

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, AND ONLINE, ON MONDAY, 27TH MARCH, 2023, 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, Novak 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), Sheahan (C), Slattery, Talukder, Teefy, Teskey.

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), A/Director, Planning, Environment and Place-Making (Ms. N. O'Connell), 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), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Mr. M. Leahy), Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Ms. A. Foley).

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copies of draft Minutes of the following Meetings:

- (a) Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 23rd January, 2023.
- (b) Special Meeting of the Council held on 9th February, 2023.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;

Seconded by Councillor Teskey;

And Resolved:

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

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 19th January, 2023, together with map, concerning disposal of land at Kilbane, Ballysimon, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;
 Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
 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 Kilbane, Ballysimon, Limerick, to Denis J. O’Brien, Legal Personal Representative (LPR) of Denis O’Brien, 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 19th January, 2023.”

(b) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 19th January, 2023, concerning disposal of land at 11, Singland Park, Garryowen, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;
 Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
 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 11 Singland Park, Garryowen, Limerick, to Aoife Lynch and Josh Power Hurley, 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 19th January, 2023.”

(c) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 19th January, 2023, concerning disposal of land at 26, Hogan Avenue, Kileely, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;
 Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
 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 26 Hogan Avenue, Kileely, Limerick, to Bernadette McCann, 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 19th January, 2023.”

(d) Circulated, copy of further Statutory Notice dated 9th February, 2023, together with Ordnance Survey Drawing No. AG/5060, concerning disposal of land comprising Folio LK14569F adjoining 55 College Avenue, Moyross, Limerick.

It was noted that this item had previously been deferred at the November and January Council Meetings.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;
Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
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 Folio LK14569F adjoining 55 College Avenue, Moyross, Limerick, to Robert and Margaret Kelly, 55 College Avenue, Moyross, Limerick. Part of Folio LK24525 outlined in Red to be transferred into Folio LK14569F – Limerick City and County Council is the registered owner of the entirety of Folio LK24525 - Red outline shown encompasses an area of 71m²/0.017 acres - the disposal to be by way of Deed of Transfer of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 9th February, 2023.”

(e) Circulated, (i) copy of Statutory Notice dated 2nd March, 2023, (ii) Ordnance Survey Drawing No. AG/5118, and (iii) further copy of Ordnance Survey Drawing relating to ‘Declaration of Ownership’ details, concerning disposal of Folio LK68202F, 6 Chapel Street, Bruff, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;
Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
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 Folio LK68202F, 6 Chapel Street, Bruff, Co. Limerick – the lands to be transferred from Limerick City and County Council to Kathleen & Patrick Kiely, outlined in red on the map attached to the Statutory Notice, areas of lands to be transferred = 0.016 hectares/0.039 acres – lands forming part of Limerick City and County Council folio LK68202F – the disposal to be by way of Deed of Transfer of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 2nd March, 2023.”

(f) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 9th March, 2023, concerning disposal of land comprising 28m² (0.007 acres) at rear of 13 Michael Hartnett Close, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;
 Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
 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 28m² (0.007 acres) at rear of 13 Michael Hartnett Close, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, to Ms. Anita Lyons, for the sum of €500, subject to Limerick City and County Council’s reasonable legal fees to be paid by Ms. Lyons, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 9th March, 2023.”

(g) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 13th March, 2023, concerning disposal of freehold interest in property at 28 Parkview Drive, Greystones, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;
 Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
 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 the freehold interest in property at 28 Parkview Drive, Greystones, Limerick, to Ms. Helen Chambers, for the sum of €1, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 13th March, 2023.”

(h) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 13th March, 2023, concerning disposal of 3.164 acres (1.2806 hectares) of land at Liam Fitzgerald Park, Ballygrennan, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;
 Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
 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 3.164 acres (1.2806 hectares) of land at Liam Fitzgerald Park, Ballygrennan, Limerick, to Thomond Rugby Football Club - the consideration being the acquisition of 0.597 acres (0.2414 hectares) of land at Liam Fitzgerald Park, Ballygrennan, Limerick - particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 13th March, 2023.”

(i) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 13th March, 2023, concerning disposal of 0.0133 acres (strip) of land at 25 Hartigan Villas, Moyross, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;
 Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
 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 0.0133 acres (strip) of land at 25 Hartigan Villas, Moyross, Limerick, to Mr. Christopher O’Donnell, for the sum of €1 – the Council having agreed to the setting of a strong whitethorn bush in front of the fencing to allow for privacy and ongoing anti-social issues; and Limerick City and County Council to pay the vendor’s reasonable legal fees - particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 13th March, 2023.”

- (j) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 13th March, 2023, concerning disposal of land comprising 28m² and Right-of-Way at Rosbrien Road, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;
 Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
 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 28m² and right-of-way at Rosbrien Road, Limerick, to Gas Networks Ireland, for the sum of €1, subject to Gas Networks Ireland covering Limerick City and County Council’s legal costs, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 13th March, 2023.”

- (k) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 13th March, 2023, concerning disposal of 0.0137 hectares (0.0339 acres) of land in the form of a 10-year lease at Singland, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;
 Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
 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 0.0137 hectares (0.0339 acres) of land, in the form of a 10-year lease, at Singland, Limerick, to the Trustees of St. Brigid’s National School, for the sum of €1, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 13th March, 2023.”

- (l) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 14th March, 2023, concerning disposal of 0.187 hectares (0.461 acres) of land at Singland, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;
 Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
 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 0.187 hectares (0.461 acres) of land at Singland, Limerick, to the Trustees of St. Brigid’s National School, for the sum of €1, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 14th March, 2023.”

Derelict Disposals

(m) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 13th March, 2023, concerning disposal of property at Ballyclough Avenue, Castletroy, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;
 Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
 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 Ballyclough Avenue, Castletroy, Co. Limerick, to Nick O’Dwyer, for the sum of €241,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 13th March, 2023.”

(n) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 13th March, 2023, concerning disposal of property at Jesuit Lane, Limerick.

It was noted that this Statutory Notice superseded a previous Statutory Notice applicable to the same property dated 27th June, 2022. The Council had passed a resolution at Meeting held on 11th July, 2022, disposing of the property and accordingly it would now be necessary to rescind the previous resolution.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;
 Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
 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 Jesuit Lane, Limerick, to Paddy O’Meara Properties Limited, for the sum of €70,500, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 13th March, 2023. This resolution rescinds previous resolution relating to Statutory Notice dated 27th June, 2022 – passed at Council Meeting on 11th July, 2022 – applicable to the same property.”

(o) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 13th March, 2023, concerning disposal of property at Drombanna, Co. Limerick.

It was noted that this Statutory Notice superseded a previous Statutory Notice applicable to the same property dated 27th June, 2022. The Council had passed a resolution at Meeting held on 11th July, 2022, disposing of the property and accordingly it would now be necessary to rescind the previous resolution.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;
 Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
 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 Drombanna, Co. Limerick, to Anthony and Eleanor Barry, for the sum of €365,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 13th March, 2023. This resolution rescinds previous resolution relating to Statutory Notice dated 27th June, 2022 - passed at Council Meeting on 11th July, 2022 - applicable to the same property.”

(p) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 13th March, 2023, concerning disposal of property at Inglenook, Bruff, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;
 Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
 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 Inglenook, Bruff, Co. Limerick, to Patrick Paul Leonard, for the sum of €90,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 13th March, 2023.”

4. Support Services

(a) Chief Executive's Report

Circulated, Chief Executive's Report for the months of January and February 2023.

The Reports were noted by the Council.

(b) Raising of Loan to fund the issuing of Local Authority Home Loans (LAHL) by Limerick City and County Council to Borrowers

Circulated, report of the Deputy Chief Executive dated 7th March, 2023, seeking the Council's approval to application for sanction from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for a loan in the amount of €5,150,000 to fund the drawdown of Local Authority Home Loans.

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

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to application for sanction from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, for a loan in the amount of €5,150,000 to fund the drawdown of Local Authority Home Loans, the loan to be drawn from the Housing Finance Agency.”

(c) Audit

(i) Audit and Risk Committee Work Programme 2023

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services, dated 7th March, 2023, together with copy of Limerick City and County Council Audit and Risk Committee Work Programme 2023, as agreed by the Audit Committee at a meeting of the Committee held on 3rd March, 2023.

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

“That, the Limerick City and County Council Audit and Risk Committee Work Programme 2023, as circulated, be and is hereby adopted.”

(ii) Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report 2022

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services, dated 7th March, 2023, enclosing the Limerick City and County Council Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report 2022.

The report was noted by the Council.

(d) Foreign Travel

Circulated, report of the Head of Marketing and Communications dated 22nd March, 2023, seeking retrospective approval of the Council to foreign travel in respect of a visit by the Mayor to Los Angeles, USA, on 12th March, 2023, for the announcement that Limerick had been chosen to host Cineposium, AFCI’s 2023 Global Film Industry Summit, in September 2023.

