

First 101 Days of Actions

Q3 2024 Mayoral Action Plan



Prepared by the Office of the
Mayor of Limerick, John Moran



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Introductory Statement

As the first Directly Elected Mayor of Limerick, it is my privilege to present this document outlining actions which I want to have achieved over the first 101 days of my term.

The actions of Limerick City and County Council already have a huge impact on the daily lives of many thousands of people who live here and commute here for work. Every day, over 1,500 dedicated staff members deliver over 700 vital services to our communities, ensuring that Limerick continues to grow and flourish. Their hard work and dedication have already laid a strong foundation for what I would like to achieve.

Now, with the introduction of a new Mayoral Office with direct accountability to the people of Limerick, I believe we have the basis for additional impetus to build further upon this success.

Those who know me know I relish a challenge. I cannot say it has all been easy in these first few weeks but it has been fun and hugely rewarding already. We are essentially creating a wholly new role from scratch, working out the best way to work with the newly elected council and blend their priorities with my own and those who voted for me, as well as needing to immediately focus on very pressing issues. I hope I have been getting the balance right.

In these early days of my term, I focused on learning about all of the good work already being done across our council and meeting as many of those involved as possible. I have also met with many communities, tried to meet all party leaders and a number of officials and government ministers in Dublin. Only by quickly understanding the successes to date can we build into the future, with collaboration and support from all involved.

I want you to realise though that this document does not contain any silver bullet. It is a first modest step. We may get some things wrong and if so I will change direction. But I want to live up to my commitment to take risks where necessary and be innovative where it is needed. I believe it is important to not spend our first quarter only thinking about the bigger fish we have to fry but to use it also to get some early wins over the line. As we get these completed I am confident that the pipeline of similar projects will also grow and spread right across Limerick.

I want to especially pay credit to the many staff at LCCC who deferred their own holiday plans to make the first few weeks possible. They have jumped in with enthusiasm to help me understand the bigger challenges, and also what could be done quickly. They deserve praise for their willingness to draw up this list and take on other tasks on top of their daily work as well as putting their names beside the delivery of all of the actions in my election manifesto over the longer term.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh go leir.

John Moran
Mayor of Limerick

Approach

From my “first day in the office”, I have not wanted to waste any of the precious time we have. Therefore, while the broader mayoral programme was being prepared with the elected representatives and others, the council officials and I immediately got our heads together to allocate responsibility for each of the actions in my manifesto but also to identify over 101 related actions to which we can publicly commit even for my first 101 days.

These actions are grouped in line with the three core pillars of my campaign manifesto: A More Liveable Limerick, A More Healthy Limerick, and A More Prosperous Limerick. I propose to continue to report along these lines into the future. Each pillar represents my ongoing commitment to fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and thriving community for the people of Limerick and make Limerick one of (if not the) most desirable places to live.

But for this first quarter especially there are also certain important earlier changes in governance which are needed to set us up for success over the next five years. These relate to the setting up of the office, the new relationships with the elected council and the designated activity companies (DACs) for which I am responsible as well as changes to inform you, the people of Limerick, in a transparent way about my work.

Throughout my term, I intend to continue to report to you regularly each quarter, to bring the additional transparency and continued community engagement which I promised during the election campaign.

I realise that it will seem like the actions outlined in this document focus more on the development and revitalisation of the city centre and that will surprise many as I also committed to ensure that the needs and concerns of the broader county are not overlooked. My commitment in this respect is not diminished. It was indeed reflected in the fact that I chose to spend my first day in the offices of LCCC in the Newcastle West office, not in Merchants Quay. I found that hugely informative and plan to continue to work from offices all across the county during my term.

For this quarterly action plan I have however placed a priority for short term actions on improving the Limerick that the majority of us see each day, our city centre. This will ensure quick action so that the heart of the Limerick region puts a better foot forward for visiting tourists over the summer, to provide summer activities in our city before kids return to school and provide a boost to the struggling retail businesses located there.

I have also specifically wanted to quickly pilot initiatives to improve security on our streets which can then be expanded in further months. In a similar vein, I have already agreed that initiatives the night economy advisor would like to trial which previously had been restricted to the city centre will now be extended in the months ahead to include at least two of our county towns on a pilot basis.

More delivery for Limerick which works with and for all

In voting for me, the people of Limerick confirmed that they wanted more delivery. At its core, the new Mayor Office gives the ability to drive that delivery and where necessary to better engage external actors to assist in delivering what Limerick needs and deserves.

The actions outlined in this document highlight the changes needed for a new direction over the next three months, whereby the existing structures, stakeholders and working methods evolve to move in that direction.

I believe that More for Limerick can only be achieved with ambitious delivery and more inclusive and collaborative working. We need new groupings of dynamic stakeholders at levels of community, civil society, business and government leading the delivery of each critical area for Limerick.

However, I also believe that there may be some difficult decisions and changes to bring about the extra transparency and accountability I want to see in our local government. There will also need to be a realisation among actors in central government for the need for greater and earlier consultation with Limerick, for the ceding of responsibility for decisions to Limerick and for the need to provide greater funding locally for Limerick to drive on at the speed its residents crave.

Setting up the new Mayoral Office

- G01** Hire and assign staff to Mayoral Office.
- G02** Reconfigure the LCCC “CE” management meetings to include Director General and Mayor.
- G03** New communications to inform public of progress.
- G04** Create a new logging system within the mayoral office of issues raised and correspondences submitted by Limerick residents to the Mayor’s Office.
- G05** New Standing Orders for Council meetings.
- G06** Governance Frameworks for new committees.
- G07** New Shareholder Expectation letters and board transition for the DAC’s coming under the control of the Mayor

Listening to Local Community to shape our impact

- G08** Work and be present in each of the Newcastle West, Kilmallock and Rathkeale Limerick City & County Council offices at least one day a month to facilitate conversations with staff and local stakeholders.
- G09** Hold the first of my quarterly meetings with the Askeaton Community Council.
- G10** Write to other interested Community Councils to agree models of engagement over my five-year term.
- G11** Engage with local stakeholders like the Strategic Partners of the Limerick Chamber, Paul Partnership, West Limerick Resources and Ballyhoura Development.

Working with Councillors to deliver more

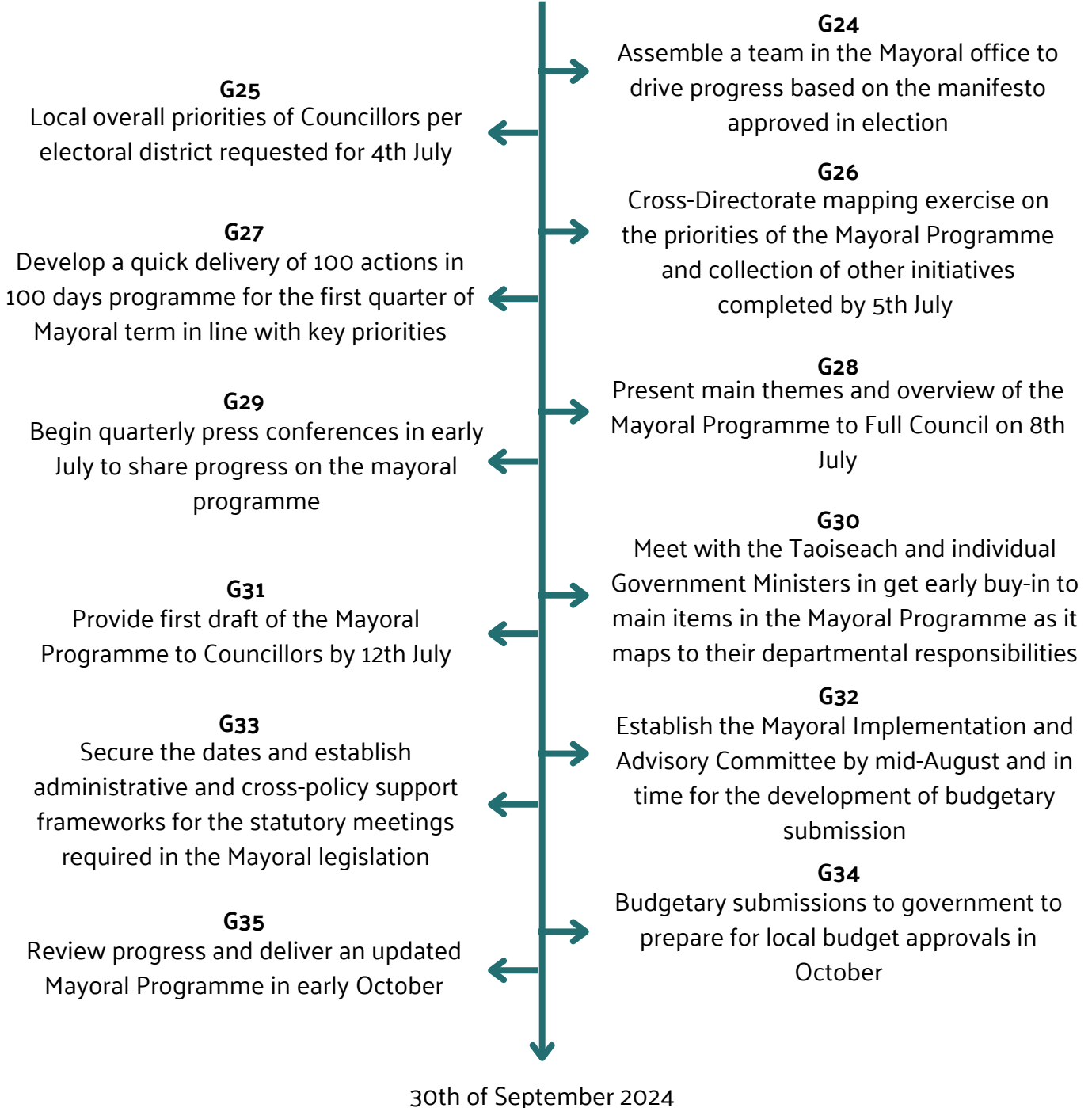
- G12** Institute bilateral monthly meetings with each of the leaders of parties in the Council Chamber to aid the transition into the new office.
- G13** Facilitate a proactive and inclusive process to reflect the priorities of Councillors in the development of the Mayoral Programme.
- G14** Visit each of Municipal District Meetings at least once a quarter.
- G15** Ensure Full Council vote on a motion to live-stream and record Full Council meetings and if passed, to drive the preparation of the guidance notes and budget to ensure its delivery.

Engaging with State Agencies that impact Limerick

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| <p>G16 Meet with Uisce Éireann</p> <p>G17 Meet with the Land Development Agency</p> <p>G18 Meet with Shannon Airport</p> <p>G19 Meet with Bus Éireann and similar transport operators</p> | <p>G20 Meet with Shannon Port</p> <p>G21 Meet with the HSE REO for the Mid-West</p> <p>G22 Meet with NTA and TII</p> <p>G23 Welcome the board of Irish Rail to Limerick and lobby on a rail delivery for Limerick</p> |
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Driving the Mayoral Programme within the statutory deadline (4 months)

Vesting Day



A more liveable Limerick with more affordable housing and better quality of life

Our long-term objective is to prepare Limerick for the increase in population projected but in a sustainable manner. In my first 100 days, I have focused on a number of priorities. We have identified some overdue clean-ups of our built environment to be done. I wish to trial initiatives to improve security and further animate our city centre. Finally, I also want to kick off some of the larger more ambitious projects the public of Limerick has voted for.

Over the term of my office, I am taking a balanced approach to tackling immediate issues within our communities, while also advocating for innovative, short to medium-term solutions to ease the immediate burdens of rising rents and homelessness.

Limerick has historically suffered from poor planning decisions, leading to isolation and dependency on cars. My aim is to rectify this with transparent decision-making, clear direction, and active community engagement.

I will leverage my mandate to drive forward Limerick's transformation, working both locally and at the national level, to deliver tangible improvements within my five-year term. The following actions outline some specific immediate actions we are taking to achieve these goals for Limerick. Over the next few weeks, we will be adding more and more items to this initial list.

Lived Environment

- L01** Advance the preparatory work to commence RIAI type design review studies for key potential growth areas like Moyross and Docklands.
- L02** Prepare a submission to government to seek funding for the Limerick Link.
- L03** Submit a funding request to government for the Municipal Sports Complex in Colbert Quarter.
- L04** Establish a working group with Department of Housing to progress modular housing in Limerick.
- L05** I am pleased to say that work has already begun on the Cruise's Street Urban Enhancement project. This will be rolled out further in the coming months.
- L06** We will begin the preparation of a more holistic future plan for the future development of King's Island and Nicholas Street and adjoining streets.
- L07** We are going to begin the process of public consultation for the future development of the Arthur's Quay area reflecting the commitment of my manifesto to invest in the park as a valuable asset and green lung for the city.
- L08** We will remove the old out of date sticker information in the windows of the former Debenhams building and consider replace them with information about our Mayoral programme vision once agreed.
- L09** We are going to install more Dog Waste collection bins across the city and county.
- L10** We will install bollards around parklet at the White House.
- L11** We will investigate a plan to repair the public lighting under the arches of Sarsfield Bridge and Thomond Bridge.
- L12** We will get water fountain turned on at the Crescent.
- L13** We will repair the damaged paving on William Street, Bedford Row.

Clean Up

- L14** I have asked for the Daniel O’Connell monument in the Crescent to be cleaned.
- L15** We are going to clean the Blossom Gate in Kilmallock and explore how to present this better.
- L16** We will begin the process of cleaning the 6 areas identified in the recent IBAL survey.
- L17** The Sylvester O’Halloran Bridge will be cleaned, pending a plan for a full restoration.
- L18** The Hunt Museum garden rails and Arthurs Quay rails are to be cleaned.
- L19** We will clean the area around the Tait clock, the laneway surfaces and the minor streets in Georgian Limerick.
- L20** We are going to tidy up the active travel route along the Childers Road.
- L21** We are currently cleaning the area around the Anchor monument at Bishops Quay.
- L22** We will paint bollards on O’Callaghan Strand, Clancy Strand, the front of the Hunt Museum, and from Honan’s Quay to Bishop’s Quay.
- L23** We are going to begin cleaning the street furniture on the Quays/Boardwalk, Clancy Strand route of the three bridges walk (Some of the furniture will be temporarily removed to allow for this).
- L24** We will tidy the areas around the Public Bike schemes throughout the city.
- L25** We will clean and paint the concrete planters along the quays.
- L26** We will power hose and clean the area in front of Merchants Quay.
- L27** The stone seats on Thomas Street and Bedford Row will be repaired and cleaned.

Animating our City Centre

- L28** Arts and Crafts Classes at the Hunt Museum will take place on Thursdays throughout the months of July and August (18th & 25th July, 1st, 8th & 15th August) and Saturdays (20th and 27th July, and 3rd and 10th of August).
- L29** We will celebrate the diversity of our residents with festivals like Wild Geese, Pride, Brazil Day and Ukrainian Independence Day.
- L30** In September, we will launch the Culture Night Programme which will see events announced spanning the city and county.
- L31** Heritage Week runs from the 17th – 25th of August. As part of this, the Limerick Museum will host a walking tour of the streets and lanes of medieval Limerick.
- L32** Also during Heritage Week, a major exhibition will open in St. Mary’s Cathedral on the legacy of the Dunraven family in Limerick. It will be a collaboration between Limerick Museum and the Dunraven family.

Parks & Recreation

- L33** We will replace the timber balustrade along Arthur's Quay Park. We will power hose the paving throughout the park and install new paving under the seating areas.
- L34** We will tidy up the Baggot Estate Nature Reserve trail.
- L35** We will begin the Baggot Estate Nature Reserve-Dog Run.
- L36** We will repair the damaged lights in the trees on Catherine Street.
- L37** We are looking at quick fixes to improve the park between City Hall and King Johns Castle.
- L38** We will complete the new community park in Castleconnell.
- L39** The Lough Gur Water tank upgrade works will commence.
- L40** We will replace pedestrian bridges in the Clare Glens.
- L41** We are going to deliver a landscape design for Ballynanty Green on the Ballygrennan Road and Ballynanty Green on Moylish Crescent.
- L42** We will upgrade the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) in Hospital and in Cappamore.
- L43** We will install public toilets at the Castletroy Neighbourhood Park.
- L44** The week of July 13th and 21st will be Play Week. Three play events are scheduled in public parks, Lough Gur (15th July), O'Brien Park (18th July) and the People's Park (19th July).

Community & Tourism

- L45** I want to activate the month of August in Limerick. I have tasked our events team with identifying festivals and events which can encourage our communities to enjoy our public spaces and areas of cultural significance
- L46** I will start the process to pilot a Community Safety Warden Scheme for the city centre
- L47** Over the next few weeks, I will visit each of the registered derelict buildings across the city and county and put a plan in place to bring these buildings back into use.
- L48** I am exploring ways to reconfigure The Crescent in Limerick City for August so that people can enjoy this public space safely.
- L49** Honan's Quay will be closed from traffic for the month of August to introduce pedestrian and family friendly activities in this space
- L50** I am exploring the feasibility of removing parking from the Potato Market to allow for community and family friendly activities during August.
- L51** We will investigate expanding the King's Island Fishing Event to August and explore the potential of making this a more regular occurrence throughout the year
- L52** Event licenses will be issued for Snow Patrol, Paulo Nutini and Liam Gallagher concerts in July at Thomand Park and for Gaelic Sounds in the Gaelic Grounds in August.
- L53** In September, our libraries will roll out Age Friendly tablets and Hi Digital learning across our branch network in collaboration with Vodafone Foundation and ALONE.
- L54** Also in September, we will launch Limerick Libraries' newly designed local studies website, which illustrates Limerick's rich culture and history through curated content, features and highlights

Transport & Mobility

- L55** The Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road – we aim to award the main works contract for this project in July. This project would be delivered in 2 phases over a 24 month period.
- L56** We have commenced the preparation of the Limerick City Centre Transport Plan (LCCTP). A survey looking for your feedback is now live on our website.
- L57** We have put on public display the Draft Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy for Limerick. We are inviting people to make submissions or observations on this draft before the 26th of July.
- L58** Bus Connects - we commenced a review of bus stop infrastructure across the city along all of the bus connects routes.

A more prosperous Limerick with more jobs for our graduates and others

In my first 100 days as Mayor, I am focused on how we can drive on a couple of initiatives which seem to have slowed down and help bring together programmes and activities to prevent overlaps and gaps. This is the best way to make Limerick the most desirable place to live in Ireland as we concentrate on enhancing the quality of life and fostering prosperity.

This means creating a community rich in opportunities and amenities, ensuring financial stability, and nurturing job support. My manifesto policy, "More Prosperity," seeks to harness Limerick's untapped potential, combining innovation with education in sectors like agri-food, manufacturing, and technology. We will take full advantage of new technological and energy opportunities that come our way while supporting every resident, promoting income equality, and attracting global investment. The following list outlines some of the early specific actions we are taking to achieve a more prosperous Limerick.

Enterprise & Tourism Strategy

- P01** I am going to chair a task force, which will include selected councilors and other stakeholders, to build a 5-year SME Action Plan starting with the recommendations in the mayoral programme for recovery and growth of the sector.
- P02** We will initiate a feasibility study for the future use of the former Bank of Ireland building in Bruff.
- P03** I will invite the participants in Explore Engineering and Digital Midwest together to examine the entire supply chain with all relevant stakeholders to determine how best to drive Limerick forward as the global location of choice for life science manufacturing.
- P04** I will establish a steering group, chaired by me or a Councillor chosen by me, to include representatives of trader groups, Limerick Chamber, businesses, youth groups, sports facilities and residents in the City Centre to drive all the measures affecting the City Centre and develop new actions to respond to new or on-going problems.
- P05** Limerick City and County Council will begin the process of drafting a new Tourism Strategy for Limerick in the coming weeks.
- P06** Advance discussions and negotiations with Discover Limerick DAC on the transfer of the International Rugby Experience.
- P07** Begin the preparation of an outreach plan including elected representatives for Limerick in advance of budget work for 2025 to include a strategy for St. Patrick's Day trips.

A more healthy Limerick with wellbeing at its core

During my five-year term as Mayor, I am committed to reducing inequalities within Limerick and between the city and county. My vision is to elevate healthcare in Limerick to the highest national standards. I want to ensure that access to healthcare matches the best in the country, with equal chances of survival for serious emergencies as in Dublin.

While the office of Mayor has limited direct influence over public health services, there are many actions we can take to improve public health. The focus of “More Healthy Limerick” is on actionable strategies to enhance health outcomes for our communities. In my first 100 days, I am focused on learning all I can about the state of healthcare in Limerick, and meeting with as many stakeholders as possible to learn about the possible solutions before engaging with national government Ministers and agencies.

Additionally, I will be vigilant in supporting public education programmes that combat communicable diseases. Here are some of the immediate actions I am taking in this regard:

Health & Wellbeing

- HO1** I will meet with the CEO of UHL and representatives of the HSE.
- HO2** I am meeting Ministers and senior representatives of Uisce Éireann to progress the solutions needed to sort out longstanding boil water notices in our county and report weekly to the people impacted.
- HO3** As part of Sláintecare – Healthy Communities Programmes; a number of programmes will take place in the coming weeks and months, including; Pilates for Chronic Pain & Arthritis, Southill Hub Activator Walking for Neuro Conditions, Aqua Move for Chronic Pain & Arthritis, St Gabriels, Painting for Wellness in Moyross Hub.
- HO4** In September, the WHO (World Health Organisation) will commence the process for Limerick to become an accredited member of the global Healthy Cities/Counties network
- HO5** As part of the “We’re Breastfeeding Friendly” Limerick Campaign, art and craft workshops will take place with breastfeeding families, hosted by HSE and Voluntary breastfeeding support groups, across Limerick City and County throughout July in Kilmallock, Abbeyfeale and Newcastle West.

