

MAYORAL STRATEGY

For a Better Limerick

Dee Ryan

7 June 2024



FIANNA FÁIL
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY



VISION



An aerial photograph of Limerick, Ireland, showing a mix of urban buildings and green fields. The city is nestled in a valley, with a river visible in the lower part of the image. The background is slightly faded to make the text and the woman in the foreground stand out.

**“MY VISION FOR A BETTER LIMERICK IS MORE
HOUSING, BETTER HEALTHCARE AND SPREADING
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTY,
MAKING LIMERICK THE PLACE IN IRELAND TO LIVE,
LEARN, WORK, DEVELOP A BUSINESS
AND RAISE A FAMILY IN.”**

- DEE RYAN



MAYORAL PRIORITIES





HOUSING

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Affordability

In the past 4 years the citizens of Limerick city and county have seen both prices and rents increase by 44% and 54% respectively. Quarter 1 of 2024 has seen a decrease in commencements to 241 housing units, down from 265 in 2023.

Availability

Limerick saw just 797 new homes built in 2023 – an unsustainable figure considering that the number of homes required to meet demand is in the region of 2,598 according to the Housing Needs Demand Assessment 2023. This figure is particularly stark when considered alongside the 1,708 vacant homes recorded in the census of 2022.

HOUSING OBJECTIVES



Establish a Housing Taskforce

Aim to create a dedicated Housing Taskforce of the Mayor's Advisory and Implementation Committee that will have representation from the Land Development Agency (LDA) and other housing stakeholders to prioritise the construction of affordable housing for sale within our communities and expedite the planning process within the Council.

Increase the focus on the direct construction of new homes for the Council

Engage building contractors to build houses for the Council, reducing competition with private buyers for limited housing stock in the county.

Advance the development of Colbert Quarter

Actively engage with the LDA to encourage and facilitate construction at Colbert Station.

Prioritise Limerick 2030 residential developments

Prioritise residential developments within the Limerick 2030 projects and advocate for the conversion of some planned commercial projects into residential projects.

Support once-off housing and modular solutions

Support one-off housing projects and explore modular housing options as well as the use of cabins and other new building technology.

Tackle vacancy and dereliction

Work with building owners to help them get their vacancy and derelict properties back into productive use and resolve the valid and often complex issues behind these sites.

Use Council-owned land for housing

Conduct a thorough review of sites owned by the Council in both the city and county and create a priority list for potential residential zoning.

Standardise design plans

Standardise design plans for Limerick City and County Council projects to minimise lead times and reduce costs.

Zone additional land

Work to zone additional land in strategic high yielding locations, where housing can be delivered at scale in the short to medium term.

Increase the provision of student accommodation

Work with third level institutions to incentivise more student specific accommodation.

Land Acquisition

Leverage the land acquisition fund, identify and acquire suitable land for large-scale housing developments, with a focus on delivering affordable homes for owner occupiers.

Planning conditions for owner occupiers

Collaborate with the planning department to ensure that “own door” developments receive planning approval, with the condition that houses can only be sold to individual purchasers, and also designate a specified number of houses for owner occupiers.





HEALTH

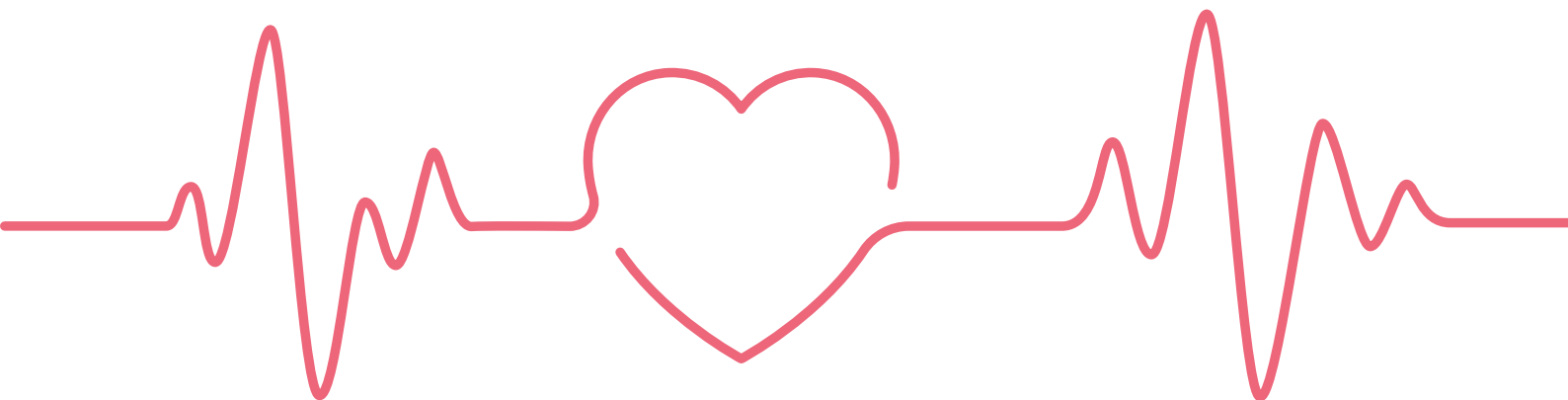
HEALTH

- Healthcare in a 'Better Limerick' means that people are not afraid to go to University Hospital Limerick (UHL) when they get sick, and that routine appointments and procedures are tackled in a timely fashion.
- I am committed to services being available across the city and county that meet the needs of our growing, modern county.
- Healthcare priorities must focus on the crises at UHL.
- A focus on health in the wider community is required as longer life expectancy means that we pay attention to health outside of hospital settings too.
- Mental health supports and inclusivity are vitally important to Limerick people. Promoting initiatives and services that support a young and active population, will prove crucial to cultivating a 'Better Limerick.'

UHL Crises

Limerick is experiencing a healthcare crisis. The predominant and most urgent reality for Limerick people is the shortage of bed capacity at UHL. The National Trolley Watch ranked UHL the worst in the country in 10 of the past 11 years. This has proved fatal and must not continue. 300 additional beds are required, with a net 167 beds in the pipeline for delivery in the near future, meaning the hospital will lack beds in the short- to medium-term.

All major Model 4 hospitals throughout the country have Model 3 hospitals supporting the wider region's needs. Over 50% of all surgical interventions nationwide happen in these Model 3 hospitals, most being minor and routine procedures. UHL has no supporting Model 3 hospital.





HEALTH OBJECTIVES

Establish a new surgical hub and fast-track planning

Establish Sprint Teams to fast-track planning applications for healthcare facilities and advocate for a new surgical hub to urgently be established at the site of the Mount school.

Increase bed capacity

Urgently work with the Minister for Health to secure the 133 beds committed to Limerick in the HSE Capital Plan, to alleviate the chronic situation at UHL.

Increase A&E staff capacity

Collaborate with the HSE and Department of Health to remove the recruitment ban for UHL as a special case, recruiting essential consultants, nursing and care staff and providing sufficient diagnostic support to A&E 7 days a week.

Model 3 hospital

Pursue with urgency the promised review of a Model 3 hospital for the region, through to resolution, and demand a commitment to action on this hospital.

Improve the public realm and town planning for older people

Prioritise town planning and design standards to accommodate an ageing population and provide additional public realm facilities such as benches and active walkways for older people in our communities.

Encourage healthy communities

Establish a process to help community groups to apply for capital funding to improve community sports facilities, playgrounds, and essential services such as 'meals on wheels', improving the broader health and welfare of our population in the county.

Promote active travel and age-friendly infrastructure

Engage with the active travel team to support the delivery of projects and ensure the allocated funding of €21 million in February 2024 delivers improvements on time across the county facilitating healthier lifestyles and improved public realm and facilities for our ageing population.





SAFETY

A Better Limerick means that people:

- Feel safe travelling and commuting on Limerick roads.
- Are provided with much safer roads and greater protections for vulnerable users of roads, paths and leisure routes.
- Can access a Garda when required, and can move safely through their main streets, without fear or intimidation, feeling safe and included in public spaces.

Improving Everyday Safety

- Everyday safety is a key priority. Limerick requires robust, visible policing to protect the wellbeing of its citizens. Community policing is essential, along with increased community engagement. Integrating services to respond to our most vulnerable people is also important to Limerick people, ensuring safety and protection for all.
- More Gardaí are required to improve safety. Public offences in 2023 stood at 1,189 recorded incidents. This must be improved upon. The current number of Gardaí in Limerick stands at 588 meaning we have lost 49 Gardaí since 2011. Just 30 more Gardaí can make a significant visible impact according to the Chief Superintendent.
- The civilianisation of administrative duties, as has happened elsewhere, can also alleviate pressures in the system. Considering that 6 Gardaí currently work on visa processing in Limerick and a further 16 are stationed in Limerick courthouse, deployment requires attention.
- The absence of a Garda station is keenly felt in both rural and urban locations. Castletroy is an example of a population surge with no Garda supports in tandem. I will be pushing for the temporary station in Askeaton to be retained when the new Newcastlewest station has opened.
- In the roads of towns and villages like Croagh, Herberstown and Hospital, not only are communities reliant on cars due to poor public transport, but speed and safety are real concerns. In general, road safety throughout county areas is an issue, forcing people into their cars and discouraging walking and cycling.





SAFETY OBJECTIVES

Support the rollout of the Community Access Support Team (CAST) pilot

Support the roll-out of the Community Access Support Team (CAST) pilot programme ensuring the safety of our most vulnerable adults, in line with health policy, and community policing recommendations.

Provide more Gardaí

Engage at government level to redeploy the 16 Gardaí in Mulgrave Street courthouse, replacing them with private security firms as has been done in Dublin. Seek to replace Gardaí with civilian workers where possible, as has happened in other jurisdictions.

Improve Road Safety

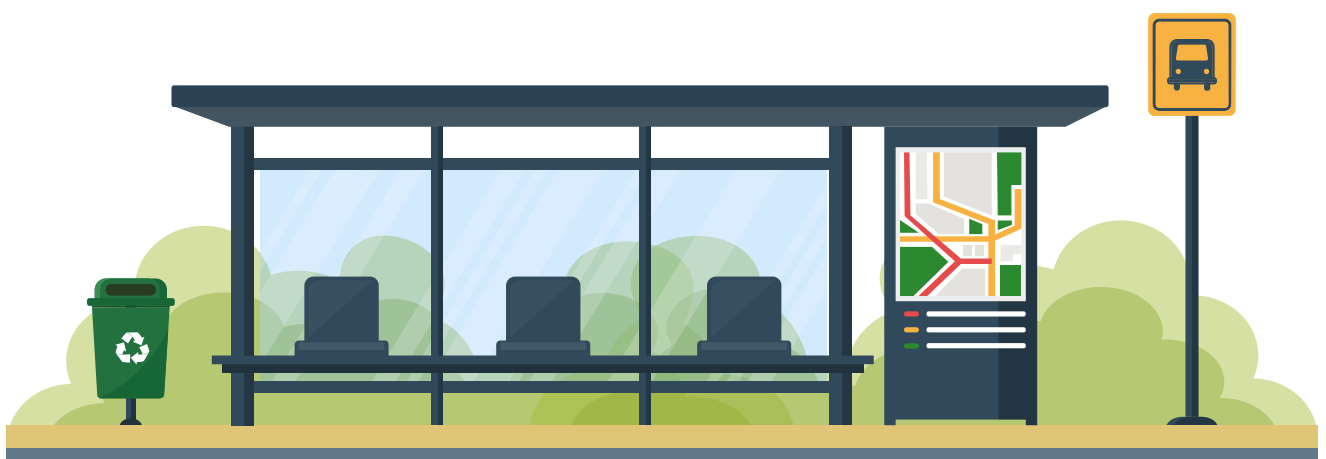
Work to deliver better traffic calming and road safety measures on rural roads, along with advancing projects already identified at Council level to improve everyday safety. Promote driver education for safer, slower driving habits.

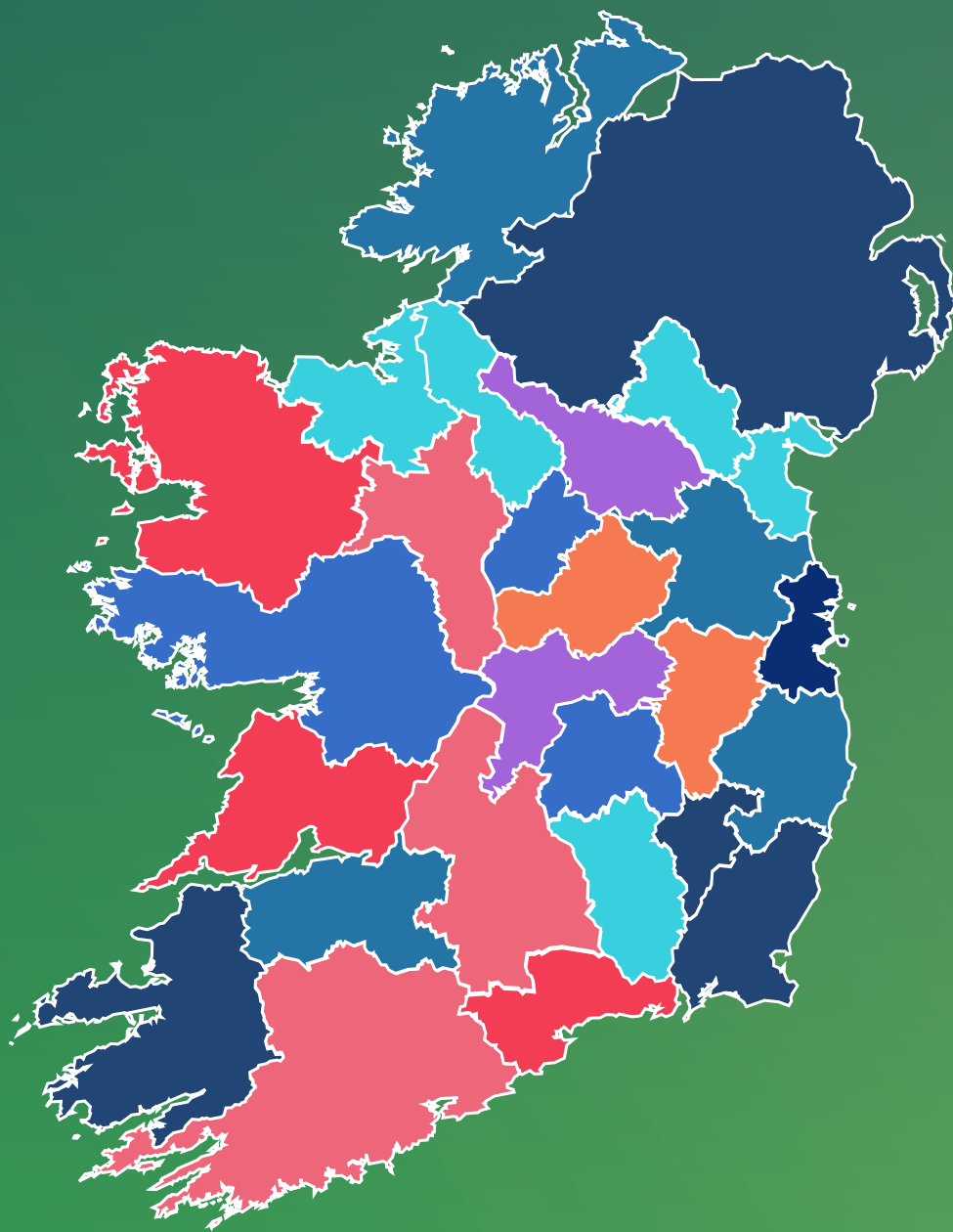
Implement connected active travel

Ensure the active travel network throughout the city is fully connected, ensuring people can safely walk or cycle across the city while aligning health and safety objectives for the mayor.

Bus stops, shelters and services

Engage with the National Transport Authority (NTA) to deliver bus stops and commutable services for areas outside of typical urban routes ensuring workers are not compelled to drive and people do not feel isolated.





ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A Better Limerick means that people can earn a living, business can grow, and entrepreneurial spirit is supported.

There are actionable opportunities that can take the county into the future through a focus on infrastructure, farming, SMEs and development of our airport at Shannon and our port at Foynes.

Continued economic development throughout the county is essential and will be a priority for the future. Accessibility to and from the region, facilitating people to make a good living.

- As mayor I will commit to shining a light on this region and its development.
- People must have the option to live, work and commute through well serviced transport links to their places of work, school or retail areas. Retrospective fixing of infrastructure is not an option, it must be actioned now, as growth and development increase.
- Economic development includes a focus on our farming and food production sector and on supporting the many vibrant SMEs in the region, including our retail and hospitality industry.
- There is a need to see entrepreneurial spirit encouraged and supported. Education is key to this and linked to economic development. This is possible thorough the multitude of third level institutions and pathways available in Limerick, coupled with a young population.
- The New Economy is built on knowledge, technology, and remote working in vibrant communities. The economy of the whole county benefits when Limerick city centre itself is recognised as a leading urban location for work, living and spending. As hybrid and remote working become the norm, the economic strategy for a region needs much more focus on the local area and community. We must give people reasons to live, work, stay and play in Limerick. This means focusing on creating a better place to live in a truly civic society, meeting high standards of health, housing, safety and social inclusiveness.

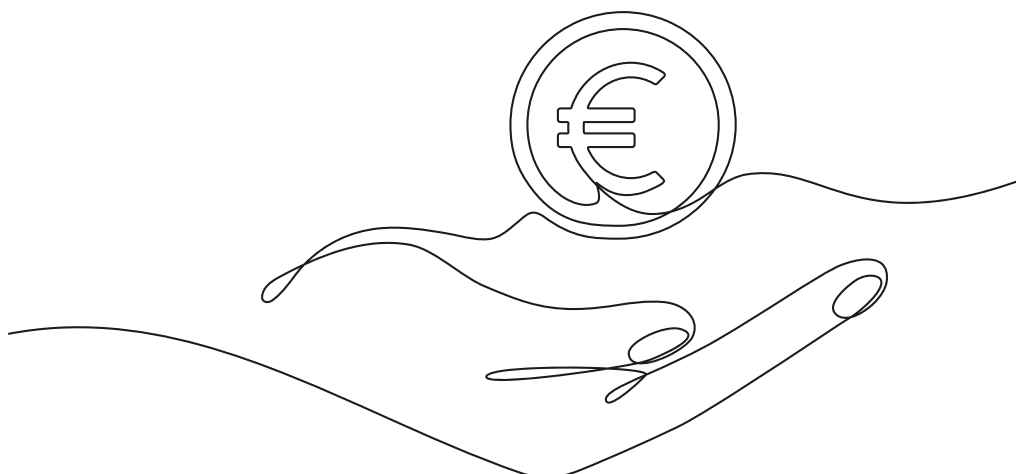
Barriers to Economic Development

- There has been continual postponement of the development of key roads, public transport and other key infrastructure assets.
- Companies have left the green energy market on the west coast due to unacceptable planning frustrations and imbalanced national strategy.
- Farmers and food producers have experienced delays in compensation for works to deliver roads, including a group of 108 farmers along the Adare by-pass.
- There is currently no bus stop in many industrial areas in the county. Annacotty Business Park with 3000 workers is a prime example.
- We will place Arts and Culture the centre, not the edge, of economic strategy and decision-making. Both creative and liberal arts are essential components of civic life in a modern knowledge-based economy.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

- Provide strong community leadership to demand Offshore Wind DMAPS off the coast and the building of critical infrastructure at Foynes Island.
- Implement Phase 2 of the LNDR linking the NTP to the Mackey roundabout.
- Focus on changing zoning in the Development Plan to facilitate the increased construction of affordable houses to buy.
- Support the development of the Estuary as the lead location for offshore wind and long-term energy security measures for the west coast.
- Deliver the west of Ireland renewable energy/test bed incubator on the Estuary.
- Provide more support for independent retail and main street vibrancy across the city, towns and villages of Limerick.
- Collaborate with farming representatives on the Implementation Committee to develop a new Limerick Farming Families initiative to sustain and improve our rural communities.
- Change policy away from seeing farming as an environmental problem but rather as an essential long-term economic advantage in the global market.
- Ensure that the active travel network through the city is fully connected so that people can safely chose to walk or cycle across the city.
- Engage with NTA to deliver a bus stop and commutable service for the Annacotty business park so that not all workers have to drive.
- Move to the next phase of the N/M20 road which is crucial from a regional infrastructure and a road safety perspective.
- Completely overhaul the Limerick City Revitalisation and Night Time Advisory roles so that the Council is more impactful, more visible in its leadership and more accountable in its efforts to improve the economy of Limerick city centre.
- Accelerate the development of the N69 Foynes to Limerick road.
- Support the greater development of remote working infrastructure, rural broadband and digital hubs throughout the county.
- Bring a renewed impetus to the collaboration with Enterprise Ireland and other stakeholders so as to double down on the excellent work already done for indigenous businesses by the Local Enterprise Offices throughout the county.





PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES FUND

As Mayor I want to put a significant portion of the discretionary mayoral budget to work to directly improve people's lives in their communities right across Limerick. Funds will be available for local infrastructural projects by community, voluntary and sporting groups.

The most valuable thing in our lives are our relationships and our communities and as Mayor I pledge to support people and communities with this new Fund which will invest in:

- Road and personal safety by design.
- Healthy activity – better parks playgrounds, secure paths and sports infrastructure
- More vibrant main streets.

My focus as Mayor is on improving and equalising public amenities for people across our city and county and supporting the volunteers who give so much of their time to help make Limerick the incredible place it is today for us to live in and raise our families. A Sprint Team will be deployed to ensure that this is implemented with minimal red tape and bureaucracy. The Council plays an essential role in improving the lives of the poor and the marginalised along with agencies and central government. Like all modern democracies, we have problems with homelessness, crime, illegal drugs, harassment and hate in our villages, towns and our city. We must work harder on these, and I will commit to visible leadership and accountability on the Councils work on these issues. This will include the setting of limits, budgets and targets for integration and accommodation in the Limerick area.

As mayor of Limerick, I want the arts office of Limerick City and County Council to make the whole of county Limerick known for its commitment to the arts and not just on Culture Night or during one weekend of Riverfest in the city centre. I want our Council to show that it values and understands artists, entertainers and provocateurs.

I will be committed to inclusivity and diversity while doing so. Let art and culture break down barriers that marginalise our communities. Let Limerick artists and creatives develop Limerick's own unique collective voice in an increasingly globalised and culturally homogenous world.



PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES OBJECTIVES GRAPHIC OBJECTIVES



- Use a 'People and Community' initiative to seed and support more community leadership programmes and to give more influence and involvement to marginalised communities.
- Seed and support more healthy activity and sports participation in a more equal and balanced way across the entire county.
- Work with the Minister for Justice to take the 16 Gardaí out of Mulgrave Street courthouse and replace with a private security firm, as is done in Dublin.
- Work with the Minister for Justice to take the 6 Gardaí on work visa processing out from behind desk and back on the street and replace them with civilian employees, as is done in Dublin.
- Support the pilot programme between the Gardaí and the HSE called CAST Community Access.
- Use the People and Communities Fund to invest in social infrastructure for safer, more active and more inclusive towns and villages.
- Provide funding and support that back our artists, our entertainers and our impresarios to do it for themselves rather than focusing on visiting acts and tours.
- Build capacity among our institutions, events and movements that are locally-founded and based.
- Make arts and culture a more central part of our economic and social developmental strategy for our communities, our towns and our city.
- Ensure that our Council's spatial, transport and housing strategies are focused on social inclusion, a compassionate resolution of social conflict and tensions and community-building.





TRANSPORT

TRANSPORT

Transport Board (Limerick Project Ireland 2040 Delivery Board Transport Sub-Group):

In this forum, I will focus on transport infrastructure and services. I will collaborate with public bodies on the implementation of plans and strategies including the provision of transport infrastructures and services in Limerick.

Transport is a key area of responsibility for Limerick City and County Council. Many of you will recall that Limerick Chamber made a very detailed and well-researched submission to LSMATS consultation just over a year ago.

In that role I was particularly focused on ensuring that all stakeholders were heard. I created a unique series of independently chaired meetings which brought together the widest possible range of opinions – far beyond the perceived business core of the Chamber. Participants included large and small businesses, drivers, retailers, the freight industry, cyclists and pedestrians.

Shannon Airport is top of everyone's agenda in Limerick. As Chamber CEO, I pushed constantly for a rebalancing of the airports. I served on the Limerick Economic Forum and the Fáilte Ireland Gateway City Grouping. Our businesses, our families and our environment absolutely need this.

Transport remains a priority for me. The issues raised by you, the citizens of Limerick, are many. The National Transport Authority have told us that public transport use is very low. People have little choice but to own a car and drive, contributing to traffic congestion. Annacotty business park with 3,000 workers does not have a bus stop. Corbally is a bottleneck, with traffic mayhem at peak times, impacting on safety and taking away time you can spend with your family. In places like Croagh, Herberstown and Hospital speed on our roads is a real concern for rural communities. If you live on a busy country road you live in fear of your family members walking or driving on these fast roads.

I know that as Mayor, I will be busy with these issues. The key will be to marry a number of different essentials in a balanced way. I have always supported the N/M20 road, which is crucial from a regional infrastructure and a road safety perspective, and the LNDR/orbital route, not least because the latter will take unnecessary through-traffic out of Limerick city centre. Concurrently, I will also work to deliver better traffic calming and road safety measures on rural roads. I will engage with the NTA for the Annacotty business park service and for improved driver education for road safety.

In an era of climate crisis every transport decision is a delicate balancing act. That will be a major part of my role as Mayor, bringing the informed needs of the entire spectrum of Limerick citizens to the table and being your voice, your eyes and your ears when all the important decisions are in the balance.

The whole point of a directly elected Mayor is to make more of these decisions in Limerick, not Dublin. We have an opportunity to study Dublin's problems (traffic, airports, road safety, public realm) and grow Limerick transport with better-informed, forward-thinking and sustainable policies.





TRANSPORT OBJECTIVES

Accelerate the N69 Foynes Limerick

Accelerate the development of the N69 Foynes to Limerick road.

Move faster on the Cork-Limerick road

Moving to the next phase of the N/M20 road, crucial from a regional infrastructure and a road safety perspective.

Implement phase two of the LNDR

Phase 2 of the LNDR linking the NTP to the Mackey roundabout taking unnecessary through-traffic out of Limerick city centre.

Continued airport development

Continue to push constantly for rebalancing of the policy for development of our airports and ensure public transport connections create a seamless connection to Limerick Colbert Station to support a fully integrated service.

More bus stops, shelters and services

Engage with the National Transport Authority to deliver bus stops and commutable services for areas outside of typical urban routes ensuring workers are not compelled to drive and people do not feel isolated. This will be coupled with collaboration with the NTA to deliver bus stops and commutable service for business parks so that not all workers have to drive.

Connected active travel

Ensure the active travel network throughout the city is fully connected, ensuring people can safely walk or cycle across the city while aligning health and safety objectives. Engage with the Active Travel Team to support the delivery of projects and ensure the allocated funding of €21 million in February 2024 results in improvements across the county within the time period specified, facilitating healthier lifestyles and improved wellbeing.

HOW?

HOW?

How will our vision for a Better Limerick come to fruition?

The task as Mayor is to make good decisions, to get things done and to be impactful as a leader in the community.

As Mayor I will work tirelessly for you as a leader in Limerick. I will put my network to work for you. In conjunction with this energy and effort, I will seize every opportunity as Mayor to make useful links, raise credibility and seek co-operation to make things happen. My Mayoral approach will be one of Reflection, Reality and Resolution. This demonstrates my commitment to constant reflection and listening and to using my experience. I will strive to understand the reality on the ground, and devise resolutions that are actionable and will make a difference.

As a resourceful and resilient Mayor, my day-to-day challenge will be to build support from other engaged and mandated representatives. That is the essence of democracy. It is also the essence of collaboration and inclusivity. It is why I say that independent candidates for Mayor will not be able to deliver for Limerick at National or Council Level. Working with others is key to achieving a *Better Limerick*.

It is vital that key stakeholders are involved in the mayoral office, including Councillors, the Director General and employees of the Council, along with government ministers and agencies and key local stakeholders and leaders.

In achieving this I will foster:

- Collaboration with Councillors to support major changes such as the annual budget, changes in policies, action plans, the county development plan, managing of council property, approving grant schemes and much more.
- Positive working with the Director General and the Council to ensure that the Mayor's authority is enforced, and with energy, effectiveness and efficiency.

Opportunities with government ministers and agents will be sought to amend and/or apply national policy in a manner that will deliver for Limerick.

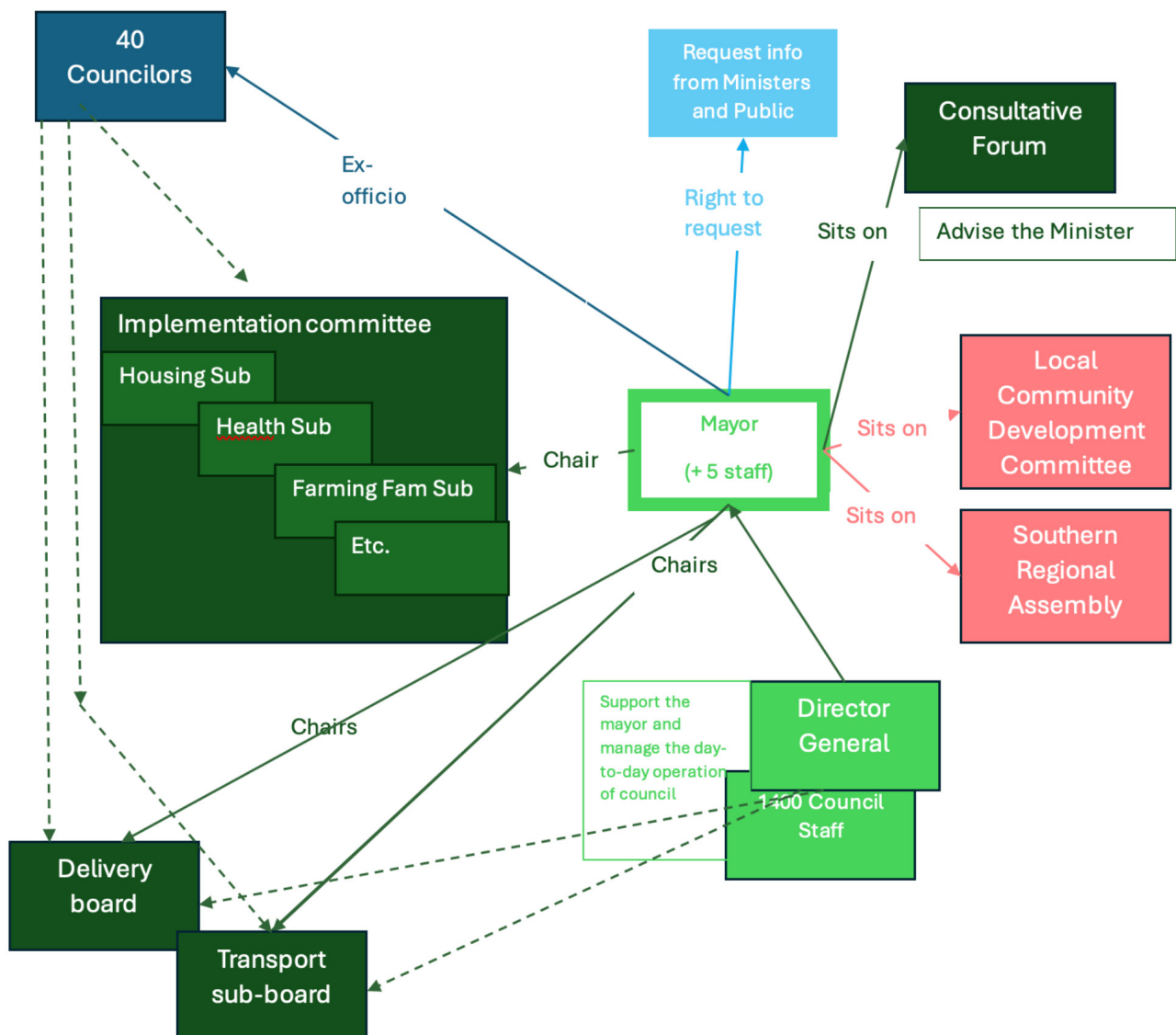
USING THE LEGISLATIVE POWERS TO DELIVER ON THE PRIORITIES

The legislation that underpins the position of Directly Elected Mayor sets out clear mechanisms for obtaining agreement and implementing change. The Mayor is entitled to require that key government figures and other stakeholders participate in a number of powerful new bodies that have real teeth. My mayoral plan will be based on making these bodies work as true taskforces to get things done quickly.

The Limerick Mayoral Advisory and Implementation Committee will co-opt the necessary representatives to powerful subcommittees to ensure progress with each of the top priorities: Housing, Health, People, Communities and Safety, and Farming Families. These subcommittees will not be talking shops. Representatives will be required to report on concrete progress by their agency or department against each priority measure at each meeting.

MAYORS LEADERSHIP NETWORK

The DEM legislation provides the Mayor with a Network of leadership at local and national level. The only way a Mayor can succeed is by understanding and getting the most from this Network. I have a clear strategy for how to leverage this to deliver a Better Limerick for you, the people of the city and county.



My approach to working with the individual bodies in this network to deliver for Limerick is set out on the following pages. My leadership approach will be strategic and collaborative. My leadership style is based on my experience working in, and with, highly successful leaders in business and in the community. I know that no mayor can plausibly deliver on hundreds of actions as some suggest. Working strategically means getting agreement to deliver on as many impactful positive changes as possible, supporting and empowering my colleagues in the Council and the Executive to provide a multitude of services to the very best of their ability.

WORKING WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL & COUNCIL TEAM

As Mayor, I will work with and be supported by the Director General and the 1,400 staff of Limerick Council in managing the day-to-day operation of the local authority. This is a fundamental part of the day-to-day job of Mayor, managing the decision that work for the you. My focus will be on collaborating with the Director General and Council, to ensure delivery of the Mayoral Programme and the good governance of delivery of all the 700 plus discrete services provided by the Council to Limerick citizens every year. My authority as mayor will come solely and exclusively from the people of Limerick. The outcome of my mayoral programme will depend on high-performing collaboration with the director general, the senior management and the entire Council executive team.

Delivery Board (Limerick Project Ireland 2040 Delivery Board): This board includes the Director General, Chief Executive of Clare County Council and Director of the Southern Regional Assembly and other nominees of bodies. As mayor I can focus on implementing the key planning and infrastructure strategies in the Limerick area, support the implementation of the National Planning Framework, the National Development Plan, the Limerick Development Plan and the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan. Here is where coordination begins to support initiatives and funding for rural areas and regeneration of rural towns.

Transport Board (Limerick Project Ireland 2040 Delivery Board Transport Sub-Group): In this forum, I will focus on transport infrastructure and services. I will collaborate with public bodies on the implementation of plans and strategies including the provision of transport infrastructures and services in Limerick.

KEY STAFF

I will have a key staff of five, four of whom will be selected from the local authority. My team will include problem-solvers who are committed to building trust and working for a Better Limerick. My team will also focus on optimising the Mayor's participation in the Local Community Development Committee and the Southern Regional Assembly.

MAYORAL PROGRAMME

The Mayoral Programme will be finalised in conjunction with the Director General, and will include the annual allocation of the mayor's funding from central government to put my program into action.

BALANCE THE BUDGET

I am under no illusions about the challenge of funding new priorities. Change requires a rebalancing of priorities, and this will be agreed with the DG during the finalisation of the Mayoral Programme. The council already operates within very tight margins which is why I acknowledge that no one can hope to deliver on hundreds and hundreds of "ideas".

The consultative process of the councillors and the executive has worked well in Limerick in recent years, I have seen how effectively the current CEO and recently departed CFO have led the executive side of this process. Working with the DG I have no doubt we will retain and develop that discipline, efficiency and collaboration. It is essential that we collaborate to balance our budget, ensuring we retain every cent of the €600m capital budget earmarked for housing in the next three years. The budgetary process will continue to be one of the main administrative activities of the year.

SPRINT TEAMS

My mayoral team and other members of Council staff will work on projects in sprint teams. These teams will focus on innovation, bringing the best methods and collaboration to bear on the most important proprieties of my programme. I want to ensure rapid action on key priorities.

WORKING WITH GOVERNMENT

Forging a **Better Limerick** means focusing on our priorities of housing, health, safety and communities as well as the critical legislative areas of transport and economic development. I will maximise all opportunities to make a difference for Limerick and this will require action both locally and nationally.

As Mayor I can work to improve service delivery and enhance democratic accountability within Limerick. While Government policy is centralised in Ireland, I will have a unique and historic platform to influence and deliver for the people of Limerick. The Consultative Forum facilitates engagement between the Mayor and national government, in particular on proposed legislation and government policy initiatives that impact Limerick.

Limerick Mayoral and Government Consultative Forum

Consisting of the Minister, Mayor and other Government Ministers to advise the Minister on matters affecting Limerick or the performance of the mayoral function. It will be chaired by the Minister. The forum will meet every 5 to 7 months and additionally as required.

It will consider and make recommendations on issues. It provides for the Minister to arrange for secretarial and administrative support to the forum and also appropriate technical and research support, as he/she considers necessary.

The legislation contains a provision to review the operation of the legislation within three years, this, along with the role of the consultative forum will enable the further development, and expansion of, the role of the directly elected mayor going forward.

Statutory Powers

Legislation requires Ministers to respond to my requests, as Mayor, for information and provides significant opportunity for the mayor to impact programmes that shape and impact Limerick. The Consultative Forum is a critical body for the Mayor to influence national Government on policy initiatives that impact Limerick.

Mandate

As Mayor of Limerick, I will have a mandate from the citizens of county Limerick to define and oversee many of the policies that shape the local authority's activities. This mandate also applies at national level, whereby I will work to gain agreement on policies that are important, beneficial, supported and to the advantage of Limerick.

Independence

As Mayor of Limerick, I have a primary and exclusive legislative and personal commitment to delivery for Limerick. As Mayor, I will use my mandate to continue my work on this issue with an ever-greater mandate. And I will use my platform as a member of Fianna Fáil in government to influence policy in a way that no independent or non-party mayor can hope to do. However, there is no room for doubt: I will wear only one jersey – the green jersey of Mayor of Limerick.

