

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT ADJOURNED MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, AND ONLINE, ON FRIDAY, 4TH OCTOBER, 2024, AT 2.30 P.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Príomh Chomhairleoir, Councillor D. McSweeney.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Moran;

Councillors Beasley, Benson, Butler, Carey, Collins (B), Collins (M), Conway, Daly, Donoghue, Doyle, Foley, Galvin, Gavan, Hartigan (S), Hartigan (T), Hickey-O'Mara, Keary, Kiely, Kilcoyne, Leddin, O'Donoghue, O'Donovan, O'Hanlon, O'Sullivan (O), O'Sullivan (T), Pond, Ruddie, Ryan (E), Ryan (M), Scanlan, Secas, Sheahan (J), Sheehan (C), Slattery, Stokes, Talukder, Teefy, Teskey, Ward.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director General (Mr. P. Daly), Director General and Director, Economic Development (Mr. G. Daly), A/Director, Support Services (Mr. J. Clune), 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, Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services (Mr. K. Lehane), Director, Planning and Place-Making (Mr. V. Murray), Acting Meetings Administrator (Ms. A. Foley), Financial Accountant (Mr. P. Murnane), Management Accountant (Ms. I. Griffin), Head of Marketing and Communications (Mr. D O'Sullivan), Senior Executive Officer, Mayoral Office (Ms. S. Reidy), Administrative Officer, Mayoral Office (Mr. R. Corbett), Graduate, Mayoral Office (Ms. C. Hogan), Staff Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Ms. L. Creamer), Staff Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Ms. C. Sheehy).

1. Mayoral Programme

In reply to Members queries, the Acting Meeting Administrator confirmed that the meeting was not being recorded and there was a quorum.

The Mayor expressed his thanks to the Officials for preparing the Mayoral Programme and for the holding of workshops. The Mayor gave a presentation on the programme and outlined the following:

- The Growth triangle
- Proposed Rail Network
- Metropolitan District
- Northside Areas of Focus
- University and Castletroy Areas of Focus
- Raheen-Dooradoyle Areas of Focus

- Historic City Centre
- Adare-Rathkeale Areas of Focus
- Cappamore-Kilmallock Areas of Focus
- Newcastle West Areas of Focus
- Shannon Estuary Growth Triangle
- Abbeyfeale-Town of the Future
- Projected and Actual Growth (2016-2022) in Metropolitan Areas
- Population Growth 2016-2022
- Planning and Development Activity 2022-2023 (SRA Local Authorities)
- Housing Completions in Cities
- National Development Plan 2021-2030
- Effective Regional Development Key Issues and Concerns
- Limerick City Transport Plan – Types of Implementation considerations
- Transport Strategy - €1.2bn Investment
- Limerick City and County Submission September 2024

On behalf of the Members for the Municipal District of Newcastle, Councillor Galvin stated that they had given detailed consideration to the draft Mayoral Programme, which included a number of workshops. They welcomed the Mayors shared ambition for the District and prioritisation of a number of key objectives in the Mayoral Programme.

Councillor Galvin stated that the initial objectives that were submitted to the draft plan had been debated and refined as follows;

- **NCW01 Economic Growth and Infrastructure Development**
 - **Economy** – Including all the key infrastructure improvements at Foynes Port that will support the growth of the offshore wind energy sector and drive land based investment in new technologies and jobs.
 - **Roads** - The delivery of the following key roads is an imperative for the members of the Newcastle West District.
 1. The N21 Bypass of Newcastle West
 2. The N21 Bypass of Abbeyfeale
 3. The delivery of the Southern Distributor Road in Newcastle West linking key regional and local roads and housing estates with key infrastructure and amenities.
 - **Uisce Éireann Infrastructure Water and Wastewater infrastructure** – Upgrade works at the following locations:
 1. A new wastewater treatment plant for Glin
 2. An upgrade of the waste water treatment facilities in Newcastle West
 3. An upgrade of the waste water treatment facilities in Dromcollagher
 4. An upgrade of the drinking water treatment facility in Newcastle West
 5. An upgrade of the drinking water treatment facility in Abbeyfeale
 6. An upgrade of the drinking water treatment facility in Dromcollagher
 7. An upgrade of the drinking water treatment facility in Athea

- **More Affordable Homes for Purchase**
- **Regional and Local Road Maintenance** – The Mayor must seek a review of current regional and local roads grants with the Department to ensure they are increased.
- **NCW02 Comprehensive Growth Strategy for Newcastle West**
 - In addition to the Bypass of Newcastle West, the Distributor Road and the upgrade of our Water and Waste Water treatments plants the mayoral program must address;
 - **Public Amenities** – Newcastle West needs a publically owned swimming pool complex.
 - **The Newcastle West Transport Plan** – The delivery of the recommendations of the Newcastle West Transport Plan to be priorities.
 - **Newcastle West Business Park** – development of a new well located Business Park to attract Foreign Direct Investment and other high end jobs to the town.
- **NCW03 Transformation of Abbeyfeale into a Model Town.**
 - The need for the N21 Bypass of the town.
 - The upgrade of the drinking water treatment plant.
 - Delivery of the Public Realm and Traffic Management Plan.
 - Plan to tackle vacancy and dereliction.
 - New affordable homes.
- **NCW05 Tourism Development and Greenway Expansion**
 - Key baseline indicators should be established and a program put in place to deliver year on year growth.
- **NCW06 Enhancement of Public Safety and Community Welfare**
 - The construction of the new Garda Station and District Headquarters.
 - The proper resourcing of An Garda Síochána.
 - The provision of appropriately sized and resourced Primary Health Care Centres in our key towns.
 - A comprehensive regular Local Link Bus Network serving all our towns and villages.
 - The upgrade and development of public parks and recreational facilities.

He thanked the Mayor for engaging with the Members on the development of the Mayoral Programme which, hopefully will be incorporated into the new Corporate Plan for the city and county, and into the Capital and Service Delivery Plans. He welcomed the opportunity to work together with everyone over the next five years, to help deliver on the objectives in the plan.

On behalf of the Members for the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale, Councillor Teskey thanked the Mayor for attending the workshops. He stated the plan presented was far reaching and it should be servicing local needs; for example construction and maintenance of roads, cutting of hedgerows, provision and maintenance of housing and dealing with the demands of the local community. He welcomed the planned rail investment for the District. He took this opportunity to thank the Director General and his staff for the work done to date in developing and maintaining services. He indicated that the objectives in the Mayoral Programme are very much dependent on funding from central funding, and queried what resources had been received to date.

On behalf of the Members for the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock, Councillor M. Ryan outlined the following amendments;

- **CK01 Strategic Infrastructure and Connectivity**
 - Inclusion of realignment of local bus services to rail connections in Adare and Limerick City.
 - Expand to explicitly mention advocacy to Uisce Éireann and the Minister for Environment for water and wastewater improvements.
 - Create a new action under *Preparing for the Future* to include infrastructure upgrades to allow for rolling out EV charging stations and prepare for district heating.
- **CK04 Sustainable and Affordable Housing Solutions**
 - Explicitly mention increasing voluntary housing as a specific measure to support people staying in their homes.
- **CK05 Tourism Development and Heritage Conservation**

Inclusion of the Dominican Priory specifically as part of the historical sites that should be made more accessible for tourism.
- **MH09** – That Kilmallock becoming an ambulance hub location be negotiated nationally.
- **ML96** – Include Old Barracks, Pallasgreen.
- **MP36** – Include *“for example, those mentioned elsewhere in this chapter and others like the reuse of old buildings like the Bank of Ireland building in Bruff, Murroe Wood Community Centre, Market House Kilfinane, Old Barracks Pallasgreen, Herbertstown hub, as enterprise centres and a periodic Limerick Business and Consumer Sentiment Survey.”*

- **ML113** – Include *“as well as Cappamore playground, including all weather basketball court, tennis courts in Pallasgreen and Galbally and to establish a playground in Killeely.”*
- **MP108** – Include *“Griston Bog, Slieve Felim, Kilmoylan walk in Doon, Clare Glens.”*
- **ML100** – Include *“The development of the Local Link and transport services to increase the saturation across the more rural areas where there are no bus routes to connect to the main routes. To undertake a study in relation to the current public transport routes, how it meets the needs of the local population including mobility and accessibility needs and that it is fit for purpose. The service provided by the bus service must be accessible.”*
- **MH44** – Amend to read as follows: *“Have joined up those living at the edge of our rural villages and towns to the center of those towns by ensuring as a first step test that ten such villages (include Abbeyowney to Murroe, Graveyard in Doon to Toomaline Road, Doon Road in Cappamore to village, Knocklong GAA to church, Meanus church to GAA field, Gotoon to Kilmallock, Loop in Knockainey) have a safe pathway from the lower speed limit sign all the way to the village or town. Ideally, these pathways should loop to a dog park, a playground, a sensory garden and a community vegetable patch which would support accessibility for those with additional needs. Improved enforcement of parking on footpaths, and improved parking facilities off road. To increase funding for footpaths which are mobility friendly. To support the Mobility plans in Gotoon, Doon and Cappamore. Funding for consultant to review and upgrade R513. Funding Low cost safety schemes to upgrade pedestrian crossings.”*

Councillor M. Ryan also stated the Mayor had already identified the city centre as a priority area for more Garda resources. However, he stressed that safety and security is a priority across the whole city and county.

Members thanked the Mayor for his presentation on the Mayoral Programme and agreed it was a comprehensive strategic document which will help develop Limerick further. However, some Members expressed concerns in relation to areas that are situated outside the growth triangle in the programme, while other Members emphasised the importance of public infrastructure, developing the city centre, rural towns and villages and outlined the need for festival and culture events across the city and county. Members also referred to the lack of community centres in the outskirts of city centres and outlined the need to look at park and ride facilities to enhance public transport.

Members indicated that everyone wanted to see progress across the city and county and highlighted housing as a major issue facing Limerick. Some Members expressed concern at the omission of Affordable Purchase in the Mayoral Programme, which would be of benefit to many people and asked that this be incorporated in the programme. Members noted the need to address the major housing issues, and agreed Limerick is not getting a fair share of national funding required to increase the provision of housing in the city and county. It was also the view of some Members that the Land Development Agency should be invited to address the Members.

Members also proposed that the Mayor should engage with outside bodies, such as Waterways Ireland and Uisce Eireann, to enhance services across Limerick and addresses issues holding back the development of infrastructure.

Members acknowledged that this is a unique opportunity to work together to develop Limerick across the city and county, and expressed the importance of continuing to work together for the betterment of the people of Limerick. Some Member believed the success of the programme now depends on obtaining support and funding from Central Government.

In reply to the Members queries, the Mayor advised that Limerick is not getting its fair share of funding from Central Government and he appealed to all political parties to put Limerick first. He stated that to include Affordable Purchases at the scale that is required in Limerick would involve substantial funding from Central Government. He stated housing was not affordable in Limerick at present and this needs to be addressed.

The Mayor indicated that he has included monthly meetings with the Land Development Agency in the programme. The Mayor shared the Members ambition for the extension of the rail line throughout Limerick and indicated he has requested Irish Rail to do feasibility study on cost.

He stated that each Directorate had been met on a number of occasions in relation to the compilation of this programme and he confirmed that the new Programme Manager would be consulted on a quarterly basis to monitor the process of the programme. He acknowledged that a lot of work had been done to date by both officials and the Members. He indicated that he has requested an analysis on proposed transport links in Moyross and such infrastructure will determine the development in the area going forward. The Mayor noted that everyone shared a common desire for what is best for Limerick.

The Director General confirmed that there was strong engagement with the Mayor in putting together the Mayoral Programme and he pledged continued support going forward. He noted that all parties had Limerick at its forefront and looked forward to working with everyone to further develop Limerick in the future.

Signed:

Príomh Chomhairleoir

Date:
