

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, AND ONLINE, ON MONDAY, 24TH NOVEMBER 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, Investment and Governance incl. DACs and Shareholder Unit (Mr. M. White), Director, Housing (Mr. V. Murray), Director, Regeneration, Community, Sport and Rural Development (Mr. B. McCarthy), Director, Planning and Ryder Cup (Mr. S. Duclot), A/Director, Transportation, Mobility and Public Realm (Mr. S. McGlynn), Director, Environment, Climate Action and Fire (Mr. K. Lehane), Director, Economic, Tourism, Culture, Property and Corporate Buildings (Mr. S. Lenihan), Meetings Administrator (Ms. C. Farrell), Administrative Officer, Corporate and Customer Services (Ms. A. Foley), Senior Staff Officer, Corporate and Customer Services (Ms. C. Sheehy), Staff Officer, Corporate and Customer Services (Ms. J. Tierney).

At the outset, the Príomh Chomhairleoir and Members expressed deepest sympathy to the family, friends and colleagues of Eugene Cusack of Limerick Fire Service, who had passed away recently.

A minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect.

The Príomh Chomhairleoir welcomed St. Saviours Adult Education Class to the meeting.

The Director General introduced Sean Lenihan, Director of Service, who would be taking over the Economic, Tourism, Culture, Property and Corporate Buildings portfolio. The Príomh Chomhairleoir welcomed Sean and wished him well in his new role.

The Príomh Chomhairleoir informed the Meeting that she had agreed to take Notice of Motion No. 20 at the start of the Meeting.

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

I will move at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that this Council hold a Civic Reception for Declan Hannon, following the announcement of his retirement from intercountry hurling, to honour the contribution he has made at both club and county level.

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

In moving the Motion, Councillor Collins (B) outlined the enormous commitment and dedication that Declan Hannon had achieved as Captain of the Limerick Senior Hurling Team and for his outstanding contribution to Limerick. She stated that she looked forward to working with the Mayor, Príomh Chomhairleoir and the Executive to host this event.

Members fully supported the Motion.

1. Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the following Meetings:

- (a) Special Meeting of the Council held on 16th September, 2025.
- (b) Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 22nd September, 2025.
- (c) Adjourned Special Meeting of the Council held on 28th October, 2025.
- (d) Adjourned Special Meeting of the Council held on 6th November, 2025.
- (e) Special Meeting of the Council held on 13th November, 2025.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin
 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 Meeting of any declaration of interest in any item due for discussion at the Meeting. No such interests were declared.

3. Disposal of Land

Rural, Community, Culture and Tourism Development Directorate

General Disposals

(a) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 21st October, 2025, concerning the disposal of the Freehold Interest in property at 10 Mayorstone Drive, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;

Seconded by Councillor Pond;

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 the Freehold Interest in property at 10 Mayorstone Drive, Limerick, to St. Ita’s Limerick Diocesan Parishes Trust Company, for the sum of €111.13, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 21st October, 2025.”

(b) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 24th October, 2025, concerning the disposal of 37 Churchfield, O’Malley Park, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;

Seconded by Councillor Pond;

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 the property at 37 Churchfield, O’Malley Park, Limerick, to Eileen O’Malley, in consideration of Eileen O’Malley transferring ownership of her property at 391 Rose View Drive, O’Malley Park, Limerick, subject to (1) the disposal to be by way of exchange of the above property to Limerick City and County Council (subject to necessary conveyancing requirements); and (2) Limerick City and County Council to acquire the property free of any existing mortgage(s) or burden(s) and any existing mortgage(s) or burden(s) on the property at 391 Rose View Drive, O’Malley Park, Limerick, to be transferred to the property at 37 Churchfield, O’Malley Park Limerick; particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 24th October, 2025.”

(c) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 7th November, 2025, concerning the disposal of property at Glin Library (Annex), Glin, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;

Seconded by Councillor Pond;

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 Glin Library (Annex), Glin, Co. Limerick, to Glin Development Association 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 7th November, 2025.”

(d) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 7th November, 2025, concerning the disposal of 0.0121 acres (0.0049 hectares) of land at 9 St. Joseph Street, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;

Seconded by Councillor Pond;

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 0.0121 acres (0.0049 hectares) of land at 9 St. Joseph Street, Limerick, to Caroline Fitzgerald and Lily Brommell for the sum of €1 – by resolution passed at Council Meeting dated 31st March, 2025, the Elected Members resolve to rescind the previous S.183 Notice dated 12th March, 2025, in relation to the disposal of land at 9 St. Joseph Street, Limerick – Agreement to grant a right of way to the rear of the property over LK8271F - the disposal to be subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the Lease – Caroline Fitzgerald and Lily Brommell to discharge all legal and other costs incurred by Limerick City and County Council - particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 7th November, 2025.”

(e) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 7th November, 2025, concerning the Disposal of 1.6917 Acres (0.6846 Hectares) of Land at Ballyorgan, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;

Seconded by Councillor Pond;

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 1.6917 Acres (0.6846 Hectares) of Land at Ballyorgan, Co. Limerick, to Ballyorgan Community Group, for the sum of €1, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the Lease, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 7th November, 2025.”

(f) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 7th November, 2025, concerning the Disposal of Area “A”- 0.022 Acres (0.009 Hectares) and Area “B” – 0.013 Acres (0.0052 Hectares) of Land at Childers Road, Limerick to CIE.

On the proposal of Councillor Kiely and seconded by Councillor Slattery it was agreed to defer this Disposal to allow for further engagement with Irish Rail.

(g) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 24th October, 2025, concerning the disposal of 0.0069 acres (0.0028 hectares) of land at Churchtown, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;
 Seconded by Councillor Pond;
 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 0.0069 acres (0.0028 hectares) of land at Churchtown, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, to Martin Mulcahy, for the sum of €700, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract - the purchaser to agree to discharge Limerick City and County Councils’ reasonable legal fees regarding this disposal, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 24th October, 2025.”

(h) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 7th November, 2025, concerning the disposal of 0.0049 Acres (0.002 Hectares) of Land at Lisnagry Football Club, Scanlon Park, Castleconnell, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;
 Seconded by Councillor Pond;
 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 0.0049 Acres (0.002 Hectares) of Land at Lisnagry Football Club, Scanlon Park, Castleconnell, Limerick, to ESB Networks, for the sum of €1, with agreement to grant a wayleave and right of way, and subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 7th November, 2025.”

(i) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 24th October, 2025, concerning the disposal of 0.0019 acres (7.8m²) of land at Main Street, Adare, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;
 Seconded by Councillor Pond;
 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 0.0019 acres (7.8m²) of land at Main Street, Adare, Co. Limerick, to Gas Networks Ireland for the sum of €1,000 – by resolution passed at Council Meeting dated 25th March, 2024, the Elected Members resolve to rescind the previous S183 Notice dated 27th March, 2024, in relation to the disposal of land at Main Street, Adare, Co. Limerick – Agreement to grant a 6 meter wide wayleave over adjacent lands - the disposal to be subject to the covenants and conditions contained within

the Deed – the purchaser to discharge Limerick City and County Councils' legal costs up to €1,200 plus VAT - particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 24th October, 2025."

(j) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 24th October, 2025, concerning the disposal of in the form of a 35-year lease incorporating 7.113 Acres (2.879 Hectares) of Land at Pallaskenry, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;
 Seconded by Councillor Pond;
 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 in the form of a 35-year lease incorporating 7.113 Acres (2.879 Hectares) of Land at Pallaskenry, Co. Limerick, to the Trustees of Dromore United Football Club, for the sum of €1, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the Lease, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 24th October, 2025."

(k) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 7th November, 2025, concerning the disposal of 0.0094 Acres (0.0038 Hectares) of Land at the Rear of 19 Clare Street, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;
 Seconded by Councillor Pond;
 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 0.0094 Acres (0.0038 Hectares) of Land at the Rear of 19 Clare Street, Limerick, to Helen Enright, for the sum of €1, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the Contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 7th November, 2025."

Derelict Disposals

(l) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 15th August, 2025, concerning the disposal of Property at 13 The Hawthorns, Ballyagran, Co. Limerick.

Members noted that the property had been unoccupied for a number of years and expressed that it should be returned to the housing stock as soon as possible. Members queried the cost of refurbishing the property and it was agreed to revert to Members in this regard.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins (M) and seconded by Councillor Ruddle it was agreed to reject the Disposal of Property at 13 The Hawthorns, Ballyagran, Co. Limerick.

(m) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 7th November, 2025, concerning the disposal of property at 3 Creagh Lane, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;
 Seconded by Councillor Pond;
 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 3 Creagh Lane, Limerick, to Jack Costello, for the sum of €125,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the Contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 7th November, 2025.”

(n) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 7th November, 2025, concerning the disposal of property at 4 Creagh Lane, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;
 Seconded by Councillor Pond;
 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 4 Creagh Lane, Limerick, to Richard Costello Jnr, for the sum of €135,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the Contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 7th November, 2025.”

4. Corporate Services, Human Resources and Organisational Development

(a) Executive Report

Circulated, Executive Report for the months of September and October 2025.

The Reports were noted by the Council.

Members requested further information regarding a meeting listed in the Mayor's Diary for 30th October, which took place in Patrickswell. They sought clarification on whether the Mayoral Order for the development of 24 housing units in Patrickswell had been signed. In response to the queries, the Mayor advised that due to the number of meetings in his diary he would need to check and revert on the matter.

Members queried if any communication had been received from the Minister in relation to the Designated Activity Companies (DACS). It was confirmed that no communication had been received to date.

In discussion, Members raised concerns in relation to the zoning of land, and it was agreed that a Workshop would be arranged in the coming weeks.

(b) Corporate Plan

Circulated, report of the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran dated 20th November 2025, enclosing Draft Corporate Plan 2025-2029.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan and seconded by Councillor O'Donovan it was agreed to defer this item. Following a discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Kiely and seconded by Councillor McSweeney to hold a Workshop in relation to the Corporate Plan, and it was requested that an Independent Consultant would facilitate the Elected Members at the Workshop.

(c) Foreign Travel

Circulated, report of the Head of Tourism, Festivals & Events, Rural, Culture, Community & Tourism Development Directorate dated 17th November, 2025, seeking the Council's retrospective approval for attendance of Councillor Michael Collins at the 12th European Greenway Awards 2025 in Bilbao, Spain.

Proposed by Councillor McSweeney;
 Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
 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 of Councillor Michael Collins at the 12th European Greenway Awards 2025 in Bilbao, Spain.”

(d) Twinning

(i) Murroe Boher (Evry-Gregy sur Yerres, France) Twinning Project

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services, dated 24th October, 2025, setting out the background to a request for financial assistance towards the Murroe Boher Evry-Gregy sur Yerres Twinning Project.

The report stated that in 1996, Murroe Parish had entered into a twinning arrangement with Evry-Gregy sur Yerres, which was located approximately 25kms outside Paris. The Murroe Boher Twinning Association had hosted a delegation of twenty one people from Evry-Gregy sur Yerres from 12th to 15th September, 2025. It is recommended that the Council fund a proportion of the costs incurred in the transportation of the delegation while here, entry fees to tourist attractions and hosting costs. Therefore, the Council's approval was now being

sought for the provision of financial assistance in the amount of €1,200 towards the cost of the twinning initiative.

Proposed by Councillor Teefy;
 Seconded by Councillor Leddin;
 And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the provision of financial assistance in the amount of €1,200 to Murroe Boher Twinning Association, in accordance with the provisions of Section 66 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended”.

(ii) Limerick Quimper Twinning Project

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services, dated 19th November, 2025, setting out the background to a request for financial assistance towards the Limerick Quimper Twinning Project.

The report stated that Quimper was Limerick’s first twin city and lies a few miles inland from the sea in Brittany, France. Quimper holds a Tree Festival ‘Le Temp de l’Arbre’ every October. The Twinning Committee organised a similar series of events in the Limerick area in October this year. The Committee incurred expenses in hosting the events during the Festival and it was now being recommended that the Council would reimburse these costs. Therefore, the Council’s approval was now being sought for the provision of financial assistance in the sum of €770.52 towards the cost of this twinning initiative.

Proposed by Councillor Teefy;
 Seconded by Councillor Leddin;
 And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the provision of financial assistance in the amount of €770.52 towards Limerick Quimper Twinning Project, in accordance with the provisions of Section 66 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended”.

(e) Strategic Policy Committee Reports

(i) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee dated 14th October, 2025, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 8th October, 2025.

The Chairperson’s report was noted by the Council.

Recommendation 1

“That the Council write to the Department of Transport requesting ongoing maintenance funding for Active travel measures”.

On the proposal of Councillor Leddin, seconded by Councillor Secas, the Recommendation was agreed.

On the proposal of Councillor McSweeney and seconded by Councillor Kiely it was agreed to refer the following Notice of Motion back to the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee for further discussion:

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.

- (ii) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee dated 9th October, 2025, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 9th October, 2025.

The Chairperson's report was noted by the Council.

Recommendation 1

On the proposal of Cllr. Sharon Benson seconded by Cllr. Elisa O' Donovan it was agreed that the Council write to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage regarding Second Hand Acquisitions and ask that a refurbishment budget be allowed for tenant in situ acquisitions.

On the proposal of Councillor Benson, seconded by Councillor O'Donovan, the Recommendation was agreed.

Recommendation 2

On the proposal of Cllr. Tom Ruddle seconded by Cllr. Noreen Stokes it was agreed to bring the recommendation for a policy change to enable an in-perpetuity rightsizing model on Council build stock.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Slattery, the Recommendation was agreed.

On the proposal of Councillor Donohue and seconded by Councillor Gavan, it was agreed to hold a Workshop on Rightsizing and to also include the Mixed Tenure Policy.

- (iii) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism and Planning Strategic Policy Committee dated 10th November 2025 in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 13th October, 2025.

The Chairperson's report was noted by the Council.

- (iv) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Community, Leisure, Arts, Heritage and Culture Strategic Policy Committee dated 12th November, 2025 in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 15th October, 2025.

The Chairperson's report was noted by the Council.

- (v) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee dated 10th November, 2025 in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 22nd October, 2025.

The Chairperson's report was noted by the Council.

(f) Audit and Risk Committee

The Meetings Administrator advised that the Council was required to consider the nomination of the one Member to the Audit and Risk Committee following the resignation of Councillor Slattery from the Committee.

Proposed by Councillor Ryan (E);
Seconded by Councillor Hartigan (T);

“That, Councillor Donoghue be appointed to the Audit and Risk Committee.”

5. Rural, Culture, Community and Tourism Development

(a) Irish Cement Castlemungret - Community Liaison Committee

Circulated, Report of the Director of Service, Rural, Community, Culture and Tourism Directorate dated 31st October, 2025 in relation to the nomination of two Members to the Irish Cement Castlemungret, Community Liaison Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Sheahan and seconded by Councillor Collins (M) to nominate Councillor Butler to the Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Collins (M) and seconded by Councillor Sheahan to nominate Councillor Kilcoyne to the Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Hickey-O’Mara and seconded by Councillor Ryan (E) to nominate Councillor O’Donovan to the Committee.

Following discussion, on the proposal of Councillor Collins (B) and seconded by Councillor Collins (M), it was agreed to write to An Coimisiún Pleanála to request approval for a third Elected Member to be nominated to the Irish Cement Castlemungret – Community Liaison Committee.

(b) Strategic Fund for the Culture and Arts Allocation Recommendation

Circulated, report of the Arts Officer/Creative Ireland Co-ordinator dated 12th November 2025, seeking the Council's approval to recommended allocations under the Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts Scheme.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan;
Seconded by Councillor McSweeney;
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, as set out in the report of the Arts Officer/Creative Ireland Co-ordinator dated 12th November, 2025."

6. Conferences**(a) Participation by Members at Conferences**

The Council approved the attendance of the following Members at Conferences already approved:

"The Daniel O'Connell Summer School", Caherciveen and Caherdaniel, Co. Kerry – 29th and 30th August, 2025

Councillors D. Butler and E. O'Donovan

"35th Anniversary of the La Touche Legacy Seminar", Greystones, Co. Wicklow – 19th and 20th September, 2025

Councillors J. Leddin, F. Kilcoyne and 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

7. 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 the old Debenhams building.

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.

Three 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.

In discussion, Members emphasised the importance of maintaining focus on the city centre and supporting local businesses by shopping locally, while highlighting the need to continue to attract major retailers. The Limerick Gift Card was commended as a positive initiative for Limerick.

Members queried if there had been any progress regarding the International Rugby Experience and requested that discussions on the matter be reopened.

A query arose regarding the Standing Orders and time given to questions and it was agreed that a copy of the Standing Orders for Plenary Meetings would be circulated to each Elected Member in advance of the January Meeting.

8. 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 project evolves.

In response, Members emphasised the importance of increasing residential occupancy in the city centre and requested that further engagement take place with both the Elected Members and local residents regarding the scheme. It was agreed that Members would be briefed prior to the South Circular Road Active Travel Scheme proceeding to tender.

QUESTIONS

Replies to the following Questions on the agenda were circulated to all Members prior to the Meeting and were therefore considered as having been dealt with:

9. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council for a detailed report as to what action this Council has taken in the event of a big freeze or snow storm like last winter; (a) what preparations have been made; (b) have we a special emergency number set up specific to extreme weather conditions; (c) have we engaged with Uisce Éireann, the IFA, ESB; and (d) has the ESB been encouraged to cut back all trees from overhead power lines.

REPLY:**Limerick City and County Council plans are as follows: -**

Winter Maintenance Plan has been compiled and submitted to the Department of Transport. I confirm that Limerick City and County Council has sufficient stocks of salt and equipment including gritting trucks fitted with snow ploughs to initially keep the priority routes open.

- Priority gritting on national and key regional roads.
- Snow ploughs and salt stocks ready.
- City Centre footpaths treated where possible.
- Parks (Mungret & Castletroy), playgrounds, and boardwalk along River Shannon are closed if unsafe during severe weather warnings.
- Limerick City & County Council has procurements in place to access the following essential equipment Loading shovels, Tractors with ploughs. Furthermore, hotel spaces have been procured to ensure drivers are available to carry out essential gritting as required.

Emergency numbers are below.

- Office Hours: 061 556000
- Out of Hours: 061 417833
- National Emergency: 999 / 112
- ESB Networks: 1800 372 999 (fallen wires)
- Uisce Éireann: 1800 278 278 (24/7 water issues)
- Homeless Services: out of hours contact 1800 606060 or 061 557051

Stakeholder Engagement

- Uisce Éireann: Works with Local Coordination Group (LCG) to manage water outages and frozen pipes. The Local Co-ordination group includes Uisce Eirean, ESB, Gardai, HSE, and other agencies. UE work closely with closely with the Council during severe weather.
- ESB Networks: Part of LCG; prioritizes power restoration during outages. Note during the big freeze in Jan 2025 the Council, UE and ESB worked closely in the restoration of power to Water Treatment plants in West Limerick. The LCCC role being the creation of access to these facilities for the works to be carried out.

ESB Engagement:

The ESB operates a tree and vegetation trimming program on a cyclical basis to reduce outages and hazards. Landowners should not plant fast growing trees beneath power lines. If trees are within 6m of power lines, the ESB offers a free tree cutting assessment via its online portal.

- Since Storm Eowyn, farming groups have called for local tree cutting partnerships with the ESB to speed up vegetation management citing delays and backlogs.
- The Government is reviewing regulations to improve resilience including mandatory clearance zones (e.g. 30-5m near power lines).

Note the biggest issue for the ESB is powerlines within wooded areas as these lines have been in place since the 1950's when the trees were smaller but now, they are mature and causing potential faults.

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

I will ask at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council for the results of the sustainability audit carried out on Riverfest 2025 to be immediately shared with this Council.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council have sought additional information from the sustainability auditor. As soon as the additional information is received the results of the audit will be shared with the Elected Members.

11. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlon

I will ask at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council a) when Askeaton Swimming Pool closed and b) when is it expected to resume a full service, c) the number of maintenance staff employed full time through the closed period, in terms of Council Staff and that of outside support, d) what our Authority's total outlay on the facility totalled in 2023, 2024 and in the current year to date, f) what was the total spend to date on the renewal project, g) what is the time period of Swim Irelands Ireland's contract to manage the facility, and h) what subsidy is expected to be paid annually to the latter and if so, for what purpose.

REPLY: As part of Limerick City and County Council's ongoing commitment to providing high-quality, accessible leisure and wellbeing facilities across the city and county - reflecting our wider organisational focus on supporting sustainable communities - significant investment has been undertaken in the enhancement, maintenance and operation of Askeaton Swimming Pool.

Over the last three years, Limerick City and County Council has made a substantial capital and maintenance commitment to the Askeaton facility – supported by funding from the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport - to ensure its long-term sustainability, usage and service quality for the communities, sports groups, visitors and residents of Askeaton and across the hinterland.

In response to the specific queries:

- A. Askeaton Pool & Leisure Centre closed on 16th March 2023.
- B. As part of a phased approach to the re-opening of the pool to enable testing of various systems and processes, the operator of the facility, Swim Ireland, reopened the pool for school lessons on 12th November whilst working towards full operational hours for the public. It is anticipated to be the first week of December when full service will be restored.
- C. Maintenance staff were not employed during the closure period. There was selected contracted services utilised in this period, for example, security.
- D. The Local Authority's total outlay was by way of subvention paid to APL DAC 2023 – €140,000, 2024 – €190,000 and current year to date – €150,000
- E. The newly renovated Askeaton Pool & Leisure Centre reopens following extensive works to improve flood resilience, upgrade facilities, and enhance energy

efficiency, delivering a modern, sustainable amenity for the local community. Total spend to date on the renewal project – €2,599,093.

F. Swim Ireland's contract is for 3-year pilot programme.

The facility has been closed for over 2 and a half years and will need to re-establish itself again in terms of a public service. Notwithstanding, we envisage that the annual subvention will be in line with previous years and as indicated above.

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

I will ask at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that we are provided with an update on the strategy and research recently submitted to Limerick City and County Council in regard to a possible Multi-Disciplinary Arts (MDA) Festival for Limerick.

REPLY: In line with the objectives of LCCC's Festival and Event Strategy 2024-2028, LCCC Festivals and Event commissioned an independent consultant to look at the potential to establish a Multi-Disciplinary Arts Festival of scale for Limerick. A Draft report was received on 29 September 2025. We are currently finalising the Draft and have asked key stakeholders for feedback. Once stakeholder feedback has been received and incorporated it is intended to present the report/findings to the Community, Leisure, Arts, Heritage and Culture SPC for consideration.

13. Question submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney

I will ask at the next meeting of Limerick City and County Council for an update on the rollout of insurance cover for Local Authority backed Tidy Towns Groups which was announced earlier this year by IPB and in particular guidance for Tidy Towns groups to ensure they are covered under this scheme.

REPLY: The Local Authority Tidy Towns Insurance Scheme came into effect on the 1st of April 2025.

The Scheme offers insurance coverage to Tidy Towns groups whose work keeps our towns clean and attractive for residents and visitors at no cost.

To be eligible for the scheme, any voluntary group must meet the following 3 criteria:

1. The primary activity and purpose is to improve and enhance the appearance and sustainability of the public realm of a community.
2. Be located within the catchment area of the Local Authority.
3. Be registered as a member of the Public Participation Network (PPN Group).

IPB confirmed that the scheme does not apply to Resident's Associations, Community Councils, Men / Women's sheds or Development Associations, etc.

Once the eligibility of the group in question is confirmed by IPB Insurance, Local Authority issues insurance cover documents and information pack via email and original documents are also posted to the group.

23 Tidy Towns groups within Limerick's jurisdiction applied so far this year and have availed of the insurance cover.

Current insurance cover is up to the end of December 2025 (31st of December 2025).

IPB Insurances confirmed that the scheme will also be administered via the local authorities in 2026 and terms and relevant cover notes are to be issued by IPB soon. Local Authorities will forward the guidance and the Tidy Towns Insurance Brochure via email to groups as requested.

The IPB Insurances website offers detailed information regarding the Tidy Towns Insurance Scheme and can be found at <https://ipb.ie/tidytowns/>.

NOTICES OF MOTION

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

I will move at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that this Council write to the Minister for Agriculture to substantially improve approval times in relation to the Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme (TAMS) grant applications.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor O'Donoghue and seconded by Councillor Galvin.

In moving the Motion, Councillor O'Donoghue referred to the long waiting times to get for TAMS applications approved and highlighted the importance of expediting them within a shorter time frame.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that a discussion takes place on storm preparations and emergency response planning.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin highlighted the importance of planning for storm events and other major weather events, referencing the severe snow and storm conditions experienced in January 2025.

Members highlighted the possible danger of overhanging trees and requested that they be cut back in preparation for storm events. They further requested that the following information be provided:

- A dedicated emergency contact number
- Emergency contact details be made available online
- Consider compiling a list of contractors who are available to help in the event of an emergency

It was proposed by Councillor Keary and seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue that new Bye-laws be drafted for the city and county, making property owners responsible for clearing snow

from footpaths adjacent to their premises. It was agreed to refer this proposal to the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee.

The Director General acknowledged the Members' views and advised that a debrief had been carried out following the severe weather events in 2025. He emphasised a continued commitment for improvement and recognised the significant work undertaken by staff.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock – Councillors N. Stokes (Proposer), P.J. Carey, G. Conway, T. O'Sullivan, E. Ryan, M. Ryan, B. Teefy

We will move at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that this Council write to Uisce Éireann to put a system in place to ensure that information on water outages/emergency water issues be provided and communicated, as they arise, to the Elected Members of the relevant Metropolitan / Municipal Districts, by the Uisce Éireann engineer on call or water supervisor.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Stokes and seconded by Councillor Ryan (M).

In moving the Motion, Councillor Stokes emphasised the importance of receiving up to date information from Uisce Éireann in the event of water supply issues.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney (to be referred to the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that this Council commence an immediate review of the Housing Mixed Tenure Policy to feed into an updated Housing Strategy and Housing Need and Demand Assessment.

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

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Hickey-O'Mara (to be referred to the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee)

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.

It was agreed to refer this Motion to the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor B. Collins (to be referred to the Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism and Planning Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council immediately starts the process to make a material alteration to Limerick's County Development Plan to reflect the High Court Decision that over-ruled both a local authority and An Coimisiún Pleanala decision and ruled that permission for a one off rural house should be granted to a resident of a level 4 settlement. The reason for the high court decision was based on the judge's opinion: - that lack of affordability within the settlement was a valid reason to grant permission when a clear housing need was demonstrated.

It was agreed to refer this Motion to the Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism and Planning Strategic Policy Committee.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Ryan

I will move at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that the Council make an extraordinary application to the Minister of Housing for funding to supplement the current funding stream for the quick return of voids / vacant council housing stock to use.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Ryan (M) and seconded by Councillor Ward.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Ryan (M) stressed the importance of securing additional funding to bring vacant housing stock back into use. Members supported the Motion and requested that a monthly report on voids be prepared.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Sheahan

I will move at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that this Council write to the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport, Patrick O'Donovan and the Minister for Justice, Jim O'Callaghan calling on them and the Irish Government to hold a formal national commemoration on 17th April 2026 to mark the 150th anniversary of the Catalpa expedition organised by John Devoy and John Boyle O'Reilly, which resulted in the famous rescue of six Fenian prisoners from a British penal colony in Fremantle, Western Australia and asking the Irish government to recommend that the six Fenian prisoners concerned,

namely James Wilson, Thomas Hasset, Michael Harrington, Thomas Darragh, Martin Hogan and Robert Cranston be granted a posthumous presidential pardon.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Sheahan and seconded by Councillor Keary. It was agreed to circulate the Motion to all Local Authorities.

23. Correspondence

The Correspondence circulated with the agenda was taken as read.

At the conclusion of the Meeting, the Príomh Chomhairleoir wished everyone a happy Christmas.

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:
