

Timeline for completion of the report of the Limerick Directly Elected Mayor Implementation advisory group, and accompanying legislative proposals

There Local Government Act 2019 places a statutory obligation on the Minister to prepare and submit to each House of the Oireachtas “a report specifying proposals for the enactment of a law providing for a directly elected mayor” within 2 years of the plebiscite – ie 24 May 2021. However, there is an existing ministerial commitment accelerate this timeline so that an election for directly elected Mayor may be held in 2021 with subsequent elections coinciding with the local election cycle (ie in 2024).

The Department is still working towards that ambitious timeline despite the current limitations on face to face gatherings. The timeline below outlines a plan which would see elections held in the autumn of 2021.

- **Jan 2020 – Aug 2020**

- Independent Advisory Group consideration of various working papers including
 - Role of cathaoirleach inside the chamber
 - Transfer of functions
 - Governance and oversight
 - Additionality
- Consideration of Legislative implications arising from the decisions of the IAG.
- Preparation of initial draft of the report for consideration and approval by the IAG.

- **June 2020 – July 2020**

- Stakeholder consultation and requests for submissions from key stakeholders (CCMA, AILG etc.)
- Desk based examination of case studies in collaboration with UL.
- Virtual public consultation exercises in collaboration with UL.
- Finalisation and agreement of key elements of the report by the IAG.
- Preliminary drafting of Local Government Act 2021 to take place in tandem.
- Engagement with other departments re additionality

Timeline for completion of the IAG report

- **Aug 2020 – Sept 2020**
 - Consideration by IAG of the results of the consultation and case studies exercises.
 - Report finalised and signed off by the IAG.
 - Legislative proposals to accompany the report completed.
 - Report and legislative proposals submitted to both Houses of Oireachtas in accordance with the 2019 Act.
 - Legislative proposals turned into a draft Bill.

- **Oct 2020 – Dec 2020**
 - passage of Local Government Bill 2020 through the Oireachtas

- **Spring 2021**
 - Preparations for the first Directly Elected Mayor elections in Limerick City & County.

- **Summer 2021**
 - First Directly Elected Mayor elections held in Limerick City & County