



**To: The Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City & County Council**

**23rd January 2025**

**Report on Cycling Study Trip to Copenhagen, Denmark -**

**4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> November 2024 inclusive**

**A Chomhairleoir, a Chara,**

A delegation recently travelled from the Council to Copenhagen, Denmark to examine successful concepts and designs being used in relation to a fully integrated cycle network within Copenhagen.

The delegation was comprised of the following participants:

Cllr. Olivia O'Sullivan, Cllr. Sarah Kiely, Cllr. Sean Hartigan, Cllr Francis Foley, Cllr Fergus Kilcoyne, Cllr Jerome Scanlan, Cllr Joe Leddin, Sean Mc Glynn Senior Engineer, Sinead Kennedy Senior Executive Engineer, Tara Flanagan Senior Executive Engineer, Dan Slavin Senior Executive Engineer, Richard Gorey Executive Engineer, Josh Prenderville, Communications Officer, and Toby Goodwin, Behavioural Scientist,

The group took part in a number of activities and events with the objectives of:

1. Highlighting how the cycle network within Copenhagen compared to Limerick.
2. Expanding the depth of knowledge in relation to cycling.
3. Exploring future project collaboration opportunities
4. Sharing best practices

I am satisfied that these objectives were accomplished and that suitable high quality engagements with the City of Copenhagen and elected officials was achieved.

The meetings and events that were attended by the delegation during the visit are summarised below:



Day 1      Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2024

Travel from Limerick to Dublin by bus and flew from Dublin Airport to Copenhagen. From the airport, a transfer was organised to the Comfort Hotel, Vesterbro.

The delegation arrived at the hotel at approximately 6 p.m.

8 p.m. -Meeting in the Comfort Hotel, with Thomas Krag, former CEO of Danish Cyclists' Federation: who gave a brief Introduction to Cycling in Denmark. This was followed by discussions with Jens Erik Larsen, who is an expert in bicycle route planning and signposting: He discussed cycle route planning and signposting in Denmark and abroad including the history of EuroVelo.

Day 2 Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2024

E-bikes were picked up at Comfort Hotel, followed by the first trip of the day - 11km in central Copenhagen, passing Nørrebrogade (among Europe's busiest bicycle streets), visiting the "traffic island" of Nørrebro, the bicycle street Nordre Frihavnsgade and other high-level bicycle facilities.

A discussion on transport as a means to creating liveable cities was then had with Andreas Røhl, former Head of the Unit for Mobility and Public Space in Copenhagen.

A second bicycle trip 2 (3km) then took place, passing a crossing with a diagonal cycle lane, passing the iconic Cykelslangen (The Bicycle Snake) and Bryggebroen.

In the afternoon, a third trip (11km) followed parts of the signposted route to Havneringen, the University of Copenhagen, Inderhavnsbroen and ended at Nordre Toldbod.

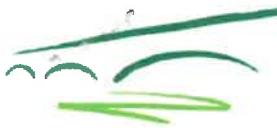
A discussion was then held with Marie Kåstrup and Sidsel Birk Hjuler of 'Urban Cycle Creators' on Copenhagen's cycle planning and bicycle superhighways.

Day 3 Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2024

The day began with a bicycle trip from the hotel along cycle superhighway C95 to the town hall of Furesø. The group was then given a short introduction to the state of cycling in Furesø Municipality by Carina Botoft, Municipality of Furesø.

The group then made another bicycle trip from the town hall to Farum, 4 km north of Værløse. There, a review of bicycle parking facilities, other bicycle superhighways and various examples of bicycle infrastructure was held.

In the afternoon, the group took the train back to Copenhagen with bikes on train, followed by a cycle to the Danish Road Directorate. There, a discussion was held with Anne Eriksson, Traffic Safety Engineer at the Danish Road Directorate, on promoting cycling and cycle safety from the national level. A final bicycle trip was then taken back to the hotel for evaluation of the study trip.



**Day 4**

**Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2024**

The delegation left the hotel for the airport at 7.45 a.m. local time (on an organised bus transfer) and arrived in Dublin Airport around noon. An organised bus transfer transported them to Limerick -arriving back at 4p.m.

This trip was an excellent opportunity to build relationships and tap into the excellent manner in which pedestrians cyclists and public transport is prioritised in Copenhagen.

***Brian Kennedy,***

***Director Of Services, Transportation & Mobility***





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

**Mayoral Visit to New York, USA – 28<sup>th</sup> February – 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025**

**Background**

An invitation was received by the Mayor of Limerick John Moran to attend the Annual St Patricks Day Parade in Rockaway, Queens, New York on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2025. This is the second largest St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York and is held in early March, where it gains significant exposure prior to the other large St. Patrick's Day parades held around St. Patrick's Day itself.

At the November 2024 Meeting, approval was given by the Council to this proposed visit, in accordance with Section 142(5) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.

**Delegation & Trip**

As the Mayor was not in a position to attend this event, I was nominated as Cathaoirleach of the Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District to lead the delegation that visited Rockaway, Queens, New York for this Annual St Patricks Day Parade.

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March, the delegation travelled out to Rockaway and attended the Mass for Peace and Justice in Ireland at St Francis de Sales Church, Rockaway where Michael Benn, President of the Parade and a Limerick native, introduced the delegation to the congregation.

After mass, the Delegation attended a St Patricks Day Breakfast Brunch Event at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Rockaway where the delegation met with members of the Irish American Community, along with local elected and business representatives and officials.

At this function, there were discussions amongst those present on the developments and progress in Limerick in terms of investment and tourism, and the importance of further developing linkages between Limerick, the Mid West, and Ireland with the United States.

Following on from this, the Delegation participated in the St Patricks Day Parade, which commenced from Beach 129th St and Newport Ave, Rockaway.

This was led by Grand Marshal, Terence Mullin, co-owner of Callie's and Vice President and Account Executive for Fidelity National Title's New York National Commercial Services operation. He was joined by several honorary grand marshals, including Dr. James McLaughlin, a cardiologist for Crystal Run Healthcare, and Eileen Flannelly Mackell, Vice President of the Central Royalty Container Collection Fund of the International Longshoreman Association and the United States Maritime Alliance.

Discussions also took place with Michael Benn regarding plans and preparations for the New York St Patricks Day Parade. It should be noted that Michael Benn will have the honor of serving as Grand Marshal for the 264<sup>th</sup> New York City Saint Patrick's Day Parade along Fifth Avenue in Manhattan, New York on Monday March 17.

*Martin Ryan*

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**Cllr Martin Ryan**  
**Cathaoirleach of the Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District**

**13<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

COUNCILLORS REPORT ON CONFERENCE WHICH THEY ATTENDED

REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED UNDER SECTION 142(5) (f) and (fa) OF THE  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

Organiser of Conference Celtic Conferences

Name of Conference Budget 25

Location of Conference Mc Keen's Hotel, Cork

Date of Conference 11th Oct to 13th Oct 2024

Summary of Conference Content

As Budget 25 was announced recently this conference was to update people on the changes that will come into effect and which changes will happen immediately + which ones will happen in Jan 25. I found the conference very informative as there got many updates on social welfare, health, housing + education etc.

Signature: Catherine Slattery

Print Name: Catherine Slattery

THIS FORM TO BE SUBMITTED WITH CLAIM FORM FOR TRAVEL AND  
SUBSISTENCE

COUNCILLORS REPORT ON CONFERENCE WHICH THEY ATTENDED  
REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED UNDER SECTION 142(5) (f) and (fa) OF THE  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

**Organiser of Conference Celtic Conferences**

**Name of Conference: A Practical Guide to Budget**

**Location of Conference Carlingford Co Louth**

**Date of Conference 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

**Summary of Conference Content**

**Briefing on budget 2025 covering the primary changes in taxation including USC rates, personal tax bands and the overall Social Protection budget.**

**Overview on the Government cost of living supports to include long term social welfare and those on disability lump sum payment schedules and eligibility guidelines.**

**Overview on the new Child Benefit rates, Xmas bonus and Fuel allowance payments. Briefing on the employment programmes and also overview on the various supports to help offset energy costs. Separate briefing on the main taxation changes together with presentation on new vacant homes tax, and carbon tax changes. Presentation also on the credit guarantee scheme, small firms investment efficiency scheme and additional supports for agri sector.**

**Other areas included housing and capital allocations for social and affordable houses, supports for homeless services and the main regeneration schemes. Information also on Health budgets, Environment, Justice, Education and Transport in terms of main changes included as part of the new budget.**

**Details proposed timelines on double social welfare payments to include Childrens allowance also provided. Overview on Finance bill and the process of legislative implementation.**

**Signature:**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Leddin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

**Print Name:** Joe Leddin

**THIS FORM TO BE SUBMITTED WITH CLAIM FORM FOR TRAVEL AND  
SUBSISTENCE**

COUNCILLORS REPORT ON CONFERENCE WHICH THEY ATTENDED

REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED UNDER SECTION 142(5) (f) and (fa) OF THE  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

Organiser of Conference Celtic Conferences

Name of Conference A Practical Guide to Budget 2025

Location of Conference McKevitt's Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth.

Date of Conference 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2024.

Summary of Conference Content

4 - 12<sup>th</sup> - 24

REPORT ON MY ATTENDANCE AT CELTIC CONFERENCE IN  
CARLINGFORD CO LOUTH. 11<sup>TH</sup> TO 13<sup>TH</sup> OCT 24 TITLE  
BUDGET 2025.

THE BUDGET WAS ANNOUNCED ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> OCT 24 WITH  
AN OVERALL PACKAGE OF €10.5 BILLION. THIS IS MADE  
UP OF A PACKAGE OF ONE OFF MEASURES WORTH  
€2 BILLION.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE €6.9 BILLION AND ADDITIONAL  
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE OF €1.6 BILLION AND PERMANENT  
TAX CHANGES OF €1.6 BILLION FOR 2025

Signed  
FRANCIS SOLLY

**COUNCILLORS REPORT ON CONFERENCE WHICH THEY ATTENDED**

**REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED UNDER SECTION 142(5) (f) and (fa) OF THE  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001**

**Organiser of Conference : Celtic Conferences**

**Name of Conference : A Practical Guide to Budget 2025**

**Location of Conference : McKevitt's Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth**

**Date of Conference : Fri. 11<sup>th</sup> Oct., Sat. 12<sup>th</sup> Oct. & Sun. 13<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2024**

**Summary of Conference Content :**

We were taken on a comprehensive journey through the many announcements made as part of Budget 2025. The manner in which these changes will affect the lives and pay packets of our constituents was made very clear both in terms of extra payments and benefits as well as changes to the tax structure. The deployment of extra resources in the areas of health, education, housing etc was discussed at length as were the benefits to the public accruing from same. The finer details of how budgetary changes are implemented were outlined as was the process by which the announced measures feed into the Finance Bill and how alterations may be required prior to the implementation of same.

**Signature:**

**Print Name: LIAM GALVIN**

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COUNCILLORS REPORT ON CONFERENCE WHICH THEY ATTENDED

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

Organiser of Conference CECTIC CONFERENCES

Name of Conference BUDGET 2025

Location of Conference CARLINGFORD CO DOWN

Date of Conference 11/13 OCT 2024

Summary of Conference Content

PRESNTATION ON SOCIAL WELFARE PROTECTION INCLUDED  
LIVING ALONE ALLOWANCE, FUEL ALLOWANCE, WORKING FAMILY PAYMENTS  
CHILD BENEFIT, DISABILITY ALLOWANCE, DOMICILIARY CARE ALLOWANCE  
NEWBORN BABY CRNT, WORKING FAMILY PAYMENT  
PRESNTATION ON FREE TRAVEL SCHEMES, FUEL ALLOWANCE,  
PERSON AUTO ENROLMENT

