

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, ON MONDAY, 24TH JULY, 2017, AT 3.00P.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor S. Keary, Mayor.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive (Mr. C. Murray), Director, Physical Development (Mr. K. Lehane), Director, Regional Services (Ms. C. Curley), Director, Customer Services, Culture and Arts (Ms. J. Cotter), A/Director, Service Operations and Business Improvement (Mr. J. Delaney), A/Director, Economic Development (Mr. B. Kennedy), A/Director, Support Services – Finance, Corporate, Human Resources and ICT (Mr. S. Coughlan), A/Director, Social Development (Mr. S. Hanrahan), A/Senior Executive Officer, Social Development (Ms. C. Farrell), Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development (Mr. P. Fitzgerald), Administrative Officer, Property Services (Mr. J. Clune), Administrative Officer, Planning and Environmental Services (Ms. M. O'Donovan), Arts Officer (Ms. S. Deegan), Meetings Administrator (Mr. C. O'Connor), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Mr. T. O'Callaghan).

At the outset, the Mayor and Members noted that Councillor Ryan had recently been involved in an accident and wished him a speedy recovery.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copies of draft Minutes of the following Meetings:

- (a) Special Meeting of the Council held on 29th May, 2017.
- (b) Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 29th May, 2017.
- (c) Annual Meeting of the Council held on 26th June, 2017.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);

Seconded by Councillor Hourigan;

And Resolved:

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

2. Disposal of Land

Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 12th July, 2017, together with report from the Head of Property Services dated 12th July, 2017, in relation to proposal for the disposal of land at 16-19 Henry Street, Limerick, (Gardens International Site) to Limerick Twenty Thirty Strategic Development Designated Activity Company.

The report stated that a resolution in relation to the disposal of this property had already been passed by the Council in March 2016 and, if the present proposal was approved, the resolution would supersede the previous resolution passed in March 2016.

The report went on to say that the decision to sell this land at cost was in line with International Accounting Standards 40 which set out that an asset should be held at cost or fair value – therefore, the decision was to dispose of the asset to Limerick Twenty Thirty Strategic Development DAC at the cost price of €1,323,439, plus VAT. The Gardens International Project would provide 80,000 sq. ft. of high performance Grade A office accommodation over 6 floors and would be the first LEED Gold Office development in Limerick City Centre. It would set new standards of design and energy efficiency, combining modern architecture and heritage buildings that would set the standard for new developments in Limerick.

The A/Head of Finance noted that the disposal value reflected the purchase price of the property, plus the value of enabling works. He pointed out that the Board of Limerick Twenty Thirty Strategic Development Designated Activity Company would make future decision in relation to the property but pointed out that this company was a 100% subsidiary of the Council.

Members welcomed the development of the Gardens International Site and noted the potential of the development to set the market value of office accommodation in the City, act as a catalyst for further similar development and accommodate up to 700 jobs in the future.

In reply to issues raised by Members, the Chief Executive noted that Elected Members formed the majority of the Board of Limerick Twenty Thirty Strategic Development Designated Activity Company. He pointed out that the Board was qualified to carry out its functions and that a business case was prepared for each project considered. He stated that the value of the assets of the company accrued to the Council as the shareholder, and that the Elected Council had control of borrowing. In addition, extensive due diligence was carried out by the Banks that funded the borrowing and the company's activities were subject to review by the Local Government Auditor. With regard to keeping Members apprised of the company's activities, he pointed out that same would be included in the Chief Executive's monthly report to Members.

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 0.2478 hectares of land situated at 16-19, Henry Street, Limerick City (The Gardens International Site), to Limerick Twenty Thirty Strategic Development Designated Activity Company (this company being wholly owned by Limerick City and County Council) for the sum of €1,323,439, plus VAT, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 12th July, 2017. This resolution supersedes previous resolution passed at Council Meeting held on 23rd March, 2016, which approved the disposal of this land to LCO Local Enterprise Development Company Limited (now Limerick Twenty Thirty Strategic Development Designated Activity Company) for the nominal sum of €1.”

