

**To the Mayor, Príomh Chomhairleoir 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, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025.**

**Item 1: Minutes**

The Minutes of the Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism, and Planning SPC Meeting held of 14th April 2025 were proposed by Cllr. Michael Collins and seconded by Cllr. Bridie Collins.

**Item 2: Proposed New Limerick Tourism Strategy**

Ms. Coleman, Head of Tourism, gave an overview of what has been achieved to-date and Mr. O'Connell, Repucon Consultants, provided a high-level overview of the New Draft Limerick Tourism Plan. The overview included the following:

- Consultation process for new plan
- Strategic Objectives of the Plan
- Vision of the Plan
- Strategic Pathways / Projects
- Tourism Targets

The Chairperson welcomed the New proposed Limerick Tourism Strategy 2025-2029 and the importance of having a Limerick Tourism Strategy Plan, and that it is an important plan and would be necessary to have adopted to ensure that Limerick can apply for funding for Tourism projects for Limerick.

It was proposed by Mr. Michael Joyce and seconded by Cllr. Ursula Gavan that the SPC Members approved the New Proposed Limerick Tourism Strategy 2025 – 2030 be considered at the September, Plenary Meeting of the Full Council for adoption.

**Item 3: Proposed Draft Night-Time Economy Action Plan**

Mr. Craig Power, Night-Time Economy Advisor, gave a presentation on the draft Night-Time Economy Action Plan to the Members, outlining that Limerick on one of nine pilot locations in Ireland selected for the Government's Night-Time Economy initiative aimed at fostering sustainable and inclusive urban nightlife through extensive consultation, research and stakeholder engagement. This plan identifies seven key pillars essential for Night-Time Economy - Events, Experiences & Activities, Retail & Hospitality, Place Making & Public Realm, Transport & Access, Safety & Security, Visibility & Communications, and Governance & Sustainability.

The Members thanked Mr. Power for his presentation and acknowledged the success of Twilight Thursday for the city and that it is a very positive start. The presentation highlighted challenges like safety concerns, lack of Gardai and lack of transport from city to county areas. Members wanted these issues tackled as a matter of urgency.

The Draft Night Time Economy Plan was proposed by Cllr. Ursula Gavan and seconded by Cllr. Maria Donoghue to go to the July meeting Plenary Meeting of the Full Council for noting.

**Item 4: Update on Kings Island Flood Relief Scheme**

A presentation was given by Mr. Kieran O'Brien, CFRAMS & Place Making team on the Kings Island Flood Relief Scheme which is now at construction stage.

The Members thanked Mr. O'Brien for a very comprehensive update and a number of questions from the members were addressed by Mr. O'Brien. The project will be completed in November 2026 if all critical deadline dates are met, project is currently on schedule. Works at Georges Quay are to begin in September so to not negatively affect the summer trade for business owners there, these works will take one year. The glass panels selected are self-cleaning and the OPW have funding allocated for maintenance. Mr. O'Brien will bring the issue of roads getting dusty and stained to the contractor and informed members that there is a dedicated road sweeper.

**Item 5: Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor P. Doyle (referred at Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 19th May, 2025)**

I will move at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council would introduce measures to incentivise the use of vacant city centre retail units like one year's rates exempt for new retail premises and penalties for owners of vacant retail premises that have been idle for over two years.

The motion was proposed by Cllr. Peter Doyle and Cllr. Maria Donoghue and seconded by Cllr. Ursula Gavan.

Reply: As part of the Statutory Budget 2026 process, the Trade and Investment team will consider, in collaboration with the finance department, the potential for a scheme that provides either a grant or temporary business rates exemption for new independent retailers that occupy vacant premises. This proposal will be considered in the context of preparing a new scheme for the SME sector and reviewing the existing Small and Medium Business Support Scheme and the Vacant Property Refund Scheme. Any scheme proposed would be a matter for the elected members to consider and approve, amend or reject as part of the Annual Statutory Budget Approval Process.

A number of members expressed their support for this motion and are not limited to the following:

Limerick City and County Council needs to start actively looking for vacant premises, losing talent due to a lack of premises, needs to be more assertive about dereliction and to take an action against owners of these developments that are incomplete for a long time and that there is a need to take action. Suggested that vacant premises could be used for Meanwhile Uses. Limerick City and County Council needs to be more innovative around support for vacant properties.

Cllr. Doyle thanked the Members for their input.

**Item 6: Proposed dates SPC meeting January to June 2026**

The SPC Members agreed the following SPC meeting dates;

- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 from 2.15 pm to 4.15 pm
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 from 2.15 pm to 4.15 pm
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2026 from 2.15 pm to 4.15 pm

**Item 7: Date of Next Meeting**

The next blended SPC meeting will be held Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 2.15 pm.

**Item 8: AOB**

Mr. Thompson requested that the Taking in Charge Protocol be brought back to the next SPC meeting. It was agreed that this will be an Agenda item at the next SPC meeting for discussion.

The Chair, Cllr. Doyle, sought an extension beyond the Standing Order No. 9 at 3.50 pm to continue with the remaining agenda items until 5pm. The members agreed and the meeting reconvened.

The Chairperson, Cllr. P Doyle thanked everyone for attending the SPC meeting.

The business of the meeting concluded at 4.45pm.

**Recommendations from Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism, and Planning Strategic Policy Committee:**

1. The draft new Limerick Tourism Strategy 2025 – 2030 be considered for approval by Limerick City and County Council at the September Plenary Meeting. (Report to be submitted in September)
2. The Draft Night Time Economy Action Plan be brought to the July Plenary Meeting of the Full Council for noting. (Plan enclosed)



**Cllr. Peter Doyle, Chairperson**  
**02 July 2025**