



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Luimnigh

Limerick City
& County Council

An Stiúrthóireacht Athghiniúna, Pobail, Spóirt
agus Forbartha Tuaithe
Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Luimnigh
Ceannchearthú Chorpáraideach
Cé na gCeannaithe
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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 11th February 2026. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th December 2025 were adopted.

Matters Arising

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Beasley (*to be referred to the Community, Leisure, Arts, Heritage and Culture Strategic Policy Committee*)

Councillor S. Beasley presented a Notice of Motion requesting that Limerick City and County Council promote the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower initiative across Limerick City and County. The initiative uses a discreet sunflower symbol (e.g., lanyard, pin, card) to indicate that a person has a non-visible disability and may require additional time, assistance, or understanding. The Motion outlined the purpose of the scheme, its global recognition, and guidance on how staff and the public should respond when they see the symbol.

Councillor S. Beasley asked for the SPC to recommend that Corporate Services will issue an email to all Limerick City and County Council staff informing them about the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Project and advising staff to be attentive to individuals presenting with a Sunflower lanyard, pin, or identification card. This was proposed by Cllr. S. Hickey O'Mara and seconded by Cllr. G. Conway.

Review of Limerick Library Development Plan 2021-2025 People, Place, Platform

The Members received a comprehensive update from the City & County Librarian, Damien Brady on the progress of the Limerick Libraries Development Plan *People–Place–Platform*

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2021–2025. The presentation outlined significant achievements across all three strategic themes. Under People, members were informed of the wide range of community-focused initiatives delivered during the lifetime of the plan. These included extensive outreach programmes, strengthened partnerships with local and national organisations, and an expansion of literacy and reading initiatives for all ages. Notable highlights included the success of the Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme, the Europe Direct Information Centre designation, and large-scale participation in national literacy campaigns such as Summer Stars, Ireland Reads and the Children’s Book Festival. The service also advanced supports for migrants, individuals with additional needs, older people, and early learning centres, while continuing to prioritise digital inclusion and lifelong learning opportunities. Under Place, the Librarian reported on major infrastructural developments, including the completion of the upgraded Newcastle West Library, ongoing maintenance and refurbishment across the branch network, and progress on plans for the new Central Library at Opera Square. An options study for a future library in Castletroy has identified a preferred site, and work also continues on enhancing facilities in Askeaton. Investment in mobile and delivery vehicles ensures continuity of frontline services, and the rollout of the *My Open Library* service in Cappamore has proven highly successful. The Platform theme focused on strengthening digital and technological capacity. Key developments included the enhancement of the library website, expansion of social media channels, significant growth in the use of e-books, e-audiobooks and online resources, and the introduction of new digital services such as movie and music streaming platforms. The rollout of the national library management system, Spydus, was highlighted as a major milestone, giving users access to over 17 million items nationally. Service indicators presented showed continued growth in visits, loans, online engagement, and event participation. The Librarian concluded by acknowledging the commitment and professionalism of staff across all branches and departments in delivering the ambitions of the plan.

Consideration of proposed Draft Local Sports Plan (Action Plan)

Fiona McCormack, Senior Executive Officer and Mark O’Connell, Director of Repucon Consulting presented the Draft Limerick Local Sports Plan, which sets out a strategic framework to increase participation in sport and physical activity across Limerick. The plan is grounded in the principles of partnership, inclusion, sustainability, innovation and evidence-based decision making, with a vision of supporting residents of all ages and abilities to be active. Members were briefed on the proposed strategic themes, which include empowering communities to become more active, enhancing the county’s sports and recreational facilities, and strengthening communication and collaboration among stakeholders. Key priorities outlined in the draft plan focus on increasing participation levels, particularly in disadvantaged areas and among minority groups, supporting clubs and volunteers, improving access to indoor and outdoor facilities, and maximising opportunities linked to the 2027 Ryder Cup legacy. Ms McCormack noted the next steps, including the ongoing SEA/AA screening, the upcoming public consultation in March, and the intention to bring the plan forward to the

Management Board and subsequently to the May meeting of Limerick City and County Council for noting.

Update on Local Community Safety Partnerships Membership

Paul Moroney, Community Safety Co-Ordinator, updated members on the establishment and operation of the Limerick Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP), which replaces the former Joint Policing Committee in line with the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024. It was noted that LCSPs were formally established on 30 June 2025, with Limerick's partnership comprising up to 30 members representing elected officials, public services and community organisations. The presentation outlined the LCSP's remit, including developing a community safety plan, enhancing local engagement and ensuring strong collaboration with the National Office for Community Safety. Members were informed of meeting requirements, governance structures and the role of subcommittees in supporting targeted thematic work. An update was also provided on the pilot Community Safety Wardens, whose presence aims to promote safety, visibility and positive community interactions. The session concluded by highlighting the importance of transparency, partnership and sustained funding in ensuring that the LCSP can deliver a community-led, responsive and effective approach to safety across Limerick.

Information on Framework for Emergency Management - Community Support Centres

An update was provided by Anne Rizzo, Senior Executive Officer on the development of Community Support Centres (CSCs), an initiative arising from recent severe weather emergencies that highlighted the need for local facilities where affected communities can access essential supports such as food, mobile phone charging, hygiene facilities, internet access and reliable public information. The success of community-led response hubs during events such as Storm Éowyn demonstrated the critical role of local organisations and volunteers, as well as the value of providing spaces where people can obtain practical assistance, information and emotional support.

In response, the Government has approved funding for mobile generators for local authorities, with Limerick City and County Council allocated four units and additional funding for electrical upgrades in centres designated to operate as CSCs. The Community Development team has begun identifying suitable locations, issuing a survey to community groups and GAA clubs. Nine responses have been received to date from locations across the city and county, though a gap has been identified in the southeast, where options such as Bruff, Kilmallock, Ballylanders and Galbally are being explored.

The next step is to have an electrical contractor assess the nine responding sites for suitability and associated upgrade costs. The Department has indicated it may consider funding additional centres based on submissions from local authorities. Delivery of generators is expected in the coming months.

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 work plan workshop is organised on the 26th February and members were asked to consider items they would like the SPC to look at beforehand.

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 15th April 2026.

Recommendation: Corporate Services will issue an email to all Limerick City and County Council staff informing them about the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Project and advising staff to be attentive to individuals presenting with a Sunflower lanyard, pin, or identification card.

Cllr Fergus Kilcoyne

Chairperson

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

17/02/2026