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Message from the Mayor

Cllr. Dick Sadlier



The Mayoralty is a wonderful office for it afforded me once again, an elected citizen, a unique opportunity to step back from a different life and see afresh how the community in concert with the City Council continue to make great strides in the improvement of Limerick City's quality of life.

During my term as Mayor I was profoundly moved by my first hand experience of the vitality and enthusiasm in which the citizens of Limerick contribute daily to the life of their city. At each of the many meetings and events I attended I was struck by the strong sense of community identity and the vibrant spirit that exists through out our city.

My very best wishes for the coming year

Cllr Dick Sadlier, Mayor of Limerick

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Introduction

Tom Mackey, City Manager



Tom Mackey, City Manager

The Annual Report for the year 2003 sets out in the following pages the main activities and achievements of Limerick City Council during the year.

The process of change in the City Council initiated through Better Local Government advanced through further progress in the operation of the Strategic Policy Committees which has helped strengthen local democracy. The City Council has continued to foster community and economic development by working closely with community groups, statutory agencies and business interests who have the well being and growth of the city as their focus.

The physical redevelopment of the city by the private sector in 2003 was matched with major public investment in infrastructure, particularly in water, wastewater, broadband services and roads, as is evident by the near completion of the Limerick Main Drainage Project. The treatment plant was commissioned in October and the flows from the old outfalls were switched to the new system. For a number of years now the Council has sought to improve traffic management through the city for the benefit of all road users. This process will be greatly assisted by work undertaken on the Automated Urban Traffic Control System which links and synchronises the traffic lights. In addition, Phase 1 of the Corbally link road was completed in partnership between the Council and King's Island Developments Limited

In continuing to deliver on the Council's Corporate Plan, which had a key objective of enhancing the library service, work commenced on a new branch library at Moyross which will provide a range of services for adults, teenagers and children on the northside of the city.

The physical renaissance of Limerick is apparent to all and the city is widely acknowledged as a leader in urban renewal and is internationally recognised for this. I wish to place on record my appreciation to all concerned who contribute to the advancement of development, from both the private and public sectors.

I would like to acknowledge and express my appreciation for the loyalty and dedication of staff for our many achievements in 2003. I also wish to express my thanks to the Mayor, Cllr. Dick Sadlier and his immediate predecessor, Cllr. John Cronin, together with the Members of Council for their enthusiasm, support, ideas and assistance over the year and for the welcome they afforded me on my arrival.

Members of Limerick City Council



_Resigned 7th July 2003







CLLR. JOHN GILLIGAN_NP



CLLR. KATHLEEN LEDDIN_NP





CLLR. JOE LEDDIN_LAB



CLLR. JACK BOURKE_FF





CLLR. MARIA BYRNE FG





CLLR. LARRY CROSS_FF





CLLR. MICHAEL HOURIGAN_FG





CLLR. KIERAN O'HANLON_FF



_Resigned 8th June 2003



_Co-opted 23rd June 2003



_Co-opted 22nd September 2003

Sectoral Representatives

On The City Council's Strategic Policy Committees









_Social Policy & Housing

_Social Policy & Housing

MR DEREK MULCAHAY



_Social Policy & Housing

_Culture & Sport

_Culture & Sport

_Culture & Sport







_Culture & Sport

Environment

Environment







_Transportation & Infrastructure

Economic Development & Future Planning



Economic Development & Future Planning



_Transportation & Infrastructure

Economic Development & Future Planning



Transportation & Infrastructure Economic Development & Future Planning

Highlights of the Year 2003

Civic Receptions

Our Sporting Heroes_27th Mar

Mayor John Cronin held a special reception in acknowledgement of the great sporting success to date of Andy Lee (including silver at the World Junior Championships 2002 and national titles) and Dave Keane, trainer of U21 All Ireland Three-In-A-Row hurling team.

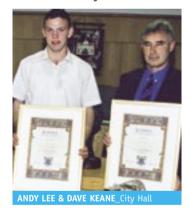
Women's Superleague Basketball Club_27th Mar

Mayor Cronin hosted this civic reception to mark the victory of the Ladies Team in the National Cup Championship and Superleague.

Brothers of Charity Services Bawnmore_10th Dec

Mayor Dick Sadlier and Limerick City Council were proud to honour the Brothers of Charity Services on the special occasion of their 25th Anniversary.











Highlights of the Year 2003

As ever Limerick people go about their daily lives with great energy and commitment. This years highlights confirm that this culture of achievement remains as strong as ever.

Special Olympics 2003 The torch burned brightly in Limerick City

Thousands of people turned out to cheer on the Olympic Flame of Hope and its proud custodians as they visited Limerick, Tuesday June 17th.

Over 300 city primary school representatives form a guard of honour to greet the torch runners, made up of a hundred police officers from all over the world, ten special Olympians, Gardai from all over Ireland and policemen from Northern Ireland. The biggest cheer and warmest welcome was waiting for them when they finished the Limerick leg of the torch run in the grounds of City Hall.













CIVIC MATTERS

Highlights of civic events and sporting success during the year

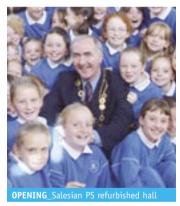
























Corporate Services

Good Relations is an increasingly important area of work for the Council.

MANAGEMENT SERVICES / ICT / HUMAN RESOURCES / PARTNERSHIP / HEALTH & SAFETY DEPARTMENT



Management Services

Bridging the divide between the Political and Executive Functions of the Organisation.

Achievements in 2003

- Organisation of Civic Receptions, including Civic Reception for Special Olympics and Mayoral Receptions.
- Training provided for new Members co-opted to City Council.
- Successful operation of schedule of meetings for City Council.
- Publication of Draft Register of Electors and Register of Electors in accordance with statutory deadlines.
- Assessing, processing and payment of Higher Education Grants in accordance with Department of Education and Science Higher Education Grant Scheme in a speedy and efficient manner.
- Ongoing communication with C.V.O. and Food Safety Authority for the purpose of consumer protection.
- Operation of E-Tendering Website.
- Successful operation of City Centre Co-Ordination Office.
- Successful participation in L.E.D.P.



ICT - Information Technology

Maintaining and enhancing existing ICT services and introducing new vital services.

Achievements in 2003

Telecommunications & Network Services

- Implementation of new integrated cross-organisation telephone system. Features include voicemail & direct dial. Systems co-exist on computer communications systems facilitating greater cost efficiencies.
- Expansion of Network to incorporate the Homeless Persons Project,
 Cecil Street and the relocation of the Parks Depot from Edward
 Street to Rathbane.
- Consolidation of 'back office' hardware resources re-using the existing resources more efficiently to minimise expansion costs.

GIS

- City Property Register recorded and mapped.
- Training of staff in GIS applications and solutions.
- Corporate Browser implemented: Intranet based mapping.
- Development Plan and Census analysis projects carried out.
- New digital Planning Register implemented to replace paper maps.



Web Services

- Real-time access to Planning Register provided through City Council Website.
- eMuseum Searchable on-line museum catalogue
- New features for interaction with public: On-line feedback, Online Public Consultations opportunities
- Introduced Intranet and trained staff

Software Systems

Ongoing modernisation of business systems continued with the implementation of 'Ticket Manager' – a new Traffic Fines System and AcuPAY Payroll System.





Health & Safety

Promoting a strong health & safety culture

Achievements in 2003

- Risk Assessments and Safety Statements were reviewed and updated for fifteen different sections
- Safe work practice guidelines were developed for Manual Materials Handling and Abrasive Wheel Tools / Equipment
- Eleven meetings of the Safety Representatives Committee were organised and the H&S issues raised were investigated and resolved
- An extensive programme of events were organised for H&S Week
- First-Aid demonstrations were provided for all outdoor staff
- H&S training needs were identified and providers sourced
- Seminars on Stress Awareness and Management were provided
- Policies on mobile phones and Smoking at Work were developed and implemented
- Ergonomic assessment and training was carried out in the Finance Department
- PCs and telephones located in the Depots were sanitised

A comprehensive analysis report of all accidents and actions taken to avoid risk of recurrence was compiled

Corporate Services_Continued

Good Relations is an increasingly important area of work for the Council.

MANAGEMENT SERVICES / ICT / HUMAN RESOURCES / PARTNERSHIP / HEALTH & SAFETY DEPARTMENT

Human Resources

Managing our valuable resources

Achievements in 2003

Development

- Bachelor of Social Studies in Housing & Community Studies
- Train the Trainer
- Bachelor of Business Studies
- National Certificate in Civil Engineering Diploma in Safety, Health & Welfare at Work
- M.A. in Local Government Management
- Certificate in Local Government Studies
- PGDIP/MSC Library Information Studies
- Payroll Course
- Postgraduate Safety & Ergonomics
- Diploma in Project Management
- M.B.A. Programme
- Higher Certificate in Local Government Studies

Skills

- E.C.D.L.
- PowerPoint
- Waste Management Programme
- Excavation/Trench Support
- Confined Spaces
- Manual Handling
- Use of Chemicals
- Signing, Lighting & Guarding at Roadworks
- Management Development Programme
- Excellence Through People
- Accounting Standards
- Safety Awareness Training
- Expert Witness
- Winter Maintenance
- Hand Held Chassis & Abrasive Wheel Training
- Report Writing & Minute Taking
- Excel & Advanced Excel
- Telephone Cash Collection Training
- Water Pricing
- Gaelagras Training
- Local Government Superannuation
- Certificate In Audit Skills

Organisational

- Agresso
- Supervisory Skills
- Literacy Awareness
- Using your PC The Healthy Way
- Grievance & Disciplinary Training
- First Aid Demonstrations
- Safe Pass
- Stress Awareness & Management
- Disability Awareness Training
- Induction
- First Aid Information
- Multiculturalism Training

The following policies were introduced:

- Mobile Phone Policies
- Worksharing Scheme
- Term Time

The following procedures were introduced:

- Interview Leave
- Personal Records
- Reserve Defence Forces Training
- Carers Leave Act 2001
- Amendment to Parental Leave Act

The following procedures were revised:

- Employees Sick Leave
- Employees Annual Leave









Partnership

The established way of doing business

Involving management, unions and staff at all levels in addressing a wide range of issues of strategic and operational importance, and in delivering positive outcomes to all stakeholders, i.e., management, staff, unions and the public.

The national social partnership agreement 2003 - 2005 'Progress' highlights the 'usefulness of Partnership as a mechanism to secure delivery of change and modernisation with all parties committing themselves to building upon the structures that have already been established'.

Achievements in 2003

- Design and implementation of series of events by Bi-Lingual Task Group to mark Seachtain na Gaeilge. Activities were geared towards raising awareness amongst staff of activities of a cultural nature prior to the development of an organisational Bi-Lingual Strategy.
- Provision of funding towards the provision of Limerick City Council's Tenant's Handbook which was launched in December 2003. This handbook is a user-friendly, non-technical guide for tenants to raise awareness of the Housing Services they are entitled to receive. It also explains what is expected of them as tenants of Limerick City Council.
- Issue of staff uniforms to a number of staff in City Hall.
- Established a Special Olympics task group within the Council which organised a number of in-house activities to raise funds for the national 'Sponsor an Athlete' programme. The group also provided information to staff on the wider area of disability in addition to assisting the Limerick City Special Olympic Committee in welcoming the Austrian delegation.

Considerable co-operation was received from staff in the Parks, Environment, Roads, Library, Arts, Management Services, Civil Defence and Community and Enterprise departments to ensure that Limerick City's host week was memorable.

- Development and circulation to staff of a Policy on the Use of Mobile Phones Whilst Driving
- In conjunction with Limerick City VEC, continued the Return to Learning programme for staff.
- Established a Pilot Team Talks programme to provide an opportunity for each department to review on a monthly basis, progress of it's Annual Operational Plan and to discuss any other matters of relevance to staff within each individual department.
- Completed nomination process for renewed Partnership Steering Committee and Joint Participation Committees and provision of training for the latter committees.
- In conjunction with Human Resource Department, organised focus group meeting for Partnership Steering Committee and circulation of questionnaires to staff with regard to proposed Human Resource Strategy.

Dynamic programme of social and affordable housing

Limerick City Council has approximately 3,216 rented properties in its ownership. The number of applicants on its Housing Waiting List averaged 800 at any one time.

Key Elements of the Annual Operational Plan

- Increase the availability of affordable and social housing.
- Enhance the support network necessary in the provision of social housing
- Develop an effective system of management for our housing stock.

The City Councils four year multi-annual building programme covered the period 2000 to 2003. At the end of December, 2003

- 241 houses had commenced on site
- 213 were at advanced design stage.
- refurbishment works commenced on 22
- Total number of houses let 274







Main achievements during the year

- Appointment of Homeless Co-ordinator to work with voluntary organisations in the management and development of accommodation for homeless persons.
- Appointment of a full-time Tenancy Enforcement Officer to deal with complaints regarding anti-social behaviour.
- Appointment of a full-time Traveller Services Co-ordinator responsible for management and development of traveller accommodation.
- Launch of Limerick City Councils Tenants Handbook.
- Commenced review of estate management strategy document 'Managing in Partnership'.
- Two contracts, covering 438 houses, were signed in respect of Limerick City Councils Windows and Doors Replacement Programme
- Review of Traveller Accommodation Plan
- Provision of 4 No. units of transitional and move on accommodation for homeless persons under the Voluntary Housing Scheme.
- Works commenced on the extension and refurbishment of Adapt House under the voluntary housing Capital Assistance Scheme, estimated cost of project 1.7 million.
- Rent Scheme was reviewed to ensure that it did not contribute to the creation of poverty traps and this resulted in a revised Fixed Rent Scheme being implemented in 2003.
- 76,500 paid to five estate management groups in respect of staffing and office administration costs.
- 110,882 paid to 13 voluntary and community groups under the Social and Community Grants Scheme 2003.





Transportation & Infrastructure

Improvements and maintenance of our public transport system is key to sustainable quality of life in Limerick City



Developing the city's infrastructure

Main Road Schemes completed

Specific Improvement Grants: (Road resurfacing and Footpaths)

- Roxboro Road
- Kilmallock Road
- Lord Edward Street
- Parnell Street

Special Block Grants: (Road Resurfacing and Footpaths)

- Kileely
- Rathbane/Hyde Road
- St Patrick's Road
- Priory Park
- Ard Scoile Ris Lane, Lane 54
- Cabbage Market Row
- Mill Road
- Little Francis Street
- New Footpath at Ballynanty
- Improved footpaths at Joseph St.
- Improved footpaths at Marian Drive

Limerick City Centre: Croí na Cathrach: Remodelling of Streets and Open Spaces:

- Baker Place
- Lower Bedford Row

Other Works Undertaken Include:

- Corbally Link Rd (Phase 1)
- N7 Parkway Realignment
- LIT Bus Inset
- Canal Bank Crash Barrier, Rheboque
- Lower Park
- St. Mary's Park
- Singland National School traffic calming set down area
- Joint Sealing and Footpath Ecoflexing
- Surfacing of Back Lanes Kennedy Park
- Barcelona Convention Footpath Works 20,000
- Public Lighting Improvements
- Under-grounding of Overhead Cables (Nicholas St, Mary St., Bridge St.)
- Programme of Gully Replacement and Improvement
- Hazard/Fault repair and Elimination

Other Projects in Progress:

- Cycle Network Strategy
- Urban Traffic Control
- Public Transport Initiatives
- Limerick Metropolitan Area Network (Broadband) Phase I

Projects at Development Stage:

- Corbally Link Phase 2 Project Development
- Southern Ring Road 2 Project Development
- Park Canal Project Development
- Cycle Lanes
- City Centre Strategy

Due to the efforts of the water conservation team water consumption has been reduced by over 1000m3/day, while property numbers have grown by over 4,000 units

Sanitary Services

Drinking Water Compliance - 2003

- 3 breaches of Coliforms resulted from isolated samples taken from premises within the city where internal plumbing systems were inadequate. After flushing, samples were clear
- Current recommended levels of Fluoride are 0.8 to 1.0 mg/l.
 Samples that did not comply with the regulations were generally lower than the minimum value. However, three samples did slightly exceed the limit
- Limit for aluminium is currently set at 0.2 mg/l. Samples that were in excess of this limit were caused by minor technical problems at the water treatment plant now have been resolved.

New Mains

New watermains were installed at the following locations:

Dock Road 2,000 meters

Courtbrack Ave 250 meters

Groody River Crossings 200 meters

700 West of Shannon 550 meters

Clareville to Newcastle Rising Main 5,400 meters

New Connections

58 new developments in Limerick City were provided with new connections in 2003. These developments included new housing developments, apartment blocks, shopping centre developments and one-off properties.

Sewage

Our Sewerage Network Maintenance Crews responded to over 500 calls of reports of blocked sewers and flooding during 2003. The majority of problems were sorted out in less than 5 hours.







Environmental Awareness

Creating a positive image and attractive profile for Limerick









Environment Highlights 2003

Limerick City Council second in the country in the Rehab Recycling 'Sponsor and Athlete Programme'

- 2003 saw a huge increase in recycling rates across the city councils bring bank network. Glass up 56%, Drink Cans up 53%, Steel cans up 40%, Plastic Bottles up 3% from 2002
- A total of thirty-four entries were received and thirteen prizes awarded in the 2003 Garden Competition.
- The Environment Improvement Initiative was launched. Twelve local groups were approved grants totalling 29,315.
- A new Home Composting Leaflet was produced and 303 compost bins sold.
- During 2003 three visits were organised for the provision of collecting hazardous waste.
- A third National Litter Monitoring Survey was completed in November 2003.
- 3.750 tonnes of street litter was collected in 2003

- A 3 year strategy for the placement of litterbins in Limerick City was adopted in December 2003.
- 742 litter fines were issued during 2003. Eighty-five successful court prosecutions
- Following the promotion of Green Schools; 19 schools registered and 4 Green flags were awarded to Ard Scoil Ris, North Circular Road and St. Munchin's NS, Ballynanty Corpus Christi Moyross and Southill Junior School.
- The Brothers of Charity Fairgreen pioneered a new award for Adult Training Centres. They are the first Adult Training Centre in the country to receive a Green Flag for their work on the litter and waste.
- The People's Park was awarded best local park in the Governments pilot City Neighbourhood Scheme.
- One hundred and eighty students from five schools attended the Sustainable Energy Workshops.









- Approx 3,000 children from 26 schools attended 'Piperella and the Lost Colours' an educational interactive environmental awareness performance in Mary Immaculate College.
- There were a total of 6 Waste Permited facilities in the Limerick City Council area in 2003.
- A Total of 156 Waste Collection Permit Applications were received for the Limerick Clare Kerry Region up until the end of 2003.
- Environment Protection Agency granted Limerick City Council Waste Licence (Ref 76-1) for the rehabilitation of the closed Longpavement Landfill site.
- Implementation of the 'Horses Action Plan' adopted in 2002. Sixty-two horses were seized in 2003.
- Staff from the Environment Department participated in the annual pollution exercises training during 2003.



Policy Development and Future Planning

Realising the economic potential of the City by the provision of infrastructure and the promotion of retailing, tourism and general commercial and industrial development







Key services of this department include:

- The Review of the City Development Plan
- The Control of Development
- The implementation of Government programmes for tax exempt developments
- The Conservation of Natural and Built environment
- The provision of advice and guidance

A considerable scope of work was achieved during the year, which included:

- Limerick City Development Plan 1998 varied to include (a) rezoning for the Southern Ring Road/Rosbrien Road Interchange (b) the Retail Strategy for Limerick City and the Mid West Region and (c) Protected structures at 1 and 2 Quinlan Street and at Lower Cecil Street
- Review of the Casual Trading Bye Laws commenced with the setting up of a Consultative Forum
- The pre-consultation phase of the Development Plan Review was held in January/February, 2003. 269 observations were received and were considered by the City Council for inclusion in the Development Plan Review

- The production of the Limerick Docklands Development Plan commenced as did the revision of the case for the Boro Boundary Extension
- Preliminary certification was issued in relation to 35 development sites under the Integrated Area Plan
- The Economic Policy and Future Planning SPC and the City Council made recommendations on the Regional Planning Guidelines
- One of the more significant planning applications granted in 2003 was for the re-development of the St. Munchin House site for 3000 sq. m. of shopping and 170 apartments. Other developments of note were the re-development of the former Carlton Cinema site and the former City Tannery at Lower Gerald Griffin St./Old Windmill Road.



Fire & Rescue Services

Minimising the risk of fire and other emergencies to life, property and environment and providing an integrated organisational response to fire and major emergencies.



The Service operates 24 hours a day, 365 days per year from the Fire Station, Mulgrave Street, Limerick. It provides fire and rescue services to an area of approximately 419 sq. kilometres and a population in excess of 100,000 people within the Borough itself and in adjoining areas in counties Limerick and Clare. It also provides a response to road traffic accidents, flooding and other emergencies.

The Service also includes a Fire Prevention & Building Control Department that deals with fire safety and building control matters.

Main Achievements in 2003

Fire & Rescue:

- Attended 1244 fires
- Attended 190 Special Services Incidents such as road traffic accidents, water pumping / flooding etc.
- Average mobilising time 1.08 minutes
- One new fire appliance purchased, with the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government grant aid.
- Drill Yard re-development begun with DoEHLG grant aid
- Grant Aid approval was received from Sustainable Energy Ireland for energy conservation improvements at the Fire Station.





Fire Prevention & Building Control:

Planning Referrals:

160 planning applications were referred to the Fire Prevention and Building Control Department received and reports on them were issued to the Planning Department

Fire Safety Certificate Applications:

Number of Applications received: 136

Number of Commencement Notices Received:

Commencement Notices: 180

Licensing of Premises (S.24 of The Fire Services Act 1981):

Total number of inspections: 303

Event Planning:

The Fire Prevention Department was involved in an advisory capacity in relation to three major events

Community Fire Safety:

Three talks were given on fire safety to various groups

General:

The Health & Safety Statement was released during 2003 and standard operating procedures were formulated

Social Inclusion - tackling exclusion and poverty in Limerick City

2003 was the first full year of operation of the Social Inclusion Unit. Established in 2002, as part of a three-year pilot initiative, it is one of eight pilot units around the country.



The unit's overall objective of embedding social inclusion across the organisation by focusing its work programme around five main strands of work, as follows:

- Corporate Planning and Policy Development
- Tangible Social Inclusion Projects
- Research
- Awareness-Raising and Training
- External Co-operation and Co-ordination

Tangible Social Inclusion Projects:

- Waste Management The SIU initiated in a joint project with the Environment Department and Moyross Development Company.
 A grant of 15,000 was secured from Combat Poverty Agency for the development of a project to enhance waste management in the Moyross area.
- Housing Entitlements of Non-National People The SIU developed guidelines on the social housing entitlements of non-national people in need of housing in Limerick.
- IT Accessibility The SIU is supporting the IT Department to incorporate IT Accessibility Guidelines into the local authority's website development programme.
- Literacy Proofing One in four people in Ireland have low literacy levels. Therefore, with the support of the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) the SIU reviewed the Housing Department's new Tenant's Handbook from a literacy perspective to ensure that it is as accessible as possible to people with literacy difficulties.



 Intercultural Project - In 2003 the SIU, the Housing Department and DORAS Luimní completed a CPA funded intercultural project.
 This resulted in the translation of key Housing Departments into French, Arabic and Russian and the revision of the Homeless Person's Centre information leaflet and map of homeless facilities in the City.

Awareness Raising and Training

The SIU organised numerous in-house awareness-raising activities in 2003. These included training and events to mark European Week Against Racism, Traveller Awareness Week and Literacy Awareness Week. It made a number of presentations to the Social Policy and Housing SPC on social inclusion issues. It also developed a submission in response to the national NAPS consultation process on behalf of the eight SIUs nationally, and shared best-practice on social inclusion in local authorities through the Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network.

External Co-Operation and Co-Ordination

In 2003 the SIU actively participated in the Social Inclusion Measures Group of the City Development Board, PAUL Partnership Community Development Sub-Group, Limerick Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and Limerick City Homeless Forum. It also assisted Limerick City Sports Partnership in incorporating a social inclusion dimension into its five-year strategic plan.

Arts and Culture

Enriching the cultural lives of Limerick City citizens through improved awareness and access to facilities

Moylish Sport Centre

During 2003, the Council transferred ownership of Moylish Sports Centre to the Limerick Institute of Technology. Work on Grove Island Leisure Centre (jointly owned by Limerick City Council and Kings Island Developments Ltd.) continued in 2003 with a planned opening date in 2004.

	Usage	Revenue generated
Moylish Sports Centre (Jan-Feb)	6,883	13,458
Roxboro Swimming Pool	33,646	81,862

Rathbane Golf Course

A new management structure, to operate the total day to day running of the course, was put in place as of the 1st January, 2003. The management company undertook improvement as well as maintenance works during the year which included planting and relocation of trees, increasing fairways, provision of additional tee boxes and drainage installation.

A very successful junior golf programme (based on the U.S. first tee programme) was held at the course between the 8th July and the 24th August, in which over 30 young people from various parts of the city took part.

Parks Service

The Parks Service mowed in the region of 300 acres of grass during the year and raised a substantial quantity of plants in the Mill Road Nursery for subsequent planting out in the city.

As part of the Council's City Enhancement Programme, a 'Bridges in Bloom' project commenced in 2003. Hanging baskets were placed on four bridges: Sarsfield Bridge, Thomond Bridge, Mathew Bridge and Baal's Bridge.

Cemeteries

Number of Burials 2003:

Mt. St. Lawrence - 206 Mt. St. Oliver - 250

Limerick City Museum

Ireland's first online museum catalogue

Limerick City Museum's online catalogue, containing 51,219 records, went live in December. The site attracted over 15,000 hits in the first month.

There were 858 additions to the museum collection during 2003. Notable among them were a Limerick silver table snuffbox by Thomas Bourke, c.1790, a Limerick silver sauceboat by Samuel Johns, c.1750, a Royal Artillery jacket made at Limerick Clothing Factory 1903, a medal commemorating the capture of Limerick 1691 and a walnut and silver flute made by Corbett & Son, c.1850.

A Late Bronze Age metalwork hoard found at Newgarden, Castleconnell, was brought to the museum in March. It is expected that the hoard, consisting of a socketed axe, a sickle, a gouge and a chisel, dating from c.800 BC, will be acquired by the museum as a designated museum under the Cultural Institutions Act 1997.

Visitor numbers were slightly down on 2002 – 13,998 in 2003, 14,558 in 2002.











Limerick City Arts Service

Preserving the City's Culture and Heritage

Key activities undertaken during 2003

- Introduced a weekly electronic guide to city arts activities
- The first CNC National Choral Conductors' Forum was held in Limerick in January.
- The annual Kate O' Brien Weekend, attended by over 200 people, culminated in the Kate O' Brien lecture by Ferdinand Mount.
- ev+a 2003, the exhibition of visual+ art included artworks by 69 artists from 20 countries. The ev+a committee employed a PR firm, which has benefited greatly the public awareness of ev+a.
- Fresh Film Festival for young people between 12–18 yrs, hosted a series of films in the national touring cinamobile. With a capacity of 70 it was full for the daylong screenings by schools in the area.
- The first European Community Music Network gathering took place in March at the Irish World Music Centre.

- Art & Science: The Meaning of Life a schools project in association with the Sculptors' Society of Ireland. Sean Lynch, artist, and 24 students from St. Enda's Secondary School worked on examining the subject matter of science/media.
- Compose Yourself A community music project in Galvone National School with the Education and Community Outreach Department of the Irish Chamber Orchestra.
- IRMA Trust recognised the need in Limerick City for the provision of a rehearsal space for young bands in the City. IRMA has provided equipment and instruments for the purposes of rehearsal. Up to ten young Limerick bands now use the space on a weekly basis.
- Sionna Festival of European Traditional Music and Dance. Now in its 4th year, the festival has the potential for becoming a centre piece of the arts calendar for the city.
- Cuisle Poetry Festival local national and international poets brought a rich flavour to the festival, which took place in October.

Arts and Culture_continued

Increase participation in recreational and cultural activities throughout the city.

Limerick City Gallery of Art

There was a very full and varied exhibition programme during the year, which included:

- 'Ambit Paintings and Drawings' by the Limerick artist Samuel Walsh
- 'The way things are 2000-2002' by Helen O'Leary
- ev+a curated by Virginia Perez-Ratton Consisting of 70 artists from 20 countries
- 'Aphrodite' installations and photography by Brian Kennedy
- 'Shared Designs' a collaboration between 'Our Lady of Lourdes Community Development Project Young Women's Group', Limerick and Michael McLoughlin examining their community issues and the physical environment.

The Gallery also hosted Lectures, readings and events by the Limerick Architects Forum, Cuisle Poetry Festival, Irish Arts Review, the Irish World Music Centre, ev+a and Ouch!electro. Pieces from the Permanent Collection were shown at The National Gallery, The Model Niland Gallery in Sligo and at Glór, Ennis.

MA Curatorial Museum based Research Project Shinnors Scholarship

Limerick City Gallery of Art and the School of Art, LIT have begun an MA of Art by Research over a two-year period. The funding for the project has been provided by a scholarship donated for this purpose known as the 'Shinnors Scholarship 2003 – 2005'.

The placement provides a unique learning situation for the prospective student on a day-to-day basis to study and engage with all aspects of the City Gallery's core activities including the Exhibition Programme, the Permanent Collection, the Outreach and Education Programme. This programme provides a unique focus on training within the gallery sector in the Visual Arts in Ireland.





Limerick City Library Service

Advancing the provisions of 'branching out' Visitors to Granary City Library totalled 135,603 during the year

Service Highlights

- Delivery of a new Schools Library Van in December 2003, enabling the service to bring books to every primary school child in Limerick City.
- Tve Always Wanted to Try' workshop for older people organised jointly with 'Age and Opportunity' and the National Irish Bank.
- Building commenced on a new library in Moyross where a state of the art facility will provide lending, music and language laboratories, and I.T. services to children, teenagers and adults.
- In celebration of being the 'Host Town' the Austrian Delegation of the Special Olympics lectures and events were held in the library which involved all city schools.

Library Usage 2003

PC & Internet Sessions: Granary: 12,392 Roxboro: 3,028
Total Issues 2003: Granary: 56,405 Roxboro: 21,756
New Registrations: Granary: 5,717 Roxboro: 708

Community and Enterprise

Committed to improving the quality of life for people in Limerick City

A city of Opportunity

Achievements 2003

- The Economic Working Group worked with Limerick City Council on the draft Development Plan for Limerick City. The planning and development issues, which will affect the City from an economic perspective in the future, are E-business development, Strategic Business Clusters, Education and Development, Enterprise Culture, Brand development, Limerick as a Living City, The River Shannon, Transport and Infrastructure, Retail, Energy, Water.
- Sustainable Energy Ireland delivered a presentation in April 2003 to review some possible applications of renewable energy options within Limerick City. In June, Board member Richard Moles delivered an extensive presentation to the Board and later in the year the Board earmarked the sustainability indicators project as a priority for the CDB work programme in 2004.
- Limerick City Childcare Committee became a working group of the City Development Board in 2003. The Committee recruited a childcare co-ordinator to implement and monitor the childcare strategy for the city.
- The City Development Board established the City of Learning Steering Group in January. The remit of this group is to plan, design and develop a Strategy for Limerick to enable it to become a City of Learning.
- The SIM Working Group completed the 2003 work plan which included, an audit of Social Inclusion measures.
- The Development Board in partnership with Limerick Youth Service organised Limerick City Comhairle na nÓg in May 2003. Young people between the ages of 8 and 17 attended the event, topics chosen for discussion by the delegates were the environment, drug and alcohol abuse for 13 to 17yr olds and personal safety and safety for younger children in the community.

RAPID Achievements

Since the launch of the RAPID Programme, various initiatives and developments have taken place including:

- 30 Projects are being implemented across the city
- Structures facilitate local area planning and development.
- Involvement of the local community into decision-making processes.
- Recognition of areas in the strategic development of service plans has promoted cooperation and reduced competition between communities.
- The AIT structures facilitate the integration of services at a local level.
- Identification of RAPID areas both nationally and locally as priority areas for specific government funding streams such as: Sport Capital Programme; Dormant Accounts & Leverage Fund

The Dormant Accounts Programme launched in November 2003 specifically targets RAPID, CLAR and Drugs Task Force areas for prioritisation. This fund is a potential opportunity to assist a range of RAPID projects under the following Categories: Economic & Social Disadvantage, Educational Disadvantage and Persons with a Disability. The Leverage Fund has been allocated to the RAPID programme nationally to assist in the local delivery of RAPID Projects. This funding will be on stream in 2004.

Financial Statements

for year ended 31st December 2003

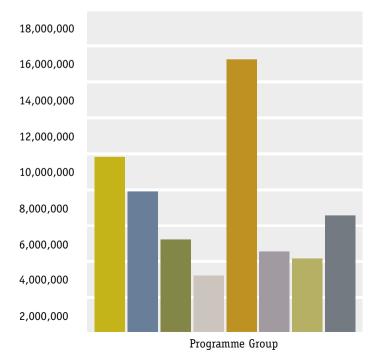
Revenue Account Expenditure Statement For Year Ended 31st December 2003

	Gross Expenditure	Gross Expenditure
Expenditure by Programme Group	2003	2002
Housing & Building	9,892,107	8,446,658
Roads Transportation & Safety	7,998,722	6,793,262
Water & Sewerage	4,883,782	4,745,180
Development Incentives & Controls	2,994,525	3,015,195
Environmental Protection	15,298,962	14,831,347
Recreation & Amenity	4,890,601	5,246,422
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	4,383,085	3,346,215
Miscellaneous	6,328,391	5,938,176
Total Expenditure	56,670,174	52,362,455

Programme Groups - Graph References:



Revenue Account Expenditure for year ended 31/12/03

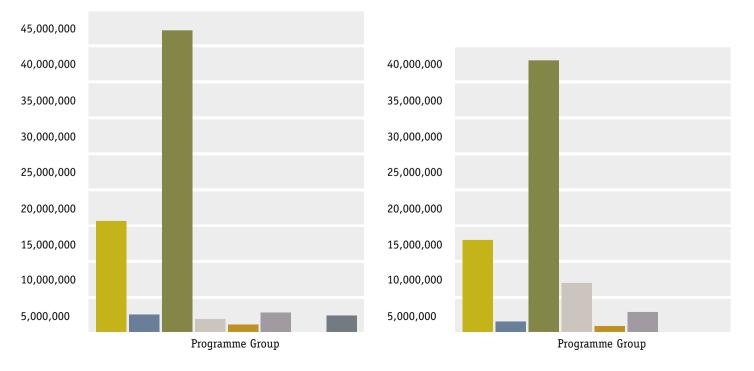


Draft Summary Of Capital Payments and Receipts

Payments (Net of Internal Transfers)*	2003	2002
Housing & Building	15,595,302	23,041,131
Roads Transportation & Safety	2,450,024	5,032,539
Water & Sewerage	42,327,982	73,421,231
Development Incentives & Controls	1,793,975	2,110,470
Environmental Protection	644,845	995,096
Recreation & Amenity	2,539,723	2,018,971
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	-	-
Miscellaneous	3,376,591	4,647,912
Total Payments	68,728,443	111,267,351
Receipts (Net of Internal Transfers)*		
Housing & Building	12,508,646	24,382,920
Roads Transportation & Safety	2,201,405	5,661,637
Water & Sewerage	37,671,158	63,949,695
Development Incentives & Controls	7,237,899	-1,332,515
Environmental Protection	625,199	741,475
Recreation & Amenity	2,321,249	2,202,294
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	-	-
Miscellaneous	2,651,586	2,146,961
Total Receipts	65,217,142	97,752,467
Surplus(Deficit) for year	(3,511,300)	(13,514,884)
Balance (Debit)\Credit @ 1st January	(8,128,900)	5,385,984
Balance (Debit)\Credit @ 31 December	(11,640,200)	(8,128,900)
Balance (Debit)\Credit @ 1st January	(8,128,900)	5,385,984

Capital A/C Expenditure for year ended 31/12/03

Capital A/C Income for year ended 31/12/03



Strategic Policy Committees

Annual Report

Environment Strategic Policy Committee

The members met on 4 occasions in 2003. Presentations were received and discussions were held on a wide range of issues including:

- Implementation of the Regional Waste Management Plan
- Regional waste management office and waste packaging regulations
- Enforcement of litter and waste legislation
- National litter pollution monitoring survey
- Strategy for the provision and maintenance of Litter bins in the city
- Pilot Environment Improvement Initiative
- Control of horses
- Environment Awareness Initiatives and the Race Against Waste campaign
- Bye Laws on the Presentation of Waste
- Longpavement Landfill Site

The Strategic Policy Committee forwarded to the City Council the following recommendations:

- Litter bin strategy
- Grants under the Pilot Environment Improvement Initiative Scheme

The Economic Policy Development & Future Planning Strategic Policy Committee

The Committee met on five occasions in 2003. Presentations were received and discussions were held on a wide range of issues including:

- Retail Strategy
- Review of the City Development Plan
- Implementation of Casual Trading Bye-Laws
- Integrated Area Plan
- Living Over the Shop
- Recreation Strategy
- Review of Development Plans by adjoining Local Authorities including Regional Planning Guidelines and proposed Borough Boundary submission
- 2002 Census
- Regional Planning Guidelines
- Greenpark

Cultural and Sporting Strategic Policy Committee

The Committee met on five occasions during 2003. Presentations were received and discussions were held on a wide range of issues including:

- Roxboro Swimming Pool
- O'Brien Park
- Mount St. Lawrence Cemetery Heritage Project
- Shelbourne Park
- Rathbane Golf Course
- Arts Strategy
- New City Development Plan
- Special Olympics
- Enhancement of City with 'Bridges in Bloom'
- Museum Website
- EV+A
- Online Library Catalogue
- LPYMA Grounds
- Mayorstone Park
- National Survey of Public Library Users

The Strategic Policy Committee forwarded to the City Council the following recommendations:

- City Council to take a leading role in the establishment of a Civic Centre Building in the heart of Limerick.
- Payment of grants under the Arts Act in the sum of 4,500



Transportation & Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee

The Committee met on six occasions in 2003. Presentations were received and discussions were held on a wide range of issues including:

- City Centre Strategy
- Road Grant Allocations and Roads Programme
- Water Services Capital Works Projects
- Limerick Main Drainage Project
- Taking in Charge
- Fourth Progress Report on Government Strategy for Road Safety 1998-2002.
- Report on Water Services Five Year Investment Plan
- Report on Bus Lanes
- Regional Sludge Management Plan
- Draft Limerick City Cycle Lane Strategy
- Assessment of needs under the Water Services Investment Programme.
- Clancy Strand Rehabilitation Proposals.
- Shannon Broadband Project

The Strategic Policy Committee forwarded to the City Council the following recommendations:

- Proposed Road Safety Plan
- Sludge Management Plan
- Draft assessment of needs under the Water Services Investment Programme.
- Proposed introduction of Traffic Calming measures
- Report on Taking in Charge

Social Policy & Housing Strategic Policy Committee

The members of the Social Policy and Housing Strategic Policy Committee met on five occasions in 2003.

The Director of Service provided updates and discussions took place on the following issues:

- The Multi-Annual Building Programme 2000-2003
- Person Grant Scheme
- Windows and Doors Replacement Programme
- Anti-Racism Initiatives
- Regulations regarding private rented accommodation
- Redevelopment/Refurbishment of local authority apartments.
- Review of the Traveller Accommodation Plan
- 2004 Rent Scheme

The Strategic Policy Committee approved the final draft of the new Tenant's Handbook.

A presentation on Phase 2 of the Remedial Works Scheme in O'Malley Park took place.

The Social Inclusion Unit made a presentation on how it was endeavouring to tackle social exclusion across its various programmes and particularly in the housing area.

The Strategic Policy Committee forwarded recommendations to the City Council for the payment of Social and Community Grants in the sum of 110,882 and Estate Management Grants totalling 76,500







Service Indicators

A review of the years expenditure and income statistics

PLANNING APPLICATIONS / ROAD SURFACING / HOUSING VACANCIES SANITARY SERVICES / MOTOR TAX / LITTER / ENVIRONMENT / HUMAN RESOURCES







Planning Applications 2003

	Outline	Approval	Permission In accordance With 1994 Regulations	Permission In accordance With 2001 Regulations	Total
New applications received	3	1	0	354	358
Decisions Deferred	2	0	0	105	107
Decisions to grant	2	0	15	310	327
Decisions to refuse	0	0	12	27	39
Decisions issued within					
2 Months or 8 weeks as					
appropriate	0	0	0	261	261
Invalid applications	2	0	0	145	147
BORD PLEANALA DECISIONS 2003					
No. of appeals decided by An Bord Pleanala in 2003	3	24			
No. of decisions confirmed by An Bord Pleanala		14			
No. of decisions reversed by An Bord Pleanala		7			
No. of appeals withdrawn		3			
ENFORCEMENT 2003					
No. of Warning Letters served		63			
No. of Enforcement Notices served		9			

Road Surfacing

R1: Cost per square meter for dense bitumen macadam surfacing of roads. This includes a minimum addition of 110mm of base and wearing course macadam's. Additional items such as planning and strengthening of weak areas has also been taken into account.

R1 = Average cost / m^2 of Road Resurfacing = @ 33.14 / m^2

R2 = N/A

R3 = Percentage of Local Roads resurfaced = 1%

R4 = Percentage of National Roads resurfaced = 3%

R5 = Percentage of Regional Roads resurfaced = 6%

City Libraries

Number of books issued per head of population for 2003: 2.92 Number of other items issued per head of population for 2003: 0.37

Housing Vacancies

H.1

Total No. of Dwellings in Stock	3216
Overall % of dwellings that are let	93%
Overall % of dwellings that are empty	7%
% of empty dwellings subject to major refurbishment	90%
% of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	10%
% of empty dwellings available for letting	Nil

- **H.2** Average time taken to re-let dwellings available for letting = 1 Day
- **H.3** Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received = 88%
- **H.4** Average time taken to inform applicants of City Councils decision on applications for

Shared Ownership Scheme = Refusal = 2 weeks, Approval 4-6 weeks Housing Loans Scheme = Refusal = 2 weeks, Approval 4-6 weeks Local Authority Housing = 8 weeks

H.5 Total number of traveller families accommodated as a percentage of the targets set in Limerick City Councils Traveller Accommodation Programme = Targets set over a five year programme 2000-2004. 12% of targets have been reached at end of year four of programme.

Sanitary Services

- **S.1** Percentage compliance with sampling requirements of sampling of drinking water in compliance with Drinking Water Regulations 1998-100%.
- **S.2** Compliance of drinking water samples with statutory requirements* based on a basket of 13 specified parameters set out in Table 4.1 of the EPA report The quality of Drinking Water in Ireland.

Limerick City Drinking Water % Compliance

310 Samples Analysed in 2003

Parameter	% Compliance
Total Coliforms	96.8
Faecal Coliforms	100
Total Bacteria 37°C	100
Total Bacteria 22°C	100
Temp	100
PH	100
Conductivity	100
A1	93
Nitrate	100
Nitrite	100
Ammonium	100
Fluoride	82
Turbidity	100
Free Chlorine	100
Iron	100
Lead	100

- The exceedances of Total Coliforms parameters resulted from three isolated samples taken from premises in the city centre area.
 After flushing the internal systems in these premises they were clear. All samples taken in premises adjacent to the affected premises were also clear.
- Fluoride exceedances resulted from low levels of fluoride (under allowable limits of 800 – 1000ug/L). 3 samples were in excess of 1000ug/L.
- 3. The exceedance of the A1 (Aluminium Sulphate) parameter were due to localised problems within the treatment plant.

Human Resources

Percentage of work lost through sickness absence in 2003:6.39%.

Motor Tax

Percentage of Applications which were postal	26%
Number of Postal Applications	9125
Dealt with from Receipt of Applications	
a) On the same day	57%
b) On the third day or less	41%
c) On the fifth day or less	2%
d) Over 5 days	0.
, -	

Public opening hours, average number per week: 30 hours

68

4

22

5

Environment & Litter

- E1. Monitoring of water quality in Shannon, Abbey and Ballynaclough (Creek) Rivers
- 4 times per annum
- E2. Monitoring of River Shannon water quality in vicinity of Corbally in accordance with Bathing Water Directive Monthly during the Summer period.
- E3. Continuous measurement of Air Quality within City for Sulphur Dioxide and Particular Matter 100% in compliance with National Air Quality Standards.
- **E4.** Measurement of noise levels within City In response to public request - 100%
- **E5.** Time, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in full time station

Average mobilisation time - 1 minute 41 seconds

E6. Bring Facilities, i.e. facilities for recycling of bottles, cans, clothes etc.

Number and category type in facilities provided, including number of locations per 5000 population.

Note: population in Limerick City Council's functional area was taken to be 52,000 from 1996 census.

Category	Number of Facilities	Number of locations per 5,000 population	Amount Collected
Glass	16	1.5	590.06 tonnes
Cans	19	1.8	36.06 tonnes
Textiles	1 Limerick City Council plus 6 Charity Shops	0.1	20 bags collected per fortnight
Batteries	2	0.2	175 car batteries
Oils	1	0.1	5,300 litres
Others:			
Newspapers	3	0.3	336 tonnes
fluorescent tubes	1	0.1	2321 tubes
toys and books	1	0.1	not quantifiable

E7. Packaging

- a) Number of businesses registered with Repak in accordance with Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations 1997
- b) Number of businesses self registered with Limerick City Council in accordance with Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations 1997

E8. Achievements under Regional Waste Management Plan

- Continuation of in house recycling initiative for ink cartridges, batteries, office paper, cardboard, newspapers / magazines and mobile phone batteries.
- Continuation of plastic bottle recycling initiative.
- Schools battery recycling initiative continued.
- 3 days of hazardous waste collections
- 5 of the bring bank network were upgraded
- Introduction of 13 additional steel can banks to the bring bank network
- Hosting of Environmental Play for primary schools, which was seen by approx. 2000 children.
- Teacher Training Presentations in Mary Immaculate College.
- E9. Number of City schools registered with An Taisce under European wide Green Schools initiative.

No. of schools which received Green Flags under this programme in 2003

E10. Litter

- a) Number of Environment / Litter Wardens: full time, part time and in total as a proportion of the population 1 full time warden from January to October, 3 full time wardens from October onwards - population base: 52,000.
- b) Number of on-the-spot fines 742 c) Number of successful prosecutions 85
- **E11.** Monitoring of Litter Pollution in line with Limerick City Council Litter Management Plan. Continuously
- E12. Monitoring of Litter Pollution in line with Pollution Monitoring System and Litter Survey Guidelines for Local Authorities.

Annual Surveys taking place.

Human Resources

Our permanent workforce ranges over the areas of management, technical, engineering, clerical/administrative, craftsmen, general operatives, fire-fighters and in addition employs staff under community employment and other schemes.

LIMERICK CITY COUNCIL PERSONNEL RETIREMENTS DURING 2003

Padraig Flannery, Revenue Collector Michael McNamara, Executive Engineer Ray Leahy, Firefighter Brian Slattery, Sub-Station Officer, Anthony O'Regan, Sub-Station Officer, Michael Ryan, Supervisor Gerard Hamilton, General Operative Richard O'Donoghue, General Operative Anthony McSweeney, General Operative John O'Grady, Plasterer Joseph Kiely, General Operative Michael O'Regan, Foreman Rita Walsh, School Warden Kay Shanahan, P/T Clerical Officer

LIMERICK CITY COUNCIL PERSONNEL WHO DIED IN SERVICE DURING 2003

Colm Ryan, Clerical Officer Oliver Kiely, Painter, Cyril Rice, General Operative

Limerick City Council sincerely thanks

- Limerick Leader
- Rod Gallivan, Limerick Post
- Press 22

for supplying photographs of 2003 Highlights





LIMERICK CITY COUNCIL

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