

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, AND ONLINE, ON MONDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER, 2021, AT 3PM.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor D. Butler, Mayor.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Benson, Carey, Collins (B), Collins (J), Collins (M), Costelloe, Daly, Donegan, Egan, Foley, Galvin, Hartigan, Keary, Kiely, Kilcoyne, Leddin, 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 (M), Sheehan (C), Slattery, Talukder, Teefy, Teskey.

An apology for her inability to attend the Meeting was received from Councillor Novak Uí Chonchúir.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Deputy Chief Executive and Director, Support Services (Mr. S. Coughlan), Director, Housing (Ms. C. Curley), Director, Community, Tourism and Culture (Mr. G. Daly), Director, Regeneration (Mr. J. Delaney), Director, Planning, Environment and Place-Making (Ms. N. Gallagher), Director, Transportation and Mobility (Mr. B. Kennedy), A/Director, Economic Development and Enterprise (Mr. V. Murray), A/Director, National and Regional Shared Services (Ms. P. King), Head of Property and Community Facilities (Ms. J. Leahy), Administrative Officer, Property and Community Facilities (Ms. T. Knox), Meetings Administrator (Ms. L. Flannery), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. F. McCormack).

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from the Chief Executive and Director, National and Regional Shared Services.

Councillor Sheahan (J) sought clarification in relation to a Notice of Motion submitted from the Municipal District of Newcastle West which had not been included on the agenda. As further information had come to hand, Councillor Sheahan (J) requested that the Motion be discussed. The Mayor confirmed that the decision of the Corporate Policy Group was based on the information available at the time and agreed to allow this issue to be discussed later in the Meeting as further clarification had been received in the interim.

Councillor Keary wished for his disappointment to be noted that a Notice of Motion submitted by the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale did not appear on the agenda. The Mayor confirmed that the Motion had been removed following receipt of legal advice, which was subsequently circulated to the Municipal District Members.

1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Circulated, copies of draft Minutes of the following Meetings:

- (a) Annual Meeting of the Council held on 30th June, 2021.
- (b) Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 5th July, 2021.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);

Seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon;

And Resolved:

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

Councillor Keary referred to Item No. 17 in the Minutes of Meeting of 5th July, 2021, in relation to a Briefing from Limerick 2030 Strategic Development DAC. The Deputy Chief Executive confirmed that a Briefing would be held on Friday, 8th October, 2021, and Members would be notified of this in due course.

Councillor Collins (M) referred to the discussion on the pyrite remediation scheme at the Meeting of 5th July, 2021, and the list of Council properties affected. The Director, Housing, confirmed that details of the Council properties affected would be circulated.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

With the permission of the Mayor, the Council expressed its sympathy to the following:

- The family of Margaret O'Malley, member of Staff of the Housing Department, on her sudden and untimely passing, and particularly her brother-in-law, Matt O'Malley, also a member of Staff.
- Mark Leahy, member of Staff, on the passing of his father, Paddy Leahy.
- The family of the late Des O'Malley, former Minister and founder of the Progressive Democrats.
- The family of the late Dr. Thomas Ryan, Freeman of Limerick.

A minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect.

2. Declaration of Interest

The Meetings Administrator stated that, in line with Part 15 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, and the Code of Conduct, she was inviting those present to notify the Mayor of any declaration of interest in any item due for discussion at the Meeting. No such interests were declared.

3. Disposal of Land

- (a) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 29th July, 2021, concerning disposal of land at Ballywilliam, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
 Seconded by Councillor Sheehan (C);
 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 Ballywilliam, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick, to Neilus Duggan, for the sum of €195.42, 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, 2021.”

- (b) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 29th July, 2021, concerning disposal of land at 12, Woodvale, Foynes, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
 Seconded by Councillor Sheehan (C);
 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 12, Woodvale, Foynes, Co. Limerick, to Anthony Murphy, for the sum of €195.42, 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, 2021.”

- (c) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 29th July, 2021, concerning disposal of land at Knockboheen, Kilcolman, Ardagh, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
 Seconded by Councillor Sheehan (C);
 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 Knockboheen, Kilcolman, Ardagh, Co. Limerick, to Kevin Daly, for the sum of €195.42, 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, 2021.”

- (d) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 29th July, 2021, concerning disposal of land at 29, Clarke Avenue, Janesboro, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
 Seconded by Councillor Sheehan (C);
 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 29, Clarke Avenue, Janesboro, Limerick, to Helen O’Halloran, for the sum of €299.20, 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 29th July, 2021.”

- (e) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 23rd August, 2021, concerning disposal of land at Touknockane, Co. Tipperary.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
Seconded by Councillor Sheehan (C);
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 0.44 ha of land at Touknockane, Co. Tipperary, to Tipperary County Council, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 23rd August, 2021.”

- (f) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 1st September, 2021, concerning disposal of property at 8 Gaol Lane, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
Seconded by Councillor Sheehan (C);
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 residential property at 8 Gaol Lane, Limerick, to Mr. Thomas Ryan and Ms. Mary Ryan, in exchange for 58 St. Munchin’s Street, St. Mary’s Park, Limerick, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 1st September, 2021.”

- (g) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 2nd September, 2021, concerning disposal of property at 56, Delmege Park, Moyross, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
Seconded by Councillor Sheehan (C);
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 residential property at 56, Delmege Park, Moyross, Limerick, to Mr. James Daly, in exchange for 130 Delmege Park, Moyross, Limerick, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 2nd September, 2021.”

- (h) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 14th September, 2021, concerning disposal of property at Croagh Commons, Croagh, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
 Seconded by Councillor Sheehan (C);
 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 0.38 acres of land at Croagh Commons, Croagh, Co. Limerick, to Mr. Denis Kenneally and Ms. Margaret Kenneally, for the sum of €5,000, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 14th September, 2021.”

Councillor Keary sought clarification from Property Services regarding the address of this disposal. Property services agreed to review the address.

- (i) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 14th September, 2021, concerning disposal of House at Moneymohill, Ballyhahill, Co. Limerick (V94A8DT).

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
 Seconded by Councillor Sheehan (C);
 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 house at Moneymohill, Ballyhahill, Co. Limerick (V94A8DT), to Mr. John Sheahan, for the sum of €49,000, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 14th September, 2021.”

Councillor Sheahan (J) wished it to be noted for the record that the disposal in this case to a Mr. John Sheahan did not relate to him.

- (j) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 14th September, 2021, concerning disposal of house at Moneymohill, Ballyhahill, Co. Limerick (V94WK4W).

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
 Seconded by Councillor Sheehan (C);
 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 house at Moneymohill, Ballyhahill, Co. Limerick (V94WK4W), to Mr. Leon Fitzpatrick, for the sum of €37,000, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 14th September, 2021.”

- (k) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 14th September, 2021, concerning disposal of property at Glensharrold, Carrickerry, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
 Seconded by Councillor Sheehan (C);
 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 containing a bungalow on a 0.38 hectare site at Glensharrold, Carrickerry, Co. Limerick, to Margaret Aherne, for the sum of €95,100, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 14th September, 2021.”

- (l) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 14th September, 2021, concerning disposal of property 6 and 7 Gerard Street, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
 Seconded by Councillor Sheehan (C);
 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 residential property (0.031 acres) at 6 and 7 Gerard Street, Limerick, to Michael Finucane, for the sum of €360,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the Contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 14th September, 2021.”

- (m) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 16th September, 2021, concerning disposal of property at Galvone Industrial Estate, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
 Seconded by Councillor Sheehan (C);
 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 24,503 sq. ft. at Rigid Reel Store Building, Galvone Industrial Estate, Limerick, to VPK Packaging Limited, for an annual rent of €3.50 per sq. ft. per annum (€85,760.50 per annum in total), the disposal to be by way of Lease Agreement for a period of three years and subject to the covenants and conditions contained therein, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 16th September, 2021.”

Members discussed the process in relation to the disposal of properties and sought clarification in this regard. The Deputy Chief Executive confirmed that the disposals were noted at Municipal District Meetings prior to their inclusion on the Plenary Council agenda for approval. Clarification was also sought if the disposal of land could be devolved to the Municipal District. The Mayor agreed to discuss this with the Executive and noted that the disposal of land was a Reserved Function.

4. Support Services

(a) Fixing of Date – Statutory Budget Meeting

Circulated, copy of Department Circular Fin 16-2021 dated 6th September, 2021, in relation to the 2022 Statutory Budget Meeting and other budgetary matters.

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

Briefing on Budget 2022: Friday, 19th November, 2021, at 3pm.

2022 Statutory Budget Meeting: Friday, 26th November, 2021, at 10 am.

(b) Overdraft Accommodation

The Director, Support Services, advised that the approval of the Council was required to bank overdraft accommodation in the sum of €50m for the 12 month period to 31st December, 2022.

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

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to bank overdraft accommodation in the sum of €50m for the 12 month period to 31st December, 2022, subject to the sanction of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and in accordance with Section 106(2) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.”

(c) Chief Executive’s Report

Circulated, Chief Executive’s Reports for the months of June, July and August 2021.

The Reports were noted by the Council.

(d) Foreign Travel

(i) Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services dated 13th September, 2021, seeking retrospective approval to a visit by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick to Huy and Landen, Belgium, from

19th to 21st July, 2021, to attend a Presentation of the ‘Sarsfield Homecoming Project’ to Huy City Council by the Honorary Consul of France, followed by a visit to the site where Patrick Sarsfield was believed to be buried; and a tour of the battlefield in Landen where he was fatally wounded.

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

“That, in accordance with Section 142 (5) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, retrospective approval of the Council be and is hereby given to a visit by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick to Huy and Landen, Belgium, from 19th - 21st July, 2021, as part of the Sarsfield Homecoming Project.”

- (ii) Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services, dated 13th September, 2021, seeking retrospective approval to a visit by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick to Lahti, Finland, on 8th/9th September, 2021, to attend the European Green Capital 2023 and European Green Leaf 2022 Awards Ceremony.

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

“That, retrospective approval of the Council be and is hereby given, in accordance with Section 142 (5) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, to a visit by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick to Lahti, Finland, on 8th/9th September, 2021, to attend the European Green Capital 2023 and European Green Leaf 2022 Awards Ceremony.”

(e) Strategic Policy Committee Reports

- (i) **Meeting of Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee:** Next Meeting scheduled for 11th October, 2021.

The position was noted by the Council.

- (ii) **Meeting of Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee:** Next Meeting scheduled for 5th October, 2021.

The position was noted by the Council.

- (iii) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee dated 9th September, 2021, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 8th July, 2021.

The Report was noted by the Council.

- (iv) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee dated 30th July, 2021, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 9th July, 2021.

The Report was noted by the Council.

- (v) **Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee:** Next Meeting scheduled for 20th October, 2021.

The position was noted by the Council.

5. Community, Tourism and Culture

(a) King John's Castle, Limerick

The Director, Community, Tourism and Culture, outlined to Members the proposal in relation to the transfer of King John's Castle from Shannon Heritage to a wholly owned subsidiary company of Limerick City and County Council. He stated that this transfer was undergoing a due diligence process. The Director indicated that 1st January, 2022, was the timeline for the transfer. However, this date was subject to the completion of the due diligence process and the approval of the Government. He confirmed to Members that the staff would transfer to the subsidiary company on their existing terms and conditions.

The Members raised the following issues:

- Opening and closing times of King John's Castle.
- Communication with staff and unions.
- Transfer of staff from Shannon Heritage.
- Opening up the Castle to music and other events to attract more visitors.
- Membership of the Board of the subsidiary company.

The Director noted the comments of the Elected Members. In response to the queries raised, he stated that operational times of the Castle would be reviewed. He confirmed that there was regular communication with Shannon Heritage in relation to this process and once the due diligence process was completed, it was the intention of the Chief Executive to meet with the staff. He noted the Members' comments in relation to expanding the programme of events and stated that the Council would be ambitious in the operation and promotion of the Castle in the future. The Director stated that the company would be reporting back to the Full Council on a regular basis and that the Elected Members would have representatives on the Board.

(b) Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2021/2022

Circulated, report of the Arts Officer dated 14th September, 2021, seeking the Council's approval to recommended allocations under Limerick City and County Council Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2021/2022.

Proposed by Councillor O'Hanlon;
Seconded by Councillor Kiely;
And Resolved:

"That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to allocations under Limerick City and County Council's Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2021/2022, as recommended, and as set out in the report of the Arts Officer dated 14th September, 2021."

(c) Individual Arts Bursary Awards Scheme 2021

Circulated, report of the Arts Officer dated 15th September, 2021, seeking the Council's approval to Individual Arts Bursaries 2021.

Proposed by Councillor O'Hanlon;
Seconded by Councillor Kiely;
And Resolved:

"That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to Individual Arts Bursary Awards 2021, as recommended, and as set out in the report of the Arts Officer dated 15th September, 2021."

(d) Dolores O'Riordan Music Bursary Scheme 2021

Circulated, report of the Arts Officer dated 15th September, 2021, seeking the Council's approval to the Dolores O'Riordan Music Bursary Award 2021.

Proposed by Councillor Teefy;
Seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon;
And Resolved:

"That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the Dolores O'Riordan Music Bursary Award 2021, as recommended, and as set out in the report of the Arts Officer dated 15th September, 2021."

Civic Reception – Limerick Senior Hurlers

The Mayor referred to the recent All-Ireland success of the Limerick senior hurlers and proposed that the Council hold a Civic Reception in recognition of same.

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

"That, in accordance with Section 74 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the grant of a Civic Reception to honour the Limerick Senior Hurlers in recognition of their achievement in winning the 2021 All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship."

6. Transportation and Mobility

Limerick City and County Council Road Traffic (30 km/h Special Speed Limit) Bye-Laws 2021

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer, Operations and Maintenance Services, dated 8th September, 2021, in relation to the making of the Limerick City and County Council Road Traffic (30 km/h Special Speed Limit) Bye-Laws, 2021, together copy of the Bye-Laws, Maps and Overview.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);

Seconded by Councillor Ryan (E);

And Resolved:

“That, the Limerick City and County Council Road Traffic (30 km/h Special Speed Limit) Bye-Laws, 2021, as circulated, be and are hereby made, in accordance with Section 9 of the Road Traffic Act, 2004.”

7. Conferences

(a) Participation by Members at Conferences

Details of the following Conferences had been circulated electronically to the Members: (a) “Health and Safety in the Workplace” held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork, from 24th to 26th September, 2021; (b) “The Fair Deal Scheme – What’s the Deal with Nursing Home Care?” to be held in Carlingford, Co. Louth, from 1st to 3rd October, 2021; (c) “Mental Health and Wellbeing” to be held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork, from 8th to 10th October, 2021; (d) “A Practical Guide to Budget 2022” to be held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork, from 15th to 17th October, 2021; (e) “Housing for All – How will it help People find Homes” to be held in Carlingford, Co. Louth, from 29th to 31st October, 2021.

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

Clonakilty, Co. Cork (24th-26th September, 2021): Councillors Leddin and Kilcoyne.

Carlingford, Co. Louth (1st – 3rd October, 2021): Councillor Donegan.

Carlingford, Co. Louth (29th – 31st October, 2021): Councillors O’Hanlon, McSweeney, Scanlan, Slattery, Sheahan (M).

(b) 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.

Irish Water

As agreed at the commencement of the Meeting, Councillor Sheahan (J) stated that he wished to raise an item in relation to Irish Water and, with the permission of the Mayor, he proposed the following Motion:

“I propose that Irish Water, as a utility company, be wound down and disbanded forthwith and replaced by giving autonomy to Local Authorities to provide same by Block Grants from the National Exchequer.”

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Sheahan (J) referred to the stress experienced by owners of commercial properties, farmers and families who had faced water shortages. He acknowledged the work of the local authority staff. However, he stated that the utility company was under-funded and that the Service Level Agreement was not fit for purpose.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin and agreed.

Members expressed frustration with the service provided by Irish Water acknowledging it was a nationwide problem at present.

The Deputy Chief Executive referred to the Water Services (No. 2) Act 2013 which provided for the transfer of water service functions from Local Authorities to Irish Water. The Act provided for the establishment of Service Level Agreements between Irish Water and Local Authorities for the performance, on behalf of Irish Water, by the Local Authority of certain functions. The Act allowed for such an Agreement to make provision for its termination and its review and, indeed, specified a review not later than 2 years, and again not later than 7 years, after the Agreement was made. Limerick City Council and Limerick County Council both entered into Service Level Agreements (SLA) with Irish Water under the Act with an effective date of 1st January, 2014, and a term of 12 years, unless terminated sooner. The SLA provided for a review at the start of year 3 and year 8 (2022). Limerick City and County Council had agreed to deliver public water supply and waste water treatment services in accordance with the SLA and an Annual Service Plan in collaboration and with the support of Irish Water. Changes to the SLA may be proposed by either Irish Water or Limerick City and County Council and, where same occurred, were required to be agreed by the National Management Process. The Deputy Chief Executive confirmed the Executive would engage nationally in terms of the agreement.

The Deputy Chief Executive also encouraged Members to attend the quarterly workshops between the Council and Irish Water.

Councillor Sheehan (C) asked for it to be noted in the Minutes that he was opposed to the Motion.

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 E. Secas

I will ask at the next Meeting if the Council has gone to tender yet for grass cutting and tree surgery works in the city and county.

REPLY: The tender for Tree Surgery for City and County has been advertised and a framework of Contractors are expected to be in place early October.

The existing three-year grass cutting contract is nearing completion and will cease at the end of October 2021. The Council will be advertising for the new grass cutting contract in November of this year. The Council is considering changing the requirements in the grass cutting contract as an action to comply with its responsibilities in the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. The changes envisaged will look at the possibility of delaying grass cutting at the start of the grass cutting season in appropriate areas and will also look at the possibility of six weekly cuts in other areas. It is important to note that these changes will be focussed only on open green areas in housing estates and other public areas. In order to gauge interest from the public on any proposed changes, the Council will consult with the public during the month of October and will use the feedback to inform the requirements for the grass cutting contract.

The Council has piloted a number of areas under the Bee Friendly campaign in the last two years. This has served to raise awareness with the general public and it is now considered opportune to make further changes to its grass cutting regime in the City and County.

9. Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will ask at the next Meeting for the Council to outline what engagement it has had with Waterways Ireland in relation to the maintenance of the Guinness Canal between Lock Quay and the University of Limerick.

REPLY: The Council has met with Waterways Ireland in relation to the maintenance of the Canal and discussed a number of maintenance measures for the Canal and Lock Quay area. Waterways Ireland will undertake a programme of work that will see the railings painted at Lock Quay, the brick paving replaced and all rubbish in the canal removed. Waterways Ireland have advised that this programme of work will be completed by 31st October, 2021.

Waterways Ireland will also arrange for the vegetation in the Canal at Lock Quay to be removed. They will prepare a Screening Report and will seek the appropriate environmental permissions to have the vegetation removed.

The presence of the algal bloom was also discussed with Waterways Ireland. It is expected that the algae will dissipate as the temperature drops over the next number of weeks.

The Council is commencing discussions with Waterways Ireland regarding the long term maintenance of the Canal with a view to having an annual programme in place to ensure the Canal is maintained to an appropriate standard.

NOTICES OF MOTION

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Novak Uí Chonchúir

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council consider the appointment of a Biodiversity Officer.

In the absence of Councillor Novak and with her agreement, this Motion was proposed by Councillor Hartigan who also proposed that it be amended to include the appointment of a Tree Officer. He stated that a Tree Officer would coordinate the management of the tree resource in a sustainable, cost-effective manner and help develop the Council's Tree Strategy.

The amended Motion was seconded by Councillor Secas.

REPLY: The Council, in accordance with the National Biodiversity Plan, is committed to protecting and enhancing the biodiversity of the County. This is a key objective of the Draft Development Plan and the Council has assigned a number of staff to undertake a range of plans and projects, including supporting community biodiversity initiatives.

Following the Council's commitment to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan in 2019, the Team has developed a number of pollinator-friendly projects, including the creation of flower meadows across our parks in the last two years. The Council is also currently preparing a Blue and Green Infrastructure Strategy for the City, which will provide a framework for nature-based solutions, the development of connecting ecological corridors, and the identification of projects to enhance our biodiversity.

The Council will seek to continue to build on these plans and initiatives over the coming years on a cross-departmental basis, having consideration to our wider climate action obligations. The Council is currently reviewing the work programme and resources and this will include consideration to a biodiversity officer and/or assigned responsibilities within the overall environmental strategy structure.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale (Councillors S. Keary (Proposer), B. Collins, E. O'Brien, J. O'Donoghue K. Sheahan, A. Teskey)

We will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council communicate with central government to change the current protocol on the grass-cutting process, in the interests of safety.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Keary referred to the grass-cutting process and, in particular, expressed concerns about the frequency of the grass-cutting on the N21.

In seconding the Motion, Councillor Galvin also referred to the N21 and, in particular, the condition of various junctions when motorists were accessing the national primary routes.

It was agreed that the Motion would be forwarded to the relevant Government Department.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock (Councillors J. Egan (Proposer), P.J. Carey, M. Donegan, G. Mitchell, E. Ryan, M. Ryan, B. Teefy)

We will move at the next Meeting that, in consultation with CIE, the railway line from Limerick to Limerick Junction be upgraded to ensure better connection to Cork.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Egan and seconded by Councillor Teefy.

REPLY: The dual tracking of the rail line from Limerick Junction to Colbert Station in Limerick has been identified as a medium-term objective in the Implementation Plan of the Draft Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy. The Council will continue to liaise with Iarnród Éireann and the National Transport Authority in this regard.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Hartigan

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council identify Council-owned sites suitable for afforestation under the Woodland Creation on Public Lands Scheme.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Hartigan stated that the purpose of the Woodland Creation on Public Lands Scheme was to encourage Public Bodies to establish new native woodlands on suitable bare land. He outlined the benefits of the scheme and encouraged the involvement of Limerick City and County Council in the Woodland Creation on Public Lands Scheme.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J).

Councillor Galvin wished for it to be noted that he was opposed to the Motion.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council call on the Government and the HSE to deliver proper recognition and compensation for healthcare workers at the frontline of the Health Service for their risk, sacrifice and exceptional efforts during the COVID-19 crisis.

This Motion was adjourned to the November Meeting of the Council.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock (Councillors G. Mitchell (Proposer), P.J. Carey, M. Donegan, J. Egan, E. Ryan, M. Ryan, B.Teefy

We will move at the next Meeting that the Government and the Local Authority use wool produce from sheep for house, business and commercial insulation as the price is on the floor at the moment. This accordingly would support farmers and the local economy.

This Motion was adjourned to the November Meeting of the Council.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to demand the full implementation of the recommendations of the Implementation Advisory Group report in relation to the legislation for the Directly Elected Mayor of Limerick.

This Motion was adjourned to the November Meeting of the Council.

17. 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: _____