

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE AND ONLINE ON MONDAY, 19TH SEPTEMBER, 2022 at 09:45 A.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor Olivia O’Sullivan, Cathaoirleach

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors Benson, Butler, Collopy, Daly, Hartigan, Kiely, Kilcoyne, Leddin, McSweeney, Murphy, Novak Uí Chonchúir, O’Donovan, O’Hanlon, Secas, Sheahan (M), Sheehan (C), Slattery and Talukder.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

A/Director of Service, National and Regional SSC (Ms. P. King), Meetings Administrator (Mr. M. Leahy), Director of Service, Housing (Ms. C. Curley), Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services (Ms. A. Foley), Senior Executive Officer, Housing (Ms. M. Hayes), Senior Executive Officer, Housing (Ms. S. Newell), Senior Engineer, Housing (Mr. C. Culloo), Head of Property and Community Facilities (Ms. J. Leahy), Administrative Officer, Property and Community Facilities (Ms. T. Knox), Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. M. Richardson), Senior Executive Engineer, Recreation (Ms. C. Lynch), Senior Planner, Strategic and Forward Planning (Ms. M. Woods), Administrative Officer, Trade and Investment (Mr. R. Corbett), Administrative Officer, Active Travel (Mr. T. Brennan), A/Senior Executive Engineer, Active Travel (Ms. S. Kennedy), A/Senior Executive Engineer, Active Travel (Mr. D. Slavin), Senior Executive Planner, Active Travel (Mr. B. Henn), Executive Engineer, Active Travel (Ms. N. Wilson), Executive Engineer, Active Travel (Mr. L. Kennedy), Administrative Officer, Planning Development (D. McGuigan), A/Arts Officer (Ms. P. Little), Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Ms. S. Carroll).

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach on behalf of the Members expressed condolences to Councillor Kieran O’Hanlon on the passing of his brother, James (Jimmy) O’Hanlon and the Members paused for a minute’s silence.

The Cathaoirleach also noted that the funeral of Queen Elizabeth was taking place that morning and acknowledged the loss felt by people from the U.K. and the Commonwealth who were currently residing in the Limerick area.

The Meetings Administrator invited those present to notify any declaration of interest in any item due for discussion at the Meeting. No such interests were declared.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 20th July, 2022.

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

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

2. Disposal of Land

- (a) Circulated, report of the Senior Staff Officer, Housing Support Services dated 28th July, 2022 setting out proposals for disposal of Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 12 Pennywell Road, Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

- (b) Circulated, report of the Senior Staff Officer, Housing Support Services dated 28th July, 2022 setting out proposals for disposal of Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 3 Colbert Avenue, Janesboro, Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

- (c) Circulated, report of the Senior Staff Officer, Housing Support Services dated 22nd August, 2022 setting out proposals for disposal of Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 59 Lower Carey's Road, Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

- (d) Circulated, report of the Senior Staff Officer, Housing Support Services dated 23rd August, 2022 setting out proposals for disposal of Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 102 Glasgow Park, Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

- (e) Circulated, report of the Head of Property and Community Facilities dated 5th August, 2022 setting out proposals for disposal of 0.0348 hectares at 19 Oakland Drive, Greystones, Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

- (f) Circulated, report of the Head of Property and Community Facilities dated 17th August, 2022 setting out proposals for disposal of 0.246 hectares (0.608 acres) of land at Ballyanrahan, Patrickswell, Co. Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

- (g) Circulated, report of the Head of Property and Community Facilities dated 9th August, 2022 setting out proposals for the disposal of 0.706 hectares of land at Ballinacurra, Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

- (h) Circulated, report of the Head of Property and Community Facilities dated 17th August, 2022 setting out proposals for Exchange of Property, 114 St. Munchin's Street, St. Mary's Park, Limerick in consideration of the disposal of 6 Verdant Crescent, Verdant Place, King's Island, Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

- (i) Circulated, report of the Head of Property and Community Facilities dated 5th September, 2022 setting out proposals for the disposal of 6 and 7 Gerard Street, Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

3. Housing Directorate

Part 8 Procedure – Refurbishment of Existing Properties at Nos. 82, 84 and 86 Hyde Road, Prospect, Limerick

Circulated, Report of the Executive Architect, LA Housing Construction and Maintenance dated 8th September, 2022 and enclosed Chief Executive's Report dated 14th September, 2022 setting out details in relation to the refurbishment of existing properties at Nos. 82, 84 and 86 Hyde Road, Prospect, Limerick. The report had been prepared in accordance with Section 179 3(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) and noted that it was proposed to proceed in accordance with Section 7 of the report.

There was some discussion amongst the Members as to why 3 units were being combined into one. The Senior Engineer, Housing confirmed that this was being done to address a particular housing situation. Overall, the Members welcomed the proposed development and Members agreed that there was a requirement for larger properties in certain circumstances so as to address all housing needs.

The report, as circulated, was noted by the Elected Members.

4. Transportation and Mobility Directorate

(a) Part 8 Procedure – R510 Quinn's Cross to Raheen Roundabout Improvement Scheme

Circulated, Report of the Director of Services, Transportation and Mobility Directorate dated 1st September, 2022 and enclosed Chief Executive's Report dated 11th August, 2022 setting out details in relation to the R510 Quinn's Cross to Raheen Roundabout Improvement Scheme. The report had been prepared in accordance with Section 179 3(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) and noted that it was proposed to proceed in accordance with Section 7 of the report.

Members welcomed the proposed development and acknowledged the engagement with Councillors and the general public from the Active Travel Team in relation to the proposed scheme. The Members highlighted the importance of this infrastructure, on what was a very busy road with

large amounts of traffic, near a large primary school.

The Members raised a number of queries in relation to possible delays for emergency services vehicles accessing the nearby University Hospital Limerick; the removal of the set down area outside the school and the impact that this may have on adjoining estates. They also expressed concerns regarding the proposal that buses would stop on the road, rather than in a designated set down area, which they believed would add to traffic issues and delays.

The Members also requested that consideration be given for consistency on the type of segregation between road and cycle areas used in all schemes across the City, and highlighted the importance of engagement with Members and residents throughout the development process.

The following variation to the proposed Part 8 was proposed by Councillor Butler, seconded by Councillor McSweeney and agreed:

“That the proposed Part 8 development be carried out as recommended in the CE Report dated 11th August 2022, but subject to the following variations:

- That permeability at Blackthorn Estate be removed;
- That the bus stop be set back on the route of this development on the approach to the University Hospital Limerick, rather than an in-line bus stop.”

(b) Part 8 Procedure – Fr Russell Road Cycle Lane Scheme

Circulated, Report of the Director of Services, Transportation and Mobility Directorate dated 6th September, 2022 and enclosed Chief Executive’s Report dated 11th August, 2022 setting out details in relation to the Fr. Russell Road Cycle Lane Scheme. The report had been prepared in accordance with Section 179 3(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) and noted that it was proposed to proceed in accordance with Section 6 of the report.

Members welcomed the proposed development, and highlighted the importance of consultation and engagement with Members and the community in relation to segregation of lanes. The Members also stated that for any future Phase 2 of this development, that they would not support the Compulsory Purchase of resident’s gardens and they asked if a future Phase 2 would be a Part 8 process as well. The A/Senior Executive Engineer, Active Travel noted the concerns raised by Members and he confirmed that Phase 2 would be a Part 8 development as well.

The report, as circulated, was noted by the Elected Members.

5. Economic Development Directorate

(a) Southern Environs Local Area Plan 2021 – 2027

Circulated, Chief Executive’s Report dated 19th August, 2022 on the proposal to revoke the Southern Environs Local Area Plan 2021 – 2027 for consideration by Members.

Proposed by Councillor Butler;
Seconded by Councillor McSweeney;

And Resolved;

“That having considered the Chief Executive’s Report dated 19th August, 2022, that the Southern Environs Local Area Plan 2021 – 2027 be revoked, in accordance with Section 20(3) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended)”.

(b) Castletroy Local Area Plan 2019 – 2025

Circulated, Chief Executive’s Report dated 19th August, 2022 on the proposal to revoke the Castletroy Local Area Plan 2019 – 2025 for consideration by Members.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (M);

Seconded by Councillor Secas;

And Resolved;

“That having considered the Chief Executive’s Report dated 19th August, 2022, that the Castletroy Local Area Plan 2019 – 2025 be revoked, in accordance with Section 20(3) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended)”.

QUESTIONS

6. 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.

7. 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.

REPLY: 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 10,023 units.

All sites are identified on the Settlement Capacity Audit Map attached, identifying the location of each of the sites. 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 with the City and Suburbs, 384 of which are currently under construction. A further proposed 1,118 units are currently at planning application stage.

A Settlement Capacity Audit Map was circulated as part of the reply.

8. 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.

9. 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 – 16th February, 2021 (original closing date 31st January, 2021 extended due to Covid).

Closing date for 2022 – 31st 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 a 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.

10. 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

11. 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 applicants that were on the housing waiting list for the years 2016 to 2021 are as follows:

DEC	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	6404	5699	5597	5700	5996	5802

At 31st August 2022, there are 5815 applicants on the housing waiting list.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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>

17. 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

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. 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.

21. 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.

22. 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.

23. 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.

24. Question submitted by Councillor S. Novak Uí Chonchúir

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick the measures the Chief Executive is 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 no. 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 26th and 30th 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.

25. 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 safecommunities.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.

26. 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.

NOTICES OF MOTION

27. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick Metropolitan Council invite the CEO of Shannon Foynes Port to update Members on the Company's Masterplan for Limerick Docklands, including the planned redevelopment of the former Bannatyne building.

In the absence of Cllr Leddin and with his permission, the Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Sheehan (C).

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Butler who proposed an amendment to include "that all Members of Limerick City and County Council would be invited to the Briefing". This was agreed.

28. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Benson

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, that this Council, provide a specific budget code for the annual maintenance and monitoring of Westfields Wetlands, going forward and that work on reed removal be progressed as a matter of urgency, bearing in mind the limited window in which work can take place during the calendar year due to nesting season.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Benson, seconded by Councillor O'Sullivan and agreed.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Benson highlighted the urgent need for work to be carried out at Westfields Wetlands, which was very overgrown. The Members agreed that the Wetlands are a very important amenity for the city and commended Cllr Benson for bringing this motion forward.

REPLY: Parks and Recreation Section is presently evaluating tenders for the removal of reed growth at Westfields Wetlands this Autumn. The extent of reed removal will be guided by best practice in reed removal. A multi-annual reed removal plan is being put in place, and we will seek adequate budget provision for this.

The draft Westfields Wetlands Management Plan is currently being reviewed and will be progressed through the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee.

Councillor Hartigan also queried when the Flood Risk Assessment will take place and when will the Management Plan be brought to the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee. The Senior Executive Engineer, Recreation, agreed to revert in relation to these queries.

29. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Benson

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, that this Council commits to undertaking an annual review of school traffic warden staffing levels, in advance of and in time for each new school year, to ensure that there is sufficient time for recruitment. Furthermore, staffing levels should be monitored throughout the school year to ensure that there are always adequate levels of staff and replacements.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Benson, seconded by Councillor O’Sullivan and agreed.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Benson stated that there were vacancies in a number of schools for school wardens and it was important to have a replacement panel. She noted that having a school warden in place encourages children to walk and cycle to school.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council will undertake to carry out an annual review of School Warden staffing levels and the filling of vacancies throughout the school year where necessary.

The Council is currently undertaking a recruitment campaign for the post of School Wardens throughout Limerick City and County. When established the panels formed will be used to fill School Warden vacancies and to provide temporary cover when necessary at supervised school crossings.

30. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Kiely

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Active Travel team examine the Roxboro Road to address the lack of pedestrian and cycling safety taking into consideration the schools in the area.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Kiely, seconded by Councillor Sheahan (M) and agreed.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Kiely highlighted the number of schools in the area and the difficulties for children walking and cycling to school. Members supported the motion and also highlighted the difficulties on the route for wheelchair users and the importance of dishing crossing points to facilitate wheelchair users.

REPLY: The Active Travel team has included the Roxboro Road as an active travel project. A topographical survey of the road has been undertaken and is complete. The Active Travel Unit is currently developing a briefing document to engage consultants to undertake feasibility and an options report to determine the most beneficial layout and cross section for Roxboro Road. A consultant will be engaged in the coming weeks.

31. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Kiely

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the local authority review the operational measures in place for the casual trading area outside The Limerick Milk Market. This is so as to ensure that the casual trading area is utilised fully, that adequate traffic control measures are in place on casual trading days, and that appropriate lines of communication are in place to co-ordinate activities on casual trading days between the local authority and Limerick Market Trustees.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Kiely, seconded by Councillor O'Sullivan and agreed.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Kiely highlighted the success of the Milk Market and in particular for tourism in the city. She stated a number of issues needed to be addressed in the casual trading area outside the Market. Members welcomed the Motion and agreed that it is known as an excellent market and an important tourist attraction. They agreed the importance of fully co-ordinated operational measures between Limerick and the Milk Market for the casual trading area outside the Milk Market so as to fully maximise the area and ensure its proper management and co-ordination.

REPLY: The Council continually reviews and monitors the operation of the casual trading area around the Milk Market. Staff of the Council are in attendance on Saturdays when the market is in operation. These staff install the pedestrian barriers after traders have arrived and are set up. These barriers restrict vehicular access and afford protection to visitors and customers. New traders are being licensed all the time by our staff to ensure that all vacant areas are occupied.

The staff of the Council liaise regularly with their counterparts in the Milk Market to maximise the offering.

Following the reply to the Motion it was proposed by Councillor Kiely and seconded by Councillor O'Sullivan that a meeting be arranged between Limerick City and County Council and the Milk Market Executive to discuss the outside area.

Suspension of Standing Orders

As the time was approaching 12.15pm it was proposed by Councillor Kiely and seconded by Councillor Butler to suspend Standing Orders in order to complete the agenda.

32. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will move at the next Meeting that the Metropolitan District of Limerick writes to the Minister for Education to request that a new primary school is established in the Castletroy area to keep pace with the significant increase in the population and new housing developments in the area, as the existing primary schools in the area are at their full capacity.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Secas, seconded by Councillor Sheahan (M) and agreed.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Secas highlighted the urgent need for a new primary school in Castletroy, with schools in the area currently at full capacity.

33. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for zebra crossings to be installed at St. Michaels National School and the Barrington Street entrance to People's Park to provide safety for pedestrians in this area.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor O'Donovan, seconded by Councillor Talukder and agreed.

In proposing the motion, Councillor O'Donovan highlighted the need for a crossing in the area to improve pedestrian access at St. Michaels National School and at the Barrington Street entrance to People's Park.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council has plans in place to complete a new raised table top junction improvement at the intersection of Mallow Street and Perry Square as part of an Active Travel junction tightening scheme before the end of the year, which will improve pedestrian safety at the entrance to People's Park.

Any further pedestrian crossings at St. Michaels National School or Barrington Street would require a feasibility study and survey to determine if a pedestrian crossing is warranted. This study will be considered once the Mallow Street / Perry Square junction improvement is completed and if warranted, a pedestrian crossing at a suitable location in the area will be considered subject to availability of funding through a possible Active Travel scheme.

Members expressed their dissatisfaction with the reply and stated that the plans for the new junction at the intersection of Mallow Street and Perry Square was too far away from the primary school. The Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing agreed to carry out a feasibility study and revert in relation to the proposal.

34. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to request a presentation on Riverfest 2022 with a full breakdown of expenditure from last year so to plan for Riverfest 2023.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor O'Donovan, seconded by Councillor Benson and agreed.

Members supported the motion, highlighting the success of Riverfest and the importance of planning for the event in 2023.

REPLY: Event Management Company, Grooveyard, won the tender for delivery of Riverfest 2022.

Riverfest 2022 Detailed Costings

Arthurs Quay Village and events

Including zip line, fireworks, entertainment, etc.

€170,130

Hunt Garden Events	€5,090
Water Projects Costs	€7,000
Event Management and General Costs	€63,050
Party in the Park	€50,000
VAT @ 23%	€67,912.10
Total Cost	€335,182.10

Party in the Park Detailed Costings

Production Costs	€11,600
Entertainment	€6,250
Crowd Management	€10,650
Contractor Costs	€8,200
Event Management Costs (ins. licence plan)	€3,940
Total (ex VAT)	€40,640
VAT	€9,347

It was anticipated that runners, having completed the Great Limerick Run, could gather and utilise the park. This would help to utilise the park but also help to control the numbers in Arthur's Quay Park. However, the weather on Sunday 1 May 2022 was poor, contributing to lower than expected numbers in the park.

Riverfest 2023

Tender for delivery of event management is currently out on eTenders with a closing date of 29 September 2022.

Members noted the details of the reply and requested that a Presentation would be arranged in order to view and discuss the plans for Riverfest 2023.

35. Correspondence:

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

CATHAOIRLEACH

Dated:
