

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT ANNUAL MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, ON MONDAY, 26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 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, Donegan, Foley, Galvin, Gleeson, Hogan, Hourigan, Hurley, Keary, Keller, Loftus, Lynch, McCreesh, McMahon, Mitchell, O’Brien, Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh, O’Dea, O’Donnell, O’Donoghue, Pond, Prendiville, 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, Physical Development (Mr. K. Lehane), A/Director, Social Development (Ms. C. Kirby), Director, Customer Services, Culture and Arts (Ms. J. Cotter Coughlan), A/Director, Support Services – Finance, Corporate, Human Resources and ICT (Mr. S. Coughlan), Director, Service Operations and Business Improvement (Mr. G. Daly), A/Director, Regional Services (Ms. P. King), Meetings Administrator (Mr. C. O’Connor), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. T. Knox).

At the outset, the Meetings Administrator read Section 101 of Standing Orders in relation to non-use of cameras, sound recording and communication equipment. The Mayor informed the Meeting that it was proposed to suspend that Section for the duration of the Meeting. On the proposal of Councillor Collins (M), seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J), the suspension of Standing Orders, as outlined, was agreed.

The outgoing Mayor, Councillor O’Hanlon, opened the Meeting by giving the following address:

**“Fellow Elected Representatives, Chief Executive, Minister, Oireachtas Members, Council Officials, Ladies and Gentlemen. The Office and role of Mayor is an historic one that stretches back throughout the centuries. I have been honoured to serve the people of Limerick in this prestigious office. Being Mayor of the City and County of Limerick has been a privilege.**

**I would like to thank my family, especially my wife Mary, and my children Catriona, Therese, Adrian, Gareth and Ciaran, who have supported me throughout the year.**

To my fellow Councillors, thank you! You have made my time as Mayor an easy one. Yes, we have had our differences of opinion, but you have always stood firm behind the Office of Mayor.

I would like to mention, in particular, Councillor Noel Gleeson, who, as Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, was a great support to me during the past year and was always there to help.

To the Management and Staff of Limerick City and County Council – including in particular the staff of Corporate Services and Facilities, a sincere ‘thank you’ for all your help, advice and guidance over the past 12 months.

I leave the office of Mayor with some wonderful memories. One of my abiding memories will be the reaction I received from pupils in primary schools when I visited their school. The look of wonder and awe in their faces when I walked into the school with the robes and chain was heart-warming. That and, I suppose, the fact the pupils were allowed to go without homework that evening!

Limerick is truly on an upward curve. We have seen that in the jobs announcements we’ve had, the latest being Northern Trust just a few weeks ago. There is a renewed confidence that we are going in the right direction. Limerick Twenty-Thirty, which I had the privilege of launching in September, is making great strides. Construction work is happening at the Gardens International Site, plans are being finalised for the Opera Site, and work is ongoing in the Cleeves Development.

The Limerick Northern Distributor Road is another important piece of the jigsaw, which has been put on a firm footing in the past few weeks.

Limerick has become a much more outward looking region. We are a vibrant County with much to offer. I was privileged to have led a number of overseas delegations to tell the successful story of Limerick and to sell Limerick to the world. These trips are necessary to make sure that the best possible story of Limerick is getting to the people who make the decisions.

One particular trip to China eventually resulted in Limerick being awarded a UNESCO Learning City Award, highlighting the excellent work being carried out here in lifelong learning.

The 1916 Commemorations which took place across Limerick highlighted the pride we have in our history and also allowed us to take a look at what it means to be Irish.

The Limerick 2020 Bid also proved that Culture and the Arts are still a very important and growing force in Limerick. This has been galvanised by the Working Group to see how best to develop our undoubted potential.

Travelling to all the different events and being at awards and prize-giving ceremonies demonstrated to me the pride people take in their communities, the spirit that is present across Limerick. We might not all be related, but we have a common bond and that is Limerick.

When I was elected Mayor, one of my objectives was to be progressive and innovative in the way the Council works. A lot of work on this has been achieved and we need to continue to innovate in order to provide the best possible services we can for all the citizens of Limerick.

Limerick is a vibrant place, with countless individuals and local groups with bright ideas and positive attitudes to making things happen. I hope that I have helped in some small way to help progress plans and ideas.

And one bit of advice to the new Mayor - get sleep when you can and enjoy your time. It is a unique privilege, given to a select few. Thank you. Go raibh mile maith agaibh go léir."

## **1. Election of Mayor of the City and County of Limerick**

The outgoing Mayor invited nominations for the Office of Mayor of the City and County of Limerick for the coming year.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);  
Seconded by Councillor Teskey;

*"That, Councillor Keary be appointed Mayor of the City and County of Limerick to hold office to the next Annual Meeting or until his successor is appointed."*

Proposed by Councillor McCreesh;  
Seconded by Councillor Browne;

*"That, Councillor Costelloe be appointed Mayor of the City and County of Limerick to hold office to the next Annual Meeting or until his successor is appointed."*

Proposed by Councillor Prendiville;  
Seconded by Councillor Keller;

*"That, Councillor Keller be appointed Mayor of the City and County of Limerick to hold office to the next Annual Meeting or until his successor is appointed."*

A vote was taken which resulted as follows:

### **For Councillor Keary**

Councillors Butler, Collins (J), Collins (M), Crowley, Donegan, Foley, Galvin, Gleeson, Hogan, Hourigan, Hurley, Keary, Lynch, Mitchell, O'Brien, O'Dea, O'Donnell, O'Donoghue, O'Hanlon, Pond, Ryan, Scanlan, Sheahan (J), Sheahan (K), Sheahan (M), Teefy, Teskey. **(27)**

**For Councillor Costelloe**

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

**For Councillor Keller**

Councillors Keller, Prendiville. (2)

There were no abstentions.

The outgoing Mayor declared Councillor Keary elected as Mayor of the City and County of Limerick and congratulated him on his election.

The incoming Mayor, Councillor Keary, gave the following address to the Meeting:

**Councillors, Minister, Oireachtas Members, Chief Executive, Staff of Limerick City and County Council, Friends and Supporters. I would like to start by congratulating Councillor O’Hanlon and Councillor Gleeson on an exceptional year as Mayor and Deputy Mayor. I would like to commend them on a job well done and for flying the flag for Limerick continuously over the past 365 days.**

**The way I view this role is much like the Limerick or Munster jersey - you only borrow it while you are wearing it so I hope to pass it on next year to another member of the panel in the same condition that Kieran has handed it to me, with added stripes and, hopefully, not too many blood stains!!**

**I would like to say a sincere word of thanks to my Proposer and Fine Gael Group Leader, Councillor John Sheahan, and to my Seconder and colleague in the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale, Councillor Adam Teskey, and to my Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil colleagues, and all of my colleagues for your support.**

**On 18<sup>th</sup> June, 1975, I boarded the CIE bus at Galway Station for what I thought was a three-month contract as a site engineer in Moyross housing development. 42 years later, a wife, 2 children and a lot of water under Sarsfield Bridge, I am still here and incredibly proud to call Limerick my home. Through good times and bad, as a construction worker, I was always able to depend on this City for reasonably sustainable employment. This enterprising City and County has allowed me to become self-employed, which I have been for over 25 years now. I know the highways and byways of Limerick and so I won’t be needing a sat-nav to navigate my way around it, having started my career in the development of Moyross and from there I covered almost every corner of the City and County.**

**Today, I would like to pay a special tribute to the people of the old Rathkeale Electoral Area, and now the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale, who have put their trust in me and have elected me to this Council since 2009.**

I would like to thank my Fine Gael Branch in Croagh and all of my supporters, friends, neighbours and campaign team without whom I would not be in this position.

I would like to give a special welcome to my brothers and their families who have travelled from Galway to be here today, and to my in-laws from West Limerick.

I would like to pay a very special word of thanks to Bridie, my wife of 37 years, who keeps the show on the road and without whom I most certainly would not be here today. And to my two daughters, their husbands and my three grandsons who are on their best behaviour for the day that's in it.

It is the ultimate privilege to be elected the First Citizen of Limerick, the fourth Mayor of this amalgamated Authority. I am really looking forward to the year ahead, during this unique period of Limerick's transformation. Limerick is an evolving City and County with many diverse characteristics and opportunities. It is my ambition to harness the positives and be a representative of all sectors of society.

I know some media reports in the last fortnight may have portrayed me in a different light and, again, as I have said already, I sincerely apologise to those people to whom my comments caused offence. I will be a Mayor for all the people of Limerick.

Limerick is now a socio-economic and cultural hive of activity with expanding educational institutions which are second to none and are constantly meeting the demands of economic development.

I have a number of specific goals which I will work towards for my term as Mayor.

I will be an ambassador for Limerick at home and abroad and encourage continued investment and the creation of opportunities for our young people.

2017 and 2018 will be hugely important for the future of Ireland as Britain prepares to exit the European Union and I believe we here in the Mid-West Region need to speak with one voice. It is my intention to work with my colleagues in Clare and Tipperary to establish a Regional Forum to work with the State Agencies to look at the potential opportunities and challenges facing the Mid-West Region as a result of Brexit.

I will play my part in continuing the economic rejuvenation of Limerick and to work with all stakeholders in doing so. I am a firm believer that education and up-skilling are the cornerstones of improving the fortunes of any community and its people. It is almost fifty years since a Limerick man introduced free education. This man, Donogh O'Malley, was a man ahead of his time and his legacy to Ireland has been immeasurable.

Our elderly are the foundations on which we build communities. I will be using my year as Mayor to raise the profile of our elderly, working with and listening to active retirement groups and communities across Limerick, and I will use my influence where possible to improve their services.

I have seen in other counties the success of specific branding to market products and services. As we enter into uncertainty with Brexit, I want the manufacturing, service providers and agri-food sectors to work with the Local Authority to create a sustainable, indigenous sector and which can be used to promote Limerick. We have proven our success with inward investment and now we need to push for outward investment.

John Hume, probably the greatest Nationalist Leader of modern Ireland, whose only political philosophy was the pursuit of peace in Ireland, once said: "I was grateful for the opportunity to make a difference."

I hope over the next twelve months to be able to make a difference to the future of Limerick. I look forward to working with, and for, all Limerick people to help build a better place for our future generations. Today is my late mother's seventh anniversary and I know she and my late father would be very proud to see their son elected to the position of First Citizen of Limerick.

To all of my fellow Councillors who have given me this opportunity, may I simply say: 'Mile Buíochas - Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir.'

## **2. Election of Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick**

The Mayor invited nominations for the Office of Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick for the coming year.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);  
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (M);

*"That, Councillor Hurley be appointed Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick to hold office to the next Annual Meeting or until her successor is appointed."*

Proposed by Councillor Browne;  
Seconded by Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh;

*"That, Councillor Secas be appointed Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick to hold office to the next Annual Meeting or until her successor is appointed."*

Proposed by Councillor Prendiville;  
Seconded by Councillor Keller;

*"That, Councillor Keller be appointed Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick to hold office to the next Annual Meeting or until his successor is appointed."*

A vote was taken which resulted as follows:

**For Councillor Hurley**

Councillors Butler, Collins (J), Collins (M), Crowley, Donegan, Foley, Galvin, Gleeson, Hogan, Hourigan, Hurley, Keary, Lynch, Mitchell, O'Brien, O'Dea, O'Donnell, O'Donoghue, O'Hanlon, Pond, Ryan, Scanlan, Sheahan (J), Sheahan (K), Sheahan (M), Teefy, Teskey. **(27)**

**For Councillor Secas**

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

**For Councillor Keller**

Councillors Keller, Prendiville. **(2)**

There were no abstentions.

The Mayor declared Councillor Hurley elected as Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick and congratulated her on her election.

The incoming Deputy Mayor, Councillor Hurley, addressed the Meeting as follows:

**“Mayor Keary, Minister O’Donovan, Senators Byrne and O’Donnell, Chief Executive, fellow Councillors, Executives of the Council, ladies and gentlemen.**

**I am delighted to be elected today to the post of Deputy Mayor of the City and County. It is both an honour and a privilege and I want to thank my party colleagues for the nomination.**

**I am looking forward to complementing the Mayor in his new role and I think we will work very well together.**

**I would like to compliment the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Kieran O’Hanlon, and his Deputy, Councillor Noel Gleeson, for their huge commitment to the City and County over the past year. Congratulations also to the outgoing Metropolitan Mayor, Councillor Michael Hourigan, and his Deputy, Councillor Daniel Butler. I wish Councillor Seán Lynch, the newly appointed Metropolitan Mayor, and his Deputy, Councillor Vivienne Crowley, all the very best for the year. I think we will all work well as a team.**

**There have been many highlights during the past 3 years but among the most memorable for me have been ‘Limerick City of Culture 2014’ when I served on the Board with a great team of people; serving on the Steering Committee for the 2020 Bid - a wonderful opportunity for Limerick to showcase the wonderful artistic nature of our City; the many new job announcements throughout the City and County; advancements in our infrastructure - most noticeable in Limerick East being the recent advancements with the Northern Distributor**

**Road. (I believe from local media that the Coonagh/Knocklisheen stage is due to commence in August).**

**From a Tourism perspective, it is great to see that the Shannon Estuary Way is now officially launched and residents of Glin, Foynes and all along the N69 are now more responsive than ever to receive visitors to their many attractions along the Way.**

**I attended the official opening of the JFK Centre in Bruff recently – it is in a perfect location in the old Courthouse and I would highly recommend a visit to those who haven't yet been out there. Local Councillors have been very instrumental in the establishment of the Centre and I applaud them for their great input.**

**Just this past weekend we had several visiting choirs to the City - local national and international - for the 5<sup>th</sup> 'Limerick Sings' International Choral Festival, and I enjoyed partaking with our local Community Choir, together with my predecessor, former Councillor, Mary Jackman. Before I wrap up, I would like to pay tribute to Mary who passed the baton to me and continues to be a beacon of light in our community. A big 'thank you' to members of the Castletroy Monaleen Branch of Fine Gael for all their support prior to my election and over the past few years.**

**Finally, a huge thank you to my very supportive husband Brian, my son Aidan, daughter Emma and her husband Ian, and their 3 children (Mollie, Charlie and Emilie). I would like to welcome my big brother, Sean Scanlan, of 'Club Limerick,' and his wife, Bernadette, together with my neighbours and friends (many of whom I know for over 30 years), and thank you for your ongoing support and for being here to-day.**

**Many thanks in particular to our Council Executives, Tina Knox, Liz Creamer and Christy O' Connor, for all the organisation around today's event. Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir."**

The outgoing Deputy Mayor, Councillor Gleeson, congratulated both Councillors Keary and Hurley on their election and wished them well in the year ahead. He thanked the outgoing Mayor, Councillor O'Hanlon, and said he had had a wonderful year himself as Deputy Mayor. He thanked staff for their assistance and support during the year.

The Members welcomed the guests who were present in the Council Chamber. They congratulated the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on their election and assured them of their full support. They wished them well in the year ahead and expressed confidence in their ability to carry out the duties of Mayor and Deputy Mayor with great honour and distinction. Tributes were also paid to the outgoing Mayor, Councillor O'Hanlon, and outgoing Deputy Mayor, Councillor Gleeson. Members praised them for the manner in which they had performed their role and stated that they had been excellent ambassadors for Limerick.



Concern was expressed by a number of Members in relation to comments made by Councillor Keary regarding migrants and their status.

The Chief Executive firstly congratulated Councillor Keary and Councillor Hurley on their elevation to the Office of Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick. He stated that it was an onerous and responsible position as it carried with it the challenge of delivering leadership for and on behalf of the people of Limerick. He wished to compliment the outgoing Mayor, Councillor O'Hanlon, and the outgoing Deputy Mayor, Councillor Gleeson, on what had been a very busy and successful year. He referred to the Office of Mayor and the expectation that came with that Office. He said both Councillors O'Hanlon and Gleeson had been professional, had demonstrated great commitment to Limerick and had been a pleasure to work with.

In conclusion, he thanked the outgoing Mayor and Deputy Mayor and Cathaoirigh and Leas-Chathaoirigh for the work in their respective Metropolitan and Municipal Districts.

### **3. Appointment of Members to the Limerick Market Trustees**

Circulated, list of current representatives on the Limerick Market Trustees appointed at the Annual Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2016.

The Meetings Administrator stated that under the Limerick Markets Act, 1852 (as amended), Limerick City and County Council was entitled to nominate the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, and the Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, together with a further 16 Members of the Council, as Trustees. Under the Act, the Council was required to make these nominations annually. The Grouping system applied, if so desired.

Councillor Sheahan (J) proposed that, in addition to the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick (Councillor Keary) and the Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Limerick (Councillor Lynch), the following Members be appointed to the Limerick Market Trustees:

Councillors Leddin, McCreesh, Costelloe, Loftus, Teskey, O'Dea, Collins (J), O'Hanlon, Crowley, Pond, O'Donnell, Mitchell, Butler, Hurley, Sheahan (M) and Hogan.

This was seconded by Councillor Collins (M) and agreed.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

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**Mayor**

Date:

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