

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, 14th April 2025.

Item 1: Adoption of Minutes from Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism and Planning SPC Meeting held of 3rd March 2025 at 2pm.

The draft minutes were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Dan McSweeney and seconded by Cllr. Joe Pond.

Item 2: Festivals and Events – Benefits to Tourism

Ms. Coleman gave a presentation on the benefits of festivals for tourism on the following topics:

- Cultural benefits
- Social benefits
- Economic benefits
- Future focus for the Tourism Department

The discussion covered key aspects of Limerick's event planning and city policies, including the availability of a festival calendar, funding considerations for food festivals, and ongoing plans for a Winter Sports Arena for Limerick. Concerns were raised about the use of the Crescent for summer events last year, the impact of area closures on construction, and the need for clear guidelines on buskers for Limerick. Updates were provided on scheduling for major events, and efforts to refine festival strategies based on past experiences was discussed. It was agreed that an update would be given to the SPC by the Ryder Cup co-ordinator at the next meeting. The members asked if there was any update on the funding for the Adare Heritage Centre. The need for late-night entertainment, better transport and venue options to help retain visitors after events is needed to strengthen the City's night-time economy. The members discussed the disappointment that there was no turning on of Christmas lights in 2024, and Ms. Coleman said that she has met with Metropolitan District member to explore options. The Economic Development section will bring the Nighttime Economy proposals to the next SPC meeting. Expanding late-night entertainment, transport, and venue options can help retain visitors after events and strengthen Limerick's nighttime economy.

Item 3: Market Quarter & Cruises Street Public Realm Upgrades Project

Ms. O'Connell gave a presentation on the Market Quarter & Cruises Street Public Realm Upgrades Project. The presentation overview was on the following:

- Project Area
- Vision & Strategies
- Project Objects

- Stakeholder Engagement
- Scheme Layout & Key Features
- Next Steps

The members welcomed the project and acknowledged the engagement with the Traders group and the public and the importance this project to regenerating that part of the city. The key point of the discussions included, car parking, proposed two-way cycle way between High Street and Mungret Street, funding, urban click & collect system and dereliction of two developments in the area, the need to have people living in the city centre above shops to get the vacant units occupied, and the lack of public transport. URDF funding is in place and the project would be delivered on a phased phase and there will be further decision gates for approval. Looking at detailed design towards the end of 2025 and to be on site in 2026. DHLGH is very supportive of the project. The Place Making Team are working with the Active Travel Team and will look at the urban design opportunities around Robert Street and Ellen Street.

Item 4: Update on THRIVE kings Island Walled Town Area

Ms. Woods told members that the Forward Planning & Public Realm Department are submitting the THRIVE 2 application for €6.5M project on the 14 April 2025 and gave the presentation on the THRIVE project which covered the following topics:

- **THRIVE – Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme overview. Strand 2 call for funding closes April 2025 – strategy to be submitted with application.**
- **Engagement Events and feedback**
- **Consultation – dedicated website on MyPoint.ie**
- **Sites and Projects identified for funding**
- **The Results: Nicholas Street was selected as the preferred Thrive Project to apply for funding for**
- **Slides with overview of all sites considered**

The members welcomed the project for the Nicholas Street Area. Ms. Woods noted that it is a bidding process, and the decision would be announced later in the year. The costs will be 100% funded by THRIVE if the application is successful. The costs provided were estimates only.

Item 5: AOB

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has circulated a date in relation to induction training for SPC Members scheduled for Thursday 17th April between 10am and 12pm. Details were circulated to the SPC Members.

The meeting concluded at 4.30pm.



Cllr. Peter Doyle, Chairperson
15 May 2025