



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

Chairperson's Report of the Meeting of the Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism and Planning Strategic Policy Committee of Monday, 3 March 2025.

Item 1: Introductions

The meeting began with a welcome from the Chairperson Cllr. Doyle followed by introductions from the members present in the Chamber and online and an overview from Mr. Murray of the Senior Staff from the Council that will be attending the SPC meetings. The SPC covers multiple Directorates and is led by Mr. Murray DOS with responsibility for Planning, Mr. White DOS with responsibility for Economic Development and Enterprise and Mr. Duclot DOS with responsibility for Tourism.

Item 2: Roles & Responsibilities of SPC

Mr. Murray outlined the SPC's function: policy recommendation, strategic focus, quorum of seven, consensus decision-making, and adherence to rule. SPC meeting will occur five times yearly. The Limerick City and County Council Strategic Policy Committee Scheme was adopted November 2024 by full Council.

Item 3: To receive a presentation for discussion on the Proposed Development Contribution Scheme 2025 – Ms. Brislane, Senior Executive Planner

Ms. Brislane presented the overview to the members of the proposed Development Scheme 2025 workshop that was held the previous week with the Members. It covered the legislative background, emphasising that creating a contribution scheme is a reserved function aimed at offsetting public infrastructure costs. It reviewed current scheme costs as of January 2022 and discussed proposed residential and non-residential rates, including concerns raised in previous workshops. The workshop compared the 2013 and 2022 schemes with the proposed 2025 scheme, highlighting inflation adjustments and key differences. It also analysed how current rates compare with other local authorities and projected what the yields for commercial and residential development is €79.9m between 2025 and 2030. The total required is €168m, a detailed project list was included in the presentation. A further workshop will be held with Elected Members.

Item 4: To receive a presentation for noting on proposed Shop Front Design Guidelines – Ms. Woods, Senior Planner

The presentation covered shopfront importance, benefits, guidelines usage, historic/protected facades, statutory requirements, principles, elements, and a checklist.

The members welcomed the Shop Front Design Guidelines and discussed the benefits of having the guidelines and discussed. The Council advised that these are guidelines and not statutory. A copy of the document was circulated to the members.

Item 5: To receive an update on the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) – Mr. Cantwell.

A comprehensive presentation was given to the members and was circulated and provided an outline of Grants available for SME's and other funding supports available. The 2025 budget for LEO is €2.3m. In 2024 178 net new jobs were created by LEO supported companies in Limerick.

Item 6: Notice of Motion

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Leddin (referred from the Meeting of the Metropolitan District held on 20th January, 2025 to the Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism and Planning Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council calls on the Government to provide additional financial incentives and supports to encourage the owners of unoccupied properties located in the city centre to redevelop for commercial and or residential purposes.

The Notice of Motion was formally seconded by both Michael Joyce and Councillor Reale.

Mr. Murray responded to the motion advising the members that there are a number of incentives already in place. The members recommended that the Motion go to Full Council for consideration.

Item 7: Proposed SPC meeting dates for 2025.

The members agreed with the proposed SPC meeting dates; Monday, 14th April 2025, Monday, 23rd June 2025, Monday, 13th October 2025 and Monday, 8th December 2025 and the time for the meetings would be changed from 2pm to 2.15pm.

The meeting then concluded.

**Cllr. Peter Doyle, Chairperson
19 March 2025**

Recommendation: This Council calls on the Government to provide additional financial incentives and supports to encourage the owners of unoccupied properties located in the city centre to redevelop for commercial and or residential purposes.