



**Meeting of Limerick City and County Council to be held on Monday, 24 November 2025**

**Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery**

*To ask the Mayor what steps has or is he taking to revitalise the City Centre of Limerick with the exception of the Opera Site. Has he provided any incentives or initiatives to bring small businesses into the City Centre for trading.*

**REPLY**

Revitalising the City Centre is a core priority of the Mayoral Programme and a shared stated priority of the elected members of the Metropolitan District. A range of actions are being advanced to create a vibrant, attractive, and competitive retail environment beyond the Opera Site. These measures are designed to support small businesses, enhance public spaces, and encourage increased footfall and economic activity. While many other initiatives contribute to the same objective, the initiatives outlined below are from the specific objectives set out in the Revitalising Our City Centre chapter, and Improved Quality of Life and Placemaking chapter of the Mayoral Programme.

**Retail Strategy and Governance (MP116, MP114, MP123)**

Work is ongoing to draft a tender brief for consultants to prepare a targeted 10-year retail development plan for the city centre. This strategy will identify opportunities for a broader mix of retail businesses and consider the appointment of a senior official to oversee delivery.

In parallel, a report is being prepared to agree a formal definition of the city centre, which will allow for consistent monitoring and publication of economic data.

**Incentives for Small Businesses (MP124, MP117)**

A Vacant Property Incentive Scheme is being finalised for Budget 2026. This scheme will apply to properties vacant for six months or more and will operate over a four-year period, providing grants linked to commercial rates paid in full by the occupier.

The scheme will be available in the city centre and Tier 1 and 2 towns across the county. In addition, the Vacant to Vibrant Scheme remains in place, offering up to €6,000 over two years for fit-out and overhead costs.

New Shopfront Guidelines have been finalised and formulated and a memo has recently been prepared recommending a Shopfront Improvement Grant Scheme which will support the refurbishment of historical facades and improve the visual appeal of retail streets.



**Public Realm and Accessibility (ML72, MP127, MH18, ML76, MP06, ML78, ML103, ML97, ML72, ML94, ML83)**

**Greening of Georgian Limerick:** A significant allocation from the Mayoral Fund was committed to the detailed design, greening, and public works for laneways and streets within Newtown Pery. The delivery of these did not proceed as I had hoped over 2025, but they remain priorities for 2026 now. Large urban trees and planters will be installed early next year to create a more inviting environment for visitors and businesses alike.

**Wayfinding Strategy:** The Council has completed a decluttering initiative in advance of implementing a new Wayfinding Strategy, which will include visible signage showing the variety and location of retail, cultural, and historical offerings.

**Parnell Street Pocket Park:** A new child friendly pocket park is planned for Parnell Street, including an agility and obstacle area and other landscape enhancements, creating a more attractive and family-friendly environment.

**Market Quarter and Cruises Street Public Realm:** Preliminary Business Case approved in November 2024; Part 8 approval secured July 2025; consultant appointed November 2025 for detailed design and delivery.

**Limerick City & Environs Flood Relief Scheme:** Currently at Stage 1; when complete, this project will provide flood protection and improved public realm for city centre businesses. **Kings Island Flood Relief Scheme:** Under construction with completion expected Q1 2027; will deliver flood protection and enhanced public realm for businesses in the city centre and Kings Island.

**Arthurs Quay Framework:** Plans are being prepared to revitalise public areas and activate underutilised sites in collaboration with property owners including UL and Debenhams.

**Cleeves Riverside Quarter:** Phase 1 stabilisation and repair works underway; Planning permission has been lodged and is currently on public display.

**Limerick Laneways Programme:** Toolkit to be published December 2025; prioritisation of laneways for enhancement is in progress.

**Greening Georgian Limerick:** Pilot project scheduled for Q1 2026, expanding greening initiatives across Georgian streets and laneways.

**Living Georgian City Programme:** Works at 33/34 Thomas Street to commence early 2026; façade improvements completed at 58 O'Connell Street; Theatre Royal activation ongoing.

**Nicholas Street & Kings Island:** Public realm upgrades on Church Street, Castle Street, The Parade, Nicholas Street, and St. Augustine Place advancing through planning, including new paving, wider footpaths, traffic calming, street furniture, and planting.



**Transport Strategy:** As part of the Limerick City Centre Transport Plan, work is progressing on a future-proofed parking strategy to ensure accessibility and support public realm improvements. This review will commence in Q2 2026 and will address parking locations, loading bays, and inclusive access.

#### **Culture, Entertainment & Safety (MP88, ML32, ML35 & ML50)**

Additional Mayoral funding has been allocated to expand the successful Twilight Thursdays initiative, which encourages evening footfall through extended retail hours combined with cultural and entertainment activities. This has created new opportunities for small businesses and hospitality operators to benefit from increased visibility and customer engagement, contributing to a more dynamic city centre economy. Work is also underway to develop a plan for Sunday and late-night opening, aligning retail and cultural amenities to animate streets and extend trading opportunities.

Following the successful staging of *Connie in the historic* Theatre Royal Cinema—the first public performance in almost 30 years—negotiations are ongoing to secure the building on a longer-term basis to allow more theatre and cultural events to be staged there.

3 new Community Safety Wardens are in advanced training. The Community Safety Wardens will provide a visible presence in city centre. Furthermore, a significant Mayoral Fund investment has been made into the former Tourist Office in Arthurs Quay Park which will be used as a base for new community wardens alongside the proposed Welcome to Limerick office.

#### **Digital and Innovation (MP122)**

Looking ahead, funding will be sought for the development of a Limerick online shopping portal, building on the “Shop Limerick” concept to allow customers to shop virtually from city centre businesses. This is programmed to commence in 2026, subject to resources.

In addition, we are partnering with universities and research institutions to develop Living Lab initiatives (MP125), testing innovative urban design solutions such as smart lighting and green infrastructure to reduce operating costs for businesses.

A 3D model of the city centre has been built to allow better engagement with residents about new ideas for our city.

**John Moran,  
Mayor of Limerick**



**COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 24<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2025**

**Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan**

I will ask the Mayor at the next Meeting of the Full Council for an update on the South Circular Road Active Travel Scheme and the considerations given to residential parking solutions in accordance with traffic management plans as was passed by Members.

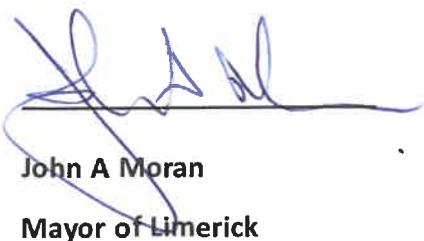
**Reply:**

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the South Circular Road Active Travel Scheme. We are conscious that our Traffic Management Plans must effectively balance the needs of all our community.

The Scheme as you will be aware, was approved by the Council at its meeting in February 2023. The Active Travel Team has considered all aspects of this scheme, especially how it impacts residential parking and overall traffic flow and had to find solutions to all of the issues.

The overall detailed design took into consideration traffic management, which includes residential parking solutions. Some issues have been raised by residents since and I have been advised.

I have also been approached by residents about ongoing concerns they continue to have and I can confirm that the Active Travel Team will communicate further with those residents, Councillors and other stakeholders as the projects evolves.



John A Moran  
Mayor of Limerick