

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, AND ONLINE, ON MONDAY, 25TH MARCH, 2024, AT 3.00 P.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor G. Mitchell, Mayor.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive (Dr. P. Daly), A/Director, Support Services (Mr. J. Clune), Director, Housing (Ms. C. Curley), Director, Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism (Mr. G. Daly), Director, Regeneration, Sports and Recreation (Mr. J. Delaney), Director, Rural, Community and Culture Development (Mr. S. Duclot), Director, Transportation and Mobility (Mr. B. Kennedy), Director, National and Regional Shared Services Centre (Mr. K. Lehane), Director, Planning, Environment and Place-Making (Mr. V. Murray), Climate Action Co-ordinator, Environment & Climate Change (Mr. K. Reeves), Meetings Administrator (Ms. L. Flannery), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Mr. M. Leahy), Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Ms. A. Foley).

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the following Meetings:

- (a) Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 22nd January, 2024.
- (b) Special Meeting of the Council held on 26th February, 2024. (2pm)
- (c) Special Meeting of the Council held on 26th February, 2024. (3.30 p.m.)

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);

Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);

And Resolved:

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

The Members referred to the ongoing bad weather and the requirement to carry out Emergency repair works to road surfaces across the City and County. Proposed by Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Collins (M), to write to the Department of Transport to seek emergency funding to help support the funding of repair works to roads in the local authority area which are affected by recent bad weather.

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 Meeting of any declaration of interest in any item due for discussion at the Meeting. No such interests were declared.

3. Disposal of Land

Housing Directorate

- (a) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 2nd February, 2024, concerning disposal of land at 5, North Cloughaun Road, Limerick.

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

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of 5 North Cloughaun Road, Limerick, to Mary Bridget Carton, for the sum of €195.42, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Conveyance of the freehold interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 2nd February, 2024.”

- (b) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 2nd February, 2024, concerning disposal of land at 4, High Street, Croom, Co. Limerick.

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

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of 4, High Street, Croom, Co. Limerick, to John and Christopher O’Dwyer, for the sum of €1.00, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Conveyance of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 2nd February, 2024.”

- (c) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 2nd February, 2024, concerning disposal of land at 1, Fitzgerald Place, Rosbrien, Limerick

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

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of 1, Fitzgerald Place, Rosbrien, Limerick, to Kieran Moore, Legal Personal Representative of James Lynch, deceased, for the sum of €1, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Conveyance of the freehold interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 2nd February, 2024.”

- (d) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 23rd February, 2024, concerning disposal of land at 1, Larch Court, Kennedy Park, Limerick.

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

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of 1, Larch Court, Kennedy Park, Limerick, to Noeleen Davern, for the sum of €195.42, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Conveyance of the freehold interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 23rd February, 2024.”

Rural, Community and Culture Development Directorate

General Disposals

- (e) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 11th March, 2024, concerning disposal of 0.0014 acres/0.00055 hectares of land at 20 Rose Court, Keyes Park, Limerick.

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

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of 0.0014 acres/0.00055 hectares of land at 20 Rose Court, Keyes Park, Limerick, to Robert Hoare, for the sum of €1, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the Lease particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 11th March, 2024.”

- (f) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 11th March, 2024, concerning disposal of 0.0004 acres/0.00016 hectares of land at 18 Rose Court, Keyes Park, Limerick.

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

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of 0.0004 acres/0.00016 hectares of land at 18 Rose Court, Keyes Park, Limerick, to Robert Hoare, for the sum of €1, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the Lease, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 11th March, 2024.”

- (g) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 11th March, 2024, concerning disposal of 0.0018 acres (7.2 sq.m) of land at Main Street, Adare, Co. Limerick.

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

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of 0.0018 acres (7.2 sq.m) of land at Main Street, Adare, Co. Limerick, to Gas Networks Ireland, for the sum of €1,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the Lease; the purchaser agrees to discharge Limerick City and County Council’s legal costs up to €1,200 plus VAT, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 11th March, 2024.”

- (h) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 11th March, 2024, concerning disposal of 0.264 acres/0.107 hectares of land at Ballinacurra Lane, Limerick.

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

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of 0.264 acres/0.107 hectares of land at Ballinacurra Lane, Limerick, to Mr. Eddie Greene, for the sum of €1, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the Lease, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 11th March, 2024.”

- (i) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 11th March, 2024, concerning disposal of land comprising 1.108 ha (2.738 acres) at Rosbrien, Limerick.

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

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of land comprising 1.108 ha (2.738 acres) at Rosbrien, Limerick, to the Health Service Executive, for the sum of €1, with

Limerick City and County Council to retain right-of-way/wayleave access over entirety of the road, and subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 11th March, 2024.”

- (j) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 11th March, 2024, concerning disposal of 0.01 acres (0.0042 hectares) of land at 1, St. Joseph Street, Limerick.

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

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of 0.01 acres (0.0042 hectares) of land at 1, St. Joseph Street, Limerick, to Helen Arnold, for the sum of €1, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the Lease; Ms. Helen Arnold to discharge all legal and other costs incurred by Limerick City and County Council, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 11th March, 2024.”

- (k) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 12th March, 2024, concerning disposal of property at 110 Dalgaish Park, Moyross, Limerick. (Regeneration House Exchange)

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

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property at 110 Dalgaish Park, Moyross, Limerick, to Michael and Vickie Ward, in exchange for the acquisition of 1 Craeval Park, Moyross, Limerick, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the Contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 12th March, 2024.”

- (l) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 12th March, 2024, concerning disposal of 0.03 acres/0.013 hectares of land at Baunacloka, Mungret, Limerick.

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

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of 0.03 acres/0.013 hectares of land at Baunacloka, Mungret, Limerick, to Mungret Properties Limited, for the sum of €10,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the Lease; the purchaser agrees to discharge Limerick City and County Council’s legal costs, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 12th March, 2024.”

- (m) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 12th March, 2024, concerning disposal of land comprising 0.80 acres (Site F) at Kilmallock Business Park, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick.

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

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of land comprising 0.80 acres (Site F) at Kilmallock Business Park, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick, to Mr. Nigel Doherty, for the sum of €70,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the Lease, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 12th March, 2024.”

- (n) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 12th March, 2024, concerning disposal of land comprising 8.6994 acres (3.5205 hectares) at Skagh, Croom, Co. Limerick.

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

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of land comprising 8.6994 acres (3.5205 hectares) at Skagh, Croom, Co. Limerick, to Brienross Property Ltd., for the sum of €260,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 12th March, 2024.”

- (o) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 12th March, 2024, concerning disposal of property at Knockfinisk, Carrigkerry, Co. Limerick, V94 WDF8

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

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property at Knockfinisk, Carrigkerry, Co. Limerick, V94 WDF8, to Mr. David Theodorus Hermanna Geenen and Ms. Arianne Van Den Heuvel, for the sum of €90,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the Lease, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 12th March, 2024.”

Derelict Disposals

- (p) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 12th March, 2024, concerning disposal of property at 34, Smith O'Brien Avenue, Kileely, Limerick.

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

"That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property at 34, Smith O'Brien Avenue, Kileely, Limerick, to Mr. John Walshe, for the sum of €131,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 12th March, 2024."

- (q) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 12th March, 2024, concerning disposal of property on Wolfe Tone Street Kilmallock, Co. Limerick. (Old Grain Store).

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

"That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property on Wolfe Tone Street Kilmallock, Co. Limerick, to Stephen Ryan, for the sum of €65,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the Contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 12th March, 2024."

4. Support Services

(a) Chief Executive's Report

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

The Chief Executive's Reports were noted by the Council.

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

Circulated, report of the A/Director, Support Services, dated 1st March, 2024, seeking the Council's approval to application for sanction from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for a loan in the amount of €5,590,000 to fund the drawdown of Local Authority Home Loans.

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

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to application for sanction from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, for a loan in the amount of €5,590,000 to fund the drawdown of Local Authority Home Loans, the loan to be drawn from the Housing Finance Agency.”

9. Presentation from IFA

With the permission of the Mayor, Item No. 9 – Presentation from the IFA – was taken at this time. The Mayor welcomed Limerick County Chairman, Mr. Sean Lavery, to the Meeting.

Mr. Lavery, with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, addressed the Council and gave an overview to the Members in relation to the issues involved in the Limerick IFA “Enough is Enough” Campaign which included:

- Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Transformation of CAP away from supporting food production;
- Proposed Mercusor Trade Deal;
- Overly Complicated Schemes;
- Nitrates Derogation Reduction;
- Ash Dieback;
- Measurement of Agricultural Emission;
- Zoned Residential Land Tax.

The Presentation also outlined the importance of beef and dairy farming to Limerick and statistics on how many were involved in the industry, the production capacity, the contribution to the local economy.

The Members thanked the IFA group for their presentation and noted the challenges facing the farming sector, and the contribution of farming to Ireland and the local economy in Limerick. They noted the increased fuel and costs for farmers in recent years.

They agreed that the challenges of climate change needed to be addressed by all sectors in partnership, and the importance of supporting the farming sector in dealing with all the challenges and issues that are there, so as to ensure the farming sector continues to operate in a sustainable manner.

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

1. "That this Council recognises the significant contribution that farming, and the Agri-sector makes to the Irish and local economy. The Council acknowledges the income challenge on Irish farmers arising from the significant increases in the cost of doing business, regulatory costs and cuts in Basic Income Support for farmers"
2. "The Council calls on the Government to introduce no further regulations on farmers or any measures that may increase costs on farms without full negotiation and agreement with the Irish Farmers Association (IFA) and other farming organisations. The Council calls on the European Union and the Irish Government to provide additional stand-alone funding, separate to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), to support farmers to undertake climate and biodiversity measures"

With the permission of the Mayor and the agreement of the Meeting, the following Notices of Motion were taken at this time:

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Keary

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council request a full and up-to-date report from the Minister for Health regarding wind turbines on the following issues: (a) likely health effects on adjacent residents; (b) noise levels; (c) shadow flicker; (d) damage to residential amenity.

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

In proposing the Motion, the Members referred to the issues faced by communities living near to wind turbines including noise and shadow flicker and noted that the current regulations, drafted in 2006, needed to be updated urgently. The Director, Planning, Environment and Place-Making confirmed that new guidelines had been drafted in 2019 and had gone to public consultation, but confirmed that they had not been adopted yet by the Department.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Sheahan

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council, in conjunction with both the Clare and Kerry County Councils, have a joint approach to apply pressure on the Government to ensure the Shannon Estuary is prioritised and that the findings of the Shannon Estuary Economic Task Force Report be implemented forthwith.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J), seconded by Councillor Teskey and adopted.

In proposing the Motion, the Members referred to the fact that Maritime Area Plans had not been agreed by Government and that these were needed so as to develop Foynes Port and the Shannon Estuary programme. Members agreed the importance of engagement also with Clare County Council and Kerry County Council on this, and the Chief Executive agreed to discuss this with his counterparts in those local authorities so as to ensure a joint approach.

(c) Standing Orders

Circulated, report of the Head of Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services dated 20th March, 2024, in relation to Executive Review of Standing Orders for Plenary Meetings of the Council.

The Head of Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services outlined the details of her report which recommended that a review of Standing Orders takes place after the Local Elections scheduled for June 2024.

She explained that where the Elected Members wish to resolve to remove part of Standing Order 53, that it would appear to achieve the purpose of allowing a Member to submit a Notice of Motion in the District without affecting the submission of Notices of Motion in Plenary Council Meetings.

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

“That, Section 53(b) of Standing Orders be amended to: For a Notice of Motion from a Metropolitan/Municipal District to be a valid Motion from the District, all Members of the District must sign the Notice”

(d) Public Participation Network (PPN) Nominations – Vacancy on Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee

Circulated, report of the Director, Rural, Community and Culture Development, dated 8th March, 2024, seeking the Council’s approval to the appointment of a PPN representative to fill vacancy on the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee.

The report stated that Martina Brennan, Limerick Cycling Campaign, was being nominated to fill the vacancy, replacing Tracy McElligott, Moyross Residents’ Forum, and representing the Community/Voluntary Sector.

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

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the appointment of Martina Brennan, representing the Community/Voluntary Sector, to the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee to fill vacancy consequent on the resignation of Tracy McElligott.”

(e) Annual Report 2023

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services, dated 20th March, 2024, enclosing copy of the draft Annual Report 2023 for Limerick City and County Council.

The report stated that the draft Annual Report 2023 had been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, and set out details of the policies, programmes, services and other activities undertaken by the Council. It also gave an outline of activities to promote the interests of local communities and twinning. The final version of the Annual Report would be brought before the May Meeting of the Council for adoption.

The draft Annual Report 2023 was noted by the Council.

(f) Strategic Policy Committee Reports

- (i) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee dated 12th March, 2024, in relation to meeting of the Committee held on 12th February, 2024; together with report from the Director, Rural, Community and Culture Development dated 1st March, 2024, enclosing copy of the draft Limerick City and County Council Public Art Policy 2024-2030.

The Chairperson's report was noted by the Council

Recommendation

"That, the draft Limerick City and County Council Public Art Policy 2024-2030 be presented to the Full Council Meeting on 25th March, 2024, for noting."

The Policy, as circulated, was noted by the Council.

- (ii) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee dated 14th March, 2024, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 13th February, 2024; together with report of the Director, Transportation and Mobility Directorate, dated 14th March, 2024, enclosing Limerick City and County Council Traffic Calming Policy 2024 (dated January 2024), as recommended by the SPC at its meeting on 13th February, 2024.

The Chairperson's report was noted by the Council

Recommendation No. 1

"That, the Draft Traffic Calming Policy 2024 be presented to the Full Council Meeting on 25th March, 2024, for adoption."

Following discussion, it was agreed that a Workshop would be held with the Members on the proposals contained within the new policy.

Suspension of Standing Order No. 4: At this point in the Meeting, the Mayor drew attention to the time which was approaching 5.30 p.m., and on the proposal of Councillor Sheehan (C), seconded by Councillor O'Donovan, Standing Order No. 4 was suspended in order to complete the agenda.

Recommendation No. 2

“To introduce a multi-location Parking Permit for certain approved organisations operating within the City Centre area, so as to enable them to park their vehicle at various locations throughout the city in order to deliver essential and important services to people in the City Centre area.”

Councillor Hartigan proposed the following amendment. This was seconded by Councillor Collins (B) and agreed by the Meeting:

“To consider the introduction of parking permits for voluntary organisations that are based within the paid parking areas of the city centre, and in County areas where current parking bye-laws are in place. The permits should be considered for charitable / voluntary organisations that are involved in the provision of health or critical welfare services on a volunteer-led, free-of-charge basis to the public, and where parking in the city is an essential response requirement in the delivery of the service for unpaid volunteer staff.”

- (iii) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee in relation to meeting of the Committee held on 19th February, 2024.

Recommendation

“That, Limerick City and County Council write to the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage seeking an update on the onshore wind farm regulations and a date for the publication of same.”

On the proposal of Councillor Collins (B), seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue, this Recommendation was agreed.

- (iv) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee dated 14th March, 2024, in relation to meeting of the Committee held on 20th February, 2024.

The Chairperson's report was noted by the Council.

- (v) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee dated 22nd February, 2024, in relation to meeting of the Committee held on 22nd February, 2024.

The Chairperson's report was noted by the Council.

5. Planning, Environment and Place-Making

(a) Limerick City and County Council Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029

Circulated, report of the Director, Planning, Environment and Place-Making dated 8th March, 2024, enclosing Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029, together with Chief Executive's Report of Submissions to the Draft Plan.

A PowerPoint presentation was given at the Meeting in relation to the Plan. The Climate Action Co-ordinator explained that each local authority is required to prepare a 5 year plan which will specify the mitigation measures and the adaptation measures to be adopted by the local authority. He confirmed that it was proposed to deliver a 51% reduction in Council Carbon emissions by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050. The main themes involved in the Climate Action Plan included Travel & Mobility; Built Environment & Energy; Governance and Leadership; Community & Partnership; Natural Environment and Environment & Circular Economy.

The Members welcomed the proposed Climate Action Plan and there was a discussion in relation to the targeted timelines and the additional resources required to implement and deliver on same. The Members also agreed the importance of tackling issues at a local authority level so as to demonstrate a commitment to addressing the reality of climate change.

Proposed by Councillor Hartigan;
Seconded by Councillor Kiely;
And Resolved:

"That, the Limerick City and County Council Draft Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 be adopted by the Members in accordance with Section 16 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act, 2021, subject to the following amendments:

- That Limerick City & County Council include a target measure to carry out energy upgrades to its housing stock to an "A" Building Energy Rating by 2030;
- That Limerick City & County Council include a target measure to aim to achieve a reduction in cars on Limerick streets by 2030;
- That Limerick City & County Council include a target measure to report on progress on its Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 on a monthly basis in the Councils Chief Executive Report."

(b) Litter Management Plan 2023-2026

Circulated, Chief Executive's Report on Public Consultation to Elected Members on the Litter Management Plan 2023-2026, together with copy of Litter Management Plan 2023-2026.

A PowerPoint presentation on the Plan was given at the Meeting. The Members noted the contents of the proposed Litter Management Plan 2023-2026. They agreed that improved enforcement was key to ensuring greater compliance by the public, and also agreed that CCTV should be used where possible in tackling dumping at litter blackspots and Bring Bank areas. They also agreed that resources were key to delivering on the objectives of the Litter Management Plan.

Proposed by Councillor O'Donovan;
Seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue;
And Resolved:

"That, the Litter Management Plan 2023-2026, as circulated, be and is hereby adopted in accordance with Section 10 of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997."

6. Transportation and Mobility

Limerick City and County Council Road Traffic Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws – Speed Limit Appeals 2023 incorporating Holycross to Lough Gur

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic & Cleansing, Transportation and Mobility Directorate, dated 6th March, 2024, enclosing copy of the Draft Limerick City and County Council Road Traffic Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws – Speed Limit Appeals 2023 incorporating Holycross to Lough Gur.

Proposed by Councillor Teefty;
Seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue;
And Resolved:

"That, the Limerick City and County Council Road Traffic Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws – Speed Limit Appeals 2023 incorporating Holycross to Lough Gur, be and are hereby made, in accordance with Section 9 of the Road Traffic Act, 2004."

7. Rural, Community and Culture Development

Local Community Development Committee Annual Report 2023

Circulated, report of the LCDC Chief Officer, Rural, Community and Culture Development, dated 14th March, 2024, enclosing 2023 Annual Report of the Limerick Local Community Development Committee.

The LCDC Annual Report 2023 was noted by the Members.

8. Conferences

(a) Participation by Members at Conferences

Details of the following Conferences had been circulated electronically to the Members: (a) The First Home Scheme, held in Carlingford, Co. Louth, from 23rd to 25th February, 2024; (b) A Practical Guide to Personal Taxation in Ireland, held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork, from 1st to 3rd March, 2024; and (c) The Place Race 2024, to be held in Limerick on 16th May, 2024.

The Conferences were noted by the Council.

(b) Reports on Conference / Seminar / Meeting / Event

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

The reports were noted by the Council.

9. Presentation from IFA

It was noted that this presentation had taken place earlier in the Meeting.

QUESTIONS

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

10. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting (a) what funding was advanced to the Dublin Bike Hire business and its associated companies on foot of this Authority's Loan Agreement of 2022; (b) for a listing of those companies and their addresses; (c) how many bicycles were purchased; (d) where and when were they provided; (e) how many remain in service on the Greenway; (f) what interest did this Authority receive on the monies advanced; (g) what, if any, funds remain due to the Council; and (h) the anticipated date of full repayment should monies remain due to the Council.

REPLY:

- (a) A loan of €300,000;
- (b) The Lazy Bike Tour Company Ltd. and Limerick Greenway Bike Hire Limited, both with an address at 107, Glenmaroon Road, Palmerstown, D20 PW22;
- (c) 280;
- (d) Limerick Greenway Car Parks at Rathkeale, Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale during 2022 and 2023;

- (e) Limerick Greenway Bike Hire Limited have exercised a break clause in their licence and are no longer operating on Limerick Greenway;
- (f) 0.500%;
- (g) In line with the loan agreement payment schedule, €104,850.50 has been repaid to date and the amount remaining due is €195,149.50;
- (h) In line with the loan agreement payment schedule, the final payment is due in June 2026. The Council is in discussions with the company to facilitate an earlier date for full repayment.

11. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting (a) how many septic tank inspections were carried out by this Authority in 2023; (b) the number of those deemed inadequate and requiring remedial works; (c) the amount of grant-aid called for; and (d) how much was paid out.

REPLY: In 2023, Limerick conducted inspections on 24 No. Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems (DWWTS), comprising of 18 initial assessments and 6 follow-up inspections for verification purposes. This fell short of the targeted level for 2023 due to loss of trained personnel. However, we anticipate a significant increase in inspections for 2024;

Out of the 18 new inspections, 10 (55.55%) led to the issuance of an advisory notice mandating remedial actions. The identified non-compliances encompassed a spectrum of issues including failed DWWTS, desludging, network repairs, and improper disposal of grey water;

In 2023, Limerick City and County received a total of 8 grant applications, each with a maximum cap of €5,000 per application;

A total of €40,000 was paid out by Limerick City and County Council under the Housing (Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems Grant under the National Inspection Plan) Regulations, 2012 (S.I. 223 of 2012) in 2023.

12. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting for details on all ecological/environmental assessments that have been carried out on Limerick Greenway.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council has published ecological/environmental assessments for Part 8 planning on the following projects on Limerick Greenway:

Limerick Greenway Hub @ Abbeyfeale	Part 8 Planning Reference 24 - 8000
Limerick Greenway Hub @ Ardagh	Part 8 Planning Reference 23 - 8016
Limerick Greenway Hub @ Newcastle West	Part 8 Planning Reference 23 - 8015

Proposed Building	
Limerick Greenway Hub @ Newcastle West Proposed Carpark	Part 8 Planning Reference 22 - 8019
Limerick Greenway Hub @ Rathkeale	Part 8 Planning Reference 21 - 8010
Limerick Greenway – Underpasses and Overpasses	Part 8 Planning References 22 – 8001 / 20 - 8006
N21 Underpass and Barnagh Tunnel	Part 8 Planning Reference 17 - 8009
Surface Improvement, Farm and Road Crossings, Drainage, Fencing and Signage	Part 8 Planning Reference 16 - 8008

NOTICES OF MOTION

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Sheahan

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council, in conjunction with both the Clare and Kerry County Councils, have a joint approach to apply pressure on the Government to ensure the Shannon Estuary is prioritised and that the findings of the Shannon Estuary Economic Task Force Report be implemented forthwith.

It was noted that this Motion had been dealt with earlier in the Meeting

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Keary

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council request a full and up-to-date report from the Minister for Health regarding wind turbines on the following issues: (a) likely health effects on adjacent residents; (b) noise levels; (c) shadow flicker; (d) damage to residential amenity.

It was noted that this Motion had been dealt with earlier in the Meeting.

With the permission of the Mayor, two supplementary Motions were taken at this time as follows, as set out in the supplementary agenda issued on 22nd March, 2024:

14 (a) Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council call for a commitment from Government for a minimum of €91m extra in funding for University Hospital Limerick (UHL) to bring staffing up to the national average for a Model 4 Hospital; notes that UHL is consistently the most overcrowded Emergency Department in the country; and calls for (a) the allocation of €91m in extra funding for staffing and services to bring UHL up to the national average for a Model 4 Hospital; and (b) the creation of a Taskforce, led by the Taoiseach, that includes the HSE, Department of Health and Local Hospital Management to address the deficits in care and services.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheehan (C), seconded by Councillor Collins (B), the Motion was adopted.

14 (b) Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council write to the HSE and Minister for Health requesting an update on the status of the HSE home birth service in Limerick.

On the proposal of Councillor O'Donovan, seconded by Councillor Sheehan (C), the Motion was adopted.

15. Correspondence

The Correspondence circulated with the agenda was taken as read.

Small Business Grants

With the permission of the Mayor, the Members referred to recent correspondence issued recently in relation to the Small Business Grants Scheme and Members agreed that this was a very welcome scheme and that eligible businesses should be encouraged to participate in same.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ORDERS:

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

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT:

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

Signed: _____
Mayor

Date: _____