

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK AND ONLINE ON MONDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2023 at 9.45 A.M.**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:** Councillor Olivia O'Sullivan, Cathaoirleach

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

A/Director, National and Regional SSC (Ms. P. King), Meetings Administrator (Mr. M. Leahy), Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services (Ms. A. Foley), Senior Executive Officer, Housing Support Services (Ms. M. Hayes), Senior Executive Planner (Ms. K. Burke), Executive Planner, Strategic and Forward Planning (Ms. N. O'Connell), Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. M. Richardson), Senior Executive Engineer, Recreation (Ms. C. Lynch), A/Administrative Officer, Tourism (Mr. E. Crimmins), Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Ms. S. Carroll).

The Cathaoirleach and Members extended their condolences and sympathy to the family of Michael Scott, Staff Member of the Environment Department who had passed away recently.

Members also extended their sympathies on the tragic passing of Geila Ibram and requested that a letter would be sent to the Romanian Ambassador.

The Cathaoirleach and Members acknowledged the recent visit to Ireland of the US President on the anniversary of the Good Friday agreement and congratulated everyone involved in organising events in Dundalk and Ballina.

**1. Adoption of Minutes**

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2023.

Proposed by Councillor McSweeney;  
Seconded by Councillor Kiely;  
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 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2023, setting out proposals for disposal of Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 40 Marian Park, 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.

(b) Circulated, Report of the Senior Staff Officer, Housing Support Services dated 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2023, setting out proposals for disposal of Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 7 Claughaun Court, Garryowen 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 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2023, setting out proposals for disposal of Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 75 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.

### **3. Schedule of Municipal District Works for Metropolitan District of Limerick**

Circulated, report of the Director of Services dated 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2023, setting out the background to the preparation of a Schedule of Municipal District Works and including the Draft Schedule of Municipal District Works 2023 for the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor McSweeney;

Seconded by Councillor Kiely;

And Resolved:

“That the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2023 for the Metropolitan District of Limerick be adopted in accordance with Section 103A of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended)”.

### **4. Community Initiative Scheme - General Municipal Allocation (GMA)**

Circulated, Report of the Director of Service dated 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2023, setting out the proposals for the Community Initiative Scheme 2023, which allowed for the sum of €4,500 for each Member, as follows:

#### **LIMERICK CITY EAST**

<b>Name of Group</b>	<b>Amount</b>
ACM Community Centre	€500
<b>Ahane 45<sup>th</sup> Scout Group</b>	<b>€900</b>
Ahane National School Parents Association	€500
<b>Aisling Annacotty AFC</b>	<b>€2,500</b>
Annacotty Tidy Towns	€1,500
<b>Bat Rehabilitation Ireland</b>	<b>€500</b>
Carn Na Ree Residents Association	€1,000
<b>Castleconnell Boat Club</b>	<b>€1,000</b>
Castleconnell Scout Group	€900
<b>Glenbrook Residents Association</b>	<b>€ 1,000</b>
Granville Rangers FC Soccer Club	€ 2,000

<b>Haven Hub CLG/Limerick Land Search</b>	<b>€1,500</b>
Irish Wildlife Trust Limerick	€500
<b>Limerick Bat Club</b>	<b>€500</b>
Limerick Birdwatch	€500
<b>Limerick &amp; District Anglers</b>	<b>€500</b>
Limerick City Traveller Health	€900
<b>Lisnagry FC Soccer Club</b>	<b>€900</b>
Lisnagry National School	€500
<b>Milford Grange National School</b>	<b>€1,000</b>
Monaleen GAA	€1,000
<b>Mulcair Drive Annacotty Text Alert</b>	<b>€500</b>
Mulcair Men's Shed	€900
<b>Redemptorist School of Music</b>	<b>€500</b>
Southend Utd	€500

#### LIMERICK CITY NORTH

Ballynatty Rovers AFC	€1,750
<b>Caherdavin Celtic AFC</b>	<b>€2,000</b>
Caherdavin Men's Shed	€1,000
<b>Caherdavin &amp; District Actively Retired</b>	<b>€1,500</b>
Coonagh Sports & Social Club	€500
<b>Corbally United AFC Under 15B Team</b>	<b>€750</b>
Dóchas Centre	€500
<b>Haven Hub</b>	<b>€1,500</b>
Limerick County Pike Anglers Association	€500
<b>Mayorstone Community Games</b>	<b>€500</b>
Men's Shed Nicholas St	€1,000
<b>Moyross AFC</b>	<b>€500</b>
Rhebogue Meadows Residents Association	€1,000
<b>Richmond RFC</b>	<b>€1,000</b>
Shelbourne AFC	€1,000
<b>St Patrick's GAA Club, Rhebogue</b>	<b>€500</b>
St Patrick's Soccer Club	€500
<b>Thomond Primary School</b>	<b>€500</b>
Total Families Support CLG	€1,000
<b>Villiers Housing Association Ltd</b>	<b>€500</b>

#### LIMERICK CITY WEST

Ballinacurra Gaels GAA	€ 1,500
<b>Ballybrown NS Parents Association</b>	<b>€ 500</b>
Bottom Dog Theatre	€ 500
<b>Catholic Institute Hockey</b>	<b>€ 1,000</b>
Crecora Patrickswell Community Games	€ 500
<b>Dooneen Athletics Club</b>	<b>€ 1,000</b>
Dooradoyle Raheen Men's Shed	€ 1,000
<b>Emerging Limerick Filmmaker's</b>	<b>€ 1,000</b>

Limerick Blasters	€ 1,250
<b>Limerick Boat Club</b>	<b>€ 1,000</b>
Limerick Celtics Basketball	€ 1,000
<b>Limerick City Youth Theatre</b>	<b>€ 1,000</b>
Limerick Feral Cats	€ 500
<b>Limerick Women's Collective</b>	<b>€ 500</b>
Limerockers Cru Dance School	€ 500
<b>Lumen Street Theatre</b>	<b>€ 500</b>
Mungret Community Council	€ 500
<b>Munster Indian Cultural Association</b>	<b>€ 1,250</b>
Nepalese Community Limerick	€ 1,000
<b>Newtown Cottage Association</b>	<b>€ 500</b>
Ormston House	€ 500
<b>Our Lady of Lourdes Boxing Club</b>	<b>€ 500</b>
Patrickswell Camogie Club	€ 1,000
<b>Patrickswell Tidy Towns</b>	<b>€ 1,000</b>
Raheen Dooradoyle Bridge Club	€ 500
<b>Raheen Active Retirement Group</b>	<b>€ 500</b>
Regional Community Games	€ 500
<b>Regional AFC Soccer Club</b>	<b>€ 1,000</b>
Sudanese Community Centre	€ 1,000
<b>Summerville Rovers FC Soccer Club</b>	<b>€ 1,500</b>
Women's Shed Limerick	€ 500

It was proposed by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor O'Donovan and agreed, to approve the proposals under the Community Initiative Scheme 2023, as follows:

#### LIMERICK CITY EAST

Name of Group	Amount
ACM Community Centre	€500
<b>Ahane 45<sup>th</sup> Scout Group</b>	<b>€900</b>
Ahane National School Parents Association	€500
<b>Aisling Annacotty AFC</b>	<b>€2,500</b>
Annacotty Tidy Towns	€1,500
<b>Bat Rehabilitation Ireland</b>	<b>€500</b>
Carn Na Ree Residents Association	€1,000
<b>Castleconnell Boat Club</b>	<b>€1,000</b>
Castleconnell Scout Group	€900
<b>Glenbrook Residents Association</b>	<b>€ 1,000</b>
Granville Rangers FC Soccer Club	€ 2,000
<b>Haven Hub CLG/Limerick Land Search</b>	<b>€1,500</b>
Irish Wildlife Trust Limerick	€500
<b>Limerick Bat Club</b>	<b>€500</b>
Limerick Birdwatch	€500
<b>Limerick &amp; District Anglers</b>	<b>€500</b>
Limerick City Traveller Health	€900
<b>Lisnagry FC Soccer Club</b>	<b>€900</b>

Lisnagry National School	€500
<b>Milford Grange National School</b>	<b>€1,000</b>
Monaleen GAA	€1,000
<b>Mulcair Drive Annacotty Text Alert</b>	<b>€500</b>
Mulcair Men's Shed	€900
<b>Redemptorist School of Music</b>	<b>€500</b>
Southend Utd	€500

#### LIMERICK CITY NORTH

Ballynatty Rovers AFC	€1,750
<b>Caherdavin Celtic AFC</b>	<b>€2,000</b>
Caherdavin Men's Shed	€1,000
<b>Caherdavin &amp; District Actively Retired</b>	<b>€1,500</b>
Coonagh Sports & Social Club	€500
<b>Corbally United AFC Under 15B Team</b>	<b>€750</b>
Dóchas Centre	€500
<b>Haven Hub</b>	<b>€1,500</b>
Limerick County Pike Anglers Association	€500
<b>Mayorstone Community Games</b>	<b>€500</b>
Men's Shed Nicholas St	€1,000
<b>Moyross AFC</b>	<b>€500</b>
Rhebogue Meadows Residents Association	€1,000
<b>Richmond RFC</b>	<b>€1,000</b>
Shelbourne AFC	€1,000
<b>St Patrick's GAA Club, Rhebogue</b>	<b>€500</b>
St Patrick's Soccer Club	€500
<b>Thomond Primary School</b>	<b>€500</b>
Total Families Support CLG	€1,000
<b>Villiers Housing Association Ltd</b>	<b>€500</b>

#### LIMERICK CITY WEST

Ballinacurra Gaels GAA	€ 1,500
<b>Ballybrown NS Parents Association</b>	<b>€ 500</b>
Bottom Dog Theatre	€ 500
<b>Catholic Institute Hockey</b>	<b>€ 1,000</b>
Crecora Patrickswell Community Games	€ 500
<b>Dooneen Athletics Club</b>	<b>€ 1,000</b>
Dooradoyle Raheen Men's Shed	€ 1,000
<b>Emerging Limerick Filmmaker's</b>	<b>€ 1,000</b>
Limerick Blasters	€ 1,250
<b>Limerick Boat Club</b>	<b>€ 1,000</b>
Limerick Celtics Basketball	€ 1,000
<b>Limerick City Youth Theatre</b>	<b>€ 1,000</b>
Limerick Feral Cats	€ 500
<b>Limerick Women's Collective</b>	<b>€ 500</b>
Limerockers Cru Dance School	€ 500

<b>Lumen Street Theatre</b>	<b>€ 500</b>
Mungret Community Council	€ 500
<b>Munster Indian Cultural Association</b>	<b>€ 1,250</b>
Nepalese Community Limerick	€ 1,000
<b>Newtown Cottage Association</b>	<b>€ 500</b>
Ormston House	€ 500
<b>Our Lady of Lourdes Boxing Club</b>	<b>€ 500</b>
Patrickswell Camogie Club	€ 1,000
<b>Patrickswell Tidy Towns</b>	<b>€ 1,000</b>
Raheen Dooradoyle Bridge Club	€ 500
<b>Raheen Active Retirement Group</b>	<b>€ 500</b>
Regional Community Games	€ 500
<b>Regional AFC Soccer Club</b>	<b>€ 1,000</b>
Sudanese Community Centre	€ 1,000
<b>Summerville Rovers FC Soccer Club</b>	<b>€ 1,500</b>
Women's Shed Limerick	€ 500

## **5. Economic Development and Enterprise Directorate**

### **Draft Castleconnell Local Area Plan 2023 -2029**

Circulated, Report of the A/Director of Services, Economic Development and Enterprise dated 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2023 and Chief Executive's Report dated 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2023 on the submissions received on the Material Alterations to the Draft Castleconnell Local Area Plan 2023 -2029, for consideration by Members.

Proposed by Councillor Kiely;  
 Seconded by Councillor Pond;  
 And Resolved;

“That the Draft Castleconnell Local Area Plan 2023 – 2029 be made, in accordance with the Draft Plan published on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2022, the Proposed Material Alterations published on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 and the alterations outlined in the Chief Executive's Report dated 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2023, under Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended)”.

## **QUESTIONS**

### **6. Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to advise members on the scheme in existence to allow businesses maintain strategic roundabouts across the city and how often the business sponsors replant and maintain them.***

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Council seek expressions of interest from businesses and organisations who wish to sponsor biodiversity-friendly roundabouts in the city and county of Limerick. The Council want to hear from businesses and organisations who wish to enhance the local environment while benefiting from the advertising opportunities that are being offered. The scheme shall provide businesses and organisations an excellent

opportunity to promote themselves through their association with the landscaping and maintenance of roundabouts.

The sponsoring company will be responsible for having a biodiversity friendly design created for their roundabout of choice. This design will need to be approved by Limerick City and County Council before any agreement for sponsorship can be entered into. The company shall then be responsible for obtaining the services of a landscape contractor to implement and maintain their design. These designs should reflect the character of their settings, with the more rural roundabouts incorporating wildflowers and native species, while more formal designs, based on pollinator friendly perennials, are encouraged for the roundabouts in more urban locations.

The sponsorship period will be for a duration of 3 years, commencing on completion of the planting. Subject to satisfactory maintenance of the roundabout(s), the Council may, at its discretion, extend the sponsorship for a specified period. Each applicant can tender for one of more roundabouts. Joint applications will also be accepted where a maximum of two businesses or organisations wish to sponsor a roundabout jointly. The sponsors will be responsible for implementation of the initial landscaping works and the ongoing maintenance thereafter for a period of 3 years. The sponsor will be required to engage the services of a suitably experienced and competent landscape contractor who will be required to adhere to the appropriate Health & Safety requirements for working in a live traffic environment.

#### **7. Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick how many houses have the Council purchased under the 'tenant in situ' scheme and how many, based on applications, do the Council expect to purchase.*

**REPLY:** 12 properties have been acquired under the 'tenant in situ' scheme with a further 18 properties at sale agreed status.

We have 262 number of units on our central Notice to Quit register as at 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

#### **8. Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick how many houses have been provided by developers under the social and affordable obligations in housing schemes completed in the last two years and to list the number of houses per housing scheme.*

**REPLY:** 74 Part V units have been completed in the last two years (2021 and 2022) over 16 housing sites. All of these sites have 10% of the overall granted number of units as a requirement to deliver Part V social housing. The recent new legal provisions for the delivery of Part V affordable housing have not seen any completions of units yet. The number of units and the relevant housing scheme details are documented below:

Housing Scheme	Part V Units	Total Number of Units
Glengrove, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick	3	33
Mungret Gate, Baunacloka Limerick	20	210

Bloodmill Road, Singland, Limerick	14	137
Clonmacken, Condell Road, Limerick	11	110
Old Dublin Road, Rhebogue, Limerick	2	16
Woodfield Manor, Cloonyschrehane, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick	3	30
Manorbrook, Adare, Co. Limerick	4	40
Ceol Na hAbhainn, Caherconlish, Co. Limerick	2	22
Willow Close Hill, Rhebogue, Limerick	1	26
The Crescent, Castlebrook Manor, Walkers Road, Castletroy Limerick	5	51
Redgate Close, Old Cratloe Road, Limerick	1	14
Sheelin Road, Caherdavin, Limerick offsite purchase for Shelbourne Square (as costs on site were not value for money)	1	12
Castlebrook Rise, Walkers Road, Castletroy, Limerick	2	21
Laurelville, Mill Road, Corbally, Limerick	2	24
Phase 1/2 Newtown Manor, Castletroy, Limerick	2	62
Revington Gardens, North Circular Road, Limerick	1	13

For part of 2021, private residential development sites were affected by the Government's shutdown in construction activity as part of the national effort to halt the spread of COVID-19. This affected the outturn of Part V units for that year.

The Council are currently forecasting 634 Part V homes to be delivered based on signed agreements to date. However, Part V delivery is fully reliant on private sector delivery and the developer being able to have the capacity and funds to start on site. Any downturn in the private market will reduce the supply of Part V homes therefore.

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

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick what steps is the Council taking to ensure to expand its existing "tenant-in-situ" scheme to ensure that renters in receipt of HAP or RAS aren't made homeless due to the sale of the property including what extra resources (e.g. manpower and budgetary) is the Council devoting to ensure this.***

**REPLY:** Where Limerick City and County Council is made aware of a household who may have received a Notice to Quit we will assess the household's current circumstances, assess the availability of social housing properties and allocate a social housing tenancy, if appropriate.

In some cases, Limerick City and County Council will assess if there is potential to purchase the house where a HAP/RAS tenant resides and will enquire if the landlord is willing to sell to Limerick City and County Council. If the landlord is willing, the Council will ensure the current house is suitable for the household in terms of size and condition. The Council will also ensure the house value is within an independent market valuation range, which is a

requirement to draw down purchase monies from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

If the individual/household has the means to potentially purchase the property, and the owner is willing to sell to the household, the Council can advise the household of the availability of the Local Authority Home Loan.

Where no suitable accommodation can be identified or it is not appropriate for the local authority to acquire the property, a household may be accommodated through emergency accommodation.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has provided an initial allocation of 75 for the number of acquisitions that can be funded in 2023. We have 262 number of units on our central Notice to Quit register as at 14<sup>th</sup> April. 2023 We have written to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage seeking additional resources, both administrative and technical.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick what steps is the Council taking to ensure implementation of the new “cost rental backstop” whereby the Council or an Approved Housing Body (AHB) will purchase the home of renters who are not in receipt of HAP or RAS but who are facing homelessness due to the sale of the property including what extra resources (e.g. manpower and budgetary) is the Council devoting to ensure this.*

**REPLY:** Limerick City and Council will carry out an initial assessment for risk of homelessness and where applicable refer to the Housing Agency who may be able to complete a Cost Rental Tenant in Situ acquisition. Following referral by the Council, the Cost Rental Tenant in Situ process is managed entirely by the Housing Agency.

#### **11. Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on when works will commence on the Mill Road Active Travel Scheme and for a detailed update on the progress of the scheme.*

**REPLY:** Active Travel anticipate tendering for Works Contractor in mid May 2023 with anticipated construction duration of 18 months.

#### **12. Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick if any discussions have taken place between the Council and the LEDP about the possibility of acquiring the Market’s Field.*

**REPLY:** The Council has had preliminary discussions with the Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership (LEDP) in relation to the future of the Market’s Field. There is no outcome to these discussions at this point but engagement will continue with relevant stakeholders.

#### **13. Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, further to my motion at the December Metropolitan Meeting for an update on the engagement between the Council and Limerick 2030 DAC and the Housing Department on a proposed feasibility study on the future use of the former Cray Lane (Gaelscoil Sairséal) building.*

**14. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, in relation to Council Rents/HAP when there is budget increases in social welfare payments, can the Council make contact with people paying rent/HAP etc. to the Council advising them that they have to make the Council aware of any increases in their payments as people do not realise they need to inform the Council as their rent will increase, resulting in arrears often dating back a couple of years.*

**REPLY:** All tenants that are subject to the Differential Rent Scheme, be they occupants of Council houses or in privately-owned accommodation and in receipt of social housing support through HAP/RAS schemes, are advised in advance of signing letting agreements or contracts that the onus lies with them to advise the Council immediately of any changes in household income, either upwards or downwards, so that their weekly rent can be recalculated accordingly. This is also a specific condition of their contracts. There are 5,549 Council tenancies, 2196 HAP tenancies, and 1236 RAS tenancies. It would be impractical and a significant administrative burden to write to almost 9000 households each time that an increase in general social welfare rates is awarded. Furthermore, all Council tenants receive quarterly statements and the following advice is included at the head of such statements: "It is your responsibility to advise this office if you have had any change to your household income or household make up."

Generally speaking, the normal across the board increase in social welfare rates does not give rise to an immediate review of rent payable, as the amount involved would have a minimal material effect on the amount due. However, when other changes come to light, such as employment, change of payment type, additional social welfare payment etc., the correct rates of social welfare for the applicable dates are taken into account in calculating the extent of arrears due.

**15. Question submitted by Councillor J. Pond**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick:*

*(a) How many applications for the following grants have been received since the beginning of 2023:*

1. *Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability.*
2. *Mobility Aids Grant.*
3. *Housing Aid for Older People Grant.*

*(b) How many of these applications have been processed.*

*(c) How many applicants have been notified of their application being received?*

**REPLY:** (a) How many applications for the following grants have been received since the beginning of 2023: **266**

1. Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability- **98**
2. Mobility Aids Grant- **27**

3. Housing Aid for Older People Grant- **141**  
 (b) How many of these applications have been processed- **67**  
 (c) How many applicants have been notified of their application being received- **174**

Please note the balance of applications have been checked and verified and applicants will be notified once we receive notification of our 2023 allocation from the Department.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick if consultants have been appointed yet for the design of the connector road linking Groody Road to Golf Links Road and if the Council can provide an update on this project.*

**REPLY:** MHL Consultants have been appointed on this scheme and the scheme has developed through NTA Phase 1 - Scope & Purpose & Phase 2 - Concept Development approval. The Options report was approved by the NTA in November 2022.

A Natura Impact Statement is being prepared for inclusion with a planning application to An Bord Pleanála. Active Travel expects to lodge the planning application and associated CPO documentation with An Bord Pleanála (ABP) in Q2 2023.

The approval of a scheme by ABP is not within the control of the Council and accordingly it is difficult to determine a decision date and if any planning conditions that may impact on detailed design development may be conditioned. But the following is the current best estimate:

Planning & CPO approval:	Q1 2024
Tender for Construction:	Q2 2024
Anticipate Construction Commencement:	Q3 2024
<i>(note that there is significant amount of fill material requirement, which is weather dependent task and could result in delay of start date.)</i>	
Anticipate Construction Completion:	Q3 2025

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting of Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the water testing that has commenced at the Loughmore Canal with details from the water tested so far.*

**REPLY:** An investigation into the water quality in the Loughmore Canal is ongoing. As part of this investigation, a sampling programme was initiated on the 7th March 2023 in order to monitor water quality. This project entails a sample being taken once a month at random times/dates within the month at the storm discharge point to the Loughmore Canal. The Samples will then be tested and compared with the Surface water standards that are presently in place in Ireland and are contained in the 'European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Water) Regulations 2009 – S.I. No. 272 of 2009, as amended'.

The analysis from the first round of sampling has indicated an exceedance in Total Phosphorus and is consistent with our investigation findings to date. The second round of sampling for April will happen over the next few days.

Please also note that a sample was taken on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and no exceedances were identified.

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

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick if Limerick Council applied for the additional funding made available to local authorities for additional staff to tackle dereliction, and if not, why not.***

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Council has been extremely proactive and successful in activating vacant and derelict properties in the town and village settlements and the city district. A full dedicated unit is in place to engage with owners of derelict sites, vacant sites, and vacant homes, and has been resourced by the Council.

The Vacant Homes Officer is a funded position through the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage since 2018. With the addition of the Croí Conaithe (Towns) Fund in 2022, an additional administrative staff member has been funded through the scheme to support the return of vacant and derelict property back into residential use.

A third round of funding, to the value of €150 million nationally, was announced in January 2023 under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF). Limerick City and County Council has made an application for funding under this project. This support will address long-term vacancy and dereliction with an objective to accelerate the provision of residential accommodation, with a possibility of tackling some multi use (part residential / part commercial) projects in the Metropolitan area.

It is hoped that consideration will be given for additional staff resourcing as part of this application.

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

***I will ask at the next Meeting of Metropolitan District of Limerick for the number of animal welfare complaints that have been logged in the Metropolitan District over the last two years.***

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Council has no authority to enforce the Animal, Health & Welfare Act 2013. Animal welfare is not a primary service of the Council, therefore we do not accept animal welfare complaints. Complainants are advised to contact An Garda Síochána or The Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine, who are authorised under the Animal, Health and Welfare Act 2013.

#### **20. Question submitted by Councillor S. Hartigan**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for a breakdown of how much has been spent to date on the proposed greenway projects connecting Limerick City with Montpelier.***

**REPLY: Reply from MWNRDO:**

Limerick City and County Council appointed Technical Advisors, Atkins, in September 2022

to progress the development of a greenway between the University of Limerick and Montpelier. To date, €97,683.90 has been expended in relation to this scheme.

**Reply from Active Travel:**

To date Active Travel has spent €250,000 on the design of the UL to Annacotty Active Travel Path. The estimated construction cost for this project is €7,000,000.

Cycle path upgrade works from Clare Street to Park Road were completed in 2022 at a cost of €200,000.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick how many Built Heritage Grant applications for city based projects has the Council put forward since 2020, broken down by year, and how that compares to the total number of Built Heritage Grant applications submitted by LCCC.*

**REPLY:** The Council administers the Built Heritage Scheme on behalf of the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local. Following receipt of applications made from members of the public, the following applications were forwarded to the Department for their consideration for approval:

Year	Total no. of applications	No. of City applications submitted to the Department for consideration
2020	27	6
2021	39	9
2022	41	9
2023	57	16

**22. Question submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the completion of the City Centre Traffic Management Plan for which the NTA have committed funding for since 2020.*

**REPLY:** Preliminary work has been carried out on a Limerick City Traffic Management Plan but this work is still in its early stages. It could not be completed until the Transport Strategy (LSMATS) was finalised at the end of 2022 and Limerick BusConnects was sufficiently advanced to identify with confidence the displacement/diversion options for traffic. The first public consultation on BusConnects has just finished and the selected routes for bus provision will be finalised in the coming months.

The NTA has then committed to leading a Transport Plan for the city centre. The Transport Plan will identify the optimal displacement/diversion routes for traffic, as well as related supporting measures. The Transport Plan will also incorporate a Delivery Plan for the city, which will consider business requirements in a sustainable manner. It is expected that the city centre Transport Plan will be significantly advanced in the current year but is likely to extend into 2024 for substantive completion.

### **23. Question submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the work Limerick City and County Council have carried out in relation to the provision of affordable housing in Patrickswell.*

**REPLY:** The Affordable Housing Team has met and engaged with two Developers with sites in Patrickswell with a view to progressing affordable purchase homes on these sites.

### **24. Question submitted by Councillor S. Kiely**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the masterplan for traffic management on the Singland Road, Bloodmill Road given the increasing population with new housing developments and traffic volumes. With special emphasis on Castletroy View and the needs of residents exiting the estate and the problems it poses. A commitment had been given previously and no update has been forthcoming.*

**REPLY:** In the draft Limerick BusConnects proposals, Old Singland/Bloodmill Road has been identified as a priority bus corridor. The first public consultation on BusConnects has just finished and a decision on the final selected bus corridors will follow. Assuming this road is confirmed as a priority bus corridor at that stage, the NTA will develop a scheme to upgrade the infrastructure to accommodate increased active and public transport requirements in this area. The scheme will incorporate an appropriate traffic management plan for the Castletroy View estate and other housing developments in the area. The existing traffic movements in the vicinity will continue to be monitored by the Council and interim measures put in place if deemed necessary. However, it should be noted that some peak time delays for traffic accessing busy urban roads are to be expected.

Note that preliminary design work has already commenced in improving the lower section of Bloodmill Road (realigned culvert section) to accommodate increased sustainable travel usage.

### **25. Question submitted by Councillor S. Kiely**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the area around the Milk Market in terms of uneven and unsafe surfaces and Nicholas Street works as discussed at a Special Meeting last year where commitments were given and no update or further information has been given.*

**REPLY:** Nicholas Street:

Limerick City and County Council has established a cross-council Steering Group to explore various measures for enhancing Nicholas Street and creating a targeted public realm plan for the area. The primary objectives of this plan include activating vacant properties and bringing them back into use, delivering quick wins and capitalising on Castle/Limerick DAC events.

Following on from the previous workshop, it is intended to schedule a number of workshops

with Elected Members over the year to keep you abreast of project progress across all the city centre initiatives.

**Milk Market:**

The Active travel team will shortly be conducting a Non Statutory Public Consultation on the proposed Active Travel Route next to the Milk Market, the results of the consultation will inform future plans for the area.

In addition URDF funding has been secured for the development of Food Hub & Street Canopy to Cruises Street by Place Making & Public Realm in order to support retail under the Citizens Collaboration Programme.

These projects are in initial feasibility stages and will be developed as part of a wider public realm strategy for the Milk Market area.

**26. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, can we have an update on the remaining 14 Peter McVerry houses due to be built in Carew Park in 2021, I was told it would be later 2021 or early 2022, we are now into 2023 and still no sign of these much needed houses.***

**REPLY:** The Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government have recently approved the revised Stage 4 budget for these specific units with a new contractor following the previous contractor going into receivership. It is expected that construction of these units by the Peter McVerry Trust will commence in the next few weeks.

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

With the permission of the Cathaoirleach, it was agreed to take Item 34 next.

**34. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor D. Butler**

***I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that we call on the Department of Housing to expand the eligibility criteria of the Croi Conaithe Scheme beyond the current year cut off, to include properties with potential for rental and that properties that are to be lived in by the applicants have their grant amount increased by at least 50%.***

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Butler, seconded by Councillor Kiely and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Butler referred to the success of the Croi Conaithe scheme in refurbishing derelict properties and how the expansion of the scheme would be of assistance to house purchasers.

**27. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan**

***I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council write to the NTA to ask them to give Elected Members a presentation on their proposals for a demand responsive transport service to serve areas that will not be connected to BusConnects such as the***

***Mill Road and Rhebogue. To also request that they provide a timeline for the introduction of such a service and commit to rolling this service out with BusConnects in 2025.***

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Sheehan (C), seconded by Councillor Benson and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Sheehan (C) referred to areas in the Metropolitan District that were not suitable for bus connections and had an elderly population, and the importance of providing public transport in these areas.

Members supported the Motion and requested that the Presentation from the National Transport Authority would be given separately to each Area of the Metropolitan District, Limerick City East, Limerick City West and Limerick City North.

## **28. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan**

***I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council acknowledges the vital work of Ennis Road Community First Responders and that the Council calls on Limerick 2030 to accommodate them at the Cleeve's site.***

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Sheehan (C), seconded by Councillor O'Sullivan and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Sheehan (C) highlighted the vital work carried out by the Ennis Road Community First Responders, who were a voluntary organisation.

**REPLY:** Limerick Twenty Thirty (LTT) were contacted directly by Lynda Trousdell of Ennis Road Community First Responders regarding potential space at Cleeve's Riverside Quarter. LTT are willing to assist in the provision of space for emergency medical equipment and training, on the agreement that it will be vacated when required to commence the main development works on the Cleeves site.

The LTT Executive Team have been in touch with the group directly and have arranged a meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2023 in order to identify a suitable location within the site.

With the permission of the Cathaoirleach, it was agreed to take Item 33 next.

## **33. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Kiely**

***I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that we write to the Minister for Education regarding the Common Application System in Limerick and call for it to be abolished and replaced, as it is not fit for purpose.***

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Kiely referred to the enormous difficulties that the Common Application System was causing for children who were not allocated a Secondary School place and which had been ongoing for a long number of years. Members agreed that this issue needed to be

reviewed and that it creates huge upset for students and families affected by decisions made under the current system, which was unacceptable.

#### **29. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Hartigan**

***I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council write to Tipperary Council, Inland Fisheries Ireland, LAWPRO and other relevant bodies, to propose formulating an interagency task force to control alien invasive species on the Mulcair catchment.***

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Hartigan, seconded by Councillor Secas and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Hartigan referred to the importance of controlling invasive species, such as giant hogweed and knotweed, and the effect they could have on future greenway developments.

Members supported the Motion and referred to the work carried out by the Local Authority Waters Programme and agreed to request a presentation on this for Members.

#### **30. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Pond**

***I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council would write to the Minister for Justice and the Garda Commissioner asking them to urgently consider the provision of a 24/7 Garda Station for the Castletroy / Monaleen / Annacotty area of Limerick.***

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Pond, seconded by Councillor Secas and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Pond referred to the increasing population in the Castletroy / Monaleen / Annacotty areas and the urgent need for a full time Garda Station in the area. Members referred to the population increase in this area and the importance of having a full time Garda station present in the area.

#### **31. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan**

***I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council be given an overview of the activities and budget for Riverfest 2023 as agreed upon last year.***

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor O'Donovan referred to the importance of Riverfest to the Region, which was a highlight in the festivals calendar.

**REPLY:** Riverfest Weekend from 28<sup>th</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> May (May Bank Holiday Weekend)

Weekend highlights include:

Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> Pyrotechnic Display by Rogu on Bedford Row / Fashion Friday.

Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> BBQ on Boardwalk (competition application still open)

Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> Fireworks display at 10.15pm

Saturday / Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> / 30<sup>th</sup> Naval Vessel at Limerick Docks;

Flyboarding on River (number of performances).

All weekend – Riverfest Village at Arthur’s Quay, Riverfest Free Drop at Merchant’s Quay, Waterbased activities including a Sailing Regatta, Kayaking and Paddle Boats, Eco Showboat and many more.

Panoramic Wheel at Potato Market.

We are also supporting a Chill Out Zone and Sensory Room at the Hunt Museum, in partnership with ASD Ireland.

Additional Notes for Members:

As the tides are favourable this year, there are more water based activities than 2022. We have reached out to all our communities to participate in the BBQ on the Boardwalk. For the naval vessel, we are using different access point to the Docks, which should be more suitable.

Costing for Riverfest is not yet finalised and the Members can be briefed on this following the event.

All information is available on limerick.ie.

### **32. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Kiely**

*I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the library service acquire "C pens readers" or an equivalent to assist people with neurodivergent requirements.*

As Councillor Kiely was absent from the Meeting, it was agreed to defer the Notice of Motion to the May Meeting.

### **35. Correspondence**

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

### **Limerick Women’s Caucus Event**

The Cathaoirleach referred to the invitation that Members would have received for the upcoming event in City Hall being organised by Limerick Women’s Caucus on 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 and hoped that as many as possible could attend.

This concluded the Meeting.

**Signed:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**CATHAOIRLEACH**

**Dated:**

\_\_\_\_\_