

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT SPECIAL MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD ONLINE ON WEDNESDAY 25TH MARCH 2026 AT 3:30 P.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Daniel Butler.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors Beasley, Benson, Doyle, Gavan, Hickey-O'Mara, Kiely, Kilcoyne, Leddin, O'Hanlon, O'Sullivan, Pond, Reale, Secas, Slattery, Talukder.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Senior Executive Officer, Metropolitan District of Limerick, Parks and Cemeteries (Ms. S. Reidy), Meetings Administrator (Ms. A. Foley), Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services (Mr. T. Cronolly), Head of Economic and Tourism Development (Mr. B. Troy), Night-Time Economy Advisor, Economic and Tourism Development (Mr. C. Power), Administrative Officer, Economic and Tourism Development (Mr. E. Crimmins), Staff Officer, Economic and Tourism Development (Mr. S. Feane), Staff Officer, Economic and Tourism Development (Ms. K. Conlon).

1. Riverfest Open Funding Call

The Head of Economic and Tourism Development advised the Members that a Competitive Open Call for Riverfest Limerick 2026, specifically Riverfest Creative Programming (Family Friendly) Open Call and Riverfest Night-Time Economy Event Programming Open Call, was issued on 6th March 2026 via Limerick.ie and social media platforms.

He noted proposals were invited from cultural organisations, creative practitioners, and community groups to enhance the City's festival offering, outlining the proposed activities applicants were requested to submit under:

- Strengthen and enhance the core Riverfest programme.
- Highlight Limerick's cultural identity and its connection to the River Shannon.
- Support Limerick's growing status as a vibrant urban destination and gateway to the Wild Atlantic Way.
- Promote Limerick as a centre of creative excellence, showcasing local, national, and international talent.

The Head of Economic and Tourism Development outlined that the Creative Programming (Family Friendly) Open Call had a maximum budget of €30,000, advising Members that 18 applications were received, highlighting the total amount requested was €103,399. The Night-Time Economy Event Programming Open Call also had a maximum budget of €30,000. He further advised that 6 applications were received under this call and highlighted that the total amount requested was €66,330.

The Members were informed that an internal assessment panel convened on 20th March 2026 to evaluate all submissions in accordance with the published criteria and guidelines, recommending the allocation of €60,000 across the programme, as circulated, as follows:

- **Cultural Institutions/Venues**
 - Applications considered: 2
 - Total sought: €11,200
 - Recommended: €7,450
 - Successful applicants: 2
- **Creative Professionals**
 - Applications considered: 13
 - Total sought: €41,549
 - Recommended: €22,050
 - Successful applicants: 10
- **Other Riverfest-Themed Events:**
 - Applications considered: 3
 - Total sought: €50,650
 - Recommended: €500
 - Successful applicants: 1
- **Night-Time Economy Events**
 - Applications considered: 6
 - Total sought: €66,330
 - Recommended: €30,000
 - Successful applicants: 4

A detailed breakdown of recommendations is outlined below:

The following table presents a list of groups who submitted applications under **Cultural Institutions/Venues**:

Applicant	Event	€ Sought	€ Recommended
The Hunt Museum	Cultivating Creativity – Uncover the Secrets of the Hunt Museum garden	€4,600	€1,450
Limerick Market Trustees	Outdoor Café & Art Class Cupcake Decorating Workshop Dance Your Own Style (Redbull) Family Fun Day (Pirate Show)	€6,600	€6,000

The following table presents a list of groups who submitted applications under **Creative Professionals**:

Applicant	Event	€ Sought	€ Recommended
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Irish Chamber Orchestra Youth	A Riverfest Recital (Kings Island Community Centre)	€1,100	1,100
Laffan Productions	Meet The Legends of Limerick	€10,200	€2,500
The Music Trail Festival	Riverfest Music Trail	€7,000	€7,000
Pitch'd Productions	Now & Then Circus Street Show	€1,435	€1,435
Ceol Connected	Songtales sa Speir	€6,940	€3,000
Gary & Pel Live Action Cartoon	Swan in Love	€984	€984
Go Fly Your Kite	Go Fly Your Kite Workshops	€1,605	€1,605
StoryGate	The Story Telling Yurt – Puppets by the River	€2,135	€2,135
Little Top Stars	The Drop Science Bubble Show	€2,200	€850
Scoil Ui Nuallain Irish Dance School	The Irish Dance Playground	€4,000	€2,000
The Craic is Jazz Duet	The Craic is Jazz	€400	Referred to GY
Launchpad LK	Launchpad Live	€3,000	Referred to GY
Breathe Better Yoga	Riverfest Reset – Daytime Wellness Sessions	€550	Referred to GY

The following table presents a list of groups who submitted applications under **Other Riverfest Themed Events**:

Applicant	Event	€ Sought	€ Recommended
Big Boss Group	Kids Village	€29,000	€0
St Michaels Rowing Club	SMRC Riverfest Estuary Row 2016 (Two-Day Masters Row & City Parade)	€1,650	€500
CWB	Pints & Ponytails	€20,000	€0

The following table presents a list of groups who submitted applications under **Night-Time Economy Events**:

Applicant	Event	€ Sought	€ Recommended
Big Shots	Nickelodeon by the Sea	€1,500	€1,000
Treaty City Brewery	A Sitting Room Outside	€15,200	€9,000
CWB	Mor Silent Disco	€28,750	17,000
Breathe Better Yoga	Bealtaine by the River: A Ritual & Wellness Series	€880	Referred to GY

Lumen Street Theatre	A Whimsical Night with the Disco Pigs	€5,000	€3,000
Dave Ryan	Riverfest Wellness @ The Shipyard	€15,000	€0

On the proposal of Councillor Kilcoyne, and seconded by Councillor Slattery, the above €60,000 in grant allocations under the Riverfest Limerick Open Funding Call 2026 was agreed.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Dated: _____