

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MERCHANT'S QUAY, LIMERICK AND ONLINE ON MONDAY, 21ST JULY, 2025 at 9.45 A.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor D. Butler

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors Beasley, Daly, Donoghue, Doyle, Gavan, Hartigan, Hickey-O'Mara, Kiely, Kilcoyne, Leddin, McSweeney, O'Donovan, O'Hanlon, O'Sullivan, Pond, Reale, Slattery and Talukder.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director of Service, Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services (Mr. K. Lehane), Meetings Administrator (Ms. A. Foley), Senior Executive Officer, Metropolitan District (Ms. S. Reidy), Head of Property Management (Ms. J. Leahy), Night Time Economy Advisor (Mr. C. Power), Administrative Officer, Tourism (Mr. E. Crimmins), Director, Planning and Place-Making (Mr. V. Murray), Senior Planner (Ms. N. O'Connell), Senior Executive Engineer, Development Management and Place-Making (Mr. M. Foley), Senior Executive Officer, Housing (Ms. S. Newell), A/Senior Engineer, Travel and Transport Strategy (Ms. N. McGarry), Executive Planner, Travel and Transport Strategy (Ms. K. McDonnell), Assistant Arts Officer (Ms. S. O'Farrell), Administrative Officer, Environment and Climate Action (Ms. S. Hourigan), Senior Engineer, Active Travel (Mr. S. McGlynn), Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Ms. S. Carroll).

Apologies for her inability to attend were received from Councillor E. Secas.

At the outset of the Meeting, the Cathaoirleach and Members extended their condolences to the following:

- The family of Michael J. Ryan, former Staff Member of Limerick Corporation / Limerick City Council, who had passed away recently.
- Ms. Karen Burke, Rural Development Department on the passing of her mother Margaret Burke.

1. Adoption of Minutes

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 16th June, 2025.

Proposed by Councillor McSweeney;
Seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon;
And Resolved:

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

- (b) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 23rd June, 2025.

Proposed by Councillor McSweeney;
Seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon;
And Resolved:

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

2. Declaration of Interest

The Meetings Administrator stated that, in line with Part 15 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, and the Code of Conduct, she was inviting those present to notify the Cathaoirleach of any declaration of interest in any item due for discussion at the Meeting. No such interests were declared.

3. Disposal of Land

- (a) Circulated, Report of the Head of Property Management dated 7th July, 2025, setting out proposals for Disposal of Commercial Freehold Interest in property at Moore’s Lane, Lelia Street, Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

- (b) Circulated, Report of the Head of Property Management dated 20th June, 2025, setting out proposals for Disposal of 37 Churchfield, O’Malley Park, Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

4. Limerick City Centre

(a) Presentation on Night Time Economy Plan

The Night Time Economy Advisor, with the aid of a presentation, gave an update to Members on the Night Time Economy Plan for Limerick City. He referred to the Plan as a clear vision for the night economy in Limerick, which aims to support businesses, residents and visitors.

The Night Time Economy Advisor outlined the following plans for Twilight Thursday, noting how this initiative has grown month on month since its initial launch:

- Two editions of Twilight Thursday had been successfully implemented with the next edition to take place on 31st July.
- Partnerships had been acquired with Uber and FreeNow which would make the city centre more accessible for Twilight Thursday dates.
- Implementation of national Night Time Economy Initiative ‘Café Lates’, which would see later opening and activation of cafes within the city centre.
- Promotion of “have a night out on” The Limerick Gift Card campaign began, with plans for a larger marketing campaign to follow, subject to sufficient budget.
- Launch of Night Time Walking Routes with the promotion and animation of The Three Bridges route.
- A cohesive brand identity and message for Limerick at Night and Twilight Thursday had been created.

He also outlined that in the coming months it is intended to launch the national Night Time

Economy 'Safe and Sound' Campaign and the 'Leave a Light On' campaign in the run up to Christmas.

It was agreed to circulate the presentation and a copy of the Night Time Economy Plan to Members.

Members thanked the Night Time Economy Advisor for the presentation and welcomed the success of Twilight Thursday and the large number of events being held on these dates.

In response to the Members' queries of safety at night, the Night Time Economy Advisor advised that there is continuous engagement with An Gardaí Shíochána, noting that extra Gardaí are deployed to the streets for Twilight Thursday to increase safety in the city.

During the course of the discussion, Members queried if August Activation had been finalised and requested that a list of road closures would be circulated. The Members were informed that the Summer Activation Programme was being finalised and would be circulated to Members once agreed.

(b) **Presentation on Christmas in Limerick 2025**

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that this item would be deferred to a future meeting.

5. Community Initiative Scheme 2025 - General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

Circulated, Report of the Administrative Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services dated 9th July, 2025, in relation to an amendment under the Community Initiative Scheme 2025 – General Municipal Allocations (GMA).

It was proposed by Councillor McSweeney, seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon, and agreed to approve the change of name for the funding allocation from Castlerock Residents Committee to Castlerock Housing Development.

6. Planning and Place-Making Directorate

Part 8 Procedure – Market Quarter and Cruises Street Public Realm Project

The Mayor's Report prepared in accordance with Section 179(3)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended), in respect of the Market Quarter and Cruises Street Public Realm Project, was circulated to the Elected Members for consideration on the 16th July 2025.

The Senior Executive Engineer, Development Management and Place-Making, gave an outlined presentation to the Members on the proposed scheme.

He outlined that the Market Quarter and Cruise's Street was identified as a key project within the Limerick Development Plan for the purpose of providing a high-quality public realm, improving connectivity between the Milk Market and key locations within the city centre, noting this was to support both the daytime and night time economies. The Senior Executive Engineer informed the Elected Members that the Place-Making Team collaborated closely with all relevant Departments within Limerick City and County Council, on the development of the scheme. He further noted that

extensive public consultation had taken place, including meetings with key stakeholders of the scheme and the Elected Members of the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

Following a discussion on the project, whereby a number of Members indicated support for the scheme, clarifications were provided by the Place-Making Team on technical aspects of the scheme and the associated Part 8 process.

The Mayor's Report, as circulated, was approved with no modifications, as proposed by Councillor Dan McSweeney and seconded by Councillor Sarah Kiely.

QUESTIONS

7. Question submitted by Councillor U. Gavan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick if Limerick City and County Council has considered an outdoor seating rebate for outlets which prescribe to a living wage in a move to encourage outdoor dining/investment and living wage coupled with encouraging late night activity in our local economy.

REPLY: The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, James Browne, confirmed that the Government intends to waive the €125 per table per year fee for businesses such as restaurants, cafes, pubs and hotels that place tables and chairs on public roads or footpaths for outdoor dining.

The Council has not introduced a specific rebate or incentive scheme that links outdoor seating licences or supports to businesses that pay a living wage. While the Council supports outdoor dining through fee waivers and infrastructure improvements, the adoption of living wage policies falls under national pay frameworks. As such, the Council does not currently have discretion to implement wage-based incentives or conditions for licence rebates.

8. Question submitted by Councillor S. Beasley

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for the figures for the total number of Notice to Quits that the Housing Department is currently handling.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council has been operating the tenant in situ scheme since April 2023. To date, Limerick City and County Council have been notified of 906 NTQs. Please see current breakdown below, as at 11/07/25:

Category	Cumulative to date
Tenant Notification to Council – where a tenant contacts Limerick City and County Council regarding NTQ (that meet eligibility criteria, should funding become available)	42
Proposals being reviewed	25
Sale Agreed	11
Purchase Completed	150
Withdrawn - e.g., Main reasons - vendor not accepting offer based on independent valuation or presence of deleterious material in property (e.g., pyrite) or Fire Safety issues	557
Owner Reoccupying - Notice of Termination comes into the Council – however owner or family member wishes to reside in property	55
Income above social housing limit (i.e., Cost Rental Tenant in Situ)	66
Grand Total	906

9. Question submitted by Councillor S. Beasley

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for a follow up on the progress of my motion from the October 2024 meeting which was passed by the Councillors: "That Limerick City and County Council agree to source more hostel beds for individual homeless people".

REPLY: The Council works with all service providers on a daily basis to ensure the usage and the management of hostel bed capacity/temporary supported accommodation for individuals is run in an efficient and well organised manner.

An additional 8 emergency hostels beds will come on stream in Quarter 3 2025.

Limerick Homeless Action team continues in its efforts to review existing and additional hostel capacity in conjunction with our HSE partners and other stakeholders.

10. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the use of the Go-Car share scheme spaces in the City Centre area now that the service has been withdrawn.

REPLY: Travel & Transport Strategy are currently in the procurement process (out to tender) for a Licenced Service Provider to operate a Car Club scheme for the Limerick City & Environs area. A review of future uses of the existing Go-Car spaces will be carried once an Operation Plan is assessed and agreed between Limerick City & County Council and any preferred tenderer.

11. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the taking in charge of Ard Thomain, Sli Na Manach in Mungret as this estate is over 12 years old and requires road infrastructure.

REPLY: The Council has issued a snag list of works required to bring the development up to the required taking-in-charge standard, and the Council and developer are in ongoing discussions about necessary development works.

12. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the 800m shared cycle/pedestrian path with public lighting along the Rosbrien Road from the railway track to Old Crescent Rugby Club that this Council received funding to deliver in 2022.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council were not in a position to drawdown previous allocated funding on this matter. Active Travel will liaise with Operations & Maintenance and the National Transport Authority in relation to the preparation of a new application for funding for this project and update members if successful.

13. Question submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the Ballysimon Road active travel scheme and the timeframe for its delivery, including the pedestrian crossing at Garryglass Roundabout.

REPLY: We are currently developing plans for improved walking and cycle facilities along Ballysimon Road from its junction with Garryglass Roundabout to the Childers Road, including pedestrian crossings at Garryglass Roundabout.

Plans are at preliminary stage and have been submitted to the NTA for review and comment and to pass through their project appraisal guidelines.

Active Travel are anticipating going to public consultation in Q4 2025.

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

I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for clarity on the future of the bus stop outside the Limerick Baptist Church, Old Cratloe Road. Will this bus stop, which serves the 302, be preserved as part of the Old Cratloe Road Active Travel Scheme.

REPLY: Yes, the existing bus stop outside of the Limerick Baptist Church, Old Cratloe Road will be retained as part of the Old Cratloe Road Active Travel Scheme.

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

I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick if, given the plans for forthcoming 'August Activations' throughout the city, the Council plans to increase the provision

of public toilets to serve the expected increase in the number of people to locations outlined as part of this project? If so, where will these additional public toilets be located.

REPLY: It would be the responsibility of the event management company procured to animate the city centre during August to determine if additional public toilets are required for any elements of the August Animations. The Festivals & Events Unit are working on the planning of August Animations with the procured event management company at present and will ask them to factor this into their preparations and budget.

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

I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District:

- (a) How often was the Council contacted to remove roadkill in the Metropolitan area over the past 5 years.***
- (b) If any roadkill blackspots have been identified by the Council as a result.***
- (c) Whether the Council records the species of animal when removing roadkill in the Metropolitan area.***
- (d) Were there any significant increases/decreases in the number of animals removed per month i.e. are there times of the year that saw an increase or decrease in roadkill.***
- (e) How is this roadkill disposed of once removed.***

REPLY:

- (a) The Council's complaints system does not have a service option for small dead animals which can be searched and result in definitive data, however the Customer Service Team has conducted a search of the CRM system for the years 2020 to 2025 which shows approximately 101 reports of dead animals on roads requiring removal. The actual amount of roadkill is probably higher.
- (b) No particular roadkill blackspots have been identified but they tend to occur on heavily trafficked routes.
- (c) The 101 reports referred to above include 12 reports of dead dogs, 8 reports of dead cats, 1 report of a dead bird, 28 reports of dead foxes and 7 reports of other animals of unrecorded species.
- (d) Roadkill occurs throughout the year, no significant increases/decreases per month have been noted.
- (e) Roadkill is disposed of as general waste which is processed by a waste management company.

17. Question submitted by Councillor P. Reale

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the implementation of bye laws for busking including a timeline for introduction.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council Street Performance and Busker Bye – Laws 2025 were signed and sealed on the 3rd July last, and are in force since that date. An Garda Síochána, Henry Street, The Law Society, and the relevant Ministers have been officially advised of the bye-law making and commencement. Furthermore, the making of the bye-laws and commencement notice will be advertised in local newspapers and published in *Iris Oifigiúil*. The bye-laws are available on the Limerick City and County Council website.

<https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/environment-and-climate-action/environmental-control/noise-nuisance>

18. Question submitted by Councillor P. Reale

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on what discussions are ongoing with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in relation to the wind down of the Economic & Social Intervention Fund in Limerick and what discussions are happening in relation to identifying an alternative funding stream to support these communities who benefit from these funds.

REPLY: The Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan (LRFIP) was launched in 2013, which was a ten-year programme to deliver on social, economic and physical objectives. Post-2023, the Regeneration, Sports & Recreation Directorate has continued to deliver on the objectives outlined within the Plan with the continued support of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH).

The DHLGH gave guidance via letter on the 9th of May 2025, that the Economic and Social Intervention Fund (ESIF) funded by their Department, is set to wind down with a final tranche of funding to be granted in 2028. The Regeneration, Sports & Recreation Directorate replied via letter on the 19th of May 2025 to appeal this decision. The Regeneration, Sports & Recreation Directorate continues to regularly meet and engage with Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage officials regarding ESIF and on developing and progressing new capital projects. Staff have also briefed the Oireachtas Members on the status of the Economic & Social Intervention Fund who in turn will engage with the relevant Minister in this regard.

Within the Regeneration, Sports & Recreation Directorate, the social regeneration team works with agencies, service providers, and community groups on an ongoing basis to identify opportunities for collaboration, coordination, and funding.

19. Question submitted by Councillor M. Donoghue

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick how many fines have been issued in 2024 and to end-June 2025 for failure to comply with waste management bye-laws, both in relation to domestic waste and commercial waste. Also, what revenues have these fines raised for LCCC in 2024 and to end-June 2025.

REPLY: A total of **392** fines were issued by the Domestic Waste and Litter team and the Commercial Waste team between 1st January 2024 and 30th June 2025. A total of **€23,130** was collected from these fines.

20. Question submitted by Councillor M. Donoghue

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the cost for 2024 Riverfest, specifically pertaining to the Festival Village cost of €144,211.35, is broken down on a detailed and itemised basis.

REPLY: The Riverfest village is the anchor event for Riverfest attracting in excess of 60,000 patrons over the 4 days of the bank holiday weekend. The Village offers an unparalleled opportunity for vendors to showcase their produce. The Village offers free entry and entertainment, fantastic food and craft all within the safe and fun surrounds of Arthurs Quay right in the heart of the city, providing significant temporary employment over the weekend. The expenditure budget for Riverfest Festival Village 2024 is as follows:

Riverfest 2024 Festival Village	
Item	Amount ex.vat
Timber Cabins	€17,600.00
Furniture - and seating	€4,500.00
Bandstand	€2,450.00
Fencing - Heras, CCCB's - Arthurs Quay	€1,400.00
Transport of barriers	€2,750.00
Toilets - Chemical, wheelchair, urinals & hand sanitizers	€2,800.00
Toilets serviced	€1,650.00
Sound for bandstand	€5,850.00
Lighting for staging area	€950.00
Site Office	€1,150.00
Fire fighting equipment	€900.00
Equipment plant and Machinery	€1,950.00
Water installation and HSE Requirements for market	€1,700.00
EHO Request - Statutory water tanks IBC & servicing	€550.00
Drape	€950.00
Digital billboard signage	€2,600.00
Water installation and HSE Requirements for market	€1,050.00
Signage general	€1,950.00
Generators, cabling, lighting, Power, Electrician	€12,145.00
Entertainment	€17,200.00
Security	€18,950.00
H&S	€6,250.00
Counter, control, data	€9,950.00
Total ex vat.	€117,245.00
Vat at 23%	€26,966.35
Total	€144,211.35

21. Question submitted by Councillor M. Donoghue

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick what the future plans are for No. 58 O'Connell Street, the building formerly occupied by Narrative 4 and now sitting vacant.

REPLY: Part 8 Planning Permission has been obtained for the development of the building at 58 O'Connell Street. The Council is currently seeking a source of funding for the development.

The roof of the building is in need of improvement works and contractors are currently on site carrying out repairs to the roof structure.

NOTICES OF MOTION

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council consider converting the green area outside the Glasgow Park houses into additional car parking spaces, given there is plenty of green space already in the area.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Slattery, seconded by Councillor Kiely and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Slattery stated that she had been contacted by residents in Glasgow Park due to insufficient parking in the estate. She highlighted that some of the green space in the estate was not being maintained, noting that converting these spaces into car parking would make the area more attractive.

REPLY: Thank you for your suggestion regarding the potential conversion of the green area outside the Glasgow Park houses into additional car parking spaces.

A review of the existing car parking provision within the estate will be undertaken. This review will be carried out in accordance with the car parking standards set out in the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028. The purpose of the review is to determine whether the current parking provision meets the applicable standards and to assess if any additional provision is required. If the area is deemed to warrant additional car parking provision then a budget would need to be provided for any proposed works

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick can Limerick City and County Council write to the Minister for Health for an update on the review of Emeis Ireland - previously known as Orpea, that was to be initiated immediately following the documentary on private nursing homes aired on RTE on the 5th June 2025 to address all issues.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Slattery highlighted the distress caused to families following the documentary. She emphasised the need to enact the Adult Safeguarding Bill.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council introduce a reduced speed limit from 50km to 30km on the Ballinacurra Road and O'Connell Avenue to align with the new 30km limit in the city centre.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Leddin emphasised the need to consider reducing the speed limit in this residential area, noting that the proposed South Circular Road Active Travel Scheme could result in increased traffic volumes on the Ballinacurra Road.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council will be conducting a comprehensive review of speed limits across the city and county following the publication of new national 'Guidelines', *The Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland*, by the Department of Transport. As part of this review, the Council will assess whether a 30 km/h speed limit is appropriate for Ballinacurra Road and O'Connell Avenue. This assessment will consider the suitability of such a limit in the context of the updated national guidelines and the specific characteristics of these roads.

Members supported the Motion and highlighted the need to provide a budget for traffic calming.

The Senior Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing confirmed that Members would be briefed during the review process of speed limits across the city and county. He also agreed to revert to Members in relation to the figure submitted for traffic calming in last year's budget.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor U. Gavan

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council support an artistic campaign for Post Office Lane and Todd's Bow.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Gavan referred to a similar artistic project recently carried out in Dublin. She noted that such an initiative would be positive for the laneways and surrounding areas.

REPLY: The arts office will proactively liaise with internal and external stakeholders with regards to an artistic campaign for Post Office Lane and Todd's Bow. We will investigate to determine the scope and objectives of the artistic campaign, and determine what support we can reasonably offer within existing resources.

26. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Beasley

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council write to the Minister for Housing, that children who are languishing in emergency accommodation for longer than 6 months, should be entitled to counselling. Funding must be made available as down the line these children could have mental health issues.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Beasley referred to the large number of children in emergency accommodation and the long term effect this can have on them.

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

I will move at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for this Council to liaise with Laurel Hill, St. Clements, Scoil Mhathair De and An Mhodh Scoil for a designated school drop off and pick up area to accommodate students as vehicular traffic is causing significant safety issues on South Circular Road/O'Connell Ave and other roads close to these schools.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor O'Donovan referred to the large number of students travelling to schools in the area and the importance of having the correct infrastructure in place. She stressed the need to consult with all stakeholders.

REPLY: Thank you for your Notice of Motion regarding the urgent need for a designated drop-off and pick-up area for students at Laurel Hill, St. Clements, Scoil Mhathair De, and An Mhodh Scoil.

Active Travel acknowledges the safety concerns raised due to increased vehicular traffic on South Circular Road, O'Connell Avenue, and surrounding areas.

As part of the construction works and proposed design, the project manager for the South Circular Road (SCR) will liaise with the respective schools to discuss construction works.

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

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council consider installing a disabled parking space in the Go-Car space outside the Strand Hotel, now that the Go-Car service has been withdrawn.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor O'Donovan stated that the installation of a disabled parking space outside the Strand Hotel would be welcomed, highlighting the need for additional accessible parking in that area.

REPLY: Travel & Transport Strategy are currently in the procurement process (out to tender) for a Licenced Service Provider to operate a Car Club scheme for the Limerick City & Environs area. A review of future uses of the existing Go-Car spaces including the space currently in existence outside the Strand Hotel will be carried once an Operation Plan is assessed and agreed between Limerick City & County Council and any preferred tenderer.

29. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillors S. Kiely and D. McSweeney

We will move at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that we examine the

rollout of a Home Improvement Grant Scheme for Social Housing Tenants of Limerick City and County Council in the Metropolitan District in advance of Budget 2026.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor McSweeney, seconded by Councillor Kiely and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor McSweeney referred to the Pilot Scheme previously rolled out in the Newcastle West area. He highlighted the benefits of providing a home improvement grant for social housing tenants, noting works could be carried out more efficiently, and thereby ensuring better living conditions.

REPLY: There is currently no Home Improvement Grant Scheme available for Social Housing Tenants of Limerick City and County Council. There was however, a Pilot scheme in operation in the Newcastle West area in 2022 and the uptake for the pilot was low among local authority housing tenants. However, we will review the operation of the pilot scheme and prepare a county wide proposal for the next SPC. Any funding allocation can then be considered as part of the budgetary process.

Councillor Kiely requested that data be circulated in relation to the Pilot Scheme that had previously operated in the Newcastle West area.

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

I will move at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council plant a row of trees along the road between the Tesco Roundabout and the entrance to Ferndale which will act as a carbon offset for the Coonagh-Knockalisheen Distributor Road, improve air quality for local residents, absorb noise pollution, and increase privacy for residents living in Ferndale.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Hickey-O'Mara stated that the planting of trees in the area would greatly benefit residents. He referred to a project in Thomondgate where mature trees were recently planted.

REPLY: An extensive landscaping plan is included in the Coonagh to Knockalisheen Road Project which includes the provision of over 3,000 trees. There is an existing gas main located in the grass verge between the road and footpath in the section referred to above at the Tesco Roundabout which would make it unsuitable for tree planting.

Councillor Hickey-O'Mara requested that alternative locations would also be looked at and it was agreed to revert to Members in this regard.

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

I will move at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council write to Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, James Lawless, stating that this District condemn the Government's plans to reinstate the €3,000 college contribution fee for students given the increased financial burden that this will place on students

and their families.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Hickey-O'Mara highlighted the difficulties the reinstatement of the college contribution fee would cause for students and their families. He requested that a copy of the Motion would be sent to all Local Authorities for support.

Following discussion on the Motion, it was agreed to amend the wording as follows:

I will move at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council write to the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, James Lawless, stating that this District condemn any future attempt by the Government to reinstate the €3,000 college contribution fee for students given the increased financial burden that this will place on students and their families.

32. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor P. Reale

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council erects purple flags on Thomond Bridge for the month of September in support of National Recovery Month 2025 - raising awareness about substance use disorder and mental health, celebrating those in recovery, and promoting the idea that recovery is possible.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Reale highlighted the importance of providing support to those affected by addictions, their families and the community.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council are currently examining the mechanism of civic decoration throughout the city and county to provide for a protocol having regard to legal and operational obligations. While this is underway, the erection of flags in support of worthwhile causes on one of the city centre bridges cannot be facilitated.

In order to display the Metropolitan District of Limerick's support for National Recovery Month 2025, the Civic Offices at Merchants Quay can be lit in the colour of purple to symbolise hope, healing and the journey toward recovery from substance use and mental health challenges. Available dates for the lighting of Merchants Quay are from 1st September to the 28th September excluding 15th September and the weekend of 20th & 21st September.

Suspension of Standing Orders

On the proposal of Councillor O'Sullivan, seconded by Councillor Kiely, Standing Order 4 was suspended in order to complete the agenda.

33. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Donoghue

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Forward Planning develop an interactive Landuse and Vacancy Map for the City Centre to identify potential sites for meanwhile use in Limerick City Centre, and to support the creation of a more detailed Zoning Map for the City Centre in the next iteration of the Limerick Development Plan to inform more beneficial and viable future developments.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Donoghue, seconded by Councillor Reale and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Donoghue highlighted the benefits of developing an interactive Landuse and Vacancy Map, which could provide information on patterns of land use and locations of vacancy and dereliction throughout the city.

REPLY: Forward Planning carry out an annual land use and vacancy survey of the City Centre to monitor the implementation of the Development Plan. The Forward Planning Section will investigate the potential to display this material online. The information collected will inform policy and land use maps in the next iteration of the Development Plan.

34. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Donoghue

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council's mixed tenure policy is implemented more authoritatively within the City Centre, through the use of planning conditions in accordance with the LCCC's own Development Plan and in accordance with national guidance, to repair and create sustainable communities by integrating different types of housing – social, affordable, and private - to avoid concentrated areas of social housing and promote social inclusion.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Donoghue emphasised the importance of implementing a mixed tenure policy that would ensure the creation of a city that is equitable and sustainable.

REPLY:

The Council appraises residential schemes in accordance with the policy provisions of the Limerick Development Plan and Housing Strategy. In this regard in accordance with Objectives set out in Chapter 4 of the Limerick Development Plan, the Council seeks to support a range of housing options in residential schemes across the City. At an early stage and part of the pre-planning consultation, applicants are encouraged to incorporate a mix of tenure in residential developments and to bring forward schemes of a high quality that will both attract and offer choice to new residents to the City Centre.

In accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), an applicant is required to meet the provisions of Part V of the Act (proportion of a scheme to be provided for social and/or affordable housing provision) and this requirement is a condition for any permission. An applicant may bring forward a fully private and owner occupied scheme subject to this Part V requirement. Alternatively, an applicant may seek to bring forward a mixed tenure scheme involving a blend of ownership, private rental, social-rental, and affordable housing (both affordable sale and affordable rental) integrated within the same development.

While Part V of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 has express provision for a planning condition to be attached in respect of a particular tenure, i.e. social and affordable housing, there is no legislative provision to extend this to restrict tenure across a full scheme. To do this could affect property rights and it would not be possible to enforce through planning provisions.

However, the Council through the Housing Section and in implementing 'Housing for all' administers a range of Government supported scheme to promote a mix tenure approach. In applying a structure approach, for large-scale housing developments (over 40 units) proposed to LCCC that are seeking State subvention to deliver social and/or affordable above Part V provision for example, the following approach has been agreed with the Elected Members of Limerick City and County Council:

A minimum of 20% private tenure - presumption in favour of private sale subject to viability

A minimum of 50% private affordable tenure - presumption in favour of affordable sale subject to viability

A maximum of 30% social-rental tenure, including rightsizing and Part V properties

For acquisitions, leases, or turnkeys with fewer than 40 units, where social-rental tenure is proposed, a thorough pre-assessment process is followed:

- A review of housing needs in the area for the proposed property types, with consultation via the I-house system and confirmation from the Housing Support Services Allocations unit of the waiting list for the bed type proposed.
- An evaluation of the level of social-rental housing (including Housing Assistance Payment [HAP]) in the area to avoid an overconcentration of any one tenure type. **The approach of the Housing Directorate is no more than 30% on an Electoral Division within the City and for settlements outside the City the built up town boundary is used.**
- An analysis of the HP Pobal Deprivation Index for the area to ensure that areas classified as 'extremely disadvantaged' or 'very disadvantaged' are not recommended for progression.
- In relation to acquisitions we acknowledge that acquisition funding is limited in 2025. However should a purchase of a house be required for a particular case, a check is undertaken to ensure that no first-time buyers are bidding. The Housing Directorate seeks confirmation from the vendor/Estate Agent that first-time buyers are not involved in bidding for the property. If they are, the Housing Directorate will not support the acquisition of the unit.

Overall, the implementation of Limerick City and County Council's mixed-tenure policy has been successful in fostering balanced and integrated communities. The structured approach to both large and small-scale developments has generally achieved the intended goals of avoiding mono-tenure areas and overconcentration of social-rental housing. However, as with any policy, there have been a small number of cases where challenges have arisen, but these are being actively addressed to ensure the long-term success and sustainability of the policy.

Members requested that a Briefing on the Council's Mixed Tenure Policy would be arranged.

35. Correspondence

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Dated: _____