

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT ANNUAL MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, AND ONLINE ON MONDAY, 30TH
JUNE, 2026 AT 3.00 P.M.**

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor C. Slattery, Príomh Chomhairleoir

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor John 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'Hanlon, O'Sullivan (O), O'Sullivan (T), Pond, Reale, Ruddle, Ryan (E), Ryan (M), Scanlan, Secas, Sheahan, Stokes, Talukder, Teefy, Teskey, Ward.

An apology for her inability to attend was received from Councillor O'Donovan.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

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, Economic, Tourism, Culture, Property and Corporate Buildings (Mr. S. Lenihan), A/Director, Planning, Heritage and Ryder Cup (Ms. N. O'Connell), Meetings Administrator (Ms. C. Farrell), Administrative Officer, Corporate and Customer Services (Ms. A. Foley), Senior Executive Officer, Municipal Districts & Príomh Chomhairleoir (Ms. K. White), Senior Executive Officer, Metropolitan District of Limerick, Parks & Cemeteries (Ms. S. Reidy), Special Advisor, Office of the Mayor (Mr. M. Fenlon), Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate and Customer Services (Ms. S. Carroll).

An apology for his inability to attend the Meeting was received from Dr. P. Daly, Director General.

The Príomh Chomhairleoir opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the Council Chamber for the Annual Meeting.

Príomh Chomhairleoir, Councillor Catherine Slattery, then gave the following address:

Elected Members, Director General, Staff of Limerick City and County Council, friends.

It is with immense pride, gratitude, and a deep sense of honour that I stand before you today as I prepare to hand over the Chains of Office of Príomh Chomhairleoir of Limerick City and County Council.

When I was elected to this role, it was truly one of the proudest moments of my life. To serve the people of Limerick in this capacity has been both a privilege and a responsibility that I have carried every day over the past year.

I am particularly proud to have been the first female Príomh Chomhairleoir of our Council. I hope that in some small way, my time in this role has shown young people—especially young girls across Limerick—that leadership is something they too can aspire to.

I look forward to the day when I sit in this chamber and witness another Príomh Chomhairleoir from the city, inspired perhaps by this year, take on this important role.

I want to begin by thanking my family and friends and my loyal supporters. Their support has been unwavering, and I simply could not have fulfilled this role without them. I also wish to thank my colleagues in Fianna Fáil and Deputy Willie O Dea, for their guidance, encouragement and support throughout the year.

To my fellow Councillors, thank you for your cooperation, your counsel, and your commitment to the people we serve. While we may not always agree, we are united in our dedication to Limerick.

I extend my sincere thanks to our Director General, the Directors of Service, and all staff of Limerick City and County Council. Your professionalism, dedication and public service are the backbone of this organisation.

I also want to acknowledge the media, whose coverage of the work of the Príomh Chomhairleoir and of this Council has been fair and important in connecting us with the public we serve.

A very special word of thanks to the team in our Corporate Office—Kathleen White, Liz Creamer, Ciara Farrell, Aedín Foley, Collette Sheehy, Tommy Cronolly, Siobhan Carroll, and all the team. Your work behind the scenes often goes unseen, but it is absolutely vital, and I am deeply grateful for your support throughout the year.

To Donn O’Sullivan, Aoife O’Shaughnessy, Eric Clarke and all the staff in the Marketing and Communications team—thank you for helping to tell the story of Limerick. Your work ensured that the role of Príomh Chomhairleoir, and the many events and initiatives throughout the year, were communicated with professionalism and pride.

It has been, without question, a challenging year. The ongoing changes within local government structures have required all of us to adapt. Change can be difficult, and it can be stressful—but it is also necessary, and it brings opportunity. The change has brought forward for me a lot of support from the people of Limerick everywhere I go now people are approaching me saying Catherine keep going we’re with you.

What I have seen, time and time again, is that the elected representatives of Limerick rise to the challenge. We work tirelessly—24 hours a day, 7 days a week—for the people we represent. That commitment has never wavered.

Over the past year, I have had the honour of representing Limerick at events across our city and county, nationally and internationally. From school visits to gatherings with our older citizens, International Women’s Day celebrations to community events, each occasion reinforced one message—that from Limerick, you can achieve anything.

We are a city and county that lives its brand—*Edge and Embrace*. We embrace change, we embrace diversity, we embrace being different—people from all walks of life, all backgrounds, all political viewpoints.

But we never lose our edge.

The edge that drives us.

The edge that defines us.

The edge that makes us who we are—and who we are proud to be.

Before I conclude, I want to say this: the role of Príomh Chomhairleoir is an important one. It is a role that represents not just this chamber, but the people of Limerick. It must continue to be respected and valued—because, within this chamber, the Príomh Chomhairleoir is entrusted to lead, to guide, and yes, to ensure order—to be, in simple terms, “the boss.” And as the boss the position deserves quiet simple equality, respect and parity and most of all validation.

As elected representatives, we are not here for ourselves. We are here to serve. To represent. To give voice to the people who placed their trust in us. Our duty is always to act in their best interests, to uphold their confidence, and to work each day to make Limerick a better place for all.

And to all my fellow women

My advice to you when taking up a role of leadership, a new job or a role in the public eye is “Stand by your principles never allow anyone to undermine you or make you doubt your abilities, stand by your principles have confidence in yourself and never let anyone diminish your voice or your worth and to continue to serve your community with dedication and integrity”.

To the incoming Príomh Chomhairleoir, I wish you every success. It is a role like no other, and I know you will serve with dedication and pride.

Finally,

It has been the greatest honour of my life to serve as your Príomh Chomhairleoir.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

1. Election of Príomh Chomhairleoir of Limerick City and County Council:

The outgoing Príomh Chomhairleoir invited nominations for the Office of Príomh Chomhairleoir of Limerick City and County Council for the coming year.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan;

Seconded by Councillor Galvin;

“That, Councillor Tom Ruddle be appointed Príomh Chomhairleoir of Limerick City and County Council to hold office until the next Annual Meeting or until a successor is appointed.”

As there were no other nominations, the outgoing Príomh Chomhairleoir declared Councillor Ruddle elected as Príomh Chomhairleoir of Limerick City and County Council and congratulated him on his election.

Having taken the Chair, the incoming Príomh Chomhairleoir, Councillor Ruddle, gave the following address:

Mayor Mr. John Moran, fellow Councillors, Minister Patrick O'Donovan, Senator Maria Byrne, Council Officials, family and friends, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to thank you all for being here today. I am deeply honoured and humbled to be taking on this most important role of Príomh Chomhairleoir and I will endeavour to do it to the very best of my ability.

I would like to thank Councillor John Sheahan for nominating me to the role of Príomh Chomhairleoir. Thanks to Councillor Liam Galvin for seconding me for the role. I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for the trust you've placed in me. I am deeply grateful for the support of my colleagues, and I accept this responsibility with pride and a strong commitment to serve all the people of Limerick.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the outgoing Príomh Chomhairleoir Councillor Catherine Slattery and thank her for her dedication and leadership over the past year. Her work has made a significant contribution to the role. I would also like to acknowledge Councillor Mc Sweeney, who was the first Príomh Chomhairleoir, for setting up this office and all the work he did to establish it. I hope to build on that progress during my term.

I also want to thank my fellow Elected Members. While we may come from different perspectives, we are united in our ambition to deliver the best for Limerick. I look forward to working with you in the spirit of cooperation and mutual respect. I wish to acknowledge Mayor Moran, Director General Dr. Pat Daly, and the staff of Limerick City and County Council for all their hard work.

As Príomh Chomhairleoir, Chairperson of the Council, I will be firm but fair to every Councillor in this chamber and ensure that all voices are heard.

We all need and command respect for each other. We as Councillors bring a wealth of different life experiences to the job, which brings greater diversity to the chamber. We can have different views and opinions which can be heard with constructive debate.

In my role as Príomh Chomhairleoir I aim to support a variety of initiatives and organisations in both city and county.

For example, in my own town of Newcastle West we are working towards getting autism friendly town status. This could be replicated throughout the city and county. Initiatives that I led in Newcastle West are football for all and tennis for all.

I aim to raise awareness of the difficulties that people face each day and I will try to help wherever I can. Where inclusion is not just an ambition but a reality across our services, our public spaces, and our communities.

I am also committed to promoting the many local amenities and attractions across all our municipal districts. Each area of Limerick has something unique to offer and is important that we showcase and support those strengths for the benefit of our communities and local economies.

Supporting our older citizens is another key priority. We must continue to build an age friendly Limerick, ensuring that people can live with dignity, independence and connection in their own communities. I will support age friendly measures, such as extra seating in our towns, villages and public parks. I will work closely with the age friendly team here in the Council and raise awareness of loneliness of people who live on their own and what we, as a local authority, can do to help.

I endeavour to work with Mayor Moran to create more affordable housing solutions for city and county.

I will also work with Mayor Moran in working with Uisce Éireann to get a more immediate solution for the lack of sewerage capacity in Newcastle West.

These priorities reflect a broader vision of a Limerick that is inclusive, ambitious and proud of who we are.

I would like to thank my wife Marie, my daughter Blathnaid and my son Andrew for all their help and support. Thanks to all the people who canvassed to get me elected. Also, a special thanks to Michael Finucane, retired TD and Colum Dalton for being such a great support. The role will bring many challenges, but also great opportunities, by working together as elected members, as an organisation, and with our communities. I believe we can continue to make meaningful progress.

It is a privilege to serve as Príomh Chomhairleoir and to represent the people of this great city and county.

I will finish with a quote from Limericks famous son, the actor Richard Harris.
"Limerick is part of me, wherever I go, I take Limerick with me."

Go raibh mile maith agaibh.

2. Election of Leas-Phríomh Chomhairleoir of Limerick City and County Council:

The Príomh Chomhairleoir invited nominations for the Office of Leas-Phríomh Chomhairleoir of Limerick City and County Council for the coming year.

Proposed by Councillor Keary;
Seconded by Councillor Stokes;

"That, Councillor Adam Teskey be appointed Leas-Phríomh Chomhairleoir of Limerick City and County Council to hold office until the next Annual Meeting or until a successor has been appointed."

As there were no other nominations, the Príomh Chomhairleoir declared Councillor Adam Teskey elected as Leas-Phríomh Chomhairleoir and congratulated him on his election.

The incoming Leas-Phríomh Chomhairleoir thanked Members for their support. He stated that he looked forward to supporting and working with the Príomh Chomhairleoir, Councillor Ruddle and with the Elected Members, Management and Staff.

The Members welcomed Minister Patrick O'Donovan, former T.D. and Senator Michael Finucane, and all guests present in the Chamber. They congratulated the Príomh Chomhairleoir, Councillor Tom Ruddle and Leas-Phríomh Chomhairleoir, Councillor Adam Teskey on their election and wished them both the best for the year ahead. Members acknowledged the significant responsibilities associated with both positions and assured them of their full support.

Members congratulated the outgoing Príomh Chomhairleoir, Councillor Catherine Slattery, and commended her for her dedication and commitment to the role. They acknowledged that, as the first female Príomh Chomhairleoir, she had carried out her duties with distinction.

Members also thanked the Leas-Phríomh Chomhairleoir, Councillor Michael Collins and commended him on his commitment and contribution throughout the year.

The Mayor congratulated the outgoing Príomh Chomhairleoir, Councillor Catherine Slattery and commended her for her commitment to the role during her term of office. He congratulated Councillor Tom Ruddle on his election to the office of Príomh Chomhairleoir and looked forward to working with him over the coming year.

The Deputy Director General, on behalf of Management and Staff, congratulated Councillor Tom Ruddle and Councillor Adam Teskey on their election as Príomh Chomhairleoir and Leas-Phríomh Chomhairleoir of Limerick City and County Council and wished them every success for the year ahead. He assured them of the full support of Management and Staff as they worked together in the interests of Limerick.

The Deputy Director General paid tribute to the outgoing Príomh Chomhairleoir and Leas-Phríomh Chomhairleoir, acknowledging their commitment and dedication over the past year. He thanked them for their hard work and commended the significant contribution they had made in developing and enhancing the roles of Príomh Chomhairleoir and Leas-Phríomh Chomhairleoir during their term of office.

Civic Receptions

It was proposed by Councillor Slattery and seconded by Councillor McSweeney to hold a Civic Reception for the Limerick Minor Hurling Team on winning the All-Ireland Minor Hurling Final 2026.

It was proposed by Councillor Teskey and seconded by Councillor Collins (B) to hold a Civic Reception for Robert Sheehan on his recent achievements at the European Transplant Games.

This concluded the meeting.

Signed:

Príomh Chomhairleoir

Date:
