

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT SPECIAL MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK
HELD ON FRIDAY, 17TH SEPTEMBER, 2021 at 9.30 A.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE
AND ONLINE**

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor Catherine Slattery, Cathaoirleach

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors Benson, Butler, Collins, Costelloe, Daly, Hartigan, Kiely, Kilcoyne, Leddin, McSweeney, Murphy, Novak Uí Chonchúir, O'Dea, O'Donovan, O'Hanlon, O'Sullivan, Secas, Sheahan (M), Sheehan (C) and Talukder.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, Regeneration (Mr. J. Delaney), Director, Housing (Ms. C. Curley), A/Director, National and Regional Shared Services Centre (Ms. P. King), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Ms. F. McCormack); Senior Executive Officer, Regeneration (Mr. B. Troy), Project Manager, Regeneration (Mr. B. Lynch), Administrative Officer, Regeneration (Ms. E. O'Connor), Staff Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Ms. E. Cousins), Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Ms. S. Carroll).

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Elected Members, Officials, Media and Members of the Public to the Special Meeting. She confirmed that she had agreed to hold a Special Meeting to discuss Regeneration following receipt of a written request from six Elected Members of the Metropolitan District.

Members stated that the 2016 census saw a rise in population in Limerick except in Regeneration areas and in particular, Southill and St. Mary's Park, and in the course of the discussion on Regeneration, the Members raised the following queries;

- How many houses have been demolished as part of the Regeneration Plan in Moyross, Southill, Ballinacurra Weston and St. Mary's Park.
- How many new homes were built and the breakdown of new builds in these areas.
- How many more new builds are planned before the end on Regeneration in 2023?
- Details of the budget and expenditure to date.
- Highlighted the lack of progress on the Thermal Upgrade Programme
- Details in relation to Social Intervention Fund (SIF).
- List of projects and works completed.

Members referred to the sourcing of alternative premises for the Factory Youth Space, Galvone. The facility provided excellent services for young people as well as mental health groups and autism groups.

Members also stated that residents who were relocated from Southill to Wallers Well a number of years ago and do not have deeds to their new homes.

Members expressed concern in relation to proposals to relocate the site for the Community Centre in St. Mary's Park and highlighted the need to have the Centre in the heart of the community.

Members highlighted the need for job creation in the city's employment blackspots. Members welcomed the appointment of a Jobs Co-Ordinator and Social Co-Ordinator.

Members referred to areas outside the Regeneration programme and the lack of funding available to these areas.

Members also expressed concerns in relation the future of the area once the LRFIP is completed. The Members requested a formal meeting structure to be put in place to ensure better communication in relation to programme and status of projects.

The Director, Regeneration gave a PowerPoint presentation on the dedicated Regeneration Directorate, which had been created, and he confirmed that the Team would engage with the Elected Members and community groups.

The PowerPoint presentation covered the following items:

- The appointment of Social Regeneration Coordinator & Jobs Initiative Coordinator.
- Details on Physical Regeneration – Replacement Housing; proposed that 513 housing units would be built. 269 have been completed to date and various units at pretender and tender stage.
- Outlined the status of Thermal Upgrade Programme.
- SIF have funded 137 projects.
- Social Regeneration -school attendance, community safety and local facilities had improved under the Regeneration Plan.
- Details on Pathways to Employment Initiative.
- Future delivery plans under the LRFIP.

The Director, Regeneration confirmed to Members that a Meeting was held with Limerick Youth Service and continuous engagement with external agencies involved in Regeneration. He noted the Members comments and confirmed that a formal communication structure will be implemented in order to update Members on progress of the Programme.

It was proposed by Councillor Kiely, seconded by Councillor O'Sullivan and agreed to adjourn the meeting to allow time for responses to the issues raised. It was agreed that a further meeting would be held at a date to be decided.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

CATHAOIRLEACH

Dated:
