

A city for all!



Yiannis Armeftis

Independent Candidate Mayor of Limassol

VISION • KNOWLEDGE • DETERMINATION

Dear fellow citizens,

I have always believed that we live in a city with great potential, known for its distinct character, and positive impact on all aspects of public life. A city made up of creative and proud people.

I do not have the intention to undermine the work of previous municipal councils or undervalue the very important programmes implemented in recent years. I firmly believe, however, that much more could have been done.

In short, I truly believe that we can do better, and we do deserve more as citizens of Limassol.

Why consider voting for Yiannis Armeftis? Because I have a clear vision and a formulated plan. A plan built collectively with dozens of our fellow citizens over the past few years, based on the principles of sound administration, using modern tools for securing resources and implementing projects. A plan that we drafted with the valuable input of young scientists, experts, professionals and concerned, active citizens.

You now have this proposal in your hands, including a plan to develop a bustling city that can provide solutions to real, tangible issues, such as traffic jams, sanitary conditions and cleanliness.


Our comprehensive urban project, aims at the total rejuvenation of the city. It is in fact part of the history of this city, as we have always been pioneers and leaders.

The run-up to the elections involves an honest dialogue and different opinions. Our candidacy is directed to all citizens of Limassol, and forms an inclusive umbrella of ideas and actions to be embraced by all citizens.

We are moving ahead with determination and passion.

This is the only possible way.

Sincerely, your fellow citizen,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Yiannis Armeftis' in a cursive style.

Yiannis Armeftis

Resume

Yiannis Armeftis, was born in 1971 in Limassol and raised in the old part of the city. He has been running his own architecture firm since 1995, after getting his Architecture Degree from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. He has received several architecture awards and commendations both in Cyprus and abroad.

He served as a Municipal Councillor between 2007-2016, during which he was President of the Development and Tourism Committee, head of the DIKO municipal group (2012-2016) and representative of the Union of Cyprus Municipalities in the Municipal Derogations Council (2015-2017).

He is a founding member of the initiative 'For Limassol', an NGO made up of individuals excelling in areas such as sustainable mobility, social cohesion and affordable housing, animal welfare, culture and sport.

His father was assassinated by the extreme right-wing paramilitary group EOKA B in June 1974.

In 2014, he founded the "Andreas Armeftis" Study of Democracy Foundation, a collective that promotes the values of democracy and reconciliation. For the past five years, he has been at the helm of the Organisation of the Relatives of Fallen Resistance Fighters.

He is married to Marina Hatziloizou-Armeftis with whom he has a daughter, Chrysilia.



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Our vision

Our vision is a sustainable, friendly, inclusive and bustling city but at the same time green, clean and with the least amount of traffic possible.

Meanwhile, we hope to achieve improved connectivity and provide alternative modes of transportation, as well as innovative networks connecting all areas.

We envision a creative Limassol, with an even stronger cultural identity, modern infrastructure, fully equipped sports facilities and a vibrant city centre.

Our goal is to overturn social inequalities, which are splitting Limassol's citizens into two categories, by upgrading everyone's quality of life.

With a comprehensive plan and a Limassolian spirit, we aim for a total rejuvenation of our city.







Solving a traffic nightmare

One of the main challenges we are called to deal with is the traffic chaos faced by thousands of our fellow citizens on a daily city's main roads. This becomes a bigger issue during rush hour, when thousands of cars form long queues, which on several occasions end up being several kilometers-long. Valuable working hours are lost, and fuel is wasted, while the environment is burdened with the ensuing pollution. Unfortunately, little has been done to address this issue. The Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) was set up in 2019 but five years on, few projects have actually been implemented. The cost of this plan is €40m each year, while €400m is the total amount of funds allocated for its implementation.