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

"That, in accordance with Section 142 (5) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, retrospective approval of the Council be and is hereby given to foreign travel in respect of invitation received by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick to attend event in Los Angeles, USA, on 12th March, 2023, for the announcement that Limerick had been chosen to host Cineposium, AFCI's 2023 Global Film Industry Summit, in September 2023."

(e) Vacancy on Joint Policing Committee

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services, dated 14th March, 2023, in relation to the filling of a vacancy on the Joint Policing Committee consequent on the resignation of Councillor Sarah Kiely from the Committee.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan (J), seconded by Councillor Collins (M), this item was deferred to the May Meeting.

(f) PAUL Partnership Limerick CLG

Circulated, letter from PAUL Partnership Limerick CLG dated 3rd October, 2022, requesting the nomination of two Members of Limerick City and County Council to the Board of PAUL Partnership Limerick CLG following the resignation of Councillors Sharon Benson and Sarah Kiely from the Board.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan (J), seconded by Councillor Collins (M), this item was deferred to the May Meeting.

(g) Annual Service Delivery Plan 2023

Circulated, report of the Director, Support Services, dated 21st March, 2023, enclosing Draft Annual Service Delivery Plan 2023 for Limerick City and County Council and including, as an Appendix, a Review of the 2022 Service Delivery Plan.

In discussing the Annual Service Delivery Plan 2023, the Members expressed their concerns in relation to the delays in getting repairs responded to by the ESB and they cited numerous occasions where delays are running into months, rather than weeks, in getting repairs carried out. The Director, Transportation and Mobility noted the Members concerns and agreed to communicate these concerns to the ESB.

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

"That, in accordance with Section 134 (a) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, the Annual Service Delivery Plan 2023 for Limerick City and County Council, as circulated, be and is hereby adopted."

(h) Annual Report 2022

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services, dated 21st March, 2023, enclosing copy of the draft Annual Report 2022 for Limerick City and County Council.

The report stated that the draft Annual Report 2022 had been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, and set out details of the policies, programmes, services and other activities undertaken by the Council. It also gave an outline of activities to promote the interests of local communities and twinning. The final version of the Annual Report would be brought before the May Meeting of the Council for adoption.

The draft Annual Report 2022 was noted by the Council.

(i) Strategic Policy Committee Reports

(i) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee dated 13th March, 2023, in relation to meeting of the Committee held on 7th February, 2023.

The report was noted by the Council.

(ii) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee dated 13th March, 2023, in relation to meeting of the Committee held on 13th February, 2023.

The report was noted by the Council.

(iii) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee dated 7th March, 2023, in relation to meeting of the Committee held on 14th February, 2023.

Recommendation

“That, this Council ask the Minister for the Environment to adopt the WHO air quality guideline limits nationally, and ask whether it is possible for the WHO limits to be adopted unilaterally by Limerick.”

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Collins (M), the Recommendation was agreed.

(iv) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee dated 15th February, 2023, in relation to meeting of the Committee held on 15th February, 2023, together with accompanying reports as set out below.

Recommendation No. 1 - Circulated, report from the Working Group on Vacancy dated January 2023.

“That, the Report from the Working Group on Vacancy be submitted to Full Council for adoption.”

Proposed by Councillor Keary;
Seconded by Councillor Teskey;
And Resolved:

“That, the Report from the Working Group on Vacancy, dated January 2023, as circulated, be and is hereby adopted.”

Recommendation No. 2 – Circulated at Meeting, Report on Submissions received dated 22nd March, 2023.

“That, the Report from the Working Group on Vacancy would be circulated to all Council Members in advance of the March Meeting and that they be invited to make submissions on same. A Report on submissions would be made available at the March Meeting.”

The Report on submissions received was noted by the Council.

Recommendation No. 3

“That, the Council write to the Minister for Housing to request more resources for the Affordable Housing Team.”

On the proposal of Councillor Keary, seconded by Councillor Teskey, Recommendation No. 3 was agreed.

Recommendation No. 4 – Circulated, report of the Director, Housing, dated 2nd March, 2023, together with copy of Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements.

“That, the draft Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements be submitted to Full Council for adoption.”

Proposed by Councillor Keary;
Seconded by Councillor Teskey;
And Resolved:

“That, the Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements, as circulated, be and is hereby adopted.”

Recommendation No. 5

“That, Limerick City and County Council engage with applicants who were refused a Local Authority Home Loan in recent years so they have the opportunity to re-apply, as income limits have recently been increased by Government and they may now be eligible.”

On the proposal of Councillor Keary, seconded by Councillor Teskey, Recommendation No. 5 was agreed.

- (v) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee dated 9th March, 2023, in relation to meeting of the Committee held on 21st February, 2023.

The Report was noted by the Council

5. Housing

Raising of Loan to fund the delivery of a Cost Rental Scheme at Sonny's Corner, Limerick City

Circulated, report of the Director of Housing dated 13th March, 2023, seeking the Council's approval to application for sanction from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for a loan in the amount of €3,800,000 to fund the delivery of a cost-rental scheme at Sonny's Corner, Limerick City, the loan to be drawn from the Housing Finance Agency.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
 Seconded by Councillor Ryan (E);
 And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to application for sanction from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, for a loan in the amount of €3,800,000 to fund the delivery of a cost-rental scheme at Sonny's Corner, Limerick City, the loan to be drawn from the Housing Finance Agency.”

6. Economic Development and Enterprise

Development Fund Allocations 2023

Circulated, report of the A/Director, Economic Development and Enterprise, dated 13th March, 2023, setting out details of Development Fund Allocations for 2023.

The Members noted the allocation details outlined in the Report and agreed that additional funding and resources needed to be directed at the issue of Taking in Charge of estates.

They noted that approximately 75 estates were due to be taken in charge and that the process needs to be accelerated with additional funding required to do this. The A/Director, Planning, Environment and Place-Making confirmed that the cost of taking in charge of individual estates varied across the city and county. She also confirmed that a new inspection programme was being introduced in relation to this and that a regular update would be provided to the Members at Metropolitan and Municipal District level.

The allocations were noted by the Council.

7. Community, Tourism and Culture

(a) Grants under the Arts Act

Circulated, report of the Arts Officer dated 15th March, 2023, seeking the Council's approval to recommended grants, as set out in the report, under the Arts Act, 2003.

Proposed by Councillor O'Sullivan;
Seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon;
And Resolved:

"That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the payment of grants under the Arts at, 2003, as recommended, and as set out in the report of the Arts Officer dated 15th March, 2023."

Some Members agreed that it was important that an appropriate balance in the distribution of funding be maintained between the City and County to ensure full access to support funding by all involved in the arts.

(b) Local Community Development Committee Annual Report 2022

Circulated, report of the LCDC Chief Officer, Community, Tourism and Culture Directorate, dated 9th March, 2023, enclosing 2022 Annual Report of the Limerick Local Community Development Committee.

The LCDC Annual Report was noted by the Members.

8. Conferences

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.

QUESTION

The Reply to the following Question on the agenda was circulated to all Members prior to the Meeting and the Question was therefore considered as having been dealt with:

9. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting how many people are qualified for housing within each Municipal District; also, what the total number for our Authority now stands at.

REPLY: The total number of qualified social housing applicants for Limerick City and County Council is 5,843 as at 28th February, 2023. This figure includes those currently in HAP/RAS accommodation and those on the Council's transfer list.

The number of qualified social housing applicants for Limerick City and County Council net of HAP/RAS and Council Transfers is 2,301.

All applicants for social housing support can select a maximum number of three Areas of Choice and make their selection on the housing application form. The areas of choice are listed on the application form under the relevant Municipal District/Metropolitan District.

The number of people qualified who have selected their areas of choice under the various Municipal Districts is set out below as per their First Area of Choice and is based on the net number of qualified applicants (not all applicants wish to select three areas) -

| <u>Municipal District</u> | <u>No. of Applicants who selected the District</u> |
|--|---|
| Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale | 112 |
| Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock | 144 |
| Municipal District of Newcastle West | 150 |

NOTICES OF MOTION

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that, in view of the 50% vacant commercial rate demand, this Council (a) facilitates that in situations where property owners have converted a property from commercial to residential without planning, that they will be permitted to do the reverse {i.e. convert from residential to commercial without planning} should there be demand for commercial properties in the future; and (b) in situations where commercial property owners convert their vacant commercial properties to residential units, either a

grant be made available or tax relief be applied to defray a portion of the costs involved in the conversion of the property by the Department of Housing.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Galvin and seconded by Councillor Teskey.

REPLY: (a) Exemptions that exist in relation to change of use of a premises from commercial to residential use is set out in the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) and enacted by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Accordingly, the Local Authority has no powers in relation to amending this legislation.

(b) The Local Authority operates a number of schemes to support property owners to redevelop existing properties, any new scheme proposed, would require support from the Department, to enable the Local Authority to implement.

Councillor Galvin proposed an amendment to the Motion to read as follows:

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council call on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to review planning legislation in view of the 50% vacant commercial rate demand to (a) facilitate that in situations where property owners have converted a property from commercial to residential without planning, that they will be permitted to do the reverse {i.e. convert from residential to commercial without planning} should there be demand for commercial properties in the future; and (b) in situations where commercial property owners convert their vacant commercial properties to residential units, either a grant be made available or tax relief be applied to defray a portion of the costs involved in the conversion of the property by the Department of Housing.

The amended Motion was seconded by Councillor Keary and agreed.

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

We will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council call on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to review the Croí Cónaithe Scheme to include derelict units that will be refurbished and made ready for the rental market and not just principal places of residence for the owner.

At the request of Councillor J. Sheahan and with the agreement of the Meeting, this Motion was withdrawn.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Keary

I will move at the next Meeting that as a result of this Authority deciding to change its mind on the intended use of the former Bank of Ireland building which it recently purchased at

Askeaton, Co. Limerick, from Community/Commercial use to Residential use to facilitate approximately 22 no. Ukrainian Citizens at this location - I am satisfied that this building will be refurbished and used as temporary residential accommodation for a period of two years as stated by a member of the Council Executive. But, I am requesting that the process to prepare a feasibility study to establish its future community use and the preparation of a Part 8 Planning Application for a change of use to its intended use would commence immediately and be shovel-ready for inclusion for grant applications under Town and Village Renewal Programmes and other sources of funding. I also request that the study include the Bank of Ireland building in Abbeyfeale.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Keary and seconded by Councillor Sheahan (K).

REPLY: The Council will progress with the procurement of Consultants to undertake a feasibility study for the Askeaton Bank Building as soon as possible.

The Council has already gone out to tender for Consultants to undertake the feasibility study for the Abbeyfeale Bank Building and the tender assessment will be undertaken in the coming weeks with a view to Consultants being appointed in April/May 2023.

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

We will move at the next Meeting that the tenants of Approved Housing Bodies be given the same rights as local authority housing tenants in the option of purchasing their rented home, should they wish to do so.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Collins (B).

The Members agreed that it was important that tenants across all social housing categories be treated fairly and consistently. They agreed that most tenants do not understand what was the difference in tenure type and what possible options were available to them re the right to purchase, etc., so they agreed that it was important that there was consistency in approach.

Members also noted concerns regarding the ongoing management of individual housing associations due to the age profile of committees involved in their original set up, and who would continue the management of same going forward.

REPLY: If an Approved Housing Body (AHB) is in receipt of funding under a scheme (e.g. CALF or CAS), they must comply with the terms and conditions of that scheme. Under such schemes, the AHB is legally required to make the property available for social renting for the duration of the mortgage or leasing agreement (e.g. 25 years).

Section 45 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2009, does provide for the sale by local authorities and AHBs of designated new houses to eligible households and the associated Housing (Incremental Purchase) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 252 of 2010).

In addition, if a property is owned outright by an AHB and it is not subject to public funding, the AHB may choose to sell that property, once this is allowed for in their constitution.

However, it is our understanding that any sales would have to be initiated by the AHB in question. There is no direction from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to compel the AHB Sector to initiate the sale of new houses.

Should this Notice of Motion be passed, we would recommend that we write to the Minister to consider same and a copy of this Notice of Motion is forwarded to the Housing Commission.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Keary and adopted.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillors P.J. Carey, E. Ryan and G. Mitchell

We will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council call on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to review the Derelict Sites Act, 1990, in accordance and with respect to property rights as determined in Article 40.3.2 and Article 43 of Bunreacht na hÉireann.

At the request of Councillor Carey and with the agreement of the Meeting, this Motion was withdrawn.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor O. O'Sullivan

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council write to the Minister for Health asking that immediate access be granted to Kaftrio for the 35 children in Ireland with Cystic Fibrosis excluded from accessing this drug.

At the request of Councillor O'Sullivan and with the agreement of the Meeting, this Notice of Motion was withdrawn. Councillor O'Sullivan welcomed the recent announcement that the Minister for Health had agreed to the drug being provided.

16. Correspondence

The Correspondence circulated with the agenda was taken as read.

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: _____