

Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Luimnigh

Limerick City
& County Council

An Stiúrthóireacht um Forbartha Eacnamaíochta,
Fiontar agus Turasóireacht,
Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Luimnigh,
Cé na gCeannaithe,
Luimneach.

Economic Development,
Enterprise and Tourism Directorate,
Limerick City and County Council,
Merchant's Quay,
Limerick.

EIRCODE V94 EH90

t: +353 (0) 61 556 000
e: econdev@limerick.ie

MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, 8th JULY, 2024.

Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council for a detailed breakdown of expenditure for Riverfest 2024.

REPLY:

The expenditure budget for Riverfest 2024 is as follows:

Riverfest 2024	
Item	Amount incl. vat
Grooveyard Events Management Fees	€18,634.50
Fashionfest	€14,089.65
Riverfest Village	€144,211.35
Zipline	€35,055.00
Fidget Feet Bingo	€15,000.00
National BBQ Competition	€35,854.50
On Water Activities	€21,217.00
Fireworks	€51,284.65
Street Party	€5,000.00
Pegasus Parade	€64,821.00
ASD sensory Area	€5,775.00
Launch	€400.00
St. Michaels Rowing event	€1,000.00

Item	Amount incl. vat
Rogu	€450.00
Hunt Museum	€2,500.00
St. Mary Cathedral	€500.00
Milk Market Trustees	€2,000.00
TG4 & RTE	€615.00
Licensing	€5,879.00
Garda Charges	€10,209.00
Insurance	€3,570.00
Grooveyard Comms	€8,610.00
LCCC Comms	€1,860.00
Site Crew, Accommodation and Subs	€27,060.00
Site Manager	€6,088.50
Event Controller	€4,920.00
H&S Officer	€7,749.00
Production Manager	€4,981.50
Programme Coordinator	€6,088.50
Project Manager	€6,088.50
Water Liaison	€3,198.00
Misc.	€146.50
Total inc. VAT @23%	€514,856.15

**Signed: *Gordon Daly*,
Deputy Director General,
Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism.**

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Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

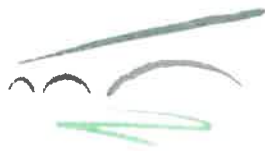
I will ask at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council if this Council can enforce developers to open crèches in new residential developments when people are now living in estates but childcare facilities have not opened.

Reply:

The responsibility to ensure that planning permissions, including the attached conditions, are complied with and implemented in accordance with the permission rests with the applicant/developer. Where it comes to the attention of the Planning Authority that there is non-compliance with a permission or unauthorised development, including failing to construct a crèche that formed part of a permission, the Planning Authority initiates an investigation in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).



PP: Nuala O'Connell
Senior Planner
3 July, 2024.



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Ceanncheathrú Chorpáraideach
Cé na gCeannaithe
Luimneach

Housing Development Directorate
Limerick City and County Council
Corporate Headquarters
Merchant's Quay
Limerick

EIRCODE: V94 EH90

t: +353 (0) 61 556 000

MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL to be held on Monday, 8th July 2024.

Question submitted by Councillor S. Beasley

I will ask at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council how many Council houses are vacant at the moment and further, have been empty for each of the last 5 years.

REPLY:

Year	No of Vacant Units		% of vacancy	End of Year Stock
2019	349		6.41	5,385
2020	201		3.7	5,475
2021	223		4.01	5,549
2022	292		5.15	5,675
2023	231		4.03	5,751
01/07/2024	227		3.76	6,038

The 227 vacant units are at various stages in the refurbishment/relet process. 73 units currently have contractors on site with 82 units at design/procurement stage.

Caroline Curley
Director of Housing
4th July 2024



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MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL to be held on Monday, 8th July 2024.


Question submitted by Councillor S. Beasley

I will ask at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council what is the average cost of refurbishment of vacant homes over the last 5 years per property.

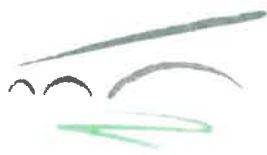
REPLY:

Year	Average Cost of Refurbishment
2019	€32,442.19
2020	€21,832.93
2021	€27,185.23
2022	€21,736.34
2023	€35,623.00
2024	€41,781.30

The table includes the average cost of refurbishment for a vacant unit refurbished through the DHLGH Voids Programme and own resources. Note that €11,000 grant is provided per unit via the Voids Programme.



Caroline Curley
Director of Housing
4th July 2024



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MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL to be held on Monday, 8th July 2024.

Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting (a) the number of affordable homes delivered by our Authority in 2022, 2023 and 2024 to date, and (b) the number of Local Authority Mortgage Loans that were provided in each case.


REPLY:

a) The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage issued formal Affordable Housing targets to the Council on the 30th March 2022. The Council spent 2022 recruiting an Affordable Housing team and launching campaigns seeking advance purchase turnkeys from private developers/builders to deliver affordable homes. Therefore, no affordable homes were delivered in 2022. Limerick City and County Council delivered 46 affordable homes in 2023. A further 50 affordable homes will be delivered by the end of 2024.

In addition to the above Local Authority led schemes, the Approved Housing Body sector and the Land Development Agency delivered 38 affordable homes in 2023. A further 116 affordable homes will be delivered by the end of 2024.

The pipeline is increasing month on month as developers and builders begin to understand the range of Government subventions available for the delivery of affordable homes.

b) 95% of successful and eligible affordable housing applicants obtained mortgage approvals from Commercial Banks for affordable home purchase. 1 household to date required the Local Authority Home Loan and their application was approved in principle. The mortgage will be drawn down once legal work is completed.



Caroline Curley
Director of Housing
4th July 2024



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Seirbhísí Corparáideacha,
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh,
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Corporate Services,
Limerick City and County Council,
Corporate Headquarters,
Merchants Quay,
Limerick

EIRCODE V94 EH90

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f: +353 (0) 61 415 266

COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD - Monday 8th July 2024

Question submitted by Councillor J.Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting as to the number of hours spent by field workers updating the Electoral Register in Limerick over the 53 months from December 2019.

In 2019 Limerick City and County Council carried out an assessment on the continuation of the use of fieldworkers. The global pandemic in early 2020 superceded the decision on the use of fieldworkers as the country experienced a number of periods of lockdown whereby any interaction outside of the home was discouraged in order to prevent the spread of Covid 19. Since that time the Electoral Reform Act, 2022 has been enacted and a number of other measures have been in use to update the electoral register including the onboarding of checktheregister.ie which facilitates electors to update and change their information online on a continuous basis. Further developments are being undertaken on a national basis led by the Department of Housing to move to a centralized system and work will continue to cleanse data held on the current register. The phasing out of fieldworkers aligns with the approach taken in Kerry County Council, Tipperary County Council, Clare County Council, Cork City Council and all Dublin Councils.

Signed:


Laura Flannery,
SEO – Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services

Date: 3 July 2024



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Meeting of Limerick City and County Council
Meeting held on Monday 8th July 2024

Question submitted by Councillor M. Donoghue

In relation to the Nighttime Economy Survey, I will ask at the next Meeting is the online survey the only research that Limerick City and County Council will carry out in relation to the city centre in terms of economy and quality of life.

The online survey is only one of a range of methods used to ensure extensive consultation and a data driven approach is used in the development of a Night Time Economy Action Plan (pursuant to the requirements of the NTE pilot). The following methods of research and consultation are planned over the next 3 months, with an Action Plan expected to be finalised and launched by early November:

- An external consultant has been engaged to assist with data gathering/local research, survey development and analysis, and facilitation of stakeholder engagement
- Research and data collection/analysis is underway and will be presented together with survey outcomes in due course. There is no specific NTE data sets, however this will be built from relevant data from a variety of publicly available sources.
- Two online surveys were launched on 25 June 2024 (a business survey and a public perception survey), with a closing date of 17 July
- Development of stakeholder relationships (representing various cohorts), pursuant with the required objectives of the pilot have commenced (ie. Youth, Students, Older People, Safety, Hospitality including Hoteliers & Vintners, Venues, Active Cities, City Centre Business Owners, Tourism Sector incl. Fáilte Ireland & Creative Ireland). Internal networks have also been established with the NTE Advisor attending the Gateway Forum, the Market Quarter Working Group and various other projects as required. These internal and external networks will continue to evolve throughout the pilot.



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- Night-Time Audits will take place (dates not yet confirmed), with specific cohorts (this may include, but is not limited to: Youth, Multicultural community, Women's groups, Residents, LGBTQI community). The audits will incorporate a night walk in the city centre at a specific time, followed by a focus group discussion. Local Councillors will be invited to attend these.
- A Stakeholder Workshop will be held in September 2024, to explore the data collection/analysis and survey results, consider existing and emerging challenges and opportunities, discuss strategies and brainstorm ideas. The meeting outputs will be collated and a report subsequently prepared for consideration of the NTE Advisory Committee (to be established thereafter).
- A series of 6 thematic/targeted roundtable style meetings to be held with 'Subject Matter Experts' (approx. 6-8 representatives at each meeting). Themes will be adopted according to outputs and identification of key priorities from both the surveys and the Stakeholder Workshop
- A NTE Advisory Committee will be established, which the Mayor has indicated he will chair – the Committee will consider and provide feedback on the Action Plan framework. The Committee will be formed on the basis of individuals acceptance of responsibility for various actions and recommendations. The Committee will meet quarterly to review and monitor implementation of the Action Plan and consider any alterations if required.

Brendan Troy
Head of Trade and Investment
Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism

 customerservices@limerick.ie



MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, 8TH JULY 2024

Question submitted by Councillor S. Hickey-O'Mara

I will ask at the next Meeting of Limerick Council for an update on the use of chemical pesticides by Council staff and Council contractors.

Response:

Plant Protection Products (PPP), Herbicides & Pesticides, are used on a limited basis by Limerick City and County Council. At all times only EU approved licenced Plant Protection Products (PPPs) are used. Council Operatives are trained in the correct application procedures. Any use of products containing glyphosate is subject to the appropriate risk assessment and compliance with safety requirements in relation to their use and application. Limerick City and County Council is committed to reducing its use of PPP across the organisation.

The Parks & Recreation Section of the Council are leading the way with PPP use having been phased out over the last few years. Parks staff or contractors working on the Council's behalf are not permitted to use PPP in any parks or recreation areas. Alternative methods such as strimming are employed.

The Cleansing Section of Limerick City and County Council employs a contractor to treat weeds on public footpaths and roads throughout Limerick City. The Contractor has carried out a risk assessment, which evaluated alternative treatments to chemicals. The risk assessment concluded that the use of the most suitable plant protection product (PPP) applied at the appropriate rate, under the correct conditions, by qualified operatives, was necessary. Three overall applications take place each year, one in April/May, another in July and a final application in September/October, all dependent on weather conditions. The Council's contractor uses a compact tractor mounted sprayer using photosynthetic detectors and operated by registered professional users. This system can target individual weeds without blanket spraying a surface, this ensures that chemical treatment is only applied where plant life is present and minimises usage of chemical pesticides.

Encouragement of biodiversity including the growth of wildflowers and the promotion of initiatives like "No Mow May" emphasise the importance of minimising the use of PPP. Roadside margins are now becoming better managed for pollinators; more Council owned amenities and recreational areas are being managed for biodiversity. Limerick City and County Council is a committed Council partner to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, and Council Action 19 states that councils reduce or eliminate pesticide use so as to help pollinators.

"Guidance for Local Authorities to ensure compliance with the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive", issued by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, has been circulated to relevant staff so as to ensure compliance with said directive.

In relation to Invasive Alien Plants, the use of PPP is also limited and only used where necessary. In the Loobagh Hogweed removal program, plants are removed manually with pesticide use only employed in inaccessible areas or extreme infestations. However, PPP, is essential for the control of Japanese Knotweed and must be retained as an option.



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Comhshaol, Gníomhú ar son na hAeráide agus Seirbhísí Comhroinnte
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh
Bothar Thuar an Daill
Tuair an Daill, Luimneach
V94 WV78

Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services
Limerick City and County Council
Dooradoyle Road
Dooradoyle, Limerick
V94 WV78

The combination of measures outlined above will have the overall impact of reducing the dependency on and usage of pesticides.

Aidan Finn

Senior Engineer

Environment and Climate Action

3rd July 2024