

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MERCHANT'S QUAY, LIMERICK AND ONLINE ON MONDAY, 21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER, 2024 at 9.45 A.M.**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:** Councillor F. Kilcoyne, Leas-Chathaoirleach

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillors Beasley, Benson, Butler, Daly, Donoghue, Doyle, Gavan, Hartigan, Hickey-O'Mara, Kiely, Leddin, McSweeney, O'Donovan, O'Sullivan, Pond, Secas, Sheehan, Slattery and Talukder.

Apologies for his inability to attend were received from Councillor K. O'Hanlon

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Director of Service, Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services (Mr. K. Lehane), Acting Director of Service, Human Resources and Business Improvement (Mr. J. Clune), Financial Accountant (Mr. P. Murnane), Management Accountant (Ms. I. Griffin), Meetings Administrator (Mr. M. Leahy), Senior Executive Engineers, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. M. Richardson and Mr. L. Browne), Administrative Officer, Property Management (Ms. T. Knox), A/Senior Executive Engineer, Travel and Transport Strategy (Mr. J. O'Leary), Executive Planner (Ms. K. McDonnell), Senior Planner (Ms. N. O'Connell), Senior Engineer, Environment and Climate Action (Mr. A. Finn), Senior Executive Officer, Housing Support Services (Ms. M. Hayes), Senior Executive Engineer, Travel & Transportation Strategy (Ms. N. McGarry), Senior Executive Engineer, Regeneration – Economic, Social and Physical (Mr. E. Brennan), Administrative Officer (Mr. J. McDonald), Administrative Officer, Community (Mr. P. Malone) Arts Officer (Ms. E. McCooey), Staff Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Ms. L. Creamer)

At the outset of the Meeting, the Leas-Chathaoirleach, Councillor Kilcoyne, welcomed Journalism students from the University of Limerick who were attending as part of their studies.

**1. Support Services Directorate**

**Draft Budgetary Plan 2025 – General Municipal Allocation**

Circulated, Report of the Mayor of Limerick dated 9th October, 2024, setting out the background to the General Municipal Allocation (GMA) and noting that the total provisional allocation for the GMA for 2025 was €1,652,500 of which €750,000 had been allocated to the Metropolitan District in the Draft Budgetary Plan 2025. The Financial Accountant stated that the Draft Budgetary Plan 2025 for the Metropolitan District of Limerick, which had been discussed at a Workshop earlier, if approved by the Members, would be included in the main budget for the Council.

The proposed breakdown was outlined as follows:

Svc	General Municipal Allocation -2025	Metropolitan District €
B04	Local Roads	235,000
D05	Tourism Development Recreation & Amenity	88,000

<b>F04</b>	<b>Community Initiatives</b>	<b>30,000</b>
	<b>Special Projects – LA Infrastructure</b>	<b>150,000</b>
	<b>Special GMA Projects</b>	<b>247,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>General Municipal Allocation</b>	<b>750,000</b>

Members expressed disappointment at the shortfall in the General Municipal Allocation for the Metropolitan District, compared to the Municipal Districts, and requested that the shortfall be bridged to ensure equity across all Districts.

The Financial Accountant outlined that Section 102 (4) of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) provides that it is a reserved function of the Members of a Municipal District to adopt the Draft Budgetary Plan with or without amendment. If the Members of a Municipal District do not adopt a Draft Budgetary Plan, the Mayor may take account of the Draft Budgetary Plan, as presented, to Members of that Municipal District without amendment.

Following discussion and consideration of the Draft Budgetary Plan 2025, the following amendment was proposed by Councillor Mc Sweeney and seconded by Councillor Butler:

Increase the overall General Municipal Amount for the Metropolitan District to €800,000 and this to be made up as follows:

B04 Local Roads – €235,000 (No Change)

The remaining amount €565,000 be moved to Category F04, Community Initiatives

Proposed by: Councillor Mc Sweeney;  
Seconded by: Councillor Butler;  
And Resolved:

“That in accordance with Section 102(4) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended)”; the GMA amount for the Metropolitan District of Limerick be amended by an increased amount of €50,000 to €800,000, and that the amount of €565,000 be reassigned to F04, Community Initiatives.

The Revised Schedule with the Proposed Amendments is as follows:

<b>Svc</b>	<b>General Municipal Allocation -2025</b>	<b>Metropolitan District €</b>
<b>B04</b>	<b>Local Roads</b>	<b>235,000</b>
<b>F04</b>	<b>Community Initiatives</b>	<b>565,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>General Municipal Allocation</b>	<b>800,000</b>

The Financial Accountant confirmed that funding for the additional amount proposed would have to be identified in the Council's main Budget for 2025, the adoption of which is a reserved function of Council.

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2024.

Proposed by Councillor Slattery;  
Seconded by Councillor McSweeney;  
And Resolved:

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

## **3. Declaration of Interest**

The Meetings Administrator stated that, in line with Part 15 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, and the Code of Conduct, he was inviting those present to notify the Cathaoirleach of any declaration of interest in any item due for discussion at the Meeting. No such interests were declared.

## **4. Disposal of Land**

(a) Circulated, Report of the Senior Staff Officer, Housing Support Services dated 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2024, setting out proposals for Disposal of Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 21, Sean Heuston Place, Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

(b) Circulated, Report of the Senior Staff Officer, Housing Support Services dated 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2024, setting out proposals for Disposal of Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 9, Casement Avenue, Janesboro, Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

(c) Circulated, Report of the Head of Property Management, Rural, Cultural and Community Development Directorate, dated 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2024, setting out proposals for Disposal of 0.012 hectares of land at Baunacloka, Mungret, Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

(d) Circulated, Report of the Head of Property Management, Rural, Cultural and Community Development Directorate, dated 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2024, setting out proposals for Disposal of 2a Meat Market Lane, Limerick, for the consideration of acquiring 50, St. Munchin's Street, St.

Mary's Park, Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

- (e) Circulated, Report of the Head of Property Management, Rural, Cultural and Community Development Directorate, dated 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2024, setting out proposals for Disposal of 0.03 acres/0.013 hectares of land at Baunacloka Munget, Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

- (f) Circulated, Report of the Administrative Officer, Rural, Cultural and Community Development Directorate, dated 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2024, setting out proposals for Disposal of Property at 3, Kileely Villas, Thomondgate, Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval..

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

## **5. Transportation and Mobility Directorate**

### **(a) Part 8 Amendment – Atlas Avenue, Dock Road, Limerick**

Circulated, Report of the Director of Services, Transportation and Mobility Directorate dated 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2024, to consider a minor amendment to previously approved Part 8 for Atlas Avenue, Dock Road, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor McSweeney;

Seconded by Councillor Talukder;

And Resolved:

"That the amendment of previously approved Part 8 for Atlas Avenue, Dock Road, Limerick, providing for two lanes exiting the junction on Atlas Avenue (previous approval was one lane) is hereby adopted".

### **(b) Limerick City and County Council Control of Station less On-Street Shared E-Scooter Hire Services Draft Bye Laws 2024**

Circulated, Report of the Director of Services, Transportation and Mobility Directorate dated 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2024, together with Limerick City and County Council Control of Station less On-Street Shared E-Scooter Hire Services Draft Bye-Laws 2024.

In reply to Members concerns regarding E-Scooters and the introduction of Bye-Laws for same, the A/Senior Executive Engineer, Travel and Transport Strategy, confirmed that the Bike Scheme in Castletroy is separate from a proposed licensed E-Scooter Scheme and that the Council is presently in consultation with the NTA regarding the Castletroy Bike Scheme. E-Scooters were legislated for nationally in early Summer and the Council wish to put the Draft Bye-Laws on public display for a licensed operator for a Shared E-Scooter Scheme, so as to gauge feedback and response. He confirmed that the preference would be to have the Bye-Laws in place as the Council would then

have control over operators. He added that as part of Road Safety Working Group that the Council is currently liaising with Gardaí on a promotional campaign around the responsible and safe use of E-Scooters.

Proposed by Councillor O'Donovan;

Seconded by Councillor Donoghue;

And Resolved:

"That the Limerick City and County Council Control of Station less On-Street Shared E-Scooter Hire Services Draft Bye-Laws 2024 go on public display in accordance with the requirement of Section 200(1) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended)".

## **6. Regeneration, Sports and Recreation Directorate**

### **Part 8 – Southside Connectivity Project**

Circulated, Report of the Director of Services, Regeneration, Sports and Recreation Directorate dated 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2024 and enclosed Mayor's Report dated 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2024 setting out details in relation to the Southside Connectivity Project. The report had been prepared in accordance with Section 179 3(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) and noted that it was proposed to proceed in accordance with Section 8 of the report.

In reply to a query from Members, the Senior Executive Engineer, Regeneration – Economic, Social and Physical, confirmed that he would link in with colleagues in Active Travel regarding the extension of the footpath from the Kilmallock Road Roundabout but no costings were available at present for this.

The report, as circulated, was noted by the Elected Members.

## **7. Planning, Environment and Place-Making Directorate**

### **Taking in Charge of Estates – Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads**

Circulated, Report of the Senior Planner, Planning and Place-Making dated 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2024 seeking approval to the taking in charge of Danesfort, Corbally, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Sheehan;

Seconded by Councillor Hickey-O'Mara;

And Resolved:

"That the roads in Danesfort, Corbally, Limerick, be taken in charge in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993".

## QUESTIONS

Cllr Donoghue stated that she was disappointed with the reply received to one of her Questions. The Leas-Chathaoirleach confirmed that, per Standing Orders, that Questions were not for discussion at the Meeting. He suggested that she should take this up directly with the responder to her Question.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for a progress report/starting date for the South Circular Road active travel scheme that was passed in February 2023.*

**REPLY:** The Active Travel South Circular Road scheme is in the final stages of detail design and is currently with the NTA for review. Following completion of the NTA review, it is proposed to brief Members on the scheme and projected delivery dates in November.

### **9. Question submitted by Councillor S. Hartigan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for information on horses grazing on LCCC owned land in the Groody Valley. Is there lease agreements in place with the owners of the animals? If not, what efforts have LCCC made to prevent animals entering the land, what efforts have LCCC made to remove animals from the land and what efforts have LCCC made to prevent animals straying onto the public road, paths, cycle paths and estates and posing a danger to the public*

**REPLY:** There is no lease agreement currently in place for these lands. Existing fencing is in situ on the site and signage has been erected in relation to the prohibition of any animals being allowed on the land. The Council makes efforts to remove animals from any lands it owns and this is an ongoing work carried out by the local authority.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council clarify the deep cleaning schedule for the recently completed public realm works on O'Connell Street and why the pedestrian surface remains badly stained.*

**REPLY:** The Council deploys the following resources to deep clean O'Connell Street:

- A hot water pavement washer and two staff on O'Connell Street Monday to Friday starting at 7.00 a.m. Works on Mondays are heavily focused on any staining that has occurred over the previous weekend.
- A power washing crew consisting of two staff to wash areas where the hot water pavement washer cannot access.
- A contractor is hired quarterly and at other occasions if necessary to carry out night-time deep cleaning works on the entire area of the upgraded public realm on O'Connell Street.

Staining of pavements reoccurs quickly after cleaning and is more prevalent outside fast food outlets and shops serving food. Some areas under trees can be prone to significant amounts of bird droppings during the summer and these areas are washed daily.

#### **11. Question submitted by Councillor S. Beasley**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, as of October 2024, how many local authority houses are boarded up.*

**REPLY:** As at 15/10/2024, Limerick City and County Council has 5765 number of houses in its stock, of which 237 of these properties are vacant.

Breakdown is as follows:

Metropolitan Area	158
Adare - Rathkeale	28
Cappamore - Kilmallock	20
Newcastle West	31
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>237</b>

#### **12. Question submitted by Councillor S. Beasley**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, as of October, 2024, how many people are on the Limerick City and County Council social housing list.*

**REPLY:** The total number of people on Limerick City and County Council's Housing Waiting list on the 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2024 is 2899.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, what is the annual revenue generated from legal dog breeding establishments (DBE) that are required to pay an annual registration fee to the local authority. Timeframe: from 2019 to the present.*

**REPLY:**

Total DBEs Paid	Year	Amount	Actual Breeders	Amount
34	2019	€18,000	13	€11,600
31	2020	€16,400	12	€10,800
30	2021	€16,400	12	€11,200
32	2022	€17,600	14	€12,400
29	2023	€16,000	16	€12,400
20 (to date)	2024	€14,400	14 (to date)	€12,000
		€98,800		€70,400

- Total DBEs Paid includes Breeders, Hunt Clubs, Animal Welfare Charities and Commercial Boarding Kennels. Actual Breeders includes Breeder's only.

- Breeder's pay the DBE fee based on the number of breeding bitches they have and receive a free General Dog Licence.
- Hunt Clubs pay for a General Dog Licence only (€400) regardless of numbers.
- Charities and Commercial Kennels are exempt from paying fees.

**14. Question submitted by Councillor F. Kilcoyne**

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

1. *Will licences be issued to all parties discharging to Loughmore Canal for surface water both inside and outside Raheen Industrial Estate.*
2. *Will Council be issuing a new agreement with landowners now that the new licence goes against the original agreement.*
3. *The IDA previously carried out maintenance of Loughmore Canal. What impact on the handover to LCCC and our agreement with IDA was replaced without consultation with landowners.*
4. *Can the Council share all results / report done to show that the work under new licence will not interfere with the hazardous chemicals and put any danger to us landowners / animals / anyone working on the grounds of canal etc.*

**REPLY:**

1. Will licences be issued to all parties discharging to Loughmore Canal for surface water both inside and outside Raheen Industrial Estate?

**Surface water discharges are not subject to the requirements of a Discharge Licence under the Water Pollution Act 1977 (as amended).**

2. Will Council be issuing a new agreement with landowners now that the new licence goes against the original agreement?

**Details of the new licence referred to in this question have not been provided therefore we cannot comment.**

3. The IDA previously carried out maintenance of Loughmore Canal. What impact on the handover to LCCC and our agreement with IDA was replaced without consultation with landowners.

**We are not aware of the particulars of any agreement between the IDA and the Landowners as stated in the question. The only agreements that we are aware of, are the early 1970's Agreements that were signed between Limerick County Council and the adjoining Landowners and commoners along the canal route. We can however confirm that Limerick City & County Council is carrying out maintenance work at the Canal at Loughmore Common.**

4. Can the Council share all results / report done to show that the work under new licence will not interfere with the hazardous chemicals and put any danger to us landowners / animals / anyone working on the grounds of canal etc.

You have not specified which new licence you are referring to in your question. To clarify, no Section 4 Discharge Licences have been issued by Limerick City and County Council for the Loughmore Canal. Consequently, no reports, sampling, or assessments have been carried out in connection with any new licences related to the canal. Please note that water quality monitoring in the Loughmore Canal is ongoing.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the membership and terms for same of the Community Liaison Committee to administer funds on behalf of Irish Cement*

**REPLY:** Membership and terms of reference for the Community Liaison Committee will be determined in Q4 2024, and members will be advised accordingly.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update from Irish Water on the Trihalomethane (THM) levels in Limerick City water.*

**REPLY:** Attached are THM results for the Limerick City & Environ PWS from January to August 2024. The last non- compliance (parametric limit 100ug/l) was recorded on 7th February 2024. All THM results since this date have been compliant.

The most recent update in terms of actions underway for this supply, is as follows:

On successful completion of ongoing bench trials, the optimum solution for the Limerick City & Environs PWS will be selected based on the effectiveness in THM reduction while adhering to other water quality standards. Preferred solution and timeline will be confirmed in Q4 2024.

The THM results were circulated as part of the reply.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick if there are any plans to add to the existing bike schemes in Limerick, trikes for people with disabilities.*

**REPLY:** At present, there are no plans to include trikes as part of the pilot dockless bike share scheme, as the operator currently does not offer trikes in its portfolio. However, the National Transport Authority (NTA) is actively reviewing the TFI bike share scheme with the goal of expanding public micro-mobility options in regional cities. While specific details regarding accessible options for people with disabilities have not been confirmed, that review may offer potential for more inclusive solutions in the future.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick what plans, if any, the Council are proposing for the development of the 40 plus acres they purchased at the Mackey Roundabout in Lisnagry.*

**REPLY:** The lands at the Mackey junction were purchased in partnership with the NTA to facilitate development of the M7 J28 Mackey Junction Upgrade Scheme and a Park and Ride Scheme. LCCC are working in conjunction with the NTA Park and Ride Design team to develop the project with the intention of applying for planning permission in 2025. The M7 J28 Mackey Junction Upgrade Scheme will be developed once funding is secured.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick what proposals the Council are considering for the development of the site that was purchased at Annacotty Roundabout.*

**REPLY:** Design Consultants for the proposed residential scheme at the Rivers site in Annacotty are currently being procured.

Upon their successful appointments they will advance this site through to Feasibility and Planning Stages.

The feasibility study will include for the delivery of a Mixed Tenure Scheme with affordable tenure targeting keyworkers. Upon completion of the Feasibility stage, a workshop will be convened with Elected Members to discuss the proposal in more detail.

#### **20. Question submitted by Councillor U. Gavan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick if the Council has actively engaged with property owners of vacant shop fronts on Connell Street and William Street to allow the vacant properties be used as pop up shops in the run up to Christmas.*

**REPLY:** The Council has regular engagement with the owners of vacant property in the city centre. We have not had any offers or enquiries around potential for pop up shops in the run up to Christmas 2024 as there are generally costs associated with fit out, insurance, electricity and heating for activating vacant units. However, we will continue to support any enquiries for same including investigating potential with property owners of vacant units.

#### **21. Question submitted by Councillor U. Gavan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, following on from the release of numbers that over 100 dogs were put down in Limerick and as LCCC does not have a veterinary office can LCCC confirm who is euthanizing these animals as the drug can only be administered by a qualified vet.*

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Council have private professional veterinary services contracted to support the operation of the LCCC Dog Shelter. The most recent process of procurement was carried out in July of this year and a successful applicant appointed. A registered veterinarian always carries out any euthanasia required in the Dog Shelter.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick why the Council's emergency out of hours number went unanswered on the night of October 6<sup>th</sup> and if the Council is aware of any other dates where the emergency line was not covered*

**REPLY:** On 7<sup>th</sup> October a number of calls were received from a member of the public advising that they could not reach the Council. Customer Services contacted the out of hour's company Otonamee to see if there had been any issues with the service on receiving a call from a Member of the public to advise that they could not reach the company. The out of hours Company checked their logs and advised the following:

Reply from Otonamee

*We checked all calls between the 5<sup>th</sup> and on the 6<sup>th</sup> and we found no missed or abandoned calls in our queue. There were no issues with our service over the weekend so I am not sure what this caller is referring to.*

To date we have had no other issues in respect of the services and we monitor the calls that are received on a daily basis throughout the out of hours period and run reports every morning for the different departments.

**23. Question submitted by Councillor S. Benson**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on emergency accommodation bed capacity and winter bed protocol, following on from September's meeting.***

**REPLY:** The winter bed protocol has been revised and agreed with our NGO partners at our recent meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> September taking account of their current capacity. This will allow for 12 additional hostel beds starting on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Should the need arise during this period we will look to add other placement options if needed.

When our cold weather protocol is enacted additional day provision services will be in place to ensure people affected have shelter and food during red weather alert periods.

**24. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick what is the status of the purchase of Our Lady Queen of Peace Community Centre as I have been advised funding to renovate the building was applied for and granted to the Council.***

**REPLY:** Approval in principle has been received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the funding of four Southill projects under the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan. The Council is proceeding with securing the necessary consultants to advise and assist in the implementation of these four projects. One of the four projects is the refurbishment of Our Lady Queen of Peace Community Hall to support wider community and sporting uses. The Council do not currently own the Community Hall so it is currently undertaking the relevant steps towards its acquisition as soon as possible.

**25. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick can solar speed signs be erected on the approach to Donoughmore Cross R512 to tackle speeding in the area.***

**REPLY:** A driver feedback sign was installed on the inbound approach to the Donoughmore

junction on the R512 junction last year. LCCC Roads Department will monitor the situation and carry out a further speed survey, when possible, to determine if further measures are justified.

## **26. Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the discussions between the NTA and Limerick City and County Council on the expansion of the dockless bike scheme beyond Castletroy into other suburbs such as Corbally.***

**REPLY:** Discussions are ongoing regarding the expansion of the pilot dockless bike scheme to other areas of Limerick Metropolitan District.

In addition, the NTA are currently progressing a review of the existing TFI bike share scheme with the intention of developing new and expanded public micro-mobility options in the regional cities. Following review we will revert to the Members with an update.

## **27. Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for the number of unauthorised developments that have had to be removed/demolished between 2019 and 2024.***

**REPLY:** A proportion of complaints relating to unauthorised development result in an Enforcement Notice requiring the developer to remove, demolish or re-instate the unauthorised development to its pre-unauthorised development condition. Unauthorised development covers a broad range of development types. Some of the cases may result in retention applications; others may result in the Planning Authority instigating an enforcement prosecution.

The Planning Authority deals with a large volume and broad range of enforcement cases, and does not maintain specific records where structures have been demolished.

Should the query concerns a specific enforcement case, this can be discussed directly with the Planning Authority.

## **28. Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for a detailed update on the Limerick City Centre Transport Plan including a date for completion and implementation and the amount spent to date on compiling the plan.***

**REPLY:** Consultants JACOBS were appointed in Q1-2024 to prepare a plan on behalf of LCCC\NTA – Step 1.

Works commenced on the Limerick City Transport Plan in April 2024 to identify scope & Objectives. – Step 2.

A pre-Draft Survey was carried out in June 2024 to collect insights on the existing travel patterns in Limerick City Centre and to explore the views of the people of Limerick as they relate to potential changes to the existing transport network and the rebalancing of road space including the introduction of bus priority, improved pedestrian facilities and a safer cycling environment. We had an excellent response to this survey with 870 respondents. – Step 3.

We have had extensive liaison with the Mayor of Limerick John Moran and the NTA to ensure due consideration is given to aligning the Mayoral programme\objectives with the

objectives of the Transport Plan with the subsequent implication on programme timelines. We are now at a stage where we are ready to identify & develop Options for the Draft Plan – Step 4.

While it was an objective at inception to have a draft plan available by Autumn 2024, we now hope to have the draft plan available in the coming months – Step 5.

Once the draft plan is ready it is intended to commence public consultation to get input prior to finalisation of the plan Q1- 2025. – Step 6.

The Final Transport Plan will be ready for publication once the Consultation period and assessment has been completed. - Step 7.

Preparation of the Transport Plan is fully funded and procured by NTA and not Limerick City & County Council.

Phasing of the Implementation stages will be detailed as part of the Final Limerick City Transport Plan.

A summary of the steps is outlined below:

- Step 1 - Inception
- Step 2 - Establish Scope and Objectives
- Step 3 - Baseline Assessment
- Step 4 - Option Identification and development
- Step 5 - Plan Preparation
- Step 6 - Public Consultation
- Step 7 - Plan Finalisation

#### **29. Question submitted by Councillor S. Hickey-O'Mara**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for a full update on plans for the proposed Garryowen Community Centre.*

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Council have engaged with the local community development Group regarding the provision of a community centre. The provision of community infrastructure is challenging and requires a strategic approach for the Metropolitan Area including Garryowen.

#### **30. Question submitted by Councillor S. Hickey-O'Mara**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for Limerick Dog Shelter to supply a full breakdown of:*

- ***The number of dogs rehomed by the shelter over the past five years.***
- ***The number of dogs voluntarily surrendered to the shelter over the past five years.***

**REPLY:** The number of dogs rehomed by the shelter over the past five years is 585.

The number of dogs voluntarily surrendered to the shelter over the past five years is 289.

#### **31. Question submitted by Councillor S. Hickey-O'Mara**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the proposed Ennis Road to City Centre bus route and whether such a proposed route will serve Ashbrook, Fortmary Park and the North Circular Road.*

**REPLY:** Bus Connects Route 6 serves the Ennis Road area. It will operate from Coonagh Shopping Centre to University of Limerick and return. The route corridor is along the R445. The bus does not circulate through Ashbrook and Fortmary Park estates and the North Circular Road. Patrons will be able to access the bus service via the R445.

In addition to the proposed Bus Connect offering, there is a current 24hr service, Bus Eireann Route 343 operating in this area with 20 minutes frequency 6am to 6pm.

### **32. Question submitted by Councillor O. O'Sullivan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick how many staff are directly employed by the Council for a) tourism b) festivals and events c) the Arts Office and what role does each staff member hold.*

**REPLY:**

#### **Tourism, Festivals and Events Department**

Department Head: Senior Executive Officer

##### **Tourism Capital Delivery Roles**

- Senior Executive Engineer
- Executive Engineer
- Assistant Engineer
- 2 x General Operative

##### **Summary of Responsibilities**

Annual maintenance of Limerick Greenway (40km), Limerick Greenway Capital Projects including Barnagh Tunnel, underpasses/overpasses; Delivery of RRDF funded projects at Ardagh, Barnagh, Newcastlewest, Abbeyfeale, Rathkeale (Category 2 and Category 1 RRDF Funding Streams, TVRS streams).

##### **Tourism Development Roles**

- Tourism Officer
- 2 x Staff Officer
- Clerical Officer

##### **Summary of Responsibilities**

Destination development, promotion of Limerick as visitor destination, marketing and promotion of Limerick Greenway, feasibility studies for tourism product development, tourism strategy development, RRDF project administration, administer Discover Limerick PASS, stakeholder engagement WAW Gateway, Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, Ballyhoura Failte, Munster Vales.

##### **Festivals and Events**

- Festival and Events Officer
- Staff Officer
- Clerical Officer

##### **Summary of Responsibilities**

Delivery of civic festivals: St Patricks' Festival, International Band Parade, Riverfest, Halloween in Limerick, Christmas in Limerick, St Brigid's Day; Deliver and administer Festival and Events grant call

on behalf of LCCC; Engagement with UL and Shannon Conference Bureau on Bid-For events.

**Arts Office**

Total staff: 4.3

Full Time equivalents.

1 x Arts Officer & Creative Ireland Coordinator.

**Role:** Management and implementation of the Arts Council framework programme for Limerick, including supports to artists and cultural organisations, rural arts programme, young people children and education initiatives, Culture Night. Management and implementation of the Creative Ireland and Creative Communities programme, including development of programmes and projects under the strategic objectives of the Limerick Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027, Cruinniu na nOg, Creative Ireland directly funded projects support. Management of Council owned artists apartments and studios and of the Limerick City and County Council programme of grants and bursaries.

1 x Assistant Arts Officer.

**Role:** Administrative support and arts programme implementation and delivery.

1 x Creative Ireland Creative Communities Engagement Officer.

**Role:** Administrative support and Creative Limerick programme implementation and delivery.

1.3 FTE Clerical Officers.

**Role:** Administrative and Clerical Support on arts programme and Creative Ireland programme.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for the total arts and culture funds applied for and drawn down, by Limerick City and County Council from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media for 2023 and 2024 to date*

**REPLY:**

Please see below the total arts and culture funds applied for and drawn down from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media for the years 2023 to 2024 to date by the Arts Office;

Year	Funding applied for from D/TCAGSM	Funding drawn down from D/TCAGSM as at 16/10/24
<b>Arts Office</b>		
2023	€260,352	€260,352
2024	€521,940	€163,352
<b>Night Time Economy (NTE) Initiative</b>		
2024	€122,000	€ 35,113

It should be noted for 2024 that all Creative Ireland funding will be drawn down by the arts office by the end of the year and all NTE Initiative funding will be drawn down by the Trade and Investment Team by the end of the year. A capital funding application was made in September 2024 to the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht Sport and Media and response is awaited.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick can the Active Travel Department explain what is happening with the green area by the Moylish roundabout opposite TUS, where the planting resulted in driver visibility issues and had to be cut back. Will this green now be returned to the Parks Department and re-entered into the grass cutting schedule going forward?*

**REPLY:** The Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) outlines the requirements for visibility splays at junctions and highlights that there is a balance between providing adequate sight distance and allowing excessive sight distance that might encourage higher speeds entering the junction. Our assessment is that the sightlines provided at the roundabout comply with the requirements of DMURS for the design speed at this location. The grasses and planting was cut as previously planned and in line with seasonal requirements. The space is underused due to its proximity to the busy road/roundabout and by carrying out planting, a buffer was created enabling safe usage of the space. The wildflower planting on open space was carried out in line with Council's planting objective to increase biodiversity throughout the city.

**35. Question submitted by Councillor M. Donoghue**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Festival and Events Department to establish if, with the focus on DAC-led cultural institutions and tourism attractions in the tourism survey and other marketing materials, will there be similar avenues of support for non-DAC attractions to access over the coming months/years, ahead of the new tourism strategy being introduced*

**REPLY:** The Tourism Department is currently preparing a new tourism strategy for Limerick. There are a number of steps in this process including visitor, community and industry surveys and extensive stakeholder engagement. The tourism strategy will endeavour to provide a roadmap to enhance Limerick as a dynamic and diverse visitor destination leveraging Limerick's rich cultural heritage, vibrant arts scene, historical landmarks, natural beauty and warm hospitality, taking a holistic view of the entire tourism eco-system. All tourism attractions and cultural institutions are invited to participate and contribute to the strategic process.

**36. Question submitted by Councillor M. Donoghue**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Festival and Events Department to set out the structure of funding given to events providers and performers and specifically what measures are being put in place to mitigate an overdependence on voluntary festival committees, which has played a part in the decline in festival offerings in Limerick in recent years*

**REPLY:**

Limerick City and County Council makes direct investment in the festival sector through the annual Festival and Events Scheme. This year's competitive grant scheme offered the opportunity for funding under three Strands, for Festival and Events taking place from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 to 30<sup>th</sup>

September 2025.

The three strands of funding are:

- S1: Delivery and Programming of small and community focused Festivals and Events
- S2: Delivery and Programming of Small and Community focused Festivals and Events
- S3: Festival Development and Sustainability

Strand 3 seeks to fund actions to support the long-term development and sustainability of Festivals/Events. This strand aims to support the development of organisational structures such as the carrying out of feasibility studies; business plan development; reviews of governance structures; development of new Festival/Event concepts; marketing and audience development strategies; brand development; clustering initiatives which support collaboration through shared resources and/or expertise amongst two or more Festivals/Events.

### **37. Question submitted by Councillor M. Donoghue**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick what the projected Per Cent for Art Budget is that is generated by the various capital project underway in each of the following departments: Housing; Roads; Active Travel; Regeneration.***

**REPLY:** The Per Cent for Art scheme is a government initiative whereby 1% of the cost of any publicly funded capital, infrastructural and building development can be allocated to the commissioning of art. Effective from 1 January 2020, the investment bands and limits are:

- projects below €5,000,000: 1% of the cost of the project to a maximum of €50,000 (1% of upper limit)
- projects between €5,000,000 and €20,000,000: 1% of the cost of the project to a maximum of €125,000 (1% at median)
- projects between €20,000,000 and €50,000,000: 1% of the cost of the project to a maximum of €350,000 (1% at median)
- projects in excess of €50,000,000: Up to €500,000 being 1% of the lower level scale and declining as projects increase in scale

Full detail of capital projects underway in the Departments identified is not yet available to the arts office. The process of collating the information requested has commenced and when full details have been collated and checked, the information will be made available.

### **NOTICES OF MOTION**

#### **46. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Slattery (to be referred to the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee)**

***I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the tree policy be changed to allow trees to be topped and pruned in housing estates.***

Councillor Slattery referred to the issue of overgrown trees in housing estates throughout the city which are causing hazardous conditions. Members agreed with the importance that trees and hedging in estates be dealt with where they become an issue in an area.

The Director of Service, Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services, stated that trees are normally pruned every year by the Council. However, he will take back Members concerns to the relevant officials involved.

**38. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Leddin (to be referred to the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee):**

*I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council amend our traffic calming policy to allow the delivery of traffic calming measures where an elected member provides the funding and the necessary petition is signed and submitted by residents.*

It was agreed to refer this Notice of Motion to the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee.

**39. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Beasley**

*I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council agree to source more hostel beds for individual homeless people.*

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Beasley and seconded by Councillor Benson.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Beasley referred to the shortage of hostel beds in the city. Members, in supporting the Motion, stated that some homeless people present to A & E as it is the only place for them to sleep, and they agreed that a Homeless Liaison Nurse for University Hospital Limerick would assist in dealing with this issue. They agreed that a support service was also needed for people coming out of addiction treatment centres such as Cuain Mhuire, etc, as this was also a part of the wider problem.

**REPLY:**

Limerick City and County Council currently operates a number of hostel facilities in conjunction with our Approved Housing Body partners Novas and Mid-West Simon, details around these facilities are elaborated upon in more detail later in the response. It is estimated that Limerick City & County Council will spend €13m in 2024 in the provision of homeless accommodation including hostel accommodation and related supports.

At the outset it is important to note that many individual homeless people who sleep rough, and who are frequent users of emergency hostels and shelters, have complex needs around mental health and addiction and require individualised supports to successfully move from homelessness to a sustainable tenancy. The Housing First approach has been Government policy for a number of years. With Housing First, the priority is to support a person who has experienced homelessness into permanent housing as quickly as possible, without any preconditions around sobriety or mental health treatment and to continue working intensively with them on these issues once they are housed. Housing First recognises that a stable home provides the basis for recovery in other areas. The alignment of housing and health supports means that Housing First is very much a joint initiative of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the Department of Health, the Health Service Executive, the criminal justice sector (the Probation Service and Irish Prison Service), Local Authorities and NGO providers.

Limerick City and County Council has exceeded its target for Housing First Tenancies and there are currently 31 tenancies in place supported by Focus Ireland whose team in conjunction with the HSE team provide the wrap around supports that are required to help manage and sustain these complex tenancies. There are 5 more Housing First Tenancies planned up to year end 2024.

In most instances the Housing First model with the support of the associated wrap around services is the optimal long-term solution for individual homeless persons arising from their complex ongoing needs rather than the provision of additional hostel beds which can lead to cyclical homelessness and may not be the appropriate solution for the individual homeless person.

Every effort is made to prevent homelessness from occurring and The Homeless Action Team have a range of services to help prevent homelessness from occurring including as follows

- Cost Rental Tenant in Situ Scheme
- Tenant in Situ Scheme
- HAP Placefinder
- RAS

Unfortunately, there is a small group of individuals whom we try to engage with through our Outreach team in Ana Liffey and who for various reasons refuse to access hostel accommodation and other services. The outreach team continue to link in with and engage with these people on a daily basis in an effort to build relationships and trust in the hope that they will engage with and avail of services.

As noted, there are a number of Hostel facilities in Limerick to cater for the needs of clients who present and are eligible for Homeless services. There are a number of supported emergency accommodation for single adults in Limerick City. Oak Lodge is a 68 bed hostel for men and women and is operated by Mid-West Simon having increased from a 47 bed provision to a 68 bed provision in recent years. McGarry House which is managed by Novas has a 30 bed service for men and women and is funded through Local Authority and HSE funding. Thomond House provides 24 beds for women only and is operated by Associated Charities Trust. A further number of beds are funded through Section 10 funding for persons experiencing homelessness with addiction issues at Cuan Mhuire, Bruree, who run a 12 or 20 week treatment programme. In addition, Cuan Mhuire operate two transitional houses in Limerick to accommodate homeless persons for 3 to 6 months to prepare for independent living and secure their own accommodation.

Limerick City and County Council has a large array of placement options for people experiencing Homelessness and the Homeless Action Team work collaboratively in conjunction with all stakeholders to ensure no one who is eligible and engages with services is without a bed. There is also provision for an additional 12 Hostel temporary winter beds which will be active from 28th November 2024 and which can be increased should the demand require.

It is recognised that the diverse needs of individual homeless people is expanding and the Homeless Action Team is committed to providing an enhanced targeted response to meet these needs in conjunction with our HSE partners and other stakeholders. This is under ongoing review.

#### **40. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan**

*I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council writes to Irish Rail asking for compensation for homes within the Metropolitan District which are*

***currently experiencing rodent infestation due to works completed along the Limerick to Foynes railway line.***

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor O'Donovan and seconded by Councillor Kilcoyne.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor O'Donovan stated that she had been contacted by residents of Lissanalta and Cul Crannagh, Dooradoyle, regarding an increase in rodent infestation since shrubbery and hedging was removed by Iarnród Éireann at the rear of their houses, and that Irish Rail needs to take greater responsibility for this issue and address the matter. Members agreed that this was an issue all along this section of track in the Metropolitan District and that Iarnród Éireann needed to do more to address this problem.

**41. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan**

***I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that a green roof be incorporated into bus shelters in Limerick City.***

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor O'Donovan, seconded by Councillor Gavan and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor O'Donovan outlined the benefits of such green roofs, including improved air quality, noise prevention and absorption and filtering of rain water. It would also be a good habitat for pollinators and promote bio-diversity initiatives.

**REPLY:** The current suite of bus shelter structures which are provided by the NTA cannot incorporate a green roof. The NTA is currently investigating the potential for a green roof option in future bus shelter structures in urban environments.

**42. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor P. Doyle (to be referred to the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee)**

***I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council would present to city centre retailers at no cost parking ticket books in January 2025 provided the retailers have paid their 2024 rates in full. I would suggest large retailers who pay more than 20k in rates receive a 100 book of tickets and all other retailers 25 books of tickets to distribute free parking tickets to their customers in Limerick city centre. A provision for such a scheme should also be included in the Council's 2025 budget process.***

It was agreed to refer this Notice of Motion to the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee.

**43. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Secas (to be referred to the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee)**

***I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Mayor and the Director General liaise with UL and An Garda Síochána, to set up and chair a taskforce to address car parking problems in residential areas around the University of Limerick.***

It was agreed to refer this Notice of Motion to the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee.

#### **44. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor F. Kilcoyne**

*I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick requesting that the Local Authority liaises with the National Transport Authority, Irish Rail and the Department of Transport to explore the option of constructing temporary rail platforms for passenger travelling between Foynes and Limerick for the duration of the 2027 Ryder Cup event at all population centres along the route, such as Adare, Patrickswell and Rosbrien / Dooradoyle.*

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Kilcoyne, seconded by Councillor Pond and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Kilcoyne stated that there will be a significant number of visitors in Limerick for the Ryder Cup in 2027, and that Limerick does not currently have the infrastructure presently to support the movement of such a large volume of people. Cruise ships which may be coming into Foynes Port could bring increased footfall into Limerick and he believed that the present rail transport infrastructure will not support this. He believed that a Task Force should be put in place to address these issues. Members agreed that rail platforms should also be retained for use beyond 2027.

**REPLY:** The Transport and Mobility Plan for the Ryder Cup 2027 event is in the early stages of development with all the named parties. All transport options, including rail, are currently being considered.

#### **45. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor U. Gavan**

*I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council lead the way to Limerick City and County becoming an advocate for a Mental Health Initiative known as the Buddy Bench. This initiative is to highlight existing benches along the river as a breathing space which would incorporate a positive quote placed on the bench with a QR code which provides local helpline numbers to assist anyone potentially in distress.*

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Gavan, seconded by Councillor S. Hickey-O'Mara and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Gavan referred to the mental health issues experienced by people. She believed that the introduction of the Buddy Bench initiative would foster connectivity, while also helping those who may be in distress to link in with voluntary organisations across the city and receive the necessary help they require.

**REPLY:** The Corporate Services Department will liaise with the Marketing & Communications Department, along with the Roads, Traffic & Cleansing Department, to examine the feasibility of developing and installing this information on existing Council owned benches along the general area of the 3 Bridges route in the Limerick City area.

#### **47. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan**

*I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that we contact Waterways Ireland and ask them to attend a meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to*

*explain why they have not lodged a promised planning application to put in place a comprehensive maintenance plan for the Guinness Canal.*

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Sheehan and seconded by Councillor O'Sullivan. Councillor Sheehan stated that Waterways Ireland had indicated that, following a meeting on site in 2023 with Councillors and officials, that they would be lodging a planning application for a maintenance plan for the Canal before the end of 2023, but that this had not happened and a planning application had still to be lodged, 12 months later. In the meantime the canal had further deteriorated and the Members agreed that this was not acceptable, given the huge potential that the canal has for recreational use for the city.

**REPLY:** Waterways Ireland have responsibility for the maintenance of the Park Canal. They recently confirmed that Environmental Reports are in final draft for the maintenance works along the entire Park Canal and that on receipt of the final Environmental reports, that Waterways Ireland intend to schedule a pre-planning meeting with Limerick City and County Council, with the intention of submitting a planning submission, for the Limerick based maintenance works, in the final Quarter of 2024.

Limerick City and County Council recently contacted Waterways Ireland asking them to attend a meeting with the Elected Members of the Metropolitan District so as to update the Members, and we will contact them again in order to finalise arrangements for a meeting.

#### **48. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Hickey-O'Mara**

*I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick Arts Office establish an online directory of Limerick based professional artists from across all artistic disciplines akin to Clare Arts Office's online directory at [clarearts.ie](http://clarearts.ie)*

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Hickey-O'Mara, seconded by Councillor O'Donovan and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Hickey-O'Mara stated that Clare Arts Office Online directory platforms artists from all artistic disciplines, providing a useful way for organisations and individuals to get in touch with local artists, to build awareness of their work and to link in with them for future projects. His Motion proposed something similar for Limerick.

**REPLY:** Limerick Arts Office recognises the value in establishing an online directory of Limerick based professional artists. In response to consultation with artists earlier this year, a request for additional funding was included in the Arts Council Partnership 2025 funding application to develop and maintain a Limerick artist network website or online directory. If funding is approved, the resulting facility would then be open to all Limerick based professional artists, facilitating connections, introductions and inviting potential collaboration.

#### **49. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Hickey-O'Mara**

*I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council facilitate temporary pop up galleries to showcase the work of local artists in Council owned properties and vacant spaces in the city centre in the run up to the Christmas season.*

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Hickey-O'Mara, seconded by Councillor O'Donovan and agreed.

In proposing this Motion, Councillor Hickey-O'Mara stated that this Motion seeks to support artists through facilitating temporary pop up galleries in the city in the approach to Christmas. He outlined how the arts was a vibrant sector in Ireland and such a scheme would provide additional support for what they do. The Members welcomed the Motion and suggested various vacant properties in the City Centre as possible options for such a scheme.

**REPLY:** The proposal for temporary pop-up galleries could be considered in the context of and within planning for Christmas in Limerick. This would involve collaboration between Tourism, Planning & Placemaking, the Arts Office and also with the Development Management & Placemaking Section, which is currently working on proposals for vacant shopfronts in the city centre, to include art installations.

There is a need for a lead-in period in order to put in place a scheme which will offer local artists the opportunity of exhibiting in temporary pop-up galleries, to include building identification and assessment in terms of suitability from a planning and health and safety perspective. Accordingly it would be appropriate to develop a programme for delivery in 2025.

The Arts Office would welcome development of such a plan and will work to raise awareness of the scheme once it has been developed and to assist in selecting artists and exhibitors for the identified spaces.

The Mayoral Programme includes an action to *conduct a survey of underutilised public spaces and public buildings for potential for temporary, rotating pop-up shops, providing vibrancy and continual novelty to shopping districts in town and the city* (MP87). This survey when completed may identify suitable vacant spaces in the city centre which could potentially be used to facilitate temporary pop-up galleries to showcase the work of local artists.

## **50. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor O. O'Sullivan**

***I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that we write to the Minister for Education in support of Dyslexia Ireland's call for young people with dyslexia and other learning difficulties to be given extra time in state exams.***

In proposing this Motion, Councillor O'Sullivan outlined the importance of supporting this initiative to give students with dyslexia extra time in state exams, as this was not currently available to them. The Elected Members were fully supportive of the proposal to the introduction of extra time for dyslexic students. They also referred to issues affecting students with other forms of neurodiversity, such as those with a stammer, dyspraxia, ADHD and Autism, as this is currently not available as part of the supports provided by the Reasonable Accommodations at Certificate Examinations (RACE) scheme.

Councillor O'Sullivan acknowledged the support received from all the Members for her Motion. She also agreed with the feedback from the Members in relation to additional amendments. The

amended Motion was proposed by Councillor O'Sullivan and seconded by Councillor Butler as follows:

**I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that we write to the Minister for Education in support of Dyslexia Ireland's call for young people with dyslexia, and other forms of neurodiversity such as stammers, dyspraxia, ADHD and Autism, be given extra time in state exams.**

**51. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Donoghue**

*I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Junction 1 of the M20 is revised to include a direct route into the City Centre at Roxborough to help reduce congestion at Greenfields Road and the junction with the Childers Road.*

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Donoghue, seconded by Councillor Sheehan and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Donoghue referred to the traffic congestion on the Rosbrien Road and Childers Road. Members also referred to traffic congestion on the roads around the Crescent Shopping Centre and agreed that the Junction revision would ease congestion issues. The Members agreed that traffic congestion in all areas need to be looked at, especially prior to the Ryder Cup in 2027.

**REPLY:**

National and Council policy is to protect the capacity of the national road network and associated junctions, having regard to all relevant Government guidance. The primary purpose of the national road network is to provide strategic transport links between main centres of population and employment. The Rosbrien Interchange was constructed as part of the Limerick Southern Ring Road Phase II. The interchange provides free flow interchange between M7 (Dublin), N18 (Galway) M20 (Cork & Tralee) and R526 (Roxboro). The interchange does not facilitate traffic movements from M20 to R526, Childers Road. The provision of such access was considered at the scheme development stage and was ruled out as it would cause congestion backing up onto the ring road network. Access to the city from the M20 is facilitated via N18 Junction 2, Dock Road Interchange and M7 Junction 29, Ballysimon Interchange.

Objective TR 035 of the Limerick Development Plan states that it is an objective of the Council to explore

improved accessibility to Limerick Southside, including the possible provision of a motorway interchange connection from the M20/M7 to limerick Southside subject to –

- The requirement for a Motorway Order;
- Demonstration of consistency with the criteria in Section 2.7 of the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012), including that additional traffic loading can be satisfactorily accommodated at the junction and on the national road network;
- The special requirements of the tolling scheme (N18 and Limerick Tunnel Scheme) and the financial implications for the Exchequer of new road schemes in that context shall be evaluated;
- An assessment of environmental impacts

The request to redesign Junction 1 of the M20 to include a direct route into the City Centre is under review by Limerick City and County Council in line with Development Plan Objective TR 035. Limerick City and County Council is also exploring other potential route options to improve

accessibility and connectivity to Limerick Southside. Please see attached correspondence previously issued by TII with respect to the redesign of the junction at Junction 1, M20.

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

***I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that an update be provided on the Mary Street Garda Station site and any other projects / schemes that have been delayed due to reviews by the Mayor including but not limited to housing and property disposals.***

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Kiely, seconded by Councillor McSweeney and agreed.

Councillor Kiely, in proposing this Motion, referred to the significant work by officials and Members which had previously gone into the proposal for the disposal of the former Mary Street Garda Station, which had been approved at both the Metropolitan District and Full Council Meeting level. This agreed disposal had been stopped following a decision by the Mayor to review this proposal, without any consultation or input from the Elected Members. The main aim of all involved had been to get Mary Street Garda Station building out of dereliction, and this delay will result in the building remaining in a derelict state for the foreseeable future again.

Some Members also noted that the recent announcement of €200,000 THRIVE funding allocated to the King's Island Area of Limerick City where this building is located, is very small compared to the level of investment that will be required to refurbish this building alone. They agreed that a decision had been taken by the Elected Representatives of the Council and now that decision had been reversed without any consultation or engagement and queried the legality of this.

Some Members also noted that the previous Council had asked the Executive to find an alternative use for the building as it is such a historical building, but none was forthcoming.

### **REPLY:**

As you are aware, Limerick City and County Council had previously agreed the disposal of the former Mary Street Garda Station site for a private development. The developer no longer wishes to progress with the purchase so the sale will not proceed. This now enables us to assess the new best optimum use for this public building, in line with other developments in the area and the Mayoral Programme objective to improve amenities and public realm across King's Island and encourage the development of new creative hubs and workshops in this most historic part of our city.

LCCC has received funding of approximately €200,000 under THRIVE – the Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme - for the King's Island Area of Limerick City.

THRIVE is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Funding for this project will be to support the following activities:

- Enhancement of an existing Integrated Urban Strategy – The King's Island Walled Town Framework.
- Identification of projects that promote the conservation and adaptive reuse of our built heritage stock while reducing vacancy and dereliction in town centres.
- Prioritisation, development and specification of project proposals to create a pipeline of investment-ready built heritage refurbishment, renovation and adaptive reuse projects,

bringing one of them to a stage of readiness where it can be included in a THRIVE Strand 2 application.

### **53. Correspondence**

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

### **Other Business**

The Leas-Chathaoirleach wished the Journalism students from University of Limerick the very best in their future studies.

He also referred to a fire that had occurred in a business premises in Patrickswell the previous night, which had resulted in five people losing their job. The Members expressed the hope that this business would be back in operation soon.

This concluded the Meeting.

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

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