

Rural, Community, Culture and Tourism Development Directorate
Limerick City and County Council Corporate
Headquarters Merchants Quay
Limerick

eircode: V94 EH90
t: +353 (0) 61 556 000

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 10th December 2025. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th October 2025 were adopted.

Matters Arising

The Chairperson expressed appreciation to Director of Service Stéphane Duclot as he transitions to the Planning Department and extended a warm welcome to the two new Directors, Brian McCarthy and Seán Lenihan, who were present at the meeting.

New Local Community Safety Partnership and the Pilot Community Safety Warden's scheme

Paul Moroney, Community Safety Co-Ordinator, briefed members on the new Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) and the Pilot Community Safety Wardens scheme.

The LCSP was established under the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024 and the 2025 Safety Partnership Regulations, marking a significant shift from traditional policing to a collaborative, preventative model that prioritises community engagement and trust-building. Its objectives include developing a Community Safety Plan tailored to Limerick's needs, fostering multi-agency collaboration among Local Authorities, Gardaí, HSE, TUSLA, and community representatives, and promoting community-led safety initiatives to enhance wellbeing and public confidence.

The Community Safety Wardens scheme is a pilot supported by the Department of Justice and the Mayor. Wardens have a non-enforcement role, providing a visible presence to engage with the public, report issues, and support events. They act as a bridge between the community and services. Benefits include deterring anti-social behaviour, improving perceptions of safety, and strengthening trust and communication between agencies.

The Community Safety Co-Ordinator emphasised that the LCSP represents a pivotal move toward community-led safety, focusing on collaboration, transparency, and adaptability. With strong partnerships among businesses, residents, local authorities, and Gardaí, Limerick is positioned as a national exemplar of integrated, community-driven safety.

Consultation on 'Our Rural Future' Programme

Karen Burke, Town Regeneration Officer, briefed members on the consultation process for the 'Our Rural Future 2026 -2031 Consultation document.

The Consultation Document sets out the next phase of the rural development framework and gather public input on priorities for 2026–2031. Karen highlighted key achievements since 2021, including the National Broadband Plan, 400 Connected Hubs, Regional Enterprise Plans, establishment of Technological Universities, and Town Centre First Plans.

The vision for 2026–2031 is for a thriving and inclusive rural Ireland where people can live, learn, and work in connected, sustainable, and vibrant communities. The consultation document identifies four core pillars: Thriving Rural Places, A Strong & Diverse Rural Economy, Resilient Rural Communities, and A Greener Rural Future. Key challenges include the need for a whole-of-government approach to infrastructure, housing, transport, and Innovation utilising new technologies, as well as strategies to support activity throughout the day and evening time in rural towns.

Seven consultation questions were presented, and members were invited to review them and share any comments with the Town Regeneration Officer for inclusion in Limerick City and County Council's submission. The consultation remains open until **Friday, 12th December**.

Strategic Policy Committee work plan development

The Meeting Administrator informed members that, in line with the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) review completed in 2023, each SPC is required to have a work plan. The Corporate Department will collaborate with all Limerick Strategic Policy Committees in the new year to develop these work plans for Limerick City and County Council SPCs.

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 11th February 2026.

Cllr Fergus Kilcoyne

Chairperson

Community, Leisure, Arts, Heritage and Culture Strategic Policy Committee

11/12/2025