

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, ON MONDAY, 26TH MARCH, 2018, AT 3.00 P.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor S. Keary, Mayor.

MEMBER SPRESENT:

Councillors Browne, Butler, Collins (J), Collins (M), Costelloe, Crowley, Daly, Donegan, Foley, Galvin, Gilligan, Gleeson, Hogan, Hourigan, Hurley, Keller, Leddin, Loftus, Lynch, McCreech, O'Brien, Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh, O'Dea, O'Donnell, O'Donoghue, O'Hanlon, 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, Regional and Cultural Services (Ms. C. Curley), Director, Support Services – Finance, Corporate, Human Resources and ICT (Mr. S. Coughlan), Director, Physical Development (Mr. K. Lehane), Director, Service Operations and Business Improvement (Mr. G. Daly), A/Director, Social Development (Mr. S. Hanrahan), A/Senior Planner, Economic Development (Ms. M. Woods), Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development (Mr. P. Fitzgerald), Administrative Officer, Finance Services (Mr. J. O'Brien), Meetings Administrator (Mr. C. O'Connor), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Mr. J. Clune).

Adjournment of Meeting

At the outset and with the permission of the Mayor, on the proposal of Councillor O'Donoghue, seconded by Councillor O'Dea, it was agreed to take a 20-minute adjournment.

Departure of Christy O'Connor, Senior Executive Officer

On resumption and prior to proceeding with the Agenda, the Mayor and Members congratulated Mr. Christy O Connor, Senior Executive Officer, on his promotion to the position of Director of Service, Kerry County Council. The Members complimented him on his professionalism at all times when dealing with them and also for his friendly and courteous manner and his availability to deal with queries, both during office hours and also frequently at evenings and weekends.

The Chief Executive, on his own behalf and on behalf of the staff, congratulated Mr. O'Connor on his excellent contribution to public service and, in particular, his work in progressing the merger at a challenging time for the newly established Limerick City and County Council.

In response, Mr. O'Connor thanked the Mayor, Members and the Chief Executive for the kind words and reflected on his career which he enjoyed in Limerick County Council and Limerick City and County Council, while also speaking of his enthusiasm at the opportunity in his new role as Director of Service, Kerry County Council.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copies of draft Minutes of the following Meetings:

- (a) Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 22nd January, 2018.
- (b) Special Meeting of the Council held on 26th January, 2018.

Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh requested that the Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 22nd January, 2018, be amended to note that he had not agreed to the amendment to Item 3 (h) (iii) (b) and that the original Recommendation No. 2, as forwarded from the Environment Strategic Policy Committee, should stand, i.e. *'that the Council will not allow any public park in the Metropolitan District to be closed, in its entirety, to the public in order to benefit private, profit-making events.'*

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, subject to the amendment to the Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 22nd January, 2018, as outlined above."

2. Fixing of Date

It was agreed that the Annual Meeting would be held on Friday, 29th June, 2018 (last working day in June, in accordance with Article 8 of Standing Orders) and that the Meeting would be held at 3pm.

3. Disposal of Land

- (a) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 19th February, 2018, concerning disposal of land at Ardaneer, Foynes, Co. Limerick.

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

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of 0.0212 hectares of land situate at Ardaneer, Foynes, Co. Limerick, to Michael Cleary, Ardaneer, Foynes, Co. Limerick, for the sum of €1 (if demanded), particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 19th February, 2018.”

- (b) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 19th February, 2018, concerning disposal of land at Main Street, Knockaderry, Co. Limerick.

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

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of 0.0377 hectares of land, including the former Council Library, situate at Main Street, Knockaderry, Co. Limerick, to Knockaderry Clouncagh Resource Centre Limerick CLG, for the sum of €1 (if demanded), particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 19th February, 2018.”

- (c) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated dated 6th March, 2018, concerning disposal of land at Castlefarm, Hospital, Co. Limerick.

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

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of 0.029 hectares at Castlefarm, Hospital, Co. Limerick, to William Collins, for the sum of €1, 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 Cottage Purchase Scheme, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 6th March, 2018.”

- (d) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 12th March, 2018, concerning disposal of the freehold interest in property at 8 Pearse Avenue, Janesboro, Limerick.

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

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of the freehold interest in property at 8 Pearse Avenue, Janesboro, Limerick (Folio LK13014L) to Peter O’Dea, Marian O’Dea, Deirdre Considine and Anthony Considine, for the sum of €125.42, 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 12th March, 2018.”

4. Support Services Directorate

(a) General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, dated 21st March, 2018, outlining statutory requirements under General Data Protection Regulation.

The requirements were noted by the Council and it was requested that a GDPR Workshop for Elected Members be arranged as soon as possible in light of the commencement date of 25th May, 2018, for the new requirements.

(b) Overdraft Accommodation

The Meetings Administrator stated that the approval of the Council was requested to revised bank overdraft accommodation in the sum of €28m for the 12 month period to 31st December 2018.

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

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to revised bank overdraft accommodation in the sum of €28m for the 12 month period to 31st December 2018, subject to the sanction of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government and in accordance with Section 106 (2) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.”

(c) Review of Commercial Rates 2017 and Actions for 2018

The Head of Finance and the Administrative Officer, Finance Services, gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the following key points:

- Commercial rates accounted for 34% of Limerick City and County Council income, excluding HAP.
- Outline of Key Performance Indicators.
- Analysis of 2017 commercial rates.
- Analysis of commercial rates arrears 2008 – 2018.
- Analysis of commercial rates collection 2013 – 2018.
- Analysis of number of ratepayers on direct debits.
- Small and Medium Business Support Scheme 2018.
- Tourism Sector Support Scheme 2018.
- Vacant Property Refund Scheme 2018.
- 2018 Debt Management actions.

Members welcomed the increase in the collection figures and also the reduction in rates arrears as outlined in the presentation. Members also welcomed the supports introduced for businesses as part of the budgetary process and also the increased engagement with customers. Members suggested that vacant rural premises should be facilitated in being brought back into occupancy by being permitted to convert to residential accommodation and/or to operate as social enterprises.

In response to the issues raised, the Head of Finance thanked the Members for their comments and committed to looking at the issues as part of the 2019 budgetary process.

(d) Audit Committee

(i) Audit Committee Work Programme 2018

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, dated 26th February, 2018, together with Draft Audit Committee Work Programme 2018 for Limerick City and County Council Audit Committee

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

“That, the Audit Committee Annual Work Programme 2018, as circulated, be and is hereby adopted.”

(ii) Audit Committee Annual Report 2017

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, dated 12th March, 2018, together with copy of Limerick City and County Council Audit Committee Annual Report 2017.

The Report was noted by the Council.

(iii) Audit Committee Self-Assessment

Circulated, report of the Chair of the Audit Committee dated 26th February, 2018, enclosing Self-Assessment report prepared by Limerick City and County Council Audit Committee, in accordance with the requirements of Section 13 of the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations, 2014.

The report was noted by the Members.

(e) Chief Executive's Report

Circulated, Chief Executive's Reports for the months of January and February 2018.

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

(f) Strategic Policy Committee Reports

- (i) Circulated, Report of the Chairperson of the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee dated 12th March, 2018, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 26th February, 2018.

Councillor O'Donnell, Chairperson of the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee, presented an overview of matters discussed at the Meeting and outlined the following Recommendation which was agreed at the SPC Meeting:

Recommendation

“That, the Council utterly condemn the letting of substandard accommodation, both publicly and privately, and commit to ensuring that its own housing stock is up to standard, as well as ensuring that appropriate action is taken against landlords letting substandard accommodation.”

On the proposal of Councillor Costelloe, seconded by Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh, the Recommendation was agreed.

- (ii) Circulated, Report of the Chairperson of the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee dated 13th March, 2018, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 12th February, 2018.

Councillor Daly, Chairperson of the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee, presented an overview of matters discussed at the Meeting and outlined the following Recommendations which were agreed at the SPC Meeting:

Recommendation No. 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.”

On the proposal of Councillor Daly, seconded by Councillor Butler, Recommendation No. 1 was agreed.

Recommendation No. 2

“That, Limerick City and County Council adopt the Draft Traffic Calming Policy as presented to the Strategic Policy Committee.” (Draft Traffic Calming Policy for Urban Areas included for consideration under Item No. 7 on the Agenda.)

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

Suspension of Standing Orders: The Mayor drew attention to the time which was approaching 5.30pm and on the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, Standing Orders were suspended in order to complete the Agenda.

At this point, it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Crowley, seconded by Councillor Galvin, to take Item No. 5 (a) on the Agenda.

5. Economic Development Directorate

(a) Proposed Variation No. 6 to the Limerick County Development Plan 2010-2016 (as extended) to incorporate Changes to Chapter 8 – Transport and Infrastructure Section

Circulated, report of the Director, Economic Development, dated 1st March, 2018, enclosing a copy of the Chief Executive’s Report to Members dated 1st March, 2018, on the Proposed Variation No. 6 to the Extended Limerick County Development Plan 2010-2016, which included details of submissions received, the Chief Executive’s response to each submission and the Chief Executive’s recommendation, in accordance with Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), that proposed Variation No. 6 be made, to incorporate changes to Chapter 8 – Transport and Infrastructure Section, in accordance with the details published on 6th January, 2018.

The Meetings Administrator referred to correspondence he had received from the Mayor disclosing an interest in this matter. In accordance with Section 177 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, and the Code of Conduct for Councillors, the Mayor would therefore be exempting himself from the Meeting while this item was under discussion. He advised the Members that the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Hurley, would take the Chair during this time.

The Meetings Administrator added that, likewise, the Chief Executive had previously declared a conflict of interest and had absented himself from discussion on matters relating to this issue. In accordance with Section 178 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, he would also be withdrawing from the Meeting while this item was under discussion.

The Mayor and Chief Executive then withdrew from the Chamber for the duration of discussion on Item No. 5 (a).

The Deputy Chief Executive and Director, Economic Development, outlined the statutory planning process that commenced in January 2018 and advised that, in making a decision, Members must have due consideration to the report in relation to the planning matters raised during the period of the consultation. He further stated that the Council must focus, in making its decision, on the proper planning and development of the area and that, without the adoption of the Variation of the Plan, the Limerick-Foynes Road, including the by-pass of Adare, could not proceed to the detailed design and preparation for planning.

The A/ Senior Planner outlined the purpose of the Variation as follows:

- Update Chapter 8 of the County Development Plan to enable the design and construction of the Foynes to Limerick Road.
- Amend the Objective in relation to the Adare By-Pass - the Plan currently referred to a by-pass to the South (need to remove SOUTH – Adare Local Area Plan already had similar Objective).
- Insert Objective for new road between N21 at Rathkeale and the N69 at Foynes.
- Insert Objective relating to enhanced connectivity between the N69 and Limerick amended to include for the construction of the road, as Plan currently just referred to examining sustainable route options.

The A/Senior Planner further stated that it was Important to note that there was no road line in the Plan – the Variation only ensured policy support.

Members stated that they were In favour of Adare By-Pass but expressed disappointment that following the Special Council Meeting held on 8th January, 2018, while it was agreed that the economic impact on the Woodlands House Hotel would be considered, this did not appear to have happened and there had been little interaction with the Fitzgerald family in the interim. Members proposed that a decision on the Variation be adjourned to allow engagement and discussion in relation to the issues raised.

The Director, Physical Development, confirmed that an Economist was appointed and, as agreed at the Special Meeting, communications would be through the Consultants and, following this, a number of emails had issued. However a reply was only received on 3rd March.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J), and seconded by Councillor Galvin, that a Special Meeting would be held on Tuesday, 10th April, 2018, at 3pm, to further consider the matter. As not all Members were in favour of this proposal, the Deputy Mayor directed that a vote be taken. It was agreed that the vote would take the form of a show of hands. Following the vote, the Deputy Mayor declared the proposal to hold a Special Meeting on 10th April, 2018, at 3pm, as carried.

4. Support Services Directorate

(f) Strategic Policy Committee Reports

- (iii) Circulated, Reports of the Chairperson of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee, both dated 15th March, 2018, in relation to Meetings of the Committee held on 16th January and 12th February, 2018.

Councillor Crowley, Chairperson of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee, presented an overview of matters discussed at the Meetings.

Both Reports were noted by the Council.

- (iv) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Community, Leisure and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee dated 5th March, 2018, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 19th February, 2018.

Councillor Hurley, Chairperson of the Community, Leisure and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee, presented an overview of matters discussed at the Meeting.

The Report was noted by the Council.

- (v) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Environment Strategic Policy Committee dated 12th March, 2018, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 26th February, 2018.

Councillor Scanlan, Chairperson of the Environment Strategic Policy Committee, presented an overview of matters discussed at the Meeting and outlined the following Recommendations which were agreed at the SPC Meeting:

Recommendation No. 1

“That, as Kilmurry Cemetery is almost full, Limerick City and County Council would immediately begin the process of acquiring a suitable site in the area for a new Burial Ground.”

On the proposal of Councillor Hourigan, seconded by Councillor Hogan, Recommendation No. 1 was agreed.

Recommendation No. 2

“That, Limerick City and County Council initiate Environmental Awareness classes and lectures in all Primary and Secondary Schools throughout the City and County.”

On the proposal of Councillor Sheehy, seconded by Councillor Hogan, Recommendation No. 2 was agreed.

- (vi) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Cultural Strategic Policy Committee dated 15th March, 2018, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 5th March, 2018.

Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh, Chairperson of the Cultural Strategic Policy Committee, presented an overview of matters discussed at the Meeting and outlined the following Recommendation which was agreed at the SPC Meeting:

Recommendation

“That, the recommendations on strategic investment for delivery of the Limerick Cultural Strategy in 2018 be brought to Full Council for approval.” (Cultural Strategy Strategic Investment 2018 included for consideration under Item No. 6 on the Agenda.)

It was noted that this Recommendation would be dealt with under Item No. 6 on the Agenda.

(g) Visit to London

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, dated 20th March, 2018, seeking retrospective approval to Visit by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick to London.

Proposed by Councillor O’Hanlon;
Seconded by Councillor Hogan;
And Resolved:

“That, retrospective approval of the Council be and is hereby given to visit by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick to London, under Section 142(5) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.”

5. Economic Development Directorate

(b) Development Fund Allocations 2018

Circulated, report of the Director, Economic Development, dated 15th March, 2018, setting out details of the proposed allocations from the Development Fund 2018.

The proposed allocations were noted by the Members.

6. Regional and Cultural Services Directorate

Cultural Strategy 2018 – Strategic Investment

Circulated report of the Chairperson of the Cultural Strategic Policy Committee dated 14th March, 2018, seeking the Council's approval to recommendations of the Cultural Strategic Policy Committee for Strategic Investment of €500,000 for delivery of the Limerick Cultural Strategy 2018.

Proposed by Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh;
 Seconded by Councillor Hurley;
 And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the recommendations of the Cultural Strategic Policy Committee for Strategic Investment of €500,000 for delivery of the Limerick Cultural Strategy 2018, as set out in the report of the Chairperson of the Cultural Strategic Policy Committee dated 14th March, 2018.”

7. Physical Development Directorate

Traffic Calming Policy for Urban Areas

Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee and the Director, Physical Development, dated 20th March, 2018, enclosing draft Traffic Calming Policy for Urban Areas dated February 2018.

Members welcomed the policy and spoke of the benefit of traffic calming measures in reducing accidents and saving lives. Members suggested that the standardisation of ramps needed to be considered and that Local Authorities should be permitted to install their own speed cameras where there was excess speeding. Members also suggested that Go-Safe vans should be used in housing estates that had issues with cars speeding.

The Director, Physical Development, welcomed the comments and input of Members and also confirmed that the policy applied to all speed limit areas, including those in towns and villages

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

“That, the Limerick City and County Council Traffic Calming Policy for Urban Areas, dated February 2018, as circulated, be and is hereby adopted, in accordance with Section 130 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, and Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994, as amended.”

8. Social Development Directorate

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Annual Report 2017

Circulated, report of the LCDC Chief Officer, Social Development Directorate, dated 14th March, 2018, enclosing Annual Report on the activities of the Limerick Local Community Development Committee for the year ending 31st December, 2017.

The LCDC Annual 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) "Local Property Tax 2018 – Defining the Role of the Councillor" held in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, from 12th to 14th January, 2018; (b) The 29th Colmcille Winter School held in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, on 23rd/24th February, 2018; (c) "New Affordable Houses Schemes" held in Carlingford, Co. Louth, from 2nd to 4th March, 2018; (d) Nuclear Free Local Authorities All-Ireland Forum Spring Policy Seminar held in Omagh, Co. Tyrone, on 9th March, 2018; (e) "Citizens Assembly! Or an Assembly of Citizens?" held in Wexford from 9th to 11th March, 2018; (f) "The 8th Amendment – A Constitutional Minefield" to be held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork, from 23rd to 25th March, 2018; (g) "European Energy Poverty Conference 2018 – A United Approach" to be held in Dublin on 29th March, 2018; (h) National Planning Framework: Project Ireland 2040, to be held in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, from 6th to 8th April, 2018; (i) Cross-Border Tourism Conference 2018 to be held in Carlingford, Co. Louth, on 11th April, 2018.

On the proposal of Councillor O'Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Hourigan, the Council approved the attendance of the following Members:

Letterkenny, Co. Donegal (12th to 14th January, 2018): Councillor Gilligan.

Omagh: Councillor Hourigan.

Dublin: Councillor Hourigan.

(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:

10. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting (a) what the current weekly rent costs are to single accommodated pensioners within what had been the old City Council Area, and the Municipal District of Newcastle West, and (b) what rent applies in the case of a single parent with 2 children in both scenarios.

REPLY: The figures requested are outlined in the table below. It is important to note that, in the event that the tenants had other income streams, e.g. additional private pensions, carer's allowance, employment, child maintenance contributions etc., there would be a consequential impact on the rent payable.

Income source	Income Amount	Rent Old City Area	Rent Municipal District of Newcastle West
State Pension Contributory (full rate)	€238.30	€34.30	€36.80
State Pension Contributory (reduced contributions)	€233.60	€33.80	€35.80
State Pension Non-Contributory	€227.00	€32.80	€34.80
One Parent Family Payment – Adult and Two Children	€252.60	€33.30	€37.80

11. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting (a) the number of houses purchased by Limerick City and County Council in each of its 3 Municipal Districts in the years ending 2015, 2016 and 2017, and (b) the number of properties presently vacant in each Municipal District.

REPLY:

- (a) Limerick City and County Council purchased a total of 184 housing units in Limerick during the period 2015-2017. Of this number, 32 were purchased in the Municipal Districts as follows:

<u>Municipal District</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Total Purchased</u>
Adare-Rathkeale	0	2	5	7
Cappamore-Kilmallock	0	3	3	6
Newcastle West	0	9	10	19

(b) There are 37 properties currently vacant as follows:

<u>Municipal District</u>	<u>No. Vacant</u>
Adare-Rathkeale	13 Vacant (4 allocation offers under consideration, 1 ready for allocation in the coming weeks, 3 currently being renovated and 5 are long-term voids)
Cappamore-Kilmallock	14 Vacant (7 ready for allocation in the coming weeks, 2 currently being renovated and 5 are long-term voids)
Newcastle West	10 Vacant (1 allocation offer under consideration, 7 currently being renovated and 2 are long-term voids)

12. Question submitted by Cmhrl. S. Ó Ceallaigh

I will ask at the next Meeting how many local authority housing maintenance issues were logged with Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh in 2016 and 2017, and how many of these were completed.

REPLY: Housing Maintenance figures logged on CRM and completed on CRM within requested dates:

Year	Amount of Cases Logged	Amount of Cases Completed
2016	11,049	10,858
2017	11,749	11,149

13. Question submitted by Cmhrl. S. Ó Ceallaigh

I will ask at the next Meeting how many street signs, and Council road signs, have been erected in 2015, 2016 and 2017, and how many of those have Gaeilge and English in equal size as agreed by Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh.

REPLY: A significant number of street/road signs are erected throughout the City and County each year. The majority of these are regulatory traffic signs that are covered by the Traffic Signs Manual as issued by the Department of Transport and, as such, are in compliance with Irish Language requirements. However, there are signs in place, including estate nameplates and directional signs, that do not fully conform with the Council's policy on the use of Irish. An

inventory of this non-compliance signage will be carried out and a strategy developed for their replacement.

It should be noted that the Irish Language Policy Regulations take account of older signs which have been in place for a long number of years and do not require their immediate replacement. They should, however, if being replaced, meet the requirements as set out in the policy.

14. Question submitted by Councillor M. McCreesh

I will ask at the next Meeting, prior to the 2017 rent review for Limerick City and County Council tenants, when was the previous rent review; due to the distress caused to some tenants following the most recent review, could it be confirmed that these reviews will be carried out on an annual basis.

REPLY: Condition 2 of the standard Letting Agreement signed by tenants provides as follows:

"2. (A) The Tenant(s) shall furnish the Council with full particulars of present income and the income of each person residing in the rented house and, in addition, immediately notify the Council of any change in the income of any resident in this house as soon as such changes occur and also furnish the Council with all proofs which it may require in respect of any statement made, and give the Council any authority which it may require to seek and receive information regarding same from employers or from any other source.

(B) In the event of the Tenant(s) failing to furnish the Council with the information required, or to produce the proofs, or to give the authority referred to, the Tenant(s) shall immediately become liable for and will pay the full economic rent applicable to such house, or such rent as shall be fixed by the Council at its discretion, from the next date that the rent is due following the date upon which such change of circumstances occurred."

Periodically, the practice has been to send out rent assessment forms to all tenants in order to get an accurate picture at a particular point in time of the household income and composition, and calculate and implement any rent changes arising therefrom. The last such general exercise took place in 2011. It is accepted that it is desirable to do this on a more regular basis. Given the scale of the project, involving circa 5000 households, it is not possible to commit to undertake this exercise on an annual basis. It is the intention of Limerick City and County Council that all households would be assessed at least once every two years. However, it is important to emphasise that the tenants are required, under the letting agreement, to notify the Council of any change to their income status.

15. Question submitted by Councillor J. Costelloe

I will ask at the next Meeting, in the event of the absence of School Wardens due to illness or other circumstances, has the Council replacements trained and vetted to fill the role immediately.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council has a current panel for the position of School Warden in place. There are a number of candidates who have been vetted to provide cover in the event of existing School Wardens being absent. It is envisaged that they will shortly be undertaking training to allow them act as substitute School Warden if required.

16. Question submitted by Councillor J. Costelloe

I will ask at the next Meeting, in relation to "Limerick City Community Safety Partnership," for clarification regarding the future of the programme.

REPLY: The Limerick Community Safety Partnership Programme is funded via the Social Intervention Fund and an application for funding for 2018 has been submitted. All applications for this fund are assessed by an Independent Evaluation Panel who submit their recommendation to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for approval and, once this process is completed, the Limerick Community Safety Partnership will be notified of the decision.

NOTICES OF MOTION

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Gilligan

I will move at the next Meeting that, as Limerick Twenty Thirty is a solely owned company of this Council, (a) no contracts be entered into, and no land or property be acquired, without the expressed permission of the Council; (b) the company make a presentation to the Council at least twice a year; and (c) a statement of accounts be issued in conjunction with the Budget every year.

Councillor Gilligan, in proposing the Motion, outlined the background and stated that his understanding was that Limerick Twenty Thirty DAC was set up to assist with the commercial development of the City. However, it appeared to him that the purchase of the land on the North Circular Road now made the Company a property developer. He also expressed disappointment that the Members learned of this purchase in the local press.

The Motion was seconded by Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh.

The Chief Executive informed the Meeting that the former Salesian Secondary School and Convent Site at Fernbank, North Circular Road, Limerick, was purchased by the Council and not Limerick Twenty Thirty DAC, in accordance with normal protocols for acquisition of property. The Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Economic Development added that

the Company acted in the interest of the Council and was tasked with delivering projects identified in Limerick 2030 - an Economic and Spatial Plan for Limerick. The Chief Executive stated that the first part of the Motion was not legally possible as Limerick Twenty Thirty DAC is a separate legal entity.

REPLY: Limerick Twenty Thirty DAC (100% owned by Council) is a separate legal entity and a distinct body in law, which is tasked to undertake strategic development activity on behalf of the Council as part of the Limerick 2030 Economic and Spatial Strategy. In relation to any property owned by the Council, any disposal by the Council, or Lease for a period in excess of twelve (12) months, requires a resolution to be passed, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended. The acquisition of a property by the Council or Limerick Twenty Thirty DAC does not require any such Resolution.

The Council Members have approved the funding for the Opera Site as a Reserved Function pursuant to Section 106 of the Local Government Act. In relation to future funding provided by the Council to Limerick Twenty Thirty, on receipt of same they may expend the monies received as they decide, subject to the qualification that they must use the funds in general terms for the purpose for which they were advanced by the Council. The details of how they actually use the funding, within the confines of the previous qualification, are a matter for Limerick Twenty Thirty DAC. In addition, the company adheres to a strict governance regime and is subject to all auditing requirements to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Council.

Limerick Twenty Thirty DAC will provide regular updates to the Council and a summary of all Limerick City and County Council Associated Companies' most recent financial statements are included under Appendix 8 of the Annual Financial Statements.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin (to be referred to Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee and Joint Policing Committee)

I will move at the next Meeting that the Government review the locations of the 'Go Safe' vans within Co. Limerick.

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

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that the Minister for Education and Skills be requested to consider retaining CSPE (Civic, Social and Political Education) as a Junior Certificate examination subject.

In the absence of Councillor Scanlan, this Motion was deferred.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor R. O'Donoghue

I will Move at the next Meeting that a visual inspection is carried out on the streetscapes of all our county towns, in the critical interest of public health and safety, by Limerick City and County Council Engineers, to establish the condition of the buildings that make up our towns. Many of the buildings in our towns are derelict, vacant, and in poor states of repair.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor O'Donoghue referred to the buildings in towns and villages that had been vacant over a long period and were now becoming derelict, and the need to take action to prevent the ongoing deterioration of many towns and villages in the county. He further suggested that one of the barriers to redevelopment was restrictions in relation to conservation and consideration should be given to carrying out conservation reports on many of these buildings in order to identify what needed to be done to bring them back into use.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Donegan.

Members referred to existing schemes such as the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, Green Towns and painting schemes and also the establishment of the Urban and Village Renewal Department as measures that could assist in dealing with vacant and derelict buildings in towns and villages. Members welcomed the establishment of this Unit and also referred to the need to look at streets in the City Centre, as well as in the towns and village. Recent schemes such as the Gaol Lane Development were welcomed. However, concern was expressed in relation to anti-social behaviour around Johnsgate Village.

The A/Director, Social Development, stated that the fabric of the towns and villages was very important and he outlined a number of housing schemes aimed at vacant property, including 'Buy and Renew' and 'Repair and Lease.' He further advised that public notices advertising these schemes and seeking suitable properties had been placed in local newspapers that week.

REPLY: A new Urban and Village Renewal Department was established within the Service Operations Directorate in October 2017. There are now five staff members carrying out inspections across Limerick City and County in order to identify vacant sites, vacant homes, vacant commercial property and derelict sites.

The objective is to achieve a significant reduction in vacancy and dereliction through working with the owners of these properties and/or exercising the various legislative powers available to the Council.

In instances where a dangerous building is identified as part of this inspection process, these cases are dealt with by engineers within the Planning and Environmental Services Department under the Local Government Sanitary Service Act, 1964.

It is intended to organise a briefing for Elected Members in each District in the near future to outline progress to date on derelict and vacant property.

Following further discussion, Members noted the Reply and welcomed the fact that the new Urban and Village Renewal Department would be briefing Elected Members in each District in the near future.

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:
