

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, ON MONDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2019 AT 3PM.**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:**

Councillor A. Teskey, Deputy Mayor.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors Benson, Butler, Carey, Collins (B), Collins (J), Collins (M), Costelloe, Daly, Egan, Foley, Galvin, Hartigan, Keary, Kiely, Kilcoyne, Leddin (B), Leddin (J), McSweeney, Mitchell, Murphy, O'Brien, O'Dea, O'Donoghue, O'Donovan, O'Hanlon, O'Sullivan, Ruddle, Ryan (E), Ryan (M), Scanlan, Secas, Sheahan (J), Sheahan (K), Sheehan, Slattery, Talukder and Teefy.

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive (Mr. C. Murray), Deputy Chief Executive and Director, Economic Development (Mr. P. Daly), Director, Service Operations (Mr. K. Lehane), Director, National and Regional Shared Services Centres (Ms. C. Curley), Director, Housing Development (Ms. A. Duke), Director, Community Development (Mr. G. Daly), Director, Physical Development (Mr. B. Kennedy), A/Director, Capital Investment (Ms. J. Leahy), A/Director, Support Services (Mr. V. Murray), Meetings Administrator (Mr. J. Clune), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. F. McCormack), Culture and Arts Officer (Ms. S. Deegan), Financial Accountant (Mr. P. Murnane), Financial Accountant (Ms. I. Griffin).

**Votes of Sympathy**

At the outset of the Meeting, it was proposed by Councillor Costelloe, seconded by Councillor Daly and agreed to observe a minute's silence in memory of Limerick Boxer, Kevin Sheehy who tragically passed away recently. Members spoke of the legacy he left and extended condolences to his partner Emma and family.

It was proposed by Councillor Teefy and seconded by Councillor Egan to extend a vote of sympathy to the family of Eileen Hickey, former Councillor and wife of the late Liam, former Chairman of Limerick County Council.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan (J), seconded by Councillor Leddin (J), it was agreed to deal with item 2 on the Agenda.

**2. Chief Executive Address to Council**

Deputy Mayor paid tribute to Chief Executive, Conn Murray for his tremendous contribution to life in Limerick since he arrived back in the city and county in 2012 and referred to Limerick as a different place.

He stated that the Chief Executive faced a city and county that was getting back on its feet after the economic recession, recovering from challenging social problems and divided, from an administrative perspective. Deputy Mayor Teskey stated that while we respect your

decision to move on to pastures new and, we wish you well on this new phase of his life, we do so with heavy hearts. We know you will be recognised as among the key architects of the incredible economic renaissance that Limerick has undergone over the past number of years.

He referred to the Chief Executives appreciation of the Beatles and quite like the Beatles, Conn pushed the boundaries. Their sound was different from anything that preceded them. Like John, Paul, George and Ringo, you shifted the landscape when you came on the scene and re-invented the landscape around you. One of your greatest challenges has been leading the amalgamation of the former Limerick City and Limerick County Councils, and with it the biggest single change-management programme in local government history.

Simultaneously, you put in place the building blocks for an unprecedented economic upturn that has transformed Limerick's economic, social and cultural profile. For our citizens and those who come here afresh to live and work in the Mid-West, it is in no small part because of the visionary leadership you have given this city and county at a critical time in its history. The key statistics from your period in charge speak for themselves. We have, in the past five years, seen over 15,000 new jobs and €2 billion of planned investment bound for Limerick. The blueprint for this success has been 'Limerick 2030: An Economic and Spatial Plan for Limerick' - a once in a generation plan you delivered that has steered the recovery of our city and county, a recovery that has urban centres across the nation and beyond looking on in envy.

- Initiatives like Limerick Twenty Thirty, backed by the elected members which is transformative for the city is now well underway with the commencement of the procurement process for consultants to assist in the latest project, the Cleeves site
- The Regeneration programme and the Housing Development programme in Limerick, has and continues, to improve communities and address challenges in a way that benefits all who live, work and invest in Limerick for generations to come.
- The creation of the largest economic unit in any local authority and implementing the Ireland's first National City of Culture programme all came under your watch – who can forget the magnificent sight of Granny and the 200,000 people who came to see her that wonderful sunny weekend in September 2014

It's been a remarkable period for the city and county and while we had our challenges, as all local authorities do, at no stage could we doubt the fact that we had the right person in the right place at the right time in Limerick. It was a time that we needed courage and creativity and Conn Murray brought this in abundance.

Cllr Teskey thanked the Chief Executive for all his support and help as a councillor and wished him well in his future endeavours. Cllr Teskey referred to the strong vision and direction he created for Limerick City and County Council and helped create the relationships and partnerships that have been a real strength of his leadership and the resulting collaboration between our stakeholders and partners. He concluded by with a quote from John Lennon who said

*"Trying to please everybody is impossible – if you did that, you'd end up in the middle with nobody liking you. You've just got to make the decision about what you think is your best, and do it."*

On behalf of the people of Limerick, go raibh mile maith agat and go n-eiri an bothar leat.

Deputy Mayor, Cllr Teskey on behalf of the Members made a presentation to the Chief Executive to acknowledge his significant contribution over the last 7 years.

Cllr John Sheahan, on behalf of the Fine Gael members past and present thanked the Chief Executive and referred to the challenges that he faced when he took up the Chief Executive post. Cllr Sheahan referred to the legacy that he is leaving in Limerick City & County Council and the significant investment that he progressed through the Council. He acknowledged the work that the Chief Executive had completed in the Age Friendly Programme and his 40 years' service to local government.

Cllr O'Hanlon on behalf of the Fianna Fáil party thanked the Chief Executive for his contribution to local government and in particular to Limerick. Cllr O'Hanlon referred to the Chief Executives strong management skills and the strong team that he had put in place and is confident that his vision will be continued. Cllr O'Hanlon acknowledged his engagement with all the political parties and individuals and his ability to encourage the members to take risks for the betterment of Limerick. Cllr O'Hanlon recalled his time as Mayor and enjoyed working closely with the Chief Executive. He acknowledged the Chief Executives ability to address various forums and to promote Limerick as an attractive destination for industry and companies to locate to and in turn create jobs. Cllr O'Hanlon referred to the significant task of the amalgamation and his plans for the City & County which included working with all agencies. Cllr O'Hanlon wished him and his family well for the future.

Cllr Teefy, on behalf of the Non Party Members congratulated the Chief Executive on his retirement and recalled 5 years ago when the new Council met it was a very historic occasion, the newly amalgamated Limerick City and County Council. Cllr Teefy referred to the challenging times that the Chief Executive faced, coming out of recession and the unknown territory to create a new organisation and structures that now have been acknowledged and rewarded nationally and internationally. Cllr Teefy acknowledged the important steps that the Chief Executive took in terms of the renaissance of Limerick, but he also very much led the remarkable recovery that is underway here. Cllr Teefy referred to the various awards throughout the last five years due to the leadership and professionalism of the Chief Executive and acknowledged the implementation of the Limerick 2030 Plan and the setting up of the Limerick Twenty Thirty company which has been an outstanding success resulting in huge investment and job creation in Limerick with much more to come. On behalf of the Independent Councillors, Cllr Teefy thanked the Chief Executive for his service to Limerick and local government and wished him, Ann and his family health and happiness for the future.

Cllr Leddin (J), on behalf of the Labour Party, wished to thank the Chief Executive for his service to Limerick and the local government sector. He referred to the Chief Executives leadership qualities and how he always approached a situation in a fair and pragmatic manner. Cllr Leddin referred to the legacy of the Limerick 2030 and public sector investment projects such as Cleaves site, Gardens International and Mungret and how these projects broke new grounds. Cllr Leddin thanked the Chief Executive and wished him well for the future.

Cllr Leddin (B), on behalf of the Green Party, congratulated the Chief Executive on 40 years service in local government and recognised the ambitious programme that he has put implemented and Limerick is well placed to deliver on this as a result.

Cllr O'Donovan on behalf of the Social Democrats referred to the positive changes in the City over the last 7 years and thanked the Chief Executive for his service to Limerick.

Cllr Costelloe on behalf of Sinn Fein referred to the achievements of the Chief Executive over the last 7 years in Limerick and acknowledged the 9 local authorities that the Chief Executive had worked in previously. Cllr Costelloe acknowledged the infrastructural and social changes that have occurred in particular in Moyross. Cllr Costelloe thanked the Chief Executive for his significant contribution.

Chief Executive, Conn Murray thanked Cllr Teskey and the Members for their kind words and for the opportunity to express his thanks to the Elected Members and spoke of the privilege of having a career in local government. The Chief Executive recalled returning to Limerick 7 years ago and the huge challenges that both Councils were facing including the merger. He stated that change does not come easily and change is inevitable but requires leadership and progress, which the Elected Members have shown consistently. The Chief Executive referred to the challenges that the Authority faced such as the City of Culture, merger of the 2 Authority's and return of the Regeneration programme to the local authority balanced with the economic era and the path that needed to be set to deliver on these challenges. It was important that all facets of people and stakeholders were included in order to plan, create alliances and partnerships. The Chief Executive commended the Elected Members on the decisions made and for trusting the vision and in turn creating the opportunities for Limerick. The Chief Executive stated that in order to continue that drive and success for Limerick and the Mid West he has learned that it cant be done alone. The Chief Executive thanked the community leaders, Chamber of Commerce and the Third Level Institutes for their support. He also thanked the Oireachtas Members for their support. The Chief Executive thanked the Management team and staff for their support and wished them well in their future endeavours.

## **1. Adoption of Minutes**

Circulated, copies of draft Minutes of the following Meetings:

- (a) Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2019.
- (b) Annual Meeting of the Council held on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2019.

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.”

### 3. Disposal of Land

- (a) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2019, concerning disposal of land at 3 Mitchell Street, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor O'Hanlon;  
 Seconded by Councillor Leddin (J);  
 And Resolved:

"That in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property at 3 Mitchell Street, Limerick to Thomas McGrath for the sum of €129.20, 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 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2019."

- (b) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2019, concerning disposal of land at 23 Coolraine Estate, Mayorstone, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor O'Hanlon;  
 Seconded by Councillor Leddin (J);  
 And Resolved:

"That in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property at 23 Coolraine Estate, Mayorstone, Limerick to Michael McCormack and Aisling Danagher for the sum of €129.20, 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 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2019."

- (c) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2019, concerning disposal of land at Ardnamoher, Galbally, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor O'Hanlon;  
 Seconded by Councillor Leddin (J);  
 And Resolved:

"That in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of the property at Ardnamoher, Galbally, Co. Limerick to Susan Carey for the sum of €1, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Rectification / Transfer of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2019."

- (d) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2019, concerning disposal of land at Bohergar, Brittas, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor O’Hanlon;  
 Seconded by Councillor Leddin (J);  
 And Resolved:

“That in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of the property at Bohergar, Brittas, Co. Limerick to Elizabeth Nolan for the sum of €1, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Rectification / Transfer of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2019.”

#### **4. Support Services Directorate**

##### **(a) Chief Executive’s Reports**

Circulated, Chief Executive’s Reports for the months of April and May, 2019.

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

##### **(b) Raising of Loan – To fund the issuing of Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans (RIHL) by Limerick City and County Council to borrowers.**

Circulated, report of the Director, Support Services dated 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2019, seeking the Council’s approval to seek sanction from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government for a loan in the amount of €5,000,000 to fund the drawdown of Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans. This loan will be drawn from the Housing Finance Agency. Some Members referred to the IT issues with Alfresco and the difficulty in obtaining reports in advance of the meeting hence agreed to defer this item to the September meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor O’Brien and agreed to defer this item to the next Meeting.

##### **(c) Draft Strategic Policy Committee Scheme, 2019 - 2024**

Circulated, report of the A/Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services dated 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2019, enclosing Draft Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2019-2024 based on Guidelines issued by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government.

Members requested an update on the status of the PPN. Director of Services, Community Development, Mr. Daly confirmed that meetings had taken place and the relevant timelines have been set out. The Director of Services confirmed the next step is that all groups will be invited to register again with the PPN which is a national requirement. Following on from that a plenary session will take place after which elections will occur. The plenary session will also give an opportunity for thematic groups to be set up. Director of Services, Mr. Daly also confirmed that a staff member has been assigned to work with the PPN and is confident that the process will be completed in the near future.

As Chairman of the Community, Leisure and Cultural SPC, Councillor O’Hanlon requested an amendment to the proposed scheme to include two representatives from the Cultural Sector.

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

“That, the Draft Strategic Policy Scheme, as presented, be placed on public display for a period of one month to allow for receipt of submissions”

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan (J), seconded by Councillor O’Hanlon, it was agreed to take a 15 minute adjournment.

## **5. Nominations to Committees (deferred from Annual Meeting of Limerick City and County Council held on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2019)**

### **(a) Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee**

On resumption the Meetings Administrator advised that Limerick City and County Council was required to consider the nomination of 4 Members to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee. He advised 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, applied. A group of 10 Members was required in this case, if so desired.

The following grouping was nominated:

#### **For Councillor Daly**

Councillors Benson, Carey, Costelloe, Kilcoyne, Leddin (B), Leddin (J), O’Brien, O’Donovan, O’Donoghue, Secas, Sheehan, Teefy.

The Meetings Administrator declared Councillor Daly appointed to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

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

“That, Councillors Sheahan (M) and Murphy be appointed to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee”.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);  
 Seconded by Councillor O’Hanlon;

“That, Councillor Donegan be appointed to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee”.

As there were no other nominations, the Meetings Administrator declared Councillors Daly, Donegan, Murphy and Sheahan (M), appointed to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

**(b) Board of West Limerick Resources Limited**

The Meetings Administrator advised that Limerick City and County Council was required to consider the nomination of 4 Members to the Board of West Limerick Resources Limited. The grouping system applied and a group of 10 Members was required in this case, if so desired.

The following grouping was nominated:

**For Councillor O'Donovan**

Councillors Benson, Carey, Costelloe, Kilcoyne, Leddin (B), Leddin (J), O'Brien, O'Donovan, O'Donoghue, Secas, Sheehan, Teefy.

The Meetings Administrator declared Councillor O'Donovan appointed to the Board of West Limerick Resources Limited.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);  
Seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon;

"That, Councillors Collins (B) and Collins (M) be appointed to the Board of West Limerick Resources Limited".

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

"That, Councillor Ruddle be appointed to the Board of West Limerick Resources Limited.

As there were no other nominations, the Meetings Administrator declared Councillors O'Donovan, Collins (B), Collins (M) and Ruddle appointed to the Board of West Limerick Resources Limited.

**(c) Ballyhoura Development Limited**

The Meetings Administrator advised that Limerick City and County Council was required to consider the nomination of 2 Members to the Board of Ballyhoura Development Limited.

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

"That, Councillors Donegan and Murphy be appointed to the Board of Ballyhoura Development Limited.

As there were no other nominations, the Meetings Administrator declared Councillors Donegan and Murphy appointed to the Board of Ballyhoura Development Limited.

**(d) Board of PAUL Partnership**

The Meetings Administrator advised that Limerick City and County Council was required to consider the nomination of 3 Members to the Board of PAUL Partnership. The grouping system applied and a group of 14 Members was required in this case, if so desired.

The following grouping was nominated:

**For Councillor Benson**

Councillors Benson, Carey, Costelloe, Daly, Hartigan, Kilcoyne, Leddin (B), Leddin (J), O'Brien, O'Donovan, O'Donoghue, Secas, Sheehan, Teefy.

The Meetings Administrator declared Councillor Benson appointed to the Board of PAUL Partnership.

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

“That, Councillors Kiely and Slattery be appointed to the Board of PAUL Partnership”.

As there were no other nominations, the Meetings Administrator declared Councillors Kiely and Slattery appointed to the Board of PAUL Partnership.

**(e) Board of RCCN (Rural Community Care Network) West Limerick Limited**

The Meetings Administrator advised that Limerick City and County Council was required to consider the nomination of 2 Members to the Board of RCCN (Rural Community Care Network) West Limerick Limited.

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

“That, Councillors Ruddle and Foley be appointed to the Board of RCCN (Rural Community Care Network) West Limerick Limited”.

As there were no other nominations, the Meetings Administrator declared Councillors Ruddle and Foley appointed to the Board of RCCN (Rural Community Care Network) West Limerick Limited.

**(f) Hunt Museums' Trust**

The Meetings Administrator advised that Limerick City and County Council was required to consider the nomination of 2 Members to the Hunt Museums' Trust.

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

“That, Councillors O’Hanlon and O’Sullivan be appointed to the Hunt Museums’ Trust”.

As there were no other nominations, the Mayor declared Councillors O’Hanlon and O’Sullivan appointed to the Hunt Museums’ Trust.

**(g) Joint Policing Committee**

The Meetings Administrator advised that Limerick City and County Council was required to consider the nomination of the Mayor (ex-officio), together with a further 15 Members to the Joint Policing Committee. The grouping system applied and a group of 3 Members was required in this case, if so desired.

The following groupings were nominated:

**For Councillor O’Brien**

Councillors Carey, Daly, O’Donoghue.

**For Councillor O’Donoghue**

Councillors O’Brien, O’Donovan, Teefy.

**For Councillor Hartigan**

Councillors Leddin (B), Leddin (J), Secas

**For Councillor Costelloe**

Councillors Benson, Hartigan, Sheehan

The Meetings Administrator declared Councillors Costelloe, Hartigan, O’Brien and O’Donoghue appointed to the Joint Policing Committee.

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

“That, Councillors Collins (B), Collins (J), Galvin, Keary, Kiely, Murphy, Ryan (M), Sheahan (M), Sheehan, Slattery, Talukder and Teskey be appointed to the Joint Policing Committee”.

As there were no other nominations, the Meetings Administrator declared Councillors Collins (B), Collins (J), Galvin, Keary, Kiely, Murphy, Ryan (M), Sheahan (M), Sheehan, Slattery, Talukder and Teskey appointed to the Joint Policing Committee.

**(h) Board of Governors of St. John's Hospital**

The Meetings Administrator stated that, in addition to the Mayor, Limerick City and County Council was required to appoint 1 Member to the Board of Governors of St. John's Hospital.

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

"That, Councillor O'Hanlon be appointed to the Board of Governors of St. John's Hospital."

As there were no other nominations, the Meetings Administrator declared Councillor O'Hanlon appointed to the Board of Governors of St. John's Hospital.

**(i) Limerick Sports Partnership**

The Meetings Administrator advised that Limerick City and County Council was required to consider the nomination of 1 Member to the Limerick Sports Partnership.

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

"That, Councillor Ruddle be appointed to the Limerick Sports Partnership".

As there were no other nominations, the Meetings Administrator declared Councillor Ruddle appointed to the Limerick Sports Partnership.

**(j) Limerick Civic Trust**

The Meetings Administrator advised that Limerick City and County Council was required to consider the nomination of 1 Member to Limerick Civic Trust.

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

"That, Councillor Collins (B) be appointed to Limerick Civic Trust".

As there were no other nominations, the Meetings Administrator declared Councillor Collins (B) appointed to Limerick Civic Trust.

**(k) Board of Moyross Community Enterprise Centre Limited**

The Meetings Administrator advised that Limerick City and County Council was required to consider the nomination of 1 Member to the Board of Moyross Community Enterprise Centre Limited.

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

“That, Councillor O’Hanlon be appointed to the Board of Moyross Community Enterprise Centre Limited”.

Proposed by Councillor Costelloe;  
Seconded by Councillor Leddin (J);

“That, Councillor Benson be appointed to the Board of Moyross Community Enterprise Centre Limited”.

A vote was taken which resulted as follows:

**For Councillor O’Hanlon**

Councillors Butler, Carey, Collins (B), Collins (J), Collins (M), Daly, Egan, Galvin, Keary, Kiely, McSweeney, Mitchell, Murphy, O’Brien, O’Dea, O’Donoghue, O’Hanlon, O’Sullivan, Ruddle, Ryan (E), Ryan (M), Scanlan, Sheahan (J), Sheahan (K), Slattery, Talukder, Teefy and Teskey.

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**For Councillor Benson**

Councillors Benson, Costelloe, Hartigan, Kilcoyne, Leddin (B), Leddin (J), O’Donovan, Secas and Sheehan.

**(9)**

The Meetings Administrator declared Councillor O’Hanlon appointed to the Board of Moyross Community Enterprise Centre Limited.

**(I) Board of Innovate Limerick**

The Meetings Administrator advised that Limerick City and County Council was required to consider the nomination of 4 Members to the Board of Innovate Limerick. The grouping system applied and a group of 10 Members was required in this case, if so desired.

The following grouping was nominated:

**For Councillor Leddin (J)**

Councillors Benson, Carey, Costelloe, Daly, Hartigan, Kilcoyne, Leddin (B), Leddin (J), O’Brien, O’Donovan, O’Donoghue, Secas, Sheehan, Teefy.

The Meetings Administrator declared Councillor Leddin (J) appointed to the Board of Innovate Limerick.

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

“That, Councillor Collins (J), O’Sullivan and Ryan (E) be appointed to the Board of Innovate Limerick”.

As there were no other nominations, the Meetings Administrator declared Councillor Collins (J), O’Sullivan and Ryan (E) appointed to the Board of Innovate Limerick.

**(m) Board of Limerick 2030 Strategic Development DAC**

The Meetings Administrator advised that Limerick City and County Council was required to consider the nomination of 4 Members to the Board of Limerick 2030 Strategic Development DAC. The grouping system applied and a group of 10 Members was required in this case, if so desired.

The following grouping was nominated:

**For Councillor O’Donoghue**

Councillors Benson, Carey, Costelloe, Daly, Hartigan, Kilcoyne, Leddin (B), Leddin (J), O’Brien, O’Donovan, O’Donoghue, Secas, Sheehan, Teefy.

The Meetings Administrator declared Councillor O’Donoghue appointed to the Board of Limerick 2030 Strategic Development DAC.

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

“That, Councillors Butler, Sheahan (J) and Collins (J) be appointed to the Board of Limerick 2030 Strategic Development DAC”.

As there were no other nominations, the Meetings Administrator declared Councillors Butler, Sheahan (J) and Collins (J) appointed to the Board of Limerick 2030 Strategic Development DAC.

**(n) Audit Committee**

The Meetings Administrator advised that Limerick City and County Council was required to consider the nomination of 3 Members to the Audit Committee. The grouping system applied and a group of 14 Members was required in this case, if so desired.

The following grouping was nominated:

**For Councillor Teefy**

Councillors Benson, Carey, Costelloe, Daly, Hartigan, Kilcoyne, Leddin (B), Leddin (J), O’Brien, O’Donovan, O’Donoghue, Secas, Sheehan, Teefy.

The Meetings Administrator declared Councillor Teefy appointed to the Audit Committee.

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

“That, Councillors Egan and Sheahan (J) be appointed to the Audit Committee.

As there were no other nominations, the Meetings Administrator declared Councillors Egan and Sheahan (J) appointed to the Audit Committee.

**(o) Local Community Development Committee**

The Meetings Administrator advised that Limerick City and County Council was required to consider the nomination of 4 Members to the Local Community Development Committee.

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

“That, Councillors Collins (M), Keary, Slattery and Teefy be appointed to Local Community Development Committee”.

As there were no other nominations, the Meetings Administrator declared Councillors Collins (M), Keary, Slattery and Teefy appointed to Local Community Development Committee.

**(p) Rural Water Monitoring Committee**

The Meetings Administrator advised that Limerick City and County Council was required to consider the nomination of 3 Members to the Rural Water Monitoring Committee. The grouping system applied and a group of 13 Members was required in this case, if so desired.

The following grouping was nominated:

**For Councillor Carey**

Councillors Benson, Carey, Costelloe, Daly, Hartigan, Kilcoyne, Leddin (B), Leddin (J), O’Brien, O’Donovan, O’Donoghue, Secas, Sheehan, Teefy.

The Meetings Administrator declared Councillor Carey appointed to the Rural Water Monitoring Committee.

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

“That, Councillors Keary and Ryan (E) be appointed to the Rural Water Monitoring Committee.

As there were no other nominations, the Meetings Administrator declared Councillors Keary and Ryan (E) appointed to the Rural Water Monitoring Committee.

**(q) Belltable – Special Sub Committee of Board**

The Meetings Administrator advised that Limerick City and County Council was required to consider the nomination of the Mayor (ex-officio) to the Belltable – Special Sub Committee of Board.

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

“That, the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick be appointed to the Belltable – Special Sub Committee of Board.

**(r) Limerick Food Strategy Steering Group**

The Meetings Administrator advised that Limerick City and County Council was required to consider the nomination of 2 Members to the Limerick Food Strategy Steering Group.

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

“That, Councillors Kiely and Talukder be appointed to the Limerick Food Strategy Steering Group”.

As there were no other nominations, the Meetings Administrator declared Councillors Kiely and Talukder appointed to the Limerick Food Strategy Steering Group.

**(s) Cross Party Committee – Centenary Events 2019 – 2021**

On the proposal of Councillor Daly, seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J), it was agreed to defer this item.

**6. Social Development Directorate****(a) International Mobility Award Scheme 2019, Round 2****(b) Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2019/20**

On the proposal of Councillor O’Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Butler, it was agreed that Items 6(a) and (b) be taken at the end of the meeting following circulation of the report.

**7. Physical Development Directorate****Limerick City and County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019 -2024**

Circulated, report of the Director of Service, Physical Development dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2019 enclosing draft Limerick City and County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019 - 2024 and Report on Public Consultation.

Members welcomed the Strategy and acknowledged the importance of this Strategy in the future. Members queried what engagement was received from stakeholders such as the OPW, IFA and the farming community. A/Senior Executive Officer, Physical Development confirmed that the OPW are statutory consultees and no submission was received. The IFA are included as part of the Agricultural sector however no direct contact was received from individuals of the farming community.

Members also queried if this Strategy takes into the CFRAMS study. A/Senior Executive Officer, Physical Development confirmed that this Strategy takes the CFRAM study and the Flood Risk Management in the City & County Development Plan into account.

The following amendments were requested by Members;

- The paragraph detailing the development of greenways in Limerick City be amended to reflect the current situation. This amendment was agreed.
- That page 35 Theme 5 objective 10 and requested that the qualifier ‘where feasible’ removed. This amendment was agreed.

Proposed by Councillor O’Hanlon;

Seconded by Councillor Keary;

And Resolved:

“That, the Limerick City and County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024, be and is hereby adopted, in accordance with the requirements of the National Adaptation Framework”.

Members raised the issue of the recent election on the Mayoral Plebiscite and the lack of opportunity for the Elected Members to express their views. In this regard, it was proposed by Councillor Sheahan (K), seconded by Councillor Ryan (E), and agreed to invite the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government to a Special Meeting on Mayoral Plebiscite.

## **8. Conferences**

### **(i) Participation by Members at Conferences**

Details of the following Conferences had been circulated electronically to the Members:

- (a) “Climate Change and Historic Towns: Adapting to Change” held in Kilmallock, Co. Limerick on 30<sup>th</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2019.
- (b) “Sean MacDiarmada Summer School, 2019.” Held in Kiltyclogher, Co. Leitrim on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2019.
- (c) “From Ballot Box to Council Chamber” held in Wexford on 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2019.
- (d) “Creating Economic & Business Opportunities from Climate Change” to be held in Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2019.

The Council approved the attendance of the following Members:

**Conference “Cross Border Tourism Conference 2019” Carlingford, Co. Louth.  
10th April, 2019. - John Gilligan and Sean Lynch.**

**(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:

**9. Question submitted by Councillor F. Kilcoyne**

***I will ask at the next meeting that the cycle lanes in Limerick city and county be swept once a month to clear broken glass and debris for cyclists.***

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Council carries out extensive street sweeping daily on many routes across the city and county. As the network of cycle routes increases and more cyclists avail of same, the Council will continue to monitor the maintenance of the cycle network. This will include sweeping, maintenance and repair of same. Where the Council is made aware that a cycle route needs attention outside of routine maintenance the Council will address as soon as is possible. Members of the Council and the public are requested to use Sugar CRM to make us aware of individual cases.

Accordingly as the network of cycle ways increases, the Council will keep the maintenance of all roads and footpaths under review in the context of competing demands for services. It is important to understand that where additional sweeping may be required, this will have resource implications and will need to be considered in the context of the annual budget. It will also be open to members to allocate resources under the General Municipal Allocation for various services, should they wish.

**10. Question submitted by Councillor S. Benson**

***I will ask at the next meeting that Limerick City and County Council provide details in relation to Mobility Aids Grants, Housing Adaptation Grants for People with Disabilities and Disabled Person's Grant for each year from 2015 to 2019 inclusive.***

**REPLY:**

2016	556 households	€2.7 million
2017	453 households	€2.28 million
2018	461 households	€2.9 million

2019*	In progress	€3,351,160 million
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## Private Grants – Housing Adaptation, Mobility Aid and Housing Aid for Older People

### Disabled Persons Grant Scheme

2016	111 households	€905,903.18
2017	81 households	€654,002.36
2018	53 households	€504,000.00
2019	*	€1,402,500.00

- At no point has funding ever been returned to the Department of Housing, as an Authority we strive to utilise the maximum funding available at all times.
- The application process can take between 3 to 8 weeks depending on time of year and volume of applications received at any one time. Funding available also fluctuates from year to year coupled with the Department of Housing grant approval dates changing each year which can add time to the overall process.
- For DPG funding, there is currently a very large backlog due to funding limitations experienced over the past number of years. The 2019 allocation increase is very welcome and it will significantly improve the backlog. However we must stress the importance of maintaining this level of funding for the next number of years.

#### 11. Question submitted by Councillor S. Benson

*I will ask at the next meeting, the reason why the housing adaptation grants season closes from October to January each year and if there are any plans to review this going forward, to allow for urgent applications to be processed and awarded during this time.*

**REPLY:** The Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme and Mobility Aid Grant does not close at any stage during the year. Funding in October would be largely allocated at this time.

We are not in a position to issue approval letters where we have no funding to allocate as we strive to manage customer expectations at all times. Doing this allows us to ensure that all works are completed and that we can submit our returns to the Department of Housing. Please note that Priority Emergency Cases will always be addressed.

#### 12. Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

*I will ask at the next meeting for a timeframe for the completion of the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy.*

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

The LSMATS will set out a series of actions and measures, covering infrastructural, operational and policy elements to be implemented in the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area over the next 20 years and will outline a framework to deliver the projects in a phased manner. The strategy will take account of current and predicted population, National Planning Framework objectives, national transport policies, existing plans and strategies in the region and existing transport assets.

Progress to date has included the collation of data in relation to land use forecasts and demand analysis modelling. Analysis is currently under way and a Baseline Report is being drafted.

The next step is review of the Baseline Report and the Demand Analysis Report by LCCC and CCC and feedback to the NTA.

Once the review of baseline and demand analysis is complete, development of transport options will commence. It is anticipated that stakeholder consultation will commence in August/September 2019, with a draft of the Strategy being prepared for public consultation in January, 2020. Following public consultation the Strategy should be completed by Quarter 2 2020.

**13. Question submitted by Councillor J. Collins**

**I will ask at the next meeting of Limerick City and County Council for an update on Limerick's Transport Strategy. When is the strategy to be delivered? When will consultation take place with members of the public, other interest groups and local representatives?**

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

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**14. Question submitted by Councillor J. Collins**

**I will ask at the next meeting of Limerick City and County Council for details of how many new social housing units, by district, will be delivered in 2019? How many voids, by district, does Limerick Council currently have? What is the average time to return a void house back into use? What measures are planned to reduce this turnaround time?**

**REPLY:** New Social Housing Units are being delivered under the following programmes in 2019:

- CAS Constructon
- SHIP and Regeneration Construction
- Part V
- Part V Community Homes
- SHIP Turnkey

The number of units projected to be delivered under these programmes in 2019 is 109. 92 of these units are in the Metropolitan District, 6 in the Cappamore/Kilmallock Municipal District and 11 in the Newcastle West Municipal District.

The number of voids currently in Limerick City and County Council's stock are as follows:

- Limerick Metropolitan District: 64 Major Refurb & 81 Casual Vacancies.
- Adare-Rathkeale District: 2 Major Refurb & 9 Casual Vacancies.
- Newcastle West District: 15 Major Refurb & 24 Casual Vacancies.
- Cappamore-Kilmallock District: 9 Major Refurb & 17 Casual Vacancies.

The average return time for void properties is 28.49 weeks.

We committed to removing the current batch of Voids by June 2020, understanding that the return of properties, for various reasons, takes place on an on-going basis.

To manage the issue we have introduced a fast-track process that will see a pilot project being launched to return 30 of the properties in the coming months. After the first phase is completed we will move to return more of the properties in batches of 30.

The pilot will be completed in conjunction with the existing work programme of Operations and Maintenance and Design and Delivery who look after the properties approved for Voids funding and properties approved under the Buy and Renew Scheme.

We are introducing a single point of contact to assess the returned property immediately. This will ensure that the vacated property enters a work stream based on a standard scope and timeframe, which is determined by an inspection of the property at the outset.

The above measures will be reviewed on a monthly basis to assess progress made with regular reporting on same to be included in our report to Council.

### **Suspension of Standing Orders**

On the proposal of Councillor O’Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Sheahan (K), Standing Orders were suspended in order to complete the Agenda.

## **NOTICES OF MOTION**

### **15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor A. Teskey**

**I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council, in view of the damage spiralling insurance costs are causing to community groups, voluntary organisations, charities and small business, calls on the Government to accelerate its insurance reform programme. In particular, Limerick City and County Council calls on the Government to immediately establish a distinct Insurance Fraud Unit with An Garda Síochána, establish an interim Judicial Council which will address excessive awards made in our courts and insist on greater transparency in relation to claims and premiums from Irish insurers.**

On proposing this motion Councillor Teskey referred to the difficulty experienced by young people trying to obtain car insurance and the need for this to be investigated. In seconding the motion Councillor O’Brien referred to the need for a distinct fraud unit to be established. Members also referred to the anti-job creation environment that the rising cost of insurance is causing.

### **16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor F. Kilcoyne**

**I will move at the next meeting that a safety barrier and footpath be put in place between the brick lodge and the roundabout on the N69 at Clarina Village as there already has been numerous fatalities at this location over the years.**

The motion was proposed by Councillor Kilcoyne and seconded by Councillor Collins (J).

**REPLY:** A footway currently exists between Clarina roundabout and the Brick Lodge. A safety barrier cannot be installed at present as there is insufficient width available to allow the barrier to be installed. Service Operations – Central Services are currently preparing a preliminary design to improve the existing footway arrangements for pedestrians on this section of the N69. The improvements proposed include setting back the existing footway from the N69 carriageway and providing a greater width of separation between the pedestrians and vehicles. This proposal would require land acquisition. If agreement can be reached with the affected landowners, a feasibility report will be prepared for submission to Transport Infrastructure Ireland for approval and funding.

**17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Benson**

**I will move at the next meeting, that this Council, write to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government requesting additional funding to clear the backlog of approved Disabled Person's Grants in Limerick City and County.**

The motion was proposed by Councillor Benson and seconded by Councillor Costelloe.

**REPLY:** On July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019, the letter of approval for the annual Disabled Persons Grant allocation was made. Limerick City and County Council was approved a total of €1,416,667.00; this amount is a significant increase from the 2018 allocation of €504,000.00.

This significant increase will benefit Council Tenants applying for Grants in 2019.

With the agreement of the Deputy Mayor, Items 18 and 20 were taken together

**18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan**

**I will move at the next meeting that Limerick City and County Council write to the Minister for Health to request that he meets with Limerick City and County Council and TD elected representatives together with the TDs in Clare and North Tipperary to discuss the future of the health service within the UL Hospitals Group. That the Council write to the Minister requesting an urgent public meeting with members of the HSE Executive and Department of Health to explore ways in which the trolley crisis at UHL can be eased by looking at alternative ways to utilize the facilities in St. John's, Ennis and Nenagh Hospitals.**

**20. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Collins**

**I will move at the next meeting, that Limerick City and County Council :**

- **Call on the Minister for Health Simon Harris TD to make an unannounced visit to Ennis and Limerick hospitals.**

- **Request that the Minister meet with Limerick City and County Council and TD elected representatives together with the TDs in Clare and North Tipperary to discuss the future of the health service within the UL Hospitals group.**
- **Request an urgent public meeting with members of the HSE Executive and Department of Health to explore ways in which the trolley crisis at UHL can be eased by looking at alternative ways to utilise the facilities in St. John's, Ennis and Nenagh Hospitals.**
- **Request that the Minister immediately look at ways to reopen St John's, Nenagh and Ennis A&E injury clinics on a 24 hour basis and consider ways of giving all 3 hospitals specific geriatric ED facilities.**

The motions were proposed by Councillor Sheehan and seconded by Councillor Collins (J).

Councillor Collins (J) stated that in April this year, University Hospital Limerick set a new record with 81 patients being treated on trolleys in its emergency department and on wards. Councillor Collins referred to the urgent need for investment and stated that there are 479 vacant consultant posts (including 23 Emergency Department Consultants) in the country and 542,000 patients waiting to see a specialist. But it is a nationwide problem that is at its most acute in Limerick and it has the potential to affect the safety of people living in the Mid-West.

Members referred to the ongoing issues and requested that a letter issue to the CEO of UHL Group, Colette Cowan, to provide the members with the following information:

The total number of consultant vacancies at University Hospital Limerick Group to include a breakdown of the

1. Number of consultant vacancies in each of the six hospitals in the UHL Group.
2. Number of consultant vacancies by speciality in each of the six hospitals.
3. Length of time each consultant post has been vacant.
4. Recruitment efforts made: i.e. position advertised, number of applications for that vacant post, timeline on filling that vacant post.
5. Number of consultants by speciality currently working in each of the six hospitals.

Members supported the motion and referred to the previous discussions in the Chamber and lack of progress to date.

**19. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan (to be referred to the Climate Change and Environment Strategic Policy Committee)**

**I will move at the next meeting that Limerick Council object to the granting of another derogation on Nitrogen Oxides by the environmental protection agency for the Irish Cement plant in Mungret which would increase their allowed emission limit from 500mg to 800mg as it would be harmful to the air quality and thus the people of Limerick.**

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

**21. Correspondence**

The Correspondence circulated with the Agenda was taken as read.

**6. Social Development Directorate**

**(a) International Mobility Award Scheme 2019, Round 2**

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan (J), seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to defer this item until a report was circulated.

**(b) Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2019/20**

Circulated, report of the Culture and Arts Officer dated 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 together with Panel Recommendations for Festival and Events Grant Scheme 2019 / 2020.

On the proposal of Councillor O'Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Butler, the Recommendations were agreed and accordingly the allocation of grants under the Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2019 / 2020, as set out, was approved.

Members welcomed the funding for the Arts and Cultural sector but stated that imbalance in the distribution of funds within the City and County. Director of Services, Community Development confirmed that Limerick City and County Council are heavily invested in supporting the arts in both City and County and stated that 37 of the 60 applicants were successful. He also confirmed that the percentage of funding awarded will depend on the amount of applications received and the requests from those groups. Mr. Daly confirmed that a Festival and Events Strategy is currently at the tender phase and this Strategy will help to address this imbalance. Councillor Keary wished for his objection to the change to the format of the Assessment Panel to be noted.

**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:**

\_\_\_\_\_