



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Comhshaol, Gníomhú ar son na hAeráide agus Seirbhísí Comhroinnte
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh
Bothar Thuar an Dail
Tuar an Dail, Luimneach
V94 WV78

Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services
Limerick City and County Council
Dooradoyle Road
Dooradoyle, Limerick
V94 WV78

**Chairperson's Report of the Blended Meeting of Limerick City & County Council Climate Action,
Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee held on
Thursday 07 May 2026 at 2.30pm.**

Item 1 – Adopt minutes of the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 10 February 2026.

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th February 2026 were proposed by Mr. B. Murphy and seconded by Cllr. F. Foley.

Items 2 – District Heating – The potential for Decarbonised Heating for Limerick City & Suburbs – Conor McDonagh – Climate Action, Environment and Water Services Department, Clare County Council.

Mr McDonagh delivered a presentation on the potential development of a District Heating network for Limerick City and its suburbs. District heating involves the use of a single, centralised heat source to supply heat to multiple buildings, allowing for efficient town-scale heating. A range of heat sources can be utilised, including waste heat from wastewater treatment plants, as well as from industrial and pharmaceutical facilities.

At a national level, the Climate Action Plan targets the delivery of 2.7 TWh of district heating by 2030, which would represent approximately 10% of Ireland's total heat demand. The Heat (Networks and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2024 will provide the legislative framework to support the development and expansion of district heating networks.

It was noted that a feasibility study for the project is currently underway and is being 100% funded by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), with the final report expected in September 2026.

A general discussion took place on the potential of district heating and the possible future implementation. It was agreed that the presentation would be shared with all members of the SPC.

Item 3 – To approve the Progress Report of the Limerick City and County Climate Action Plan – presented by Kieran Reeves, Climate Action Co-ordinator.

Mr K. Reeves sought approval from the committee a progress report on the implementation of Limerick's 2024–2029 Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP). He outlined the background to the LACAP, the current status of actions, selected case studies, and key priorities for 2026.

The main objectives of the LACAP are to improve energy efficiency by 50% by 2030, reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 51% by 2030, enhance Limerick's climate resilience, and actively engage communities in climate action. The Plan contains a total of 98 actions, the majority of which are recurring in nature, including ongoing maintenance and operational programmes.

Actions completed in 2025 include the Fleet Survey, Climate Champions Campaign, Noise Action Plan, and the Biodiversity Plan. The presentation also provided an overview of ongoing and completed projects under the five thematic areas of the LACAP, along with priorities for the remainder of 2026.

Examples highlighted included:

- Built Environment & Energy: Pathfinder Programme
- Communities & Partnerships: Doon Social Farm Woodland Restoration Project
- Environment & Circular Economy: Limerick Greenway, awarded 3rd place in the European Greenways Awards
- Governance & Leadership: Introduction of Climate Action Week
- Natural Environment: Demonstration of nature-based solutions through the Fosse Project
- Travel & Mobility: Assessment of the Council fleet

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that the presentation would be shared with all members of the SPC.

The committee supported the referral of the LACAP 2024-29 Progress Report to Full Council for approval (proposed by Cllr N. Stokes and seconded by Cllr S. Hickey O'Mara)

Item 4 – Draft Multi Annual Work Programme for Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Support Strategic Policy Committee – next steps - Sinead Hourigan – Administrative Officer.

Ms. Hourigan presented the draft Multi Annual Work Programme for the CABE. The SPC Guidelines 2024 advise that each SPC should adopt a multi-annual work programme linked to the local authority's Corporate Plan. The draft policy framework will be structured thematically – Waste and Litter, Rural Water, Climate Action (including energy) Parks, Cemeteries and Environment (biodiversity/noise/air/EU projects etc.). The Programme does not affect Standing Orders – Each member may submit one agenda item relevant to the business of the SPC per meeting.

A draft will be circulated to all members for input in advance of being submitted to the Corporate Policy Group for approval.

Any Other Business – Dog Support Initiative

Ms Hourigan asked for support from the committee to explore on-granting of funding from the Dog Support Initiative, funded by the Department of Agriculture, to Limerick Animal Welfare subject to a service level agreement in support of the Council's dog control function.

Following discussion, members were in agreement.

At the end of the meeting Kieran Lehane, Director of Services, Environment, Climate Action and Fire announced his retirement and received well wishes from all.

Cllr Joe Leddin

Chairperson of the Climate Action Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee

14/05/2025

Recommendation - That the Progress Report of the Limerick Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-29 be approved by Full Council