

Ref: 06042023

6th April 2023.

LECP,
Urban and Rural Community Development Department,
Community, Tourism & Cultural Directorate,
City Hall,
Merchants Quay,
Limerick
V94 EH90



THE FAMILY FARM ORGANISATION

John Feely House,
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Re: Draft Social Economic Statement of the Local Economic and Community Plan for Limerick City and County 2023-2028.

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association (ICMSA) is a national farm organisation that represents all farmers particularly dairy and livestock farmers. ICMSA places particular emphasis on preserving the family farm structure and defending the rights and incomes of farm families. ICMSA is the only farm organisation to have its national headquarters in Limerick. The Limerick County Executive of ICMSA would like to take the opportunity to comment on the Local Economic and Community Plan for Limerick City and County 2023-2028 Draft Socio-Economic Statement.

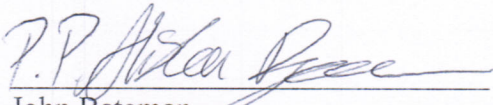
ICMSA is disappointed in the lack of coverage of agriculture in the Draft Social Economic Statement. Limerick has the third highest numbers of dairy cows in the country. Farming directly and indirectly is a significant employer in Limerick, dairy farming alone is worth €500 million to the county annually. Limerick farmers' incomes go straight into their local economies through fertiliser, feed, various contractors, fuel, and services and retail of every type. It is clear that agriculture is the bedrock of county Limerick, and it is essential that its role is properly recognised within the Draft Social Economic Statement of the Local Economic and Community Plan for Limerick City and County 2023-2028. The plan should also set out

measures that the local authorities and associated agencies can take to support the development of this critical indigenous industry in Limerick.

In addition, the issue of rural planning and ensuring that people can build their homes on their farms and in their communities is essential for the long term social and economic wellbeing of rural Limerick. Supporting farm family members building homes on their farm, the regeneration of rural towns and villages, the upgrading of sewage facilities to allow for the expansion of these towns and villages should all be priorities.

ICMSA would welcome the opportunity to meet with Council officials to discuss the Local Economic and Community Plan for Limerick City and County 2023-2028 Draft Socio-Economic Statement and ICMSA's Submission on same.

Your sincerely,


John Bateman,
Chairperson,
Limerick ICMSA.