



**Chairperson's Report of the Blended Meeting of Limerick City & County Council Climate Action,
Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee held on
Wednesday 03rd December 2025 at 2.30pm.**

**Item 1 – Adopt minutes of the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee
Meeting held on 08th October 2025.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 08th October 2025 were proposed by Mr. S. Lavery and seconded by Cllr. S. Hartigan.

Item 2 – Notice of Motion - Councillor S. Hickey-O'Mara (referred from November Plenary Meeting).

I will move at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that this Council make a firm commitment to ensure that if and when they are using glyphosate or other toxic herbicides in a community that they:

- (i) Inform the community in advance via a letter drop indicating the precise location that it will be used in.
- (ii) Erect warning signs or notices at the precise location before and after the use of glyphosate or other toxic herbicides.
- (iii) Use any viable alternative to glyphosate or other toxic herbicides in their work.
- (iv) Agree to end the use of glyphosate and other toxic herbicides in our communities by a fixed date.

Item was withdrawn and referred to the Travel and Transport SPC

Item 3 – Notice of Motion - Cllr D. McSweeney (referred from the November Plenary meeting)

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.

A brief discussion took place on the active management of trees in the city and county. Funding allocation for this area discussed as an obstacle to active management

It was agreed that a workshop for all Council members would be arranged for early in 2026 to address the concerns on tree management in the city and county.

Item 4 – The Water Action Plan: A River Basin Management Plan for Ireland & the work of LAWPRO – Mr Barry Deane, Regional Coordinator, LAWPRO

Mr Deane gave a detailed presentation on the Water Action Plan, including the work of LAWPRO throughout Ireland. LAWPRO's role is to help co-ordinate the implementation of the Water Framework Directive at local and regional level.

A discussion took place following the presentation where members raised issues including the Blackwater fish kill, the Annacotty fish passage project, water quality in the Corbally Baths and Farming for Waters EIP.

Following the discussion, it was agreed that the presentation would be shared with all members of the SPC.

Item 5 – Laboratory Rural Water Natural Waters Monitoring Programme - Priorities and Challenges 2026 - Claire Linehan, Senior Executive Scientist

Ms. Linehan gave a presentation on the priorities and challenges for 2026 in relation to the Natural Waters Monitoring Programme. The main functions of the Laboratory Rural Water unit are to deliver the Rural Water Programme and to provide lab services to meet regulatory and Uisce Éireann Support Services Agreement requirements. Ms Linehan outlined the current challenges for the Laboratory/Rural Water unit and the next steps to resolving these challenges.

It was proposed that a recommendation be made to Full Council to write to the Department regarding additional funding for the Natural Waters Programme. However, following a discussion it was agreed that further information is required regarding funding for the programme and therefore the recommendation to write to the department was postponed.

Item 6 – Budget 2025 vs 2026: Allocation changes, policy outcomes and implications of CABA funding resolutions – Aidan Finn, Senior Engineer

Mr. A Finn gave a presentation on the outcomes of Budget 2026 in areas of interest to the Committee and following several budgetary recommendations made at the last meeting. Key outcomes to note were as follows;

1. Increase in Cemeteries Specific Maintenance budgets from €185,986 to €345,986
2. No Increase in tree maintenance funding from €94,000
3. No Increase Westfield Wetlands maintenance budget from €5k
4. Further information sought on Cemeteries Loan Business Case (Cashflow, confirmation on spending time frame of current capital budget)
5. Loss of funding for grass cutting in regeneration areas will put a further strain on resources

Following the presentation, it was recommended that LCCC engage with LAWPRO in relation to the Wetlands project to see if any funding was possible. It was also agreed that a workshop for all Council members on the Cemeteries Capital Program be organised for early 2026.

Item 7 - SPC Work Programme 2026 – Next Steps – Aidan Finn, Senior Engineer

It was agreed that a workshop on the SPC Work Programme for 2026 be held in advance of the next SPC meeting in February 2026. This was accepted.

Cllr Joe Leddin

Chairperson of the Climate Action Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee

10/12/2025

