



Limerick City of Learning

Together for a brighter future

A Collaborative Framework for Progress





Our vision for Limerick is a City where people of all ages are actively engaged in learning that enhances the quality of their lives and revitalises their communities.



Mission of the City of Learning Steering Group

Our mission is to ensure individuals, families, communities, businesses, along with providers of learning opportunities work effectively and creatively together - to ensure people in Limerick City have equal access to learning opportunities and are supported to make the most of those opportunities to enable them to achieve their full potential.

Our Principles are:

- We believe education is a basic right, and that all people should have equality of access to lifelong opportunities for learning, enjoyment, and personal growth.
- We strive for a learning community that includes everyone and offers easy access to information and communication technologies to all.
- We will find creative ways to engage people in the design and implementation of relevant learning opportunities.
- We will collaborate and work in partnership to achieve our shared vision.
- We will measure the impact of our actions in a transparent and inclusive way, and respond promptly and appropriately to feedback

Partners In The City Of Learning Steering Group

City Development Board (Host Agency)	Limerick City Sports Partnership
City of Limerick VEC (Lead Partner)	Limerick Community Education Network
Department of Education and Science, MW Regional Office	Limerick Institute of Technology
Education Secretariat - Diocese of Limerick	Limerick Regeneration Agency
Employers/Enterprises (Stryker, Flextronics)	Limerick Trades Council
FÁS	Limerick City Youth Forum /Limerick Youth Service
Health Executive Service (HSE)	Mary Immaculate College
HSI Limerick Business School	PAUL Partnership
Limerick Anti-Poverty Strategy	Primary and Post-primary Schools Sector
Limerick City Childcare Committee	Probation & Welfare Services
Limerick City Community & Voluntary Forum	University of Limerick
Limerick City Enterprise Board	

Concept: Together for a Brighter Future

This logo has been designed as a creative, vibrant symbol of cohesion and partnership to promote the concept of Limerick City of Learning as a partnership of social, educational, and business organisations that have a shared vision in promoting Learning as a key to a brighter future for Limerick City.

We have used four individual colours to reinforce the concept of partnership, and four dots to incorporate the key elements - the four P's of Limerick as a City of Learning: Participation, Partnership, Performance & Pride.

This logo has been designed to increase awareness, across all sectors in the community, that learning, and the provision of learning opportunities are key to creating a city where people at all levels can engage in learning, which will enhance the quality of their lives and that of their City.





Foreword by the Mayor of Limerick



I am delighted to launch *'Limerick City of Learning – Together for a Brighter Future'*. This timely document gives us a vision for Limerick, which places Education and Learning firmly at the heart of the City's renewal strategies. It highlights the fact that it is only through investment in its people that Limerick will be able to tackle the challenges of globalisation, change, economic development, and social inclusion.

It is an exciting time for Limerick, as the City embarks on a series of ambitious plans for the future, both in terms of physical infrastructures and community regeneration.

If Limerick is to continue on its journey as a vibrant, creative, competitive, and diverse city, we all have to recognise that Learning is the key. We need a well educated workforce, living in safe and caring communities. We also need new skills and new ways of responding quickly and effectively to the changing economic and social realities. But beyond educational and economic gains, learning will give people the confidence to contribute to their communities, and participate in shaping the future of our City.

'Together for a brighter future' says it all. Each of us has a role to play in making Limerick one of the most vibrant, inclusive and attractive cities in the Country.

John Gilligan
Mayor of Limerick
September 2008



Introduction by the Chairperson of the City of Learning Steering Group



This Strategic Framework for Learning was developed over the past year by the Limerick City of Learning Steering Group, a sub-committee of the Limerick City Development Board. A key goal of the Board's Strategy for the City is that Limerick will become a City of Learning, a city full of opportunities.

We all know that learning happens not only in formal settings such as schools, colleges, and universities: it happens everywhere, everyday, and for everybody – from children, young people, to parents, adults, and older people. Learning also happens in homes, communities, and in the workplace. It is now clear that pooled resources and ideas, effective partnerships, and meaningful community engagement and participation are all crucial to achieving our vision of Limerick as a City of Learning.

This Collaborative Framework is an "umbrella" document, which aims to be truly citywide and inclusive. In setting out four pillars for Learning, it offers key strategic directions for everyone involved in providing and/or availing of learning opportunities in the City. For providers, it identifies the key strategies to which they can contribute through their individual activities, actions, and partnership initiatives. For the people of Limerick, it highlights the value which the City places on Learning, and demonstrates its commitment to ensuring that learning is happening everywhere – for everyone.

I would like to commend our partners in Limerick for their vision, participation, and ongoing commitment to this work. The Framework is built on a shared understanding of the concepts of Learning, Education and Training, and the fundamental role they have to play in bringing coherent and effective solutions to the new challenges that are facing the City. We are committed to delivering on this Strategy and will continue to provide leadership and monitor progress as we work together to make Limerick a true Learning Community.

Deirdre Frawley
Chairperson, City of Learning Steering Group
September 2008



The Community of Learning

This table illustrates the full range of organisations and sectoral groups involved in the day-to-day planning, promotion, and delivery of learning opportunities in Limerick City, whether in formal, non-formal or informal settings. Collectively, they constitute the Limerick City Community of Learning.



The Foundations of Limerick as a City of Learning

If Limerick is to evolve as a thriving and prosperous City, learning must be placed at the core of its development. Everyone in the Limerick Community of Learning has a particular responsibility to ensure that this happens.

Four key activities are essential to their work:

Participation

- Consult with the people of Limerick to inform the ongoing development of their City
- Engage with everyone who lives in and visits Limerick, and invite them to get involved in all kinds of learning activities
- Design and implement innovative approaches that widen access for non traditional learners

Performance

- Set targets and milestones to measure progress
- Capture the impact of the range of participation and partnership efforts, and use the lessons learnt to address future issues and challenges
- Recognise that learning is the key to Limerick's inclusive, thriving, and vibrant future

Pride

- Develop pride in Limerick as a City of Learning and Opportunity
- Celebrate Limerick and ALL its achievements - sporting, educational, cultural, economic, etc.

Partnership

- Recognise that no single organisation can make Limerick a City of Learning on its own
- Work in partnership to implement the City of Learning Framework and, in so doing, add value to the work of individual organisations
- Promote 'parity of esteem' and respect the contributions of all partners, whether from formal, non formal or informal sectors



The Pillars of Limerick City of Learning





The Pillars of Limerick City of Learning

CREATING A SPARK FOR LEARNING	GIVING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE THE BEST START IN LIFE	FOSTERING A THRIVING AND INCLUSIVE CITY	PROMOTING QUALITY LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS			CREATING A SPARK FOR LEARNING	GIVING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE THE BEST START IN LIFE	FOSTERING A THRIVING AND INCLUSIVE CITY	PROMOTING QUALITY LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS
CORE ELEMENTS						SOME EXPECTED OUTCOMES <p><i>These are sample outcomes only, examples of what an institution, an employer, an agency, or a school could take on board to contribute to the implementation of Limerick City of Learning.</i></p>			
<p>Involve individuals and communities in identifying, planning for, and developing relevant learning opportunities</p> <p>Respond quickly and imaginatively to people's identified learning needs</p> <p>Focus on 'outreach' strategies and make learning accessible by working towards eliminating barriers to participation</p> <p>Innovate and use creative ideas to make learning programmes and opportunities relevant to people's lives</p>	<p>Acknowledge that children and young people live, grow, and learn in homes, schools, and communities, which must work in partnership to maximise their potential</p> <p>Support the critical role of families in promoting and nurturing learning experiences for their children</p> <p>Support schools to provide flexible and creative responses to children's holistic needs</p> <p>Recognise the critical role of communities in which homes and schools are located, to promote a culture of learning and offer extended learning opportunities</p> <p>Use a multi-disciplinary and multi agency approach to support individual Children's needs</p>	<p>Enhance employability through developing 'skills for work'</p> <p>Promote work-based learning opportunities</p> <p>Expand the City's "social capital" by recognising the value of personal and social development in learning</p> <p>Embrace multi-culturalism and diversity to enhance the City's economic and cultural development</p> <p>Develop new models of education that challenge inequality and exclusion</p>	<p>Enable citywide interaction and partnership among all involved in the provision of education and learning to improve the coherence and enhance the profile of the sector</p> <p>Maximise the use of public buildings and spaces as safe places for recreation and learning activity</p> <p>Maximise the use of new technologies for communication and learning purposes</p> <p>Support informal learning through the development of high quality dedicated facilities and services for all in communities</p> <p>Work to the highest quality standards in the provision of learning opportunities in all settings</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing consultations and feedback with learners Greater capacity of local community structures to identify local learning/ skills needs Institutions/ agencies personnel located in communities for rapid response to emerging local needs Delivery methods tailored to suit learner needs and starting points e.g. – recognition of prior learning, individualised learning, group learning, E-learning, etc Mapping out of the routes open for people to overcome barriers and join in learning opportunities Learning Champions with different learning journeys and from all sectors More opportunities for sport, leisure, health, and arts related activities to make learning fun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Learning initiatives developed and supported Immediate and intensive professional assessments available for children and young people that may present with special learning needs and emotional difficulties Second level curriculum reviewed to offer quality vocational activities towards employment or further education Agreed targets in numeracy and literacy for all age ranges After-school activities supported in communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workplace learning initiatives supported Regeneration activities explored to provide high quality work related training opportunities in local communities (including ICT training) Quality work-related training opportunities available, including Apprenticeship Training and Community Enterprise Development Initiatives Active citizenship initiatives supported Sporting and cultural achievements celebrated and recognised as integral parts of Limerick as a vibrant City of Learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School buildings and facilities maximised to become top quality neighbourhood hubs for community education, learning and development Public libraries, art galleries, and parks used for learning festivals and other celebrations of learning E-inclusion initiatives promoted Inviting open green spaces provided to promote awareness of environmental issues, learning, and recreation Development and training opportunities available for all staff working in the provision of learning activities



Some Key Milestones

- Adoption and use of City of Learning Framework by the City Development Board and all its partners

- Appointment of a City of Learning Facilitator to oversee the implementation of the Strategy

- Annual City of Learning Festival

- Inclusion of the principles and priorities of the Framework within the Limerick City Regeneration Master Plan

- Partners demonstrate their support for the City of Learning by using its logo, as appropriate, for their major promotional/celebratory learning events

- Collaborative citywide initiatives on education and learning

- 'Road map' of learning in Limerick across sectors

- Integrated approach to the provision of information and guidance in the City.





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