

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, ON MONDAY, 29TH MAY, 2017, AT 3.00P.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor K. O’Hanlon, Mayor.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Browne, Butler, Collins (J), Collins (M), Costelloe, Crowley, Daly, Donegan, Foley, Galvin, Gilligan, Gleeson, Hogan, Hourigan, Hurley, Keary, Keller, Leddin, Loftus, Lynch, McCreesh, McMahon, Mitchell, O’Brien, Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh, O’Donnell, O’Donoghue, Pond, Ryan, Scanlan, Secas, Sheahan (J), Sheahan (K), Sheahan (M), Sheehy, Teefy, Teskey.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive (Mr. C. Murray), Deputy Chief Executive and Director, Economic Development (Mr. P. Daly), Director, Regional Services (Ms. C. Curley), Director, Physical Development (Mr. K. Lehane), Director, Services Operations and Business Improvement (Mr. G. Daly), A/Director, Social Development (Ms. C. Kirby), A/Director, Customer Services, Culture and Arts (Mr. D. Brady), Financial Accountant (Mr. P. Murnane), A/Senior Planner, Economic Development (Ms. M. Woods), Senior Engineer, Physical Development (Mr. V. Murray), Senior Architect, Economic Development (Ms. R. Webb), Meetings Administrator (Mr. C. O’Connor), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. T. Knox).

Votes of Sympathy:

At the outset and with the permission of the Mayor, sympathy was extended to the families of the victims of the recent terror attack in Manchester and a minute’s silence and reflection was observed as a mark of respect.

Sympathy was also extended to Sean Coughlan, A/Director, Support Services, on the death of his aunt, Sr. Anne (Áine) Coughlan, Convent of Mercy, Mallow, and late of Ardpatrick.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 27th March, 2017.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
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 2nd May, 2017, concerning disposal of property at 49 East Singland Road, Garryowen, Limerick.

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

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property at 49 East Singland Road, Garryowen, Limerick, to Maureen Hassett, for the sum of €139.45, 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 2nd May, 2017.”

- (b) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 2nd May, 2017, concerning disposal of property at 14, Kilmurry Avenue, Garryowen, Limerick.

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

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property at 14, Kilmurry Avenue, Garryowen, Limerick, to Philomena McNamara and Maura McNamara, 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 May, 2017.”

- (c) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 2nd May, 2017, concerning disposal of property at 7 Pennywell Road, Limerick.

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

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property at 7 Pennywell Road, Limerick, to Mary Walsh, for the sum of €139.45, 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 2nd May, 2017.”

- (d) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 2nd May, 2017, concerning disposal of property at 53 St. Lawrences Park, Garryowen, Limerick.

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

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property at 53 St. Lawrences Park, Garryowen, Limerick, to Maggie Sutherland, 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 May, 2017.”

- (e) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 3rd May, 2017, concerning disposal of property at Rathmale, Mungret, Co. Limerick.

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

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of land comprising 4.414 acres at Rathmale, Mungret, Co. Limerick, to The Trustees of Mungret Regional Football Club, for the sum of €52,968 (€12,000 per acre) - the Council will grant a licence to Mungret St. Pauls GAA Club for use by the GAA Club of the current GAA pitch on this area of land for a period of 10 years – particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 3rd May, 2017.”

- (f) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 5th May, 2017, concerning disposal of land at 28 Delmege Park, Moyross, Limerick.

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

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of the freehold interest in property at 28 Delmege Park, Moyross, Limerick, to Geraldine O’Brien, for the sum of €10,858.50, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Transfer of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property in order to regularise the original disposal of the property under Tenant Purchase in 1998 which was not finalised, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 5th May, 2017.”

- (g) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 15th May, 2017, concerning disposal of property at 8 Upper Carey’s Road, Limerick.

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

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property at 8 Upper Carey’s Road, Limerick, to Eileen Reddan, for the sum of €139.45, 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 15th May, 2017.”

- (h) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 17th May, 2017, concerning disposal of land at Knockulceare, Mountcollins, Co. Limerick.

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

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of the freehold interest in the property at Knockulceare, Mountcollins, Co. Limerick (Folio LK5226L) to Patrick P. Sheehan, 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 17th May, 2017.”

- (i) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 17th May, 2017, concerning disposal of property at West End, Kilfinane, Co. Limerick.

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

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of land comprising 0.014 hectares at West End, Kilfinane, Co. Limerick, to George Hosford, for the sum of €500, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 17th May, 2017.”

- (j) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 17th May, 2017, concerning disposal of property at Bohergar, Boher, Co. Limerick.

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

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of land comprising 0.163 hectares at Bohergar, Boher, Co. Limerick, to John Cahill, for the sum of €1 (if demanded), particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 17th May, 2017.”

- (k) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 17th May, 2017, concerning disposal of land at Knockanerry, Murroe, Co. Limerick.

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

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of land comprising 0.021 hectares at Knockanerry, Murroe, Co. Limerick, to Leonard Taylor and Ann Taylor, for the sum of €1 (if demanded), particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 17th May, 2017.”

3. Support Services Directorate

(a) Chief Executive's Report

Circulated, Chief Executive's Reports for the months of March and April 2017.

The Chief Executive's Reports were noted by the Members.

(b) Annual Report

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, dated 26th May, 2017, together with draft Annual Report 2016.

The Meetings Administrator stated that the draft Annual Report had been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and set out details of the various activities of the Council for 2016. Certain functions were required to be included by law and other functions were included to give an overview of the wide range of activities carried out by the Council. He added that the final version of the Annual Report would be brought before the July Meeting of the Council for adoption.

The draft Annual Report 2016 was noted by the Members.

(c) Ballyhoura Development CLG

Circulated, correspondence dated 22nd May, 2017, from the Chief Executive Officer, Ballyhoura Development CLG.

The nomination of 1 Member of the Council to the Board of Ballyhoura Development CLG was being sought as Councillor Donegan, one of the Council's representatives on the Board, was due to retire and was eligible for re-election for a further 3-year term.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins (M), seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J), Councillor Donegan was re-appointed to the Board of Ballyhoura Development CLG for a further 3-year term.

(d) Appointment of Chairs to Strategic Policy Committees

On the proposal of Councillor Collins (M), seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J), this item was deferred to the July Meeting.

(e) Change in Membership – Strategic Policy Committees

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan (J), seconded by Councillor Collins (M), changes in membership of Strategic Policy Committees were approved as follows:

- Councillor Prendiville to the Community, Leisure and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee to replace Councillor Loftus.
- Councillor Loftus to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee to replace Councillor Prendiville.

(f) Strategic Policy Committee Reports

- (i) Circulated, Report of the Chairperson of the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee dated 18th May, 2017, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 3rd April, 2017.

Recommendation

“That, the Council contact Bus Éireann and the National Transport Authority (NTA) about organising a ‘Car Free City’ day or weekend, where public transportation would be free in order to encourage more people to use this vital public service, in order to help tackle pollution and climate change.”

On the proposal of Councillor Daly, seconded by Councillor Butler, the recommendation was agreed.

- (ii) Circulated, Report of the Chairperson of the Environment Strategic Policy Committee dated 18th May, 2017, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 10th April, 2017.

The report was noted by the Council.

- (iii) Circulated, Report of the Chairperson of the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee dated 19th May, 2017, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 10th April, 2017.

The report was noted by the Council.

- (iv) Circulated, Report of the Chairperson of the Community, Leisure and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee dated 17th May, 2017, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 26th April, 2017.

The report was noted by the Council.

- (v) Circulated, Report of the Chairperson of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee dated 10th May, 2017, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 3rd April, 2017.

The report was noted by the Council.

(g) Annual Financial Statement 2016 – Limerick City and County Council

Circulated, Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31st December, 2016, for Limerick City and County Council, together with report from Chief Executive dated 5th May, 2017.

The Financial Accountant gave a presentation on the Unaudited Annual Financial Statement (AFS) 2016. He stated that the following documents were included in the AFS:

- The Statement of accounting Policies.
- Income and Expenditure Account Statement.
- Balance Sheet.
- Funds Flow Statement.
- Notes to the Accounts.
- Appendices 1 to 9.

Members were being requested to consider the AFS under Section 108 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.

In his presentation, the Financial Accountant highlighted the following:

- Sources of Income 2016.
- Revenue Expenditure by Category/Division.
- Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Transactional Shared Services Centre (SSC).

He then outlined commitments provided for in the AFS 2016 as follows:

- Boiler/Carbon Dioxide Programme, including planned maintenance contribution €0.8m.
- €0.4m transferred to provide funding for Public Lighting.
- €0.8m for Rural Development Programme – Members committed to providing €2.219m to this programme during Budget 2016 - now fully provided.
- Funding of €1m for Mungret Road Improvement and historic debit balances.
- Capital Fund for Council leisure facilities, including Adare Heritage €700,000.
- Burial Grounds Provision (including funding historic debit balances) €0.75m.
- €1m Transfer provided to provide funding for 3-Year ICT Strategy – significant investment required in the ICT infrastructure.
- €1.2m transferred to provide funding for Corporate Building Capital Works.

- €0.4m transferred to provide funding for Records Management Project.
- €2.7m Insurance commitments now fully provided.
- Provision for Machinery/Fleet €440,000.
- Fund balance of Library and Civil Defence Buildings €720,000.

He then gave an analysis of over-expenditure by Service and outlined the following:

- Comparison of actual versus budget for 2016 and identifying services where actual expenditure was greater than budget.
- This additional expenditure could be summarised into the following categories:

(a) Expenditure in excess of Budget with no matching Income:

For example: Service B06 Traffic Management Improvement – additional expenditure arising from extra expenditure on traffic lights and speed limit signage.

(b) Expenditure in excess of Budget with matching Income:

For example: Service A07 RAS (Rental Assistance Scheme) Programme – additional expenditure offset by increase in income.

(c) Mixture of (a) and (b) above:

For example: Service B04 Local Roads – additional insurance costs of €827,000, Smarter Travel Provision of €60,000, and balance of additional expenditure matched by additional grant income obtained.

He then provided information to the Members in relation to the Capital Account and Balance Sheet and said that the AFS, as presented, was very positive in terms of the following and reflected the efforts and support of Council Members and the commitment of staff:

- Surplus for the year on the Revenue Account.
- Significant debit balances and commitments on Capital Account addressed.
- Rural Development Programme commitment provided.
- In compliance with General Government Balance (GGB).
- Focused Debt Collection across all major income headings – significant reduction in arrears.
- Commencement of a number of strategic capital projects.

Members welcomed the positive report and acknowledged the effort of staff. They also welcomed the fact that collection of commercial rates was now at 77%.

Arising from queries raised by the Members in relation to the breakdown of the €1.2million for Corporate Capital Works, the Chief Executive clarified that the Council was not spending the €1.2million but was setting the amount aside for essential works and improvements on Council properties. He added that it was for capital spend on buildings and that the Executive would revert to the Members with formal proposals at a later date.

The Financial Accountant responded to queries raised in relation to HAP (Housing Assistance Payments), Mortgage-to-Rent Scheme, and mortgage arrears process.

Proposed by Councillor Ryan;
Seconded by Councillor Daly;
And Resolved:

“That, in accordance with Section 108 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended by the Local Government Reform Act, 2014), the Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31st December, 2016, for Limerick City and County Council, be and is hereby adopted.”

(h) Additional Expenditure 2016

Circulated, report from the A/Head of Finance dated 21st April, 2017, setting out details of additional expenditure incurred in excess of that provided for in the Annual Budget for the year ended 31st December, 2016, including capital transfers.

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

“That, authorisation is hereby given, in accordance with Section 104 (2) of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended by the Local Government Reform Act, 2014), to the additional expenditure incurred in excess of that provided for in the annual budget for the year ended 31st December, 2016, including transfers to reserves, as set out in the report from the A/Head of Finance dated 21st April, 2017.”

(i) Audit Committee – Draft Work Programme 2017

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, dated 15th May, 2017, together with Draft Work Programme 2017 for Limerick City and County Council Audit Committee.

The report stated that Section 9 of the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations, 2014, stipulated that the Audit Committee ‘*shall prepare an Annual Work Programme that shall be adopted, with or without amendment, by the Local Authority*’ and noted that the Draft Work Programme 2017, as circulated, had been agreed by the Audit Committee at meeting held on 22nd March, 2017.

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

“That, the Audit Committee Annual Work Programme 2017, as circulated, be and is hereby adopted.”

(j) Statutory Audit Report 2015

Circulated, (i) Report of the Audit Committee dated April 2017 on the Statutory Audit Report for the Year 2015; (ii) Limerick City and County Council Audited Annual Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December, 2015; and (iii) Statutory Audit Report dated 21st December, 2016.

The Audit Committee's report stated that the Local Government Audit Service had produced a Statutory Audit Report for the year ended 31st December, 2015, in respect of Limerick City and County Council. In accordance with Section 121(3) of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended by Section 60 of the Local Government Act, 2014), the Audit Committee was required to review the report, assess any action taken by the Chief Executive in response to the report, and bring its findings to the Council. At a meeting held on 22nd March, 2017, the Audit Committee had met with the Local Government Auditor and reviewed the Statutory Audit Report for the year ended 31st December, 2015.

The position was noted by the Council.

At this point, on the proposal of Councillor Collins (M), seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J), it was agreed to take a 15-minute adjournment.

On resumption, the Meeting continued with Item 4 on the Agenda.

4. Economic Development Directorate

(a) Proposed Variation No. 5 (a) to the Limerick County Development Plan 2010 - 2016 (as extended) to incorporate the preferred route corridor for the Limerick Northern Distributor Road (LNDR)

Circulated, report of the Director, Economic Development, dated 20th April, 2017, enclosing Chief Executive's Report dated 20th April, 2017, on the proposed Variation No. 5(a) to the extended Limerick County Development Plan 2010-2016 for the incorporation of the preferred route corridor for the Limerick Northern Distributor Road (LNDR).

The Chief Executive addressed the Meeting as follows:

“National, regional and local policies have for some time now identified the need for strong regions to evolve. All of the following documents have advocated a strong Region, supported by a strong City, as an engine for economic growth:

- **Mid-West Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022.**
- **Mid-West Area Strategic Plan 2012-2030.**
- **Limerick County Development Plan 2010-2016.**
- **Limerick City Development Plan 2010-2016.**
- **Limerick 2030.**
- **Limerick Regeneration Implementation Framework.**
- **Ireland 2040.**

These documents have identified significant infrastructural projects that must be prioritised if we are to advance in this Region as a serious partner with Galway and Cork as a counter balance to the east coast.

And progress has been made! Connection to Dublin via the M7 has been delivered. The connection to Galway will be completed within the next 12 months. Progress is now being made on the Foynes/Limerick route and the M20 is back on the political agenda for discussion.

These, of course, are national routes and we depend primarily on Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to advance and deliver these projects. The Limerick Northern Distributor Road (LNDR), the subject of today's discussion, is a non-national route. Therefore, its advancement is by the local authority and subject to funding from the Department of Transport. The LNDR has been at the heart of the prioritised recommendations, from the Regional Planning Guidelines, Mid-West Area Strategic Plan (MWASP) to Local Development Plans.

The Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022 set out, as a priority, a Northern Distributor Route for Limerick City, linking the N7 and N18, to protect the City Centre, to enhance access to Shannon International Airport and its related industrial zone from eastern parts of the country, and to enhance access to the University of Limerick and its associated knowledge-based industrial zone.

The MWASP has as its focus:

- The revitalisation of Limerick City and its Environs.
- Measures to deliver population growth, infrastructure and job creation in specific areas targeted in the Regional Planning Guidelines.
- Balanced regional development to promote sustainable urban and rural development.
- Development of enterprise and employment.
- The identification and remediation of infrastructural deficits.

In particular, the top prioritised recommendation on non-national roads is: *a Limerick Northern Distributor Road to the north of Limerick City opening access to the University and its associated knowledge-based industrial zone.*

One of the key deliverables of the Northern Distributor Road is the effect of distributing traffic around the perimeter of Limerick, allowing more rapid and safer access to required destinations across Limerick and Clare. The preferred route selection report produced as far back as 2012 stated that a reduction of 8,000 vehicles will be achieved on the existing three bridges crossing the Shannon. This is traffic wishing to access the University of Limerick, Limerick Institute of Technology, National Technology Park, together with schools and other centres of employment. This deliverable is particularly important for the redevelopment of the City Centre.

As the Council will be aware, we have a target under Limerick 2030 to deliver 5,000 jobs in the centre of Limerick City. The Limerick 2030 Strategic Development DAC (Designated Activity Company) has now commenced work on the Gardens International site with an ambition to provide 700 new jobs. This is in addition to those already establishing themselves in the City Centre such as UBER, Fazzie Health Care, WP Engine.

I also expect to see a planning application placed before the Council in July for the development of up to 500,000 sq. ft. of high quality office accommodation.

It is also expected to see an application for the upgrade of O'Connell Street which will give greater priority to the pedestrian and public transport.

All these ambitious plans are dependent upon the appropriate and proper scale of infrastructure necessary to sustain the type of growth that we are now experiencing. The region, as of December 2016, was the fastest growing region in the country with an unemployment rate of 6% - 7% below the national rate. To advance, we continue to invest and make the decisions that enable us to advance as the Limerick City Region envisaged in our submission to the National Planning Framework Ireland 2040."

The Chief Executive then proceeded to deliver a PowerPoint presentation to the Members. He firstly outlined the policy background which was contained in the following documents:

- Mid-West Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022.
- Mid-West Area Strategic Plan 2012-2030.
- Limerick County Development Plan 2010-2016.
- Limerick City Development Plan 2010-2016.
- Limerick 2030.
- Limerick Regeneration Implementation Framework.
- Ireland 2040.

The key dates for the Limerick Northern Distributor Road, Phase 1 and Phase 2, were summarised as follows:

Limerick Northern Distributor Road (Phase 1)

- 2007 – Fitzgerald Report.
- 2008 – Design Consultants appointed.
- 2011 – An Bord Pleanála approval.

Limerick Northern Distributor Road (Phase 2)

- 2010 – Roughan and O'Donovan/MRG appointed as Consulting Engineers.
- 2010 – Constraints Study.
- 2011 – Route Options presented for consultation.
- 2011 – Route Selection Process.
- 2012 – Publication of Emerging Preferred Route Corridor.

2012 – Route Corridor Selection Report.
2015 – Publication of – Variation No. 4 to Limerick County Development Plan.
2015 – Decision by Council.
2017 – Publication of – Variation No. 5(a) to Limerick County Development Plan.
2017 – Consultation.

The Chief Executive provided further detail in relation to the Chief Executive’s Report to the Members on proposed Variation No. 5(a) to incorporate the preferred route corridor for the Limerick Northern Distributor Road (LNDR) into the Limerick County Development Plan, public display period, submissions received and public consultation meetings held.

The Chief Executive highlighted the significant issues raised during the public consultation period: Flooding, Access to the Mackey Roundabout, UL Bohemians’ access and Role of the Elected Members in relation to detailed design.

Each of these issues was then examined in greater detail:

- **Flooding**

Office of Public Works letter dated 18th May, 2017:

“The works in the Mountshannon area, as currently envisaged, are part of the proposed Limerick City Flood Relief Scheme. This is a large scheme and, subject to the outcome of the prioritisation and programming approval process as above, the Scheme may be given a high priority for budgetary reasons. The work may therefore be ready to progress in advance of the road scheme.”

“Recommendation: Construction work on the Limerick Northern Distributor Road will not commence unless an appropriate flood relief scheme has been agreed for the Mountshannon area as part of the Limerick City Flood Relief Scheme.”

- **Access to the Mackey Roundabout**

Arup/Transport Infrastructure Ireland/Limerick City and County Council Report on Mackey Roundabout Connection to LNDR Junction

“9.2 Recommendation: It is recommended that Limerick City and County Council pursue Option 3b or a variant of this Option in tandem with the delivery of the Limerick Northern Distributor Road in the short to medium term. It is recognised that the delivery of Option 3b (or a variant) will require a period of time both to secure planning permission and funding to deliver the project. To supplement Option 3b (or a variant) during this time period, it is recommended that immediate-term measures are provided along the R445 (Old Dublin Road) which will improve safety along the M7 Motorway and which can be delivered at a relatively low cost, without impacting on the future delivery of Option 3b (or a variant).”

- **UL Bohemians' Access**

“Recommendation: Council to vary the Castletroy Local Area Plan to secure provision of access to UL Bohemians' land via IDA lands.”

- **Role of the Elected Members**

- To give policy approval to the scheme by amending the Development Plan.
- To establish a Cross-Party Sub-Committee of the Council to work with the Executive and affected property owners within the Council's functional area in developing and progressing the detailed design of the road through a series of Workshops and Consultations.
- To recommend to the Council the final scheme design within the Council's functional area before being submitted to An Bord Pleanála for statutory approval.

The Chief Executive concluded the presentation by highlighting the need for the Limerick Northern Distributor Road under the following headings:

Physical

- Final link between Coonagh and Lisnagry.
- Significantly reduce traffic congestion in Annacotty/Castletroy.
- Quicker access to National Technology Park and University of Limerick with new entrances allowing for even further expansion.
- Corbally/Westbury residents would no longer have to drive into City to get to Annacotty/University of Limerick.
- Major new junction at Mackey Roundabout easing long traffic delays.
- Speed of access at peak times.
- Flooding concerns would be addressed.
- Access to Shannon International Airport.

Social

- The ending of isolation for the Moyross community.
- The expansion of Limerick Institute of Technology and improved access to education.
- Opportunity for mixed-use development.
- Improved transportation links.
- Greater linkage between local communities and other parts of the City.

Economic

- Unemployment rate 6% at end of 2016.
- More than 9,000 jobs had been announced in Limerick from 2013-2016.
- Close to €1.4 billion of investment had been announced for Limerick from 2013-2016.

- 500,000 sq. ft. of enterprise high-quality office space currently under development.
- IDA ambition to provide over 10,000 jobs through further development of National Technology Park.

Suspension of Standing Orders: The Mayor drew attention to the time which was approaching 5pm and on the proposal of Councillor Collins (M), seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J), Standing Orders were suspended to complete the Agenda.

Councillor Leddin, in formally proposing Variation No. 5(a) to the extended Limerick County Development Plan 2010-2016 for the incorporation of the preferred route corridor for the Limerick Northern Distributor Road (LNDR), stated that developments such as these were essential for Limerick in its role as the capital of the Mid-West Region.

Councillor Sheahan (M) stated that it was important that the Members would have regard to all the reports that had been prepared in relation to this Variation to arrive at the correct decision. His concerns extended to possible implications for the operation of the Limerick Tunnel, the potential flooding consequences arising from the construction of the roadway and the intended connection to the Mackey Roundabout.

During the ensuing discussion, the following issues were raised by the Members:

- The commitment by TII to connect to the Mackey Roundabout.
- The delivery of the CFRAM's (Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management) mitigation measures by the Office of Public Works.
- Concerns as to whether the proposed road would be tolled.
- How quickly the final road layout within the hatched area would be completed.
- The importance of ensuring that Mulcair Drive secured mitigation measures for flood relief.
- The importance of providing a new road connection to the UL Bohemians' lands.
- Concern as to the legal standing of the recommendations set out by the Chief Executive.
- Concern regarding the timing of the delivery of the flood mitigation measures and whether the Council could progress these first.
- The possible financial implications for the Council vis-à-vis the operation of the Tunnel.
- Concerns were raised regarding noise management.

- The need to progress investment in public transport.
- It was essential for the Council to approve this Variation as the last element of the proposed project.
- The need to continue dialogue with local residents.
- The importance of this project being progressed as quickly as possible.

In seconding the proposed Variation, Councillor Daly referred to its importance in relieving severe congestion in the north of Limerick, contributing to resolving issues of social exclusion in Moyross and assisting the development of this part of Limerick generally.

In reply, the Chief Executive stated that design of the route would recommence once approval was given by the Council. It was important that Members and the public understood that the project would require approval by An Bord Pleanála which was an independent Body. Nevertheless, the process of consultation that had been undertaken to date by the Executive would continue in relation to the design phase of the project with a Cross-Party Sub-Committee of the Council. He added that it would be a matter for the Elected Members to vary the Castletroy Local Area Plan to provide for a link to the UL Bohemians' pitches.

On the issue of tolling, the Chief Executive advised that as the proposed road would not be a national road, it was a matter for the Elected Members to decide on the issue of tolling.

He advised the Members that the concession on the Tunnel was between the operator and TII and did not involve the Council.

He also confirmed that the Cross-Party Sub-Committee would bring the final scheme design to Council before its submission to An Bord Pleanála.

On foot of the consideration of this proposal by the Members, the Chief Executive suggested that the following recommendations be incorporated into the Minutes. On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan (J), seconded by Councillor Collins (M), this was agreed:

Recommendation No. 1:

“Construction work on the Limerick Northern Distributor Road will not commence unless an appropriate flood relief scheme has been agreed for the Mountshannon area as part of the Limerick City Flood Relief Scheme.”

Recommendation No. 2:

“It is recommended that Limerick City and County Council pursue Option 3b or a variant of this Option in tandem with the delivery of the Limerick Northern Distributor Road in the short to medium term. It is recognised that the delivery of Option 3b (or a variant) will require a period of time both to secure planning permission and funding to deliver the project. To supplement Option 3b (or a variant) during this time period, it is recommended that immediate-term measures are provided along the R445 (Old Dublin Road) which will improve safety along the M7 Motorway and which can be delivered at a relatively low cost, without impacting on the future delivery of Option 3b (or a variant).”

Recommendation No. 3:

“Council to vary the Castletroy Local Area Plan to secure provision of access to UL Bohemians’ land via IDA lands.”

As not all Members were in favour of the proposed Variation, the Mayor directed that a vote be taken and the result of the voting was as follows:

For

Councillors Butler, Collins (J), Collins (M), Costelloe, Crowley, Daly, Donegan, Foley, Gilligan, Gleeson, Hogan, Hourigan, Hurley, Keary, Leddin, Loftus, Lynch, McCreesh, McMahon, Mitchell, O’Brien, Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh, O’Donnell, O’Donoghue, O’Hanlon, Pond, Ryan, Scanlan, Sheahan (J), Sheahan (K), Sheehy, Teefy, Teskey. **(33)**

Against

Councillors Keller, Secas, Sheahan (M). **(3)**

There were no abstentions.

The Mayor declared the proposal carried and it was agreed that the following resolution be adopted by the same voting:

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;

Seconded by Councillor Daly;

And Resolved:

“That, the proposed Variation No. 5(a) to the Limerick County Development Plan 2010-2016 (as extended) for the incorporation of the preferred route corridor for the Limerick Northern Distributor Road (LNDR), as recommended in the Chief Executive’s Report dated 20th April, 2017, be made in accordance with Sections 13 (5) and (6) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).”

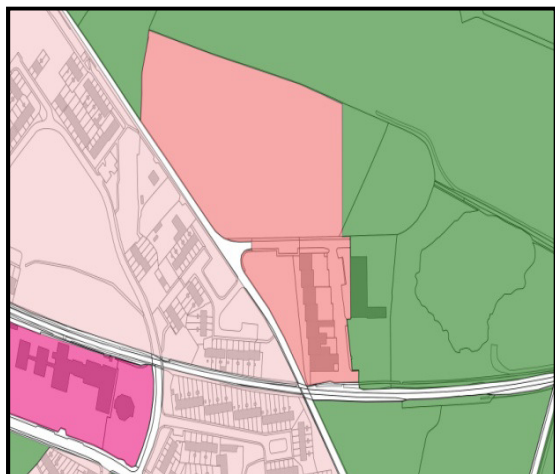
(b) Proposed Variation No. 6 (a) to the Limerick City Development Plan 2010 - 2016 (as extended) to incorporate the objectives of the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan

Circulated, report of the Director, Economic Development, dated 20th April, 2017, enclosing Chief Executive's Report dated 20th April, 2017, on proposed Variation No. 6(a) to the Limerick City Development Plan 2010-2016 (as extended) for the incorporation of the objectives of the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan.

Amendment No. 1

Councillor Leddin proposed the following Amendment:

“Proposed Change - Having considered the proposed variation and the Chief Executive's Report dated 20th April, 2017, I accept the proposed variation with the exception of the site referred to as the 'Bays Site' and as shown on map below. This site shall not be varied and should remain zoned as per the 2010 City Development Plan. The reason for not accepting the change of zoning on this site is that the current zoning meets the objectives of the regeneration plan in relation to facilitating economic development within the regeneration areas.”

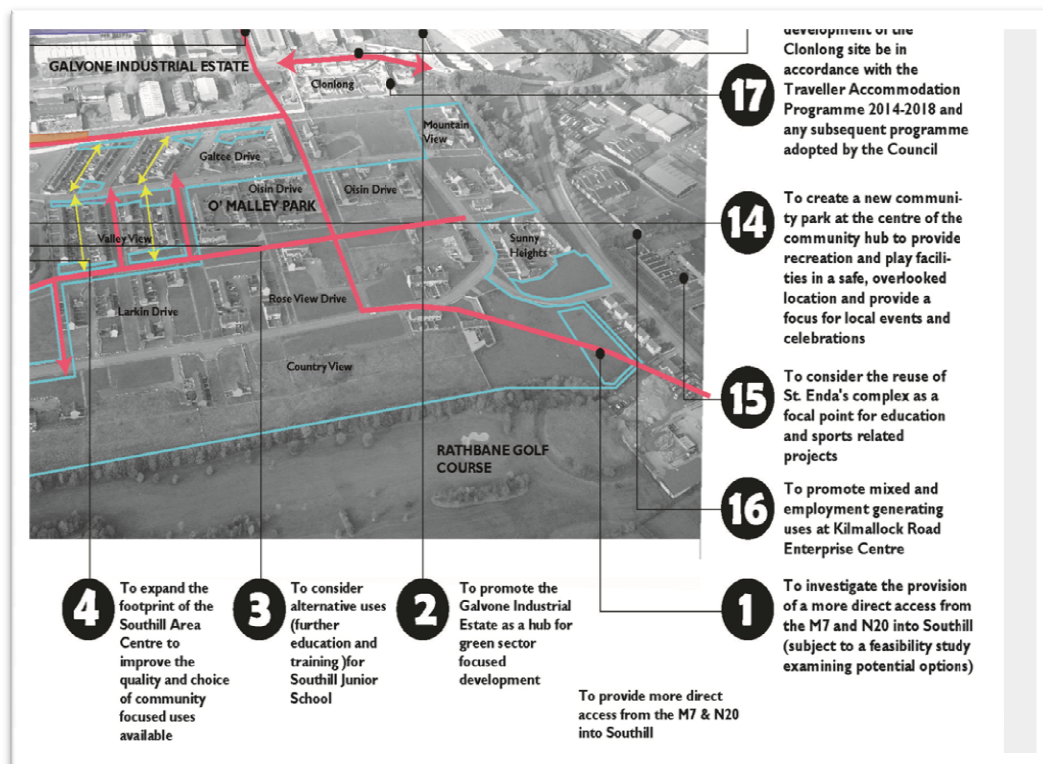


The Amendment was seconded by Councillor Crowley and agreed.

Amendment No. 2

Councillor Collins (J) proposed the following Amendment:

“Proposed Change - Remove the black line shown on the map below for Objective 1 and include the word “all” in the Objective so that it states ‘study examining all potential options.’ The reason for this change is to ensure clarity around Objective 1.”



The Amendment was seconded by Councillor Crowley and agreed.

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

“That, the proposed Variation No. 6(a) to the Limerick City Development Plan 2010-2016 (as extended) for the incorporation of the objectives of the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan, as recommended in the Chief Executive’s Report dated 20th April, 2017, be made in accordance with Sections 13 (5) and (6) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), subject to the two Amendments as outlined above.”

(c) Proposed Variation No. 5 (b) to the Limerick County Development Plan 2010 – 2016 (as Extended) to incorporate the Vacant Site Levy as provided for in the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015

Circulated, report of the Director, Economic Development, dated 20th April, 2017, enclosing Chief Executive’s Report dated 20th April, 2017, on proposed Variation No. 5(b) to the Limerick County Development Plan 2010-2016 (as extended) for the incorporation of the Vacant Site Levy as provided for in the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act, 2015.

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

“That, the proposed Variation No. 5(b) to the Limerick County Development Plan 2010-2016 (as extended) for the incorporation of the Vacant Site Levy as provided for in the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act, 2015, as recommended in the Chief Executive’s Report dated 20th April, 2017, be made in accordance with Sections 13 (5) and (6) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).”

(d) Proposed Variation No. 6 (b) to the Limerick City Development Plan 2010 – 2016 (as Extended) to incorporate the Vacant Site Levy as provided for in the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015

Circulated, report of the Director, Economic Development, dated 20th April, 2017, enclosing Chief Executive’s Report dated 20th April, 2017, on proposed Variation No. 6(b) to the Limerick City Development Plan 2010-2016 (as extended) for the incorporation of the Vacant Site Levy as provided for in the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015.

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

“That, the proposed Variation No. 6(b) to the Limerick City Development Plan 2010-2016 (as extended) for the incorporation of the Vacant Site Levy as provided for in the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015, as recommended in the Chief Executive’s Report dated 20th April, 2017, be made in accordance with Sections 13 (5) and (6) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).”

At this point, on the proposal of Councillor Sheahan (J), seconded by Councillor Collins (M), it was agreed to take the Notices of Motion on the Agenda:

NOTICES OF MOTION

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Browne

I will move at the next Meeting that this Local Authority oppose any attempt to re-route the proposed motorway link between Cork and Limerick through Tipperary, further isolating West Limerick.

On the proposal of Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh, seconded by Councillor McCreesh, this Motion was deferred to the next Meeting.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council support the campaign to ensure Pope Francis visits Limerick in his proposed trip to Ireland in 2018.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Collins (M) asked for the Council to support the campaign to ensure Pope Francis visited Limerick on his proposed trip to Ireland in 2018. He added that it would be a fantastic opportunity for Limerick to have the Pope visit a second time and made reference to the visit of Pope John Paul II to the City in 1979.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J) and agreed.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L.M. Sheehy

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council call on the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs to ease the criteria at application stage to applicants of LEADER funding, particularly in relation to planning and charitable status, and call on the Department to simplify the bureaucracy of the application form for applicants.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Sheehy referred to the administrative burden imposed on volunteers and, in particular, when completing 'expressions of interest' forms. She added that a lot of work was required and, in some instances, the grant available was quite small. She was calling on the Department to look at streamlining the process.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor McMahon and agreed.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Prendiville

I will move at the next Meeting that Council officials be asked to review the Horizon Mall site with a view to including it on the Register of Derelict Sites and applying the relevant levy on its owners.

In the absence of Councillor Prendiville, the Motion was proposed by Councillor Keller on his behalf.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Keller asked for the Council to review the Horizon Mall site because of problems with anti-social behaviour, dumping, and issues relating to security of site.

The Motion was seconded by Cmhrl. Ó Ceallaigh.

REPLY: The Planning Authority will examine and assess the site under the provisions of the Derelict Sites Act, 1990, and, arising from that, will consider the potential inclusion of this site on the Derelict Sites Register.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cmhrl. S. Ó Ceallaigh (to be referred to Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council write to Transport Infrastructure Ireland urging it to amend signage on the M7 at Junction 28 - Northbound - and Junction 27 - Southbound, to include the tourist village of Castleconnell.

It was agreed to refer this Motion to the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee.

At this point, the Meeting returned to Item No. 4(e) on the agenda.

4(e) City Riverway Engage Process for the Riverway Crossing Proposal

Circulated, report and recommendations of the Senior Architect, Public Interest Development, Economic Development Directorate, dated 24th May, 2017, in respect of the City Riverway Engage Process for the Riverway Crossing Proposal.

The Senior Architect gave a presentation and the more salient points were as follows:

Community Engagement

She stated that Living Limerick was about developing a vision for living in the historic core of Limerick City. Limerick City and County Council, and the School of Architecture, UL, were hosting a series of community engagement weeks called *City Engage* throughout 2017. It was hoped to collect thoughts, hopes, ideas and aspirations for The Riverway and the Riverway Crossing.

City Engage Events

A number of events were held between Tuesday, 25th April, and Friday, 28th April, and they were as follows:

- PechaKucha 20X20 Night “Connections to Limerick’s Riverways.”
- City Riverway Listen and Learn Event “Using the Riverways.”
- Community Mapping Event – to collect and map local knowledge about the Riverways.
- City Riverway Listen and Learn Event “Riverway Policies.”
- City Riverway Intergenerational Design Workshop.

There were over 107 participants at the events and 35 Community Mappers. 19 Community Audits were held on the following:

- Accessibility.
- Heritage and Conservation.
- Modern Architecture.
- Nighttime Safety.
- Recreation.
- Walking / Cycling.
- The Environment.
- Litter and graffiti black spots, and lots more.

Feedback and Key Findings

- Concern about long- span bridge proposals affecting River navigation.
- Achieving user-friendly safe navigation in Limerick.
- Treacherous Navigation.
- Access Improvements River’s Edge – existing route and bridge.
- Access Improvements Boat Users – Closed Locks.

Involve Communities on the River

- Listen and Talk to residents.
- Involve community in decision-making.
- Involve community in construction process.
- Co-create with the community a project that they could contribute after leaving the site.
- Tap into knowledge and energy of Riverside communities, including:

The Nature of the River “It’s a wonderful thing in Limerick. Tidal Aspect is the most amazing thing about the river. To try and harness that would be a great error. Teach people about the beauty of the tide.”

- Build a coalition around the River.

Conclusions

- Many agencies were having input into the development of infrastructure on the Riverway in the City: Waterways Ireland, Office of Public Works, ESB, Harbourmaster, Fáilte Ireland etc.

- These agencies needed to be pulled together and enabled by a multidisciplinary exploration of the key issues, taking into consideration the findings of the public engagement exercise and in collaboration with engaged members of the public.
- This consideration would need to include the recently published results of the CFRAM Flood Risk Assessment Study.

Recommendations / Next Steps

- Re-examine the options for long-span bridge from Arthur’s Quay due to the potential to adversely affect navigation.
- Carry out an Enabling Design Review to examine options for the Riverway Project and to make recommendations for appropriate infrastructural provisions.
- Include representation from Waterways Ireland, Office of Public Works, ESB, Fáilte Ireland, and other agencies as identified, include nominations from Elected Representatives and engage members of the public.

Timeframe

- Week of June 12 – 16 Briefing Session
- Week of June 26 – 30 Enabling Design Review
- Week of July 24 – 28 Final Report Complete.

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

“That, the recommendations and next steps, as set out in the report of the Senior Architect, Public Interest Development, Economic Development Directorate, dated 24th May, 2017, in respect of the City Riverway Engage Process for the Riverway Crossing Proposal, be accepted.”

The Members thanked the Senior Architect for her presentation.

5. Conferences

(i) Participation by Members at Conferences

Details of the following Conferences had been circulated electronically to the Members: (a) Conference on Data Protection – Freedom of Information and the Councillor, held in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, from 24th to 26th March, 2017; (b) Conference on Priorities for the Housing Sector in Ireland, held in Dublin on 29th March, 2017; (c) Energy Conference 2017, held in Salthill, Galway, on 5th May, 2017; (d) Conference on Money Matters After Death, held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork, from 12th to 14th May, 2017; (e) 2-Day Microsoft Excel Advanced Training for Councillors, held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork, on 17th/18th May, 2017; (f)

Conference on Mná na hÉireann – Celebrating Women in Modern Ireland, held in Termonfeckin, Co. Louth, on 19th/20th May, 2017; (g) Conference on The Fair Deal Scheme, held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork, from 19th to 21st May, 2017; (h) Conference on National Planning Framework and the Councillor, to be held in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, from 26th to 28th May, 2017; (i) Conference on The Local Authority Waters and Communities Office, to be held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork, from 16th to 18th June, 2017; (j) Conference on What Does a Hard Brexit Mean for Ireland, to be held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork, from 23rd to 25th June, 2017; (k) Conference on Creating a New State, to be held in Greystones, Co. Wicklow, on 29th/30th September, 2017.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan (J), seconded by Councillor Collins (M), the Council approved the attendance of the following Members:

Letterkenny, Co. Donegal (24th to 26th March, 2017): Councillors Daly and Sheahan (K).

Clonakilty, Co. Cork (16th to 18th June, 2017): Councillor Donegan.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan (J), seconded by Councillor Collins (M), the Council approved the attendance of the following Member at a Conference already approved:

Hepatitis C Community Summit – Amsterdam, The Netherlands – 18th/19th April, 2017: Councillor Loftus.

(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:

6. Question submitted by Councillor C. Prendiville

I will ask at the next Meeting has the Council made a submission to the Environmental Protection Agency objecting to Irish Cement's proposal to burn tyres and other toxic waste at its factory on the Dock Road, as requested repeatedly by Councillors.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council granted planning permission for the change in fuel type at Irish Cement on 8th March, 2017. The permission was appealed to An Bord Pleanála on 4th April, 2017. A decision on the appeal is likely to take many months and it is possible that an Oral Hearing will take

place. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will not make any decision on licence review no. P0029-06 until such time as a decision has been made by An Bord Pleanála. The Council has not made a submission on the licence review to the EPA at this point in time as it would be premature to do so in advance of the decision by An Bord Pleanála. However, it is likely that the Council will make a submission to the EPA in due course as soon as the decision of An Bord Pleanála is available.

7. Question submitted by Councillor C. Prendiville

I will ask at the next Meeting if the Council has a plan to redevelop the 600 vacant housing units in the Georgian Quarter of the City Centre, including the possibility of developing them as Social and Affordable Housing.

REPLY:

The Newtown Pery Historic Georgian area of the City is comprised of the five electoral divisions of Custom House, Shannon A, Shannon B, Dock A and Dock B. According to the 2016 Central Statistics Office Census figures, the average vacancy rate across these 5 electoral divisions is approx. 18.56 %. Within these areas there exists a housing stock of 3,464 units, and according to the Census a population of 5,991 persons is contained. This represents a population increase of 12.27% from 2011 to 2016. Please refer to Figure 1.

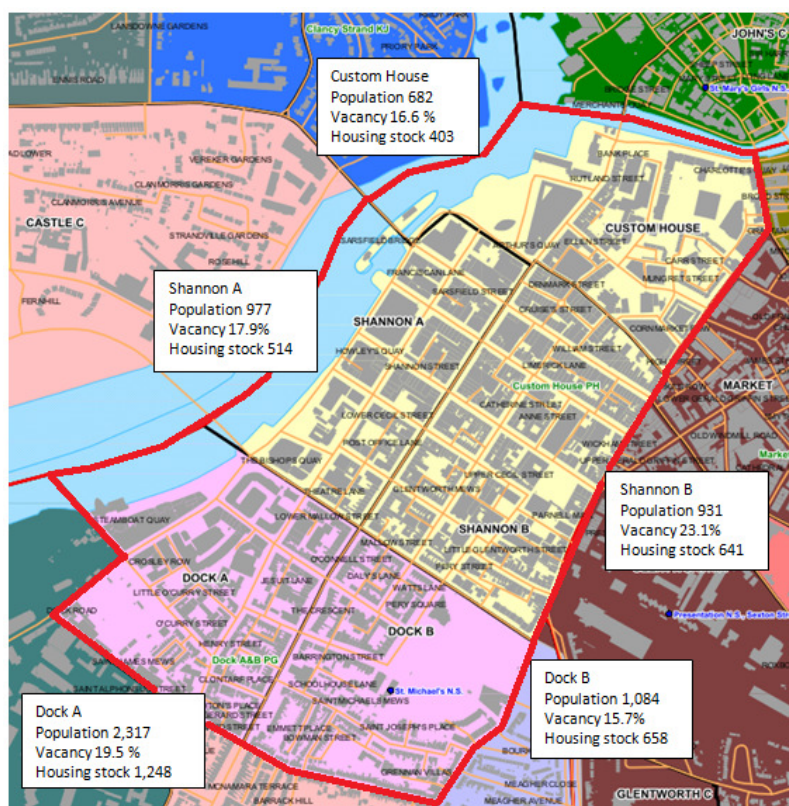


Figure 1: Electoral Divisions of Limerick city centre (Newtown Pery Historic Georgian area), Census, 2016

Assuming an average vacancy rate 18.56% across the five EDs, up to 640 properties may be vacant in this area. These properties are mainly in private ownership, and therefore not the direct responsibility of the Council.

The Living City Initiative tax incentive is in place for the areas of the Historic City Centre since 2015 and was amended in January 2017 to, among other changes, extend the incentive to include rented residential properties. The Council has set up a new Living City Implementation Team, and clinics are held every second Tuesday in the Patrick Street offices with prospective developers, purchasers, owner occupiers, landlords, commercial owners, and agents. This is a 'one stop shop' comprising a selection of disciplines with a cross directorate approach. The team advise, guide and assist property owners. Five meetings have been hosted since March 2017. An 'experts' workshop was held in April to promote, discuss issues, and raise awareness of this tax incentive amongst professionals that advise property owners. We have an ongoing public awareness campaign, with details available on limerick.ie.

Through the initiatives as stated above, it is the Council's intention to pro-actively encourage redevelopment and refurbishment of vacant and derelict properties in the City centre to support the private and affordable rental sector in addition to the owner occupier sector. In addition, in new-build schemes and building conversions for residential use proposed in the Georgian Quarter, developers will now be required to deliver 10% of the overall number of units for social housing to meet their Part V obligations. This will help to improve the tenure mix within the City centre, which is complementary to the ongoing work of the Social Directorate.

Two major initiatives to tackle vacancy were recently launched by The Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government under the Rebuilding Ireland - Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness. These are (1) the Repair and Leasing Initiative and (2) the Buy and Renew Scheme. The first initiative is targeted at encouraging private owners to refurbish property and lease to the local authority, while the second scheme involves a local authority or Approved Housing Body (AHB) acquiring and refurbishing property for social housing. Limerick City and County Council welcomes both of these initiative and the potential positive impact of unlocking vacant properties. Further details on these schemes are available on the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government website <http://www.housing.gov.ie>

8. Question submitted by Councillor P. Keller

I will ask at the next Meeting has the Council made representations to the Minister for Housing urging for rent controls to be implemented in Limerick to stem the rising tide of economic evictions and homelessness.

REPLY: Currently, there have been no representations made to the Minister to classify Limerick as a Rent Pressure Zone. Limerick City and County Council actively monitors this area and the status is assessed regularly by the Economic and Social Research Institute and the Residential Tenancies Board. In order to qualify as a rent pressure zone, two criteria have to be met as follows: (i) the annual rate of increase in the average amount of rent for that area is more than 7% in each of at least 4 of the 6 quarters (based on Residential Tenancies Board data). (Limerick City West has achieved this one particular criterion as at Q4 2016); (ii) additionally, the average rent for the area in the last quarter, as determined by reference to the manner referred to above, is above the average national rent (commonly referred to as the Rent Index national standardised rent) in the last quarter. As at Q4 2016, the average national rent is €986. Limerick City West (€984.84) is approaching this national average as at Q4 2016.

9. Question submitted by Councillor P. Keller

I will ask at the next Meeting what progress has been made to provide the long promised Community Centre for Garryowen.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council is supporting the expansion of community services in the Garryowen area. Since 2012, the Council has provided funding to the Garryowen Community Development Project (CDP) for operational and other costs through the Regeneration Social Intervention Fund. In the more recent years since 2015, the Council is providing between €50K and €60K annually to the CDP for the expansion of community services, as well as rent and building improvements from the Social Intervention Fund. The Council is aware of the need to provide a long-term solution in terms of suitable community premises. In addition, Garryowen CDP is a partner in the Social Inclusion and Community Development Programme (SICAP) overseen and contracted by the Limerick Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) to the PAUL Partnership. Under the programme, funding is provided to assist unemployed people back into education and training and work, and also for activities engaging children and young people. Other programmes are also delivered into Garryowen including access to services under the Area-based Childhood Anti-Poverty Programme (ABC) implemented by the PAUL Partnership and a programme to assist parents to support the education of young children, funded by Northern Trust. Limerick City and County Council is committed to facilitating the community to source a suitable community premises.

10. Question submitted by Cmhlr. S. Ó Ceallaigh

I will ask at the next Meeting what progress has been made in upgrading connectivity to Limerick City from the M7 as previously discussed at the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee.

REPLY: The necessity to improve connectivity to Limerick City from the N7/N20 Rosbrien Interchange was discussed in detail at recent Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee Meetings. Limerick City and County Council is currently finalising a brief to procure Consultants to undertake the Limerick Southside Accessibility Feasibility Study to maximise the current and future economic growth prospects of the southside of the City. The strategic aim of the Limerick Southside Accessibility Feasibility Study is to provide an appraisal of a number of route options and, following the selection of a favoured option, prepare a business case for capital funding. It is anticipated that an Invitation to Tender will be published in Quarter 2, 2017.

11. Question submitted by Cmhr. S. Ó Ceallaigh

I will ask at the next Meeting what is the current vacancy rate for Council properties, per District, throughout Limerick.

REPLY: The following is the casual vacancy rate per District at 15th May, 2017:

Metropolitan District:	0.30%	(10 properties).
Adare-Rathkeale:	1.13%	(6 properties).
Cappamore-Kilmallock:	0.53%	(4 properties).
Newcastle West:	1.32%	(8 properties).

NOTICES OF MOTION

It was noted that the Notices of Motion had already been dealt with earlier in the Meeting.

17. Correspondence

The Correspondence circulated with the Agenda was taken as read.

With the permission of the Mayor, the following matters were raised:

50th Anniversary of the Introduction of Free Education

Councillor Sheahan (K) proposed that a Reception would be held by the Council to mark the 50th anniversary of the introduction of free education in the Irish State. This was seconded by Councillor Ryan. It was agreed to refer this matter to the Party Leaders for further consideration.

Promotion of Limerick

Councillor O'Brien referred to the opportunities available for the promotion of Limerick through the development of water-based activities and requested that this matter be considered by the Economic Development Section. This was supported by Councillor Leddin.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ORDERS:

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

Signed:

Mayor

Date:
