



Meeting of Limerick City and County Council to be held on 31st March 2025

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor N. Stokes

I will move at the next Plenary Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that this Council examine the possibility of securing funding for the Irish Chamber Orchestra's Education and Community Engagement work. The funding is essential to enable them to continue their offering of programmes free-of-charge to schools and community groups, providing access to music and the arts for those who may require it.

REPLY:

The Irish Chamber Orchestra provides free, inclusive music education to children and young people in Limerick through its education programme. The programme is offered to circa 500 children and young people on a weekly basis and tuition is given in instruments such as violin, viola, cello and double bass. All instruments are provided by the ICO along with high quality tuition and opportunities to perform.

Limerick City and County Council provides annual funding of €11,000 to the Irish Chamber Orchestra under the Arts programme. In 2025, work in cooperation with the Arts Office will be further developed, through the ICO providing a small number of 'Meet the Musician' workshops for transition year students in the Autumn. This will form part of the Limerick City and County Council Artists in Schools scheme 2025, which is also funded by the Arts Council. In other supports, it has been agreed that quartets from the ICO will be invited to play in 2 concerts under the Arts Office Excellence in Rural Arts programme in 2025.

It is the view of the Arts Office that the Irish Chamber Orchestra's education and community programme is valuable and impactful. However, the Arts Office does not have resources under our budget allocation to increase current budgeted supports to the ICO in 2025. Consideration could be given to a proposal or request for increased arts programme funding for 2026 as part of the annual Limerick City and County Council budgetary process.

Etain McCooey
Arts Officer
Rural, Culture, Community and
Tourism Development Directorate



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Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Sheahan

I will move at the next Meeting that the Mayor of Limerick immediately commence a review of the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 to expedite the development of housing in Limerick City and County.

REPLY:

In accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) work on the preparation of a new Development Plan must commence no later than 4 years after the adoption of the previous development plan. Therefore, the statutory process for the next Development Plan will commence in Q2 2026 and be completed within 2 years thereafter. The Section 28, Development Plan Guidelines for Planning Authorities recommend that the preparatory work begins at least one year prior to the formal commencement of the plan review. This work will begin in Q2 2025 resulting in non-statutory work commencing imminently.

This preparatory phase encompasses significant workloads, including for example the surveying of all settlements, the gathering and analysis of data and cross sector engagement, the drafting of the Baseline Report, Issues Papers, and working papers for the Core Strategy and all chapters of the Written Statement, Housing Strategy, Retail Strategy, Economic Strategy, Building Heights Strategy, the carrying out of the review of the Record of Protected Structures and the drafting of Strategic Flood Risk Assessments and scoping of Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment.


Maria Woods
Senior Planner



MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL to be held on Monday, 31st March, 2025.

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council process rent assessments for people in Council properties in a timely manner to avoid tenants receiving backdated bills for arrears.

REPLY:

The Rents Department of the Housing Directorate currently has responsibility for 5,847 tenanted houses, which generated an income of €20.6m for 2024.

The Standard Letting agreement stipulates that it is the responsibility of the tenant to immediately inform the Council of any changes to household composition and/or to their income, as soon as any change occurs. This is emphasised to tenants when they are i) allocated a house and ii) as part of the quarterly rent statement process

However, not all tenants comply fully with this provision which can lead to untimely delays and historic arrears accumulating.

In late 2023, the Rents Unit commenced a global rent review in trying to update household composition and income details for all tenancies, to ensure all households are dealt with on an equitable basis. In the majority of cases, where all necessary documentation was submitted etc. a timely response was forthcoming in terms of any changes accruing to amount of rent payable. However, in instances where necessary supporting documentation was not submitted, it was often the case that the Rents Unit had to pursue same through letters, phone calls etc. and, in some cases, this could be a lengthy process.

At this stage the vast majority of forms have been fully assessed and the new rent has been notified to the tenant, including arrears and refunds of overpayments if applicable. If any member wishes to raise any particular case, with the consent of the tenant, the individual circumstances of the case can be reviewed with the relevant Revenue Collector and Administrative Officer with responsibility for the Rents Department.

Aside from the global rent review the Rents Department continually processes tenant led rent assessments on an ongoing basis. All tenant led rent assessments are processed without delay.

Following the completion of the global rent review, the Rents Department will review its policies, processes and procedures in relation to future global rent reviews in order to maximise efficiencies. The Rents Department is also exploring the digitalisation of work processes including the global rent review, in order to allow the tenant complete rent updates in an on-line format; this should also provide further efficiencies.



Brian Kennedy
Director of Services
Housing Directorate
27th March 2025



Meeting of Limerick City and County Council to be held on Monday 31st March 2025.

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor B. Collins

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council amend the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 to include the following: 'For a positive planning application for a one-off rural house outside a settlement, that the absence of affordable dwellings for purchase within a settlement be included as qualifying criteria where a housing need is demonstrated.'

REPLY:

In accordance with the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the Development Plan must be materially consistent with the policies and objectives of the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region, the Plan must also be in accordance with National Planning Policy Guidance issued by the Government. The amendment proposed is not in accordance with the rural housing policies and objectives of the National Planning, Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, or any Section 28 Planning Guidance and would therefore be contrary to section 10 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Maria Woods
Senior Planner



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Luimnigh

Limerick City
& County Council

Ceanncheathrú na Leabharlainne,
Áras Lios an Fháltaigh,
Bóthar Thuar an Daill,
Luimneach.

Library Headquarters,
Lissanalta House,
Dooradoyle road,
Limerick.

t: +353 (0) 61 556 526

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Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S.Beasley

I will move at the next Meeting that a space be gifted by Limerick City and County Council for Limerick Lace to have a location where they can showcase their wares for tourists and interested parties.

Reply:

Limerick Museum holds the largest known collection of Limerick Lace in existence. This includes the Florence Vere O'Brien Collection, the Maude Kearney Collection and a significant collection of lace from the Presentation Convent. The Museum also holds a comprehensive collection of lace patterns from the above collections. It includes medals and awards won by Limerick Lace over the years including the 1851 medal from the Great Exhibition at Crystal Palace London.

A substantial part of the Lace Collection is on permanent display in the Museum and it is rotated on a regular basis to afford access to all including tourists and interested parties. Limerick Lace is a key element in the Museum offer and the Museum highlights different aspects of the collection in their annual exhibitions, for example in August 2025 an exhibition showing a cross section of the collection with additional modern pieces from present day lace makers will be on display.

Limerick Lace is a fragile unique and valuable collection which needs specialist care, provided by the curatorial staff of Limerick Museum. A separate location would require a considerable capital and revenue budget and a staffing resource to provide a similar offer.

It is therefore considered that Limerick Museum affords the most appropriate and accessible location to showcase Limerick Lace to all.

Damien Brady
Limerick City & County Librarian
Date: 26th March 2025



Comhairle Cathrach
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Limerick City
& County Council

Forbairt Tuaithe, Cultúir, Pobail agus Turasóireachta Comhairle
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh
Ceanncheathrú Chorparáideach
Cé na gCeannaithe
Luimneach

Rural, Culture, Community & Tourism Development
Limerick City and County Council
Corporate Headquarters
Merchant's Quay
Limerick

Eircode: V94 EH90
T: +353 (0) 61 556 000

Meeting of Limerick City and County Council to be held on Monday, 31st March, 2025

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

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council engage the services of a Sustainability Officer to carry out a sustainability audit of Riverfest 2025, and all Limerick Council run Festivals and Events thereafter, in order to minimise the environmental impact, thereby aligning with the sustainability goals of the Limerick City and County Council Festival and Events Strategy 2023-2027.

REPLY:

Limerick City and County Council Festivals and Events have secured the services of a Sustainability Auditor for Riverfest 2025. The Auditor will report on a range of sustainability issues including but not limited to waste management, energy usage and the carbon footprint of the festival. On receipt of the Auditors Sustainability Report for Riverfest 2025, Festivals and Events will review the remaining Limerick Council run Festivals and Events in line with the sustainability goals.

Signed: Eugene Crimmins,

Festivals and Events Officer,

Rural, Culture, Community and Tourism Development

27th March 2025



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Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Keary

I will move at the March Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that the Forward Planning Section of this Authority immediately commence a review of the current Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 with a view to amending Planning Policies and a review of the current list of Protected Structures.

REPLY:

In accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) work on the preparation of a new Development Plan must commence no later than 4 years after the adoption of the previous development plan. Therefore, the statutory process for the next Development Plan will commence in Q2 2026 and be completed within 2 years thereafter. The Section 28, Development Plan Guidelines for Planning Authorities recommend that the preparatory work begins at least one year prior to the formal commencement of the plan review. This work will begin in Q2 2025 resulting in non-statutory work commencing imminently.

This preparatory phase encompasses significant workloads, including for example the surveying of all settlements, the gathering and analysis of data and cross sector engagement, the drafting of the Baseline Report, Issues Papers, and working papers for the Core Strategy and all chapters of the Written Statement, Housing Strategy, Retail Strategy, Economic Strategy, Building Heights Strategy, the carrying out of the review of the Record of Protected Structures and the drafting of Strategic Flood Risk Assessments and scoping of Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment.



Maria Woods
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