

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT SPECIAL MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK AND ONLINE, ON TUESDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2025, AT 9.30 A.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, Foley, Gavan, Hartigan (S), Hartigan (T), Hickey-O'Mara, Keary, Kiely, Kilcoyne, Leddin, McSweeney, O'Donoghue, O'Hanlon, O'Sullivan (O), Pond, Reale, Ruddle, Scanlan, Secas, Stokes, Talukder, Teefy, Teskey.

**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, Transportation, Mobility and Public Realm (Ms. P. Liddy), Director, Environment, Climate Action and Fire (Mr. K. Lehane), Director, Economic, Tourism, Culture, Property and Corporate Buildings (Mr. S. Lenihan), Director, Housing (Mr. V. Murray), Director, Planning and Ryder Cup (Mr. S. Duclot), Meetings Administrator (Ms. C. Farrell), Management Accountant (Ms. I. Griffin), Senior Staff Officer, Corporate and Customer Services (Ms. C. Sheehy), A/Senior Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. J. Sheehan), Senior Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. J. O'Keeffe), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. M. Clark), Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate and Customer Services (Ms. S. Carroll).

The Príomh Chomhairleoir welcomed everyone to the Meeting and stated that she had called the Special Meeting following a request from Councillors Benson, Carey, Hartigan (S), Gavan and Donoghue to discuss the issue set out in the Agenda as follows:

“To receive and update on and discuss the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP).”

With the permission of the Príomh Chomhairleoir, the Members queried whether correspondence had been received from the Minister regarding the Designated Activity Companies (DACs). The Director General confirmed that correspondence had been received. Following a request from Members, it was agreed to circulate the Mayor's correspondence to the Minister, along with the correspondence received.

Councillor Benson thanked the Príomh Chomhairleoir for convening the Special Meeting. She advised that she had received a large number of calls from residents in Kileely, raising concerns regarding the recent installation of the new lighting in the area, noting that a petition had been signed by these residents. Following notice of the Meeting, further calls

had been received from residents in other areas including Ballynatty, Garryowen, Norwood Park, Kilteragh and Carew Park. Councillor Benson expressed concern regarding the lighting levels, noting that residents considered the new lighting could pose a potential risk, particularly to older people. She outlined that concerns had been expressed about the PLEEP Programme for some time, including value for money.

Councillor Benson proposed the following Emergency Motion and it was seconded by Councillor Reale:

*"I will move that this Council contacts Cork County Council immediately requesting a pause on the installation of any more lights under the PLEEP scheme, until such time as a review of the lights already installed has taken place and legal advice has been sought.*

*And, that this Council requests that Cork County Council appear before us to answer questions in relation to the PLEEP contract".*

In discussion Members raised the following:

- The duration and signing date of the Section 85 Agreement.
- Which areas have had lights installed by PLEEP, and what specific type of lighting was installed in each area.
- Whether an independent cost benefit analysis was undertaken by this Council prior to recommending the Section 85 Agreement.
- The total cost of the contract.
- If the cost of the contract was negotiated to include the number of lights replaced directly by Limerick City and County Council, while waiting for the rollout to begin.
- Whether Limerick City and County Council carried out a cost benefit analysis.
- Whether €1m funding under the Climate Action Fund was received and, if the funding was dependent on the PLEEP project.
- If contractors who were awarded the general maintenance contract part of the PLEEP contract.

The Director of Service, Transportation, Mobility and Public Realm confirmed that the Section 85 Agreement was signed in June 2020 and agreed to review the duration of the contract.

In response to the queries, the Senior Executive Engineer confirmed the following:

- A full list of areas in the programme will be compiled and issued to Members.
- The type of lighting is a standard design that is consistent in all areas.
- The Council have reverted to the PLEEP team and the maintenance contractor in relation to the Kileely area.

The Management Accountant confirmed that approval from the Department was received to borrow €10m in December 2021. €6.4m has been paid to Cork County Council and €600,000 paid in other costs, leaving a balance of €3m.

The Director of Service, Transportation, Mobility and Public Realm advised there has been disputes with the contractor in relation to delays and noted that associated claims have to be addressed. She reported that the project has a value of €57m across the Southwest Region, with 79% of the programme now complete. The Director highlighted that works commenced in Limerick in 2024. She outlined that the Council had replaced some lamp heads prior to the works commencing. She noted a reduction of 6% in energy performance to date and that the programme will assist Limerick City and County Council in achieving its energy targets.

Members raised the following queries:

- The process for reporting a fault or when a bulb needs to be replaced
- How bulbs are checked and replaced, if required.
- Who is responsible for checking lighting levels and issuing certification.
- The lux levels emitted by the new lighting.
- The lighting levels in Woodfield Manor and other areas in Newcastle West town.

The Members discussed how poor public lighting in residential areas can impact on anti-social behaviour and public safety.

The Senior Executive Engineer outlined the following:

- Faults with public lighting can be reported through Customer Services, Limerick City and County Council or logged online via the DeadSure portal. He agreed to share the link with the Members.
- The public lighting contractor carries out routine patrols and identifies lights that require attention.
- LED lights have an approximate 20-year life span, noting that lighting levels have changed, resulting in a reduction in light pollution.
- Agreed to follow up on issues raised in relation to Woodfield Manor.

The Director of Service, Transportation, Mobility and Public Realm advised that they would liaise with Cork County Council to arrange a presentation on the PLEEP project for Members.

This concluded the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**Príomh Chomhairleoir**

**Date:**

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