

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MERCHANT'S QUAY, LIMERICK AND ONLINE ON TUESDAY, 22ND APRIL, 2025 at 9.45 A.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor J. Pond

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director of Service, Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services (Mr. K. Lehane), Meetings Administrator (Ms. A. Foley), Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. M. Richardson), Administrative Officer, Property Management (Ms. T. Knox), Administrative Officer, Development Management (Ms. M. O'Brien), Graduate Engineer, Development Management (Mr. E. Hannon), Administrative Officer, Tourism (Mr. E. Crimmins), Senior Engineer, Active Travel (Mr. S. McGlynn), Environmental Awareness Officer (Ms. H. Kenneally), Senior Executive Officer, Housing Support Services (Ms. M. Hayes), Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Ms. S. Carroll).

Apologies for his inability to attend were received from Councillor Reale.

As the Cathaoirleach, Councillor K. O'Hanlon and the Leas-Chathaoirleach, Councillor F. Kilcoyne were not available to attend in the Chamber, the chair was taken by Councillor J. Pond.

Members expressed their sadness at the passing of Pope Francis on Easter Monday.

Members extended their condolences to the family of Phil Flannery, formerly of Flannery's, Shannon Street and Denmark Street, who passed away recently.

Members extended their congratulations to Ellen Goggin from Crescent College Comprehensive and the Ireland U15 Girls Team on recently winning the Bob Docherty Cup.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 10th March, 2025.

Proposed by Councillor Hickey-O'Mara;
Seconded by Councillor O'Donovan;
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 Cathaoirleach of

any declaration of interest in any item due for discussion at the Meeting. No such interests were declared.

3. Disposal of Land

- (a) Circulated, Report of the Head of Property Management dated 7th April, 2025, setting out proposals for Proposed Disposal of Land at Caheranardrish, Mungret, Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

- (b) Circulated, Report of the Head of Property Management dated 2nd April, 2025, setting out proposals for Disposal of Freehold Interest in Property at 77 Mayorstone Gardens, Mayorstone, Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

4. Community Initiative Scheme 2024 - General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

Circulated, Report of the Administrative Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services dated 15th April, 2025, setting out proposals to amend the allocations previously approved under the Community Initiative Scheme 2024 – General Municipal Allocations (GMA).

It was proposed by Councillor Hickey-O'Mara, seconded by Councillor O'Donovan, and agreed that the allocations be amended as follows:

Limerick City East

Group approved under 2024 CIS	Amend Group to	Amount €
Rosmor Residents Association	Claughaun Limerick Ladies	1000
Queen of Peace NS	Limerick Sport Huskies	500

Limerick City North

Group approved under 2024 CIS	Amend Group to	Amount €
Connie	Ann Blake (Artist)	500

Limerick City West

Group approved under 2024 CIS	Amend Group to	Amount €
Connie	Ann Blake (Artist)	500

5. Annual Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Gavan, and agreed to hold the Annual Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick at 9.45am on Monday, 23rd June, 2025.

6. Planning and Place-Making Directorate

Taking in Charge of Estates - Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads

Circulated, Report of the Senior Planner, Planning and Place-Making Directorate dated 8th April, 2025 seeking approval to the taking in charge of Kylemore Phases 5 and 6, Schoolhouse Road, Castletroy, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Doyle;
Seconded by Councillor Secas;
And Resolved:

“That the roads in Kylemore Phases 5 and 6, Schoolhouse Road, Castletroy, Limerick be taken in charge in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993”.

QUESTIONS

7. Question submitted by Councillor S. Kiely

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick have Irish Rail paid the derelict site levies owed to date on the CIE Club and what action is being taken regarding this.

REPLY: Limerick City & County Council has an active derelict sites case on land at Carey’s Road, Limerick, where the former CIE Social Club is located and which is owned by CIE Ireland.

The property details are entered in the Council’s Derelict Sites Register and a Derelict Sites Levy is being charged on the owner.

Derelict Sites Levies are collected by the Council’s Debt Management Unit. The Debt Management Unit is unable to provide information on individual accounts due to GDPR constraints. The Debt Management Unit does pursue all Derelict Site Levies owing to Limerick City & County Council, taking all necessary steps up to and including Legal Action. Any account that has not paid in full or agreed a payment plan on the Derelict Site Levy is charged Simple interest on the outstanding Levy at a rate of 1.25% per month/part of month.

8. Question submitted by Councillor M. Donoghue

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick what engagement has taken place with the owners of the site at 34 - 41 Catherine Street to determine when the construction and refurbishment of these key protected structures will be complete and ready for occupation.

REPLY: There is ongoing engagement between the conservation team and the owner of this building to progress the development of the site.

9. Question submitted by Councillor S. Beasley

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick what plans are in place to increase the number of bins along Plassey walkway along the riverbank due to lack of same.

REPLY: The Cleansing Section cannot service bins along this walkway due to access restrictions for

collection vehicles. Consideration will be given to the provision of bins where the walkway intersects or runs adjacent to public roads, subject to a suitable location being identified and subject to available resources.

10. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick can bins be put in place along Bloodmill Road and Childers Road as there is one bin in sight between Roxboro Roundabout and the new Lidl store on Bloodmill Road.

REPLY: Two new litter bins have just been provided on the Bloodmill Road as part of the recently constructed road realignment scheme. There are also three litter bins at the following locations: one at the junction of Childers Road/Bloodmill Road, one at the bus stop on Childers Road outside the Limerick One Shopping Park and one on Childers Road adjacent to the Kilmallock Roundabout. The Cleansing Supervisor will monitor the route to establish if any additional litter bins are required.

11. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick can the Council advise if an early detection sign can be placed near the low bridge on the Old Cork Road to warn trucks that they are approaching a low bridge. As trucks are getting stuck at this location on a regular basis.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council Roads Department will undertake a review of the road traffic warning signage on approach to the railway bridge on the Old Cork Road in accordance with the statutory requirements. Irish Rail will also be consulted to determine if any further bridge detection signage or measures should be considered.

12. Question submitted by Councillor S. Beasley

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for the numbers of children with disabilities in homeless services.

REPLY: The Homeless Action Team currently do not record the numbers of children with disabilities in homeless services on the PASS system. The PASS system is used by all Local Authorities to capture key information relating to the provision of homeless services.

All families in homeless services who have children with disabilities are recorded on the housing waiting list and their specific needs are taken into account as part of the overall assessment and allocation process when assessing applicants and the suitability of future accommodation needs.

In homeless cases, where the family notify the Homeless Action Team of a child with a disability then the team will endeavour to provide any necessary available supports and explore suitable homeless accommodation options.

13. Question submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for the total cost of the boundary wall for Mount St. Oliver Cemetery and a breakdown of the funding sources for the wall.

REPLY: The total cost of the boundary wall and railing at Mount Saint Oliver Cemetery was €247,985.41 inclusive of VAT. This cost was inclusive of levelling the large mound of material located on the cemetery side of the boundary wall and associated landscaping.

The project was funded by €100,000 General Municipal Allocation and the remainder funded from development contributions.

14. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick how many people have applied for the Living City Initiative in the last 5 years; What the approval rate was, and how many applicants were successful.

REPLY: Living City Initiative enquiries are dealt by email, phone and in Living City Initiative drop in clinics.

Potential applicants are advised of the guidelines of the Living City Initiative and the boundaries of the designated area to which the initiative applies. The LCI team will inform the potential applicant if they as an applicant have a property within the designated area.

Residential and commercial guidelines are advised. If the property is determined to be in the LCI designated area, the applicants are advised to make an application.

The majority of telephone and email enquiries relate to the boundary to determine the property's eligibility or not.

Enquiries for the past 5 years are as follows:

YEAR	ENQUIRIES	NO. OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS
2020	43 no.	24 no. successful
2021	16 no.	4 no. successful
2022	42 no.	6 no. successful
2023	12 no.	14 no. successful
2024	9 no.	9 no. successful

15. Question submitted by Councillor U. Gavan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council release records of payments to landlords providing emergency accommodation in Limerick for the last 2 years and also those landlords who receive payments in respect of the HAP and RAS schemes.

REPLY: In 2023, the expenditure for the provision of Emergency Accommodation by Limerick City and County Council was €3,221,755.11 and in 2024 this figure was €4,735,578.89.

This is a demand led service, and the Homeless Action team in response to demand from eligible families presenting to them for a service, may need more or less accommodation at different times.

This amount is funded 90% by Section 10 funding with the remaining 10% paid from Limerick City and County Council own resources.

The below information summarises HAP and RAS payments for the years 2023 and 2024.

HAP payments for Limerick are:

Year	€ amount paid to landlords	No. of properties
2023	€16,687,353	2424
2024	€15,945,063	2060

RAS payments for Limerick are:

Year	€ amount paid to landlords	No. private tenancies	No. landlords
2023	€10,357,853.76	698	354
2024	€9,894,047.88	621	285

Limerick City and County Council as a Data Controller has specific obligations under data protection legislation.

Therefore, in accordance with Article 15 (4) of the General Data Protection Regulation, the Council would be precluded from releasing any such personal data relating to specific landlords.

16. Question submitted by Councillor M. Donoghue

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Festival & Events Department provide us with a detailed breakdown of costs for Riverfest 2024 on an itemised, line-by-line basis.

REPLY: Riverfest 2024 was a Limerick City and County Council flagship festival. In its 20th year in 2024 it put Limerick centre stage on Ireland's May Bank Holiday weekend. Over 133,000 people attended the festival over the 4 days of fun, food, music and water activity. Families and festivalgoers were treated to a wide variety of offerings and events including the Pegasus Parade, Fashionfest, Riverfest festival Village, River Shannon zip- line, Panoramic Wheel and National BBQ Competition. There were on the river events as well as aerial shows from Limerick's own Fidget Feet with their show Bingo Fever 'House'. Sunday's Great Limerick Run attracted 17,000 participants. Sunday's magnificent fireworks display with the backdrop of King John's Castle was another highlight.

The expenditure budget for Riverfest 2024 is as follows.

Fashionfest held for the first time at Gardens International on Friday evening. A sold out 180 capacity event. The event showcased LSAD fashion students alongside established designers. €14,089.65.

The Riverfest Village featured a mix of 35 food and craft traders and musical entertainment. 73,000 people enjoyed the Festival Village over the four days of the bank holiday weekend. €144,211.35

The Zip line provided a stunning adrenaline ride across the River Shannon for hundreds of thrill seekers. The zip line operated from 10 Am to 8PM over the four days of the bank holiday weekend and was a free event. €35,055.00.

Fidget Feet's acclaimed aerial circus bingo extravaganza for all the family performed 6 shows over 3 days at the Redemptoirst Church. €15,000.00.

The National BBQ Competition attracted thousands of festivalgoers to watch and taste food from the competing teams battling it out for 6 categories and overall winner glory. €35,854.50.

On Water Activities. Over 3,000 participants of all ages availed of the thrills and spills on the river from freestyle kayaking, dragon boats, angling cot racing, rowing to swimming events all making a splash over 3 days on the might River Shannon. €21,217.00.

Fireworks. 22,000 spectators congregated on Clancy Strand to watch the Fireworks spectacular on the Sunday evening of the Riverfest weekend. €51,284.65.

Street Party at Honan's Quay. Honan's quay came alive to the chill out beats of the Red Bull DJ truck on the Saturday and Sunday from 6PM to 10PM. The street Party was the perfect post event following the National BBQ competition and the Great Limerick Run. €5,000.00.

Pegasus Parade. Acclaimed French street theatre spectacle company *Planet Vapeur* brought 'Pegasus', a giant silver winged horse to Limerick. The giant animatron standing 8M high paraded through the streets of Limerick accompanied by a troupe of 11 French acrobats and street performers to wow a crowd of 30,000 along the 1.4km parade route along the River Shannon.

Planet Vapeur Creative costs €39,360.00 Transport and subsistence €5,227.00
Event management services, security €20,234. Total Cost €64,821.00.

ASD sensory Area. A space to relax and escape the city noise for children and adults with autism while at the same time being able to enjoy Riverfest. The ASD Mobile Sensory Unit was located at Sarsfield House Carpark (beside The Festival Village.) The ASD area included a bespoke sensory room. €5,775.00.

Hunt Museum. A relaxed space close to the Festival village. Riverfest Games in the Garden at The Hunt Museum featured at mini-golf, boules, chess, croquet and archery. €2,500.00.

St. Michael's rowing event. A Riverfest first, St. Michael's Riverfest regatta style family friendly event. €1,000.00.

St. Mary Cathedral. Vintage car show in the grounds of Limericks iconic St. Mary Cathedral. €500.00.

Milk Market Trustees. Potato Market support. €2,000.00
TG4 & RTE promotional video real for national broadcast. €615.00.
Event Licencing. €5,879.00.
Insurance. €3,570.00.
Garda Charges €10,209.00.
Event Management Company Comms. €8,610.00.
Event Management Company 4 days Site Crew, accommodation and subsistence. €27,060.00
Event management company Site Manager. €6,088.50.
Event management company Event Controller. €4,920.00.
Event Management Company Health and Safety Officer. €7,749.00.
Event Management Company Production Manager. €4,981.50
Event Management Company Programme Coordinator. €6,088.50
Event Management Company Project Manager. €6,088.50
Event Management Company Water Liaison. €3,198.00
Riverfest media Launch €400.00.
LCCC Comms. €1,860.00.
ROGU Fire performer's cancellation fee €450.00.
Miscellaneous. €146.50.
Event management company Grooveyard, Events Management Fees. €18,634.50

Total Budget Cost inc. VAT €514,856.15

17. Question submitted by Councillor S. Hickey-O'Mara

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the setting up of an online directory of Limerick based artists after the Motion was passed at last October's Metropolitan Meeting. At what stage is this project at and when is it expected to be launched.

REPLY: The arts office applied for additional funding towards the end of 2024 which included a proposal to develop and maintain a Limerick artist network website or online directory in 2025. Unfortunately this application was not successful. As a consequence, the proposed project has not yet been developed. Other funding opportunities will continue to be sought. In the interim the Arts Office continues to investigate alternative mechanisms for the creation of such a directory.

18. Question submitted by Councillor S. Hickey-O'Mara

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for the full criteria for the deployment of flood defences at Clancy Strand.

REPLY: The Roads Department of Limerick City and County Council erect the flood barrier defences around the Limerick City quay area, which includes Clancy Strand, in advance of high tides or a weather event when there is a flood threat predicted by the departments flood forecast model.

The forecast model is informed and updated through data from Met Éireann, which includes Limerick Dock tide levels and times, wind direction and speed, wave action, air pressure and surge. In addition, the River Shannon water levels and discharge from the

ESB's generating station at Ardnacrusha and the discharge at Parteen Weir are taken into account.

19. Question submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney

I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, following the funding allocation from TII for the proposed Safety Improvement works from Clarina Village to Brick Lodge for an indicative timeline for the proposed project.

REPLY: Following on from the confirmation of funding we are aiming to progress with the purchasing of the land required for this scheme. In parallel we are progressing with the preparation of the tender documents with a view of tendering this scheme in Q2/Q3 of 2025, subject to above.

20. Question submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney

I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the masterplan for Faha View/Lisheen Park Green Area and in particular when can we anticipate a Part 8 Planning Application for the scheme.

REPLY: The Council have been progressing environmental aspects for the Lisheen Park green area and also scoping out requirements in terms of level of design required and how the project will ultimately be delivered. The masterplan involves multiple sports and recreational facilities for all ages and abilities and therefore lends itself to multiple sources of funding. The delivery of the entire project will require significant funding and phasing of the project needs to be determined at the planning stage. In this regard, the Council will require Consultants to be engaged and tender documents are currently being prepared to procure the Consultants.

In terms of a general timeline for a Part 8, it will likely be towards the end of this year but this will be subject to the programme submitted by the appointed Consultant and timelines to deliver requirements for a Part 8 application.

NOTICES OF MOTION

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Donoghue

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council call on Fáilte Ireland to put an additional Tourist Information Centre in place in the retail district of Limerick City (O'Connell Street, Thomas Street, Bedford Row).

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Donoghue referred to the benefits of having a Tourist Information Centre in a central location in the city centre. The Members welcomed the Motion. It was agreed to invite Fáilte Ireland to brief the Elected Members of the Metropolitan District of Limerick on their future plans for Limerick City.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Beasley (to be referred to the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council remove the 2 year waiting time for getting on the housing transfer list for those in exceptional circumstances or where the circumstances of the family have taken a drastic change.

It was agreed to refer this Notice of Motion to the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will move at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council writes to Direct Route Limerick and Transport Infrastructure Ireland to request automatic number plate recognition be installed at Limerick toll for adapted vehicles as it is in place in every other toll in Ireland.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor O'Donovan referred to the difficulties experienced by individuals with adapted vehicles at the Limerick toll and emphasised the need to update the technology so that automatic number plate recognition would be in place.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan (to be referred to the Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism and Planning Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council contacts owners and/or letting agents of vacant premises within the city centre and works with Limerick Chamber to explore meanwhile use options and/or encourage alternative rental models to enable new cooperatives, SMEs, social enterprises and community businesses to use vacant commercial properties in Limerick City.

It was agreed to refer this Notice of Motion to the Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism and Planning Strategic Policy Committee.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor U. Gavan

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council engage with the NTA/Bus Eireann about introducing urgently, tap and go services on public buses in Limerick.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Gavan highlighted the benefits of introducing tap and go services, noting it would help improve the process and possibly encourage more people to use public transport. She referred to transport systems across the UK and Europe where contactless

payment was already in place and highlighted the efficiencies this offered.

26. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Donoghue (to be referred to the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council provides medium-term parking permits for tradespeople, service providers, attendees at courses or Active Retirement, where hourly parking discs and residential parking permits are not appropriate.

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

27. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Benson (to be referred to the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council, carry out an audit of all bus stops in the Metropolitan area and liaise with the NTA to provide adequate bus stop signage at all stops and remove all inadequate signage.

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

28. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Hickey-O'Mara (to be referred to the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council carry out a full review of the Broad Street/Charlotte's Quay junction due to the consistent illegal driving at this junction.

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

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

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council:

- a. Run a citywide public health campaign on dog fouling;*
- b. Standardise signage across the city with the same information on fines for dog-fouling and contact details for reporting same;*
- c. Put up additional signage in communities.*

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Hickey-O'Mara highlighted the importance of a public health campaign in relation to dog fouling, noting it can cause health issues.

Members welcomed the Motion and agreed the issue needs to be addressed. They noted that the use of stencils on footpaths has been effective in tackling dog fouling and requested additional stenciling in areas across the Metropolitan District.

Members commended all who took part in Team Limerick Clean-Up, noting that it was a huge success and acknowledged how well Limerick looks after the event.

REPLY: a. Limerick City and County Council currently run a dog fouling campaign that includes public health as follows. Dog fouling 'awareness advertising' runs multiple times a week on Live 95, this schedule remains in place for the remainder of 2025. Social media posts are ongoing and scheduled with the support of the Council's Communications team. The Environmental Awareness Officer highlights the issue at in schools and other outreach events and in addition distributes dog poo bags with the assistance of our customer services team.

b. A new dog fouling image and signage with standardised information has been procured and is being erected in communities as requests are submitted.

c. Signage is erected on request from a community or where a specific problem is identified by the Litter Warden. Requests can be sent to the Litter Management Team through Customer Services.

Following discussions, it was agreed to hold a Workshop for the Members in relation to the provision of public bins in Limerick City.

30. Correspondence

Members expressed disappointment with the correspondence received from the National Transport Authority in response to their invitation to update the Members on their plans for Limerick. It was proposed by Councillor O'Donovan, seconded by Councillor Donoghue and agreed that a Notice of Motion be submitted to the Full Council from the Metropolitan District of Limerick calling on the Mayor to request the National Transport Authority to address the Metropolitan Members.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Dated: _____