Director General Report on the *Publication of Notice of Intention by Local Authority to Hold Event* for Christmas in Limerick - Light Up Limerick Christmas Procession 2026

Prepared in accordance with Section 436 of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended) and Article 193 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

Item	Details
Applicant	Limerick City and County Council
Proposed Event	Light Up Limerick Christmas Procession 2026
Location	Limerick City Centre
Event Date	Saturday 21st November 2026

---

1. Background

Light Up Limerick is the flagship opening event of the annual Christmas in Limerick programme and serves as the official commencement of the festive season within the city centre. The event has become an established element of Limerick's annual events calendar and delivers significant cultural, social and economic benefits through the animation of the public realm, increased city centre footfall and the provision of a free family-focused public event.

The 2026 proposal builds upon the successful delivery of previous Light Up Limerick events and incorporates operational learning arising from post-event reviews, stakeholder engagement and inter-agency planning processes. The event forms an important component of the wider Christmas in Limerick programme, supporting the Council's objectives in relation to city centre activation, tourism development, placemaking and community engagement.

While the statutory event licencing process is provided for under section 486 of the Planning and Development Act 2024, the relevant executive function for Christmas in Limerick is a Mayoral executive function under the governance arrangements established by the Local Government (Mayor of Limerick) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2024.

---

2. Statutory Process

The proposal has proceeded through the statutory event licence process in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2024 and associated Regulations.

Table 1: Light Up Limerick 2026 Event Licence Timeline

Timeline – Light-Up Limerick 2026 Event Licence		
Timeline of Events	**Description**	**Date**
Publication of Notice	Publication of notice in local and national newspapers.	24/09/2026
Public Inspection	Public inspection of proposal and Event Management Plan.	24/09/2026 – 29/10/2026
Prescribed Bodies Notified	Prescribed bodies formally notified and provided with proposal documents.	By 01/10/2026
Submissions or Observations	Public and prescribed bodies may submit observations or submissions.	Up to 29/10/2026
Consultation Deadline	Standard consultation period closes.	29/10/2026
Report to Council	Full Report to Metro Due.	06/11/2026
Council Meeting	Special Meeting of Metropolitan District of Limerick City and County Council – October 2026.	10/11/2026
Procession Event	Light-Up Limerick Procession Event in the City Centre.	21/11/2026

---

3. Assessment of the Proposed Event

3.1 Strategic and Community Benefits

The proposed event represents a significant public cultural event and provides an important opportunity to animate the city centre at the commencement of the Christmas season. The event is expected to attract approximately 14,000 attendees and will contribute positively to the vibrancy and attractiveness of Limerick City Centre.

As a free public event, Light Up Limerick encourages broad community participation and provides an inclusive family-oriented experience accessible to residents and visitors alike. The event also supports local businesses through increased visitor numbers and city centre activity during a key trading period for the retail and hospitality sectors.

It is considered that the proposal aligns with the Council's strategic objectives relating to tourism promotion, city centre activation, community wellbeing and place-making.

3.2 Event Operations and Safety Assessment

A comprehensive Event Management Plan has been prepared in support of the application. The plan addresses all key operational matters including crowd management, security, stewarding, emergency procedures, medical provision, accessibility arrangements, communications, traffic management and public safety measures.

The Event Management Plan provides for:

- Attendance management for approximately 14,000 patrons.
- Detailed crowd capacity and egress calculations.
- Dedicated security and stewarding arrangements.
- Medical cover and emergency response procedures.
- Comprehensive traffic and road closure management measures.
- Emergency evacuation and major incident protocols.

Having reviewed the documentation submitted, it is considered that the Event Management Plan demonstrates a satisfactory level of planning and control measures to facilitate the safe operation of the event, subject to continued engagement with relevant statutory agencies and implementation of all mitigation measures identified therein.

3.3 Accessibility Assessment

The proposal includes measures to ensure accessibility and inclusion for persons with disabilities. Accessible viewing arrangements and supporting facilities are proposed as part of the event delivery arrangements.

It is considered that the event can be delivered in a manner consistent with best practice accessibility principles and the Council's commitment to inclusive public events.

3.4 Traffic and Environmental Assessment

The event will require a series of temporary road closures and traffic management measures throughout the city centre. These measures are necessary to facilitate the safe movement of participants and attendees and are proportionate to the scale and nature of the event.

The Event Management Plan includes measures relating to pedestrian management, emergency access, public transport arrangements and event clean-up operations. Emergency vehicle access will be maintained throughout the duration of the event.

While some temporary disruption to usual traffic movements will occur, such impacts are considered short-term, manageable and proportionate to the wider public benefit generated by the event.

---

4. Assessment of Public Consultation Process

A statutory public consultation process was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2024.

No submissions and observations were received during the consultation period.

It is therefore considered that no issues have been identified that would materially prevent the safe and effective delivery of the proposed event.

---

5. Conclusion

Having regard to:

- The strategic cultural, social and economic benefits arising from the proposal;
- The established nature and successful delivery of previous Light Up Limerick events;
- The comprehensive Event Management Plan submitted;
- The proposed safety, accessibility and traffic management measures;
- The submissions received through the public consultation process; and
- The wider objectives of the Christmas in Limerick programme,

it is considered that the proposed Light Up Limerick Christmas Procession 2026 represents an appropriate use of the public realm and can be delivered in a safe and effective manner.

6. Recommendation

Having considered the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended), the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), the submitted Event Management Plan and the outcomes of the public consultation process, it is recommended that the Members of the Metropolitan District of Limerick City and County Council approve the proposed Light Up Limerick Christmas Procession 2026.

Signed:



Sean Lenihan
Director of Services
Economic, Tourism, Culture, Property & Corporate Buildings Directorate

Date: 6th November 2026