

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, AND ONLINE, ON MONDAY, 14TH JULY, 2025, AT 3PM.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor C. Slattery, Príomh Chomhairleoir.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Moran.

Councillors Beasley, Benson, Butler, Carey, Collins (B), Collins (M), Conway, Daly, Donoghue, Doyle, Foley, Galvin, Gavan, Hartigan (S), Hartigan (T), Hickey-O'Mara, Keary, Kiely, Kilcoyne, Leddin, McSweeney, O'Donoghue, O'Donovan, O'Hanlon, O'Sullivan (O), O'Sullivan (T), Pond, Reale, Ruddle, Ryan (E), Ryan (M), Scanlan, Sheahan (J), Stokes, Talukder, Teefy, Teskey, Ward.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director General (Dr. P. Daly), Deputy Director General and A/Director, Corporate Services, Human Resources and Organisational Development (Mr. J. Clune), 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), A/Director, Rural, Community, Culture and Tourism Development (Ms. K. Burke), A/Director, Transportation and Mobility (Mr. H. McGrath), Director, Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services (Mr. K. Lehané), Director, Planning and Place-Making (Mr. V. Murray), Meetings Administrator (Ms. C. Farrell), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services (Ms. A. Foley), Staff Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services (Ms. J. Tierney), Financial Accountant (Ms. I. Griffin).

At the outset, and with the permission of the Príomh Chomhairleoir, the following was raised:

- Members welcomed the Mayor who joined the meeting online and requested an in person meeting with the Mayor to discuss the Local Property Tax (LPT) proposal.
- Members queried the length of the Mayor's absence outside Ireland and asked about the delegation of powers while the Mayor was abroad.
- It was requested that Register of Orders be circulated to the members on a weekly basis.
- Members requested comment from the Executive on the purchase of a house outside Adare.
- Members requested an update on the Corporate Plan.
- Members requested an update on the Mayoral Fund, noting that it was in the public interest to make this spend publicly available.

The Mayor confirmed he would engage with the elected members to discuss Local Property Tax in advance of the meeting to vary the rate.

The Mayor stated he was continuing to monitor and sign Mayoral orders while abroad and therefore a delegation of functions was not required. He stated that he had queried a number of orders with the Director General and Directors of Services and was working with them to progress the orders.

The Director of Housing informed the members he could not comment on individual house purchases. However, lands acquired for Roads Schemes follow the appropriate procedures and guidelines.

The Meeting Administrator agreed that the weekly circulation of Orders can be examined, and reminded the members that Mayoral Orders are made available monthly on SharePoint as per legislation.

The Meeting Administrator stated that a Corporate Plan workshop had been held in May and it was hoped to have the plan ready to present to the Members for the September meeting; a follow on workshop may be needed.

The Director of Finance, Economic Development, Digital and ICT Services informed the members that the Mayoral spend to date was €400,000. The Mayor confirmed that the Mayoral Fund was discretionary funding and he expected further traction on spending on the Mayoral Programme in Q3 and Q4 of this year. He noted that two councillors were members of the Mayoral Advisory and Implementation Committee.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the following Meetings:

- (a) Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 26th May, 2025.
- (b) Annual Meeting of the Council held on 30th June, 2025.

Proposed by Councillor Sarah Kiely
 Seconded by Councillor Bridie Collins
 And Resolved:

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

Members referred to the proposed briefing on Askeaton Swimming Pool and it was confirmed by the Director of Regeneration, Sports and Recreation that a date would be set for a Municipal District briefing on this matter.

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

The Príomh Chomhairleoir welcomed a Deputation from the National Citizens' Parliament.

The Deputation gave a presentation on their MeDeMap project, an EU project which aims to future-proof pathways to strengthen democracy through 10 countries over three years. They participants outlined the process and explained their findings and proposals to support balance in media reporting, support democracy and improve transparency.

- Members thanked the Citizens' Parliament for the presentation and noted the interesting and informative work being done to help people understand how the political system works.
- Members discussed the livestreaming of meetings and how important social media has become in speaking to citizens.
- Members outlined the importance of local fora for councillors and members of the public to engage.
- Members discussed the role of social media in the spread of disinformation and commended the work of journalists.

4. Disposal of Land

Rural, Community, Culture and Tourism Development Directorate

General Disposals

- (a) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 2nd July, 2025, concerning disposal of Site F - 0.79 acres (0.32 Hectares) at Kilmallock Business Park, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor O'Hanlon;
Seconded by Councillor McSweeney;
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 Site F - 0.79 acres (0.32 Hectares) at Kilmallock Business Park, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick, to Ian Carroll, for the sum of €47,000 – by resolution passed at Council Meeting dated 14th July, 2025, the Elected Members resolve to revoke the previous S. 183 Notice dated 12th March, 2024, in relation to the disposal of land at Site F, Kilmallock Business Park, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick – the disposal will be subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 2nd July, 2025."

- (b) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 2nd July, 2025, concerning disposal of property at 174 Cliona Park, Moyross, Limerick.

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

"That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property at 174, Cliona Park, Moyross, Limerick, to Farrah Ryan, the disposal to be made in consideration of Farrah Ryan transferring the ownership of her property at 65, Pineview Gardens, Moyross, Limerick – (i) the disposal to be by way of exchange of the above properties to Limerick City and County Council (subject to necessary conveyancing requirements); (ii) Limerick City and County Council to acquire the property free of any existing mortgage(s) or burden(s) and any existing mortgage(s) or burden(s) on the property at 65, Pineview Gardens, Moyross, Limerick, to be transferred to the property at 174, Cliona Park, Moyross, Limerick, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 2nd July, 2025."

- (c) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 2nd July, 2025, concerning disposal of property at 120, Cliona Park, Moyross, Limerick.

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

"That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property at 120, Cliona Park, Moyross, Limerick, to Ms. Jean Costelloe, the disposal to be made in consideration of Ms. Jean Costelloe transferring ownership of their property at 78, Cliona Park, Moyross, Limerick – (i) the disposal to be by way of exchange of the above property to Limerick City and County Council (subject to necessary conveyancing requirements); (ii) Limerick City and County Council to acquire the property free of any existing mortgage(s) or burden(s) and any existing mortgage(s) or burden(s) on the property at 78, Cliona Park, Moyross, Limerick, to be transferred to the property at 120, Cliona Park, Moyross, Limerick, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 2nd July, 2025."

- (d) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 2nd July, 2025, concerning Lease 999 Year - Parcel 5, Opera Square, Limerick and Licence 999 Year – covering exclusive use of portion of underground car parking area, together with maps.

Proposed by Councillor O'Hanlon;
 Seconded by Councillor McSweeney;
 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 land as follows - (i) Lease 999 year – Parcel 5, Opera Square, Limerick (Ground Floor 1,346 m² approx. and

Basement 1,936 m² approx.) including airspace above in accordance with the maps attached for identification purposes); (ii) Licence 999 year – covering exclusive use of portion of underground car parking area, to the Office of Public Works – the consideration being (i) Lease: €1,167,835 plus Development Costs accrued at date of legal transfer; (ii) Licence: €6,000,000 one-off charge, the disposal to be subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract – the Members, in resolving the above disposals, also resolve to revoke the previous Section 183 Notice dated 11th November, 2021, insofar as it relates to the lands we are now seeking consent for as set out above, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 2nd July, 2025.”

- Members expressed wide support for this lease and progress on the Opera Development.
- Members raised the issue of DAC board membership and queried who the shareholder was, expressing concern about the council owned associated companies being run by external board members.
- Some Members expressed their disappointment at stepping down from the DAC Boards. A national publication on Guidance on Corporate Governance was referenced, which outlines that Elected Members have a role on the boards of associated companies.
- Councillor Leddin queried the role of elected members in governance of DACs, stating that he remained as a member of Innovate Limerick DAC.
- Members requested that the governance report commissioned by the Mayor be made available to Members.
- Members noted the urgency of the need to appoint directors to Limerick 2030.

The Mayor confirmed that shares owned by LCCC under legislation have transferred to him in his role as Mayor. He is examining governance in each DAC and is in the process of appointing suitable directors; due to concerns about conflict of loyalty the Mayor has also stepped away from the boards.

The Mayor stated he had examined the Governance Document from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and outlined that he has written to Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Minister of State for Local Government and Planning, outlining risks he identified and to seek clarity on the appointment of directors. He stated that if Ministerial advice is that elected members should be directors of associated companies then he will make appointments. The Mayor proposed creating a DAC oversight body in Limerick and suggested councillors could sit on this board.

The Director of Finance, Economic Development, Digital and ICT Services noted that the DACs have different constitutions and Articles of Association e.g. Enterprise Ireland is a shareholder in the Innovate DAC.

The Director General confirmed that the DAC's are operating successfully and carrying out important work. He noted that a special meeting was previously held to discuss the governance of DACs.

In response to a query in relation to the timing of works to be carried out to the Adare Heritage Centre, it was confirmed that plans were underway to have a good offering in Adare Heritage Centre during the Ryder Cup event in 2027.

The Director of Planning and Placemaking thanked Members for participating in the discussions and the decision to approve the lease at Opera Square. He explained that due to the agreement with Office of Public Works (OPW), there would only be one set of disposal costs. The Director noted that good progress was also being made with a Hotel Operator. Today's approval and the proposed hotel site will be essential in creating confidence for other investors. The €25million loan has allowed the main part of the site to progress; Bank Place and the Central Plaza are other projects within the Opera Site that require funding; it is hoped that the Government will financially support the delivery of the new library as the development progresses.

Derelict Disposals

- (e) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 2nd July, 2025, concerning disposal of property at Grange, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick.

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

"That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property at Grange, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick, to Barry Doherty and Michael Clancy, for the sum of €121,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the Contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 2nd July, 2025."

- (f) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 2nd July, 2025, concerning disposal of land at Ballyvogue, Askeaton, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Councillor O'Hanlon
Seconded by Councillor Councillor McSweeney
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 land at Ballyvogue, Askeaton, Co. Limerick, to Hazel and Edward O'Callaghan, for the sum of €76,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the Contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 2nd July, 2025."

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 O'Donovan, seconded by Councillor Stokes, Standing Order No. 4 was suspended in order to complete the agenda.

5. Corporate Services, Human Resources and Organisational Development

(a) Executive Report

Circulated, Executive Report for the month of May 2025.

The Report was noted by the Council.

(b) Limerick Market Trustees

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services dated 8th July, 2025, seeking the nomination of 18 Members of the Council, as members of the Limerick Market Trustees, together with list of current Members.

The report stated that, in accordance with the Limerick Markets Act, 1852, as amended, Limerick City and County Council was entitled to nominate 18 Members of the Council as Trustees. The Council was required to make these nominations annually under the Act. Where two or more Members were to be appointed, any group of Members may nominate a Member, in accordance with Paragraph 18 of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended. The Mayor had indicated that he would not be acting as a Trustee for this term.

On the proposal of Councillor Kiely, seconded by Councillor Galvin, the following Members were appointed to the Limerick Market Trustees for the coming year: Councillors Slattery (Príomh Chomhairleoir), Butler (Cathaoirleach, Metropolitan District of Limerick), together with Councillors Pond, O'Hanlon, Kilcoyne, Talukder, Sheahan, Ryan (M), O'Sullivan (O), Kiely, McSweeney, Doyle, Hickey-O'Mara, Daly, Donoghue, O'Donovan; Beasley, Gavan.

The Mayor agreed, at the request of the Elected Members, to meet with the Market Trustees.

Members conveyed disappointment that the Mayor had not taken his position on the Board of St John's Hospital. The Mayor explained that he had been concerned about the potential for conflicts of loyalty.

(c) Proposed Schedule of Dates for Strategic Policy Committee Meetings

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services dated 9th July, 2025, together with Schedule of Proposed Dates for Strategic Policy Committee Meetings up to June 2026.

The Schedule, as circulated, was noted and agreed.

(d) Strategic Policy Committee Reports

- (i) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the **Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment** Strategic Policy Committee dated 21st May, 2025, in relation to meeting of the Committee held on 20th May, 2025.

The report was noted by the Council.

- (ii) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the **Travel and Transportation** Strategic Policy Committee dated 16th June, 2025, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 10th June, 2025.

The report was noted by the Council.

Recommendation

“That, the Council write to the Minister for Transport, the Chairperson of the Board of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), and the Chief Executive of TII to call for urgent prioritisation and full delivery of the Rathkeale to Limerick City Greenway in advance of the Ryder Cup in 2027”.

The Recommendation was agreed and discussion took place on the remaining work to be done on the Greenway to connect Adare to Limerick City and Members requested an in-person briefing from the Transportation and Mobility Directorate.

- (iii) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the **Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism and Planning** Strategic Policy Committee dated 2nd July, 2025, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 23rd June, 2025, together with Draft Night Time Economy Action Plan 2025 for noting.

The report was noted by the Council.

Recommendation No. 1

That, the draft new Limerick Tourism Strategy 2025-2030 be considered for approval by Limerick City and County Council at the September Plenary Meeting. (Report to be submitted in September)

The position was noted by the Council in relation to Recommendation No. 1.

Recommendation No. 2

That, the Draft Night Time Economy Action Plan 2025 be brought to the July Plenary Meeting of the Full Council for noting.

The Draft Plan was noted by the Council.

- (iv) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the **Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee** dated 26th June, 2025, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 26th June, 2025.

The report was noted by the Council.

6. Finance, Economic Development, Digital and ICT Services

(a) Local Property Tax

Circulated, Mayor's report dated 4th July, 2025, setting out the background to the Local Property Tax – Local Adjustment Factor 2026.

The Council was being asked to consider whether to pass a resolution to vary the basic rate of Local Property Tax for the year ending 31st December, 2026, in accordance with Section 20 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act, 2012, as amended.

Members requested further engagement with the Director General and the Mayor and, following some discussion, on the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Collins (M), it was agreed to defer this item.

(b) Finance Update

To receive a presentation on the Limerick City and County Council mid-year Finance position.

The Director of Finance, Economic Development and ICT Services gave a presentation outlining the Local Property Tax (LPT) process, consultation outcomes, impacts of variations on the LPT, budget position and recommendations.

- Members queried when the approvals for Housing Grants for Older People would resume and the total spend to date. In discussion they raised the backlog of grant applications, the possibility of reallocation of unused funds from other Local Authorities, previous practice for approvals and queried if the Mayor's Fund could be used. Members suggested a claw back on Housing Grants for Older People on the basis it adds value to the property for successors. It was suggested that reverting to the 2023 smaller grant levels would enable the allocation of more grants as overall funding remained the same.
- Members questioned how increased pensions costs for staff was being covered.
- Members requested an update on a loan for the improvement and upkeep of cemeteries and highlighted issues in individual graveyards.
- Members inquired if a loan was needed for housing voids and if there was an update on additional funding for the tenant *in situ* scheme.

The Director for Housing informed the members that the total allocation for the Housing Grants for Older People for 2025 was €5.165million and that an application has been made to the Department of Housing for additional funds. The Director agreed to circulate an update on the grants to the members and to write a letter to the Department regarding a Clawback condition.

The Director of Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services noted his colleagues have carried out assessment visits to all graveyards in the Municipal Districts and will be visiting the graveyards in the Metropolitan District over the coming weeks. He will then revert to the Elected Members with an overview of what funds will be needed to complete works. Community groups will also be supported with grants to help with graveyard upkeep.

7. Rural, Community, Culture and Tourism

Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts Scheme 2025

Circulated, report of the Arts Officer / Creative Ireland Co-ordinator, dated 2nd July, 2025, seeking the Council's approval to recommended allocations under the Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts Scheme 2025.

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

"That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to recommended allocations under the Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts Scheme 2025, as set out in the report of the Arts Officer / Creative Ireland Co-ordinator dated 2nd July, 2025."

8. Conferences

Participation by Members at Conferences

The Council approved the attendance of the following Members at Conference already approved by the Council:

Conference: "The Martin McEvoy 2025 Conference, Mayoral Governance in Dublin – Democracy, Devolution and Impact" Dublin City University, Dublin - 29th April, 2025:
Councillors D. McSweeney and A. Teskey.

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

9. Question submitted by Councillor S. Kiely

I will ask the Mayor at the next Meeting of Limerick Council given the recent information on your SMART housing, I would like to know what the route to planning is for this proposal and what consultation has taken place with the Executive and the communities at your proposed locations.

REPLY:

Route to Planning

The SMART Housing programme is being advanced in accordance with the provisions of the *Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended)*. In particular, the initiative aligns with:

- Section 15(1) of the Act places a statutory obligation on Limerick City and County Council to take the necessary actions to implement the objectives of its Development Plan. The SMART Housing programme fully supports this duty by seeking to fast-track the delivery of new homes **on Council-owned lands designated for residential use under its land use zoning objectives as democratically adopted in the Limerick Development Plan 2022–2028.**
- The initial locations for SMART Housing are all Council-owned lands that are already zoned for residential development, ensuring alignment with existing planning policy and enabling streamlined progression through the planning system.
- We anticipate that the proposed sites will proceed via Part 8 or Part 10 (should an EIAR be required). A final planning consent strategy will be determined on a case by case basis and is subject to final determination once feasibility and detailed design is concluded. This work will be progressed by the Design Teams once appointed in the next 2 weeks.

Consultation to Date and Next Steps:

The proposal was brought to a Private Councillor Briefing in November 2024 where the initiative was welcomed, clarifications responded to and in general no objection was raised to proceed.

After more weekly workshop calls with Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage officials, the proposal was advanced further and next brought to a Private Councillor Briefing in early June 2025 and the recent Housing Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) to:

- Introduce the current SMART Housing concept and outline the proposed programme scope.
- Explain Modern Methods of Construction (MMC), particularly volumetric and 3D modular solutions, and demonstrate time and cost efficiencies of this construction method compared to Traditional Build - which is more expensive and takes longer.
- Show successful case studies of this type of construction achieved in other jurisdictions closeby - Cardiff, Bristol, London for example - who have been delivering

3D Modular solutions for more than 20 years as part of their housing capital programmes.

- Provide qualitative feedback from key civic stakeholders on the need for this type of housing acceleration programme.
- Highlight the strategic rationale for selecting site locations in the City, which is based on the availability of suitable, zoned, and Council-owned land capable of early delivery to meet Limerick's severe structural housing deficit.

These preliminary briefings were designed to facilitate further engagement with Elected Members and Sectoral representatives to get their further feedback in advance of more advanced site selection and the further engagement with local stakeholders and communities which would then naturally follow for any particular site. Once observations from these meetings had been fully considered by newly appointed Design Teams, more detailed design documents were to have been prepared to facilitate any discussions with the public.

We are committed to a comprehensive programme of engagement from August to October 2025. This engagement will take place once Design Teams have been appointed to initiate feasibility work and will include:

- Continued Briefings with elected members.
- Further ongoing weekly engagement with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- Ongoing engagement with executive in the Regeneration Directorate, Forward Planning and Development Management Directorate.
- Early engagement with local stakeholders and communities in the identified areas to share emerging concepts and listen to feedback. This will take place between August and October 2025.
- Ongoing consultation throughout the design and planning stages to ensure concerns are addressed and local perspectives are reflected in the final proposals.

It is important to recall that the SMART Housing programme is being developed as an additional housing capital delivery programme to respond to urgent housing needs and to test innovative approaches that can deliver high-quality, affordable homes at greater scale and speed. This is in accordance with the objectives under the Programme for Government and Housing for All. Other programmes are nonetheless continuing apace, especially those focused on units for larger households and for affordable purchase by households. The need for an additional innovation, especially in the rental sector, is seen in the huge increase in rental costs in the Limerick area caused by the wide gap between prior annual overall housing delivery totals (across public and private sectors) of some 800-1000 units against an annual demand need of 2,500-4,000 units.

It is important to build greater public confidence and local support that a much more significant step up in delivery than seen in previous years can now be achieved in Limerick to make housing costs more affordable for all and for this important housing and economic intervention for the benefit of not only the City but the entire Mid-West region.

We welcome continued dialogue as the programme progresses and will keep members and communities fully informed throughout.

In response, the Members expressed the need for more clarity, especially on the route to planning for this proposal. A request was made that Boro Park be removed from this proposal.

The Mayor highlighted the need for affordable housing and noted it was premature to remove lands at this stage, stating that the lands were zoned for development in the current Limerick City and County Council Development Plan.

10. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask the Mayor at the next Meeting of Limerick Council for the membership of the Community Liaison Committee due to have been established by this Council as is stipulated in the planning conditions in respect to Irish Cement and for the amount of the community fund that is due to be distributed that has been accumulating since 2023.

REPLY: I have confirmed that the Community Development section of the Council's Rural, Community, Culture & Tourism Directorate is responsible for the formation of the Community Liaison Committee as stipulated in the conditions attached to planning permission granted to Irish Cement Ltd.

As the Councillor will be aware, staffing and day-to-day operations are not the direct responsibility of the Mayor, but I have confirmed that the section has now engaged with representatives of Irish Cement on the setting up of the Community Liaison Committee and their estimated timeline, Irish Cement has also advised us is that the total amount accumulated and available in the Community Gain Fund as of 30 June 2025 is €38,000.00.

Members welcomed this response and requested that this fund be prioritised.

The A/Director of Rural, Community, Culture and Tourism Development informed the Members that the Council has been engaging with Irish Cement and that meetings are ongoing. She agreed to revert back with an update to the Members.

QUESTIONS

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

11. 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 CE's (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's 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.

12. Question submitted by Councillor 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 and 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.

13. Question submitted by Councillor J. O'Donoghue

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

REPLY: 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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

REPLY: 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.

16. 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.

REPLY: 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.

17. 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 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 was 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.

NOTICES OF MOTION

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Beasley

I will move at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that this Council call on local businesses and vintners to actively support the "Ask for Angela" campaign across Limerick. For reference, the "Ask for Angela" campaign is a proven initiative designed to help victims of sexual harassment and assault safely seek assistance in public venues.

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

Members supported this motion and suggested this could be considered as part of the Night Time Economy Plan.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Kiely

I will move at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that an update be given to Councillors regarding the timescale for installation of bus shelters across the city and county.

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

REPLY: The NTA has retendered its bus shelter contract which expired at the end of March 2025. This former contract had been in place since 1st January 2017. As of 1st April 2025, the NTA has entered into a new bus shelter contract with a new service provider Bauer Media Outdoor (formerly Clear Channel Ireland) following a procurement process which extended into early 2025. Bauer Media Outdoor appointed under the new contract has assumed all responsibility for the technical assessment of bus stop locations, in addition to the supply, installation, management and maintenance of the NTA's bus shelter estate for up to 8 years.

The NTA has advised that shelters will be delivered under this new contract following a mobilisation period which is advancing well. It is expected to see a steady supply of new shelters to commence from later this year based on the new designs. In that regard the NTA has advised that it must conduct a due diligence process, including a technical sign off on the shelter design based on more detailed information which is currently underway. The NTA has also advised that due to the value for money nature of the pricing schedule attached to the successful tender, there is a lead in time for the placing of orders for the new shelter types to be installed under the contract. The shelters are being sourced elsewhere internationally. Once the shelters become available, they will be installed at the shelter locations identified by Limerick City and County Council.

Members welcomed the motion and during discussions stressed the need for more bus shelters particularly in areas of low car ownership.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillors F. Foley, F. Kilcoyne, M. Ryan and G. Ward

We will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council agrees to and calls on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to relax the current ribbon development rules to allow for the construction of 6 dwellings in a linear arrangement and, where appropriate, that restrictions be set aside entirely for sites within 1 km of an existing settlement boundary once the development is located on a non-regional road with available appropriate sightlines.

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

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

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor U. Gavan

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council write to the Department of Social Protection to change the provision of the Carers Leave Act 2001 to remove the time limit of 104 weeks.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Gavan and seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

Members supported this motion and highlighted the need to support essential care providers.

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

I will move at the next Meeting of Limerick Council that this Council calls on the Central Bank of Ireland to immediately end the facilitation of the Israeli Bond Issuance Programme.

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

It was agreed that the Motion would also be forwarded to the Taoiseach and the Minister for Finance.

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

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council write to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to request that no new onshore wind farm planning applications should be approved until updated national guidelines on wind energy are approved and implemented by the Government.

Councillor Scanlan stated that, at the request of Councillor O'Donoghue who had to leave the Meeting, he wished to move the Motion on his behalf.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Hartigan (T) and agreed.

Members supported this motion highlighting that the previous guidelines for these developments are outdated and need to be reviewed.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that our Authority provide a liaison/link to Community Welfare where support is necessary to enable newly allocated tenants move in speedily.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Scanlan and was seconded by Councillor Hartigan (T).

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council's Community Sustainment Unit, as part of the Tenancy Induction process, completes the relevant sections of the Supplementary Welfare Allowance Form (SWA1) in respect of the property allocated to newly appointed tenants. The remaining sections are completed by the tenant to enable them to apply for this payment, if applicable.

The Authority responsible for assessing the completed applications is the Department of Social Protection through their Community Welfare Service. Limerick City and County Council's Community Sustainment Unit will seek to obtain contact details in respect of the relevant local Intreo Centres or Social Welfare Branch Offices for the Limerick area and include in the Tenancy Induction Pack.

Members supported this Motion and raised concerns that access to Community Welfare services have changed.

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

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Hickey-O'Mara (to be referred to Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that this Council formally declares a Student Housing Emergency in Limerick and commits to convening a Student Housing Taskforce in partnership with local Students' Unions, local third-level institutions, approved housing bodies, and relevant Council departments, with the aim of: (i) Acknowledging the acute shortage of affordable and suitable accommodation for students attending third-level institutions in Limerick; (ii) Identifying Council-owned or privately owned land suitable for student housing; (iii) Exploring opportunities for cost-rental, or cooperative models of development; (iv) Removing planning or zoning barriers where appropriate for the construction of student housing.

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

26. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney (to be referred to Community, Leisure, Arts, Heritage and Culture SPC)

I will move at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that we examine the rollout of a Community Contracts Grant Scheme in advance of budget 2026.

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

27. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council write to the Minister for Justice to ask for an update on the legislation being drafted to amend the Criminal Justice Act, 1994, to ban the wearing of balaclavas and other face coverings at protests where they are used to conceal a person's identity; and to request that the legislation includes measures to ban balaclavas and face coverings on persons trying to conceal their identity to commit a crime (i) in public places and (ii) while riding scrambler bikes.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Slattery and seconded by Councillor Pond.

Members supported this motion to address people wearing face covering for criminal ends.

28. Correspondence

The Correspondence circulated with the agenda was taken as read.

With the permission of the Príomh Chomhairleoir, the following matters were raised:

Civic Reception – Limerick Senior footballers

It was agreed to confer a Civic Reception on the Limerick Senior Footballers on reaching the final of the Tailteann Cup.

Votes of Congratulations

- Members congratulated the incoming Príomh Chomhairleoir and commended her on chairing her first Meeting.
- The Príomh Chomhairleoir commended everyone involved in the National Day of Commemoration held on 13th July in the grounds of Merchant's Quay.
- Members congratulated the organisers of Limerick Pride on a very well run event the previous weekend.

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, is available on SharePoint for inspection by the Members.

Signed:

Príomh Chomhairleoir**Date:**
