

LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST
MEETING TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2nd April, 2025

**To: The Cathaoirleach and Each Member of the Municipal District of
Newcastle West District**

Re: Draft Schedule of Municipal District Works - (SMDW)

Dear Councillor,

I wish to refer to previous discussions regarding the requirement to prepare a Schedule of Municipal District Works.

Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 inserts a new section 103A in the Local Government Act 2001 providing that, following the adoption of the annual budget, a schedule of proposed works of maintenance and repair to be carried out during the financial year in each municipal district shall be prepared, for adoption by the municipal district members.

The SMDW is, in effect, a plan of works that prioritises and apportions the use, within each municipal district, of funding provided in the overall local authority revenue budget for particular purposes

The SMDW in respect of the Municipal District should be formulated on the basis of the amount of funding provided for maintenance and repair in the annual budget in respect of each relevant service division (e.g. housing, roads, amenities, street cleaning, drainage work, burial ground maintenance, etc.

Classification of items in the budget should largely determine what works and related expenditure are included in the SMDW but insofar as it may be necessary to make judgements in particular instances, it is considered that the term "maintenance" can include not only maintenance of the physical condition or fabric of items, but also more operational type matters such as grass cutting or tree pruning.

Within the level of funding available, details of the SMDW should be prepared on the basis of identified needs (taking account of relevant factors, for example, in the case of housing, age profile of stock) and priorities throughout the local authority area and taking due account of requirements in relation to standards and frequency of maintenance work. This should be informed by details of relevant requirements, which were considered in the formulation of the overall local authority budget. It will also be relevant to have regard to the pattern of works and expenditure in previous years.

It is emphasised that adoption of the SMDW per se cannot involve revision of the adopted budget.

It is essential to maximise return on investment by avoiding dilution of expenditure, which could result from spreading allocations too thinly across the Municipal District each year. This could be minimised by taking a multi-annual approach where possible in the preparation of the SMDW.

Maximising value for money, overall effectiveness, and return from investment should also be a key objective in prioritising works and allocating available funding within each municipal district, along with the need to ensure appropriate balance in the allocation of resources as between urban and rural areas in the district.

Apportionment of funding on a thematic basis within the district over the life of the council could help to this end. For example, specific housing estate(s) in one location could be prioritised for refurbishment in year one, with a commitment to undertake works in another area in subsequent years. Similarly, where an overall local authority maintenance programme is drawn up for a particular purpose (say windows and doors in local authority dwellings) which might need to extend over a number of years, the required works would be reflected in relevant annual SMDWs.

Any maintenance type functions, for example, grass cutting, planting or other maintenance of open spaces, that are carried out by means of specific purpose grants for such purposes to community groups such as tidy towns committees can be provided for, as appropriate, through the SMDW.

The GMA, which is a budgetary element providing funding for discretionary expenditure at municipal district level to be decided by the elected members in respect of each municipal district, is separate from the “strategic” budgetary funding for maintenance and repair, the utilisation of which is to be determined in the SMDW.

The Draft Schedule of Municipal District Works for the Municipal District of Newcastle West is set out at appendix 1 attached. The approval of the Members is sought for the Draft Schedule as presented.

Is mise le meas,

**Stephane Duclot,
Director of Services.**

Appendix 1

Newcastle West District Road Works Scheme 2025	
Work Category	€
Restoration Improvement (RI) -Road Reconstruction	2,974,766
Restoration Maintenance (RM) –Surface Dressing	431,469
Supplementary Restoration Maintenance (SRM) – Surface Dressing	376,675
Drainage Grant	180,000
General Maintenance (GM)	796,200
General Maintenance Safety	50,000
Tar Patching (TP)	433,000
Low Cost Safety Improvement Works (LCSI)	25,000
Street Cleaning	155,907
General Municipal Allocation (GMA)	95,000
Bridge Rehabilitation	184,500
Active Travel Programme	750,000
Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works	120,000
Specific Improvement Grant – Lees cross	200,000
Local Improvement Schemes	144,137
Development Fund Municipal Allocation	50,000
N21 Abbeyfeale Relief Road	N/A
N21 Newcastle West Relief Road	N/A
Limerick Greenway – Rathkeale to Abbeyfeale	N/A
Newcastle West Athletics Hub	N/A
Total Defined MD Spending	6,966,654*

**Note that the TII allocations 2025 are currently unknown*

N/A – Not Available

Newcastle West District Road Works Schemes 2025			
Regional Roads		Road Reconstruction	Allocation €699,766
Road No.	Description	Length (m)	Total Cost (€)
R515	Dromcollogher – Milford Road overlay	1450	200,000
R522	Bruff Line Overlay	750	100,000
R521	Ardagh village - overlay	700	160,000
R524	Coole West, Athea	1000	150,766
R523	Ardagh to Carrigkerry	300	89,000
Total		4200	699,766

Local Roads		Road Reconstruction	Allocation €2,275,000
Road No.	Description	Length (m)	Total Cost (€)
L1227	Glin village overlay	600	250,000
L7023	Mountplummer	900	100,000
L1324	Tournafulla village overlay	300	300,000
L7054	Rathcahill, Strand	1300	100,000
L7055	Glenmore, Strand	1400	120,000
L13171	Glenquinn, Strand	750	140,000
L1324	Dromtrasna, Abbeyfeale overlay	1350	185,000
L70631	Meenyline, Templeglantine	1400	80,000
L1312	Cammas, Raheenagh	1850	160,000
L1311	Ahawilk, Feohanagh	1900	160,000
L8603	Derraulin, Castletown	800	80,000
L70132	Hoghmount, Feenagh	1050	90,000
L70701	Athea junctions rally	300	100,000
L70651	Crataloe, Athea	1200	90,000
L7025	Lisnafulla, Broadford	1000	90,000
L1316	Old Barna, Newcastle West	1100	100,000
L7020	Mountplummer	1100	70,000
L7021	Knocktoosh, Broadford	1300	60,000
Total		19600	2,275,000

Regional Roads		Surface Dressing	Allocation €70,000	
Road No.	Description		Length (m)	Total Cost (€)
R524	Coolewest, Athea		1150	35,000
R524	Templeathea		950	35,000
		Total	2100	70,000

Local Roads		Surface Dressing	Allocation €361,468	
Road No.	Description		Length (m)	Total Cost (€)
L1318	Raheenagh		1900	35,000
L1325	Abbeyfeale East		1900	53,000
L1232	Tullyglass, Glin		1300	30,000
L1324	Dromtrasna, Athea		1400	30,000
L1323	Caherevoy. Mountcollins		1450	33,000
L1543	Ballyagran to Feenagh		2300	40,000
L1542	Balluagran to Castletown		2600	50,000
L7013	Highmount, Feenagh		800	10,000
L7019	Broadford village to Boola		2100	35,000
L6094	Tullyleague, Glin		1650	45,468
		Total	17,400	361,468

Supplementary Restoration Maintenance		Allocation €60,000	
Regional Roads			
Road No.	Description	Length (m)	Total Cost (€)
R523	Ardagh to Carrickerry road	1700	60,000
		Total	1700
			60,000

Supplementary Restoration Maintenance				
Local Roads		Surface Dressing	Allocation €316,674	
Road No.	Description		Length (m)	Total Cost (€)
L1332	Old Mill to Carrickerry		3550	90,000
L1224	Carrickerry to Knockdown		1600	43,000
L1312	Ballylanigan, Strand		1550	35,000
L6041	Ballinruane, Kilmeedy		1950	27,000
L7077	Dually to Killoughteen		2100	35,000
L7008	Baptist Well to Cooliska		1150	20,000
L1337	Coolyroe to Kilmeedy		1900	49,532
L1212	Kilmeedy		1200	17142
			Total	15000
				316,674

Drainage Works			Allocation € 180,000
Road No.	Description	Length (m)	Total Cost (€)
L1315	Monagea to Strand		80,000
	Shanrath, Castlemahon		50,000
	Hill road, Abbeyfeale		50,000
		Total	180,000

Low Cost Safety Schemes			Allocation € 65,000
Road No.	Description	Length (m)	Total Cost (€)
R522	Lisheenine, Newcastle West		25,000
R522/L7027	Cloonmore, Dromcolligher		15,000
R523/ L6080	Knockfinish, Athea		25,000
		Total	65,000

Climate Adaptation Works			Allocation € 120,000
Road No.	Description	Length (m)	Total Cost (€)
L1304	Castlemahon Village		100,000
L1315	Glenmore, Strand		20,000
	Total		120,000

Bridge Rehabilitation scheme			Allocation € 184,500
Road No.	Description	Length (m)	Total Cost €
R523	Ardagh bridge		23,000
L1329	Clash bridge		45,000
L7055	Templeglantine bridge		37,500
L7007	Ballynoe bridge		25,000
L1326	Caherlane bridge, Mountcollins		28,000
L1329	Glenagown bridge, Newcastle West		26,000
	Total		184,500

General Maintenance Safety			Allocation € 50,000
Road No.	Description	Total Cost (€)	
Various junctions	Road markings & studs	25,000	
Various junctions	Hedge cutting at junctions	25,000	
	Total		50,000

General Municipal Allocation Works Projects 2025		Allocation € 95,000
Road No.	Description	Total Cost €
	Safety issues, footpaths, Collins Park, Abbeyfeale	30,000
	Safety issues Newcastle West town including repainting public lights	20,000
	Safety issues, Tree lopping – various locations	15,000
	Safety issues – provision of Driver feedback signs	15,000
	Street lights R522 (near Athletics track)	15,000
Total		95,000

Local Improvement Schemes 2025		Allocation € 144,137
Road No.	Description	Total Cost €
	John Fitzgerald, Clounoughter, Glin	46,495
	James Lynch, Glashacullagh, Athea	64,160
	Christy O' Sullivan, Clounleharde, Ballyhahill	33,482
Total		144,137

Active Travel Measures		Allocation € 750,000
Road No.	Description	Total Cost (€)
R515	Broadford village Boardwalk	160,000
R522	Feoghanagh village footpaths	190,000
R515	Ashford village Improvement	150,000
L1317	Strand Footpath Improvements	100,000
L1543	Ballagran village Improvements	100,000
R520	R520, Bruffline works at Newcastle West	50,000
Total		750,000

Brief summary of the above Work Categories and Allocations for the Newcastle West Municipal District:

Restoration Improvement (RI)	€2,974,766
This is a specific allocation under the Restoration Improvement Grant (RI). This grant is for the road strengthening programme and caters for surface restoration, pavement overlay works and complete road rehabilitation works where existing pavements are structurally defective.	
Restoration Maintenance (RM)	€431,469
This is a specific allocation under the Restoration Maintenance Grant (RM) for Surface Dressing Works only. This allocation will extend the life of the pavement and delay the development of potholes, thus protecting the investment in roads.	
Supplementary Restoration Maintenance (SRM)	€376,675
This is a specific allocation in 2025 under the Supplementary Restoration Maintenance Grant (SRM) for surface dressing works only. This allocation will extend the life of the pavement and delay the development of potholes, thus protecting the investment in roads.	
Drainage Grant	€180,000
This grant may be used for the alleviation of road drainage problems either through new works or remedial measures. There are eight schemes in the Newcastle West Municipal District in 2025.	
General Maintenance	€796,207
General maintenance covers a wide range of works such as drainage, cleaning water channels, street cleaning, opening inlets, signage, elimination of localised flooding, junction maintenance, dealing with accidents, oil spillages, storms, emergencies and general repairs to roads and footpaths.	
General Maintenance Safety (GMS)	€50,000
A proportion of the general maintenance allocation is allocated to general maintenance safety. General maintenance safety funding will be used to cover a wide range of works such as road	

markings, road studs, road signs, junction improvements including hedgecutting and general upkeep of roads in the city and county, which will improve road safety.

€433,000
Tar Patching (TP)

Regular tar patching is necessary to prevent the deterioration of the road surface and substructure and in the interest of road safety.

Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works Schemes **€105,000**

As the impact of climate change on the road network is becoming more apparent, the Department of Transport has included a Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience grant in its allocations for 2025. There are four schemes under this heading in the Newcastle West Municipal District for 2025

Bridge Rehabilitation - Structures (STR) **€184,500**

The 2025 allocation provides funding to enable improvement works on bridge structures on regional and local roads. A specific grant allocation is made to Limerick City and County Council to undertake works on a defined list of structures. There are six schemes under this heading in the /Newcastle West Municipal District for 2025.

Low Cost Safety Improvement Works (LCSI) **€ 65,000**

The 2025 allocation provides funding to enable low cost safety improvement works on non-national roads to be carried out. The criteria for approval and grant allocation are based on accident data along with inspection of sites.

General Municipal Allocation (GMA) **€ 95,000**

This allocation of this budget is agreed by the Elected at Municipal District level for Roads/Tourism Projects and for Grants to Community Groups.

Development Fund Municipal Allocation **€ 50,000**

This allocation of this budget will be agreed at future Council District meetings. Primarily this budget will be used to carry out footpath repairs in housing estates and it is proposed to pick 3 estates per year to benefit from this budget if the Elected members are in agreement.

Items for which expenditure is provided on a City and County at large basis

Speed Limits (SL)	€ 461,500
This covers the operation and works associated with the new speed limit bye-laws throughout Limerick City & County .	
Road Safety: Engineering, Promotion, Education (RS)	€ 516,000
This includes for school wardens, road safety plan, road safety education and training. The above figure pertains to the whole City and County area.	
General Maintenance of National Roads	€TBC
General maintenance of National Roads covers a wide range of works for which this allocation will be used. € 268,920 is the allocation for Limerick City & County for 2025.	
Capital Maintenance TII Roads	€ TBC
Capital maintenance of National Roads is used for pavement schemes with values between €50,000 and €200,000. Applications are made through the pavement defects survey app. Awaiting TII funding allocation / instruction.	
Winter Maintenance (WM)	€ TBC
This provision is for the treatment of roads in severe weather in accordance with the Winter Services Plan and pertains to the whole City and County area.	
Community Improvement schemes (CIS)	€ 452,050
A Grant of €548,100 has been allocated to Limerick City and County Council. Limerick City and County Council is currently identifying schemes to be undertaken in 2025.	
Local Improvement Schemes (LIS)	€709,694
The 2025 allocation for Limerick City & County Council has been confirmed by the Dept. of Rural and Community Development. There are 3 schemes included within the Newcastle West District	

Appendix 2

Housing Maintenance

Limerick City & County Council (LCCC) manages an expanding social housing portfolio, which currently amounts to 6,188 properties (31st December 2024). This amount includes leases, Mortgage to Rents and Vacant housing stock. The range of properties is extensive, which is emphasised by the fact that over half the Council's housing stock was built before 1985.

66% of the entire housing stock is located within the Metropolitan District. The remaining 34% of housing stock is located between the Newcastle West (11%), Adare-Rathkeale (9%) and Cappamore-Kilmallock (14%) Districts.

In each municipal district area, direct labour crews respond to the needs of tenants. All requests are added to the Dynamics CRM System and assigned to the area maintenance team for action.

Total Dynamic (CRM) requests for Housing Maintenance during 2024 was 14,165 cases (an increase of 4.6% from the previous year), with

- 70.9% of all cases received in the Metropolitan area
- 10.1% of all cases received in Newcastle West area
- 7.4% of all cases received cases received in the Adare-Rathkeale area
- 11.6% of all cases received in the Cappamore Kilmallock area

Housing repairs are carried out based on need and budgetary constraints. Repairs are categorised into emergency, urgent and routine. Examples of each are listed below and please refer to the Tenant's Handbook for additional details.

Emergency Repairs (within 24 Hours)

Fire	Water Leaks	No Electricity	No Mains Water
------	-------------	----------------	----------------

Urgent Repairs (within 1-5 Days)

Blocked Flue in Open Fire	Blocked Foul Drains	No Hot Water	No Heating
Faulty Sockets	Faulty Switches	Faulty Heater	Storage Heater
Banister or Hand Rail Loose or Detached	Storm Damage	Partial Loss of Water Supply	Faulty Door Entry System

Routine Repairs (within 1-6 Weeks)

Other Works	Electrical	Other Joinery Works	Plaster Works	Other Works	Plumbing
-------------	------------	---------------------	---------------	-------------	----------

Budget Allocation 2025

Newcastle West Municipal District 691 Properties (14% of housing stock)

Works Budget (non-pay)	2025
Maintenance	€364,735.64
Re-lettings	€169,761.00
	€534,496.64

Housing Maintenance - Planned Works

Planned Maintenance / Heating Systems Replacement – city and countywide

Many of our tenants have heating systems that are outdated and highly inefficient by current standards. A budget of €472,000 has been allocated for the replacement of heating systems and other works of a planned nature on a countywide basis of 1,897 dwellings. The scheme operates on a priority needs basis and is managed by the Response Maintenance Team.

In 2024 Limerick City & County Council commenced an extensive boiler servicing and upgrade programme under Planned Maintenance. In 2024 1,897 dwellings had their heating system serviced, and repaired where necessary, at a cost of €472,000.

This project is being managed by the Housing Refurbishment Team.

Planned Maintenance works were completed on 27 units under the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DoHLGH) 2024 Planned Maintenance Programme, along with 27 Stock Condition Surveys. The nature of the works included providing new chimneys, windows, doors and roof repairs. This resulted in funding allocations of €198,504.

A budget of €386,186 has been allocated for Limerick City and County Council for Planned maintenance in 2025 as per Department Circular 04 of 2025.

Voids/Pre-lettings – city and countywide

Voids and Pre-lettings continue to be undertaken in each municipal district area as vacancies arise. Each Housing Area Engineer and Area Foreman manages these refurbishment works. The units are delivered via a mix of direct labour crews and contractors, to ensure units are returned to Allocations section in an efficient manner.

A total of 73 void units were completed in 2024, which resulted in funding allocations of €803,000.00 from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DoHLGH). A budget of €803,000 for 73 properties has been allocated for Limerick City and County Council for Voids in 2025 as per Department Circular 04 of 2025 issued on the 29th of January 2025.

A total of 16 Pre-lettings were completed in 2024 funded from own resources.

Energy Efficiency Retrofit Project – city and countywide

The Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme (EERP) 2024 provides for the deep retrofit of existing social housing stock and is funded through the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The dwellings are retrofitted to achieve a minimum BER rating of B2 where the fabric of the building is upgraded, and energy efficient heating system is installed. Works were completed to retrofit 6 occupied housing units with €59,980 being recouped from the Department; 30 units are currently at contract stage while an additional 50 units are at design/tender stage. The units are spread across the four Municipal Districts.

Private Housing Grants

The following private housing grants are available again in 2024

Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme – HAGS Mobility Aids Grants Scheme – MAGS Housing Aid Older People – HOPS