PROPOSALS:

- Establishment of a body responsible for the implementation of SUMP.
- Sustainable design and a study for the construction of the northern bypass in three phases:
 - 1st Phase:** From 1st April Avenue (in Ayia Fyla) going westwards through Evagoras Lanitis Avenue. - Construction of a new bridge over the Garryllis river, north of Berengaria, up to the Hospital - New Port road .
 - 2nd Phase:** Extension of Ayios Athanasios street from the Oval building to the area west of the Sfalagiotissa cemetery.
 - 3rd Phase:** Construction of tunnels to address the elevation differences from 1st April Avenue and eastwards towards Yermasoyia.
- Promotion of studies for the construction of a bypass road in the Ayia Fyla historical centre (George Papandreou street).
- Redevelopment and construction of Ayia Fyla Street and its connection to Makariou and Thessaloniki Avenues. Cancel existing plans for the creation of a roundabout and one-way streets.
- Launch of the Park & Ride service at key points within the city, such as the Tsirio Stadium and the New Port and utilisation of existing parking spaces at the Spyros Kyprianou sports centre. Development of a drop-off area for students at Tsirio Stadium in order to reduce the movement of buses at the highway roundabouts.
- Implementation of a roundtrip bus route on Gladstonos, Thessaloniki, Ayias Fylaxeos, Tsirio stadium, Vasileos Kostantinou, N. Pattihis and Leontiou streets in the city centre.
- Short, fast and frequent bus service from suburban neighbourhoods to the main streets through the creation of bus lanes.
- Converting Leontiou, Dodekanisos, Ayia Fylaxeos, Thessaloniki, Vassili Michaelidis, Ayia Zoni and Gladstonos streets into one-way streets through the creation of bus lanes.
- Application of the SUMP's regulations in the city centre. Removal of through traffic and extension of sidewalks.

- Conversion of Akktaia Street into a linear park, without vehicular traffic, with trams and micro-mobility vehicles, including e-bicycles, e-scooters and hoverboards.
- Creation of a tramline connecting the Casino area, the Park & Ride spaces west of the port, Zakaki, the passenger hall, the Park & Ride areas east of the port, the intermediate stations between the old and new ports, the Limassol Marina and the city centre with the possibility of extending it to the east.
- Creation of green avenues for pedestrians, cyclists and users of other means of micromobility vehicles, with three green routes linking the city's neighbourhoods, through the conversion of existing roads into one-way or pedestrian routes, with cycle lanes and parallel planting to create shade.
- The routes will be 13km, 8km and 4km long. Green routes will act as a parallel network for pedestrians and cyclists only, providing safe access and an alternative means of transport. This development will ensure the free movement of people with disabilities, as well as the possibility of walking or cycling to school. The creation of green routes will contribute to reducing the use of cars during rush hour.
- Creation of a 30km long blue route for pedestrians and cyclists. The blue route will connect the Kourion and Amathounta archaeological sites. The route will go through the eucalyptus forest on the north shore of the Akrotiri Salt Lake, adjacent to the port and will continue along Akktaia Street and the beachfront.
- Implementation of the Call on Demand system, which is already used in Limassol.
- Adoption of technologies and applications in the context of a smart city.





Green and clean city

The Municipality's leadership is called to address the environmental challenges of our time facing local communities under the Damocles sword of climate change, implementing policies that meet the EU's sustainability targets and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

PROPOSALS:

MORE GREEN AREAS

- Creation of the Limassol Metropolitan Park in the Ayia Fyla area and extending its perimeter to the Polemidia dam (possibility of extending it up to Vati)..
- Creation of a Linear Park on Aktaia street (between Marina and New Port), stressing around 1.5 km.
- Tree planting on Green Routes with a total length of 25km (planting of approximately 10,000 m² of trees).
- Creation of a park in Fassouri's Eucalyptus forest.
- Creating pocket parks.
- Enrichment of greenery on roads and traffic islands.
- Promotion of "green floor" programs.

ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND CLEANLINESS

- Implementation of a road cleaning and waste collection programme with frequent training and supervision.
- Modernisation of the city's fleet and method of cleaning.
- Implementation of the 'pay as you throw' scheme.
- Raise public awareness on recycling and implementation of better supervision for recycling.
- Application of innovative green methods such as composting, circular economy, reuse of materials with "life – cycle" approaches and introduction of "second life" programmes for household and construction waste.
- Effective management and systematic monitoring of green points.
- Expansion of anti-flood works and retention basins around urban areas.

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

- Systematic monitoring of seawater quality and beach cleanliness, with strict adherence to hygiene practices and monitoring ship emissions, imposing severe penalties in cases of illegalities.
- Creation of energy communities by installing photovoltaic systems on designated properties (e.g. Vati) or the roofs of public buildings (e.g. schools).
- Promotion of policies to boost the thermal insulation of existing buildings.

GREEN CULTURE

- Mobilisation of citizens to raise environmental awareness, through seasonal cleanup campaigns and awards for the cleanest neighbourhoods.
- Incentives to make public transportation more appealing.

ANIMAL WELFARE

- Abolishment of animal captivity at the city zoo and conversion into a botanical garden.
- Establishment of a programme for the registration and treatment of strays.
- Mandatory microchip scanning unit.
- Creation of a dog park with extended hours.
- Installation of animal waste collection bins.

AIR QUALITY

- Installation of air quality control units at the port, roundabouts and industrial areas.
- Banning the use of generators on ships docked at the port.
- Noise pollution control in industrial areas, the port, main roads and the city centre.

SEA AND WATER QUALITY

- Systematic control of seawater and dam water quality.
- Collaboration between the municipality and the operator of Limassol Marina and the Ports Authority for the exchange of information regarding waste from ships.
- Enrichment of artificial reefs by sinking old vessels or objects that will create new diving parks and contribute to the development of biodiversity.



Limassol, a cradle of culture

Culture is the driving force for development and progress in every society. In a city like Limassol, strengthening cultural activity and promoting cultural heritage is not just an obligation or contemporary priority, but rather an investment for future generations. Claiming the title of European Capital of Culture 2030 is a great challenge and opportunity. Visual artists, writers, poets, dancers, musicians and songwriters can turn Limassol into a city of permanent cultural creation, with the invaluable contribution and support of the municipality.

PROPOSALS:

- Development of a cultural policy.
- Utilisation of European programmes to promote artistic development.
- Coordination with local independent cultural institutions, to improve collaboration and upgrade events.
- Defining criteria for the evaluation and funding of proposals submitted by cultural organisations.
- Creation of an online guide for cultural events (cultural data).
- Enhancing, upgrading and improving the organisation of major events (Carnival, Wine Festival, Christmas village and city decorations).
- Utilisation and upgrading of operations at archaeological sites, monuments and historical buildings.
- Creation of a mobile application with guided tours of various attractions in and around the city and district of Limassol in a number of languages, which can also be used by people with disabilities, such as hearing or vision impairment.
- Purchase of a number of tickets by the Municipality for theatrical-musical performances and museums, that will be handed out to vulnerable groups of the population and minorities.
- Sponsored performances (e.g. "suitcase theatre") in nursing homes, neighbourhood parks, as well as the Municipal areas.
- Establishment of a "Street Art" scheme, that will coordinate and encourage artists to create art in public spaces.
- Creation of a "Museum Development Agency" to coordinate the operation and infrastructure of the city's museums.
- Upgrading existing cultural areas and development of new and modern museums.
- Extending the opening hours of museums and exhibition spaces.
- Cooperation with major cities, networks, museums and art institutions internationally, as well as participation in various exhibitions.
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Sustainable development

Our main objective is the promotion and adoption of a sustainable development model, where all citizens will be able to integrate, live, work and enjoy what our city has to offer (Live - Work - Play model).

PROPOSALS:

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Promotion of innovation in entrepreneurship, research and improvement of the overall ecosystem in the city of Limassol and the entire district.
- Financial and technical support for start-ups.
- Supporting and encouraging collaborations between the academic /research community and the manufacturing sector, by taking up the role of an intermediary body.
- Boosting international and domestic networking and cooperation.
- Creation of quality jobs and further utilisation of the scientific human potential in our country.

INNOVATION

Creation of favourable institutional conditions and support mechanisms for start-ups, scale-ups and established enterprises. Provide incentives to local start-up financiers for the development of a functioning innovation ecosystem.

Public-private partnerships must be promoted so as to develop alternative ways of financing. Creating relevant entities is an important step to this end (e.g. business incubators, accelerators, innovation hubs and coworking spaces).

Upgrade existing infrastructure to attract digital nomads. Provide incentives for attracting and keeping STEM (technology, engineering, etc.) graduates in the city.

Limassol as a Smart city:

- Digitisation of services (removing the obstacles of bureaucracy and time-consuming procedures that make life difficult for citizens and burden the environment with more pollution).
- Using technological tools to allow citizens to access municipal services as well as to be informed about and participate in various activities.
- Harnessing technology to create more accessible areas for people with disabilities.

BLUE ECONOMY, BLUE GROWTH

- Marine spatial planning.
- Sustainable management of marine activities.
- Integrated maritime surveillance systems.
- Development and strengthening relations between the Municipality and the Ports.
- Development of infrastructure and new boat launching facilities.

TOURISM

- Creation of a 'brand' for the city of Limassol promoting it as an attractive tourist destination (identity, culture, tourism product).
- Development of organisations and action plans to promote diving, sports and conference tourism as well as third age tourism and recreational tourism.
- Upgrading art galleries and cultural heritage sites.
- Ensuring the cleanliness of attractions and public buildings.
- Providing incentives for the creation of city-boutique hotels.
- Organisation of excursions, guided tours and activities in and around the city.
- Extending the opening hours of museums and recreational areas.
- Developing an app to provide a digital account of the city's main reference points in multiple languages.

RESEARCH

- Provision of incentives to attract distinguished scientists in Cyprus and repatriate researchers.
- Supporting public and private universities.
- Preventing the relocation of other TEPAK schools from Limassol.
- Cooperation with TEPAK for the development of a second building.
- Incentives to promote research activities and excellence and attract high-level international students.
- Connecting researchers with the Municipality.



Putting neighbourhoods first

Our goal is to change the current splitting of Limassol citizens into two speeds, by adopting a human-centric approach to policymaking and infrastructure projects that will make living in the city's neighbourhoods functional, pleasant and hassle-free. For us, citizens shouldn't be divided into categories and growth should be equal for all.

PROPOSALS:

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS:

- anti-flood projects
- sidewalks
- road network improvement
- street lighting
- cleaner streets
- collection of waste through recycling incentives

"15-MINUTE CITIES"

Promoting the self-sufficiency of neighborhoods through the use of green routes. Tree planting in neighbourhood streets is essential, due to high temperatures.

This will help improve air quality, as well as encourage physical exercise, creating relations among residents who will regularly come across each other. The aim is to develop central pedestrian streets with increased commerciality, services, hospitality, sports and cultural venues connected schools, churches and other places of local interest.

A SQUARE IN EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD

Maintenance and upgrading of public spaces, with proper street lighting and a sense of safety, where a variety of events could be held. By covering the need of "belonging" in a safe community, delinquent behaviour will be prevented to a great extent.

USE OF SCHOOL FIELDS AND YARDS

Make use of public spaces for children's play and sport activities.

UPGRADE OF NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE SCHEME

Until the establishment of Municipality Police, the Neighbourhood Police will act as an intermediary body between citizens and the Police, boosting their relationship.

EXPANSION OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME AND NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCILS

The objective is to ensure order in the neighbourhood, identify issues and coordinate to find solutions to these issues, forging stronger relations between citizens and the municipality.





Municipality of Solidarity

Our goal is to create a humane and socially sensitive municipality, with a local authority that embraces citizens and becomes a reliable supporter of vulnerable groups of the population. Strengthening social cohesion, welfare structures and practices, affordable housing and social integration are the key pillars of our governance programme.

PROPOSALS:

STRENGTHENING SOCIAL COHESION:

- Creation of a Citizen Support Centre, with the appointment of a social worker to specific districts that face social problems. The aim of the Centre will be to provide guidance on issues related to legal rights and procedures, while mediation services will be provided in coordination with government agencies or other bodies.
- Signing of memoranda with NGOs for synergies, collaborations, as well as awareness campaigns and actions for vulnerable groups of the population.
- Activities for pensioners, with the aim of strengthening their social integration.

AFFORDABLE – SOCIAL HOUSING

- Increase of housing stock.
- Modernisation of the system to enable faster issuance of building permits.
- Encourage private-public sector partnerships based on a relevant legislative framework.
- Effective land management (enclosed land).
- Utilisation of municipal property for the construction of municipal apartment buildings and low rent units for vulnerable, low wage citizens (in collaboration with KOAG-Cyprus Land Development Corporation).
- Encourage the utilisation of idle land and building stock by putting forward incentives and counterincentives in areas of special character.
- Promotion of new alternative housing models (New European Bauhaus).

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Creation of a specialised shelter for homeless people, until each individual's case is taken over by the Welfare Office.
- Creation of specialised shelter for gender-based violence victims, until each individual's case is taken over by the Welfare Office.
- Operation of childcare facilities for parents who need to stay at work until late in the afternoon and/or who work shifts.
- Housing of NGOs in municipal offices.
- Promotion of the EU programme "I grow old with my friends" in shared housing, as implemented in other European cities.

INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANTS

- Setting up a special programme to help migrants develop various skills and learn Greek.
- Creation of an Expats Council for third country citizens.
- Promotion of intercultural activities.





Sports • Education • Youth

SPORTS:

The Municipality needs to have an upgraded coordinating role in the city's sports events through collaborations with relevant bodies. The aim is to develop sports facilities and organise/host new and existing sporting events.

- Upgrading the role of the Sports Office of Limassol Municipality – raising funds and participation in EU programmes in cooperation with the Municipality's Office of European Programmes.
- Cooperation with the local School Board for the upgrade of fields and infrastructure of schools in each area, to make them available to citizens in the afternoons.
- Connection of sports facilities, schools and parks through green routes and linear parks.
- Creation of new sports facilities (BMX, 3 X 3, Basketball, Tennis, Padel, climbing wall etc) in Ayia Fyla, which will make up Limassol's Metropolitan Park.
- Draw up a Master Plan for the upgrade of GSO stadium, aiming at connecting the area to the Municipal Garden and the buildings recently bequeathed by the late Niki Fytidou, which will operate as a large urban park to be used for sport activities (e.g. skate park).
- Cooperation with the GSC (Olympia Sports Club) to upgrade the Tsireio stadium into a modern International Sports Center that will also be used as a park with several facilities available to the public.
- Creation of sports facilities next to the Kalogeropouleio stadium in Mesa Geitonia.
- Creation of sports facilities as part of the masterplan for the new waterfront on Aktaia street.
- Taking advantage of the entire coastal front by creating sporting facilities; including putting up nets to be used in both local and international tournaments (for beach volley, beach tennis 3 x 3 etc.)
- Organisation and upgrade of annual major sporting events as well as high-profile international tournaments that promote the city (Marathon, Lemesia 3 on 3, sailing, swimming, cycling and so on).
- Encouragement and support of initiatives to allow hosting international maritime sports and other individual and team sports events.
- Development of infrastructure for swimmers on the beach front (showers, changing rooms, sanitary areas, lockers).
- Facilities and infrastructure to promote diving and underwater sports.
- Strengthening the lifeguard service and its infrastructure for the safety of swimmers, through the expansion of its operating hours.

EDUCATION:

When it comes to education, the Municipality has a duty to remain committed to ensuring the citizens' mental wellbeing. We therefore propose the following:

- Launch of after-school educational activities for children in collaboration with the local School Board and the Ministry of Education, in a bid to develop emotional intelligence skills, empathy and social skills.
- Launch of intensive Greek language learning
- Creation of a Municipal Reading Club.
- Introduction of a thematic camp and student exchanges with other European schools and universities.

YOUTH:

- Closer cooperation with the Cyprus Youth Organisation to make the best possible use of the programmes it offers.
- Provision of incentives for small neighbourhood-based festivals, graffiti competitions, video production, music, plays etc.
- Incentives for innovative ideas.
- Hold open discussions with young people from each area to discuss the issues they are currently facing and explore practical solutions together.





European programmes - Funding

Funding is becoming increasingly competitive. Limassol should be able to make proper use of funds and funding opportunities from both the European Union and through partnerships with the private sector.

Therefore, having a proper strategy in place, planning mature projects and upgrading the Municipal service while ensuring flexibility and promoting collaboration with academics and experts as well as European and international organisations, are crucial for achieving this goal. Securing funding through projects and programmes can bring multiple benefits and the Limassol Municipality needs to work on the basis of specific principles: each project must be part of and serve the city's strategic goals, ensuring perfect planning and the maturity required to ensure financing.

Therefore, we need commitment and consistency in implementation timeframes and the fulfillment of qualitative and quantitative objectives.

PROPOSALS:

EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES FUNDING:

- Strengthen the Municipal Office of European Affairs and Programmes.
- Creation of an EU Project Management and Implementation Office
- Encourage the collaboration of the European Programmes office with the Research and European Studies departments of Universities.
- Strengthen the Municipality's European and International networking.

FUNDING:

- Public-private sector partnerships.
- Cooperation between research institutes and specialised bodies.
- Utilisation of municipal property.
- Ensure the assistance of international investors and domestic financiers for public projects (PPP/BOT).
- Encourage the contribution of social and cultural bodies, environmental and sports organisations.



Governance – Planning

The upgrade and modernisation of the Municipality's organisational and governance plan are essential for a city like ours.

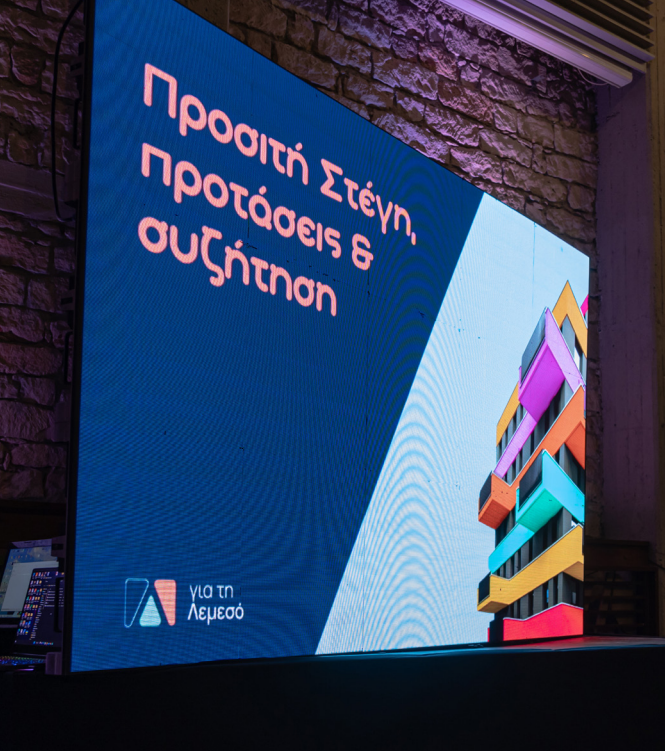
The improvement and digitisation of municipal services, the adoption of innovative forms of urban administration through the implementation of "smart city" policies, concern both the city itself, as well as other productive, social and cultural stakeholders active in Limassol.

By introducing e-governance into the daily lives of citizens, we will be able to achieve goals such as more efficient administration, direct involvement of citizens in the Municipality's activities, ensuring transparency and democracy and strengthening the citizens' participation in the decision-making process.




PROPOSALS:

- Maximising the use and increasing the efficiency of existing staff of the Municipality
- Adequate staffing of the Municipality in new and demanding sectors related to urban planning, the environment, social policy and digital governance.
- Upgrading procedures for the evaluation, rewarding and upskilling of the Municipality's staff.
- Drawing up a new municipal governance plan based on the municipality's responsibilities, with particular focus on the scientific staff required to enable the municipality to respond to modern-day needs.
- Use of modern and innovative tools for effective, two-way, interactive communication between the Municipality and citizens.
- Establishment of a "citizen's day", where individuals or organised groups can voice their problems and requests.
- Establishment of a municipal planning office.
- Creation of a Research Office.
- Set up regular consultation meetings between the Municipality and citizens and active consultation on major issues of public interest.
- Establishment of a Mayor's accountability day.







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