3. Customer Services, Culture and Arts Directorate

Report of the Limerick Culture and Arts Working Group

Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Limerick Culture and Arts Working Group dated 19th July, 2017, on a proposed new model for Cultural Services in Limerick City and County, including the establishment of a Cultural Strategic Policy Committee.

As Chair of the Culture and Arts Working Group, Councillor O’Hanlon acknowledged the work of the Group and highlighted the opportunity provided for Limerick to benefit from increased funding, job creation and visitor numbers and called on the arts and culture community to engage with the proposed new structures.

Members welcomed the report and stressed the need for open calls to be issued for proposals and ideas, going forward.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;
 Seconded by Councillor Hogan;
 And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to (i) proposed new model for Cultural Services in Limerick City and County, and (ii) the establishment of a Cultural Strategic Policy Committee.”

It was pointed out by the Meetings Administrator that the establishment of a new Strategic Policy Committee would require amendment of the existing Strategic Policy Committee Scheme, which had been prepared in accordance with Guidelines received from the Department, and that the Guidelines would apply in relation to any new Strategic Policy Committee.

4. Support Services Directorate

(a) Appointment of Chairs to Strategic Policy Committees

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, dated 20th July, 2017, setting out the Council's Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) and the Chairs of each SPC.

The report stated that at the Inaugural Meeting of the Council held on 6th June, 2017, Councillors Donegan, Quinlivan, Gleeson, Foley and Hourigan were appointed as Chairs to the SPCs, as set out, for a three-year term. Following Councillor Quinlivan's election to Dáil Éireann, Councillor Daly had been appointed to replace him in March 2016. This appointment, in accordance with legislation, was for a 3-year term which would broadly coincide the term of the existing Council to June 2019.

Accordingly, as the 3-year term for the other 4 Strategic Policy Committee Chairs had now expired, a resolution of the Council was required to either re-appoint the existing Chairs or appoint new Chairs. Where 2 or more persons were to be appointed by a Local Authority, the Grouping System as provided for in Paragraph 18 of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, could apply if desired.

Following the making of a number of proposals in relation to the filling of the Strategic Policy Committee Chairs and discussion in relation to same, on the proposal of Councillor Sheahan (J), seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed that the Meeting would adjourn for a short period to allow discussion on the matter among the Parties. On resumption, on the proposal of Councillor Sheahan (J), seconded by Councillor Collins (M), the following Chairs were appointed to the Strategic Policy Committees as set out for the remainder of the Council's term of office:

Home and Social Development SPC: Councillor O'Donnell.
 Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC: Councillor Crowley.
 Community, Leisure and Emergency Services SPC: Councillor Hurley.
 Environment Strategic Policy Committee: Councillor Scanlan.

Reference was made to the establishment of a Cultural Strategic Policy Committee, as approved at Item No. 3 above and, following discussion, on the proposal of Councillor Sheahan (J), seconded by Councillor Collins (M), Cmhrl. Ó Ceallaigh was appointed as Chair-Designate of this Committee.

(b) Proposed Schedule of Dates for Strategic Policy Committee Meetings

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, dated 7th July, 2017, setting out Schedule of proposed dates for Strategic Policy Committee Meetings up to July 2018.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan (J), seconded by Councillor Collins (M), the Schedule, as set out, was approved.

(c) Strategic Policy Committees – Sectoral Nomination

Circulated, report of the Administrative Officer, Corporate Services, dated 12th July, 2017, seeking the Council's approval of Sectoral Nomination to the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee.

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 appointment of Ms. Anne Gaughan, Local Link Limerick, to the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee representing the Community/Voluntary Sector.

(d) Joint Policing Committee – Sectoral Nomination

Circulated, report of the Administrative Officer, Corporate Services, dated 13th July, 2017, seeking the Council's approval of Sectoral Nomination to the Joint Policing Committee.

