



**Miontuairisci agus Chruinnithe den**  
**Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Luimnigh agus An Chláir**  
**Teach Marshal, Bóthar Tuar an Daill, Luimneach, V94 HAC4**  
**2ú Nollaig, (December) 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, Mr. Darren Feldon, Ms. Jeannette Ferguson, (Online) Cllr. Gabriel Keating, Mr. Conal Kelly, Ms. Claire Knight (Online), Mr. Michael MacCurtain, Mr. Sean McMahon. Cllr. Noreen Stokes, Mr. Adrian O'Hanlon (Online), Cllr. Brigid Teefy (Online)

**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, 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. Peter Doyle, Cllr. Rachel Hartigan, Ms. Kate Hehir, Cllr. Mary Howard  
Mr. Paul Patton, Director of Further Education and Training

**In absentia** Cllr. Maria Donoghue, Cllr. Catherine Slattery, Cllr. John Sheahan

## **Condolences**

- The Family of the later Ms. Helen Owens (retired staff member, Station Road)
- Ms Nicola Nolan (Desmond College, Newcastlewest) on the death of her brother in law, Mr Pa Nolan.
- Ms Jane Tiernan (Further Education & Training Campus Abbeyfeale and O'Connell Ave) on the death of her father, Mr Maurice Clarke
- Ms. Mary Ita Casey (Colaiste na Trocaire, Rathkeale) on the death of her father, Mr. William (Bill) Casey.
- Ms. Fiona Nelligan (Hazelwood College, Dromcollogher) on the death of her grandmother, Ni Nengah Sukrini.
- Ms. Caroline M O'Brien (Marshal House) on the death of her father, Mr. Stephen Curtin.
- Mr. Vincent O'Dwyer (Further Education & Training Campus, Croom) on the death of his brother, Mr. Christopher O'Dwyer.
- Ms. Breda O'Donnell (Further Education & Training Campus, Scariff) on the death of her daughter in law, Ms. Rosemarie O'Donnell.
- The Donnellan family (husband Niall, son Andrew and daughter Clodagh) on the death of Helen Donnellan Administration staff (Further Education & Training Campus, Kilmallock Town).
- Mr. Alan Tuohy (Principal Raheenwood Community National School) on the death of his father in law, Mr. Vincent Callinan.
- Ms. Mary Kate Murphy Hanley (Coláiste Chiaráin, Croom) on the death of her father, Gerry Murphy.
- Ms. Ciara Ní Dhrisceoil (Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh) on the death of her mother, Carol O'Driscoll.
- Ms. Marie Therese Carroll (Further Education and Training Scariff Campus) on the death of her father-in-law, Donal Carey.
- The family of the late Syl Barrett former Principal of Kilkee Community College.

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

The minutes of Limerick and Clare ETB meeting held on 16 September, 2025 which were circulated to all prior to the meeting were adopted.

Proposed by: Cllr. Noreen Stokes

Seconded by: Cllr. Gabriel Keating

### **1.4 Matters arising**

At the start of the meeting the Chairperson raised again the issue with the Travel claim system for members and highlighted his frustration with the Department of Education and Youth and ETBI.



The Chief Executive explained that this is the mandated system by ESBS, the Executive did express its concerns about the functionality of the system, however the decision of ESBS was to implement the new system for all ETBs.

The Chairperson expressed his frustration with the Department and ETBI on the issue of expenses and interview rates and it was agreed that he will write to the Department regarding the lack of progress on this issue.

## **2. Information and Communication**

The Chief Executive advised members that Circular letters from the Department of Education and Youth are 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 SOLAS Revised FET Funding for 2025**

The Chief Executive advised that this matter will continue as a standing agenda item.

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board has received a revised allocation from SOLAS following the September Board meeting. An additional €310,000 has been allocated, comprising €300,000 to support the projected increase in aircraft apprentices and €10,000 for the Adult Literacy for Life Strategy. The total SOLAS budget for 2025 is 96,482m. The budgeting process has been very challenging this year, with the delays in issuing the budget. The Finance Department has regular meetings with centre managers over the year. The current financial situation is projecting an underspend. This is not a position that the Executive or Board want to be in as a number of courses were cancelled earlier in the year. Board members expressed their concerns regarding a projected underspend and requested an update at the next Board Meeting.

From an executive perspective, we are reviewing the budgeting practices to put in place a more effective system in to the future. Our Finance team are in the process of developing a budget monitoring process aligned to the five funding pots which will form the basis of our financial planning and engagement with our centre managers. In addition to this Organisation Support and Development Directorate will support and have more oversight of financial planning in FET. A working group including external expertise will be established to guide this process, which will include training and support for centre managers.

Mr. Adrian O'Hanlon queried if the underspend could be used towards Continuous Professional Development in the Further Education and Training Area.

The Director of Organisation Support & Development informed members that there is a new policy being developed around support for staff in CPD.

A copy of the final letter of allocation has been included in members' packs for information.

### **2.4 Education and Training Boards Ireland Education measures – Budget 2026**

The Chief Executive informed members on correspondence received from Education and Training Boards Ireland with some of the key Education areas in Budget 2026 including the Department of Education and Youth will receive funding of €13.1bn for 2026, an increase of 1,042 teacher posts, in addition to the existing DEIS programme, a new scheme called DEIS+ will target schools with the highest levels of educational disadvantage. This correspondence is in members packs circulated prior to the meeting for their information.

## **2.5 Education Survey**

The Director of Schools gave a presentation on the Survey that Primary School Parents asked to take part in a survey on the future of primary education in relation to denominational or multidenominational, co-education and language-based preferences.

Parents and guardians of children 0-12 who are either in or yet to start in primary school, as well as primary school staff and boards of management have been asked to take part in the survey which went live on 2 November until 16 December.

The Chief Executive noted that it is an opportunity to ensure our schools, in the future, reflect the diverse society we now live in. We would encourage parents, school staff, and boards of management to take time to complete the survey, and to access the resources and information provided by the Department of Education.

Further information about the Schools Survey 2030 currently being run by the Department of Education is available at <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/campaigns/primary-school-survey>

A copy of the press release issued to all LCETB staff is included in the meeting pack and circulated prior to the meeting for their information.

## **2.6 Charities Regulator Common Investment Fund**

The Chief Executive updated members that we are still waiting for one member to complete the requested details prior to gaining access to the Funds. The Chief Executive on the approval of members will write to the member to request the required details.

## **3.1 Parliamentary Questions**

None.

## **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**

The ETB has received SOLAS approval for Gate 2 at Bay 88, as confirmed in the documentation included in your pack. This marks a significant milestone in our plan to double the number of aircraft apprentices in 2026. Approval allows us to proceed to tender for the proposed works, valued at €4,592,372.49. The Chief Executive congratulated the Capital and Further Education and Training teams for driving this important project forward.

ETBs have received correspondence from Minister Lawless and SOLAS regarding the transfer of curriculum development and assessment responsibilities from SOLAS to Higher Education Institutes (HEIs).

SOLAS is to respond to the Minister's correspondence by the end of November. A working group of Department and SOLAS officials, HEI, ETBs will be formed to plan this transfer. SOLAS will retain its statutory function funding the operational and capital costs. The envisaged timeframe for this transfer is with sign off on the plan by the end of 2025 with delivery by end of quarter 1 2025.



A copy of this correspondence is included in the meeting pack

The ETB has been notified that REALT team staffing will be reduced to the coordinator post only for 2026. The Director of Schools confirmed that the ETB have appealed this allocation, as the number of Ukrainian students in our region remains high. He also informed members that Kilkee Community College would be on the RTE news again that evening, as Ireland welcomes the Ukrainian President.

Following discussions at the September Board meeting, an online session was held with the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Senior Management Team, and Oireachtas members to review progress on key projects delivered to date, opportunities and strategic plans for the coming years.

Oireachtas members expressed appreciation and requested that this becomes an annual engagement. The Chairperson confirmed that it was a very successful meeting a two way communication an opportunity for them to raise questions with Chairperson and the Executive, they asked to be updated on future plans.

A copy of the presentation is included in members pack for their information.

#### **b. Report from Directors of Organisation and Support**

The Director of Organisation and Support informed members that the ETB had been approached by Limerick Twenty Thirty to consider if the Board would support the proposed Cleeves Riverside Quarter site which will have a world-class mixed-use development including residential, commercial, cultural, community, and educational spaces.

The Board approved support for the project. A letter of support will be sent on behalf of the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.

### **4.2 Financial Matters**

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

The Director of Organisation and Support took members through the Financial Report, as circulated to all prior to the meeting, for the period from 1 January to 21 October, 2025. This reported detailed the cash position, receipts and payments year to date.

Following due consideration the Finance Report was adopted.

Proposed by: Antoinette Barker Basu

Seconded by: Gaberial Keating

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

Members were advised that the audit is expected to conclude in the coming weeks and no significant issues have been identified to date.

#### **4.2 (c) Report from the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 23 October**

Was tabled before the meeting for information purposes.

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

Was tabled before the meeting for information purposes.

#### **4.2 (e) Education Shared Business Services (ESBS)/Other Finance Projects including Travel & Subsistence (T&S) payments**

This item was addressed at the start of the meeting under Matters Arising, where members discussed Travel & Subsistence Payments system.

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

The Director of Organisation and Support updated members on donations received by the ETB that two donations were received. Music Generation Clare received €7,000 towards the cost of "All Aboard the West Clare" recording in Windmill Lane Studios in Dublin in June 2025 from Bill Whelan, of Cloonisle Media. Mungret Community College received €10,000 from Past Pupils of Mungret College that marked 50 years since the school's closure.

### **5. Committee Minutes**

#### **5.1 Minutes from the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held 13 June and 23 October**

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 23 June 2025**

Were tabled before the meeting for approval.

Proposed by: Cllr. Michael Begley

Seconded by: Mr. Conal Kelly

### **6. Governance & Publications**

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

Mr. Denis O'Brien, Head of Corporate Services and ICT advised members that there have been no new risks added to the risk register since the last meeting one existing risk's rating was upgraded and members were asked to ensure the confidentiality of this information.

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

This was noted by Members.

### **7. Other Reserved Functions**

a. Update on Lease of Additional Space at Bay 88 Shannon Industrial Estate for Aircraft Apprenticeship.

Noted.

b. Administrative Offices, Station Road, Ennis, Co. Clare

c. College of Further Education and Training, Kilrush Campus, Cooraclare Road, Kilrush, Co. Clare

d. College of Further Education and Training, O' Connell Avenue Campus, Technical Institute, O' Connell Avenue, Limerick.

The Director of Organisation and Support provided members with the background the of the various cost and lengths of above leases, they are being included now as during the course of the First Registration process it has come to light that there are historic leases in place for these buildings. The ETB have been advised by the Department of Education and Youth , ETB Financial, Administrative and



Personnel Unit that retrospective sanction is required in order to seek historic leases approval by the Board to proceed with the leases of the above properties,

Were tabled before the meeting for approval.

First: Cllr. Michael Begley

Second: Antonette Barker Basu

**7.2 Nomination of Ms. Máire Nunan to the Board of Management in Mol an Óige Community National School in Ennistymon to replace Sean Cullinan.**

First: Mr. Sean McMahon

Second: Cllr. Noreen Stokes

**7.3 Nomination of Mr. Conor O'Hara, Parent Reprehensive to the Board of Management of Fedamore Community National School to replace Mr. Vlad Slapka.**

First: Cllr. Bridget Teefy

Second: Cllr. Noreen Stokes

**7.4 Appointment of Ms. Marie Bracken as Joint Member on both the Audit and Risk Committee and Finance Committee.**

First: Cllr. Gabriel Keating

Second: Cllr. Noreen Stokes

**7. Members Business/Questions**

None.

**8.1 Conference/Congress/Events**

None.

**8.2 Board Self-Assessment Questionnaire**

Noted.

**9. AOB with the permission of the Chairperson**

**Matters arising from the meeting**

None.

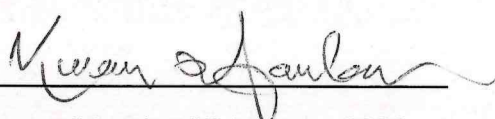
**10. Date, Time and location of Next meeting**

That concluded the business of the meeting. Chairperson, Cllr Kieran O'Hanlon thanked everyone for their input and attendance throughout the year and wished all members, ETB staff and families a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year.

A calendar of dates for 2026 board meetings will be issued in January for the year.

Members were advised that the next meeting of the Board would take place on 20 January, 2026 at 4:30pm, location to be confirmed.

Signed



Chairperson at Meeting 27 January, 2026