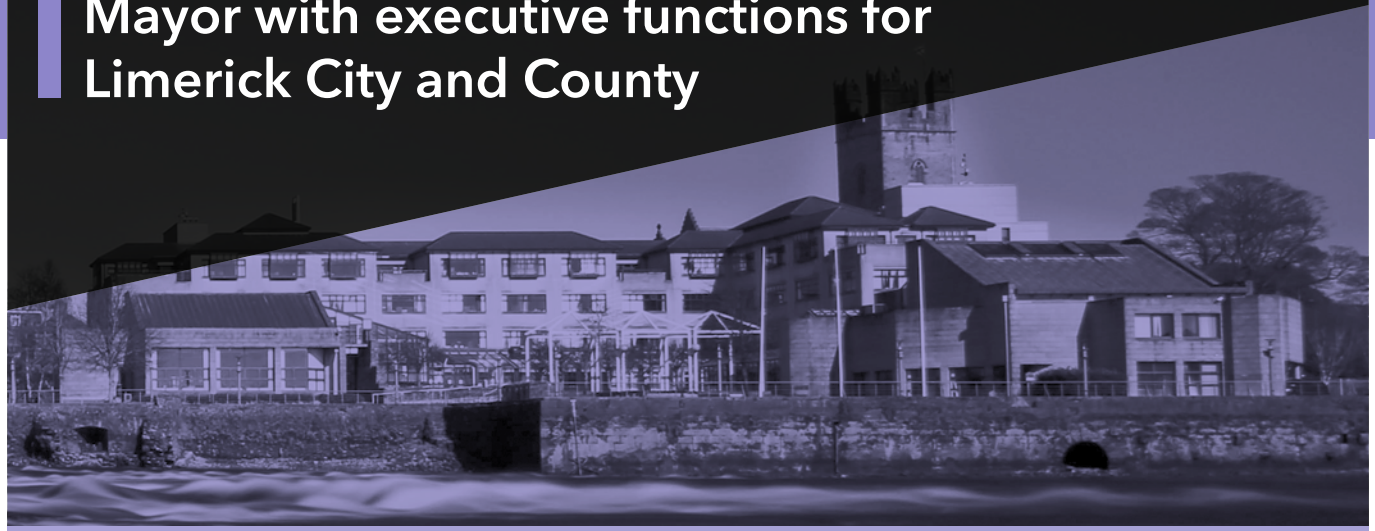
Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick** City & County Council

# Guide to the plebiscite on a directly elected Mayor with executive functions for Limerick City and County



## 24 MAY 2019

# Introduction

On Friday, 24 May 2019, voting takes place nationally in the European and Local Elections and the referendum on the regulation of divorce. On the same day, the electors of the administrative area of Limerick City and County Council will also be asked to vote on the Government's proposal for a Mayor with executive functions to be directly elected by the people.

This public vote is called a plebiscite. A plebiscite is an electoral poll consulting the public on a proposal. Plebiscites on the same issue will take place in Cork City and Waterford on the same day.

In this plebiscite, electors will be asked if they approve of the proposal that would allow the people of Limerick City and County to directly elect a Mayor with executive functions for a five-year term. At present, the Mayor of Limerick City and County is elected for a one-year term by other Councillors. Under the Government's proposal, the directly elected Mayor would have significantly more functions (duties) than a Mayor currently has, including:

(a) Some or all of the functions now performed by the Chief Executive of the City and County Council

(b) Such other functions as may be provided by or under statute

These functions (duties) are currently carried out by the Chief Executive of the Council.

The Local Government Act 2019 provides for the holding of the plebiscite. The Government decided it would be held on 24 May 2019. Under the 2019 Act, if the proposal is approved by a majority of voters in Limerick City and County, the Minister will submit a report to the Oireachtas with legislative proposals for an election of a Mayor by the people of Limerick City and County. The Oireachtas will then consider the legislation. If the law is passed, a direct election for Mayor of Limerick City and County with executive functions will take place.

If the proposal is not approved by a majority of voters in Limerick City and County, the current balance of powers and functions in Limerick City and County Council will not be changed without legislation.

The Local Government Act 2019 provides that Limerick City and County Council must provide information to voters on this proposal, including on its possible advantages and disadvantages. This Guide provides this information.

Other information on the plebiscite is available at:
**www.mayors.gov.ie**

This guide does not argue for a Yes vote or a No vote.

# How local Government in Limerick City and County currently works

Limerick City and County Council is responsible for providing a wide range of services (over 500) to the people it serves, in accordance with over 80 Acts of the Oireachtas. Many of these relate to:

- planning
- housing
- economic development
- transport and other infrastructure
- environmental control and emergency services
- amenities, libraries and recreation
- arts, heritage and culture
- community development

The Council has 40 elected Councillors and about 1,174 staff. In 2019, Limerick City and County Council plans to spend €171m in providing day-to-day services in the Council's area, €518m on shared services for the Housing Assistance Payment scheme and a further €169m on capital and infrastructural projects.

Councillors are elected for a five-year term by the electors within the administrative area of the City Council. The elected Council is led by a Mayor, who is elected at an annual meeting by the other City and County Councillors, for a one-year term.

The Chief Executive leads and manages administrative structures and staff and is responsible for the day-to-day running of the Council. The Chief Executive is also responsible for implementing the policies of Government, and preparing and presenting local policies to the elected Council.

The Council has two categories of functions (responsibilities).
The elected Council's functions are known as 'reserved functions'.
The Chief Executive's functions are known as 'executive functions'.
Any function of Limerick City and County Council that is not explicitly defined as a 'reserved function' is an 'executive function'.

## The elected Council's reserved functions include:

- adopting the Council's annual budget (by way of vote)
- adopting Council policies
- altering the Local Property Tax rate
- making a City and County Development Plan
- deciding the annual rate on valuation for Commercial Rates
- selling or disposing of Council land
- approval of grant schemes
- adoption of a Corporate Plan and a Service Delivery Plan

## The Chief Executive's executive functions include:

- any function not explicitly reserved for the elected Council
- preparing policy documents for consideration by Council
- managing staff and delivery of services
- managing and accounting for the Council's finances
- delivering a statutory monthly report to full Council (Council meetings are held in public and in the presence of the media)
- administering housing schemes and allocating social housing
- managing infrastructure projects
- deciding planning applications
- allocation of grants
- ensuring the law is complied with in relation to areas such as Health & Safety, EU directives, etc.
- preparing and overseeing the delivery of the Corporate Plan and Annual Service Delivery Plan under direction of Council

## The Mayor

In Limerick City and County, the mayor is a serving Councillor elected by the elected Council for a one-year term. As Mayor, they have additional duties such as:

- chairing Council and Corporate Policy Group meetings and exercising a casting vote
- requesting information from the Chief Executive
- representing the Council locally, nationally and internationally

# The Government's proposal: a directly elected Mayor with executive functions

## Directly elected Mayor

Under the Government's proposals, a directly elected Mayor would be elected as chair of the Council by the entire electorate of Limerick City and County. The directly elected Mayor would:

- be responsible for a significant amount of the executive functions currently the responsibility of a Chief Executive
- prepare and oversee delivery of a 'Programme of Office', 'Corporate Plan' and 'Annual Service Delivery Plan'
- be responsible for ensuring that the Chief Executive implements the Council's plans effectively
- act on behalf of the Council in legal actions
- chair the joint policing committee
- represent the entire local authority area locally, nationally and internationally

A directly elected Mayor would have a five-year term of office and could serve a maximum of two terms.

## Chief Executive

Under the Government's proposals, the Chief Executive would be responsible for practical delivery of the Council's policy plans and managing the Council's staff and other resources on a day-to-day basis. The Chief Executive would still have certain executive functions such as:

- managing staff and delivering the Council's work programme
- processing individual cases or applications
- enforcement matters
- revenue gathering activities
- certain planning functions

## Elected Council

The elected Council would:

- exercise reserved functions
- oversee the Mayor's and Chief Executive's performance
- in certain circumstances, begin a process to remove a Mayor from office
- be able to begin a process for the recall of a Mayor by the people of Limerick City and County

### Mayor's programme of office

Under the Government's proposal, at the start of their term of office, a Mayor would submit a 'Programme for Office' to the elected Council for approval. Once approved, the programme would guide Council policy. The Chief Executive would manage the resources of the Council to effectively implement the 'Programme of Office'.

# Other details of the Government's proposal

## Election

If the proposal for a directly elected Mayor is approved in this plebiscite, the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government would be required to present a report within two years to the Oireachtas with proposals for legislation. The Government has said in its policy proposals paper that if the legislation was enacted, the first election for a directly elected Mayor could take place in 2022. This would be for an initial two-year term. The first five-year mayoral term would then coincide with the next five-year cycle of local elections for Councillors (that is 2024-2029).

## Costs

Given the role proposed for a directly elected Mayor with executive functions, the Government proposal is for a salary of about €130,000 (that of a Minister of State). Under the proposals, a directly elected Mayor would have the right to appoint two advisers. While the full precise costs are unknown, the additional costs of the Government's proposals to establish an office of directly elected Mayor with executive functions could range from around €313,000 to around €450,000. (These estimates do not include possible pension-related costs for the Mayor or two advisors). These costs would be met from Limerick City and County Council's resources.

## Relationship between a directly elected Mayor and other statutory bodies

It is expected that the relationship between any future directly elected Mayor with executive functions and other statutory bodies (public organisations established in law) that exercise statutory functions in Limerick City and County (for example, national transport services or infrastructure providers) would be the same as that which currently exists between a Chief Executive of Limerick City and County Council and those bodies.

## Likely effect (if any) of having a directly elected Mayor with executive functions on the functions and organisational structure of any other statutory body

It is not expected that having a directly elected Mayor, as envisaged in the Government's policy paper, would have any material effect on the functions and organisational structure of any other statutory body. The Government's policy paper suggests that the directly elected Mayor could have a role in regional strategic spatial planning and have a seat on the Southern Regional Assembly.

# Possible advantages and disadvantages

The full consequences of introducing a directly elected Mayor with executive functions are not completely clear.

## Possible advantages of having a directly elected Mayor with executive functions

- The Mayor would be directly and democratically accountable to the people of Limerick City and County
- The mayoral election campaign could raise awareness of and increase public debate on local government policy options in advance of decisions being made
- Increased visibility of local government and the role of Mayor in Limerick City and County
- A directly elected Mayor could advocate for increased functions for Limerick City and County Council

There may be other possible advantages that are not listed in this guide.

## Possible disadvantages of having a directly elected Mayor with executive functions

- Increased power in a single elected individual and their office
- Negative impact on the powers and standing of existing elected members
- Increased costs for the Council
- A more complicated process for the Council to make policies and decisions

There may be other possible disadvantages that are not listed in this guide.

# Possible effects of a YES or a NO vote

## Possible effects of a YES vote

- The Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government would prepare and submit to each House of the Oireachtas a report with proposals for enacting a law providing for a directly elected Mayor with executive functions for Limerick City and County.
- The Houses of the Oireachtas will not be legally required to pass any draft law presented to it by the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government.
- If legislation was passed by both Houses of the Oireachtas and signed by the President, the Government would facilitate an election for a directly elected Mayor with executive functions.

## Possible effects of a NO vote

- The current structure of local government, including the division of responsibilities between the reserved functions of elected representatives and the executive functions of the Chief Executive, would remain the same in Limerick City and County Council.
- The Government and members of the Oireachtas would retain the ability to produce legislation for a directly elected Mayor and bring it before both Houses of the Oireachtas.

# Important questions about the plebiscite

## Who can vote in the plebiscite?

People on the Register of Electors for local elections for Limerick City and County Council's administrative area can vote in the plebiscite.

## When will the plebiscite take place?

Polling in the plebiscite will take place between 7am and 10pm on Friday, 24 May 2019. Before polling day, you should receive a polling card in the post telling you at which polling station you should cast your vote. If you do not receive a polling card, you are still entitled to vote as long as you are on the electoral register. You can check this at: **www.checktheregister.ie**

## Where can I get more information?

If you wish to know more about the proposal for a directly elected Mayor with executive functions for Limerick City and County and the plebiscite, you can visit: **www.mayors.gov.ie**

This guide can be downloaded at **www.mayors.gov.ie.** It is also available in Braille, on CD and in large text format through the **National Council for the Blind in Ireland.**

For a hard copy of this guide or if you have any questions, you can email: **mayors@housing.gov.ie**

## Who produced this guide?

The guide was produced by a special committee, chaired by a retired judge of the High Court, and includes:

- representatives of Cork City Council, Waterford City and County Council, and Limerick City and County Council
- a representative of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
- a representative of the Local Government Management Agency
- an independent legal advisor

This guide and its contents do not claim to be a legal interpretation or to provide legal advice. This is not a full guide to the Government's proposals for a directly elected Mayor with executive functions or to local government in Ireland.

Polling stations will be open
**from 7am to 10pm on 24 May 2019**

**Sample Ballot Paper**

| | |
|---|---|
| | **An bhfuil tú ag toiliú leis an togra ón Rialtas go ndéanfar reachtaíocht a achtú lena ndéanfar socrú maidir le méara ag a mbeidh feidhmeanna feidhmiúcháin a bheith dírthofa ag an bpobal i limistéar comhairle Chathair agus Chontae Luimnigh?**<br>**Do you approve of the proposal by Government to have legislation enacted providing for the people of Limerick City and County council area to directly elect a mayor with executive functions?**<br><br>*Ná cuir marc **ach san aon chearnóg amháin***<br>Place a mark in **one square only**<br><br>**Má thoilíonn tú**, cuir X sa chearnóg seo<br>If you **approve**, mark X in this square — **TÁ / YES**<br><br>**Mura dtoilíonn tú,** cuir X sa chearnóg seo<br>If you **do not approve** mark X in this square — **NÍL / NO** |
| Comhdhuille Uimh.<br><br>Counterfoil No. | (Back of Paper / Cúl an Pháipéir)<br>Uimh. No. .....<br>Údarás Áitiúil .....<br>Local Authority.....<br>An phobalbhreith ar Dhírthoghchán Méara<br>Plebiscite on Direct Election of Mayor |

SAMPLE

Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick** City & County Council

# Pobalbhreith ar Méara dírthofa le feidhmeanna feidhmiúcháin do Chathair agus Chontae Luimnigh

## 24 BEALTAINE 2019

# Réamhrá

Ar an Aoine, an 24 Bealtaine 2019, beidh vótáil ar siúl ar fud na tíre sna toghcháin Eorpacha agus Áitiúla agus sa reifreann ar rialáil ar cholscaradh. Ar an lá céanna, iarrfar ar thoghthóirí limistéar riaracháin Chomhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh vóta a chaitheamh maidir leis an togra ón Rialtas maidir le Méara ag a mbeidh feidhmeanna feidhmiúcháin a thoghfaidh na daoine go díreach.

Tugtar pobalbhreith ar an vóta poiblí sin. Vótáil thoghchánach is ea pobalbhreith ina dtéitear i gcomhairle leis an bpobal maidir le togra. Beidh pobalbhreitheanna ar an gceist chéanna ar siúl i gCorcaigh agus i bPort Láirge ar an lá céanna.

Sa phobalbhreith seo, cuirfear ceist ar thoghthóirí an bhfuil siad sásta leis an togra trína mbeadh muintir Chathair agus Chontae Luimnigh ábalta Méara ag a mbeidh feidhmeanna feidhmiúcháin a thoghadh go díreach ar feadh téarma cúig bliana. I láthair na huaire, toghann Comhairleoirí eile Méara Chathair agus Chontae Luimnigh ar feadh téarma bliana. Faoin togra ón Rialtas, bheadh i bhfad níos mó feidhmeanna (dualgais) ag an Méara dírthofa ná atá ag Méara faoi láthair, lena n-áirítear:

(a) Cuid den na feidhmeanna nó na feidhmeanna ar fad a dhéanann Príomhfheidhmeannach na Comhairle Cathrach anois

(b) Feidhmeanna eile dá leithéid arna soláthar le reacht nó faoi reacht

Déanann Príomhfheidhmeannach na Comhairle na feidhmeanna (dualgais) sin faoi láthair.

Forálann an tAcht Rialtais Áitiúil 2019 do reachtáil na pobalbhreithe. Shocraigh an Rialtas ar í a reachtáil ar 24 Bealtaine 2019. Faoin Acht 2019, má fhaomhaíonn formhór na vótálaithe an togra i gCathair agus i gContae Luimnigh, cuirfidh an tAire tuarascáil faoi bhráid an Oireachtais ina mbeidh tograí reachtacha le haghaidh toghchán Méara a vótálfaidh muintir Chathair agus Chontae Luimnigh. Breithneoidh an tOireachtas an reachtaíocht ansin. Má ritear an dlí, tionólfar dírthoghchán le haghaidh Méara Chathair agus Chontae Luimnigh le feidhmeanna feidhmiúcháin.

Mura fhaomhaíonn formhór na vótálaithe i gCathair agus i gContae Luimnigh an togra, ní athrófar an cóimheá cumhachta agus na feidhmeanna reatha i gComhairle Chathrach agus Chontae Luimnigh a athrú gan an reachtaíocht.

Foráiltear san Acht Rialtais Áitiúil 2019 nach mór do Chomhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh faisnéis a chur ar fáil do vótálaithe maidir leis an togra sin, lena n-áirítear na buntáistí agus na míbhuntáistí a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ag baint leis. Soláthraítear an fhaisnéis sin sa Treoir seo.

Tá faisnéis eile maidir leis an bpobalbhreith ar fáil ag:
**www.mayors.gov.ie**

Ní dhéantar argóint sa treoir seo le haghaidh vóta AR SON nó vóta I GCOINNE.

# An dóigh a n-oibríonn rialtas áitiúil i gCathair agus i gContae Luimnigh faoi láthair

Tá Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh freagrach as réimse leathan seirbhísí (os cionn 500) a chur ar fáil do na daoine dá bhfónann sí i gcomhréir le níos mó ná 80 Acht Oireachtais. Baineann a lán dóibh sin le:

- pleanáil
- tithíocht
- forbairt eacnamaíoch
- iompar agus bonneagar eile
- rialú an chomhshaoil agus seirbhísí éigeandála
- taitneamhachtaí, leabharlanna agus caitheamh aimsire
- na healaíona, oidhreacht agus cultúr
- forbairt pobail

Tá 40 comhairleoir tofa agus thart ar 1,174 ball foirne ag an gComhairle. In 2019, tá sé beartaithe ag Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh €171 milliún a chaitheamh ar sheirbhísí laethúla a sholáthar i limistéar na Comhairle, €518 milliún ar sheirbhisí comhroinnte don scéim Íocaíocht Cúnaimh Tithíochta agus €169 milliún eile ar thionscadail chaipitil agus bhonneagair. Toghann na toghthóirí laistigh de limistéar riaracháin na Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae comhairleoirí ar feadh téarma cúig bliana.

Stiúrann agus bainistíonn an Príomhfheidhmeannach struchtúir riaracháin agus na baill agus tá sé freagrach as gnáthreáchtáil laethúil na Comhairle. Tá an Príomhfheidhmeannach freagrach chomh maith as beartais an Rialtais a chur chun feidhme agus beartais áitiúla a réiteach agus a chur i láthair don Chomhairle thofa.

Tá dhá chatagóir éagsúla feidhmeanna (freagrachtaí) ag an gComhairle. Tugtar 'feidhmeanna forchoimeádta' ar fheidhmeanna na Comhairle tofa. Tugtar 'feidhmeanna feidhmiúcháin' ar fheidhmeanna an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh. Feidhm ar bith de chuid Chomhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh nach sainítear go sainráite mar 'fheidhm fhorchoimeádta' is 'feidhm feidhmiúcháin' í.

## Áirítear iad seo a leanas ar 'fheidhmeanna forchoimeádta' na Comhairle tofa:

- buiséad bliantúil na Comhairle a ghlacadh (trí vótáil)
- beartais na Comhairle a ghlacadh
- ráta na Cánach Maoine Áitiúla a athrú
- plean Forbartha Cathrach a dhéanamh
- an ráta bliantúil maidir le luacháil Rátaí Tráchtála a chinneadh
- talamh na Comhairle a dhíol nó a dhiúscairt
- scéimeanna deontais a cheadú
- Plean Corparáideach agus Plean Soláthair Seirbhíse a ghlacadh

## Áirítear iad seo a leanas ar 'fheidhmeanna feidhmiúcháin' an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh:

- feidhm ar bith nach bhfuil forchoimeádta go sainráite don Chomhairle thofa
- doiciméid bheartais a ullmhú lena mbreithniú ag an gComhairle
- baill foirne agus seachadadh seirbhísí a bhainistiú
- airgead na Comhairle a bhainistiú agus cuntas a thabhairt ina leith
- tuarascáil reachtúil a thabhairt gach mí don Chomhairle iomlán (reachtáiltear cruinnithe Chomhairle go poiblí agus na meáin i láthair)
- scéimeanna tithíochta a riar agus tithíocht shóisialta a leithdháileadh
- tionscadail bhonneagair a bhainistiú
- iarratais ar phleanáil a chinneadh
- deontais a leithdháileadh
- a chinntiú go gcloítear leis an dlí i ndáil le réimsí amhail Sláinte agus Sábháilteacht, treoracha AE etc.
- Clár Corparáideach agus Plean Bliantúil Soláthair Seirbhíse a ullmhú agus a mhaoirsiú faoi threoir na Comhairle

## An Méara

I gCathair agus Chontae Luimnigh, tugtar an Méara ar an méara agus is é an Comhairleoir fónaimh arna thoghadh ag an gComhairle thofa ar feadh téarma bliana. Mar Méara, tá dualgais bhreise acu amhail:

- Cathaoireacht a dhéanamh ar chruinnithe na Comhairle agus cruinnithe an Ghrúpa Beartais Chorparáidigh agus vóta réitigh a fheidhmiú
- faisnéis a iarraidh ón bPríomhfheidhmeannach
- ionadaíocht a dhéanamh ar son na Comhairle ar bhonn áitiúil, náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta

# Togra ón rialtas: Méara dírthofa ag a mbeidh feidhmeanna feidhmiúcháin

## Méara dírthofa

Faoi na tograí ón Rialtas, thoghfadh toghthóirí ar fad Chathair agus Chontae Luimnigh Méara dírthofa mar chathaoirleach na Comhairle. Dhéanfadh an Méara dírthofa an méid seo a leanas:

- bheadh sé nó sí freagrach as méid suntasach feidhmeanna feidhmiúcháin atá faoi fhreagracht Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh faoi láthair
- dhéanfadh sé nó sí 'Clár Oifige', 'Clár Corparáideach' agus 'Plean Bliantúil maidir le Soláthar Seirbhíse' a ullmhú agus a mhaoirsiú
- bheadh sé nó sí freagrach as a chinntiú go gcuireann an Príomhfheidhmeannach pleananna na Comhairle chun feidhme go héifeachtúil
- feidhmiú thar ceann na Comhairle i gcaingne dlí
- cathaoirleacht a dhéanamh ar an gcomhchoiste póilíneachta
- dhéanfadh sé nó sí ionadaíocht ar son an limistéir údaráis áitiúil iomláin ar bhonn áitiúil, náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta

Bheadh téarma oifige cúig bliana ag Méara dírthofa agus d'fhéadfadh sé nó sí dhá théarma ar a mhéad a fhónamh.

## Príomhfheidhmeannach

Faoi na tograí ón Rialtas, bheadh an Príomhfheidhmeannach freagrach as soláthar praiticiúil phleananna beartais na Comhairle agus as baill foirne agus acmhainní eile na comhairle a bhainistiú ar bhonn laethúil. Bheadh feidhmeanna feidhmiúcháin áirithe fós ag an bPríomhfheidhmeannach, amhail:

- baill foirne a bhainistiú agus clár oibre na Comhairle a sheachadadh
- cásanna nó iarratais aonair a phróiseáil
- cúrsaí forfheidhmiúcháin
- gníomhaíochtaí bailithe ioncaim
- feidhmeanna Pleanála áirithe

## Comhairle Thofa

Dhéanfadh an Chomhairle thofa an méid seo a leanas:

- feidhmeanna forchoimeádta a fheidhmiú
- maoirseacht ar fheidhmeanna an Méara agus an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh
- I gcúinsí áirithe, próiseas a thosú chun Méara a chur as a phost nó a post
- bheadh sí ábalta tús a chur le próiseas chun Méara arna thoghadh muintir Chathair agus Chontae Luimnigh a athghairm

### Clár oifige an Mhéara

Faoin togra ón Rialtas, ag tús a dtéarma oifige, chuirfeadh Méara 'Clár Oifige' faoi bhráid na Comhairle tofa lena fhaomhadh. Nuair a bheadh sé faofa, bheadh an clár ina threoir do bheartas na Comhairle. Dhéanfadh an Príomhfheidhmeannach acmhainní na Comhairle a bhainistiú chun an 'Clár Oifige' a chur chun feidhme go héifeachtúil.

## Sonraí eile maidir leis an togra ón Rialtas

### Toghchán

Má cheadaítear an togra le haghaidh Méara dírthofa sa phobalbhreith seo, bheadh ceangal ar an Aire Tithíochta, Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil tuarascáil a chur i láthair an Oireachtais laistigh de dhá bhliain le moltaí le haghaidh reachtaíochta. Dúirt an Rialtas ina pháipéar um thograí beartais dá n-achtófaí an reachtaíocht, go mbeadh an chéad toghchán le haghaidh Méara dírthofa ar siúl in 2022. Bheadh sé sin ar feadh téarma dhá bhliain ar dtús. Bheadh céad téarma cúig bliana na méarachta i gcomhthráth leis an gcéad timthriall cúig bliana eile de thoghcháin le haghaidh comhairleoirí (is é sin 2024-2029).

### Costais

Ag cur san áireamh an ról atá beartaithe le haghaidh Méara dírthofa ag a mbeadh feidhmeanna feidhmiúcháin, is é moladh an Rialtais ná tuarastal thart ar €130,000 (tuarastal Aire Stáit). Faoi na thograí, bheadh an ceart ag an Méara dírthofa chun dhá chomhairleoir a cheapadh. Cé nach fios na costais beachta iomláine, d'fhéadfadh costais breise thograí an Rialtais oifig Méara dhírthofa le feidhmeanna feidhmiúcháin a bhunú dul ó thart ar €313,000 go dtí thart ar €450,000. (Níl costais a bhaineann le pinsean a d'fhéadfadh teacht aníos don Méara nó do dhá chomhairleoir áirithe sna meastacháin seo). Gheofaí maoiniú do na costais seo ó acmhainní Chomhairle Cathrach agus Chontae Luimnigh.

### An gaol idir Mhéara dírthofa agus comhlachtaí reachtúla eile

Táthar ag súil go mbeadh an gaol idir Méara dírthofa le feidhmeanna feidhmiúcháin ar bith amach anseo agus comhlachtaí reachtúla eile (eagraíochtaí poiblí a bunaíodh le dlí) a fheidhmíonn feidhmeanna reachtúil i gCathair agus gChontae Luimnigh (mar shampla, seirbhísí iompair náisiúnta nó soláthraithe bonneagair) mar an gcéanna leis an ngaol atá ann faoi láthair idir Príomhfheidhmeannach Chomhairle Cathrach agus Chontae Luimnigh agus na comhlachtaí sin.

### An éifeacht dhóchúil (más ann di) a bhainfeadh le Méara dírthofa le feidhmeanna feidhmiúcháin a bheith ann ar fheidhmeanna agus struchtúr eagraíochtúil comhlachta reachtúil eile

Níltear ag súil go mbeadh éifeacht ábhartha ar bith a bhainfeadh le Méara dírthofa a bheith ann, arna bheartú i bpáipéar beartais an Rialtais, ar fheidhmeanna agus struchtúr eagraíochtúil comhlachta reachtúil eile. Tugtar le tuiscint i bpáipéar an Rialtais go bhféadfadh ról a bheith ag an Méara dírthofa maidir le pleanáil spásúil straitéiseach réigiúnach agus suíochán a bheith aige nó aice i dTionól Réigiúnach an Deiscirt.

# Buntáistí agus míbhuntáistí a d'fhéadfadh a bheith i gceist

Níl na hiarmhairtí iomlána a bhaineann le Méara dírthofa le feidhmeanna feidhmiúcháin a thabhairt isteach go hiomlán soiléir.

## Na buntáistí a d'fhéadfadh a bheith i gceist le Méara dírthofa le feidhmeanna feidhmiúcháin a bheith ann

- Bheadh an Méara freagrach go díreach agus go daonlathach do mhuintir Chathair agus Chontae Luimnigh
- D'fhéadfadh an feachtas toghchánaíochta méarachta méadú a dhéanamh ar fheasacht agus ar an díospóireacht phoiblí maidir le roghanna beartais rialtais áitiúil sula ndéanfaí cinntí
- Infheictheacht mhéadaithe ar rialtas áitiúil agus ar ról an Méara i gCathair agus gChontae Luimnigh
- D'fhéadfadh Méara dírthofa tacú le feidhmeanna méadaithe do Chomhairle Cathrach agus Chontae Luimnigh

D'fhéadfadh buntáistí eile a bheith i gceist nach bhfuil liostaithe sa treoir seo.

## Na míbhuntáistí a d'fhéadfadh a bheith i gceist le Méara dírthofa le feidhmeanna feidhmiúcháin a bheith ann

- Méadú ar an gcumhacht i nduine tofa aonair agus ina n-oifig
- Tionchar diúltach ar chumhachtaí agus ar sheasamh comhaltaí tofa atá ann cheana
- Méadú ar chostais don chomhairle
- Próiseas níos casta don chomhairle chun beartais agus cinntí a dhéanamh

D'fhéadfadh míbhuntáistí eile a bheith i gceist nach bhfuil liostaithe sa treoir seo.

# Éifeachtaí féideartha má vótálfar ar son nó i gcoinne

## Éifeachtaí fhéideartha má vótálfar ar son

- Dhéanfadh an tAire Tithíochta, Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil tuarascáil ina mbeadh moltaí maidir le dlí a achtú ina ndéanfaí foráil i leith Méara dírthofa le feidhmeanna feidhmiúcháin do Chathair agus Chontae Luimnigh a ullmhú agus a chur i láthair chuig dhá Theach an Oireachtais.
- Ní bheidh ceangal dlíthiúil ar Thithe an Oireachtais dréachtdlí ar bith a rith a gcuirfeadh an tAire Tithíochta, Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil ina láthair.
- Dá rithfeadh dhá Theach an Oireachtais reachtaíocht agus dá síneodh an tUachtarán é, éascódh an Rialtas toghchán le haghaidh Méara dírthofa le feidhmeanna feidhmiúcháin.

## Eifeachtaí fhéideartha má vótálfar i gcoinne

- Bheadh struchtúr reatha an rialtais áitiúil, lena n-áirítear roinnt na bhfreagrachtaí idir feidhmeanna forchoimeádta na n-ionadaithe tofa agus feidhmeanna feidhmiúcháin an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh, fós mar an gcéanna i gComhairle Cathrach agus Chontae Luimnigh.
- Bheadh an inniúlacht fós ag an Rialtas agus baill den Oireachtas chun reachtaíocht a sholáthar le haghaidh Méara dírthofa agus í a chur os cionn dhá Theach an Oireachtas.

# Ceisteanna tábhachtacha faoin bpobalbhreith

## Cé na daoine ar féidir leo vótáil sa phobalbhreith?

Is féidir le daoine atá ar Chlár na dToghthóirí le haghaidh toghcháin áitiúla do limistéar riaracháin Chomhairle Cathrach agus Chontae Luimnigh vótáil sa phobalbhreith.

## Cá huair a mbeidh an phobalbhreith ar siúl?

Beidh vótáil sa phobalbhreith ar siúl idir 7rn agus 10in Dé hAoine an 24 Bealtaine 2019. Roimh lá na vótála, ba cheart go ngeofá cárta vótála sa phost ina mbeidh eolas faoin stáisiún vótála ba cheart duit do vóta a chaitheamh ann. Mura bhfaigheann tú cárta vótála, beidh tú fós i dteideal vóta a chaitheamh ar an gcoinníoll go bhfuil tú ar an gclár toghthóirí. Is féidir leat sin a sheiceáil ag: **www.checktheregister.ie**

## Cá háit ar féidir liom tuilleadh faisnéise a fháil?

Más mian leat tuilleadh a fháil amach faoin togra le haghaidh Méara dírthofa do Chathair agus Chontae Luimnigh agus le haghaidh na pobalbhreithe, is féidir leat cuairt a thabhairt ar **www.mayors.gov.ie**.

Is féidir an foilseachán a íoslódáil ag **www.mayors.gov.ie.** Tá sé ar fáil chomh maith i mBraille, ar CD agus i bhformáid téacs mhóir trí **Chomhairle Náisiúnta na hÉireann do na Daill**.

Le haghaidh cóip chrua den treoir seo nó má tá ceisteanna ar bith agat, is féidir leat ríomhphost a sheoladh chuig: **mayors@housing.gov.ie**

## Cé a chuir an treoir seo ar fáil?

Chuir coiste speisialta faoi chathaoirleacht bhreitheamh na hArd-Chúirte atá ar scoir an treoir seo ar fáil, agus cuimsítear ann:

- ionadaithe de chuid Chomhairle Cathrach Chorcaí, ionadaithe de chuid Chomhairle Cathrach agus Contae Phort Láirge, agus ionadaithe de chuid Chomhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh
- ionadaí ón Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil
- ionadaí ón nGníomhaireacht Bainistíochta Rialtais Áitiúil
- comhairleoir neamhspleách dlí

Ní mhaítear gur míniú dlíthiúil é an treoir seo nó an t-ábhar inti nó go soláthraítear comhairle dhlíthiúil iontu. Ní hé seo treoir iomlán maidir leis na tograí ón Rialtas le haghaidh Méara dírthofa ag a mbeidh feidhmeanna feidhmiúcháin nó maidir leis an rialtas áitiúil in Éirinn.

Beidh an stáisiúin vótaiochta ar oscailt
**ó 7rn go dtí 10in ar an 24 Bealtaine 2019**

**Páipéar Ballóide Samplach**

| | |
|---|---|
| | **An bhfuil tú ag toiliú leis an togra ón Rialtas go ndéanfar reachtaíocht a achtú lena ndéanfar socrú maidir le méara ag a mbeidh feidhmeanna feidhmiúcháin a bheith dírthofa ag an bpobal i limistéar comhairle Chathair agus Chontae Luimnigh?**<br>**Do you approve of the proposal by Government to have legislation enacted providing for the people of Limerick City and County council area to directly elect a mayor with executive functions?**<br><br>*Ná cuir marc **ach san aon chearnóg amháin***<br>Place a mark in **one square only**<br><br>**Má thoilíonn tú**, cuir X sa chearnóg seo<br>If you **approve**, mark X in this square — **TÁ / YES**<br><br>**Mura dtoilíonn tú,** cuir X sa chearnóg seo<br>If you **do not approve** mark X in this square — **NÍL / NO** |
| Comhdhuille Uimh.<br><br>Counterfoil No. | (Back of Paper / Cúl an Pháipéir)<br>Uimh. No. .....<br>Údarás Áitiúil ..... Local Authority.....<br>An phobalbhreith ar Dhírthoghchán Méara<br>Plebiscite on Direct Election of Mayor |

SAMPLE