PRESNTATION ON PERSONAL TAX CREDITS, EMPLOYEE  
TAX CREDITS, EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT, BILING  
TAX CREDIT, DEPENDENT RELATIVE CREDIT, HOME  
CARE CREDIT, INCAPACITATED CHILD CREDIT  
PRESNTATION ON USC, CAPITAL ACQUISITIONS TAX  
VACANT HOME TAX

PRESNTATION ON SUPPORTS FOR FARMERS  
AUDIO VISUAL SECTOR, EDUCATION & TRAINING

Signature: Kiera Hanlon

Print Name: KIERA HANLON

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

Organiser of Conference Celtic Conferences

Name of Conference A Practical Guide to Budget 2025

Location of Conference McKerritt's Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth.

Date of Conference 11/12/13 Oct 2024

Summary of Conference Content

The Irish Government's budget for 2025 is set to have a significant focus on addressing the country's ongoing housing crisis. With housing prices and rents continuing to rise, straining the budgets of many families and individuals, the 2025 budget will dedicate substantial resources towards increasing the supply of affordable homes and supporting first-time buyers. This will include funding for the construction of tens of thousands of new social and affordable housing units, as well as programs to incentivize private developers to build more moderately priced properties. Overall, the 2025 Irish budget represents a concerted, multi-pronged effort to tackle the nation's chronic housing challenges and ensure that all citizens have access to safe, decent and affordable places to live.

Signature: Fergus Kilcoyne

Print Name: FERGUS KILCOYNE

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**COUNCILLORS REPORT ON CONFERENCE WHICH THEY ATTENDED  
REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED UNDER SECTION 142(5) (f) and (fa) OF THE  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001**

Organiser of Conference: Celtic Conferences

Name of Conference: Health Service Entitlements

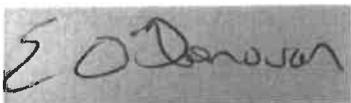
Location of Conference: O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty

Date of Conference: 13th, 14th and 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024

**Summary of Conference**

This conference was a very practical guide on the Irish health system and healthcare entitlements for our constituents. We discussed the various entitlements for people for those working and those on social welfare payments. There were practical examples of assisting with forms and examples from other Councillors that acted as case studies for us all. Specific training seminars were on the medical and GP card, public hospital access, therapy services and entitlements and community care. I found it especially beneficial on medical card and disability allowance applications as these are requests I get frequently in my role as a local Councillor.

Signature:



Print Name: Elisa O'Donovan

**THIS FORM TO BE SUBMITTED WITH CLAIM FORM FOR TRAVEL AND  
SUBSISTENCE**



**20<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

A Chomhairleoir, A Chara,

As Members will be aware, a delegation from the Council travelled to the US in December 2024 to formally sign a Sister City Agreement with Austin, Texas, one of the most culturally and industrially thriving cities in the US.

The agreement, outlining mutual commitments to collaborate in areas such as business development, science and technology, the creative economy, education, tourism, and urban development, was formalised at a ceremony attended by Mayor of Limerick, John Moran and Austin Mayor Kirk Watson on 5th December.

The new agreement also establishes a framework for maintaining direct communication between the two cities through annual meetings and exchanges of ideas and best practices.

The ceremony also featured the unveiling of the Limerick Sister City sign outside Austin City Hall in the Texan city with a population of almost one million people.

As there is no direct flight from Ireland to Austin the delegation took the opportunity while travelling to the US to use the stopovers in Washington DC and New York to promote Limerick in those locations from a political, economic and cultural perspective.

The Delegation was comprised of John Moran, Mayor of Limerick and Brendan Troy, Head of Trade and Investment. The delegation took part in many events over the course of the trip:

***Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December – Washington DC***

- **US Chamber of Commerce:** The delegation attended a briefing with Irish based US multinationals at the US Chamber of Commerce. The Irish Ambassador briefed those in attendance on the political situation in Ireland following the general election in November. The Mayor briefed those in attendance in relation to the new local governance system adopted by Limerick and on the competitive advantages of Limerick for business.

