

LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL  
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY  
18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2016.

**NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY**  
**COUNCILLOR JOE LEDDIN**

I will move at the next meeting that the Fire Department carry out a comprehensive fire safety audit of all those city centre buildings that include residential units of accommodation, in order to close down or force landlords to carry out improvement works to their properties.

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**REPLY**

Limerick City & County Council Fire Authority operates under the **Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003**.

Section 18 (2) of the Act places a duty on every person having control over premises to take all reasonable measures to guard against the outbreak of fire on such premises and to ensure as far as reasonably practicable the safety of persons on the premises in the event of an outbreak of fire.

Section 18 of the Act also specifies that the Fire Authority's general obligations with regard to fire safety is for premises used for;

*"any purpose involving the provision of, sleeping accommodation, excluding premises consisting of a dwelling house occupied as a single dwelling."*

Fire Service inspections refer to fire safety issues only and do not take account of other deficiencies which may be present in the accommodation.

Limerick City & County Council Housing Authority carries out inspections under the **Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2008 and Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) (Amendment) Regulations 2009**.

This legislation covers functions relating to RAS, HAP and the Private Rental Accommodation. Fire Safety requirements are included in the legislation for houses and multi unit buildings.

**Inspections**

Limerick City and County Council Fire Authority carried out 113 inspections in the City Metropolitan area from January to December 2015. These inspections were carried out

under the Fire Services Act, Building Control Act and Dangerous Structures legislation.

The majority of these inspections were as a result of complaints from the general public, pre-event inspections and pre court inspections for licensing. The follow up procedure depends on the issues identified as a result of the inspections. The Fire Safety issues can be broken down in to three main areas:-

- (i) **Active Fire Safety Issues**, e.g. Fire alarm systems
- (ii) **Passive Fire Safety Issues**; e.g. Structural compartmentation
- (iii) **Fire Safety Management Issues**; e.g. a legal responsibility on persons having control over premises to take reasonable measures to prevent the occurrence of a fire.

There were 33 inspections carried out in the City Metropolitan area specifically relating to residential type developments in the same period

The follow up procedure may involve writing to the owner or occupier setting out the fire safety deficiencies and any required remedial works or initiating enforcement action under the Fire Services Act, e.g. Warning letters, Fire Safety Notices and High Court Order.

Limerick City & County Council Housing Authority carried out 967 inspections in private rented accommodation in the Limerick City & County Council area in 2015. This consisted of initial RAS inspections, re-inspection of RAS properties (to check if work is carried out) and HAP inspections. A total of 647 initial inspections were carried out in 2015 in RAS and HAP properties in the Metropolitan area of Limerick

In cases where RAS and HAP inspectors have a concern in terms of fire safety in rented accommodation, these are referred to the Fire Department for follow up.

### **Comment**

Given the above, there is a comprehensive programme of inspections in place for residential accommodation in the Limerick City & County Council area and this will continue in 2016.

  
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**CAROLINE CURLEY**  
**DIRECTOR OF SERVICE**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**

**LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK**  
**MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2016**

**Notice of Motion submitted by Cmhrl. Séighin Ó Ceallaigh**

I will move at the next meeting that the Council increase the regularity of the emptying of the public litter bins in the city.

**Reply:**

At present, the bins in the core City Centre are emptied daily including Saturdays and Sundays. The bins on the periphery of the city are emptied every second day. In total there are in excess of 200 bins in the City, 160 of which get emptied daily.

To increase the regularity of this service we would need to attach additional resources to the task and would require a subsequent increase in funding. As the budget for 2016 has been adopted, it will not be possible to do this in 2016.

**Gordon Daly,  
Director of Service.**

**LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**JANUARY MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT**  
**MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 18th JANUARY 2016**

**Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Maurice Quinlivan**

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick Metropolitan District calls for the Bin Waiver to be extended to those on invalidity pension.

**REPLY:**

The members of the Council debated at length the eligibility criteria for inclusion in the 2016 Refuse Subsidy Scheme during the course of 2015. The Council had regard to the need to prioritise and deliver services and also the need to maintain the competitive position of the Council as a primary contributor to and facilitator of economic and employment growth.

It was agreed at the outset of these discussions that any proposed Subsidy Scheme must apply equally throughout the administrative area and that priority must be given to continuing the scheme for those in receipt of state old age Contributory and Non-Contributory pensions as their sole source of income.

Discussions in relation to the proposed Subsidy Scheme were undertaken within the context of a most difficult financial position facing the Council in framing its budget for 2016.

Particular regard must be afforded to the fact that the Council's financial resources were exacerbated by the decisions of the Valuation Office on appeals in relation to commercial Rates

The combination of reduced resources and the continued demands for enhanced services resulted in the Council having to take many difficult decisions as it sought to deliver the highest quality service to the community it serves.

The Budget that was ultimately adopted sought to balance and provide funding and resources to the many competing interests. The Budget adopted for 2016 provided a subsidy scheme to households in receipt of either State Contributory or Non-Contributory Old Age Pensions only or Disability Benefit.

The 2016 funding does not allow for the extension of the Subsidy Scheme to include Households in receipt of Invalidity Pension.

It must be borne in mind that Limerick City and County Council is one of very few, if indeed the only Local Authority, that provides funding for such a subsidy scheme.

Where a household is experiencing financial hardship as a result of this decision it is open to members of household to apply to Community Welfare Officers to receive assistance and I am sure that such requests will be dealt with sympathetically.

I also understand the position to be that the Waste Service Providers are offering very attractive deals to households who previously received waivers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Lehane', written in a cursive style.

**Kieran Lehane,**

**Director,  
Transport & Travel / Environment**

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**MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK**  
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**Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Malachy McCreesh**

I will move at the next Meeting that the Council contacts Irish Water for an explanation of the ongoing main water burst along Childers Road, specifically at Sycamore Avenue (Rathbane) and Greenfields (Ballinacurra).

**Reply:**

The Council will refer Councillor Mc Creesh's Notice of Motion to Irish Water for their attention if the Notice of Motion is adopted at the meeting of 18 January 2016.

Irish Water has provided a designated telephone number and email address to facilitate elected representatives making direct contact with them. Irish Water contact public representatives to advise of local clinic facilities that are provided to facilitate public representatives meeting with Irish Water staff.

Telephone number :                   1890 178178

Email address :                   [localrepsupport@water.ie](mailto:localrepsupport@water.ie)

***Caroline Curley,***  
**Director of Services,**