



**Miontuairisci agus Chruinnithe den**  
**Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Luimnigh agus An Chláir**  
**Teach Marshal, Bóthar Tuar an Daill, Luimneach, V94 HAC4**  
**16 Meán Fómhair (September) 2025**  
**Ag 16:30**

**I Lathair /Present** Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon Chairperson, Ms. Ann Norton Deputy Chairperson (Online), Cllr. Antoinette Baker Bashua, Cllr. Michael Begley, Cllr. Peter Doyle (Online), Mr. Darren Feldon, Ms. Jeannette Ferguson, Cllr. Rachel Hartigan, Ms. Kate Hehir, Cllr. Gabriel Keating, Mr. Conal Kelly (Online) Mr. Michael MacCurtain (Online), Mr. Sean McMahon. Cllr. Noreen Stokes.

**Executive** Ms. Bernadette Cullen, Chief Executive, Mr. Eamon Murphy, Director of Organisation Support & Development, Ms. Breda Flynn, Director of Organisation Support & Development, Mr. Donncha O'Treasaigh, Director of Schools, Ms. Columba Glavin, Head of Finance, Mr. Denis O'Brien, Head of Corporate Services & IT, Mr. Gearoid Herbert, Corporate Services & IT and Ms. Caroline Hayes, Corporate Services.

**1. Preliminary**

**1.1 Conflicts of interest**

The Board was requested to declare any conflicts of interest in respect of any matters listed on the agenda.

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

**1.2 Attendance/apologies/condolences**

The attendance was noted, and a quorum verified.

The Chairperson Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Apologies** Cllr. John Sheahan, Ms. Claire Knight, Mr. Adrian O'Hanlon  
Mr. Paul Patton, Director of Further Education and Training

**In absentia** Cllr. Maria Donoghue, Cllr. Mary Howard, Cllr. Catherine Slattery, Cllr. Brigid Teefy.

## Condolences

- Ms. Eukaria O'Grady, St. Annes' Community College, Killaloe, on the death of her father, Mr. Paschal O'Grady.
- Ms. Catherine Jordan, Limerick and Clare Education Board, Ennis Office, Station Road, on the death of her father, Mr. Columba Jordan.
- Ms. Maura Killeen, College of Further Education and Training Mulgrave Street Campus, on the death of her mother, Mrs. Anne (Nancy) Killeen.
- Ms. Miriam Gallagher Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, Head Office, Marshal House, on the death of her father, Mr. John Gallagher.
- Ms. Joan Collins, Colaiste Ide agus Iosef, Abbeyfeale, on the death of her father, William (Billy) O'Donnell.
- Ms. Deirdre Denning, St Annes Killaloe Community College, on the death of her sister, Ms. Joan Pakeman.
- Ms. Siobhan Conway, Thomond Community College, on the death of her husband, Mr Paraic Shaughnessy.
- Ms. Rebekah Moran, Thomond Community College, on the death of her father, Mr Martin Moore.
- Ms. Fiona Hayes, College of Further Education and Training, Kilrush Campus, on the death of her father, Mr Hubert Hayes.
- Mr. Robert Ward, Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, Head Office, Marshal House, on the death of his mother in law, Doreen O'Loughlin.
- Mr. Ivan Tuohy, College of Further Education and Training Hospitality Campus, on the death of his father, Noel Tuohy.
- Ms. Rosarie Irwin, Colaiste Ide agus Iosef Abbeyfeale, on the death of her mother Ms Mary (Minnie) Finucane.
- Ms. Rosemarie Hurley on the death of her brother, Maurice Hurley, former Principal of St John Bosco Community School, Kildysart.
- Ms. Linda Cregan (St. Michaels Community College Kilmihil) and Ms. Elaine Connellan , Scariff Community College, on the death of their brother, Keith Connellan
- Ms. Noreen Meagher, Scariff Community College, on the death of her mother, Norita O'Boyle.
- Ms Josephine Dempsey, College of Further Education and Training, Ennis Campus, on the death of her brother Mr. Martin Tubridy and her brother in law, Mr Noel Normoyle.

- Ms. Vinnie Normoyle, College of Further Education and Training, Ennis Campus – retired, on the death of her husband, Mr Noel Normoyle
- Ms Louise Kearney, College of Further Education and Training, Raheen Campus, on the death of her sister, Ms. Sharon Kearney.
- Ms Siobhan Brangwyn, College of Further Education and Training, Ennis Campus, on the death of her father, Mr. Philip Fahy.
- Ms Lynne Brislane, College of Further Education and Training, Kilmallock Road Campus, on the death of her father, Mr. Reginald (Reggie) Brislane.
- Ms. Ide Trant, Colaiste Mhuire Askeaton, on the death of her mother, Ms. Goretti Trant.
- Ms. Maura Killeen, College of Further Education and Training, Mulgrave Street Campus, on the death of her mother, Ms. Anne (Nancy) Killeen.
- Ms. Claire Sheehan, Desmond College, on the death of her aunt, Ms. Maryann Dillane.
- Mr Diarmuid Whelan, College of Further Education and Training, Raheen Campus, on the death of his uncle, Mr. Georgie Whelan.
- Ms. Mary Leahy, Hazelwood College, on the death of her partner, Mr. Timmy Collins.
- The family of the late Nicholas Jackman, predeceased by Cllr. Mary Jackman retired member of Limerick and Clare Education Training Board, Board member.
- The Family of the late Councillor Patrick Gerard Murphy, former President of ETBI.

### **1.3 Limerick and Clare Minutes**

The minutes of Limerick and Clare ETB meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2025 which were circulated to all prior to the meeting were adopted.

Proposed by: Cllr. Gabriel Keating

Seconded by: Mr. Sean McMahon

### **1.4 Matters arising**

None.

## **2. Information and Communication**

The Chief Executive advised members that Circular letters from the Department of Education and Youth was included in members packs circulated prior to the meeting for their information.

The Chief Executive noted the extensive news releases by the ETB showcasing many of the opportunities available to students and learners.

### **2.3 Commitment to support the Primary Initial Teacher Education Tertiary pathway**

The Chief Executive remarked that The Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science and the Department of Education had written regarding their commitment to supporting the development of the Primary Initial Teacher Education Tertiary Degree Programme.

The Programme for Government commits to working to increase diversity within the teaching profession. The aim of this new pathway is to support access for excellent potential teachers, who may be unable to access the profession through existing routes. This proposed degree would consist of a foundation year, delivered in an ETB, satisfactory completion of which would guarantee entry into the undergraduate primary programme. Resources for this programme will be included in the budget submission from DFHERIS for 2026.

### **2.4 SOLAS Revised FET Funding for 2025**

The Chief Executive updated members re the revised allocation from SOLAS, following the June meeting and further requests regarding projected spends. A total budget of €96.172m up from an allocation of €94.972m, an increase of €1.199m. This increase is based on the ETB's return in July 2025 and the forecasted costs for the remainder of the year to deliver the revised schedule of phase 2 provision and training allowances costs at phase 6.

All elements of Further Education and Training Services have been impacted due to the restriction on funding. This has involved numerous meetings of FET and OSD Finance staff to ensure we will stay within the allocated budget for 2025 and to minimise the impact on learners.

SOLAS has informed ETBs that 2026 will be another challenging year financially with a projected increase of 3-5%, which will require LCETB to evaluate value for money, effectiveness and learner outcomes to ensure best use of our limited resources.

A copy of this letter is included in members packs for their information.

A team from SOLAS will be visiting Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board on Thursday 2 October to discuss the roll out of the College of the Future in Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.

The Chairperson noted that Ministers are publicly stating the need for a more skilled workforce, and finds it disappointing that this situation has arisen. ETBI should be proactively engaging with the relevant departments to highlight the shortfall in funding and its impact on provision in sectors where there is a shortage of skilled labour.

Following detailed consideration, the Chairperson proposed writing to the Minister to express dissatisfaction with the reduction in resources and the impact on provision in Limerick and Clare.

### **2.5 Charities Regulator Common Investment Fund**

(a) C1240 Limerick Endowment for Technical Education

(b) C0790 Limerick Endowment for Technical Education

The Head of Corporate Services, informed members that the Education and Training Board (ETB) has received correspondence from the Charities Regulatory Authority regarding assets held in trust on behalf of Limerick and Clare ETB. It was noted that the exact value of the trust is currently unknown.

As part of our obligations under the European Union (Anti-Money Laundering: Beneficial Ownership of Trusts) Regulations 2021, The ETB, have received a formal notice from the Charities Regulatory Authority.

This notice relates to assets held in the Common Investment Fund (CIF) which are held on trust for the ETB. We qualify as a “relevant trust” under the legislation and now Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board is required to complete a form confirming the type of trust the ETB falls under.

To proceed, the ETB is required to complete specific documentation, which includes providing Board Members, Full name, Date of Birth, Nationality, Residential Address, and PPS Number.

This information is required to be submitted to the Central Register of Beneficial Ownership of Trusts (CRBOT) which is operated by the Revenue Commissioners. The purpose is to ensure transparency and prevent misuse of charitable assets for money laundering or other illicit activities.

We are legally mandated to supply this information and failure to do so may result in penalties under the Regulations.

Section 29 of the Education and Training Boards Act 2013 allows ETBs to “accept a gift of money, land or other property...or act as trustees of any trust or charity.... for purposes connected with the functions of the board”.

A representative from either the Corporate Services or Finance Department will be in touch with members to gather the necessary information to access the trust.

## **2.6 Irish Public Bodies 'A' Constitution - Summary of Changes**

The Summary of the Changes were included in members packs for their information. The Chairperson noted that Cllr. Mary Howard is the Board’s nominee to IPB.

## **2.7 Presentation by Director of Schools on Special Education Provision in Limerick and Clare ETB**

The Director of School delivered a detailed presentation on Special Education Provision within the ETB. The presentation highlighted the inclusive nature of ETB schools and their commitment to delivering high-quality student experiences. A key part of the ETBs ethos is equality, one of our 5 core values as well as excellence, care community and respect that are implemented through the ETB’s patron’s framework.

It was noted that students with special educational needs are integrated into mainstream classrooms, receiving additional support as appropriate. The Director also outlined the key roles played by ETB School Leaders and SENCOs in leading support for these students across community colleges, with ongoing assistance provided by the Schools Division Support Team.

The Chairperson extended congratulations to the Director of Schools and expressed sincere appreciation to all staff for their exemplary work in this area. He further noted his pride in being part of an organisation that is dedicated to supporting families facing a range of challenges.

Ms. Ann Norton expressed appreciation to the Director of Schools for the presentation and acknowledged the benefits of integration across schools. Ms. Norton raised concerns regarding the Department of Education's support, particularly the lack of adequate resources such as sensory rooms, which are essential for supporting students with special education needs. It was emphasised that schools should not be pressured to open new classrooms without proper facilities. The Board agreed on the need to advocate more strongly with the Department of Education to ensure standards are met. Additionally, the urgent need for a dedicated Special School in the Clare area was highlighted, due to long travel times for students. The value of the Limerick Special School in Limerick was acknowledged, and the board committed to seeking more resources to support SEN in the region.

The need for additional schools in areas is identified by Department of Education and Youth and National Council for Special Education.

## **2.8 Parliamentary Questions**

The question and reply were included in members packs for their information.

## **3. Reports from the Executive**

### **4.1 Key operational matters update**

The Reports from the Executive (Chief Executive, Directors of Organisation Support & Development, Director Schools, Director of Further Education and Training) were circulated to all members prior to the meeting for their consideration. All reports were taken as read and are held on file for record purposes.

#### **(a) Overview by Chief Executive**

##### **Update on the Approval for Expansion of Aircraft Apprenticeship**

The Chief Executive updated Members on the exciting development that was noted at the June meeting, Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board has received approval to lease Bay 88 in Shannon Properties. This will enable the number of training places for aircraft apprentices to double from 79 in 2024 up to 160. Work is continuing at pace, with our capital, FET and Human Resources teams, to ensure we are in a position to deliver on this commitment.

##### **Reconfiguration Multi-Denominational Patronage Survey**

The Department of Education and Youth presented to Chief Executives and Directors of Schools on 3 September, on the planned surveying of parents. This survey is due to take place in the third quarter and will be administered to 0-12 year olds parents/guardians, through an on-line survey. Parents votes will be associated with the school their child currently attends or where they intend to send their children. The survey will explore the demand for co-education, multi-denominational and Irish language medium provision.

It is intended that Minister McEntee will launch the school survey in quarter 3 by, the survey will be a National online school specific survey, which will incorporate surveying of staff and Boards of Management as well. Each individual school will receive a report on the responses within its school community. If there is sufficient interest in changing patronage local facilitation and competitions will be held.

The Chief Executive and Director and Schools will meet with Bishop Monahan in September and a similar meeting will be planned with Bishop Leahy.

#### **(b) Report from Directors of OSD items are addressed in other parts of the agenda.**

#### **(c) The Director of Schools, Mr. Donncha O'Treasaigh congratulated all the Leaving and Junior Cert students and wished them all the best in their future endeavours.**

#### **(d) Report from Director of FET- The Director of FET was not in attendance the report was taken as read.**

## **4.2 Financial Matters**

### **(a) Finance Report**

Ms. Columba Glavin Head of Finance took members through the Financial Report, as circulated to all prior to the meeting, for the period from 1 January to 31 August 2025. This reported detailed the cash position, receipts and payments year to 31 August 2025 and expenditure by category. Ms. Glavin raised concerns in relation to school budgets if Cost of Living Grants are not extended for this upcoming academic year.

Following due consideration the Finance Report was adopted.

Proposed by: Cllr. Gabriel Keating

Seconded by: Mr. Michael Begley

### **4.2 (b) Audit Update Report**

Ms. Glavin took members through the Report on Audits, as circulated to all prior to the meeting. Ms. Glavin provided an update on the status of the Comptroller and Auditor General audit for the year ended 31 December 2024. Ms. Glavin also provided an update on the open Internal Audit Unit (IAU) audits. It was noted that a report is pending from the IAU on:

- (i) Rental of Temporary Accommodation, Travel and Subsistence and Hospitality and Gifts
- (ii) Music Generation Review

It was further noted that the review on Previous Audit Findings is ongoing at this time.

### **4.2 (c) Report from the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 13 June 2025**

Was tabled before the meeting for information purposes.

### **4.2 (d) Report from the Finance Committee meeting held on 23 June 2025**

Was tabled before the meeting for information purposes.

### **4.2 (e) A report on Education Shared Business Services/Other Finance Projects including Travel & Subsistence Payments was circulated to all prior to the meeting.**

Detailed discussions took place in relation to the new People XD Travel & Subsistence System and the challenges associated with the implementation of this mandated system from ESBS. The Executive will consider the concerns raised, however the system must be implemented.

### **4.2 (f) Donations received by the ETB.**

Deferred until November meeting.

## **5. Committee Minutes**

### **5.1 Minutes from the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 19 March 2025**

Were tabled before the meeting for approval.

Proposed by: Mr. Sean McMahon

Seconded by: Cllr. Noreen Stokes

## **5.2 Minutes from the Finance Committee meeting held on 24 March 2025**

Were tabled before the meeting for approval.

Proposed by: Cllr. Michael Begley

Seconded by: Mr. Darren Feldon

## **6. Governance & Publications**

### **6.1 Risk Management Overview of Key Risks May, 2025**

Mr. Denis O'Brien, Head of Corporate Services and ICT, outlined the current risks on the risk register and noted that in Quarter 2, one Risk moved to a higher rating and two additional Risks were added to the Risk Register;

New Risk 1 - This relates to Music Generation Services as Regeneration funding is being reduced. We are moving from cash matching to funding for Music Generation.

New Risk 2- The use of Artificial Intelligence in our organisation including Schools and Further Education and Training Campus.

Mr. Denis O'Brien explained that the current Risk of Further Education and Training underfunding increased from rosé to red on the Organisational Risk Register.

The Chairperson thanked the Head of Corporate Affairs for the overview of key risks.

### **6.2 New legislation and circulars as per schedule circulated**

This was noted by Members.

## **7. Other Reserved Functions**

### **7.1 Update on Lease**

None

### **7.2 Nomination of Cllr. Rita Mc Inerney to the Board of management in Kilkee Community College to replace Mr. Paul Moroney.**

Proposed by: Cllr. Michael Begley

Seconded by: Cllr. Gabriel Keating

## **8 Members Business/Questions**

### **8.1 ETBI Conference scheduled for 9th October 2025 in the Slieve Russell Hotel, Cavan.**

Nominees' names have been sent to ETBI and all event details including Agenda have been issued to delegates in advance of the Conference.

### **8.2 Phase 3 Governance Training**

Chairperson of Boards training was held on Friday 12th September 2025 at 10.30am in ETBI, Chairperson, Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon attended. The Chairperson raised the lack of regular meetings for Chairpersons.

### **8.3 IPB Insurance Extraordinary General Meeting scheduled for Friday, 3rd October**

Cllr. Mary Howard is the Boards Nominee and detail of the EGM have been issued in advance of the meeting.

## 9. AOB with the permission of the Chairperson

### Matters arising from the meeting

Members raised again their concerns and frustration with accessibility of the new Travel and Substance payment system.

The Chief Executive explained that this is the mandated system by ESBS it was a decision made by the Department of Education and Youth.

Mr. Sean McMahon raised the issue of the allowance for Members to sit on interview boards.

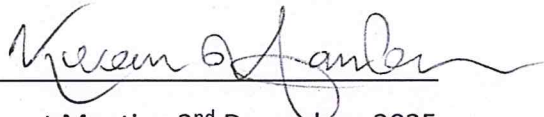
Cllr. Rachel Hartigan suggested to draft a motion to the TDs in the Clare Area to ask Minister Lawless to visit the ETB to discuss the concerns of the Board.

### 10. Date, Time and location of Next meeting

That concluded the business of the meeting. Chairperson, Cllr Kieran O'Hanlon thanked everyone for their input and attendance

Members were advised that the next meeting of the Board would take place on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2025 at 4:30pm, location to be confirmed.

Signed



Chairperson at Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2025