

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT ADJOURNED MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 23RD MARCH, 2016, AT 3.00 P.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor L. Galvin, Mayor.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Browne, Butler, Collins (J), Collins (M), Costelloe, Daly, Donegan, Gilligan, Gleeson, Hourigan, Hurley, Keary, Keller, Leddin, Loftus, Lynch, McCreech, McMahon, Mitchell, O'Brien, Cmhr. Ó Ceallaigh, O'Donnell, O'Hanlon, Pond, Prendiville, Ryan, Scanlan, Secas, Sheahan (K), Sheahan (M), Sheehy, Teefy, Teskey.

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Byrne, O'Dea and O'Donoghue.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive (Mr. C. Murray), Director, Regional Services (Ms. C. Curley), Director, Economic Development and Strategic Planning (Mr. P. Daly), A/Head of Finance/Human Resources/Corporate/ICT (Mr. S. Coughlan), Director, Customer Services (Ms. J. Cotter Coughlan), Director, Service Operations/Change Management (Mr. G. Daly), A/Director, Transportation & Travel/ Environment (Mr. G. Dillon), Director, European Capital of Culture 2020 Bid (Mr. M. Fitzpatrick), Administrative Officer, Accounts Receivable (Mr. J. O'Brien), (Meetings Administrator (Mr. C. O'Connor), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. T. Knox).

Votes of Sympathy

At the outset and with the Mayor's permission, sympathy was extended to the following in the aftermath of recent tragedies at home and abroad and two minutes silence was observed as a mark of respect.

- The relatives and friends of the five victims of the drowning tragedy off the Pier in Buncrana, Co. Donegal.
- The relatives and friends of all those killed and injured following suicide bomb attacks in Brussels, Belgium.

New Members

The Mayor and Members welcomed the newly co-opted Members to the Meeting.

European Cities of the Future Awards

The Mayor referred to Limerick's success in the fDi European Cities and Regions of the Future Awards. As well as winning this Award, he said it was a fantastic achievement for Limerick City to be placed in the following categories: Economic Potential (2nd), Human Capital and Lifestyle (4th), Business Friendliness (2nd), and FDI Strategy (2nd). The Mayor commended the staff of the Council for their commitment and central role in establishing Limerick as an attractive business location for businesses. He also expressed his appreciation to Councillor Gleeson, Chair of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee, for representing Limerick at the Awards Ceremony.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, draft Minutes of the following Meetings:

- (a) Special Meeting of the Council held on 13th January, 2016.
- (b) Special Meeting of the Council held on 18th January, 2016.
- (c) Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 25th January, 2016.
- (d) Special Meeting of the Council held on 5th February, 2016.
- (e) Special Meeting of the Council held on 12th February, 2016.
- (f) Special Meeting of the Council held on 18th February, 2016.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
 Seconded by Councillor Hourigan;
 And Resolved:

"That, the draft Minutes, as circulated, be taken as read and adopted and signed."

2. Disposal of Land

- (a) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 25th January, 2016, concerning disposal of land at Ballyroe, Loughill, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
 Seconded by Councillor Hourigan;
 And Resolved:

"That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of 0.02 hectares at Ballyroe, Loughill, Co. Limerick, to Mr. Justin McSweeney, Loughill, Co. Limerick, for the sum of €1, all costs associated with the disposal to be borne by Mr. McSweeney, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 25th January, 2016."

- (b) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 1st March, 2016, concerning disposal of freehold interest in 13 Donnellans Buildings, Rosbrien, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
Seconded by Councillor Hourigan;
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of the freehold interest in 13 Donnellans Buildings, Rosbrien, Limerick, to Mary Enright, for the sum of €204.41, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Conveyance of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 1st March, 2016.”

- (c) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 1st March, 2016, concerning disposal of the freehold interest in 16 Flood Street, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
Seconded by Councillor Hourigan;
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of the freehold interest in 16 Flood Street, Limerick, to Phyllis O’Riordan, for the sum of €144.45, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Conveyance of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 1st March, 2016.”