In attendance were Abbott Pharmaceuticals, AbbVie Pharmaceuticals, AIG, Amazon, Bon Secours Mercy Health, Citigroup, Ely Lilly and Company, Emergent BioSolutions Ltd., Magna International, Metlife Insurance, and Motorola Insurance.



- **Lunch in honour of the Mayor of Limerick hosted by Irish Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason:**

The Ambassador hosted lunch in honour of the Mayor, which was attended by several friends of Limerick and Ireland, including: Congressman Dan Kildee, Michigan; Congressman Mike Lawlor, New York; Elizabeth Woody, Senior Vice President for Public Affairs, Becton, Dickinson and Co.; Ms Marjorie Chorlins, US Chamber of Commerce; Dr Anne Maglia, Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell; Professor Colin Parsons, Georgetown University; and, Ms Susan Davis, Susan Davis International.

Opportunities discussed include potential to develop research and innovation partnerships between Limerick Universities and the University of Lowell, Massachusetts, through the Clean Energy and Environment Legacy Transition (CELT) Initiative. The initiative looks to forge research partnerships to advance the clean energy transition and aid cities and towns in their decarbonisation efforts. There was also an invitation to visit the Becton Dickinson site in Limerick.

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December – Austin, Texas**

- **Limerick Roundtable Discussion hosted by Opportunity Austin** – This was an opportunity for the economic development leadership of the city of Austin to engage with Mayor Moran on topics of mutual importance, including economic ties, investment opportunities, and governance strategies. It was noted that Limerick faces a lot of the same challenges with growth that Austin has dealt with over the past 20 years including infrastructure provision and housing provision and affordability. Attendees included:

Sylnovia Holt-Rabb, Director, Austin City Council Economic Development; Jacqueline Walker, Assistant Secretary of State for International Affairs; Ed Latson, CEO, Opportunity Austin; Ben Ramirez, International Economic Development Manager, World Affairs Council; Gary Anderson, Interim Director, Global Programs and Innovation, University of Texas; Kristie Bryant, Chair, Austin Sister Cities International; Austin, University of Texas; Nina Means, Director, Austin Community College Fashion Incubator; and, representatives from business accelerators Tech Branch and Q-Branch.

- **Meeting with Robert Hull, Consul General** - Austin at the Consulate General of Ireland, Austin. The potential for public policy exchange to capitalise on the lessons Austin has learned from dealing with significant growth in the recent past were discussed. Also discussed was the potential to use the working holiday authorisation scheme to facilitate exchange of graduates in both directions.



- **Limerick – Austin Sister City Agreement Signing Ceremony** – After a short trip back to the hotel to catch up on things back home, the group returned to City Hall to meet Mayor Kirk Watson and some officials of City Hall, Austin, followed by a live press conference, a civic reception and the formal unveiling of Limerick on the Austin Sister Cities sign. The event was widely covered in the media with four television stations in attendance.

At a short bilateral meeting, the Mayor offered an invitation to Mayor Watson to visit Limerick. Mayor Watson and a delegation from Austin agreed to explore a visit to Limerick in Summer 2025.

- **Irish Business Network Gathering** – The Mayor attended an Irish Business Network Christmas Event where he had an opportunity to meet many Limerick diaspora that are living and working in Austin. Many had heard of the signing on the news earlier on the day and were looking forward to things developing. The Mayor gave a brief speech on the ~Sister Cities signing and the potential for greater co-operation.

***Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December – Austin, Texas***

- **Visit to Dell Technologies Campus, Round Rock** - John Howard, Director, Government Affairs, Dell Technologies provided the delegation with a tour of the Dell Global Customer Solutions Centre. This provided with a fascinating insight to how Dell are working with industry to optimise innovation and provide digital solutions to address business challenges in areas like healthcare, retail, and city planning. Dell are doing much of this groundbreaking work in Limerick. It was agreed to arrange a visit to Raheen to follow on the opportunities for collaboration and innovation in areas like retail, planning and transport.
- **Fireside Chat with Mayor Moran at Q-Branch Accelerator** – Discussion after focused on the possibility of Limerick as a second fit base for Q-Branch and how they could serve Limerick companies that do business in the US. This session was facilitated by Marco Cervantes, founder of Q-Branch Accelerator and provided an opportunity to promote Limerick to Q-Branch's network of entrepreneurs
- **Visit to Tech Ranch Accelerator** – The delegation then had a meeting with Kevin Koym, CEO Tech Ranch, a venture accelerator for early-stage technology companies who was at the morning brainstorming on Thursday. Tech Ranch partners with international trade agencies to facilitate innovative start-ups bringing new technologies to the US market, specifically in the areas of ICT, robotics, MedTech and circular economy.



- **Visit to Butler Brick Memorial Window at Zilker Park** - Butler Bricks, known as 'The Bricks that Built Austin', was a company founded by Limerick man Michael Butler (1842 – 1909). He was born near Limerick City where his father was a contractor in the construction of public pikes and roads. Butler established his first Austin brickyard in 1873. Most of the brick structures constructed in Austin from 1873 until 1912 used Butlers 'Austin Common' buff bricks, manufactured from the alluvial clay deposited by the Colorado River. The delegation met with Michael Butler's granddaughter Meta Butler, accompanied by Robert Butler, General Consul.

The Mayor identified an opportunity for a cultural project to celebrate the birthplace of Michael Butler and to put in place a 'Butler Brick' memorial using 'Austin Common' buff bricks to commemorate the historic links between the two places.

- **Tour of LBJ Presidential Library** – The Mayor and party were officially invited to the LBJ Library, or Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library, is a museum and research centre in Austin, Texas, dedicated to preserving and showcasing the legacy, documents, and artefacts of President Lyndon B. Johnson's life and presidency. The delegation had a guided tour of the library led by volunteer Everard Davenport, former attorney at law and LBJ enthusiast.
- **Austin Community College (ACC) Fashion Incubator at Macys** – The delegation visited Macy's where the Austin Community College Fashion Incubator had facilitated a section for young fashion entrepreneurs to sell their designs. This was facilitated by Nina Means, Director, ACC Fashion Incubator.

The ACC Fashion Incubator is a state-of-the-art facility designed to support emerging fashion designers and entrepreneurs in building successful businesses. Operated by Austin Community College, it provides access to advanced technology such as digital pattern-making tools and industrial-grade sewing equipment, as well as professional development programs, mentorship, and networking opportunities. The incubator aims to nurture creativity and innovation in the fashion industry while fostering sustainability and inclusivity. By bridging the gap between education and industry, it serves as a hub for talent development and economic growth in the local and global fashion markets. It's exactly the vision we have for the Limerick Incubator on Mary Street.

#### **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December – Austin, Texas**

- **Austin Community College Fashion Incubator** – Visit to the ACC fashion incubator premises facilitated by Nina Means, Director, ACC Fashion Incubator. There is now a real potential to



develop an exchange programme for LSAD and ACC students and graduates to develop skills and access markets. There is potential for knowledge exchange with a view to establishing a fashion incubator in Limerick with a view to talent retention, development and economic growth. The Mayor was given a tour of the premises and saw a video of prior exchange work with other cities.

- **Austin Tour with members of the Austin Limerick Alliance Pat Doab, Celtic Cowboys and Aditi Joshi, Austin Sister Cities, and former diplomat Molly O'Neal was also in attendance** – Pat Doab, a Limerick man and president of the Celtic Cowboys GAA club, is a key figure in the Austin Irish community and has been instrumental in developing the Austin Limerick relationship.

Aditi Joshi is Vice Chair of Austin Sister Cities International and her commitment to fostering cultural exchange, economic collaboration, and mutual growth has been instrumental in making this partnership a reality.

Pat Doab co-owns a company called Crushing Tigers, headquartered in Austin, and a leading distributor of high performance aggregate machinery and equipment. Pat would like to explore an opportunity to help facilitate a holiday work programme with students in Engineering in Agricultural Mechanisation from the Salesians Agricultural College in Pallaskenry. The discussion focused on the outcome of the trip and steps that can now be taken to deepen the cooperation.

#### Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December, New York

- **Meeting with George C. Heslin, Executive Director, Irish Centre, Queens:**

The Mayor travelled to Queens for an afternoon tour of the Centre. Issues for the local community were raised by Limerick man George Heslin. The Mayor of course was familiar with the work of the centre as he lived in New York City for over 7 years but a full update presentation was given. The Mayor then met members of the local community at Irish Dancing lessons. The Mayor agreed to raise funding issues with the government when the opportunity arises. The discussion focused on the outcome of the trip and steps that can now be taken to deepen the co-operation.

- **Dinner with Loretta Brennan Glucksman, Glucksman Library UL, American Ireland Fund:**



The Mayor met Miss. Glucksman for a full review of her ongoing work in Ireland, including donations to the University of Limerick, the local government changes in Ireland with the DEM, the political situation in Ireland and possible impacts on FDI, trade etc., for Limerick.

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, New York**

- **Visit to Ireland House, 200 Park Avenue**
  - **Meeting with IDA and Enterprise Ireland**
  - **Meeting with General Consul, Helena Nolan**
  - **Tour of Ireland House**

The meeting included updates on the new role of the DEM, the attractiveness of Limerick for FDI, the focus areas of the Mayoral Programme, outcomes from Austin, supports for Limerick companies coming to the US and the possibility of greater cultural exchange. The Council has taken the opportunity of the new Ireland House to showcase the best of modern Ireland, especially its visual arts.

- **Visit to Bank of Ireland New York Hub** – led by Tony Dunne, Bank of Ireland Hub Manager

I extend my deepest gratitude to all that have contributed their time, energy, and vision, helping us reach this significant milestone and paving the way for a lasting and meaningful relationship between Austin and Limerick.

Is mise le meas,

John Moran

Mayor of Limerick



## **Appendix A – Itinerary, Official Visit to U.S. by Mayor John Moran**

### **Tuesday, 3rd December 2024**

- 09:00 – 14:00 UCD One Health Centre Conference 2024 – Guest Speaker
- 14:00 Taxi to Dublin Airport
- 16:40 – 19:45 DUBLIN – WASHINGTON DC (Dulles) , Aer Lingus
  
- 20:45 – Taxi to Hotel, The Royal Sonesta, Washington DC, Dupont Circle

### **Wednesday, 4th December 2024**

- 08:00 – Depart Hotel for 30th Street
- 08.50 – Attend US Chamber of Commerce Roundtable with Irish Ambassador to the US Geraldine Byrne Nason, 2221 30th Street NW, Washington DC 20008
  
- 12:30pm – Irish Ambassador to the US Geraldine Byrne Nason will host lunch in honour of the Mayor of Limerick at the Residence of Ireland, 2221 30th Street NW, Washington DC 20008.
  
- 15:30 – Uber to Reagan National Airport, Washington DC
  
- WASHINGTON DC – AUSTIN 17:55 – 20:41 (United Airlines)
  
- Uber to DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Austin Downtown
  
- 22:30 – Team debrief at hotel and preparation for following day

### **Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024**



**t:** +353 (0) 61 556 000

- 08:15 – 10:00 Limerick Roundtable Discussion, Location: Heritage Title, 200 W 6th St, Suite 1600, Austin, TX 78701 , an opportunity to engage with Mayor Moran on topics of mutual importance, including economic ties, investment opportunities, and governance strategies.
- 10:30 – 11:30 Meeting with Robert Hull, Consul General, Austin. Consulate General of Ireland, Austin, 515 Congress Avenue, Suite 1720, Austin, Texas 78701
- 12:00 – 13:00 Time at Hotel to connect with Limerick
- 13:30 – 15:00 Sister City Agreement Signing Ceremony with Mayor Kirk Watson, City Hall, Austin. This will include a formal unveiling of Limerick on the Austin Sister City sign. The event will be covered by City TV.
- 15:30 – 18:00 Time at Hotel
- 20:00 Irish Business Network Gathering, Kellys Irish Pub, 101 W 5th St, Austin, TX 78701-2908
  - 21.30 Informal remarks, presentation of Spot prizes.

#### **Friday, 6th December 2024**

- 11:00 – Fireside chat with Mayor Moran, Q-Branch Accellerator, 200 East 6th St, Suite 310, Austin, TX 78701
  - Panelists:
    - Mayor Moran
    - Marco Cervantes, Founder of QBranch
    - Moderator: Sean Herrity
  - Audience:
    - QBranch will invite their network of entrepreneurs.
    - ASCI can promote the event via Eventbrite for additional reach.
    - Input from Abdallah to broaden audience for the panel
  - Purpose:
    - To explore Limerick's strategic initiatives and investment opportunities.
    - To showcase the alignment of Limerick's resources with Austin's development goals.
- 12:00 - Lunch in honour of the Mayor, Q-Branch accelerator
- 13:00 – Visit to Tech Ranch Accellerator - Hilton Austin Downtown 500 E 4th St.



- 14:30 - Visit to Butler Brick memorial window at Zilker Park (one of the most Instagrammed places in Austin). Butler Bricks, 'The Bricks that Built Austin', was founded by Limerick man Michael Butler. Most of the brick structures constructed in Austin from 1873 until 1912 used Butlers 'Austin Common' buff bricks. Meeting with Michael Butlers granddaughter Meta Butler, accompanied by Robert Butler, General Consul
- 15:30 or 16:00 Tour of LBJ Presidential Library, 2313 Red River St, Austin, TX 78705
- 20:00 – Austin Community College (ACC) Fashion Incubator at Macys, The Domain Macy's, 3311 Esperanza Xing, Austin, TX 78758
- 21:30 – Team debrief over dinner

#### **Saturday, 7th December 2024**

- Uber to Incubator building
- 11:00 – Visit to Austin Community College Fashion Incubator building, 6101 Highland Campus Dr, Bldg 4000, Ste 4.1210, Austin, TX 78752
- 12:30 - Uber to Hotel
- 14:00 – Meet at The Driskill Hotel for meeting with members of the Austin Limerick Alliance Pat Doab, Celtic Cowboys and Aditi Joshi, Austin Sister Cities
- 15:00 – Walking tour of Austin public realm improvements.
- Personal Engagement – Austin Christmas Show

#### **Sunday, 8th December 2024**

AUSTIN – NEWARK: 08:50 – 13:31 (United Airlines)

#### **Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

- Lunch with UL Grad and Managing Director of Jonathan Byrne



**t:** +353 (0) 61 556 000

- 14:00 – 17:30 Meeting with George C. Heslin, Executive Director, Irish Centre, Queens, 1040 Jackson Avenue, Long Island City, NY 11101
- Dinner with Loretta Brennan Glucksman, Glucksman Museum Ireland Fund

**Tuesday, 10th December 2024**

- Ireland House, 200 Park Avenue, Floor 17, NY10166
  - 10:30 – 12:00 Meeting with IDA
  - 12:00 – 12:30 Meeting with EI
  - 12:30 – 13:00 Meeting with Consul General Nolan
- 13:15 – 14:00 - Visit to Bank of Ireland Hub NYC – led by Tony Dunne, Bank of Ireland Hub Manager, 2 Grand Central Tower, 140 E45th St New York, NY 100 17 (Exact time tbc)
- 18:40 – 06.00 NEW YORK – SHANNON (Aer Lingus)