

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT ADJOURNED MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, AND ONLINE, ON MONDAY, 20TH APRIL, 2026 AT 3.00 P.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, 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, Ryan (E), Ryan (M), Scanlan, Secas, Sheahan, Stokes, Talukder, Teefy, Teskey and 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 (Mr. M. White), Director, Housing (Mr. V. Murray), Director, Regeneration, Community, Sport and Rural Development (Mr. B. McCarthy), Director, Economic, Tourism, Culture, Property and Corporate Buildings (Mr. S. Lenihan), Director, Transportation, Mobility and Public Realm (Ms. P. Liddy), Director, Environment, Climate Action and Fire (Mr. K. Lehane), Director, Planning, Heritage and Ryder Cup (Mr. S. Duclot), Meetings Administrator (Ms. C. Farrell), Administrative Officer, Corporate and Customer Services (Ms. A. Foley), Senior Staff Officer, Corporate and Customer Services (Ms. C. Sheehy), Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate and Customer Services (Ms. S. Carroll).

The Príomh Chomhairleoir welcomed everyone to the Meeting and noted that the following items on the Agenda were dealt with at the March Meeting of the Plenary Council held on Monday, 30th March, 2026, and that the remaining items had been adjourned:

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| No. 1 | Minutes. |
| No. 2 | Declaration of Interest. |
| No. 3 | Disposal of Land. |
| No. 4 | Executive Reports. |
| No. 5 | Audit. |
| No. 6 | Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied) to remove text in Chapter 7, Objective TR O37 regarding access to substandard roads. |
| No. 7 | Annual Report 2025 for Limerick City and County Council. |
| No. 8 | Annual Service Delivery Plan 2026. |
| No. 9 | Arts Grants and Bursaries. |
| No. 10 | Local Community Development Committee Annual Report 2025. |
| No. 11 | Local Community Safety Partnership. |

- No. 12 PPN Sectoral Nominations – Local Community Development Committee and Strategic Policy Committees
- No. 13 Strategic Policy Committee – Sectoral Nomination
- No. 14 Designated Activity Companies (DACs)
- No. 15 Strategic Policy Committee Reports.
- No. 16 Foreign Travel.
- No. 17 Conferences.
- Nos. 18 - 24 Questions.
- No. 25 Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Ryan.

26. Notice of Motion submitted by John Moran, Mayor of Limerick

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council agrees, subject to the necessary administrative, legal, procurement and data protection arrangements being put in place, and with financial support secured so as to protect existing core services in 2026, that all meetings of the Full Council held after the adoption of this resolution shall be live-streamed and recorded in full by audio and video means, and that such recordings shall be made publicly available on the Council's official website (www.limerick.ie) no later than two business days following the conclusion of each meeting, without unnecessary barriers or registration requirements.

The Príomh Chomhairleoir noted that at the March Meeting, this Motion was discussed and an amendment was proposed and seconded “that all Statutory Meetings be recorded”.

Members expressed support for the recording of Meetings in the interest of transparency. Some Members expressed the need for transparency across all statutory meetings, highlighting that, as no costings were available, a decision on the matter could not be made at this time.

Councillor Collins (M) proposed to defer this item until full costings were available. This was seconded by Councillor Collins (B).

The Deputy Director General advised Members that the legal advice received in relation to qualified privilege had been circulated, as requested. He confirmed that costings would be arranged and noted that any agreed livestreaming or recording of meetings would require a procurement process with site surveys at each location to determine the final costs. He outlined the difference between public and private statutory meetings, noting that public meetings were those that may be attended by the public and press.

The Deputy Director General noted that Standing Orders would have to be amended to facilitate the recording of Meetings and advised that at least one half of the total number of Members of the Council must vote in favour of a change to Standing Orders.

Some Members were not in favour of live-streaming and recording of meetings, noting that resources could be used better elsewhere, while other Members strongly supported the live-

streaming and recording of meetings, highlighting the benefits of showing the work carried out in the Chamber.

Members discussed including all statutory meetings, in the amended motion. They emphasised again the importance of knowing the final costs before a decision could be made.

Members thanked the Executive for circulating the legal advice on qualified privilege, expressing disappointment that there had not been enough time to consider the contents as it had been issued shortly before the Meeting commenced. They requested 'bad faith' and malice' in the legal advice and sought further legal clarification on definitions.

In discussion the Mayor acknowledged that the Standing Orders would need to be amended before live-streaming and recording of meetings could commence but indicated that he wished to proceed with his original Motion, subject to amendment of Standing Orders.

Following discussion, it was agreed, on the proposal of Councillor Ryan (E), seconded by Councillor Sheahan, to take a 15-minute adjournment.

Upon resumption, it was agreed to defer the item to a Special Meeting to allow time for costings and further legal advice to be obtained, and to agree on the scope of the meetings to be live-streamed and recorded. It was agreed to hold a Workshop in advance of the Special Meeting to facilitate detailed discussions with the Elected Members.

27. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that this Council initiates proceedings on the Sheehy's Hardware site, Killarney Road, Abbeyfeale to facilitate re-zoning of lands from Enterprise and Employment to Retail.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin expressed disappointment that the Council did not consider commencing the process to rezone the lands at Sheehy's Hardware site, Killarney Road, Abbeyfeale, in advance of a decision being made on the relevant retail planning application.

Members expressed their support for the Motion, noting that more appropriate zoned lands were needed to support investment and development in the area.

REPLY: Legally, the Council cannot initiate a standalone process to re-zone the Sheehy Hardware site. An amendment to the Abbeyfeale Local Area Plan (LAP) is not possible, as the Planning and Development Act 2024 no longer provides for the preparation or amendment of LAPs. Under the new legislation, the Development Plan will instead incorporate all settlements that were previously covered by LAPs.

A variation to re-zone the Sheehy Hardware site cannot proceed in isolation. It would require a full review of the entire settlement, followed by a variation of the Development Plan to include the zoning and associated objectives for the town.

Due to legislative changes currently under consideration, it is expected that the timeline for commencing the next Development Plan review may be delayed by up to two years. In the interim, the Forward Planning team commits to bring forward a series of variations to the Limerick Development Plan over the coming years to integrate the ten existing LAPs. The timing of these variations will depend on factors such as the expiry dates of the current LAPs and housing growth pressures within individual settlements.

In addition, any future changes to retail zoning outside settlement boundaries will require a review of the retail strategy, which forms part of the Development Plan.

Following discussion, the Director General agreed to consider the views expressed by the Elected Members and to review the potential for economic development in the area.

The remaining items on the Agenda were deferred to the May Meeting of Council in order to facilitate the commencement of the Special Meeting at 5:00 p.m.

28. Notice of Motion submitted by the Municipal District of Newcastle West - Councillors L. Galvin (Proposer), M. Collins, F. Foley, T. Ruddle, J. Scanlan, J. Sheahan

We will move at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that this Council calls on the Minister of State with responsibility for the Office of Public Works to expedite the flood relief scheme for Athea.

29. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Beasley

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council write to the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration requesting that An Garda Síochána actively enforce existing legislation and ensure that individuals who participate in the illegal racing of sulkies on the public roads of Limerick City and County are prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

30. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor G. Conway

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council write to the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, Jim O'Callaghan to withdraw all planning exemptions for properties accommodating International Protection Applicants and to ensure that all properties go through the normal planning process.

31. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will move at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council to call on the Government to amend the Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (Prohibition of Importation of Goods) Bill to include the prohibition of trade in services.

32. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Hickey-O'Mara

I will move at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that:

- (i) This Council write to the leaders of the two Government parties, Micheál Martin and Simon Harris, to express our solidarity and full support for the survivors of the former Bessborough mother and baby home, including survivors in Limerick, in their campaign for the Bessborough grounds to be fully exhumed with the intention of locating and identifying the remains of the 859 children whose bodies are still unaccounted for.
- (ii) That this Council hold a minute's silence in memory of the 923 children who died in Bessborough mother and baby home between 1922 and 1994.

33. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillors M. Donoghue, U. Gavan, T. Hartigan, J. O'Donoghue, E. Ryan, J. Scanlan, E. Secas, B. Teefy (to be referred to the Protocol Committee)

We will move at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that:

- All proposed amendments relating to draft documents shall be submitted in writing 24 hours before the relevant meeting, and all proposed amendments shall be uploaded and available to councillors on SharePoint.
- Proposed amendments and any counter proposals to amendments shall be discussed in the Council Chamber only.
- Proposed adjournments shall be substantiated before proposing and seconding, in alignment with current Standing Orders.
- All items discussed during adjournments shall be raised in the Council Chamber prior to proposing and seconding following the end of the adjournment if pertaining to the meeting at hand.
- Item 78 on current Standing Orders is revised to: "every motion or amendment shall NOT be moved and seconded, before being discussed or put to the meeting".
- All afternoon meetings shall break after every 2 hours for a 30-minute recess regardless of adjournment, and following this, will continue only for an additional 1-hour. Any adjournments following this 1-hour continuation shall be to another date.
- All morning meetings shall break after every 2 hours for a 30-minute recess regardless of adjournment, and must complete by 6pm of that day, or be adjourned to another date.

34. Correspondence

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Príomh Chomhairleoir

Date:
