

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT SPECIAL MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, AND ONLINE, ON TUESDAY, 16TH SEPTEMBER 2025, AT THE RE-ARRANGED TIME OF 3.30 P.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Príomh Chomhairleoir, Councillor C. Slattery.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Moran.

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

An apology for his inability to attend the Meeting was received from Councillor Ryan (M).

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), Director, Rural, Community, Culture and Tourism Development (Mr. S. Duclot), Director, Transportation and Mobility (Ms. P. Liddy), Director, Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services (Mr. K. Lehane), 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, Governance and Customer Services (Ms. J. Tierney).

MAYORAL FUND:

The Mayor, with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, updated Members on expenditure under the Mayoral Fund for 2025. He advised that funding is allocated on an annual basis and is recouped based on vouched expenditure. A total of €10.5 million was allocated for expenditure by November 2025.

The Mayor noted that he has discretion in the use of the Mayoral Fund. However, as this is Exchequer funding, this discretion must comply with all existing financial public spending codes and principles, as well as adhere to relevant national and local government policy and legislation.

The Members were informed that €2,750,000 of the Mayoral Fund 2025 was allocated to Revenue expenditure, while €7,750,000 was allocated to Capital projects.

The Mayor outlined the principles identified to allocate funding in 2025 and how the projects from #MoreforLimerick programme were prioritised. He noted other projects would come in later years when more funding becomes available.

The Mayor presented the revenue and capital projects identified for funding under the Mayoral Fund, noting the total funding allocated, the planned spend by November 2025, and the remaining balance. These projects include Improvement Works (IBAL), Public Realm Upgrade (Sonny's Corner); Athea Playground; Pocket Park Parnell Street; Fund to purchase, repair and rent housing in Abbeyfeale; Purchase of land to facilitate housing and an Arts Acquisition Fund.

The Mayor noted that the SMART Housing initiative was identified as one of the priority objectives of the Mayor Programme for 2025. It has been selected as a pilot modular housing solution to provide housing on state lands. The projected cost by year end was €550,000 to advance feasibility of the initiative.

The Mayor outlined other key focus areas:

- Housing Projects.
- Better Quality City/Town Urban Spaces.
- City Centre Infrastructure and Amenities.
- Activities and Festivals.
- Revitalising the City Centre
- Kings Island.
- Kilmallock and Other County Heritage Assets.
- Other Amenity Projects.

The following challenges were highlighted:

- Adjustment to new local government model for Limerick and planning for delivery of Mayoral Programme and Fund.
- Long lead-in times for capital projects.
- Staff time constraints due to existing projects.
- Time required for procurement and engagement processes.

During discussions Members raised the following:

- Disappointment that future commitments were not explained.
- A breakdown per District was requested, along with the 2026 projections for the Mayoral Fund.
- Members queried which community groups the Mayor had committed funding to and requested a list of the groups to be circulated to Members. Concerns were raised about the transparency of allocations.

- It was noted that €1.2 million remains uncommitted before year-end, and Members stressed the need for certainty on future funding.
- A list of functions for both the Mayor and the Director General was requested to clarify responsibilities.
- Members noted that Limerick has the largest budget due to the directly elected Mayor and emphasised the need to plan funding to maximise impact.

Members acknowledged that the Mayoral Fund is at the Mayor's discretion but requested that Members be informed before announcements are made public. They referred to the expenditure of €4 million on the purchase of land to facilitate housing, which they learned about through the media. While some Members welcomed the purchase of these lands, others raised concerns about spending such a significant amount of the Mayoral Fund on land that is currently zoned as agricultural.

In response to Members' concerns, the Mayor outlined the following:

- The 2026 fund is not yet known; therefore, he could not make commitments at this stage.
- Groupings were invited to submit items or projects under the Mayoral Programme for consideration for 2026.
- Expenditure is planned based on expected budgets over the coming years; he had confidence that he will be able to support these projects.
- Engagement with community groups and Councillors regarding allocations has taken place.
- That a large list of projects had been submitted, which needs to be reduced. He clarified that this is not a final list and can be changed.
- The list of projects spans the next four years and noted that capital expenditure to date under the Mayoral Programme is significantly lower than expected.
- The Mayor agreed that he and the Elected Members need to work together to drive progress for Limerick.
- The Mayor stated that it is Government policy to acquire land with the intention of zoning it residential at a later stage. He advised that any opportunity to purchase land should be followed up.
- He reminded Members that this is a five-year process and will respond to priorities in any given year. He welcomed Councillors to meet with him to discuss their preferences.

Members requested that the Mayor's Budget is presented in a structure similar to the Annual Revenue Budget.

On the proposal of Councillor McSweeney and seconded by Councillor Slattery a quarterly update on the Mayor's Budget was requested.

It was proposed by Councillor Collins (M) and seconded by Councillor Sheahan that the meeting be adjourned to allow all information to be collated for presentation.

It was proposed by Councillor Secas and seconded by Councillor Benson that the meeting would continue as scheduled.

Following some discussion and in the absence of agreement, the Príomh Chomhairleoir declared that a vote be taken on the proposal of Councillor Secas, seconded by Councillor Benson, that the meeting would continue as scheduled.

For

Councillors Benson, Donoghue, Gavan, Hartigan (T), Leddin, Moran, O'Donoghue, Reale, Scanlon, Secas, Teefy. **(11)**

Against

Councillors Collins (B), Collins (M), Conway, Galvin, Keary, Kiely, Kilcoyne, McSweeney, O'Sullivan (O), O'Sullivan (T), Pond, Ruddle, Ryan (E), Sheahan, Slattery, Stokes, Talukder, Ward. **(18)**

Abstentions

Councillors Beasley, Butler, Carey, Daly, Doyle, Foley, Hartigan (S), Hickey O'Mara, O'Donovan, O'Hanlon, Teskey. **(11)**

The Príomh Chomhairleoir declared the proposal of Councillor Secas, seconded by Councillor Benson, that the meeting would continue as scheduled, as defeated.

The Meeting was then adjourned.

This concluded the meeting.

Signed: _____

Príomh Chomhairleoir

Date: _____