

**Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2022.**

**Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin**

I will ask Limerick Metropolitan Council how many local authority home loan applications have been approved over the previous three years and of those rejected, what were the reasons.

**REPLY:**

- In 2020 -25 Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans approved
- In 2021 – 31 Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans approved
- In 2022 to date- 18 Applications were approved this is made up of Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans and the new Local Authority Home Loan (in operation since the beginning of 2022)

Reasons why an application may be declined/ refused are outlined below.

- Do not meet eligibility of home loan scheme- (income, age, previous homeowner etc)
- Credit Issues. (Defaulting on payments).
- Net Income Ratio outside of policy.
- Repayment capacity not demonstrated.
- Unsatisfactory Savings Record.
- Unsatisfactory financial management.
- Sufficiently committed- applicant's current commitments would not leave sufficient funds to cover the proposed monthly repayments.

*Caroline Curley*

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Caroline Curley  
Director of Service, Housing

**13<sup>th</sup> September 2022**



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& Contae Luimnigh

Limerick City  
& County Council

Stiúrthóireacht Forbartha Eacnamaíochta,  
Cornhairle Cathrach & Contae Luimnigh,  
Cé na gCeannaithe,  
Luimneach.

Economic Development,  
Limerick City and County Council,  
Merchant's Quay,  
Limerick.

EIRCODE V94.EH90

t: +353 (0) 61 556 000  
e: forwardplanning@limerick.ie

## REPLY TO QUESTION

**Reply to Question for a Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, September Meeting to be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022.**

### Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will ask Limerick Metropolitan Council to provide an update and site location and acre size on the lands zoned residential in the new Limerick Development Plan within the Metropolitan area, and what is the timeframe for planning and delivery of units.

### **Response:**

The adopted Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028 identifies existing and new residential lands (excluding mixed use/city centre/district/local centres) in the city and suburbs as follows:

- Existing Residential: 22.74ha. with capacity to accommodate 1,024 units;
- New Residential: 254.5ha. with capacity to accommodate of 10,023 units.

All sites are identified on the Settlement Capacity Audit Map attached, identifying the location of each of the site. Full detailed assessment of the suitability of each site can be found in the Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028, in terms whether the site is serviced or serviceable within the lifetime of the Plan in line with the National Planning Framework.

Note: These figures include some residentially zoned lands, which are subject to the Draft Ministerial Direction on the Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028.

There is currently planning permission for 3,860 units within the City and Suburbs, 384 of which are currently under construction. A further proposed 1,118 units are currently at planning application stage.

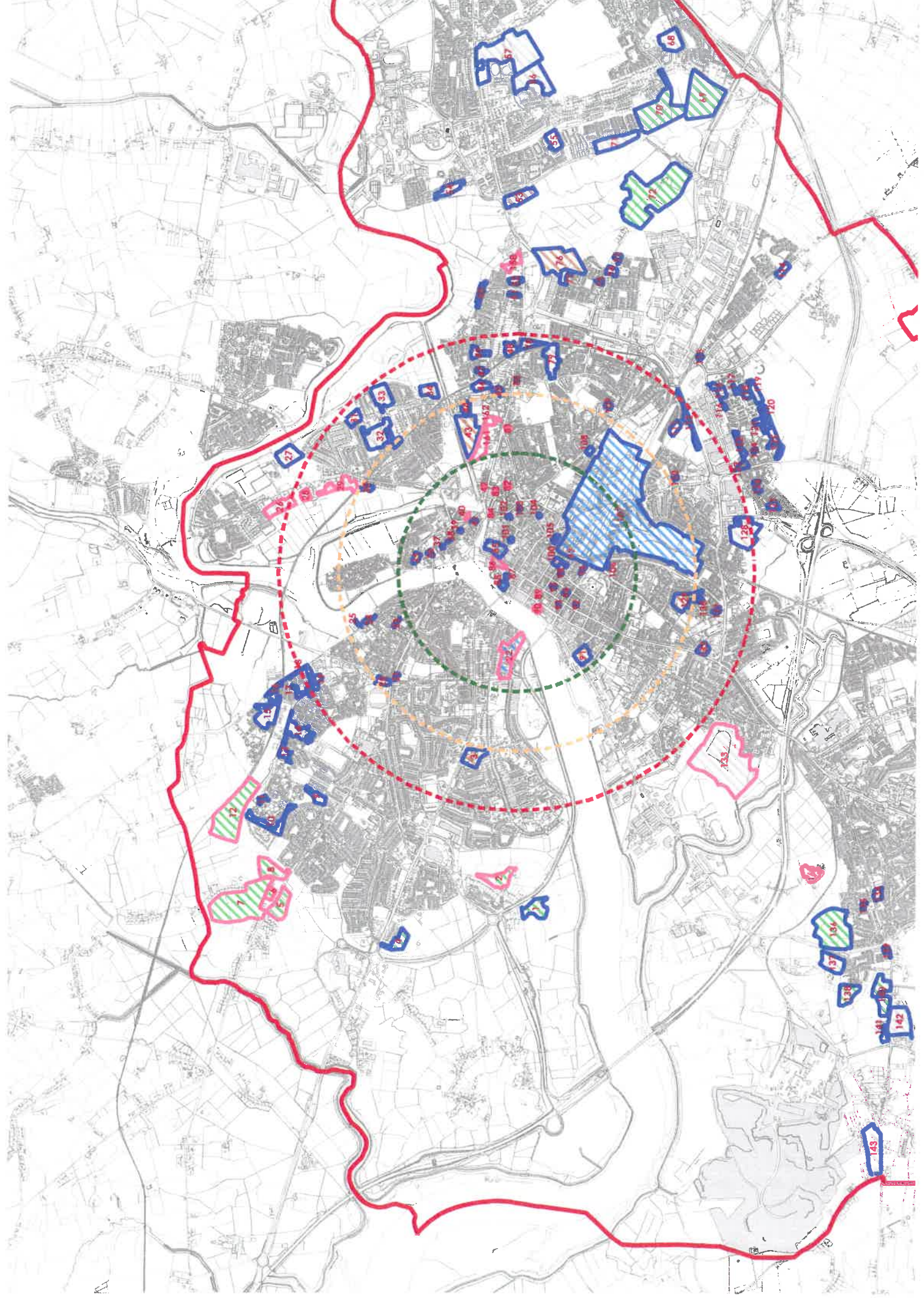
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*Maria Woods*

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**Maria Woods,  
Senior Planner  
15<sup>th</sup> September 2022**







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Community, Tourism & Culture Directorate  
Limerick City and County Council  
Corporate Headquarters  
Merchants Quay  
Limerick

eircode: V94 EH90

t: +353 (0) 61 556 000

**MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2022.**

**Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin**

I will ask Limerick Metropolitan Council how much is outstanding in vacant site levies in the Metropolitan area, and how much has been collected since 2020.

**Reply:**

The total amount of Vacant Site Levies owing to Limerick City and County Council is €1.7 million. Limerick City and County Council has collected €200,000 since 2020

***Gordon Daly,  
Director of Services,  
Community Tourism and Culture,  
13<sup>th</sup> September, 2022.***





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**MEETING OF METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK BE HELD ON MONDAY, 19TH  
SEPTEMBER, 2022.**

**Question submitted by Councillor S. Benson**

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, regarding the bin waiver scheme, in what years were closing dates applied to the scheme, and what were the closing dates in each of these years.

**REPLY:**

Limerick City and County Council had a closing date for Household Waste Subsidy Scheme for the years of 2021 and 2022.

Closing date for 2021 – 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 (original closing date 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2021 extended due to Covid.

Closing date for 2022 – 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2022.

There was a closing date for the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018. However as the Council no longer has access to applications forms/data prior to 2020 (in line with General Data Protection Regulations), I am not in position to confirm closing dates before the year 2020. There was no closing date for the years 2019 and 2020, however on review of the scheme; a closing date was reintroduced in 2021 for operational/budgetary management reasons.

Gordon Daly  
Director of Services

12th September 2022

**Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2022.**

**Question submitted by Councillor S.Benson**

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, how many allocations were made so far this year in total and could you provide a breakdown under each of the following (i) casual vacancies, (ii) new builds, (iii) long term lease.

**REPLY:**

Allocations made so far this year in total 151

- (i) casual vacancies 65
- (ii) new builds 57
- (iii) long term lease 29

*Caroline Curley*

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Caroline Curley  
Director of Service, Housing

**13<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2022.**

**Question submitted by Councillor S. Benson**

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, how many people were on the housing waiting list in total (to include HAP and RAS figures) in December of each of the following years - 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 and currently how many are on the list (to include HAP and RAS also).

**REPLY:**

The total number of people that were on the housing waiting list for the years 2016 to 2021 are as follows:

<b>DEC</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>6404</b>	<b>5699</b>	<b>5597</b>	<b>5700</b>	<b>5996</b>	<b>5802</b>

At 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022, there are 5815 people on the housing waiting list.

*Caroline Curley*

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Caroline Curley  
Director of Service, Housing

**14<sup>th</sup> September 2022**





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## Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022

### Question submitted by Councillor S Kiely

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council clarify when the appointment of a full time Warden for Newtown Park, Castletroy will happen given my recent Notice of Motion on same.

### Reply:

The position of Park Ranger for Castletroy Neighbourhood Park has been advertised and the recruitment process is ongoing. At this point it is difficult to put a precise date on the appointment.

Nuala Gallagher

Director of Service

Planning, Environment & Place-Making

15<sup>th</sup> September 2022

**Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2022.**

**Question submitted by Councillor S. Kiely**

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick how much of the budget for response-based Housing maintenance has been spent to date and what is the breakdown of the spending by electoral area within the city.

**REPLY:**

€1,827,621 of the available budget for Response based Housing Maintenance in the Metropolitan District is spent to date in 2022 (c. 73%).

Breakdown by electoral area within the city is not available.

*Caroline Curley*

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Caroline Curley  
Director of Service, Housing

**14<sup>th</sup> September 2022**



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Transportation and Mobility Directorate,  
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Limerick, V94 EH90.

t: +353 (0) 61 556 000

e: [transportationandmobility@limerick.ie](mailto:transportationandmobility@limerick.ie)

## Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick

to be held on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2022

### Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, for a breakdown of costs incurred to date, the proposed overall budget, and the source of this funding, associated with works on Childers Road Bridge, due to start in October, 2022.

### Reply:

Community engagement is currently ongoing for this project. No costs have been incurred to date as of yet. Costs of this project, which include project management, artistry work, traffic management and Irish Rail engagement is currently being determined, including the source of funding. Councillors will be briefed once these details are finalised

**Hugh McGrath**  
**Senior Engineer**  
**Roads, Traffic & Cleansing**  
**Transportation and Mobility Directorate**  
**14<sup>th</sup> September 2022**



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## **Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

### **Question submitted by Councillor C Slattery**

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, in relation to outdoor seating at Harveys Quay, is there a set time for the use of outdoor seating located in this area, and a time when the outdoor seating should be closed up, as there are issues with late night anti social behaviour at this location.

### **Reply:**

The public seating at Harvey's Quay was installed to promote safe outdoor activity during the Covid-19 pandemic. The seating provides an opportunity for the citizens of Limerick to partake in outdoor social activity. As with all public seating provided by the Council there are no set times for the use of the seating, and seating is not closed off at any specified times.

Where anti-social behavior is occurring in the vicinity of public seating complainants should contact the Garda Síochána. We will liaise with the Gardaí at Henry St. Station in relation to the reported anti-social behavior.

Nuala Gallagher

Director of Service

Planning, Environment & Place-Making

15<sup>th</sup> September 2022

**Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2022.**

**Question submitted by Councillor T. Collopy**

I will ask this Council, to outline the Council's policy on housing individuals with disabilities and how the Council can provide specially adapted housing / wheelchair liveable homes for applicants waiting on the housing list.

**REPLY:**

The Council has an adopted policy in the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 as follows:

Objective PO8: To promote and provide housing appropriate to the needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities. The Council shall support and promote the use of Universal Design principles, adaptable housing design and Lifetime Homes in new housing developments to meet the needs of diverse groups and an aging population. All new residential schemes shall be designed having regard to the National Disability Authority's standards.

Furthermore, the Council recently developed a specific objective under the Housing Disability Strategy Plan 2022 as follows:

Objective PO4: To support and promote the use of Universal Design principles, adaptable housing design and Lifetime Homes in new housing developments to meet the needs of diverse groups and an aging population.

On Council-led new-build social housing schemes, there is a target to design 15% of the overall number of units to a Universal Design (UD) standard. The UD standard will apply to schemes being initiated now. The UD standard offers a wheelchair-liveable home and will cater for the widest range of potential tenants. In February 2022, the Department of Local Government and Housing launched the Design Manual for Quality Housing. It includes typical internal layouts for UD homes, which the Council will utilise and are available to view at the following link:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/b3e02-design-manual-for-quality-housing>



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Caroline Curley  
Director of Service, Housing

**13<sup>th</sup> September 2022**



**Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2022.**

**Question submitted by Councillor T. Collopy**

I will ask this Council, to confirm the number of applicants on the housing list with a need for specially adapted housing/wheelchair liveable home, and to advise what the average and the longest waiting times an applicant with disabilities would expect to wait for housing.

**REPLY:**

The number of applicants on the housing list approved on medical grounds as wheelchair users/possible wheelchair users in the future is 50.

The number of applicants on the housing list approved on medical grounds requiring ground floor accommodation or special adaptations is 145.

The waiting times are subject to a number of variables including the following:

- Areas of Choice selected – applicants can have up to 3 areas of choice
- Household composition and number of bedrooms required
- Suitability of properties available

*Caroline Curley*

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Caroline Curley  
Director of Service, Housing

**14<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2022.**

**Question submitted by Councillor T. Collopy**

I will ask this Council, how many applicants with a need for specially adapted housing/wheelchair liveable home, were housed from the housing list, not including transfers or existing tenants, in the years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 to date.

**REPLY:**

For the years 2019 to 2021, applicants were identified under a medical classification criteria. However, they were not sub-categorised into specific wheelchair needs on our iHouse system. Each applicant was then considered based on their individual needs when being assessed for housing.

From 2022 our recording system has been modified to capture greater detail of the medical classification i.e. wheelchair bound etc.

There are four applicants who are wheelchair bound that were housed in specially adapted properties from January 2022 to June 2022 inclusive.

*Caroline Curley*

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Caroline Curley  
Director of Service, Housing

**13<sup>th</sup> September 2022**



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## **Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

### **Question submitted by Councillor E Secas**

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick if the Council Executive have had any further engagement on the Horizon Mall site on the Dublin Road, if there are any plans to develop the site and if the Executive can ask the owners of the site to replace the fencing on the Dublin Road side as it is in a deplorable condition.

### **Reply:**

The Council has received preliminary enquiries regarding the site, however pre-planning consultation has not been requested to date. The Council notes the comments as made regarding the fence and will seek to raise this issue as part of any future engagement.

Nuala Gallagher

Director of Service

Planning, Environment & Place-Making

15<sup>th</sup> September 2022

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## Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick

to be held on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2022

### Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the city centre festoon lighting? Is this lightning from a sustainable and energy efficient source and to ask if such lighting can be installed permanently around the Parnell Street/Davis Street area.

### Reply:

The existing festoon lights on the Three Bridges River Walk are 5.5w LED bulbs (which is in the order of 50% more efficient than previous technology). Following a number of trials, these lights were chosen as the most efficient option when considering energy efficiency, the desired lighting effect and durability. The Three Bridges River Walk will continue to be maintained subject to budgetary constraints and further reviews of the energy uses within Limerick City and County Council.

However, given the current energy crisis and subsequent observations made by Minister Eamon Ryan regarding the responsibilities of the public sector to conserve energy, as well as the targets set out in the Paris Agreement for 2030 and 2050, it is currently not envisaged that additional festoon lighting will be installed within Limerick City and County Council.

**Hugh Mc Grath**  
**Senior Engineer**  
**Roads, Traffic & Cleansing**  
**Transportation and Mobility Directorate**  
**14<sup>th</sup> September, 2022**



## Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022

### Question submitted by Councillor E O'Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on current plan of works for O'Connell Street revitalisation? To ask when these plans were revised and what changes have been made from the plans that were approved by Councillors in October 2019.

### Reply:

Construction work is ongoing on the O'Connell Street Revitalisation project. Limerick City and County Council has received the latest construction programme from the contractor for the works which indicates a project completion date of Friday 25 November.

Should there be any change to this schedule, the Council has decided on the following contingency plan being put in place ahead of the Christmas period.

- All contract works are to cease on site on Friday 25 November in accordance with the contractor's programmed end date, having due consideration for the critical business period of December with any remaining works to recommence in January 2023.

The plan for O'Connell Street is being implemented in line with the approved scheme including the modification requesting the addition of one cycle lane. The Scheme has also further been considered in the context of emerging Government policy on sustainable transport and in the context of the draft Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Strategy (LSMATS). This strategy identifies O'Connell Street as a dual direction cycle route. The design has included provision for this option. A planning exemption for local authorities to deliver cycling facilities is provided for under an amendment to the Planning Act. Modification to the landscaping scheme have occurred during the construction stage based on restrictions posed by ground conditions, location of existing services, etc.

Nuala Gallagher

Director of Service

Planning, Environment & Place-Making

15<sup>th</sup> September 2022





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## **Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

### **Question submitted by Councillor E O'Donovan**

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on revitalisation plans for the Nicholas Street area and the possibility of restricting motor vehicle access in evening times for this area.

### **Reply:**

The current focus of plans for Nicholas Street is street enhancements that can be delivered in the short term following on from major capital work carried out on No. 24 & 25 (Treaty City Brewery building), 26 and 27 (Men's Shed) Nicholas Street and the Fireplace Site. Examples of this included enhanced landscape treatment, provision of street planters, etc. This approach will broaden to consider medium term interventions and longer term strategic placemaking approach, building on the improvement to this area of the city over recent years. This forms part of a "place-based approach" to the continued development of the area. A number of temporary road closures are proposed on part of Nicholas Street in 2022 and 2023 related to specific events, e.g. Culture Night. These road closures will be assessed to inform how the use of the street can evolve to the maximum benefit of the area and wider city.

Nuala Gallagher

Director of Service


Planning, Environment & Place-Making

15<sup>th</sup> September 2022

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Luimneach, V94 EH90.

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Limerick City and County Council,  
Merchants Quay,  
Limerick, V94 EH90.

t: +353 (0) 61 556 000  
e: [transportationandmobility@limerick.ie](mailto:transportationandmobility@limerick.ie)

## Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick

to be held on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2022

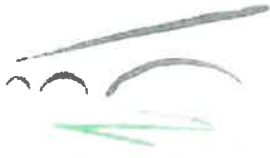
### Question submitted by Councillor S. Novak Uí Chonchúir

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the following Active Travel project: LCC/20/0002 City Centre Traffic Management Plan.

### Reply:

The National Transport Authority (NTA) has recently appointed a consultant to undertake a feasibility analysis for the future bus network for Limerick. The feasibility will examine the existing network and examine options for a redesign of the future bus network for Limerick. A key element of the design will be a traffic management plan for the city centre and the plan will include and integrate all modes of transport. The bus network feasibility is due to commence in early October 2022.

**Sean McGlynn**  
**A/Senior Engineer**  
**Active Travel Unit**  
**Transportation and Mobility Directorate**  
**14<sup>th</sup> September 2022**



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Corporate Services,  
Limerick City and County Council,  
Corporate Headquarters,  
Merchants Quay,  
Limerick

**Metropolitan District Meeting to be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

EIRCODE V94 EH90

t: +353 (0) 61 557150  
f: +353 (0) 61 415 266

**Question submitted by Councillor S. Novak Uí Chonchúir**

What measures are the Chief Executive putting in place to reduce the Council's energy usage in light of the increasing energy prices internationally?

**Reply:**

**Facilities**

LCCC employ the use of Building Management Systems (BMS) in City Hall, County Hall and Lissanalta House. These systems enable control of office temperatures as well as plant and equipment run times, going forward LCCC will implement Wintertime settings on these systems as directed by the Dept. of Environment, Climate and Communications which will aim to reduce equipment run times and office temperatures when and where appropriate.

Since the beginning of 2022 LCCC have replaced approx. 150 fluorescent light fittings with LED fittings in City Hall and will continue to upgrade any remaining fittings over the coming months in order to drive further energy efficiencies.

LCCC will also host events in City Hall and County Hall as part of Energy Awareness Week between 26<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September where we will advise Council employees to switch off unnecessary lighting at our offices when not required and will also staff to power down their IT and other equipment when leaving their workplace daily.

**Public Lighting**

The remit of the public lighting section is to maintain and operate the existing public lighting network and to ensure any new lights being installed, as part of standalone schemes and/or developments meet the necessary standards Limerick City and County Council require. Repairs involve the replacement of existing SOX and SONs fittings with LED fittings which in turn provide an approximate 50% decrease in energy usage and all new installations also meet this standard.

As the members are aware Limerick City and County Council are currently engaged in the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project for the South West Region. This project will look to replace all the existing non energy efficient light fittings with LED replacements thereby ensuring that the public lighting network energy usage is as efficient as feasibly possible. This project is due in Limerick in August 2023.

#### Machinery Yard

The Machinery Yard team carry out ongoing reviews of their energy and fleet management to ensure an efficient operation is maintained. Some examples of measures undertaken include the logistical planning of the fleet operations to minimise the distances travelled, proactive maintenance of vehicles, replacement of older vehicles with more economic vehicles and ongoing monitoring of fuel consumption & vehicle efficiency.

In addition to the day to day measures outlined above it is also planned to trial Electric Vehicles for metro based operations of light commercial vehicles and recently Arup consulting engineers have also been engaged to analyse fleet usage and identify EV opportunities

#### Energy Efficiency Measures

LCCC participates in the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) energy tenders to secure the most economic rates for electricity and gas. LCCC attained certification to ISO 50001 Energy Management System in 2018. LCCC exceeded the 33% public sector target for 2020, achieving 44% energy efficiency. LCCC has been providing Staff Awareness information and some specific training on Energy efficiency and renewable energy. Next Staff energy awareness day takes place on September 28th.

  
Laura Flannery

Head of Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services

15 September 2022



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Ceanncheathrú Chorparáideach,  
Cé na gCeannaithe,  
Luimneach

Digital Services,  
Limerick City and County Council,  
Corporate Headquarters,  
Merchants Quay,  
Limerick

EIRCODE V94EH90

**Date:** September 14th, 2022

t: +353 (0) 61 557150

f: +353 (0) 61 415 266

## METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK

### MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2022

#### Question submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the provision of two additional CCTV cameras in Patrickswell.

#### **REPLY:**

As part of the Data Protection Commissioner audit on CCTV remediation efforts, permission was sought under An Garda Síochána Act 2005 for the provision of Community CCTV cameras already in place in Patrickswell and for those that were planned under the Hinterland CCTV project. These cameras have been approved at the locations outlined in [safercommunities.limerick.ie](http://safercommunities.limerick.ie)

Work is underway to plan for the installation and commissioning of the additional cameras in Patrickswell although a timeline has not been determined yet.

Alan Dooley  
Head of Digital Services



**Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**Question submitted by Councillor D McSweeney**

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the delivery of each aspect of the World-Class Waterfront and Living Limerick City Centre Initiative being funded under URDF.

**Reply:**

The Place-Making and Public Realm section will give an update to the Members on the World-Class Waterfront and Living Limerick City Centre Initiative at the October Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

Nuala Gallagher

Director of Service

Planning, Environment & Place-Making

15<sup>th</sup> September 2022