



Meeting of Limerick City and County Council to be held on Monday, 14th July, 2025.

Question submitted by Councillor E.Secas

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Council, further to Housing Minister James Browne's call to all City and County Council CEOs (Limerick Director General) for immediate reviews and updates of local development plans to align with the forthcoming revised National Planning Framework, stressing the need to identify deliverable housing sites with access to infrastructure, if Limerick City and County Council is going to start the review process of its Development Plan immediately instead of waiting until 2026

Reply:

Minister Browne's letter (May 2025) to all Chief Executives signalled his intention to issue further policy direction following approval of the Revised National Planning Framework (NPF), to include updated housing growth requirements for each local authority to replace the current Housing Supply Targets. To date the housing growth requirements for Local Authorities have not been published. These revised figures are required by the Local Authority to assess the quantum of existing zoned land relative to revised Housing Supply Targets, and to determine where adequate lands are zoned or not.

In addition, the Planning and Development Act 2024 was signed into law on the 17 October 2024, as per Section 42 of the new Act the next development plan will cover a 10 year period. Part 3 of the Act "Plans Policies and Related Matters" which sets the legislative framework for the review and making of a Development Plan has yet to commence but is expected to commence in the coming months.

Finally, the Section 28, Development Plan Guidelines for Planning Authorities recommend that the preparatory work begin up to one year prior to the formal commencement of the plan review. This preparatory non-statutory work has now commenced and encompasses significant workloads, including for example the surveying of all settlements, the gathering and analysis of data and cross sector engagement, the drafting of the Baseline Report, Issues Papers, and working papers for the Core Strategy and all chapters of the Written Statement, Housing Strategy, Retail Strategy, Economic Strategy, Building Heights Strategy, the carrying out of the review of the Record of Protected Structures and the drafting of Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and the scoping of Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment.

Signed:

Date:

10/7/2025

Carmel Brislane
Senior Executive Planner
Forward Planning, Planning & Place-Making Directorate



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MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, 14th July, 2025.

Question submitted by E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting of Limerick Council if this Council has liaised with Irish Rail or is aware of the PSDP for the re-opening of the Limerick to Foynes rail track with a focus on hazard identification and safety as the rail track runs through residential areas and estates in Limerick.

Reply:

All aspects of safety associated with the re-opening of the Foynes to Limerick Railway (including statutory responsibilities & appointments) are the responsibility of Irish Rail.

Where the rail interacts with roads infrastructure we have had engagement with the Irish Rail project team since the earliest stages and have fed back our views to their team.

If there are any particular concerns on these areas of interaction at roads infrastructure this should be brought to the attention of the relevant District Engineer & we will address these with Irish Rail if necessary.

**Hugh McGrath, A/D.O.S.,
Travel & Transport Strategy,
Transportation & Mobility Directorate,
10th July 2025.**



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Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services

Limerick City and County Council

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Question submitted by Councillor J. O'Donoghue

I will ask at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council, in relation to wind farms, is there an evaluation on health impacts when investigating complaints about noise and shadow flicker.

Response:

Noise Limits for windfarms are set to mitigate potential negative impacts on nearby receptors. The limits stipulated under the planning grant are aimed to minimise annoyance, sleep disturbance and other health issues associated with excessive noise exposure. The Council assesses wind turbine noise levels against relevant conditions granted under planning, best practice and guidance where available. (E.g. Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006; Environmental Noise Guidelines, 2018; Draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines, 2019) Where wind farm noise is considered to be unsatisfactory the Council has a variety of enforcement actions it can take under the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended and the Environmental Protection Act 1992 as amended.

Cathal Brodie SES

Aidan Finn SE

July 10th 2025.

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Meeting of Limerick City and County Council to be held on Monday, 14th July, 2025.

Question submitted by Councillor S. Hickey-O'Mara

I will ask at the next meeting of Limerick City and County Council for an update on plans for the Men's Mental Health Campaign which received full cross-party support at last November's Meeting of this Council.

REPLY:

While the delivery of a Men's Mental Health Campaign is outside the exclusive remit of Limerick City and County Council there are numerous projects being supported by the Council that engage men of all ages, and either directly or indirectly support men's mental health.

Listed below is some of the Mental Health Initiatives engaged with by Limerick City and County Council's Integration, Health & Wellbeing team, this year to date. We are also working with Limerick Mental Health Association, in the preparation of an itinerary of events to mark Limerick Mental Health Week which is happening from October 7th to 13th, 2025.

Projects 2025:

Buddy Bench Initiative, Social Health & Education Programmes x 5, Healthy Relationships Programme, Healthy Plate - Healthy You, Island Gardens Project, Oak Lodge Community Kitchen, Greenway Wellness Events x 5, International Soccer Competition, O'Brien Park enhancements, SALAAM project.

Signed By:-

Anne Rizzo
A/Senior Executive Officer
Community Development



MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, 14th July, 2025.

Question submitted by Councillor M. Donoghue

I will ask at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council for the projected Per Cent for Art budget that will be delivered for Limerick City and County through the current Active Travel Capital Projects at all stages.

Response:

Thank you for your question regarding the Per Cent for Art budget allocated for the Active Travel Capital Projects in Limerick City and County.

I would like to highlight some of the notable artwork that has been integrated into our Active Travel initiatives, including the installations on the Pa Healy Bridge and the railway bridge on Childers Road. These projects reflect our commitment to enhancing public spaces through art.

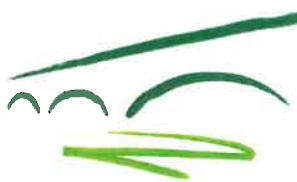
Active Travel is actively exploring opportunities to incorporate more art into our future projects.

To provide further context, the investment bands and limits effective from January 1, 2020, are as follows:

Projects below €5,000,000: 1% of the project cost, with a maximum of €50,000 (1% of upper limit).

- Projects between €5,000,000 and €20,000,000: 1% of the project cost, with a maximum of €125,000 (1% at median).
- Projects between €20,000,000 and €50,000,000: 1% of the project cost, with a maximum of €350,000 (1% at median).
- Projects exceeding €50,000,000: Up to €500,000, calculated as 1% of the lower level scale, decreasing as project sizes increase.

Active Travel is allocated approx. €20m each year made up of over 20no projects ranging from €10,000 to €3m



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**Sean McGlynn, A/S.E.,
Active Travel,
Transportation & Mobility Directorate.
10th July 2025**

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Question submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney

I will ask at the next meeting of Limerick City and County Council for a full breakdown of the number of applications received under the Maintenance of Open Spaces Grant Scheme, the average allocation per applicant and the total allocation to this scheme under the 2025 Budget.

Response:

The Council operates an annual Maintenance of Open Spaces Grant Scheme, where communities can apply to the Council for a maintenance grant to maintain their respective green spaces. There were fifty five grants paid to date for 2025.

The breakdown for each of the Districts and average allocation is as follows:

Metropolitan Area – 17 community groups - Average allocation €1,034.52

Adare Rathkeale – 9 community groups - Average allocation €1,069.55

Cappamore Kilmallock – 15 community groups - Average allocation €1,010

Newcastle West – 13 community groups – Average allocation €1,012.53

Total Allocation €55,226, an increase of approximately €14,000 on 2024.

Aidan Finn
Senior Engineer
11 July 2025



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Meeting of Limerick City and County Council to be held on Monday 14th July 2025

Question submitted by Councillor Dan McSweeney

I will ask at the next meeting of Limerick City and County Council for a full breakdown of the number of applications received under the Burial Ground Maintenance Grants Scheme, the allocation per applicant and the total allocation to this scheme under the 2025 Budget.

REPLY:

Limerick City and County Council distributed application forms to 127 Community Groups who maintain 192 burial grounds throughout Limerick City and County on 9th June last with a closing date of 5th August to return the applications. The budget for 2025 is €153,000, which covers both the Maintenance Grants and Annual Awards to Community Groups.

- In 2024, 132 Community Groups maintained 195 burial grounds.**
- The budget was €116,000.**
- Each group were awarded €450 per burial ground.**
- 22 burial grounds had previously been maintained by Community Employment Scheme, which ceased operations at the end of 2023**
- Grants amounting to €2,500 were awarded to assist new groups with set up costs where necessary to maintain these burial grounds**
- €22,350 was expended on the Annual Awards to Community Groups.**

**Aidan Finn,
Senior Engineer**

Date: 9th July 2025