenway and develop Blueways.
- Youth tourism and youth specific accommodation could be developed.

Ms. Coleman thanked members for their comments. She advised that in the future Greenways will be linked to greenways in other counties. There are great opportunities ahead for Limerick in the next 5 -10 years.

Item 5

To receive a presentation from Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland on the Failte Programme– David McCarthy

Mr. McCarthy gave members a presentation to give an understanding what Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland does and what the Failte Programme is. The Failte Programme aims to:

- Form new relationships across a variety of sectors, with representative and community groups.
- Raise awareness about autism at all levels within organisations.
- Inform communities about the role of the assistance dog.
- Learn from organisations on how they can improve.

- Team building of volunteers and autism awareness champions.
- Empower families of children with autism to live fulfilling lives.

Autism Assistance Ireland is partnered with Failte Ireland and there is a Training Portal for businesses to engage with. According to legislation NSAI Standard IS340, section 4, subs section F1:

- Assistance dogs and assistance dogs/puppies in training have full access to public spaces, including shops, restaurants, public transport etc.
- They will be identified by their working dog/puppy in training jacket, bearing the organisations logo.

Members agreed that this issue should be revisited at a future date when the new Council is in situ.

Item 6

Correspondence for below noted.

The meeting then concluded.

Cllr. B. Collins, Chairperson
15 May 2024