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 appointment of Mr. William Priestley, Our Lady of Lourdes Community Services, as a Metropolitan District of Limerick Representative to the Joint Policing Committee.”

(e) Limerick Joint Policing Committee Strategic Plan 2016-2021 and Annual Plan 2017

Circulated, Report of the Senior Executive Office, Corporate Services, dated 19th July, 2017, enclosing (i) Limerick Joint Policing Committee Strategic Plan 2016-2021; and (ii) Limerick Joint Policing Committee Annual Plan 2017.

The report stated that Section 36 of the Garda Síochána Act, 2005, provided for the establishment of a Joint Policing Committee (JPC) in each Local Authority administrative area. The JPC Guidelines 2014 required that each JPC prepare a 6-Year Strategic Plan and an Annual Plan and that these should be linked to the objectives of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). Work had been ongoing in relation to the preparation of the

Strategic Plan over the past year and, at a meeting of the Joint Policing Committee held on 23rd June, 2017, the JPC Strategic Plan 2016-2021 and the JPC Annual Plan 2017, were approved.

The reports were noted by the Council.

(f) Chief Executive's Report

Circulated, Chief Executive's Reports for the months of May and June 2017.

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

(g) Annual Report

Circulated, Limerick City and County Council Annual Report 2016.

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

"That, the Annual Report for 2016 for Limerick City and County Council be and is hereby adopted."

(h) Audit Committee

(i) Audit Committee Charter

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, dated 3rd July, 2017, together with copy of Charter for Limerick City and County Council's Audit Committee.

The report stated that Section 8 of the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations, 2014, set out that the Audit Committee '*shall operate in accordance with a written Charter that shall be adopted by the Local Authority, with or without amendment, and that the Charter shall be reviewed annually by the Audit Committee and the Local Authority.*' It was noted that the Audit Committee Charter had been adopted at Meeting of the Council held on 25th May, 2015, and reviewed in 2016 by both the Audit Committee and the Council. The Charter was further reviewed by the Audit Committee at a meeting held on 21st June, 2017, and no changes were made.

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

"That, the Charter for Limerick City and County Council's Audit Committee, as circulated, be and is hereby adopted."

(ii) Audit Committee Annual Report

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, dated 3rd July, 2017, together with copy of the Limerick City and County Council Draft Audit Committee Annual Report 2016.

The report stated that, in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations, 2014, the Audit Committee was required to prepare a report detailing its considerations and findings for the year just expired in relation to all matters within its authority, duties and functions and send same to the Local Authority for consideration.

In response to queries raised by Members, the A/Head of Finance informed the Meeting that Phase 1 of the installation of the new property register was underway and, in relation to the low risk finding associated with the internal audit review of planning applications, there would have been a rapid response to same.

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

“That, the Limerick City and County Council Audit Committee Annual Report 2016 be and is hereby adopted.”

(i) Strategic Policy Committee Reports

• Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee

Circulated, Report of the Chairperson of the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee dated 11th July, 2017, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 12th June, 2017.

Recommendation

“That Limerick City and County Council calls on the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to set aside one day in the year for a National Campaign called *“Respect for Others on the Road Day.”*”

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

• Environment Strategic Policy Committee

Circulated, Report of the Chairperson of the Environment Strategic Policy Committee dated 14th July, 2017, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 26th June, 2017.

(a) **Recommendation No. 1 – Regulation of Sky Lanterns and Helium Balloons**

“That Limerick City and County Council calls on the Government to regulate the use and sale of sky lanterns and the use of helium balloons to provide for similar controls to those that are in place to control the use and sale of fireworks.”

(b) **Recommendation No. 2 – Minimisation of ‘One-Use’ Items for the purpose of Litter Management and Waste Minimisation**

“That Limerick City and County Council communicate its concerns in relation to the continued growth of this type of litter and request that the Department of Communications, Climate Change Action & Environment (DCCAE) explore options to influence the use of this type of “one use” item at producer level including, but not limited to, a levy on “one use” items along the lines of the successful plastic bag tax or a deposit and return scheme etc.”

(c) **Recommendation No. 3 – Development of a Council Policy in relation to ‘One-Use’ Items for the purpose of Litter Management and Waste Minimisation**

“That Limerick City and County Council form a policy in relation to the use of “one use items” (disposable items).”

On the proposal of Councillor Hourigan, seconded by Councillor Daly, all 3 recommendations were agreed.

• **Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee**

Circulated, Report of the Chairperson of the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 3rd July, 2017.

Recommendation

“That, the Draft Allocation Scheme 2017, with amendments, be included on the agenda for approval of the next full sitting of Limerick City and County Council.” (Included at Item No. 7 (b) on Agenda)

It was noted that this Recommendation would be dealt with under Item No. 7 (b) on the Agenda.

- **Community, Leisure and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee**

Circulated, Report of the Chairperson of the Community, Leisure and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 21st June, 2017.

The report was noted by the Council.

- **Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee**

Circulated, Report of the Chairperson of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 12th June, 2017.

The report was noted by the Council.

5. Economic Development Directorate

(a) Development Fund Allocations 2017

Circulated, report of the A/Director, Economic Development, dated 13th July, 2017, setting out details of the proposed allocations from the Development Fund 2017.

Members noted the contents of the report and welcomed the allocation of Development Fund receipts to projects that would provide benefits to communities across the City and County.

The following points were clarified in response to queries raised by Members:

- The Forward Planning costs quoted related to two staff members not included in the Revenue Budget.
- The total of €2,000,000 was an estimate based on what the Council believed would be collected during 2017, with the extent of Commencement Notices received taken into consideration.
- The allocation to Metropolitan Depot Design was to fund a study to decide where best to locate a depot to cover the City area, on foot of the closure of the Parnell Street Depot.
- Significant costs were being incurred in the taking-in-charge of estates which was an ongoing rolling programme.

The report was noted by the Council.

(b) Limerick Food Strategy Steering Group

Circulated, report of the Head of Enterprise, Local Enterprise Office, Limerick, seeking the nomination of 2 Members of the Council, for a term of 2 years, to the Limerick Food Strategy Steering Group.

The report set out the composition of the Steering Group, which would comprise 12 members, and also outlined the background to the setting up of the Steering Group.

The Meetings Administrator stated that where 2 or more persons were to be appointed, the Grouping System in accordance with Paragraph 18 of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, applied. A Group of 13 Members was required in this case, if so desired.

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

“That, Councillors Sheahan (M) and Gleeson be appointed to the Limerick Food Strategy Steering Group, for a term of 2 years.”

6. Physical Development Directorate

Limerick Northern Distributor Road – Sub-Committee

The Chief Executive referred to previous discussions that had taken place in relation to the formation of a cross-party sub-committee in conjunction with the design process for the Limerick Northern Distributor Road.

A discussion took place as to whether local residents in the area of the proposed road should be invited to participate in the Committee. The Chief Executive noted that the intention had been that this Committee would be comprised of Elected Members only who would communicate and work with residents and articulate the views of the communities affected by the proposed road, and advised the Members to proceed in this regard.

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

“That, Councillors Hourigan and Hurley be appointed to the Limerick Northern Distributor Road Sub-Committee.”

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
Seconded by Councillor Gleeson:

“That, Councillors Pond and O’Dea be appointed to the Limerick Northern Distributor Road Sub-Committee.”

Proposed by Councillor Prendiville;
Seconded by Councillor Keller;

“That, Councillor Keller be appointed to the Limerick Northern Distributor Road Sub-Committee.”

Proposed by Councillor Browne;
Seconded by Councillor McCreesh;

“That, Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh be appointed to the Limerick Northern Distributor Road Sub-Committee.”

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;
Seconded by Councillor Secas;

“That, Councillor Secas be appointed to the Limerick Northern Distributor Road Sub-Committee.”

As there were no other nominations, the Mayor declared Councillors Hourigan, Hurley, Pond, O’Dea, Keller, Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh and Secas appointed to the Sub-Committee for the Limerick Northern Distributor Road.

7. Social Development Directorate

(a) Disbursement of Limerick Rural Development Fund 2015-2020

Circulated, report of the Chief Officer, Local Community Development Committee, dated 14th July, 2017, seeking the Council’s approval to the disbursement of the Limerick Rural Development Fund from 2017 to 2020, in accordance with the recommendation as set out in the report.

Members noted the extent of the paperwork and administrative burden involved for groups applying for funding in this area and asked for the application process to be streamlined. The A/Director, Social Development, stressed the need for a balance between transparency, accountability and practicality with regard to the application process and undertook to raise this issue with the Department.

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

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disbursement of the Limerick Rural Development Fund from 2017 to 2020, to meet the objectives of the Limerick Local Development Strategy 2015-2020, in accordance with the recommendation as set out in the report of the Chief Officer, Local Community Development Committee, dated 14th July, 2017.”

(b) Housing Allocation Scheme 2017

Circulated, report of the A/Director, Social Development, dated 14th July, 2017, enclosing copy of Amended Draft Housing Allocation Scheme 2017.

Proposed by Councillor Donegan;

Seconded by Councillor Daly;

And Resolved:

“That, the Housing Allocation Scheme 2017, as circulated, be and is hereby adopted in accordance with Section 22 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2009, the Social Housing Allocation Regulations, 2011, and the Social Housing Allocation (Amendment) Regulations, 2016.”

It was agreed that Item No. 10 on the Agenda would be taken at this point.

10. Union of Students in Ireland (USI)

Circulated, USI Position Paper on the Funding of Higher Education (December 2016) received from the Union of Students in Ireland.

The Mayor welcomed Ms. Michelle Byrne, Vice-President, Southern Region, Union of Students in Ireland; Mr. Philip Desmond, President of Limerick Institute of Technology Students’ Union; Mr. Conor Hussey, Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Students’ Union, University of Limerick; Ms. Aisling McGrory, Vice-President for LSAD Campus, Students’ Union, Limerick Institute of Technology; and Mr. Gavin Farrell, Vice-President, Students’ Union, Limerick Institute of Technology; who gave a presentation on the funding of higher education in Ireland which included:

- An overview of student numbers, student contributions and Government funding of higher education over a range of years.
- The extent of investment needed in higher education as outlined in the Cassells Report.
- The case for increased investment in higher education.

- Details of the Higher Education Service in Germany as an international exemplar.
- How higher education in Ireland should be funded into the future.

The Deputation asked Members for their support in opposing any Student Loan Scheme that might be considered in favour of publicly funded higher education.

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

Members congratulated the Deputation on their presentation and the following points were made by Members during discussion of this item:

- The introduction of a student loan scheme would result in increased student emigration, post college.
- Supports for apprenticeships had been withdrawn from small-scale employers over the past 10 years and this should be addressed.
- The extent of students who did not qualify for a state grant but could not afford to attend third level should be established.
- Colleges should play a more active role in providing student accommodation.
- Employers should support the cost of third level education to a greater extent.

In response to issues raised by Members, the Deputation clarified the following:

- In the UK, only 50% of the cost of their student loan scheme was being recovered from the students.
- The ongoing cost of education was acknowledged and it was known that many students had dropped out of college having failed to secure a student grant.
- With regard to the cost of accommodation, the Union of Students in Ireland had campaigned for increased adjacency rates. In many instances, students were paying commuting costs similar to accommodation costs.

The Mayor thanked the Deputation for their presentation and advised that the Deputation should contact the Members further with regard to any related Motion that should go forward to the next Meeting. The Deputation then withdrew.

8. Service Operations Directorate

Litter Report 2016

Circulated, report of the A/Senior Planner dated 22nd June, 2017, enclosing report of measures taken by the Council in 2016 in relation to the prevention and control of litter, as required by Section 10 the Litter Pollution Acts, 1997-2009.

The report was noted by the Members.

9. Conferences

(i) Participation by Members at Conferences

Details of the following Conferences had been circulated electronically to the Members: (a) Sean MacDiarmada Summer School 2017, held in Kiltyclogher, Co. Leitrim, on 9th/10th June, 2017; (b) Conference on Corporate Governance and the Councillor, held in Wexford from 30th June, 2017, to 2nd July, 2017; (c) Conference on Office of Director of Corporate Enforcement, held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork, from 7th to 9th July, 2017; (d) Douglas Hyde Conference 2017, held in Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon, on 13th/14th July, 2017; (e) Conference on Doing More with Less – Managing Time and Productivity, held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork, from 21st to 23rd July, 2017; (f) Conference on Changing Trends and Approaches to Drug and Alcohol Abuse, to be held in Baltimore, West Cork, from 1st to 3rd September, 2017; (g) National Tourism Conference – Working as one on the Wild Atlantic Way, to be held in Listowel, Co. Kerry, on 6th/7th September, 2017.

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

Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon: Cmhlr. S. Ó Ceallaigh.

(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.

10. Union of Students in Ireland (USI)

It was noted that Item No. 10 had already been dealt with.

ADJOURNED NOTICE OF MOTION

11. 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.

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

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:

12. Question submitted by Cmhr. S. Ó Ceallaigh

I will ask at the next Meeting how many people have approached Limerick City and County Council in relation to the Council purchasing their houses, how many of these houses were vacant, and how many were purchased for years 2015, 2016, and 2017 to date.

REPLY: Data on the submission of expressions of interest for the potential acquisition of residential property from June 2015 shows that expressions of interest related to a total of 459 residential properties have been submitted to date.

From May 2016, Limerick City and County Council's approach has been to only target residential property for acquisition which is currently vacant or owner-occupied where the purchase will not result in a housing need.

Of the 459 residential properties submitted, 234 were vacant or owner-occupied. 86 residential properties have been purchased from 2015 to date for general housing stock, 26 are currently at 'sale agreed' stage. These acquisitions exclude residential property purchased under the Regeneration Programme.

Limerick City and County Council is actively seeking vacant residential properties for acquisition and leasing under the 'Buy and Renew' and 'Repair and Lease' schemes launched as part of *Rebuilding Ireland: Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness*.

13. Question submitted by Councillor C. Prendiville

I will ask at the next Meeting is the Council still employing AWL Consulting to assist with making a submission to the Environmental Protection Agency regarding Irish Cement's plans for their Dock Road plant.

REPLY: In November 2016, the Council tendered for consultancy services in respect of planning application ref 16/345 by Irish Cement. AWN's tender was deemed the most economically advantageous and the company was duly awarded the contract. AWN submitted their report on 19th Dec 2016.

Based on this report Irish Cement was requested to submit further information in respect of their planning application. This information was received in February 2017. AWN's contract was extended to include the review of this information. This review was completed on 22nd Feb 2017.

Following this, AWN's Dr Edward Porter attended a meeting of the Metropolitan District on 20th March 2017 to give a presentation on Irish Cement's proposals and to answer the Councillors queries. This completed the work which AWN had been contracted to do for the Council.

There is currently no contract for further consultancy services with respect to the Irish Cement's planning or licence applications in place.

14. Question submitted by Councillor C. Prendiville

I will ask at the next Meeting how many social houses will be provided in Limerick this year under the Buy and Renew Scheme and Lease and Repair Scheme to bring vacant houses back into use.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council recognise the opportunity provided by both the Buy and Renew Scheme and the Repair and Lease Scheme to reduce the level of vacancy in Limerick. Information on both these schemes has been promoted by Limerick City and County Council in the media, most recently with advertisements placed in local newspapers in June, see attached. The level of response has been positive and Limerick City and County Council are engaging with property owners to explore suitability and other factors further.

It is not possible to confirm the number of units that will be purchased or leased by year end under these schemes. However, Limerick City and County Council are actively seeking to maximise the number of units delivered.

NOTICES OF MOTION

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that this Local Authority call on the Gaelic Athletic Association to halt the current practice of allowing SKY TV exclusive rights to screen particular Gaelic Games fixtures. Instead, RTE, TV3 or TG4 should be allowed to also screen these fixtures. Denying households who do not subscribe to SKY TV the right to view our National Games is a travesty.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin acknowledged that significant progress had been made by the GAA in opening Croke Park to Rugby and holding the Junior and Intermediate All-Ireland Finals there. He also acknowledged the role played by SKY in bringing national games to an international audience but stressed that, for various reasons, not all people in Ireland had access to SKY and therefore the GAA matches shown on SKY should also be shown on free to air, national channels. He pointed out that the current arrangement was encouraging young people to go to pubs to view matches and requested that the Motion, if adopted, be circulated to all Local Authorities.

Members supported the Motion and noted that not all people could attend at games and the television was their only way of viewing matches. Members noted that the GAA was an integral part of Irish culture and accountable to its members and should make use of its facilities as an alternative means of raising finance. Members discussed the funding of the GAA, the role of inter-county players, the benefits of match broadcasting to the Irish Diaspora and the option to have deferred showings of matches broadcast by SKY on free to air, national channels.

It was agreed that the Motion would be circulated to all Local Authorities for support.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Sheahan

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council call on Transport Infrastructure Ireland to attend a Special Meeting of Limerick City and County Council to discuss the recommendations made by their Consultants, RPS, in relation to the Review of Speed Limit Bye-Laws on the National Primary and National Secondary Roads in Limerick.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Sheahan (J) sought clarity on the brief that had been given by the Council to RPS and whether RPS recommendations had to be accepted in totality or whether Council Engineers could have counter proposals. He noted that in

Newcastle West, speed limits were being moved in towards the town, in some instances speed limits were being increased in locations where traffic calming measures were in place and, on the Killarney Road from Abbeyfeale, there were three different speed limits over a short distance.

In seconding the Motion, Councillor Crowley noted that there was insufficient notice to reduce speed approaching many towns and villages and raised an issue in relation to the 100 km/h speed limit on local roads and called for greater communication with the Members.

Members supported the Motion, noted the ongoing difficulty in getting Transport Infrastructure Ireland to attend at Council Meetings or Workshops and requested the Executive to support the Motion.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Browne (to be referred to Environment Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council, being deeply concerned with the Government's new waste management proposals, write to the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Mr. Denis Naughten, TD, asking him to stop these new changes, establish a national regulator, introduce more measures to reduce, reuse and recycle waste, and introduce supports for low income families and those with medical conditions.

It was agreed to refer this Motion to the Environment Strategic Policy Committee.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cmhrl. S. Ó Ceallaigh (to be referred to Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council calls for Limerick to be included on the Wild Atlantic Way and also asks what was done with the submissions made by Councillors on the Shannon Estuary Way at a Workshop with Fáilte Ireland.

It was agreed to refer this Motion to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Lynch (to be referred to the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council support the "Stop Targeting Kids" Campaign organised by the Irish Heart Foundation and call on the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment to protect children's health through strict controls, particularly on digital marketing, by introducing a comprehensive statutory system of regulation for the online marketing of unhealthy food and drinks, directed at children.

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

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Prendiville (to be referred to the Environment Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council write to the Minister for the Environment urging the Government to implement in full the recommendations of the 2011 Government Review of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in particular the concerns raised over the low level of prosecutions, the immunity of the EPA from prosecution, and the need to make it accountable to the Ombudsman.

It was agreed to refer this Motion to the Environment Strategic Policy Committee.

21. 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 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:
