

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, AND ONLINE, ON MONDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2026 AT 3PM.**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:**

Councillor T. Ruddle, Príomh Chomhairleoir.

**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 (M), Scanlan, Secas, Sheahan, Slattery, Stokes, Talukder, Teefy, Teskey, Ward.

An apology for his inability to attend the meeting was received from Councillor Ryan (E).

**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), A/Director, Economic, Tourism, Culture, Property and Corporate Buildings (Mr. B. Troy), Director, Environment, Climate Action and Fire (Mr. K. Lehane), A/Director, Planning, Heritage and Ryder Cup (Ms. N. O'Connell), A/Director, Transportation, Mobility and Public Realm (Mr. J. Gannon), Meetings Administrator (Ms. C. Farrell), Administrative Officer, Corporate and Customer Services (Ms. A. Foley), Senior Staff Officer, Corporate and Customer Services (Ms. C. Sheehy), Senior Planner (Ms. M. Woods), Senior Executive Planner (Ms. C. Brislane), Museum Curator (Mr. M. Potter), Head of Marketing and Communications (Mr. D. O'Sullivan), A/Senior Engineer, Ryder Cup (Mr. T. McKechnie), Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate and Customer Services (Ms. S. Carroll).

**1. Minutes**

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the following Meetings:

- (a) Special Meeting of the Council held on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2026 at 11.30am.
- (b) Special Meeting of the Council held on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2026 at 1.30pm.
- (c) Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2026.
- (d) Special Meeting of the Council held on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2026.
- (e) Annual Meeting of the Council held on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2026.

The Meetings Administrator confirmed that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2026 would be amended as follows:

“It was proposed by Councillor Teskey and seconded by Mayor Moran to hold a Civic Reception for Robert Sheehan on his recent achievements at the European Transplant Games”.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan;  
Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);  
And Resolved:

“That, the draft Minutes, as circulated, be taken as read and adopted and signed.”

## **2. Declaration of Interest**

The Meetings Administrator stated that, in line with Part 15 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, and the Code of Conduct, she was inviting those present to notify the Meeting of any declaration of interest in any item due for discussion at the Meeting. No such interests were declared.

## **3. Disposal of Land**

### **General Disposals**

Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2026, concerning the disposal of 0.0057 Acres (0.0023 Hectares) of Land at 27 Dalgaish Park, Moyross, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);  
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan;  
And Resolved:

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of 0.0057 Acres (0.0023 Hectares) of Land at 27 Dalgaish Park, Moyross, Limerick, to Tony Lynch, for the sum of €1, subject to the covenants and conditions contained therein, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2026”.

#### **4. Executive Report**

Circulated, Executive Report for the month of May 2026.

In noting the report, Members queried why the Mayoral Executive Reports had not been published in recent Months and referred to the statutory requirement for the provision of monthly Executive Reports.

In response, the Mayor advised that the report was being restructured in line with the Mayoral Programme and stated that the issue should be resolved in advance of the next Meeting.

#### **5. Burial Ground Maintenance and Burial Ground Awards Annual Grant Scheme**

Circulated, report of the Director of Service, Environment, Climate Action and Fire dated 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2026, seeking the Council's approval to recommended allocations for the Burial Ground Maintenance and Burial Ground Awards Annual Grant Scheme.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);  
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan;  
And Resolved:

"That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to recommended allocations for the Burial Ground Maintenance and Burial Ground Awards Annual Grant Scheme, as set out in the report of the Director of Service, Environment, Climate Action and Fire dated 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2026."

#### **6. New Community Burial Ground Grant Scheme**

Circulated, report of the Director of Service, Environment, Climate Action and Fire dated 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2026, seeking the Council's approval to recommended allocations for the New Community Burial Ground Grant Scheme.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan;  
Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);  
And Resolved:

"That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to recommended allocations for the New Community Burial Ground Grant Scheme, as set out in the report of the Director of Service, Environment, Climate Action and Fire dated 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2026."

**7. Maintenance of Open Spaces in Housing Developments Annual Grant Scheme**

Circulated, report of the Director of Service, Environment, Climate Action and Fire dated 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2026, seeking the Council's approval to recommended allocations for the Maintenance of Open Spaces in Housing Developments Annual Grant Scheme.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan;  
Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);  
And Resolved:

"That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to recommended allocations for the Maintenance of Open Spaces in Housing Developments Annual Grant Scheme, as set out in the report of the Director of Service, Environment, Climate Action and Fire dated 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2026."

**8. Going for Gold Grant and Award Scheme**

Circulated, report of the Director of Service, Environment, Climate Action and Fire dated 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2026, seeking the Council's approval to recommended allocations for the Going for Gold Grant and Award Scheme.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan;  
Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);  
And Resolved:

"That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to recommended allocations for the Going for Gold Grant and Award Scheme, as set out in the report of the Director of Service, Environment, Climate Action and Fire dated 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2026."

**9. Christmas Lights Funding Open Call 2025**

Circulated, report of the A/Senior Executive Officer, Community Development Department dated 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2026, seeking the Council's approval to recommended allocations for the Christmas Lights Funding Open Call 2025.

Members requested that additional funding be considered for Christmas lighting in Newcastle West to facilitate the installation of lighting on additional streets in the town.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan;  
 Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);  
 And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to recommended allocations for the Christmas Lights Funding Open Call 2025, as set out in the report of the A/Senior Executive Officer, Community Development Department dated 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2026.”

#### **10. Limerick Market Trustees**

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services and Governance dated 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2026, seeking the nomination of 18 Members of the Council, as members of the Limerick Market Trustees, together with list of current Members.

The report stated that, in accordance with the Limerick Markets Act, 1852, as amended, Limerick City and County Council was entitled to nominate 18 Members of the Council as Trustees. The Council was required to make these nominations annually under the Act. Where two or more Members were to be appointed, any group of Members may nominate a Member, in accordance with Paragraph 18 of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended. The Mayor had indicated that he would not be acting as a Trustee for this term.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Collins (M), the following Members were appointed to the Limerick Market Trustees for the coming year: Councillors Ruddle (Príomh Chomhairleoir), Pond (Cathaoirleach, Metropolitan District of Limerick), together with Councillors Butler, O’Hanlon, Kilcoyne, Talukder, Slattery, Ryan (M), O’Sullivan (O), Kiely, McSweeney, Doyle, Hickey-O’Mara, Daly, Donoghue, O’Donovan, Beasley, Gavan.

#### **11. Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee**

Circulated, report of John Moran, Mayor of Limerick dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2026 in relation to the appointment of a new Committee Member to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);  
 Seconded by Councillor Ruddle;  
 And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the appointment of Ms. Amanda McCarthy of the Limerick Traveller Network to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

## **12. Local Authority Members' Association**

The Meetings Administrator advised that the Council was required to consider the nomination of a delegate to the Local Authority Members' Association.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan;  
Seconded by Councillor Keary;  
And Resolved:

"That, Councillor Kiely be appointed as the Council's representative to the Local Authority Members' Association."

## **13. Nomination of Chairperson of Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee**

The Meetings Administrator advised that the Council was required to consider the nomination of a Chairperson to the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee.

Proposed by Councillor Keary;  
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan;  
And Resolved:

"That, Councillor Stokes be appointed as Chairperson of the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee."

## **14. Proposed Variation No. 3 to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied) to accelerate housing delivery and respond to recent changes in National planning policy, namely the publication of the National Planning Framework (NPF) First Revision and the publication of the relevant Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines**

Circulated, report of the Senior Planner, Planning, Heritage and Ryder Cup dated 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2026, enclosing a copy of the Mayor's Report dated 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2026, in relation to the Proposed Variation No. 3 to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied) to accelerate housing delivery and respond to recent changes in National planning policy, namely the publication of the National Planning Framework (NPF) First Revision and the publication of the relevant Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines.

The following was proposed by Councillor Kilcoyne and seconded by Councillor Pond:

*"To ask the Mayor to propose a new Variation to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028. Expression of Interest. To consider proposed Variation of all submissions to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 that are not included. To be relooked at and meaningful engagement from Limerick City and County Council, in accordance with Section 58(12) of the Planning and Development Act 2024. Time frame September".*

The Mayor acknowledged the need for more development sites to address the ongoing housing crises and indicated he would be open to considering a further variation, subject to confirmation regarding the statutory process.

Members sought clarification on the proposed variation before the meeting, and whether an amendment can be proposed at this point, noting that the Proposed Variation No 3 had gone through the statutory public consultation process.

The Senior Planner, Forward Planning, confirmed that only the Proposed Variation No. 3 could be considered at this meeting, and outlined that a Workshop for the Members to discuss further Variations could be arranged in September.

The following amendment was proposed by Councillor Kiely and seconded by Councillor McSweeney:

*“Modify the Housing Strategy and Housing Need Demand Assessment, which formed part of proposed Variation No. 3, proposed amendments to Volume 6 accompanying strategies, by removing PO 12 and PO 13 which states.*

*PO 12 To ensure new social / affordable turnkey housing promotes a balanced tenure mix justified by HNDA need and scheme viability.*

*PO 13 To ensure a balanced spatial distribution of social-rental housing, the Council will give careful consideration to turnkey or leasing proposals in areas designed ‘very disadvantaged’ or ‘extremely disadvantaged’ by the Pobal HP Deprivation Index. Proposals in such areas will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, with regard to regeneration objectives, social mix, local need, and scheme viability, to avoid undue concentration while supporting sustainable community development.*

*And replace with a new objective as follows:*

*To promote tenure mix and support the delivery of sustainable communities, new large-scale residential developments comprising more than 32 units and seeking State support for social, cost rental and affordable housing should provide for a target tenure mix of a maximum 30% Social Rental housing (including general social homes and specialist provision and private rightsizing), 20% Private (minimum) (for ownership or rental) presumption in favour of private sale, and 50% Affordable (minimum) (including homes for Affordable Purchase and Cost Rental) presumption in favour of affordable sale.*

*For developments with one site or multiple sites side-by-side owned by the same developer, person or entity that have the potential to deliver in excess of 250 units should consider, the proportion of social housing be assessed having regard to the objective of achieving mixed and balanced communities, with greater emphasis placed on affordable purchase, affordable rental and private housing.”*

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sheahan and seconded by Councillor O’Hanlon, that the Meeting be adjourned for 15 minutes.

Upon resumption, it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Galvin and seconded by Councillor O'Sullivan that the Meeting would be adjourned for a further 10 minutes.

Upon resumption, it was agreed that a workshop would be organised for September to consider suitable sites and discuss further variations.

### **Resolution**

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan;  
Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);  
And Resolved:

“That, the proposed Variation No. 3 to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied) as recommended in the Mayor’s Report dated 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2026, be made in accordance with Section 58 (12) of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended), subject to the amendment as outlined”.

## **15. Part 8 – Ryder Cup Temporary Park and Ride Facility**

### **Collopys Cross, Attyflin, Patrickswell PT8LL383**

Circulated, Report of the A/Director of Services, Transportation, Mobility and Public Realm dated 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2026, and enclosed Mayor’s Report dated 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2026 setting out details in relation to the proposal to create a Temporary Park and Ride Facility at Collopys Cross, Attyflin, Patrickswell PT8LL383. The report had been prepared in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended).

Councillor Collins (B) requested that the normal movement of traffic on this road would not be impeded, which was seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue.

In response to Members’ queries, the A/Senior Engineer, Ryder Cup, confirmed that the proposed Park and Ride facility would cater for buses only and that a train platform was not included. The A/Director, Planning, Heritage and Ryder Cup advised that the proposed amendment was outside the scope of the Part 8 proposal for the Temporary Park and Ride Facility at Collopys Cross, Attyflin, Patrickswell, and confirmed that ongoing engagement would continue to take place with the local community in consultation with An Garda Síochána and the National Transport Authority regarding traffic management arrangements.

Proposed by Councillor McSweeney;  
 Seconded by Councillor Collins (B);  
 And Resolved;

“That, the Part 8 procedure in relation to the proposal to create a Temporary Park and Ride Facility at Collopys Cross, Attyflin, Patrickswell PT8LL383 be approved in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended)”.

#### **16. Proposed Schedule of Dates for Strategic Policy Committee Meetings**

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services dated 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2026, together with Schedule of Proposed Dates for Strategic Policy Committee Meetings up to June 2027.

The Schedule, as circulated, was noted and agreed.

#### **17. Financial Update**

##### **(a) Update on Limerick City and County Council's Financial position**

The Director of Finance, Investment and Governance delivered a presentation outlining the budget position for 2026. He highlighted a number of financial challenges, including increasing homelessness service costs, rising fuel costs and the absence of a supplementary roads allocation to support road maintenance.

The Director of Finance, Investment and Governance advised that a decision will be required at the September 2026 Council Meeting regarding the variation of the Local Property Tax rate, noting that the Elected Members may now vary the base rate by up to plus 25% or minus 15% for the next three years.

Members thanked the Director of Finance, Investment and Governance for his presentation and raised concerns regarding the increasing costs of homelessness services and fuel. Members sought clarification on which Government grants had increased by 15% during 2026 and queried whether the Council would be liable for Derelict Property Tax on Council owned property.

In response to Members' queries, the Director of Finance, Investment and Governance confirmed that clarification had not yet been received regarding the new Derelict Property Tax. He further advised that the Council's contribution towards the increased cost of homelessness services amounted to €800,000.

**(b) Update on Mayoral Fund**

The Director of Finance, Investment and Governance delivered an update on the Mayoral Fund. He advised Members that the total Mayoral Fund allocation for the period 2024 to 2026 amounted to €18.5 million. It was noted that €6 million in unspent capital funding had been carried forward to 2026, resulting in a total available budget of €14 million for 2026.

The Director of Finance, Investment and Governance advised the Members that funding had been allocated across a range of current and capital initiatives and noted that it was expected that the remaining balance would be spent during Q3 and Q4 of 2026.

**18. Strategic Policy Committee Reports**

- (i) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism and Planning Strategic Policy Committee dated 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2026, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2026.

The Chairperson's report was noted by the Council.

- (ii) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Community, Leisure, Arts, Heritage and Culture Strategic Policy Committee dated 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2026 in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2026.

The Chairperson's report was noted by the Council.

**Recommendations**

- 1. That the Community, Leisure, Arts, Heritage and Culture Strategic Policy Committee Work Programme 2025 - 2029 should be submitted to Full Council for approval.**

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);

Seconded by Councillor Sheahan;

And Resolved:

"That the Community, Leisure, Arts, Heritage and Culture Strategic Policy Committee Work Programme 2025 – 2029, as circulated, be and is hereby approved".

- 2. That Museum Policies be submitted to the Full Council for approval.**

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);

Seconded by Councillor Sheahan;

And Resolved:

"That the Museum Policies, as circulated, be and are hereby approved".

- (iii) (a) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee dated 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2026, in relation to Special Meeting of the Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2026.

The Chairperson's report was noted by the Council.

- (b) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee dated 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2026, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2026.

The Chairperson's report was noted by the Council.

**Recommendation**

**That the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee Work Programme 2025 - 2029 should be submitted to Full Council for approval.**

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);  
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan;  
And Resolved:

"That, the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee Work Programme 2025 – 2029, as circulated, be and is hereby approved".

- (iv) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee dated 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2026 in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2026.

The Chairperson's report was noted by the Council.

**Recommendation**

**That the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee Work Programme 2025-2029 should be submitted to Full Council for approval.**

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);  
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan;  
And Resolved:

"That, the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee Work Programme 2025 – 2029, as circulated, be and is hereby approved".

(v) **Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee**

Circulated, Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee Work Programme 2025-2029.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);  
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan;  
And Resolved:

“That, the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee Work Programme 2025 – 2029, as circulated, be and is hereby approved”.

**19. Conferences**

**(a) Participation by Members at Conferences**

Details of a Conference “Summit of the Cities” held in Belfast, Northern Ireland on 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2026 had been circulated electronically to the Members.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins (M), seconded by Councillor Sheahan, the Council approved the attendance of the following Member at Conference already approved:

**“Changing Landscapes Conference, 2026”, Ennistymon, Co. Clare (14th May, 2026)** – Councillor Doyle.

**(b) Reports on Conference / Seminar / Meeting / Event**

Circulated, reports by Members who had participated at Conference / Seminar / Meeting / Event.

The reports were noted by the Council.

## **ADJOURNED NOTICE OF MOTION**

### **20. Notice of Motion submitted by John Moran, Mayor of Limerick (deferred at Special Meeting of Limerick City and County Council held on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2026)**

*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](http://www.limerick.ie)) no later than two business days following the conclusion of each meeting, without unnecessary barriers or registration requirements.*

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Collins (M) that the Meeting be adjourned to allow Members to consider correspondence circulated prior to the Meeting. The Meeting adjourned at 5.00 p.m. for ten minutes.

Upon resumption, it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Collins (B), seconded by Councillor Stokes to extend the adjournment by a further 15 minutes.

Upon resumption, the Members were advised that at the Special Meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026, an amendment to the Motion was proposed and seconded "that all Statutory Meetings be included". Councillor Collins (M) confirmed that this amendment had been withdrawn.

Following discussions, the Mayor withdrew the original Motion. He proposed a motion to live-stream and record all Plenary Meetings of Limerick City and County Council. This was seconded by Councillor Gavan.

It was proposed by Councillor Collins (B) and seconded by Councillor Collins (M) to amend the Motion to remove 'Recording of Meetings'.

The Príomh Chomhairleoir instructed that a roll call vote would now be taken on the Motion proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Gavan to live-stream and record Plenary Meetings of Limerick City and County Council.

### **Live-Streaming and Recording of Plenary Meetings of Limerick City and County Council**

#### **In Favour**

Councillors Beasley, Benson, Donoghue, Gavan, Hartigan (S), Hartigan (T), Hickey-O'Mara, Leddin, Moran, O'Donovan, Reale, Secas. (12)

#### **Against**

Councillors Butler, Collins (B), Collins (M), Conway, Daly, Doyle, Foley, Galvin, Keary, Kiely, Kilcoyne, McSweeney, O'Donoghue, O'Hanlon, O'Sullivan (O), O'Sullivan (T), Pond, Ruddle, Ryan (M), Scanlan, Sheahan, Slattery, Stokes, Talukder, Teefy, Ward. (26)

The Príomh Chomhairleoir declared the Motion proposed by The Mayor, seconded by Councillor Gavan “To Live-stream and Record Plenary Meetings of Limerick City and County Council” as defeated.

The Príomh Chomhairleoir instructed that a roll call vote would now be taken on the amendment by Councillor Collins (B), seconded by Councillor Collins (M) “To remove Recording of Meetings”.

### **Abstentions**

There were no Abstentions.

### **Live-Streaming Only of Plenary Meetings of Limerick City and County Council**

#### **In Favour**

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, Moran, O’Donoghue, O’Donovan, O’Hanlon, O’Sullivan (O), O’Sullivan (T), Pond, Reale, Ruddle, Ryan (M), Scanlan, Secas, Sheahan, Slattery, Stokes, Talukder, Teefy, Ward.

(39)

#### **Against**

None

(0)

#### **Abstentions**

There were no Abstentions.

The Príomh Chomhairleoir declared the amendment proposed by Councillor Collins (B) and seconded by Councillor Collins (M) “To remove Recording of Meetings” as carried.

It was proposed by Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Collins (M) and agreed that correspondence would issue to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage requesting that the full parliamentary privilege afforded to Members of the Oireachtas be extended to all Elected Members of local authorities.

## **MAYOR'S QUESTIONS**

### **21. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan**

*I will ask the Mayor at the next Meeting, in light of the significant disparity in CCTV coverage across the three Metropolitan Districts, with Limerick City West accounting for just 12% of CCTV coverage compared to 34% in Limerick City East and 51% in Limerick City North, and noting that a portion of the 2025 Mayoral Budget was allocated towards the expansion of CCTV infrastructure, will the Mayor outline whether there is a plan to ensure that future CCTV investment is distributed equitably across all Metropolitan Districts, with particular regard to addressing the current shortfall in Limerick City West.*

**REPLY:** It is worth remembering that CCTV across all of Limerick was at serious risk of being shutdown for 2026 due to lack of funding. The service was saved only through the intervention of the Mayor and the re-allocation of Mayoral Fund funding for 2026 to CCTV. However, this is not a sustainable solution and will not be available for 2027. The Government needs to come up in Budget 2027 with a multi-annual funding source for this critical service for Limerick. However, despite the Mayor and others raising this issue at all available opportunities, there has yet been no commitment from government that this funding will be made available. The Councillor is therefore encouraged along with others to continue to push government for this issue to be resolved expeditiously to secure not just these critical services but the jobs which will otherwise be put at risk in the monitoring station in Moyross.

It is important to note that the Mayoral Fund allocation referred to was not provided for the expansion of the CCTV network. It was reallocated to extend and maintain the existing CCTV service during 2026.

The rollout of Community CCTV in Limerick has not historically been planned according to Metropolitan District or Local Electoral Area boundaries. Rather, the network has developed over approximately thirty years in response to specific and evidenced public-safety concerns, particularly the sustained organised crime and gang feuding experienced in Limerick City from the late 1990s into the 2000s.

During that period, serious and violent crime was heavily concentrated in particular parts of the city. CCTV systems were consequently installed in the areas where the level of criminal activity and associated public-safety risk was greatest. Many of those locations now fall within the Limerick City North and Limerick City East areas.

The systems were installed by Limerick City and County Council in close cooperation with An Garda Síochána and local communities. Each scheme was authorised by the Garda Commissioner and continues to play an important role in supporting Garda investigations. The current distribution of cameras therefore reflects historic, targeted responses to sustained organised criminal activity rather than a recent policy of allocating CCTV infrastructure by geographical area.

Future proposals for CCTV installations must likewise be considered primarily on the basis of identified risks, patterns of criminal behaviour and demonstrated public-safety need, rather than geographical location alone. Any proposal must:

- satisfy the requirements of necessity, justification and proportionality under Part 5, section 28 of the Garda Síochána (Recording Devices) Act 2023;
  - have the support of the relevant community, local councillors and An Garda Síochána;
- and
- have sufficient funding for both the installation of the system and its ongoing operation and maintenance.

The application and approval process is resource-intensive and can take a considerable period to complete, with final approval required from the Garda Commissioner.

A recent example in Limerick City West is the new CCTV scheme for the People's Park. This proposal was developed in response to clear, evidence-based public-safety concerns, including consistent reports of drug dealing and violent incidents in and around the area. The application took approximately ten months to prepare, was submitted in October 2024 and received the approval of the Garda Commissioner in February 2026.

While there is a clear disparity in the present number of CCTV cameras across the metropolitan areas, this did not result from a planned or inequitable allocation of CCTV infrastructure based on geographical boundaries. It arose from the targeted development of the network over time in response to the locations experiencing the highest levels of serious and organised crime.

Any future investment should continue to be directed towards proposals supported by objective evidence of public-safety need and developed in cooperation with communities, elected members and An Garda Síochána. However, the capacity to maintain the existing service or develop additional schemes—including schemes in Limerick City West—will depend on the availability of sustainable, multi-annual Government funding.

Councillor O'Donovan noted that the CCTV network in Limerick had developed since its installation over thirty years ago and believed that a review should be undertaken to identify areas requiring future investment.

## **QUESTIONS**

Replies to the following Questions on the agenda were circulated to all Members prior to the Meeting and were therefore considered as having been dealt with:

**22. Question submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council for the Housing Directorate to provide the source of funding and rationale for the recently published request for tender seeking a communications advisory service to deliver an integrated Public Relations (PR), Digital Marketing and Social Media campaign in support of the Council's Housing Programme.***

**REPLY:** The rationale is we need to be open and transparent with the public regarding housing delivery in Limerick, including where the city currently stands, the factors that have contributed to the present position, and the measures being implemented to improve housing delivery outcomes.

In 2023, 788 homes were delivered in Limerick against an identified requirement of 2,599 homes. In 2022, 672 homes were delivered. Addressing both existing unmet demand and future housing need will require a significant increase in annual housing delivery, with output needing to rise to approximately 4,000 homes per annum to achieve a normally functioning housing market in Limerick.

Achieving Limerick's housing ambitions across all tenures will require sustained capital investment of approximately €1.6 billion per annum. Over the lifetime of the housing strategy, the total investment requirement is expected to be in the region of €20 billion.

Achieving this level of delivery will depend on maintaining public confidence, securing investor engagement, and fostering strong partnerships across the public and private sectors. Clear, professional and transparent communication is an important component of this effort.

The proposed communications activity should therefore be viewed as a strategic intervention intended to address an identified weakness and support the delivery of Limerick's housing objectives. In the context of an investment requirement of approximately €20 billion, the communications expenditure is proportionate. Even if it contributed to securing only €1 billion of the investment required, an expenditure of €100,000 would represent a substantial return.

There should be no apology for communicating and promoting a programme of this scale and importance. Any organisation seeking significant investment in a product or service would expect to invest in communicating its plans to the market and the public. A motor company seeking to sell vehicles would advertise them; similarly, a local authority seeking to attract investment, build confidence and deliver thousands of homes must communicate clearly and professionally.

A number of local authorities with strong housing delivery records, including Fingal County Council and Dublin City Council, have invested in dedicated communications campaigns to support their housing programmes. These initiatives help inform the public, build stakeholder confidence, and increase awareness of housing delivery objectives and progress.

The funding source is the Mayoral Fund.

**23. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council for a) the number of operational data centres currently operating in Limerick, b) the number of planning applications received since 2024 by Limerick City and County Council for data centre developments (c) whether the Council holds information on whether existing or proposed data centres are located adjacent to, or are intended to be powered by, renewable energy sources.*

**REPLY:** The Council does not keep specific records of data centres that are operational in Limerick City and County.

The Council does keep records of planning applications where data centres formed part of the proposed development. From a review of the historical planning register, five number data centres were identified, that were permitted and particularly associated with existing employment facilities.

No planning applications for data centres were identified to be received since 2024.

The Council does not hold specific records on the nature of the power supply to data centres; however, such information may be included in the planning application details pertaining to the site and development.

**24. Question submitted by Councillor S. Hickey-O'Mara**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council how many parking tickets were issued to vehicles illegally parked in accessible parking spaces on a yearly basis since 2022 and that this information is broken down in tabular form by local electoral area.*

**REPLY:** The number of parking tickets issued in accessible parking spaces from 2022 to 2026 is as follows:

| <u>Year</u>  | <u>No. of Tickets Issued</u> |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| 2022         | 345                          |
| 2023         | 455                          |
| 2024         | 549                          |
| 2025         | 449                          |
| 2026 to date | 205                          |

A breakdown by local electoral area is not available.

**25. Question submitted by Councillor S. Hickey-O'Mara**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council if the Council engages with people with disabilities and lived experience when making provisions for people with disabilities and making decisions in the area of accessibility.*

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Council acknowledges the importance of engaging directly with people with disabilities, their representative organisations and service providers when making decisions that impact accessibility, inclusion and service delivery. This is embedded through the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty Implementation Plan.

The Council engages with people with disabilities, representative organisations, community groups and specialist service providers through a range of consultation processes, partnership structures and stakeholder forums. This engagement supports the development of policies, services, housing provision, public realm projects and infrastructure, and helps identify and address barriers to accessibility. This approach is guided by national disability policy, Universal Design principles and local strategies such as Age Friendly Limerick Strategic 2024-2028 and Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024-2028.

The Council works with organisations such as the Disability Federation of Ireland and Ability Focus to provide disability awareness, accessibility and inclusion training for staff, helping to ensure that accessibility and reasonable accommodation considerations are embedded across Council services.

The Active Travel Team actively engages with people with disabilities and disability advocacy organisations to inform accessibility-related initiatives and decision-making. In May 2026, Active Travel worked in partnership with the Step Forward Disability Advocacy Group and Hospital National School to deliver a Make Way Day accessibility awareness project. The initiative included an accessibility audit and empathy walk, where pupils, Active Travel staff and members of the Step Forward group examined barriers to movement such as obstructed footpaths and accessibility challenges experienced by wheelchair users and people with visual impairments. Feedback and lived experience shared through this engagement informed discussions on accessibility and public realm improvements while helping to raise wider community awareness of inclusive mobility. In addition, the Active Travel Team's Master Plan for Walking workshop specifically sought input from people with disabilities and disability advocacy organisations. The workshop was designed to gather lived experience of walking and wheeling in Limerick, identify barriers to movement, and help prioritise improvements to create a more inclusive and accessible pedestrian environment.

Housing meets directly with housing client to examine any design needs and engages quarterly with disability agencies through their Disability Housing Strategic Stakeholder Group to support the identification and prioritisation of housing needs.

Through these ongoing engagements, the Council aims to ensure that the lived experience of people with disabilities informs the planning, delivery and continuous improvement of services, policies and infrastructure throughout the county.

## **NOTICES OF MOTION**

### **26. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor O. O'Sullivan**

***I will move at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that this Council will recognise the value of strategic continuity and the need to maximise previous public investment in promoting Limerick nationally and internationally and provide a report to the July Plenary Meeting of Limerick City and County Council on the current status, governance, ownership, delivery and future direction of the Limerick Place Brand Strategy – Atlantic Edge, European Embrace, launched in 2020.***

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor O'Sullivan (O) and seconded by Councillor Butler.

In moving the Motion, Councillor O'Sullivan (O) emphasised the importance of receiving an update on the future direction of the brand, noting that this would support informed decision-making in respect of long-term tourism and investment planning.

### **REPLY: Current Status of the Limerick Place Brand**

The Limerick Place Brand remains active as Limerick city and county's overarching place marketing and destination positioning framework. Since its launch in 2020, the brand has evolved from a standalone identity project into a strategic platform used to

support tourism promotion, investment attraction, talent recruitment, cultural programming and civic promotion. The brand continues to underpin a growing portfolio of destination and sector specific initiatives including Riverfest Limerick, Christmas in Limerick, Halloween in Limerick, Golf Limerick, Limerick Student City, Limerick on Foot and Brand Adare, all of which operate under the wider Brand Limerick umbrella. The brand has also become increasingly visible within the public realm through signage, visitor infrastructure, transport gateways and key civic locations, creating a more consistent sense of place across the city and county. Following stakeholder engagement undertaken in 2024, the brand was refreshed through the development of an updated creative platform and new promotional assets that continue to guide national and international promotion activity today.

#### Governance and Ownership

Overall stewardship of the Limerick Place Brand rests with Limerick City and County Council through the Marketing and Communications Department, working collaboratively with Economic Development, Tourism, Culture and Arts, Property and Place-Making and the Council's Senior Management Team.

The brand was established as a shared strategic asset for the county rather than a departmental initiative and is intended to support the promotion of Limerick by a broad range of public, private and community stakeholders. Governance of the brand is exercised through established Council management structures, with the Marketing and Communications team responsible for brand management, development, implementation, compliance with brand guidelines and stakeholder engagement. The Brand Toolkit remains publicly available to encourage consistent adoption and application of the brand identity by external partners and stakeholders.

#### Reflected in Current Council Strategies, Events, Publications and External Promotion

The place brand continues to be embedded across a wide range of Council activities and communications. It is reflected in tourism marketing campaigns, investment promotion materials, Council publications, presentations, websites, social media activity, conference participation and international engagement programmes.

The brand informs how Limerick presents itself in relation to quality of life, innovation, sustainability, education, culture, sport and economic opportunity. It also provides a consistent visual identity and messaging framework across major civic festivals and events.

More recently, physical expressions of the brand have become increasingly prominent through wayfinding, gateway signage and landmark installations such as the LK Icon on Clancy Strand, reinforcing the visibility of the brand in the public realm.

#### Future Direction and Recommendations

Maintaining strategic continuity in the application of the Limerick Place Brand will maximise the value of previous public investment and ensure consistency in how Limerick is presented nationally and internationally. It is recommended that the brand continue to serve as the overarching framework for tourism, investment, talent attraction, culture, sport and civic promotion activities.

Particular opportunities exist to:

- Continue strengthening stakeholder adoption and use of the brand across public, private and community sectors.
- Ensure consistent application of the brand across major events, campaigns and strategic projects.
- Leverage major opportunities such as Ryder Cup 2027 and other international events to further enhance Limerick's profile.
- Continue developing targeted sub-brands and promotional platforms that support specific sectors while remaining aligned to the master brand.
- Embed the brand within future economic, cultural, tourism and placemaking strategies of the Council.
- Strengthen Limerick's reputation as an attractive location to live, work, study, visit and invest.

The Place Brand remains an important strategic asset for Limerick, providing a recognised and consistent platform through which the city and county can articulate its ambitions, strengths and opportunities to domestic and international audiences. Continued investment in governance, stakeholder engagement and consistent brand application will help ensure that the benefits of the strategy continue to be realised in the years ahead.

Councillor O'Sullivan (O) advised that she would bring this matter to the Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism and Planning Strategic Policy Committee and requested that a presentation on the future development of the brand would be delivered to the SPC.

**27. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor G. Ward (to be referred to the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee)**

*I will move at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that this Council acknowledges the critical need to improve and protect road users with the necessary clearance for wide agricultural machinery. I would like to propose that all village and town centres under the renewal schemes would adopt a hatched road marking in the centre of the road to allow for the need of a safe passage for larger vehicles. It is the utmost importance for the protection of pedestrians to stop machinery having to mount or encroach on pedestrian/cycleways to pass through.*

It was agreed to refer this Motion to the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee.

**28. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillors P. Doyle, U. Gavan, S. Hartigan, J. Pond and E. Secas**

*We will move at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that from Budget 2027 all net income generated from burial grounds across the city and county is ringfenced specifically for graveyard maintenance and improvement works.*

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Secas and seconded by Councillor Doyle.

In moving the Motion, Councillor Secas highlighted the rising maintenance costs associated with burial grounds and emphasised the need for a sustainable funding model. Members supported the Motion and acknowledged the valuable work carried out by the Cemeteries Committees.

**REPLY:** The delivery and operation of the 219 non-denominational burial grounds in Limerick is funded through the resources of the Council.

Therefore, the payroll and operation of burial grounds is reliant upon the annual revenue budget allocation to this service. Long term investment in burial grounds is a capital expense which is required to be funded from the capital account.

Planning Development contributions may be set aside for the provision and improvement of burial grounds.

While revenue income is achieved through the sale of Right of Burial in burial plots, Columbarium Wall Niches, monument permits, etc., funding is sourced through the annual budget allocation from this income.

In 2026 revenue expenditure on Burial Grounds is budgeted to exceed income by c. €900,000.

**29. Notice of Motion submitted by 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 that Limerick City and County Council calls on the Mayor to initiate proceedings to vary the County Development Plan to facilitate/zone retail sites on the Killarney Road, Abbeyfeale and that this Motion if passed be forwarded to the Mayor's Office and also placed on the next full Council agenda.*

As Councillor Galvin was experiencing technical difficulties joining the meeting online, he could not move the Motion, therefore, the Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Sheahan and seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

In moving the Motion, Councillor Sheahan emphasised the need to review the zoning of lands in the Abbeyfeale area to facilitate and support future developments within the town.

**REPLY:** The enactment of Part 3 of the new Planning and Development Act, 2024 has required the Council to examine the options to incorporate all current local area plans by way of variation processes into the Limerick Development Plan. The Forward Planning Team, to put this into effect, are currently preparing a work programme for a series of Variations for all Local Area Plan zoned settlements across the county. It is intended to arrange a briefing with the Elected Members in early September, to inform the members of this full programming.

The Forward Planning Team, as part of this work programme, intends to prioritise the review of the zoned Town Settlement of Abbeyfeale, with a view to commencing a formal Variation process of the Limerick Development Plan by the end of 2026. The Members are advised that the background research and analysis required to inform this Variation and the next Abbeyfeale town settlement plan, including retail, economic and environmental appraisals have already been initiated.

In relation to the site on the Killarney Road, Abbeyfeale, in accordance with legislative requirements, this site will be examined as part of the full review of all zoned lands in the town, having regard to compliance with national and regional policy and guidelines and to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

The new Settlement Plan for Abbeyfeale, which will form part of the proposed Variation will be presented for consideration by the Elected Members as part of this legislative process.

**30. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Ryan (to be referred to the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee)**

*I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council and Mayor Moran, along with the Department of Housing, would consider options under the first home scheme of developing serviced site estates throughout the city and county towns and villages whereby the developed site becomes the equity portion or part thereof in assisting people to purchase their first home.*

It was agreed to refer this Motion to the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee.

### 31. **Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Beasley**

*I will move at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that the Council will allocate vacant Council owned properties that are deemed structurally safe and habitable to people from the housing waiting list without delay, with minor refurbishment and upgrade works to be carried out whilst the tenant is in-situ.*

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Beasley and seconded by Mayor Moran.

In moving the Motion, Councillor Beasley referred to the large numbers on the housing waiting list and the significant monies spent on emergency accommodation.

#### **REPLY: Housing Maintenance**

The Council's policy is to return vacant properties to a lettable standard prior to allocation. While the objective of minimising vacancy periods and accelerating allocations is fully supported, there are several practical considerations that must be addressed before a property can be occupied.

These include:

- **Health & Safety Requirements:** The Council has a duty of care to ensure that all properties are safe for occupation. Essential works may be required to address electrical, gas, fire safety, structural, asbestos, dampness, mould, or other health and safety-related issues before a tenancy can commence.
- **Access to the Property:** Once a property is allocated and occupied, access for Council staff and contractors can become more restricted. Completing works prior to occupation generally allows for safer, more efficient and less disruptive delivery of refurbishment and upgrade works.
- **Contractor and Resource Availability:** The scheduling of works is dependent on the availability of direct labour crews, specialist contractors and materials. Some works must be completed in a specific sequence and cannot be readily undertaken with tenants in residence.
- **Tenant Welfare and Disruption:** Carrying out refurbishment works in occupied homes can create inconvenience, noise, dust, and potential safety risks for tenants, particularly where vulnerable households, children, older persons, or people with disabilities are involved.

Notwithstanding these considerations, the Council continually reviews its void management processes to identify opportunities for the earlier allocation of properties where it is safe, practical, and in the best interests of both the incoming tenant and the Council.

#### **Housing Allocations**

The Council works closely to ensure suitable applicants are identified for properties before refurbishment works are completed, thereby minimising vacancy periods. The

introduction of Choice Based Letting later this year, on a pilot basis, will further reduce turnaround times, particularly in harder-to-let areas of Limerick City and County.

The proposal is worthy of further consideration, and the Council will examine whether such an approach could be feasible and, if so, how it might operate in practice. This review will need to consider the legal, health and safety, operational, resource and tenant welfare implications involved. The outcome of that examination may determine that the proposed approach is not possible to operationalise; however, the Council is committed to giving the matter proper consideration before reaching a conclusion.

Members requested that a report on all void properties be prepared, broken down by District, including details of the works required to return properties to use. It was agreed to hold a Workshop on the issue of voids.

### **32. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Slattery**

***I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council write to the HSE asking if a hub dedicated to menopause can be established in Limerick.***

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Slattery and seconded by Councillor Collins (B).

In moving the Motion, Councillor Slattery highlighted the difficulties faced by women who were required to travel to Dublin, Cork or Galway to access clinic services and emphasised that these services should be available locally.

### **33. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan**

***I will move at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that this Council write to the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science and the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration seeking a review of learner protections for international students following the recent closure of Student Campus in Limerick, and outlining what measures can be introduced to ensure Limerick remains a welcoming and trusted destination for international students to live, learn and work.***

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor O'Donovan and seconded by Councillor Hickey-O'Mara.

In moving the Motion, Councillor O'Donovan highlighted the impact on students following the sudden closure of the Student Campus.

**34. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Hickey-O'Mara (to be referred to the Protocol Committee)**

*I will move at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that a new theatre bursary is established in memory of renowned director and actor John Murphy in honour of his lifelong contribution and commitment to theatre in Limerick, and the decades of support and mentorship he gave to generations of Limerick artists.*

It was agreed to refer this Motion to the Protocol Committee.

**35. Correspondence**

The Correspondence circulated with the agenda was taken as read.

**Other Business**

The Director General noted that this would be the final Council Meeting for the Director of Service, Mr. Kieran Lehane, prior to his retirement. He paid tribute to Mr. Lehane's long service and significant contribution to the organisation, noting that it had been a privilege to work with him as a colleague and a friend. He extended his best wishes to Kieran, his wife and family for a happy and healthy retirement.

The Príomh Chomhairleoir, Mayor and Members expressed their sincere appreciation to Kieran for his dedication and support over the years and extended their best wishes for good health, happiness and enjoyment in his retirement.

In response, the Director of Services thanked everyone for the kind words and acknowledged the support he had received from Elected Members and staff throughout his career.

**MAYOR/DIRECTOR GENERAL ORDERS:**

The Register of Orders made by the Mayor or the Director General up to the date of the Meeting was available on Sharepoint for inspection by the Members.

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT:**

The Register of Decisions on Applications under the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, is available on SharePoint for inspection by the Members.

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Príomh Chomhairleoir

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_