

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, AND ONLINE, ON MONDAY, 27TH MAY, 2024, AT 3.00 P.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor G. Mitchell, Mayor.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Benson, Butler, Carey, Collins (B), Collins (J), Collins (M), Collopy, Daly, Donegan, Egan, Foley, Galvin, Hartigan, Kiely, Kilcoyne, Leddin, McSweeney, Murphy, Novak Uí Chonchúir, O'Brien, O'Donoghue, O'Donovan, O'Hanlon, O'Sullivan, Pond, Ruddle, Ryan (E), Ryan (M), Scanlan, Secas, Sheahan (J), Sheahan (K), Sheahan (M), Sheehan (C), Slattery, Talukder, Teefy, Teskey.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive (Dr. P. Daly), Deputy Chief Executive and Director, Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism (Mr. G. Daly), A/Director, Support Services (Mr. J. Clune), Director, Housing (Ms. C. Curley), Director, Regeneration (Mr. J. Delaney), Director, Rural, Community and Culture Development (Mr. S. Duclot), Director, Transportation and Mobility (Mr. B. Kennedy), Director, National and Regional Shared Services (Mr. K. Lehane), Director, Planning, Environment and Place-Making (Mr. V. Murray), Meetings Administrator (Ms. L. Flannery), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Mr. M. Leahy), Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Ms. A. Foley), Financial Accountant (Mr. P. Murnane), Management Accountant (Ms. I. Griffin), Senior Executive Scientist, Environment Strategy/Environment and Climate Action (Mr. C. Brodie), Local Community Development Committee Chief Officer (Mr. S. O'Connor), Administrative Officer, Rural Development (Ms. E. Humphreys), Senior Planner, Forward Planning (Ms. M. Woods).

VOTE OF SYMPATHY

At the outset and with the permission of the Mayor, a Vote of Sympathy was extended to the family of the late Brendan Danaher, Charleville, a former Member and Chairman of Limerick County Council. A minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 25th March, 2024.

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

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

With the permission of the Mayor, Councillor Sheahan (J) referred to the following Motion adopted at the March Meeting and asked that it be sent to the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Peter Burke, T.D. This was agreed.

“That, Limerick City and County Council, in conjunction with both the Clare and Kerry County Councils, have a joint approach to apply pressure on the Government to ensure the Shannon Estuary is prioritised and that the findings of the Shannon Estuary Economic Task Force Report be implemented forthwith.”

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

Housing Directorate

(a) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 26th March, 2024, concerning disposal of 90, Sycamore Avenue, Rathbane, Limerick, together with Drawing titled 'Land Registry Compliant Map,' outlining the property.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
 Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);
 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 90, Sycamore Avenue, Rathbane, Limerick, to Daniel and Noreen Leonard, for the sum of €1, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Conveyance of the freehold interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 26th March, 2024.”

(b) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 26th March, 2024, concerning disposal of 24, Walnut Court, Kennedy Park, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
 Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);
 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 24, Walnut Court, Kennedy Park, Limerick, to Joanne Griffin, Legal Personal Representative (LPR) of

Desmond Hayes, deceased, for the sum of €195.42, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Conveyance of the freehold interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 26th March, 2024.”

- (c) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 19th April, 2024, concerning disposal of 13, Ash Hill, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick, together with Map outlining property details.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
 Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);
 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 13, Ash Hill, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick, to Michael Barrett, for the sum of €195.42, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Conveyance of the freehold interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 19th April, 2024.”

- (d) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 19th April, 2024, concerning disposal of 2, New Terrace, Kilfinane, Co. Limerick, together with Map outlining property details.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
 Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);
 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 2, New Terrace, Kilfinane, Co. Limerick, to William O’Riordan, for the sum of €195.42, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Conveyance of the freehold interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 19th April, 2024.”

Rural, Community and Culture Development Directorate

General Disposals

- (e) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 9th May, 2024, concerning disposal of property at Main Street, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.

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

Main Street, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick, to Syed Haider, for the sum of €52,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 9th May, 2024.”

(f) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 10th May, 2024, concerning disposal of the freehold interest in property at 149, Mayorstone Upper, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
 Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);
 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 the freehold interest in property at 149, Mayorstone Upper, Limerick, to Ms. Kathleen Corcoran, for the sum of £160, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 10th May, 2024.”

(g) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 15th May, 2024, concerning disposal of 0.0099 acres (0.004 hectares) at Wolfe Tone Street, Kilmallock, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
 Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);
 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 0.0099 acres (0.004 hectares) at Wolfe Tone Street, Kilmallock, Limerick, to Clinton and Kathleen Kiernan, for the sum of €1, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 15th May, 2024.”

(h) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 15th May, 2024, concerning disposal of 0.00099 acres (0.0004ha) at Camoge Park, Skagh, Croom, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
 Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);
 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 0.00099 acres (0.0004ha) at Camoge Park, Skagh, Croom, Co. Limerick, to Camoge Park Homes Limited, for the sum of €204.88, subject to Camoge Park Homes Limited discharging all legal and other costs incurred by Limerick City and County Council, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 15th May, 2024.”

(i) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 15th May, 2024, concerning disposal of property at 22 Church View, Askeaton, Limerick, V94F2XA.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
 Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);
 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 22 Church View, Askeaton, Limerick, V94F2XA, to Monrea Consulting Ltd., for the sum of €140,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 15th May, 2024.”

(j) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 15th May, 2024, concerning disposal of property at William Street, Askeaton, Limerick, V94X8PX.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
 Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);
 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 William Street, Askeaton, Limerick, V94X8PX, to Monrea Consulting Ltd., for the sum of €165,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 15th May, 2024.”

Derelict Disposals

(k) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 26th March, 2024, concerning disposal of property at Gortakilleen, Oola, Limerick, E34KH22.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
 Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);
 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 Gortakilleen, Oola, Limerick, E34KH22, to Sarah Moloney, for the sum of €83,500, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 26th March, 2024.”

(l) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 26th March, 2024, concerning disposal of property at Bunkey, Lisnagry, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
 Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);
 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 Bunkey, Lisnagry, Limerick, to Mr. Garrett Hartigan, for the sum of €121,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 26th March, 2024.”

(m) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 26th March, 2024, concerning disposal of property at St. Anthony's, Lacka, Castleconnell, Limerick, V94N1NF.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
 Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);
 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 St. Anthony's, Lacka, Castleconnell, Limerick, V94N1NF, to Mr. and Mrs. Padraig and Fiona Smith, for the sum of €162,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 26th March, 2024.”

(n) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 26th March, 2024, concerning disposal of property at Woolworth's Lane (Off Catherine Street/Cecil Street), Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
 Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);
 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 Woolworth's Lane (Off Catherine Street/Cecil Street), Limerick, to Mr. Peter Ryan, for the sum of €70,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 26th March, 2024.”

(o) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 22nd April, 2024, concerning disposal of property at Rathurd, Drombanny, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);
 Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);
 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 Rathurd, Drombanny, Co. Limerick, to Mr. Vitali Shvaibovich and Mrs. Volha Shvaibovich, for the sum of €80,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 22nd April, 2024.”

- (p) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 9th May, 2024, concerning disposal of property at Feoghanagh, Co. Limerick, V42P578.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);

Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);

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 Feoghanagh, Co. Limerick, V42P578, to Alan McNamara, for the sum of €21,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 9th May, 2024.”

- (q) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 9th May, 2024, concerning disposal of property at Convent Street, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick, V94E167.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);

Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);

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 Convent Street, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick, V94E167, to Ruairi Dennison, for the sum of €60,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 9th May, 2024.”

- (r) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 9th May, 2024, concerning disposal of property at 10, Hartstonge Street, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);

Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);

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 10, Hartstonge Street, Limerick, to Kandahar Grocery Limited, for the sum of €315,000,

subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 9th May, 2024.”

(s) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 15th May, 2024, concerning disposal of property at The Square, Galbally, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);

Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);

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 The Square, Galbally, Limerick, to Donal Kenneally, for the sum of €120,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 15th May, 2024.”

(t) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 15th May, 2024, concerning disposal of property at 34 Smith O'Brien Avenue, Kileely, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);

Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);

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 34 Smith O'Brien Avenue, Kileely, Limerick, to Wowcon Limited, for the sum of €131,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 15th May, 2024.”

4. Support Services

(a) Chief Executive's Report

Circulated, Chief Executive's Report for the months of March and April.

The Reports were noted by the Council.

(b) Unaudited Annual Financial Statement 2023 – Limerick City and County Council

Circulated, Unaudited Annual Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December, 2023, for Limerick City and County Council, together with report from the Chief Executive dated 16th May, 2024.

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

“That, in accordance with Section 108 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended by the Local Government Reform Act, 2024), the Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31st December, 2023, for Limerick City and County Council, be and is hereby adopted.”

(c) Additional Expenditure 2023

Circulated, report of the A/Director, Support Services, dated 16th May, 2024, setting out details of additional expenditure incurred over budget for financial year ended 31st December, 2023.

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

“That, authorisation is hereby given, in accordance with Section 104 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended by the Local Government Reform Act, 2014), to the additional expenditure incurred in excess of that provided for in the Annual Budget for the financial year ended 31st December, 2023, including Capital transfers.”

(d) Audit

(i) Audit and Risk Committee Work Programme 2024

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services dated 27th March, 2024, together with copy of Limerick City and County Council Audit and Risk Committee Work Programme 2024, as agreed by the Audit and Risk Committee at a meeting of the Committee held on 26th March, 2024.

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

“That, the Limerick City and County Council Audit and Risk Committee Work Programme 2024, as circulated, be and is hereby adopted.”

(ii) Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report 2023

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services, dated 27th March, 2024, enclosing the Limerick City and County Council Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report 2023.

The report was noted by the Council.

(e) Annual Report 2023

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services dated 22nd May, 2024, together with copy of Annual Report 2023 for Limerick City and County Council.

The report stated that the Annual Report 2023 had been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 221 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, and set out details of the policies, programmes, services and other activities undertaken by the Council. It also included the Financial Statements for 2023, Statement of Internal Financial Control (SIFC) and an outline of activities to promote the interests of local communities and twinning.

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

“That, the Annual Report 2023 for Limerick City and County Council be and is hereby adopted, in accordance with Section 221 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.”

(f) Strategic Policy Committee – Sectoral Nomination

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services dated 13th May, 2024, seeking the Council’s approval of Sectoral Nomination to the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee.

The report stated that there was a vacancy on the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee arising from the resignation of Dee Ryan from the Committee. Correspondence had been received from the Business and Employers’ Pillar nominating Mr. Seán Golden, Limerick Chamber, to the Committee, representing the Business/Commercial Sector. The approval of the Council was sought to this appointment.

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

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the appointment of Seán Golden, Limerick Chamber, to replace Dee Ryan on the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee, representing the Business/Commercial Sector.”

(g) Strategic Policy Committee Reports

(i) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee dated 14th May, 2024, in relation to meeting of the Committee held on 10th April, 2024.

The report was noted by the Council.

- (ii) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee dated 10th May, 2024, in relation to meeting of the Committee held on 23rd April, 2024.

The report was noted by the Council.

- (iii) Circulated, reports of the Chairperson of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee dated 15th May, 2024, in relation to meetings of the Committee held on 28th March and 30th April, 2024.

The reports were noted by the Council.

- (iv) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee dated 16th May, 2024, in relation to meeting of the Committee held on 9th April, 2024.

The report was noted by the Council.

- (v) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee dated 11th April, 2024, in relation to meeting of the Committee held on 11th April, 2024.

The report was noted by the Council.

5. Rural, Community and Culture Development

(a) Limerick Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2028

Circulated, report of the Director, Rural, Community and Culture Development dated 15th May, 2024, together with copy of Local Economic and Community Plan for Limerick City and County 2024-2028 (Draft Framework Plan 2024).

Members welcomed the plan, and commended the Rural, Community and Cultural Development Department for producing an excellent report. They highlighted the benefits it will have for all community groups.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (B);
 Seconded by Councillor O'Sullivan;
 And Resolved:

“That, the Limerick Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2028, as circulated, be and is hereby adopted.”

(b) Progress Report on Working towards an Autism-Friendly Limerick

Circulated, report of the Director, Rural, Community and Culture Development dated 15th May, 2024, enclosing Progress Report on Working towards an Autism-Friendly Limerick.

Members welcomed the progress report and acknowledged the work Limerick City and County Council has done to date for people living with autism. However, they highlighted the lack of supports and services for parents and guardians of children living with autism and noted the importance of getting these supports implemented in the city and county. Members referred to the long waiting list for assessments and the need to reduce this.

The report was noted by the Council.

(c) Dolores O'Riordan Music Bursary Scheme 2024

Circulated, report of the Arts Officer|Creative Ireland Co-ordinator dated 13th May, 2024, seeking the Council's approval to recommended allocation from the Assessment Panel under the Dolores O'Riordan Music Bursary Scheme 2024.

Proposed by Councillor O'Sullivan;

Seconded by Councillor Teefy;

And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the Dolores O'Riordan Music Bursary Award 2024, as recommended, and as set out in the report of the Arts Officer|Creative Ireland Co-ordinator dated 13th May, 2024.”

(d) Individual Arts Bursary Awards Scheme 2024

Circulated, report of the Arts Officer|Creative Ireland Co-ordinator dated 13th May, 2024, seeking the Council's approval to recommended allocations from the Assessment Panel under the Individual Arts Bursary Awards Scheme 2024.

Proposed by Councillor O'Sullivan;

Seconded by Councillor Teefy;

And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to recommended allocations under the Individual Arts Bursary Awards Scheme 2024, as set out in the report of the Arts Officer|Creative Ireland Co-ordinator dated 13th May, 2024.”

(e) Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts Scheme 2024

Circulated, report of the Arts Officer|Creative Ireland Co-ordinator dated 15th May, 2024, seeking the Council's approval to recommended allocations under the Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts Scheme 2024.

Proposed by Councillor O'Sullivan;

Seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon;

And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to recommended allocations under the Strategic Fund for Arts and Culture 2024, as set out in the report of the Arts Officer|Creative Ireland Co-ordinator dated 15th May, 2024.”

(f) Limerick Theatre Bursaries Award Scheme 2024

Circulated, report of the Arts Officer|Creative Ireland Co-ordinator dated 13th May, 2024, seeking the Council’s approval to recommended allocations from the Assessment Panel for Limerick Theatre Bursaries 2024.

Proposed by Councillor O’Sullivan;
Seconded by Councillor O’Hanlon;
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the recommended allocations under the Limerick Theatre Bursaries Award Scheme 2024, as set out in the report of the Arts Officer|Creative Ireland Co-ordinator dated 13th May, 2024.”

(g) Grants under the Arts Act

Circulated, report of the Arts Officer|Creative Ireland Co-ordinator dated 15th May, 2024, seeking the Council’s approval to recommended grants, as set out in the report, under the Arts Act, 2003.

Proposed by Councillor O’Sullivan;
Seconded by Councillor O’Hanlon;
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the payment of grants under the Arts Act, 2003, as recommended, and as set out in the report of the Arts Officer|Creative Ireland Co-ordinator dated 15th May, 2024.”

6. Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism

Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2024/2025

Circulated, report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism dated 13th May, 2024, seeking the approval of the Council to recommended allocations from the Assessment Panel for Limerick City and County Council Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2024/2025.

Proposed by Councillor O’Sullivan;
Seconded by Councillor Egan;
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to allocations under Limerick City and County Council’s Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2024/2025, as recommended, and as set out in the report of the Arts Officer | Creative Ireland Co-ordinator dated 13th May, 2024.”

7. Planning, Environment and Place-Making

(a) Tree Policy 2024-2030

Circulated, report of the Director, Planning, Environment and Place-Making dated 16th May, 2024, together with Executive Summary and copy of the Limerick City and County Tree Policy 2024-2030.

Members welcomed the policy and highlighted the need to prune trees around lights and overhanging trees on roads for public safety. In response, the Director of Planning, Environment and Place-Making referred to the programme to prune trees around public lighting that is carried out in Autumn. He acknowledged the challenges with overhanging trees and leaves coming down, and the difficulty to resolve.

Proposed by Councillor Hartigan;

Seconded by Councillor Kiely;

And Resolved:

“That, the Limerick City and County Tree Policy 2024-2030, as circulated, be and is hereby approved.”

(b) Development Contribution Fund 2024

Circulated, report of the Director, Planning, Environment and Place-Making dated 14th May, 2024, setting out Development Contribution Fund Allocations for 2024.

Following discussions on the matter, the Chief Executive agreed to defer this item.

8. 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.

QUESTIONS

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

9. Question submitted by Councillor S. Kiely

I will ask at next Meeting when was the most recent tenants handbook published, what changes were made and were all Council tenants given a handbook as well as being made aware of the changes.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council published its current tenant handbook in late 2019 following a full review of the existing tenant handbooks in place (one for the Limerick City Council and one for Limerick County Council pre the merger of the two authorities) in line with the services delivered to Council tenants by the merged Authority. Officials from the Community Sustainment Unit held a number of cross-departmental meetings with relevant internal stakeholders to ensure that all aspects of tenancy related services would be included in the new and updated tenant handbook.

A copy of the tenant handbook was uploaded to the Council's website at the time of publishing.

From January 2020 onwards, all newly appointed tenants have received a copy of the tenant handbook, which is included in their Tenancy Induction pack. The Community Sustainment Officer review the tenant handbook with the tenant(s) as part of the Tenancy Induction training programme.

An extract from the tenant handbook titled "Maintenance and Repairs" of Limerick City and County Council properties was circulated in January 2020 to all 5,500 tenants. At this time, all tenants were informed in writing that the full version of the tenant handbook was available on line and the link was provided in the letter, which accompanied the extract.

10. Question submitted by Councillor O. O'Sullivan

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on my Motion from January 2022 calling for the creation of a Local Food and Catering Sustainable Purchasing Policy for this local authority.

REPLY: The Motion from January 2022 was referred to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee, which was held on 23rd February, 2022. Following discussion on that item at the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee, the Council Executive response was outlined as follows:

Limerick City and County Council is obliged to comply with the principles of EU Public Procurement Directives, National Regulations and Government Guidelines with regard to all policies involving the purchase of goods and services. Limerick City and County Council fully supports the principles outlined in the notice of motion particularly with regard to supporting the local food system and increasing employment

within the local food sector. The Council's procured supplier for the provision of catering services is a Limerick business employing many locals. Further development and consideration of the Environmental Protection Agency's Green Public Procurement Principles will be taken into account where feasible as the Council renews contracts for catering services.

On the proposal of Councillor O'Sullivan, seconded by Mayor D. Butler, it was agreed that the wording would be revised to incorporate '*that the Council would write to the relevant Minister with responsibility for Public Procurement to seek guidance in relation to the development of a policy on the procurement of sustainable food and beverages, and catering services.*'

The Council wrote to Mr. Ossian Smyth, T.D., Minister of State with responsibility for Public Procurement and eGovernment, requesting said guidance on 6th April, 2022. No response has been forthcoming to date. The Council will write to Minister Smyth again in relation to this matter.

NOTICES OF MOTION

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that we request the Minister for Justice to immediately review the Fee Structure that presently applies to the adaptation of Irish Naturalisation.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Ryan (E), and adopted.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale – Councillors K. Sheahan (Proposer), B. Collins, S. Keary, E. O'Brien, J. O'Donoghue, A. Teskey

We will move at the next Meeting if a recipient of carers allowance is living with elderly parents who are in receipt of the old age pension, their carers allowance adds to the rent of the social house they are living in. We believe that this should be addressed by the Elected Members and the extra charge on the rent account that is now incurred should be removed as we consider this to be unfair and unjust.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Sheahan (K), seconded by Councillor Teskey, and adopted.

It was also agreed to refer the Motion to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee as outlined in the Reply.

REPLY: Rental income from its housing stock (circa 5600 units) is a very important revenue stream for the Council and is projected to amount to in excess of €19m in 2024. Any downward adjustment to the income criteria would have

an inevitable impact on the level of services that the Council can provide. In order to quantify the financial impact of same the Housing Directorate would need to analyse the rent accounts of 8961 households in some detail – to include RAS and HAP tenancies, the rents of which are also calculated with reference to the Differential Rents Scheme. This would represent a massive body of work, which would take some time to complete.

Carer's Allowance was introduced by the Government many years ago to compensate people who are caring for a person in need of full-time care because of age, disability or illness. Those deemed eligible for same do not then have to rely on other forms of social welfare support, such as Jobseeker's Allowance etc., which are defined as income in calculating rent liability. The Differential Rent Scheme calculates the total household income and Carer's Allowance is no different to other incomes such as the following non-exhaustive list:-

- Income from employment
- Maintenance Payments
- Job Seekers Benefit/Allowance
- Illness Benefit
- Deserted Wives Benefit
- Invalidity Pension
- Disablement Benefit
- Widows Pension
- Injury Benefit

Income from the Allowance has been reckonable for rent assessment purposes for many years, both by Limerick County Council and Limerick City Council prior to amalgamation, and the joint new authority subsequently. The adoption of a Differential Rent Scheme is an executive function and the last significant review took place in February 2020, with the aim of introducing a standard calculation method across the board for both city and county tenants.

There have been indications for some time that the Minister was considering the introduction of a standardised National Differential Rents Scheme to be applied across all local authorities. This aim was included in the 2020 Programme for Government and in the housing action plan, Housing for All. It appears that moves are now being made to act on this and, by Circular Letter 17/2024 dated the 23rd May 2024 issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the Minister has indicated that it is aimed to scope and develop proposals for a national, standardised scheme in Q4 2024 and, to assist in this, has instructed all local authorities to provide up to date data in relation to rents payable by their tenants.

In the light of the foregoing, it is recommended that this Motion be referred to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee for further consideration along with any updates on a national Differential Rents Scheme.

Suspension of Standing Order No. 4: At this point in the Meeting, the Mayor drew attention to the time which was approaching 5.30 p.m., and on the proposal of Councillor Sheehan (J), seconded by Councillor Egan, Standing Order No. 4 was suspended in order to complete the agenda.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will move at the next Meeting that the Council write to the Minister for Social Protection asking her to explain why Community Welfare Officers are not available in clinics at Intreo Offices.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Slattery outlined that the services provided by the Community Welfare Officers have moved online, and pointed out the difficulty this has caused for people using those services.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Kiely

I will move at the next Meeting that the tenant handbook be amended to reflect that the tenant is not responsible for the boundary wall or fence of a Council property where there is no fault on the tenant.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Kiely and seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J).

REPLY: The current tenant handbook was produced in late 2019. Limerick City and County Council will undertake a review of the tenants handbook in the lifetime of the next Council through the Housing Strategic Policy Committee. In the meantime, any boundary issues that are presented will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Ryan

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council call on the Minister for Finance, Michael McGrath, T.D., and the Government, to allow taxpayers one week where no tax is paid, in line with Social Welfare recipients whereby their welfare payments increase at Christmas; and, if agreed, that the Motion be circulated to all Local Authorities.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Ryan (E), seconded by Councillor Scanlan and adopted.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. O'Donoghue

I will move at the next Meeting that the Council write to the relevant Government Departments for the establishment of a fund for the rehabilitation of our older housing

estates. This fund to be used for the upgrade of footpaths and open spaces and to include extra parking spaces if required. This funding is required for the safety of every person living in, working or visiting these estates.

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

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor A. Teskey

I will move at the next Meeting, given current guidelines and planning appears inconsistent with the WHO recommended noise limits, and it is my understanding that Limerick City and County Council has received complaints of sleep deprivation from wind farm neighbours, that this Council write to the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to seek advice on what actions or remedies can be made available to the neighbours of existing wind farms.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Teskey raised concerns for the residents of Coolcappa in County Limerick that are living near the proposed wind farm, and the effects this may have on their health. Members welcomed the Motion and highlighted the need for the Government to publish regulations on wind farms as a matter of urgency.

18. Correspondence

The Correspondence circulated with the agenda was taken as read.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ORDERS:

The Register of Orders made by the Chief Executive 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:
