MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MERCHANT'S QUAY, LIMERICK AND ONLINE ON MONDAY, 19TH OCTOBER 2026 AT 9:45 A.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Joe Pond.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

Mayor John Moran.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

A/Director of Services, Metropolitan District of Limerick (Mr. J. Clune), Senior Executive Officer, Metropolitan District of Limerick (Ms. S. Reidy), Meetings Administrator (Ms. A. Foley), Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services (Mr. T. Cronolly), Special Advisor to the Mayor (Mr. M. Fenlon), Staff Officer, Marketing and Communications (Ms. T. Hackett), Director of Services, Economic, Tourism, Culture, Property and Corporate Buildings (Mr. S. Lenihan), Night-Time Economy Advisor, Economic and Tourism Development (Mr. C. Power), Administrative Officer, Economic and Tourism Development (Mr. D. MacGrath), A/Administrative Officer, Economic and Tourism Development (Mr. E. Crimmins), Staff Officer, Economic and Tourism Development (Ms. K. Conlon), Staff Officer, Economic and Tourism Development (Mr. S. Feane), Administrative Officer, Property Services (Ms. T. Knox), Staff Officer, Culture (Ms. M. O'Rourke), Director of Services, Finance, Investment and Governance (Mr. M. White), Financial Accountant, Financial Management (Mr. P. Murnane), Management Accountant, Financial Management (Ms. I. Griffin), Senior Engineer, Environment, Rural Water and Climate Action (Mr. A. Finn), Senior Engineer, Transportation, Public Realm and Placemaking (Mr. J. Gannon), Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation, Public Realm and Placemaking (Ms. N. McGarry), Assistant Staff Officer, Transportation, Public Realm and Placemaking (Ms. M. Fitzgerald), Senior Engineer, Active Travel (Mr. S. McGlynn), A/Senior Executive Engineer, Active Travel (Mr. D. Slavin), Behavioural Scientist, Active Travel (Mr. T. Goodwin), Executive Planner, Active Travel (Ms. R. O'Donnell), Senior Staff Officer, Active Travel (Ms. M. Hennessy), Senior Executive Technician, Active Travel (Ms. C. Gallagher), Staff Officer, Active Travel (Ms. N. Lough), Public Liaison Officer, Active Travel (Ms. S. Novak), A/Senior Engineer, Central Services, Traffic and Roads (Mr. J. Sheehan), Administrative Officer, Housing Support Services (Ms. A. O'Brien-Slater), Senior Executive Planner, Development Management (Ms. G. O'Keeffe), Executive Planner, Forward Planning, Urban Development and Heritage (Mr. J. Griffin), Senior Engineer, Regeneration (Mr. D. White).

The Cathaoirleach opened the Meeting by welcoming the University of Limerick Journalism students who were in attendance.

1. Finance, Investment and Governance Directorate

Draft Budgetary Plan 2027 – General Municipal Allocation

Circulated, Report of the Mayor dated 7th October 2026, setting out the background to the General Municipal Allocation (GMA) and noting that the total provisional allocation for the GMA 2027 was €1,872,000 of which €982,800 had been allocated to the Metropolitan District in the Draft Budgetary Plan 2027.

Following discussion, it was noted that Corporate Services would work with Members in progressing any outstanding 2026 GMA - Community Initiative Scheme allocations.

The proposed breakdown was outlined as follows:

Svc	General Municipal Allocation - 2027	Metropolitan District €
B04	Local Roads	235,000
F04	Community Initiatives	747,800
Total	General Municipal Allocation	982,800

Proposed by Councillor Doyle;
Seconded by Councillor Kilcoyne;
And Resolved:

"That the Budgetary Plan 2027 for the Metropolitan District of Limerick in the amount of €982,800, as circulated, is adopted in accordance with Section 102(4) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended)".

2. Minutes

Circulated, copy of Draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 21st September 2026.

Proposed by Councillor Hickey-O'Mara;
Seconded by Councillor O'Donovan;
And Resolved:

"That the Draft Minutes, as circulated, be taken as read and adopted and signed".

3. 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 Cathaoirleach of any declaration of interest in any item due for discussion at the Meeting.

No such interests were declared.

4. Disposal of Land

General Disposal

(a) Circulated, Report of the Head of Property Services dated 6th October 2026 setting out proposals for the Disposal of the Top Floor (0.0081 Acres/0.0032 Hectares) and the Room on the Ground Floor (0.0016 Acres/0.0006 Hectares) of the Property situated at No. 9 Thomondgate, Limerick.

The Report, as circulated was noted by Members.

(b) Circulated, Report of the Head of Property Services dated 6th October 2026 setting out proposals for the Disposal of 258m^2 of First, Second and Third Floors at No. 3 Michael Street, Limerick.

The Report, as circulated was noted by Members.

(c) Circulated, Report of the Head of Property Services dated 6th October 2026 setting out proposals for the Disposal of two parcels of land, namely Parcel A – 0.005 Acres (0.002 Hectares) and Parcel B – 0.02125 Acres (0.0086 Hectares) at Moneteen, Mungret, Co. Limerick.

The Report, as circulated was noted by Members.

5. Limerick City Centre

The Night-Time Economy Advisor, Economic and Tourism Development delivered a presentation on the progress of the Night-Time Economy Initiative in Limerick. Members were advised that the programme had secured funding from a range of sources, including Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, Mayoral Fund, Elected Members General Municipal District allocations, Creative Ireland Internal Funding, and continued to develop through strategic partnerships, events and festival programming. The success of the Twilight Thursday initiative was highlighted, with over 780 events hosted since its launch in May 2025.

The presentation outlined the Night-Time Economy team's involvement in major festivals and events, the development of new flagship events, support for festivals across the city, and ongoing data collection and monitoring to inform future planning.

Members were informed that the Night-Time Economy Pilot Programme had been extended to June 2027. Future priorities include improving transport connectivity, expanding Twilight Thursday, and developing programmes linked to upcoming events such as the Ryder Cup and EuroPride. The Night-Time Economy Advisor outlined proposals to establish a Night Help Zone in Limerick, based on a similar initiative in Dublin, subject to funding.

Members welcomed the update and acknowledged the work undertaken by the Night-Time Economy Advisor in progressing the initiative. They suggested that future Twilight Thursday surveys include questions on attendees' experiences to help inform future programming. Members discussed the potential for a health and fitness themed event involving gyms and fitness providers from across Limerick and suggested that more collaboration with the Belltable and Limerick Youth Theatre regarding the provision of activities for teenagers should be considered.

The Night-Time Economy Advisor welcomed the suggestions and agreed to explore them further.

6. <u>Economic, Tourism, Culture, Property and Corporate Buildings Directorate</u>

(a) Circulated, Report of the Mayor, dated 2nd October 2026, outlining funding recommendations in respect of the Christmas in Limerick 2026 Funding Open Call.

Proposed by Councillor Daly;
Seconded by Councillor Hartigan;
And Resolved:

"That, the approval of the Metropolitan District of Limerick be and is hereby given to recommended allocations for the Christmas in Limerick 2026 Funding Open Call, as set out in the Report of John Moran, Mayor of Limerick, dated 2nd October 2026."

Councillor Butler proposed that efforts be made to try and secure additional funding for groups that were unsuccessful in the funding call. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Daly.

Members welcomed the 2026 Christmas in Limerick programme and commended the various events and activities planned, noting the provision of Santa at King John's Castle as a great addition to this year's programme. Members raised concerns regarding the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the production of a promotional video for the programme, expressing the view that local creative artists could have been used to create this video. Concerns were also raised regarding the decision to disable the comments function on the video.

The Director of Services, Economic, Tourism, Culture, Property and Corporate Buildings acknowledged the concerns raised by Members regarding the production of the video and advised that it had been produced to promote Christmas in Limerick at the earliest opportunity. He further noted that computer-generated imagery (CGI) had been used in its production.

Members expressed concerns regarding the proposed six-week closure of the Crescent during the Christmas period, highlighting the potential impact on local businesses, emergency services, traffic management, and schools within the area. Members referred to the proposed event licence and expressed disappointment that the matter would come before them too close to the proposed event date and would not give sufficient time to consider the proposal.

Members also expressed disappointment that a Dublin based company had been awarded the licence for the proposed bar at the Christmas Fayre. The Director of Services, Economic, Tourism, Culture, Property and Corporate Buildings advised that Big Boss Events, a Limerick based company, had been awarded the tender and that the Council cannot influence the company's procurement decisions in relation to the event.

The Mayor welcomed the debate and acknowledged the different views regarding the proposed location of the Christmas Fayre. He referred to Limerick's Georgian heritage and expressed the view that the pedestrianisation of the Crescent and its use as a location for a Christmas market would complement the Georgian design of the area. The Mayor noted the importance of developing a shared vision for Limerick City and suggested that a half-day workshop be held with Elected Members to discuss the future vision of the city.

Suspension of Standing Orders

On the proposal of Councillor McSweeney and seconded by Councillor Hickey-O'Mara, it was agreed to suspend Standing Order No. 4 in order to complete the Meeting.

(b) Circulated, Report of the Head of Economic and Tourism Development outlining the allocation of grants for July, August and September 2026 under the Night-Time Economy Pilot Programme Scheme via Twilight Thursday Initiative.

The Report, as circulated, was noted by the Elected Members.

7. Transportation, Mobility and Public Realm Directorate

Part 8 Procedure – Anglers Walk, Rhebogue, Limerick

Circulated, Report of the Director of Services, Transportation, Mobility and Public Realm, dated 12th October 2026 and enclosed Mayor's Report, dated 8th October 2026 setting out details in relation to the proposed development of a new shared access road with a new footpath along with upgrade of existing footpath to canal walkway at Anglers Walk, Rhebogue, Limerick. 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).

Members acknowledged the work of the Housing, Environment and Active Travel teams in progressing this development and commended the many Elected Members who had represented the Rhebogue area over the years, recognising their ongoing dedication and commitment to the community.

On the proposal of Councillor Daly and seconded by Councillor Reale, the Mayor's Report, as circulated, was accepted without variation or modification.

QUESTIONS

8. Question submitted by Councillor P. Doyle

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick when will the public park on the Groody Road commence and when will it be completed. In light of the large number of planning permissions granted recently on Bloodmill Road, Groody Road and Castletroy, extra playing pitches and a public park are urgently needed.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council will shortly be publishing a draft Masterplan for public consultation on the Green Blue Ring in Limerick City which includes for the provision of a Groody Valley Park.

- The Masterplan and related GBI documents describe the proposal as:
- A District Park / District-scale green space.
- A park focused on the restoration and protection of the river valley and wetlands.
- A largely semi-natural landscape rather than a formal urban park.
- Protection of the valley's role as a wildlife corridor and natural flood management area.
- Provision of opportunities for passive recreation, walking, nature appreciation and outdoor education.

When the Masterplan has been approved, LCCC will then begin planning for this park, subject to funding provision.

9. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick when will traffic calming measures be considered for Lynwood Park, in particular the need to improve or replace the existing speed ramps and refresh line marking throughout the estate.

REPLY: Lynwood Park will be assessed in 2027 in accordance with the Traffic Calming policy.

Any proposals deemed appropriate and in accordance with the policy will be costed and considered further, subject to funding being available.

10. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick when will a road speed survey be carried out in Rathbane to inform future traffic calming measures.

REPLY: The traffic speed survey is scheduled to be completed in late October 2026. Upon completion, the results will be assessed to determine whether traffic calming or other road safety measures are warranted at this location.

Subject to the findings of the survey, appropriate design proposals will be developed and funding opportunities explored to facilitate the implementation of any identified measures, in accordance with the Council's Traffic Calming Policy.

11. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for details of the current staffing and resources of the Arts Office and how staffing levels have changed over the past five years.

REPLY: Details of staffing levels in the Arts Office from 2022 to 2026 below. It should be noted that responsibility for Festivals and Events was moved from the Arts Office in 2023.

Arts Office	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**
Arts Officer	0.80	0.8	0.80	0.80	0.80
Asst Arts Officer. Public Art Coordinator (2025)	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
Grade 5, Staff Officer	1.00	1.00	0	1.00	1.00
Grade 4, Assistant Staff Officer	1.00	1.00	0	0	0
Grade 4, Assistant Staff Officer	1.00	1.00	0	0.00	0.00
Grade 3, Clerical Officer	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Grade 3, Clerical Officer	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.80
	6.10	**6.10**	**3.10**	**4.10**	**3.10**
Additional - work experience / CE	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.00

12. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick what engagement has taken place with local residents, businesses and schools and what traffic surveys or monitoring have been carried out to assess changes in traffic volumes and movements on surrounding streets, following the introduction of the new one-way systems on and around the South Circular Road.

REPLY: The Active Travel team remains committed to working closely with the local community, schools, and businesses as works progress on the South Circular Road (SCR) scheme.

The temporary traffic management arrangements currently in place on the South Circular Road are being managed by the appointed contractor as part of the main construction phase. These measures allow the team to evaluate real-time road safety and operational efficiency.

To ensure a clear understanding of traffic patterns, the Active Travel team has active traffic monitoring tools in place across the area.

Data is being continually gathered and reviewed to assess traffic volumes and movement changes, taking into specific account shifting seasonal patterns, daily peak times, and the impact of school return schedules on surrounding streets. Clear communication with local stakeholders is a key priority.

Regular operational updates and layout details are issued directly by the contractor through their designated communications channels.

Furthermore, the Active Travel team provides ongoing progress updates, scheme context, and traffic guidance through our regular fortnightly project newsletter to keep residents, schools, and local businesses fully informed.

Councillor O'Donovan requested that Active Travel provide information on traffic volumes and movements on surrounding streets following the introduction of the new one-way systems on and around the South Circular Road.

13. <u>Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan</u>

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for details of how the 2027 Ryder Cup Impact & Legacy Fund can be utilised within the Metropolitan District, and what engagement will take place with local community groups and organisations to ensure the Metropolitan District benefits from this funding.

<u>REPLY:</u> The 2027 Ryder Cup Impact & Legacy Fund is being operated by Ryder Cup Europe with their funding. Information on the fund has been put on Council socials and shared with the PPN (including being promoted in their newsletter), regeneration communities and Tidy Towns. All community and voluntary groups are encouraged to consider applying for projects under this fund. Reminders will be communicated closer to the deadline. The decision on the funding sits with Ryder Cup Europe.

14. <u>Question submitted by Councillor S. Kiely</u>

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for a full list of undeveloped land parcels that are being considered by the Housing Directorate for any form of residential developments.

Please provide data, split as below, with a possible timeframe for development:

- ***Identified as suitable but not yet being considered***
- ***Being considered but not yet progressed***
- ***Approved for development***
- ***Currently under development***

<u>REPLY:</u>

Project Name	LEA	Status	Projected delivery
Mulcair Drive, Annacotty	Limerick City East	Under development	Q1 2027
Bridge Street Post Office Site	Limerick City North	Being considered for development	Q2 2027
Meadowbrook, Mill Rd	Limerick City North	Being considered for development	Q2 2027
Patrickswell(Barnakyle)	Limerick City West	Under development	Q4 2027
Mary Street – next to Gaelscoil	Limerick City North	Approved for development	Q4 2027
Ferndale, Ennis Road	Limerick City North	Approved for development	Q4 2027
Scouthall Site, Bawnmore Rd	Limerick City East	Approved for development	Q4 2027
Michael Street, Limerick (Watergate)	Limerick City West	Approved for development	Q1 2028
Fairgreen, Ballysimon Road	Limerick City North	Being considered for development	Q1 2028
Upper William St, Apt Dev (28&29)	Limerick City East	Approved for development	Q3 2028
Ballygrennan Road (Shop)	Limerick City North	Being considered for development	Q2 2028
Ballygrennan Road, Moyross (two sites)	Limerick City North	Being considered for development	Q2 2028
52 New Road, Thomondgate (Whelan's Pub)	Limerick City North	Approved for development	Q4 2028
Ros Mor, Crossagalla	Limerick City East	Approved for development	Q4 2028
Quarry Road, Thomond Gate Park	Limerick City North	Approved for development	Q4 2028
Ballycummin Road	Limerick City West	Approved for development	Q4 2028
Kennedy Park Infill	Limerick City East	Being considered for development	Q1 2029
Joseph Street, Limerick	Limerick City West	Being considered for development	Q1 2029
The Rivers, Annacotty	Limerick City East	Being considered for development	Q2 2029
Dublin Rd/St Patrick's Rd	Limerick City North	Being considered for development	Q2 2029
Scanlon Park, Castleconnell	Limerick City East	Being considered for development	Q2 2029

Smyths Lane, Cathedral Place	Limerick City North	Being considered for development	Q2 2029
Windmill Street	Limerick City West	Being considered for development	Q4 2029
Mungret Lands - Phase 2	Limerick City West	Being considered for development	Q2 2030
Mungret Lands - Phase 3	Limerick City West	Being considered for development	Q2 2031
Marian Drive, Janesboro	Limerick City East	Being considered for development	Q3 2029
Toppins Field - Plot 1 - Phase 1	Limerick City East	Approved for development	Q4 2028
Toppins Field - Phase 2	Limerick City East	Being considered for development	Q4 2028
Sonnys Lands	Limerick City North	Being considered for development	Q3 2029
Curragower	Limerick City North	Being considered for development	Q3 2029
St Mary's Park Infill Housing	Limerick City North	Being considered for development	2029/2030
Cosgrave Park Phase 2 Housing	Limerick City North	Approved for development	2029
College Avenue Infills	Limerick City North	Being considered for development	Post 2030
Pineview Gardens Housing	Limerick City North	Being considered for development	Post 2030
Barry's Field Housing	Limerick City East	Being considered for development	Post 2030
Southend FC	Limerick City East	Being considered for development	Post 2030
Our Lady of Lourdes	Limerick City East	Being considered for development	Post 2030
O'Malley Park	Limerick City East	Suitable for development but not yet being considered	Post 2030
Delmege Pineview, Moyross	Limerick City North	Being considered for development	Post 2030
Whitecross / Sarsfield Gardens, Moyross	Limerick City North	Being considered for development	2030
Clarina Park	Limerick City East	Suitable for development but not yet being considered	Post 2030
Carew Park Infills	Limerick City East	Being considered for development	Post 2030
Land at Groody Hill	Limerick City East	Being considered for development	Post 2030
Vance's Land	Limerick City West	Suitable for development but not yet being considered	Post 2030

Palm Close	Limerick City East	Suitable for development but not yet being considered	Post 2030
Carey's Road (Guinness site)	Limerick City West	Being considered for development	2030
Patrickswell land (Attyflin) with LTT	Limerick City West	Being considered for development	Post 2030

Councillor Kiely noted that her reply had been received late, expressed concerns regarding the accuracy of the information provided, and requested that the matter be reviewed.

15. <u>Question submitted by Councillor S. Hickey-O'Mara</u>

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the results of the speed survey carried out in Fortmary Park, requested at the May 2026 Meeting of this District, are shared with Members.

<u>REPLY:</u> The speed survey requested for Fortmary Park has been completed.

A copy of the survey findings, together with any relevant observations, will be issued after the meeting for Members' information.

16. <u>Question submitted by Councillor S. Hickey-O'Mara</u>

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Library Department provide a full yearly breakdown of borrowing figures for each of their three Metropolitan branches from 2022 to 2025, in addition to the number of events held annually at each branch during the same period.

<u>REPLY:</u> Limerick City Library

Year	Borrowing Figures (incl. renewals)	Public Events Hosted	Class Visits
2022	78,396	253	67
2023	85,176	357	113
2024	85,771	386	105
2025	79,332	358	159

Dooradoyle Library

Year	Borrowing Figures (incl. renewals)	Public Events Hosted	Class Visits
2022	105,016	116	24
2023	112,175	156	69
2024	116,689	218	40
2025	106,604	232	66

Watch House Cross Community Library

Year	Borrowing Figures (incl. renewals)	Public Events Hosted	Class Visits
2022	42,085	254	44

2023	41,916	1035	97
2024	44,799	538	99
2025	40,610	261	27

17. <u>Question submitted by Councillor S. Hickey-O'Mara</u>

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for a full breakdown of Council funding awarded to each programmed event that took place as part of Culture Night 2026 in the Metropolitan District.

<u>REPLY:</u> The following is the breakdown of funding provided through the arts office for events in the Metropolitan District on Culture Night 2026. 50% of the cost was met by the Arts Council under Local Authority - Arts Council Partnership funding. The contributions were allocated following an advertised Open Call for applications.

Programme Event	Description	Contribution
The Wishing Station	Interactive artwork with audience participation at Limerick Milk Market	€300
Holman Lee Agency Designer Street Show	Outdoor fashion show which showcases Limerick's emerging and established designers.	€1,500
New Frames - Fine Art Photography Exhibition	Interdisciplinary photography exhibition at the Peoples Museum.	€300
Limerick Pipe Orchestra Festival recital	Recital on the 1864 pipe organ in St John's Cathedral.	€200
Wickham Street Studios: Culture Night Open Studios 2026	Open house - working studios of 16 contemporary artists.	€300
The Murfigans at the Milk Market	Interactive artwork exhibition and workshops at the Milk Market.	€600
Limerick Youth Theatre Film screening	Screenings of LYT's silent film 'Your guest is as good as mine' and hosting of Spacecraft's exhibition.	€150
Culture Night with Limerick Youth Service	Lava Javas Youth Cafe evening of creativity, talent and live music.	€300
Reddy Architecture Re-Imagining the City: Limerick Past, Present and Possible	Hands-on architectural model projected historic imagery and informal conversation about the city at Reddy Architecture + Urbanism Limerick office at Gardens International.	€300
Limerick Opera Festival – The Cycling Operatic Convoy	Limerick Cycling Campaign and the Limerick Opera Festival combine for a unique, atmospheric celebration of song and city.	€990
Jean Ryan Art Gallery Pop and Paint	Participatory art workshop held in a city centre artist space.	€295

Limerick Printmakers Silkscreen printmaking for children and adults	Open to all – try out printmaking.	€300
Limerick Printmakers Quiet Hour for Children & Adults	Accessible, inclusive, quiet hour for printmaking.	€150
Culture Night in the Hunt Museum	Programme of culture, creativity and live music.	€2,050
Local Design Story Children's Arts and Craft Event	Arts and crafts in Castletroy town centre.	€400
The Highlanders Wedding Party Music, Dance and Tradition	The Polish Arts Festival invites audiences of all ages to sing, dance, learn, and celebrate together. Featuring live music, a Polish choir, authentic traditional costumes, storytelling, and folk-dance demonstrations, in the style of a polish wedding.	€700
Culture Night at Dance Limerick	Contemporary dance lessons, dance battles, hip-hop, DJ sets and more.	€1,282
The GAFF Open Day	An opportunity to see the space, meet artists and experience some of the creative work taking place within the building. Interactive music and arts workshops.	€1,430
Let's Make Performance Art Visible in Limerick City	4 artists performing diverse live artworks and performances.	€300
Mixed Movement Limerick	The Michael Jackson Dance Mob - Dance collective showcase.	€150
Limerick Camera Club Culture Night 2026	Open house, exhibitions.	€300
Johnny Duhan Event	Commemoration music event.	€550
Behind the scenes at Henry Street Garda Station	Visits to the cells and meet the Gardai.	€300
Ormston House ALT WEST / ALT THIAR	Exhibition launch and performance.	€1,000
Culture Night 2026 at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick	Free events encompassing Irish language, culture, heritage, art, music and history.	€300
ACM Castleconnell Print workshop	Our Community Our CulturePrint workshop as Gaeilge	€300
ICO Youth and Music Generation September Serenade	A combined concert featuring ICO Youth orchestra, Music Generation Kerry Youth orchestra and Music Generation Louth Youth orchestra, playing at University Concert Hall Limerick.	€500
Clown Culture	Clown performers and make up station for audience participation.	€580

The Hitchers Band	The Half Man Half Biscuit tribute band play song and tell stories at Dolans Limerick.	€500
Harpsichord Haven	CD Launch, New Instrument Premiere, and Film Screening.	€300
Let the People Dance | Social Set Dancing le Luimnígh Gaelach Fáilteach	Learn and experience social set dancing in Limerick City at Treaty City.	€ 1,500
Limerick Lace Events	Pop Up Limerick Lace Exhibition.	€500
Limerick Libraries Workshops/ Events	Limerick Libraries Culture Night events 2026	€650
Culture Night at Limerick Milk Market	Funding to facilitate Culture Night hub, exhibitions and performances.	€950
College Players Culture Night Event	Readings, introductory piece by the College Players.	€300
Jaskane	Irish folk trio at Limerick Museum.	€300
Remember Limerick!	The History, Folklore and Culture of Limerick in song and story show by Storyteller Daithi Collopy.	€300
Space Craft Studios Borrowed Space	Showcase of work by 10 studio and associated artists.	€600
	Total **50% Partnership Programme funding**	€21,727 €10,863.50

Additional funding of €5,000 was provided by the Night Time Economy office, to facilitate a Late Night event on Culture Night. This was awarded following an Open Call for applications for a Film Night event in Lucky Lane. Between Frames: A film night dedicated to experimental, surreal, non-narrative work with 3 Irish made films and 3 short films from the 1920's at Lucky Lane.

An event took place in King John's Castle on Culture Night. This was grant aided by the EU Presidency Cultural Programme with venue costs of €5,000 plus VAT met by the Arts Office.

18. <u>Question submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney</u>

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update from the Director of Transportation, Mobility and Public Realm on any proposals by the NTA for an improved bus service for Patrickswell village, including conversations around BusConnects being extended to Patrickswell and/or an enhanced 320 bus service in light of ongoing development in Patrickswell village.

<u>REPLY:</u> The Transportation Strategy Section will engage the National Transport Authority (NTA) and revert in due course in relation to:

- Improvements to existing bus services and/or the extension of the BusConnects Project to include Patrickswell Village

19. <u>Question submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney</u>

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the implementation of the initial phases of the Ballybrown/Clarina Public Realm Enhancement Plan.

<u>REPLY:</u> The implementation of the Clarina-Ballybrown Public Realm Enhancement Plan will be progressed through a combination of funding streams to support the completion of detailed design and, where necessary, the advancement of statutory approvals and associated processes.

To date, €60,000 in Development Contributions funding has been ring-fenced to support delivery of the Plan. The Travel & Transport Strategy Section will continue to actively pursue additional funding opportunities and seek to align the Plan with complementary projects that share common objectives. This approach will help maximise available investment, leverage funding opportunities, and facilitate the phased implementation of the proposed measures over time.

20. <u>Question submitted by Councillor P. Reale</u>

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the city centre festoon lighting and whether any progress has been made with the ESB to restore the connection issues at Arthur's Quay.

<u>REPLY:</u> Limerick City & County Council, through its appointed maintenance contractor (LBK) for the festoon along the Three Bridges Walk, has completed repairs to all identified failed sections of the lighting network. As of the week ending 9 October 2026, all sections are operational apart from the Arthur's Quay Park area. In addition, weekly inspections and patrols are now being undertaken by LBK of the Three Bridges Walk festoon lighting to identify and address faults at the earliest opportunity.

The section of festoon lighting at Arthur's Quay Park requires a new ESB connection. The design for this connection is nearing completion and once finalised, an application will be submitted to ESB Networks to progress the connection works.

It should be noted that the festoon lighting network along the Three Bridges Walk is in a highly exposed environment and is experiencing recurring failures due to a combination of environmental factors and the need for infrastructure upgrades. These issues are contributing to ongoing maintenance requirements across the network.

21. <u>Question submitted by Councillor P. Reale</u>

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick if the Council plans to stop child maintenance as income for the purpose of rent calculations under the Differential Rent Scheme.

REPLY: Limerick City & County Council's (LCCC) Differential Rent Scheme provides for household income to be taken into account in assessing rent, subject to the income disregards provided for under the Scheme. Maintenance payments are currently treated as assessable income for rent purposes.

Rental income from LCCC's social housing stock of approximately 6,000 properties is projected to be in the region of €24.5 million in 2026 and represents an important source of funding for housing services. The removal of maintenance payments from assessable income would reduce rental income and would therefore require detailed consideration of the financial implications for the Housing Directorate, particularly as rental income supports housing maintenance programmes, including works to vacant properties and energy retrofitting.

The Differential Rent Scheme is also used in determining rent contributions for approximately 2,500 RAS and HAP tenancies. Accordingly, a detailed assessment would be required to quantify the overall financial impact of any proposed change across approximately 8,500 tenancies.

Maintenance payments have been treated as reckonable income for rent assessment purposes in Limerick for many years, including under the former Limerick City and Limerick County Council schemes prior to amalgamation. The current Differential Rent Scheme followed a significant review in 2020, which introduced a standard method of rent calculation across the city and county.

Differential rent arrangements currently vary between local authorities, including in relation to the categories of income that are treated as assessable or disregarded.

The development of a standardised national approach to differential rents has been under consideration for some time, including through previous Government housing policy. More recently, the Government's housing plan, Delivering Homes, Building Communities, commits to reviewing rents paid by local authority and Approved Housing Body social housing tenants.

In a written Oireachtas reply on 14 July 2026, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage confirmed that Delivering Homes, Building Communities commits to reviewing these rents with a view to introducing a national framework that provides a consistent and equitable system of rents.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, with the assistance of the Housing Agency, is undertaking detailed analysis of existing rent schemes and exploring the range of reform options available. The Minister indicated that any potential options should seek the best balance of equity, progressivity and

sustainability, while protecting those on the lowest incomes and at greater risk of poverty.

The Minister further advised that the results of this analysis are expected to be submitted for his consideration later in 2026. Any proposal to implement a standardised national rents framework, or alternative reform, will thereafter be considered by Government as appropriate.

In light of the ongoing national review of differential rents, it is considered appropriate to await the outcome of this work before considering any change to the treatment of maintenance payments as assessable income under the Council's Differential Rent Scheme.

22. <u>Question submitted by Councillor P. Reale</u>

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for a list of pruning and hedge-cutting in public areas and along roads carried out by Council crews since 1st September 2026, in the Limerick Metropolitan District and a schedule of future proposed works to the end of 2026.

<u>REPLY:</u> A number of junctions throughout the rural areas of Metropolitan West (including Dooradoyle, Ballybrown, Clarina and Patrickswell) and Metropolitan East, (including Drombanna, Ballysheedy and Ballyneety) have undergone hedge and vegetation cutting works by LCCC since September to improve visibility and road safety.

It should also be noted that landowners are responsible for maintaining hedges and vegetation along their property boundaries to ensure they do not encroach onto the public road, footpath, or obstruct sightlines at junctions, thereby helping to maintain safe conditions for all road users.

23. <u>Question submitted by Councillor S. Kiely</u>

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, with regard to the Proposed Limerick City Centre Public Realm Strategy, can I ask why the Limerick Market Trustees, as the owners of the Potato Market property, were not consulted before their property was included in the plan, and will the Council remove the Potato Market from the strategy, or defer its inclusion, until such time as meaningful consultation has taken place with the Limerick Market Trustees.

<u>REPLY:</u> Limerick City Centre Proposed Public Realm Strategy is a strategic guidance document focused on enhancing the city centre through improved public spaces, greener areas, better connections, and a more attractive, accessible, and sustainable urban environment.

The interventions and opportunities illustrated are indicative only and do not constitute fixed proposals or commitments, nor do they alter or restrict the rights of private property owners. Any future changes or specific projects arising from the

strategy would be subject to detailed design, the appropriate planning processes, public consultation and meaningful engagement with affected property owners and other relevant stakeholders.

The inclusion of the Potato Market therefore reflects previous thinking around this area and its importance within the wider city-centre context and does not represent a proposal to alter, acquire, or develop the property.

24. <u>Question submitted by Councillor S. Kiely</u>

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council provide a breakdown by year for the last five years of all funding provided by the Council to arts organisations in support of Halloween in Limerick, where cumulative funding exceeds 50k over the five-year period.

<u>REPLY:</u> The total amount of funding provided by the Council to arts organisations in support of Halloween in Limerick over the five-year period 2022-2026 is €171,057.

A total of five arts organisations received funding during this period. Of these, one organisation received cumulative funding in excess of €50,000 as set out below:

- Lumen Street Theatre - €120,100

The annual breakdown of direct funding provided to Lumen Street Theatre is as follows:

- 2022 – €10,000
- 2023 – €24,000
- 2024 – €36,500
- 2025 – €41,500
- 2026 – €8,100*

**It should be noted that Halloween in Limerick 2026 Open Call Grant Funding of €40,000 was also awarded to Lumen Street Theatre; however, this funding was subsequently declined by the organisation and was therefore not drawn down. Consequently, it is not included in the funding totals outlined above.*

In addition to the direct funding outlined above, a number of arts organisations and practitioners also benefit indirectly from the Council's Halloween programme through engagement in festival programming, commissions, performances and event delivery. This includes participation in events and initiatives and other programme elements delivered as part of Halloween in Limerick, where artists, performers and creative organisations are engaged through event organisers and delivery partners that are directly funded by the Council. As such, the figures provided above relate solely to direct Council funding awarded to arts organisations and does not capture the wider economic benefit accruing to the arts sector through participation in the overall festival programme.

NOTICES OF MOTION

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council review the existing taxi rank on St. Nessan's Road outside UHL.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor McSweeney and seconded by Councillor Kilcoyne.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor McSweeney noted that the review should consider the provision of accessible parking spaces in the area.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council Traffic Operations will undertake a review of the existing taxi stand on St. Nessan's Road adjacent to University Hospital Limerick. As part of this review, consideration will be given to the appropriateness of the current taxi rank arrangement and the potential reversion of the location to 2-hour disc parking.

Should the review determine that a change is warranted, the necessary amendments to the associated regulatory signage and road markings will be progressed in accordance with the relevant statutory requirements.

An update will be provided to the Metropolitan District once the review has been completed.

26. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council consider submitting a Low Cost Safety Improvement Scheme funding application or an Active Travel funding application to provide improved pedestrian crossing points within Patrickswell village.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor McSweeney and seconded by Councillor Kiely.

In moving the Motion, Councillor McSweeney outlined the increase in traffic within the village and noted that additional pedestrian crossing points would improve safety within the village.

REPLY: Active Travel acknowledges the Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Dan McSweeney regarding the provision of improved pedestrian crossing points within Patrickswell village.

The Active Travel team will discuss with Limerick City and County Council Operations & Maintenance Team about requirements for this location and examine the feasibility of submitting an application under the Towns and Villages scheme for 2027.

27. <u>Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan</u>

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that winter opening hours in public parks will be extended, particularly those with sports and recreational facilities, and consider improved lighting where required to allow for greater and safer use during winter evenings.

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

Following discussion, Members requested that the list of parks involved in the current audit of lighting in public parks be circulated to the Metropolitan District Councillors. This was agreed by the Senior Engineer, Environment, Rural Water and Climate Action.

<u>REPLY:</u> The operating hours of public parks are reduced during the winter months to align with available daylight hours. Current closing times are as follows: October 19:00, November 17:00, December and January 16:30, February 17:00, March 18:00 and April 19:00.

Any extension of opening hours later into the evening would require additional operational resources, including revised working hours for Park Rangers, increased staffing requirements and potentially additional security costs associated with opening and closing park facilities.

Parks are generally closed after dark to help minimise opportunities for antisocial behaviour in unlit areas and to ensure the safety of all park users.

The provision of additional lighting would require significant capital investment and ongoing maintenance and energy costs. Any proposal would be subject to the availability of funding and a detailed assessment of the benefits, operational requirements and environmental impacts.

The suitability of extended opening hours would vary across the park network and would require assessment on a park-by-park basis, taking account of existing facilities, levels of use, security requirements, neighbouring residential properties, lighting infrastructure, operational implications and health and safety considerations.

The Parks Section can undertake an audit of existing park lighting within the Metropolitan District, taking account of safety, operational and ecological considerations. The findings of this audit could inform the development of a future parks lighting policy and identify locations where lighting improvements may be appropriate, subject to the availability of funding.

28. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council will introduce measures to support the reuse of vacant and underused buildings in Limerick City Centre for a diverse mix of uses, including community and cultural, and that a plan for delivering these measures be presented to Metropolitan District councillors.

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

REPLY: Supports are in place for the reuse of vacant and underutilised buildings in the City Centre including:

- The Living City Initiative – a tax incentive scheme with relief for commercial properties with qualifying refurbishment or conversion works (contact livingcityinitiative@limerick.ie for more information)
- Vacant Business Premises Rates Incentive Scheme – a Limerick specific grant to incentivise and encourage reoccupation of vacant retail/commercial properties to combat vacancy in the city centre (contact business@limerick.ie for more information)
- Small and Medium Business Enterprise Support Scheme – a maximum of 17.5% support of annual rates bill aimed at supporting commercial occupiers of rated properties (contact business@limerick.ie for more information)
- Limerick Creative Communities Small Grants Scheme under Strand 1: Place-Making can support the development of create spaces and / or celebrate Limerick's heritage and cultural identity. The 2026 call closed to applications in January (contact creativeireland@limerick.ie for more information).

Currently there is no funding provision for additional measures to support the reuse of vacant and underused buildings in Limerick City Centre not in the ownership of the Council.

Members acknowledged the current supports in place and noted the challenges associated with bringing vacant and underused buildings back into use. Members suggested that consideration be given to the use of Derelict Site Levies, among other measures, in support of objectives of the Motion. The A/Director of Services noted that Members may raise this as part of the upcoming budget process to secure funding to allow this initiative to be explored further.

29. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Kiely

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council provide councillors with a full list of Approved Housing Bodies operating in the city, with contact details for each Approved Housing Body.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Kiely and seconded by Councillor McSweeney.
In proposing the Motion, Councillor Kiely expressed concerns regarding difficulties in engaging with Approved Housing Bodies and noted the need for improved communication with Councillors.

REPLY: A list of Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) operating in the Metropolitan District of Limerick, that have properties owned, leased or managed (on behalf of Limerick City & County Council), is provided in the table below.

All AHB's were advised at the AHB Forums facilitated by the Council in March and September, 2026, that Elected Members have raised serious concerns about the difficulties in contacting certain AHBs on urgent matters.

The list below includes the main contact numbers for each AHB. However, if a particular issue arises relating to a more specific matter (e.g. maintenance, tenancy support, anti-social behaviour etc), and the main number is not proving successful, Members may contact staff from Housing Strategy, Housing Allocations or Community Sustainment, who can readily assist in getting an urgent response to the matter.

A list of all AHBs registered with the Approved Housing Bodies Regulatory Authority (AHBRA), and their registered address, can also be found on AHBRA's website – www.ahbregulator.ie

Name of Approved Housing Body	**Contact Number**
Adapt Domestic Abuse Services CLG	(061) 412354
Arlington Novas Ireland CLG	(061) 370325
Associated Charities Trust CLG	(061) 325011
Avista Property Holding CLG	(01) 6856 502
Bergerie Trust CLG	(061) 44608
Cena - Culturally Appropriate Homes CLG	(01) 6796577
Circle Voluntary Housing Association CLG	(01) 4072110
Cluid Housing Association CLG	1800 707 208
Co-operative Housing Ireland Society	(01) 661 2877
Cuan Mhuire CLG	(063) 90555
Enable Ireland Disability Services CLG	(061)301830
Focus Housing Association CLG	(061) 405300

Housing Association for Integrated Living (HAIL) CLG	(01) 6718444
ICare Housing CLG	1800 233 244
INIS Housing Association CLG	(061) 374734
Marillac Housing Association CLG	(01) 8851626
Midwest Simon Community CLG	(061) 608980
Newgrove Housing Association CLG	(01) 2057200
Peter McVerry Trust CLG	(01) 8230776
Respond CLG	(051) 840200
Society of St Vincent De Paul (Midwest)	(061) 317327
Sophia Housing Association CLG	(01) 4738300
The John Nash Charity	(061) 310455
Thomond Housing Association CLG	(061) 313150
Túath Housing Association CLG	1800 852 751
Villiers Housing Association CLG	(061) 451447

30. <u>Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Hickey-O'Mara</u>

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that a full survey of accessible parking spaces in the Metropolitan District is undertaken so as to determine which spaces still require dropped curbs and that action is taken to amend any spaces that are found to not have dropped curbs. Before any action is taken, I also request that there is appropriate consultation with the Disabled Drivers Association of Ireland (DDAI).

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

In moving the Motion, Councillor Hickey O'Mara highlighted the need to carry out this survey to identify locations where improvements are required to enhance accessible parking in the district.

<u>REPLY:</u> Limerick City and County Council's Traffic Section will undertake a survey of accessible parking bays within the Metropolitan District to identify locations where supporting accessibility infrastructure, including dropped kerbs, may be absent or require improvement.

As part of this process, the Council will engage with the Disabled Drivers Association of Ireland (DDAI) and will share the findings of the survey in advance of any proposed works to ensure that the needs and experiences of users are appropriately considered.

In addition, the Active Travel Team has developed an accessibility mapping and auditing methodology, funded through the Mayoral Fund, which is currently being used to assess footpaths and crossing points within the city centre. Further funding from the Mayoral Fund is now being allocated to carry out some of the recommended

works. This methodology can be expanded to include accessible parking bays across the Metropolitan District, enabling a consistent assessment of accessibility standards and the identification of locations where improvements, including the provision of dropped kerbs, may be required.

The findings of the survey and audit will help inform a prioritised programme of accessibility improvements, subject to available resources and funding.

31. <u>Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Hickey-O'Mara</u>

I move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this District write to the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality, Norma Foley TD, and Minister for Social Protection, Dara Calleary TD, requesting that they commit to increasing paid paternity leave from two weeks to eight weeks in line with the "8 Weeks for Families" national campaign. I also request that this Motion is circulated to all local authorities, urging them to support this call.

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

32. <u>Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor P. Reale</u>

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council engage with local community stakeholders and local councillors in Limerick City North to develop a plan to revitalise the Corbally Baths.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Reale highlighted the need for a feasibility study to be carried out on the Corbally Baths. The Senior Engineer, Regeneration agreed to meet with Councillor Reale and the various stakeholders involved to discuss the matter further.

<u>REPLY:</u> Any proposal to progress the revitalisation of Corbally Baths would require an initial feasibility assessment to determine the viability of the project and identify the actual works together with associated environmental considerations. The progression of any potential project would also be subject to securing appropriate funding.

The Council's Environment Department will continue to monitor water quality in the area, and the findings from this monitoring will be an important consideration in assessing the feasibility of any future proposal.

Subject to these considerations, the Council will engage in due course with local community stakeholders and Elected Members in Limerick City North in exploring the potential future revitalisation of Corbally Baths.

33. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor P. Reale

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council carry out the necessary repair works and painting of the railings on Shelbourne Road opposite Mayorstone Drive and Gaelscoil Sairséal.

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

The Acting Senior Engineer, Central Services, Traffic and Roads advised that he would seek an estimate of the potential costs and revert to the Members.

REPLY: The Metropolitan Roads Department will arrange for the railings on Shelbourne Road opposite Mayorstone Drive and Gaelscoil Sairséal to be inspected to determine their current condition and the extent of any repair and repainting works that may be required.

Subject to the findings of this assessment and the availability of the necessary resources and funding, the Council will consider the inclusion of these works within a future maintenance programme.

34. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor U. Gavan

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this District calls on the Minister of Justice to explore having Gardai temporarily based out of Henry Street/Roxboro and Castleconnell in Castletroy, while the permanent station in Castletroy is being explored further, with the provision that Castleconnell remains a community garda station for the Castletroy area.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Gavan, seconded by Councillor Donoghue and agreed.

In moving the Motion Councillor Gavan highlighted the need for additional Garda presence in Castletroy due to the growth in the area.

35. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor U. Gavan

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this District prioritises a walkway from Castleconnell Campsite connecting it to the village by Nelsons Cross.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Gavan and seconded by Councillor Hartigan.

The Acting Senior Engineer, Central Services, Traffic and Roads noted that he would discuss the matter with the Senior Engineer, Active Travel to explore the potential for a larger Active Travel scheme in this area.

REPLY: The provision of a walkway linking Castleconnell Campsite to the village via Nelsons Cross has the potential to improve pedestrian connectivity and encourage greater access between the campsite and amenities.

It is proposed that the Area Office will undertake a preliminary assessment of the route, including feasibility, land requirements, and estimated construction costs. Subject to the outcome of this assessment, potential funding streams will be examined with a view to progressing the project.

36. Correspondence

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH