

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, ON MONDAY, 23rd SEPTEMBER, 2019, AT 3PM.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor M. Sheahan, Mayor.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Benson, Butler, Carey, Collins (B), Collins (J), Collins (M), Costelloe, Daly, Donegan, 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 (M), Scanlan, Secas, Sheahan (J), Sheehan, Slattery, Talukder, Teefy, Teskey.

An apology for his inability to attend the Meeting was received from Councillor Sheahan (K).

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive (Dr. P. Daly), Director, Support Services (Mr. S. Coughlan), Director, National and Regional Shared Services (Ms. C. Curley), Director, Service Operations (Mr. K. Lehane), Director, Community Development (Mr. G. Daly), Director, Housing Development (Ms. A. Duke), A/Director, Economic Development (Mr. V. Murray), Director, Physical Development (Mr. B. Kennedy), A/Director, Capital Investment (Mr. J. Delaney), A/Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services (Mr. J. Clune), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. F. McCormack), A/Staff Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. F. Ryan), Communications Officer (Mr. D. Tierney).

At the outset of the Meeting, the Mayor welcomed all Members to the Meeting and proposed one minute's reflection to mark the commencement of the new Council term.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 8th July, 2019.

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

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

The Mayor referred to a letter received from Councillor Sheahan (K) in respect of holding a Special Meeting with the Minister to discuss the Directly Elected Mayor with Executive Functions. Members discussed the outcome of the Plebiscite held in May and referred to the need for engagement with the Elected Members in relation to the role and functions.

Following further discussion, it was agreed that a briefing on the proposal for a Directly Elected Mayor with Executive Functions would be held in October.

2. Disposal of Land

- (a) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 29th July, 2019, concerning disposal of land at Gortakilleen, Oola, Co. Limerick, together with a map of the plot.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
 Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
 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 land at Gortakilleen, Oola, Co. Limerick (Folio LK4597L) to John Hackett, James Hackett and Joanne Kennett, Legal Personal Representatives of Josephine Hackett, deceased, 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 29th July, 2019.”

- (b) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 29th July, 2019, concerning disposal of 43, O’Dwyer Villas, Thomondgate, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor O’Hanlon;
 Seconded by Councillor Daly;
 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 43, O’Dwyer Villas, Thomondgate, Limerick (Folio LK3275L) to Noel Kearns, Legal Personal Representative of Mary Togher, deceased, for the sum of €167.00, 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 29th July, 2019.”

- (c) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 29th July, 2019, concerning disposal of 48, Singland Road, Garryowen, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor O’Hanlon;
 Seconded by Councillor Daly;
 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 48 Singland Road, Garryowen, Limerick (Folio LK2603L) to Gerard Fitzgerald, Legal Personal Representative of Bernard Fitzgerald, deceased, for the sum of €169.45, 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 29th July, 2019.”

- (d) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 29th July, 2019, concerning disposal of 25, Greenhills Road, Garryowen, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor O'Hanlon;
 Seconded by Councillor Daly;
 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 25, Greenhills Road, Garryowen, Limerick (Folio LK4898L) to Veronica Barry, 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 29th July, 2019."

- (e) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 29th July, 2019, concerning disposal of 9, Hawthorn Court, Kennedy Park, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Daly;
 Seconded by Councillor Kiely;
 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 9, Hawthorn Court, Kennedy Park, Limerick (Folio LK4793L) to Joseph Earls, for the sum of €95.42, 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 29th July, 2019."

- (f) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 15th August, 2019, concerning disposal of land at Garryduff, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick. (0.067 ha)

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;
 Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (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 0.067 ha at Garryduff, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick (Refs: DS07, DS07a, DS07b) to Gerard and Claire Conway, Garryduff, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, subject to the Council retaining a wayleave over the full area of land proposed for disposal to any services located therein and the Council to pay the reasonable legal costs in this case, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 15th August, 2019."

- (g) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 15th August, 2019, concerning disposal of land at Garryduff, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick. (0.053 ha)

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
 Seconded by Councillor Foley;
 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 0.053 ha at Garryduff, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick (Ref. DS08) to Hannah and Nora Collins, Garryduff, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, subject to the Council retaining a wayleave over the full area of land proposed for disposal to any services located therein and the Council to pay the reasonable legal costs in this case, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 15th August, 2019.”

- (h) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 15th August, 2019, concerning disposal of land at Killaghteen, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick (0.546 ha).

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
 Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
 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 0.546 ha at Killaghteen, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick (Refs. DS09a and DS09b) to Edmond Thomas Dore, Killaghteen, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, subject to the Council retaining a wayleave over the full area of land proposed for disposal to any services located therein and the Council to pay the reasonable legal costs in this case, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 15th August, 2019.”

- (i) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 15th August, 2019, concerning disposal of land at Killaghteen, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick (0.246 ha).

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
 Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
 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 0.246 ha at Killaghteen, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick (Refs: DS10a and DS10b) to Eamon Kelly, Killaghteen, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, subject to the Council retaining a wayleave over the full area of land proposed for disposal to any services located therein and the Council to pay the reasonable legal costs in this case, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 15th August, 2019.”

- (j) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 15th August, 2019, concerning disposal of land at Killaghteen and Ballintubrid, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
 Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
 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 0.020 ha at Killaghteen and Ballintubrid, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick (Ref. DS11) to Don Colbert, Killaghteen, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, subject to the Council retaining a wayleave over the full area of land proposed for disposal to any services located therein and the Council to pay the reasonable legal costs in this case, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 15th August, 2019.”

- (k) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 15th August, 2019, concerning disposal of land at Ballintubrid, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick (0.415 ha).

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
 Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
 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 0.415 ha at Ballintubrid, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick (Refs. DS12a, DS12b, DS12c) to John Hough, Ballintubrid, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, subject to the Council retaining a wayleave over the full area of land proposed for disposal to any services located therein and the Council to pay the reasonable legal costs in this case, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 15th August, 2019.”

- (l) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 15th August, 2019, concerning disposal of land at Ballintubrid, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick (0.025 ha).

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
 Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
 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 0.025 ha at Ballintubrid, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick (Refs. DS13a and DS13b) to Joan Keating, Ballintubrid, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, subject to the Council retaining a wayleave over the full area of land proposed for disposal to any services located therein and the Council to pay the reasonable legal costs in this case, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 15th August, 2019.”

Councillor O’Dea informed the Mayor that due to his position as Chairman of Tait House and in accordance with Part 15 of the Local Government Act, 2001 it was inappropriate for him to be in attendance while Items 2 (m) and (r) were being discussed.

- (m) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 9th September, 2019, concerning disposal of land at 36, Cecil Street, Limerick.

In response to Members’ queries, the A/Director, Capital Investment, confirmed that the assessment had been completed by the Senior Architect and Head of Property Services. He also confirmed the internal process involved before disposing of a property had been completed and no

strategic objective had been outlined for this particular property. Members discussed the importance of a cultural space in the city centre and discussed the disposal of commercial property. It was proposed by Councillor Collins (J) to proceed with the disposal of this property.

Following further discussion, Members referred to practice whereby the disposal is considered and noted at the Metropolitan/Municipal District Meetings and once agreed is included in the Agenda for disposal at the meeting of the Full Council. Some Members expressed disappointment that this proposal was on the Agenda even though there was no agreement at the Metropolitan District Meeting. Following further discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J) and seconded by Councillor Collins (M) and agreed that items M,R & S would be placed on the Agenda of the Municipal District meetings for discussion and clarification prior to reverting to the November meeting of the Full Council.

- (n) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 9th September, 2019, concerning disposal of land at Carrigeen, Croom, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor O'Brien;
 Seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue;
 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 15.61 acres of land at Carrigeen, Croom, Co. Limerick, to Tower View Farm Limited, for the sum of €232,500, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 9th September, 2019."

- (o) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 9th September, 2019, concerning disposal of land at Ballyvulhane, Bruff, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Donegan;
 Seconded by Councillor O'Brien;
 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 derelict house and 0.5127 acres of land at Ballyvulhane, Bruff, Co. Limerick, to Margaret Keyes, for the sum of €10,000, plus the Council's reasonable legal fees, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 9th September, 2019."

- (p) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 9th September, 2019, concerning disposal of land at Derry, Naintin, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor O'Brien;
 Seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue;
 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 1.40 acres of land at Derry, Naintin, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick, to Michael Shiels, for the sum of €30,500, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 9th September, 2019.”

- (q) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 11th September, 2019, concerning disposal of land at Cloonreask, Askeaton, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor O’Brien;
 Seconded by Councillor O’Donoghue;
 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 0.05581 hectares of land at Cloonreask, Askeaton, Co. Limerick, to Irish Water, for the sum of €2,500; the Council also to grant wayleaves/rights-of-way to Irish Water necessary for access/services and Irish Water to discharge the Council’s reasonable legal expenses, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 11th September, 2019.”

- (r) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 11th September, 2019, concerning disposal of land at Galvone Industrial Estate (Former Provincial Floor Covering Site), Limerick.

As part of the discussion on item 2(m) it was proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J) and seconded by Councillor Collins (M) and agreed that items M,R & S would be placed on the Agenda of the Municipal District meetings for discussion and clarification prior to reverting to the November meeting of the Full Council.

- (s) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 11th September, 2019, concerning disposal of land at Galvone Industrial Estate (1.06 acres), Limerick.

As part of the discussion on item 2(m) it was proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J) and seconded by Councillor Collins (M) and agreed that items M,R & S would be placed on the Agenda of the Municipal District meetings for discussion and clarification prior to reverting to the November Meeting of the Full Council.

3. Support Services Directorate

(a) Fixing of Date – Statutory Budget Meeting

Circulated, copy of Circular Fin 07/2019 dated 29th August, 2019, from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in relation to 2020 Budget Meeting and other Budgetary matters.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan (J), seconded by Councillor Galvin, the following dates were agreed:

Briefing on Budget 2020:

Monday, 11th November, 2019, at 3pm.

2020 Statutory Budget Meeting:

Friday, 15th November, 2019, at 10.00am.

(b) Local Property Tax

Circulated, report from the Director, Support Services, dated 13th September, 2019, in relation to Local Property Tax – Local Adjustment Factor 2020.

Director, Support Services, presented and outlined to Members the various valuation bands and the percentage of properties which fell into these bands for 2018 and 2019. He outlined the increases to property owners on the various bands for 2020. Director, Support Services informed Members of the work that was carried out as a result of the 7.5% increase for 2019. Director, Support Services also outlined to Members the increases to property owners on the various bands for 2020.

Councillor Leddin (J) proposed to vary the Local Property Tax basic rate upwards by 15% for 2020. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

Councillor Costelloe proposed no change in the Local Property Tax basic rate for 2020. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Benson.

Following further discussion, the Mayor called a vote on amending proposal from Councillor Costelloe proposing no change to the Local Property Tax. It was agreed that this would take the form of *a show of hands*. As the majority of the Members were in favour of varying the Local Property Tax basic rate upwards by 15%, the Mayor declared the proposal from Councillor Costelloe defeated.

The Mayor confirmed the proposal of Councillor Leddin (J), seconded by Councillor Galvin, as carried and accordingly the following resolution was adopted:

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

“That, in accordance with Section 20 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act, 2012, as amended, Limerick City and County Council hereby determines that the basic rate of Local Property Tax (LPT) should stand varied upwards by fifteen per cent (15%) for the year 2020 in respect of relevant residential properties situated in the administrative area of Limerick City and County Council.”

(c) Chief Executive’s Report

Circulated, report of the A/Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services, dated 17th September, 2019, outlining the background to the submission of the Chief Executive’s Reports to the Council, together with Chief Executive’s Reports for the months of June, July and August 2019.

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

(d) Raising of Loan to Fund the Issuing of Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans (RIHL) by Limerick City and County Council to Borrowers

Circulated, (i) report of the Director, Support Services, dated 12th September, 2019, seeking the Council's approval to application for sanction from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government for a loan in the amount of €12,444,392 to fund the drawdown of Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans, the loan to be drawn from the Housing Finance Agency; and (ii) Circular from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government dated 15th August, 2019.

It was noted that this item had been deferred from the July Meeting.

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

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to application for sanction from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, for a loan in the amount of €12,444,392 to fund the drawdown of Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans, the loan to be drawn from the Housing Finance Agency.”

(e) Strategic Policy Committees

Circulated, report of the A/Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services, dated 17th September, 2019, together with copy of Draft Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2019-2024.

The report stated that a Draft Strategic Policy Committee Scheme was considered at the July 2019 Meeting of the Council, following which it was placed on public display. The National Key Stakeholder Pillars were circulated with copies of the Draft Scheme and invited to make submissions in relation to same. The closing date for receipt of submissions was Thursday, 8th August, 2019 and submissions were received from the Environment / Conservation Pillar, the Development / Construction Pillar and the Trade Union Pillar, as set out. The proposed Sectoral representation on each Strategic Policy Committee was now outlined in the Draft Scheme circulated and the Council was required to consider this, along with the adoption of the Scheme. Following adoption, nominations of Sectoral members to the five Strategic Policy Committees would be sought and one month would be allowed for receipt of nominations. In relation to the Public Participation Network (PPN), as soon as the Secretariat was in place, the requests for nominations to the remaining places on the Strategic Policy Committees would be issued.

The report went on to say that a total of 80 vacancies across the 5 Committees were required to be filled by Local Authority Members, with 16 Elected Members to be elected to each Committee. The Scheme set out a requirement that each Elected Member should sit on two Strategic Policy Committees.

It was now recommended that (i) the Draft Scheme, as circulated, be adopted; and (ii) the Council Members be appointed to each Strategic Policy Committee.

At the outset of discussion on this item, it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Collins (M), seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J), to take a 15-minute adjournment.

On resumption, Councillor Leddin (B) proposed that the name of the Climate Change and Environment Strategic Policy Committee be changed to the *Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee*. This was seconded by Councillor Leddin (J) and agreed.

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

“That, (i) the Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2019-2024, as circulated, be and is hereby adopted, subject to the name of the Climate Change and Environment Strategic Policy Committee being re-named as the *Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee*; and (ii) the following Elected Members be appointed to Strategic Policy Committees as set out:

Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee

Councillors Scanlan (Chairperson), Egan, Galvin, Sheahan (J), Sheahan (M), Teskey, Secas, Collins (B), Collins (M), Sheahan (K), Benson, Carey, O’Donoghue, O’Brien, Hartigan, Talukder.

Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee

Councillors Leddin (J) (Chairperson), Secas, O’Hanlon, Ryan (M), McSweeney, Leddin (B), O’Donovan, Costelloe, Daly, Kilcoyne, Teefy, Butler, Mitchell, Sheahan (J), Sheahan (M), Foley.

Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee

Councillors Murphy (Chairperson), Keary, Kiely, Kilcoyne, Ruddle, Teskey, Leddin (J), Sheehan, Hartigan, Benson, Costelloe, Collins (J), Donegan, Teefy, Ryan (E), Slattery.

Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee

Councillors Ryan (E) (Chairperson), Collins (B), Collins (J), O’Dea, Ryan (M), Slattery, O’Donoghue, Butler, Egan, Galvin, Keary, Murphy, O’Sullivan, Scanlan, Leddin (B), O’Brien.

Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee

Councillors K. O’Hanlon (Chairperson), Collins (M), Donegan, Foley, O’Dea, Sheahan (K), Talukder, Kiely, McSweeney, Mitchell, O’Sullivan, Ruddle, Sheehan, O’Donovan, Carey, Daly.

(f) Nominations to Committees

(i) Limerick Market Trustees

Circulated, list of Members appointed to the Limerick Market Trustees at the First Annual Meeting of the Council held on 7th June, 2019.

The Meetings Administrator advised that the Council was required to consider the nomination of 2 further Members to the Limerick Market Trustees, in addition to the 16 Members already appointed at the First Annual Meeting on 7th June, 2019.

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

“That, Councillors Mitchell and Sheehan be appointed to the Limerick Market Trustees.

As there were no other nominations, the Mayor declared Councillors Mitchell and Sheehan appointed as the two remaining representatives of the Council on the Limerick Market Trustees.

(ii) Board of PAUL Partnership

The Meetings Administrator advised that the Council had a representation of 3 Members on the Board of PAUL Partnership, comprising one Member from each of the Local Electoral Areas in the Metropolitan District.

Councillors Benson (Limerick City North), Kiely (Limerick City East) and Slattery (Limerick City East) had been appointed at the First Annual Meeting of the Council held on 7th June, 2019, but as two of the nominees were from Limerick City East, the Council was now required to reduce the nominations from this Area to one Member, and nominate one Member from Limerick City West to the Board of PAUL Partnership. He advised the Meeting that Councillor Slattery had agreed to withdraw as a member of the Board.

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

“That, Councillor Talukder (Limerick City West) be appointed to the Board of PAUL Partnership to replace Councillor Slattery.”

As there were no other nominations, the Mayor declared Councillor Talukder appointed to the Board of PAUL Partnership in place of Councillor Slattery.

(iii) Audit Committee – Appointment of External Members

The Meetings Administrator stated that the Council was required to consider the nomination of 4 external members to the Audit Committee. 3 Elected Members had been appointed to the Audit Committee at the First Annual Meeting of the Council held on 7th June, 2019. Director, Support Services, informed Members of the 4 external Members and provided Members with a brief profile on each;

David Costelloe: CEO of Sarsfield Credit Union Ltd. with 28 years’ experience in commercial lending, business development, portfolio management, relationship management and distressed debt recovery.

John Coady: Independent Consultant - Former Vice President, Administration and Finance Mary Immaculate College Limerick with overall responsibility for college finances and all non-academic matters including, buildings, insurances, student accommodation

Dr. Brid Quinn: B.Ed (NUI), MA & PhD (UL) retired Lecturer in Public Administration and specialises in European local governance, multi-level governance (MLG) and EU policies and has served as Course Director for the BA Public Administration, BA European Studies, MPA and MA/GD in Partnership Studies. She is co-convenor of the PSAI Specialist Group on Teaching and Learning.

Tony O' Brien: Management Consultant at IRIDA Consulting Ltd. private sector and public sector clients with a particular interest in organisation and operations development and the financial implications of change.

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

“That, the following be appointed as external members to the Audit Committee – (i) Brid Quinn, David Costelloe, John Coady and Tony O’Brien.”

The Mayor declared Brid Quinn, David Costelloe, John Coady and Tony O’Brien appointed as external members to the Audit Committee.

(g) Foreign Travel

(i) Circulated, report of the A/Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, dated 11th September, 2019, seeking retrospective approval to visit by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick to Oslo, Norway.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
Seconded by Councillor Teskey;
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 Oslo, Norway, under Section 142(5) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.”

(ii) Circulated, report of the A/Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, dated 9th September, 2019, seeking retrospective approval to visit by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick to Hangzhou, China.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
Seconded by Councillor Teskey;
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 Hangzhou, China, under Section 142(5) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.”

- (iii) Circulated, report of the A/Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, dated 16th September, 2019, seeking retrospective approval to visit by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick to Spokane, Washington State, USA.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
Seconded by Councillor Teskey;
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 Spokane, Washington State, USA, under Section 142(5) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.”

- (iv) Circulated, report of the A/Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, dated 16th September, 2019, seeking approval to visit by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick to Medellin, Colombia, South America.

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

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

4. Physical Development Directorate

Limerick City and County Council Litter Management Plan 2019-2022

Circulated, report of the Director, Physical Development, dated 3rd September, 2019, enclosing Draft Litter Management Plan 2019-2022, together with Report on Public Consultation and the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports for the Plan.

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

“That, the Limerick City and County Council Litter Management Plan 2019-2022, as circulated, be and is hereby adopted, in accordance with Section 12(4) of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997.”

5. Housing Development Directorate

Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024

Circulated, report of the Director, Housing Development, dated 18th September, 2019, enclosing Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024.

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

“That, the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024, as circulated, be and is hereby adopted, in accordance with the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998.”

6. Service Operations Directorate

Speed Limit Review – Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws 2019

Circulated, report of the Senior Engineer, Operations and Maintenance Department, dated 16th September, 2019, together with County Limerick Road Traffic Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws, 2019, for National, Regional and Local Roads.

Proposed by Councillor Teefy;
 Seconded by Councillor Donegan;
 And Resolved:

“That, the County Limerick Road Traffic Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws, 2019, for National, Regional and Local Roads, as circulated, be and are hereby made, in accordance with Section 9 of the Road Traffic Act, 2004.”

7. Conferences

(i) Participation by Members at Conferences

Details of the following Conferences had been circulated electronically to the Members: (a) La Touche Legacy Weekend – Ireland Through the Turbulent 1930s, held in Greystones, Co. Wicklow, on 13th/14th September, 2019; (b) A Practical Guide to Budget 2020, to be held in Carlingford, Co. Louth, from 11th to 13th October, 2019; (c) Embracing Diversity – A Future Together, to be held in Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo, on 19th October, 2019; (d) Ireland and Plastic Waste, to be held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork, from 25th to 27th October, 2019; (e) Tenth Annual Tourism Policy Workshop, to be held in Dromoland Castle, Co. Clare, on 22nd/23rd November, 2019; (f) Dutch Cycling Study Tour in Utrecht, The Netherlands, from 9th to 12th October, 2019.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Collins (M), the Council approved the attendance of the following Members:

Utrecht, The Netherlands: Councillors Collins (J), Leddin (B), O’Sullivan, Sheehan.

(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 Council.

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:

8. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting what is the up-to-date position on the rental equalisation measures due for implementation in the final Quarter of the current financial year.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council is continuing the back-office administration to harmonise two existing schemes in the City and County. In particular, this involves poverty proofing in excess of 5,000 rent accounts, in addition to linking of I-house and Agresso systems. In addition to the Limerick City and County Council rent accounts, it has come to our attention that HAP (Housing Assistance Payment) and RAS (Rental Accommodation Scheme) tenancies are required to be calibrated also, and this requires a manual update as they are not configured in the same manner as Limerick City and County Council's tenancies. At present, there are approximately 1,200 RAS tenancies and approximately 2,200 HAP tenancies in Limerick.

Given the high number and the manual process required to adjust these, the likely end-of-year completion, the timing of the prior communication to all tenants and Elected Members, it is envisaged that the Single Differential Rent Scheme will be formally introduced in February 2020 by way of Chief Executive's Order.

A Workshop on the detailed parameters of the new Rent Scheme will be workshopped with the Elected Members in Quarter 4, 2019, and a date for this will be advised in the coming weeks with adequate notice.

9. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting what is the scheduled timing of the next Development Plan for the County and City.

REPLY: The Local Government Reform Act, 2014, made provision for the extension of the lifetime of both the Limerick City and Limerick County Development Plans pending the making of a National Planning Framework (NPF) and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES). In accordance with this provision, both Development Plans were extended with no defined expiration date. The 2018 Planning and Development (Amendment) Act requires the preparation of a new Development Plan to commence within 26 weeks of the making of the initial Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

The NPF was published on 16th February, 2018, and the RSES, based on current information, will be adopted by the end of 2019. Therefore, the preparation of the Limerick City and County Development Plan legally must commence within 26 weeks of that date. However, given the outdated nature of both plans, it is proposed that the review will commence with the publication of an Issues Paper in Quarter 2, 2020. This will commence the statutory 99 week process of preparing a new Development

Plan. The preliminary work will commence in advance of this date and briefing meetings with the Elected Members will take place in early 2020.

10. Question submitted by Councillor B. Leddin

I will ask at the next Meeting that the Council provide details of any traffic studies performed by the Council in 2018/2019 and any traffic volumes collected directly by the Council.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council has undertaken traffic counts during 2018/2019 at the following locations: (i) Golf Links Road, (ii) Grove Island; and (iii) Mungret R510. Given the amount of data arising from these traffic counts, which would take some time to collate, it is proposed that if any Member wishes to view the data, access to same could be facilitated at a time convenient.

11. Question submitted by Councillor B. Leddin

I will ask at the next Meeting for a progress report on the Council's plans to develop a cycle lane between Mary Immaculate College and Limerick Institute of Technology.

REPLY: RPS Consultants have been retained to undertake preliminary design of the cycle lanes for both Mary Immaculate College and Limerick Institute of Technology to the city centre routes.

RPS are currently progressing the Limerick Institute of Technology route and Limerick City and County Council intend lodging Part 8 mid to late October. The Mary Immaculate College route will follow and it is intended to submit Part 8 before year-end.

12. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting for the Council to provide examples of how it adheres to its obligation under the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, to incorporate accessibility and universal design for all into planning processes.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council rigorously applies requirements of *Technical Guidance Document M – Access and Use*, to all developments and includes provision for people with disabilities. Compliance with Building Standards is set out in law under the Building Control Acts. Reference documents and standards referred to, and legislation upheld in the preparation of *Technical Guidance Document M – Access and Use*, are fully listed at the back of that document.

It is worth noting that among those documents listed are publications produced by the National Disability Authority. The National Disability Authority is a Statutory Authority that provides information and advice to the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission in its role as the official monitoring body for Ireland's compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The National Disability Authority's work includes the development and provision of statistical information to assist the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission in its review of the adequacy and effectiveness of law and practice in the State relating to the protection of persons with disabilities.

In addition, Limerick City and County Council is liaising with the Older Persons' Forum on Public Realm Works in relation to appropriate street furniture specification, selection of appropriate materials to support ease of movement, location of accessible car parking spaces, etc.

NOTICES OF MOTION

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that this Authority review its policy on the forward sale of gravespace within its burial grounds in Co. Limerick.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan emphasised the importance of buying a grave in advance and referred to cemeteries where this practice is not adhered to. This motion was seconded by Councillor Teskey. Members referred to various graveyards throughout the County. Director, Community Development noted their comments and confirmed the mapping of each grave will be completed as part of the process.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council currently only permits the pre-purchase of gravespaces at Castlemungret and Ballinagaddy Cemeteries. Limerick City and County Council is in the process of developing a draft Burial Grounds Strategy and, as part of the consultation, this policy will be examined further with the relevant Strategic Policy Committee and Elected Members.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council provide a direct public reps support desk, for example similar to Irish Water, in light of difficulties with the current system; also, that reps made by Councillors to various Departments contact should be made directly by phone or email.

Councillor Galvin stated that, with the permission of the Mayor, he wished to withdraw this Motion. This was agreed.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor B. Leddin (to be referred to Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council will allocate 10% of its Transport budget to Cycling.

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

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I call on Limerick Council and all relevant Council departments to support the Make Way Day Campaign on September 26th which draws attention to the needs of people with disabilities in public spaces.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor O'Donovan referred to the significance of the campaign to be held on September 26th and outlined the objectives of the campaign in order to highlight the barriers that are put in place for people with disabilities when trying to access public footpaths and walkways. This Motion was seconded by Councillor Donegan.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Hartigan

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council declare a Climate and Biodiversity emergency.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Hartigan referred to the climate and the serious implications for the future of our citizens. Councillor Hartigan acknowledged the large crowd who supported the climate strike march to Merchants Quay last week . This Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

REPLY: On 9th May, 2019, Dáil Éireann declared a national climate emergency during the debate on the report of the Joint Committee on Climate Action. Ireland became only the second country in the world to make such a declaration.

This declaration has informed national policy development, with the publication of the national Climate Action Plan 2019 in June of this year. This Plan, which deals with climate change mitigation, sets out ambitious targets for all Government Sectors, including Local Government, setting renewed targets for energy efficiency and emissions reductions by 2030. Limerick City and County Council is in the early stages of preparing for the rollout of actions from the Climate Action Plan.

As the Councillor will be aware, the Council has recently adopted a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy which is designed to make the organisation more aware of, and resilient to, the impacts of climate change. The Council has signed up as a partner to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan which promotes the protection and enhancement of biodiversity, and the Council is undertaking a number of pilots dealing with invasive species, such as three-year Department of Community, Heritage and the Gaeltacht-funded removal of Giant Hogweed from the River Loobagh catchment, and the pollinator action areas at three sites in the Metropolitan District – Corbally Meadows, College Park Meadow and adjacent to the weighbridge on Childers' Road. These policies will contribute to the national response to climate action and biodiversity loss.

With the permission of the Mayor, the following Notice of Motion, in the name of Councillor Sheehan, was taken:

17(a) Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

“That, in view of the concerns regarding passenger numbers at Shannon Airport, Limerick City and County Council write to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to ask him to include Shannon Airport in the Government funding of capital projects; to ask his Department to develop a comprehensive aviation policy to include measures to increase passenger numbers at Shannon and to meet with a delegation of Limerick City and County Council in relation to the future of the airport.”

In proposing this Motion, Councillor Sheehan outlined to Members the declining passenger numbers at the airport and referred to their overreliance on London for connectivity. This Motion was seconded by Councillor Mitchell, and agreed. The Mayor also agreed to issue a letter to Clare County Council.

18. 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 SharePoint and 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 SharePoint and Alfresco for inspection by the Members.

Signed:

Mayor

Date:
