



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick City**  
& County Council

Stiúrthóireacht Pobail, Turasóireachta & Cultúir  
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh  
Ceanncheathrú Chorparáideach  
Cé na gCeannaithe  
Luimneach

Community, Tourism & Culture Directorate  
Limerick City and County Council  
Corporate Headquarters  
Merchants Quay  
Limerick

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20<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**To: The Mayor, Príomh Chomhairleoir and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council**

**Limerick's application for accreditation to the World Health Organisation (WHO) European Healthy Cities/Counties Network Phase VII (2019–2025)**

The Healthy Cities and Counties Network, initiated by the WHO in 1987, emphasises the critical role of local governments in health and sustainable development. The programme has grown to include National Networks in 20 countries within the WHO European Region, connecting over 1,800 cities, counties, and towns. The WHO Healthy Cities is a global movement working to put health high on the social, economic and political agenda of city governments.

Limerick City/County has been identified as 1 of 5 Irish cities earmarked for WHO Healthy City/Counties status by the Department of Health and the National Healthy Ireland Cities and Counties of Ireland Network. Local Authorities, through their Local Community Development Committees (LCDC's), and with the support of the National Healthy Ireland Cities and Counties of Ireland Network, can submit an application to join the WHO European Healthy Cities Network.

The application was presented at the Community, Leisure, Arts, Heritage and Culture Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) meeting on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March. It was recommended that the application progress to full Council for consideration.

The Healthy Cities/Counties approach seeks to put health high on the political and social agenda of cities and to build a strong movement for community led, evidence based health and wellbeing at the local government level. It strongly emphasizes equity, participatory governance, and intersectoral collaboration and action to address the social determinants of health (SDOH). The SDOH are the nonmedical factors that influence health outcomes. They are the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, worship, and age. The Healthy Cities/Counties approach also highlights the need to work in collaboration across public, private, voluntary and community sector organizations. This way of working and thinking includes involving local people in decision-making, requires political commitment



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and organizational and community development, and recognizes the process to be as important as the outcomes.

Accreditation to the WHO Healthy Cities and Counties Network aligns with key objectives and strategies of Limerick City and County Council. The concept of Healthy Cities was inspired and supported by the WHO European Health for All strategy and the Health21 targets. It is fully aligned with the European policy framework Health2020 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Joining the network will provide even broader opportunities for collaboration and visibility internationally with a continued focus on and response to local health and wellbeing needs. It will also open opportunities for European cooperation and learning through practice with WHO European Partners.

It is recommended by the Community, Leisure, Arts, Heritage and Culture SPC that the application for accreditation to the WHO European Healthy Cities/Counties Network be considered for approval by Limerick City and County Council.

Is mise le meas,

Stephane Duclot,

**Director of Service, Rural, Community, Culture and Tourism Development**