

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, AND ONLINE, ON MONDAY, 26TH MAY, 2025, AT 3.00 P.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Príomh Chomhairleoir, Councillor D. McSweeney.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Moran.

Councillors Beasley, Benson, Butler, Carey, Collins (B), Collins (M), Conway, 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. J. Delaney), Director, Finance, Economic Development, Digital and ICT Services (Mr. M. White), Director, Housing (Mr. B. Kennedy), A/Director, Regeneration, Sports and Recreation (Mr. D. White), Director, Rural, Community, Culture and Tourism Development (Mr. S. Duclot), A/Director, Transportation and Mobility (Mr. H. McGrath), 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), Staff Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services (Ms. L. Creamer), Senior Executive Scientist (Mr. C. Brodie), Management Accountant (Ms. I. Griffin).

The Príomh Chomhairleoir opened the Meeting by welcoming all present and particularly those from the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board in the public gallery.

Vote of Sympathy

The Council extended its sympathy to Councillor Tommy O'Sullivan on the passing of his sister-in-law, Margaret (Maggie) Shepherd, Kilfinane.

Vote of Congratulations

The Members congratulated Elaine Houlihan, Athlacca, outgoing National President of Macra na Féirme, and commended her for all her work representing Limerick at national level.

Disappointment was expressed that the ceremonial robe was worn by the Mayor of Limerick at the National Famine Commemoration 2025, which was held in Kilmallock.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copies of draft Minutes of the following Meetings:

- (a) Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 31st March, 2025.
- (b) Special Meeting of the Council held on 7th April, 2025.
- (c) Special Meeting of the Council held on 9th May, 2025.

Proposed by Councillor L. Galvin;
 Seconded by Councillor C. Slattery;
 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. National Citizens' Parliament - Deputation

It was agreed to defer this item to the July Meeting.

4. Disposal of Land

Rural, Community, Culture and Tourism Development Directorate

General Disposals

- (a) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 2nd May, 2025, concerning disposal of Freehold interest in property at 77 Mayorstone Gardens, Mayorstone, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;
 Seconded by Councillor Kiely;
 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 77 Mayorstone Gardens, Mayorstone, Limerick, to Pat and Claire

Herlihy, for the sum of €101.22, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 2nd May, 2025."

(b) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 2nd May, 2025, concerning disposal of 5.26 acres (2.13 hectares) at Caheranardrish, Mungret, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;

Seconded by Councillor Kiely;

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 5.26 acres (2.13 hectares) at Caheranardrish, Mungret, Limerick, to Dooneen AC Company Limited by Guarantee, for the sum of €63,120, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 2nd May, 2025."

(c) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 2nd May, 2025, concerning disposal of 0.0097 acres (0.0039 hectares) at Main Street, Askeaton, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;

Seconded by Councillor Kiely;

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 0.0097 acres (0.0039 hectares) at Main Street, Askeaton, Co. Limerick, to Josh Sheahan Limited, for the sum of €2,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 2nd May, 2025."

(d) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 13th May, 2025, concerning disposal of 0.0147 acres (0.0059 hectares) at Ballyadam, Askeaton, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;

Seconded by Councillor Kiely;

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 0.0147 acres (0.0059 hectares) at Ballyadam, Askeaton, Co. Limerick, to Stephen Foley, for the sum of €1, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 13th May, 2025."

5. **Mayoral Fund**

The Mayor, with the aid of a presentation, gave an update to the Members on the Mayoral Fund. He referred to the various funding elements within Limerick City and County Council, as well as the list of prioritised projects included in the Mayoral Programme. The Mayor outlined the More for Limerick Programme Development timelines, noting the Mayoral Fund Budget for 2025 of €10.5 million was agreed by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in February 2025.

The Mayor stated the allocation from central government granted to Limerick to help drive the Mayoral Programme, More for Limerick, would be used to move a number of key priorities forward. He outlined the guiding principles for allocation of the fund, and noted that shovel ready projects from the programme have been identified and prioritised, especially where the funds can be used to leverage additional funding.

The Mayor outlined the following key objectives to be delivered through the Mayoral Fund:

- Smarter Homes
- Other Housing Projects
- Better Quality City and Town Spaces
- City Centre Amenities
- Activities and Festivals
- Revitalising the City Centre
- King's Island
- Kilmallock and County Heritage Assets
- Other Amenity Projects

The Mayor outlined the Smarter Homes project as a top priority and emphasised the need for additional allocations to advance other housing projects. He referred to the significant investment required to enhance city centre and urban spaces and highlighted specific projects to encourage more people to live and work in Limerick. The Mayor emphasised that King's Island is a priority for his tenure as Mayor and that Kilmallock and other county heritage assets are also a key focus to establish an enhanced offering across the County.

Members thanked the Mayor for his presentation, and in response, the following items were raised:

- The Members acknowledged the work that had been carried out in Abbeyfeale and invited the Mayor to visit the town, and the Mayor agreed.
- Members requested a detailed breakdown of the Mayoral Fund expenditure per District.
- Some Members raised concerns that the Municipal Districts appeared to receive less funding in comparison to the Metropolitan District.

- The Members requested the Mayor consider including amenities currently excluded from the Mayoral Fund such as Playgrounds, Libraries, Garda Stations and Community Centres in various locations around the City and the County.
- An update was requested on Fullers Folly, Newcastle West, in terms of public realm. It was noted that it was a very valuable project of historic interest to the area.
- It was the view of some Members that apartment blocks were not suitable for rural areas.
- Members welcomed the initiative to appoint Community Wardens and asked when the positions would be advertised.
- Members queried the purpose of the Game Cube and its proposed location.
- Members requested an update on the Community Grants listed in the Mayoral Fund.
- Members referred to the need for further investment in the suburbs, particularly a community centre for the Raheen/Mungret/Doroadoyle area.
- Members queried what the plans were for those projects which were unsuccessful in securing funding through the Mayoral Fund.
- Members commended the initiative to allocate €300,000 to deal with vacant retail spaces on a trial basis.
- Members emphasised the importance of continuing to deliver the Council's day-to-day operational services across the City and County.
- Members requested that there would be joined-up thinking in relation to the three strands of funding within the Council and recommended meeting in advance of the budget process.
- Members expressed concern at the lack of inclusion of agriculture or youth initiatives in the Mayoral Programme.
- Members referred to the funding for the proposed Christmas Market in Limerick and stressed the need to discuss these plans with the Limerick Market Trustees. An invitation was extended to the Mayor to meet with the Committee which was accepted.
- Members welcomed the allocation for Kilmallock and the great work done by staff in the Council in collaboration with the traders in the town and commended all involved.

In response to the Members' queries, the Mayor referred to the discussion on the building of apartments and indicated that national government policy had to be followed to secure funding; he agreed to furnish Members with a breakdown of the Mayoral Fund per District and welcomed the recommendation to work together when finalising the three strands of funding within the Council. The Mayor advised that an open competition had been held for Community Wardens and he looked forward to implementing this new initiative in the City; he added that he had requested that the Minister extend this initiative to County Towns. He advised the Members that the Community Grants had not yet been advertised and noted the number of projects submitted by Councillors under the Mayoral Programme explaining that due to the limited amount of funding available, not all were successful on this occasion and that other sources of income were required in order to deliver for Limerick; he acknowledged that the breakdown per area would help to highlight where the spend was across all Districts and stressed the need to prioritise projects for next year for the Mayoral Fund.

In the course of the discussion, Members requested an update on the role of the expert working groups and how they correlated with the workings of the Strategic Policy Committees, especially in relation to proposed policies.

The Mayor advised the Members that the expert working groups had been setup to make recommendations to the relevant Strategic Policy Committee who would consider the recommendations and refer them back to the Corporate Policy Group for its consideration.

Members highlighted the need for the Council to carry out maintenance on the Sylvester O'Halloran Bridge. They acknowledged that part of the bridge was the responsibility of the Market Trustees but requested support in getting the bridge painted.

The Director of Planning and Place-Making informed the Members the gate and beam of Sylvester O'Halloran Bridge falls under the remit of the Market Trustees and noted the Council is responsible for the bridge itself. He advised the Meeting that the Council would carry out maintenance works on the bridge.

6. Corporate Services, Human Resources and Organisational Development

(a) Executive Report

Circulated, Executive Report for the months of March and April 2025.

The Reports were noted by the Council.

In reference to the Register of Orders, it was queried why expenditure on marketing was required in addition to the Council Marketing and Communications Department. Members requested legal advice in relation to Section 138 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, to clarify the Elected Members' role in relation to approving expenditure related to works. Members requested an update on the newly appointed operators and timelines to re-open Askeaton Swimming Pool

In response to query on the Register of Orders, the Director General informed the Members that there is a continued need to manage and enhance Limerick's image and he outlined the importance of this work. This is managed by a strong internal Marketing and Communications Department and, in addition, external consultants have been engaged to assist with Limerick's branding and marketing. A second company was contracted to promote and publicise the Greenway amenity by the Tourism Department. The Director General complimented the Marketing and Communications Department for the work they continuously undertake for the Council.

It was agreed to provide advice to members on Section 138 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

In response to Members' queries in relation to the Askeaton Swimming Pool, it was agreed that a Briefing would be given to all Members.

Members noted the importance of an additional three kilometres of roadway between Attyflynn and Adare to link to the Adare By-Pass. They inquired about the plans for the Adare Heritage Centre.

In response, the Director of Rural, Community, Culture and Tourism Development advised that the Adare Heritage Centre is a phased project. Phase 1 will be a smaller scale project, with the aim of having it completed in time for the Ryder Cup in 2027.

(b) Annual Report 2024

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services dated 20th May, 2025, together with copy of Annual Report for 2024 for Limerick City and County Council.

The report stated that the Annual Report 2024 had been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and the Local Government (Mayor of Limerick) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2024). The Annual Report sets out details of the policies, programmes, services and other activities undertaken by the Council.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;
 Seconded by Councillor Scanlan;
 And Resolved:

"That, the Annual Report 2024 for Limerick City and County Council be and is hereby adopted, in accordance with Section 221 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, and the Local Government (Mayor of Limerick) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 2024."

(c) Foreign Travel

(i) Circulated, report of the Administrative Officer, Corporate Services and Governance, dated 7th May, 2025, seeking the retrospective approval of the Council to foreign travel in respect of visit by an Elected Member to Birmingham following an invitation from Limerick Birmingham Association, and including meetings with the Mayor of Birmingham, the Metropolitan Mayor of Greater Manchester and representative of Liverpool City Council.

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

“That, in accordance with Section 142 (5) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, the retrospective approval of the Council be and is hereby given to foreign travel in respect of visit by an Elected Member to Birmingham following invitation from Limerick Birmingham Association, and including meetings with the Mayor of Birmingham, the Metropolitan Mayor of Greater Manchester and representative of Liverpool City Council.”

- (ii) Circulated, report of the Acting Director, Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services, seeking the retrospective approval of the Council for foreign travel in respect of the attendance by the Príomh Chomhairleoir at the Core Network Meeting of URBACT GreenPlace in Vila Nova de Poiares, Portugal.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;

Seconded by Councillor Doyle;

And Resolved:

“That, in accordance with Section 142 (5) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, the retrospective approval of the Council be and is hereby given to foreign travel in respect of attendance by the Príomh Chomhairleoir at the Core Network Meeting of URBACT GreenPlace in Vila Nova de Poiares, Portugal.”

- (iii) Circulated, report of the Administrative Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services dated 21st May, 2025, seeking the approval of the Council for foreign travel in respect of proposed Visit by the Príomh Chomhairleoir to Savannah, Georgia.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;

Seconded by Councillor Doyle;

And Resolved:

“That, in accordance with Section 142 (5) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to foreign travel in respect of proposed Visit by the Príomh Chomhairleoir to Savannah, Georgia.”

(d) Strategic Policy Committee Reports

- (i) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the **Travel and Transportation** Strategic Policy Committee dated 18th April, 2025, in relation to meeting of the Committee held on 8th April, 2025.

The report was noted by the Council.

- (ii) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the **Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism and Planning** Strategic Policy Committee dated 15th May, 2025, in relation to meeting of the Committee held on 14th April, 2025.

The report was noted by the Council.

- (iii) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the **Home and Social Development** Strategic Policy Committee dated 24th April, 2025, in relation to meeting of the Committee held on 24th April, 2025.

The report was noted by the Council.

Also circulated, report of the Director, Housing, dated 19th May, 2025, enclosing report on the Review of Limerick City and County Council Allocation Scheme 2021 to incorporate an amendment to the Financial Contribution Scheme and the Private Downsizing Scheme, together with copy of Allocation Scheme - Draft Revision: April 2025.

Recommendation

To consider and adopt the attached Draft Revision to the Limerick City and County Council Allocation Scheme in accordance with Section 22 (9) of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2009.

In agreeing the Recommendation, the following resolution was adopted.

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

“That, the Limerick City and County Council Allocation Scheme (Revision April 2025), as circulated, be and is hereby adopted in accordance with Section 22 (9) of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2009.”

- (iv) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the **Community, Leisure, Arts, Heritage and Culture** Strategic Policy Committee dated 15th May, 2025, in relation to meeting of the Committee held on 14th May, 2025.

The report was noted by the Council.

(e) July Meeting of Limerick City and County Council

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Pond, the date of the July Meeting of the Council was re-fixed to Monday, 14th July, 2025, at 3pm.

The Mayor indicated that he would not be available on that date.

7. Finance, Economic Development, Digital and ICT Services

(a) Unaudited Annual Financial Statement 2024 – Limerick City and County Council

Circulated, Unaudited Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31st December, 2024, for Limerick City and County Council, together with report from the Director General dated 15th May, 2025.

The Director, Finance, Economic Development, Digital and ICT Services, gave a presentation in relation to the Unaudited Annual Financial Statement 2024. He noted that the Members were asked to consider the Annual Financial Statement of 2024 under Section 108 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended). He outlined how the total Revenue Expenditure amounted to €937.90 million and the total Income amounted to €937.93 million.

At 31st December 2024, the total expenditure on the Capital Account for the year amounted to €296.9 million, and income for the same period was €279.8 million. The Director outlined that the total transfers to the Capital Account for 2024 amounted to €7.27 million with €5.5 million of these transfers relating to the Housing Division. The revenue surplus for 2024 is €26,925, after transfers.

The Director, Finance, Economic Development, Digital and ICT Services, highlighted the Government supports received in 2024, which included ICOB Grants to Businesses of €11.7 million; PUG grants to Businesses of €7.9 million; funding support for National Pay Agreements. He acknowledged the efforts and support of the Elected Members. He commended the staff for their commitment, in particular, the high level of rates collected, resulting in a significant reduction in arrears from €21.4 million in 2014 to €3.57 million in 2024.

The Members thanked the Director for his presentation and noted the contents. They queried aspects of the Annual Financial Statement with the Director and commended the Council in reaching 95% rates collection in 2024. They queried if the Director General and the Mayor were satisfied with the report. The Mayor and the Members queried if the Unaudited Annual Financial Statement 2024 should have been brought before the Audit and Risk Committee, before being brought to the Full Council.

The Director General advised that he was happy to recommend the Unaudited Annual Financial Statement 2024 and informed the Members that the Council was obliged to present the report in an unaudited format to them before it could be audited.

The Director, Finance, Economic Development, Digital and ICT Services outlined that he would prepare and submit a half-yearly financial progress report for 2025 to the July Meeting and noted that the Council was currently on budget for 2025.

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

“That, in accordance with Section 108 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended by the Local Government Reform Act, 2014), the Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31st December, 2024, for Limerick City and County Council, be and is hereby adopted.”

(b) Additional Expenditure 2024

Circulated, report of the Director General dated 15th May, 2025, setting out details of additional expenditure over budget for financial year ended 31st December, 2024.

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

“That, authorisation be and is hereby given, under 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, 2024, including Capital transfers.”

8. Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services

Limerick Street Performance and Busker Bye-Laws 2025

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Scientist, Environment and Climate Action, dated 21st May, 2025, together with copy of the Limerick Street Performance and Busker Bye-Laws, 2025.

Members thanked all parties involved in bringing these bye-laws before the Council and looked forward to their implementation.

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

“That, in accordance with Part 19 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, the Limerick Street Performance and Busker Bye-Laws 2025 for the administrative area of Limerick City and County Council, be and are hereby adopted.”

9. Rural, Culture, Community and Tourism Development

Festivals and Events Grants Scheme 2025/2026

Circulated, report of the Director, Rural, Community, Culture and Tourism Development dated 14th May, 2025, seeking the Council's approval to recommended allocations from the Assessment Panel for Limerick City and County Council Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2025/2026.

The Members queried the balance in distribution of these grants and requested that the Terms of Reference be reviewed prior to allocating next year's grants and this was agreed.

Proposed by Councillor Hickey-O'Mara;

Seconded by Councillor O'Sullivan (O);

And Resolved:

"That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to recommended allocations from the Assessment Panel, as set out in the report of the Director, Rural, Community, Culture and Tourism Development dated 14th May, 2025, for Limerick City and County Council Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2025/2026."

10. Conferences

(a) Participation by Members at Conferences

Details of the following Conference had been circulated electronically to the Members: "The Martin McEvoy 2025 Conference, Mayoral Governance in Dublin - Democracy, Devolution and Impact" held in Dublin on 29th April, 2025.

The Conference was noted by the Members.

(b) 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.

MAYOR'S QUESTIONS

11. Question submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will ask the Mayor if he has had any engagement with the Office of Public Works (OPW) which was commissioned in September 2023 to identify a suitable site for a Garda Station in Castletroy, and if he can request the OPW to provide an official statement on the matter.

REPLY: The Garda Capital Investment Programme 2023-2030 includes the provision of a new Garda Station in Castletroy and the Office of Public Works have been engaged by the Department of Justice to identify a suitable site.

Following receipt of a letter from Cllr. Secas outlining she has unsuccessfully written to the Minister a number of times without reply, I have written to the Minister of State for the Office of Public Works, Mr. Kevin “Boxer” Moran TD to express my concern regarding the status of the proposed Garda Station for Castletroy. I have requested updates and information of the project’s progress.

There is strong community interest in this much-needed facility and I am hoping the Minister will provide an urgent response on the current status, next steps and any potential obstacles in progressing the Garda Station in Castletroy.

You will note in my Mayoral Programme I have pushed to enhance safety with increased Gardaí and Community Wardens, tackling anti-social behaviour on the streets of our urban centres, towns and villages and have specifically mentioned the Garda Station in Castletroy.

12. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I note that monies from the Mayoral Fund were allocated in 2024 for the RIARI design review of state lands in Moyross. When was this design review prepared and what consultation was done with local communities for this review. Similarly, have any other allocation from the Mayoral Fund been provided for design reviews in other areas and what has been the community consultation for these reviews.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) sought a review of proposals for housing and associated infrastructure proposals for the Moyross area, with particular consideration given to the planned Moyross Train Station and the recently adopted Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 2024 (Compact Settlement Guidelines).

To guide this process, LCCC prepared a Design Brief, which was shared with the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI) in November 2024 and updated in January 2025. The brief outlined key requirements to ensure that the continued redevelopment of Moyross is carried out in a sustainable manner.

Since October 2024, LCCC has engaged in a series of workshops and meetings with the RIAI and its panel of architects. The RIAI is currently finalising a Design Review Report, which is expected to be issued shortly. This report will include contributions from the architectural panel and will present a range of potential

design options for the area, ensuring compliance with most recent Planning Guidance. As happened in Colbert Quarter, we want to bring these plans to the community and have a rich public debate on the future of Moyross.

It is expected that this conversation based on the design review will inform the next Development Plan and further community engagement will be a key component in shaping the final proposals during the preparation of the next Development Plan in 2026.

In relation to future design reviews, LCCC are awaiting guidance from the Department in relation to identification of Transport Orientated Sites (TOD) for Limerick City and in anticipation of same money has been allocated to further examine these areas.

Suspension of Standing Order No. 4: The Príomh Chomhairleoir drew attention to the time which was approaching 5.30 p.m. and on the proposal of Councillor Kiely, seconded by Councillor Collins (B), Standing Order No. 4 was suspended in order to complete the agenda.

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:

13. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next full Council Meeting for an update on the new system of General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) forms.

REPLY: The GDPR Consent portal is almost ready for release to Elected Members. Before that can happen, a few final steps are still outstanding: (i) The GDPR Consent portal needs to be brought within the MyLimerick portal, in order to simplify the process of accessing both portals using just one link and one set of credentials, and in turn to minimise the level of user training that will be required; (ii) Irish translations have to be arranged and applied to the customer-facing screens within the GDPR Consent portal and all email notifications sent to customers, in order for the portal to remain compliant with our Irish Language website obligations; (iii) After the changes in steps 1 and 2 are completed, a short testing phase of the new portal will be completed to ensure that it is fit for purpose, while updates will also be made to current training materials that Elected Members can refer to when using the new portal.

Discussions on these changes have already started with the Microsoft partner that developed the GDPR Consent portal, and the work to implement the changes and release the portal to Elected Members has been scheduled for July 2025.

14. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next full Council Meeting for a full and detailed explanation of the description for Sub-Standard Roads within this Council.

REPLY: The definition of sub-standard road is set out in the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 (Objective TR 037 Land Uses and Access Standards), and refers to a road being sub-standard either in terms of its width (less than 3m), alignment, surface condition or junction with the nearest main road.

For a road to be considered sub-standard, the Planning Authority examines the location by site inspection in the context of the policy criteria set out and, where it is deemed necessary, arranges for a detailed inspection by the Roads Department.

15. Question submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney

I will ask at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council for the following information in relation to the Local Authority Affordable Purchase Scheme, to be broken down by Municipal District: (i) The number of affordable purchase homes delivered in each year since 2022; (ii) The number of affordable purchase homes in the delivery pipeline for each year up to and including 2029; (iii) The number of units approved for funding by the Department under the Affordable Housing Fund.

REPLY: In responding to this Question, the following context is provided:

- Affordable sale schemes to date have primarily been house/duplex typologies (typically two to three storeys) in the city suburbs and key towns.
- State and Local Authority-owned land, including much of the Colbert Quarter, is zoned for higher-density development, where apartments are the dominant typology form – posing viability challenges under the current Affordable Housing Fund (AHF) model.
- To date, delivery of Affordable Sale in Limerick has been heavily reliant on private developers to advance affordable sale housing.
- Based on the HNDA model of the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, Limerick requires 3,107 new social and affordable homes between 2022 and 2028, excluding existing unmet need. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has set a target for local authority-led affordable housing of 264 homes for 2022-2026.
- The Government has advised that €45 million has been allocated to the Affordable Housing Fund (AHF – A.31) for 2025 nationally.

(i) The number of affordable purchase homes delivered in each year since 2022 are shown in Table 1 below:

District	2022	2023	2024
Metropolitan	0	25	0

Newcastle West	0	21	16
Cappamore-Kilmallock	0	0	0
Adare-Rathkeale	0	0	0
Total	0	46	16

Table 1: Affordable Purchase Delivery 2022 – 2024

Context from 2022-2024

While some progress has been made in advancing affordable purchase schemes, delivery in Limerick has been particularly challenging due to limited national subsidy availability and a constrained private sector pipeline. Recognising the need for resource capacity, discussions commenced with the Housing Delivery Coordination Office of the Local Government Management Agency in August 2023 to seek additional resources for the Affordable Housing Team. However, approval for four further posts was only secured following engagement between the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in May 2024. The timing of these approvals has impacted our ability to progress delivery at significant scale in earlier years – 2022 to 2024.

(ii) The number of affordable purchase homes in the delivery pipeline for each year up to and including 2029 are shown in Table 2 below:

District	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Metropolitan	6	134	231	238	0
Newcastle West	0	44	0	0	0
Cappamore-Kilmallock	12	4	10	4	0
Adare-Rathkeale	0	15	10	3	0
Total	18	197	251	245	TBC

Table 2: Affordable Purchase Pipeline 2025 – 2029

Context from 2025-2029

With these resources substantially in place from mid-2024 and recognising the significant ramping-up needed, we proactively launched four targeted turnkey campaigns to stimulate supply to deliver affordable sale homes. The outcome of these campaigns is now visible in the significant increase in the delivery pipeline from 2026 onwards, as projects granted planning permission progress through pre-commencement, tendering, and into on-site construction – typically a 2- to 3-year process from planning to completion. This strategic investment in staffing has laid the groundwork for an uplift in the pipeline for affordable sale housing delivery in Limerick City and County.

(iii) The number of units approved by the Department under the Affordable Housing Fund are shown in Table 3 below:

District	No of Approved Units
Metropolitan	370
Newcastle West	90
Cappamore-Kilmallock	0
Adare-Rathkeale	7
Total	467

Table 3: Affordable Purchase Units approved under Affordable Housing Fund (AHF)

Context of units approved

We are actively working with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to progress the remaining applications in the pipeline and anticipate further approvals as additional projects reach the necessary stages. It is important to note that the Affordable Housing Fund operates within a finite national budget each year. The Government has advised that for 2025, under the affordable tenure streams, the following funding has been agreed nationally:

Affordable Housing Fund – AHF (A.31): €45 million

Cost Rental Equity Loan – CREL (A.28): €295 million

The AHF allocation this year nationally equates to 450 homes using the maximum subsidy available at €100,000 per home.

The remaining pipeline for Limerick of 711 homes identified in Table 2 requires the full €100,000 AHF subsidy per home, equating to just over €71 million. Therefore, there will be significant competing demands from other Local Authorities across the country, which can impact the timing and volume of approvals for individual Councils. We continue to work closely with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to progress the remaining applications.

While we continue to pursue all avenues to progress our affordable housing for sale pipeline, it is important to emphasise that the AHF alone will not meet the full range of affordable tenure needs in Limerick. In the current market context of Limerick city, apartments are only viable when delivered as affordable rental schemes. These schemes are also vital to delivering compact growth in line with the Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines which prioritise optimised density and the efficient use of land.

16. Question submitted by Councillor S. Kiely

I will ask at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council for the following information in relation to Mary Street Garda Station following the approval of the Section 183 by this Council: (i) Was a payment made by this Local Authority to the approved purchaser and, if so, how much; (ii) Has feedback been provided by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on the reasons the proposed stabilisation works were not funded under the Historic Structures Fund; (iii) Has any expenditure been incurred to date or procured to carry out works on this property since the Section 183 was approved and, if so, how much and for what works; (iv) What works are planned to be carried out to this property during 2025, the estimated value of same and what will the status of the building be once these works are completed; and (v) Have we considered the future use of this building and explored funding avenues for capital works but also running costs in the future.

REPLY:

The Council has received funding of approximately €200,000 under THRIVE – the Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme - for the King's Island Area of Limerick City. Funding for the project is to support the identification of projects that will promote the conservation and adaptive reuse of our built heritage stock, while at the same time reducing vacancy and dereliction in our town centre. €500,000 has been set aside from the Mayoral Budget to undertake works on Mary Street Garda Station this year. The vision for the building is to establish and seed-fund an initiative in conjunction with LSAD to establish an interactive museum of fashion and fashion incubator to reflect Limerick's strong tradition in clothing and the creativity of our new fashion industry.

A payment was made to the approved purchaser to cover out-of-pocket legal and other fees when they decided to pull out of the original plans, given that there was now a new purpose for the building which would contribute to the City. The amount was €21,145.

The Council has requested and is awaiting feedback from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on the reasons the proposed stabilisation works were not funded under the Historic Structures Fund. Since the Section 183 was approved, €40,503 has been incurred in relation to health and safety works, legal/valuer fees and consultancy fees. A further €102,150 has been incurred in relation to clearance of vegetation, stabilisation of the building and removal of the old roof. In 2025, it is planned to remove/replace the roof and cease water ingress to arrest current deterioration and protect the building for future development. It is estimated that the aforementioned works will be in the region of €400,000.

17. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting for the number of Refuse Collectors who provide a pick-up service in Limerick.

REPLY: At present there are seven different household kerbside waste collections companies operating across the Limerick area providing scheduled waste and recycling collections. The names of the Permit Holders are as follow:-

1. Bord na Móna Recycling Limited
2. Clean (Irl) Refuse & Recycling Co. Unlimited Company
3. Country Clean Recycling Unlimited Company
4. Higgins Environmental Services Ltd.
5. Killarney Waste Disposal Unlimited
6. Pandagreen Ltd.
7. Valcroft Unlimited Company

18. Question submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney

I will ask at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council for the following information in relation to the proposed disposal of 3 and 4 Creagh Lane, Limerick City: (i) What was the valuation of both properties; (ii) following the advertising of these through our Auctioneers, how many persons bid on the properties; (iii) What was the final bid placed on each of the properties; (iv) Bidders have now been advised the sale of these properties has now been suspended with the possibility of them been withdrawn from the market in the coming weeks, please advise the Department of Limerick Council which requested this action and the rationale behind such an action.

REPLY: The potential of these two houses as a possible public amenity was identified and the subject of ongoing public discussion as part of the Thrive consultation. It is considered important to reach a conclusion that there is no public interest in retaining the properties before making a decision as to their future. The proximity of the properties to a key historic building and adjacent lands in the Kings Island area needs careful consideration in any decision made and before ownership of these properties might be lost to the Council.

The houses at 3 and 4 were advertised with a guide prices of €40,000 and €50,000 respectively. Offers were received for both houses individually and together as follows: No. 3 Creagh Lane had 4 bidders and the last bid received before the house was withdrawn from the market was €75,000. No. 4 Creagh Lane had 2 bidders and the last bid received before the house was withdrawn from the market was €55,000. No. 3 and 4 Creagh Lane together had 6 bidders and the last bid before the properties were withdrawn was €255,000. The houses were withdrawn from the market so that their future use could be explored as part of the broader redevelopment to improve amenities and public realm across King's Island and encourage redevelopment in the most historic part of the City.

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

I will ask at the next Meeting of this Council (a) For an annual breakdown of how many inspections on private rented properties, including those rented under HAP and RAS, were carried out by Limerick City and County Council over the past five years from 2021 to 2025; (b) For a breakdown of how many inspections on private rented properties, including those rented under HAP and RAS, led to the issuing of Improvement Notices to landlords over the past five years from 2021 to 2025; (c) For a further breakdown of the issues identified as a result of inspections on private rented properties, including those under HAP and RAS, that led to the issuing of Improvement Notices to landlords over the past five years from 2021 to 2025; (d) How many qualified Technicians are presently employed by Limerick City and County Council to carry out inspections on private rented properties, including those under HAP and RAS.

REPLY:

(a) Annual Breakdown of how many inspections on private rented properties, including those rented under HAP and RAS, were carried out by Limerick City and County Council over the past five years from 2021 to 2025

• **2025 (Up to 30/04/2025)**

There was a total of 1,638 Tenancies Inspected

This includes as follows:

- 82 HAP Tenancies
- 28 RAS Tenancies
- 1,487 Private Tenancies
- 41 Other Tenancies

• **2024**

There was a total of 3,433 Tenancies Inspected

This includes as follows:

- 876 HAP Tenancies
- 156 RAS Tenancies
- 2386 Private Tenancies
- 15 Other Tenancies

Physical Inspections were stood down for a period due to COVID 19 restrictions. 6 Virtual inspections were carried out in 2024.

• **2023**

There was a total of 1,515 Tenancies Inspected

This includes as follows:

- 863 HAP Tenancies
- 276 RAS Tenancies

- 207 Private Tenancies
- 169 Other Tenancies

Physical Inspections were stood down for a period due to COVID 19 restrictions. 294 Virtual Inspections were carried out in 2023.

- **2022**

There was a total of 901 Tenancies Inspected

This includes as follows:

- 581 HAP Tenancies
- 158 RAS Tenancies
- 44 Private Tenancies
- 118 Other Tenancies

Physical Inspections were stood down for a period due to COVID 19 restrictions. 7 Virtual inspections were carried out in 2022.

- **2021 – 208 inspections carried out broken down as follows:**

There was a total of 208 Tenancies Inspected

This includes as follows:

- 124 HAP Tenancies
- 81 RAS Tenancies
- 3 Private Tenancies

(b) Breakdown of on how many inspections on private rented properties, including those rented under HAP and RAS, led to the issuing of Improvement Notices to landlords over the past five years from 2021 to 2025

- **2025 up to 30/04/2025**

There was a total of 0 Improvement Notices issued and 414 Improvement Letters issued to landlords on private rented properties including properties rented under HAP and RAS

- **2024**

There was a total of 0 Improvement Notices issued and 1,366 Improvement Letters issued to landlords on private rented properties including properties rented under HAP and RAS

- **2023**

There was a total of 0 Improvement Notices issued and 1,084 Improvement Letters issued to landlords on private rented properties including properties rented under HAP and RAS

- **2022**

There was a total of 10 Improvement Notices issued and 689 Improvement Letters issued to landlords on private rented properties including properties rented under HAP and RAS

- **2021**

There was a total of 7 Improvement Notices issued and 379 Improvement Letters issued to landlords on private rented properties including properties rented under HAP and RAS

(c) Breakdown of the issues identified as a result of inspections of private rented properties, including those under HAP and RAS that led to the issuing of Improvement Notices to landlords over the past five years from 2021 to 2025

- **2025 – Up to 30/04/2025**

212 - Structural Non-Compliant

89 - Sanitary Non-Compliant

57 – Heat

41 – Food Preparation

100 – Ventilation

34 – Lighting

100 – Fire

18 – Refuse

388 – Gas & Electrical

27 – General Information

- **2024**

1,222 - Structural Non-Compliant

256 - Sanitary Non-Compliant

732 – Heat

373 – Food Preparation

612 – Ventilation

151 – Lighting

754 – Fire

76 – Refuse

1,267 – Gas & Electrical

1,008 – General Information

- **2023**

1,111 - Structural Non-Compliant

210 - Sanitary Non-Compliant

732 – Heat
 347 – Food Preparation
 620 – Ventilation
 126 – Lighting
 826 – Fire
 75 – Refuse
 1,162 – Gas & Electrical
 879 – General Information

- **2022**

624 - Structural Non-Compliant
 145 - Sanitary Non-Compliant
 414 – Heat
 237 – Food Preparation
 365 – Ventilation
 100 – Lighting
 491 – Fire
 23 – Refuse
 623 – Gas & Electrical
 582 – General Information

- **2021**

144 - Structural Non-Compliant
 33 - Sanitary Non-Compliant
 101 – Heat
 72 – Food Preparation
 95 – Ventilation
 16 – Lighting
 124 – Fire
 5 – Refuse
 168 – Gas & Electrical
 153 – General Information

(d) How many qualified Technicians are presently employed by Limerick City and County Council to carry out inspections on private rented properties, including those under HAP and RAS?

The full staff complement in the Private Rented Inspection Team comprises of the following staff:

4 Technicians and 4 Co-Op Students

Owing to staff promotions, inter local authority transfers, retirements etc. the current staff complement is reduced to 1 Technician, 1 Assistant Supervisor, 1 Assistant Staff Officer and 3 Co-Op Students to carry out inspections on private rented properties,

including those under HAP and RAS. We are actively engaging with the Human Resources Department of Limerick City and County Council to recruit additional staff to ensure the Team is at its maximum complement.

NOTICES OF MOTION

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor P. Doyle

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council write to Iarnród Éireann/Irish Rail requesting that they investigate the purchase of land adjacent to Annacotty Business Park and the Castleconnell rail line. This would provide an urban train station linking the Annacotty Business Park with Castleconnell, Birdhill and Nenagh and Colbert Station Limerick. Over 3,000 people work in the Annacotty Business Park and this train station would greatly assist employees coming and going to work and reduce congestion on our roads.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Doyle asked for the figure of 3,000, in relation to the number of people working in Annacotty Business Park, to be amended to 2,000. This was agreed.

The amended Motion was seconded by Councillor Pond.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next meeting of Limerick City and County Council that this Council call on the Government to enact legislation to prohibit the use of smartphones (mobile phones with access to internet and social media) among youths under 16 years of age.

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

Members welcomed the Motion and highlighted the need to protect children from the dangers of smartphones.

It was agreed that the Motion would be circulated to all Local Authorities for support.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Beasley (to be referred to the Community, Leisure, Arts, Heritage and Culture Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council promote The Sunflower representing hidden disabilities across Limerick City and County.

It was agreed to refer this Motion to the Community, Leisure, Arts, Heritage and Culture Strategic Policy Committee.

23. 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 Housing, Local Government and Heritage, James Browne, TD, to amend the Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme 2016/S.I. No. 619/2023, to allow tenants to purchase their Council house after a period of five years and not a ten-year period as is currently required.

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

It was agreed that the Motion would be circulated to All Local Authorities for support.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council call on the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to change the current policy in relation to changing the use of a commercial premises, office, shop etc. to residential. At present you have to leave a premises completely idle for a minimum of 2 years, to gain an exemption in planning when you convert the premises. This barrier should be removed in a housing crisis. We want to bring these premises back in to use as soon as possible.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Ruddle and seconded by Councillor Keary.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by the Members of the Metropolitan District of Limerick

We will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council call on the Mayor to request the National Transport Authority to address the Metropolitan Members.

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

The Mayor agreed to write to the National Transport Authority.

26. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council call on the Government and Minister for Health, Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, TD, to take decisive action to deliver a new ED hospital for Limerick and the Mid-West region.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Secas and seconded by Councillor Reale.

Members stressed the need for a second Emergency Department in Limerick and they were of the view that a full review of the operations system within the Emergency Department was required.

27. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that our Authority liaise with the Refuse Operators servicing Limerick users with a view to making the offering provided more environmentally-friendly.

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

REPLY: Under the current legislation, authorised waste collectors are required to provide a three bin system to all their customers, but there is no way of restricting the number of collectors in any one area under this system. A year-long study has been commissioned by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications on the “Feasibility of Transitioning Ireland's Waste Collection Market from its Current Side by Side Licensing System to a Franchise Tendering System.” The independent study has just commenced and the scope includes environmental assessment of transport modelling and a four-week public consultation on all aspects of the study has just commenced as per the link below:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-the-environment-climate-and-communications/consultations/public-consultation-on-the-feasibility-of-transitioning-irelands-waste-collection-market-from-its-current-side-by-side-licensing-system-to-a-franchise-tendering-system/>

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

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council request that the Ardagh Chalice be loaned from the National Museum of Ireland to Limerick to be put on display as an attraction for the duration of the Ryder Cup.

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

Members welcomed the Motion and, during discussions, suggested that all artefacts related to Limerick should be brought back to be displayed in Limerick.

29. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Ryan

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council would install an averaging speed camera system on a trial basis, for example, in a village like Elton, on a regional road. This should be on a benefit analysis basis as a method to reduce speed while monitoring cost comparison, overall environmental and safety benefits for a community.

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

REPLY: There are currently trials being undertaken nationally with respect to fixed speed cameras on both National and Regional Roads. Upon completion of these trials, the process and requirements with respect to the positioning of these cameras shall be examined.

Members expressed their disappointment at the response as it referred to fixed speed cameras rather than averaging speed cameras and queried if the averaging speed cameras could be installed on a trial basis.

The A/Director of Transportation and Mobility agreed to write to the appropriate authorities requesting that Limerick be considered in trialling averaging speed cameras.

The Members were reminded that it was a Policing function to issue speeding fines.

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

I will move at the next Meeting of this Council that this Council look to establish an office of a Youth Mayor.

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

REPLY: Having regard to existing structures and legislation, the Council commits to exploring how to enhance the voice of youth already represented through Comhairle na nÓg, and other youth representative groups in Limerick, with the purpose of exploring the establishment of an office of Youth Mayor.

31. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor U. Gavan

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council liaise with the Department of Housing and the Government calling for the restoration of the No Fault Eviction as the housing emergency spirals out of control and building targets fail to be met.

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

32. Correspondence

The Correspondence circulated with the agenda was taken as read.

The Príomh Chomhairleoir reminded the Members that the Protocol Committee is a democratic committee consisting of all Party Leaders and any Member could make recommendations or amendments to any matters raised at Protocol Committee.

The Members thanked all those involved in the recent Famine Commemoration event in Kilmallock and paid tribute to the community of Kilmallock for all their hard work.

The Príomh Chomhairleoir stated that this was his last meeting as Príomh Chomhairleoir and thanked the Members and Staff for their help and contribution over the past year.

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:
