

FÍS DO LUIMNEACH

A VISION

FOR

LIMERICK

My Manifesto for Limerick

Limerick Mayoral Election 2024



Sinn Féin

MAURICE DON MHÉARA



A chara,

Leagan an forógra seo amach na tosaíochtaí a bheadh agam mar Mhéara Luimnigh.

Domsa, baineann chuile rud le caighdeán beatha na ndaoine atá ina gcónaí anseo - tithíocht, costas maireachtála, sábháilteacht pobail, saol na tuaithe, an cuma atá ar ár gcathair, agus sláinte, ar ndóigh, le Ospidéal Ollscoile Luimnigh mar thosaíocht.

É sin ráite, feicfidh tú san fhorógra seo go dteastaíonn aird ó go leor ábhair eile chomh maith atá fite fuaite i saol mhuintir Luimnigh – Geallaim go dtabharfaidh mé aird orthu.

Tá cumhachtaí an Mhéara teoranta ar go leor bealaí. Creidim gur féidir liom an oifig féin a usáid go catalaíoch chun athrú agus dul chun cinn a spreagadh i leith oscailteacht agus cuimsiú ar fud Luimnigh. Tá an taithí agus an tiomantas agam chun an jab a dhéanamh. D'oibrigh mé mar ghníomhaí pobail do Luimneach, d'oibrigh mé mar chomhairleoir tofa do Luimneach, agus tá dhá téarma déanta agam mar Theachta Dála do Luimneach. Tá tuilleadh gur féidir liom a dhéanamh. Is as an áit seo mé agus is anseo a rugadh agus a tógadh mé - is anseo a chruthaigh mé saol dom féin le mo chlann agus mo chairde – teastaíonn uaim go ndéanfar gach seacht ndícheall don áit seo.

Léiriú intinne atá san fhorógra seo.

Is Mise

Maurice Quinlivan TD

Quinlivan **1**

Sinn Féin



DELIVERING FOR LIMERICK

I want to be a champion for Limerick and Limerick needs a strong voice that will stand up for its people – all of them - and ensure that Limerick City & County gets its fair share, I have the experience and vision to lead, and with your support, we can make that happen.

I want to be a Mayor for all – I want to be inclusive for all sections of Limerick society and I want the office of Mayor to be accessible to all.

Despite successive government Ministers from Limerick, the problems that impact our city and county have been allowed to fester. Shortage of affordable and social housing continues, University Hospital Limerick is at breaking point, jobs have been slow to materialise, and the county is hampered by a lack of adequate transport services.

Government after government has failed Limerick. Our city centre has fallen behind and needs a proper strategy to encourage a nighttime economy and a vibrant centre in advance of hosting The Ryder Cup in 2027.

If elected on June 7th, I will be that champion for Limerick. I will ensure that Limerick has a voice, and that it will be heard. I will not be afraid to stand up for Limerick when needed and ensure that Limerick gets a fair deal from the government. Together we can deliver the change that is needed across all of Limerick.



As your Mayor, I will ensure that:

- University Hospital Limerick is a top priority for me.
- Social and affordable housing is a top priority for me.
- Adequate transport and infrastructure across Limerick is a top priority for me.
- Planned economic development of Limerick is a top priority for me.
- There is better planning across Limerick to deliver better services and investment in our communities.
- Our city centre and our communities are policed properly bringing reassurance to our citizens.
- Our city and county will capitalise on the Ryder Cup and continue to attract global events and tourism.
- That our sporting champions and leaders are supported.
- That our educators are recognised and supported.
- That the recommendations of the Shannon Estuary Taskforce are urgently prioritised to ensure future economic prosperity for Limerick.
- Resources and support are provided to revitalise Limerick City Centre.
- Stronger ties are created with the student community to make Limerick a safer and more vibrant county.
- Limerick supports and promotes our Arts and Heritage.



A wealth of local and national experience...

As your Mayor, I will bring with me to the post a wealth of experience in both local and national politics. First elected to Limerick City and County Council in 2009 and returned in 2014, I worked hard to deliver for Limerick, and I am proud of the role that I played in the revitalisation of the northside of Limerick City.

I was elected to the Dáil in 2016 and was returned, having topped the poll, in 2020. I am the current chairperson of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Enterprise, Trade & Employment Where I have played my part in the introduction of legislation regarding the

- ➔ **Right To Request Remote Work.**
- ➔ **Employment Permit Bill.**
- ➔ **Sick Leave Bill.**
- ➔ **Companies (Corporate Enforcement Authority) Bill**

I have also served as Sinn Féin spokesperson on Job creation.

My experience in dealing with government ministers, interest groups, ambassadors, and more will be an asset for Limerick as we look to address the challenges that our county faces.

Using the new Mayoral Consultative Forum

The Mayor of Limerick Bill provides for the establishment of a Consultative Forum that will meet, at a minimum, twice per year. The members of the Forum include the Mayor, the Minister for Housing as Chairperson, and Government Ministers. Its powers include recommending the conferral of additional powers to the position of Mayor with Limerick Council granted the opportunity to make representations and submissions to the Forum.

This Forum provides the Mayor of Limerick with direct access to government ministers.

At the inaugural meeting of this Forum, I will seek the expansion of the executive powers available to the Mayor of Limerick, enabling the Mayor to tackle the problems facing Limerick effectively.

City Centre

The city centre in Limerick has been underdeveloped, under-resourced, and under-promoted for years.

The lack and cost of parking and the size of retail units are key concerns for city retailers and residents. As part of my Mayoral Programme, I will organise a Forum of city stakeholders so that together we can create a



vision for a vibrant city. For too long, the needs of retailers and SMEs have been ignored when deciding on what is best for Limerick city.

Derelict buildings continue to devalue the image of the city and has made the city less attractive for day visitors. We need to change that. As someone who has managed a business in the city for many years, I understand the challenges that our local businesses face. I will ensure that our city is clean and well-kept and that we invest in improving public spaces and the environment to make it a better place to live and visit.



Revitalisation of our rural towns and villages

Rural towns and villages don't get a fair deal. Public transport is not working to its full potential in the county towns and villages. Bus connections are not frequent enough. Residents living in rural Limerick should not be disadvantaged because of where they choose to live.

On Rural life,

- ➔ **I pledge to work with An Garda Síochána to implement an effective community policing strategy for our rural villages and towns.**
- ➔ **I will champion the need for public transport providers to adequately connect our towns and villages.**
- ➔ **I will champion the need for adequate broadband quality throughout our rural communities.**



HEALTH

For too long the challenges facing University Hospital Limerick have been left unresolved. Emergency Departments were closed across the Midwest and the promised centre of excellence was never delivered at UHL.

The current government has continued to lag on the problem instead of investing to get ahead of it. This cannot continue. Limerick deserves a health plan and not more crisis-driven government responses. I am committed to using the inaugural Mayoral term, the influence, and the powers of the Mayoral office to address overcrowding and long waiting lists at University Hospital Limerick.

AS YOUR MAYOR, I WILL USE THE MAYORAL CONSULTATIVE FORUM TO PRESSURE THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH TO:

- ➔ **Deliver 288 acute inpatient beds at UHL.**
- ➔ **Deliver 24-hour urgent care at St. John's Hospital.**
- ➔ **End the HSE recruitment embargo so that we can expand staffing across primary, community, and hospital services.**
- ➔ **Deliver home support hours and a fair share of 1,200 community beds, including at public nursing homes and local step-down facilities.**
- ➔ **Reinstate the Pathfinder Programme for rapid response for older people.**

There are significant gaps in out-of-hour mental health services.

Existing services are doing what they can, but the availability of out-of-hour services must be standardised, as your Mayor, I will work tirelessly to establish the long-awaited yet undelivered 24/7 de-escalation unit in Limerick. Too often mental health has been treated as the poor cousin of care. The failure to tackle the everyday challenges that those facing mental issues face, has had a terminal impact. Too often in Limerick, we have witnessed the devastating impact of suicide and self-harm.

- ➔ **As Mayor I will champion the cause of mental health advocacy, and work with mental health professionals and community support groups to highlight this area of health and promote the safe and prompt treatment of mental health patients I will use the influence of the role to ensure that mental health support groups are listened to in the highest echelons of government.**
- ➔ **Rural, Traveller and Disadvantaged communities are particularly underserved in terms of access to mental health out-of-hour services.**
- ➔ **As a director of the Midwest Regional Drugs and Alcohol Forum, I have seen**



first-hand the devastation that drugs and addiction cause to individuals, families, and entire communities, in both the city and county. While policing and tackling organised crime are important, well-funded addiction services are the cornerstone of addressing addiction. If elected as Mayor on June 7th, I commit to promoting the work of addiction and outreach services, lobbying for increased funding for their work, and supporting local groups through the Mayoral programme.

HOUSING

The election of a Directly Elected Mayor is an opportunity to address the Housing crisis throughout Limerick. The Mayor will have a responsibility for putting forward a housing strategy for Limerick and ensuring its delivery.

People across Limerick are being locked out of home ownership with the average cost of a three-bed semi-detached home in Limerick costing €290,000, while a similar house in the county costs €237,500. The Real Estate Alliance anticipates these figures rising by 5% in 2024.

Limerick City & County Council can play a significant role in moving people out of homelessness and into long-term stable accommodation.

As Mayor I will complete the regeneration programme on housing throughout Limerick City.

Rent

The cost of rental properties in Limerick City and County remains unsustainably high. Quarter 4 of 2023 showed that the cost of rentals in Limerick City rose by 22% year on year, while in the county they grew by 4.6%. This is not sustainable. With the average rent standing at €1,412 per month in the city, it is near impossible for a young adult to live an independent life while trying to save for their own home.

My priority will be to prepare council housing more efficiently and speed up the provision of more social and affordable housing.

TO ADDRESS THE HOUSING CRISIS, I COMMIT TO:

- ➔ **Implementing a strategy to deliver social and affordable housing for the people of Limerick.**
- ➔ **Putting the housing needs of the people of Limerick at the centre of long-term plans to drive the economic and spatial development of Limerick including the county development plan.**
- ➔ **Turning council housing stock around faster, which will have an immediate impact on waiting lists.**
- ➔ **Speeding up the conversion of derelict properties to provide families with accommodation.**



- ➔ **Putting in place a Housing Officer to help residents navigate the complex grant landscape.**
- ➔ **Working with our resolute and experienced homeless accommodation groups and the Department of Housing to develop a follow-up to the Midwest Regional Action Plan (2022-2025).**
- ➔ **Ensuring that vacant properties are repurposed speedily, so they are not left as eyesores in our communities.**

Student Accommodation

The county of Limerick is privileged to host an array of third-level institutions. With over 30,000 students in third-level education and a further 15,000 students in post-leaving cert or further education courses, this ever-increasing number requires Limerick to act fast to address the student accommodation crisis the city is facing. The unsustainability of the current student accommodation delivery model is failing students across Limerick.

The blame for this student accommodation crisis cannot be put fully on the Universities themselves as they are required to operate within the confines of a delivery model which is clearly broken. The failure around the delivery of student accommodation mirrors the wider failure of the housing sector.

As your Mayor, I will engage with student representatives and education providers to seek a new model of delivery to address the current shortage in Limerick.

TRANSPORT

Public transport should be affordable, safe, and dependable. Unfortunately, in Limerick, the system often does not obtain these necessities. I am proud of my work in progressing the Coonagh-Knockalisheen Road project.

One of the positions afforded to the new Mayor is to be chairperson of the Transport Subgroup meeting with the Minister for Transport.

- ➔ **I will use this position to work on the construction of the Northern Distributor Road. This road is of vital importance to Limerick and if constructed, would alleviate traffic congestion in the city while providing a quick link between Limerick City's northside and the University in Castletroy. The decision to exclude this piece of infrastructure from the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy was a retrograde step.**
- ➔ **I will ensure that the maintenance of rural roads is prioritised.**
- ➔ **Due to the extreme shortage of student accommodation, the city is seeing an extreme increase of traffic due to students commuting to and from college. As Mayor, I would commit to engaging with student bodies and the relevant third-level authorities to put a plan in place to address this issue.**

Bus Services

- ➔ **Bus services, particularly in rural areas, are too infrequent to allow commuters to depend on the service. As your Mayor, I will look to collaborate with public bodies and local communities to deliver a dependable bus service that consistently serves our towns and villages.**



Rail Services

- ➔ **Progress has been made in delivering an intra-county rail service. I will push to see this rail project in Limerick completed and expanded. Lines such as the Castleconnell to Colbert Station route must be enhanced with a more frequent service delivered.**
- ➔ **The completion of a rail link between Limerick and the regional airport in Shannon is important for the future economic development of Limerick and I will work to ensure this is delivered.**

ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT

Limerick has been under-developed, under-resourced, and under-promoted for years. Furthermore, the potential of the city as a gateway to the Wild Atlantic Way and the region as a tourism destination needs to be marketed more widely, building on events such as the Ryder Cup 2027.

For too long the needs of retailers and SMEs have been ignored when deciding on what is best for Limerick city. I want to change that. If elected I will:

- ➔ **Organise a Forum of city stakeholders so that together we can create a vision for a new and vibrant city.**
- ➔ **Make more effective use of council resources to improve the attractiveness of Limerick City as a destination for day visitors, including better signposting and family-friendly amenities.**
- ➔ **Tackle dereliction by transforming sites into accommodation and live/work units so that the city becomes more vibrant.**
- ➔ **Lobby for Limerick to have a voice on all national and regional economic development initiatives so that Limerick can capture its fair share of investments.**
- ➔ **Meet with international investors to actively seek out investment opportunities that deliver high quality jobs.**





THE COUNCIL

The Mayoral position came out of dissatisfaction with the way the council is operating – it has a default position of ‘no’ and I want to change this culture. This is an opportunity to move toward a ‘working for the citizens’ mindset. I will be a Mayor for the people. Until now too much power has been in the hands of unelected officials who have not responded to the needs of the people of Limerick. I will meet regularly with local communities and representative groups to get their input on how this office will work best for them.

TOURISM

As a gateway city to Ireland’s Wild Atlantic Way and with a vibrant tourism sector, I will collaborate with all stakeholders to ensure we maximise the potential of Limerick as host for The Ryder Cup 2027

- **I will work in partnership with all tourism agencies and trade groups to ensure Limerick continues to be the destination of choice for conference, event, and leisure tourists.**
- **I will ensure we capitalise on existing infrastructure and work towards having a multi-purpose event centre of scale in Limerick as per the Shannon Estuary Taskforce.**
- **I will work with the Shannon Airport group to ensure national aviation policy is updated and that Shannon Airport is supported to grow capacity enabling the Midwest to become a sustainable tourism destination.**
- **Further the development of The Limerick Greenway including scoping the feasibility of connecting it to Shannon Airport.**
- **As Mayor I will not only reintroduce but enhance Limerick City’s Street ambassador’s tourist guide initiative. Having the presence of our local community is crucial in fostering a vibrant and thriving Limerick city for our visitors.**

POLICING AND

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Crime continues to impact the quality of life in Limerick City and County, affecting the region’s image and its ability to develop our economic potential fully. As a member of the Joint Policing Committee, I understand the pressures facing businesses and communities.

IF ELECTED, I COMMIT TO:

- **Working with An Garda Síochána to increase their visibility throughout the city centre and our towns and villages.**
- **Reviewing the location of CCTV cameras, to ensure that they are best deployed.**
- **The expansion of the mandate of the Mayor to cover convening and chairing the Joint Policing Committee or its successor.**



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Quinlivan **1**

**MAURICE
FOR
MAYOR**



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