

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK AND ONLINE ON MONDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2023 at 9.45 A.M.**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:** Councillor Azad Talukder, Cathaoirleach

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillors Benson, Butler, Collins, 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:**

A/Director of Service, National and Regional Shared Services Centre (Ms. S. Reidy), Director, Housing (Ms. C. Curley), Director, Regeneration, Sports and Recreation (Mr. J. Delaney), 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), Head of Property Management Services (Ms. J. Leahy), Administrative Officer, Property Management Services (Ms. T. Knox), Senior Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. J. Gannon), Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. M. Richardson), Senior Executive Engineer, Development Management & Place-Making (Ms. O. Downes), Executive Architect, Development Management & Place-Making (Mr. S. Farrell), A/Senior Engineer, Active Travel (Mr. S. McGlynn), Senior Engineer, Environment and Climate Action (Mr. A. Finn), Heritage Officer (Mr. T. O'Neill), A/Administrative Officer, Tourism (Mr. E. Crimmins), Administrative Officer, Trade and Investment (Mr. R. Corbett), A/Senior Executive Engineer, LA Housing Construction and Maintenance (Ms. Y. Berkery), Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Ms. S. Carroll).

**APOLOGIES:**

Director, Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism (Mr. G. Daly)

**1. Adoption of Minutes**

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2023.

Proposed by Councillor O'Donovan;  
Seconded by Councillor Novak Uí Chonchúir ;  
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, he was inviting those present to notify the Cathaoirleach 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, Report of the Senior Staff Officer, Housing Support Services dated 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2023, setting out proposals for disposal of Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 9 Singland Park, 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.

- (b) Circulated, Report of the Senior Staff Officer, Housing Support Services dated 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2023, setting out proposals for disposal of Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 10 St. Lawrence Park, 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 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2023, setting out proposals for disposal of Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 3 Ballynanty Avenue, Ballynanty, Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

- (d) Circulated, Report of the Senior Staff Officer, Housing Support Services dated 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2023, setting out proposals for disposal of Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 18 Garryowen 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.

- (e) Circulated, Report of the Head of Property Management dated 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2023, setting out proposals for disposal of land (0.038 hectares, 0.095 acres) at Michael Street, Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

- (f) Circulated, Report of the Head of Property Management dated 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2023, setting out proposals for disposal at Speakers Corner, Lower Carey's Road, Limerick (name change) and at Ballygrennan, Limerick (name change and slight increase in land) 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. Part 8 Procedure – Proposed Limerick City Pedestrian Wayfinding & Orientation Signage**

Circulated, Report of the Director of Services, Planning, Environment and Place-Making dated 9<sup>th</sup>

November, 2023 and enclosed Chief Executive's Report dated 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 setting out details in relation to the removal of 45 existing pedestrian wayfinding & information signs and the installation of 70 new pedestrian wayfinding and orientation signs comprising 18 Map Totems, 19 Route Markers and 33 Finger Posts and all associated site works. The development will take place at numerous locations throughout Limerick City. 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.

### QUESTIONS

#### **5. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, in relation to the planned list for windows and doors in Limerick City excluding Regeneration areas, how many windows have been installed:*

- (a) In 2021*
- (b) In 2022*
- (c) In 2023.*

*In relation to the planned list for windows and doors in Limerick City excluding Regeneration areas, how many front and back doors have been installed:*

- (a) In 2021*
- (b) In 2022*
- (c) In 2023.*

#### **REPLY:**

The following number of windows have been installed in Limerick City (excluding Regeneration areas):

- (a) In 2021 - 35
- (b) In 2022 - 84
- (c) in 2023 - 113 (to date)

The following number of doors have been installed in Limerick City (excluding Regeneration areas):

- (a) In 2021 - 45
- (b) In 2022 - 66
- (c) In 2023 - 75 (to date)

#### **6. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, can Limerick Council ensure that a road sweeper is sent to the Old Cork Road, as the trees on the main road are shedding their leaves and the footpaths and inside roads are covered in leaves making it dangerous for pedestrians to walk.*

**REPLY:** The Cleansing Section is currently sweeping the Old Cork Road on a weekly basis, this will

continue until all leaf fall has been removed, subject to available resources.

#### **7. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery**

*I will again ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for a date to when the Peter McVerry houses will be starting in Carew Park Limerick.*

**REPLY:** The Peter McVerry Trust have advised the Council that they will not be in a position to complete out this project and the Council have commenced discussions with them in terms of the transfer of the scheme to the Council. Until the project is handed over to Limerick City and County Council, we will not be in a position to confirm the start date.

#### **8. Question submitted by Councillor S. Benson**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, in relation to the flooding that occurred on Hyde Road on the morning of Friday 20th of October;*

- (a) What was the main cause for the flooding that occurred on the Hyde Road and inner roads on that date.*
- (b) What was the subsequent work that was carried out on Monday 23rd October 2023 to prevent further flooding in this area.*
- (c) Does the resident whose home suffered flood damage need to take any preventive measures for the future.*
- (d) Did the recent changes to the main Hyde Road layout contribute in any way to the build-up of water on the actual main road surface.*

**REPLY:** a) On that particular day there was intense excessive rainfall that overwhelmed the drainage system for a period of time. On the inner or parallel road to Hyde Road a blockage was discovered in the existing drainage.

b) Water was pumped from the affect area to allow access to a gully. The gully was excavated and a camera was placed in the pipe to investigate the issue. A blockage, consisting of debris and plastic bottles was discovered in the outfall pipeline for the gully. The pipeline was jetted and cleaned of debris and the gully was reinstated.

c) Now with the gully and pipeline cleaned and functioning properly there should be no further instance at this location.

d) The existing road surface along Hyde Road was planed and removed and a new surface re-laid. A number of the drainage gullies are higher than the new surface and area due to be reset to the required level to provide positive drainage for the road.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on numbers of Council owned derelict and vacant houses in Limerick City West and timeframe plans to upgrade and relet.*

**REPLY:** There are a total of 44 vacant dwellings currently in Metro West. The average timeframe for completion is the end of April 2024 based on current status.

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

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to extend winter closing time of the People's Park to 5.30pm and confirm why the closing times for the Baggott Estate are not being adhered to.***

**REPLY:** The closing times for all Parks are set at particular times throughout the year and change according to day light hours during the summer and winter periods. While it could be considered to extend the closing times every week by 15mins, this also means that the opening times would be pushed out by 15mins as the Park Rangers are rostered to work a certain number of hours every day. This would also be very confusing for the public. The closing times are therefore set in blocks of weeks throughout the year and in general change when the clocks go forward or back.

It is considered that the current opening and closing times throughout the year is reasonable. It is acknowledged that there are a few situations where it may not be considered dark when the Parks are being closed but this is only for a very short period of time.

In relation to Baggott Estate, it appears that the gates were not being closed within the one-hour window that is allowed in the contract for the contractor to have all gates closed. A meeting has been held with the contractor and it is our understanding that this has now been rectified.

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

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to clarify plans for the next phase of the public realm upgrade of O'Connell Street and if funding has been secured from the EU or Nationally.***

**REPLY:** The Council is examining preliminary design options for O'Connell Street in conjunction with Transport and Mobility Department and National Transport Authority. Funding is to be provided under Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) and National Transport Authority. No EU funding has been identified.

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

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick when the Council is going to appoint a full-time traffic warden specifically for the housing estates near the University of Limerick to tackle the parking issues in the area, following the motion passed in this regard in March of this year.***

**REPLY:** In late October the Council assigned a Traffic Warden on a temporary basis to the Annacotty depot. This Traffic Warden is now patrolling residential areas throughout the city focusing on those which experience high levels of illegal parking, for example near third level colleges including the University of Limerick.

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

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that a bus stop and***

***pedestrian crossing be installed on the Ballysimon Road as soon as possible.***

**REPLY:** The preliminary design of the Ballysimon Road Active Travel Scheme is currently being undertaken by external consultants. The construction stage is planned to commence in Q4 of 2024 and will include a pedestrian crossing and the provision of a bus shelter and its associated civil works.

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

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on discussions between the Council and the LEDP on the possibility of the Council acquiring the Market's Field stadium.***

**REPLY:** The Council is continuing its engagements with the LEDP and relevant stakeholders in relation to the future of the Markets Field Stadium. This has included the new owners of Treaty United and the FAI. There is no outcome to these at this point, but engagement will continue with a view to a sustainable outcome.

**15. Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for a progress update on a proposed dog park for Limerick City North in O'Brien Park on Clare Street.***

**REPLY:** A framework of contractors has been set up for works including fencing for dog parks. However, there is no funding currently in place for the dog park in O'Brien Park. Once funding has been identified, procurement for this project can commence.

**16. Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick how many current open notice to quit applications the local authority is dealing with.***

**REPLY:** The Housing Directorate have dealt with 513 cases relating to notice to quits as at the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The breakdown is as follows:

<b>No</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Note</b>
182	Proposals	Proposals are at various stages for example engaging with landlords, valuations, surveys, with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for budget approval etc.
81	Sale Agrees	The sale has or is in the process of progressing to conveyance to close.
30	Purchases Completed	The acquisition has completed and the sale has closed.
27	Referred to the Housing Agency for consideration under the cost rental tenant in situ scheme	The Cost Rental Tenant in Situ Scheme is managed by the Housing Agency and is available where a household faces the termination of their tenancy due to the landlord's intention to sell the

		property. To be eligible for consideration the net annual income of the household must be below €59,000 per annum, which is the income limit for the standard cost rental framework. Under this scheme the Housing Agency can purchase the house a tenant resides in and rent it back to the tenant.
193	Withdrawn	Withdrawn can be due to a number of reasons. For example: households overcrowded, owner re-occupying, landlords not engaging despite repeated attempts, no agreement with owner on an independent market valuation, tenant has alternative accommodation, household not eligible under the terms of the scheme.

### **17. Question submitted by Councillor J. Pond**

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

- (a) How many road sweepers do the Council own/hire;***
- (b) How many are in operation in the Metropolitan area;***
- (c) How are areas selected for the service.***

**REPLY:** (a) The Council owns 7 road sweepers as follows:

2 x 15 Tonne road sweepers (1 x 2011, 1 x 2020)

2 x 2.0 M3 Compact Sweepers (2 x 2023)

2 x 1.0 M3 sub Compact Sweepers (2 x 2022)

1 x CMAR Pressure Cleaner (2020)

The Council hires 2 road sweepers as follows:

Long Term – 2 x 15 Tonne Road sweepers (1 Metro Roads, 1 Street Cleaning)

(b) The Cleansing Section operates 8 road sweepers including the CMAR (hot wash sweeper) in the Metropolitan Area.

(c) During normal conditions roads, footpaths and cycle lanes are swept on a rota basis. During the leaf fall in Autumn the routes are swept as needs require. As all routes are affected by fallen leaves simultaneously, sweepers are assigned by the Supervisor based on daily observations.

The Machinery yard operates the following Hired Equipment:

One 15 Tonne Road sweeper all year round on a rota basis between the four MDs.

### **18. Question submitted by Councillor J. Pond**

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

- (a) How many houses have been purchased by the Council under the "Tenant in Situ Scheme";***
- (b) How many are in the Metropolitan Area;***
- (c) When the Landlord agrees to sell to the Council, on average how long does it take to complete the sale.***

**REPLY:** The breakdown as at 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023 is set out in the table below:

No	Status
----	--------

30	Houses purchased by the Council under the Tenant in Situ Scheme
22	Houses purchased by the Council under the Tenant in Situ Scheme in the Metropolitan Area
Median 4 months	Length of time it takes to complete the sale once an offer is accepted by the vendor.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council correspond with Clare County Council to highlight that the riverbank on the far side of the Castleconnell footbridge is currently blocked, and ask Clare County Council to engage with all relevant stakeholders to ensure that those people that cross the footbridge from Castleconnell have unhindered access to the riverbank on the opposite side.*

**REPLY:** Limerick City & County Council Road's Operations have formally highlighted this matter to Clare County Council. Our response has been acknowledged by Clare County Council and we have requested that we are kept updated on this matter.

**20. Question submitted by Councillor E. Secas**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick if the Council add every estate taken in charge to the grass cutting program where residents do not opt for the maintenance grant, and if there are any estates taken in charge where the residents did not opt for the maintenance grant and where the Council do not cut the grass or cut the grass once a year only. Please provide a list of those estates, if any, and please respond to the specific question asked and do not provide a general statement.*

**REPLY:** The grass in housing estates is either cut by the grass cutting contractor or residents can avail of a community grant where they arrange the grass cutting themselves. In the event that the community do not avail of the grant, the estate is added to the grass cutting contract.

The Council in the first instance, recommend the community grant option as it is not sustainable to continue adding to the grass cutting contract as there are limited contractors who have the capacity to undertake the contract for the city and county.

We are not aware of any housing estates that do not fall under either the Community Grants or the Grass Cutting Contract.

**21. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on Christmas in Limerick 2023 including if the Council will engage an external event management company to run this festival and if there will be a ceremony for turning on of the Christmas lights.*

**REPLY:** In line with other large cities and urban areas across the country, there will not be a ceremony for the switching on of the Christmas lights in the City Centre due to the high costs associated with managing an event of this scale. It is considered that the Council



budget available for Christmas in Limerick 2023 is best directed towards achieving the full itinerary of events that is scheduled for this year including seasonal street shows, Limerick on Ice, Fossett's Christmas Circus, Toots the Train and the aerial extravaganza at King John's Castle, among other seasonal activities. Christmas in Limerick events will not be managed by an external event management company in 2023.

**22. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for any buildings or structures in the Metropolitan area that have been removed from the record of protected structures since the development plan was passed by Councillors in 2022.*

**REPLY:** No buildings or structures have been removed from the record of protected structures within the Metropolitan area, since the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 was adopted by the Elected Members in 2022.

**23. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on funding allocated towards a cricket crease in 2019 and if a site had been identified for same.*

**REPLY:** The Council carried out a review of its green spaces in Limerick City West to see whether cricket could be accommodated. The space required for a cricket crease is significant, larger than a GAA pitch. There is no green space available at present that can accommodate a cricket crease in Limerick City West.

The Regeneration Sports and Recreation Directorate intends to meet with representatives of Limerick Cricket teams this month on the subject of playing spaces across the City and County.

**24. Question submitted by Councillor O. O'Sullivan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on when the first quarterly meeting of the Metropolitan District Joint Policing Sub-Committee will take place, as was committed to on my request at our June district meeting.*

**REPLY:** A Special Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick was arranged with An Garda Síochána on the 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2023, to discuss the issue of anti-social behaviour in Limerick City. Following this Special Meeting, the request of the Members for Quarterly Meetings of a Metropolitan District Joint Policing Sub-Committee was also flagged with An Garda Síochána. However, no date has been confirmed as of yet and discussions are ongoing with an Garda Síochána in relation to same.

**25. Question submitted by Councillor O. O'Sullivan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for the total arts and culture funds applied for, and drawn down, by Limerick City and County Council from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media for the six years of 2018 to 2023 inclusive.*

**REPLY:** I set out below the total arts and culture funds applied for, and drawn down from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media for the years 2018 to 2023 for the Rural, Cultural & Development Directorate.

<b>Funding from Dept. of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport &amp; Media</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Funding Applied For</b>	<b>Funding Drawn Down</b>
2018	€127,750	€127,750
2019	€145,744	€145,744
2020	€234,275	€234,275
2021	€466,066.64	€466,066.64
2022	€707,131.10	€707,131.10
2023	€304,364.32	€304,364.32
2023-2025	€299,936	Yet to be fully drawn down as it covers the years to 2025

**26. 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 naming of the new Coonagh to Knockalisheen Road application to the LCCC Civic Memorial Policy to name this road after world famous Limerick rock band, The Cranberries.*

**REPLY:** It is anticipated that the new Coonagh to Knockalisheen Road will be completed by mid-2025, so the question of naming the road can be considered nearer to the completion date. Clarification is also currently being sought from the Department of Transport with regard to clarifying the protocols for naming a newly completed road, and this will assist the process in the approach to the completion of the road in mid-2025.

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

**27. 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 Libraries Ireland and The Local Government Management Agency asking them to include labelled sections in all libraries in Ireland for books on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environmental issues.*

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Hartigan, seconded by Councillor Novak Uí Chonchúir and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Hartigan stated that changes to labelling of books should be carried out in all Libraries nationwide to highlight the importance of climate change and environmental issues.

**28. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Novak Uí Chonchúir**

*I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Active Travel Team identify and implement contraflow cycle routes to improve cyclability and create a denser cycle network in line with the provisions of the new national cycle manual.*

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Novak Uí Chonchúir, seconded by Councillor Hartigan and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Novak Uí Chonchúir referred to the Cycle Design Manual and the benefits of contraflow cycle routes.

**REPLY:** The new Cycle Design Manual (CDM) is looking to delivering cycling infrastructure from international best practice and has been guided by the need to deliver safe cycle facilities for people of all ages and abilities.

The new cycle design manual places more emphasis on segregating cyclists from traffic where speeds and volumes make roads unsuitable for sharing.

The Active Travel Unit will look to utilise the new cycle design manual in identifying and implementing contraflow cycle routes.

### **29. 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 and ask Education Minister Norma Foley TD:*

*(a) to provide an update on the continued delays for Monaleen N.S. and*

*(b) to ask the Department of Education to approve the Stage 2b Report which they have had on their desks since December last year, so that LCETB can proceed to tender for the appointment of the contractor and begin the school's construction.*

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Secas highlighted the urgent need to progress the extension project at Monaleen N.S., which had been ongoing for many years. Members supported this Motion and agreed it has taken too long to progress, given that schools in other sub-urban areas had already been completed.

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

*I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council consider declaring the Metropolitan area a poster free zone during the permitted period in 2024 to prevent a complete proliferation of posters with three elections scheduled in June.*

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Leddin pointed out that with the number of elections due to take place in Limerick in 2024, the city will be covered with election posters which are an eyesore and are unsightly. While he understood that legally these were allowed during the election cycle period, he noted that if Members collectively voluntarily agreed to declare the Metropolitan area poster free, it will help improve the visual look of the city, reduce littering and save on the costs of printing and erecting same.

Members welcomed this Motion and agreed that with the advent of social media and digital platforms that physical posters should not need to be used as much, and following a discussion it was agreed to hold a Workshop to discuss the Motion further.

**REPLY:** The legal requirements in relation to the erection of election posters are set out in the Litter Pollution Act 1997 (as amended) and the Electoral (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 2009, which provides that posters may only be erected for a certain specified time period before a polling date and must be removed within 7 days of Polling Day. There are also legal requirements in place in relation to the proximity of posters being erected near polling stations, as well as requirements relating to posters not being erected on traffic and road signs, hanging off bridges, etc. Further draft legislation in relation to this area, namely the Regulation of Display of Electoral and Polling Posters and Other Advertisements Bill 2022, is also currently before the Oireachtas.

The current legislation, therefore, allows for posters to be erected during an election period. However, it is open to the Elected Members of the Metropolitan District to agree not to erect election posters in the run up to the Local Government Elections in June 2024, but such a decision is strictly by voluntary agreement of the Elected Members. The Corporate Services & Governance Department can arrange a Workshop in the near future for the Elected Members of the Metropolitan District if they wish to discuss the details and practicalities of such a proposal.

### **31. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Leddin**

***I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council engage with the owners of empty retail units to discuss their use as pop up shops for start-up businesses and or the use of their shop windows for Christmas displays.***

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Leddin highlighted the number of empty retail units in the City, and pointed out how these units could be used to support innovate start-up businesses and attract more footfall into the City. Members supported the Motion and agreed it would be a positive initiative for the City.

**REPLY:** Thank you for submitting the Notice of Motion regarding the engagement with owners of empty retail units. We appreciate such a proactive approach and the utilisation of vacant retail spaces for pop-up shops, or for start-up businesses, and the use of shop windows for displays.

There is ongoing engagement with the owners of empty retail units and all options are considered for reactivating the property including pop up shops. Temporary use of retail spaces will be encouraged to transition to more long term uses where they are eligible categories of business that qualify under the LCCC Retail and Economic Incentive Scheme for Vacant Property adopted as part of Budget 2024. The suggestion in relation to Christmas displays is noted and the Council will consider this as part of its continued engagement with property owners of planning for Christmas 2024.

We recognise the importance of creating a festive atmosphere and supporting local businesses, and we are eager to work towards achieving this goal.

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

***I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that an update be provided by the relevant Director regarding the progress on the acquisition of the Markets Field.***

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Kiely referred to the importance of the Markets Field for the communities in the area and for the whole of Limerick and highlighted the need to progress this acquisition.

**REPLY:** The Council is continuing its engagements with the LEDP and relevant stakeholders in relation to the future of the Markets Field Stadium. This has included the new owners of Treaty United and the FAI. There is no outcome to these at this point, but engagement will continue with a view to a sustainable outcome.

After further discussions, Director, Regeneration, Sports and Recreation agreed to engage with all stakeholders and then hold a Workshop with the Elected Members to further discuss the issues involved.

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

***I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Festival and Events Office and the Roads Department in Limerick City and County Council liaise with each other on road closures for events to ensure minimal cost to the applicants.***

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Kiely referred to the recent Workshop held on the road closure process, which was very informative. She highlighted the high cost for advertising of road closures for festival and event organisers, many of whom were voluntary.

Members supported the Motion and agreed to write to the Minister for Transport to request that consideration would be given to amending the legislation on the obligation to advertise road closures in newspapers.

**REPLY:** The Festival and Events Office will liaise with the Roads Department regarding road closures to examine how costs to the applicant can be minimised. At present, only the cost of the advertisement of road closure notices is charged to applicants.

### **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 revises***

***its policy for the installation of speed ramps so that following on from a plebiscite of residents that the views of local elected Councillors are taken into account when deciding upon the location for the installation of ramps.***

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

Councillor Sheehan (C) stated that he wished to amend the wording from 'speed ramps' to 'traffic calming measures'.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Sheehan (C) referred to the number of requests received by Elected Members for traffic calming measures in their electoral areas and requested that the views of the Members are considered before agreeing to the location of the traffic calming measures. Members welcomed the Motion and highlighted the need to be consulted before any traffic calming measures are installed.

**REPLY:** Details of locations type & design of Traffic Calming measures (including ramps) are part of the engineering determination in accordance with the Traffic Calming policy.  
A review of this policy is currently underway and the role of submissions\reps on aspects of any solutions can be considered as part of this review.

### **35. 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 Waterways Ireland asking them to expedite their plans to apply for planning to Limerick City and County Council for a maintenance plan for the Park Canal and to specifically to remove the concrete bund under Mike Madden's Bridge.***

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Sheehan (C) stated that the Canal was an excellent amenity and highlighted the need to put the maintenance plan in place. Members supported the motion and highlighted the need for a proper maintenance plan to improve the area and increase the use of the Canal.

### **36. 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 appoint an independent auditor for all Council owned housing stock to identify serious defects that will need to be addressed in the coming years such as structural and roofing problems.***

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Hartigan, seconded by Councillor Novak Uí Chonchúir and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Hartigan highlighted the need for a database of defects of Council housing to ensure they can be tackled at an early stage and ensure that tenant's accommodation is maintained properly.

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Council are currently preparing documents to go out for tender to engage the services of external consultants. The consultants will carry out a Stock Condition Survey of all LCCC dwellings. It is anticipated that this will be advertised before the end of the year with commencement of 2024.

**37. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Novak Uí Chonchúir**

*I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council engage with landowners who have horses grazing on their land near the city, towns and villages to inform them of the importance of preventing horses straying from their land onto public property.*

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Novak Uí Chonchúir, seconded by Councillor Hartigan and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Novak Uí Chonchúir referred to several incidences with roaming horses in the Rhebogue and along the walkway to U.L. and highlighted the need to engage with the landowners to prevent horses straying onto public land.

**REPLY:** The registration of equine premises is the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture Food and Marine. The Council does not have a record of private lands where horses may be kept.

The percentage of cases where straying horses have broken out from Private lands is quite low and is certainly less than 5%. It is our experience that most horses straying on public lands are deliberately placed there. Either released from neighbouring lands or indeed raised on public lands.

The Council however will write to the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine to ask them to issue a notice to all registered equine premises to advise private landowners of the importance of keeping their horses on registered land.

It was suggested that consideration be given, if possible, to the creation of a database of land where horses are kept. Members supported the Motion and noted that this was an ongoing issue over many years, and they requested that the Environment Section would also make a presentation on horse control issues to the Elected Members.

**38. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor O. O'Sullivan**

*I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council consider a Lights Trail event in the People's Park as part of Christmas in Limerick.*

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor O'Sullivan referred to the successful Lights Trail events in other areas and the positive atmosphere it could create in Limerick. She highlighted that preparations should commence early in the year for Christmas 2024.

**REPLY:** Unfortunately the Council are not in a position to implement a Light Trail for Christmas in Limerick 2023, however, it can be investigated in regard to Christmas 2024.

**39. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor O’Sullivan**

*I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that we write to the relevant Minister to request that pre-school properties that wish to open also as afterschool services be retained as valid buildings for commercial rates exemption under Schedule 4 of The Valuation Act 2001, as amended by the Valuation (Amendment) Act 2015, to incentivise childhood education buildings to open beyond pre-school hours.*

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor O’Sullivan highlighted how difficult it was to get childminding places and stated that pre-school properties that could open later may be a solution for parents in need of after school care. Members supported the Motion and noted that this would also be an opportunity to increase jobs for people working in this sector.

**40. Correspondence**

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

**Any Other Business**

It was agreed to hold the December Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2023.

The Acting Director of Service updated Members on an issue that occurred the previous Friday at 32 and 33 Thomas Street where the road had to be closed and tenants evacuated following the collapse of a portion of the building. Members thanked the Acting Director of Service for the update.

This concluded the Meeting.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
CATHAOIRLEACH

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_