

Rural, Community, Culture and Tourism Development Directorate
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To: The Mayor, Príomh Chomhairleoir 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 14th May 2025. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th March 2025 were adopted.

Presentation on Draft Limerick Outdoor Recreation Strategy

A presentation was given by Karen Burke, Town Regeneration Officer on Draft Limerick Outdoor Recreation Strategy. The Limerick Outdoor Recreation Plan will aim to strengthen and support the sustainable development of the outdoor recreation sector in Limerick for years to come.

Members were advised that interdepartmental Project Team that included external stakeholders was formed to develop the Plan. Extensive public consultation was undertaken to inform the actions of the plan and Outdoor Recreation Committee is being formed with wider membership. Draft Action Plan was prepared including themes such as Leadership, Environment, Awareness, Opportunities, Expertise and Access.

Town Regeneration Officer advised that next steps would include: circulation of the Draft Plan to the SPC Members, completion of Environmental assessments and four week public display, after which, the final Plan will be presented back to SPC at the July meeting for recommendation to be brought to the full Council meeting for noting.

Presentation on Developing Street Performance in Limerick

At the September 2024 Full Council meeting it was requested that Street Performance and Busker Byelaws laws adoption be deferred so that the views of the Arts and Tourism Departments on street performance and buskers could be sought before the draft Bye-Laws were brought back to the Council for approval.

Etain McCooey, Arts Officer gave presentation to the members on Developing Street Performance in Limerick.

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Members were informed that Environment Section has been leading on the development of regulatory Street Performance and Busker byelaws, and that the Arts Office is working on positive initiatives to encourage buskers aiming to support the development of quality street performance in Limerick City and County. These are professional development type initiatives that can run in parallel with the regulatory byelaws that are planned for Limerick.

The first of these, is a professional development and capacity building workshop, which has been developed for Limerick City and County Council by the national body ISACS – the Irish Street Arts and circus network, together with Lumen Street Theatre, in partnership with the Arts Office.

ISACS and Lumen Street Theatre will deliver the workshop on 11th June 2025, and it is open to all interested in street performance. The SPC members were invited to attend. The Arts Officer asked SPC members to give consideration under the 2026 budget process, to establish 2 new bursary categories, specific to Street Performance for Individuals and for Street Performance Organisations or groups, through increasing the budget on the existing arts bursaries programme for 2026. The bursaries would be awarded primarily for artistic development, training, mentoring, upskilling, production and development.

The presentation was welcomed by the members. It was recommended that consideration be given, as part of the 2026 budget process, to establishing 2 new bursary categories by increasing the budget for the existing Arts Bursaries Programme. It was also agreed to bring the draft Street Performance and Buskers byelaws to the May Council meeting for adoption.

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 9th July 2025.

Cllr Fergus Kilcoyne

**Chairperson
Community, Leisure and Culture SPC
15/05/2025**