

Council Meeting to be held on Monday, 11th July, 2022

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

We will move at the next Meeting that the current bi-monthly meetings of the Full Council would revert to blended hybrid monthly meetings.

REPLY:

Background:

A similar motion was also moved by Councillor Keary in 2016 and 2020. On both occasions, it was agreed that Meetings of the Full Council would continue to meet bi-monthly but that the SPC meetings would be held in intervening months to allow detailed discussion on any policy issues before they are referred to Full Council for approval.

Matters to be considered in regard to the Motion:

Existing Number of Meetings Annually

Based on the table below, every Councillor in his/her respective membership of the Full Council/Municipal or Metropolitan District/two SPCs currently attends **30 meetings** per year from those meetings alone as follows:

- | | |
|---|----|
| • Plenary Council Bi-Monthly, Annual and Budget Meetings | 8 |
| • Metropolitan / Municipal District Monthly and Annual Meetings | 12 |
| • SPC Meetings | 10 |

In addition, Councillors attend JPC meetings, LCDC meetings, various other sub-committee meetings as well as briefings and workshops.

Role of Municipal/Metropolitan District Councils

Municipal Districts now have an enhanced policy provision remit since 2014. Members can move Motions and Questions relevant to their District at their respective monthly meetings. It should also be noted that Standing Orders for Full Council provide that "Motions which relate to the business of the Metropolitan/Municipal District may only be submitted to the relevant District."

Therefore, only matters of wider strategic application are generally decided at Plenary level and the Municipal Districts should continue to perform a range of functions relevant to their own District at their statutory monthly meetings.

Special Meetings of Full Council

An option available under existing Standing Orders is to hold Special Meetings to deal with Full Council business or any issues that may arise in the period between Council Meetings. In 2021, each Elected Member would have attended 9 Special Meetings of the Full Council. The Municipal Districts would also have held a number of Special Meetings.

Additional Resource requirement:

The additional cost of Monthly Full Council Meetings requires consideration in light of tightening budgets. The additional draw on staff to administer additional Full Council Meetings and the associated additional SPC Meetings must also be considered.

Current arrangements:

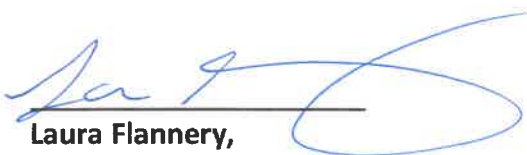
With the revised SPC arrangements now in place for over four years, it has been found that the five (5) SPC Chairperson's reports are consistently provided as agenda items of each bi-monthly Full Council Meeting and policies agreed at SPC are considered for approval at Full Council Meetings.

Any change to Monthly Meetings would require a realignment of all meetings to synchronise with this change, including the current integrated series of Council Meetings / SPC Meetings to deal with policy matters of the Council. A change to Monthly Full Council Meetings would require SPCs to change to monthly meetings also. It would also require a review of the current arrangements pertaining to issues dealt with each month at District Level.

The current system has worked effectively since the changes adopted in July 2016. The addition of a further five Ordinary Full Council Meetings and, by extension, five additional monthly SPC meetings, would further add to pressures on Elected Members on top of the existing large workload.

Having regard to the matters outlined above, it is proposed that Full Council Meetings would continue to be held on a bi-monthly basis in January, March, May, July, September and November in addition to the Annual Meeting, Budget Meetings and Special Meetings as required.

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**Laura Flannery,
Senior Executive Officer,
Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services.**

MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON Monday 11th July, 2022

Notice of Motion submitted by the Municipal District of Newcastle West – Councillors L. Galvin (Proposer), F. Foley, J. Scanlan, J. Sheahan, T. Ruddle

We will move at the next Meeting that responsibility for the maintenance and allocation of Council-owned property in the Newcastle West Municipal District is returned to the Municipal District with adequate staff to manage same.

(a) Maintenance of stock

The maintenance of the social housing stock is arranged on an area basis being Metro, Newcastle West, Adare/Rathkeale and Cappamore/Kilmallock.

Stock within the Municipal District of Newcastle West is maintained through the housing maintenance team in the district.

Each area has a direct labour team and use contractors as required for particular services (plumbing, electrical etc.) This mix allows flexibility which can respond as required to the fluctuating level of maintenance requests.

Requests for maintenance are received through Customer Services, cases are created and logged and entered on to the Sugar/CRM system. They are then allocated to the relevant area and team for action (Housing Maintenance).

As background the level of cases in NCW received per month and closure rate is shown below.

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June
Cases Created	109	124	108	108	101	87
Cases Closed	106	273	80	80	139	149

The maintenance budget for the district is broadly similar year-on-year and is balanced to the level of demand that is presented in the area and the number of units as a percentage of the overall housing stock.

The staffing and resource availability is adequate to the level of demand being experienced in the district.

(b) Pre-lets/Voids

Though not referenced in the NOM pre-lets and voids are also returned through the area office.

Some larger scale returns are completed by Housing Construction once the scope of work has been established and if that is a more efficient method of return.

Again, use is made of the direct labour teams and contractors depending upon the nature of works and volume of works on hand at any particular time. This blend is the most effective method for returns as it can make best use of the particular advantages of both approaches. Using contractors allows additional resources to be mobilised as required while direct labour teams are very flexible and can respond at short notice as may be required.

The outline procedure is that on the return of the dwelling it is firstly inspected to determine the level of works required. A cost estimate is then prepared and the dwelling is issued to the area for return works to be undertaken. A budget is also allocated for completion of the works. Using either direct labour or contractors is an operational decision based upon the workload at the time and the nature and extent of works required.

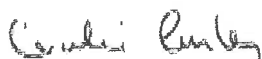
As at July 6th, there are 15 units in the process of being returned by NCW housing maintenance team. Of these, 5 are currently on-site and works are progressing, 1 is in the procurement/design phase and 9 have been returned and are to be inspected.

(c) Allocation of houses

The allocation of houses is an executive function carried out in accordance with the Council's Housing Allocation Scheme. This function is done on a centralised basis to ensure appropriate expertise is available and has proven to be the most effective and efficient.

Conclusion:

The maintenance of Council housing is carried out on a District basis while the allocation of houses is carried out on a centralised basis. It is not recommended to change this operational method.



Caroline Curley
Director of Services,
Housing Development Directorate



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Luimnigh

Limerick City
& County Council

Stúirthóireacht Iompair agus Soghluaiseachta
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COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 11th JULY 2022.

Notice of Motion submitted by the Municipal District of Newcastle West – Councillors J. Sheahan (Proposer), F. Foley, L. Galvin, J. Scanlan and T. Ruddle

We will move at the next Meeting that where Irish Water apply for a road opening licence to Limerick City and County Council, they should be asked to pay a bond that will cover the cost of full reinstatement of the road within a short period of time to be determined.

Reply:

Limerick City & County Council does indeed seek bonds from Irish Water contractors depending on the application and location.

However, it is accepted that for some road openings (e.g. emergencies), appropriate and prompt reinstatement is not being addressed and a road opening licence needs to be in place immediately in line with agreed protocols for such openings.

Where we are satisfied that a utility such as Irish Water does not manage such an opening properly and where such works are not capable of being managed under the online Road Opening system all options and measures need to be considered to ensure the public road is protected.

**Hugh McGrath,
Senior Engineer,
Roads, Traffic & Cleansing,
Transportation and Mobility Directorate.
6th July 2022**



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Luimnigh

Limerick City
& County Council

Pleanáil, Comhshaoil agus Cruithnú Áite
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh
Lúimneach

Planning, Environment and Place-Making
Limerick City and County Council
Limerick

COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON 11th JULY 2022

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Ryan

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council seek to increase the Operation and Maintenance budget for Cemeteries in the amount of €100,000 per annum, to provide for adequate repairs and maintenance on Ancient and Historic structures in Burial Grounds, in accordance with the adopted Burial Ground Strategy.

REPLY:

The Council adopted a Burial Ground Strategy at its meeting of May 2021. For the first time the Strategy attempted to qualify and quantify the masonry heritage assets that are extant in the Local Authority's graveyards through a preliminary survey. The Strategy recommended that a programme of detailed condition surveying, vegetation control and consolidation needs to be established. This will require a significant stream of funding for a period of years. Larger projects may be multi-annual, but there could be capacity to bundle smaller projects and address them within one financial year.

The 2022 budget allocation for Heritage Assets within Burial Grounds in 2022 is €15,000. At present from the preliminary survey there are nine structures in need of urgent attention to arrest their decline, in order that they do not become a health and safety hazard, with a further 27 classed as fairly urgent.

The Community Monuments Fund was established by the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage in 2020 and it has provided funding towards works in Clonshire 2020 & 2021 and towards works in Kilfinnane & Ballynoe (Bruree) in 2022. To take maximum advantage from this funding stream, however, the Local Authority needs to provide match funding that would see a programme of works that would deal with the most urgent issues more rapidly.

Nuala Gallagher
Director of Service
Planning, Environment & Place Making
7 July, 2022