

**To the Mayor, Príomh Chomhairleoir and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council  
Chairperson's Report of the Meeting of the Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism, and  
Planning Strategic Policy Committee of Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026.**

**Item 1: Minutes**

The Minutes of the Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism, and Planning SPC Meeting held of 13th October 2025 were proposed by Cllr. Michael Collins and seconded by Cllr. Maria Donoghue.

**Item 2: Vacant Business Premises Rates Incentive Scheme 2026 - Brendan Troy, SEO.**

Mr. Brendan Troy gave members a detailed presentation on the new Vacant Business Premises Rates Incentive Scheme 2026. The presentation included an entire overview of the scheme (which is one of the most attractive and ambitious rates schemes in the country), details of how to apply for the scheme and a breakdown of the grants amounts available over the 4 years of the scheme.

The Chair thanked Mr. Troy for their very informative presentation and welcomed this scheme. Some questions from members included if rates are first payable before grant can be paid and noted that tattoo parlours are excluded from the scheme and could they be included? What is the definition of an adult shop? Could the scheme be opened up/widened to Level 4 settlements? Could building and property owners be approached about the scheme? It was advised that rates are payable first before grant can be claimed and tattoo shops are not included on the scheme, but the Council has some discretion around what it includes on the scheme. An adult shop would be described as a sex shop. At present the scheme is only open to Level 2 and Level 3 towns. Significant PR/Media coverage has been completed around advertising the scheme since it was inception in January 2026.

**Item 3: Presentation from Carmel Brislane-Senior Executive Planner following on from Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. B. Collins from Meeting of the Plenary Council held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025 for consideration:**

Ms. Carmel Brislane, Senior Executive Planner gave a very comprehensive presentation on the High Court decision that over-ruled both a local authority and An Coimisiún Pleanála decision and ruled that permission for a one-off rural house should be granted to a resident of a level 4 settlement.

The Chair thanked Ms Brislane for her excellent presentation. Some questions from members. Were figures available for sewer capacity? Could forward planning team carry out a comparative assessment of other Planning Authority Development Plans and identify the settlement level that allows residents to apply for rural housing?

It was advised that sewer capacity figures are available from Uisce Eireann, and it was agreed that Forward Planning would investigate and revert with the comparative analysis of other Planning Authority Development Plans.

**Item 4: Taken in Charge Protocol – Barry Henn a/Senior Planner**

Mr. Barry Henn gave members an update on the Taken in Charge Protocol. Mr. Henn advised that Limerick City and County Council are consulting with the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland (RIAI) and Engineers Ireland. The RIAI has asked to meet to review the wording in the protocol. Mr. Henn advised that he has an upcoming meeting with RIAI/EI and he will update members after this meeting

The Chair thanked Mr. Henn for his update to the members and looked forward to a further update after his upcoming meeting with RIAI/EI. Some questions from members included how many estates have been taken in charge in 2025 and the dates as to when these estates were taken in charge? It was agreed that the numbers and dates of estates taken in charge for 2025 would be collated and this information would be provided.

**Item 5: Date of Next Meeting**

The next blended SPC meeting will be held Monday, 13th<sup>th</sup> April at 2.15 pm.

The Chairperson, Cllr. Peter Doyle thanked everyone present for attending the SPC meeting.

The business of the meeting concluded at 4.15pm.



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**Cllr. Peter Doyle, Chairperson**

**Dated: 2nd March 2026**