



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

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

A Chomhairleoir, A Chara,

The Community, Leisure, Arts, Heritage and Culture Strategic Policy Committee meeting was held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

**Introductions/ Role and Responsibilities of SPC**

This was the first meeting for the Community, Leisure, Arts, Heritage and Culture Strategic Policy Committee.

The Chairperson Cllr Fergus Kilcoyne welcomed the members and officials and invited all to introduce themselves.

Director of Service Stephane Duclot gave a presentation regarding the roles and responsibilities of Strategic Policy Committee.

By invitation from S. Duclot each section under Community, Leisure, Arts, Heritage and Culture SPC remit gave a brief overview of their work including, Community Development, Rural Development, Sports and Recreation, Libraries, Arts, Museums & Gallery of Art, Festivals & Events, Public Realm and Heritage.

## World Health Organisation Healthy Cities Application- for Consideration for recommendation to the Full Council

The Healthy Limerick coordinator, Olivia O'Brien, gave the members overview and context of WHO Healthy Cities Programme.

The members were advised that The Healthy Cities Network 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 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 determinants of health. The approach recognises the determinants of health and the need to work in collaboration across public, private, voluntary and community sector organisations. This way of working and thinking includes involving local people in decision-making, requires political commitment and organisational and community development, and recognises the process to be as important as the outcomes.

Joining the network will provide broader opportunities for collaboration and visibility internationally. It will also provide international recognition as a healthy city, making Limerick a more attractive place to live and visit.

This agenda item was proposed by Cllr O. O'Sullivan, seconded by Cllr A. Talukder and it was 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.

## New Local Studies Website Presentation

A presentation was given by Mike Maguire, Executive Librarian to the members updating them on the new Local Studies Website launched in October 2024.

The reason for creation of the new site is to enable sharing of digital collections with the public and create a site that will have intuitive navigation, responsive design, engaging content and work well on any screen size. The new site will increase the content reflecting the rich tapestry and content of the local studies collection and be easily accessible for users, including researchers interested in local studies and local history.

<https://limericklocalstudies.ie/>

The Chair expressed his thanks for the comprehensive presentation.

### Local Sports Plan

A presentation was made by Fiona McCormack, A/SEO, Regeneration, Sports and Recreation Directorate, giving the members an overview of Local Sports Plan.

The National Sports Policy requires the development of Local Sports Plans by the local authorities which will reflect the vision and objectives of this National Sports Policy. The intention is to review needs and set out actions to increase participation in sport and physical activity across the city and county. The plan will be developed in conjunction with the Limerick Sports Partnership (ISP), sports clubs, communities, and other partners and will be underpinned by national and local policies and plans.

The main goal of the Plan will be to improve participation in sport and physical activity, increase collaboration with sporting bodies and to assist key stakeholders, including the Council and the Limerick Sports Partnership to leverage funding in the future for enhanced sport and physical activities.

A final strategic framework will be developed, with a draft for consideration at the July SPC for consideration for recommendation to full council.

### Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

Recommendation: The application for accreditation to the World Health Organisation European Healthy Cities/Counties Network be considered for approval by Limerick City and County Council.



Cllr Fergus Kilcoyne  
Chairperson  
Community, Leisure and Culture SPC  
20/03/2025