- (d) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 1st March, 2016, concerning disposal of the freehold interest in 26, Ascal Clochain, Garryowen, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
Seconded by Councillor Hourigan;
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of the freehold interest in 26, Ascal Clochain, Garryowen, Limerick, to Margaret Sarsfield, for the sum of €100.42, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Conveyance of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 1st March, 2016.”

- (e) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 1st March, 2016, concerning disposal of the freehold interest in 45, Galvone Road, Kennedy Park, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
Seconded by Councillor Hourigan;
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of the freehold interest in 45, Galvone Road, Kennedy Park, Limerick, to Dean and Andrea Egan, for the sum of €100.42, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Conveyance of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 1st March, 2016.”

- (f) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 2nd March, 2016, concerning disposal of the freehold interest in 92, Assumpta Park, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
 Seconded by Councillor Hourigan;
 And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of the freehold interest in 92, Assumpta Park, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, to Margaret Corbett, for the sum of €95.42, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Conveyance of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 2nd March, 2016.”

- (g) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 2nd March, 2016, concerning disposal of the freehold interest in property at Glensharrold, Carrickerry, Ardagh, Co. Limerick (Folio LK4970L).

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
 Seconded by Councillor Hourigan;
 And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of the freehold interest in property at Glensharrold, Carrickerry, Ardagh, Co. Limerick (Folio LK4970L) to Thomas Hannafin Jnr., the disposal to be by way of Deed of Conveyance of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 2nd March, 2016.”

3. Support Services Directorate

(a) Fixing of Dates

On the proposal of Councillor Collins (M), seconded by Councillor Hourigan, dates for Meetings were re-fixed as follows:

- | | | | |
|------|----------------|---|--|
| (i) | Annual Meeting | - | Monday, 27 th June, 2016, at 3pm. |
| (ii) | July Meeting | - | Monday, 18 th July, 2016, at 3pm. |

(b) Filling of Vacancies on Strategic Policy Committees

Strategic Policy Committees – Council Members

(i) The Meetings Administrator stated that the Council was required to consider the nomination of a replacement to the following Strategic Policy Committees consequent on the resignation of **Councillor Shane Clifford:**

- Home and Social Development SPC.
- Travel and Transportation SPC.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins (M), seconded by Councillor Hourigan, it was agreed that Councillor Joe Pond would be appointed to replace Councillor Shane Clifford on both the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee and the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee.

(ii) The Meetings Administrator stated that the Council was required to consider the nomination of a replacement to the following Strategic Policy Committees consequent on the death of **Councillor Joe Crowley, RIP:**

- Community, Leisure and Emergency Services SPC.
- Environment SPC.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins (M), seconded by Councillor Hourigan, it was agreed that Councillor Vivienne Crowley would be appointed to replace Councillor Joe Crowley, RIP, on both the Community, Leisure and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee and the Environment Strategic Policy Committee.

(iii) The Meetings Administrator stated that the Council was required to consider the nomination of a replacement to the following Strategic Policy Committees consequent on the election of **Councillor Maurice Quinlivan** to Dáil Éireann:

- Travel and Transportation SPC.
- Home and Social Development SPC.

On the proposal of Councillor Browne, seconded by Councillor Sheehy, it was agreed that Cmhrl. Séighin Ó Ceallaigh would be appointed to replace Councillor Maurice Quinlivan on the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee.

It was noted that Cmhrl. Ó Ceallaigh was moving from the Community, Leisure and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee and that, as a consequence, a vacancy now existed on this SPC. On the proposal of Councillor Browne, seconded by Councillor Sheehy, Councillor John Costelloe was appointed to replace Cmhrl. Séighin Ó Ceallaigh on the Community, Leisure and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee.

On the proposal of Councillor Browne, seconded Councillor Sheehy, it was agreed that Councillor John Costelloe would be appointed to replace Councillor Maurice Quinlivan on the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee.

(iv) The Meetings Administrator stated that the Council was required to consider the nomination of a replacement to the following Strategic Policy Committees consequent on the election of **Councillor Tom Neville** to Dáil Éireann:

- Travel and Transportation SPC.
- Home and Social Development SPC.

On the proposal of Councillor Hourigan, seconded by Councillor Keary, it was agreed that Councillor Adam Teskey would be appointed to replace Councillor Tom Neville on both the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee and the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee.

Strategic Policy Committees – Sectoral Nominations

(v) Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, dated 8th March, 2016.

The report stated that the Strategic Policy Scheme had been formally adopted by the Council and nominations from the Farming / Agricultural, Business Employers and Trade Unions had already been received and approved by the Council.

Correspondence had been received from the Secretariat of the Public Participation Network (PPN) setting out their nominations to Strategic Policy Committees representing the Environment /Conservation, Community /Voluntary and Social Inclusion Sectors.

The approval of the Council was being sought to the appointment of those persons nominated by the PPN.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
Seconded by Councillor Hourigan:
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the appointment of the persons listed on the Table below to the Strategic Policy Committees as listed:

Strategic Policy Committee	PPN Sector	Nominee’s Name and Nominating Body
Travel & Transportation	Social Inclusion	Maureen Browne, Step Forward Disability Group

Environment	Community / Voluntary	Louise Madden, Castleconnell Project Limited
	Community / Voluntary	David Fitzgerald, Adare Business Association
	Environment / Conservation	Anneke Vrieling, Feale Biodiversity
Home & Social Development	Community / Voluntary	Kevin O'Brien, Ballynanty Residents Association
	Community / Voluntary	Tracey McElligot, Moyross Residents Forum

Before proceeding with the Agenda, on the proposal of Councillor Collins (M), seconded by Councillor Hourigan, it was agreed to take a 5-minute adjournment.

On resumption, the Mayor indicated that a Supplementary Item, as notified to Members on 16th March, would be taken at this time as follows:

Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee – Appointment of Chair

- (vi) The Meetings Administrator advised that the Council was required to consider the appointment of a Chair to the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee consequent on the election of the Chair of this Committee, Councillor Maurice Quinlivan, to Dáil Éireann.

Proposed by Councillor Secas;
Seconded by Councillor Leddin;

“That, Councillor Frankie Daly be appointed as Chair of the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee consequent on the election of the Chair of the SPC, Councillor Maurice Quinlivan, to Dáil Éireann.”

Proposed by Councillor Browne;
Seconded by Councillor Sheehy;

“That, Cmhlr. Séighin Ó Ceallaigh be appointed as Chair of the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee consequent on the election of the Chair of the SPC, Councillor Maurice Quinlivan, to Dáil Éireann.”

A vote was taken which resulted as follows:

For Councillor Daly

Councillors Butler, Collins (J), Collins (M), Daly, Donegan, Galvin, Gleeson, Hourigan, Hurley, Keary, Leddin, Lynch, Mitchell, O'Donnell, O'Hanlon, Pond, Ryan, Scanlan, Secas, Sheahan (M), Teskey. **(21)**

For Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh

Councillors Browne, Costelloe, Gilligan, Loftus, McCreesh, McMahon, Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh, Sheehy. **(8)**

Abstentions

Councillors Keller, O'Brien, Prendiville, Teefy. **(4)**

The Mayor declared Councillor Frankie Daly appointed as Chair of the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee to replace Councillor Maurice Quinlivan.

(c) Filling of Vacancies on Other Bodies

The Meetings Administrator advised that the Council was required to consider the following:

- (i) The nomination of a Member to the following Bodies consequent on the resignation of **Councillor Shane Clifford**:
- Limerick Market Trustees.
 - Board of Innovate Limerick.
 - Audit Committee.
 - Stakeholder Group of Limerick 2020.
- (ii) The nomination of a Member to the following Bodies consequent on the death of **Councillor Joe Crowley, RIP**:
- Association of Irish Local Government (AILG).
 - Standing Policy Council of AILG.
 - Limerick Market Trustees.
 - Hunt Museums' Trust.
 - Board of Management of St. Munchins Community Development Company Limited.
 - Limerick Marketing Board.
- (iii) The nomination of a Member to the Stakeholder Group of Limerick 2020 consequent on the election of **Councillor Tom Neville** to Dáil Éireann:

The Meetings Administrator advised that as two vacancies were required to be filled on both the Limerick Market Trustees and the Stakeholder Group of Limerick 2020, the Grouping System could apply, if desired, in respect of nominations to these two Bodies. Accordingly, it was agreed to deal with nominations to the Limerick Market Trustees and the Stakeholder Group of Limerick 2020 first. The remaining vacancies, which would be filled by majority, would then be dealt with.

Limerick Market Trustees

On the proposal of Councillor Collins (M), seconded by Councillor Hourigan, it was agreed that Councillor Joe Pond would be appointed to the Limerick Market Trustees to fill the vacancy consequent on the resignation from the Council of Councillor Shane Clifford.

On the proposal of Councillor Hourigan, seconded by Councillor Sheahan (M), it was agreed that Councillor Adam Teskey would be appointed to the Limerick Market Trustees to fill the vacancy consequent on the death of Councillor Joe Crowley, RIP.

Stakeholder Group of Limerick 2020

On the proposal of Councillor Collins (M), seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon, it was agreed that Councillor Joe Pond would be appointed to the Stakeholder Group of Limerick 2020 to fill the vacancy consequent on the resignation from the Council of Councillor Shane Clifford.

On the proposal of Councillor Hourigan, seconded by Councillor Sheahan (M), it was agreed that Councillor Adam Teskey would be appointed to the Stakeholder Group of Limerick 2020 to fill the vacancy consequent on the election of Councillor Tom Neville to Dáil Éireann.

Board of Innovate Limerick

On the proposal of Councillor Collins (M), seconded by Councillor Lynch, it was agreed that Councillor Joe Pond would be appointed to the Board of Innovate Limerick to fill the vacancy consequent on the resignation from the Council of Councillor Shane Clifford.

Audit Committee

On the proposal of Councillor Collins (M), seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon, it was agreed that Councillor Joe Pond would be appointed to the Audit Committee to fill the vacancy consequent on the resignation from the Council of Councillor Shane Clifford.

Remaining Bodies

On the proposal of Councillor Collins (M), seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon, it was agreed that Councillor Vivienne Crowley would be appointed to the following Bodies consequent on the death of Councillor Joe Crowley, RIP:

- **Association of Irish Local Government (AILG).**
- **Standing Policy Council of the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG).**
- **Hunt Museums' Trust.**
- **Board of Management of St. Munchins Community Development Company Limited.**
- **Limerick Marketing Board.**

(d) Chief Executive's Report

Circulated, Chief Executive's Reports for the months of January and February 2016.

In the course of a discussion on this item, the Chief Executive and the relevant Directors of Service responded to queries raised by the Members in relation to the following:

- Current status of Derelict Sites Register.
- Museum.
- Development at Irish Cement.
- Proposed Schedule of Works for Parnell, Catherine and Roches Streets.
- Planning Application Process.
- Economic Forum.

The Chief Executive's Reports were noted by the Members and a number of queries relating to various matters in the report were responded to by the Chief Executive and appropriate Directors of Service. Further queries were raised regarding the input of the Council in relation to an application for an Industrial Emissions Licence (IED) to the EPA for the development proposed at Irish Cement and these were responded to by the Chief Executive.

(e) Commercial Rates Arrears

The A/Head of Finance/Human Resources/Corporate and ICT presented to the Meeting, by way of a PowerPoint Presentation, an analysis of the Commercial Rates Arrears at 31st December, 2015. The collection rate for 2015 showed a significant improvement, increasing to 71%, which was up 6% on the 2014 year-end. The arrears at the end of 2015 were €21.4 million, a reduction of €3.5m or 14% on the previous year.

An analysis of the arrears figure identified that over 80% of the arrears related to ratepayers with a rate warrant less than €20,000. In particular, the level of arrears was highest for ratepayers with a warrant of less than €5,000.

The introduction by the Council of the Tourism Support Scheme in 2015 had been very successful and that was highlighted by the Hotel category which showed a reduction in the level of arrears of 55% or €1.37m. The Retail Sector accounted for 36% of arrears. Following requests from the Councillors during the budget process and taking the above analysis, the A/Head of Finance proposed the following Arrears Support Scheme to continue the drive to reduce arrears.

Proposed Once-off Support Scheme for 2016 to address arrears at 1st February for Customers with annual warrant less than €20,000:

- ▣ *4% support if arrears at 1st February cleared by July 2016 and / or by December 2016 if paid by Direct Debit.*

- ❑ 3% support if arrears at 1st February cleared by December 2016.
- ❑ 2% support if arrears at 1st February cleared by April 2017 and / or by December 2017 if paid by Direct Debit.

The Scheme above also encouraged the use of electronic forms of payment for rates. Direct Debit provided Small Businesses with the ability to pay their rates over 11 equal instalments over the year. In cases where there was no engagement with the ratepayer, the Council would have no option but to pursue the legal route for recovery of rates.

It was considered that this scheme, combined with the Small and Medium Business Support Scheme 2016, would provide continuing support for the Business Sector.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (J);
 Seconded by Councillor Browne;
 And Resolved:

“That, in accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, the Arrears Support Scheme for 2016, as outlined by the A/Head of Finance in his PowerPoint Presentation and as set out above, be and is hereby adopted.”

4. Economic Development and Strategic Planning Directorate

Hanging Gardens Development

Circulated, report of the Director of Economic Development and Planning dated 10th March, 2016.

The report firstly gave the background to the project. It stated that the ‘*Limerick 2030 – An Economic and Spatial Plan*,’ which had been adopted by Council in June 2013, set a target of creating 12,000 jobs (5,000 in the city centre) through the identification and development of a number of strategic / transformational projects in the City. The report explained that the timelines for the Hanging Gardens Project had proven difficult to meet and needed to be advanced at a much quicker pace. The Council’s experience of using LCO Limited as the SPV (special purpose vehicle) in the development of Troy Studios proved it to be a very effective development vehicle. It was intended to use that experience and that vehicle (LCO) to fast-track the advancement of the Hanging Gardens Project.

The report stated that LCO Limited was a wholly owned company of Limerick City and County Council. The proposal was that the Council formally transfer the asset to the Council’s wholly owned LCO company under the Section 183 process to enable the project to move forward. The Council would then be in a position to recruit and allocate the necessary resources to advance the project which had to date restricted its progress.

The report recommended to the Council the approval of the Section 183 transfer. In this regard, copy of Statutory Notice dated 10th March, 2016, concerning the disposal of

land at 16-19 Henry Street, Limerick City, had already been circulated and had been noted at a recent meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

Councillor Collins (J), in formally proposing the report and recommendation, said that while the Council was not a developer, it had procured this site to progress the economic, social and physical life in the city. He welcomed that the tender process for any works would be open to the local economy. It was noted that once works were completed, the development could facilitate 750 people being employed in the city. He concluded by stating that the Council was using LCO Limited, which was a special purpose vehicle company, as it was allowed greater flexibility and opportunity.

In supporting the report and recommendation, Councillor Browne stated that this was an investment that needed to be made and added that it was a decision that was being made in the best interests of Limerick.

A short discussion ensued with the majority of the Members welcoming the proposal and a number of queries in relation to the proposal were responded to by the Chief Executive and the Director, Economic Development and Strategic Planning.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (J);
 Seconded by Councillor Browne;
 And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property consisting of 0.2478 hectares situate at 16-19 Henry Street, Limerick City, to LCO Local Enterprise Development Company Limited, for the nominal sum of €1, in accordance with the particulars as set out in Statutory Notice dated 10th March, 2016.”

5. Limerick 2020 Directorate

Grants under the Arts Act, 2003

Circulated, report of the Arts and Culture Officer, Limerick 2020 Bid, dated 2nd March, 2016, enclosing Schedule setting out the applications recommended for grant assistance under the Arts Act, 2003.

The report stated that an Arts Evaluation Committee had considered all applications on the basis of the criteria for the allocation of the Arts Grants under the Arts Act, 2003. The approval of the Council was being requested to the payment of grants as set out on the Schedule attached to the report.

Proposed by Councillor Hourigan;
 Seconded by Councillor Mitchell;
 And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the payment of grants under the Arts Act, 2003, as recommended and as set out on the Schedule attached to the report of the Arts and Culture Officer, Limerick 2020 Bid, dated 2nd March, 2016.”

6. Congress Charter for Fair Conditions of Employment

The Mayor and Members welcomed Mr. David Joyce from the Irish Congress of Trade Unions who was present to give a presentation on the Congress Charter for Fair Conditions of Employment. Mr. Joyce firstly outlined the background as follows:

- Congress had become concerned that during the economic crisis, there had been significant growth in the use of low paid, low hour and insecure contracts of employment.
- The Congress had become convinced that it needed to develop a consensus across society that workers had an entitlement to fair conditions of employment.
- Congress had identified five core entitlements that it intended to campaign to have implemented. Those entitlements made up the Congress Charter for Fair Conditions of Employment.

He then outlined that the Congress Charter consisted of the following:

- A Living Wage.
- Fair Hours of Work.
- Right to Representation and Collective Bargaining.
- Respect, Equality and Ethics at Work.
- Fair Public Procurement.

He added that the campaign began in the Oireachtas in April 2015 and that since then the progress was as follows:

- Met the vast majority of TDs, Senators and MEPs.
- Over 130 individual pledges of support.
- Motion passed in the Seanad.
- Clear majority support in new Dáil.
- Current focus on Local Authorities and their Elected Members:
 - Met with CCMA.
 - Wrote to each Local Authority Chief Executive.
 - Wrote to each City and County Councillor.

He stated that the ‘asks’ from City and County Councillors were the following:

1. That Local Authority Members pledge their support for the Charter.
2. That they put down a Motion at their own Council Meeting seeking Council support for the Charter.

3. That a Congress representative be invited to address a meeting of Councillors.

In explaining the progress in Local Authorities, he mentioned the following:

- 100s of individual pledges of support so far.
- Meetings held or planned with 12 Local Authorities.
- 8 Motions in support of the Charter.
- Aiming to get majority during first half of 2016.

He added that the next stages of the campaign would be as follows:

- The aim of the campaign was to build a consensus that the aims of the Congress Charter should be a reality, as a minimum for every worker in Ireland.
- Also seeking support from employers and other civil society groups.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Mayor asked Mr. Joyce to forward to the Council a draft motion in support of the Congress Charter for Fair Conditions at Work. He added that this would be considered at a Party Leaders' meeting and would then be tabled for discussion at the next Full Council Meeting.

The Mayor and Members were in support of fair conditions of employment and thanked Mr. Joyce for his very informative presentation. Mr. Joyce then withdrew from the Meeting.

7. Conferences

(i) Participation by Members at Conferences

Details of the following Conferences had been circulated electronically to the Members: (a) Conference on Bordering Between Unions held in Dundalk, Co. Louth, on 18th/19th February, 2016; (b) Conference on The Finance Act, 2015, held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork, from 4th to 6th March, 2016; (c) The 1916 Annual Conference held in Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford, on 5th March, 2016; (d) 2-Day Microsoft Excel Workshop for Councillors to be held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork, on 30th/31st March, 2016; (e) Conference on Local Economic and Community Plans to be held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork, from 8th to 10th April, 2016; (f) Conference on Auditing and Governance in Local Government to be held in Carlingford, Co. Louth, from 15th to 17th April, 2016; (g) All Ireland-US Sister Cities Mayor's Summit to be held in Dublin from 21st to 24th April, 2016.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins (M), seconded by Councillor Hourigan, it was agreed that the following Members would attend:

Carlingford, Co. Louth: Councillor Gilligan.

Dublin: Councillors Loftus, O'Hanlon, Hourigan, Lynch.

(ii) Reports on Conference/Seminar/Meeting/Event

Circulated, reports by Members who had participated at Conference / Seminar / Meeting / Event.

The reports were noted by the Members.

QUESTIONS

Replies to the following Questions on the Agenda were circulated to all Members prior to the Meeting and the Questions were therefore considered as having been dealt with:

8. Question submitted by Councillor C. Prendiville

I will ask at the next Meeting is there any exemption or discounted standing charge for water rates available for charities and voluntary organisations who are struggling on reduced budgets.

REPLY: There is no exemption or discount available for water charges to charities and voluntary organisations.

Irish Water has now the statutory responsibility for providing and developing water services throughout Ireland. Limerick City and County Council provide, on an agency basis, the billing and collection function for this local authority area and therefore any exemption or discount on water charges has to be approved by Irish Water.

9. Question submitted by Councillor C. Prendiville

I will ask at the next Meeting how many Council-owned houses are there currently boarded up or unoccupied, broken down by Municipal District.

REPLY:

	Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Municipal District of Newcastle West	Regeneration
Casual Vacancies	2	5	4	1	28
Major Refurbishment	0	0	14	1	12
Scheduled Demolition	0	0	0	0	55
TOTAL:	2	5	18	2	95

Metropolitan District Major Refurbishments (14)

10 units at Bourke Avenue. A proposal was sent to the Department for approval for major refurbishment works under the long-term void/derelict units scheme in December 2015.

2 units at Hassett's Villas. A decision to demolish and replace or refurbish is currently being made by our Design and Delivery Team.

2 units in Ballygrennan are flats over shops. A review will be carried out on the commercial/residential configuration of these units going forward.

10. Question submitted by Councillor R. O'Donoghue

I will ask at the next Meeting, in view of the homeless crisis nationally and the housing shortage, for a comprehensive list of vacant or unoccupied local authority houses in Limerick.

REPLY: The current number of casual vacancies in each Municipal District is as follows:

Metropolitan District of Limerick:	4
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale:	2
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock:	5
Municipal District of Newcastle West:	1

11. Question submitted by Councillor R. O'Donoghue

I will ask at the next Meeting if extra funding and staffing can be allocated to combat the serious deterioration of this Authority's rural roads infrastructure.

REPLY: The funding for roads infrastructure maintenance comes from both Council funds and national funding sources. The Council recently received notice of an additional €4m of funding for roads following the severe winter rainfall and flooding. The decisions on the Council element of road funding is made each year by the Council at the annual budget.

12. Question submitted by Councillor P. Keller

I will ask at the next Meeting how many people are currently working for the Council or its connected companies through JobBridge and Gateway Schemes.

REPLY: There are currently 18 No. persons on placement through the JobBridge Internship Scheme. There are currently 47 No. participants employed on the Gateway Scheme.

NOTICES OF MOTION

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin, Mayor (to be referred to the Joint Policing Committee)

I will move at the next meeting that Limerick City and County Council would promote "The Buddy Scheme" whereby An Garda Síochána vet students who want to participate in caring for an elderly person(s); I would also move that this Council would write to An Garda Síochána, Parents, School Principals, Community Alert Groups, Active Retired Group and Youth Clubs to seek their support for this Scheme.

It was agreed to refer this Motion to the Joint Policing Committee

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan (to be referred to Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next Meeting that a Policy be adopted to install Carbon Monoxide Detectors in all Social Housing Units within the jurisdiction of this Authority.

It was agreed to refer this Motion to the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Prendiville

I will move at the next Meeting that we welcome the reports that water charges and Irish Water may now be abolished, and write to the new Minister for the Environment, when appointed, calling on him to cancel outstanding bills and make a refund available to those who paid under protest.

In Councillor Prendiville's absence from the Chamber, it was agreed to defer this Motion to the May Meeting of the Council.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor R. O'Donoghue

I will move at the next Meeting that the Council urgently draft a scheme to encourage and promote the small and medium-sized businesses (to include a review of the rates valuations structures) in the towns and villages of County Limerick.

In the absence of Councillor O'Donoghue, it was agreed to defer this Motion to the May Meeting of the Council.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor P. Keller

I will move at the next Meeting that the Council write to the new Minister for Health, when appointed, calling for the hiring of extra ambulance crew members in Limerick, to reverse the creeping privatisation of ambulance services in the Mid-West.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Keller called on the incoming Minister for Health to review the operation of the ambulance service at University Hospital Limerick, in particular the use of private ambulance services.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Browne and agreed.

18. Correspondence

The Correspondence circulated with the agenda was taken as read.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ORDERS:

The Register of Orders made by the Chief Executive up to the date of the Meeting was available for inspection by the Members.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT:

The Register of Decisions on applications under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) was also available for inspection by the Members.

Signed:

Mayor

Date:
