

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE BERNAL INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK, ON MONDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER, 2022, AT 3PM.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor F. Foley, Mayor.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Benson, Butler, Carey, Collins (B), Collins (J), Collins (M), Collopy, Daly, Donegan, Egan, Galvin, Hartigan, Keary, Kiely, Kilcoyne, Leddin, McSweeney, Mitchell, Murphy, Uí Chonchúir, O'Brien, O'Donoghue, O'Donovan, O'Hanlon, O'Sullivan, Pond, Ruddle, Ryan (E), Ryan (M), Scanlan, Secas, Sheahan (J), Sheahan (K), Sheahan (M), Sheehan (C), Slattery, Talukder, Teefy, Teefy.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive (Mr. P. Daly), Deputy Chief Executive and Director, Support Services (Mr. S. Coughlan), Director, Housing (Ms. C. Curley), Director, Community, Tourism and Culture (Mr. G. Daly), Director, Regeneration (Mr. J. Delaney), Director, Planning, Environment and Place-Making (Ms. N. Gallagher), Director, Transportation and Mobility (Mr. B. Kennedy), Director, National and Regional Shared Services (Mr. K. Lehane), A/Director, Economic Development and Enterprise (Mr. V. Murray), Meetings Administrator (Ms. L. Flannery), SEO Ukrainian Response Accommodation Lead (Ms. Sonja Reidy) Administrative Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Mr. M. Leahy), Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Ms. A. Foley), Clerical Officers, Corporate Services and Governance (Messrs. S. O'Dwyer and D. Ryan).

At the start of the Meeting, the Deputy President & Provost of the University of Limerick, Mr. Shane Kilcommins, welcomed the Elected Members and Officials to the University and thanked the Mayor for agreeing to host the Full Council Meeting in the University of Limerick. He explained how the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of University of Limerick were well underway. He outlined how learning from the past while looking to the future, was encapsulated in the anniversary's themes of reflecting, connecting and transforming, inspiring the on-going events and projects celebrating five decades of learning, scholarship and enterprise at the University.

The Mayor, on behalf of all the Members, acknowledged the anniversary celebrations taking place and noted the important role that the University played not only in Limerick but also across the wider Mid-West Region and he looked forward to the continued engagement and co-operation between Limerick City and County Council and the University in the future.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the following Meetings:

- (a) Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 26th September, 2022.
- (b) Special Meeting of the Council held on 21st October, 2022 (3pm).
- (c) Special Meeting of the Council held on 21st October, 2022 (4pm).

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);

Seconded by Councillor Teskey;

And Resolved:

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

4A. Supplementary Item – National and Regional Shared Services Centre – Ukrainian Accommodation Response

With the permission of the Mayor, Supplementary Item No. 4A, as follows, was taken at this time:

‘To receive an update on the accommodation of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection in Limerick and to receive a briefing on the new national Local Authority-led ‘Offer a Home’ initiative.’

The SEO Ukrainian Response Accommodation Lead Ms. S. Reidy gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Members on the current situation regarding the Ukrainian Accommodation Response in Limerick City and County. She outlined the following to the Members:

- Limerick City and County Council Rest Centres – 50 persons approx. in St Lelia’s, Kileely and in Cappamore former convent;
- Collective Accommodation Centres – 400 persons approx. in Foynes, Ardagh, Bruff and Castleconnell;
- Tourist Accommodation – 800 persons approx. in hotels, hostels and B&B’s in the City and County;
- Self Catered Multi- Occupancy Accommodation – 180 persons approx. in city centre, suburban and rural locations;
- Red Cross Pledges - 278 Limerick hosts with the International Organisation for Migration managing the Red Cross pledge process.

She also outlined details to Members of a new initiative called Offer a Home and the email address was offerahome.ie

This initiative covered unoccupied habitable homes; apartments, holiday homes, granny flats, fair deal properties etc. where a Temporary Accommodation by Agreement (guest not tenant) would be entered into with the owner. The period would be a minimum 6 months ideally with utilities be paid by the residents.

She confirmed that the payment for it would be €800 a month gratuity (tax free & excluded from income assessments). Limerick City and County Council would manage the scheme, inspect the proposed property and would match properties to suitable beneficiaries.

The Members thanked Ms Reidy for the update on the response to date and agreed that it was very important to support those people displaced by the invasion of Ukraine by Russia who had arrived into Ireland. They agreed the importance of building local communication and contacts to ensure that people would be properly welcomed and supported across all communities and they condemned the xenophobic comments made by some people in other parts of Ireland in relation to supports being provided across the country.

2. Declaration of Interest

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

3. Disposal of Land

- (a) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 30th September, 2022, concerning disposal of property at 12 Pennywell Road, Limerick.

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

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended), and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property at 12 Pennywell Road, Limerick, to Breda O’Donoghue, for the sum of €239.45, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Conveyance of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 30th September, 2022.”

- (b) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 30th September, 2022, concerning disposal of property at 3, Colbert Avenue, Janesboro, Limerick.

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

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended), and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property at 3, Colbert Avenue, Janesboro, Limerick, to Oliver Hanley, Legal Personal Representative (LPR) of Thomas Hanley, deceased, for the sum of €199.20, the disposal to be by way of Deed of

Conveyance of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 30th September, 2022.”

- (c) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 30th September, 2022, concerning disposal of property at 59, Lower Carey’s Road, Limerick.

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

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended), and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property at 59 Lower Carey’s Road, Limerick, to Marie Meehan, for the sum of €239.45, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Conveyance of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 30th September, 2022.”

- (d) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 30th September, 2022, concerning disposal of property at 102, Glasgow Park, Limerick.

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

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended), and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property at 102, Glasgow Park, Limerick, to Trevor Moroney, for the sum of €195.42, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Conveyance of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 30th September, 2022.”

- (e) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 17th October, 2022, together with Ordnance Survey Drawing No AG/5060, concerning transfer of property comprising Folio LK14569F adjoining 55, College Avenue, Moyross, Limerick.

The Members were advised that, owing to a typographical error, this Notice was being withdrawn and a corrected Statutory Disposal Notice would be re-issued for the January Meeting of the Council.

- (f) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 25th October, 2022, concerning disposal of property at 15, Kileely Road, Kileely, Limerick.

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

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended), and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property at 15, Kileely Road, Kileely, Limerick, to Emily McGrath, for the sum of €239.45, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Conveyance of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 25th October, 2022.”

- (g) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 14th November, 2022, concerning disposal of 0.0348 hectares, land at 19 Oakland Drive, Greystones, Limerick.

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

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended), and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of 0.0348 hectares, land at 19 Oakland Drive, Greystones, Limerick, to Tara Carey and Robert Stone, for the sum of €1 - Mr. Stone and Ms. Carey to cover Limerick City and County Council’s legal costs - particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 14th November, 2022.”

- (h) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 14th November, 2022, concerning disposal of land comprising 0.706 hectares (1.74 acres) in Ballinacurra Weston, Limerick.

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

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended), and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of land comprising 0.706 hectares (1.74 acres) in Ballinacurra Weston, Limerick, to Ballinacurra Gaels GAA, for the sum of €1, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the lease, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 14th November, 2022.”

- (i) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 14th November, 2022, concerning disposal of 2.643 acres of land in the Lee Estate, King’s Island, Limerick.

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

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended), and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of 2.643 acres

of land in the Lee Estate, King's Island, Limerick, to Athlunkard Villa Football Club, for the sum of €1 per annum, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the lease, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 14th November, 2022."

- (j) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 15th November, 2022, concerning disposal of 0.77 acres of land at Galvone Business Park, Galvone, Limerick.

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

"That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended), and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of 0.77 acres of land at Galvone Business Park, Galvone, Limerick, to Cargo Power Logistics Limited, for the sum of €103,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 15th November, 2022."

- (k) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 15th November, 2022, concerning disposal of property at 6, Verdant Crescent, King's Island, Limerick.

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

"That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended), and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property at 6, Verdant Crescent, King's Island, Limerick, to Ms. Angela Sheehan, in exchange for the acquisition of 114, St. Munchin's Street, St. Mary's Park, Limerick, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 15th November, 2022."

- (l) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 15th November, 2022, concerning disposal of property at 20, Rose Court, Keyes Park, Limerick.

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

"That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended), and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property at 20, Rose Court, Keyes Park, Limerick, to Mrs. Mary Crawford, in exchange for the acquisition of 567 Castle Oaks View, O'Malley Park, Limerick, subject to the covenants

and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 15th November, 2022.”

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

(m) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 17th November, 2022, concerning disposal of 0.088 hectares of land at Ballyneety North, Templebredon, Co. Limerick.

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

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended), and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of 0.088 hectares of land at Ballyneety North, Templebredon, Co. Limerick, to Anthony McCullagh, for the sum of €1, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 17th November, 2022.”

(n) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 18th November, 2022, concerning disposal of property on Railway Road, Bruree, Co. Limerick.

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

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended), and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property on Railway Road, Bruree, Co. Limerick, to Patrick Casey, for the sum of €33,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 18th November, 2022.”

(o) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 18th November, 2022, concerning disposal of three properties at Railway View, Knocklong, Co. Limerick.

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

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended), and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of three properties at Railway View, Knocklong, Co. Limerick, to Al Fitzgerald, for the sum of

€60,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 18th November, 2022.”

- (p) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 15th November, 2022, concerning disposal of property on Main Street, Bruff, Co. Limerick.

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

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended), and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property on Main Street, Bruff, Co. Limerick, to Paul Leonard, for the sum of €77,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 15th November, 2022.”

- (q) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 15th November, 2022, concerning disposal of property on Main Street, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.

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

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended), and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property on Main Street, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick, to Eoin Gibbons, for the sum of €51,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 15th November, 2022.”

- (r) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 15th November, 2022, concerning disposal of property on Lower Main Street, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick (€125,000).

A decision on this disposal was not considered by the Members at the Meeting.

- (s) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 15th November, 2022, concerning disposal of property on Lower Main Street, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick (€195,000).

A decision on this disposal was not considered by the Members at the Meeting.

- (t) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 15th November, 2022, concerning disposal of property at 34, Creagh Avenue, Kileely, Limerick.

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

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended), and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property at 34, Creagh Avenue, Kileely, Limerick, to Nikolay Raevski and Stanislava Raevska, for the sum of €79,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 15th November, 2022.”

- (u) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 15th November, 2022, concerning disposal of property at 23, Catherine Street, Limerick.

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

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended), and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property at 23, Catherine Street, Limerick, to Wang Hua Ltd., for the sum of €296,000 subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the lease, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 15th November, 2022.”

4. Support Services

(a) Chief Executive’s Report

Circulated, Chief Executive’s Report for the months of September and October 2022.

The Reports were noted by the Council.

(b) Foreign Travel

- (i) Circulated, report of the Director, Transportation and Mobility, dated 10th November, 2022, seeking the retrospective approval of the Council to the attendance by the Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, and a delegation, at a Cycling Study Tour in Utrecht, The Netherlands, from 16th to 19th October, 2022.

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

“That, in accordance with Section 142 (5) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the attendance by the Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, and a delegation, at a Cycling Study Tour in Utrecht, the Netherlands, from 16th to 19th October, 2022.”

- (ii) Circulated, report of the A/Director, Economic Development and Enterprise, dated 27th October, 2022, seeking the retrospective approval of the Council to the attendance by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick at the Smart City Expo World Congress 2022 in Barcelona, Spain, from 14th to 18th November, 2022.

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

“That, in accordance with Section 142 (5) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the attendance by the Mayor, of the City and County of Limerick at the Smart City Expo World Congress 2022 in Barcelona, Spain, from 14th to 18th November, 2022.”

(c) Adare Twinning with Villecresnes, France

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services, dated 8th November, 2022, setting out the background to a request for financial assistance from Adare Community Council towards the cost of a twinning initiative with Villecresnes, France.

The report stated that the twinning partnership between Adare and Villecresnes, France, commenced in 2013 and a representative from Adare Community Council travelled to Villecresnes from 30th June to 4th July, 2022, to attend the Villecresnes Festival. The total cost incurred was €279.08 and it was recommended that the Council fund 50% of this expenditure, which could be charged to the twinning code. Accordingly, the Council’s approval was being sought to the provision of financial assistance in the sum of €140.00 towards the cost of this twinning initiative.

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

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the provision of financial assistance in the amount of €140.00 to Adare Community Council, in accordance with the provisions of Section 66 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.”

(d) Executive Review of Standing Orders Metropolitan and Municipal District Meetings

Circulated, report of the Head of Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services dated 17th November, 2022, on Executive Review of Standing Orders - Metropolitan and Municipal District Meetings. The Members noted the contents of the Report and following a query from Members, the Meetings Administrator agreed to look at the issue of standardising the number of Questions and Notice of Motions allowed per Member, across each Municipal District.

(e) Strategic Policy Committee Reports

- (i) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee dated 11th November, 2022, in relation to meeting of the Committee held on 3rd October, 2022.

The report was noted by the Council.

- (ii) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee dated 15th November, 2022, in relation to meeting of the Committee held on 10th October, 2022.

The report was noted by the Council.

- (iii) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee in relation to meeting of the Committee held on 18th October, 2022

The report was noted by the Council.

- (iv) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee dated 14th November, 2022, in relation to meeting of the Committee held on 25th October, 2022.

The report was noted by the Council.

- (v) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee dated 19th October, 2022, in relation to meeting of the Committee held on 19th October, 2022, together with (a) report of the Director of Housing dated 14th November, 2022, enclosing copy of draft Mid-West Region Homelessness Action Plan 2022-2025; (b) report of the Director of Housing dated 14th November, 2022, enclosing copy of draft Homeless Policy Document; and (c) report of the Director of Housing dated 18th November, 2022, enclosing draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy.

The report was noted by the Council.

Recommendation No. 1

That, the draft Mid-West Region Homelessness Action Plan 2022-2025 be recommended to Council for adoption.

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

“That, the Mid-West Region Homelessness Action Plan 2022-2025, as circulated, be and is hereby adopted.”

Recommendation No. 2

That, the draft Homeless Policy Document be recommended to Council for adoption.

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

“That, the Homeless Policy Document, as circulated, be and is hereby adopted.”

Recommendation No. 3

That, the draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy be recommended to Council for adoption.

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

“That, the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy, as circulated, be and is hereby adopted.”

5. Community, Tourism and Culture

(a) Local Community Development Committee

The Meetings Administrator stated that the Council was required to consider the filling of a vacancy on the Local Community Development Committee consequent on the resignation of Councillor Slattery from the Committee.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins (M), seconded by Councillor Collins (J), Councillor Pond was appointed to fill the vacancy on the Local Community Development Committee consequent on the resignation of Councillor Slattery from the Committee.

(b) Strategic Fund for Arts and Culture Scheme 2022

Circulated, report of the Arts Officer dated 18th November, 2022, seeking the Council’s approval to recommended allocations under the Strategic Fund for Arts and Culture Scheme 2022.

Proposed by Councillor O’Sullivan;
Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to recommended allocations under the Strategic Fund for Arts and Culture Scheme 2022, as set out in the report of the Arts Officer dated 18th November, 2022.”

(c) Limerick Theatre Bursaries 2022

Circulated, report of the Arts Officer dated 18th November, 2022, seeking the Council’s approval to recommended Limerick Theatre Bursaries 2022.

Proposed by Councillor O’Sullivan;
Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to recommended Limerick Theatre Bursaries 2022, as set out in the report of the Arts Officer dated 18th November, 2022.”

6. Conferences

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan (J), seconded by Councillor O’Hanlon, the Council approved the attendance of the following Members at Conferences already approved by the Council:

Conference on A Practical Guide to Budget 2023 held in Carlingford, Co. Louth, on 1st/2nd October, 2022: Councillor Teefy.

Conference on The Role of the Local Authorities in Addressing the Needs of Older People held in Carlingford, Co. Louth, from 11th to 13th November, 2022: Councillors Collins (M) and Donegan.

Report on Conference / Seminar / Meeting / Event

Circulated, reports by Members who had participated at Conference / Seminar / Meeting / Event.

The reports were noted by the Members.

QUESTIONS

Replies to the following Questions on the agenda were circulated to all Members prior to the Meeting and the Questions were therefore considered as having been dealt with:

7. Question submitted by Councillor S. Benson

I will ask at the next Meeting how many inspections of dog breeding establishments were carried out this year and, of those inspections, how many were (a) announced inspections, and (b) unannounced inspections.

REPLY: 62 dog breeding establishment inspections have been completed this year. All premises passed the inspections. All inspections were announced. Unannounced inspections are only done when there is either a complaint or a concern that standards are not being met.

8. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting for plans of how Limerick City and County Council plans to support Small and Medium-sized local businesses through the next 12 months and during this inflationary period.

Reply: Limerick City and County Council will continue to support business as it has done over the past number of difficult years with supports approved through the annual budget process of the Council and other supports through the Local Enterprise Office of Limerick City and County Council.

Over the past few years Limerick City and County Council has delivered the following supports:

- Administered the COVID Business Re-Start Grant (funded by Government).
- Administered COVID Commercial Rates Waiver (funded by Government).
- Shop Limerick - digital platform to showcase businesses in Limerick.
- Support business in creating an on-line presence.
- Provided various business supports through Local Enterprise Office (LEO) including the Trading on Line Voucher Scheme.
- Major marketing promotion campaigns in 2021 and 2022 to encourage tourists and locals to visit Limerick during the summer season including the very successful and award winning 'Double your Summer in Limerick' and '50 Days of Summer in Limerick.'
- Provided training to business staff members to promote their business on social media.
- Provided mentoring for business owners.
- Provided build-outs to facilitate outside dining.
- Administered grant aid for outside dining equipment, tables, chairs, canopies.
- Secured grant funding of €750,000 from Fáilte Ireland to provide semi-permanent outside dining facilities in Bedford Row and Lower Thomas Street.
- Funded a programme of events to encourage footfall in the city.
- Improved the public realm to encourage visitors to the city.

Over the coming 12 months, Limerick City and County Council is proposing to provide:

- A New Retail Economic Incentive Scheme 2023 providing up to €6,000 grant aid over 2 years in designated areas to encourage uptake of vacant buildings for certain new retail uses as set out in the scheme proposal. (Subject to approval of Elected Members at the Annual Budget meeting 2023).
- The proposed Small & Medium Business Support Scheme 2023 will provide a grant of circa 13.5% of 2023 Rates (subject to a maximum limit of €1,500) for small businesses with a total commercial rate bill of less than €30,000 subject to terms and conditions of the scheme. (Subject to approval of Elected Members at the Annual Budget meeting 2023).
- The proposed Tourism Sector Support Scheme 2023 offering a support of 4% subject to maximum limit of €1,500 to occupiers of commercial properties directly linked to the tourism and hospitality sectors. (Subject to approval of Elected Members at the Annual Budget meeting 2023).
- The Councils marketing department will work with stakeholders across the city and county to assist with marketing and promotion of events including visit Limerick.
- Continue to work with city centre business on programme of events to encourage footfall.
- Continue to provide social media platform for business to promote their goods.
- Provide space for mean-while use of areas to facilitate business.
- Engage a dedicated night-time economy officer to work with businesses operating in the evening and night-time economy.
- Continue to lobby and represent business at National Level for assistance in the current inflationary climate.

In addition, the Local Enterprise Office (LEO Limerick) will continue to offer a comprehensive suite of local and national supports for owner/managers in the SME sector. The team will also be taking on wider supports for companies with over 10 staff in 2023.

Start Ups:

- Start Your Own Business courses to support new entrepreneurs: both online and in-person.
- Feasibility Grants to support research into new innovative business proposals: up to €15,000.
- Priming Grants to support new companies in the first 18 months of start-up - maximum payable shall be 50% of the investment or €150,000, whichever is the lesser.

Growth:

- Business Expansion Grants - the maximum Priming Grant payable shall be 50% of the investment or €150,000 whichever is the lesser
- Management Development courses for young and established businesses.
- LEAN, Green for Micro and Digital for Micro national programmes to drive energy and cost savings and growth.
- Specific supports for SME's in the food sector to encourage development and growth e.g. Food Academy.
- A specially developed export programme and TAME grants to support businesses to access international markets.
- Supported growth paths to become clients in Enterprise Ireland's portfolio.

Wider supports for the SME ecosystem:

- Trading online vouchers to encourage businesses to develop their online presence and ecommerce.
- Targeted seminars to ensure local businesses are up to date with the macro economy, can liaise with staff and network to support one another.
- LINC network to support business owners in engineering production.
- Local consumer awareness campaigns to support the local retail and production economy.
- Access to microfinance loans at a reduced interest rate.
- Sponsorship of the Tech Start-Up programme.
- Ongoing business advice clinics and mentoring to provide specialised supports for business owners.
- Supporting the development of infrastructure – i.e. hubs and business start-up premises.

In addition to the above, the staff of the Economic Development and Enterprise Directorate and the Local Enterprise Office are available to meet with Small and Medium-sized local businesses that need advice or support.

NOTICES OF MOTION

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council call on the Minister for Transport to adopt a policy at National level to have bus shelters constructed where there is a bus stop and that this Motion, if adopted be circulated to all local authorities.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Sheahan (K) and seconded by Councillor Collins (M) and adopted.

It was agreed that the Motion would also be forwarded to the National Transport Authority.

Suspension of Standing Orders: It was noted that the time was approaching 5.30 p.m. and on the proposal of Councillor Sheahan (J), seconded by Councillor Collins (M), Standing Orders were suspended in order to complete the Agenda.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Sheahan

I will move at the next Meeting that the Minister for Justice carry out an immediate review on the provision of pay and pension entitlements for members of An Garda Síochána.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan (J), seconded by Councillor Galvin, the Motion was adopted.

It was agreed that the Motion would also be forwarded to the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council call on the Minister for Health (a) to designate a Minister for Women's Health, as a matter of priority, as exists in other jurisdictions; (b) to explain why no progress has been made to advance the Patient Safety (Notifiable Patient Safety Incidents) Bill, 2019, since it passed Dáil Committee Stage in March this year; and (c) to progress this Bill as a matter of priority to Dáil Report Stage and, thereafter, through all Stages in the Seanad, as promised to this Council in the Minister's correspondence of April 22nd, 2022.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Secas, seconded by Councillor Sheehan (C), and adopted.

Vote of Sympathy

As part of the discussions, a Vote of Sympathy was expressed to the family of the late Vicky Phelan by the Members, who noted that Vicky had also worked in the University of Limerick where today's Meeting was being held. The Members and officials observed a minute's silence.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Benson (to be referred to Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council, when selling Council-owned properties on the open market that are suitable for residential dwelling, will apply a special condition whereby the intended purchaser must have a housing need, as allowed under Section 90 (6) (b) (i) of the Housing Act, 1966.

It was agreed to refer the Motion to the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee for consideration.

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

We will move at the next Meeting that the Citizens' Assembly set up to look into, advise, discuss comprehensively the logistics and recommendations for The Directly Elected Mayor for Dublin, report their findings back to us in the interest of fairness, balance, transparency and clarity to the proposed office of Directly Elected Mayor in Limerick.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Donegan, and adopted.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor B. Collins

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council write to the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly, T.D., to seek the expansion of primary care services of Pharmacies to assist in alleviating pressures in other areas of the primary health care system.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Collins (B), seconded by Councillor Collins (J), and adopted.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Keary

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council seek further clarification from the relevant Government Department on the new Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) to be introduced in February 2023 – (a) to extend the submission period and commencement period by a minimum of three calendar months to allow affected property owners to make the necessary submissions and observations; and (b) that all property owners with lands within the relevant zoned areas throughout Limerick City and County would be written to immediately informing them of their potential liability for the payment of the 3% RZLT.

The Director clarified that 'to be introduced in February 2023' should read 'to be introduced in February 2024.'

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Keary, seconded by Councillor Galvin, and adopted.

It was also agreed that a copy of the Motion would be forwarded to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Minister for Finance.

REPLY: The Residential Zoned Land Tax was introduced under the Finance Act, 2021. The objective of the tax is to activate land that is serviced and zoned for residential use or mixed use, including residential use, in order to increase housing supply and to ensure regeneration of vacant and idle lands in urban locations. The timelines are set out in the Finance Act, 2021, and Residential Zoned Land Tax – Guidelines for Planning Authorities for the submission and commencement periods.

The Guidelines also set out that *'the local authority does not need to establish who the owner(s) of the land is/are in order to include lands on the draft, supplemental or final map.'*

The Local Authority is obliged to comply with the Finance Act, 2021, and associated Guidelines.

16. Correspondence

The Correspondence circulated with the agenda was taken as read.

Other Business

Rehab Logistic Workers

With the permission of the Mayor, the following Notice of Motion from Cllr Sheehan (C) was allowed as it had originally being omitted due to uncertainty about the clarity of the original wording of it.

“That, Limerick City and County Council notes the determination of the Labour Court that it could find no clear and undisputed basis not to uphold the existing collective agreement and consequently recommended that it be respected, in relation to the redundancy payments owed to the former Rehab Logistic workers and that this Council writes to the Minister for Social Protection to call on her to instruct the Rehab Group to pay the former Section 38 Rehab logistic workers redundancy in line with a collective agreement that has been in place for 30 years.”

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Sheehan (C), seconded by Councillor Collins (B) and adopted.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ORDERS:

The Register of Orders made by the Chief Executive up to the date of the Meeting was available on SharePoint for inspection by the Members.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT:

The Register of Decisions on Applications under the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, was also available on SharePoint for inspection by the Members.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Date: _____