



**Miontuairisci agus Chruinnithe den**  
**Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Luimnigh agus An Chláir**  
**Teach Marshal, Bóthar Tuar an Daill, Luimneach, V94 HAC4**  
**ar an 19 Feabhra 2026**  
**Ag 16:30**

**I Lathair /Present** Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon Chairperson, Cllr. Antoinette Baker Bashua (Online), Cllr. Michael Begley, Cllr. Peter Doyle, Mr. Darren Feldon, Ms. Jeannette Ferguson (Online), Cllr. Rachel Hartigan (Online), Cllr. Mary Howard, (Online), Cllr. Gabriel Keating, Ms. Claire Knight, Mr. Michael MacCurtain, Mr. Sean McMahon, Cllr. Noreen Stokes Cllr. Brigid Teefy.

**Executive** Ms. Bernadette Cullen, Chief Executive, Mr. Eamon Murphy, Director of Organisation Support & Development, Mr. Donncha O'Treasaigh, Director of Schools & Youth, Mr. Paul Patton, Director of Further Education and Training, Mr. Denis O'Brien, Head of Corporate Services & IT and Ms. Caroline Hayes, Corporate Services.

**1. Preliminary**

**1.1 Conflicts of interest**

None

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** Mr. Conal Kelly, Mr. Adrian O'Hanlon, Ms. Breda Flynn.

**In absentia** Cllr. Maria Donoghue, Ms. Kate Hehir, Ms. Ann Norton, Cllr. Catherine Slattery, Cllr. John Sheahan.

**1.2 Attendance/apologies/condolences**

The attendance was noted, and a quorum verified.

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

## Condolences

- Ms. Jeannette Ferguson (Board Member, of Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board) on the death of her brother, Mr. Charlie Auld.
- Mr Killian McCarthy (Hazelwood College, Dromcollogher) on the death of his father, Mr. Kiernan McCarthy.
- Mr Billy Allen (College of Further Education and Training, Mulgrave St Campus) on the death of his father, Mr. William (Bill) Allen.
- The Family of the late Ms. Leueen Hill, (College of Further Education and Training, Kilrush Campus)
- Mr Robert Ryan (College of Further Education and Training, Kilmallock Town Campus) on the death of his sister, Ms. Evelyn Ryan Buckley.
- Ms Rio McGonigle (College of Further Education and Training, Croom Campus) on the death of her aunt, Ms. Bridget Power.
- Ms Susan Reddan (College of Further Education and Training, Croom Campus) on the death of her uncle, Mr. Michael Reddan.
- The family of the late Anne Mordan (Former Laurel Hill Coláiste and Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board).
- Ms. Rachel Quantrell (Thomond Community College, Moylish Park) on the death of her mother, Ms. Anne Mordan.
- Ms. Olive Chute Burke and Mr. Mairtín Burke (Castletroy College) on the death of Olives father, Mr. Liam Chute.
- Mr. Eamon Murphy (Head Office, Marshal House) on the death of his mother-in-law, Ms. Phil O'Keeffe.
- Ms Louise Kearney (College of Further Education and Training, Raheen Campus) on the death of her mother, Ms. Molly Kearney.
- Mr Anthony Flynn (College of Further Education and Training, NZEB & Retrofitting Centre of Excellence, Roxboro) on the death of his father Mr. Anthony (Tony) Flynn.
- Mr. Eugene and Mrs Ann O'Reilly and family on the tragic death of their daughter, Ms. Áine O'Reilly.

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

The minutes of Limerick and Clare ETB meeting held on 27 January, 2026 which were circulated to all prior to the meeting were adopted.

Proposed by: Cllr. Gabriel Keating

Seconded by: Cllr. Noreen Stokes

### **1.4 Matters arising**

None.

## **2. Information and Communication**

The Chief Executive advised members that it has been another busy month across the organisation and the information in the meeting pack gives a flavour of the various events.

### **2.1 News Releases by Limerick and Clare ETB**

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

These correspondences are included in members packs circulated prior to the meeting for their information.

### **2.2 Department of Education and Youth Fortnightly Updates**

These correspondences are included in members packs circulated prior to the meeting for their information.

### **2.3 Solas FET Funding for 2026**

The Chief Executive told the board that the final allocation letter was received this week with regard to the FET and apprenticeship budget for 2026 and the Board now has all the information required to plan provision for 2026.

This correspondence is included in members packs circulated prior to the meeting for their information.

## **3 Parliamentary Questions**

None.

## **4 Reports from the Executive**

The Chief Executive briefed the Board on progress regarding the Convention on Education and National Conversation. Mr. Donncha O'Treasaigh, Director of Schools and Youth has commenced stakeholder engagement meetings, with the submission deadline set for 28 February. As part of this process, the Director is facilitating consultation sessions with school staff, senior management, and Boards of Management on 23 February in Ennis Community College and 25 February in Mungret Community College, including an Irish-language session

on both evenings. The Board noted that engagement sessions with the Student Council were completed last week and the feedback was positive.

The Director of Schools and Youth highlighted the following key developments:

- Five former students from our schools were among fifteen high-achieving Limerick students recognised by Trinity College Dublin with prestigious Entrance Exhibition Awards in acknowledgment of their exceptional Leaving Certificate results.
- Limerick Community Special School (LCSS) has been selected as one of 45 special schools nationwide to participate in the initial phase of the newly launched Education Therapy Service (ETS). This government-funded initiative launched by Ministers Hildegard Naughton and Anne Rabbitte, with support from Minister of State for Disability Thomas Moynihan will introduce integrated therapeutic services within school settings.

The Director of Further Education and Training reported the following:

- The Hospitality Campus, in partnership with iNua, has qualified to represent Ireland at the Culinary World Cup in Luxembourg this November. This marks the first instance of an industry–education partnership representing Ireland in this flagship international competition. Three staff members from the Hospitality Campus and three from iNua will participate, with a series of training events planned throughout the year.
- As part of the MSC Erasmus+ Programme 2025/2026, 23 learners from multiple MSC disciplines completed a two-week work placement in Málaga, Spain from 2–13 February. The placement enabled learners to apply and enhance the practical skills developed during their studies, gain valuable industry experience, and immerse themselves in a new cultural and linguistic environment. Overall, the mobility contributed significantly to their professional and personal development.

#### **4.2 Financial Matters**

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

Mr. Kevin Fitzpatrick, Head of Finance brief the Board on the ongoing projects with Education Shared Business Services (ESBS).

This information is included in members packs circulated prior to the meeting for their information.

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

The new circular letters were issued to Board members prior to the meeting were adopted.

Proposed by: Cllr. Noreen Stokes

Seconded by: Mr. Sean McMahon

## **7.1 2026 Service Plan**

Mr. Eamon Murphy, Director of Organisation Support & Development presented an overview of the 2026 Service Plan. The Plan builds upon the foundations of the 2022–2026 Strategy Statement, translating the organisation’s long-term strategic objectives into clear, actionable priorities for the coming year. It reaffirms the ETB’s commitment to delivering high-quality, responsive education and training that meets evolving learner needs, societal expectations, and economic demands.

The Director noted that the 2026 Service Plan reflects a progressive and innovative approach, informed by valuable input from across the organisation and wider community. The Plan sets out a structured framework for continuous stakeholder engagement, prioritises key needs, and defines measurable outcomes for which the ETB will be accountable. It also outlines the planned activities, expenditure, and income for 2026, developed in line with the funding allocation received.

The Director acknowledged the short review timeframe for Board members, explaining that the Plan had been approved by the Finance Committee earlier that day and is required to be submitted to the Department of Education and Youth by 28 February, in accordance with Section 27 of the Education Act.

Work is also commencing on the development of the 2027–2031 Strategy Statement. This will involve extensive consultation and collaboration with both internal and external stakeholders to ensure a shared and forward-looking vision for the next strategic cycle.

The Director highlighted that the timely receipt of the SOLAS allocation provides a positive foundation for planning in the year ahead. He concluded by thanking all staff involved in preparing the Service Plan.

Mr. Michael MacCurtain, Finance Committee Member, noted that the Service Plan had been discussed in detail at the Committee meeting earlier. He confirmed that the Committee was satisfied that clear linkages are evident across Organisation Support & Development, Schools, and Further Education and Training. On this basis, he expressed the Committee’s support for the Plan.

This document was circulated to all prior to the meeting was adopted.

Following due consideration, the draft 2026 Service Plan was approved, subject to minor changes and amendments

Proposed by: Cllr. Michael Begley

Seconded by: Cllr. Mary Howard

## **8.1 Presentation by Cllr. Gabriel Keating - ETBI Council Member**

Cllr. Gabriel Keating, The ETB’s Nominee to ETBI delivered a presentation outlining ETBI’s organisational structure, core functions, recent activities, and future strategic plans.

This presentation was included in the member packs issued in advance of the meeting for information.

The Chairperson thanked Cllr. Keating for his presentation and queried whether ETBI had written to the Minister regarding the current conditions of claiming expensed applied to ETB members, noting that these conditions demonstrate a lack of respect for Board members.

The Chairperson further noted that Chairpersons' meetings are not being scheduled regularly, with only two meetings taking place in the past two years. He stressed the importance of these meetings in providing Chairpersons with an opportunity to engage, raise questions, and address shared concerns. The Chairperson requested that Cllr. Keating bring this matter to ETBI at his next meeting.

Cllr. Keating agreed, noting networking was very important for Chairpersons.

## **8.2 Nomination to Statement of Strategy Steering Group**

The Chief Executive informed the Board that work is commencing on the development of the ETB's Strategy Statement for the period 2027–2031. This process will involve extensive consultation and collaboration with both internal and external stakeholders, as required under the Education and Training Boards Act, to ensure a shared and forward-looking vision for the next strategic cycle.

The new Strategy Statement will outline how the ETB will meet the education and training needs of the communities of Limerick and Clare over the next five years. It will also seek to maintain continuity with the previous Strategy Statement (2022–2026), building on its progress and ensuring a consistent strategic direction.

The Strategy will provide a framework for continued engagement with stakeholders, with a focus on identifying and prioritising their needs while establishing clear, measurable outcomes for which the ETB will be responsible and accountable. As part of this process, the working group will review the ETB's Vision and Mission, values along with the strategic goals identified during the previous strategy cycle.

The steering group will be composed of the Chief Executive, the Directors, and two Board Members.

A Draft Strategy Statement will be presented to the Board for approval in November 2026. This is an indicative timeline and may need to be altered to ensure engagement of all stakeholders.

The proposed timeline is as follows:

- Consultation period: until May/June 2026, focusing on the development of the draft Vision, Mission, and Strategic goals.
- Working group meetings: throughout the summer up to September 2026.
- Working draft: to be completed by October 2026.
- Board approval: November 2026.
- Public launch: January 2027

The Chief Executive invited nominations for two Board members to join the Statement of Strategy Steering Group.

Following the discussion, the Board approved the nomination of the following members: Mr. Sean McMahon, Mr. Michael MacCurtain and Cllr. Brigid Teefy.

### **8.3 Nomination to Standing Orders review group**

The Chief Executive advised the Board that a review of standings orders is required and involvement of Board members would be important to participate in a review of the ETB's Standing Orders, in accordance with the Education and Training Boards Act 2013 and Schedule 3, Section 5(5). She outlined that the Standing Orders must set out how the Board conducts its business and regulates its meetings, including the required distinction between reserved and executive functions under Sections 12 and 13 of the Act.

She noted that the Standing Orders provide essential guidance to:

- Support Board members in carrying out their reserved functions
- Enable the Chief Executive and staff to report effectively and efficiently
- Ensure the appropriate and confidential handling of personal or sensitive information
- Distinguish matters requiring Board approval or adoption, matters for noting, and areas of Chief Executive/executive accountability

The Chairperson invited nominations for two Board members to join the Standing Orders Review Group.

Following discussion, the following members were nominated and approved by the Board:

Cllr. Michael Begley and Mr. Sean McMahon were approved by the board.

### **10 AOB with the permission of the Chairperson**

Members expressed their shock at the recent announcement by Minister Hildegard Naughton regarding the reduction in SNA allocations for schools following a review conducted by the NCSE the lack of clarity and ongoing pause in providing further information is causing significant concern among parents across the community. It was also noted that the impact of the announced changes appears to relate more to primary schools than to post-primary schools.

The Director of Schools noted that one of our schools recently underwent a review and, in this instance, received an additional resource allocation.

#### **Date and Time of Next meeting**

Tuesday, 31 March, 2026 in Marshal House

Signed



Chairperson at Meeting 31 March, 2026