

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT ANNUAL MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MERCHANT'S QUAY AND ONLINE, ON MONDAY, 22ND JUNE 2026
AT 9.45AM**

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor D. Butler, Cathaoirleach

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Beasley, Benson, Daly, Donoghue, Doyle, Gavan, Hartigan, Hickey-O'Mara, Kiely, Kilcoyne, Leddin, McSweeney, O'Donovan, O'Hanlon, O'Sullivan, Pond, Reale, Secas, Slattery and Talukder.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, Environment, Climate Action and Fire (Mr. K. Lehane), Meetings Administrator (Ms. A. Foley), Senior Executive Officer, Metropolitan District of Limerick, Park and Cemeteries (Ms. S. Reidy), Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Ms. S. Carroll).

The outgoing Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District, Councillor Butler welcomed the Members, Officials, Members of the Media and the Public to the Annual Meeting to elect the Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach noted that this would be the final Annual Meeting for the Director of Service, Mr. Kieran Lehane, prior to his retirement in the coming months. He paid tribute to Mr. Lehane's significant contribution to Limerick, particularly to Limerick City, and acknowledged his professionalism, dedication and support to Members throughout his time as Director of Services. He also recognised Mr. Lehane's willingness to assist Members with queries, both during and outside office hours.

Members extended their best wishes to Kieran, his wife and family for good health and happiness in his retirement.

In response, the Director thanked the Cathaoirleach and Members for the kind words and their support. A presentation was made to the Director to mark the occasion.

The outgoing Cathaoirleach thanked the Executive and Staff of Corporate Services for their professionalism and support throughout the year, ensuring that the meetings had ran smoothly and efficiently. He also thanked his party colleagues and fellow Councillors for their support, cooperation and constructive engagement during his term. He noted the excellent work that was carried out during the year in the District. Councillor Butler finished by thanking his family and friends for their support during the year, expressing his best wishes to the incoming Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach, and offered to support them in their new roles.

The Members congratulated Councillor Butler on his very successful year as Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District, particularly for his commitment to the city centre. They commended him for the professional manner in which he chaired the meetings and carried out his duties.

The Director, Environment, Climate Action and Fire, on behalf of Management and Staff, thanked Councillor Butler for his work throughout the year.

1. To elect a Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to hold Office until the next Annual Meeting or until a successor has been elected

The outgoing Cathaoirleach invited nominations for the Office of Cathaoirleach for the coming year.

Proposed by Councillor Slattery;
Seconded by Councillor O’Hanlon;

“That Councillor Joe Pond be appointed Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to hold office until the next Annual Meeting or until a successor has been appointed”.

As there were no other nominations, the outgoing Cathaoirleach declared Councillor Pond elected as Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick and congratulated him on his election.

Members congratulated Councillor Pond on his election as Cathaoirleach and wished him every success in the coming year.

The newly elected Cathaoirleach, Councillor Pond took the chair. He said he was honoured to be elected as Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick. He expressed his gratitude to his party colleagues and the Members for their support. He thanked his family, friends and colleagues for their support since his election as a Councillor, acknowledging the sacrifices made by them.

Councillor Pond acknowledged the work of Councillor Butler as Cathaoirleach over the previous twelve months, noting in particular the provision of regular city centre updates, which were of huge benefit to Members. He thanked Councillor Kiely for her work as Leas Cathaoirleach.

He thanked the Council Staff for their work in the city, ensuring services run smoothly. He noted the success of Riverfest and Twilight Thursdays as well as the rapid redevelopment of the Opera Site. He highlighted the importance of increasing footfall in the city to help businesses prosper and grow and attract new business to the city centre. He stated that Bus Connects should be rolled out across Limerick to support the city centre and ensure that key areas are adequately served by public transport. He welcomed the increased Garda presence in the city and noted the need for additional Garda resources to be allocated to Limerick. He stated that the new Garda Station in Castletroy should be delivered in an adequate timeframe. He highlighted that housing was a concern for all Councillors. He referred to the recent meeting with the LDA and was hopeful that with private developers and the Council’s building programme, these would help improve the housing situation in Limerick. He emphasised the importance of including proper infrastructure such as creches, playgrounds and green areas in developments.

He wished all associated with the Ryder Cup every success for the event next year. He also extended his good wishes to the Senior and Minor Hurlers in their upcoming games. He finished by saying it was a great honour to accept the role of Cathaoirleach.

2. To elect a Leas Chathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to hold Office until the next Annual Meeting or until a successor has been elected.

The Cathaoirleach invited nominations for the Office of Leas Chathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor O'Hanlon;
Seconded by Councillor Talukder;

"That Councillor Catherine Slattery be appointed Leas Chathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to hold office until the next Annual Meeting or until a successor is appointed".

The Cathaoirleach declared Councillor Slattery elected as Leas Chathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

The Director, Climate Action, Environment and Fire, on behalf of Management and Staff, wished the incoming Cathaoirleach, Councillor Pond and Leas Chathaoirleach, Councillor Slattery every success in the coming year.

This concluded the Meeting.

SIGNED: _____
Cathaoirleach

DATE : _____