



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae Luimnigh

Limerick City  
& County Council

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## Meeting of Limerick City and County Council to be held Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2026

### Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will ask the Mayor at the next Meeting to outline what plans he has for Bedford Row to bring back business, shops and vibrancy to the area.

### Reply from Mayor

I thank Councillor Slattery for the question.

I share the Councillor's concern that we need to see more businesses, more activity and greater footfall in this part of the city, but it will not have gone unnoticed to the Councillor that the noticeable level of contiguous vacancy levels relate only to the premises in the "modern" Building on one side of the street and not to the other side, suggesting that something specific to that building, and not the street per se, is at play here. This raises a legitimate question if there is a need for a standalone plan specifically for Bedford Row in priority to other streets. My approach would be that the future of Bedford Row has to be considered as part of the wider challenge of strengthening Limerick City Centre as a place to shop, work, live and spend time.

The challenges facing Bedford Row are not unique to that one street. City-centre retail has been affected by changing consumer behaviour, competition from out-of-town retail locations, vacant commercial units and changing patterns of footfall. Bedford Row has experienced a noticeable level of vacancy and would benefit from being connected into a stronger and more attractive overall city-centre retail experience.

A key piece of work now underway is the preparation of a **City Centre Retail Strategy** by Bannon Property Consultants on behalf of the Council. This will provide a more coordinated framework for strengthening the retail offering in Limerick City Centre, attracting investment, supporting existing businesses and responding to the changes taking place in the retail sector.

That work is complemented by a number of measures already being implemented.

The Council operates a **Vacant Premises Retail Rates Incentive Scheme**, which provides eligible businesses moving into qualifying vacant premises with rates relief of up to €30,000 over three years. Support is provided at 75% in the first year, 50% in the second year and 25% in the third year. The purpose of the scheme is straightforward: to reduce one of the costs associated with opening or expanding a business in the city centre and to help bring vacant units back into productive use.

The Council is also actively working with commercial agents, property owners and prospective retailers to attract new businesses into the city centre. That work has already helped secure new investment, including the decision by Mango to establish a presence in Limerick. We need to continue that work and ensure that streets such as Bedford Row form part of the proposition being put to prospective retailers and investors.

Supporting existing businesses is equally important. The **Limerick Gift Card** is one practical example of encouraging people to spend locally and retain more expenditure within the local economy. Sales reached €83,325 between January and August 2026, compared with €31,048 during the same period in 2025.

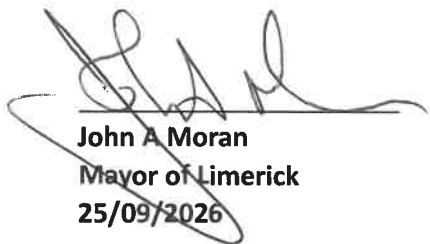
We are also working to create reasons for people to come into the city centre outside traditional retail hours. Through the **Night Time Economy Programme**, initiatives such as Twilight Thursdays are supporting later opening, cultural activity, entertainment and increased footfall.

Similarly, the recently adopted **Christmas in Limerick 2026–2028 Strategy** is intended to significantly strengthen the city-centre offering during an important trading period through improved animation, attractions, marketing and events.

These measures sit alongside continued investment in festivals, tourism, public realm and placemaking. Over the longer term, I also believe the city centre needs a larger residential population, stronger anchor retail and leisure offerings, better connections between different parts of the retail core and more destination-led reasons for people to spend time in the city.

The objective should not simply be to fill individual vacant units. It should be to create the conditions in which Bedford Row and the wider city centre are attractive locations in which businesses want to invest and people want to spend time.

I will continue to work with the Council, local businesses, property owners and representative organisations as the City Centre Retail Strategy develops to identify what further measures can help strengthen Bedford Row and the wider city centre.



**John A Moran**  
Mayor of Limerick  
25/09/2026



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## Meeting of Limerick City and County Council to be held Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2026

### Question submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will ask the Mayor at the next Meeting if he has had any further engagement with the relevant stakeholders on the provision of a Garda Station in Castletroy, and if he will make a statement and provide an update on the matter.

### Reply from Mayor

I thank Councillor Secas for the question and for her continued work on this issue.

The Councillor will be aware that security on our streets has been a major priority of mine. As early as Christmas 2024, I made a significant contribution to An Garda Síochána for overtime to increase the number of Garda hours on the beat. I have also offered to finance a new Garda van, building on the successful use of borrowed Garda vans at strategic locations in Limerick, if the Department of Justice cannot secure funding for our local force. Increasing the number of Gardaí on the beat has been a priority I have pursued with Sen Henry Street Garda Station since my election, and I have been delighted to see the visible improvements over the past year in particular. Extra Garda resources have also been deployed to deal with significant crime issues which have emerged in recent months in some city neighbourhoods. Additionally, in Newcastle West the new station nears completion and, as you will know well, through the Mayoral Fund we managed to keep CCTV working in Limerick this year.

However, while this represents significant investment in policing infrastructure and resources, Castletroy has not benefited from comparable investment. The Newcastle West project, in particular, represents a significant allocation of central-government resources to Limerick.

I am aware of the needs of Castletroy also. I have therefore remained in regular contact with the relevant stakeholders regarding the provision of a Garda Station in Castletroy. I share the Councillor's view that this is an important piece of public-service infrastructure for a large and growing part of Limerick.

In my April 2025 submission to the Minister for Justice on the National Development Plan, I specifically referenced my discussions with Chief Superintendent Smart regarding the business case for a new Garda Station at Castletroy.

I also took the initiative following Councillor Secas raising the matter with my office in early May 2025, to write directly to the Minister of State with responsibility for the Office of Public Works on May 15th 2025, seeking clarity on the current status of the project, the next steps towards delivery and, in particular, progress in identifying a suitable site.

I regularly discuss the matter directly with Chief Superintendent Derek Smart, including most recently this month. My understanding from those engagements is that a new station at Castletroy remains within An Garda Síochána's capital plan, but a site has not yet been secured. The proposal for a Castletroy station was publicly described in September 2023 as having been included in An Garda Síochána's capital programme for 2025–2030, with the OPW tasked with identifying a site. It was also raised by Chief Superintendent Derek Smart at this month's PI 2040 Delivery Board meeting. Recognising the growing importance of security infrastructure in Limerick, I had invited An Garda Síochána to become a member of that Delivery Board, and the Chief Superintendent attended his first meeting this month. We also agreed to invite the OPW to attend the next meeting, where we can raise this issue with them directly.

More broadly, I have consistently made the case to Government that people in Limerick should feel safe in their homes and in their communities. That requires adequate Garda resources, visible policing and the infrastructure necessary to support policing in areas experiencing significant population growth. My most recent Budget 2027 submission again placed community safety and crime prevention at the centre of my engagement with the Minister for Justice.

I can assure you I will continue to engage with An Garda Síochána, the OPW and Government on the Castletroy station.

The immediate issue that now needs to be progressed is the identification of an appropriate site so that the project can move towards delivery, and I am happy to continue working with Councillor Secas and other local representatives to advance that objective.



**John A Moran**  
**Mayor of Limerick**  
**25/09/2026**