

**13<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

**To the Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council**

**Chairperson's Report for the Travel & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee Meeting  
of 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2018**

**Item 1: Adoption of Minutes**

The minutes of the previous committee meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 were proposed by Cllr. Butler, seconded by Cllr. Mitchell and unanimously agreed and adopted.

**Item 2: To consider the Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Prendiville**

***"I will move at the next Meeting that the streets immediately surrounding the milk market, where stalls are set up on a Saturday morning, should be closed to cars seeking to cut through the market for the duration of the Saturday market".***

Cllr Prendiville explained that the enjoyment of the Milk Market and the surrounding stalls is being affected by the passage of traffic through the area on Saturday mornings. He explained that the Milk Market is one of the highlights of the city and he expressed the view that the experience of the market would be enhanced by diverting traffic along other routes during the casual trading times.

In a written response, Mr Lehane confirmed that casual trading bye-laws currently apply in respect of Robert Street, Cornmarket Row, Carr Street and Little Ellen Street. He explained

that the bye-laws enable the Council to restrict vehicular access to the casual trading areas from 4 a.m. to 4.p.m. every Saturday.

Mr Lehane explained a licensing enforcement officer had until June 2017 patrolled the market and prevented the passage of traffic around the market during casual trading hours. Mr Lehane confirmed that there is a process underway to recruit an enforcement officer for this assignment and that this appointment should resolve the issue identified by Cllr Prendiville.

Cllr Prendiville welcomed the proposed appointment of the new licensing enforcement officer.

**Item 3: To consider the Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Lynch**

"I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council (a) support the establishment of an Annual National "Make Way Day;" (b) call on the Government to support the establishment and funding of an Annual National "Make Way Day" with a local campaign in each region; and (c) promote a local "Make Way Limerick" campaign as part of the wider "Make Way Day."

This Notice of Motion was not considered in the absence of Cllr. Lynch.

**Item 4: To consider the Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor D. Butler**

***"I will move at the next Meeting that this District calls on Limerick City and County Council to remove the parking fee for park and charge slots around the city in line with nearly 90% of other Councils nationwide supporting environmentally friendly transport".***

Cllr Butler proposed that Limerick Metropolitan District provide free on-street parking for electric vehicles in line with 27 of the 30 other local authorities in Ireland. He expressed the view that motorists should be encouraged to transition to electrically powered vehicles and he suggested that free parking would create an incentive to facilitate this migration.

The motion was proposed by Cllr. Butler and Seconded by Cmhlr. O'Ceallaigh.

Mr Lehane stated that the current parking fee is modest and that by permitting free parking it would be very difficult to ensure that charge points are not occupied by electric vehicles for many hours.

Mr. Leddin stated that he agreed in principle with the spirit and the intent of Cllr. Butler's motion. He stated however that we should have regard to the likely increased usage of electric cars as the market develops and that we should keep the issue of non-payment in respect of parking under review.

He went on to propose the under listed amendment to Cllr. Butler's original notice of motion:

**"I will move at the next Meeting that this District calls on Limerick City and County Council to remove the parking fee for park and charge slots around the city in line with nearly 90% of other Councils nationwide supporting environmentally friendly transport.**

**The removal of the parking fee will be for a maximum period of four hours while the vehicle is being re-charged will be for an initial trial period of 24 months to allow the Council consider future developments in the electric vehicle field and also the demands for car parking etc. in the city.**

**The issue of whether the Council should impose a disc parking fee while electric vehicles are being re-charged will be reconsidered on the expiry of the 24 month period".**

Mr. Leddin's amendment was seconded by Mr. Tiernan and approved on a show of hands.

**Item 5: To consider the 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".***

Cllr Browne confirmed that this Item has been dealt with and that it can be removed from the Agenda.

### **Item 6: Draft Traffic Calming Policy - Mr. Vincent Murray**

Mr. Murray, Senior Engineer delivered a presentation on a draft traffic policy which would form the basis for the provision of measures to enhance road safety. He stated that the adoption of traffic calming measures is a reserved function of the Members under section 38 of the Road Traffic Act as amended. He stressed the need for a clearly understood, coherent policy to ensure there is consistency in relation to the provision and installation of traffic calming measures.

Mr Murray explained that there are a number of traffic calming options available such as speed cushions, speed humps, table-tops, chicanes, road narrowing, junction build-outs, and speed limits. He stated that the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) sets out a hierarchy of roads and streets where traffic calming can be used.

Mr Murray stated that traffic ramps should only be used where the use of other traffic calming measures have been considered and ruled out. He explained that traffic calming proposals will be assessed for prioritisation based on a weighing scheme.

Mr. Murray explained that local plebiscites will be held to consider traffic calming proposals in particular areas. He stated that a two-thirds majority will be required for the approval of traffic calming proposals. He stated that where local approval has been secured the proposal will go before the Members for consideration.

He further explained that a workshop would be held with Members in advance of the Full Council Meeting to discuss any items of clarification.

A number of minor amendments to the weighing factors sheet were proposed and accepted by the Members.

The draft traffic calming policy was proposed by Cllr Secas and seconded by Cllr Donegan and unanimously agreed.

## **Item 7: Presentation on National, Regional and Local Roads Grants 2018 – Mr. Vincent**

### **Murray:**

Mr Murray delivered a presentation on central government road grants for 2018. He explained that the Council will endeavour to advance road schemes such as the Limerick-Cork motorway, Limerick-Foynes road, N21 Abbeyfeale Relief Road, and the N21 Newcastle West Relief road onto the national funding Agenda.

Mr Murray confirmed that capital funding is increasing each year and that the Council's funding from TII will increase to over €9 million in 2018 compared to €7.2 million in 2017. However, Mr Murray explained that funding for road maintenance remains significantly below 2008 levels. He also stated that footpaths have deteriorated considerably in many areas due to reduced funding.

Mr Murray stated that the Circular for NTA road grants has not been issued yet. He explained that this funding was €1.5 million in 2017 and it is likely to be similar this year.

In response to queries from the Members, Mr Murray confirmed that it is likely that it will be a number of years before the proposals for the N21 Abbeyfeale and Newcastle West Relief Roads secure planning permission and funding.

Mr Murray confirmed that a design proposal for the Golf-Links Road-Boherkyle Road will be presented at a future SPC. Mr Murray confirmed that adequate funding has been allocated for environmental and engineering assessment on the M20. He stated additional funding will not be required for the M20 until the assessment works are complete.

The Meeting then concluded.

**Summary of Recommendations:**

***Recommendation 1:***

*“That Limerick City and County Council remove the parking fee for park and charge slots around the city in line with nearly 90% of other Councils nationwide supporting environmentally friendly transport.*

*The removal of the parking fee will be for a maximum period of four hours while the vehicle is being re-charged will be for an initial trial period of 24 months to allow the Council consider future developments in the electric vehicle field and also the demands for car parking etc. in the city.*

*The issue of whether the Council should impose a disc parking fee while electric vehicles are being re-charged will be reconsidered on the expiry of the 24 month period.”*

***Recommendation 2:***

*“That Limerick City and County Council adopt the draft traffic calming policy as presented to the SPC.”*



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**Chairperson of the Travel & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee**