

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, AND ONLINE, ON MONDAY, 27<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2025, AT 3PM.**

**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, Reale, Ruddle, Ryan (E), Ryan (M), Scanlan, Secas, Sheahan, Slattery, Stokes, Talukder, Teefy, Teskey, Ward.

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Director General (Dr. P. Daly), Deputy Director General and Director, Corporate Services, Human Resources and Organisational Development (Mr. G. Daly), Director, Finance, Economic Development, Digital and ICT Services (Mr. M. White), Director, Housing (Ms. C. Curley), Director, Regeneration, Sports and Recreation (Mr. J. Delaney), Director, Rural, Culture, Community and Tourism Development (Mr. S. Duclot), Director, Transportation and Mobility (Mr. B. Kennedy), A/Director, Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services (Ms. P. King), Director, Planning and Place-Making (Mr. V. Murray), Meetings Administrator (Ms. C. Farrell), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services (Ms. A. Foley), Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services (Ms. C. Sheehy), Ryder Cup 2027 Co-ordinator (Ms. E. O'Connor).

**Recent Storms**

At the outset, the Príomh Chomhairleoir welcomed all present to the Meeting and thanked everyone involved for their response to the recent storms. He expressed his particular appreciation to the Council Staff and all the Emergency Services.

The Members also referred to the great work carried out by Council Staff and all Emergency Services.

**Departure of Caroline Curley, Director, Housing**

With the permission of the Príomh Chomhairleoir, the Members acknowledged the forthcoming retirement of Caroline Curley, Director, Housing, after 45 years of service. They noted that this was the Director's last Plenary Council Meeting and expressed their appreciation for her commitment and dedication, and her leadership, during that time. Members noted that Caroline had worked in six Local Authorities and, in latter years, that she

was very involved in the implementation of the Directly Elected Mayor with Executive Functions for Limerick. In acknowledging all the service she had given to Limerick, and her significant legacy, the Members congratulated Caroline and wished her good luck and health in her retirement.

The Director General, on behalf of the Management and Staff, joined with the Members in congratulating Caroline on her forthcoming retirement. He, too, acknowledged the years' service she had given to Limerick and he wished her health and happiness into the future.

### **Limerick Senior Hurling Team**

Members acknowledged the service to Limerick by Declan Hannon during his time as Captain of the Limerick Senior Hurling Team. Members wished Cian Lynch all the best in his new role as Captain of the Team.

### **Order of Agenda**

The Príomh Chomhairleoir informed the Meeting that he had agreed to take Notices of Motion Nos. 20, 21, 22, 23 and 27 together and at the start of the Meeting as each of these Motions referred to recent severe weather conditions.

The Motions were then taken in the following order:

#### **21. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Secas**

*I will move at the next meeting that Limerick City and County Council include in the winter maintenance programme measures to provide, going forward, gritting bins/loads to housing estates, where required by residents' groups to treat footpaths within their estates.*

In moving the Motion, Councillor Secas outlined the need to introduce gritting bins into the winter maintenance programme to assist communities to deal with severe weather events in their own areas when they occur. She referred to other local authorities that have implemented this process and noted that it was working extremely well.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor O'Sullivan.

**REPLY:** The Notice of Motion raised will be examined. In this regard, a grant scheme will be considered for the provision of salt bins in estates for bona fide Residents' Associations/Community Councils who are prepared to take responsibility for the bin, its contents, spreading, etc. However, its application, effectiveness, maintenance and the impact on resources and budget will have to be assessed in consideration for both the City and County.

**22. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

*I will move at the next Plenary Meeting, given the recent weather events, that this Council (a) calls on Uisce Éireann to install generators at every pumping station in the country (b) calls on the ESB to cut back / cut down all trees and / or branches that are in danger of damaging the infrastructure and (c) calls on the Government to set up a special emergency phone number which is activated prior to and manned during all orange and red weather alerts.*

In moving the Motion, Councillor Galvin acknowledged the work carried out by the Council, Uisce Éireann, the ESB, and other service providers and voluntary organisations. He noted how all groups came together in this emergency. He queried how many fallen trees or debris were the cause of ESB outages and requested the Executive to raise this with the ESB. In addition, he noted the desperate condition of the roads in West Limerick due to the recent weather conditions and pointed out the need for emergency funding from the Government Department to assist with this.

Councillor Keary seconded the Motion.

Members welcomed the Motion and, in doing so, they acknowledged the great work carried out by Council Staff. They reported that on occasions the out-of-hours emergency phone was not answered locally and Members stressed the need for this service to be based locally for immediate responses.

It was also agreed to circulate the Motion to all Local Authorities for support.

**20. Notice of Motion submitted by the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran and Councillors M. Ryan and L. Galvin**

*We will move at the next Meeting that the Council expresses its fullest appreciation for all of the work done by the Council staff and staff of other agencies and volunteers who worked 24/7 to alleviate the hardships caused by the recent severe weather event. The Council now calls on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to (a) immediately release funds to replenish Local Authority financial resources used to manage the emergency and (b) provide additional adequate funds (or otherwise provide financial arrangements) for Local Authorities impacted to arrange a local scheme to compensate homeowners and businesses for property damage, lost stock or foods or other reasonable uninsured damages caused by snowfall or electricity cuts and that this notice of motion be circulated to all Local Authorities.*

In moving the Motion, the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran, paid tribute to all Council staff on the outstanding work and dedication shown throughout these severe weather events. He commended the Executive for their quick response to the major emergency. The Mayor emphasised the need for faster action from the Government to deliver funding to Local Authorities to support emergencies and, in particular, people in need. He also acknowledged the need for more funding to repair damage done to road surfaces during the recent weather events.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

In supporting the Motion, Members asked the Executive to consider purchasing a supply of snow ploughs for future use by community groups, should the need arise.

**23. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor A. Teskey**

*I will move at the next Meeting that this Local Authority would put in place a financial support scheme within the grant aid for older people form to include people in medical need that they would be able to apply for financial aid to help them purchase a generator to allow them to power electric medical devices where loss of power occurs.*

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Teskey and seconded by Councillor Galvin.

**REPLY:** The Housing (Adaptation Grants for Older People and Disabled People) Scheme does not currently fund the purchase of generators to help people in medical need to power electrical devices where loss of power occurs. We will refer your query to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for review and consideration.

The Director, Housing, outlined that Limerick City and County Council follow national guidelines when issuing grants and highlighted the need to write to the relevant Government Department, requesting the Department consider changing the national guidelines. She asked the Councillor if he would consider re-wording the Motion to read as follows:

*I will move at the next Meeting that this Local Authority would call on the Government to put in place a financial support scheme within the grant aid for older people form to include people in medical need that they would be able to apply for financial aid to help them purchase a generator to allow them to power electric medical devices where loss of power occurs.*

Councillor Teskey agreed to the reworded Motion.

It was agreed that the Motion, as amended, would be circulated to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the Department of Health and the ESB, and that a copy would also be forwarded to all Local Authorities for support.

**27. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

*I will move at the next Meeting that this Council write to the Minister asking for a relevant Government Department-backed plan to be put in place to mitigate against the danger of falling Trees, Branches and Bramble resulting in Power and Water Supply outages into the future.*

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Daly, and adopted.

## **1. Adoption of Minutes**

Circulated, copies of draft Minutes of the following Meetings:

- (a) Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2024.
- (b) Budget Meeting of the Council held on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2024.
- (c) Special Meeting of the Council held on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2024.
- (d) Special Meeting of the Council held on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2025.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;

Seconded by Councillor Butler;

And Resolved:

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

## **2. 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, she was inviting those present to notify the Meeting of any declaration of interest in any item due for discussion at the Meeting. No such interests were declared.

## **3. Disposal of Land**

### **Rural, Culture, Community and Tourism Development Directorate**

#### **General Disposals**

- (a) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2024, concerning disposal of land comprising 0.7878 acres (0.3188 hectares) at Ballykeefe, Dock Road, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);

Seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon;

And Resolved:

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of land comprising 0.7878 acres (0.3188 hectares) at Ballykeefe, Dock Road, Limerick, to Valcroft ULC T/A Mr. Binman, for the sum of €108,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2024.”

- (b) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2024, concerning disposal of 0.326 acres (0.1321 hectares) of land at Gilmartin, Murroe, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);  
 Seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon;  
 And Resolved:

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of 0.326 acres (0.1321 hectares) of land at Gilmartin, Murroe, Co. Limerick, to Murroe Community Housing CLG, for the sum of €1, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract - *‘by resolution passed at Council Meeting dated 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2000, the elected members resolve to revoke the previous S183 Notice dated 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2000, in relation to the disposal of land at Gilmartin, Murroe, Co. Limerick,’* - particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2024.”

(c) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2025, concerning disposal of land comprising 0.1784 acres (0.0722 hectares) at Lower Mall, Glin, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);  
 Seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon;  
 And Resolved:

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of land comprising 0.1784 acres (0.0722 hectares) at Lower Mall, Glin, Co. Limerick, to Michael Flaherty, for the sum of €8,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2025.”

### **Derelict Disposals**

(d) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2024, concerning disposal of property at Kerry Road, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);  
 Seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon;  
 And Resolved:

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property at Kerry Road, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick, to Laszlo Urmos, for the sum of €15,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2024.”

(e) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2024, concerning disposal of land at Brewery Lane, Askeaton, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);  
 Seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon;  
 And Resolved:

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of land at Brewery Lane, Askeaton, Co. Limerick, to Luke Kinsella, for the sum of €13,500, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2024.”

#### **4. Corporate Services, Human Resources and Organisational Development**

##### **(a) Executive Report**

Circulated, Executive Report for the months of November and December, 2024.

In noting the Report, Members asked the Executive to consider including the number of complaints received on unauthorised developments in the monthly Executive Report, on an ongoing basis.

In response, the Director of Planning and Place-Making noted that this information was included in the Annual Report and he agreed to consider including it on a monthly basis in the Executive Report.

##### **(b) Standing Orders**

The Príomh Chomhairleoir informed the Meeting that the Members were being asked to consider reviewing frequency of Full Meetings of Limerick City and County Council.

Councillor Keary proposed that the frequency be changed from bi-monthly to monthly until the completion of the July Meeting on a trial basis, and this was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

It was proposed by Councillor Collins (M), seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon, not to change the frequency of the Meetings and to keep them as bi-monthly as per the Standing Orders.

Following some discussion and in the absence of agreement, the Príomh Chomhairleoir declared that a vote be taken on the proposal of Councillor Collins (M), seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon, that meetings would remain bi-monthly.

##### **For**

Councillors Benson, Collins (B), Collins (M), Donoghue, Foley, Gavan, Hartigan (S), Hickey-O'Mara, Kilcoyne, Leddin, Moran, O'Donoghue, O'Donovan, O'Hanlon, Pond, Reale, Ryan (E), Ryan (M), Secas, Slattery, Talukder, Teefy, Ward. **(23)**

**Against**

Councillors Beasley, Butler, Conway, Doyle, Galvin, Hartigan (T), Keary, Kiely, McSweeney, O'Sullivan (O), O'Sullivan (T), Ruddle, Scanlan, Sheahan, Stokes, Teskey. **(16)**

**Abstentions**

There were no abstentions.

The Príomh Chomhairleoir declared the proposal of Councillor Collins (M), seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon - that meetings of the Full Council would continue bi-monthly - as carried.

**(c) Friendship Agreement between Limerick and Savannah**

Circulated, report of the Head of Trade and Investment, dated 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2025

The report stated that a delegation from the City of Savannah would be travelling to Limerick on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2025, led by Mayor Van Johnson, with the intention of establishing a Friendship City Agreement with Limerick. Savannah had a very rich Irish heritage and ancestry dating back to the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. Around the 1840s, the influx increased dramatically as a large employment boom in Savannah attracted the Irish before and after the Famine. Accordingly, recent census information stated that one in four Savannahians claimed to have Irish origin. Savannah had many similarities with Limerick as it had similar population size and was built on an Estuary linking the Savannah River to the Atlantic Ocean.

There were currently no formal agreements in place between the two cities. However, there were active members of the Limerick-based Diaspora based in Savannah who often invited officials from Limerick City and County Council to participate in their annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. The Savannah parade was the second largest in the world, after New York City. Representatives from Savannah visited Limerick in 2023 and 2024 as part of ongoing efforts to develop trade and investment links between the two cities.

The report went on to say that formal endorsement of a Friendship City relationship would encourage further collaboration in business, education and culture. It would bring opportunities for exchanges between business and community. The partnership was about building friendships, business networks, strengthening ties and fostering mutual understanding for the benefit of both cities. A Draft Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of Friendship Status between the two cities was included at Appendix A. The City of Savannah administration had reviewed this document and was happy to move forward on that basis. Accordingly, it was recommended that the Council approve the formal establishment of Friendship Cities between Limerick and Savannah, Georgia.

Proposed by Councillor Teskey;  
 Seconded by Councillor Ryan (M);  
 And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the formal establishment of Friendship Cities between Limerick and Savannah, Georgie.”

Members welcomed the Friendship Agreement and acknowledged the work carried out by Marty Hogan, Savannah, in building the friendship between Limerick and Savannah.

The Members were informed that a delegation from Savannah would be visiting Limerick in February and that the Mayor of Savannah would be invited to address the Council.

**(d) Audit and Risk Committee**

Circulated report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services, dated 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2025, setting out the background to the appointment of members to the Audit and Risk Committee.

The Meetings Administrator stated that three external members had been appointed to the Audit and Risk Committee at the September Meeting and the Council was now being asked to consider the nomination of the one remaining external member as set out in the report as follows:

**Prof. Philip O'Regan:** Full Professor of Accounting and Executive Dean (Emeritus), Kemmy Business School, University of Limerick. Accountant/Auditor (FCCA), educated at leading Irish (UCC), UK (Oxford and Cambridge) and US (Columbia, NY) universities. He has held executive university leadership positions (UL), as well as working for public accounting firms such as Coopers & Lybrand (now PwC). His public service commitment was reflected in membership of the board and/or audit and risk committee of a number of entities.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan;  
Seconded by Councillor Collins (M):

“That, Prof. Philip O'Regan be appointed as external member of the Audit and Risk Committee.”

The Príomh Chomhairleoir declared Prof. Philip O'Regan appointed as the fourth and final external member of the Audit and Risk Committee.

**(e) Public Participation Network (PPN) Nomination – Local Community Development Committee**

Circulated, report of the Director, Rural, Culture, Community and Tourism Development dated 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2025.

The report stated that the Public Participation Network (PPN) had nomination rights for the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and following the resignation of a sitting member, the PPN ran an election for the available seat. A nomination had been received from the PPN as set out in the report – Mary McGrath, Hospital Family Resource

Centre, replacing (Leona O'Callaghan of the Haven Hub) – representing the Social Inclusion Pillar, and the approval of the Council was being sought to this appointment.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan;  
 Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);  
 And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the appointment of Public Participation Network nominee, Mary McGrath, Hospital Family Resource Centre, representing the Social Inclusion Pillar, to the Local Community Development Committee, replacing Leona O'Callaghan, Haven Hub.”

**(f) Nominations to Strategic Policy Committees**

(i) Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services, dated 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2025.

The report stated that the Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2024-2029 was formally adopted by the Council at its November Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2024. A total of 18 nominations had been sought as follows: (i) Agriculture / Farming Pillar (5); Development / Construction Pillar (4); Business / Commercial Pillar (7); and Trade Union Pillar (2). The two nominations from the Trade Union Pillar were approved at a Special Meeting of the Council on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2024, and the approval of the Council was now requested for the remaining 16 Sectoral nominations from the Pillars, outlined in the report as follows:

|                           | Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism and Planning SPC | Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment SPC | Travel and Transportation SPC | Home and Social Development SPC | Community, Leisure, Arts, Heritage and Culture SPC |
|---------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Agriculture/ Farming      | John Hannon  | Seán Lavery<br>Barry Murphy                      | Philip Ruttle                 |                                 | Louise Crowley                                     |
| Development/ Construction | Michael Joyce  |  | John Foster                   | P.J. O'Grady                    | John Ward  |
| Business/ Commercial      | Michelle Gallagher<br>Seán Golden                          | Conor Joy<br>Michelle Gallagher                  | Seán Golden                   | Seán Golden                     | Randal Hodkinson                                   |

The report concluded that vacancies still remained in relation to positions to be filled from the Environment/Conservation, Community/Voluntary and Social Inclusion Sectors to be nominated by the Public Participation Network in due course.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan;  
 Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);  
 And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to Sectoral nominations to Strategic Policy Committees as follows and as set out in the report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services dated 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2025:

|                                  | <b>Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism and Planning SPC</b> | <b>Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment SPC</b> | <b>Travel and Transportation SPC</b> | <b>Home and Social Development SPC</b> | <b>Community, Leisure, Arts, Heritage and Culture SPC</b> |
|----------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Agriculture/ Farming</b>      | John Hannon   | Seán Lavery<br>Barry Murphy                             | Philip Ruttle                        |  | Louise Crowley  |
| <b>Development/ Construction</b> | Michael Joyce   |   | John Foster                          | P.J. O'Grady                           | John Ward   |
| <b>Business/ Commercial</b>      | Michelle Gallagher<br>Seán Golden                                 | Conor Joy<br>Michelle Gallagher                         | Seán Golden                          | Seán Golden                            | Randal Hodkinson"   |

(ii) Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services dated 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2025.

The report stated that at a Special Meeting of the Council held on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2024, Councillor Membership of the Strategic Policy Committees was approved. The following changes were now proposed and Council approval was required:

**Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism and Planning SPC:** Councillor Michael Collins to replace Councillor Francis Foley.

**Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee:** Councillor Francis Foley to replace Councillor Michael Collins.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan;  
Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);  
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to changes to two Councillor Members of Strategic Policy Committees as follows: (i) Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism and Planning SPC: Councillor Michael Collins to replace Councillor Francis Foley; and (ii) Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee: Councillor Francis Foley to replace Councillor Michael Collins.”

**(g) Date for March Meeting**

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Collins (M), the date of the March Meeting of the Council was re-fixed to Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2025.

**(h) Ryder Cup 2027 Briefing**

The Council’s Ryder Cup Co-ordinator, with the aid of a presentation, gave a briefing to Members on the Ryder Cup 2027 event. She referred to the event as a historical moment for Limerick and informed the Members that Limerick City and County Council’s role in the Ryder Cup 2027 event was to act as a gatekeeper ensuring service requirements were in place, and to engage with all stakeholders to achieve the best outcome for Limerick. She stressed

the importance of putting our best foot forward to reimagine Limerick as a destination for the future.

The Ryder Cup Co-ordinator outlined the following key objectives to be achieved from the Ryder Cup event 2027:

- Generate a strong economic impact for Adare, Limerick and Ireland from the hosting of Ryder Cup 2027;
- Build the international reputation of Limerick and Ireland as a major sports event host nation;
- Ensure our visitors to the Ryder Cup receive a world class welcome in our host communities across Limerick and the wider region;
- Endeavour to ensure that the Ryder Cup 2027 is the most sustainable Ryder Cup ever hosted;
- Develop new sport, tourism and economic opportunities for Limerick and regional communities as a legacy of Ryder Cup 2027;
- Ensure Ryder Cup 2027 delivers a sport legacy for golf across Limerick and the country.

The Members were informed of what the vision for the event was and the importance of having legacy ambitions for Limerick, such as:

- World class event experience;
- Accessibility of the Mid West Region;
- Festivals, events and cultural programme;
- Limerick as an international leisure tourism destination;
- Community engagement.

The Ryder Cup Co-ordinator outlined the six areas of focus in relation to the legacy leveraging for 2027, and these included; the host community; the host city and tourism destination; international connectivity; sporting economy and enterprise development; event and cultural legacy; and sustainability. She also advised that it had been recently announced that Ballyneety Golf Club was selected to host Junior Ryder Cup 2027, which is a significant boost for the club and further great news for Limerick.

The Príomh Chomhairleoir and Members thanked the Ryder Cup Co-ordinator for her presentation and outlined their delight and excitement to host Ryder Cup 2027 in Adare, Limerick and to host the Junior Ryder Cup 2027 in Ballyneety Golf Club. They thanked the McManus family for bringing the Ryder Cup 2027 to Limerick and referred to it as a major opportunity to bring Limerick to the forefront through the visitors to the area and the large TV audience, and agreed that Limerick needed to put their best foot forward in planning for this event.

In response to the presentation, the following items were raised by the Members:

- Members congratulated Ballyneety Golf Club on being selected as host of the Junior Ryder Cup 2027;
- They expressed their concerns at the lack of communication with Councillors to date on the plans for the event;
- They queried if current timelines were on target;
- They referred to the requirement to organise more festival and cultural events to help promote Limerick as a destination for the future and entice visitors to stop in Limerick while attending the Ryder Cup event;
- They welcomed the planning around the legacy ambitions and stressed the importance of them;
- Members queried if discussions have taken place with Irish Rail to consider organising passenger rail on the new railway line and adding platforms in various villages along the route;
- Members discussed the need to engage with local communities in Adare and surrounding villages was expressed, in order to keep them informed of the ongoing plans and to address any concerns they may have;
- They raised concerns over traffic management in Adare and the surrounding areas leading into the event and advised that plans need to be in place;
- Members raised the issue with the current proposal for the Adare By-Pass and asked that the Council engage with Transport Infrastructure Ireland to ensure this by-pass is extended to connect to the current motorway;
- Members asked how many will attend the Junior Ryder Cup in Ballyneety and stressed the need to plan for this event also;
- They queried if any funding had been received to date and if Fáilte Ireland will assist in the organising of festivals and cultural events in the lead up to the main event;
- Members asked if discussions had taken place with airports in Ireland to plan for the volumes of people travelling to attend the various events organised for the Ryder Cup 2027.

**Suspension of Standing Order No. 4:** In the course of discussion on this item, the Príomh Chomhairleoir drew attention to the time which was approaching 5.30 p.m. and on the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Collins (M), Standing Order No. 4 was suspended in order to complete the agenda.

The discussions on the Ryder Cup continued.

In response to the Members' queries, the Director of Corporate Services, Human Resources and Organisational Development referred to this event as a great opportunity for Limerick. He noted their concerns and thanked them for their participation in the discussion on all aspects of the event. He informed the Members that various funding will be required, and outlined the hard work Limerick City and County Council is doing to get the best out of this for Limerick.

At the conclusion of the discussion on the Ryder Cup event 2027, the Co-ordinator thanked the Members for their observations and agreed to keep them informed on the progress in the lead-up to the event. She advised the Members that Limerick City and County

Council will continue to work closely with all stakeholders to secure the best outcome for Limerick.

### **Emergency Motion**

With the permission of the Príomh Chomhairleoir and prior to proceeding to Item No. 5 on the Agenda, Councillor Keary moved the following Emergency Motion:

***“I will move that Limerick City and County Council will write to the new Minister for Transport, Mr. Darragh O’Brien, TD, and ask him to construct the additional two kilometres of Motorway between Adare and Mount Earl to connect the existing Motorway to the current proposal.”***

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Teskey.

Members thanked Councillor Keary for bringing this Emergency Motion and, in doing so, they welcomed the proposal to look for this additional two kilometres of motorway to be constructed. They raised concerns about the plans to end the current proposal on a regional road on the outskirts of Adare village, and stressed there is a need to connect to the existing motorway to avoid any possible traffic congestion.

In response to the Motion, the Director of Transportation and Mobility, informed the Members that his team are in active discussions with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to extend the current bypass proposal to connect to the existing motorway.

### **5. Rural, Culture, Community and Tourism Development**

#### **Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts Scheme**

Circulated, report of the Arts Officer/Creative Ireland Co-Ordinator dated 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2025, seeking the Council’s approval to recommended allocations under the Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts.

Proposed by Councillor O’Sullivan (O);  
 Seconded by Councillor O’Donovan;  
 And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to recommended allocations under the Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts, as set out in the report of the Arts Officer/Creative Ireland Co-Ordinator dated 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2025.”

### **6. Conferences**

#### **Reports on Conference / Seminar / Meeting / Event**

Circulated, reports by Members who had participated at Conference / Seminar / Meeting / Event.

The reports were noted by the Council.

### **Participation by Members at Conferences**

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Collins (M), the Council approved the attendance of the following Members at Conferences already approved:

**Conference 'A Practical Guide to Budget 2025 – Carlingford, Co. Louth (11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2024):** Councillors Leddin, O'Hanlon, Galvin, Slattery, Kilcoyne, Foley, Collins (M).

**Conference 'Health Services Entitlements' – Clonakilty, Co. Cork:** Councillor O'Donovan.

### **MAYOR'S QUESTIONS**

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

*I will ask the Mayor at the next Meeting has Limerick City and County Council communicated/liased with Uisce Éireann regarding capacity to deal with increased demand for water and waste facilities whilst roadworks will be carried out, to plan for the future and Ryder Cup and ultimately ensure that we do not have one set of long term roadworks followed by another.*

**REPLY:** The Councillor's point is well made — you are completely right that proper planning and coordination will allow disruption to be kept to a minimum.

I sought a response from the relevant team within the organisation and was informed that Uisce Éireann is aware of the Ryder Cup in Adare and that, as Uisce Éireann holds sole responsibility for the operational management and capital investment in water services, the Councillor should direct this query to Uisce Éireann.

I am also aware, however, that there will be a private workshop with senior Uisce Éireann staff on 24th February, and this would strike me as an opportunity for the Councillor to raise this matter, and to seek assurances that Uisce Éireann will work closely with Limerick City and County Council, the ESB and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that if the road is to be dug up, it is dug up once.

As you will know, I am in regular contact with Uisce Éireann with regard to other matters, but I would be happy to keep this issue on my agenda with Uisce Éireann.

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

*I will ask the Mayor at the next meeting for an update on the first 3 Expert Groups that are being established, how stakeholders are being chosen to sit on these groups and what other Expert Groups are being planned for the future.*

**REPLY:**

**Context: Purpose and Role of Expert Groups:**

The establishment of Expert Groups represents a shift in how policy is developed and implemented in Limerick in line with the introduction of an Executive Mayor who is not the head of the Council. Historically, policy was primarily developed by the unelected executive, with drafts presented to ensure democratic mandate to the relevant Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) for recommendation to full Council. While effective, this approach sometimes involved less early-stage input from experts, stakeholders, and community representatives.

The revised model is more suited to an elected executive arm and council arm of local government who both have independent policy roles. It also aims to address the gap identified above by seeking broader engagement at the initial stages of policy formation.

The Expert Groups are structured to involve subject matter experts, committees, and stakeholders from diverse backgrounds to contribute their insights and recommendations from the outset but also to include council members who have an interest in the specific subject matter. That helps ensure early alignment between the executive and legislative electoral mandates. This model is conceived in line with best practices in EU institutions, where as in Limerick now, policy is proposed by one arm with an elected mandate (EU Commissioners chosen by national governments) and approved by another (the European Parliament). There, policy development is often enhanced and informed by expert working groups comprising outside experts, before being reviewed and approved by the European Parliament. I myself co-led one such group “Finance for Growth” which led to recommendations which were reflected in the Capital Markets Union proposals from the EU Commissioner at the time.

Of course, Limerick is at the beginning of its new journey and I am sure that the current approach will continue to evolve as we learn further but it underscores my commitment to work in as inclusive and transparent a manner as possible.

**First Three Expert Groups**

**• SME Task Force:**

The work of this task force, established in September 2024, has been led by co-chair Cllr Peter Doyle. It focuses on enhancing Limerick’s pro-business environment and supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

- A project initiation meeting was held in November 2024 to outline the programme of work, to include an urgent review of the recommendations from my 2020 SME recovery report, proposals for updating of the report and to re-establish a focus on the delivery of these recommendations.
- Membership selection was carried out by Councillor Doyle and a member of the Trade and Investment Team, ensuring a broad and diverse make-up.
- Findings and recommendations will in time be reported to the Economic Development, Enterprise, and Tourism SPC.
- **Heritage and Public Nature Parks Expert Group:**  
Co-chaired by Cllr Sean Hartigan, this group will inform a master plan to improve access to heritage sites and public nature parks across Limerick.
  - A Project Charter is nearing completion, and an Executive Parks and Landscape Officer will join the team in February 2025.
  - The group's work will be initially informed by the Blue-Green Ring Master Plan and the Limerick Biodiversity Action Plan, and on-going public consultation. This is expected to be completed in Q1 2025.
  - Stakeholder meetings and site visits will then begin in Q2 2025, with a final list of ideas for a master plan presented in September 2025.
- **Homelessness and Addiction Expert Group:**  
This group is being led by co-chair Cllr Sarah Beasley, and is tasked with addressing homelessness and addiction as part of the Mayoral Programme.
  - Membership selection is currently being carried out by Cllr Beasley and a member of the council's Housing Support Services Team, and is expected to be finalised in the coming days. The group will include statutory bodies, experts, and community stakeholders.
  - The group's inaugural meeting is scheduled for early February 2025.
  - The group intends to first produce a stocktake of the existing situation by the end of H1 2025, which will be shared with the Home and Social Development SPC.
  - The group will then work to help inform the preparation of the Mid-West Region Homelessness Action Plan 2026-2029, expected to go to SPC and Full Council by the end of 2025.
- **City Centre Revitalisation Expert Group**

While not among the first of the announced groups, this group has been set up and I have asked Cllr Maria Donoghue to be co-chair. This group will include representatives of trader groups, Limerick Chamber, businesses, youth groups, sports facilities and residents in the City Centre to monitor the implementation of the existing measures affecting the City Centre and develop new actions to respond to new or on-going challenges. Membership of this group is being finalised by myself and Cllr Donoghue and the group is also expected to have its first meeting in mid-February 2025.

You may be aware that I have already engaged with some stakeholders regarding their potential involvement in this group. For example, before Christmas, I met with a representative of the City Centre Traders to discuss their priorities. During our conversation, I highlighted the importance of transparency and fairness for all members participating in this group and that openly sharing information about membership would be most helpful in building trust and equity among all participants.

### **Future Expert Groups**

These groups have already proven to be a valuable way to begin to gather data and diverse perspectives, informing my own thoughts on the relevant policies or actions to be proposed to the full council for approval in line with reserved functions. As my term progresses, new areas of focus may emerge, and I may establish additional Expert Groups to address these needs. For example, I am already considering the creation of a similar group to help me and advise me on actions that support a holistic development of the Ballinacurra, Rathbane, and Toppins Field areas of the city.

Throughout my term, I have already envisioned the following additional groups as set out in the More for Limerick Programme.

1. Mayoral Forum for local SMEs to connect with FDI companies
2. AI Smart Solutions Expert Group (government, academia, and industry collaboration)
3. Expert Working Group for Limerick's creative sector growth
4. Medical Treatment in Limerick Expert Group
5. Colbert Quarter Implementation Committee
6. Limerick 2030 and Development Plan Implementation Committee
7. Local Implementation Subgroup for Limerick 2030 and housing projects
8. Working Group with the Department of Housing for modular housing
9. Steering Group for UNESCO Heritage status for Limerick's residential and industrial heritage
10. Steering Group for a vibrant and safe night-time economy in Limerick City Centre
11. Countywide Night-Time Economy Implementation Group
12. Group for expedited planning processes for sustainable energy projects
13. Group with builders, developers, and construction professionals to address project delays
14. Working Group with hotels and short-term accommodation representatives to pre-plan tourism needs for events like the Ryder Cup
15. Steering Group for city centre stakeholder representation (traders, businesses, youth groups, etc.)
16. Task Force within Limerick PI 2040 Delivery Board to address blockages in primary health care centre development
17. Mental Health Task Force
18. Preventative Medicine Task Force

A number of Councillors have already expressed a particular interest in one or more of these subject areas. If others also come forward which they are invited to do, I shall endeavour as new groups are set up to reflect their preferences and willingness to get involved.

Of course, I also expect other subject or geographical areas to warrant new groups over my term but I would prefer to concentrate on getting the ones above established in waves which can be accommodated by the staffing of my office and up and running before adding others.

During discussions, Councillor Benson outlined the following – (i) the need to include the right representatives on the Group for Homelessness and Addiction Expert Group; (ii) she requested that representatives across various sectors would be selected for the committee; (iii) she stressed the need for a service user to sit on the group, and the importance of ensuring this user representative would be supported following discussions at these meetings;

In response to Councillor Benson's question and concerns, the Mayor agreed that it is important to get the right people on the export groups. He acknowledged that she has raised valid questions and it was agreed that the Mayor, Councillor Benson and Councillor Beasley, Chair of the Expert Group, would discuss these matters in advance of the selection process.

## **QUESTIONS**

Replies to the following Questions on the agenda were circulated to all Members prior to the Meeting and the Questions were therefore considered as having been dealt with:

### **9. Question submitted by Councillor E. Secas**

I will ask at the next Meeting what the Council's supplies of salt were at the start of the cold period earlier this month and if all those supplies have been exhausted.

**REPLY:** On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025, Limerick City and County Council had a total of 2,200 tons of salt stock in our depots. During the cold period from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 to 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025, multiple surface treatments were carried out using a total of 2,150 tons of salt. During this period, salts stocks were also replenished. On 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025, there was 1,170 tons of salt in stock, with additional deliveries expected shortly.

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

I will ask at the next Meeting can you detail how Limerick City and County Council has liaised with Clare County Council and UL regarding plans for the upgrade of the Black Bridge in Plassey, in the context of the Plassey Bank Project, and outline the timeline for the commencement and completion of these works.

**REPLY:** The Limerick to Scariff Greenway project is being managed by Waterways Ireland, which is currently at the route selection stage and The Black Bridge is being considered as part of that process. Limerick City and County Council is part of a project steering group for the project and has engaged with other key stakeholders, including Clare County Council, as part of that group. Should The Black Bridge be identified as being on the emerging preferred route for the project, then further assessment will follow, and this will be driven by

Waterways Ireland who are managing the scheme for Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

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

I will ask at the next meeting for the official monthly head count of rough sleepers for the past six months.

**REPLY:** The Homeless Action Team report our rough sleeper numbers quarterly to the Department. Below is a snapshot of the most recent submission covering July 2024 to December 2024.

It should be noted that individual persons can be counted in each 4 categories of the return as there is a lot of crossover between the individuals on each line and many of them are counted on all 4 lines of the return throughout the quarter.

At our annual rough sleeper count which took place in December, we counted 21 rough sleepers which is close to the figure from our Quarter 4 return.

Our Outreach Team from Ana-Liffey have worked extremely hard throughout the year building relationships with many of the people who are rough sleeping and have encouraged them to contact the Homeless Action Team in an effort to get them to avail of services. Many of the people rough sleeping have serious challenges around addiction and mental health and the Outreach Team find it takes time to build the level of trust before they will engage.

The Outreach Team will also signpost rough sleepers to other services that are available, for instance, the Drop-In Centre managed by St. Vincent de Paul, or towards the HSE for health issues, and they will continue to engage with them in an effort to ultimately get them into accommodation services.

**Table 10: Number of persons recorded as rough sleepers engaging in contact with Outreach Team – Limerick Only**

| Persons recorded as rough sleepers engaging in contact with Outreach Team | During the Quarter (Q3 2024) | During the Quarter (Q4 2024) |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Number of persons in contact with Outreach Team Bedded Down               | 61                           | 25                           |
| Number of Persons in contact with Outreach team Not Bedded Down           | 68                           | 55                           |
| Total Individuals in contact with Outreach Team                           | 80                           | 61                           |
| Number of persons who also used Emergency Accommodation                   | 47                           | 35                           |

#### **12. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan**

I will ask at the next Meeting for resources available to Limerick Council for complaints of animal welfare issues, including horses, during the recent freezing weather.

**REPLY:** Animal Health and Welfare functions, as set out under the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013, lie within the remit of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). Where the Council receives complaints of suspected animal cruelty or welfare issues, they are reported to the DAFM Vets unit on the ground in Limerick.

The Council Horse Control Team operates under the Control of Horses Act 1996. Under the Act, the Council has the power to seize and detain any horse found straying on public lands. Horses are detained at the Council contracted Pound for five days to allow any horse owner to make themselves known to the Council and reclaim them. If its owner does not reclaim the horse after five days, it is re-homed to a horse charity. Seizures of stray horses are scheduled regularly, in response to complaints, where Garda support is available.

**13. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

I will ask at the next Meeting (a) How much has been spent in years 2023, 2024 and 2025 on renewal and maintenance works to Askeaton Swimming Pool, and (b) what subvention was given towards the Pool's operation in each of its last five years trading.

**REPLY:** Breakdown of expenditure on renewal and maintenance works are listed as follows: -

| Renewal and Maintenance Costs<br>Breakdown |               |
|--|---------------|
| Year                                       | Value         |
| 2023                                       | €510,190.81   |
| 2024                                       | €1,585,293.75 |
| 2025                                       | €381,105.31   |

Subvention for the pool's operation in each of the last five years trading is listed as follows: -

| Subvention |              |
|------------|--------------|
| 2018       | € 100,000.00 |
| 2019       | € 110,000.00 |
| 2020       | € 140,000.00 |
| 2021       | € 140,000.00 |
| 2022       | € 140,000.00 |

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

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on any additional resources given by Government for Limerick winter maintenance programme in 2025 and will additional resources be required if needed later in year.

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Council has been collating the costs associated with the last cold weather event and will be making funding submissions to the Department of Transport and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) shortly.

We have ongoing communication with the Department of Transport and TII in relation to Winter Maintenance and throughout, if additional resources are required, we will be making funding submissions to them as needed.

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

I will ask at the next Meeting that this Council provide a breakdown of the current number of legally registered short-term lets (e.g. Airbnb's) for each of the Limerick City and County Local Electoral Areas.

**REPLY:** It is not permitted to rent an entire property for short-term letting (less than 14 days) as all of Limerick City and County Council's administrative area has been a Rent Pressure Zone since 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023. Consequently, the Planning Authority does not have a breakdown of legally registered short-term lettings.

The Planning Authority investigates cases of potential short-term letting notified to it under the enforcement provisions of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

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

I will ask at the next Meeting can Limerick Library Headquarters please provide a full annual breakdown of the number of service users, and the number of library loans issued, at each location serviced by the Mobile Library over the past five years since January 2020.

**REPLY:** All 31 Library Authorities in Ireland use a single unified library management system, hosted by Dublin City Public Library, which tracks service users and loans across all library branches and mobile libraries nationwide. This system offers significant benefits, including: (i) cost-effectiveness and efficiencies; (ii) shared expertise; (iii) innovations such as the facility for patrons to use their local library card to borrow and return their books at any branch library or mobile across the country; (iv) the system also allows patrons access to a total of 13 million stock items held in the Irish Public Library system.

The National Library Management System does not record statistics for individual mobile library stops as it treats each mobile library service as a single entity. Therefore, a breakdown of statistics for individual mobile stops is not recorded by the library management system.

**17. Question submitted by Councillor M. Donoghue (to be referred to Metropolitan District of Limerick)**

I will ask at the next Meeting if sites can be identified for the construction of new Community Centres for Raheen / Munget / Dooradoyle, given the extent of new housing and the very significant population increase in these areas.

This Motion was referred to the Metropolitan District of Limerick for consideration.

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

**18. Notice of Motion submitted by the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock – Councillors G. Conway (Proposer), P.J. Carey, T. O’Sullivan, E. Ryan, M. Ryan, N. Stokes, B. Teefy**

We will move at the next Meeting that we call on the incoming Minister for Health to establish an ambulance base at Kilmallock Primary Health Centre, Kilmallock.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Conway and seconded by Councillor Ryan (M).

In moving the Motion, Councillor Conway noted that there was an ambulance base already in place and requested that consideration be given by the Department of Health for two ambulances to be operational there.

**19. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Hickey-O’Mara**

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council commit to using factual and accurate information, based on credible sources, in this Council’s discussion and debates over the length of its term. In making this commitment, this Council affirms its obligation as a Local Authority, as per Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014, to have regard to the need to: (a) eliminate discrimination; (b) promote equality of opportunity and treatment of its staff and the persons to whom it provides services, and (c) protect the human rights of its members, staff and the persons to whom it provides services.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Hickey-O’Mara and seconded by Councillor O’Donovan.

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Council is committed as a Local Authority to its obligations under Section 42 of the Human Rights Equality Act which places a statutory obligation on public bodies to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and protect the human rights of their staff, customers, service users and everyone affected by their policies and plans. The Act states: 2(1) A public body shall, in the performance of its functions, have regard to the need to—

- (a) eliminate discrimination,
- (b) promote equality of opportunity and treatment of its staff and the persons to whom it provides services, and
- (c) protect the human rights of its members, staff and the persons to whom it provides services.

The national Guidelines for Local Authorities in the preparation of Corporate Plans 2024-2029 state “This Duty places a statutory obligation on public bodies to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of obligation and protect the human rights of their staff, customers, service users and everyone affected by their policies and plans. Local authorities should properly assess its obligations, and make a genuine effort to embed the human rights duty within the activities of the local authority under the Corporate Plan.”

This Duty will be further examined as part of the process to develop and implement the new Limerick City and County Council Corporate Plan.

**Notices of Motion already dealt with**

The Príomh Chomhairleoir noted that Motions Nos. 20, 21, 22, 23 and 27 had been dealt with earlier in the Meeting and therefore proceeded to Item No. 24 on the Agenda:

**24. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor U. Gavan**

**I will move at the next Meeting that this Council calls on employers throughout the region to ensure that all staff in their employ have recourse to first-class menstrual and menopausal care with a focus on best practice in order to set the highest standards and ensure Limerick leads the way at national level with regard to these issues.**

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Gavan and seconded by Councillor O'Donovan.

In moving the Motion, Councillor Gavan looked for menstrual and menopausal policies to be put in place by employers, including products and support for women in the workplace.

In supporting the Motion, Members thanked Councillor Gavan and agreed that more discussions needed to take place on this matter.

The Mayor added his support to the Motion and outlined the great campaign currently running in Limerick for breast-feeding and that consideration could be given to running a similar campaign on this matter.

**25. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Benson**

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council will adopt a rights-based Ethical Procurement Policy (EPP), ensuring that every endeavour is made to ensure that Council tender processes are consistent with the principles of the UN guiding principles on Business and Human Rights, OECD, Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the Global Sullivan Principles (1999) - to promote respect for human rights by companies with which they do business. The EPP will incorporate widely accepted and precisely formulated international standards and explain clearly how the policy will be implemented. The primary aim of the EPP is to ensure that human rights obligations are properly acknowledged, observed and respected at all stages of the procurement process.

**REPLY:** The Council has a Procurement Policy in place, which is based on the Public Procurement Directive 2014/24/EU and the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) Guidelines. Within the EU Directive, it clearly sets out mandatory exclusion grounds, Article 57; *child labour and other forms of trafficking in human beings*.

In the Procurement Policy it states:

Section 17 - Environmental/Green-Procurement/Social Considerations; Social considerations, where feasible, will be included to support social policies in relation to employment opportunities, compliance with social and labour rights, social inclusion, equal opportunities and accessibility.

Section 26 - Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty; The Council has a legal obligation to promote equality, prevent discrimination and protect the human rights of their employees, customers, service users and everyone affected by their policies and plans.

Contracting authorities shall exclude an economic operator (EO) from participation in a procurement process where they have established that an EO has been the subject of a conviction by final judgment for any one of the mandatory exclusion grounds identified within the Directive.

Following discussions, it was agreed that the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate, Governance and Customer Services, would meet with Councillor Benson to discuss the matter further.

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

I move at the next Meeting that we write to the Chief Superintendent of Limerick Garda Síochána, considering the absence of an ISPCA Inspector in Limerick, to urge the creation of a dedicated *Garda Animal Welfare Unit* in Limerick, to combat the rising incidents of animal cruelty and to further address seizure processes related to the impending ban on XL Bully dogs.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Beasley and seconded by Councillor O'Donovan, and adopted.

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

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council write to the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY), Taoiseach and Minister for DCEDIY and request an extension until June for the state-supported Ukrainian accommodation in Limerick and for those with pets to be accommodated in temporary accommodation as required.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor O'Donovan and seconded by Councillor Secas, and adopted.

**29. Notice of Motion submitted by the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale – Councillors J. O'Donoghue (Proposer), B. Collins, T. Hartigan, S. Keary, A. Teskey, G. Ward**

We will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council write to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and any other relevant Government Departments, to change the Regulations on the newest application forms for Housing Adaptation Grants for older people and disabled people, most notably the unavailability of a grant to replace a fossil fuel burner if the current burner is unrepairable.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor O'Donoghue, seconded by Councillor Keary, and adopted.

**30. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Donoghue (to be referred to Metropolitan District of Limerick)**

I will move at the next meeting that the owners of the former Debenhams building are encouraged to expedite development and reuse this key City Centre site.

The Motion was referred to the Metropolitan District of Limerick for consideration.

**31. Correspondence**

The Correspondence circulated with the Agenda was taken as read.

**MAYOR / DIRECTOR GENERAL ORDERS:**

The Register of Orders made by the Mayor or the Director General up to the date of the Meeting was available on SharePoint for inspection by the Members.

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT:**

The Register of Decisions on Applications under the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, was also available on SharePoint for inspection by the Members.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Príomh Chomhairleoir**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_