

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, AND ONLINE, ON MONDAY, 22ND SEPTEMBER, 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, Secas, Sheahan, Stokes, Talukder, Teefy, Teskey, Ward.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director General (Dr. P. Daly), Deputy Director General and Director, Corporate Services, Human Resources and Organisational Development (Mr. J. Delaney), Director, Finance, Economic Development, Digital and ICT Services (Mr. M. White), Director, Housing (Mr. B. Kennedy), A/Director, Regeneration, Sports and Recreation (Mr. D. White), A/Director, Rural, Community, Culture and Tourism Development (Ms. K. Burke), Director, Transportation and Mobility (Ms. P. Liddy), A/Director, Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services (Ms. P. King), Director, Planning and Place-Making (Mr. V. Murray), Meetings Administrator (Ms. C. Farrell), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services (Ms. A. Foley), Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services (Ms. C. Sheehy), Staff Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. J. Tierney), Senior Executive Officer, Tourism, Festivals and Events (Ms. E. Coleman), Senior Planner, Forward Planning, Public Realm and Heritage (Ms. M. Woods).

At the outset of the meeting, and with the permission of the Príomh Chomhairleoir, the Members discussed the Mayoral visit to New York in September and requested that the Príomh Chomhairleoir and Elected Members be included in future foreign delegations to promote Limerick's interests.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the following Meetings:

- (a) Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 14th July, 2025.
- (b) Special Meeting of the Council held on 26th August, 2025.
- (c) Special Meeting of the Council held on 8th September, 2025.

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

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

2. Declaration of Interest

The Meetings Administrator stated that, in line with Part 15 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, and the Code of Conduct, she was inviting those present to notify the Meeting of any declaration of interest in any item due for discussion at the Meeting.

The Director General declared an interest in Item No. 4(b) Disposal of Freehold Interest in property at Moore's Lane, Lelia Street, Limerick. He indicated that he would leave the Meeting for the duration of the discussion on this item.

3. Presidential Election 2025

Circulated, Letter F.08/25, dated 3rd September, 2025, enclosing a copy of the Presidential Election Order made by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in relation to the forthcoming Presidential Election.

The Meetings Administrator advised Members that a Workshop had been held to receive presentations and correspondence from the candidates seeking nomination had been circulated for the information of Members. She outlined the procedure for Limerick City and County Council to nominate a candidate for the Presidential Election.

Following discussions regarding the procedure, on the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor McSweeney, it was agreed to take a five-minute adjournment.

On resumption, the Meetings Administrator advised Members of the agreed procedure - that they would be requested to consider whether to nominate a candidate for the Presidential Election and if it was agreed to nominate a candidate, a rollcall vote would be taken on each candidate. A majority vote was required for any candidate to be nominated; if none of the candidates received a majority, the matter would rest; if one candidate emerged, that candidate would be nominated.

Proposed by Councillor Hartigan (S);
 Seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue;

"That, Limerick City and County Council nominate a candidate for the Presidential Election.

An amendment was proposed as follows:

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan;

Seconded by Councillor Galvin;

“That, Limerick City and County Council does not nominate a candidate for the Presidential Election.”

The Príomh Chomhairleoir declared that a Vote would be taken on the Amendment proposed by Councillor Sheahan and seconded by Councillor Galvin that Limerick City and County Council would not nominate a candidate for the Presidential Election. The result of the voting was as follows:

For the Amendment

Councillors Beasley, Butler, Conway, Doyle, Galvin, Keary, Kiely, Leddin, McSweeney, O’Sullivan (O), O’Sullivan (T), Reale, Ruddle, Sheahan, Stokes, Teskey. (16)

Against the Amendment

Councillors Benson, Carey, Collins (B), Collins (M), Daly, Donoghue, Foley, Gavan, Hartigan (S), Hartigan (T), Kilcoyne, Moran, O’Donoghue, O’Hanlon, Pond, Ryan (E), Ryan (M), Scanlan, Secas, Slattery, Talukder, Teefy, Ward. (23)

Abstain

Councillors Hickey-O’Mara, O’Donovan. (2)

The Príomh Chomhairleoir declared the Amendment defeated and accordingly requested nominations for consideration as a Presidential Election candidate.

Proposed by Councillor Ryan (E);
Seconded by Councillor Beasley;

“That, Maria Steen be nominated for consideration as a Presidential Election candidate.”

Proposed by Councillor Hartigan (S);
Seconded by Councillor Donoghue;

“That, Councillor Kieran McCarthy be nominated for consideration as a Presidential Election candidate.”

Proposed by Councillor Teefy;
Seconded by Councillor Daly;

“That, Donncha MacGabhann be nominated for consideration as a Presidential Election candidate.”

Proposed by Councillor O’Donovan;
Seconded by Councillor Hickey-O’Mara;

“That, Gerben Uunk be nominated for consideration as a Presidential Election candidate.”

The Príomh Chomhairleoir advised the Members that they would now proceed to a rollcall vote and that a majority vote was required for any candidate to be considered.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the rollcall vote would be taken in alphabetical order.

- **Donncha MacGabhann**

For

Councillors Carey, Daly, Hartigan (S), Hartigan (T), O’Donoghue, Scanlan, Secas, Teefy. (8)

Against

Councillors Beasley, Benson, Butler, Conway, Donoghue, Doyle, Galvin, Gavan, Keary, Kiely, Leddin, McSweeney, O’Donovan, O’Sullivan (O), O’Sullivan (T), Ruddle, Ryan (E), Sheahan, Stokes, Teskey. (20)

Abstain

Councillors Collins (B), Collins (M), Foley, Hickey-O’Mara, Kilcoyne, Moran, O’Hanlon, Pond, Reale, Ryan (M), Slattery, Talukder, Ward. (13)

- **Councillor Kieran McCarthy**

For

Councillors Daly, Donoghue, Hartigan (S), Moran, O’Donoghue. (5)

Against

Councillors Beasley, Benson, Butler, Carey, Conway, Doyle, Galvin, Gavan, Hartigan (T), Keary, Kiely, Leddin, McSweeney, O’Donovan, O’Sullivan (O), O’Sullivan (T), Ruddle, Ryan (E), Sheahan, Stokes, Teskey. (21)

Abstain

Councillors Collins (B), Collins (M), Foley, Hickey-O'Mara, Kilcoyne, O'Hanlon, Pond, Reale, Ryan (M), Scanlan, Secas, Slattery, Talukder, Teefy, Ward. **(15)**

- **Maria Steen**

For

Councillors Beasley, Daly, O'Donoghue, Ryan (E), Scanlan, Teefy. **(6)**

Against

Councillors Benson, Butler, Carey, Conway, Donoghue, Doyle, Galvin, Gavan, Hartigan (S), Hartigan (T), Hickey-O'Mara, Keary, Kiely, Leddin, McSweeney, Moran, O'Donovan, O'Sullivan (O), O'Sullivan (T), Ruddle, Secas, Sheahan, Stokes, Teskey. **(24)**

Abstain

Councillors Collins (B), Collins (M), Foley, Kilcoyne, O'Hanlon, Pond, Reale, Ryan (M), Slattery, Talukder, Ward. **(11)**

- **Gerben Uunk**

For

Councillors Beasley, Carey, Daly, Hartigan (S), Hickey-O'Mara, O'Donovan. **(6)**

Against

Councillors Butler, Conway, Doyle, Galvin, Gavan, Hartigan (T), Keary, Kiely, Leddin, McSweeney, Moran, O'Donoghue, O'Sullivan (O), O'Sullivan (T), Ruddle, Ryan (E), Scanlan, Sheahan, Stokes, Teefy, Teskey. **(21)**

Abstain

Councillors Benson, Collins (B), Collins (M), Donoghue, Foley, Kilcoyne, O'Hanlon, Pond, Reale, Ryan (M), Secas, Slattery, Talukder, Ward. **(14)**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Council that each of the four persons nominated had failed to reach a majority.

The Príomh Chomhairleoir declared that as no person nominated had reached a majority, Limerick City and County Council would not be putting a candidate forward for the Presidential Election 2025.

4. Disposal of Land

Rural, Community, Culture and Tourism Development Directorate

General Disposals

(a) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 15th August, 2025, concerning disposal of land comprising 0.0098 acres (0.0040 hectares) at Fairhill, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor McSweeney;

Seconded by Councillor Sheahan;

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 comprising 0.0098 acres (0.0040 hectares) at Fairhill, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick, to Roger Slattery, for the sum of €2,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the Contract and Roger Slattery to pay Limerick City and County Council’s legal costs incurred in this transaction, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 15th August, 2025.”

(b) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 15th August, 2025, concerning disposal of Freehold Interest in property at Moore’s Lane, Lelia Street, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor McSweeney;

Seconded by Councillor Sheahan;

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 Freehold Interest in property at Moore’s Lane, Lelia Street, Limerick, to URLAN T.V. Limited, for the sum of €720, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 15th August, 2025.”

(c) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 15th August, 2025, concerning disposal of property at Sheares Street, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor McSweeney;

Seconded by Councillor Sheahan;

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 Sheares Street, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick, to Kilmallock Tourism Development CLG, for the sum

of €1, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the Lease, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 15th August, 2025.”

Derelict Disposals

(d) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 15th August, 2025, concerning disposal of property at Main Street, Ballingarry, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor McSweeney;

Seconded by Councillor Sheahan;

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 Main Street, Ballingarry, Co. Limerick, to Ian Donovan, for the sum of €50,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the Contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 15th August, 2025.”

(e) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 21st August, 2025, concerning disposal of Garage at Feoghanagh, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor McSweeney;

Seconded by Councillor Sheahan;

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 Garage at Feoghanagh, Co. Limerick, to Killian O’Riordan, for the sum of €1, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the Contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 21st August, 2025.”

4A. Limerick Chamber

The Príomh Chomhairleoir referred to the Supplementary Agenda issued to the Members outlining that a presentation would be given by Limerick Chamber and welcomed representatives from Limerick Chamber – Michelle Gallagher, CEO, and Seán Golden, Chief Economist and Director of Policy.

The Chief Economist and Director of Policy, Limerick Chamber, thanked the Members for allowing him to present to the Meeting. He advised the Members that Limerick Chamber had carried out a survey with employees of their member companies; and that the briefing today was in advance of publication of the survey results.

The Chief Economist and Director of Policy, Limerick Chamber, outlined the key findings of the Chamber’s housing research as follows:

- Granted Planning Permissions are not necessarily indicative of what will come to market.
- 1,008 homes were completed in Limerick in 2024 which will not meet demand.
- The highest ever level of Property Price Growth was recorded to July 2025.
- Limerick's Rental Price Growth was up 88% from 2019 to date.
- Limerick delivered 3.5% of national affordable housing between 2022 and 2024.

The Chief Economist and Director of Policy informed the Members that the survey results revealed:

- A significant number of employees are struggling with housing affordability.
- The rising cost of property and rent is impacting on the retention of skilled workers in Limerick.
- Many of those surveyed remain in the rental market or live at home due to high costs.
- There is a high demand for affordable housing options.

The Chief Economist and Director of Policy stressed the need for urgent coordinated action address housing supply and housing affordability in Limerick.

In response, the Members thanked Limerick Chamber for their informative presentation and in discussion:

- Complimented the survey, noting it will be useful for the next Development Plan and zoning of lands.
- Flagged the urgent need for Affordable Housing and Affordable Purchase Housing.
- Queried how Limerick is performing nationally.
- Requested clarification on the makeup of survey respondents.
- Queried whether companies examining Limerick as a location are deterred by availability of housing.
- Supported the development of transport plans and infrastructure.
- Highlighted delays in delivering social and affordable houses due to the length of time it takes to achieve Departmental approval, tendering processes and following Part 8 procedure.
- Noted that the VAT rate of 13.5% is a factor, suggesting that if reduced by 5% it would significantly reduce the cost of purchasing a home and requested that the chamber make a submission on that.

The Mayor agreed to work with the Director of Housing to deliver a housing plan for Limerick, noting that the Housing SPC should be used as the appropriate committee for this work.

In response to the Members queries, the Chief Economist and Director of Policy advised that members of the Chamber across the city and county were surveyed, noting the rental barometer is a county-wide issue. He explained that the survey was carried out to give members a voice. The Chief Economist and Director of Policy outlined that people do want

to live near their workplace, highlighting that the next Census will provide a better view of transport usage. There is a reliance on public transport to unlock development sites.

The representatives from Limerick Chamber thanked the Members for receiving them and then withdrew.

5. Corporate Services, Human Resources and Organisational Development

(a) Executive Report

Circulated, Executive Report for the month of June, July and August 2025.

The Reports were noted by the Council.

(b) Foreign Travel

(i) Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services dated 16th September, 2025, seeking the Council's approval for attendance and participation by a delegation from the Council in the Annual Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade 2026 in Rockaway Beach, Queens, New York, USA.

Proposed by Councillor Kiely;

Seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue;

And Resolved:

“That, in accordance with Section 142 (5) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to foreign travel in respect of attendance and participation by a delegation from the Council in the Annual Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade 2026 in Rockaway Beach, Queens, New York, USA.”

(ii) Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services dated 16th September, 2025, seeking the Council's approval for attendance and participation by a delegation from the Council in the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade 2026 in New York City, USA.

Proposed by Councillor Kiely;

Seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue;

And Resolved:

“That, in accordance with Section 142 (5) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to foreign travel in respect of attendance and participation by a delegation from the Council in the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade 2026 in New York City, USA.”

(iii) Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services dated 16th September, 2025, seeking the Council's approval for

attendance and participation by a delegation from the Council in the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade 2026 in Savannah, Georgia, USA.

Proposed by Councillor Kiely;
 Seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue;
 And Resolved:

"That, in accordance with Section 142 (5) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to foreign travel in respect of attendance and participation by a delegation from the Council in the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade 2026 in Savannah, Georgia, USA."

- (iv) Circulated, report of the Ryder Cup Co-Ordinator dated 12th September, 2025, seeking the Council's approval to proposed visit by the Príomh Chomhairleoir and the Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale to Bethpage Black, New York, USA, to represent Limerick at functions and events of the Ryder Cup 2025.

Proposed by Councillor Kiely;
 Seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue;
 And Resolved:

"That, in accordance with Section 142 (5) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to proposed visit by the Príomh Chomhairleoir and the Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale to Bethpage Black, New York, USA, to represent Limerick at functions and events of the Ryder Cup 2025."

Members discussed the benefits of foreign delegations and requested that proposals outline the estimated cost for the full delegation.

(c) Strategic Policy Committee – Sectoral Nomination

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services dated 3rd September, 2025, seeking the approval of the Council for Sectoral Nomination to the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee.

The report stated that a vacancy had arisen on the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee arising from the resignation of P.J. O'Grady from the Committee. Correspondence had been received from the Business and Employers' Pillar nominating Michael Joyce, representing the Development/Construction Sector, to fill this vacancy. Accordingly, the approval of the Council was sought to this appointment.

Proposed by Councillor McSweeney;
 Seconded by Councillor Sheahan;
 And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the appointment of Michael Joyce, representing the Development/Construction Sector, to fill the vacancy on the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee consequent on the resignation of P.J. O’Grady from the Committee.”

(d) Strategic Policy Committee Reports

- (i) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the **Community, Leisure, Arts, Heritage and Culture** Strategic Policy Committee dated 10th July, 2025, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 9th July, 2025, together with the Director of Service, Rural, Community, Culture and Tourism Department report dated 9th September, 2025 on the Limerick Outdoor Recreation Plan 2025-2030, and a copy of the Plan.

The Chairperson’s report was noted by the Council.

Recommendation

“That, Limerick Outdoor Recreation Plan 2025-2030 be presented to the Full Council Meeting on 22nd September, 2025, for noting.”

The Limerick Outdoor Recreation Plan 2025-2030 was noted by the Council

- (ii) It was noted that the next Meeting of the Climate **Action, Biodiversity and Environment** Strategic Policy Committee was scheduled for 8th October, 2025.
- (iii) It was noted that the next Meeting of the **Home and Social Development** Strategic Policy Committee was scheduled for 9th October, 2025.
- (iv) It was noted that the next Meeting of the **Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism and Planning** Strategic Policy Committee was scheduled for 13th October, 2025.
- (v) It was noted that the next Meeting of the **Travel and Transportation** Strategic Policy Committee was scheduled for 22nd October, 2025.

6. Finance, Economic Development, Digital and ICT Services

(a) Fixing of Date – Statutory Budget Meeting

Circulated, copy of Department Circular Fin 10/2025 dated 9th July, 2025, in relation to the Statutory Budget Meeting and other budgetary matters.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Butler, the following date was agreed:

2026 Statutory Budget Meeting: Friday, 21st November, 2025, at 10.00 a.m.

(b) Overdraft Accommodation

The Meetings Administrator advised that the approval of the Council was required to bank overdraft accommodation in the sum of €57 million for the 12-month period to 31st December, 2026.

Proposed by Councillor McSweeney;
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan;
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to bank overdraft accommodation in the sum of €57 million for the 12-month period to 31st December, 2026, subject to the sanction of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and in accordance with Section 106 (2) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.”

7. Planning and Place-Making

Draft Development Contribution Scheme 2025-2031

Circulated, report of the Director, Planning and Place-Making, dated 1st September, 2025, enclosing Director General’s Report to the Elected Members dated 1st September, 2025, on submissions received in relation to the Draft Development Contribution Scheme 2025-2031, together with copy of the Draft Development Contribution Scheme 2025-2031.

Following discussions, Councillor Sheahan proposed that the Scheme be adopted with the following modifications:

- Proposed amendment number 1, as set out in the Director General’s report dated 1st September 2025, in relation to an exemption for the LDA in relation to affordable housing shall not be included in the Scheme.
- Add an additional band 4 under section 6.0, residential development, for one off rural housing with a charge of €25 up to 180sqm and €35 per sqm over 180sqm.

Members queried the second part of the amendment proposed and requested clarity on the charge for up to 180sqm and per sqm over 180sqm.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan and seconded by Councillor Kiely it was agreed to adjourn the meeting for 10 minutes.

The Meeting resumed.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan;
Seconded by Councillor Slattery;
And Resolved:

“That, pursuant to Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the Draft Limerick Development Contribution Scheme 2025-2031 be and is hereby adopted without the proposed amendment relating to an exemption for the LDA in relation to affordable housing, and an additional band 4 shall be added under section 6.0, residential development, for one off rural housing with a charge of €25 up to 180sqm and €35 per sqm over 180sqm.”

8. Rural, Community, Culture and Tourism Development

(a) Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts Scheme 2025

Circulated, report of the Arts Officer | Creative Ireland Co-ordinator dated 10th September, 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 Collins (B);

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 10th September, 2025.”

It was the view of some Members that there was very little public awareness of the new Flavours of Limerick Food Festival, noting that a well-considered food festival would be welcomed for Limerick and could provide a great opportunity for the city and county.

In response to the Members concerns, Senior Executive Officer, Tourism, Festivals and Events, advised that feedback on the festival had been very positive, and welcomed engagement from Councillors to assist in improving the festival for future years.

(b) Limerick City and County Council Tourism Plan 2025-2030

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Tourism, Festivals and Events Department, dated 15th September, 2025, together with (i) copy of the Limerick City and County Council Tourism Plan 2025-2030, (ii) Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) Determination and (iii) Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Determination.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (B);

Seconded by Councillor Sheahan;

And Resolved:

“That, the Limerick City and County Council Tourism Plan 2025-2030, as circulated, be and is hereby adopted.”

9. Conferences

(a) Participation by Members at Conferences

Circulated, details of the following Conferences: (i) The Daniel O’Connell Summer School held in Caherciveen and Caherdaniel, Co. Kerry, on 29th and 30th August, 2025; and (ii) 35th Anniversary of the La Touche Legacy Seminar held in Greystones, Co. Wicklow, on 19th/20th September, 2025.

The conferences were noted by Members.

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

Conference: ““The Daniel O’Connell Summer School” Caherciveen and Caherdaniel, Co. Kerry. - 29th and 30th August, 2025: Councillors D. Butler and E. O’Donovan.

Conference “35th Anniversary of the La Touche Legacy Seminar” Greystones, Co. Wicklow. - 19th and 20th September, 2025: Councillors J. Leddin, F. Kilcoyne, K. O’Hanlon.

(b) Reports on Conference / Seminar / Meeting / Event

Circulated, reports by Members who had participated at Conference / Seminar / Meeting / Event.

The reports were noted by the Council.

MAYOR’S QUESTIONS

10. Question submitted by Councillor E. O’Donovan

I will ask the Mayor for an update on the membership of the Transport Sub-Group and if a meeting will be scheduled with the Minister for Transport in attendance this year with a specific focus on these three areas: (a) the withdrawal of the Car Share Scheme in Limerick City this year with the operator citing “vandalism” as the reason for ceasing same; (b) the announcement by the Minister that the only public Bike Share Scheme in Limerick will cease by the end of this year; and (c) the continued lack of consultation by the National Transport Authority on cycle and bus schemes in Limerick City.

REPLY: The Transport Sub-Group was formally established on 30th September 2024. Its current membership comprises:

- John Moran, Mayor of Limerick
- Dr. Pat Daly, Director General, Limerick City and County Council

- Gordon Daly, Chief Executive, Clare County Council
- Carmel Kirby, Director of Service, Clare County Council
- Patricia Liddy, Director of Service, Limerick City and County Council
- Mary Considine, Chief Executive Officer, Shannon Airport Group
- Prof. Brian Caulfield, Centre for Transport Research, Trinity College Dublin
- David Kelly, Director, Southern Regional Assembly
- Pat Keating Shannon Foynes Port Company
- Hugh Creegan, National Transport Authority
- Peter Walsh, Transport Infrastructure Ireland

The most recent meeting of the Sub-Group took place on 4th September 2025. At that meeting a workplan was agreed which identifies priority areas to be advanced, including:

1. Rail-led Transport Oriented Development
2. Limerick – A Sustainable City of Future Mobility
3. Continued Active Travel Investment
4. Limerick City Centre Transport Plan / BusConnects / LSMATS
5. Improved Regional Connectivity
 - a) Foynes to Limerick Road Scheme
 - b) N/M20 Cork to Limerick
 - c) Dual track Colbert–Limerick Junction and Shannon Airport
 - d) Shannon Airport access,
 - e) N24 Limerick to Waterford Road
6. Improved Interurban Connectivity
 - a) M7 Junction 28 Mackey upgrade
 - b) Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale [N21] bypass projects
 - c) Future Limerick Northern Distributor Road solution

In relation to the matters raised by Councillor O'Donovan, while the Sub-

Group's agreed workplan is framed around strategic infrastructure and connectivity, the Mayor will continue to raise with the Minister the concerns regarding shared mobility schemes in Limerick and the level of local consultation on cycling and bus projects. Some of these issues may also be properly addressed under the "Limerick – A Sustainable City of Future Mobility" strand of the workplan.

Although I have met the Minister for Transport on a number of occasions in recent months, arrangements are now being made to extend an invitation for the Minister to attend the December meeting of the Transport Sub-Group, at which these issues may form part of the agenda for discussion.

I would like to acknowledge the work Councillor O'Donovan has undertaken in this area, which has been a consistent priority focus for her. In order to ensure the specific experiences and concerns she has highlighted are reflected in those discussions, I would welcome a more detailed briefing note from Councillor O'Donovan setting out the particular schemes where she or others

felt consultation was lacking, and the issues encountered, so that these can be raised directly with the Minister and the relevant agencies

The Mayor agreed to work with Councillor O'Donovan to write a letter to the Minister for Transport, addressing the three issues highlighted in her Question.

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 J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting as to (a) the number of Housing Commencement Notices received by this Authority in 2023, 2024 and through the current year to date, and (b) a breakdown of this figure in terms of one-off and developer-led builds.

REPLY: (a) the number of Housing Commencement Notices received by this Authority in 2023, 2024 and through the current year to date

2023: 232 Commencement Notices received*

2024: 328 Commencement Notices received*

2025 to date: 150 Commencement Notices received*

(b) a breakdown of this figure in terms of one-off and developer-led builds

2023

No. of Commencement Notices received for one-off builds - 170

No. of Commencement Notices received for Developer-Led Builds - 62

2024

No. of Commencement Notices received for one-off builds - 214

No. of Commencement Notices received for Developer-Led Builds - 114

2025 to date

No. of Commencement Notices received for one-off builds - 116

No. of Commencement Notices received for Developer-Led Builds - 34

*This is the number of Commencement Notices, not the number of housing units.

12. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting what remaining balance is due on the 2022 loan advanced to the Dublin Bike Hire Company, are its repayments online, and when is full repayment due.

REPLY: The remaining balance due on this loan is €116,044.20. Repayments in relation to this loan are made electronically to Limerick City and County Council. Full repayment of this loan is due by June 2026.

13. Question submitted by Councillor U. Gavan

I will ask at the next Meeting what is this year's budget for refurbishing vacant properties, how many houses have been refurbished in 2024, the average cost of refurbishment and projected numbers for 2025.

REPLY: Housing Maintenance has a budget in 2025 of €3,602,672 for vacant properties (Voids & Re-lets), including €803,000 for Voids eligible properties (€11,000 funding available per unit from the DHLGH). The average cost of refurbishment is €38,000.

There were 91 houses refurbished in 2024, and it is projected that 120 vacant properties will be refurbished in 2025.

14. Question submitted by Councillor U. Gavan

I will ask at the next Meeting how many tradespeople and apprentices are employed by Limerick City and County Council and how much has been spent on hiring external contractors to provide housing maintenance services in 2024 and projected costs for 2025.

REPLY: There are 25 tradespersons in Housing Maintenance currently which includes Carpenters, Plumbers, Electrician, Painter and Stonemasons.

Limerick City and County Council are currently in the process of commencing an apprenticeship programme for plumbing.

The cost for external contractors for 2024 which includes labour and materials was €5.43m. The projected cost for external contractors for 2025 which includes Labour and materials is €5.3m.

15. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting of Limerick Council for the number of applications for the local authority home loan in the last three years, how many have been successful and how many rejected, with reasons for same.

REPLY: Please see details below regarding:

- (i) the number of applications received for the local authority home loan in the last three years (Details in Year and Received columns)
- (ii) the number of applications that have been successful (Details in Approved in Principle column)
- (iii) the number of applications that have been rejected (Details in Declined and Returned columns)

Year	Received	Approved in Principle	Declined	Returned*
2022	128	32	20	76
2023	76	20	11	45
2024	59	20	10	29

- (iv) Reasons for declining Local Authority Home Loan applications

- **Unsatisfactory Credit History**

Details outlined in the applicant's credit history report indicate the applicant has an unsatisfactory credit related issue.

- **Net Income Ratio Outside of Policy**

The proposed monthly repayment as a percentage of the applicant's net monthly income exceeds the percentage as permitted in the Local Authority Loan Credit Policy.

- **Repayment Capacity Not Demonstrated**

Applicant's capacity to service the proposed monthly loan and MPI repayments is not proven from documentation provided.

- **Unsatisfactory Savings Record/Source of Equity**

Applicants have insufficient savings to cover the 3% cash deposit requirement, or their savings record is not credible and consistent.

- **Sufficiently Committed**

Applicant's current financial commitments i.e. monthly loan repayments, credit card commitments etc., do not leave sufficient funds to cover the proposed monthly loan and MPI repayments.

- **Income Sustainability Not Evident**

Applicant's employment/income sustainability is not proven from documentation provided.

- **Unsatisfactory Financial Management**

Applicant's financial information i.e. bank account statements etc. indicate unsatisfactory operation of accounts by way of arrears, unpaid standing orders/direct debits, bank referral fees etc.

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

I will ask at the next Meeting that this Council provide information on how many trees have been planted since the beginning of this Council's term in June 2024 and for a breakdown of this number of trees planted in each Local Electoral Area.

REPLY: The Council's Environment and Climate Action and Active Travel Departments have planted a total of 1,895 trees since June 2024. These are listed below. This total does not include trees planted by any other Department in the Council. It is the intention that all trees planted by all Departments of the Council will be collated by the Tree Officer which can be reported on an annual basis.

Limerick City North

- 60 no. Thomondgate

Limerick City West

- 32 no. Mulcair Road
- 20 no. Graney Close
- 1 no. People's Park
- 79 no. R510
- 92 no. woodland planting also R510

Limerick City East

- 70 no. Castletroy Greenway
- 30 no. Roxboro Park
- 170 no. Plassey Park Road

Adare-Rathkeale

- 1 no. Adare Park

Newcastle West

- 1 no. Demesne
- 1,300 no. Woodland planting Demesne
- 16 no. Abbeyfeale

Cappamore-Kilmallock

- 8 no. Kilteely

- 15 no. Kilmallock Riverside Park

It should be noted that 4,500 no. whips were also distributed during National Tree Week in March throughout the County.

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

I will ask at the next Meeting that the Council provide a list of bus shelters that have been approved for construction across Limerick City and County, in addition to providing the locations of each approved bus shelter and the dates by which each is due to be completed.

REPLY: In 2024, the Bus Shelter Enabling Works Programme was replaced by the Bus Stop Enhancement Programme (BSEP). A part of BSEP, the National Transport Authority (NTA) has allocated a total of €500,000 (Inclusive of VAT) to each of the local authorities in Ireland (including Limerick City and County Council).

The national funding allocation under BSEP enables local authorities to carry out the following works at existing bus stops:

- Install new disability access kerbing
- Install new concrete hard standing areas
- Install new bus stop polls with signs
- Install bus shelters
- Install road markings

At present, there is a national shortage of bus shelters due to the appointment of a new national bus shelter installer. A Notice of Motion was raised by Cllr. Kiely regarding the timescale for installation of bus shelters across the city and county. A reply to the Notice of Motion was provided for the Meeting of Limerick City and County Council, which was held on Monday, 14th July 2025 which also address the recent question being asked (Please see reply to that NOM below).

"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 LCCC".

Active Travel is currently carrying out Bus Stop Enhancement Works across all of the Municipal Districts and we will continue to do so until the end of this year. Active Travel will issue an update to all of the Elected Members on the current progress along with the locations of these Bus Stop Enhancement Works in the coming weeks.

NOTICES OF MOTION

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Full Council Meeting that this Council review and remove the wording sub-standard roads from our Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028; and in the meantime we change the status of all sub-standard roads that engineers say are not sub-standard; and we carry out a survey to remove others that are not sub-standard.

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

In moving the Motion Councillor Galvin proposed that a variation to the Development Plan commence to remove the policy in relation to sub-standard roads. Members welcomed the motion and requested that a schedule of sub-standard roads would be circulated.

The Director, Planning and Place-Making, advised that the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) states the following in relation to a proposal from Members to vary the plan:

131 (a) The members of a planning authority may at any time, for stated reasons, submit a resolution to the manager (the Mayor in this case) of the planning authority requesting him or her to prepare a report on a proposal by them to initiate a process to consider the variation of the development plan which for the time being is in force where three quarters of the members of that authority have approved such a resolution.

(b) The manager (Mayor) of a planning authority shall submit a report further to a request under paragraph (a) to the elected members within four weeks of the adoption of the resolution.

Following further discussion, the Mayor agreed to commence a review as requested.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that this Authority call on the Ministers for Agriculture and for Forestry to provide an appropriate Scheme to compensate for the loss of their livelihoods suffered by landowners due to Ash Dieback disease, and that support for this Motion be sought from sister Authorities nationally.

The Motion was adopted by the Council, on the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Hartigan (T).

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor B. Collins

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage seeking additional funding for the Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and Disabled People to meet the demand for all grant types supported under this Scheme.

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

Members supported the Motion and queried if the Motion could be amended to include a request for the reinstatement of the boiler grant. This amendment was agreed.

The Director of Housing agreed to revert to the members in relation to queries on reconditioned boilers. He advised the Members that the Housing Aid for Older People Grant (HOP) would open again for new applications in November 2025. Members welcomed this and queried if there was any unspent budget for housing grants which could be carried over to the following year's budget. The Director agreed to get clarity on this.

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

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council write to the Minister of State at the Department of Education and request that any person, regardless of age, be allowed to drive school buses under contract by Bus Éireann once they hold the relevant qualification and meet their Health requirements.

The Motion was adopted by the Council, on the proposal of Councillor O'Donoghue, seconded by Councillor Conway.

In moving the Motion Councillor O'Donoghue highlighted the demand for school buses in the city and county and emphasised the benefits of allowing people over the age of 70 to drive school buses.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor G. Conway

I will move at the next Plenary Meeting that Limerick City and County Council write to the Minister for Justice and the Garda Commissioner to ask them for the Drug Unit in County Limerick to be re-established.

The Motion was adopted by the Council, on the proposal of Councillor Conway, seconded by Councillor Galvin.

In moving the Motion Councillor Conway highlighted the issues affecting communities in County Limerick and stressed the importance of increasing resources within An Garda Síochána to tackle these problems.

Following discussions, Members expressed their disappointment at the delay in establishing the new Community Safety Partnership (CSP), which has replaced the Joint Policing Committees and requested an update on progress. Members were informed that the CSP was a national initiative and is moving forward.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor P.J. Carey

I will move at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that this Local Authority use its power vested in it, according to Section 199 of the Local Government Act, to initiate the process of proscribing Wind Turbines in the Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District.

At the request of Councillor Carey, this Motion was withdrawn.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale – Councillors A. Teskey (Proposer), B. Collins, T. Hartigan, S. Keary, J. O'Donoghue, G. Ward

We will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council request that any open noise wind turbines complaints and shadow flicker be referred to the Health Service Executive for proper investigation as a matter of urgency.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Teskey and seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue. In seconding the Motion, Councillor O'Donoghue asked that it be amended to include 'and future' complaints and accordingly the following amended Motion was adopted by the Council:

"We will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council request that any open, and future, noise wind turbines complaints and shadow flicker be referred to the Health Service Executive for proper investigation as a matter of urgency."

REPLY: The Environment Section does not have any open cases for wind turbine noise and shadow flicker complaints.

Members requested that a workshop would be organised on noise complaints and health issues associated with wind turbines. It was agreed to hold a workshop.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Beasley

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council adopt a "PAW Policy" for the City and County, promoting dog-friendly businesses by displaying a Council-provided paw print symbol and listing them on Limerick.ie. This policy would support pet owners, boost local business, attract pet-friendly tourists, encourage responsible dog ownership, help owners with their mental wellbeing by facilitating activity, and position Limerick as a more inclusive destination. I urge your support for this beneficial initiative.

The Motion was referred to the Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism and Planning Strategic Policy Committee for consideration.

26. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor U. Gavan

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council call on Government to lift the current income thresholds to qualify for social housing in light of the current housing crisis and cost of living crisis.

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

Councillor O'Donoghue proposed an amendment calling for the lifting of the current income thresholds to qualify for 'social and affordable housing'.

The Motion, as amended, was adopted by the Council.

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

I will move at the next Meeting of Limerick Council for this Council to be a dementia-friendly Council with a focus on ensuring all services, spaces and staff are inclusive and accessible for people living with dementia.

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

A/Director of Rural, Community, Culture and Tourism advised the Members that, through the Limerick Age Friendly Programme, the Council is already undertaking work to become dementia-friendly and agreed to consider additional areas for development.

28. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Kiely (to be referred to the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next Meeting of this Council that we review with speed the tree policy of this Local Authority to address shortcomings of the Council in this regard.

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

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

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council write to the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin T.D., the Minister for Health, Jennifer Carroll-MacNeill T.D., and the Minister of State with responsibility for Mental Health, Mary Butler T.D., in support of the IACP's call for increased investment in counselling and psychotherapy in Budget 2026. The IACP's Budget 2026 Priorities are the following: (i) Removal of VAT on counselling and psychotherapy services; (ii) Extension of tax relief to counselling and psychotherapy fees; and (iii) Investment in and expansion of access to school counselling at the primary and secondary levels. I also ask that this Motion, if passed, is circulated to the thirty other local authorities, asking that they support this campaign.

The Motion was adopted by the Council, on the proposal of Councillor Hickey-O'Mara, seconded by Councillor O'Donovan.

30. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillors C. Slattery and J. Pond (to be referred to Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee)

We will move at the next Meeting of the Council that, should a downsizing property become available, the property is used for downsizing again and not put back into the social housing stock.

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

31. Correspondence

The Correspondence circulated with the agenda was taken as read.

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: