

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK AND ONLINE ON MONDAY, 18TH SEPTEMBER, 2023 at 9.45 A.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor Azad Talukder, Cathaoirleach

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Support Services (Mr. S. Coughlan), Director, National and Regional Shared Services Centre (Mr. K. Lehaney), Director, Regeneration, Sport and Recreation (Mr. J. Delaney), Meetings Administrator (Ms. L. Flannery), Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services (Ms. A. Foley), Senior Executive Officer, Housing Support Services (Ms. M. Hayes), Administrative Officer, Property Management Services (Ms. T. Knox), Mid West National Road Design Office, Senior Engineer (Mr. T. Fitzgerald), Executive Engineer (Ms. D. Clarke), Executive Engineer (Mr. K. Ryan), Senior Executive Architect, Regeneration (Ms. C. Corry), A/Senior Executive Officer, Regeneration (Mr. D. White), Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. M. Richardson), Senior Engineer, Environment and Climate Action (Mr. A. Finn), Senior Planner, Forward Planning (Ms. M. Woods), Senior Executive Officer, Housing (Ms. S. Newell), Senior Executive Engineer, Active Travel (Ms. T. Flanagan), Senior Executive Engineer, Environment and Climate Action (Ms. C. Lynch), Environment Awareness Officer (Ms. S. McDonnell), Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Ms. S. Carroll).

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach welcomed the Members, Officials, Media and Members of the Public to the first meeting after the Summer break.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 10th July, 2023.

Proposed by Councillor McSweeney;
Seconded by Councillor Collins;
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 Cathaoirleach of any declaration of interest in any item due for discussion at the Meeting. Councillor O'Sullivan made a declaration on one agenda item.

3. Disposal of Land

- (a) Circulated, Report of the Senior Staff Officer, Housing Support Services dated 21st July, 2023, setting out proposals for disposal of Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 28 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 1st September, 2023, setting out proposals for disposal of Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 24 Flood Street, Pennywell, 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 1st September, 2023, setting out proposals for disposal of Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 68 Hyde Road, Prospect, Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

- (d) Circulated, Report of the Director of Service, Housing dated 1st September, 2023, setting out details of proposed disposal of site at Speaker's Corner, Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

- (e) Circulated, Report of the Head of Property Management dated 29th August, 2023, setting out details of proposed disposal of option in perpetuity, 700 year lease over Arthurs Quay Car Park, Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

- (f) Circulated, Report of the Head of Property Management dated 11th September, 2023, setting out details of proposed land disposal of 193m², a former Well at Ballyanrahan West, Patrickswell, Co. Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

- (g) Circulated, Report of the Head of Property Management dated 4th September, 2023, setting out details of proposed exchange of property at 180 St. Munchin's Street and 93 St. Munchin's Street, St. Mary's Park, Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

4. Transportation and Mobility Directorate

Part 8 Planning – Proposed N69 Mungret & Bolands Cross Road Safety Improvement Scheme

Circulated, Report of the Executive Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office dated 8th August, 2023 and enclosed Chief Executive's Report dated 31st July, 2023 setting out details in relation to the proposed N69 Mungret and Bolands Cross Road Safety Improvement Scheme. The report had been prepared in accordance with Section 179(3)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended).

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

Members welcomed the proposed development, which included a reduction in speed limits and would introduce improved safety measures to the Mungret area. Members thanked the Road Design Team for their work on the project and noted this scheme would greatly improve the safety for everyone in the area.

5. Regeneration, Sport and Recreation Directorate

Part 8 Planning – Proposed new play area at Castle Oaks View, Southill, Limerick

Circulated, Report of the Director of Services, Regeneration, Sport and Recreation dated 7th September, 2023 and enclosed Chief Executive's Report dated 6th September, 2023 setting out details in relation to the proposed construction of a new play area at Castle Oaks View, Southill, Limerick. The report had been prepared in accordance with Section 179(3)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended).

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

Members welcomed the proposed development, which would be an excellent addition to amenities in the area. They acknowledged that there were reservations in relation to the location of the play area. The Director of Regeneration, Sport and Recreation outlined consultations that took place with residents. The part 8 was supported.

QUESTIONS

6. Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Trade and Investment Unit provide an update on activities and plans to maintain our competitiveness and attractiveness for new business to establish in the city centre.

REPLY: Thank you for your inquiry into the measures that are being implemented to maintain the competitiveness and attractiveness of our city centre for new business initiatives. We recognise the critical role of fostering a thriving business environment in the heart of the city, and we are committed to the Limerick 2030 Economic and Special Plan and the Limerick

Development Plan 2022-2028 to meet this objective.

Retail Economic Incentive Scheme

Operated by the Trade & Investment Team, the Retail Economic Incentive Scheme was introduced to combat the rising vacancy rates in core retail areas both in the city centre and in some county towns. The scheme aims to incentivise the development of certain retail uses in designated areas.

In the Metropolitan District, the scheme will be made available to new businesses, who meet the qualifying criteria, and open on the following street; Ellen Street, Denmark Street, Cruises Street, William Street, Thomas Street, Catherine Street, Little Catherine Street, Foxes Bow, Cecil Street, Roches Street, O'Connell Street, Patrick Street, Bedford Row, Sarsfield Street, Henry Street, Shannon Street and Nicholas Street.

The relief provided by the scheme is as follows;

A maximum of €6,000 to be provided over two years on a step back basis to contribute towards fit out and overheads. The grant will be paid each year on production of proof of expenditure and subject to the applicant continuing to trade. In year one €4,000 will be paid and in year two €2,000 will be paid.

In order to qualify for this scheme, the property must be vacant for at least one month on the day the application form is submitted.

Eligible categories of business

- Cosmetics / beauty products specialist Health Food shops
- Shoe shops
- Toy shops
- Hi-tech / High-end electronics
- Music shops
- Specialist (hobby) shops
- Artisan / Craft shops
- Giftware / Interiors
- Fashion businesses and shops
- High end retail – globally scaled
- Shops offering a unique experience

Kings Island / Limerick Medieval Quarter

In addition to the Retail Economic Incentive Scheme, the Trade & Investment Team will consider location specific supports for the Medieval Quarter (MQ) area of the city. Preference will be given to applicants that support the production and retail of arts, crafts and creative / cultural enterprises; and which incentivise the community of Kings Island to showcase their production methods as well as selling products.

Additionally, Limerick City and County Council are pursuing the following initiatives to maintain, attract and improve competitiveness for new businesses to establish in the

city centre:

- **Limerick Twenty Thirty DAC** continue to help deliver on initiatives set out in the Limerick 2030 Economic and Spatial Plan. It is involved in two large-scale city centre strategic infrastructure projects, Opera Square and the Cleaves Riverside Quarter, which when complete will provide high spec modern office and retail space and residential accommodation which will make the city centre a more attractive place to live and do business.
- **Investment in Infrastructure:** The substantial investment in the redevelopment of O'Connell Street will enhance the appeal of the city centre, improve accessibility and promote business activities.
- **Innovate Limerick** continues to facilitate the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises in the city centre, as well as supporting multi national companies with establishing a presence in the region.
- **Engine Hubs** are providing comfortable and secure remote working hubs for professionals in the city centre.
- **Sustainability Initiatives:** There have been steps towards making Limerick a 'smart city' with sustainable, eco-friendly initiatives, specifically through the CityXchange project, which is attracting like-minded businesses.
- **Local Enterprise Office:** Grants and other business supports are available through the Local Enterprise Office to attract and retain business in the city centre, as well as the wider county.
- **Street Cleaning Service:** Our enhanced street cleaning services aim to create a cleaner, more appealing city centre. This not only improves the quality of life for residents but also creates an inviting atmosphere for businesses and shoppers alike.
- **Public Consultations and Partnerships:** Engagement with local businesses and the public to understand their needs and concerns is ongoing and has led to initiatives such as the Limerick Laneways Project and the future of the Arthurs Quay area of the city.

We trust that this comprehensive approach will meet the needs of a dynamic business environment and make Limerick city centre a compelling place for new ventures.

7. Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick who is contracted to collect and maintain dog fouling bins and what is the frequency of collection times.

REPLY: The Domestic Waste & Litter Team manage three dog bins located at Dooradoyle Road, Church Road, Raheen and Father Russell Road. Each bin is serviced weekly by an authorised waste collector, Whites Skip Hire. Any of the general waste litter bins provided by Limerick City and County Council's Cleansing Team may be used for disposing of dog waste.

Limerick City and County Council promotes the 'Any Bag, Any Bin' approach and request dog owners to take responsibility for the removal of their pets' waste from public places and dispose of it in a proper manner.

8. Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick how many applications have

been submitted, the number approved and refused for a Local Authority Home Loan over the last year.

REPLY: Since August 2022 to date we have received
 68 Local Authority Home Loan Applications
 26 Applications were approved
 21 Applications were refused
 Remainder of application were returned as incomplete/ineligible.

9. Question submitted by Councillor S. Hartigan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for a breakdown of quantities of glyphosate and any other pesticides used both by Limerick City and County Council staff and contractors over the last 3 years and what efforts have been made to reduce or eliminate the use of toxic chemical pesticides.

REPLY: Parks Department

The Council wishes to advise that weed spraying is no longer permitted in the annual grass cutting contract. Strimming is the method of weed removal for this contract. This has been in place for the last two years. The Council also wishes to advise that weed spraying is not carried out in the Council's various Parks throughout the city and county. Every possible effort has been made to minimise the use of glyphosate.

Cleansing Section

The Cleansing Section manage a weed spraying contract which covers public roads and adjacent footpaths in Limerick City. The following quantities of pesticide containing 360 grams per litre of glyphosate were used in recent years:

2023: works ongoing, estimated 600 litres

2022: approximately 600 litres

2020: 596 litres

2019: 530 litres

The contractor employed by the Council uses specialised equipment consisting of a compact tractor mounted sprayer which uses photosynthetic detectors. The use of these photosynthetic detectors ensures that the pesticide is only applied where plant life is present to ensure the usage of pesticide usage is minimised and to avoid blanket spraying of surfaces.

Metropolitan District Roads Operations use 65 litres per year approximately, for localised weed problems. We hope to reduce this usage by expanding the programme of works currently contracted out by the Council to minimise use (as outlined above).

10. Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for the number of applications for the Croí Cónaithe scheme to the local authority; the number of applications approved; the number of successful applications drawn down, in tabular form.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council has administered the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, funded through the Croí Conaithe (Towns) Fund of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, since July 2022.

Draw down of the funding cannot be processed until the refurbishment works are completed and confirmed by site inspection, vouched expenditure submitted, and the relevant legal charge is registered on the applicant's ownership document.

The table below provides detail on the total applications for the grant submitted to the local authority; the number of applications approved, and the number of successful applications drawn down at 12th September 2023.

Number of VPRG Applications Received	Number of VPRG Applications Approved / Approved in Principle	Number of VPRG Applications Drawn Down
193	119	5

11. Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will ask the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for the number of people who made contact with the local authority because they considered themselves to be homeless but were not provided with emergency homeless accommodation or a HAP/social housing tenancy; the breakdown of the reasons emergency accommodation or HAP/social housing tenancy was not provided in each case.

REPLY: The following table sets out the no. of presentations to the Homeless Action Team. These presentations include both single and family presentations, in general single presentations constitute a higher proportion of the overall no. of presentations: -

Year	Presentations Placed in Emergency Accommodation (per year)	Presentations Not Placed in Emergency Accommodation (per year)
2019	251	364
2020	140	387
2021	157	413
2022	249	507
2023	165	340

The reasons why emergency accommodation or HAP/social housing tenancy was not provided, are varied, but can include as follows: -

- Subsequently secured private rented accommodation
- Secured RAS/HAP accommodation – HAP accommodation is sourced by the individual and records are not kept where individuals source their own HAP accommodation following an earlier presentation of homelessness
- Self-accommodated with family/friends
- Did not qualify for homeless accommodation in accordance with legislative requirements
- Reasons for homeless presentation resolved i.e., family breakdown etc.

12. Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the taking in charge process for Danesfort estate in Corbally.

REPLY: Danesfort estate is on our taking in charge work programme. The Roads Department are undertaking a review of the road report on file, along with a current costing breakdown. A CCTV survey of the foul and storm network has been arranged, and will be conducted in the coming weeks.

Once this information has been submitted we will be in a position to finalise a cost associated with taking the estate in charge.

13. Question submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the progress of the widening of Golf Links Road by O'Shea's Pub.

REPLY: A Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for the acquisition of lands to deliver this project was submitted to An Bord Pleanála in July 2023. An Bord Pleanála have indicated that the case is due to be decided by 23rd January 2024. The detailed design for the scheme will progress following confirmation of the CPO by An Bord Pleanála.

14. Question submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the progress on the distributor road connecting Groody Road to Golf Links Road/Old School House Road junction.

REPLY: MHL Consultants have been appointed on this scheme and the scheme has developed through to NTA Phase 3 – Preliminary Design.

To Progress to Phase 4 – Statutory Approvals, a Natura Impact Statement has been prepared for inclusion with a planning application to An Bord Pleanála. The NIS is currently going through final reviews and the timelines to complete the NIS have been longer than initially expected. The Consultant has attributed this delay to having to include for recently published legislation on Climate Impact and on delays with the production of photomontages.

Active Travel now expects to lodge the planning application and associated CPO documentation with An Bord Pleanála (ABP) early in Q4 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: Q3 2024

Tender for Construction: Q4 2024

Anticipate Construction Commencement: Q1 2025 (note that there is significant amount of fill material requirement, which is weather dependent task and could result in delay of start date.)

Anticipate Construction Completion: Late Q4 2025 / Q1 2026.

15. Question submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the provision of the Columbarium Wall Garden in Kilmurry Graveyard.

REPLY: The Council intends to proceed to the detailed design stage for the project with the procurement of Consultants for the preparation of the detailed design and tender documents. The project will progress to this stage towards the latter end of 2023.

16. Question submitted by Councillor S. Kiely

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick what progress has been made on the taking in charge of the road at the back of the Dochas Mid-West premises at Parnell Street.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council Roads department have completed a taking in charge survey of this road at the back of the Dochas Mid-West premises at Parnell Street. The Roads Dep. are liaising with the LCCC Planning department to determine if this section of road is in order to be taken into charge.

17. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for speed reducing ramps to be installed on Wolfe Tone Street.

REPLY: LCCC Roads completed a traffic survey and assessment on Wolfe Tone street in September 2022. No significant speed violations was identified however the roads department will keep it under review. In addition, the LCCC Roads Dept have contacted An Garda for details of any recent collision information in this area. This will inform the design process for any potential traffic calming measures which could include a variety of traffic calming measures such as speed ramps, pedestrian crossings etc.

Any proposed traffic calming measures is subject to available funding and a Section 38 public consultation process.

18. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick as to why cycle lane bollards have been removed on O'Connell Street between Roches Street and Cecil Street and when these bollards will be reinstated.

REPLY: These bollards and their associated sockets suffered significant damage from an third party vehicle and were subsequently removed by Shareridge Ltd due to the potential risk they posed to health and safety. Replacement of these bollards has been identified on a list of

snags to be addressed by the contractor during the defects liability period.

19. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on water quality testing at The Loughmore Canal. What are the most recent water quality results and if the source of contamination has been found.

REPLY: In relation to your request for an update into the water quality testing in the Loughmore Canal, we can confirm that we are continuing monthly sampling at two locations in the canal to monitor water quality and to assist us in the identification of a potential source. These locations include the outfall to the canal and approximately 800m downstream of the canal.

The 2023 sampling programme commenced in March with sample dates in 07/03/2023, 09/05/2023, 13/06/2023, 04/07/2023 and the 08/08/2023. September sampling date to be confirmed.

Under the Surface Water Regulations, 2009, the Environmental Limit Values (ELV) for Phosphorus is 0.075mg/l and 4 No. of the outfall samples and 1 No. of the downstream samples noted exceedances of this parameter with the greatest exceedance of 0.89mg/l on the 07/03/2023.

The ELV for Zinc is 0.1mg/l. Only 1 No. sample taken on the 13/06/2023 noted an exceedance in Zinc at the outfall of 0.15mg/l. No exceedances were noted downstream. Exceedances were also noted on 2 sample dates at the outfall were the ELV of 2.6mg/l for Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) were reported and the Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) with ELV of 40mg/l reported 57mg/l and 54mg/l at the outfall and downstream respectively

5 No. samples from the outfall reported exceedances of the Surface Water Regulations 2009 in relation to Ammonia (NH₃) which has a ELV of 0.14mg/l. These exceedances ranged from 0.15mg/l to 0.48mg/l. No exceedances were noted downstream.

While no sources have been identified to date, Limerick City and County Council are continuing our investigations which includes this sampling programme. Additional Engineering resources have been assigned to this investigation and we are committed to resolving this matter.

20. Question submitted by Councillor J. Pond

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for a progress update on the construction program for the proposed new distributor road linking the Golf Links Road with the Kilbane Roundabout on the Groody Road. The construction of this Link Road is extremely urgent as the new secondary school is near completion and about to open.

REPLY: MHL Consultants have been appointed on this scheme and the scheme has developed through to NTA Phase 3 – Preliminary Design.

To Progress to Phase 4 – Statutory Approvals, a Natura Impact Statement has been prepared

for inclusion with a planning application to An Bord Pleanála. The NIS is currently going through final reviews and the timelines to complete the NIS have been longer than initially expected. The Consultant has attributed this delay to having to include for recently published legislation on Climate Impact and on delays with the production of photomontages.

Active Travel now expects to lodge the planning application and associated CPO documentation with An Bord Pleanála (ABP) early in Q4 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: Q3 2024

Tender for Construction: Q4 2024

Anticipate Construction Commencement: Q1 2025 (note that there is significant amount of fill material requirement, which is weather dependent task and could result in delay of start date.)

Anticipate Construction Completion: Late Q4 2025 / Q1 2026.

21. Question submitted by Councillor J. Pond

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for progress update on the approved Road Widening and Bridge Upgrade Works at the Junction of the Golf Links Road L1116 and the Old Ballysimon Road L1171. I am requesting an update of when improvements work will commence on site and how long it will take to complete the project.

REPLY: A Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for the acquisition of lands to deliver this project was submitted to An Bord Pleanála in July 2023. An Bord Pleanála have indicated that the case is due to be decided by 23rd January 2024. The detailed design for the scheme will progress following confirmation of the CPO by An Bord Pleanála.

22. Question submitted by Councillor J. Pond

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, that the Chief Executive, commences the variation process to amend existing policies in the Limerick Development Plan and the Limerick housing strategy in relation to social and affordable housing provision to enable the inclusion of a new policy in these same plans that would seek to ensure all new housing developments (excluding single apartment block developments in the city centre) of greater than 25 residential units, that at least 50% of these residential units will be allocated for private market sale through one of the following.

1 Private Purchase

2 Affordable Purchase.

The reason for this is to ensure a balanced tenure mix in all developments that will contribute to settled and sustainable communities.

REPLY: The Limerick City and County Housing Strategy and Housing Need Demand Assessment 2022 – 2028, which is incorporated into Volume 6 of the Limerick Development Plan was developed based on a robust methodology to inform decision making on current and future

housing supply.

Policy P012 in the Housing Strategy seeks to promote an appropriate social and tenure mix for large scale turnkey housing built for the Council or Approved Housing Bodies. Amending the policy as suggested would result in an inflexible policy that would not account for prevailing market circumstances.

It is recommended that the implementation of the current policy is discussed at a Housing Strategic Policy Committee in advance of any decision taken to vary the Development Plan policy.

With the permission of the Cathaoirleach, it was agreed to take this question as a Notice of Motion. Senior Planner, Forward Planning, noted that this is related to a variation of the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 which can only be discussed at Full Council. Following discussions on the matter, the Cathaoirleach agreed to refer this item to the Special Meeting of Limerick City and County Council in relation to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028.

23. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick if Limerick City and County Council consider adding people who are in receipt of Invalidity Pension or Disability Allowance and in receipt of half rate Carers to the Bin Waiver Scheme for 2024.

REPLY: There would be considerable additional funding required to open the scheme to applicants in receipt of current qualifying payments and half rate Carers to the Bin Waiver Scheme for 2024.

24. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, in relation to the Housing Aid for Older People why are upgrades of existing double glazed PVC windows not approved on this scheme and can they be added to this scheme.

REPLY: Under the Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant old timber or aluminium frame windows or single glazed units are eligible for grant funding. The replacement of double glazed uPVC windows are not eligible, but repairs or replacement glazing may be considered on a case by case basis if they are end of life.

25. Question submitted by Councillor S. Kiely

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick how many homes in O'Malley, Keys, Kincora and Carew Park and Ballinacurra Weston have had thermal upgrades. What BER was achieved and how many homes in these areas are yet to be upgraded.

REPLY:

O'Malley, Keyes, Kincora + Carew Park - Thermal Upgrade and Refurbishment Units Post-Work BER Outcomes

Sep-2023

Rev - 1

Contract no.	Contract Units	Contract Status	Available BERs (post-work)	Outstanding BERs	B2	B3	C1	C2	C3	D1	D2	E1
Pilot-04	6	Complete	6	0			3	1	2			
Pilot-05	8	Complete	8	0		2	2	2	1	1		
Pilot-06	8	Complete	8	0		2	3	2	1			
Pilot-07	8	Complete	8	0		2		3	2	1		
3	22	Complete	22	0		2	8	6	4	1	1	
9	28	Complete	28	0		6	19	3				
13	33	Complete	33	0		2	13	15	3			
103	49	Complete	49	0		4	19	17	8	1		
107	40	Complete	39	1		15	22	2				
109	39	Complete	39	0	1	8	19	7	3	1		
114	34	Complete	34	0		9	19	4	2			
114A	39	Complete	38	1		6	10	15	4	1	1	1
118	43	Complete	43	0	11	26	5	1				
120	45	Complete	45	0	14	20	9	2				

123	53	Construction Stage											
126	50	Construction Stage											
131	38	Scoping											
Total	543		400	2	26	104	151	80	30	6	2	1	

Ballinacurra Weston - Thermal Upgrade and Refurbishment Units Post-Work BER Outcomes

Sep-2023

Rev - 1

Contract no.	Contract Units	Contract Status	Available BERs (post-work)	Outstanding BERs	B2	B3	C1	C2	C3	D1	D2	E1	E2	F	G
Pilot-01	7	Complete	7	0		1	1	2	1			1			1
1	25	Complete	20	5	1	1	5	4	7						2
5	21	Complete	21	0			17	1	1	1	1				
101A	25	Snagging	21	4	1	2	5	6	7						
101B	24	Snagging	21	3		1	3	7	7			1		2	
105	19	Snagging	15	4		8	4	3							
112	18	Complete	18	0		5	8	5							
116	25	Complete	25	0		5	11	3	2		3	1			
127	12	Construction Stage													
132	14	Scoping													
Total	190		148	16	2	23	54	31	25	1	4	3	0	2	3

26. Question submitted by Councillor S. Kiely

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick what progress has been made on the Turner Vinery, what initial grant was allocated and to who was the initial funds given. How much has been spent to date and where is the vinery currently.

REPLY: In 2022 the Council undertook to lead on the restoration and reinstatement of Turner Vinery, a 19th century brick, wrought and cast iron glasshouse, designed by renowned ironmaster Richard Turner. The project involves three distinct phases:

Phase A: The Restoration & Partial Reconstruction of the Masonry Structure

Phase B: Historic Ironwork Conservation Works and Reconstruction of Original Frame on Site

Phase C: Re-Glazing of Repaired and Reconstructed Frame.

Prior to the Council taking the lead on this project Tait House Community Enterprise obtained €153,000 in funding in relation to the restoration of Turner Vinery. €29,413 of this funding has been spent to date on Turner Vinery rehabilitation works however further works were paused due to insufficient level of funding available. The balance €123,587 has been transferred to the Council as project lead on this development.

During 2022 the preparation of a Condition Survey, Conservation Strategy and specification was successfully completed under the Heritage Councils Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2022.

In March 2023, based on the output of the Community Heritage Grant and alongside a committed contribution from Tait House Community Enterprise of the 2017 funding provision balance, the Council were successful in obtaining a Historic Structures Fund grant allocation of €160,000: €80,000 in 2023 and €80,000 in 2024.

The Council have commenced the procurement process for the appointment of a Grade 1 Conservation Architect as per condition of the Historic Structures Fund grant allocation with an expected appointment in Q4, 2023 subject to agreement from the DHLGH to the appointment.

27. Question submitted by Councillor O. O'Sullivan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the status of the new footpath and cycle path between the Clonmacken and Coonagh roundabouts that was committed to in 2020 under Active Travel proposals.

REPLY: The road between the Clonmacken and Coonagh roundabouts is included in the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS) as a secondary route and would be a long-term goal for the Active Travel Department.

There is no current National Transport Authority (NTA) funded Active Travel project for this route.

28. Question submitted by Councillor O. O'Sullivan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the roundabout maintenance plan and sponsorship scheme with particular reference to the Coonagh and Clondrinagh roundabouts and the upkeep of same.

REPLY: The Council has a Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme, which is advertised annually. A number of roundabouts have been successfully sponsored in recent years with Kilmallock roundabout due to be completed by the end of this year. There are a number of other roundabouts where interest has been expressed and the Council is progressing these particular roundabouts.

In relation to the Coonagh and Clondrinagh roundabouts, the Council has been proactive in trying to secure sponsorship for these two particular roundabouts as they are located on the main approach roads to Limerick. The Council has emailed a number of companies to garner interest in the scheme and provide details of the sponsorship, highlighting the availability of the Coonagh and Clondrinagh roundabouts. In the interim, these roundabouts are maintained by Council employees and a contractor in the case of the Clondrinagh roundabout. The Council are due to carryout maintenance on the Coonagh roundabout in the next two weeks.

The Council would also like to advise that there is a dedicated page on www.limerick.ie with details on the Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme. An advert is due to be placed in the Limerick Post and Limerick Leader this Autumn, highlighting the scheme.

29. Question submitted by Councillor O. O'Sullivan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the North Circular Road be re-examined for the installation of further bins to facilitate the many dog walkers using this favoured walking route and discarding of dog poo bags in local hedges and property.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council promotes the 'Any Bag, Any Bin' approach and request dog owners to take responsibility for the removal of their pets' waste from public places and dispose of it in a proper manner.

Any of the general waste litter bins provided by Limerick City and County Council's Cleansing Team may be used for disposing of dog waste. The installation of a further litter bin on the North Circular Road will be examined by the Cleansing Team to facilitate the volume of dog walkers in the area.

NOTICES OF MOTION

30. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Leddin (to be referred to the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council undertake an assessment of all playing equipment in Mungret Playground and prepare a plan to upgrade and invest additional resources into the playground.

It was agreed to refer this Notice of Motion to the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee.

31. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Leddin (to be referred to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council undertake a review of our strategy and policies to attract and maintain business, in particular retail, in the core city centre area.

It was agreed to refer this Notice of Motion to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee.

32. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Hartigan (to be referred to the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council introduce a total ban on the use of glyphosate or other toxic chemical pesticides by Limerick City and County Council staff and contractors, except in exceptional circumstances such as control of alien invasive species.

It was agreed to refer this Notice of Motion to the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee.

33. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan (to be referred to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for a presentation from the Economic Directorate on Cruises Street and that the Council convenes a working group with all relevant stakeholders including Councillors to consider the future of Cruises Street and address the level of vacancy and dereliction on the street.

It was agreed to refer this Notice of Motion to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee.

It was agreed that Items 34 and 38 would be taken together.

34. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council writes to the Minister for Education to ask her to ensure that a bus service is provided for children attending the Limerick Educate Together Secondary School who are eligible but currently without a school bus place.

38. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that we as a Council write to the Minister for Transport asking that a bus be considered for the Southside of the City to take children to the new school Educate Together.

The Notices of Motion were proposed by Councillor Sheehan (C), seconded by Councillor Slattery and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Sheehan (C) highlighted the issues for school children who were unable to get a place on school transport and had to endure a long commute to school. In seconding the Motion, Councillor Slattery stated that the criteria for eligibility for school transport needed to be reviewed.

Members supported the Motion and agreed a bus service is required for children attending the Limerick Educate Together Secondary School.

On the proposal of Councillor Kilcoyne, it was agreed to amend the motion to include writing to Bus Eireann to invite them to attend a meeting with the Councillors in relation to the school bus services in each area.

35. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Kiely

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the possibility of a bulky waste amnesty and electrical waste collection point be facilitated at the Southside of Limerick City East.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Kiely stated that a recycling date for the Southside of the city would have a positive impact, in particular for the disposal of bulky waste.

REPLY: A bulky waste amnesty would require further consideration and will be reviewed by the Environment department.

In relation to the Electrical Waste Collection Point, there has been a change in the collector for the WEEE producer responsibility scheme and Limerick City and County Council is following up with the new collector, WEEE Ireland, in relation to the remaining collection days for 2023 and collection days/sites for 2024.

36. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that we write to the NTA to ask that festive-related specific measures, such as pilot night time services, be introduced for this coming Christmas, to address the pressures on transport services ahead of the festive season by providing additional capacity at peak night times, in order to ensure a sufficient supply of public transport options to meet people's travel needs.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Secas highlighted the difficulties in getting taxis and transport home during the Christmas night-time period and the need to introduce measures to address the issues. Members supported the motion and agreed it was important to improve the transport

options in the City during the Christmas period.

37. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan (to be referred to the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council carry out a feasibility study for allotments and community garden space to be used for and by Limerick City residents.

It was agreed to refer this Notice of Motion to the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee.

39. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Kiely

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that a sign with an eircode be put at all parks, playgrounds and public amenities in the Council's charge to aid location for the public.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Kiely stated that a number of playgrounds and amenities had been upgraded and had seen increased usage and she referred to the benefits of having access to an eircode, in particular in an emergency situation.

REPLY: The Council will consider the provision of an Eircode for the various amenities. However, some consideration needs to be given to the fact that an address is required for an Eircode, which may not be possible in some locations. Limerick City and County Council will need to consider this proposal and consult with the emergency services to see how this proposal can be progressed.

Members supported the Motion and recognised that addresses are required for eircodes to be allocated and agreed to write to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications requesting them to consider assigning eircodes to public amenities.

40. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council engage with the National Transport Authority and Transport Infrastructure Ireland to consider an active travel link between Mungret Village and Clarina Village.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor McSweeney referred to the Part 8 Road Safety Scheme for N69 Mungret and Boland's Cross which had been approved and requested that consideration should be given to provide a link with Clarina Village. In response, Senior Executive Engineer, Active Travel, outlined that Active Travel will engage with Operations and Maintenance to discuss this motion.

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

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council write to the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, requesting he reviews the unacceptable situation whereby many Early Years Practitioners providing the crucial first step into education for our children in a pre-school setting receive no salary out of term time causing many to consider leaving the profession.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor O'Sullivan highlighted the need to provide adequate funding and support for the childcare sector, which provides a crucial service.

It was agreed to also write to the Taoiseach, Tanaiste and the Minister for Education.

42. Correspondence

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

CATHAOIRLEACH

Dated:
