

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, 15TH SEPTEMBER, 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, Secas, 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), Senior Executive Officer, Tourism (Ms. E. Coleman), A/Administrative Officer, Tourism (Mr. E. Crimmins), A/Senior Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. J. Sheehan), A/Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. J. Moylan), Head of Property Management (Ms. J. Leahy), Senior Executive Officer, Housing (Ms. S. Newell), A/Senior Executive Officer, Community Development (Ms. A. Rizzo), Healthy Ireland – Limerick Co-Ordinator (Ms. O. O'Brien), Administrative Officer, Development Management and Place-Making (Ms. M. O'Brien), Senior Engineer, Travel and Transport Strategy (Mr. H. McGrath), A/Senior Executive Engineer, Travel and Transport Strategy (Mr. J. O'Leary), Executive Engineer, Environment and Climate Action (Mr. D. O'Shaughnessy), Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services (Ms. C. Sheehy), Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Ms. S. Carroll).

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 21st July, 2025.

Proposed by Councillor McSweeney;
Seconded by Councillor Pond;
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. Councillor S. Hickey-O'Mara declared an interest in Item No. 5, Community Initiative Scheme 2025 – General Municipal Allocation (GMA), noting that he has previously worked with GOSH and Connie productions, both of which have received nominations under the Community Initiative Scheme 2025, from Elected Members of the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

3. Disposal of Land

(a) Circulated, Report of the Head of Property Management dated 3rd September, 2025, setting out proposals for Disposal of two portions of land at the Railway Crossing, Childers Road, 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 3rd September, 2025, setting out proposals for Disposal of Freehold Interest in property at 10 Mayorstone Drive, 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) Update on City Centre Response Team Work

The Director of Service, with the aid of a presentation, provided an update to Members on the work of the City Centre Response Team. The following key actions were outlined:

- Benches, railings and bollards were painted at numerous locations in the city centre.
- Several Bins were refurbished and replaced.
- Improvement works completed at Leader Lane; rubbish cleared, and stainless-steel bins installed. Works were also carried out at Fish Lane.
- General Maintenance works carried out on city bridges, including Shannon Bridge, Sarsfield Bridge and Sylvester O'Halloran Bridge.
- Tree surrounds upgraded to eliminate trip hazards to improve pedestrian safety.
- Improvement works carried out at Crosbie Row and Michael Street, and Planters cleaned on Parnell Street to enhance the area.

The Director of Service advised the Members of upcoming projects to be carried out, including:

- Review of buildouts.
- Upgrade works to address the uneven surface on Little Catherine Street.
- Repainting of lamps and bollards.

The Director outlined details of a pilot project to be delivered in collaboration with the Return Scheme for plastic bottles and cans. He acknowledged and thanked the Council staff for their assistance with these projects, noting that such works enhance the overall appearance of the city

It was agreed to circulate the presentation to Members.

Members welcomed John Sheehan, A/Senior Engineer to the Metropolitan District and wished him well in his role.

Members thanked the Director of Service for the presentation and acknowledged and thanked Staff for the excellent work being carried out in the city centre. They made the following points:

- Welcomed the visible improvements carried out in the city centre and stressed the importance of continuing the delivery of these services to enhance the area.
- Queried if funding is available for Laneway Projects.
- Request the provision of extra bins at various locations, including several laneways and Steamboat Quay.

- Queried if consideration can be given to cutting trees back at Bedford Row.
- Noted that some water fountains are in poor condition, in particular the fountain at John's Square;
- Highlighted that several roundabouts required maintenance, including Roxboro, Coonagh and Clondrinagh roundabouts. They outlined the possibility of securing sponsorship for these roundabouts, which are on key access routes into the city.
- Requested that the issues with festoon lighting on Catherine Street be rectified to enhance the area.
- Requested that festoon lighting would be working for Culture Night.
- Request the removal of some bicycle parking on Parnell Street.
- Suggested that buildouts should be removed if not in use or not being maintained.
- Requested that plaques on the bridges be cleaned and traffic islands maintained.
- Suggested that the Council consider setting up a WhatsApp number for the public to report issues.
- Request for the provision of a sweeper truck for Limerick City West.

The Director advised that these points would be taken into consideration.

The Cathaoirleach requested that an update on laneways be included on the agenda for the October Meeting.

(b) Halloween in Limerick

The Senior Executive Officer and A/Administrative Officer, Tourism gave a Presentation to Members on the programme for Halloween. They outlined the key aspects as follows:

- Halloween in Limerick 2025 will deliver a one-month city and county programme.
- Year 3 of the Fire and Shadows Procession will take place on 25th October 2025, following the success of the procession in years 1 and 2.
- Limerick were awarded funding under Fáilte Ireland's new Home of Halloween Pilot Destination Development Scheme, which is a five-year initiative.
- A bespoke Halloween experience is planned for King John's Castle, with events also taking place in the Milk Market, the Hunt Museum, the People's Museum, Wickham Way, Limerick City Trust, the Belltable and Nevsail Watersports. The County Programme will include Newcastle West, Lough Gur, Foynes and Barnagh Greenway.

It was agreed to circulate the Presentation to Members.

Members thanked the Officials for the presentation and emphasised the importance of ensuring the programme is widely advertised for public awareness. Members requested details of the route for the Fire and Shadows Procession, highlighting the popularity of the event in previous years.

Members suggested the Mayor, or a Member of Staff from his office, attend all Metropolitan Meetings to respond to any questions that may arise in relation to the Mayor's functions.

Following discussions on the agreed programme for Christmas in Limerick 2025 and queries raised by Members regarding procurement timelines for the delivery of the programme, it was agreed to hold a Briefing to update Members on the progress for Christmas in Limerick 2025.

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

Circulated, Report of the Director of Service, Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services dated 3rd September, 2025, setting out the proposals for the Community Initiative Scheme 2025 – General Municipal Allocation (GMA), which allowed for the sum of €25,142 for each Member, as follows:

LIMERICK CITY EAST

Name of Group	Amount
Ahane Scout Group	€15,142.85
Ballyneety Mens Shed	€2000.00
Castleconnell Scout Group	€2000.00
Castleconnell Tidy Towns	€8000.00
City of Limerick Pipe Band	€1000.00
Claugaun GAA	€1000.00
Granville Rangers	€6000.00
Kylemore Residents Association	€2500.00
LCCC Parks Department Projects – Limerick City East	€10,500.00
LCCC Roads Department Projects – Limerick City East	€43,369.25
Limerick East ISRS	€1000.00
Monaleen GAA	€2300.00
Southside Boxing Academy	€2300.00
South Liberties GAA	€1000.00
St. Camillus Community Hospital League of Friends	€2142.85
St. Vincent de Paul Castleconnell	€2000.00
Treaty United	€3000.00
Twilight Thursdays	€1000.00

LIMERICK CITY NORTH

Name of Group	Amount
Ballynatty Rovers AFC	€4123.00
Bat Rehabilitation Ireland	€1000.00
Caherdavin and District Actively Retired	€2100.00
Caherdavin Celtic	€1000.00
City of Limerick Pipe Band	€1000.00
Coonagh Sports and Social Club	€2642.85
Corpus Christi Family Centre	€6142.85
Engage in Education	€1000.00
Ennis Road CFR	€3000.00
Ferndale Residents Association	€1000.00
Friends of Lace Limerick	€1000.00
Garryowen CCE	€3500.00
Garryowen CDP	€1000.00
Garryowen Residents Association	€3000.00
Garryowen Womens Shed	€3000.00
Geraldines AFC	€6000.00

Learning Hub Limerick	€2000.00
Limerick Boat Club	€10,000.00
LCCC Parks Department Projects – Limerick City North	€28,928.55
Limerick Youth Service	€2000.00
Limerick Youth Theatre	€2000.00
Mayorstone Community Games	€1000.00
Mid West Model Railway Club	€1000.00
Moyross Community Enterprise Centre CLG	€6000.00
Rhebogue Meadows Residents Association	€1000.00
Richmond RFC	€5000.00
St. Colm's Basketball Club	€1000.00
St. Mary's Cathedral	€1000.00
St. Mary's National School	€7029.85
St. Munchin's Boxing Club	€1000.00
St. Patrick's GAA	€13,000.00
Twilight Thursdays	€7142.85
Woodview Residents Association	€5000.00

LIMERICK CITY WEST

Name of Group	Amount
Al Furqan Islamic Centre	€3000.00
Ann Blake / Connie	€3400.00
Ballinacurra Gaels	€4500.00
Ballybrown Clarina Community Council	€5000.00
Breska Rovers AFC	€1500.00
City of Limerick Pipe Band	€3000.00
Clare Pool Association	€1000.00
Cois Carraig Retirement Village	€1000.00
College Players Limerick	€3400.00
Dooradoyle Raheen Mens Shed	€4000.00
Ferrybridge Community Development CLG	€2642.85
Ghousia Masjid Limerick	€2000.00
GOSHH	€1000.00
Irish Powerlifting Federation	€1000.00
LCCC Parks Department Projects – Limerick City West	€25,142.85
LCCC Roads Department Projects – Limerick City West	€5042.85
Limerick Family Planning Clinic	€1000.00
Limerick Golf Club	€2000.00
Limerick Islamic Cultural Centre	€2642.85
Limerick Lions Basketball Club	€3000.00
Limerick Sport Huskies	€1000.00
Limerockers Cru	€1000.00
Mid West School for the Deaf	€2047.00
National Federation of Arch Clubs	€2400.00
Newtown Cottage Association	€2000.00
Ormston House	€2000.00

Patrickswell AFC	€1642.85
Summerville Rovers	€4500.00
The Limerick Beat Club Experience	€3400.00
Twilight Thursdays	€1142.85
Womens Collective Ireland (Limerick)	€2047.00

On the proposal of Councillor McSweeney and seconded by Councillor Kiely the proposals under the Community Initiative Scheme 2025 – General Municipal Allocation (GMA) as set out in the report of the Director of Service, Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services dated 3rd September, 2025, were approved.

QUESTIONS

6. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick when will the issue with flooding be addressed in Woodlawn Close, off Woodlawn Park as the issue is ongoing. When there is heavy rain two houses in the area are at risk of flooding and the Council are aware of this issue.

REPLY: The Roads Department in conjunction with the Housing Department have conducted extensive surveys of the storm water system and cleared any blockages. We have also scheduled any repair work that is required. We will continue to monitor the situation and carry out the work needed to improve the situation.

7. Question submitted by Councillor S. Kiely

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick if the Council considers putting in another application to the NTA for Drombanna to finish the paths started there in the last few years.

REPLY: The Roads Department Metropolitan East and Active Travel Department will submit a new application to the National Transport Authority for funding to extend the work already done in Drombanna. If the application is successful, we will endeavor to carry out the works.

8. Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick how many fines have been issued and paid in 2024 and 2025 across all bring sites since the CCTV cameras have been installed.

REPLY: Following the activation of CCTV for waste and litter enforcement in targeted sites across Limerick City and County, a total of 17 fines have been issued so far to offenders caught dumping illegally.

Four of these fines were issued for illegal dumping at Bring Bank facilities with each one paid in full (€150 per fine).

As well as the fines, 9 cases were brought before District Court so far with 5 successful prosecutions and 4 cases ongoing.

9. Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick how much levies have been collected from the vacant sites levy in the Metropolitan area in 2024 and 2025 and to provide a list of these properties.

REPLY: The Vacant Site Levy is invoiced a year in arrears. Limerick City and County Council collected €385,933.36 in Vacant Site Levies for 2024. We are not in a position to give the properties addresses that paid the Vacant Site Levies in 2024 due to GDPR. Limerick City and County Council will not be charging Vacant Site Levies for 2025 as it has been replaced by the Residential Land Zoned Tax (RLZT).

10. Question submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick if there are any plans to provide a slip road from Groody Road to Dublin Road to alleviate the Groody Road traffic congestion.

REPLY: At present there are no specific plans to provide a slip road from Groody Road to Dublin Road to alleviate the Groody Road traffic congestion. However, this junction will be reviewed in the context of infrastructure to facilitate Bus Connects implementation.

11. Question submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the progress on the Park&Ride facility at Mackey Roundabout.

REPLY: The NTA Park and Ride team in partnership with LCCC are examining proposals to provide a Park and Ride facility at the Mackey Junction. It is intended to progress to planning at this site in 2026.

12. Question submitted by Councillor U. Gavan

I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick how many housing applicants have selected a Metropolitan Area as an area of choice on Limerick City and County Council's Housing Waiting List.

REPLY: There are 2,467 housing applicants on Limerick City and County Council's Housing Waiting List that have selected an Area of Choice in the Metropolitan Area.

13. Question submitted by Councillor U. Gavan

I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the Dockless Bike Scheme that was trialled in Annacotty/Castletroy area in the last few years.

REPLY: The National Transport Authority (NTA) are currently progressing the procurement phase for a replacement service provider for their TFI Bike Scheme. It is their intention that dockless bikes will be included in the scheme once it becomes operational in the summer of 2026. The Travel & Transport Strategy Department will continue to liaise with both the NTA and the eventual preferred tenderer with regard to the proposed operational and designated parking zone plans once they have been developed.

14. Question submitted by Councillor J. Pond

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the Flood Relief Scheme for Annacotty, including Mulcair Drive and Mountshannon Road.

REPLY: Annacotty, including Mulcair Drive and Mountshannon Road, is fully encompassed within the Limerick City & Environs Flood Relief Scheme, which is being progressed by Limerick City and County Council, in partnership with the Office of Public Works and Clare County Council.

The scheme is currently at Stage I: Options Assessment, Scheme Development and Design. Significant progress has been made over the past year, including:

- Completion of geotechnical investigations on existing flood defences;
- Near completion of extensive site investigation works to inform the development of viable options and detailed design;
- Substantial progress on hydrology and hydraulic modelling;
- Ongoing ecological surveys to support environmental assessments of emerging options.

The next key milestone is the completion of a Multi-Criteria Analysis later this year, which will be used to identify and evaluate emerging options. A public consultation on these options, including the emerging preferred option for Annacotty, Mulcair Drive, and Mountshannon Road is currently scheduled for Q1 2026.

15. Question submitted by Councillor J. Pond

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on:

(a) The proposed road linking the Golf Links Road to the Groody Road;

(b) The upgrade of the final section of the Golf Links Road.

These two pieces of infrastructure are vital to ease traffic congestion in this area.

REPLY: (a) The Castletroy Link Road Scheme (Case ID: ABP-321993-25) was submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) on 3rd March this year. A total of 17 submissions were received during the public consultation period and the Active Travel Department provided responses to the Strategic Infrastructure Development section of ACP in July. ACP have since advised that the case is at Inspectorate level, and a decision on this case will be made as soon as practicable. The case status on the ACP website has been updated to "Further Consideration Needed"

The Compulsory Purchase Order (Case ID: ABP-322343-25) submitted on 17th April this year will facilitate the construction of the link road. The preliminary date for a decision regarding the CPO is currently listed on the ACP website as October 2025.

Active Travel will be seeking an update from An Coimisiún Pleanála at the end of September in relation to both applications.

(b) The detailed design is ongoing on the Golf Link Road Junction Upgrade Scheme and due for completion in Q4 2025. Pending Departmental funding approval, it would be anticipated the scheme would be going to construction in Q2 2026.

16. Question submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney

I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the Rathkeale-Adare-Patrickswell-Limerick Greenway and an indicative timeline be provided for each phase of the project.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council recently undertook a procurement process to appoint Technical Advisors to progress the Rathkeale to Limerick Greenway scheme. Following receipt and assessment of tenders, a recommendation was issued to Transport Infrastructure Ireland, (TII), seeking their approval to the appointment of the successful candidate. TII have responded and stated that they are not currently in a position to approve the appointment as a review of the 2026 Greenway funding is currently under review. They have also stated that the 2026 funding from the Department of Transport is currently unknown and that the indications are that funding for Greenways in 2026 will be limited.

This is a very disappointing development, however Limerick City and County Council are in a position to keep the procurement process open until the end of 2025, and will continue to liaise with TII with the Mayors office in an effort to secure funding to facilitate an award of contract prior to the tender acceptance period expiring.

17. Question submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney

I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that a list of schemes sent to The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the SHIP Construction funding scheme for the Metropolitan District be provided for the last 5 years to include the number of total units, information of the current approval stage with the Department and a progress note from the Housing Team.

REPLY: The information as requested has been presented in tabular format.

Project Name	Total Number of Units	Current Stage	Comments
Churchfield, Limerick (Phase 2) - Block 3	13	Contract Awarded	On-site. Handover Q4 2025.
Clare Street, Limerick	7	Contract Awarded	On-site. Handover Q4 2025.
Carew Park Infills, Limerick	16	Contract Awarded	On-site. Handover Q4 2025.
Delmege Infills, Limerick	6	Contract Awarded	On-site. Handover Q4 2025.
Hartigan Villas Infills, Limerick	4	Contract Awarded	On-site. Handover Q4 2025.
Childers Road Infills, Limerick	15	Proposal	Currently reviewing scheme with DHLGH.
Bridge Street, Limerick	6	Stage 1 Approved	Archaeologic issues being examined currently.
Ferndale, Ennis Road, Limerick	6	Stage 1 Approved	Advancing to stage 2 submission.
Upper William St, Limerick	4	Stage 1 Approved	Advancing to stage 2 submission.
Pineview Gardens Infills (Block A1) , Limerick	19	Stage 1 Approved	Advancing to stage 2 submission.
Pineview Gardens Infills (Block A2) , Limerick	27	Stage 1 Approved	Advancing to stage 2 submission.
Pineview Gardens Infills (Block A3) , Limerick	22	Stage 1 Approved	Advancing to stage 2 submission.
Pineview Gardens Infills (Block B) , Limerick	22	Stage 1 Approved	Advancing to stage 2 submission.
Pineview Gardens Infills (Block C) , Limerick	21	Stage 1 Approved	Advancing to stage 2 submission.
Mary Street, Limerick	30	Stage 1 Approved	Advancing to stage 2 submission.
Kennedy Park Infills, Limerick	31	Stage 1 Approved	Advancing to stage 2 submission.
Thomond Gate Park, Limerick	12	Stage 1 Approved	Advancing to stage 2 submission.
Dublin Rd/St Patrick's Rd, Limerick	4	Stage 1 Approved	Advancing to stage 2 submission.
Ballycummin Road, Limerick	26	Stage 2 Approved	Stage 2 currently under review.
New Road, Thomondgate, Limerick	6	Stage 2 Approved	Advancing to stage 3 submission.
Scouthall Site, Bawnmore Rd, Limerick	5	Stage 2 Approved	Advancing to stage 3 submission.
Cliona Park Phase 4, Limerick	20	Stage 1 Approved	Advancing to stage 2 submission.
Ros Mor, Crossagalla, Limerick	13	Stage 2 Approved	Advancing to stage 3 submission.
Mulcair Drive, Annacotty, Limerick	6	Stage 3 Approved	Prepared for tender.
Patrickswell, Co. Limerick	24	Stage 3 Approved	Gone to tender.
Orchard Site, Kings Island, Limerick	27	On-hold	Following the Kings Island Walled Town Framework Plan, it is proposed to retain the carpark for the operation of King John's Castle.
Former Garda Station, Mary Street, Limerick	8	Withdrawn	This site is being considered as a location for an interactive museum of fashion as per the Mayoral Programme.
	400		

Please note this is SHIP Construction and does not include SHIP Turnkey or SHIP Renewals or completed projects.

18. Question submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney

I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District for the roads team to provide information on the request made during Budget 2025 process for specific funding for traffic calming measures, to include the amount that was requested and the amount that was funded in Budget 2025.

REPLY: The Roads, Traffic and Cleansing Department sought a budget of €400k per year across all MD's from the Development Fund. As of yet the funding has not been confirmed.

19. Question submitted by Councillor S. Beasley

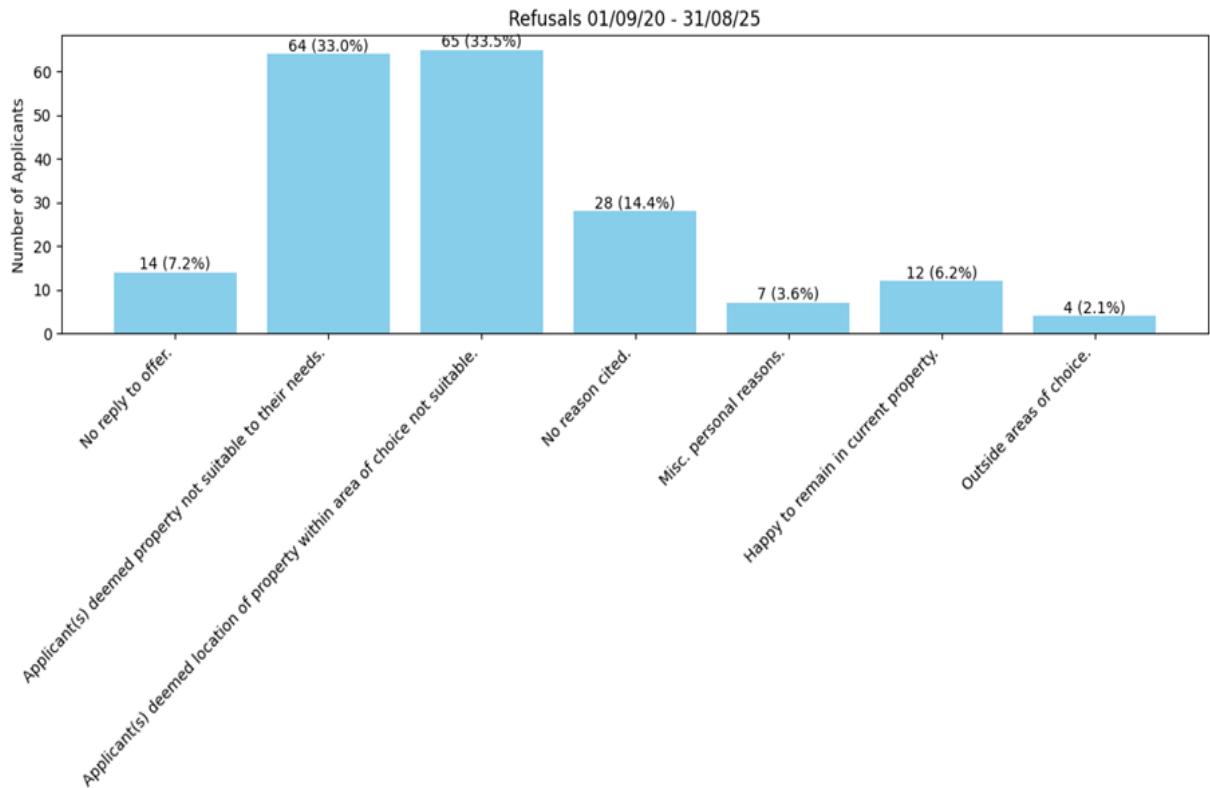
I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, how many people on the housing waiting list have been refused a tenancy, either Council or Approved Housing Body, due to having a family pet.

REPLY: The Allocations Team does not record this information and therefore cannot provide a figure. However, pet ownership is discussed during assessments to help match families with suitable properties.

20. Question submitted by Councillor S. Beasley

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for the breakdown of all the various refusals for social housing in the past 5 years.

REPLY: Breakdown as follows: -



21. 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 plans for the TFI public bike scheme and stations considering the Minister for Transport's announcement that they will be replaced later this year.

REPLY: The National Transport Authority (NTA) are currently progressing the procurement phase for a replacement service provider for their TFI Bike Scheme with the intention of having the new scheme operational in the summer of 2026. The Travel & Transport Strategy Department will continue to liaise with both the NTA and the eventual preferred tenderer with regard to the proposed operational and designated parking zone plans once they have been developed.

22. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for the agreement made in writing between Limerick Council and Irish Cement of the management and operation of the community gain fund, as stipulated by An Bord Pleanala Order March 2018.

REPLY: In April 2018 An Bord Pleanala granted permission (ABP ref: PL91.248285) to Irish Cement Ltd. for development to facilitate the use of alternative fuels and alternative raw materials in the cement manufacturing process at Munget Cement Factory. The grant of permission was subject to 13 conditions.

Conditions 11 and 12 relate to the establishment of a Community Liaison Committee and

the establishment of a community gain fund respectively. The community gain fund will be established at a rate of €1 / tonne of alternative fuels / alternative materials utilized. The Community Liaison Committee will have responsibility for the administration of the fund.

In accordance with Condition 12 of the grant of permission, a draft proposal has been prepared jointly by Limerick City and County Council and Irish Cement. This proposal sets out the preliminary details for the management of the community gain fund. Final details for the management and operation of the community gain fund will be concluded in consultation with the Community Liaison Committee. This agreement can be made available once it has been ratified by the membership of the Community Liaison Committee.

23. Question submitted by Councillor S. Kiely

I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for a detailed update on the former Mary Street Garda Station, to include: costs incurred since the Section 183 notice was approved by elected members; projected costs to be incurred during the 2025 & 2026 financial years; and any engineering reports completed for the building.

REPLY: As announced, the location at Mary Street is intended to play host to the exciting initiative of a new fashion incubator for LSAD students and graduates and a permanent home for our valuable fashion collections like that of Limerick Lace. The priority for now is to stabilize the building and other works, recognizing its status as a Protected Structure – the building is listed on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage – Reg No. 21513055. To that end, Punch Consulting Engineers have carried out the PSDP role for the site clearance and roof removal. They have also carried out investigatory surveys on the building, once safe access to the site was secured and have recommended the remedial works required to stabilize the building in the short term.

Costs to the end of 2025 are expected to be €215,000, broken down: since May 2023 €87,657 with additional costs estimated to the end of 2025 of €126,719.

Projected Costs for 2026 are currently not available as the costs will be dependent on the final design and development brief for the building. The building and site development works will be procured and costed in 2026.

These works are intended to be funded mainly from the Mayoral fund for LCCC to comply with its legal obligations with respect to the building under Section 58 of the Planning and Development Act.

Councillor Kiely highlighted that she had not received the reports requested and asked that these be forwarded to her.

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

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick if Limerick Council has appointed a Tree Officer as set out in the Limerick City and County Tree Policy 2024-2030.

REPLY: The Council has appointed a Tree Officer whose name is David Murphy. The Tree Officer's

role is to implement the tree policy in relation to the management of the tree stock and to manage new tree stock through best management practices. The role also involves education on effective management of trees and the protection and promotion of biodiversity.

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

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for a breakdown of the number of bird and bat boxes that have been installed in the Metropolitan area, as well as the locations that they have been installed in each Metropolitan LEA.

REPLY: In 2021, thirty-nine potential Swift nesting boxes were installed across five locations in Limerick City as part of the Swift Nestbox Scheme. In 2024, a further nine boxes were added at a newly established site. This initiative is a collaborative effort involving King John's Castle, the Hunt Museum, St Mary's Cathedral, St Michael's Church, Limerick Educate Together and Limerick City and County Council.

It is important to note that there is no central record of privately installed nest boxes or bat boxes, nor of those installed by local conservation groups or Tidy Towns committees

26. Question submitted by Councillor M. Donoghue

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick if the procurement of festivals providers and performers, and selection of same, could be established, and the basis for the selection set out clearly.

REPLY: The procurement of festivals providers and performers, and selection of same is done in line with Limerick City and County Council's Procurement Policy 2024-2028 and in compliance with European Directives, National Legislation, Policy and Guidelines. The evaluation and awarding/selection process for successful tenderers is clearly set out in the competitive process.

NOTICES OF MOTION

27. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor D. Butler

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council consider the development of Butterfly Garden, possibly in the proposed Mungret Sensory Garden, to provide a peaceful and supportive space where families affected by miscarriage, stillbirth, neonatal, infant, and young baby loss can find comfort, remember their little ones, and know they are not alone during what is often a very lonely and difficult time.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Butler, seconded by Councillor O'Sullivan and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Butler referred to the positive benefits of developing a space for those affected by the loss of a loved one.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council will consider adding a Butterfly Garden as part of the proposed Mungrange Sensory Garden.

28. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor D. Butler

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this District write to TFI and Bus Eireann to provide a bus stop near Kilteragh, Dooradoyle to support access for residents to public transport in what is the area's largest estate. I also ask that the Active Travel department offer support in this regard.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Butler stated that a bus stop was urgently required near Kilteragh, which is a very large housing estate. He noted that residents currently have to walk a long distance to access the nearest bus stop, and highlighted the need for a better bus service in the area.

29. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council introduce double yellow lines along the road linking the Dock Road to Alandale Estate so as to prevent persistent illegal encampment along both sides of this road.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Leddin referred to the significant issues caused by illegal parking along the road, and highlighted the need to introduce double yellow lines to assist the Gardai with managing parking issues in the area.

REPLY: In principle, the Roads Department does not have any issue with this proposal. An Garda Síochána will have to be also consulted before it can be implemented. The extents may need to be discussed on site with the local representatives.

30. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Kiely

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that a map be developed to show the locations of public toilets in the city centre.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Kiely stated that the provision of public toilet facilities is essential, particularly for those with medical conditions and disabilities. She highlighted that the development of a map would contribute to making the city centre a more welcoming and attractive place to visit.

REPLY: The Council can develop a map to show the locations of public toilets in the city centre.

There are public toilets located on Mallow Street outside People's Park playground and on Bedford Row.

Following discussions on the Motion, Members requested that consideration be given to including toilet facilities located in public buildings, such as Limerick City and County Council's building at Merchant's Quay, when developing the proposed map.

31. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council host an information session for the owners of vacant and derelict properties on the various grants available to incentivise development.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Leddin acknowledged that while some properties have been renovated in the city centre, several buildings still have vacant second and third floors. He highlighted the benefits of hosting an information session promoting the new levies, grants, and incentives available.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council are proactive in their approach in terms of informing owners of the different schemes available to develop vacant and derelict properties. All information on the Vacant Refurbishment Property grant is available through online platforms and our dedicated contact number for the grant 061 557037.

Limerick City and County Council will facilitate a public information session on the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant.

With the permission of the Cathaoirleach, it was agreed to take the following Notice of Motions together:

32. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this District write to Ministers Chambers and McEntee in support of getting secretaries and caretakers across the country access to pension and leave entitlements.

34. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor U. Gavan

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this District write to the Department of Education urging the government to intervene in the dispute with school secretaries and caretakers to secure parity of pay, tenure and pensions for the workers concerned.

The Notice of Motions were proposed by Councillor Secas, seconded by Councillor Gavan and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Secas stated that secretaries and caretakers are vital staff within schools, and she highlighted the importance of ensuring these workers had access to public

service pensions.

Suspension of Standing Orders

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

33. 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 call on Department of Children, Disability and Equality to fund a publicly funded system of early childhood education and child care to attract and retain vital early educators.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Gavan highlighted the importance of investing in early childhood education, which is a vital public service.

35. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Pond

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that following on from further planning applications for more than 200units in the Annacotty area that Limerick City and County Council would introduce whatever measures that are needed to reduce traffic congestion in the Castletroy, Annacotty, Lisnagry area.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Pond referred to the heavy traffic volumes in the area, and highlighted the importance of having a proper traffic management plan in place to alleviate the congestion.

REPLY: As part of the implementation of Bus Connects improved infrastructure measures will be considered over the coming years to consider all travel modes in accordance with Transport Policy including LSMATS and the relevant Limerick Development Plan objectives and aims.

36. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney (to be referred to the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that we immediately review and amend the Limerick City and County Tree Policy 2024-2030.

It was agreed to refer this Notice of Motion to the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee.

37. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Beasley

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this District write to

the Minister of Education, urging that from 2026 onwards, school emblems be made available for purchase independently of full school uniforms.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Beasley referred to the high cost of school uniforms and highlighted that allowing emblems to be purchased separately would help reduce costs for families.

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

I will move at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that we run a pilot “smartphone free” playgrounds initiative in Limerick City, similar to the successful “Not around us” campaign.

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that this Notice of Motion had been withdrawn.

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

I will move at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this District will write to the NTA to request the Mulcair Road is included in the new Bus Connects Route as it is currently on the 304 bus route.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor O'Donovan highlighted the importance of retaining the bus service on this route, noting the area had a significant population, with many elderly people living there.

40. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillors J. Pond and C. Slattery

We will move at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that should a downsizing property become available that the property is used for downsizing again and not put back into the social housing stock.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Slattery referred to the Rightsizing Scheme, which is very successful. She highlighted the importance of retaining properties for rightsizing home owners when they become vacant to support the continued success of the scheme.

REPLY: The intention behind the motion is understood. It is acknowledged that there will be compassionate and exceptional cases where flexibility in allocation to rightsizers is essential in order to respond to particular housing needs. There are, however, practical difficulties in reallocating rightsizing units exclusively for further private rightsizers. Vacancies often arise at short notice and Limerick City and County Council must be in a position to allocate promptly.

This Payment and Availability agreement (i.e., the Contract) between the AHB and the Local Authority states that the AHB shall notify the Council as soon as they become aware of a vacancy and that a nomination is required for the vacant unit within one month of being notified by the AHB.

Should allocations be delayed by the need to undertake a rightsizing campaign (which can take up to six months to launch, assess applicants, and allow applicants to dispose of their existing homes on the private market), Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) that own and manage rightsizing properties are placed at risk of losing availability payments from the State. These prolonged void periods can result in a financial loss to the AHB who are under obligation to service debt from their income.

In order to manage this effectively, consultation would be required with AHBs to examine the operational implications, and with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) to secure the necessary approvals.

There is also another mechanism whereby the rightsizing in perpetuity model could be tested on Local Authority built elderly schemes which would not have the same risks identified above as an AHB built scheme. In this instance and subject to DHLGH approval the Council can designate elderly dwellings by way of an Order and retain designation for rightsizing.

A possible way forward would be to table this matter at the next Housing Strategic Policy Committee (SPC), with a view to considering a pilot initiative on a Local Authority built elderly scheme or an AHB built scheme in the Metropolitan District, subject to the agreement of the relevant stakeholders involved.

This would enable the reallocation process to be tested in practice, balancing the objective of creating additional rightsizing opportunities with the need to maintain void efficiency and safeguard income and funding streams where applicable.

41. 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 District fully supports the Disability Federation of Ireland's "Make Way Day" campaign through issuing a press release on the importance of this campaign and by championing it on the Council's social media platforms, both in advance of the day of action and on "Make Way Day" itself: 26th September 2025.

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 highlighted the difficulties that people with disabilities experience when trying to use footpaths obstructed by parked cars and bins left out for collection. He highlighted the need to ensure footpaths are accessible for all users.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council is fully supportive of the Disability Federation of Ireland's "Make Way Day" campaign and will promote the campaign through all its social media platforms.

In support of the 'Make Way Day' campaign the Council will also promote their 'Think Before You Park' initiative. This is a joint initiative by Limerick City and County Council and An Garda Síochána which was launched in 2024 to address the dangers of illegal and inconsiderate parking in Limerick. The campaign uses stickers with QR codes on illegally

parked cars that link to videos showing the impact of bad parking, and it encourages motorists to be mindful of vulnerable road users.

Both initiatives will be promoted ahead of the designated 'Make Way Day' on the 26th September 2025.

42. 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 District write to the current Minister of Agriculture, Martin Heydon, to urge him to support Stout's Law, a legislative campaign advocating for stricter animal cruelty laws, particularly in cases of unethical back-yard breeding and puppy farming.

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 highlighted the importance of ensuring legislation is enforced to safeguard the welfare of animals and tackle abuse.

43. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Donoghue

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that an Enforcement Officer be appointed to actively pursue and focus on the removal of poor shopfront signage in the city centre.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Donoghue highlighted the need for a greater focus on improving the visual standards of shopfronts in the city centre.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council currently employ two full time Enforcement Officers who work in the Development Management Department. At present, there is no capacity to appoint one of the Officers on a full time basis to focus on the removal of poor shopfront signage in the city centre.

However, where a complaint is received regarding a shopfront that does not benefit from Planning Permission, it will be investigated as per the requirements of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended).

44. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Donoghue

I will move at the next Meeting of Metropolitan District of Limerick that a bus shelter is provided at Mungret Community College to support the passengers of the expanded 304a bus route.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Donoghue highlighted the need for the provision of a bus

shelter at the new college, noting the large numbers of students using the bus transport service.

REPLY: Following the successful commencement of the 304B service to Mungret Community College in August 2025 it is the intention of the Transportation & Mobility Directorate that a bus shelter will be provided at the school location under the National Transport Authority's Bus Stop Enhancement Programme in 2026 subject to funding.

45. Correspondence

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Dated: _____