



Limerick Regeneration Community Consultative Forum

Submission re: Limerick Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023 -2028

About the Forum:

The Limerick Regeneration Community Consultative Forum (LRCCF) is a city-wide structure which brings together representatives from the regeneration areas (Moyross, St. Mary's Park, Ballinacurra Weston, Southill). Its role is:

- To provide an opportunity for representatives from the 4 regeneration areas to meet as a group to identify, acknowledge, address, progress, and review strategic issues in relation to regeneration communities including the physical, social, and economic regeneration of the communities.
- To enable connections and networking across the four communities and between communities, the Local Authority, Gardaí and agencies delivering services in regeneration areas.
- To influence, and be informed by, policy and practice relating to the regeneration areas on an annual basis.

We welcome the opportunity to contribute to the development of the next LECP for Limerick.

Our Key Priority for the LECP:

Our submission focuses on the development of the Regeneration Communities. **The continued development of Regeneration areas must be prioritised within the LECP 2023-2028.** The current Limerick Regeneration Framework Plan comes to an end in December 2023. The plan for supporting Regeneration communities post 2023 is currently in development¹. This Plan, which will outline the continued physical, economic and social development of the 4 communities, will contribute greatly to the development of a sustainable and inclusive city, and must therefore also be a key component of the LECP.

Specific Asks:

Within the overall aim of continued investment in Regeneration Communities, the following are key points which Forum requests to be reflected in the LECP:

¹ Following a community consultation, KPMG are currently preparing a report, on behalf of Limerick City and County Council, to be submitted to the Government for funding approval for continued investment in Regeneration areas post 2023.

- **Sustainable community hubs:** Community centres which provide a central focal point out of which local services can be provided must be supported. These shared community spaces increase accessibility to employment, education, training, and social and cultural opportunities. These centres/hubs must be adequately resourced so that core operational and management costs are covered, thereby enabling other services (employment, education, community development, childcare, information provision etc) to be delivered with funding from the relevant government departments/agencies.

In particular, the planned development of the long awaited, new Community Centre for Kings Island must be supported and prioritised.

- **Development of safer communities:** A commitment to invest the required resources to respond effectively to issues of criminality and anti-social behaviour must be included in the Plan. This should include a commitment to working collaboratively with all stakeholders (residents, Gardaí, Local Authority, approved housing bodies etc) in relation to issues such as criminality, anti-social behaviour, and enforcement of tenancy agreements.

The existing CCTV system in Limerick City is recognised as playing a key role in creating safer communities as formally acknowledged at a consultation meeting about the role of CCTV² between the Council and the Forum. This system needs to be adequately resourced to continue to perform this key role. Investment will contribute greatly to the development of safer communities.

- **Well managed sustainable, social, and affordable housing in Regeneration Communities:** This includes ensuring that social housing areas are managed well by both the Council and Affordable Housing Bodies; and ensuring that houses in social housing areas are not allowed to become derelict once they become vacant. In particular, houses should be inspected, refurbished and relet as a matter of priority rather than allowing them to become derelict, resulting in them becoming a source of anti-social behaviour and even more costly to eventually refurbish.
- **Investment in public realm:** The LECP should include a focus on the development and maintenance of public green spaces/open parks/play areas in Regeneration Communities. A dedicated Local Authority environmental budget for the upkeep and maintenance of the public realm in Regeneration areas must be included in this.

In particular, the planned Flood defences in St. Marys Park and its environs, must be progressed as a matter of priority.

- **Accessibility of community facilities, buildings, transport, greenways, public toilets etc:** Development of the physical and social infrastructure in local communities should be mindful of the accessibility of same – in terms of availability of public transport, location,

² Minutes of Regeneration Forum Meeting 11th June 2020 Istabraq Hall

needs of people with disabilities, needs of older people, parking, availability of park and ride facilities etc.

- ***Ongoing commitment to the principles of social inclusion and community participation in the development of Regeneration Communities:*** This includes a continued involvement of local communities in the planning and development of spaces and facilities in their areas, and ongoing support for capacity-building initiatives to develop and support community leadership and the ‘community voice’.
- ***The joint impact of economic and social investment must be recognised:*** Development and investment in the necessary infrastructure to support the social, economic, educational and community life in Regeneration communities - including, schools, training centres, community centres, retail and industrial/enterprise centres – must be supported, thereby encouraging people, in particular young people, to remain living in the communities and ensuring the long term survival of the communities.

As the planning process for the next Development Plan progresses, the Consultative Forum looks forward to working closely with Limerick City and County Council to provide further input in relation to the points made in this submission.

Submitted on behalf of the Limerick Regeneration Community Consultative Forum

Chris Sheridan

Chairperson