

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MERCHANT'S QUAY, LIMERICK, ON TUESDAY, 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2019**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:** Councillor Daniel Butler, Mayor.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors Collins, Costelloe, Gilligan, Hogan, Hourigan, Hurley, Keller, Leddin, Loftus, Lynch, McCreesh, Ó Ceallaigh, O'Hanlon, Pond, Secas and Sheahan.

Apologies for his inability to attend were received from Councillor O'Dea.

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Director, Service Operations, (Mr. K. Lehane), Director, Social Development (Mr. G. Daly), Director, Physical Development, (Mr. B Kennedy), Acting Director of Service, Capital Investment (Mr. J. Delaney), Meetings Administrator (Mr. J. Clune), Senior Executive Officer (Ms. J. Leahy), Acting Senior Executive Officer (Mr. D. McGuigan), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. F. McCormack), Senior Engineer, (Mr. V. Murray) and Senior Executive Engineer, (Mr. G. O' Connor.)

At the outset, the Mayor proposed an adjournment of the Meeting for 15 minutes as a mark of respect on the passing of former Mayor of Limerick, Dick Sadlier.

Members expressed their condolences and sympathies to his wife Mary, son Eoghan, daughter Aoife and extended family. Mr. Sadlier was a founding member of the Progressive Democrats and was first elected to Limerick City Council in Ward 4 in 1991. He was re-elected to Limerick City Council in 1999, as a Fianna Fail member and served as a Councillor until 2004. He was Mayor of Limerick on three occasions, 1994-95, 2001-02 and 2003-04. Mr. Sadlier represented the old Ward Four, which covered areas such as O'Connell Avenue, Ballinacurra, Hyde Road, and other parts of the southside. He worked as a lecturer in accountancy at the Limerick Institute of Technology.

Members recalled his passion for promoting Limerick City from a culture and sporting perspective and will be sadly missed by all.

The Meeting then adjourned.

At the resumption of the Meeting, the Mayor and Members congratulated all involved in the St. Patrick's Day Parade and International Band Parade and highlighted the overall success of the St. Patrick's Day Festival.

The Mayor and Members extended their condolences and sympathies to the following on their recent bereavements:-

- The family of Joe McGrath, retired Chief Fire Officer.
- John Cregan and family and the passing of their daughter, Mary.

Members expressed their sympathies to the victims of the terror attack in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Members also expressed their condolences to the families of the three young people killed at the St. Patrick's Day event in Cookstown, Co. Tyrone.

Members conveyed their congratulations to Limerick Boxer, Lee Reeves on his recent win in Madison Square Gardens.

**1. Adoption of Minutes**

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.

Proposed by Councillor Hourigan;

Seconded by Councillor Hogan;

And Resolved:

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

**2. Disposal of Land**

- (a) Circulated, report of the Acting Senior Executive Officer, Housing Support Services dated 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 setting out proposals to dispose of the Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 27 Collins Avenue, Kincora Park, Southill, Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

- (b) Circulated, report of the Head of Property Services dated 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 setting out proposals to dispose of 0.0053 hectares of land at Castleview Gardens, Clancy Strand, Limerick to Róisín and Conor Buckley and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to the May Council Meeting in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

**3. Service Operations Directorate**

**Planning and Environmental Services**

**(a) Taking in Charge of Estates – Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads**

Circulated, Report of the A/Senior Planner, Planning and Environmental Services dated 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 seeking approval to the taking in charge of estate at Knocklyon, Clonmacken.

Proposed by Councillor Costello;

Seconded by Councillor Hourigan;

And Resolved:

“That the estate at Knocklyon, Clonmacken be taken in charge in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993”.

**(b) Schedule of Municipal District Works for the Metropolitan District of Limerick**

Circulated, report of the Director of Services dated 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 setting out the background to the preparation of a Schedule of Municipal District Works and including the Draft Schedule of Municipal District Works 2019 for the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

Senior Executive Engineer, Ger O'Connor provided a summary of the report and outlined the various areas of expenditure. Members thanked Mr O'Connor for his comprehensive report.

A discussion took place on the number of vacant houses and the timeframe for the completion of the maintenance required for reletting. Director, Service Operations, (Mr. K. Lehane), noted the Members comments in relation to the vacant properties. Mr Lehane assured the Members that resources have been allocated to reduce the number of vacant properties and there is a genuine effort being made by the Executive to reduce the turnaround time.

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

“That the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2019 for the Metropolitan District of Limerick be adopted in accordance with Section 103A of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended)”.

**4. Physical Development Directorate**

**Update on City Bus Service.**

Senior Engineer, Mr V. Murray conveyed the apologies of Bus Eireann who were unavailable to attend this meeting at short notice.

Mr V. Murray outlined to the Members the relevance of this presentation at this time

- Some public dissatisfaction with reliability of public transport services in Limerick City
- Discussion on social media (twitter) and local mainstream media.
- Increasing traffic volumes due to increased economic activity

Mr Murray conveyed the current Issues with public transport development including ;

- Under investment in Core Bus Corridors over last few years
- Public Transport Schemes are difficult to progress due to
  - reassignment of road space from parking to public transport.
  - Procurement of road space from private property by CPO
- Cost of improvement schemes. (Core Bus Corridors & P&R)
- Needs increased political and public support for improvement schemes.
- No investment in Park & Ride due to under investment in Bus Lanes.
- Slow take up in use of the LEAP Card.
- Issues with actual trip times on bus schedules and timetables. (RTPI)
- Traffic Delays due to over reliance on the private car in the Metropolitan Area.
- Inaccessible Bus Stops due to illegal parking and illegal driving in Bus Lanes.

In response to the issues Limerick City and County Council has

- Progressed the Limerick Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy
- Ongoing investment in minor improvement schemes (Bus Shelters/Pinch Points/Traffic Signal Upgrades) with NTA.
- Held meetings with Bus Eireann and the National Transport Authority
- Consulted with An Garda Siochana (The Traffic Authority)

Mr Murray outlined the immediate, short to medium term actions to be deployed

- In conjunction with An Garda Siochana refocused on the enforcement of offences in respect of Bus Lane and Bus Stops under provisions of The Road Traffic Acts
- Consideration to effecting Tow-Away at Bus Stops to enable safe accessibility.
- Bus Eireann will implement a review and reconfigure all City Routes to reflect actual trip times including introduction of seasonal timetables.
- Increased hours of operation and frequency of service across the network to respond to demand
- Ticketing software upgrades for LEAP Tickets.
- Review and elimination of Pinch Points on Bus Routes
- Upgrade of Bus Stops, Shelters, Signage and improvements to RTPI
- Complete the Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy.
- Complete upgrade of Colbert Station

The Mayor thanked Mr Murray for his comprehensive presentation and read the following statement which was received from Bus Eireann in summary as follows;

Bus Éireann operate services nationwide under contract to the National Transport Authority and these include Limerick city routes 301 – 306. Route 304 is a high frequency route, operating with a planned 15 minute frequency while all other routes are low frequency routes operating with planned 20/30/60 minute frequencies. Route 304 was last reviewed in December 2016 and this review lead to the introduction of Route 304A. There were some minor changes to the running times on Route 304 in December 2017.

Over the last 18 months we have seen an increase in congestion throughout the city particularly at peak times. We are currently in the final stages of reviewing all the operating data collected with a view to altering the timetables accordingly. The new punctuality assessed timetables are expected to be introduced in April 2019. These revised timetables will reflect actual traffic conditions including congestion pinch points and will deliver a considerable increase in reliability and punctuality on all Limerick city routes. Following on from this and also in conjunction with the National Transport Authority, there will be a more significant review which will look at the routings, frequencies and stops on transport in the Limerick City environs. These changes will be implemented in the second half of 2019.

Bus Éireann would like to apologise to any passengers who may have been frustrated when using our services in recent months. While we sincerely regret any level of dissatisfaction on behalf of our customers, we welcome the focus that has been placed on the importance of a reliable and punctual bus service. We will continue to work with our partners in the National Transport Authority, Limerick City and County Council, and all local stakeholders, to deliver an improved level of service in Limerick City.

The Members thanked Mr Murray for his detailed presentation and expressed disappointment that Bus Eireann were unavailable to attend the meeting. Members discussed various routes within the City and environs and the frustration conveyed by the public on social media. Members emphasised the need for analysis of customer needs to be carried out and the extension of various routes in order to cater for the demand.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Cllr O’Hanlon, seconded by Cllr Butler and agreed that a Special Meeting would be convened with the NTA and Bus Eireann to discuss the various issues regarding the city bus service.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Lynch, Standing Orders were suspended for 15 minutes in order to complete the Agenda.

### QUESTIONS

**5. Question submitted by Councillor S. Lynch**

*I will ask at the next meeting has there been many complaints received from those living in emergency accommodation. If so,*

*(i) What are the nature of the complaints.*

*(ii) What actions have been taken to improve the standards / conditions.*

**REPLY:** There have been no official complaints registered with Limerick City and County Council by those living in emergency accommodation.

**6. Question submitted by Councillor J. Costelloe**

*I will ask at the next Metropolitan Meeting how many emergency accommodation beds were provided on a night to night basis for each month in 2018 and up to and including February 2019.*

**REPLY:** Please see table attached for a summary of the number of emergency beds provided on a nightly basis from January 2018 through to February 2019.

<b>Homeless Summary Jan 2018 – Feb 2019 (snapshot day per month)</b>									
	Date	31.1.18	25.02.18	20.03.18	27.04.18	31.05.18	27.06.18	31.07.18	31.08.18
Hostel	Number Of rooms available								
McGarry House	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
St Patricks Hostel	47	43	43	47	45	45	47	47	47
Thomond House	24	20	20	21	20	21	24	23	25
B&B (No Children)	Variable	9	9	11	20	17	17	20	21
TEP1	20	21	20	20	20	20	20	21	20

TEP2	10	0	6	6	10	12	12	10	12
Suaimhneas (Families)	6	5	3	3	6	6	6	5	6
DRFI (Families)	10	9	9	9	9	8	9	8	10
B&B Families	Variable	8	17	23	29	31	40	38	36

	21.09.18	22.10.18	23.11.18	21.12.18	31.01.19	28.02.19
Hostel						
McGarry House	30	30	30	30	30	30
St Patricks Hostel	45	44	47	47	47	47
Thomond House	24	20	23	21	23	23
B&B (No Children)	17	18	16	13	12	10
TEP1	14	15	20	20	20	20
TEP2	7	9	6	10	10	9
Suaimhneas (Families)	6	6	6	6	6	6
DRFI (Families)	10	10	10	10	9	10
B&B Families	34	34	38	34	30	34

**7. Question submitted by Comhairleoir S. Ó Ceallaigh**

***I will ask at the next meeting at what stage is the current plan for the second phase of the LNDR and when it is expected that works on the second phase will begin.***

**REPLY:**

Limerick City and Council, working with Clare County Council and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, is progressing the Limerick Northern Distributor Road. The Councils have recently met with the Department of Transport and advised it of the high importance of the scheme, in light of the growth targets for the Limerick region under the National Planning Framework, including increased investment in new jobs. The Councils have asked the Department for permission to complete and submit the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) to An Bord Pleanála, and the Department is considering this request.

8. **Question submitted by Comhairleoir S. Ó Ceallaigh**

*I will ask at the next meeting how many homeless accommodation beds were available in total in March 2018, how many are now available at the present time and what take up there is on these beds.*

**REPLY:**

		<b>20.03.18</b>	<b>28.02.2019</b>
<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>No. of available beds</b>	<b>Beds Occupied</b>	<b>Beds Occupied</b>
McGarry House	30	30	30
St. Patricks Hostel	47	47	47
Thomond House	24	21	23
B&B (No Children)	Variable	11	10
TEP1	20	20	20
TEP2	10	6	9
Suaimhneas (Families)	6	3	6
DRFI (Families)	10	9	10
B&B (Families)	Variable	23	34

9. **Question submitted by Councillor M. McCreesh**

*I will ask at the next meeting what is the status of the €15m loan that was targeted for Housing Maintenance.*

**REPLY:** A decision to draw down a loan of €15m was approved in principle by the Council as part of the budgetary process. This will be progressed by Limerick City and County Council and drawn down as required in accordance with the Planned Maintenance Programme. Members will be consulted prior to any decision regarding the allocation of resources under this programme.

10. **Question submitted by Councillor M. McCreesh**

*I will ask at the next meeting what is the timeframe for the programme of works planned to clean all the gutters in Watergate complex.*

**REPLY:** The Housing Maintenance Department have assigned an Engineer to oversee this project. In light of the difficulty of the project (H & S, Accessibility etc), quotations will be sought from Contractors. A current estimation of the timeframe for this project would be approximately four months.

**11. Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin**

***I will ask Limerick Metropolitan Council to consider extending the one way traffic system from Lower Catherine Street to Upper Catherine Street with the addition of wider footpaths to facilitate full pedestrianisation at various times during the year similar to Shop Street in Galway.***

**REPLY:**

Catherine Street is among a number of city centre thoroughfares which when combined form the Great Streets Programme.

In 2001, Limerick City Council recognised that investment in urban re-development, under a number of urban re-development schemes, needed to be supported by an improved public realm and transport system. Following a design competition, the Limerick City Centre Remodelling of Streets and Public Spaces programme was adopted by Council in 2002. This programme proposed a programme of public realm improvements across the entire city centre. This strategy still forms the strategic basis for all public realm projects in the city. The projects carried out to date include:

- Baker Place 2002 - creation of a new public square close to the railway station.
- Bedford Row 2006 - pedestrian priority environment adjacent to substantial urban renewal projects.
- Thomas Street and Catherine Street 2008 - extensive public realm improvements providing a pedestrian focus which has seen the development of a cafe quarter within the prime city centre retail area. Cost - €4.3 million
- William Street and Sarsfield St - Public realm improvements targeted at facilitating public transport and pedestrian priority through the primary retail area. Cost - €3.4 million
- St. John's Square - Remodelling of a public square that restricted car movements and provided a multi-functional amenity for residents. Cost -
- City Quays - The remodelling of the city's waterfront to create a world class amenity along the River Shannon. The project included the construction of extensive boardwalk, event spaces and parks that complement a number of private sector mixed use investments in the area.

The Limerick 2030 Economic and Spatial Plan adopted in 2014, endorsed the Limerick City Centre Remodelling of Streets and Public Spaces programme and proposed that the entire public realm of the city be refurbished, with an initial focus on O'Connell Street, Henry Street and Catherine Street. This became the Great Streets Programme.

Limerick City and County Council working with The National Transport Authority has commenced Transport Strategy for the Metropolitan Area of Limerick-Shannon. The Transport Strategy will address all modes of transport and will delineate the functions of the various streets, which in turn will inform the ultimate finished design for particular streets. It is also important to note that the design of these streets is interdependent on one another, from identifying desire lines for pedestrians and cyclists through to linkages to sites of interest in the city. Therefore, the continuity in design concept that will emerge is important to the successful implementation of the Great Streets Programme.



An application under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund in 2018 to progress the Great Streets programme was unsuccessful, however the application itself received very positive feedback from the adjudication panel. The panel was cognisant of the Transport Strategy and advised that it should inform the next phases of the Great Streets Programme.

The Council intends to submit an updated application for funding under the URDF in 2019, which will include proposals for the upgrading of Catherine Street.

**12. Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin**

***I will ask Limerick Metropolitan Council how many Council owned homes that were previously occupied by tenants in the last two years are currently empty and what is the average time period between a vacancy occurring and the house been relet.***

**REPLY:** The number of Council owned houses that were occupied in the last two years and that are currently vacant is 110.  
The average time to prepare these properties to the required re-letting standard is 34 weeks.

**13. Question submitted by Councillor M. Hurley**

***I will ask at the March Meeting of the Metropolitan District what infrastructural plans the Council Executive have considered to facilitate the housing development growth in the Castletroy area.***

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Council, in partnership with The National Transport Authority and Clare County Council, has commenced work to develop a new Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (MATS) for the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area.

The National Planning Framework (NPF) supports ambitious growth targets to enable Limerick City to grow by at least 50% to 2040, and to enhance its significant potential to become a city of scale. To achieve these ambitious targets a Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) is currently being prepared for the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area as the appropriate vehicle to address both the city and suburbs, and adjoining area that supports the core of the city.

