



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Comhshaol, Gníomhú ar son na hAeráide agus Seirbhísí Comhroinnte
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh
Bothar Thuar an Daill
Tuar an Daill, Luimneach
V94 WV78

Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services
Limerick City and County Council
Dooradoyle Road
Dooradoyle, Limerick
V94 WV78

Minutes of the Meeting of Limerick City & County Council Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee held on Tuesday 10th February 2026 at 1.30pm.

Members Present:

Cllr. J Leddin (Chairperson), Cllr. J. Pond, Cllr. S Kiely, Cllr. S. Hartigan, Cllr. N Stokes, Cllr. J. Sheahan, Cllr. E. Ryan, Mr. B Murphy, Mr. S. Lavery

Members in attendance:

Cllr. K. O'Hanlon, Cllr. P.J Carey, Cllr. B Collins, Cllr. F. Foley, Cllr. E Secas, Cllr. T Hartigan, Cllr. F Daly, Cllr. S Hickey O'Mara, Mr C. Hedderman

Apologies:

Cllr. L. Galvin, Mr. C. Joy, Mr. B. Harper, Cllr. P Reale, Cllr. M. Donoghue

Officials Present:

Mr. K. Lehane (Director of Service), Mr. A. Finn (Senior Engineer), Ms. S Hourigan (Administrative Officer), Mr. K Reeves (Climate Action Co-Ordinator), Ms. A Mellett (Senior Executive Engineer), Ms. Claire Linehan (Senior Executive Scientist), Ms. Y. Rowland (Staff Officer), Mr. O. Enright (Assistant Staff Officer)

Officials in Attendance:

Ms Sonja Reidy (Senior Executive Officer)

Other Attendees:

Mr E Wilkins (KEO Consultants), Ms C Harber (KEO Consultants)

Item 1 – Adopt minutes of the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 03rd December 2025.

The minutes of the meeting held on 08th October 2025 were proposed by Mr. S. Lavery and seconded by Cllr. E Ryan.

It was agreed that item 4 on the Agenda, The Feasibility Study for the New Waste Management System for Limerick City Centre – Stakeholder Engagement, would be taken as the next item in the Meeting.

Items 2 – Notice of Motion

Item 2 - Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Donoghue (*referred from December Metropolitan Meeting*).

I will move at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the current Presentation of Waste Byelaws are updated to reflect the current volume of required segregation of waste, and that a programme of clear communication around these updated byelaws is developed.

It was agreed that a review of the Presentation of Waste Byelaws would be undertaken following the completion of the Feasibility Study for Waste Management system in the city centre, which is due to be complete in March

Item 3

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor P. Reale (*referred from December Metropolitan Meeting*) –

I will move at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council provides a public schedule of Bring Bank and Clothes Bins collection days at all locations across the Metropolitan District so that people looking to recycle can schedule their trips on days that these bins are emptied and have adequate space to dispose of such items. This will further allow this Council to alternate collections between various locations.

It was agreed that collection days would be posted to Bring banks where feasible.

Item 4 - Feasibility Study for New Waste Management System for Limerick City Centre –Stakeholder Engagement - KEO Consultants – Edward Wilkins and Cristina Harber.

KEO Consultants presented an update on the Feasibility Study for a new Waste Management System for Limerick City Centre. The presentation outlined proposals to improve waste storage and presentation, increase participation by residents and businesses in waste prevention and recycling, streamline collection systems, and support the achievement of EU recycling and circular economy targets.

Members discussed the chronic issues associated with Bring Bank and Clothes Bank sites, particularly persistent illegal dumping, overflowing banks, and the negative impact on local environments and nearby communities. Specific reference was made to ongoing problems at certain city locations, including Dock Road, and concerns regarding public health, visual amenity, and rodent activity.

Several of members highlighted that Clothes Banks, rather than standard Bring Banks, were the primary source of difficulty, noting infrequent collections, unauthorised scavenging, and misuse of sites. Suggestions were made that problematic Clothes Banks should be removed, relocated, or consolidated at more controlled locations such as recycling centres. Other members cautioned against removal without prior community consultation and emphasised the importance of maintaining accessible recycling facilities.

The use of CCTV and enforcement measures at Bring Bank locations was discussed. Officials advised that CCTV was operational at several sites and was assisting in enforcement, with a significant number of fixed payment notices issued. Members agreed that these measures should be given time to take effect before more permanent decisions were made regarding removal of banks.

Following discussion, it was agreed that:

- CCTV monitoring and other mitigation measures would continue at problematic Bring Bank locations.

- The operation and performance of Clothes Banks would be kept under review, particularly at sites with persistent dumping.
- No immediate removal of Clothes Banks would take place, pending further assessment.
- The issue would be revisited at a future SPC meeting as part of the ongoing waste management review.
- The presentation would be circulated to all members.

The Chairperson and Director of Service thanked the presenters and acknowledged the value of the study in informing future policy decisions, including the planned review of Waste Presentation Byelaws.

Item 5 – The Million Trees Project – Can tree planting provide a sustainable, long-lasting environmental legacy to the Ryder Cup – Aidan Finn, Senior Engineer.

Mr. Aidan Finn, Senior Engineer, gave a presentation on the Million Trees Project, a large-scale native tree-planting initiative being progressed in the context of the Ryder Cup 2027. The project aims to establish approximately 100 acres of native woodland by 2027, with tree planting to take place primarily within County Limerick, where feasible.

Members were advised that 20 acres are to be planted at Adare Manor, with the Council seeking additional suitable lands to achieve the overall target. Potential participating landowners must have land parcels of 10 acres or more. All proposed sites will be assessed by the Forestry Service for suitability, and eligible landowners may avail of grant aid and annual premium payments, subject to the planting of trees of native provenance. The project will manage site assessment and planting, with landowners required only to make the land available.

During discussion, members welcomed the environmental benefits of large-scale tree planting but stressed the importance of accuracy in describing the project's climate impact. Concerns were raised regarding the use of the term "carbon offsetting", with members noting that the scale of planting proposed would not fully offset the carbon footprint associated with a major international event. It was emphasised that the initiative should be presented as a positive contribution to biodiversity enhancement and climate mitigation rather than as a complete offset.

In response, it was clarified that the initiative is formally titled the Million Trees Project, and that it forms part of a broader suite of environmental measures, alongside future initiatives in areas such as energy efficiency, water conservation, and waste minimisation.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Finn for the presentation, and it was agreed that the presentation would be circulated to all members.

Ms Hourigan mentioned the dates for the remainder of the 2026 SPC meetings had already been agreed but will need to change.

It was agreed to move the time of this meeting to 1.30pm where possible.

In relation to the upcoming workshops Ms Horigan advised we are still working on a date for the workshop on Cemeteries byelaws and Tree Maintenance however the SPC Programme workshop is set for 9th March with submissions being sought by 23rd February.

Cllr Kiely asked if Cllrs not sitting on this SPC were entitled to submit suggestions.

Ms Hourigan advised we would take all suggestions.

This concluded the business of this meeting.

Cllr Joe Leddin

Chairperson of the Climate Action Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee