

**Minutes of Proceedings at Special Meeting of Limerick City and County Council held in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle, Limerick, on Friday, 15th November, 2019, at 2.00 p.m. in order to discuss RTE's decision to close its Limerick studio and move Lyric FM to Dublin.**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:**

Councillor M. Sheahan, Mayor.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors Butler, Collins (B), Collins (J), Collins (M), Donegan, Egan, Foley, Galvin, Hartigan, Keary, Kiely, Kilcoyne, Leddin (B), Leddin (J), McSweeney, Mitchell, Murphy, O'Dea, O'Donoghue, O'Donovan, O'Hanlon, O'Sullivan, Ryan (M), Scanlan, Secas, Sheahan (J), Sheahan (K), Sheehan, Slattery, Talukder, Teefy,

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive (Mr. P. Daly), Deputy Chief Executive and 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), Communications Officer (Mr. D. Tierney).

The Mayor stated that the Special Meeting had been convened to discuss the issue as set out in Requisition received on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2019, in relation to RTE's decision to close its Limerick studio and move Lyric FM to Dublin, signed by Councillors C. Sheehan, E. Secas, S. Hartigan, B. Leddin, S. Benson, S. Kiely.

The Mayor opened the meeting by welcoming Elected Members and the delegation from Lyric FM & National Union of Journalists in attendance in the gallery.

Councillor Sheehan thanked the Mayor and Members for attending this meeting to discuss RTE's decision to close its Limerick studio and move Lyric FM to Dublin & Cork. Councillor Sheehan provided Members with the history of the radio station and referred to the significant cultural contribution that the station makes to the people of the Mid West and also the educational & outreach programmes that is provided.

Councillor Sheehan proposed that this Council rejects RTE's proposal to close the Limerick studio and relocate Lyric FM to Dublin and Cork and write to Deputy Richard Bruton, Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment and demand that he intervenes to stop the closure and to save Lyric FM. Councillor Sheehan also requested that the Council write to the Cathaoirigh of Clare and Tipperary County Councils requesting

them to oppose the proposal. Councillor Sheehan also requested that the Council write to Ms Dee Forbes, Director General, RTE to ask her to publish the report outlining the rationale for this proposal and to publish the minutes of the RTE board meeting when this decision was made. This proposal was seconded by Councillor O'Sullivan.

In supporting these proposals, Members referred to the important cultural contribution made by Lyric FM and the significance of this decision by RTE and the urgent need to reverse this decision of relocating Lyric FM to Dublin & Cork. Members discussed the impact of this decision on staff and the livelihoods of the staff who have families in Limerick. Members referred to the establishment of the Lyric FM studio in Limerick given the close proximity to the University, access to the University Concert Hall and the rich cultural heritage associated with Limerick. It was proposed by Councillor Collins (B), seconded by Councillor Collins (J) requesting RTE to delay their decision to relocate Lyric FM from Limerick.

Members expressed frustration and disappointment that no alternative solution had been identified and the only option available was to relocate the studio to Dublin & Cork. Members requested transparency and accountability in relation to RTE's decision to relocate the studio to Dublin & Cork.

Members acknowledged the concert, which was held to show support for the reversal of the decision by RTE and referred to the large group of cultural groups that were in attendance.

It was proposed by Councillor Scanlan to amend Councillor Sheehan's motion to include a meeting request with the Minister and that Limerick City and County Council examine property solution options. This amendment was agreed by Councillor Sheehan.

The Mayor thanked Members for their contribution and informed Members that he will be meeting with the Managing Director, Lyric FM on Monday and he will raise the issues highlighted by the Members. He also confirmed that the actions outlined in the meeting would be addressed and Members will be kept updated on the actions.

This concluded the Meeting.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Mayor**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_