The principles underpinning the development of the MASP include the effective integration of transport planning with spatial planning policies, from regional down to local level and the alignment of associated transport and infrastructure investment priorities. The MASP sets out as a priority that to the greatest extent practicable, development within the Metropolitan Area should be carried out sequentially, whereby lands, which are, or will be, most accessible by walking, cycling and public transport, are prioritised. The Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS), when completed, will inform the integration of land use and transport planning within the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area and will inform investment in transport infrastructure and services over the short, medium and longer term to promote and encourage sustainable transport use.

In addition the Castletroy Local Area Development Plan 2018 sets out the Strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area over the coming years including the proposed infrastructural improvements that will facilitate development in the Castletroy area.

**14. Question submitted by Comhairleoir S. Ó Ceallaigh**

*I will ask at the next meeting that this District invite Troy Studios to the next meeting of the District for a briefing on the current situation at the studio and its future plans.*

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

**15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillors Hurley, Keller, Ó Ceallaigh, O’Dea, O’Hanlon, Pond, Secas and Sheahan**

*We will move at the next Limerick Metropolitan Meeting, to agree to nominate the following groups with the amounts listed below, from the General Municipal Allocation, F04 and D05.*

It was proposed by Councillor Secas, seconded by Councillor Pond and agreed that the following groups with the amounts listed be allocated from the General Municipal Allocation 2019, F04 Community Initiatives and D05 Tourism Development Recreation and Amenity:

**GMA ALLOCATIONS 2019 - LIMERICK CITY EAST**

**COMMUNITY**

<b>Name of Organisation/Group</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Southside Boxing Academy	€ 500
Southill Boxing Club	€ 500
Southill Hub	€ 250
Woodlawn Residents Association	€ 500
Carnaree Residents (Old Singland Road)	€ 500
Derrybeg Community Alert Initiative	€ 250
LCEN	€ 800
Annacotty Community Defibrillator	€ 600
Castleconnell Project Limited	€ 350
Castleconnell Community Employment Scheme	€1,000
Monaleen Active Retirement Group	€ 500
Kilbane Residents Association	€ 250
Monaleen Park Residents Association	€ 500
Lynwood Park Residents Association	€ 500

**SPECIAL PROJECTS**

Geraldines F.C.	€5,500
Rebuild wall at back of Glasgow Park	€2,625
Create extra car spaces at back of Hilltop, St. Patrick’s Road	€2,625

Fairview F.C.	€3,000
Richmond R.F.C.	€2,000
Limerick District and Anglers Association	€1,000
Granville F.C.	€1,250
Pike Rovers F.C.	€1,000
Janesboro F.C.	€1,750
Caledonians F.C.	€ 750
Carew F.C.	€ 500
Monaleen Cancer Support Group	€2,500
Monaleen / Milford Scouts	€2,000
Aisling Annacotty F.C.	€3,000
Monaleen G.A.A.	€1,750
Limerick Animal Welfare	€1,000
ACM Centre, Castleconnell	€1,500
Drombanna Day Centre	€ 500
Ahane G.A.A. Club	€ 500
Kilmurry Arts and Heritage	€ 500
Castleconnell Boat Club	€ 500
Southill Mens Shed	€2,000
Claughaun G.A.A. Childers Road	€2,000
Northstar Family Project	€1,000
Castletroy Playground Extension Study	€5,000
Over 40's Soccer Tournament	€1,000
Total Families Support	€1,000
Ballysimon Road Lighting	€5,250

**16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Gilligan (to be referred to the Cultural Strategic Policy Committee)**

*I will move at the next meeting that this Council relocate the statue of Patrick Sarsfield from its present location to either of the two new developments at O'Connell Street or the Square/Plaza at the Opera Centre.*

The motion was proposed by Councillor Gilligan and seconded by Councillor Loftus.

Cllr Gilligan requested that this motion be discussed at the meeting and the Mayor agreed. Cllr Gilligan spoke of the importance of this statue and the need for it to be moved to a more prominent location.

Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh proposed a motion requesting that the statue was to remain in its current location. There was no seconder to this proposal.

**17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Hogan (to be referred to the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee)**

*I will move at the next meeting that Limerick City and County Council reinstate the Christmas*

***Park and Stride arrangements for a 3 month period at Cleeve's Car Park and possibly at the Bus Eireann yard on Roxboro Road to provide parking support for hard pressed retailers in Limerick City.***

It was agreed that this Notice of Motion be referred to the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee.

**18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Hogan (to be referred to the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee)**

***I will move at the next meeting that Limerick City and County Council engage with An Garda Síochána to deal with the problem of cyclists using the footpath in Ballinacurra to cycle out of the city, particularly as there is a designated purpose built cycle lane behind the houses.***

It was agreed that this Notice of Motion be referred to the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee.

**Suspension of Standing Orders**

On the proposal of Councillor Loftus, seconded by Councillor Lynch, Standing Orders were suspended for 15 minutes in order to complete the Agenda.

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

***I will move at the next Metropolitan Meeting that this Council apply for special funding for the refurbishment of the housing stock on Convent Street, given its poor condition and close proximity to the Medieval Quarter.***

It was agreed that this Notice of Motion be referred to the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee.

**20. Notice of Motion submitted by Comhairleoir S. Ó Ceallaigh**

***I will move at the next meeting that Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh calls on the Minister for Housing to designate the Limerick Metropolitan District as a Rent Pressure Zone.***

In proposing the motion, Cmhlr O'Ceallaigh called on the Minister to designate Limerick as a Rent Pressure Zone. Cmhlr O'Ceallaigh spoke of the increasing rents and that there is no limit on what landlords can charge to tenants. This Motion was seconded by Councillor Costelloe.

**REPLY:** In order to be designed a rent pressure zone there are two criteria to be met:

- (a) The annual rate of increase in the average amount of rent for that area is 7 per cent or more in four of the previous six quarters and

- (b) The average rent for the area in the last quarter, as determined by reference to the manner referred to in paragraph (a), is above the National Standardised Rent in the last quarter.

Limerick City is not in a Rent Pressure zone as it only meets one of the criteria outlined above. As of Q3 2018, the second criterion has not been met. The Residential Tenancies Board Rent Index report for Q3 shows the standardised average national rent for houses was €1,130 per month while the rent in Limerick City West was €1,043.65; Limerick City North was €880.59 and Limerick City East was €1,103.57 (within reach of the national average at €1,130).

### **Suspension of Standing Orders**

On the proposal of Councillor Loftus, seconded by Councillor Hurley, Standing Orders were suspended in order to complete the Agenda.

#### **21. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Hurley**

***I will move at the March Metropolitan Meeting that Limerick City and County Council provide adequate signage for cyclists on the busy river route from UL to the city.***

In proposing the motion, Cllr Hurley referred to the volume of traffic on the river route and the need for management of the traffic on the route and markings on the path. This motion was seconded by Councillor Sheahan.

In response, A/Senior Executive Officer, Dara McGuigan confirmed to the Members that the river route from UL to the City was delivered with EU grant funding as part of the Smarter Travel programme. The programme focusses on promoting and implementing behavioural change in how we commute for work, study and business, focussing on a modal shift away from the private car towards public transport, cycling and walking.

Mr. McGuigan stated that a key element to this is the provision of safe and secure cycling and walking routes, which provide users with greater accessibility and permeability to major residential and employment hubs. The river route links Castletroy/Annacotty with the National Technology Park and the University of Limerick, and onward to the City Centre.

The shared surface path has become established as an important commuter route allowing people a viable alternative to regular private vehicle use, which aligns with national smarter travel targets. Last year average weekday cyclist numbers alone at the UL boathouse counter was 376; the vast majority of these are commuters and represent a reduction in vehicle based traffic.

This route was conceived, designed and constructed as a shared use route for pedestrians and cyclists. The route is marked for both cycling and walking purposes, and signage advising users to be considerate of other modes are prominently displayed at all access points to the route. Neither cyclists nor pedestrians have priority on the route, and any steps to give priority to one mode over the other would be in contravention of the terms of the European funding.

Mr. McGuigan confirmed that the Physical Directorate will review the current signage along the

route to see if improvements can be made in relation to frequency of this signage.

**22. Correspondence**

Correspondence was noted.

This concluded the Meeting.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**MAYOR**

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_