

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT ADJOURNED SPECIAL MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD ON MONDAY, 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2021 at 12 NOON 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’Sullivan, Secas, Sheahan (M), Sheehan (C) and Talukder.

Apologies for his inability to attend had been received from Councillor O’Hanlon.

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Director, Regeneration (Mr. J. Delaney), Director, Housing (Ms. C. Curley), Meetings Administrator (Mr. M. Leahy), Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services (Ms. L. Flannery); Senior Executive Officer, Regeneration (Mr. B. Troy), Project Manager, Regeneration (Mr. B. Lynch), Administrative Officers, Regeneration (Ms. E. O’Connor and Ms. S. Clifford), Social Co-Ordinator, Regeneration (Mr. T. O’Neill), Senior Executive Architect, Regeneration (Ms. C. Corry), 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 Adjourned Special Meeting. She noted that a Report from the Regeneration Directorate, dated 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2021, had been circulated prior to the Meeting.

The Director, Regeneration gave an overview of the Report, dated 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021, from the Regeneration Directorate, which had previously been circulated to Members.

The Members welcomed the report, and made the following observations and raised the following queries:

- Further details requested in relation to CCTV Upgrade Works in Ballinacurra Weston and Southill, and proposals for CCTV in Churchfield Phases 1 and 2;
- CCTV camera footage should be utilised where possible for enforcement action by Limerick City and County Council and An Garda Síochána;
- Further details requested on public realm / environmental upgrading works;
- Query in relation to why the Palm Court Project was on hold;
- The Members agreed that, where possible, that there should be a focus on smaller housing projects featuring 1 and 2 bedroom units;
- Costs relating to the Thermal Upgrade Programme;
- Update requested on the Turner Vinery;
- Details of funding spent on Opera Centre Stabilisation works;
- Update requested on the Jobs Co-Ordinator position which had recently been vacated;
- Amount of funding spent on demolition and the need for increased levels of housing provision and more focus on rebuilding communities;
- All Regeneration Areas should be treated the same and have the same level of focus and

resources applied to them;

- Regeneration's role in relation to the Land Development Agency and the proposed Colbert Station development;
- The commitment to provide alternative accommodation for Limerick Youth Service following the disposal of the premises they were occupying at Galvone Industrial Estate;
- Update on John Carew Park Link Road and the importance of improved connectivity for Regeneration areas;
- Update on refurbishment of Our Lady of Lourdes Community Centre;
- Suggestion that the Regeneration Plan should be reviewed annually;
- Issue relating to St. Mary's Roundabout being difficult for school children to access;
- Concern expressed that the Community Centre in St. Mary's Park may not be delivered;
- Amount of expenditure incurred in acquiring housing from the private market in non-Regeneration areas;
- Requirement for an Administrative Officer Grade to be appointed to the Northside Office;
- Operation of the Social Intervention Fund and the importance of it providing access to opportunities for residents of the regeneration areas and how are measures evaluated;
- Update on proposed Horse Project;
- Update on Southill Junior School;
- The importance of planning for the post Regeneration period and making provision for additional funding budgets in areas like housing maintenance;
- The need for faster delivery of Part 8 projects in Regeneration Areas;
- Traveller Accommodation, and specifically Clonlong and Toppin's Field halting sites, did not feature in the report.
- The importance of engaging with development agencies to drive employment creation in Regeneration Areas;

The Director and Officials of Regeneration responded to queries raised by the Members as follows:

- The Director, Regeneration confirmed that quarterly updates on Regeneration would be given at Metropolitan Meetings and that Regeneration Staff would be available to attend Monthly Area Briefings, or give a Briefing on a particular issue when required.
- The Churchfield Phase 2 development was in progress and further discussions were taking place with the community in relation to the Palm Court project;
- 200 CCTV Cameras were in place in Regeneration areas and improvement works were ongoing but the local authority had to operate these within the constraints laid down by the Office of the Data Protection Commission;
- Clarification will be sought and an update provided in relation to the Turner Vinery;
- It was confirmed that a new Jobs Co-Ordinator would be appointed to replace the outgoing person;
- The National Transport Authority were supportive of the Regeneration Programme in general and the Metropolitan Transportation Study was very important in relation to connectivity issues;
- The Thermal Upgrade Programme is over 80% complete and it was anticipated that the remainder would be completed in the coming months. It was also confirmed that the costs of Thermal Upgrade Works vary from area to area, as some older housing stock require more works;
- Connectivity projects had been carried out between Moyross and Ballynanty but further works were required.

- Issues relating to St. Mary's Roundabout would be discussed with the Transportation Directorate;
- It was confirmed that discussions are ongoing with Limerick Youth Service to retain the facility at Galvone Industrial Estate until an alternative facility is in place;
- Meetings had taken place in relation to Our Lady of Lourdes Community Centre and further discussions were planned;
- New housing projects were commencing with a focus on mixed tenure in estates;
- Regeneration will have an input in the Land Development Agency project at Colbert Station, but the Housing Directorate will input primarily in relation to this development;
- The John Carew Park Link Road had been included in N7 Project but there were issues in delivering it;
- Significant engagement was ongoing in relation to the Community Centre for St. Mary's Park;
- There were plans for an Administrative Officer grade for the Northside Office;
- Social Intervention Fund outcomes are measured via standard indicators such as educational attainment, re-engagement with education, jobs created and social enterprises created or expanded;
- Funding is provided in the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan (LRIP) and proposals for the Horse Project would be brought forward shortly;
- A further update will be provided in relation to the acquisition of private housing;
- Regeneration will work with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to ensure that funding is in place for projects beyond 2023.
- A breakdown will be provided in relation to funding for the Opera Centre stabilisation works but it was confirmed that works outside the Regeneration Areas were allowed for under the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan (LFRIP), as part of the overall development for Limerick;
- Public realm and environmental works were ongoing each year, i.e. rubbish removal, grass cutting, etc.;
- It was confirmed that the Regeneration Plan, launched in 2013, was interlinked with Limerick 2030 Plan;
- Certain areas of land in the Regeneration Areas is zoned in the Development Plan for development and the Regeneration Directorate will link with the Economic Development Directorate in relation to possible employment creation opportunities in Regeneration areas.

The Cathaoirleach, on behalf of the Members, thanked the Regeneration Team for the report and welcomed the commitment to provide updates to the Members on a quarterly basis and at Operational Area Briefings. She noted the work completed to date in Regeneration areas and the interagency co-operation and involvement.

She also commended the positive engagement, hard work and commitment of local community and voluntary groups in the Regeneration areas, who were working with the local authority and other agencies in order to improve the lives of all who reside in the Regeneration areas.

This concluded the Meeting.

**Signed:**

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**CATHAOIRLEACH**

**Dated:**

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