



**Miontuairisci agus Chruinnithe den**

**Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Luimnigh agus An Chláir**  
**Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh, Clare Street, Limerick, V9423V7.**

**ar an 19 Bealtaine, 2026**

**Ag 16:45**

**I Lathair /Present** Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon Chairperson, Cllr. Antoinette Baker Bashua, Cllr. Michael Begley, Cllr. Maria Donoghue, Cllr. Peter Doyle, Mr. Darren Feldon, Ms. Jeannette Ferguson, Ms. Kate Hehir, Cllr. Gabriel Keating Mr. Conal Kelly, Mr. Michael MacCurtain, Mr. Sean McMahon, Cllr. Noreen Stokes.

**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**

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** Ms. Ann Norton Deputy Chairperson, Cllr. Rachel Hartigan, Cllr. Mary Howard, Ms. Claire Knight, Mr. Adrian O'Hanlon, Cllr. Catherine Slattery, Cllr. Brigid Teefy.

**In absentia** Cllr. John Sheahan

## Condolences

- Ms. Noreen Buckley (St Anne's Community College, Killaloe) on the death of her husband, Mr. Tom Buckley (Staff Member, St Anne's Community College, Killaloe).
- The Ryan family of the late Mr Leonard (Lenny) Ryan (College of Further Education and Training, Ennis Campus).
- Ms. Edel Reid (College of Further Education and Training Campus, Scariff) on the death of her father-in-law, Mr. Joe Reid.
- 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.
- Ms. Leanne Browne (Desmond College, Newcastle West) on the death of her father, Mr. Tom Browne.
- Ms. Heather MacCarthy (Desmond College, Newcastle West) on the death of her mother-in-law, Ms. Pauline O'Connor
- Mr. Seamus McQuaid (St John Bosco Community College, Kildysart) on the death of his father, Mr. Joe McQuaid.
- Ms. Susan Reddan (College of Further Education and Training, Croom Campus) on the death of her mother, Ms. Una Reddan.
- Mr. Patrick Casey (Education Centre, Limerick Prison) on the death of his father, Mr. Tom Casey.
- Ms. Dearbhaile Byrne (Head Office, Marshal House) on the death of her father-in-law, Mr. Raymond (Ray) Byrne.
- Cllr. Liam Galvin (Former Board member) on the death of his mother, Ms. Betty (Elizabeth) Galvin.
- Ms. Mary Crowe and family on the death of her husband Mr. William (Bill) Crowe (Retired from Head Office, Marshal House).
- Ms. Caroline O'Shaughnessy (Colaiste na Trocaire, Rathkeale) on the death of her mother-in-law, Ms. Mary O'Shaughnessy.

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

The minutes of Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board meeting held on 31 March, 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.

#### **1. Information and Communication**

Ms. Bernadette Cullen, Chief Executive advised members that it has been another busy period across the organisation and the Executive Report under Schools, Youth Work, Local Creative Youth Partnership and REALT and Further Education and Training, Outdoor Education and Training, Music Provision, Limerick School of Music and Music Generation in the meeting pack gives a flavour of the various events happening in our Schools and Campus.

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.

#### **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.

Mr. Donncha O'Treasaigh, Director of Schools and Youth informed the Board that schools are currently commencing graduation ceremonies and preparing for end of year activities and examinations.

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

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

Noted.

#### **2.3 SOLAS Revised FET Funding for 2026**

The Chief Executive advised the meeting that a letter had been received from SOLAS on 5 May 2026 detailing an additional apprenticeship allocation of €250,922 relating to electrical in both the FET Ennis Campus and the FET Raheen Campus. This resulted in an increase in the overall SOLAS 2026 funding allocation, which is now €96,658,662.

### **3. Parliamentary Questions**

None.

#### 4 Reports from the Executive

Ms. Bernadette Cullen, Chief Executive informed the Board that on 6 May Minister Lawless, Minister for Further & Higher Education, Research, Innovation & Science of Ireland (DFHERIS) and Minister Harkin, launched the SOLAS five-year Further education and Training Strategy Creating Futures 2026-2030. Mr. Paul Patton, Director of Further Education and Training will give a presentation on the new Strategy at a future Board Meeting.

The Chief Executive welcomed the Minister for Education and Youth to four ETB schools on 1 May. The school communities visited were Glenroe Community National School, Castletroy College, Limerick Community Special School, and Thomond Community College. The Chief Executive acknowledge the presence of the Chairperson and Board members during the visits and to expressed appreciation to the Director of Schools, staff teams and students who welcomed and showcased the culture of excellence in education, care, community, equality and respect in our schools.

The Chief Executive and members of the FET Team attended the launch of the national tertiary programme for 2026 in Dublin. As part of the provision for 2026 a new initial teacher education programme was launched, this is a partnership project with Mary Immaculate College, LCETB and Tipperary ETB. This programme aims to increase the diversity within the primary teaching profession. The Chief Executive congratulated Mr. Paul Patton, Director of FET and the FET team in securing this programme for 2026/27.

The Chief Executive informed the board of a recent CE's meeting with Secretary General and highlighted the impacts on funding on building projects The CE explained that Patrons are being asked to commence rating projects in terms of priority and then submitting to the Department. Potentially the projects will proceed in stages over time.

Mr. Eamon Murphy, Director of Organisation Support & Development stated that it's a currently a very challenging landscape as none of the ETB's projects were included on the recent release by the Department. A board member asked if this has to do with rising cost of building materials. Mr. Murphy advised yes; this is a factor that requires management.

The Director of Organisation Support & Development updated the board on the progress on the Development of the new Statement of Strategy for Limerick & Clare ETB. That a consultation session was held with the core project team for the development of the new statement of strategy 2027-2031 on 8 May. Emerging from this will be key themes for the wider consultation. Independently facilitated consultation sessions are being planned with students, learners, staff, boards of management and key stakeholders. A specific meeting for consultation with the Board is being arranged and facilitated by Dr. Joe O'Connell for 23 June at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Donncha O'Treasaigh, Director of Schools & Youth congratulated all ETB schools on their continued success and thanked the school community, Principals and Teachers.

Mr. O'Treasaigh highlighted that he just received news that St Michael's Community College just made school history in Athlone by capturing the first ever All-Ireland girls' schools' soccer title, winning the FAI Schools First Year 'B' National Cup Final to overcome Glenamaddy Community School on a scoreline of 1-0.

The Chairperson extended congratulations to all involved and requested that the Chief Executive consider inviting a selection of students, teachers, and staff associated with these activities to attend a future Board meeting. It was suggested that they deliver a presentation to the Board,

providing an opportunity for the Board to formally acknowledge and commend their achievements.

Mr. Paul Patton, Director of Further Education and Training highlighted where the Further Education and Training learners and Schools came together for the Shannon Region Junior Chef of The Year 2026. Where Ciarán Geary from Mungret Community College was crowned the 2026 Shannon Region Junior Chef of the Year at Thomond Park Stadium on April 21st 2026. The competition, in its 6th year and showcases talented Transition Year students from Limerick and Clare, organised by the Hospitality Campus.

A new Mental Health Nursing Tertiary programme was launched recently with the official signing of the Memorandum of Agreement. Ennis Campus will provide 5 places for learners who, on successful completion of one year, can progress to Mental Health Nursing in TUS Athlone without CAO points

College of FET, Green Innovation Campus is offering new courses and invited the Board to attend the Nearly Zero Energy Building (NZEB) Fundamental Awareness (City & Guilds Assured) a 1-day programme, delivered at the College of Further Education and Training Centre, NZEB and Retrofitting Centre of Excellence, Roxboro, Limerick, V94C66H where you will discover the principles and practices of Nearly Zero Energy Building (NZEB). Explore NZEB principles, building physics, fabric and services, renewable energy, photovoltaics, smart metering and more.

At the College of FET, Moyross Youth Academy Campus pathways to Construction learners and staff volunteered on the RTE Show, DIY SOS for nine days and put their learning into practice when they worked alongside some of the largest construction companies in the Mid-West region. The show is to be aired in October.

The Information, Recruitment & Guidance service hosted Pathways and Progression Options in Adult, Community and Further Education and Training, as part of the Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival. It was fantastic to see so many programmes, campuses, partner agencies and Higher Education providers come together, ensuring our learners are fully informed about the wide range of progression opportunities available to them. Over 90 learners and support staff from external agencies attended. Special thanks are extended to the wonderful student volunteers from Youthreach and part-time programmes for their support on the day.

In the College of FET, Cappamore, the Blacksmith tutor, Eric O'Neill delivered a Blacksmith masterclass involving the restoration of an iron flat bar gate, provided by Limerick City and County Council. The event took place on 25th April and was attended by 13 current and past learners. This masterclass was a collaboration between the College of Further Education and Training, Cappamore and Limerick City and County Council who had secured the gates and noted their architectural and historical significance as wrought iron pieces, as well as the Irish Artist Blacksmiths Association (IABA) who funded 50% of the costs.

At the College of FET, Raheen Campus a Public Sector Administration traineeship was launched in Spring 2026. This course was requested by Limerick City and County Council and designed in partnership with local Public Sector partners. Course content was developed together to meet the specific requirements of administration roles within a range of public sector settings.

#### **4.2 a Finance Report to Board**

Ms. Columba Glavin presented the Q1 2026 financial report, which was circulated to all prior to the meeting. This report detailed the cash position, receipts and payments by scheme for Q1 2026. Ms. Glavin also provided a breakdown of expenditure by category to include payroll, capital projects, trainee allowances and creditors/youth grants.

Following due consideration, the Q1 2026 financial report was adopted.

Proposed by: Mr. Sean McMahon

Seconded by: Cllr. Noreen Stokes

#### **4.2 b. Audit Update Report**

Ms. Glavin presented an update on the ongoing audits. Ms. Glavin advised the meeting that the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (OCAG) 2025 audit was in the planning information phase and it is planned that SUMERI NI, who will carry out the field work for OCAG, will be on-site in September 2026 to conduct the audit fieldwork.

Ms. Glavin advised the meeting that the following Internal Audit Unit (IAU) audits were ongoing with further audits to commence later in the year:

- (i) Previous audit findings;
- (ii) Shared Services Learner and Apprentice Payroll; and
- (iii) Limerick City Build

Ms. Glavin further advised the meeting that a European Social Fund (ESF) audit is ongoing.

Noted.

#### **4.2 c. Report from Audit and Risk Committee**

Ms. Glavin advised the meeting that this report was included for information purposes.

Noted.

#### **4.2 d. Report from Finance Committee**

Ms. Glavin advised the meeting that the report of the Finance Committee meeting held on 7 May 2026 will be included with the next Board meeting documents as the minutes are currently in the process of being finalised.

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.**

Mr. Kevin Fitzpatrick, Head of Finance advised the meeting that this report was included for information purposes.

Noted.

**5.1 Minutes from Audit and Risk Committee 23 February, 2026**

Proposed by: Cllr. Noreen Stokes

Seconded by: Mr. Sean McMahon

**5.2 Minutes from Finance Committee 19 February, 2026**

Proposed by: Cllr. Michael Begley

Seconded by: Ms. Kate Hehir

**5.3 Minutes from Finance Committee 30 March, 2026**

Proposed by: Mr. Darren Feldon

Seconded by: Mr. Conal Kelly

**6.1 Risk Management - Overview of Key Risks**

None.

**6.2 Circulars as per schedule circulated**

Proposed by: Ms. Kate Hehir

Seconded by: Cllr. Antoinette Baker Bashua

**7.1 Update on Lease - Lease agreement for Bay 88, Shannon Airport Business Park**

Mr. Murphy updated the Board with the final details of the Lease agreement for Bay 88, Shannon Airport Business Park, Shannon, County Clare and invited the Chairperson and Chief Executive to sign same.

The board unanimously agreed to signing of the lease.

Proposed by: Mr. Darren Feldon

Seconded by: Mr. Michael McCurtain

The Chief Executive proposed to the Board that it would be possible to visit the site and hold June board meeting in Shannon.

The decision was approved unanimously by the board

**8.1 Two Nominees to Board of Management St Patrick's Comprehensive School**

No nominees were put forward at the meeting, this agenda item was deferred to the June Meeting. An email will be circulated to all members seeking nominees.

**8.2 Presentation of portrait of Donogh O'Malley to the Board**

A special commemorative event to mark the presentation of a portrait of former Minister for Education Donogh O'Malley as part of national commemorations recognising the 60th anniversary of his landmark introduction of free post-primary education.

The portrait, painted by renowned Limerick artist Declan Chambers, was presented by Mr. Michael O'Dwyer, who is coordinating elements of the wider commemorative programme taking place over the coming years. The commemorations honour the legacy of Limerick-born Mr. Donogh O'Malley, whose reforms transformed educational opportunity for generations of young people across Ireland.

### **8.3 Glenroe Community National School letter of support**

The Chief Executive and Director of Schools and Youth provided an overview of the current situation in the school. Glenroe Community National is a satellite classroom of Mol an Óige Community National School and opened on 27 August 2020 under the patronage of the ETB as was a pilot programme. The school is funded by the Department of Education and Youth, is a multi-grade school with students from Junior Infants to Sixth Class. Opening with 7 students and is projecting 56 students for September 2026. The school requires facilities for SEN and additional classroom space, we are also seeking an independent roll number for the school which is causing difficulties with administration tasks, access to funding and inequalities around staffing and resources. The community has regenerated and the local community is invested in the school and its future.

The Chairperson and Board unanimously approved supporting the board of management's written submission and the Board will write to the Minister requesting a roll number for the school and the additional critical accommodation.

The Director of Schools and Youth told the Board that he expects the report of the multi-denominational school's survey in the coming weeks and this will hopefully highlight the need for the school in this area.

### **8.4 FET Strategy, Creating Futures 2026-2030**

The Chief Executive informed the board that Mr. Paul Patton, Director of Further Education and Training will give a presentation at a future Board Meeting.

### **8.5 Survey Based Suggestions and Recommendations for Board Consideration**

The Chief Executive informed the board that arising from the recent Board Self-Assessment Questionnaire, a number of recommendations were identified. The Board subsequently agreed to incorporate these into the Board induction process.

This was included in members packs for their information.

### **8.6 Update of Standing Orders**

Deferred to June meeting.

### **8.7 Access to Online Board Documentation**

In accordance with Sections 1, 3 and 4 of the Code of Practice for the Governance of Education and Training Boards 2024, the Board acknowledged its collective responsibility for the governance and oversight of the ETB. Board members also noted their individual duty to act in the best interests of the organisation and to provide appropriate scrutiny of performance and decision-making.

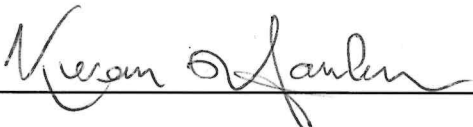
The Chief Executive reminded members of their overarching governance and oversight responsibilities and encouraged them to notify the Executive should they experience any difficulties or require support in accessing Board documentation.

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

Ms. Jeannette Ferguson informed the board that today will be her last meeting, she is unable to attend the June meeting as she has a prior engagement and she no longer qualifies as a parent representative to the Board. Ms. Ferguson thanked the Chairperson, Members, Chief Executive, Directors and all the ETB staff for their support during her time of the board, their hard work and dedication to education and the building communities in the region.

**Date and Time of Next meeting**

23 June, 2026 Time & Location To be confirmed.

Signed  \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson at Meeting 23 June, 2026