

Community, Leisure, Arts, Heritage and Culture Strategic Policy Committee Hybrid Meeting 15/10/2025

A meeting of the Community, Leisure, Arts, Heritage and Culture Strategic Policy Committee (CLAHC SPC) was held on Wednesday, 15th October 2025 at 3pm in the Council Chamber Dooradoyle and Online via Microsoft Teams.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

ACTING CHAIRPERSON:

Cllr. Azad Talukder
Cllr. Dan McSweeney
Cllr. Daniel Butler
Cllr. Gregory Conway
Cllr. John Sheahan
Cllr. Michael Collins
Cllr. Olivia O'Sullivan
Cllr. Padraig Reale
Cllr. Sarah Beasley
Cllr. Tommy Hartigan
Ms. Marion Hurley
Mr. John Ward
Mr. Khurram Iqbal
Ms. Louise Crowley
Mr. Pete Moles

APOLOGIES:

Cllr. Martin Ryan

NOT PRESENT:

Cllr. Fergus Kilcoyne
Cllr. Brigid Teefy
Cllr. Catherine Slattery
Cllr. P.J. Carey
Cllr. Shane Hickey O'Mara
Mr. Padraig Lohan
Mr. Randal Hodkinson

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Stephane Duclot, Director of Service
Mr. Brian McCarthy, Director of Service
Mr. Declan White, Director of Service
Ms. Karen Burke, Town Centre First Officer
Ms. Eileen Gleeson, Staff Officer
Ms. Louise Magner, Administrative Officer
Mr. Damien Brady, City & County Librarian
Ms. Noreen O'Neill, Senior Executive Librarian
Ms. Joanna O'Donoghue, Staff Officer
Ms. Aisling Coughlan, Assistant Staff Officer
Dara McGuigan, Age Friendly Regional Programme Manager
Mark O'Connell, Director of Repucon Consulting



Declaration of Interest:

The Meetings Administrator stated that, in line with Part 15 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, and the Standing Order, all present members should notify the Cathaoirleach of any declaration of interest in any item due for discussion at the Meeting. No such interests were declared.

Item 1: Minutes:

The Minutes of the Community, Leisure, Arts, Heritage and Culture Strategic Policy Committee held on 9th July 2025 were proposed by Cllr. D. Butler and seconded by Mr. J. Ward and adopted.

Item 2: Matters Arising

No matters arising were brought forward.

Item 3: Presentation on the Draft Limerick Local Sports Plan

Mark O'Connell, Director of Repucon Consulting, presented Final Draft of Limerick Local Sports Plan. Members were informed that the main aim of the plan is to provide opportunity for every Limerick resident to be active. Mr O'Connell explained extended consultation process used to ensure, the needs of local communities and stakeholders are reflected in the plan. Importance of synergy with local, national and international policy was also noted. Priorities and goals of the Plan were presented to the members, together with action plan that emerged from them.

Mr. Pete Moles asked if the plan intends provision for collaboration with non-sporting organisations. Mr O'Connell advised of consultation process being open to all organisations and reassured, that direction of the plan has wider aspect, including community, social, cultural and well-being and not limited to sport.

Members acknowledge work that was done and pointed out importance of engagement with Transition Year students as well as need to support athletic facilities on the north site of the city.

Item 4: Presentation on the Library Tablet Lending Project in partnership with Vodafone Foundation

Presentation was given by Noreen O'Neill, Senior Executive Librarian on the Library Tablet Lending Project in partnership with Vodafone Foundation. Senior Executive Librarian informed members that this Limerick Library program was shortlisted for the National Age Friendly Award. Main purpose of this project is to increase access to digital resources and improve digital skills for older people. This program allows people to loan a tablet from their local library for extended periods of time. All the devices are loaded with mobile internet and have pre-installed apps including digital literacy training, specially designed for elderly users. Program is very popular and brings very positive feedback from the users.

Acting Chairperson Cllr A. Talukder congratulated the team on the nomination to the National Age Friendly Awards and asked where the biggest demand to date.

Senior Executive Librarian advised that currently the demand is higher in the county than city and that the devices can only be loaned to Limerick residents.

Item 5: Age Friendly Ireland – National Update

Dara McGuigan, Age Friendly Regional Programme Manager gave an update on the national Age Friendly Programme. Members were informed of the role of the Shared Service hosted by Meath County Council, as well as local program structure. Information was provided on the Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme that aims to support older people to remain living in their own homes, or homes appropriate to their needs, for as long as possible, and to avoid admittance to residential care. The referral process was explained including contact details for Limerick programme coordinators. Regional Programme Manager mentioned other programs currently being undertaken by Age Friendly Ireland nationally and locally, as well as forthcoming events including the National Age Friendly Awards.

Acting Chairperson Cllr A. Talukder asked for contact details for the Limerick Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme coordinators to be shared with all the members. It was agreed that the presentation including contact to the coordinators will be circulated to all.

Ms M. Hurley asked if Age Friendly Homes team would have a list of trusted tradesmen available that could be shared with elderly people often struggling to find appropriate help in fixing house maintenance issues.

Mr McGuigan advised that he is not aware of any tradesman list, however advised that Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme can support homeowners in specific services for example home adaptations needed after hospitalisation.



Item 6: Date of next meeting

The Acting Chairperson Cllr A. Talukder thanked all for the presentations made. The next meeting of the Community, Leisure, Arts, Heritage and Culture SPC will take place on Wednesday 10th December 2025 in Council Chamber, Dooradoyle at 3pm and online. Dates of the future meetings will be circulated to members.

Meeting ended at 4.15 pm

Minutes Proposed By: Cllr. M. COLLINS

Minutes Seconded By: Cllr. A. TALOKDER

Minutes Signed by Chair Fergus Kilcoyne Date: 10/12/25