

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT ORDINARY MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, AND ONLINE, ON MONDAY, 26th AUGUST, 2024, AT 3.00 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, Ruddle, Ryan (E), Ryan (M), Scanlan, Secas, Sheahan (J), Sheehan (C), Slattery, Stokes, Talukder, Teefy, Teskey, Ward.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director General (Dr. P. Daly), A/Director, Support Services (Mr. J. Clune), A/Director, Transportation and Mobility (Mr. H. McGrath), A/Director, Housing (Mr. B. Kidney), Director, Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services (Mr. K. Lehane), A/Director, Rural, Community and Culture Development (Mr. S. O'Connor), Director, Planning and Place-Making (Mr. V. Murray), Senior Planner, Planning and Place-Making (Ms. N. O'Connell), Meetings Administrator (Ms. L. Flannery), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Mr. M. Leahy), Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Ms. A. Foley), Administrative Officer, Mayoral Office (Mr. R. Corbett).

VOTE OF SYMPATHY

The Príomh Chomhairleoir welcomed everyone to the meeting, and at the outset, and with the agreement of all the Members, a Vote of Sympathy was extended to the family of the late Denis McCarthy, Corbally, who had passed away following a brief illness.

Members noted that he was originally from Broadford and later lived in Corbally, and was elected in Limerick City East at the 2009 Local Elections. His dedication and leadership were quickly recognized, leading to his election as Deputy Mayor at the first meeting of the old City Council.

Denis's career was marked by his passion for public service. Before his election, he worked at the Department of Agriculture, where his love for farming was evident. His deep connection to his roots in West Limerick was a testament to his character, as he frequently visited his beloved Broadford.

Denis was a thorough gentleman who represented his constituents with great enthusiasm and his dedication to his community was unwavering. He took his duties seriously, always preparing meticulously for events and ensuring he represented the council with insight and

grace. One of Denis's significant contributions during his tenure was his focus on regeneration areas. He was deeply committed to improving facilities and amenities in these areas, working tirelessly to fulfil his promises.

The Members expressed their condolences to his sons Donogh and Colum, daughter Ann Marie, partner Marion, daughters-in-law Jane and Kate, grandchildren Conor, Lucy, Liam, Sean, Aidan, Cathal, Darragh, and Aisling, former wife Ann, and his extended family.

The Meeting was adjourned for 15 minutes as a mark of respect.

On the resumption of the Meeting, the Príomh Chomhairleoir noted that the Mayor is required to present a draft of his Mayoral Programme for consideration by the Elected Council to meet legislative requirements as set out in the Local Government (Mayor of Limerick) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 2024.

The Mayor gave a presentation to the Members on his draft Mayoral Programme which he described as an ambitious programme for Limerick that would benefit both City and County. He outlined to the Members the importance of finalising the proposed Mayoral Programme as soon as possible, so as to allow time for engagement with Ministers and various Government Departments in the run up to Budget 2025, in order to maximise all possible opportunities for Limerick.

He outlined the process in drafting his Mayoral Programme through engagement with local communities, meetings of the Advisory Committee, discussions with Director of Services and relevant staff, and through the proposals received from Elected Members of the Metropolitan and Municipal Districts. The Mayor believed that the Programme gives a very strong direction of where Limerick is going, pointing out it is a plan to progress Limerick City and County further, across a range of areas, and he needed support from the Elected Members in delivering his Programme for the betterment of all the people of Limerick.

He believed there was a willingness from Government to interact with Limerick, following the Local and Mayoral Elections in June, and he needed the Elected Members to also support him in delivering his Programme for the betterment of all the people of Limerick.

He outlined to the Members how his proposed Draft Mayoral Programme gives a very strong direction of where Limerick is going; pointing out it is a plan to progress Limerick further, across a range of areas.

The Mayor confirmed that timelines were tight, having regard to the statutory deadlines set out in the Local Government (Mayor of Limerick) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 2024, which required that the Mayoral Programme be adopted within 4 months of the Local Elections, i.e. early October 2024.

Members thanked the Mayor for his presentation and welcomed a plan to progress Limerick further. However, some Members raised concerns around the timeline to draft this programme and encouraged the Mayor to meet with the Members of the Districts to agree

priorities for each area. Some Members emphasised the importance of addressing issues in the City and County in a balanced way so that all of Limerick would be improved where possible. It was also the view of some Members that some of the proposed plans in the Draft Mayoral Programme were outside the role of the local authority, while other Members welcomed many of the proposals contained within the draft programme.

Some Members were of the view that not enough consultation had taken place in relation to the draft Mayoral Programme, and believed that additional discussions and Workshops between the Mayor's Office and the Metropolitan & Municipal Districts were needed.

Members also referred to the lack of projected expenditure costings for what was being proposed, and also why some suggestions and proposals that had been submitted by the Metropolitan & Municipal Districts had not been included in the Mayoral Programme.

Some Members believed that the Mayoral Programme should proceed and that the Programme could be amended and modified over time, in response to what funding was available to progress the various proposals. With the national Budget 2025 also imminent, they believed time was of the essence to proceed.

The Mayor acknowledged the feedback received from Members, and stated he had complied with the legislation and he asked that the Members proceed with the Mayoral Programme to allow him to continue his engagement at a local and national level.

Some Members were of the view that the Meeting should be deferred, whilst others believed a deferral should not take place. Following further discussions, Cllr Slattery, seconded by Cllr B. Collins, formally proposed that the Meeting be adjourned.

The Príomh Chomhairleoir asked that a vote take place on the proposal and the result of the voting was as follows:

For

Councillors Butler, Collins (B), Conway, Doyle, Foley, Galvin, Keary, Kiely, Kilcoyne, McSweeney, O'Hanlon, O'Sullivan (O), O'Sullivan (T), Pond, Ruddle, Ryan (M), Slattery, Stokes, Talukder, Teskey, Ward. (21)

Against

Councillors Beasley, Benson, Carey, Daly, Donoghue, Gavan, Hartigan (S), Hartigan (T), Leddin, Moran, O'Donoghue, Ryan (E), Scanlan, Secas, Sheehan (C), Teefy. (16)

Abstentions

There were no Abstentions.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Príomh Chomhairleoir

Date:
