

ANNUAL REPORT | 2020



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

ATLANTIC EDGE

LIMERICK
EUROPEAN EMBRACE



Joint Foreword

By Chief Executive, Dr. Pat Daly, and
Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Collins



The Annual Report for 2020 is an opportunity to reflect on the activities and achievements of Limerick City and County Council, in what was one of the most unusual years ever for the local authority and for society in general. The report also highlights the wide range of services the Council provides to the people of Limerick and its visitors across all aspects of daily life.

At the heart of Limerick is a strong vibrant, diverse community which Limerick City and County Council supports to help make Limerick better for all.

The Covid-19 pandemic cast a long shadow onto the activities of Limerick City and County Council throughout 2020.

Longstanding and much-loved events such as the Limerick St Patrick's Festival, Team Limerick Clean-Up and Light Up Limerick were all postponed, while Riverfest went virtual. Limerick City and County Council had to adapt and pivot its services as Covid-19 brought new restrictions and guidelines to adhere to.

With the uncertainty surrounding Covid-19, especially in the early months, Limerick City and County Council gave leadership and offered support to communities who were in shock and fearful.

Despite the pandemic, Limerick City and County Council continued to deliver all of its key services throughout 2020, and led a community effort to deal with the challenges posed by the virus.

Limerick City and County Council's staff demonstrated their professionalism, commitment, determination and resilience in managing the impact of Covid-19 across Limerick.

The pandemic placed additional demands on the Council for works such as those outlined in Guiding Limerick through Covid-19, and in the provision of services generally. The Council's Covid-19 Community Response team worked, in association with An Garda Síochána, GAA multiple sporting, volunteer and religious groups, to put in place a co-ordinated response to provide assistance to the most vulnerable people in our society during 2020.

The structures we put in place became the broad template for other Community Response teams around the country. These initiatives demonstrated the important role that the local authority plays when an emergency takes hold.

Faced with the challenge of social distancing, and with over 70% of our staff working from home, while others were re-assigned to the HSE, we still had to deliver support and bring novel solutions to complex problems posed by the new realities of lockdown.

Shop Limerick was developed in partnership with the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Limerick and Limerick Chamber in response to the Covid-19 crisis and its effects on Limerick businesses. Limerick.ie/Shop is a virtual marketplace connecting consumers directly with Limerick's businesses, allowing them to shop safely and efficiently while supporting the local economy. The online platform now hosts almost 300 businesses and supports them with consistent marketing across the council's channels. We helped 460 local businesses deliver their services online worth €1.09m

Staff administered the distribution of almost €26.5 million to businesses as part of the Business Re-Start Grant and Business Re-Start Grant Plus to prepare them for reopening and trading safely through the pandemic.

LEO Limerick approved a further grant aid for over 1,168 businesses to the value of over €4 million.

The largest ever tourism campaign for Limerick was launched to position Limerick as a domestic holiday and leisure tourism destination. 'Limerick 50 Days of Summer' featured an exciting competition giving away 50 unique Limerick edge and embrace experiences through a dedicated campaign hub Limerick.ie/50Days which attracted over 84,000 entries. The campaign successfully achieved its key aims by increasing visits to Limerick.ie in a challenging year by 14% and providing strong social media reach, engagement, increased brand awareness and clicks for participating businesses.

2020 saw a significant increase in the numbers of people using the parks and amenities, as a result of Covid-19. The footpaths in The People's Park were upgraded with planting at the entrances to Baggot Estate.

Improvement works were carried out in Arthur's Quay Park. Maintenance works were carried out on the reed base in Westfield Wetlands to facilitate wildlife.

The public toilets in Lough Gur were completely refurbished, litter bins replaced, new seating and picnic benches installed and public lighting provided.



The fencing for Abbeyfeale and Castleconnell playgrounds were replaced, providing a much needed boost to these playgrounds.

Libraries became even more important hubs for the community with increased demand for its traditional book lending services, while online story times and arts and crafts demonstrations by library staff were expanded.

Our gallery and museum also embraced the new realities by producing videos for online viewing showcasing the delights and wonders that can be uncovered in both institutions.

Despite Covid-19 and the restrictions it placed on staff and society in general, a number of significant milestones were achieved during the year.

The new Limerick Brand – Limerick: Atlantic Edge, European Embrace was launched to universal praise. The brand will help to position Limerick across various sectors as we begin the slow climb of recovery from Covid-19.

2020 was also the year that Limerick was awarded European Green Leaf City. While events had to be re-imagined as a result of Covid-19, the ideals of being a Green Leaf city were reflected throughout the organisation and communities across Limerick, ensuring that protection of the environment is a key objective of any project into the future.

The Let It Bee pollinator campaign was further expanded, while advancements have been made in developing a Blue Green Infrastructure strategy for the city and environs. The Horizon 2020 Go Green Routes project aims to develop and implement nature-based solutions with a view to making urban areas more sustainable.

A network of co-working spaces in the Mid-West region was introduced. “The Happen” brand is facilitated by Innovate Limerick and the regions LEOs comprises both public and private co-working spaces. Happen will connect new and existing hubs across the region to facilitate working in a changed environment and create a community for remote workers in the mid-west.

Technology was used to its fullest as the 99-week process for the new Limerick Development Plan began. Engagement has been extremely encouraged despite the limitations imposed by Covid-19.

Work began on the Opera Site following final approval by An Bord Pleanála.

Further information plans were submitted to An Bord Pleanala for the Foynes to Limerick Road which includes the Adare Bypass, while route corridor options were developed for the N21 Abbeyfeale and N21 Newcastle West Road Schemes.

Options were unveiled and put out for public consultation for the N/M20 Cork to Limerick Project along with a travel strategy for improved walking and cycling infrastructure).

The first public consultation for the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy took place and attracted significant interest.

A renewed focus on vacant and derelict properties saw activities increase across the board compared to 2019. There was a 5% increase in respect of the total number of inspections carried out compared to 2019. The number of statutory notices served in 2020 increased significantly compared to 2019. There was additional 230 additional statutory notices served compared to 2019. There was



additional 90 properties added to the Derelict Site Register in 2020 compared to 2019. Limerick City and County Council compulsory acquired 25 properties under the Derelict Site Act 1990 in 2020, which was an increase of 213%, compared to 2019.

A contractor was appointed in December 2020 in relation to the Regional Athletics Hub in Newcastle West with significant funding of €2.5million awarded towards the regeneration of Askeaton, Ardagh, Abbeyfeale, Bruff and Rathkeale.

Works progressed on the upgrade of the entire 40 kilometres of the Limerick Greenway bringing the route to the highest national standard.

In 2020 the Local Community Development Committee in Limerick approved 48 Projects for just under €2million in LEADER funding. Close to a million euro in additional funding was allocated across 16 LEADER Food and LEADER Co-operation Projects. LEADER Co-operation Projects are Projects, which involve Co-operation between two or more Implementing Partners or involve two or more Local Community Development Committee areas.

One hundred and nine vacant homes were refurbished and returned to the social housing stock throughout the year. While construction projects were hampered by Covid-19 restrictions, significant progress has been made in the building of homes in Patrickswell, Galbally, Roxboro, Rathbane and Mulgrave Street. A further 96 projects have been approved to deliver 250 homes through the Build, Buy and Lease delivery streams.

Projects that were completed in 2020 include Mungret College, King's Island Playground, bay extensions and improvements at Kilmurry and Clondrinagh Halting Sites,

while advancements have been made in the project planning and construction for housing developments in Clonmacken, Moyross, Abbeyfeale, Adare and Hospital.

Plans for the Coonagh to Knockalisheen Road were with the Minister for Transport were approved, marking an important stage of the development of Moyross and the northside of the city in general.

Elected members have demonstrated great leadership at a time when society was attempting to comprehend the new realities of the impact of Covid-19. By being flexible and open to change, elected members have allowed Limerick City and County Council to continue to focus on what is important – our people, our communities, our environment, our economic and social wellbeing.

The Council strives to maximise the use of its resources, the need for improved communication, to focus on customer services, partnership, citizen engagement and social inclusion and this was evident again across all directorates in 2020. Limerick City and County Council has positioned itself as a proactive organisation to serve the people of Limerick.

Limerick City and County Council, in partnership with our Elected Members, the people of Limerick and its stakeholders, will continue to demonstrate that we are a resilient county with a vision and strategy in place to be agile, innovative, inclusive and citizen centric.



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LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS



Mayor of the City
and County of Limerick
Councillor Michael Collins



Deputy Mayor of the City
and County of Limerick
Councillor Abul Kalam Azad Talukder

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK

(consisting of the Local Electoral Areas of Limerick City East, Limerick City North and Limerick City West)

21 MEMBERS

LIMERICK CITY EAST MEMBERS - 7 MEMBERS



Cllr. Seán Hartigan
(GP)



Cllr. Sarah Kiely
(FG)



Cllr. Michael Murphy
(FG)



Cllr. Jerry O'Dea
(FF)



Cllr. Elena Secas
(LAB)



Cllr. Michael Sheahan
(FG)



Cllr. Catherine Slattery
(FF)

LIMERICK CITY NORTH MEMBERS - 7 MEMBERS



Cllr. Sharon Benson
(SF)



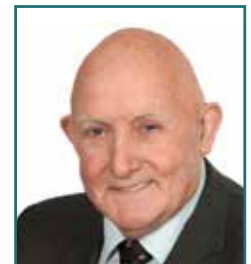
Cllr. John Costelloe
(SF)



Cllr. Frankie Daly
(NP)



**Cllr. Saša Novak
Uí Chonchúir**
(GP)



Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon
(FF)



Cllr. Olivia O'Sullivan
(FG)



Cllr. Conor Sheehan
(LAB)

LIMERICK CITY WEST MEMBERS - 7 MEMBERS



Cllr. Daniel Butler
(FG)



Cllr. James Collins
(FF)



Cllr. Fergus Kilcoyne
(NP)



Cllr. Joe Leddin
(LAB)



Cllr. Dan McSweeney
(FG)



Cllr. Elisa O'Donovan
(NP)



Cllr. Abul Kalam Azad Talukder
(FF)

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE - 6 MEMBERS



Cllr. Bridie Collins
(FF)



Cllr. Stephen Keary
(FG)



Cllr. Emmett O'Brien
(NP)



Cllr. John O'Donoghue
(NP)



Cllr. Kevin Sheahan
(FF)



Cllr. Adam Teskey
(FG)

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CAPPAMORE-KILMALLOCK - 7 MEMBERS



Cllr. P.J. Carey
(NP)



Cllr. Michael Donegan
(FF)



Cllr. John Egan
(FG)



Cllr. Gerald Mitchell
(FG)



Cllr. Eddie Ryan
(NP)



Cllr. Martin Ryan
(FF)



Cllr. Brigid Teefy
(NP)

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST - 6 MEMBERS



Cllr. Michael Collins
(FF)



Cllr. Francis Foley
(FF)



Cllr. Liam Galvin
(FG)



Cllr. Tom Ruddle
(FG)



Cllr. Jerome Scanlan
(NP)



Cllr. John Sheahan
(FG)



COUNCIL MEMBERS AND MEETINGS

There are 40 Members on the Council – 21 Members in the Metropolitan District of Limerick (consisting of the Local Electoral Areas of Limerick City East, Limerick City North and Limerick City West) six Members in the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale, seven Members in the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock and six Members in the Municipal District of Newcastle West.

Meetings of the Full Council are normally held on the fourth Monday of every second month, in the Council Chamber at Dooradoyle. Due to Covid 19 restrictions and following Department guidelines, a number of meetings took place in the Limerick Racecourse, Patrickswell. The Full Council met on 12 occasions in 2020.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS

Title	No. of Members	No. of Meetings
Metropolitan District of Limerick	21	17
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	6	16
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	7	12
Municipal District of Newcastle West	6	15

LOCAL ELECTORAL AREA BRIEFINGS / WORKSHOPS

	No. of Members	No. of Meetings
Limerick City East	7	7
Limerick City North	7	7
Limerick City West	7	7

CORPORATE POLICY GROUP

The Corporate Policy Group (CPG) is a Committee of the Council consisting of the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, the Chairs of each of the Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) and a representative of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale. Membership is as follows:

- **Councillor Michael Collins**, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick
- **Councillor Michael Murphy**, Chairperson, Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee
- **Councillor Joe Leddin**, Chairperson, Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee
- **Councillor Eddie Ryan**, Chairperson, Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee
- **Councillor Kieran O'Hanlon**, Chairperson, Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee
- **Councillor Jerome Scanlan**, Chairperson, Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee
- **Councillor Emmett O'Brien**, Representative of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

The CPG links the work of the different SPCs, acts as a type of cabinet and provides a forum where policy positions can be agreed for submission to the full Council, which retains the decision-making authority. The CPG also monitors the performance of the Local Authority and plays a key role in preparing the budget. The CPG met on 12 occasions in 2020.

*Position as at 31/12/2020

COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

Strategic Policy Committee	No. of Members	No. of Meetings
Home and Social Development	24	4
Travel and Transportation	24	4
Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning	24	4
Community, Leisure and Culture	26	5
Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment	24	4

Other Committees	No. of Members	No. of Meetings
Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	12	2
Rural Water Committee	11	1
Audit Committee	7	3
Joint Policing Committee	27	3
Local Community Development Committee	19	12

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES

Each Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) comprises Elected Councillors and Sectoral Representatives, working together in a more participative form of democracy, thereby providing a more effective policy focus on the functions and activities carried out by Limerick City and County Council. Each SPC is supported in its work by a Director of Service. While each SPC formulates and develops policy, the final decisions rest ultimately with the Full Council.

*Position as at 31/12/2020

HOME AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Elected Members:

Cllr. Michael Murphy	LCCC Chairperson
Cllr. Stephen Keary	LCCC
Cllr. Sarah Kiely	LCCC
Cllr. Fergus Kilcoyne	LCCC
Cllr. Tom Ruddle	LCCC
Cllr. Adam Teskey	LCCC
Cllr. Joe Leddin	LCCC
Cllr. Conor Sheehan	LCCC
Cllr. Seán Hartigan	LCCC
Cllr. Sharon Benson	LCCC
Cllr. John Costelloe	LCCC
Cllr. James Collins	LCCC
Cllr. Michael Donegan	LCCC
Cllr. Brigid Teefy	LCCC
Cllr. Eddie Ryan	LCCC
Cllr. Catherine Slattery	LCCC

Sectoral Representatives:

Mr. P.J. O'Grady	Development/Construction
Ms. Dee Ryan	Business/Commercial
Mr. Mike McNamara	Trade Union
Tracy McElligott	Community/Voluntary*
Anne Cronin	Community/Voluntary*
Vacant	Community/Voluntary*
Vacant	Community/Voluntary*
Una Burns	Social Inclusion*

*Are nominated via Public Participation Network (PPN)

THE HOME AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE (SPC) MET FIVE TIMES IN 2020.

Presentations/updates were given on the following:

- Rebuilding Ireland
- Homeless Policy Document
- Accessory Dwelling Unit – Limerick Pilot
- Adare Pilot for Affordable Schemes, Turnkeys (Delivering Mixed Tenure Units) and Private Downsizing Scheme
- Energy Efficiency Project
- Regeneration Update
- Age Friendly Work Programme
- Voids Programme

The information below outlines some of the policies that were supported through the SPC in 2020:

THE INCREMENTAL PURCHASE SCHEME (IPS) - provides for the sale by local authorities of newly built dwellings to eligible applicants at discounts of 40%, 50% or 60%, from the cost of providing the unit, subject to a charge and clawback in favour of the local authority in respect of the discount offered. It is aimed as a first step on housing ladder for working families in receipt of Housing Assistance Payment/Rental Accommodation Scheme.

AFFORDABLE DWELLINGS AND SITES – Affordable Housing Scheme of Priority now progressing across five city sites under scheme adopted in November 2019 and a pilot site in Adare. Scheme allows Limerick City and County Council to use land and/or Serviced Sites Fund Grant to form the discount for housing – background report on 'Guide to Affordable Housing' prepared by Housing Development.

PRIVATE ELDERLY DOWNSIZING SCHEME – Principle is private three or four bed dwelling house sold to Limerick City and County Council. Private householder makes a contribution to become part of a managed specialist elderly complex (24/7 security, caretaker, resident programmes etc). Discretionary – i.e., choice is made by private householder to avail of scheme. Requires review of allocations scheme for adoption by Council.

TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**Elected Members:**

Cllr. Joe Leddin	LCCC Chairperson
Cllr. Elena Secas	LCCC
Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon	LCCC
Cllr. Martin Ryan	LCCC
Cllr. Dan McSweeney	LCCC
Cllr. Saša Novak Uí Chonchúir	LCCC
Cllr. Elisa O'Donovan	LCCC
Cllr. John Costelloe	LCCC
Cllr. Frankie Daly	LCCC
Cllr. Fergus Kilcoyne	LCCC
Cllr. Brigid Teefy	LCCC
Cllr. Daniel Butler	LCCC
Cllr. Gerald Mitchell	LCCC
Cllr. John Sheahan	LCCC
Cllr. Michael Sheahan	LCCC
Cllr. Francis Foley	LCCC

Sectoral Representatives:

Mr. Tim O'Brien	Agriculture/Farming
Frank Heffernan	Environment/Conservation*
Mr. Pat McCarthy	Development/Construction
Dr. Catriona Cahill	Business/Commercial
Mr. Frank McDonnell	Trade Union
Ailish Drake	Community/Voluntary*
Bruce Harper	Community/Voluntary*
Maureen Browne	Social Inclusion*

*Are nominated via Public Participation Network (PPN)

The Travel and Transportation SPC held five meetings in 2020. Presentations and policy were progressed on the following:

- Illegal Parking
- Active and Sustainable Transport
- 2020 Roads and Transportation Grants Update
- Review of Parking Places (Amendment) Bye-Laws 2020
- Mobility Plan Update – Guiding Limerick through COVID-19
- O'Connell Street Revitalisation Project
- Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS)
- Proposal for School Streets Initiative
- Local Improvement Schemes

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE AND PLANNING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Elected Members:

Cllr. Eddie Ryan	LCCC Chairperson
Cllr. Bridie Collins	LCCC
Cllr. James Collins	LCCC
Cllr. Jerry O'Dea	LCCC
Cllr. Martin Ryan	LCCC
Cllr. Catherine Slattery	LCCC
Cllr. John O'Donoghue	LCCC
Cllr. Daniel Butler	LCCC
Cllr. John Egan	LCCC
Cllr. Liam Galvin	LCCC
Cllr. Stephen Keary	LCCC
Cllr. Michael Murphy	LCCC
Cllr. Olivia O'Sullivan	LCCC
Cllr. Jerome Scanlan	LCCC
Cllr. Saša Novak Uí Chonchúir	LCCC
Cllr. Emmett O'Brien	LCCC

Sectoral Representatives:

Aidan Gleeson	Agriculture/Farming
Madeleine Lyes	Environment/Conservation*
Mr. Michael Joyce	Development/Construction
Dr. Catriona Cahill	Business/Commercial
Mr. Eoin Ryan	Business/Commercial
Declan Hehir	Community/Voluntary*
Brian Thompson	Community/Voluntary*
Brian Vandamme	Social Inclusion*

*Are nominated via Public Participation Network (PPN)

The Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) met six times in 2020.

The main items discussed were as follows:

- Limerick Food Strategy
- City Centre Revitalisation Project
- Mid-West Business Response to Covid-19
- Supporting Limerick's Small and Medium Enterprises
- Proposed Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028
- Living City Initiative
- Limerick Colbert Quarter Project

COMMUNITY, LEISURE AND CULTURE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Elected Members:

Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon	LCCC Chairperson
Cllr. Michael Collins	LCCC
Cllr. Michael Donegan	LCCC
Cllr. Francis Foley	LCCC
Cllr. Jerry O'Dea	LCCC
Cllr. Kevin Sheahan	LCCC
Cllr. Abul Kalam Azad Talukder	LCCC
Cllr. Sarah Kiely	LCCC

Cllr. Dan McSweeney	LCCC
Cllr. Gerald Mitchell	LCCC
Cllr. Olivia O'Sullivan	LCCC
Cllr. Tom Ruddle	LCCC
Cllr. Conor Sheehan	LCCC
Cllr. Elisa O'Donovan	LCCC
Cllr. P.J. Carey	LCCC
Cllr. Frankie Daly	LCCC

Sectoral Representatives:

Louise Crowley	Agricultural/Farming
Josephine Butler	Environment/Conservation*
Mr. Mike Ryan	Development/Construction
Ms. Louise Donlon	Business/Commercial
Padraig Lohan	Community/Voluntary*
Oliver Creighton	Community/Voluntary*
Keith Pigott	Community/Voluntary*
Mary Conlon	Community/Voluntary*
Karen O'Donnell O'Connor	Social Inclusion*
Maura Meaney	Social Inclusion*

*Are nominated via Public Participation Network (PPN)

The Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) met four times in 2020.

The SPC recommended two policies to Full Council for consideration and approval. These were the;

- Play and Recreation Policy
- Limerick City Gallery of Art Strategy

The SPC also decided to establish a working group to consider Limerick becoming an Autism Friendly City and County.

Other key agenda items discussed during 2020 included:

- Autism Friendly Library at Watch House Cross
- Local Community Development Committee Review
- National Sport Policy
- Strategic approach to Dereliction and Vacancy
- Age Friendly
- Covid 19 Community Response
- Limerick Tourism Development Strategy
- Limerick 50 Days of Summer Programme
- Festival and Events Strategy Development Progress Report
- River Shannon Tourism Masterplan
- Draft Burial Ground and Interment Strategy

CLIMATE ACTION, BIODIVERSITY AND ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Elected Members:

Cllr. Jerome Scanlan	LCCC Chairperson
Cllr. John Egan	LCCC
Cllr. Liam Galvin	LCCC
Cllr. John Sheahan	LCCC
Cllr. Michael Sheahan	LCCC
Cllr. Adam Teskey	LCCC
Cllr. Elena Secas	LCCC
Cllr. Bridie Collins	LCCC
Cllr. Michael Collins	LCCC
Cllr. Kevin Sheahan	LCCC
Cllr. Sharon Benson	LCCC
Cllr. P.J. Carey	LCCC
Cllr. John O'Donoghue	LCCC
Cllr. Emmett O'Brien	LCCC
Cllr. Seán Hartigan	LCCC
Cllr. Abul Kalam Azad Talukder	LCCC

Sectoral Representatives:

Mr. Martin Stapleton	Agriculture/Farming
Mr. Thomas Blackburn	Agriculture/Farming
Michelle Hayes	Environment/Conservation*
Liz Gabbett	Environment/Conservation*
Ms. Dee Ryan	Business/Commercial
Mr. Seamus Hoyne	Business/Commercial
Denis McAuliffe	Community/Voluntary*
Caillum Hedderman	Community/Voluntary*

*Are nominated via Public Participation Network (PPN)

The Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment SPC held five meetings in 2020. The main policies developed and recommended include:

- ISO 50001 Energy Standard
- Metropolitan District of Limerick (Parking Places) (Amendment) Bye-Laws 2020
- Municipal District of Newcastle West (Parking Places) (Amendment) Bye-Laws 2020
- Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock (Parking Places) (Amendment) Bye-Laws 2020
- Management Plan for Westfields Wetlands
- Climate Action and Low Carbon (Amendment) Bill 2020

In addition, presentations were made on:

- Tree Strategy/Management
- Limericks European Green Leaf 2020
- +CityxChange programme
- Planning and Enforcement on Waste Enforcement Activities for 2019 and the proposed programme for 2020.
- Grass Cutting Programme 2020
- Review of Use of Herbicides by Limerick City and County Council
- Water Framework Directive and Water Quality in Limerick

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

Cllr. Michael Collins	LCCC Chairperson
Cllr. Stephen Keary	LCCC
Cllr. Catherine Slattery	LCCC
Cllr. Brigid Teefy	LCCC
Gordan Daly	LCCC
Pádraig Casey	Ballyhoura Development Company
Anne Kavanagh	PAUL Partnership
Shay Riordan	West Limerick Resources
Susan O'Neill	Public Participation Network
Edel Geraghty	Public Participation Network
Tony Lynch	Public Participation Network
James Prior	Public Participation Network
George O'Callaghan	Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board
Diarmaid Fitzgerald	Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
Tony Quilty	Health Service Executive
Aidan Gleeson	Irish Farmers' Association
Fiona O'Grady	Limerick Youth Service
Dee Ryan	Limerick Chamber of Commerce

The LCDC held nine meetings during the year and was very active in the performance of its functions. The LCDC oversaw and made decisions, when required, in relation to the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), EU LEADER Programme and various grants schemes. In addition to the above programmes, the LCDC approved projects under the Community Enhancement Scheme, Healthy Ireland and developed position papers under various headings. The reallocation of budgets within the themes of the Leader Programme was also completed in response to the needs of the community sector and in December 2020 the LCDC completed the allocation of the current EU LEADER Programme Budget. Subgroup meetings also took place in relation to SICAP evaluation, monitoring and planning, LEADER operational matters, Healthy Limerick and evaluation of applications for various grant schemes.

REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES



LOCAL TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Cllr. Frankie Daly
Cllr. Michael Sheahan
Cllr. Michael Murphy
Cllr. Michael Donegan

ASSOCIATION OF IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AILG)

Cllr. Joe Leddin
Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon
Cllr. Dan McSweeney

SOUTHERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Cllr. Frankie Daly
Cllr. John Sheahan
Cllr. Michael Collins

LIMERICK MARKET TRUSTEES

Cllr. Michael Collins (Mayor of the City and County of Limerick)
Cllr. Sarah Kiely (Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick)
Cllr. Saša Novak Uí Chonchúir
Cllr. Fergus Kilcoyne
Cllr. Elisa O'Donovan
Cllr. Frankie Daly
Cllr. James Collins
Cllr. Kevin Sheahan
Cllr. Jerry O'Dea
Cllr. Abul Kalam Azad Talukder
Cllr. Martin Ryan
Cllr. Olivia O'Sullivan
Cllr. Daniel Butler
Cllr. Dan McSweeney
Cllr. Michael Sheahan
Cllr. Michael Murphy
Cllr. Gerald Mitchell
Cllr. Conor Sheehan

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

Cllr. Jerome Scanlan

IRISH PUBLIC BODIES INSURANCE CLG

Cllr. Martin Ryan

LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS' ASSOCIATION

Cllr. John Sheahan

GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK - NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, CORK

Cllr. Jerry O'Dea

GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK

Cllr. Michael Collins (Mayor of the City and County of Limerick)
Cllr. Sarah Kiely (Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick)

ADARE HERITAGE TRUST LIMITED

Cllr. Michael Collins (Mayor of the City and County of Limerick)

WEST LIMERICK RESOURCES LIMITED

Cllr. Elisa O'Donovan
Cllr. Bridie Collins
Cllr. Michael Collins
Cllr. Tom Ruddle

BALLYHOURA DEVELOPMENT LIMITED

Cllr. Michael Donegan
Cllr. Michael Murphy

PAUL PARTNERSHIP

Cllr. Sharon Benson
Cllr. Sarah Kiely
Cllr. Abul Kalam Azad Talukder

RURAL COMMUNITY CARE NETWORK (RCCN)

Cllr. Tom Ruddle
Cllr. Francis Foley

HUNT MUSEUMS' TRUST

Cllr. Olivia O'Sullivan
Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon

REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM WEST

Cllr. John Sheahan
Cllr. Frankie Daly
Cllr. John Egan
Cllr. Dan McSweeney
Cllr. Seán Hartigan
Cllr. Francis Foley
Cllr. Kevin Sheahan

JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

Cllr. Michael Collins (Mayor) (ex-officio)
Cllr. Emmett O'Brien
Cllr. John O'Donoghue
Cllr. Seán Hartigan
Cllr. John Costelloe
Cllr. Conor Sheehan
Cllr. James Collins
Cllr. Abul Kalam Azad Talukder
Cllr. Stephen Keary
Cllr. Adam Teskey
Cllr. Kevin Sheahan
Cllr. Bridie Collins
Cllr. Martin Ryan
Cllr. Liam Galvin
Cllr. Sarah Kiely
Cllr. Michael Murphy

BOARD OF ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL

Cllr. Michael Collins (Mayor of the City and County of Limerick)
Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon

LIMERICK SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Cllr. Tom Ruddle

LIMERICK CIVIC TRUST

Cllr. Bridie Collins

BOARD OF MOYROSS COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE CENTRE LIMITED

Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF ST. MUNCHIN'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED

Cllr. Olivia O'Sullivan

BOARD OF INNOVATE LIMERICK

Cllr. James Collins

Cllr. Olivia O'Sullivan

Cllr. Eddie Ryan

Cllr. Joe Leddin

LIMERICK 2030 STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT DAC

Cllr. John O'Donoghue

Cllr. Daniel Butler

Cllr. John Sheahan

Cllr. James Collins

LIMERICK AND CLARE EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

Cllr. Brigid Teefy

Cllr. Elena Secas

Cllr. Liam Galvin

Cllr. John Sheahan

Cllr. Sarah Kiely

Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon

Cllr. Michael Donegan

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Cllr. Brigid Teefy

Cllr. John Egan

Cllr. John Sheahan

RURAL WATER MONITORING COMMITTEE

Cllr. P.J. Carey

Cllr. Eddie Ryan

Cllr. Stephen Keary

BELLTABLE - SPECIAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF BOARD

Cllr. Michael Collins (Mayor of the City and County of Limerick)

LIMERICK FOOD STRATEGY STEERING GROUP

Cllr. Sarah Kiely

Cllr. Abul Kalam Azad Talukder

IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY GROUP ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYOR FOR LIMERICK WITH EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

Cllr. Michael Collins (Mayor of the City and County of Limerick).

Cllr. John Sheahan.

Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon.

Cllr. Elena Secas.

Cllr. Saša Novak Uí Chonchúir.

DECADE OF CENTENARIES ELECTED MEMBERS' COMMITTEE

Cllr. Michael Collins (Mayor of the City and County of Limerick)

Cllr. John Sheahan.

Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon.

Cllr. Sharon Benson.

Cllr. Brigid Teefy.

Cllr. Joe Leddin.

Cllr. Seán Hartigan.

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK – RESERVED FUNCTIONS

Approval for Landscape Fill Area in the townland of Ballygrennan, Limerick, for disposal of uncontaminated inert soil and stone material from Coonagh Knockalisheen Distributor Road.

Approval for the construction of a new 1,700-metre length of road with verge, footpaths, cycleway, on-street parking, public lighting and associated services at the townlands of Baunacloka, Dromdarrig, Caheranardrish and Moneteen, Mungret, Co. Limerick.

Approval for the construction of an Urban Greenway (cycling and walking) providing connectivity between Castletroy College and Gaelscoil Chaladh an Treoigh, in the townlands of Newtown and Newcastle, Castletroy, Limerick.

Approval to extend the life of the Patrickswell Local Area Plan 2015-2021 by a further four years.

Adoption of Schedule of Municipal District Works 2020 for the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

Approval of allocations under the General Municipal Allocations, 2020-2024.

Approval to hold the Annual Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick on 15 June, 2020, in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle.

Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

Approval of allocations under the Community Initiative Scheme 2020.

Approval to the taking in charge of various housing estates.

Approval of the draft Metropolitan District of Limerick (Parking Places) (Amendment) Bye-Laws 2020 to be placed on public display

Approval of the Draft Limerick City and County Council Road Traffic (30 Kilometres per hour Special Speed Limit) Bye-Laws 2020.

Approval for the Construction of a new Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) and the Extension of the Existing Playground at Castletroy, Limerick.

Approval for Extension to ENGINE, Cecil Street, Limerick.

Adoption of the Budgetary Plan for the Metropolitan District of Limerick for the financial year ending 31 December, 2021, in the amount of €568,000.

Adoption of the Draft Metropolitan District of Limerick (Parking Places) (Amendment) Bye-Laws 2020.

Approval to the signalisation of the Plassey Road/Plassey Park Road and Plassey Road/University Road junctions with the addition of dedicated pedestrian/cycle crossing facilities and bus lanes.

Amendment to Standing Orders to allow for remote meetings, subject to a review after six months.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CAPPAMORE-KILMALLOCK - RESERVED FUNCTIONS

Adoption of the Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock for the financial year ending 31st December 2021, in the total sum of €295,000 including the following

Service	General Municipal Allocation-2021	Cappamore-Kilmallock MD
B04	Local Roads	€130,000
D05	Tourism Development Recreation and Amenity	€10,000
F04	Community Initiatives	€10,000
	Special Projects-LA Infrastructure	€100,000
	Special Projects LPT	€45,000
Total	General Municipal Allocation	€295,000

Approval of Allocations under the General Municipal Allocation, Development Fund, Community Initiatives Scheme and Community Facilities Grants Scheme 2020 and 2021.

Approval to the taking in charge of three housing estates in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993.

Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas Chathaoirleach.

Special Meeting regarding a Part 8 application under Local Government Act 2001.

Adoption of the 2020 Schedule of Works for the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock.

Decision to receive Deputations from the following:

- Bruff/Grange/Meanus Community Council
- Step Forward Disability Group Hospital

Adoption of the Minutes of previous Meeting.

Meetings of the Joint Policing Sub-Committee of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST - RESERVED FUNCTIONS

Approval of Schedule of Municipal District Works 2020 for the Municipal District of Newcastle West.

Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach.

Adoption of the Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Newcastle West for the financial year ending 31 December, 2021, in the sum of €270,000 and including the amendment to move the amount of €100,000 from Special Projects – LA Infrastructure and the amount of €45,000 – Special Projects LPT to D05 Tourism Development, Recreation and Amenity, in accordance with Section 102 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.

Approval to Declaration that Nash's Lane, Newcastle West, be a public road in accordance with Section 11, Roads Act, 1993.

Approval to the disposal of land at:

- Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale.
- Appletown, Feohanagh.
- Gortnagross, Upper Athea, and Templethea, Athea.
- Pallas, Kilmeedy.
- Assumpta Park, Newcastle West.

Approval of Allocations under the General Municipal Allocation, Development Fund and Community Initiative Scheme 2020.

Adoption of Road Traffic (30 kilometre per hour Special Speed Limit) Bye-Laws 2020.

Adoption of the Municipal District of Newcastle West Parking Places (Amendment) Bye-Laws 2020.

Meetings of the Joint Policing Sub-Committee of the Municipal District of Newcastle West.

Approval of the amending of Standing Orders for the Municipal District of Newcastle West to allow for remote meetings in light of Local Government Circular LG 07-2020 "Guidelines for Supplementary Standing Orders regulating the proceedings in relation to remote meetings of the Council" and "S.I. No. 445/2020 – Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020 (Section 29) (Local Authorities) (Designation) Order 2020.

Approval of Part 8 planning for the Great Southern Greenway Limerick with regard to:

Construction of a new car park at Station Road, Newcastle West comprising of 50 car parking spaces, associated surface lining, drainage, lighting and green area.

Construction of six cattle underpasses and one cattle overpass at five locations on the newly developed Great Southern Greenway at Garranekeevan, Dromin (MacTurlough), Doonakeen, Knocknasna and Port.

Refurbishment of Ardagh Station house (which is a protected structure) and goods shed and change of use to commercial, community and tourism use along with ancillary site works. Refurbishment of Barnagh Station house (which is a protected structure) and change of use to a community and tourism use along with ancillary site works.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE - RESERVED FUNCTIONS

Approval of allocations under the General Municipal Allocation 2020.

Election of the Cathaoirleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach of the Municipal District.

Adoption of the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2020 for the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale.

Approval to extend the life of the Adare Local Area Plan 2015-2021 by a further five years in accordance with the provisions of Section 19 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

Approval to extend the life of the Askeaton Local Area Plan 2015-2021 by a further five years in accordance with the provisions of Section 19 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Part 8 Approval for the construction of 31 residential units and eight plots for affordable housing at Deerpark and Rathkeale Road, Adare, Co. Limerick.

Approval for the Proposed Croom Local Area Plan 2020-2026 in accordance with Section 20 (3)(n) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

Approval of the Taking in Charge of Marine Cove, Foynes in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

Approval for the installation of 30kph speed limit by-laws in various estates in the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale and the intention to progress to the Full Council Meeting.

Adoption of the Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale for the financial year ending 31 December 2021, in the total sum of €270,000 in accordance with Section 102(4) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.

Approval to amend Standing Orders to allow for remote meetings in light of Local Government Circular LG 07-2020 'Guidelines for Supplementary Standing Orders regulating the proceedings in relation to remote meetings of the Council' and 'S.I. No. 445/2020 – Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020 (Section 29) (Local Authorities) (Designation) Order 2020.'



EVENTS, HIGHLIGHTS AND CIVIC RECEPTIONS

EVENTS, HIGHLIGHTS AND CIVIC RECEPTIONS



Colbert Station MOU – LDA, CIE, HSE

Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between The Land Development Agency (LDA), Córas Iompair Éireann (CIÉ), Health Service Executive (HSE) and Limerick City and County Council who all agreed to work together to examine through a master planning framework process how a new residential and commercial district could be developed on state owned lands around the Colbert Station area.

Seated left to right John Moran, Chairman of the Land Development Agency, John Coleman, CEO of the Land Development Agency, Lorcan O'Connor, Group CEO, Córas Iompair Éireann (CIÉ), Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Adam Teskey, Vincent Murray, Director of Services, Economic Development, Limerick City and County Council, Joe Hoare, Assistant National Director, HSE Estates.



Launch of Limerick as European Green Leaf City 2020 with the announcement of a programme of events to mark the European Commission designation. Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheehan, Anne Goggin, Limerick City and County Council and Minister of State at the Department of Finance and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Patrick O'Donovan, T.D.



Launch of 'Putting Your House in Order' information session hosted by Age Friendly Limerick, in collaboration with the Irish Hospice Foundation and PLACE – EE. Solicitor Sharon Cahir, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheahan, Anne Rizzo, Regional Age Friendly Programme Manager, Rebecca Lloyd, Irish Hospice Foundation, along with members of the Older People's Council.

Launch of new branding of Limerick. Dr. Pat Daly, Chief Executive, Limerick City and County Council, Cllr. Michael Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County, Councillor Michael Sheahan, David Glass, MandC Saatchi, Laura Ryan, Head of Marketing and Communications, Limerick City and County Council.



Limerick Annual Tidy Towns Seminar. Sinead McDonnell, Environmental Awareness Officer, Mary Keenan, Tidy Towns Adjudicator and Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Adam Teskey.



LAMA Awards 2020

Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheahan (fourth from left) celebrating with the team from Limerick who won prizes at the All Ireland Community and Council Awards. The ceremony is presented by IPB Insurance and Local Authority Members Association (LAMA). The Bingo Wings Project and St Gabriel's Orthotic Centre won gold awards. The Bays Training Centre, Moyross scooped silver in two categories and the Urban Digital Co-op and Community Hub won bronze. A total of ten Limerick projects were shortlisted for awards.



Limerick Person of the Year Award

now in its 19th year, was set up to honour the achievements and success of local people at home and abroad and sponsored by The Limerick Leader, Southern Marketing Design and Media and the Clayton Hotel, and supported by Limerick City and County Council. Irish hockey star Róisín Upton was named Limerick Person of the Year 2019 and pictured with the monthly award winners for 2019. January - John Shinnors; February - Malachy Browne; March - Crafty Angels, April - Students of Ardscoil Mhuire, Corbally; May - Sean Byrnes; June - Saoirse Exton; July - Adare Manor team; August - Sinead Flanagan; September - Greg O'Shea, October - Max Dennison; November - Róisín Upton; December - Sarah Corbett-Lynch.



Government's Covid-19 Community Call Shine Your Light Campaign, to remember all of those who have lost their lives to Covid-19 and their loved ones, and to remember and thank our key frontline staff for their ongoing crucial work throughout the crises, Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay shone their beacon lights.



Contract signing for Phase 1 Improvement Works Contract for the Limerick Greenway. Dr. Pat Daly, Chief Executive, Limerick City and County Council, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheahan and Conor Gilligan, Managing Director, Roadbridge.

Donation of 10,000 PPE masks
Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheahan receiving a donation of 10,000 PPE masks from Candy Cheung, President of the Irish Chinese Information Centre at Council Headquarters, Merchant's Quay.





Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheahan with members of the Geiptine Singers, Askeaton, presenting a copy of the pictorial history of the Group as they approach their 50th birthday, in Merchant's Quay.



Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Collins and Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Abul Kalam Azad Talukder, following their election at the Annual Meeting of Limerick City and County Council held on 30th June, 2020.

Launch of Culture Night
Fidget Feet Aerial Theatre Performers with Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Collins, Ella Daly, Culture Night Co-Ordinator and Daire Heffernan, General Manager of King John's Castle.



Limerick Connections Launch

Launch of new exhibition in the Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA) highlighting the links between artists and Limerick over the past half a century. Limerick Connections is an exhibition of works by artists associated with Limerick from the 1970s to the present day. A total of 67 artists are included in the show with a strong emphasis on painting.





Dr. Pat Daly, Chief Executive, Limerick City and County Council, Gerard Roche, Garda Chief Superintendent, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Collins and Assistant Garda Commissioner Michael Finn among others on hand for delivery of new Community Bus, an initiative between Limerick City and County Council in partnership with An Garda Síochána on the delivery of a new 15 seater community bus that will serve all sections of the community across the Limerick garda division. The new mini bus has been jointly funded by Limerick City and County Council and An Garda Síochána and will allow Gardaí to engage directly with local community groups.



Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Collins with Clare Ellis, Corporate Brand and Communication Senior Manager Cook Medical EMEA with a cheque for €36,000 which was distributed between nominated local charities, following the 22nd annual Cook Medical Women's Mini Marathon which took place in a virtual manner in September.

Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival

Launch of Virtual Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival. The Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival celebrated its 10th anniversary and due to Covid-19 restrictions the festival was delivered online. The theme for 2020 was Celebrating and Building Learning Communities.



Yvonne Lane, Learning Limerick, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Collins, Santhi Corcoran, Mary Immaculate College, Jimmy Prior, LCEN and Ann Piercy, GOSHH.



Eimear Brophy, Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Collins, Anne Rizzo, Limerick City and County Council and Helen Fitzgerald, PAUL Partnership.



The launch of Facility Development Plan 2020-2025 for Crecora Manister GAA Club and Crecora Camogie Club. Pat Byrnes, Chairperson, Crecora Manister GAA, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Collins and Ronan MacMahon, Chairperson Crecora Camogie Club.



The announcement of Project Team, by Limerick Twenty Thirty DAC, to develop the Cleeves Riverside Quarter Site. Karen McEvoy, Bucholz McEvoy Architects, Conn Murray, Limerick Twenty Thirty Chairman and Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Collins.



To mark the 15th anniversary of Limerick as Fairtrade City, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Collins took part in an online meeting with the Limerick Fairtrade Committee to celebrate their birthday and to acknowledge the tireless work that has been going on for 15 years.



At the commencement of the demolition and enabling works programme at Opera Site by contractor John Sisk & Son Ltd.. Pictured from left: Aoife Munnelly, Site Safety Officer, John Sisk & Son Ltd., David Conway, CEO, Limerick Twenty Thirty, Dr. Pat Daly, Chief Executive, Limerick City and County Council, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Collins.

Olivia O'Brien, Limerick Food Partnership Coordinator, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Collins and Professor Niamh Hourigan, Joint Chair, Limerick Food Partnership at **the official relaunch of the Limerick Food Partnership (LFP)**. The Food Partnership – a collaboration between community, voluntary and statutory organisations involved in food-related initiatives – aims to raise awareness, improve access and increase the supply of healthy food options in Limerick city and county.



Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Collins with Limerick columnist, author and journalist Jim O'Brien at the launch of his new publication **'Matters of Great Indifference: A reflection on modern rural living'**, a compilation of the weekly columns he writes for the Farming Independent.





Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Collins presenting Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage Darragh O'Brien, TD with Limerick GAA jersey ahead of the All Ireland Final 2020 during Opera Site visit.



Cathaoirleach Councillor Sarah Kiely is pictured outside King John's Castle on the day she was elected as Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick in June 2020.



Anne Goggin, Limerick European Green Leaf 2020, Eileen Humphreys, Healthy Limerick Coordinator, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Collins and Helen O'Donnell, Chair of Limerick City Centre Tidy Towns at the unveiling of **public contactless drinking water fountains in Limerick city and county** to help reduce plastic waste. The new bottle filling stations provide contactless, clean and safe water without the risk of touching high-use buttons that could increase the spread of infection.



At Online Staff Christmas Prayer Service, Deputy Mayor of the City and County, Councillor Adam Teskey, Mayor of the City and County, Councillor Michael Collins, The Very Rev'd Niall J Sloane, Fr. Derek Leonard, Dr. Pat Daly, Chief Executive, Limerick and County Council and Cllr. Sarah Kiely, Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick.



Ilen Project

Mayoral Reception hosted by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheehan for Ilen Project, in recognition of their achievement on river and sea which have succeeded in finding so powerful a resonance in our City and County. Photograph includes Gerry Boland, JP McManus Charitable Foundation, Brother Anthony Keane of Glenstal, Gary MacMahon, Director, Ilen Project, the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheehan, Dr. Ed Walsh and Mike Grimes, Ilen crew member.



Limerick Golf Club

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheehan held a Mayoral Reception for Limerick Golf Club, in recognition of the achievement by the Mens and Ladies Teams on winning five Munster and three All Ireland Championships in 2019.

Photograph includes. Audrey Fitzgerald, Ladies Captain Limerick Golf Club, Ger O'Donoghue, President Limerick Golf Club, the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheehan and Brien Morris, Captain, Limerick Golf Club.



Helen O'Donnell, Ann Boland, Pat Lysaght

Mayoral Reception hosted by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheehan to honour Helen O'Donnell, in recognition of Helen's commitment to making Limerick a really great place to live, work and enjoy, and for her contribution to Limerick, as a volunteer working with others, on Tidy Towns and Team Limerick Clean-Up, and as a spokesperson for the business community. Ann Boland, in recognition of her efforts and commitment in raising public awareness and much needed funds for the provision of vital lifesaving equipment – defibrillators. Pat Lysaght, in recognition and appreciation of Pat's contribution to environmental awareness of Limerick's waterways and for his love of flora and fauna in our rivers. .

'20/20 Vision – Hurling and Limerick'.

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheehan at Mayoral Reception to celebrate the publication of new Limerick Hurling book '20/20 Vision – Hurling and Limerick'.



Geiptine Singers

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheehan accorded a Mayoral Reception to Geiptine Singers, in recognition of their achievement in bringing beautiful singing to local, national and international venues, concerts and churches.



Jerry Cronin

Mayoral Reception hosted by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheehan for Jerry Cronin, in gratitude and recognition of his tremendous achievements and contribution to the development of soccer in Newcastle West over many years. Also included in photograph is Jerry's wife Breda and daughters Siobhan and Priscilla.



Michael Mulcair

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheehan hosted a Mayoral Reception for Michael Mulcair, in appreciation of his commitment to the sporting fabric of Askeaton over many decades, being a founder member of Askeaton AFC in 1953 and Askeaton Swimming Club in 1959.



The Creative Show

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheehan accorded a Mayoral Reception to The Creative Show in recognition of creating an environment, through the performing arts, of acceptance and inclusion for artists with mixed abilities.

Photograph includes Donal Sherlock, Manager of Daughters of Charity Service, the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheehan and Angie Smalis, Choreographer for The Creative Show and Artistic Director of Limerick Youth Theatre.



Jack O'Sullivan, Pat Kearney, Dr. Angela Collins O'Mahony and Dave Mahedy

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheehan pictured at Mayoral Reception for Jack O'Sullivan, in honour of his valued contributions to Parish, Sporting and School Life in Monaleen Community. Pat Kearney, in recognition of his commitment to the development and growth of business and residential projects and the constant support of many worthy charities in Limerick city and county over 50 years. Dr. Angela Collins O'Mahony, who founded Collins Steeplejacks, was awarded Businesswoman of the Year, Bowmaker Award for Irish Industry and was conferred with an Honorary Doctorate for her commitment to serving the needs of rural Ireland. Dave Mahedy, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to sports and recreation in University of Limerick and Limerick, both as a mentor and a leader for over 35 years.



Noel O'Dwyer, Marie Bartlett, Lillian Moran Sullivan and Marie Crawford

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheehan hosted a Mayoral Reception for members of the Irish hockey fraternity. Marie Bartlett, in recognition of her International hockey career between 1969 - 1982. Lillian Moran Sullivan, in recognition of her involvement in Irish Ladies Hockey, past National President and past National Chairperson of the Alzheimer Society of Ireland. Noel O'Dwyer, in recognition of his Irish International hockey career from 1951-1963. His tally of 42 international caps for Ireland set a new record at the time. Marie Crawford, in recognition of her International hockey career 1979-1984.



Billy Ahern, Tom Madigan, John Quane and Camonn Cregan

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheehan accorded a Mayoral Reception to GAA stalwarts Tom Madigan, in recognition of being one of the Founders of Limerick Ladies Gaelic Football and in recognition of his tremendous contribution to Shanagolden Community Council and St. Senans G.A.A. Club. John Quane, in recognition of his contribution to both Club and County Football as a player and coach over a number of years. Eamonn Cregan, in recognition of his many sporting achievements and contribution to the Gaelic Athletic Association as a player, coach/manager and mentor over many decades. Billy Ahern, in appreciation for his decades of voluntary work in the promotion, preservation and fostering of Gaelic culture and especially for his devotion to the great work of the GAA.

Civic Reception for Celia Holman Lee and Sr. Phyllis Donnellon

A Civic Reception was held in Istabraq Hall, Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay, on 28th February, 2020 for Sr. Phyllis Donnellon and Celia Holman Lee. Sr. Phyllis Donnellon in recognition of her many years of commitment as a Little Company of Mary Sister in caring for the sick and their families and her ongoing support in providing person-focused care throughout the Mid-West. Celia Holman Lee for her contribution to the Irish Fashion Industry for over five decades, as the founder of Ireland's longest running modelling agency based in her beloved Limerick and to especially mark her major achievement as one of Ireland's top fashion icon.



James Clune, Limerick City and County Council, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, Dr. Pat Daly, Chief Executive, Limerick City and County Council, Sr. Phyllis Donnellon, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheehan, Celia Holman Lee, Councillors Conor Sheehan, Olivia O'Sullivan, Brigid Teefy, John Costelloe and Dan McSweeney.



Celia Holman Lee, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, and Sr. Phyllis Donnellon.



Dr. Pat Daly, Chief Executive, Limerick City and County Council, Sr. Phyllis Donnellon and Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheehan.



Dr. Pat Daly, Chief Executive, Limerick City and County Council, Celia Holman Lee and Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheehan.



Stanford

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheehan pictured at Mayoral Reception for Jack O’Sullivan, in honour of his valued contributions to Parish, Sporting and School Life in Monaleen Community. Pat Kearney, in recognition of his commitment to the development and growth of business and residential projects and the constant support of many worthy charities in Limerick city and county over 50 years. Dr. Angela Collins O’Mahony, who founded Collins Steeplejacks, was awarded Businesswoman of the Year, Bowmaker Award for Irish Industry and was conferred with an Honorary Doctorate for her commitment to serving the needs of rural Ireland. Dave Mahedy, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to sports and recreation in University of Limerick and Limerick, both as a mentor and a leader for over 35 years.

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheehan with Ciarán Madden, Consul General of Ireland in New York being presented with an art print of Limerick.



Visit to New York - Brand Limerick

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheehan led a Limerick delegation to visit New York USA from 11th February, 2020 to 15th February, 2020. The visit was to launch the new Brand for Limerick in the Irish Consulate, New York, on 13th February. The purpose of the trip was to declare a bold ambition for US inward growth and investment with the unveiling of Limerick’s new brand positioning and international marketing campaign.



The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheehan with some of the Limerick diaspora residing in New York who attended the launch in support of the new Limerick brand.



Presentation to Councillor James Collins, Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

Eileen Fitzgerald, Gerard Fitzgerald (Grand Marshall), Cllr. James Collins, Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, Michael Benn, Principal, Glenn Construction and Eileen Collins.

St. Patrick's Day Parade at Rockaway

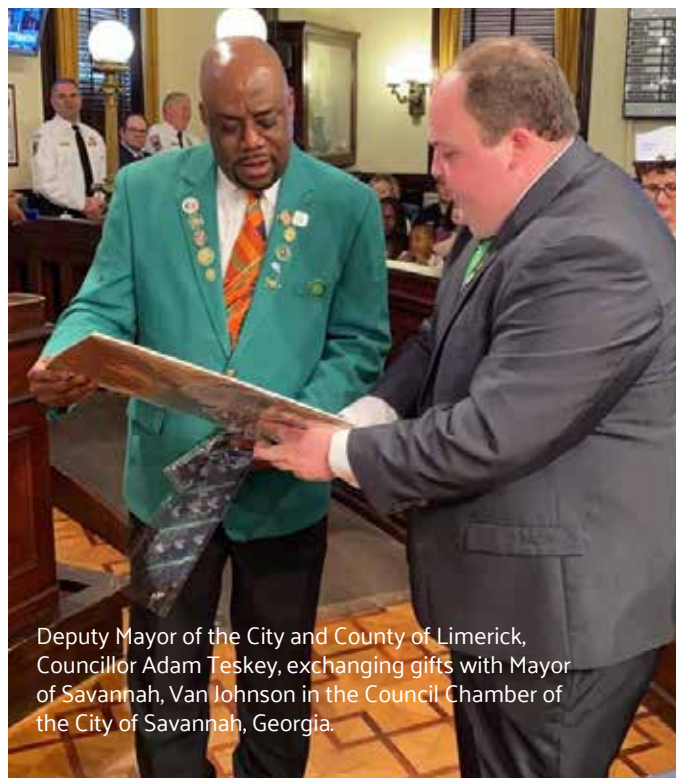
Councillor James Collins, Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick travelled to Queens County, New York from 5th March, 2020 to 9th March, 2020 to attend the Annual Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade at Rockaway, Queens, New York.

Savannah

Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Adam Teskey, travelled to Savannah, Georgia, USA to participate in their Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade and attend some of the celebrations leading up to Parade. However, on the 12th March, 2020, the Covid-19 crisis deepened considerably and the US President announced he was closing US Airports to European flights. As a result of this escalation, it was decided that the delegation should cut short the visit and return to Ireland on 13th March.



Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Adam Teskey addressing the March monthly meeting of the City of Savannah Council



Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Adam Teskey, exchanging gifts with Mayor of Savannah, Van Johnson in the Council Chamber of the City of Savannah, Georgia.





ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

Introduction

At the start of 2020 all indicators were showing that our economy was growing and performing well. We launched a new international brand for Limerick and our largest ever marketing campaign to showcase the city and county on the international stage.

In March, everything changed as Covid-19 spread across the world and caused an unprecedented disruption of the status quo. All businesses and retailers in Limerick were impacted in some way and had to change the way they work as we learnt to live with the effects of the pandemic.

Along with central government, Limerick City and County Council stepped in and put numerous supports in place to protect people and businesses and lessen the impact of the downturn.

Although retail suffered a downturn in our city centre and county towns as people moved in further numbers to online shopping, Limerick City and County Council developed the Shop Limerick online platform to help people to shop and support local.

In 2020 460 businesses were approved for trading online vouchers to help deliver their services online worth €1.09million. We helped hundreds of our tourism and hospitality businesses with the 50 Days of Summer campaign to promote Limerick to a domestic audience. Limerick's resilience came to the fore during COVID-19, with key indicators from the second of this year's biannual Limerick Economic Monitors reflecting well on the city and county's ability to ride out the pandemic and close to 2000 jobs announcements.

Major re-development work got underway in Quarter 4 of 2020 at Project Opera, and Number 1 Bishop Quay. Master planning commenced on other key sites such as Cleaves Factory site, the Colbert Quarter and on UL City Centre Campus. The resolve and determination of Limerick people and the confidence in our future demonstrated by these developments and job announcements is preparing Limerick for an accelerated recovery post-Covid-19. Quality of life and a flexible approach to the new working environment has become more attractive. This is positioning Limerick as an ideal investment and re-location destination. Limerick has an urban appeal and all the lifestyle benefits you get from living at the edge of the Atlantic, which is a significant factor in choosing a place to live and work.

The Economic Development Directorate, which is charged with the promotion and development of Limerick, incorporates six key sections:

- Trade and Investment
- Innovate Limerick
- Local Enterprise Office
- Marketing and Communications
- Forward/Strategic Planning
- Urban Innovation

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

The Trade and Investment Unit is tasked with supporting the efforts of IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, other state agencies and the business community, in creating the environment to facilitate job creation, as well as gathering and disseminating economic data, managing the development fund and administering corporate support services.

While it was a difficult year for companies due to Covid-19, it still had many highlights, including:

- Announcement of 2,000 jobs in total by companies including Regeneron, Axiom SL, Irema, Hybrid Technology, Kneat Solutions, Transact Campus Inc. and Viotas.
- Retail and hospitality investments and jobs announcements were made by JYSK, Bath Fitter Inc., ZuCar, Hertz Car Sales, Aldi, Lidl, Dealz, Spitjack, Hungry Lyons and Twomey's Bakery.
- The Council approved the allocation of €2m to capital projects throughout the city and county. The monies were collected through development contributions attached to the granting of planning permission, primarily for commercial and housing developments. The allocated funding for the projects fell under four broad headings; Assisting Communities, Rebuilding Limerick, Quality of Life Initiatives and Planning for the Future.

Business Supports

The Council engaged with government and local stakeholders to deliver a series of business supports during 2020 to support our economy and businesses impacted by COVID restrictions. These supports included,

- The Business Re-Start Grant and Business Re-Start Grant Plus where almost €26.5 million was distributed to businesses in a scheme administered by Limerick City and County Council on behalf of the government where grants were made available to businesses to prepare them to make changes to their businesses to prepare them for reopening and trading safely through COVID. Limerick City and County Council demonstrated its agility by responding quickly to the changing circumstances and quickly established a system to administer this grant.
- The Rates Waiver Scheme 2020 funded by the government provided €24.8 million to Limerick City and County Council to waive the commercial rates demand for Limerick business impacted by COVID. This initiative was very well received by businesses and lessened the impact that COVID had on business turnover.

- Trading On-Line Voucher Scheme – Through support from the LEO office over €1.1m in grant funding was provided to 466 new businesses to help them to develop on-line trading platforms so that they could adjust their business models and trade through COVID by providing online sales. These grants were supported with additional training and mentoring as required by various businesses.

City Centre Revitalisation

Limerick City and County Council appointed a City Centre Revitalisation Manager to spearhead a programme to help redress challenges to the retail sector. The appointment was one aspect of a range of measures adopted by Limerick City and County Council to trigger the revitalisation of the city centre to increase city centre footfall, meeting head-on challenges from online retailing and out of town shopping.

The City Centre Revitalisation Manager worked with a new multi stakeholder city centre action group, which included representatives from Limerick City and County Council, Limerick Chamber of Commerce, An Garda Síochána and City Centre Traders Organisation to help redress issues and the following actions were taken:

- Increased Garda presence in City
- Cleaning Scheme activated
- Laneways cleaned and upgraded
- Suite of activities proposed to increase footfall
- Ongoing networking with business owners to provide assistance/guidance
- Shop Limerick was set up to assist businesses get online during Covid 19 and into the future encouraging consumers to shop locally.
- Build-outs were provided to facilitate outside dining
- The Council worked with the local traders to generate positivity and excitement for Christmas in Limerick. A joint project to add more lighting to the trees and in the main shopping streets in the city and create a Christmas Window Trail throughout the city was enacted.
- During the year, a number of new coffee shops/restaurants opened in Limerick city centre, along with Wickham Way – a covered market in Wickham Street, which accommodates up to 15 traders, with offerings of arts, craft, music, coffee etc.

This initiative is part of a short-term strategy for the redevelopment of Limerick City, other medium / long term goals are the upgrading of O'Connell Street, the development of Project Opera, UL City Centre Campus, Cleeves Campus, World Class Waterfront, Docklands, Colbert Quarter, New Arthur's Quay and other private sector developments.

International Relations

During 2020, the Council maintained its strong relationship with its international cities and regions. A Council delegation visited New York in February 2020 to host a Limerick Diaspora Event in the Irish Consulate in the City and to launch the new Limerick Brand. Meetings with Tourism Ireland, Bloomberg Philanthropies and Bank of Ireland's Innovation Lab took place.



Further visits to Austin, Texas and Hangzhou China had to be deferred due to the COVID pandemic. Remote relationships were maintained with all international cities/regions.

Limerick City and County Council received a donation of medical personal protective equipment (PPE) from its sister city in Hangzhou in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. The consignment was handed over to staff at University Hospital Limerick, who distributed them to frontline staff. This gesture was in recognition of the growing economic, cultural and educational links between the two cities and regions.

A further 10,000 PPE facemasks were donated to healthcare workers in Limerick from the Chinese community in Limerick, on behalf of the Irish Chinese Information Centre. The donations were a gesture of solidarity and friendship with Limerick, highlighting the close links established between the two regions.



Ms. Candy Chung presenting donation to Cllr. Michael Sheahan, Mayor of Limerick

INNOVATE LIMERICK

Innovate Limerick aims to drive innovation and act as the delivery mechanism for the projects outlined in the Limerick 2030 Plan, the Limerick Regeneration Implementation Plans and others. Among its achievements in 2020 were:

- “Joining the Dots Connecting Innovative Places” event held in The Strand Hotel Limerick on 13th and 14th of February. The event was a huge success while connecting regions and strengthening the economic ties between the UK and Ireland. Speakers on the day included Robin Barnett British Ambassador to Ireland, Cllr Adam Teskey Deputy Mayor of Limerick City and County Council, Dr Pat Daly Chief Executive of Limerick City and County Council, Dr. Dez Fitzgerald President of University of Limerick. The focus of the event was Innovation Hubs, and creating innovative spaces in town centres to drive ecosystems.
- The first online Prosper Limerick was held on 7 May. The online event was hosted by Innovate Limerick and in conjunction with The Guinness Enterprise Centre. Three companies pitched on the day including Sean Brady Co-founder of Limerick based Team Assist, Leah Morgan Happen Operations Manager and Joe Brooks about the local initiative Lean on Me.
- Innovate Limerick through Film in Limerick held a number of online events throughout the summer months including;
 - ✓ A webinar for local filmmakers on funding short films and first feature films.
 - ✓ An event for local budding film editors delivered by local experienced editor Simon McGuire.
 - ✓ An event on sound in film with award-winning sound designer Rui Silva.
 - ✓ An online masterclass with OSCAR nominated and Emmy-award winning director Guy Davidi, on directing documentary films.
 - ✓ ‘Writers Factory’ screenwriting programme for aspiring and emerging screenwriters.
 - ✓ ‘Introduction to Creative Producing Course’ with partners Screen Skills Ireland and Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board. The 6-month programme is aimed at new producers in the Mid-West looking to professionalise their practice and develop independent production companies in the region.
- Innovate Limerick was successful in its application to the Department of Rural and Community Development through the Western Development Commission as part of the Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC) Enterprise Hub Network project. Five hubs across Limerick received funding to support their reopening in compliance with public health guidelines as the economy recovers from the impact of Covid-19. The Limerick Hubs that received support are Broadford Enterprise Centre, Bruree Food Centre, ENGINE, Kantoher and Rathkeale Enterprise Centre.
- ENGINE Limerick has continued to thrive in the current climate and a recent upgrade of equipment has allowed tenants to facilitate online meetings/training while adhering to Government Guidelines. Local Enterprise Office Limerick LEO has relocated to ENGINE. This enables Limerick to provide dynamic supports and highly responsive assistance to entrepreneurs in established and emerging sectors.
- In September, Limerick City and County Council approved a Part 8 Planning Application to build an extension on to ENGINE building Cecil Street, Limerick the extension costing in the region of €2.7m will be used as a Digital Collaboration Centre, which will facilitate collaboration between multinational and indigenous companies in the region.
- A network of co-working spaces in the Mid-West region was introduced in Limerick. “Happen” is a network, facilitated by Innovate Limerick and the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) in Limerick, Clare and Tipperary, comprises both public and private co-working spaces across these three counties, as well as in North Kerry. Happen will connect new and existing hubs across the region to facilitate working in a changed environment and create a community for remote workers in the mid-west. The creation of the network was prompted by the impact that Covid-19 has had on how and where people work and the demand for a more collaborative form of remote working. The overall aim of Happen is to create a better work-life balance for workers and enable them to do so under a common umbrella.

happen.

Midwest Co-Work Spaces

- Innovate Limerick through Film in Limerick launched ENGINE Shorts, an ambitious new short film development and production scheme for emerging talent that are based in Limerick, Tipperary and Clare. Run by Innovate Limerick through Film in Limerick, Engine Shorts is a partnership between the Local Authorities in Limerick, Tipperary and Clare, and Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board. The new scheme aims to inspire and support up-and-coming writers, directors and producers to create inspiring, engaging world-class short films.
- Following on from the purchase of the Old Bank Building in Abbeyfeale in 2019, Innovate Limerick continues to work with architects and builders on the development of a new E-Hub/Co-Working space for the West Limerick town. Upgrade works started in 2020 with a proposed finish date of Quarter 2 2021. Once complete it will be connected to the existing Happen Network along with co-working spaces in Newcastle West, Listowel, Tralee, Limerick City and others.



LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

2020 proved an exceptionally busy and challenging year for Limerick Local Enterprise Office, our clients and our staff. With the announcement of the Covid pandemic in February, LEO went on to organise and host over 155 training and development courses, workshops and webinars with over 2,100 participants. Over 155 individuals also availed of LEO's Virtual Mentoring Programme in 2020. In addition, client businesses were helped prepare for Brexit through a range of regional and national events and focus on competitiveness with LEAN for micro initiative. In total, LEO approved grant aid in 2020 for over 1,168 businesses/companies to the value of over €4 mill.

Approvals consisted of 13 Feasibility grants, 9 Priming grants, 14 Business Expansion grants, 8 Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters grants, 454 Trading Online Vouchers, 600 Business Continuity Vouchers and 70 client stimulus grants. The job creation potential associated with Measure 1 grant aid approvals in 2020 will see the creation of 205 new jobs in the small business sector in Limerick City and County over the next 3 years.

In addition to supporting new and existing businesses, it is important to foster an entrepreneur spirit in our younger citizens. In 2020, The Student Enterprise Programme involved over 1,000 students from 20 secondary schools in the City and County participate in enterprise related projects.



Other significant events for Limerick LEO during the year were the appointment of Mike Cantwell as new Head of Enterprise and a LEO office move from Patrick Street to ENGINE on Cecil Street. These changes resulted in the streamlining of services between Innovate Limerick and LEO, which resulted in clients being offered a more comprehensive service.

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Marketing and Communications Department of Limerick City and County Council is responsible for handling corporate communications and developing and promoting a positive Limerick narrative to visitors and international investors, through dynamic ongoing campaigns across traditional and new media. Key events throughout 2020 included the launch and implementation of the Brand Limerick identity, leading the communications around the local authority response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the introduction of Shop Limerick and the rollout of a national tourism marketing campaign, Limerick 50 Days of Summer. Limerick.ie reached over 1.1million unique users in 2020.



THE DEPARTMENT'S ACTIVITY INCLUDED:

Corporate Communications:

- PR and media management of Council projects including the issuing of 274 news releases, drafting 96 Mayoral speeches, answering hundreds of queries from local and national media and managing the Council's numerous social media accounts.
- Playing a central role in the Council's response to Covid-19 as part of the Crisis Management Team which was set up to oversee Council activities in light of the pandemic.
- Working with the HSE, UL Hospitals, an Garda Síochána, third level and further education institutions, Shannon Group and other local authorities across the Mid-West to communicate collaboratively to the public about Covid-19 through #MidWestTogether.
- Providing PR and marketing support services to Limerick's European Green Leaf project team to promoting our commitment to better environmental outcomes as part of the city's European Green Leaf designation for 2020.

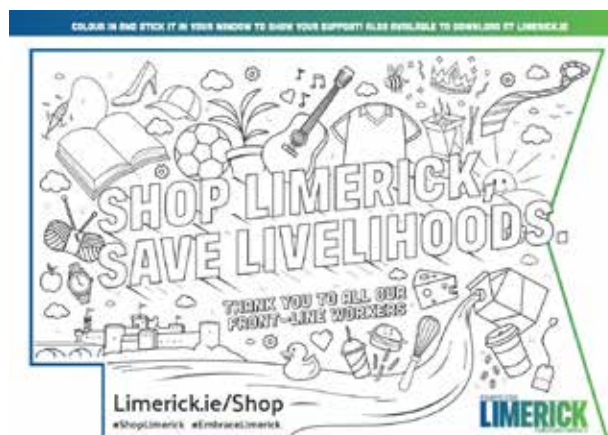
- Presenting at the ‘Joining the Dots’ event, a British Embassy initiative linking agencies in the Mid-West to their counterparts in Northern Ireland and England to see how collaboration and best practice can be achieved by working together.
- Delivering a Limerick brand presentation at the Irish Consulate in New York at Brand Limerick’s US launch event.
- Presenting at the URBACT European Programme Conference to discuss the brand’s development and launch process to partner cities from across the EU.
- Working with Virgin Media Television to profile Limerick across Ireland AM, The Elaine Show, The Six O’Clock Show and Tonight Show, all broadcast live from Limerick in July 2020.

Marketing:

- After a highly collaborative 18-month process, Limerick’s new brand identity Limerick Atlantic Edge European Embrace was officially launched. Following the brand unveiling, a multi-market advertising campaign ‘Percentages’ commenced rollout across print, digital display, social media, out-of-home and radio in Ireland, Great Britain, Germany, France, Spain, Italy and the USA.
- Secured major PR and media coverage for Limerick following brand launch including feature advert in National Geographic Traveller magazine and front-page cover and editorial in Go Wild magazine.
- Brand Ambassador structure established together with Limerick ‘local heroes’ rollout showcasing the faces of the campaign to amplify the sense of edge and embrace that typifies the city and county.
- Highly visible branded light box feature installed at passport control at Shannon Airport, along with installation of a branded billboard installed at airport exit.



- Implementing numerous multi media campaigns including Limerick – Walk It, Run It, Love It, Limerick St. Patrick’s Festival, Virtual Riverfest Limerick, Shop Limerick, Limerick Student City, Limerick 50 Days of Summer, Limerick Edge Embrace Photography Competition, and Christmas in Limerick.
- Participating in the national social media initiative #YourCouncilDay, promoting the various activities of local authorities through social media and the hashtag #YourCouncilDay. The @LimerickCouncil Twitter account ranked third place out of a total of 2,041 accounts on the day for performance.
- Limerick Atlantic Edge, European Embrace Brand Campaign won silver in the Sockies Social Media Awards 2020 in the Branded Content category, and Limerick 50 Days of Summer Campaign won bronze in the Public Body Video Campaign category.
- Issuing 58 Limerick.ie e-newsletters, four quarterly Limerick.ie business bulletins, and 12 monthly staff e-zines.
- Adding 1587 events, 1018 articles and 338 new amenities to Limerick.ie.
- Producing bi-annual Limerick Economic Monitor, which analyses and tracks Limerick’s economic and fiscal status and trends across all economic sectors.
- Organising the ‘greening’ of key sites across the city and county to support the Limerick team in the lead up to the All-Ireland Senior Hurling final.
- Coordinating a social and digital campaign for Virtual Riverfest Limerick to showcase Limerick internationally during the May bank holiday weekend, with online events reaching an audience of 461,871.
- Developing and launching Shop Limerick, in



partnership with Limerick Local Enterprise Office and Limerick Chamber, in response to the Covid-19 crisis and its effects on Limerick businesses. Limerick.ie/Shop is a virtual marketplace connecting consumers directly with Limerick’s businesses, allowing them to shop safely and efficiently while supporting the local economy. The online platform now hosts 287 homegrown Limerick businesses.

- Coordinating publicity post to 50,500 Limerick householders asking them to support their local community and shop local. The mail drop included a Shop Limerick, Save Livelihoods graphic for children to colour in and display in their window as a thank you to Limerick's frontline workers.
- Managing an eight-week multimedia national tourism marketing campaign to position Limerick as a domestic holiday and leisure tourism destination through Limerick 50 Days of Summer. The campaign featured an exciting competition giving away 50 unique Limerick edge and embrace experiences through a dedicated campaign hub Limerick.ie/50Days which had over 84,000 entries.
- Securing national press coverage and media features including Fáilte Ireland's #MakeABreakForIt editorial (Irish Independent), Pól Ó Conghaile's Staycation Ideas in Ireland (Independent.ie), 10 things to do in Limerick City (The Echo), family feature in the Irish Examiner, Limerick Girly Getaways feature (Evoke.ie), double page staycation feature Limerick Fairytale on the Sunday World Magazine by travel writer and broadcaster Suzanne Kane.
- Engaging acclaimed travel writer Vic O'Sullivan to write a series of itineraries for 'Make a Break for Limerick' webpage on Limerick.ie, highlighting Limerick as a staycation destination.
- Launching the Limerick Edge Embrace Photography Competition inviting amateur and professional photographers to capture the contradictions that make up Limerick's distinctive character of edge and embrace. The supporting digital marketing campaign generated a lot of interest, had a strong reach and created great brand awareness among the general public.
- Delivering a six-week multi-media campaign promoting Christmas in Limerick with a large focus on marketing local businesses and encouraging consumers to shop Limerick and support the local economy.
- Collaborating with national influencers throughout the year to promote Limerick to wider audiences including fashion and lifestyle bloggers Louise Cooney and Dearbhla Toal, fashion stylist Celia Holman Lee and travel bloggers Sarah Hanrahan and Niamh Reid.
- Producing a series of Limerick Edge Embrace branded banners outside Colbert Station, Limerick City to showcase Brand Limerick through our esteemed Brand Ambassadors and local heroes.

FORWARD/STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Forward Planning Section is responsible for the research, preparation and production of planning policy documents and planning for the sustainable development of housing, infrastructure, economic and environmental

development in the City and County. Responsibility of co-ordinating the Heritage function and Urban Regeneration Development Fund applications also lies with this section.

NATIONAL POLICY RELATED PROJECTS

- The section co-ordinated the preparation and submission of four applications under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund to the value of circa. €650million.
- Work progressed on the preparation of a Social and Economic Model, which is part funded under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund.
- Submissions were made on the following documents : Draft wind energy Guidelines, National Marine Planning Framework and the Draft "Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000 in Ireland", to the Local Government Management Agency.
- The section provided ongoing policy advice for a number of strategic projects (Metropolitan Transport Strategy, Foynes to Limerick Road scheme, Cork to Limerick Road scheme, CFRAMs, Lough Gur steering group, Green Leaf Awards, infrastructure working group, Limerick Colbert Quarter Framework Plan).

Development Plans

The Section has initiated the preparation of the first Limerick Joint City and County Development Plan with the publication of an Issues and background papers in August 2020 and the setting up of an online portal and virtual public engagement room. This was followed by a focused public consultation process consisting of a social media campaign, radio interviews, a webinar, 30 face to face public meetings, 38 meetings with infrastructure working group and an interactive schools programme and presentations to the Public Participation Network (PPN). There were nearly 3000 page views on the virtual room during the public consultation stage and 248 submissions were made. The submissions were considered and summarised in the "Chief Executives report on the pre draft consultation stage", that issued to the Elected Members in November. Since the commencement of the process 10 workshops were held with the Elected Members, as well as a number of presentations made to the Planning and Economic SPC.



Tender process were run and consultants were engaged to prepare a Retail Strategy, Housing Strategy and a Height Strategy, all of which will influence the proposed Development Plan. The team also worked with the Physical Directorate to engage consultants to prepare a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for the proposed Plan.

LOCAL AREA PLANS

The team oversaw the preparation and adoption of the the Croom Local Area Plan 2020 – 2026 and completed the process to extend the life of the Adare, Askeaton and Patrickswell Local Area Plans. The preparation of the Southern Environs Local Area Plan was advanced to draft stage.

CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

A Supplementary Contribution Scheme for the development of Road infrastructure in Mungret was prepared and adopted in November 2020.

ATLANTIC ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

Limerick is one of the 10 Local Authorities who play a key role in the AEC initiative, which aims to attract investment, support job creation and improve quality of life for the people who live there. The Forward/Strategic Planning section continues to represent the Council on the Atlantic Economic Corridor Task Force.

MONITORING

The section is responsible for ongoing economic monitoring including: monthly monitoring of the contribution scheme, monthly monitoring of house and commercial sales / rents/ commencements and number and type of planning applications, annual city centre land use and vacancy survey and production of a Monthly Key Performance Indicator report.

HERITAGE

The Council successfully secured €9,000 from the Heritage Council under the Heritage Plan Programme.

URBAN INNOVATION:

The Urban Innovation Department focuses on supporting innovation to enable new urban services and products to transform urban living and working to reach the challenges of climate change and the digital economy. The Urban Innovation Department has three main functions:

- Open Collaboration: supporting an open ecosystem for urban innovative services in the Georgian Neighbourhood, Limerick's first dedicated collaboration zone.
- Demonstration Projects: leading by example

by developing key demonstration projects to promote compact urban development and catalyse investment by others.

- Building and Sites Activation: activating key buildings and opportunity sites, engaging with property owners to promote refurbishment and optimise usage and diversifying the development market.

Living Georgian City Programme

Chambers Ireland Excellence Award 2020, Enhancing the Urban Environment.

Limerick's Living Georgian City (LGC) programme is an historic city centre revitalisation process that is being piloted in Limerick's Georgian Neighbourhood. The LGC programme seeks to develop innovative, community-led solutions to address the following challenges; city vacancy, lack of housing options, failure in public realm investment, fragmented land ownership and development preference for green field development. It is supported by funding from the Urban Renewal and Development Fund (URDF) and the Horizon 2020 +CityxChange Programme.

2020 was an exciting year for the LGC programme, with many of the work-streams which make up the initiative kicking off. The key activities that took place throughout 2020 were as follows:

Investment Modelling and Governance Feasibility Research

- A team comprising Consultants Campbell Tickell and Self Organised Architects were appointed to research a range of innovative, affordable housing models.
- They produced a draft report that focused on the governance and financial aspects of Community-Led Housing and how these could be applied to the Housing Demonstration Projects at 58 O'Connell Street and 33/34 Thomas Street.

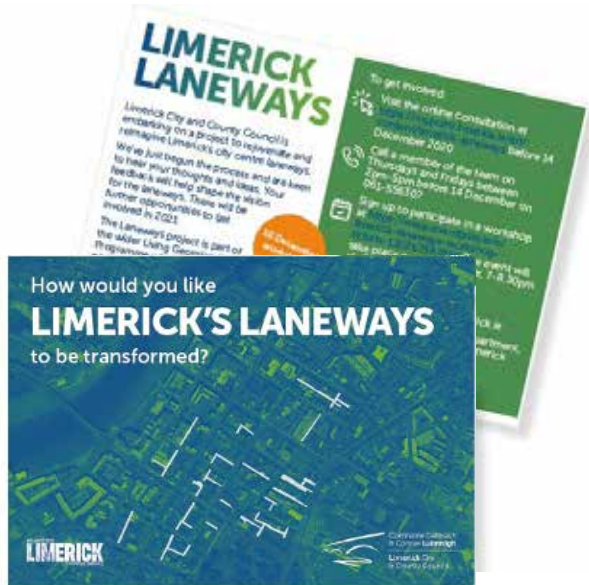
Housing Demonstration Projects at 58 O'Connell Street and 33/34 Thomas Street

- A Design Team, led by Paul Keogh Architects, was appointed for these two projects, which are on Council-owned sites. Both projects are residential-led and will include refurbishment of existing historic buildings, as well as new-build elements.
- Site survey and investigation works took place and preliminary sketch options for the sites were prepared.

Laneways Demonstration Project

- A Design Team, led by Tobin Consulting Engineers, was appointed for the Laneways project. The team will prepare an overarching strategy document for 25 laneways in the city centre and will design seven of the laneways to a greater level of detail.

- Information gathering and site analysis work took place. Early strategic approaches were investigated and presented.
- The first step of the public engagement process took place with information and opinions regarding the laneways being gathered from the public via a survey and a public workshop, supported by smaller stakeholder meetings.



+CITYxCHANGE

Limerick is one of two EU 'lighthouse' cities selected for a major climate-change pilot programme that will give a lead to the rest of Europe on how to dramatically reduce the carbon footprint of urban areas. Funded by the EU through Horizon 2020, the overall aim is to trial new kinds of technology and community solutions to turn Limerick into a positive energy city – a city that produces more energy than it consumes. It hopes to influence citizen behaviour around energy in order to meet the challenge of moving to a low carbon sustainable future.

City Engage Week 2 - Renewable Energy

As part of +CityxChange, the Urban Innovation Department hosted City Engage Week 2 in September 2020 on the theme of Renewable Energy. In collaboration with +CityxChange partners, the Council hosted a full programme of nine online webinars and workshops over the course of the week. Attendees got the opportunity to explore the potential and the challenges of installing renewables and creating positive energy districts in Limerick's Georgian Quarter. Participants mapped solar potential in the Georgian Neighbourhood, learned about the proposed tidal turbine in the Shannon and had the chance to build their own home energy monitor. Presenters from Ireland and Europe shared their experiences of energy generation and creating energy communities. Almost two hundred people attended and participated in events throughout the week, taking the opportunity to learn about the project and share their vision for a low carbon future for Limerick.



Limerick Climathon 2020

Limerick's second annual Climathon took place in October 2020 hosted by +CityxChange project partners, Space Engagers. The aim of a Climathon is to bring local citizens together to brainstorm ideas to address local challenges around climate change. Due to Covid restrictions this year's Climathon took place online with participants developing their ideas over several weeks. Climathon empowers those in the community with ideas about how to tackle climate change and make Limerick a sustainable place to live. Climathons in the past were traditionally intense two-day events.

Two projects made it to the end of the process; one focused on Citizen Collected Data and the potential for citizens to collect data that would influence decision-making in their community, and the other focused on the concept of Safe Schools Zones.

Developing a Bold City Vision for Limerick.

The +CityxChange project is supporting the preparation of the new Limerick Development through the trialling of new methods of engagement and policy development. In particular the alignment of the Development Plan objectives to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the creation of a virtual engagement room that was fully integrated with the my-point platform. The consultation generated approximately 3,000 visitors and 246 of these submissions will be catalogued within the SDG framework and feed into the development of a vision for the future of Limerick.

Implementing Positive Energy Blocks

- Special energy meters were installed in the five buildings of the Distributed Positive Energy Block and are now sending second-by-second information on electricity usage in these buildings.
- Urban Innovation made multiple submissions to national regulatory authorities communicating learnings from the project in order to contribute to Ireland's transition to a low carbon future.



LIVING CITY INITIATIVE TAX INCENTIVE

Urban Innovation administers the Living City Initiative Scheme which provides property tax incentives designed to regenerate both historic buildings and other buildings in Limerick. In October 2019, the Scheme was extended to December 2022. The Department provides ongoing support and runs One Stop Shops for building owners and for people carrying out refurbishment of homes, rental properties, commercial and retail spaces in the special regeneration areas of historic Limerick. A fortnightly advice clinic is held in ENGINE, Upper Cecil Street by a multi-disciplinary team (Fire Officer, Conservation Officer, Senior Architect, Town Planner) to give advice to property owners, potential property owners and landlords who want to avail of the tax incentive for qualifying renovation works. These clinics continued online throughout the year. A total of 22 applications were received and over twenty property owners have been supported through the advice clinics for the scheme in 2020.

SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH (SBIR) PROGRAMME

The Urban Innovation Department administers the SBIR (Small Business Innovation Research) Programme. SBIR is a mechanism which enables public sector bodies to connect with innovative ideas and technology businesses, to provide innovative solutions for specific public sector challenges and needs. Limerick City and County Council is working in partnership with Enterprise Ireland who have established a dedicated fund to co-support innovative and competitive challenges.

This SBIR challenge addressed Fire Safety and Accessibility of Historic Buildings and was launched in October 2018 in collaboration with Enterprise Ireland, Local Enterprise Office Limerick, Innovate Limerick and Dublin City

Council. The winner “Safecility” was awarded total funding of €59,500 to develop trial and monitor innovative solutions for buildings, with the Georgian Neighbourhood in Limerick as the testbed location. Throughout 2020, a number of pilot tests involving the use of sensor technology were carried with a view to developing a new product for commercialisation.

The following is a synopsis of key 2020 milestones from the Limerick Twenty Thirty DAC projects:

- **Opera Site**
 - Planning Permission granted by An Bord Pleanála in February following an Oral Hearing in late 2019 for the 450,000 sq. ft. campus accommodation that will be developed over a six-year period at a cost of circa €200m. The programme is fully funded and up to 500 people will be involved in construction at peak on the site.
 - Appointed Cogent Associates as Integrated Project Management of the site in Quarter 1.
 - Secured Vacant possession of the full site in Quarter 3.
 - Appointed John Sisk & Son as Enabling Works and Demolition Contractor.
 - Officially commenced project in December with site mobilisation works.
 - Appointed Design Teams for Basement, One Opera Square, Revenue and Library in Quarters 2, 3 and 4 respectively.

- **Cleeves Riverside Quarter**
 - Site transferred to Limerick Twenty Thirty in Quarter 3.
 - Appointed Design Planning and Project Teams in Quarter 2.
 - Completed Definitive Project Brief in Quarter 4.
- **Georgian Properties**
 - Commenced project management of two Limerick City and County Council owned Georgian properties - 58, O'Connell Street and 33/34, Thomas Street - in collaboration with the local authority's Urban Innovation Department. Funding for the two 'pathfinder projects' for new residential living models in the historic Georgian core in Limerick has been provided under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF).
- **Mungret Park Development:**
 - Prepared a Part 8 Planning Application for 250 Units on behalf of Limerick City and County Council
- **Gardens International:**
 - Achieved GPO occupancy in Quarter 3.
 - Collaborated with Limerick City and County Council on +CityxChange project.
 - Awards Achieved for Gardens International in 2020:
 - Winner of an AAI Award from the Architectural Association of Ireland 2020.
 - Highly commended as a Regional Finalist in the National/International Civic Trust Awards 2020, Gardens was one of only two Irish finalists.
 - Shortlisted in two categories for the ACEI Awards; Structural and M&E (Mechanical and Electrical) Engineering (Awards postponed due to Covid-19).
- **Board Governance:**
 - Denis Brosnan, founding Chairman of the Limerick Twenty Thirty Board, retired after four years in the role. He was replaced by Conn Murray who was unanimously appointed as Chair.





PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

The Physical Development Directorate leads in the physical development of Limerick including quality transport infrastructure, environmental protection and policy, sustainable travel options and accessibility to quality housing.

The Directorate is responsible for policy and strategy in these areas and supports the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) and the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment SPC. It is responsible for managing the Council's responsibilities under the Water Framework Directive, the Floods Directive and Environmental Noise Regulations.

This Directorate has the lead role in the prioritisation and funding of all major physical and infrastructure development projects relating to roads, flood protection and climate action and engages with government departments/agencies on these matters. It also advocates for investment in physical infrastructure in Limerick where this infrastructure is provided by other government departments or agencies. The Directorate operates the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water for the delivery of water services for Limerick City and County.

The Mid West National Road Design office is a shared service between Limerick City and County Council, Tipperary County Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland to design and deliver major capital infrastructure projects in the Mid-West Region.

It is one of four Strategic Directorates of the Council, and it works closely with the Social Development Directorate, the Economic Development Directorate and the Housing Development Directorate feeding into regional and national policies and strategies.

MID WEST NATIONAL ROAD DESIGN OFFICE (MWNDRDO) - MAJOR ROAD SCHEMES

Foynes to Limerick Road (including Adare Bypass)

This is a major road project which is 35km in length, and when completed will connect the core port of Foynes to the motorway network near Limerick. The road is comprised of the construction of approximately 15.6km of dual carriageway from Foynes to Rathkeale (with approximately 1.9km of single carriageway road between Ballyclogh and Askeaton) along with the construction of approximately 17.5km of motorway from Rathkeale to the existing motorway network at Attyflin. The proposed motorway will also provide a bypass of Adare village.

Limerick City and County Council prepared an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) in respect of the road development and applied to An

Bord Pleanála (The Planning Board) for approval of the project in December 2019. The closing date for receipt of submissions on the EIAR and objections to the compulsory acquisition of the land for the road development was 14 February 2020. An Bord Pleanála subsequently requested further information in respect of the project and Limerick City and County Council submitted a response to the further information request to An Bord Pleanála in September 2020. The further information response was advertised and placed on public display with a closing date for submissions of 2 December.

The oral hearing for the proposed road development is scheduled to take place early in 2021.

N/M20 Cork to Limerick Project

The National Development Plan (NDP) sets out that the N/M20 Cork to Limerick project would provide better connectivity between Ireland's second and third largest cities, Cork and Limerick. It would improve the quality of the transport network, addressing safety issues associated with the existing N20 route and provide for safer and more efficient journey times. The project is a key element in Project Ireland 2040, the Government's long-term overarching strategy to make Ireland a better country for all of its people.

During 2020, Limerick City and County Council, in partnership with Cork County Council, Cork City Council, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and Department of Transport continued with the planning and development of the N/M20 Cork to Limerick project. Limerick City and County Council is the lead authority for the project with Section 85 agreements in place with Cork County Council and Cork City Council.

In February, the broad corridor for the road development was identified along the existing N20, with a briefing to elected representatives and updates to the project website.

In November 2020, public consultation on the shortlisted options (nine road-based options, three rail-based options and active travel strategy for improved walking and cycling infrastructure) commenced with a briefing to elected representatives.

Following great interest from the public, the original closing date of 18 December 2020 was extended to the 15 January 2021. The public consultation was carried out remotely due to the Covid-19 restrictions at the time, with an online consultation room and use of online video and telephone calls for consultation meetings. Advertising of the event was repeated in eight national and regional newspapers, on three local radio stations, local authority websites and social media, displayed externally on seven public buildings and a targeted letter drop to over 5,000 properties within the study area. The public fully engaged in the consultation process with 38,000 views of the project website, 700 consultation meetings held and over 2,000 submissions received.

The project team will review the submissions, refine the options based on feedback received, appraise the options and determine a preferred option, with a further public consultation process scheduled for 2021.

Below is a graphic of the shortlisted options for the N/M20 Cork to Limerick project.



N21 Abbeyfeale Road Scheme and N21 Newcastle West Road Scheme

Limerick City and County Council, in consultation with TII, continued to progress the N21 Abbeyfeale Road Scheme and the N21 Newcastle West Road Scheme. In 2020, constraints study area and route corridor options were developed with a view to going to public consultation early in 2021.

Road Improvement/Re-alignment Works

N20 O'Rourke's Cross Road Improvement Scheme

A new roundabout controlled junction is to be constructed necessitating alterations to the existing junction layout and the construction of new N20 approaches to the junction and the alteration of the existing R518 approaches to the junction. The Council made the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) to acquire the land for the road development in February 2020 and submitted an application for approval of the CPO to An Bord Pleanála (The Planning Board). Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and restricted access by members of the public to view the CPO documentation, the closing date for submitting objections to the CPO was extended on two occasions. Nine objections to the CPO were received by the Board. The Council subsequently received a request for further information and the documentation requested were submitted to the Board.

The oral hearing in relation to the CPO was scheduled to take place early in 2021.



N20 O'Rourke's Cross Road Improvement Scheme Drawing

N24 Beary's Cross Road Improvement Scheme

A new roundabout controlled junction is to be constructed at Beary's Cross on the N24. This will necessitate the construction of a new section of regional road R513 approach to the junction and the alteration of the existing N24 approaches to the junction. The Council made the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) to acquire the land for the road development in March 2020 and submitted an application for approval of the CPO to An Bord Pleanála (The Planning Board). Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and restricted access by members of the public to view the CPO documentation, the closing date for submitting objections to the CPO was extended on two occasions.

Six objections to the CPO were received by the Board. The Council subsequently received a request for further information and the documentation requested was submitted to the Board.



N24 Beary's Cross Road Improvement Scheme Drawing

Road Safety Audits

The MWNDRDO continued to undertake road safety audits on behalf of local authorities in the region during 2020. The road safety audit is undertaken to identify potential safety issues within a scheme design or construction as they could affect road users.

PAVEMENT WORKS

N21 Newcastle West Pavement Improvement Scheme

The N21 Newcastle West Pavement Improvement Scheme involves the rehabilitation of approximately 1km of pavement along the N21 national primary route on the eastern approach to the town. Tender documentation for the roadworks was advertised on 10 June 2020 and the closing date for tender submissions was 10 July 2020.

The tender was awarded to Roadstone Ltd, Fortunestown, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Co. Dublin. The works commenced on site in November 2020 with pavement works to be complete in early 2021.



Newcastle West Pavement Works in Progress



Footpath Works as part of Newcastle West Pavement Improvement Scheme

N69 Court Cross to Bolane Pavement Improvement Scheme

The N69 Court Cross to Bolane Pavement Improvement Scheme provides pavement improvements and ancillary works for approx. 2.8km through Kildimo village. The tender process was undertaken in 2020, and the contract was awarded to Roadstone Ltd, Fortunestown, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Co. Dublin. The works are scheduled to commence early in 2021.

N20 Banogue Traffic Calming

The N20 Banogue Traffic Calming Scheme provides for the installation of traffic calming, pavement surfacing works, kerbing and ancillary works on the N20 national primary road at Banogue Cross. Part VIII planning for the scheme was considered at the March meeting of the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District and was subsequently approved.

Tender documents for the works were advertised in 2020 and the contract was awarded to Tony Kirwan Civil Engineering Civil Engineering Contractors. The works are scheduled to commence early in 2021.

REGIONAL ROADS PROJECTS

N67/N85 Blake's Corner Road Improvement Scheme

The N67/N85 Blake's Corner Road Improvement Scheme provides for the Ennistymon Inner Relief Road, which includes a new river crossing of the Inagh/Cullenagh River approximately 80m upstream of the existing crossing. The overall route runs from a point located approximately 170m south east of Blake's Corner on the N85 to a point located approximately 180m west of Blake's Corner on the N67, via Bogbere Street. During 2020, the Mid West Road Design Office assisted Clare County Council with the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) documentation to acquire the land for the road development and the CPO was signed in June 2020. Twelve objections to the CPO were received by An Bord Pleanála.

N19 Shannon Airport Access Road Improvement Scheme

In 2020, the Mid West National Road Design Office continued to assist Clare County Council with the progression of the planning and design phases for the N19 Shannon Airport Access Road. The scheme shall provide a high-quality road improvement scheme on the N19 national primary road between Drumgeely roundabout and Knockbeagh Point roundabout on the approach to Shannon International Airport. The proposed scheme is approximately 2.2 km in length.

Phase One (Concept and Feasibility Stage) for the scheme was approved by TII and Phase Two (Options Selection Stage) was ongoing during 2020. As part of Phase Two, public consultations were held within the local area to obtain feedback on the constraints and preliminary route options.

N24 Cahir to Limerick Junction Project

The Mid West National Road Design Office continued to assist Tipperary County Council with the progression of the planning and design phases for the N24 Cahir to Limerick Junction project during 2020. The section of the existing N24 under consideration in this project, is located between the M8 motorway north of Cahir in Co. Tipperary and an appropriate tie-in point in Co. Limerick. Phase

One (Concept and Feasibility Stage) for the project was approved by TII and Phase Two (Options Selection Stage) for the scheme commenced in September 2020.

Tipperary County Council is the lead authority for the scheme. In this regard, Limerick City and County Council entered into a Section 85 Agreement with Tipperary County Council, whereby the powers, duties and functions of this Council in relation to the project will be performed by Tipperary County Council within the functional area of Co. Limerick

N62 Templemore to Roscrea Road Improvement Scheme

The N62 Templemore to Roscrea Road Pavement Improvement Scheme is located on the N62 national secondary road north of Templemore. The scheme commences at the 60kph speed limit and extends approximately 700m to the south. The Midwest National Road Design Office continued to assist Tipperary County Council with the development of this scheme. Tender documents for ground investigation contract were issued on 3 July 2020 and the closing date for tender submissions was 24 July 2020. The tender was awarded to Priority Geotechnical Limited and works were scheduled to commence early in 2021.

N62 Tullamore to Thurles Road Improvement Scheme

The Mid West National Road Design Office assisted Tipperary County Council with the design of and preparation of tender documents for road improvements on the N62 Tullamore to Thurles Road. This scheme is approximately 2 kilometres in length and provides for pavement improvements and ancillary accommodation works.

Tender documents for the works were advertised on 10 June 2020 and the closing date for tender submissions was 10 July 2020. The tender was awarded to Falconhurst Ltd. trading as Kellys of Fantane, Borrisoleigh, Co. Tipperary. The works commenced on site in October 2020 and were substantially complete in December 2020.

TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION

Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS)

The National Transport Authority (NTA) led Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy was further progressed during 2020. The first Public Consultation took place on-line in Quarter Four, in which there were in excess of 100 submissions. The NTA is currently assessing the issues raised and will revise the draft LSMATS document accordingly with a view to getting an agreed strategy in 2021. During the year considerable progress was made in multiple sustainable transport projects which form part of the transport strategy.

Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM)

Following on from the Tranche One CFRAM funding commitment in 2018, Limerick City and County Council have advanced the CFRAM projects for Castleconnell, Athea and Limerick City and Environs. In 2020, the consultants have been progressing through Stage One (Options Assessment, Scheme Development and Design) on both the Castleconnell and Athea schemes with the initial public consultations completed for both schemes.

Tenders for consultancy services on the Limerick City and Environs Flood Relief Scheme (FRS) were received in October 2020 and the tender assessment will be concluded early in 2021. The Kings Island subset of the Limerick City and Environs scheme is progressing through Stage Two (Planning / Development Consent) with a further information response submitted to An Bord Pleanála in October 2020.

Limerick City and County Council received funding approval from the Office of Public Works (OPW) to advance the Adare FRS in September 2020. Tender documents are being prepared with a view to appointment of consultants in 2021.

Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) Phase One of the road construction is now complete and open to the public and residents of Mungret Gate. Constructed footpaths as part of first phase allow for a safe and segregated area for pedestrians and cyclists.

The second phase received Part VIII planning in March 2020. The appointed consultants Mott MacDonald Ltd have prepared construction tender documents, which will be published in early 2021.

Detailed design of Phase Three has been progressed during 2020, with various environmental studies and surveys undertaken to inform location of services, road alignment and docking location.

Roads and Infrastructure Projects

Funding from the Department of Transport and the National Transport Authority for the progression of schemes were secured in 2020. These schemes included the O'Connell St. Revitalisation Scheme - for which a contractor Shareridge was appointed at end of the year and the Castletroy Urban Greenway for which a contractor P&D Lydon was appointed to commence works. A Stage Two Appraisal document was submitted to the Department of Transport for the Limerick Northern Distributor Road in Quarter Three 2020.

SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

Bike Week 2020

Bike Week 2020 was an opportunity for Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) to celebrate and promote cycling as a sustainable mode of transport and a fun leisure activity. A weeklong schedule of free bicycling events was hosted from the 19 to the 27 of September throughout Limerick City and County.

Bike Week employed a different format in 2020 due to the Covid-19 restrictions. LCCC was unable to hold a showpiece Bike Week event in the city centre, however the Council worked with community groups, workplaces and members of the public by providing for funding support to run their own cycling events. 15 applications were approved for community-based events, and events showcasing the fun and benefits of cycling were held. These included bike repair workshops, heritage cycles and beginner cycling lessons for young cyclists. In total €17,275 was allocated across 15 events.



Murroe Boher Scouts



Pallaskenery National School



Knocklong Historical Group and Knocklong Development Association



Limerick Youth Service



Lough Gur Heritage Centre

Walktober Step Challenge 2020

The 2020 Walktober Step Challenge, which took place in October, is an annual initiative run by the National Transport Authority (NTA), aimed at encouraging people to walk more and to support and facilitate long-term physical activity.

54 Limerick City and County Council staff members in 13 teams participated. We emphasised the importance of maintaining social distancing protocols when walking with others. There were two overall winners at the end of the competition. The ‘Chasing Pavements 2.0’ team, made up of our traffic wardens, were our best non-desk-based team, and were winners of the national step challenge competition, while the ‘Forward Walkers’ team were our best performing desk-based team.



‘Chasing Pavements 2.0’ winner team of the Walktober 2020 National event.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION

Climate Action – Year One of the Implementation Plan for the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy was carried out. At year end, progress had been made on 84% of the actions in the strategy. The Council resolved to approve a Section 85 Agreement with Cork County Council for the roll out of the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project, and approved a loan facility for the project. The Council progressed applications for two Council owned pilot sites under the recently introduced Woodlands Creation Scheme. The Council continued to work closely with the Atlantic Seaboard South Climate Action Regional Office, and our partner local authorities in the region, on a number of climate action related projects.

Parking (Electric Vehicle) (Amendment) Bye-Laws 2020 - Bye-Laws, which exempt parking charges for electric vehicles while charging at on-street charging points for the Metropolitan District of Limerick and the Municipal Districts of Cappamore-Kilmallock and Newcastle West, were extended for a further two-year period. This initiative will assist with the uptake of electric vehicles.

ISO 50001 Energy Management Standard - Limerick City and County Council retained the ISO 50001 energy management standard, which was first attained in 2019, in 2020.

Water Framework Directive (WFD) – The Council WFD team focused its efforts outside of the priority areas of action and carried out investigative assessments in other at risk water bodies to identify the significant pressures causing these water bodies to be at risk of not achieving the objectives of the WFD. The team completed 317 farm assessments, which include physical inspections and desk-based follow ups and risk assessments. They worked closely with the farming community to address problems where they were identified, and responded to 39 pollution incidents. The teams work was significantly impacted by Covid-19 which limited the number of farm visits which could be carried, but river assessments continued as normal for much of the year.

The regional Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPro) Team is co-located with the Council's Water Framework Directive (WFD) team. The focus of the LAWPro team is on the priority areas of action identified in the River Basin Management Plan 2017-2021 in counties Limerick, Cork and Clare.

Invasive Species

The three-year Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) funded project to control Giant Hogweed on the River Loobagh continued with excellent progress made. The main contractors were not impacted by Covid-19 as this was considered essential work due to the public health risk associated with Giant Hogweed. However, the voluntary contribution from the Ballyhoura Rural Social Scheme was curtailed by Covid-19. This impacted on budget rather than on progress. Initial

control in the river corridor from the headwaters to the confluence with the River Maigue has been achieved. Unfortunately, stakeholder events, including landowner training had to be postponed due to Covid-19.

All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020

Limerick City and County Council continued with its commitment to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) by leaving significant sections of road verges in the city uncut. "Let it Bee" signage were erected in these locations to inform the public. On the whole feedback was positive and important lessons were learnt regarding the management challenges presented by this initiative. An area of Castletroy Park was also allowed to develop into a wildflower meadow and saw a huge increase in biodiversity in a short time. This was also very well received by the public who requested that more areas be included.



'Let it Bee' signage on Childers Road



Wildflower Meadow at Castletroy Town Park

A pollinator friendly garden called "The Pollen Patch" was developed beside the Merchant's Quay office with funding from the European Green Leaf Award. This was intended to provide an exemplar of what can be achieved in a small urban space to make more room for nature.

With funding from the Heritage Council, pollinator friendly designs were commissioned for a total of 12 roundabouts in the City and County. It is hoped to recruit businesses to sponsor implementation of these designs. Funding was obtained from DHLGH to create pollinator friendly planting on the Loughmore Roundabout. This work was completed in November.



Pollinator friendly patch on Childers Road

A video of a virtual tour of the Corbally Meadow was also produced under the European Green Leaf Programme along with funding to complete an e-learning module on bumble bee identification.

Maigue Rivers Trust

The Council continued to support and facilitate the work of the Maigue Rivers Trust in 2020, which is establishing itself as a significant influencer in the Maigue catchment. The Trust appointed a full-time project officer in May 2020 with funding from the DHLGH.

European Green Leaf Award

2020 was Limerick's year as a European Green Leaf City. An ambitious programme of events was planned for the year. However, many of these had to be postponed or cancelled due to Covid-19. As an alternative, a series of webinars were hosted which dealt with the various themes covered by the award including: Biodiversity, Water, Air and Noise, Waste and Climate Change. Videos of all of these webinars are available on the Limerick European Green Leaf City YouTube Channel. [youtube.com/c/LimerickEuropeanGreenLeafCity/null](https://www.youtube.com/c/LimerickEuropeanGreenLeafCity/null)

Healthy Ireland Funding

Healthy Ireland granted €18,000 for the development of a biodiversity garden in Baggott Estate/Portland Park. Work on this began with the sowing of a wildflower meadow in Autumn 2020. Gortbrack were appointed to complete the design of the community garden element of the project.

The Noise Action Plan (NAP) 2018-2023

Modelling software was used to examine the impact of various mitigation measures in two of the hotspots identified in the Limerick Noise Action Plan 2018 to 2023. These were located in Monaleen and Ballycummin. A cost benefit analysis was conducted and the results submitted to Transportation Infrastructure Ireland, who are currently considering the findings.

Work on producing the strategic noise maps for the next round of noise action planning also commenced.

Blue Green Infrastructure

In December the Physical Development Directorate went to tender for consultancy services to develop a Blue Green Infrastructure strategy for the city and environs. This strategy will help inform land use planning and identify key BGI projects in the study area.

A training course in Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems was developed in consultation with McCloy Consulting and delivered to key technical staff in September/October 2020. It is envisaged that additional staff will be trained in 2021.

URBACT Health and Greenspace

Funding approval for phase two of URBACT Health and Greenspace was obtained in May 2020. A project officer was appointed in October 2020. This project aims to develop an action plan for selected greenspaces in the city, including the Baggot Estate and a number of residential greenspaces, which will enhance their value from a health, wellbeing and biodiversity perspective. Limerick is one of nine partner cities from around Europe. The project is led by Budapest.

Horizon 2020 Go Green Routes

Limerick City and County Council is one of 49 partners in this ambitious project which aims to develop and implement nature-based solutions with a view to making urban areas more sustainable. This project is being led by the University of Limerick.

WATER SERVICES

Established in 2013 as Ireland's national water utility, Irish Water is responsible for providing and developing water services throughout Ireland. The statutory responsibility for operation of water and wastewater infrastructure and delivering water and wastewater services transferred to Irish Water on enactment of the Water Services Act 2013.

Limerick City and County Council completed Service Level Agreements (S.L.A.) with Irish Water. The S.L.A. defines the

relationship between the Council and Irish Water and is effective from January 2014. Irish Water is accountable to two regulatory bodies – The Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU), which is the economic regulator for the water industry, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which is the environmental regulator. Limerick City and County Council is still responsible for the rural water programme and activity in this area as outlined below.

Rural Water Programme 2020

A new three year funding programme, the ‘Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019-2021’ was introduced by the Department of Housing, Planning and Environment in 2019. The funding for this programme was broken down into six sections or ‘Measures’;

- **Measure One** - Source Protection
- **Measure Two** - Public Health Compliance
- **Measure Three** - Enhancement of Schemes under Water Conservation
- **Measure Four** - New Group Water Schemes
- **Measure Five** - Transition of Schemes to the Public Sector
- **Measure Six** - Community Connections

The total funding allocation to Limerick County for this programme is €1,483,998 spread over 15 Group Water Schemes (GWS). The allocations for the Multi Annual Programme were released in November 2019, therefore work on the various projects within the programme commenced in 2020. Some examples of projects are as follows.

Coshma/Killeen GWS

Under Measure One - Source Protection - installation of perimeter fencing between the entrance and the pumphouse to ensure site security and primary protection to the groundwater. The project was completed in Quarter Two 2020.

Athlaca South GWS

Under Measure Two - Public Health Compliance - installation of a manganese dosing unit and a Ultraviolet Disinfection System (UV System). The project was completed in Quarter Two 2020.

West Limerick GWS (Croagh, Kileedy, Cappagh and Granagh)

West Limerick GWS (Combined)

Under Measure Three - Enhancement of Schemes under Water Conservation - installation of District Meter Areas (DMAs) and Bulk Meter Loggers with a Link Back to Supervisory, Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) across the West Limerick GWS. A number of Bulk Meter Loggers were installed in 2020, with more planned for 2021. Granagh GWS has amalgamated with West Limerick GWS. This will facilitate improved management of these schemes and efficient targeting of resources into the future.

West Limerick GWS (Croagh)

Under Measure Two - Public Health Compliance - plant upgrades at Croagh to address nitrates issue. This project is currently under review with the Department of Housing, Planning and Environment.

Under Measure Two - Public Health Compliance - installation of continuous Ultraviolet Light Transmission (UVT) monitoring at source and is currently at the tender stage.

Under Measure Three - Enhancement of Schemes under Water Conservation - extension of 940m length of main to accommodate further site development at the Ballingarry side of Croagh and is currently at the tender stage.

West Limerick GWS (Kileedy)

Under Measure Two - Public Health Compliance - installation of turbidity monitors, UVT monitors and Ultraviolet (UV) installation at two sources and is currently at the tender stage.

Under Measure Three - Enhancement of Schemes under Water Conservation - installation of individual flow meters to monitor the abstraction rate from Shanaghan’s Well and the Ballough Mountain Well and is currently at the tender stage.

West Limerick GWS (Cappagh)

Under Measure Two - Public Health Compliance - continuous UVT monitoring at source and is currently at the tender stage.

Under Measure Three - Enhancement of Schemes under Water Conservation - upgrade of 300m of 25mm main to 100mm diameter and is currently at the tender stage.

Lough Gur GWS

Under Measure Three - Enhancement of Schemes under Water Conservation - diversion of a section of main laid across agricultural land (fields) onto the public road and is currently at the tender stage.

Ballyduff GWS

Under Measure One - Source Protection - secure the scheme’s source protection and is in the preliminary stage.

Under Measure Three - Enhancement of Schemes under Water Conservation - installation of bulk meters to assist with water management. This project was completed in Q4 2020.

Baggotstown GWS

Under Measure Three - Enhancement of Schemes under Water Conservation - upgrade of 400m of pipework and this project was completed in Quarter Four 2020.

Bulgaden GWS

Under Measure Three - Enhancement of Schemes under Water Conservation upgrade of 100m of pipework. Additional funding will be applied for to protect the source of the scheme.

Ballinvearna GWS

Under Measure Three - Enhancement of Schemes under Water Conservation - installation of bulk meters to assist with water management. This project was completed in Quarter Four 2020.

Ballinamona GWS

Under Measure Three - Enhancement of Schemes under Water Conservation - installation of flow meters and scour valves along the network and the diversion and upsizing of a section of main laid on private land onto the public road. Both of these projects are currently at the tender stage.

Knockainey GWS

Under Measure Two - Public Health Compliance - to address issues with the UV system and is on target to be completed in 2021.

Barnagh-Glendarragh GWS

Under Measure One - Source Protection - installation of perimeter fencing around the wells and associated plant and sealing of joints where the concrete rings lining the spring wells meet to ensure primary protection to the groundwater. These works have commenced and will be completed in 2021.

Under Measure Three - Enhancement of Schemes under Water Conservation - installation of a Flow-metre and sampling tap for the spring water wells to enable quantification of discharge from the springs. This project will be completed in 2021.

Carroward West GWS

Under Measure Five - Transition of Schemes to the Public Sector - booster upgrade works to publicly supplied GWS to facilitate Taking In Charge by Irish Water and is currently at the tender stage.

Kilglass GWS

Consultants are currently preparing a preliminary report that is expected to be completed in January 2021.

Subsidy towards the Operational Costs of Group Water Schemes

The operational subsidy grant provides assistance to group water schemes supplying water for domestic use. Group water schemes are entitled to claim an annual and advance subsidy each year. The Council processed

€1,500,423.60 in subsidy payments to 33 Group Water Schemes in respect of their operational costs in 2020.

Private Well Grants

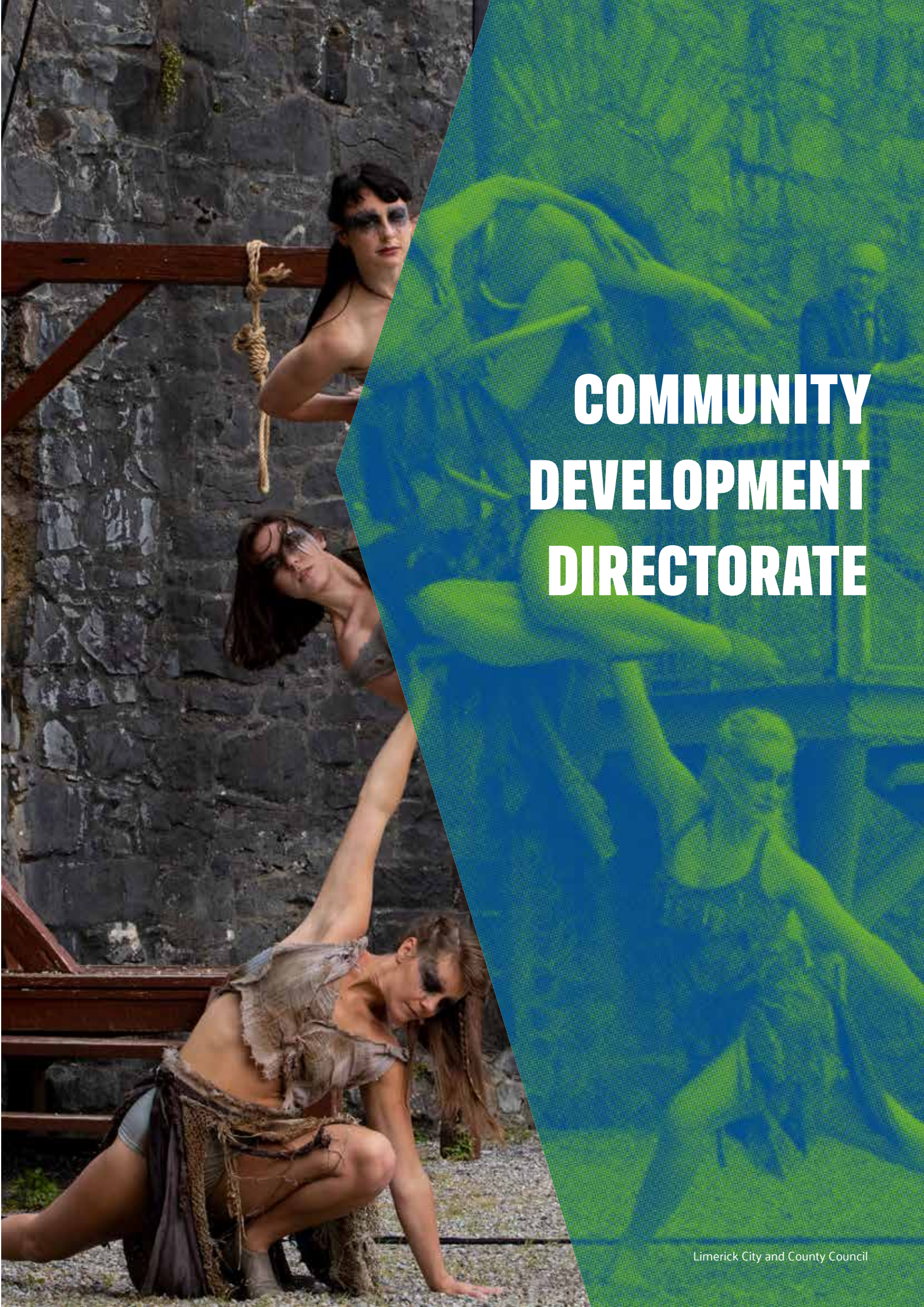
Limerick City and County Council processed 87 individual grants at a total cost of €181,908.75 in 2020. The purpose of the grant is to help householders provide good quality, potable drinking water for their homes.

Grants payable under the Domestic Lead Remediation (Financial Assistance) Regulations 2016

The scheme is available to assist owners of premises connected to a domestic water supply with the costs of replacing lead piping or related fittings located within the internal distribution system of the premises, as defined in the Water Services Act 2007. The applicant must occupy the premises concerned as his or her principal private residence. The Council processed two grants in 2020 to the combined value of €7,949.80.

Freedom of Information Requests:

The Directorate responded to 22 Freedom of Information requests in 2020.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

PROPERTY AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES DEPARTMENT

The Property and Community Facilities Department covered three specific areas:

- Property - Acquisitions and Disposals
- Property Management
- Dereliction, Vacancy, Reuse / Sports and Community

Property Acquisition and Disposal provides a key support to other Directorates for the acquisition, disposal, leasing and licensing of Council properties. During 2020 this team acquired 42 Properties under the SHIP, Buy and Renew, Part V and Regeneration Programmes.

Other significant acquisitions that were processed by the Property Team during 2020 included:

- Land and two Buildings in Kilmallock Business Park
- Ardagh Station House (for Greenway development)
- Barnagh Station House (for Greenway development)
- Ormston House, Patrick St Limerick
- Lands in Croom (Croom Distributor Road)
- Mary Street (old Garda Station)
- Edward Street (old Garda Station)

The Department is also responsible for all disposals (including freehold and leasehold property interests) under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended). 32 Section 183s were presented to Council during 2020.

Other significant disposals that were processing during 2020 included:

- The Cleeves and Salesian sites were transferred to Limerick Twenty Thirty to facilitate master planning and future development of the sites.
- In progress with various disposals in Galvone to address vacancy in the area.
- Lands in Rathmale, Mungret to Mungret Regional Soccer Club.
- Long-term Lease to Shelbourne Soccer Club for LPYMA (Limerick Protestant Young Men's Association) lands, Ennis Road - Section 183 approved at Council and legal completion underway.

In addition, Property Services sourced and entered into leases over properties to facilitate the decanting of staff and other occupants of the Opera Site, to enable demolition works to commence.

The **Property Management** section looks after small capital works on existing, acquired and vested properties. 13 Derelict properties were upgraded during 2020. All general sites, not falling under another Directorate such as parks, social housing sites, etc. are managed and inspected to identify adverse possession, possible liability issues and also to identify small land holdings that may be excess to requirements. During 2020 the Department carried out 220 such inspections.

An e-tender was actioned for the implementation of a new Property Interest Register. This will record all landholding over 0.5 acres. The benefits of a robust system will be seen in the management of Limerick City and County Council lands and thus ensuring that maximum return will be achieved from Council assets.

The **Dereliction, Vacancy and Re-use** Section is committed to supporting communities by taking a robust approach to dereliction and vacancy in Limerick City and County. The team works collaboratively with property owners, seeking timely actions and improvements of sites. Staff collaborate closely with Housing Development, Planning Enforcement and communities to bring properties back into use. Owners of derelict and vacant properties are provided with advice in relation to schemes such as Buy and Renew, Repair and Lease, Retail and Business Incentive Scheme and the Paint Scheme which provides funding for property owners to improve the appearance of their properties. Where all reasonable alternatives were exhausted, the Council commenced compulsory acquisitions under the Derelict Sites Act 1990 and the Housing Act 1966.

Activity in 2020

- 821 (781 in 2019) derelict site inspections
- 410 (180 in 2019) statutory Notices were issued under Derelict Site Act, 1990
- 133 (43 in 2019) properties added to Derelict Site Register
- 11 (10 in 2019) properties removed from the Derelict Site Register
- 75 (24 in 2019) Compulsory Acquisitions were commenced under Derelict Site Act 1990
- 25 (8 in 2019) properties vested into the name of the Council

Vacant Sites

There are currently nine sites on Limerick City and County Council's Vacant Sites Register. Vacant Site levies are now being processed for 2020.

Vacant Homes

Utilising existing housing stock is a key pillar under Rebuilding Ireland, Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness. The objective of the Limerick City and County Vacant Homes Action Plan is to establish an accurate picture of vacancy in Limerick and increase housing supply by assisting property owners to reactivate

their properties for social or private housing. In 2020, the Council continued to identify vacant properties, particularly in areas of high housing demand, and work with property owners to bring their properties back into housing use. The Vacant Homes Officer works closely with the Housing Development Directorate in relation to liaising with owners about Buy and Renew Scheme and Repair and Lease Scheme. Where all reasonable alternatives are exhausted, the Council can utilise its powers under the Housing Act 1966 to compulsorily acquire a property.

RRDF Project

A successful application was made to the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) in 2020 with an allocation of €2,500,000 grant funding toward the regeneration of five towns: Askeaton, Ardagh, Abbeyfeale, Bruff and Rathkeale. This provides an additional approach to tackling dereliction in Rural Limerick. Properties vested in Limerick City and County Council via the Dereliction Process, for which there is a limited market in the private sector, in their existing state, will be refurbished and sold on the open market. This is a demonstrator project with Limerick being the first county to receive such funding. It is hoped that the project will provide local employment and will breathe new life into local communities.

LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL SPORTS AND RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

In 2020, Limerick City and County Council has commissioned consultants to assist the Council prepare a Sport and Recreation Facilities Strategy. The aim of this strategy is to provide Limerick City and County Council with a clear and updated evidence base and an evaluation of the quality and accessibility of sports and recreation facilities owned and managed by the Council. The Strategy is currently being prepared.

Newcastle West Regional Athletics Hub

€1,256,276 was awarded from Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF) in 2020 for the development of the new regional athletics hub at Cloonyschrehane, Newcastle West. The project includes the construction of an athletics track to International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) standard, floodlights and all associated track facilities with disability access.

The total cost of the construction of the hub is around €2.5 million, with the majority of the balance of the funding coming from Limerick City and County Council's own resources. Funding has also been received from the Hinterland Fund (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage) and the JP McManus Benevolent Fund. It is planned that construction of the Regional Athletics Hub will begin in Quarter 1 of 2021.

Newcastle West Tennis Club

Newcastle West Tennis Club was relaunched in 2020 with a new committee. The tennis club grounds are located at the entrance to the Council-owned Demesne in Newcastle West. The club sought funding from Limerick City and County Council to construct a new security fence around the perimeter of the two courts and install new lighting. Part-funding for the project has been allocated by the Elected Members of the Municipal District of Newcastle West from the General Municipal Allowance (GMA).

Bin Waiver Scheme

Approximately 2,700 Waivers were issued to applicants under the Bin Waiver Scheme in 2020, which was supported from internal Limerick City and County Council funds.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Tourism Development

In 2020, Limerick City and County Council worked to deliver on the objectives of the Limerick Tourism Development Strategy - Action Plan and a review of completed actions was presented to the Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee

Partnership with Fáilte Ireland.

Limerick City and County Council continues to work with Fáilte Ireland to leverage funding to schemes such as Platforms for Growth and the Regional and Participatory Festivals Grant Scheme and deliver on the objectives of the Wild Atlantic Way Gateway and Region. A visitor experience development programme was advanced in 2020 including working with key stakeholders to implement plans to motivate visitors to stay longer and spend more in the Region, extend the length of the season, sustain and increase job creation in the local area, protect the special environmental and align to the Wild Atlantic Way brand and target markets. As part of this work, the Tourism Development team, in partnership with Marketing and Communications, supported the development 50 tourism packages for staycations working with 80 local businesses. The 50 Days of Summer campaign ran from 16 July to 13 September and had 85,000 competition entries and established key partnerships between hospitality and tourism industry representatives for future tourism package marketing initiatives.

Limerick Wayfinding, Orientation and Place Making Strategy

In 2020, Limerick City and County Council appointed consultants for services for the Limerick Wayfinding, Orientation and Place Making Strategy. The aim of this plan is to enhance the visitor experience and drive visitation and economic impact by pointing people to the areas the city wants people to see, explore and experience and connecting existing visitors to discover more. It is envisaged that work will commence on site in 2021.

River Shannon Tourism

Limerick City has been designated as a destination hub in the River Shannon Tourism Masterplan and the Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee was provided with a briefing on this new strategy. In 2020 the Council, in partnership with Waterways Ireland, agreed to commission a feasibility study to consider how accessibility to the river can be maximised. This initiative is one of a number of actions targeted at harnessing the potential of Limerick's location on the River Shannon.

Lough Gur

Work to enhance Lough Gur continued in 2020 including the opening of the Solstice Park playground, upgrade to the public toilets and work on the installation of public lighting at the lakefront. The new Lough Gur Kiosk opened in September 2020. The kiosk offers environmentally-friendly coffee and light refreshments for park visitors. Located in the outer coach car park the Lough Gur Kiosk provides a first point of welcome for all visitors and will become a key information point where visitors can learn about the unique biodiversity of this visitor attraction.

West Limerick Tourism Gateway Strategy

As part of the West Limerick Tourism Gateway project, Limerick City and County Council has purchased Fullers Folly in Newcastle West as a strategic investment with a view to developing a tourism experience of scale. A feasibility and options report was completed in 2020 for the Fullers Folly buildings and site. The options outlined in this report will be further progressed in 2021.

Conferencing, Bid for Events and the Ryder Cup

The tourism development team in 2020 has continued to work with colleagues to support the development of conferencing and hosting of special events in Limerick. 2020 saw a pivoting of the events industry and the team have been providing advice, advocacy and support to event planners for rescheduling of events and the move to online virtual events as a short-term measure. The team has worked closely with Shannon Region Sports and Conferencing Bureau to continue to present Limerick as a high quality offer for hosting sporting and conferencing events and has successfully managed to negotiate the rescheduling of events once restrictions allow.

Limerick City and County Council will continue to plan and prepare for the Ryder Cup, now moved to 2027, and funding provision has been made to enable key studies and business cases for Government funding to be undertaken.

LIMERICK GREENWAY

Upgrade Works

The contract awarded to contractors in June 2020 involved the upgrade of the entire 40 kilometres of the greenway to a three-metre wide macadam surface, bringing the route to the highest national standard. These works have progressed during 2020 and a nine kilometre section

from Rathkeale to Ardagh was opened for local use in December. Limerick City and County Council was awarded €2.5 Million in Government funding in December 2020 towards the cost of these upgrade works, as part of the Budget 2021 allocation towards greenways. An application for funding for these works was made in November to the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF). Part 8 planning approval was received in December 2020 for the construction of six cattle underpasses/1 overpass and the construction of a car park at Newcastle West as part of this next phase.

Ardagh and Barnagh Station Houses

In 2020, the Council purchased the old Barnagh and Ardagh station houses as part of its efforts to conserve and promote the railway heritage associated with the greenway. A contractor was appointed to carry out initial stabilisation works to both buildings and works at the Barnagh Station house advanced significantly in 2020. This phase of works is being funded by the General Municipal Allocation/Development Fund from the Elected Members of the Municipal District of Newcastle West Municipal District, the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) and the July 2020 Stimulus Fund. An options and feasibility study was completed in Quarter 3 for both stations houses and their respective sites to consider their use as ancillary attractions to the Greenway.

Part 8 Planning approval was granted in December 2020 to carry out the next stage of refurbishment works and included change of use of the station house buildings to community/tourism use, to service greenway users. Funding for these works has been sought through an application to the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) submitted in December.

Greenway Facilities and Amenities

In addition to the station houses projects and car parking, the Council is advancing a work programme for facilities and amenities for greenway users. This includes picnic areas, seating/bike stands at regular intervals, small children's play areas, e-bike charging points, bike repair points, water points. Funding for these works has been sought under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2020.

Limerick City and County Council has also secured €200,000 in funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020 towards the restoration of the old railway goods shed at the start of the Greenway in Rathkeale. Once completed this will be used for bike hire and other greenway services.

Greenway Marketing and Promotion

Following a tender process, Limerick City and County Council has appointed consultants to lead on the production of tourism promotional material, brochures, enhanced visitor and interpretation signage and a launch of the Greenway in summer 2021. The appointed

consultants have previously carried out work of a similar nature for Waterford City and County Council as part of the development of their award winning Waterford Greenway.

Greenway Development

UL-Castleconnell-Montpelier: Work to examine the development of a greenway from UL to Castleconnell to Montpelier continued in 2020 including reviews of existing studies. This project will be further progressed in 2021.

Rathkeale-Adare-Patrickswell: Funding was secured under the Carbon Tax Fund to develop an options report and feasibility study for a greenway from Rathkeale to Adare to Patrickswell and linked to the smarter travel route to Limerick City. This greenway would connect to the existing greenway which runs from Rathkeale to Abbeyfeale.

Larger Scale Funding Streams for Local Communities

During 2020, the Tourism Development Department submitted applications to the Department of Rural and Community Development for funding under the RRDF third call and the ORIS (Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme) for further infrastructural works on the Great Southern Greenway and projects proposals for development of the Foynes Flying Boat and Maritime Museum.

CULTURE AND ARTS

In addition to Limerick City and County Council funding, Culture and Arts are also supported by the Arts Council of Ireland/An Comhairle Ealaíon (the national agency for developing, promoting and funding the arts in Ireland) and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the Creative Ireland initiative. The adopted Limerick Cultural Strategy Framework 2016-2030 sets out a clear vision and ambition for Limerick. It allows for the strategic planning of, and commitment to, the continuous development of culture and arts in Limerick through dialogue with key stakeholders and influencers - at local and national level, artists, creative practitioners, communities and key cultural organisations. The Culture and Arts team is also responsible for growing the ambition and quality of the six Civic Festivals:

1. St. Patrick's Day
2. International Band Championship
3. Riverfest
4. Cruinniú na nÓg
5. Culture Night
6. Christmas in Limerick

The eight objectives of the Limerick Cultural Strategy will ensure that the set of values, principles and strategic priorities that demonstrably increase the level of public engagement, celebration, innovation and investment in cultural infrastructure in Limerick are delivered collaboratively for the benefit of all citizens.

CREATIVE IRELAND

Creative Ireland is an all-government five-year initiative, from 2017 to 2022, which places culture and creativity at the centre of public policy. Local Authorities are tasked with the development and delivery of the Programme on a local level. The Limerick Culture Team consists of representatives of the Council Departments that are linked to the provision of creative services, or use creative tools as a means of activating and engaging citizens. The Limerick Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018 – 2022 sets out the six strategic priorities for Limerick:

- (i) Future Creators: Children and Young People;
- (ii) Creative Minds: Nurturing and supporting artists and other creators;
- (iii) Creative Springboard: Fostering cultural and creative innovation;
- (iv) People, Places, Networks: Enhancing our local cultural and creative infrastructure;
- (v) Creative Screens: A focus on film and coding;
- (vi) Creative Citizens: People creating and accessing culture on their doorstep.

In 2020, the fourth year of the Programme, the Culture Team at Limerick City and County Council delivered the following:

1. 20 projects to support Limerick Creatives and to bring creativity to our communities. In 2020, there were over 60 projects uploaded to the Creative Ireland portal.
2. Made in Limerick Grants were offered as part of the Limerick Creative Ireland Programme to deliver activities taking place in 2020 that support Pillar 2 of the Creative Ireland Programme, Enabling Creativity in Every Community. This grant scheme consists of three strands; Strand 1. Creative Minds: Nurturing and supporting creative practitioners, Strand 2. Creative Citizens: People creating and accessing culture at their doorstep, and Strand 3. People, Places, Networks: Enhancing our local cultural and creative infrastructure – Spotlight on Heritage.
3. Cruinniú na nÓg, a national day of creativity for children and young people, took place on 13 June 2020. Children and young people were invited to take part in a range of events and workshops delivered by Limerick Culture and Arts Office in partnership with Fresh Film.

Cruinniú na nÓg, now in its third year, is a national initiative that celebrates and encourages participation in culture and creativity through performance, coding, theatre, art and music workshops, readings, screenings and special events. All events are free of charge, child-centred and activity-based. It is a day for lots of doing, making and creating, with 2020 events taking place entirely online due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Cruinniú na nÓg 2020

- Six screenings by Fresh Film and young people, The Best of Cruinniú 2019, Junior Focus Short Animations, Primary Focus Short Film, International Shorts Films, Secondary Focus Shorts and Premiere Screening: 'Fresh Blood' as well as The Story of the Wind Children: A MusiTale with Thomas Johnston.
- Seven workshops for 0-18 year olds online through Limerick.ie, Paper Costumes and Props workshop with Lumen Street Theatre, Stop motion Animation Workshop with Emma Fisher, Shot for Shot Workshop with Emma Sams, Peer 'How To' Commissions by three young Film makers, and Cinematic Smartphone Techniques with Lucy Dawson and Moving Portraits by the Limerick and Clare Local Creative Youth Partnership (LCYP).
- My Creative Life podcasts.

Creation Centre performance group, the Irish Chamber Orchestra's Youth Orchestra and the Limerick Youth Dance Company. These young people demonstrated their art forms of dance, music and aerial skill through a series of creative group performances.

Future Creators was developed with the support of the Creative Ireland Pillar 2, Cross Sectoral and Legacy Strand. Three groups of young people, from three artistic organisations - the Irish Aerial Creation Centre, Irish Chamber Orchestra Youth Orchestra and Limerockers Cru - are producing a Film, with classical music, hip hop and aerial dance. This project capitalises on existing resources and infrastructure and allows young people from diverse backgrounds to meet, create and work together, encourages young people to see themselves as artists, working collaboratively across art forms, and builds the foundations for further projects with major youth collaboration and performance.



Creative Youth Forum Sharing in the Irish Aerial Creation Centre (IACC), a public platform showcasing three youth groups; Irish Aerial Creation Centre performance group, the Irish Chamber Orchestra's Youth Orchestra and the Limerick Youth Dance Company.

YOUTH

A number of projects supported the ambitions of the Creative Youth Plan published by Creative Ireland. The East Limerick Filmmakers, (ELF), was a pilot project for a Youth Film Collective based in Castletroy. This assembled a group of young filmmakers (13-18 years old) and delivered a ten week programme. The Training Smart Initiative, with Rachel Sheil and the Limerick Youth Dance Company (LYDC), invited Irish and international teachers to deliver workshops.

Future Creators

Creative Youth Forum Sharing in the Irish Aerial Creation Centre (IACC) - this event at the IACC on 8 March was the first public platform showcasing the intense collective work undertaken between three youth groups; Irish Aerial

Limerick's Masonry Castles Owners' Network

A programme highlight, co-ordinated by the Executive Archaeologist, was the Owners' Network set up for heritage, basic maintenance, legislation and advice. Two pre-recorded seminars were produced.

Creative Communities Jobs Stimulus Measure 2020

This additional grant was provided as part of Limerick Creative Ireland Programme to deliver activities in 2020. It supported nine projects in Limerick City and County across art forms and projects including printmaking, theatre, film, community engagement and preparing content for online platforms.

Limerick secured additional funding from Creative Ireland of €152,500 in total for the July Stimulus Package-Creative

Communities, the Positive Ageing and Creative Wellbeing Scheme, Cruinniú na nÓg additional allocations and Pillar 2 Cross Sectoral and Legacy.

FUNDING AND OPEN CALLS

Funding opportunities were implemented through a series of Open Calls, designed to support individuals, creative practitioners and groups organising and engaging in cultural and arts activities that endeavour to deliver the key aims and objectives of the Limerick Cultural Strategy.

- Grants under the Arts Act 2003 - There were fifty-two applications for funding. Twenty-nine were successful, with a total allocation of €20,000.
- Individual Arts Bursary Awards Scheme - There were seventeen applications for funding. Ten were successful, with a total allocation of €20,000.
- Limerick Theatre Bursaries 2020 - In partnership with the Lime Tree Theatre/Belltable, as an enhanced support to the sector in response to COVID-19. There were ten applications for funding. Three Bursaries, of €5,000 were awarded, with a total allocation of €15,000.
- Creative Ireland Made in Limerick Grants - There were fifteen applications for funding. Twelve were successful, with a total allocation of €34,670.
- Festivals and Events Funding Scheme 2020/2021 - There were fifty-five applications for funding. Thirty-seven were successful, with a total allocation of €245,000.
- The Strategic Fund - There were forty-nine letters of support issued in 2020 offering 10% of the award issued. To date, twenty-one applications were successful, leveraging €537,723 from The Arts Council and other national funding bodies. A further twenty-one letters of reference demonstrating support were issued.
- International Mobility Award 2020 - Due to travel restrictions in relation to COVID-19, these awards were suspended after the first iteration. One grant award was issued.
- Tyrone Guthrie Bursary 2020 - Residential workplace and residency programme. There were six applications and three bursaries were awarded.

Dolores O’Riordan Music Bursary

Dolores O’Riordan, singer, songwriter and lead vocalist with The Cranberries, was one of Ireland’s most enduringly popular artists. This bursary, now in its second year, is an award to honour her memory and to support a Limerick professional musician to develop their career. Limerick City and County Council invited applications from professional musicians who wished to be considered for a Bursary of up to €4,000 for the development of work/professional skills. The music bursary award of €4,000 was awarded to Shane Serrano of the band Foxjaw.

Engine Short Film Scheme

The Engine Short Film Scheme will support new and emerging film writers, directors and producers from across Limerick, Clare and Tipperary with a number of short films commissioned in 2020/21. This new scheme is a partnership between Arts Offices in Limerick, Clare and Tipperary, Innovate Limerick / Film in Limerick and the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board. Up to six films will be produced from late March to May 2021, with further training and mentoring support provided. The total investment from Limerick Culture and Arts Office is €20,000.

Other opportunities for professional artistic development included:

Words Ireland National Mentoring Programme 2020

Limerick City and County Council, in partnership with Words Ireland, offered an opportunity to a Limerick writer for the Words Ireland National Mentoring programme. The successful mentee for Limerick was Peter Delaney, who is being mentored by Wendy Erskine.

River Residencies, Arts Council, Invitation to Collaboration

This is a collaborative initiative led by Limerick Culture and Arts Office and Ormston House in partnership with Cavan Arts Office, Clare Arts Office and Tipperary Arts Office. It is co-funded by the Arts Council of Ireland through an Invitation to Collaboration award. The River Residencies focus on high quality engagement between artists and communities, exploring themes inspired by the River Shannon. An open call for the Limerick residency took place and the residency will begin in Glin in 2021.

PLATFORM 31

A nationwide artist development scheme by the 31 Local Authority Arts Offices, in collaboration with the Arts Council, PLATFORM 31, is a national opportunity for artists to develop their practice and test new ideas of collaboration, research, audience development, place making and sharing their work. The Limerick PLATFORM 31 Assessment Panel selected three Limerick Artists to go forward to the second national stage of assessment. In 2021 one will be successful in obtaining grant-aid of €8,000 and professional development opportunities, including a national peer network.

Visual Artists Ireland, Professional Development with Clare, Limerick and Tipperary Arts Offices

The three Arts Offices of Clare, Limerick and Tipperary worked in partnership to bring a shared suite of Visual Artists Ireland training to artists. This year’s topics included Festivals, Child Protection, Creative Proposal Writing and Percent Applications and Delivery. Due to COVID-19 it was delivered primarily online, or through blended learning.

Sliabh Luachra Residency

This was initiated through the Invitation to Collaboration Scheme, led by Cork County Arts Office, in partnership with Kerry County Arts Office and Limerick Culture and Arts Office. The purpose of the project is to promote the musical heritage of Sliabh Luachra, build capacity among local organisations for artistic growth, develop supporting partnerships and sustain and develop local social and cultural networks, preserve and make available musical artefacts and support cultural and creative tourism to the region. Musician Eoin O'Sullivan was appointed Musician in Residence for 2020/2021.

Stony Thursday Poetry Book

The Stony Thursday Book is one of the longest-running literary journals in Ireland. The 43rd Edition, No. 17 in the New Series, was edited by Martin Dyar and published in Autumn 2020. Martin Dyar is the author of the Pigott Prize shortlisted poetry collection Maiden Names. His poem 'Death and the Post Office' has been added to the Leaving Cert Prescribed Poetry syllabus. Over one hundred and fifty national and international poets made submissions of up to six poems each, with a total of eighty-nine poems selected for inclusion.

PORTFOLIO OF CULTURAL PROPERTIES

Limerick's Residential Artist Apartments Scheme, 1-2 John's Square

Open call for the Artists' Apartments, 1-2 John's Square: There were twenty applications, of which six were successful.

Limerick's Artists' Studios Scheme, James Street

Open call for James Street Artists Studios : There were three applications, of which one was successful.

Short-term Artists Apartments, 1-2 John's Square, Limerick

Two studio apartments are made available for short-term use, as a resource for cultural and arts organisations that provide cultural activities for Limerick.

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Festivals and Events Strategy Development for Limerick 2020-2030

The development of a strategy for festivals and events in Limerick commenced in 2020. Limerick City and County Council believe that Festivals and Events play a distinctive role in developing vibrant and sustainable communities. Research demonstrates that festivals and events drive tourism growth as well as grow capacity within the creative sector itself. Festivals and Events offer important opportunities for residents, visitors and creatives to gather,

collaborate, experiment, explore and present work in an atmosphere of celebration. Festivals and Events celebrate diversity and change and encourage people and places to value their lives and the communities they live in.

The development of this strategy is part of the actions to support the ongoing transformative revitalisation of Limerick, which is repositioning Limerick as an attractive European destination in which to invest, work and live. This is underpinned by a cultural renaissance, which has changed the face of Limerick. Local perceptions of Limerick have been renewed with a confidence and a sense of belonging to which other places aspire. How Limerick succeeds in leveraging its cultural capital will continue to be the key differentiator in maintaining social and economic momentum.

CIVIC FESTIVALS

St Patrick's Festival

Ireland's St. Patrick's Festivals were cancelled by National Government on March 10, due to COVID-19. Limerick was selected as a Tier 1 partner with Fáilte Ireland to promote Ireland's St. Patrick's Celebrations. The objective of this was to position Ireland as the only place to be in the world for St. Patrick's Day, addressing strategic visitor growth, regionality and seasonality objectives. Limerick City and County Council received €15,000 from Fáilte Ireland to support the promotion of Limerick as a tourist destination during St. Patrick's Week.

International Band Championships

It was decided, in light of the St. Patrick's Festival cancellation, to reschedule the 50th Anniversary Celebrations for the International Band Championships.

Virtual Riverfest

Riverfest 2020 went ahead virtually as Limerick Tourism, Culture and Arts Department worked with colleagues in Marketing and Communications to programme a feast of entertainment over the May Bank Holiday featuring live music, food and fashion. The highlight of the programme was a live-streamed performance by Limerick Band Hermitage Green at Dolans Warehouse. The performance received an overwhelming response with 79,070 views and over 48,000 engagements. Other highlights included: a virtual barbecue cook-off in aid of Cliona's Foundation; Limerick's firefighting chef, Paul Knapp, cooked up a storm with some sizzling barbecue recipes for the long weekend; and Celia Holman Lee supported local Limerick retailers with a virtual fashion segment.

Culture Night Limerick / Oíche Chultúir

Limerick Culture Night went digital for 2020 with a wide range of events for the public to see and interact with online, with digital events beginning at 3pm until late on 18 September. Artists and cultural organisations in

Limerick presented 30+ events and activities to showcase what they do all year round. Limerick Culture and Arts Office was delighted to be able to support this smaller but creatively diverse and exciting programme of events for young and old to enjoy.

Culture Night showcased the wealth of culture that Limerick has to offer. At the centre of the programme were two new and exciting digital commissions. Fidget Feet, in association with King John's Castle, filmed across the city for their digital aerial film project 'Limerick: Undreamed.' EVA International also made a new digital work for Culture Night, a three-part spoken word performance, to camera, by MuRli, God Knows, and Hazy Haze, featuring accompanying dance performance by Salma Ataya and bass by Danny Lanham. Directed by Stephen Hall (Hallway Media) and performed at each of EVA's key venues (Limerick City Gallery of Art, Hunt Museum, The Sailor's Home). The performance was released on Culture Night to officially launch the 39th EVA International Edition. Dance Limerick presented a live performance of Bloodlines by John Scott at their space in John's Square and the performance was also presented online on the night.

Other events included a digital tour of Limerick Museum, screening and workshop for young filmmakers from Fresh Film, live music from Emma Langford as she launched her new album 'Sowing Acorns,' digital exhibition from South and Proud in association with The Gaff from Tait House, a behind-the-scenes look at St. John's Brass and Reed Band and an online workshop on how to track your home energy usage from +CityxChange.

Christmas in Limerick

The focus in 2020 was to create a sense of Christmas together and a festive atmosphere, as Light up Limerick did not take place due to COVID-19. The Christmas in Limerick programme 2020 included the Walking in a Window Wonderland Trail, with the twelve windows of Christmas telling the story of sending the letter to the North Pole, ending with the opening of the presents on Christmas morning. The trail began at the Post Office, Cecil Street, with 'Santa's Post Box.' Additional investment in Christmas lights, with new features at Cruises Street, Arthur's Quay Park, Catherine Street and Denmark Street and Festoon lights along the boardwalk between the two bridges created a Festive atmosphere to encourage shoppers and visitors into the city. Christmas trees were installed at O'Connell Street and Upper William Street and festive features enhanced both parklets.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS - EUROPEAN PROJECTS

Limerick secured participation in Creative Europe funded projects in the latest round of funding with support from the Limerick City and County Council Strategic Fund. They are: Ormston House's 'Artist-Run Network Europe' and Irish Aerial Creation Centre's 'Island Connect.' Limerick Culture and Arts Office was successful as associate partners in the application Collective Moves: Libertalia Labs and

Performances. Collective Moves sees the formation of a new partnership between three past and future European Capitals of Culture, an ECoC candidate city, a Borough of Culture and two cultural organisations.

Limerick Culture and Arts Office is an associate partner on School of Participation, led by Walk the Plank (UK) and TRAINART led by Consorzio Marche Spettacolo (Italy). Both of these projects are in progress, with delays due to COVID-19 and online and blended approaches to learning being implemented.

- The European Outdoors Arts Academy, School of Participation, will develop and deliver five 'School of Participation' eight-day training schools, which will be presented in five partner cities between 2018 and 2020. This time-frame has been extended.
- TRAINART aims to give new skills to cultural operators/artists, to strengthen their business models, by focusing on two particular fields: (1) management models of cultural spaces and (2) artistic interventions in nonconventional contexts. The project focuses on cultural spaces that serve a diverse audience base. For TRAINART the Limerick Training Hotspot was re-scheduled from May 2020 to March 2021.

THE ARTS COUNCIL - FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

The Arts Council/County and City Management Association Agreement, A Framework for Collaboration (2016-2018) Three-Year Workplan (2016-2018) is a commitment to allow Local Authorities and The Arts Council to enter into a process of developing an Individual Framework Agreement. Limerick City and County Council has signed an agreement highlighting the shared strategic priorities for arts development in Limerick City and County over the period of this agreement. The four-shared strategic actions are:

1. Supporting Artists and Cultural Organisations
2. Rural Arts and Excellence
3. Young People, Children and Education
4. Festivals and Events

1. SUPPORTING ARTISTS AND CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS

Helium Arts

Helium Arts kept creativity and connection alive for children and young people with long-term health conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Fifty-two children (aged 6-17 years) took part in a six-week remote programme "Distance Creates," connecting participants with their own creativity and with peers across the country through collaborative art making, using digital technology and the postal service. Limerick Cultural and Arts Office is a member of the Helium Arts Advisory Group and Limerick City and County Council contributes grant funding through the Strategic Fund.

Arts as an intervention to improve maternal and infant mental health and wellbeing

This project secured major Healthy Ireland funding by the Limerick Children and Young People's Services Committee and is operated through an interagency stakeholder committee of the PAUL Partnership, Limerick Children and Young People's Services Committee, Limerick Culture and Arts Office and the University Maternity Hospital Limerick. Limerick City and County Council contributes grant funding to the project through the Strategic Fund.

This project aims to explore the potential for the arts to improve the mental health and wellbeing of long-stay hospital inpatients, and thus support infant wellbeing. Qualified artists come to the ward and deliver art and music interventions to either individuals, or groups of inpatients at University Maternity Hospital Limerick. The project works with the Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Service in University Maternity Hospital Limerick. Two artists began in Autumn 2020.

UL Hospitals Group Arts Committee

Limerick Culture and Arts Office is working with UL Hospitals Group Arts Committee to establish common areas of interest and collaborations including a loans exhibition of c.45 works from its art collection. A site visit is scheduled with The Irish Museum of Modern Art: IMMA to organise loans for 2021. COVID-19 has delayed these projects.

2. RURAL ARTS AND EXCELLENCE

Castleconnell Autumn Concerts Series 2020 Online

Limerick City and County Council annually co-ordinates the Castleconnell Autumn Concerts Series, presented by RTÉ lyric fm's Liz Nolan. The three concert performances were Kevin Jansson (piano), Eamonn Mulhall and Niall Kinsella, and The Esposito Quartet (with the National String Quartet Foundation). Due to COVID-19, the 2020 concert programme was delivered through a new approach of filmed and audio recording. This was facilitated by a new partnership with the Love Castleconnell Committee, and the financial support of both the Arts Council in programming the series and Creative Ireland in making the concert series recording possible. This offers the opportunity to build a national audience and promote the brand for the Castleconnell Autumn Concerts series.

The first recording with Kevin Jansson was broadcast nationally on RTE lyric fm's Full Score Programme on 21 October, the second concert with Eamonn Mulhall and Niall Kinsella on 11 November and the third concert with the Esposito Quartet will be on 1 February 2021. The concert series are available for viewing online on Limerick.ie until 16 February 2021, with release dates of 3 November-Kevin Jansson, 10 November-Eamonn Mulhall and Niall Kinsella and 12 January 2021-Esposito Quartet.

Eigse Michael Hartnett and The Eigse Michael Hartnett Annual Poetry Award 2020

The Eigse Michael Hartnett Literary and Arts Festival 2020 took place in Newcastle West and online at the beginning of October. It went live online on 1 October with performances and readings streamed throughout 2 and 3 October. Videos of this year's festival remain available online to watch on www.eigsemichaelhartnett.ie. This includes online readings and conversations from internationally renowned writers Colum McCann and Donal Ryan, an exciting new fusion of Irish and gypsy music called Celtic Hotclub, performance poetry, readings, storytelling, and an online poetry trail. It also includes the presentation of the Michael Hartnett Poetry Award 2020 to winning poet Eva Bourke. Limerick writer Helena Close read from her young adult novel, *The Gone Book*, and West Limerick violinist Anne Phelan and guitarist Eamonn Moran performed. Local singer/ songwriter Trevor Sexton and performance artist Míchéal Rowsome also performed outside on the grounds of at the Desmond Hall, as part of the Festival in a Van mobile outdoor venue.

The Eigse Michael Hartnett Annual Poetry Award 2020 was to the value of €4,000. During the festival in October, the award was presented to this year's winner, Eva Bourke, for "Seeing Yellow" (published by Dedalus Press). The Michael Hartnett Annual Poetry Award is a key part of the Eigse Michael Hartnett Festival. In 2020 the prize was for English language submissions.

3. YOUNG PEOPLE, CHILDREN AND EDUCATION

Artist in Schools

The Artist in Schools programme worked to develop opportunities for engagement for young people through involvement in culture. It aims to achieve this by placing professional creative practitioners in a primary school setting to enhance and diversify pupils' creative education and is supported by the Arts Council of Ireland.

In response to Covid-19 the Artists in Schools Programme for 2020/21 has been re-modelled, and Limerick Culture and Arts Office is working in partnership with Music Generation Limerick City. Music Generation Limerick City has developed an innovative LiveStream Model. This delivers a high quality programme to children in schools, when the traditional model of artists in schools is not feasible. This programme was offered to all National Schools in the Municipal District of Newcastle West, to engage children and young people in rural County Limerick. Twelve schools signed up to the livestreamed artist in residence programme.

These are: Killoughteen N.S, Templeglantine N.S, Ballyagrann N.S, Ashford N.S, Ahalin N.S, Kilmeedy N.S, St. Mary's Abbeyfeale, Scoil Ide Naofa, Monagea N.S, Feenagh N.S, Carrickerry N.S and Scoil Iosaf, Newcastle West.

This was launched in October with a show as part of the Buladh Bos Children's Festival. The Musical Multiverse' featured an array of nationally prominent musicians, including violinist Zoe Conway and rapper Denise Chaila, alongside the Music Generation team, which is driving the

residency forward. The programme reached the entire school, with eight weekly streams in the first term. These combined engagement, entertainment and education, introducing musical concepts that the young people will then utilise in their own creations as the project develops. The first term culminated with a special livestream from the University Concert Hall, featuring a return of 'the Musical Maestro' (actor Myles Breen who had been in the multiverse), Santa and a full string orchestra with members of the Irish Chamber Orchestra.

County Limerick Youth Theatre

The County Limerick Youth Theatre weekly workshops for the DynaLyts (2nd-6th class) and CoLYTS (secondary school students) commenced in January at the HoneyFitz Theatre, Lough Gur. Shane Hickey O'Mara was appointed as Artistic Director of the County Limerick Youth Theatre in the summer. Programmed workshops began in Autumn in adherence to COVID-19 restrictions.

Limerick Youth Choir

The Limerick Youth Choir, which performs contemporary and classical music, is made up of young people between the ages of 17 and 28. Choir membership is through audition and is drawn from students at schools and third level colleges of education. It is a mixed voice choir for Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass. Directed by Marie Keary Scanlon, the Limerick Youth Choir rehearsed online, culminating in a recording in the Belltable on 13 December.

Integrated Dance

Mary Hartney, Integrated Dance Facilitator, worked closely with Enable Ireland Castleconnell to ensure that their service users could safely access activities which led to their very own production on stage at the Belltable, behind closed doors, in November. Lockdown had been particularly isolating for the service users, who were delighted to partake in these confidence building and engaging exercises. Using a different format, as the programme could not engage with Transition Year students as usual this year, professional dancers worked with the group of four service users. They took part in five workshops leading up to their show. The production was featured in the Limerick Leader on 28 November.

4. FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

LAMA Awards 2020 Gold - The Bingo Wings Project

The Bingo Wings Project was awarded a Local Authority Members' Association Awards 2020 Gold, Best Arts/Culture (including Festivals and Events), in the All Ireland Community and Council Awards, presented by IPB Insurance and the Local Authority Members' Association. Limerick Culture and Arts Office was the lead partner on this Arts Council funded Invitation to Collaboration, The Bingo Wings Project, a large collaborative intergeneration project exploring the theme of Bingo, with artistic lead

Fidget Feet and partners Kerry County Council and Donegal County Council.

NOAC (National Oversight and Audit Commission) Good Practice in Local Government virtual seminar

Dr. Pippa Little, Arts Officer, Limerick Culture and Arts Office, represented Limerick City and County Council in presenting 'Championing Culture and Creativity' at the NOAC (National Oversight and Audit Commission) Good Practice in Local Government virtual seminar on November 4. Championing creativity is a key ethos driving culture and arts at Limerick City and County Council. A number of collaborative case studies focusing on wellbeing and social cohesion demonstrate the potential of this innovative approach to strategically deliver on local and national policy. A focus on excellence in the creative process and supporting this across art forms, provides professional artists with opportunities to engage with audiences in communities and across generations.



LAMA 2020 Gold award-winning Bingo Wings Project by Fidget Feet, an Arts Council Invitation to Collaboration project by Limerick Culture and Arts Office, in partnership with Kerry County Council and Donegal County Council.

LIMERICK CITY GALLERY OF ART

Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA) continues to make a pivotal contribution to the cultural life of Limerick City and County. Through a dynamic programme of exhibitions and related events, it continues to engage with its audience and reach out to new audiences. LCGA also plays an important part in the cultural offering of the city with many tourists availing of free admission.

Despite the severe restrictions imposed by Lockdown during Covid-19, LCGA presented seven contemporary exhibitions of which two were selected from the Permanent Collection Limerick Connections (summer 2020) and Winterjoy (winter 2020). It hosted an important exhibition from Highlanes Gallery in March, Elliptical Affinities, through an Arts Council Touring grant. LCGA also hosted the Limerick School of Art and Design (LSAD) degree show for two weeks in the summer of 2020 as the Clare Street Campus was unavailable. LCGA continued to provide a range of workshops, tours and distinctive once-off events giving an important context for the diverse range of exhibitions for visitors, children and families. However, much of this work went online in March and has continued through to the end of the year.

One of the main victims of the 2020 Exhibition Programme was the long-awaited exhibition, *Animals and Imagination*, curated by Dr. Austin McQuinn, which was cancelled in October 2020. However, the following archive project www.limerickgallerypages.com was produced where the background to the exhibition and participating artists can be viewed. A number of other exhibitions had to be postponed but this problem was resolved by re-scheduling them in 2021.

The appointment of the Shinnors Scholar, Brendan Egan, was very significant during 2020 as he navigated the education programme from a physical experience to a digital one. Brendan was an active part of the LCGA team while researching for an MA focusing on the design and delivery of an education programme in the Covid-19 era.

The Director/Curator of LCGA presented its Strategic Plan 2020-2024 to the Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee and this was adopted by the full Council in December 2020. This plan sets out the roadmap for LCGA over the coming five years.

LCGA continues to collaborate with other institutions and facilitated loans from the Permanent Collection of artworks for temporary exhibit. These included The Hunt Museum, Limerick.

LCGA continued to collaborate and work with other local and national cultural institutions and groups including: University of Limerick, Limerick School of Art and Design, EVA International, Helium Arts, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Limerick Art Society, Limerick Jazz Festival.

In October 2020, LCGA applied to the Arts Council for funding under the Capacity Building Scheme. The grant of €20,000 was awarded to LCGA to develop the website and to purchase equipment to document exhibitions and commence the digitisation of the Permanent Collection. The benefits of these developments is that a larger, more diverse audience can potentially be reached. The documentation of the Permanent Collection is in preparation for the 75th Anniversary of the opening of the East Gallery as the permanent home for the Municipal Collection.

LIMERICK MUSEUM

In response to Covid, the Museum pivoted its offer online to achieve a number of high-quality online services. These included the addition to its social media platforms of PDFs of previous exhibitions, a virtual tour of the Museum and short films on aspects of Limerick's history. The attraction of such projects was demonstrated by Limerick Soviet online exhibition which was been viewed by 20,000 people in the first fortnight of its appearance online. The RTE programme *Nationwide*, which has an average of 250,000 viewers, featured Limerick Lace, and included extended coverage of Limerick Museum and its collection of Limerick Lace. It also included interviews with Dr. Matthew Potter, Curator of the Museum, and Dr. Gabriela Avram, Chair of the Friends of Lace Group.

Successful collaborations were continued with existing partners including the Limerick Library Service, Hunt Museum, St. Mary's Cathedral, the University of Limerick, Mary Immaculate College, and Friends of Lace.

New collaborations were also initiated in 2020. The Museum worked with George Lee of Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership (LEDP) in making a series of films on Limerick's sporting history. Dr. Matthew Potter, Curator of Limerick Museum, gave a paper entitled 'Lough Gur as Represented in Limerick Museum' at 'Lough Gur Virtual Experience Webinar' held on 16 November. It formed part of a new collaboration between the Museum and Lough Gur Heritage Centre.

Limerick Museum, Limerick City Gallery of Art and the Hunt Museum continue to work together in *The Three Muses: Exploring Art and Identity*, a joint schools' programme which was delivered in all three institutions in 2020.

The Museum's permanent collection was enhanced by a steady stream of donations, bringing the total number of objects to over 62,000. By far the most important of these was an iconic Limerick lace shawl belonging to Kitty Kiernan (1892-1945), fiancée of Irish revolutionary, Michael Collins.

Several events were organised for Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival, Heritage Week and Culture Night.

As part of the Decade of Centenaries Programme, Limerick Museum collaborated with Limerick Library Service on the following projects:

- An online exhibition on the Limerick Local Elections of 1920. They were important because they were the first to use Proportional Representation (PR); they were the last to be held throughout the Island of Ireland and they resulted in Sinn Féin and their Labour allies taking control of the local authority system. The exhibition also highlighted the role of Emily Crowe (1867-1941), Limerick's first female Councillor, who sat on Limerick Corporation from 1920 to 1925.
- A two-part virtual symposium entitled '1920 in Limerick' which examined the important events that occurred in both Limerick and Ireland during the year 1920. Among the speakers were John O'Callaghan, Sharon Slater, Sinead McCoole and Angus Mitchell.

During the year, other temporary exhibitions were held by the Museum with various partners:

- "Herethereeverywhere," curated by Maurice Quillinan which featured 27 art works by 21 artists from seven countries.
- "I am not Worthy," by award-winning Irish artist Bernadette Doolan.
- "Gathering Threads," by celebrated Limerick Artist, Gerry O'Mahony.
- An online exhibition of paintings by Dr. Julie Brazil.



Dr. Pat Daly, Chief Executive, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheahan and Dr. Matthew Potter, Curator Limerick Museum, admiring the Kitty Kiernan Limerick lace shawl.

LIBRARY SERVICE

Limerick City and County Library Service found innovative ways to continue to offer a customer-focused service to the community throughout all of 2020.

Library Service response to Covid-19

All Library Branches were open and busy with a full range of services and events until 13 March when, in line with the government response to Covid-19, all public libraries had to close as the country entered a period of Lockdown. Doors were reopened in June first through the provision of a new 'contact and collect' service and as restrictions eased a return to library browsing.

At all stages of the year, the Library Service developed new and adaptive methods to provide for the recreation, information and education needs of the community by organising and providing a successful programme of online and responsive services and events, showcasing the Library Service's role at the forefront of community wellbeing.

Online Services

An enhanced programme of online services, events and activities was initiated bringing the Library directly into people's homes.

This included:

- An extensive online and social media advertising campaign to promote and assist access to the Library's wide range of online and digital resources.
- For the first time, Limerick Libraries brought the magic of storytime directly into people's homes by creating a series of online story, song and art and craft sessions.



A happy customer availing of the Contact and Collect service at Dooradoyle Library

- A vast online resource of local studies material, including books, journals and genealogy resources was made available online and a series of presentations and digital exhibitions on Irish family history and the Decade of Centenaries was created for social media.

As a result, Library online resources were accessed by more people than ever before, with an unprecedented growth in usage:

- 101% increase in issues of eAudiobooks
- 142% increase in eBooks read
- 1095% increase in e-learning courses being taken
- 20% increase in usage of the e-magazines

In addition, the online events and activities programme, which included workshops for both primary and post-primary schools, storytime, music and craft sessions, were shared on social media platforms garnering a huge audience with over 68,200 views.



Author Mary Murphy entertains at the launch of Bookseed at Newcastle West Library, 6 February 2020

Contact and Collect:

2020 saw the introduction of a new service to public libraries called 'Contact and Collect.'

This service allowed library members to pre-order and collect books, audio books and DVDs at their local library branch and proved to be very popular with readers of all ages with hundreds of specially curated, safely packed book bags borrowed during the period.

Books for the Health Service Executive (HSE)

Limerick City and County Library service partnered with Midwest Mental Health Services and HSE Midwest Community Healthcare to provide book stock and other materials to patients in acute units at hospitals in Limerick and to care facilities for vulnerable people who need to, but for various reasons cannot, self-isolate and will be staying in special care facilities during the Covid-19 crisis. The Library Service was asked to become involved as health care providers are acutely conscious of looking after people's mental health needs while they are in a period of isolation. The positive benefits of books and reading to overall mental health and well-being are well-known and the Library service was keen to get involved in this project. An initial consignment of more than 1,000 books was donated for use in special care facilities across the Limerick region.

3D Printers on loan:

As part of the Library's response to Covid-19, our 3D Printers were made available on loan to a special production

facility run by Engineering Ireland for the production of face shields as part of a national campaign to facilitate the urgent fabrication of vital PPE for workers in care home settings.

Library Projects:

In 2020, Limerick Library Service initiated a series of new project and partnerships.

Men's Shed Initiative

- Limerick City and County has 24 Men's Sheds, which is the largest number in any county in Ireland. The Library Service has identified and targeted this user group in order to promote the wider range of Library services on offer.
- In 2020, the library engaged with and visited five Men's Sheds in Limerick City, Adare, Croom, Kilmallock and Bruff. The members were introduced to the wide range of library services on offer and many members have since registered as library members using the online and physical services available and attending library events such as Healthy Ireland talks.
- As part of this initiative, old, unused library furniture was donated to the Men's Sheds for use in their upcycling projects.

Limerick Prison

- Library staff set up a meeting with the Assistant Governor of Limerick Prison in order to provide a library service to this marginalized group. Some



Singer-songwriter, J Eoin performing at the Granary Library, 31 January

suitable library stock was identified and donated to the prison library. Advice was given by library staff on how to arrange and display the stock effectively in the Prison library room.

- Practical suggestions were also made on how to make the Family Visitor's Room a more inviting space for family visits. The full Healthy Ireland at your Library book list was purchased and will be given to the Prison library service on a permanent loan basis.

Bookseed Initiative

- Bookseed is a baby book-gifting initiative, funded by the JP McManus Benevolent Fund and the Social Innovation Fund Ireland, delivered across 14 areas in Limerick City and County. Children's Books Ireland run this project in partnership with the Health Service Executive and Limerick City and County Library Service, and it will be evaluated by a team from Mary Immaculate College, Limerick.
- The scheme will provide three books to babies in their first year of life at 3 months, 7-9 months and 1 year old. The aim is to encourage and support parents, guardians or carers to share books with their child from a very early stage and to foster in them a lifelong love of reading.
- In February 2020, family friendly events were held in both Dooradoyle and Newcastle West Libraries to launch our involvement in this initiative. Author Mary Murphy entertained the babies, parents and carers with stories and monster doodle fun. The Library Service will continue to provide a programme of in-branch events

Enabling Digital Literacy

- The Library Service secured grant funding in the 3rd Quarter of 2020 from the Department of Rural

and Community Development (DRCD), through the Dormant Accounts Fund to provide library supports for marginalised, socially excluded and disadvantaged communities.

- The funding is to provide literacy supports in tandem with the national Right-to-Read Programme, and to support digital literacy, digital access and digital capacity.
- Limerick Library Service received grant funding for two projects:
- Bits to Bots, a programme of digital learning workshops for young people focusing on designing, making and creating practical robotic objects at Kilmallock Library
- Touch Type Read Spell, an online literacy programme specifically designed for adults and children with learning difficulties, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia and similar conditions and those learning English as a second language.

Exhibitions, Cultural and Community Events

- In January, the Granary Library welcomed back teacher and lace-maker Toni O'Malley for a new series of weekly Limerick Lace workshops.
- On 8 January in Dooradoyle Library, local Limerick artist Ron McKnight launched his first solo exhibition entitled "Gold Frame".
- Digital literacy classes and workshops for older citizens continued in 5 libraries, Dooradoyle, Watch House Cross, the Granary, Kilmallock, Newcastle West and Cappamore.

- On 16 January, Newcastle West Library hosted a talk and film by local historians, John Upton and Sean Kelly, entitled Memories of the Past. The event was attended by 170 people who learned of the origins and history of Phelan's Mill/Undertakers/ Cinema/ Hardware in the local area.
- Commemorating the lesser-told stories of six individuals united by the common cause of the struggle for Irish independence, the Revolutionary Lives exhibition was on display in Kilmallock throughout January. This exhibition from the National Library was complemented by a rich display of local artefacts and memorabilia from the period.
- Gaeilge le Chéile continued on Saturdays at Dooradoyle Library during January and February. An opportunity for those interested in speaking Irish, young and old, to come and have a chat with other Gaeilgeoirí, these conversational sessions are run in conjunction with Conradh na Gaeilge.
- The Granary Library, as part of the University of the Third Age events, welcomed environmentalist John Breen on 12 February to speak about 'Gardening for Wildlife'.
- On 20 February, an art exhibition by popular artist and teacher Keith O'Rahilly was launched at Newcastle West Library.
- February was also a busy month in Dooradoyle Library with two art exhibitions. "Life Algorithms", an exhibition by Georgie Vargemezi opened on 7 February and Inis Artists launched their annual show on 19 February.
- On 5 March, Newcastle West Library celebrated International Women's Day with a joyous combination of words, song and music. Dr. Theresa Ryan, Lecturer and Media Commentator was the Guest Speaker, accompanied by the Yukealadies and Voices of Youth from the Susan Browne School of Singing.



Author Gillian Perdue at Kilmallock Library for National Library Open Day on 29th February

- For the annual Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival, Dr Seán Gannon from Watch House Cross Library provided an online interactive workshop on the Military Service Pensions Collection on 30 September while on 1 October we had "A Guided Tour of the Limerick Local Studies Website" with Mike Maguire.
- The Granary Music Library Free Concert Series continued on 31 January with a show by singer-songwriter, J Eoin. A Limerick City native who began his performing career here in the early 1980s, J Eoin subsequently moved to the UK and established a professional music career there and in continental Europe. Now back home in Limerick, his concert at the Granary Library acted as a homecoming gig and was enjoyed by an enthusiastic audience of music lovers.

National Library Open Day, 29 February, 2020

On 29 February Limerick Libraries issued an invitation to everyone in the county to #LeapIntoLibraries with a day long programme of events, activities and demonstrations highlighting everything on offer when you take a closer look at your local library.

A sample of what was on offer included:

- Children's author Gillian Perdue presented her children's show "Conor the Cowboy" at Dooradoyle and Kilmallock Libraries.
- Adare Library hosted story time followed by the Myster Magic Show.
- Author and poet Gabriel Fitzmaurice had stories and rhymes for the whole family at Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale Libraries.
- Dooradoyle Library had a Mystery Maze and Book Hunt.
- Watch House Cross Library offered tea, coffee and treats throughout the day with a rolling presentation of Library e-services to all library visitors.

Decade of Centenaries

- Limerick's programme of commemorative events continued throughout 2020, in collaboration with the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, the cross party elected members committee, and the local community in Limerick.
- This year all planned exhibitions, lectures and workshops were transferred online and can be viewed at <https://www.limerick.ie/council/whats-on/festivals/limerick-city-and-county-council-decade-centenaries>
- Included were online exhibitions on the Local Elections in Limerick in 1920, The Spanish Flu 1918-19 and Policing in Limerick 1921-22 and a special podcast on Limerick 100 Years Ago was created.

Weekly Observer

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Dental Notice.
 Mr. T. D. Hogan

Charles Collins
 115, Market Street, Limerick.

M. Spring
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ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE
 115, Market Street, Limerick.

W. F. Campbell
 115, Market Street, Limerick.

O'Shea's
 115, Market Street, Limerick.

Farmers' Wheat Ground
 115, Market Street, Limerick.

Seed Wheat
 115, Market Street, Limerick.

Coal, Coal, Coal.
 115, Market Street, Limerick.

John O'Shea
 115, Market Street, Limerick.

ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE
 115, Market Street, Limerick.

M. Spring
 115, Market Street, Limerick.

W. F. Campbell
 115, Market Street, Limerick.

Apple Trees
 115, Market Street, Limerick.

Home Grown Grapes
 115, Market Street, Limerick.

Support Home Industry
 115, Market Street, Limerick.

J. F. Kelly & Co.
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John O'Shea
 115, Market Street, Limerick.

ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE
 115, Market Street, Limerick.

M. Spring
 115, Market Street, Limerick.

W. F. Campbell
 115, Market Street, Limerick.

The front page of the West Limerick Weekly Observer newspaper which the Local Studies Department of Limerick City and County Library Service is digitising and making available online for the first time as part of the Decade of Centenaries programme

- We also continued to work with the local community and assisted the Knocklong Development Association with the online streaming of their History Festival and completion of their Battalion Boards naming local Volunteers.
- A project that attracted a lot of interest was the digitisation of the West Limerick newspaper, the Weekly Observer 1915-1923 which the Library Service then made available online for the first time.



Eileen Sheehan, Yoga teacher and Reiki healer, shares easy tips and experiences to support well-being at a Healthy Ireland at Your Library event in Kilmallock Library, 31 January

Healthy Ireland at Your Library Programme

- The Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme entered Phase III in 2020.
- The early part of 2020 included the launch of a Mental Health Campaign where speakers from Mental Health Ireland delivered workshops throughout the library branch network focusing on "Five Ways to Mental Wellbeing."
- We continued our successful collaboration with Limerick Sports Partnership with a series of talks on nutrition and exercise to primary school classes held in various Limerick Library Branches.
- In response to Covid-19 visitor restrictions, the Healthy Ireland at Your Library campaign went online in disseminating health information and the Healthy Ireland eBook and eAudio collections were greatly enhanced.
- One of the main topics focussed on this year was Relationships and Sexuality and Libraries have worked with the HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme on a project to expand the Healthy Ireland at Your Library collections.
- To raise awareness of this collection with parents and carers, the HSE is providing all libraries with copies of their new resource, a 'Making the Big Talk, Many Small Talks' leaflet.
- In recognition of the success of the campaign, Pobal funding was made available to purchase podcasting and vlogging equipment which will be used to create and facilitate more online content in 2021.

Autism Friendly Libraries

Limerick Libraries continues to develop its autism friendly programme with a series of events rolled out across the library branch network and online.



Etain McCooley, author of Deeper's Day Out with first Class from Thomond Primary School at Watch House Cross Library on World Book Day, 3 March 2020

In February a series of 'relaxed performances' were hosted at several library branches. Highlights of this programme included:

- Aran Towers of Tallest Smallest Theatre visited Watch House Cross Library to perform for a group from the Brothers of Charity and Rehab Services who enjoyed traditional Indian puppets, stories and magic
- Relaxed storytelling sessions with Simone Schuemmelfeder took place at the Granary, Newcastle West, Adare and Abbeyfeale Library Branches
- For Children's Book Festival Simone Schuemmelfeder also brought her expertise in sensory storytelling online, providing a series of autism friendly storytimes for all to enjoy via Limerick Libraries' YouTube channel.

The Sensory Room at Watch House Cross Library continues to be a huge success with 182 bookings recorded during February alone. In addition, Watch House Cross is designating Saturdays, from 10am – 12pm, as autism friendly hours. The library dims the lights and reduces noise levels to create a calmer atmosphere and the sensory room is open for use.

Family and Children's Events

- On 28 January, Watch House Cross Library welcomed Doodle Families. 20 children from 1st classes in the Salesian Primary School visited the library with their parents as part of this Family Literacy Programme aimed at offering children and parents a space to engage with literacy in a fun way. The group were introduced to the library and each child borrowed a book to take home.



Pam Byrne reads Take Five by Niall Breslin as part of the Library's series of online Spring Into Storytime sessions

- World Book Day was celebrated on 3 March. Highlights of the day included:
 - Newcastle West Library welcomed popular Limerick author, Róisín Meaney to read and engage with children and teachers from Mahoonagh National School.
 - Dooradoyle Library invited two pre-school groups to enjoy story-time, nursery rhymes, songs and a craft activity. Also, classes from Let's Educate Together, Limerick, and St. Paul's National School, took part in the Mystery Maze and book-hunts.
 - Watch House Cross Library welcomed Suzanne and Hazel from Little Voices for some Commotion in the Ocean as this lively and interactive story featuring sharks and whales and polar bears was enjoyed by a rapt audience of young readers. Adding to the fun, author Etain McCooey entertained with her book 'Deefer's Day Out,' combining storytelling with music and songs for classes from Thomond Primary School.
- Science Week 2020 allowed libraries to offer thirty families a special opportunity to participate in "Nutty Scientists" online workshops on 19 December. Each family, who had applied through their local library, collected kits and login codes to avail of these live interactive sessions. Featuring the "Nutty Scientist," this was a collaboration with Limerick City and County Arts Department and funded by Creative Ireland.

Right to Read Programme

Right to Read is a national programme to promote literacy and reading development for people of all ages. It includes four national programmes designed to promote children's reading and literacy – Spring Into Storytime, Summer Stars, Children's Book Festival and Family Time at your Library.

Spring Into Storytime

- In April, the national Spring Into Storytime programme went online as libraries had to close. Library staff and authors recorded storytelling sessions and posted them on all our available social media channels. The response to this digital storytelling initiative has been hugely positive with 46,179 views of the stories and craft videos on Facebook alone.



Michelle presents Savannah, Sophia and Isabella with their Summer Stars Certificates for completing the reading challenge for summer 2020 at Watch House Library

Summer Stars:

- The annual Summer Stars reading challenge also took on a different format in 2020 with restrictions easing to allow Library branches to welcome back families and children for brief visits in addition to the ongoing contact and collect services at Library Branches. In addition, a more online approach was adopted with children having the option to pick up their reading card in the branch or download it from the Libraries Ireland website.
- As well as enjoying the amazing worlds visited when reading books, Summer Stars celebrated imagination with a national short story competition.

- Also, as part of Summer Stars, original storytelling sessions were recorded by Library staff and made available for viewing on Facebook and Twitter. Using a different theme for each week, Limerick Library staff shared stories of historical figures, tales from around the world and stories by Limerick authors.
- Of particular interest was the masterclass in storytelling, reading and writing from Glin Librarian, Peg Prendiville, with her granddaughter Clodagh, sharing their own story written during the Lockdown, all about the adventures of Sparky the dog, inspiring all our young writers to get involved in the national short story competition.
- Storytime as Gaeilge, with Scéal an tSathairn, read by Sarah from Adare Library, proved very popular with all our young Irish speakers while Pam from Watch House Cross created and uploaded a series of craft activities.
- These unique videos have received over 14,000 views on Facebook during July and August.

Children's Book Festival

- Children's Book Festival takes place each year in October. The aim of the festival is to help spread and share the enjoyment of books and reading among children and families, authors and illustrators, teachers and librarians all over Ireland.
- This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the festival went online. Writers and storytellers were invited to create talks and workshops for Limerick Libraries, which were broadcast to invited school groups in their own classrooms. Authors Sarah Moore Fitzgerald and Pádraig Kenny facilitated online workshops with children in primary schools in Adare, Ballyhahill, Cappamore and Dooradoyle.



Author Oisín McGann discussing life as an author and answering questions with the 6th class at St. Patrick's Girls National School

- Also, this year, as part of this innovative new approach, videos by the best-selling children's author, Tom Palmer, Sensory Storytelling expert Simone Schuemmelfeder, and writer and poet Gabriel Fitzmaurice, were posted on Limerick Libraries YouTube channel, freely available for teachers and parents to enjoy at home and in the classroom.



Author Róisín Meaney appears via Zoom to the infant classes in Scoil Íde, Corbally for some Christmas stories and songs.

- As school groups were unable to visit libraries, a number of online events were provided with primary and secondary schools in the city and county. Authors who facilitated these workshops in November included Oisín McGann, Judi Curtin, Helena Close, Alan Nolan, Sarah Moore Fitzgerald and Louise O'Neill.
- Live and recorded readings and workshops were offered to primary and secondary schools across the city and county. Teachers welcomed the writers into their classrooms in virtual visits hosted by the library via Zoom. Children were able to ask questions and interact with these inspiring authors and, while missing an outing to the library, the valuable link between children and their local library was maintained.
- Limerick Libraries ran a short story competition for primary school children featuring excellent prizes which attracted a huge entry from Limerick's many creative young people. The winners were chosen by local best-selling children's author Pádraig Kenny who commented on the wonderful creative writing ability of all our budding writers.
- During Children's Book Festival the Library provided 27 online workshops for both primary and post-primary schools with an additional 14 videos posted for view on the Library's YouTube channel.
- In total, 70 classes attended the workshops with the Library's additional online content garnering 463 YouTube views and 3,293 views on Facebook and Twitter.

Family Time at your Library

- Family Time at your Library is Right to Read's winter programme and in 2020 it was presented online for the first time.
- Seasonal bedtime stories were posted on Facebook each evening for twelve days, finishing on Christmas Eve, bringing the magic of storytime directly to people's homes. Christmas craft videos were also shared online. This included an autism-friendly craft session. Lisa from Gravity Dance Academy, and Michelle from Watch House Cross Library, continued

to dance, sing and rhyme to engage with pre-schoolers and their families. This completed a five-week video programme encouraging all Limerick Libraries Facebook followers to stay healthy during the Christmas period with some very cool dance moves for all the family.

- Schools from around the city and county, including Rathkeale, Abbeyfeale, Cappamore, Newcastle West, Adare and Kilmallock, were invited to participate via Zoom in a range of readings and workshops hosted by the library and beamed directly into their classrooms.
- These virtual sessions included workshops with authors Helena Close and Alan Nolan, author talks with Oisín McGann, Christmas storytimes with Simone Schuemmelfeder and a series of story time events with local author Róisín Meaney. In all, 47 different primary school classes attended these online events throughout the month of December.
- In Dooradoyle Library, Deirdre posted a special Christmas themed arts and crafts video online for children, which has been shared across all our social media platforms. Students from fourth and fifth Classes in Caherelly National School took part in a book review project with a certificate and goodie bag to reward their efforts.
- Finally, Newcastle West Library had a big hit on Twitter in December with their Elf on the Shelf's antics, keeping followers enthralled in the very creative activities of this seasonal library dweller while some festive storytelling from Santa himself, seated comfortably among the book shelves, entertained all our library social media followers.
- In total, the Library's online storytimes and craft sessions were viewed 4,250 times in December making Family Time at your Library one of the most successful of our ongoing seasonal programmes.

URBAN AND RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Urban and Rural Community Development Department (URCD) is responsible for the operation of the structures of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the Public Participation Network (PPN). Under the auspices of the Local Community Development Committee, the Department is responsible for the preparation and monitoring of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP), the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) and the Rural Development Strategy including the EU LEADER Programme and other urban and rural community and renewal programmes. One of the guiding principles of the Department is to support citizens and communities throughout Limerick through various supports, funding streams and programmes in a coordinated manner and



Newcastle West Library's resident Elf on the Shelf completes his 'elf-isolation' before joining the Library for the month of December

which reflect the needs of local communities and groups. The Strategic Policy Committee and the Local Community Development Committee are central in the development of specific policies and position papers, which are key to informing the strategic direction of the Council.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The engagement of communities is critical to the effective delivery of services by the Urban and Rural Community Development Department and this engagement continued in 2020, despite the challenges presented by COVID 19. The use of online technology and support for communities to adapt to this technology resulted in the continuation of strong community engagement. The Department also led the Limerick COVID-19 Community Response and Keep Well Campaign and this engagement proved a critical support for all communities during 2020. The multi-agency approach to providing support to the people of Limerick has built new links that will last long after COVID. A Freephone support line was established and is connected to a network of 1,800 volunteers across every town and village, all committed to providing both physical and softer supports to those who are shielding from the virus.

Public Participation Network (PPN)

The PPN Secretariat had 12 meetings this year and two Plenary meetings were held. There were five rounds of elections held in 2020 for PPN representatives to sit on the Council and other Committees. 33 members were selected to sit on the Council Committees. There are 132 PPN members across the Municipal Districts and a new constitution was adopted. An Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was agreed between the Council and Limerick PPN.

- The 2019 Annual Report was prepared and shared with PPN members and Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) and its content is included in the national PPN annual report, which was published by the DRCD in November 2020.
- Eight linkage groups established to support the PPN Reps on the various committees and discuss matters relevant to their respective committees.
- An online communication space (Salesforce Chatter) for each of the Linkage Groups established, meaning that members can communicate directly with each other.
- A number of events were organised including consultations on Directly Elected Mayor, briefing on Home and Social Development SPC, Development Plan Issues paper webinars, Information sessions on MyPoint, an introduction to PPN and Limerick City and County Council structures, Sustainable Development Goals workshop training, a briefing on Public Sector Duty and induction training with elected PPN reps on the different committees. Inaugural meetings of all Linkage Groups to include introduction to PPN support structures took place as well as a briefing session on the URBACT Health and Greenspaces project.

KEY PROGRAMMES AND FUNDING STREAMS

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

The LCDC oversaw the delivery of the SICAP programme, (€2.25 million per annum) and approved payments to the three Local Development Companies contracted to deliver the programme in Limerick. There was a 3% increase announced for the 2020 SICAP Programme and this will further assist in the delivery of social inclusion actions under two goals:

Goal One: Supporting communities and local community groups

Goal Two: Supporting individuals in or at risk of social exclusion to identify and take steps to improve quality of life and wellbeing and access lifelong learning opportunities.

In 2020, the Local Development companies successfully adapted their programmes by moving on-line and supported adaptations to premises such that they could continue to reach and support most disadvantaged populations during Covid.

EU LEADER Programme

The delivery of the EU LEADER Programme (€9.276 million) advanced in 2020 and applications from various community and specific interest groups were evaluated and considered. The LCDC, as the Local Action Group (LAG)

for the LEADER Programme completed the allocation of the 2014-2020 LEADER Programme Budget. In 2020 the LCDC approved 48 Projects to the value of €1,938,708.76.

In addition to the above, funding of €438,630.55 was allocated for eight LEADER Food Projects and funding of €515,457.71 was allocated to eight LEADER Co-operation Projects.

Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF)

The Community Development Directorate coordinated the preparation of funding applications to the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF), the funding framework for large-scale projects in rural development supported under the National Planning Framework, Ireland 2040. In 2020, the Directorate submitted two proposals for funding under the RRDF Third Call, both to support tourism development and improve amenities and quality of life in West Limerick. One project concerned the development of new visitor experience centres / hubs on the Great Southern Greenway based on re-development of old Station Masters' houses at Ardagh and Barnagh, and infrastructural works to improve amenities and safety on the Greenway; and a second project related to expansion and reimagining of an existing indoor visitor tourist attraction such that it can have wider national and international appeal, combined with a new Digital Hub which can host remote working. Applications are currently being assessed at national level and successful projects are expected to be announced later in the Spring. Existing projects funded by the RRDF are at different stages of implementation. A series of infrastructural works and resurfacing of the Greenway is nearing completion, a new tourism plan has been developed centred on expanding and enhancing the tourism offer in Newcastle West while an innovative rural housing initiative focused on five towns and village has started implementation.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructural Scheme (ORIS)

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme provides funding for the development of new and existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in rural areas, such as cycleways, walking trails, blueways and improved access to leisure or recreational facilities. The Scheme provides funding for small scale repair or promotion and marketing in relation to existing infrastructure as well as for medium/large scale upgrade works and new trail or amenity developments.

- Six projects funded under ORIS 2019 commenced.
- ORIS 2020 launched in June 2020 with nine project submissions made to the Department of Rural and Community Development.
- €106,548 allocated for six small scale projects in Lough Gur, Doon, Knockfierna, Liskennett, Kilfinane and Ballyhoura Country

Town and Village Renewal Scheme

The Town and Village Renewal Scheme is targeted at rural towns with populations of less than 10,000 people which is a key initiative under the Action Plan for Rural Development Realising Our Rural Potential and Project Ireland 2040. The Scheme is targeted at rural towns with populations of less than 10,000 people and is designed to help rural Ireland achieve its full economic and social potential by supporting public realm activities and the enhancement of town centre amenities to make them more attractive places to live, work and visit. Funding of between €20,000 and €100,000 is available, with potential for up to €200,000 for an exceptional project each year.

The following projects, that received funding under the 2018 Scheme were completed in 2020 – Ballyhahill: River Walk development, Ballysteen: Upgrade of Old Carnegie Library, Castleconnell: Fit out of Community Café, e-hub equipment and Outdoor equipment, Shanagolden: installation of playground in town park and Kilmeedy: Extension and fit out of community café/horticulture centre.

The remaining 2018 projects in Abbeyfeale, Ballylanders, Glin and Kilfinane were delayed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic but are in the final stages.

Also in 2020, the six projects that were granted funding, Askeaton, Ballingarry, Broadford, Dromcollogher, Killeely and Murroe Boher, under the 2019 Scheme commenced.

The 2020 Scheme focused on supporting projects that would aid economic and social recovery of towns and villages in response to Covid-19. In addition to the 2020 Main Town and Village Renewal Scheme, there was a supplementary Accelerated Measure for smaller projects that would have the potential to deliver results in an approximate six month timeframe. Under the Accelerated Measure, URCD was allocated €350,960 of funding for twelve projects and under the Main Scheme €679,901 was approved for six projects. The following projects were funded;

Accelerated Measure Approvals

- Abbeyfeale – Upgrading of walkways in Abbeyfeale Town Park
- Adare – Refurbishment of the Countess of Dunraven Fountain
- Athea – Village enhancement works
- Bruff – Grove Public Park footpath resurfacing and provision of access for all entrance to replace existing steps
- Castleconnell – Provision of roof covered, furnished outdoor space at Shannon House community building

- Dromcollogher – Develop meditation garden with labyrinth, sensory planting with seating, lighting and water feature
- Kilmallock – Improved accessibility to Priory Park, seating in adjoining Pocket Park and creation of amenity area
- Kilmeedy – Resurfacing of Boreen Lane to improve access to the Old Creamery and duck pond
- Pallasgreen – Sensory garden, walking track and recreational area with universal access for all ages and abilities
- Pallaskenry – Clearing of overgrowth forest track to east of the village facilitate 2.5km loop walk from the village centre
- Rathkeale – Widening and surfacing of existing riverside walkway

Standard Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020 Approvals

- Feenagh - Creation of new town park
- Glin – Interpretive fit out and production of audio visual material for the Knights of Glin Interpretive Centre under construction to the annex of Glin Library
- Croom – Creation of two new cark parks near the Town Centre adjoining the Main Street trading area
- Caherconlish – Creation of a safe walking route for the 'Old Creamery' Looped walk, including safe pedestrian access from Caherconlish National School
- Doon – Development of a Community Services and e-Hub facility
- Rathkeale – Renovation of railway goods shed for Community/Tourism use to support the Great Southern Greenway, Rathkeale

CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais)

CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) is a targeted investment programme for rural areas that aims to provide funding for small infrastructural projects in rural areas that have suffered the greatest levels of population decline. The measures eligible for application by local authorities in 2020 were Supports for Schools/Community Safety Measures and Community Recreation Areas. The two projects approved under the 2019 Scheme were completed in Ardpatrick and Tournafulla. Limerick was successful in securing grant funding of €133,100 under the 2020 Scheme for three projects for Glenroe National School, Gerard Griffin GAA and Ballylanders Development Association.

Community Enhancement Programme

In 2020, the LCDC secured €73,674 under the Community Enhancement Programme which provides funding to community groups to enhance facilities in disadvantaged areas. Priority for this scheme was given to projects that engaged with Tidy Towns with a focus on bio diversity, access to outdoor and green space, enhancement to develop outdoor space/amenities and other adaptations that may be needed as a result of Covid 19.

- A total of 41 groups were assisted under this scheme.

Community Enhancement Programme- Community Buildings/Centres

A further allocation of funding was announced in late 2020 under the Community Enhancement programme for repairs or improvement to community buildings/centres. A budget of €203,981 was allocated to Limerick for projects that focussed on Upgrade to community buildings/community centres, kitchen/food preparation upgrades, energy efficiency/ heating upgrade, disability access works, improvements to toilet/shower/changing facilities.

- A total of 39 groups were assisted under this scheme.

Covid-19 Emergency fund

The Covid-19 Emergency Fund is a grant Programme that provides funding to groups that are directly involved in the Community Call response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Limerick City and County Council was allocated funding of €88,883, by the Department of Rural and Community Development. The grants were for expenditure of both a capital and a current nature related to the Covid-19 response work.

- A total of 66 groups involved in the community call response received funding under this scheme.

HEALTHY IRELAND

Healthy Ireland continued in its implementation during 2020 with the actions under the programme progressed despite challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic. In terms of highlights, the Limerick Food Partnership, an inter-agency group managed by the PAUL Partnership and delivered across the city and county was formally launched by the Mayor as a virtual event in December 2020. The Limerick Food Partnership, working in coordination with the Redemptorists Food Appeal, played an important role in coordination of food services to disadvantaged communities during the lockdown phases of Covid-19. It adapted its training programmes in cooking and nutrition by offering them online and via a mix of small group and online training. In addition, contactless water fountains supported by Healthy Ireland were installed in four sites in Limerick City and County. Under a Community Mental Health initiative, small grants were approved for 15 community and voluntary organisations and projects and services supported by these grants are now in implementation.

PRIDE OF PLACE

Four community projects were nominated by Limerick City and County Council and supported by the URCD to participate in the all-island Irish Public Bodies (IPB) Pride of Place awards promoted by IPB Insurance and sponsored by Cooperation Ireland. In 2020, the competition was delivered via a series of online meetings with nominated groups. The four groups nominated from Limerick were Bedford Row Family Project, Rathkeale Pre-Cohesion Project, Monaleen Park Residents Association and Vale View Residents Association. Limerick City and County Council were delighted that the Rathkeale Pre-Cohesion Project was a recipient of an award. This community project supports integration between the Traveller and the settled community in Rathkeale.

SCHOOL MEALS SCHEME

Covid-19 made 2020 a most challenging year for schools across Limerick, but the School Meals Programme (Bun and Milk Scheme) continued to provide a service to 13 DEIS schools, reaching 1,500 children each day that schools were open.

COMHAIRLE NA NÓG

Comhairle na nÓg continued to meet throughout 2020, switching mid-year to virtual meetings and worked collaboratively with various stakeholders on their chosen theme of Youth Mental Health. During the year, the Comhairle members coped very well with the changing landscape and with little difficulty managed to move between real time and virtual project working.

In collaboration with key stakeholders from Tusla, Limerick Youth Service, Homeless Action Team and Novas Initiatives, Comhairle members delivered a summer camp for at risk young people in Limerick. The members also hosted an online wellness event for young people, and worked with stakeholders on a wellness recovery action plan. As a direct result of the work undertaken by the Comhairle in 2019 on the #NotAroundUs campaign with Healthy Limerick, Limerick Comhairle na n-Og was awarded a gold medal by the World Health Organisation as part of the 2020 World No Tobacco Day Awards. #NotAroundUs is a campaign that promotes no-smoking around young people.

The prestigious award is recognition of the Comhairles involvement in developing the campaign which aims to create a tobacco free generation and make it easier for those who smoke to quit by making public areas smoke free zones. The Comhairle na n-Og Steering Committee, comprised of members representing Limerick City and County Council, Tusla, Health Service Executive, Limerick Youth Service, Ballyhoura Development, West Limerick Resources, Paul Partnership, Foroige, Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, University of Limerick, Gender Orientation Sexual Health HIV, Department of Children and Youth Affairs, along with two representatives from the Comhairle met four times in 2020.

LIFELONG LEARNING LIMERICK

The Learning Limerick Steering Group is a partnership forum that brings together sectoral networks and partnerships and is committed to creating a culture of learning in Limerick. It is made up of statutory, local development, business, community, and voluntary sector partners that all play a role in Learning in Limerick. Learning Limerick's main role is to promote the value of learning in Limerick, across all stages of the life cycle, to share information that enhances members and partners' organisational learning, and to support sectoral networks and groups in their efforts to engage communities in positive learning experiences. Learning Limerick's Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022 ensures that local people will be equipped with the competencies, skills and attitudes needed for the 21st century, with learning being central to quality of life, where people can expect to live longer, healthier and more productive lives. The Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2020 and was delivered in a very different way to previous years. Usually held in March each year, Covid-19 saw it moved to 28 September-4 October. The theme for the 2020 festival was "Celebrating and building Learning Communities." The festival saw the organisation of 79 free, online events that spanned a variety of topics and sectors. Events were delivered via Zoom, YouTube, Facebook, and included short films, pre-recorded events and activities, webinar panel discussions and live chats. Another key milestone achieved by the Learning Limerick Steering Committee was the launch of the Learning Ambassadors initiative. The Ambassadors are Limerick people from all walks of life, united by a common interest in promoting and celebrating learning in all its forms throughout the city and county. The Ambassadors participation in learning is inspiring and empowering others to take part in learning activities. The Ambassadors are also helping to educate organisations and institutions involved in both formal and informal learning about the learning needs and interests at the grassroots.

AGE FRIENDLY LIMERICK

The Age Friendly Programme continues to be the voice of older people in Limerick and is engaged at inter-agency level to oversee the implementation of the Limerick Age Friendly Strategy 2015 – 2020. Limerick City and County Council continued to support the Age Friendly Limerick Programme throughout 2020, despite the challenges presented by Covid-19.

Some of the key Age Friendly projects/work undertaken in 2020 included:-

Limerick Age Friendly Programme in collaboration with The Irish Hospice Foundation and PLACE-EE, hosted a series of events over the month of February called "Putting Your House in Order". Information sessions were hosted in each of the Municipal Districts and gave advice on a range of topics under four main headings:-

Care Preferences

(Advance Healthcare Directive, Designated Healthcare Representative, Life Sustaining Treatments, CPR etc.)

Legal

(Enduring Power of Attorney, Making a will etc.)

Financial

(Bank Accounts, Insurance, Life Assurance, Credit Cards, Tax Affairs, Pensions etc.)

When I Die

(Organ/Body Donation, Post Mortem, Funeral and Burial Arrangements etc.)

The sessions were delivered in two parts, the first part covered wills, enduring power of attorney and other legal issues, and was delivered by a solicitor. The second part of the event was delivered by a Public Engagement Officer from the Irish Hospice Foundation (IHF). She focused on the other three headings, Care Preferences, Financial and When I Die, and guided attendees through filling out the "Think Ahead" booklet, published by the IHF. There were five workshops in total in various locations throughout the city and county. The Mayor of the City and County Council, Councillor Michael Sheahan opened the proceedings in Limerick City and Adare. The workshops were extremely well attended, with a total of 386 people attending. Due to full capacity attendance at the series of workshops a further 600 copies of the "Think Ahead" book were distributed to members of the public, who could not attend the sessions. "Putting Your House in Order" was acknowledged by Chambers Ireland and awarded an Excellence in Local Government Award 2020.

Through a collaboration with the city of Nanjing in China, Age Friendly Limerick made a donation of 7,000 face masks to Milford Care facility, followed by a donation of 500 face masks to each of 25 Nursing Homes across the city and county.

Mary Cronin, Chairperson of Limerick Older Peoples Executive, and National Chair of Older People's Councils of Ireland, joined older people across the world for the 2020 World Health Organisation #Walkthetalk webinar. Mary contributed to the event with a 30 second video clip about the importance of staying active in later life. Mary also contributed a video interview, to the HSE hosted webinar on Safeguarding with HSE National Safeguarding Office.

A "peer to peer" chat service called "Reaching Out, Staying Connected" was launched on the 20 April. Individuals receive a regular call from a cocooning older person, who will phone for a chat and to help pass the time. This initiative was set up in response to requests for such a service from older people who reached out to the Community Response call centre. They indicated that they are not speaking to or hearing from anyone for days at a time. People were offered a daily telephone support call whereby a member of our Older People's Executive, part of the Limerick Age Friendly Programme, would check in to see how the person is doing, they engage the person in a general chat to give the person an opportunity to connect.

“Limerick Community Care Connect” was an initiative aimed at reaching out to those who were staying at home, feeling a little cut off and wanting to hear about positive things going on around them. Information packs for older citizens and activity packs for families with younger children were posted out to households across the city and county. The information pack consisted of various materials including exercise tips, ten years of Age Friendly Ireland, fact sheets on birds, bees and plants as well as other goodies. The family packs include activity booklets called ‘Lockdown with Limerick Artists’ and were created by the Hunt Museum and Contact Studio Artists. Several thousands of copies have been distributed to people across the county.

Following three years working closely with residents of the greater Newcastle West area on the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme funded PLACE – EE project, two major events were held to mark the completion of the project. A launch of the PLACE-EE international cultural archive took place, followed a week later by a final showcase event. Both events were held online, with large numbers from all four participating countries joining the event online. A series of three Vimeo videos were produced which inform on the work undertaken.

Age Friendly Limerick has launched “Remembering Yesterday, Living Today.” Throughout our lives, from when we were children, right up to today, particular stories, events and memories hold a special place in our hearts. But many of us are not passing those stories on to our children and grandchildren. As a society, we often only see the person in the present and know very little about the person in terms of their life lived. “Remembering Yesterday, Living Today,” encourages the older person to reflect on their life and to tell the story through the completion of the book. This journey of reflection will act as a record for future generations, of that life lived, our parents, siblings, family history.

In late, October the Government launched the “Keep Well” campaign. Set out under five themes, Local Authorities were tasked with implementing initiatives under three of the five themes. Funding for the implementation of these initiatives is being managed through Pobal, and projects are to be undertaken between December 2020 and March 2021. Limerick City and County Council established a working group, and in December launched the first of a series of projects as part of the “Keep Well” campaign. “The Mayors Christmas Gift” saw 3,000 gift packs go out in the post at the beginning of December, to people across the county, residents in nursing homes and residents in Direct Provision Centres. The pack included an advent calendar, an Age Friendly calendar for 2021 and a letter of thanks and acknowledgement of the sacrifice made by people across the county during the year from the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Collins. It was just a little reminder to people that we were there if they needed us and were thinking of them as we entered into the Christmas season.

LIMERICK SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

In 2020, Limerick Sports Partnership (LSP) secured funding to the value of €1,200,000 (includes Core, Education and programme funding) from multiple funders to assist with its operations and programme delivery. Key funders are Sport Ireland, Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB) Young Professional fund, the HSE and the Dormant Accounts programme.

The three key functions of the LSP are to Inform, Educate and Enable, individuals and communities to engage in physical activities. Our aim is to increase participation numbers by 1% annually and decrease sedentary behaviour by 0.5% annually. In 2020, Covid-19 impacted greatly with our programme delivery across all target groups. However, close to 20,000 participants engaged in programmes, events, and education initiatives throughout the year. We had great success with virtual programmes, resource development and equipment provision to those in disadvantaged communities. We were in a position to reassign funds to provide these additional resources.

The LSP work was recognised with a National Award nomination in 2020, namely The Excellence in Local Government Awards. We secured funding for a new Active Cities initiative which will be delivered over a three-year period worth €300,000 to the LSP. Staff in the LSP used the year to complete additional CPD training. During the year work was completed on Governance as part of our Governance Code journey. This was developed in association with the LSP Board with the IPA.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Promoting community involvement in the improvement and enhancement of the local environment is a primary objective of Limerick City and County Council.

National Tidy Towns

Limerick City and County Council held the annual Tidy Towns seminar in February 2020 and provided support to groups during the year. The national Tidy Towns competition did not take place in 2020.

Waste Prevention

A range of activities and events, under the heading of Waste Prevention

- ‘Let’s Think About Consumption’ was held in Istabraq in January and February. ‘Let’s Think About Consumption’ challenges us to think about what we consume, bring us beyond the idea of ‘reduce, reuse and recycle’, to a more conscious prevention of waste in the first place.
- To prevent the use of single use plastic bottles December saw the launch of four public contactless drinking water fountains in Merchant’s Quay,

Kilmallock, Abbeyefeale and Adare. Thank you to Healthy Ireland Fund, Pobal, and Limerick's European Green Leaf Team for the funding to bring this project to fruition. A fifth fountain was launched in Athea by Athea Tidy Towns and funded by the Community Development Programme.

- A range of events were undertaken as part of the Limerick City's European Green Leaf Year.

Including

- What so Hot About Climate Change with EcoUnesco and Comhairle na NÓg.
- Let's Talk about Climate Action Workshop in February followed by a webinar in October
- Green Procurement Webinar for Local authorities and other public bodies.
- National Reuse Month's Slow Fashion Webinar
- National Reuse Month Top Tips for Upcycling
- Limerick's Lesser Horseshoe Bats
- The Urban Co-op a Model for a Sustainable Future
- Carbon Foot printing
- Ireland's First Virtual Bat Walk

Green Schools and other campaigns

More than 60 teachers from schools across Limerick participated in the Limerick City and County Council Annual Green School Seminar. four schools received a Green Flag for their work on litter and waste with 23 additional schools renewing their flags over a range of themes including energy, water, travel, biodiversity and global citizenship. A total of 169 schools are registered for the Green Schools programme.

An Anti-Dog Litter Awareness campaign along with an Anti-dumping campaign was also undertaken in 2020. These included dog fouling stencils on footpaths and digital campaign and local radio adverts.

Fairtrade

Fairtrade fortnight was celebrated at an event in Council Chamber in Dooradoyle with the Limerick Fairtrade Committee, Mayor and schools from throughout Limerick. Limerick City celebrated its 15th year as a Fairtrade City.





HOUSING DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

The Housing Development Directorate provides the strategic lead on the selection and funding of housing projects under the Rebuilding Ireland programme and works to fast-track the supply of housing to address homelessness. The Limerick Regeneration Programme operates from within this Directorate. The Housing Development Directorate supports the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) in formulating policy and strategy. The team, and the stakeholders with whom they work, are committed to improving the quality of life for our people and all communities, whether long established or newly created.

HOUSING CAPITAL

REBUILDING IRELAND – ACTION PLAN FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

'Rebuilding Ireland - Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness' is the primary policy document underpinning the work of the Housing Development Directorate, a €6 billion programme set to deliver 50,000 homes across the country by 2021.

In Limerick the delivery target from 2018-2021 is 1365 homes. Buy, Build and Lease are the main delivery streams. Working in conjunction with Approved Housing Bodies, the private sector and delivering on the Council's own lands, it is our intention to exceed the targets where possible.

The target blend of 1365 units with completed and projected delivery from 2018 to the end of 2021 are outlined in the table as follows. Limerick City and County Council are currently at 99% of the overall target set by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
DELIVERY STREAM	Target for 2018-2021	Delivered 2018	Delivered 2019	Projected delivery 2020	Projected delivery 2021 (as at Jan 19th 2021)	Actual 2021 Rebuilding Ireland Target as issued by Minister Circular received 16 Dec 2020	Total projected delivery 2018-2021 (as at Jan 19th 2021)	% Target likely to be achieved by end of 2021 based on target	
BUILD	915	122	121	113	476	441	832	91	%
ACQUIRE	273	94	50	25	10	10	179	66	%
LEASE	177	66	92	58	130	84	346	195	%
OVERALL PROGRESS	1365	282	263	196	616	535	1357	99	%

NEW-BUILD ACTIVITY

At the end of 2020, Limerick City and County Council has 96 projects approved to deliver a target of over 250 homes through the Build, Buy and Lease delivery streams:

New-Build	Buy	Lease
•SHIP Construction and Turnkey	• SHIP Acquisitions	• Repair and Lease
• Regeneration	• Buy and Renew Acquisitions	• Mortgage to Rent
•CAS Construction and Turnkey	• Regeneration Acquisitions	• Payment and Availability Agreements
•AHB CALF Construction and Turnkey	• CAS Acquisitions	• Long-term leasing
• Part V	• AHB CALF Acquisitions	

Land owned by Limerick City and County Council appropriate for building new housing is finite and on that basis we are actively looking at proposing land rezonings as part of the upcoming Limerick Development Plan process, instigating development potential of small infill sites, in addition to purchasing land on the private market in suitable areas.

Following the launch of a Turnkey campaign in 2019, the interest generated will see Turnkeys continuing as a key delivery mechanism in the housing programme. The Turnkey campaign is all about getting live planning permissions that have stalled, particularly due to financial issues, up and running. In locations where we have a housing need, Limerick City and County Council enter into a contract with the developer to buy the properties at a price that includes a builder's profit. A new Framework to ensure an appropriate tenure mix in large-scale turnkeys was developed in collaboration with Elected Members and sectoral reps at Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) level. The final Framework mix of future turnkeys are to align to 50% affordable (including cost-rental), 30% social-rental and 20% private tenure. This policy was endorsed at SPC level in October 2020. Separately and where possible, we are seeking to negotiate an optional increase to the Part V delivery numbers and we are taking the opportunity at design stage to request that the homes are built to accessible lifetime home standards.

PIPELINE SITES FOR SOCIAL HOUSING

Workshops were held with the elected members in the Metropolitan District, Municipal District of Newcastle West, the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock and the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale focusing on approved and pipeline sites for Social Housing. The workshops outlined analysis of Limerick City and County Council owned sites that can facilitate small scale elderly/downsizing housing schemes given the profile of demand in the areas.

PUBLIC LAND ACTIVATION PROGRAMME 2020

In addition to the targeted provision of social housing units by 2021, the expanded provision of new and affordable homes is another key objective under 'Rebuilding Ireland'. The Housing Development Directorate is setting out an ambitious agenda for increasing the supply of new private homes and particularly new affordable homes for starter families and key-workers on suitable sites in its ownership in the city. Three Council-owned sites in Limerick city were advertised in November 2020 on e-tenders seeking AHB involvement in delivering mixed tenure. These sites will progress in 2021 to planning once the assessment process is completed in early 2021.

SERVICED SITE FUND TO DELIVER AFFORDABLE HOUSING

In August 2019 the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government issued 'Approval in Principle' for five sites in Limerick City as part of the Serviced Site Fund call

for proposals. The Serviced Site Fund is designed to allow a Local Authority to complete enabling infrastructure to allow the delivery of affordable homes. Funding of over €20m has been committed from an overall national allocation of €84m. In Limerick, the projects announced will provide infrastructure that has the potential to support the development of over 420 affordable homes and 74 social housing homes as part of mixed tenure developments including private homes. A dedicated Serviced Site Fund team was established in 2020 to progress the following sites:

- Toppins Field
- Guinness Lands
- Clonmacken Lands
- Sonny's Corner
- Curragower Lands

APPROVED HOUSING BODIES (AHBS)

Approved Housing Bodies are non-profit organisations that provide and manage good-quality housing at affordable rents for households on the Local Authority housing waiting lists.

Examples of Limerick Based AHBS: Arlington Novas Ireland Ltd, Mid-West Simon Association, St Vincent De Paul, Athea Housing Association, Dromcollogher Housing Association, Focus Ireland, Glin Voluntary Housing Association, Cluid, Peter McVerry Trust. AHBS work closely with Limerick City and County Council to meet their housing targets under the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness 2016-2021.

In 2020, AHBS delivered 99 homes which were used to meet the needs of individuals on the Social Housing Waiting List under the Capital Assistance Scheme, Capital Advance Leasing Facility and Mortgage to Rent Schemes. The Capital Assistance Scheme provides funding to AHBS to deliver housing to the priority groups of Elderly, Homeless and Disability by way of loan of up to 100%. These loans are not repayable provided that the accommodation continues to be let to eligible categories of persons and is properly maintained.

The Capital Advance Leasing Facility Scheme is a facility available to assist AHBS to access private or Housing Finance Agency (HFA) loan finance for the purchase and construction of units, that will then be made available for social housing under the leasing initiative.

Under the Mortgage to Rent scheme (MTR) borrowers who are in mortgage arrears can apply to become a social housing tenant of an AHB. The property is sold to the AHB, which in turn leases the property back to the borrowers.

Limerick City and County Council has an oversight role in the regulation of Approved Housing Bodies and to date 53 Approved Housing Bodies operating in Limerick have signed up to the Voluntary Regulation Code (VRC). As per the most recent AHB occupancy audit for the year 2019, AHBS collectively own, lease and manage 1467 homes in

Limerick with new units continuously increasing annually via the schemes mentioned above. Limerick City and County Council regulate AHBs and assist in the allocation of a property.

RESEARCH AND POLICY FORMATION

- Meetings of the Housing and Disability Strategy Group took place in 2020 with key service providers (HSE, Acquired Brain Injury Ireland, Enable Ireland, Brothers of Charity and other key service providers). Key actions were agreed and are being progressed to ensure efficient allocations of Limerick City and County Council housing stock to include:
 1. Submission of Demand Information from Service Providers.
 2. Development of a design checklist for the construction and refurbishment of building stock for prospective clients of the key service providers.
- Proposal to introduce a Rightsizing Grant – Paper prepared in 2020 to outline options for private dwellings at present identifying what current Government schemes require adjustment (Housing Adaptation Grants, Works in Lieu of Housing etc.) to allow for the sustainable creation of a new dwelling within existing privately owned dwelling plots. For example, a house privately owned by a parent and occupied by a family member who is accepted as being in need of local authority housing. The creation of a single storey 1 bedroom extension would result in the applicant being housed in the altered dwelling and their name removed from the housing list. Limerick City and County Council have been requested by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to pilot this initiative in 2021 with funding being made available.
- **RAPID BUILD** Limerick City and County Council recognises the DHLGH's (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage) objective to utilise the Office of Government Procurement (OPG) Rapid Delivery Framework wherever suitable and possible, as this approach brings benefits in terms of reduced design and procurement requirements and shorter construction periods. There may also be merit at this time to expand and renew the panel for architect led consultancy services and rapid build contractors currently available on the current OGP panel. Replenishing the panels will ensure access of opportunity for new operators, promote competition and therefore reduce price escalation in the market generally. As at the end of 2020, sites are progressing under the Rapid Delivery Framework including Old Christians, Rathbane (43 units).

VACANT HOMES BUY AND RENEW AND REPAIR AND LEASE SCHEMES

Two schemes, launched under Rebuilding Ireland, namely the 'Buy and Renew' Scheme and the 'Repair and Lease' Scheme, are targeted at returning vacant housing units

to use. Since their introduction, we have seen both schemes generating wider benefits in addition to meeting accommodation requirements. Limerick City and County Council continues to actively promote their implementation.

ACQUISITIONS

Housing Acquisition continued to be an effective housing delivery mechanism. Mindful of first time buyers, the need for vacant possession and house price inflation, Limerick City and County Council is focusing on houses that are vacant for long periods and in areas where the private market deems the refurbishment of such properties unviable to reactivate. The focus for 2021 will be a reduction in acquisitions as funding available from the DHLGH will be prioritised for new build delivery and leasing initiatives.

Leasing continues to represent an essential element of supply of social housing supports. As it is the Council's objective to maximise the delivery of social housing using all the resources available.

In a bid to increase the supply of homes for our housing applicants, a campaign to raise awareness of the various leasing options open to property owners was launched in 2020.

In a very challenging housing and rental sector, with limited opportunities for leasing, leasing activity in 2020 has been significant with just under 60 projects delivered throughout the city and county.

As at January 2021, work is ongoing to have Agreements put in place for a further 40 units for leasing within the city and county.

A short overview of the various leasing options are described below:

Long Term Leasing

For a percentage of market rent a property owner makes a home available to a housing authority for 10 to 25 years. Under the arrangement, the housing authority is landlord to the sub-tenant (qualified household) and takes on responsibility for the upkeep of the interior of the property. The property owner retains responsibility for the structure of the property.

Repair and Leasing Scheme

The scheme is aimed at better utilisation of existing housing stock. Properties must be vacant for at least one year, and property owners and contractors engaged under the scheme must demonstrate that they are tax compliant through the provision of tax clearance certificates on request.

The ideal units targeted under the RLS will require a low level of investment to bring them to the required standard

for renting. Capital repairs cost on a single unit must not exceed €60,000 (inc VAT). All direct leases must be for duration of between 5-25 years. No shorter terms will be eligible. The cost of the repairs shall be offset against the agreed rental payment until the value of the works is repaid.

Enhanced Leasing

The Enhanced Long-Term Social Housing Leasing Scheme is available to property owners who can deliver properties at scale and provide the requisite property maintenance services under the terms of the lease.

The purpose of the scheme is to:

- target newly built or yet to be built houses and apartments for leasing;
- target property developers and investors who are in a position to deliver housing at a reasonable scale; and
- provide for 25-year lease terms that require the property owner to provide day to day maintenance of the properties under a schedule of Management Services.

The Housing Agency is the national co-ordinator of this scheme and manages and administers it on behalf of local authorities and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

Mortgage to Rent

The Mortgage to Rent (MTR) scheme is a government scheme which helps homeowners who are at risk of losing their homes due to mortgage arrears. It lets homeowners in mortgage difficulty switch from owning their home to renting their home as social housing tenants.

The MTR scheme is a social housing option only available if one is eligible for social housing support and the mortgage is unsustainable. To qualify for the scheme the property owner must have participated in their lender's Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process (MARP), a process which the lender and the owner must take in order to try and resolve their financial difficulties.

Approved applicants will voluntarily surrender possession of their home to their mortgage lender who immediately sells it to a housing association who will then rent it back to the family. The proceeds from the sale of property to the housing association will go towards the mortgage debt and the applicant makes an arrangement with their lender for any remaining payments owed, if any. There is potential to buy back the home after a period of five years if the household's financial situation improves.

Leasing arrangements with Approved Housing Bodies (AHB)

This involves AHBs sourcing properties from owners or investors. The housing authority facilitates the AHBs provision of social housing through a Payment and Availability agreement. The AHB agrees to make the properties available for social housing support for periods of between 10 and 30 years, carry out full management services and be the landlord to the tenants.

REFURBISHMENT

Voids 2020:

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage oversaw two schemes in relation to Void units during 2020.

Limerick City and County Council successfully refurbished 50 units via Covid-19 emergency Voids scheme during quarter two. Grant funding of €0.564m was received.

These units were delivered via a mix of direct labour only, a mix of direct labour and sub-contractors as well as contractors.

Housing Maintenance applied for and received approval for the refurbishment of an additional 59 vacant units in July 2020.

Units were returned to stock for letting during quarter three and four.

Funding of €0.967m was drawdown on completion of the units during December 2020.

These units were delivered via a mix of direct labour only, a mix of direct labour and sub-contractors as well as contractors, depending on available resources and scale of the works required on the unit.

Thermal Upgrade 2020:

Housing Maintenance in conjunction with our 'Obligated Party' SSE Airtricity Ltd. thermally upgraded 120 units during 2020 across the four municipal districts. The units all achieved a minimum BER rating of B2 with regular updates provided to the Housing SPC on the progress of the project. The scheme was jointly funded by the European Regional Development Fund as part of the EU Operational Programme 2014 to 2020, Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage and LCCC via the planned maintenance loan approved by Members in November 2019.

Response Maintenance 2020:

Housing Maintenance received 13,785 new requests for maintenance via the Customer Services and Sugar CRM. A total of 14,069 requests were closed off in the same period.

The response maintenance works that were deemed essential and undertaken during 2020, were completed in compliance with HSE and Health and Safety guidelines (e.g. appropriate PPE, social distancing, separate travel to sites, vacant work spaces etc). Customer Services provided a vital role in this regard, advising tenants of the works which could be undertaken.

Compared to previous years, there was a decrease of 11% year on year for housing maintenance requests (2019: 15,381 and 2018: 16,098) and is attributable to the various restrictions levels in place during the year. The issuing of the Housing Maintenance booklets to each tenancy in February 2020 also brought clarity for tenants.

HOMELESSNESS

Limerick City and County Council has experienced unprecedented levels of homeless presentations in the past number of years. In 2020 we have seen an increase in the number of single homeless individuals but a decrease in the number of family homeless presentations. The number of homeless cases at the end of December 2020 is as follows: Individuals 141 singles and Families – 23 (28 adults and 37 Children). The Limerick Homeless Action Team continues to operate a multidisciplinary team, staffed by operational clinical staff from the HSE, Support Staff from the Approved Housing Body Sector, Welfare Services from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection and Accommodation/Case Managers from the Local Authority. In the changing homeless environment, Prevention of Homelessness has become as important as the delivery of accommodation services. In this regard engaging with those who are at risk of becoming homeless is critical. The rollout of Family Hubs, the Place finder Service and Housing First has added to the service options available and our ability to respond to the issue of homelessness in the Region.

In partnership with the HSE and DEASP (Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection), the Local Authority provides a multidisciplinary approach to those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The Homeless Action Team was developed as a direct result of actions arising from the Government's National Homeless Strategy. As part of Limerick City and County Councils Housing Support Services, the Team is focused on ensuring that all services to homeless persons are delivered to the highest quality and in a co-ordinated and integrated way. Limerick City and County Council, the HSE Western Area and DEASP jointly staff the Homeless Action Team. This allows a wide range of supports to be put in place, not only giving people a roof over their heads but also providing elements of Health Care essential to the needs of homeless persons via a multi-disciplinary team. On presentation to the Homeless Action Team, Service Users are fully assessed to ensure that all of their economic, health and accommodation needs are addressed in line with Homeless Policy.

In 2020, the following developments were made in relation to supporting those at risk of or experiencing homelessness in the Limerick region:

1. Housing First

In 2018 €540,000 funding was grant aided to Limerick City and County Council by GENIO (a philanthropic state led organisation) for the development of a Housing First Pilot for a three Year Period. Housing First targets people who have experienced long-term homelessness, and are currently experiencing mental health and/ or addiction issues. This Pilot has resulted, to date in, 16 units of accommodation, housing 18 individuals in permanent, stable and supported housing units being allocated to homeless single persons in 2020. A key worker is assigned to those in long term private emergency accommodation thereby freeing up space in emergency hostels.

2. Hap Placefinder

Two Homeless HAP Placefinder roles are now integrated into the Homeless Action Team in 2020. These roles support clients experiencing homelessness to source properties in the Private rental market, which can be supported through HAP. The Placefinder also engages with HAP Tenants and Landlords who may be involved in Notice to Quit in an effort to avoid the closure of a Tenancy.

3. Family Hubs

The Childers Road Family Initiative (CRFI) and Dublin Road Family Initiative (DRFI) have been operational throughout 2020 catering for 30 and 10 families respectively. In total, 73 families (49 in CRFI and 37 in DRFI) have accessed the service, and 30 families (19 from CRFI and 11 from DRFI) have moved into independent living in 2020. We have seen an overall decrease in the numbers of homeless families in emergency accommodation in 2020.

4. Tenancy Sustainment

Seventeen new clients accessed support through the Peter McVerry Trust in Limerick in 2020. In total Sophia Housing tenancy support workers are engaging with 85 tenants including clients referred through Regeneration, Homeless Action Team, LCCC and outreach clients.

5. Street Outreach.

The 2020 Rough Sleepers Count took place on the 17th December. The Homeless Action Team continued and expanded its Street Outreach Service in 2020.

6. Shared Living Option:

During 2020 a Co-Living Model of housing was introduced by Limerick City and County Council. This model currently accommodates 11 individuals in shared houses throughout the City.

TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION

The Traveller Accommodation Programme for 2019 - 2024 was adopted by the elected members of Limerick City and County Council in September 2019. The new programme sets out to accommodate 105 Traveller families over its lifetime. The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) was formed in September 2019. The LTACC is made up of Public representatives, Traveller representatives and Council Officials, who meet four times a year. The LTACC advise Limerick City and County Council Senior Management on issues of Traveller Accommodation and report to the full Council as required. Limerick City and County Council have provided a bi-monthly Traveller Housing Clinic in Merchant's Quay, where Traveller housing applicants or tenants can seek assistance with queries regarding accommodation issues, no appointment required. The clinics have proved very successful with the Traveller families in Limerick and many families attend on a regular basis.

- Emergency Planning was granted in February 2019 to extend Kilmurry View Halting Site by six number halting bays to transition to group housing. Construction works commenced on site in September 2019. Work was complete in quarter four of 2020
- Toppins Field Halting Site Southill has (Department of Housing Planning and Local Government) approved funding of €453,460 to progress works to the site to improve living conditions. The Traveller Unit continue to engage with the families in Toppins Field with regard to their long-term accommodation needs.
- Following considerable resident engagement in Clonlong Halting Site, Emergency Planning was granted to construct two no. new Group Houses adjacent to Clonlong as part of a phased development of this site, and the construction works began in quarter three 2020 and completion in anticipated quarter two 2021. The reduction in the size of the Clonlong Site is planned for 2021, when families transfer to alternative accommodation of their choice.
- Emergency Planning was granted in March 2019 to extend three no. halting bays at Clondrinagh Halting Site to transition Group Housing. Following resident engagement, need was determined across the site. Single Stage Approval was submitted to DHPLG for approval to extend 10 no. halting bays and refurbish the community centre to transition to Group Housing. These capital works were complete in quarter four 2020, which changes the status of Clondrinagh from Halting Site Accommodation to Traveller Group Housing Accommodation.
- The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee meeting took place on Monday 15th April, 2019. Unfortunately because of Covid it has not been possible to hold more than one meeting in 2020.
- Limerick City and County Council made 38 offers of accommodation under the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 with 13 refusals.

REGENERATION STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

The Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan (LRFIP) forms the policy basis on which the Regeneration Programme is being delivered. Objectives are given a Physical, Social and/or Economic Focus.

1. PHYSICAL REGENERATION

The LFRIP, adopted in February 2014, outlines that the Local Authority targets the delivery of 593 new homes and refurbishment of 1,504 existing homes. Following a review of the Demolition and Retention Strategies in all four regeneration areas in 2018, the requirement for 593 new homes was reduced to 536 new homes. As at November 2020, the following progress has been made:

NEW BUILD CONSTRUCTION:

As at November 2020, 50% of the new-build programme is complete. With a number of site-starts scheduled for 2021. The breakdown is as follows:

- 269 homes completed;
- 267 new homes approved by the DHPLG and underway (under construction, at detailed design stage/ design stage etc.)

Thermal Upgrade Programme as at November 2020, 65% of the thermal upgrade programme is complete with the following progress:

- 979 units complete thermally upgraded to a BER rating of 'C';
- 483 units on site/in preparation

A targeted demolition programme is progressing to ensure that new-build replacement housing is located close to services and District Centres. As at November 2020, 50% of the demolition programme is complete with the following progress:

- 265 demolitions completed to date
- 268 demolitions in preparation over the short, medium and long-term.

As part of the strategic approach to housing delivery, some of the critical infrastructural projects to improve quality of life include connectivity and environmental improvements to create connected communities. These projects range from large-scale infrastructure projects such as the Coonagh-Knockalisheen Road project (currently under construction) to a new District Play Area and Park for St Mary's Park/King's Island (completed in 2020). Environmental improvement projects are currently underway in regeneration areas and through the continued delivery of replacement social housing schemes and key environmental improvement projects, the existing physical environment of all of the regeneration areas will significantly improve.

70 individual projects have been identified in the adopted LRFIP relating to improved connections, new Community spaces and Environmental Improvements. As at November 2020, 48 projects are complete or underway, with the remaining 22 projects to have commenced by 2023.

2. ECONOMIC REGENERATION

One of the key objectives for economic regeneration is the development of sustainable pathways to employment through capacity building and training. The appointment of a Jobs Co-Ordinator through Innovate Limerick will see training, access to job placements, and opportunities to gain permanent employment linked through various initiatives, the most important of which is the implementation of the Social Clause. The clause will see Contractors on various frameworks committing to taking on local people as part of the delivery of particular projects. The Regeneration Team continues to support the Moyross Training Facility (MTF) - The Bays in conjunction with the Department of Justice and Limerick Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB). MTF - The Bays continues to build on the success of the Hospitality Education and Training Centre (HETC) in Roxboro, delivering an industry led training approach resulting in a high percentage of full time employment. The HETC now forms the basis for a quality standard delivery model in terms of industry inputs and enable the MTF- The Bays to create its own position as a centre of excellence for training for construction and specialist manufacturing.

SOCIAL INTERVENTION FUND

The Social Intervention Fund (SIF) in 2020 targeted the key Social and Economic themes as set out in the adopted Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan (LRFIP). 115 local groups submitted 213 individual projects, which following an assessment by an independent adjudication panel, secured c. €3.287M in grant-aid from the fund.

The SIF funding is provided annually, and projects that meet the objectives of the LRFIP, are selected by the independent assessment panel.

The allocation of funding to grass-roots community organisations has been maintained. While involving

relatively small amounts of funding, these projects come directly from the local level (volunteer-led) and are highly appreciated and visible in local regeneration communities. A core group of projects supporting youth and families with complex needs are supported year-on-year. These are important in stabilising that population, connecting them to mainstream services and promoting social inclusion. Most of these projects now operate on the basis of referrals from statutory agencies and/or work in co-operation with and are co-funded by other statutory bodies.

In the current/future period, the Regeneration Team will work with this group of social inclusion projects to promote good connectivity with economic development initiatives and where there is scope, to encourage those with potential into training and employment opportunities. Grants to schools and other services for education and learning have been maintained. The evidence indicates that additional support into programmes delivered in schools or out-of-school services (after school programmes, summer camps, therapeutic services offered to children in schools) is contributing to the achievement of better educational outcomes for children in regeneration areas/ from disadvantaged social backgrounds. These outcomes include better educational attainment, improved school attendance, improved retention in second level education and improved behaviour.

Employability and work projects, skills training and access to employment for regeneration area residents is a high priority. A strong link/fit with the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP) and the LCETB (Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board) is particularly important in order to promote the sustainability of these initiatives.

SERVICE OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE



SERVICE OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE

HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES

Legal	
Consent to Sale 2020	
No. of consent applications received	34
No. of consents granted	19
No. of consents awaiting further information from solicitors/purchasers	15
Deeds of Discharge/Release 2020	
No. of applications received	105
No. of discharges/releases issued	90
No. of discharges/releases awaiting further information	23
Cottage Purchase Annuities 2020	
No. of annuities received	19
No. of annuities issued	16
No. awaiting further information	5
Ground Rents 2020 for previously owned Council Properties only **	
No. of Ground Rents received	27
No. of Ground Rents issued	21
No. of Ground Rents awaiting further information	13
No. of Ground Rents in progress	7 ***

** Please note that Housing Support Services deal with Ground Rent applications only for previously owned Council Properties bought under Tenant Purchase Scheme. Ground Rent for privately owned properties are dealt with in Property Services.

*** This figures includes Ground Rent applications that are currently being noted at Area Meetings, Section 183 Notices prepared for Full Council Meetings or Draft Transfer Orders sent to solicitors for their client's signature**

LOANS

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

A Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan is a Government-backed mortgage for first-time buyers. It is available nationwide from all Local Authorities since 1 February 2018. First-time buyers can apply for a Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan to purchase a new or second-hand property, or to build their own home.

They can borrow up to 90% of the market value of the property. Maximum market value of the property that can be purchased or self-built for Limerick is €250,000.

Number of Applications Received	66
Number of Loans Approved	28
Number of Loans Drawn Down	9
Value of Loans Drawn Down	€1,058,700.00

2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

Since 1 January 2016, existing tenants of Limerick City and County Council have an opportunity to purchase their own homes through an Incremental Purchase Scheme introduced under Part 3 of Housing (Miscellaneous) Provisions Act 2014.

Number of Eligible Applications Received in 2020	12
Total Number of Sales completed in 2020	12

PRIVATE RENTED INSPECTIONS UNIT

Housing Authorities are responsible, through inspection, for determining whether a property meets the standards for rental accommodations and, where the property does not, to ensure compliance through the use of Improvement and Prohibition notices and legal proceedings.

The minimum standards are provided for in Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019, which came into effect on 1 May 2019.

Under current legislation, the landlord is legally required to provide the tenant with a property that provides a safe and healthy environment, and is responsible for the maintenance and repair of dwelling and equipment provided in it, subject to normal wear and tear.

The tenant must exercise due care when using the dwelling and the equipment in it, must report promptly to the landlord, and is responsible for the repair of damage (accidental or deliberate) above normal wear and tear.

No.	Dwelling Statistics	1 Jan - 31 Dec 2020
1	Total Dwellings (i.e. All Dwellings inspected excluding local authority and other dwellings not covered by the Regulations, e.g. Holiday Homes).	774
2	NON-COMPLIANT (i.e. All Dwellings inspected EXCLUDING local authority and other dwellings not covered by the Regulations, e.g. Holiday Homes) that were NOT COMPLIANT with the Regulations during 2020.	
	Regulation 4 - Structural Condition	680
	Regulation 5 - Sanitary Facilities	245
	Regulation 6 - Heating Facilities	459
	Regulation 7 - Floor Preparation, Storage and Laundry	332
	Regulation 8 - Ventilation	452
	Regulation 9 - Lighting	39
	Regulation 10 - Fire Safety	551
	Regulation 11 - Refuse Facilities	18
	Regulation 12 - Gas, Oil and Electricity	649
Regulation 13 - Information	363	
3	1st Inspection - non-compliant (i.e. Total number of Dwellings inspected in 2020 that were non-compliant after the 1st Inspection).	730
4	1st Inspection - Compliant (i.e. Total number of Dwellings inspected in 2020 that were compliant after the 1st Inspection).	4

HOME IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMMES

There are three different types of home improvement grants. 503 households benefited from receipt of a total of €2,355,738.78 as per the following table:

District	Amount	No. of Grants
Cappamore-Kilmallock	€ 437,333.01	73
Metropolitan	€ 786,571.52	149
Newcastle West	€ 622,428.89	106
Adare-Rathkeale	€ 509,405.36	90
Totals Monies Issued	€ 2,355,738.78	418

The details of the grants are as follows:

Home Adaptation Grants

This grant assists in the carrying out of works that are necessary for the purpose of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability. The types of works allowable include the provision of access ramps, downstairs toilet facilities, stair-lifts, accessible showers, adaptations to facilitate wheelchair access and extensions.

Mobility Aid Grants

This grant is available to cover a basic suite of works to address mobility problems, the works aided are grabrails, access ramps, level-access showers and stair-lifts.

Housing Aid for Older People Grants

This grant is available to assist older people living in poor housing conditions to have necessary repair or improvements carried out, the types of works aided include re-roofing, re-wiring, replacement of windows and doors and the provision of central heating (where none exists).

Disabled Persons Grants

93 households received disabled persons grants totalling €737,986.44 to support independent living for people with disabilities as set out in the Table below:

District	Amount	No. of Grants
Cappamore-Kilmallock	€ 63,515.20	9
Metropolitan	€ 552,618.22	65
Newcastle West	€ 73,052.77	11
Adare-Rathkeale	€ 48,782.25	8
Totals Monies Issued	€ 737,986.44	93

All of the above schemes are subject to qualifying criteria.

RENTAL ACCOMMODATION SCHEME AND HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT UNIT

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

Limerick City and County Council has operated the RAS Scheme, which is a three-way contract between a Landlord, the Tenant(s) and Limerick City and County Council. The Rental Accommodation Scheme enables the Council to provide secure accommodation, which is affordable and meets Private Rented Dwellings Standards. At the end of 2020, there were 1,275 RAS Tenancies, 138 of these having been set up during the year.

The Council guarantees to pay an agreed monthly rent to a landlord on behalf of the tenant, with the tenant then making weekly payments to the Council, calculated on their income. Limerick City and County Council provides substantial supports to its RAS tenants, and landlords, through a team of dedicated Liaison Officers.

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

Since its introduction in 2014, the HAP Scheme has grown to become a major provider of Social Housing throughout Limerick. At the end of 2020, there were in excess of 2,442 HAP tenancies in the city and county. As with RAS, the Scheme ensures the provision of affordable and good quality accommodation to those people who have been assessed as being in need of Social Housing Supports.

HAP Limerick is responsible for validating applications and the setting up and management of tenancies as well as ensuring the rent paid by HAP tenants is correctly assessed based on their incomes. Staff within the unit provide a highly supportive environment to both landlords and tenants in addressing their questions and dealing with issues as they arise.

Limerick City and County Council continues to provide a HAP Place Finder Service, to work with families or individuals who have become Homeless and have been assessed by the Homeless Action Team as needing this support.

Community Sustainment Unit

The Community Sustainment Unit, formerly known as the Estate Management Unit, was reorganised and strengthened in late 2019. The unit now comprises of a Senior Community Sustainment Officer and four Community Sustainment Officers and each of these Officers has responsibility for specific areas within the Metropolitan and Municipal Districts of the Council.

The Unit provides a service, which connects with people in the communities, where people are known to officials, and where their issues are clearly understood. It is a service where trust is established and maintained through good communication. Making effective enforcement by the Council and all other state agencies as visible as possible is recognised as an integral part of Community Sustainment.

The Officers encourage and support members of the community to engage with the Council, and other relevant authorities and agencies, and to become actively involved and acquire a sense of “ownership” of their estates. Despite the constraints imposed by the pandemic, the new team was quite successful in progressing on three core aims:

- (i) Estate Supports
- (ii) Individual Tenant Support and
- (iii) Tenancy Enforcement/Anti-Social Behaviour.



(i) Estate Supports

- The main aim of this programme is the provision of supports with a view to improving quality of life and developing community spirit within Council estates. To this end, the Unit works closely with existing residents' associations and encourages the formation of new such groups, supporting the implementation of key actions identified by them to improve their estates. The support provided varies from assistance in provision of minor infrastructural works such as fencing, walls, signage etc. to softer measures such as committee skills training, contributing towards clean-up days, events for children etc.
- The new Faha View housing development in Patrickswell, consisting of 16 units, was populated with new tenants in early 2020. All sixteen households attended tenancy induction training prior to occupying the properties. The Wallers Court housing development at Roxboro Road, Limerick, was completed and occupied in the late months of the year. Thirteen new households were formed and the Community Sustainment Unit engaged with the occupants to assist them transition into their new homes.

Similar exercises were undertaken in Bourke Avenue in the City (12 units), Woodlawn Close, Ballysimon (11 units) and Riverview Court, Galbally (7 units).

- Due to Covid 19 restrictions, there was no opportunity for Limerick City and County Council's Community Sustainment Unit to hold the Estate Residents Representative Forum meetings. However, the Community Sustainment Officers actively engaged with residents' groups in the estates to carry out certain works and initiatives.

(ii) Individual Tenant Support

- The Unit provides a service, supported by the Housing Welfare Office, of intensive support for tenants who may be identified as vulnerable or in need of such help for any other reason. In addition, there is monitoring of individual tenancies that may require particular attention to prevent problems occurring.
- Tenancy Induction training is provided for all newly-appointed tenants. Among other things, the terms of the Letting Agreements that are signed are clearly explained, so that the obligations of both the tenants and, indeed, the Council, are clearly understood. The number of such training meetings conducted in 2020 was 274. A new development in this area during the year was the commencement of follow-up visits by staff to new tenants at their homes to ensure that all is well.

(iii) Tenancy Enforcement/Anti-Social Behaviour

- The Unit deals with in excess of 400 complaints each year, with approximately half of these relating to anti-social behaviour. The Council's policy is to respond to these issues quickly and firmly and it works in close co-operation with An Garda Síochána, where necessary.
- The Council uses all legislative tools available to it to try to deal with anti-social behaviour. One of the most effective such tools is seeking court orders (i.e. Excluding Orders) against individuals barring them from specified estates for periods of up to three years. Limerick City and County Council is one of the most proactive local authorities in the country in the use of this powerful legislative provision. In the period 2013-2020, a total of 23 such orders were secured.
- The Unit engages very proactively with An Garda Síochána in utilising powers under Section 20 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1997 to eject illegal occupiers of Council houses engaged in anti-social behaviour.
- The Unit carries out formal Garda checks on prospective new tenants. 692 such formal reviews were undertaken during the year.

HOUSING ASSESSMENTS AND ALLOCATIONS 2020

No. of offers of accommodation made	331
No. of new tenancies created	335
No. of refusals of accommodation	65
No. of CRM cases assigned to the Allocations Team	2,440
No. of CRM cases assigned to the Assessments Team	501
No. of CRM cases closed by Allocations Team	2,440
No. of CRM cases closed by Assessments Team	500

TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION

The Traveller Accommodation Programme for 2019-2024 was adopted by the Elected Members of Limerick City and County Council in September 2019. The new programme sets out to accommodate 105 Traveller families over its lifetime. The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) was formed in September 2019. The LTACC is made up of Public Representatives, Traveller representatives and Council Officials, who meet four times a year. The LTACC advises Limerick City and County Council Senior Management on issues of Traveller Accommodation and reports to the full Council as required. Limerick City and County Council has provided a bi-monthly Traveller Housing Clinic in Merchant's Quay, where Traveller housing applicants or tenants can seek assistance with queries regarding accommodation issues, no appointment required. The clinics have proved very successful with the Traveller families in Limerick and many families attend on a regular basis.

Emergency Planning was granted in February 2019 to extend Kilmurry View Halting Site by six halting bays to transition to group housing. Construction works commenced on site in September 2019. Work was complete in Q4 of 2020.

- Toppins Field Halting Site, Southill, has Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage approved funding of €453,460 to progress works to the site to improve living conditions. The Traveller Unit continues to engage with the families in Toppins Field with regard to their long-term accommodation needs.
- Following considerable resident engagement in Clonlong Halting Site, Emergency Planning was granted to construct two new Group Houses adjacent to Clonlong as part of a phased development of this site, and the construction works began in Q3 2020 and completion is anticipated Q2 2021. The reduction in the size of the Clonlong Site is planned for 2021, when families transfer to alternative accommodation of their choice.
- Emergency Planning was granted in March 2019 to extend three halting bays at Clondrinagh Halting Site to transition to Group Housing. Following resident engagement, need was determined across the site. Single Stage Approval was submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for approval to extend ten halting bays and refurbish the community centre to transition to Group Housing. These capital works were complete in Q4 2020, which changes the status of Clondrinagh from Halting Site Accommodation to Traveller Group Housing Accommodation.
- The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee meeting took place on 15 April, 2019. Unfortunately, because of Covid-19, it has not been possible to hold more than one meeting in 2020.
- Limerick City and County Council made 38 offers of accommodation under the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 with 13 refusals.

LIMERICK HOMELESS ACTION TEAM

Limerick City and County Council has experienced unprecedented levels of homeless presentations in the past number of years. 2020 has seen an increase in the number of single homeless individuals but a decrease in the number of family homeless presentations. The number of homeless cases at the end of December 2020 is as follows: 141 individuals and 23 families which includes a further 28 adults and 37 children. The Limerick Homeless Action Team continues to operate a multidisciplinary team, staffed by operational clinical staff from the Health Service Executive (HSE), Support Staff from the Approved Housing Body Sector, Welfare Services from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP) and Accommodation/Case Managers from the Local Authority. In the changing homeless environment, Prevention of Homelessness has become as important as the delivery of accommodation services. In this regard engaging with those who are at risk of becoming homeless is critical. The rollout of Family Hubs, the Place finder Service and Housing First has added to the service options available and our ability to respond to the issue of homelessness in the Region.

In partnership with the HSE and DEASP, the Local Authority provides a multidisciplinary approach to those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The Homeless Action Team was developed as a direct result of actions arising from the Government's National Homeless Strategy. As part of Limerick City and County Council's Housing Support Services, the Team is focused on ensuring that all services to homeless persons are delivered to the highest quality and in a co-ordinated and integrated way. Limerick City and County Council, the HSE Western Area and DEASP jointly staff the Homeless Action Team. This allows a wide range of supports to be put in place, not only giving people a roof over their heads but also providing elements of Health Care essential to the needs of homeless persons via a multi-disciplinary team. On presentation to the Homeless Action Team, Service Users are fully assessed to ensure that all of their economic, health and accommodation needs are addressed in line with Homeless Policy.

In 2020, the following developments were made in relation to supporting those at risk of or experiencing homelessness in the Limerick region:

1. Housing First

In 2018 €540,000 funding was grant aided to Limerick City and County Council by GENIO (a philanthropic state led organisation) for the development of a Housing First Pilot for a 3 Year Period. Housing First targets people who have experienced long-term homelessness, and are currently experiencing mental health and/ or addiction issues. This Pilot has resulted, to date in, 16 units of accommodation, housing 18 individuals in permanent, stable and supported housing units being allocated to homeless single persons in 2020. A key worker is assigned to those in long term private emergency accommodation thereby freeing up space in emergency hostels.

2. HAP Placefinder

Two Homeless HAP Placefinder roles are now integrated into the Homeless Action Team in 2020. These roles support clients experiencing homelessness to source properties in the Private rental market, which can be supported through HAP. The Placefinder also engages with HAP Tenants and Landlords who may be involved in Notices to Quit (NTQs) in an effort to avoid the closure of a Tenancy.

3. Family HUBS

The Childers Road Family Initiative (CRFI) and Dublin Road Family Initiative (DRFI) have been operational throughout 2020 catering for 30 and 10 families respectively. In total, 73 families (49 in CRFI and 37 in DRFI) have accessed the service, and 30 families (19 from CRFI and 11 from DRFI) have moved into independent living in 2020. We have seen an overall decrease in the numbers of homeless families in emergency accommodation in 2020.

4. Tenancy Sustainment

17 new clients accessed support through the Peter McVerry Trust in Limerick in 2020. In total, Sophia Housing Tenancy Support Workers are engaging with 85 tenants including clients referred through Regeneration, Homeless Action Team, Limerick City and County Council and outreach clients.

5. Street Outreach

The 2020 Rough Sleepers Count took place on 17 December. The Homeless Action Team continued and expanded its Street Outreach Service in 2020.

6. Shared Living Option

During 2020, a co-living model of housing was introduced by Limerick City and County Council. This model currently accommodates 11 individuals in shared houses throughout the City.

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

The Planning and Environmental Services Department has now been operational for nearly six years. It deals with all consents, licences, permits, inspections and enforcement relating to planning and environmental matters.

PLANNING

Development Management

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been a steady year in terms of planning activity with a continuous increase from pre-planning meetings, planning applications received and general enquiries from the public.

Major planning permissions have been granted, some of which are listed below:

Strategic Housing Development approved by An Bord Pleanála to 1 Walkers Limerick Land Limited for the construction of 200 residential units comprising of 85 houses, 34 duplex units and 81 apartments in the following format: 78 two-storey three-bedroom houses, seven two-storey two-bed houses, 17 two-storey two-bed duplex units situated above 17 one-storey one-bed simplex units (in three-storeys combined) and 45 two-storey two-bed duplex apartments and 36 one-storey one-bed simplex units (in three-storeys combined) and 45 two-storey two-bed duplex apartments and 36 one-storey one-bed simplex apartments within a 45 two-storey block with undercroft service areas for those units.

Construction of a section of Greenway route (comprising of integrated pedestrian and cycle-lane) within the proposed scheme of development, already approved under the Limerick City and County Council Part 8 'Castletroy Urban Greenway' development and provision of temporary greenway route through the site during construction to facilitate immediate implementation of the 'Castletroy Urban Greenway' by Limerick City and County Council. Ancillary and supporting services and infrastructure including: Provision of a central median along the Dublin Road (R445) for a distance of circa 391 metres and tie-in with the existing central median pursuant to the recommendations of Limerick City and County Council, modification to, and tie-in with the existing footpath infrastructure along the Dublin Road (R445), the construction of new section of cycle lane on that road, diversion of existing foul sewer and storm sewer network traversing the site and integration of it, within the new foul sewer and surface-water design arrangement with outfall and connection to existing public mains network. Surface water management infrastructure and sustainable urban design solutions including provision of separate surface water design and attenuation including a bypass separator, underground attenuation tank and controlled discharge to existing storm water network. Car Parking including: two designated 'car share' spaces and six electrical vehicle charge point spaces, bicycle parking, provision of three electrical substations and associated landscaping and all associated site development works including modification to ground levels at Newcastle, Castletroy, Limerick.

19/970 – Permission granted to Osprey Construction Limited for a residential development comprising 92 residential units, (two detached houses, 22 semi-detached houses, 12 terrace houses, 12 duplex units and one six-storey apartment block over basement, comprised of 44 apartments, (with basement parking) attenuation pond, landscaping, boundary treatments, including connection to existing services and vehicle parking all accessed via a new entrance onto the Ennis road and all ancillary site development works at Knockhill, Ennis Road, Limerick.

19/1012 – Permission granted to Shannon Foynes Port Company for the conservation, restoration and new works

to Bannatyne Mill, a Protected Structure and a change of use of Bannatyne Mill from a grain store to commercial office use. The proposed works include: provision of three projecting glass windows on the northern, southern and eastern elevations; internal modifications including limited removal of fixtures and fittings, provision of associated signage; demolition and removal of the redundant electrical room at the west end of the building, demolition of the existing ESB substation at the east end of the building and replacement with a new ESB substation removed from the building, provision of external plant, widening of the existing eastern access, removal of section of boundary wall to Dock Road, provision of on-site car and bicycle parking and all associated site development works at Ted Russell Dock, Dock Road, Limerick.

19/1061 – Permission granted to the Department of Education and Skills for the construction of a part three-storey, part two-storey 11,400 sq. metre post primary school including Physical Education Hall, four classroom Special Educational Needs Unit and all ancillary site works. The proposed development also incorporates associated car parking, access road, drop off areas, pedestrian access, bicycle lane, construction of external ball courts, landscaping, connection to public services, ESB substation and all associated site works. The development also includes a section of public road, footpaths, cycle track, landscaping, public lighting, mains services and relocated bus stop at Groody Road, Towleron, Ballysimon, Co. Limerick.

19/1252 – Permission granted to the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board for the construction of a new 7,860 sq. metre post primary school to include six teaching blocks connected by a central circulation corridor, comprised of four two-storey blocks including general classrooms, specialist rooms, circulation areas, offices, plant room, dining hall and associated kitchen and storage areas, one four-storey block including specialist rooms, circulation areas, staff room and project storage, a sports hall including, fitness centre with associated changing and storage areas and ESB substation, a two-storey central circulation corridor, a new vehicular access junction and entrance gate from the Pa Healy Road, formation of three new pedestrian entrances to the site, serving Clare Street, O'Brien's Park and Pa Healy Road, a new on-site set down area, staff car parking, installation of hard play and landscaped social areas, the modification of the existing boundaries to Clare Street and O'Brien's Park and the addition of required boundaries to the remainder of the site and ancillary and site services at Clare Street, Limerick.

19/1287 – Permission granted to the Limerick Institute of Technology for the construction of a five-storey (5,248 sq. metres) applied science and information technology (AS and IT) building comprising science laboratories and computer rooms, general teaching spaces, lecture theatre, staff accommodation, sanitary facilities, smarter travel changing rooms, ancillary service areas and screened plant set back at roof level, external works including the creation of 40 new car-parking spaces (site area c.

0.1480 ha), the adaption of existing car parking spaces to accommodate eight wheelchair accessible parking bays and a new set-down area, relocation of existing bicycle shelter (40 bicycle parking spaces) and provision of a total of 148 new bicycle parking spaces (88 in a secure shelter (site area c. 0.0159 ha) + 60 on racks adjacent to proposed new building, all associated site development, site services and landscaping works at Limerick Institute of Technology, Moylish Campus, Moylish Park, Limerick.

20/93 - Permission granted to Loughmore Healthcare Limited for the construction of a new two-storey nursing home building, consisting of 82 single ensuite bedrooms, kitchen, dining areas, communal areas, treatment rooms, internal secure landscaped garden and all other associated rooms and entrance signage. The development will also consist of the construction of a Garden and Storage shed, a new entrance and entrance walls, internal access road, car and bicycle parking, foul pump station, storm water attenuation system, connection to all services together with all other associated site works at Baunacloka, Mungret, County Limerick.

20/219 - Permission granted to KCS Logistics and Storage Limited for the construction of a cold storage distribution warehouse with associated offices and ancillary areas, construction of new entrance walls, access and internal roads with car/truck parking facilities, external lighting, boundary fencing, installation of effluent holding tanks and storm water attenuation tanks with all associated services and site works and erection of signage at Kantoher Business Park, Killeedy, Ballagh, County Limerick.

20/222 - Permission granted to Thanos Securities Limited for the refurbishment of Nos. 35 and 37 Catherine Street, Limerick (candidate protected structures) refurbishment of No. 36 Catherine Street, Limerick and their conversion to office space comprising three storeys over basement level (710 sq. metres), the retention and repair of the existing stone arch at No. 34 Catherine Street, the retention of a second stone arch at the back of No. 36 and the demolition of Nos. 34, 38, 39, 40 and 41 Catherine Street, Limerick, construction of a new semi-basement level with 17 car-parking spaces to the rear of the site, with secure bicycle store, ESB substation, attenuation tank and plant rooms; Construction of a new atrium at ground floor level enclosed by three new floors of office accommodation comprising 3,495 sq. metres construction of 24 apartments over a further three storeys comprising 15 two-bedroom apartments and nine one-bedroom apartments with a total internal area of 2,139 sq. metres, At sixth floor level, a communal roof terrace, screened plant areas, solar panels and lift core with an overall maximum height of 30.06 metres from basement floor, external hard and soft landscaping, lighting, underground services including drainage and ancillary site works at and to the rear of Nos. 34-41 Catherine Street, Limerick. The development involves work to candidate protected structures and is located within an Architectural Conservation Area at 34-41 Catherine Street, Limerick.

20/256 - Permission granted to Nooan Properties Limited for a residential development comprising 57

units (comprising 21 semi-detached houses, three terrace, two duplex units) and one four-storey apartment block over basement comprised of 31 apartments revisions to development granted under planning 18/698 consisting of alteration to a portion of the open space area, all accessed via existing entrance onto the Kilmurry Road and all ancillary site development works including connections to the public water main, foul and surface water drainage, access roads, footpaths, vehicle parking, landscaping, boundary treatments and site development works above and below ground at Newtown, Castletroy, Co. Limerick.

DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Monies received in 2020 in accordance with Development Contribution Schemes	€2,619,329
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It should be noted that the monies received from development contributions in 2020 has seen a decrease of 42% in comparison with 2019.

ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION

Architectural Heritage

During the course of the year, the sum of €118,000 was awarded by Limerick City and County Council under the provisions of the Built Heritage Investment Scheme, operated by the then Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht (DCH&G). Approximately 30% of this funding was allocated to projects within the Metropolitan District while the balance was awarded to projects throughout the County Municipal Districts. A total of 21 projects, up one from 2019, received funding. These awards generated almost €365,000 in economic activity.

Two projects qualified for assistance under the July Stimulus Package Measures. Projects assisted were the mediaeval church ruin at Clonshire, Adare and the late Victorian era Railway Station at Barnagh.

Total expenditure on built heritage grants in 2020 was €238,000 - an increase of over 40% on the previous year.

ENFORCEMENT

Complaints Received	374
Dismissed	181
Resolved	1
Warning Letters Issued	187
Enforcement Notices Issued	89
Prosecutions Initiated	57
Injunctions	0

TAKING IN CHARGE

There were six housing estates taken in charge by Limerick City and County Council in 2020.

Planning Key Performances Indicators

A. Number of planning decisions subject of appeal to An Bord Pleanála determined by Board in 2020	40
B. % of the determinations which confirmed (with or without variations) the decision made by the Local Authority (LA)	76%
Number of determinations confirming the LA's decision with or without variation	30
A. Number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the LA during 2019 that were investigated	374
B. Number of cases that were closed during 2020	384
C. % cases at B dismissed re Section 15(2) or closed because statute barred or exempted development	47%
D. % of cases at B that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	1%
E. % cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	52%
F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2020	957
Number of cases at B that were dismissed under Section 15(2) Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).	181
Number of cases at B that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	1
Number of cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	202

ENVIRONMENT

Waste Infrastructure

The infrastructure managed by this Department includes two closed landfill sites which are currently being managed under licences issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). One is located at Longpavement in the City area and the other at Gortadroma near Shanagolden. Based on figures available for the first eleven months of the year, the landfill gas at Gortadroma was used to generate almost four MW (megawatts) of electricity generating an approximate net income of €175,000 in 2020. In addition, there are 26 historic landfill sites in Limerick i.e. closed former landfills that were operated by the Council before licensing existed.

Waste Regulation

Waste facilities and waste collectors in Limerick are regulated under the Waste Management Act and associated Regulations. Some authorisations are granted by other bodies but enforced by Limerick City and County Council, or have predetermined statutory obligations. Others are granted by Limerick City and County Council. As at the end of 2020, the Council monitored/enforced its 15 current Certificates of Registration and 44 Waste

Facility Permits. It also has responsibility for enforcement/monitoring of 83 Authorised Waste Collectors. All authorisations need to be monitored to check compliance with their statutory obligations.

Air Noise and Water Team

The Air Noise and Water Team is responsible for the implementation of environmental legislation aimed at protecting and improving water quality and air quality and preventing or alleviating noise and other nuisances.

Water Quality

Specific areas of activity related to water quality in 2020 included implementing the programmes of measures under the Water Framework Directive (WFD), particularly in relation to agriculture, unsewered industries and septic tanks. The Council completed all septic tank inspections assigned to it under the EPA's National Inspection Plan.

Discharge Licensing

The Council is responsible for licensing discharges of trade and sewage effluent to waters from unsewered industries. There are currently 29 such licences in place which cover a range of facilities including hotels, nursing homes, quarries and industrial premises. All of these licences have been screened to ensure that the conditions attached to them are compatible with the achievement of the Council's water quality obligations

Septic Tank Inspections

The national programme of septic tank inspections continued in 2020 as follows:

Total septic tanks inspections	34
Compliant	17
Non-compliant	17
Registered	26
Un-registered	8

Air Quality

Significant efforts continued in 2020 to raise awareness of the Solid Fuels Regulations and the ban on marketing, selling, distributing or burning smoky fuels within the restricted area. Awareness campaigns were undertaken using posters and social media. Staff carried out inspections of fuel retailers and wholesalers, including a "blitz" in late November and early December, on fuel retailers. The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications set up a working group in December to review the workings of the Air Pollution Act, 1987 and a Council staff member sits on this group.

NOISE

The Department continues to respond to complaints alleging noise nuisance. During the year, a number of surveys were undertaken in the vicinity of industrial and commercial outlets following which there was positive engagement with all parties concerned.

LITTER MANAGEMENT

The Council's Litter Management Team continued to address the problems of littering, fly-tipping and illegal dumping during 2020 by enforcing the provisions of the Litter Pollution Acts, Waste Management Acts. The Council also administers the City and County of Limerick (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-Laws 2019.

The Council's Litter Management Plan 2019-2022 objectives are being implemented by the Domestic Waste, Street Cleaning, Environmental Awareness and Community/Housing Support Services Teams.

A combination of awareness/enforcement measures are consistently utilised to stem the trend of illegal waste disposal activity in the City and County.

Over 1,868 cases were recorded during the year and Enforcement staff undertook 3,854 inspections.

351 on-the-spot fines were issued for litter/presentation of waste offences.

The total amount of income from spot fines was in excess of €22,275.

27 cases were referred for legal proceedings under the Litter Pollution/Waste Management Acts. 13 cases were finalised in Court.

A total of 294 "other" enforcements including Warnings, Notices, Directions were also issued during the year.

Household Waste Disposal surveys were issued to properties in urban/rural areas in order to ascertain that households had proper refuse collection arrangements in place.

Clean-up and prevention works were undertaken at 23 heavily littered sites in the City and County under the 2020 Anti-Dumping Initiative Scheme administered by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.

Signs were erected at locations prone to dumping and temporary C.C.T.V. units were also installed, where feasible.

The Litter Team includes five Inspectors who carry out litter/illegal dumping patrols throughout the City and County.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

(All statistics provided are subject to further verification prior to submission to the Environmental Protection Agency)

During 2020, notwithstanding the public health restrictions, in excess of 5,300 Environmental inspections were undertaken by enforcement staff. Some of these were in response to over 3,000 environmental complaints received throughout the year. Other inspections formed part of the 2020 Inspection plan.

Service	Inspections
Abandoned Vehicles Removal	76
Air Pollution Enforcement	35
Article 27 Declarations - by-products	46
Backyard Burning of Waste Enforcement Commercial	16
Backyard Burning of Waste Enforcement Domestic	32
Battery Regulations Enforcement	1
Burning of Agricultural Vegetation	3
Burning of Agricultural Vegetation Permit	1
Commercial Waste Food Enforcement	27
Community Clean-up Waste Collection	2
Dangerous Structures	7
Construction and Demolition Waste Enforcement	140
DECO Paints Certificate	6
DECO Paints Inspections	see note below 9
Discharge to Water Enforcement	2
Discharge to Waters Inspections	see note below 0
Dog Litter and Dog Control Bye-laws	16
Domestic Waste Food Enforcement	5
End of Life Vehicles (ELV) Producer Authorisation	31
End of Life Vehicles (ELV) Regulations Enforcement	5
Extractive industries (quarries) Waste Management	1
Farm Inspections	38
Farm Plastic Regulations Authorisations	2
Hazardous Waste Management Enforcement	70
Historic Landfills Maintenance	1
Household Food Waste Collection Regime	2
Household Waste Disposal Survey	931
Landfill Levy Regulations Enforcement	1
Litter and Waste Public Awareness	17
Litter Regulations Enforcement	2,831
Noise Monitoring	8
Noise Nuisance Enforcement	32
Open Space and Estate Maintenance	2
Organic Solvents (VOC) Certification	1
Packaging Regulations Authorisations	4
Packaging Regulations Enforcement	15
Plastic Bag Levy Enforcement	10
Presentation of Waste Bye-Laws	197
Prohibition of Advertising Material Bye-Laws	7
Public Health Enforcement	44
Septic Tank Inspections	34
Sewage Sludge Regulations Authorisations	0
Solid Fuel Regulations Enforcement	45
Street Cleaning	23
Waste Collection Permits	16
Waste Collection Permits Enforcement	58
Waste Facility Permits	28
Waste Facility Permits and Registrations Enforcement	61
Waste Food Enforcement	2

Waste Legislation Enforcements 14 140	247
Waste Tyre Enforcement	24
Water Pollution Enforcement	90
WEEE Regulations Enforcement (Electrical and Electronic Goods)	15

* Note that some inspections were cancelled because of public health restrictions.

Because of the disruption attributable to the Covid-19 pandemic, many court prosecutions initiated in 2020 are only beginning to be heard in the 2021 calendar year.

In excess of 446 items of enforcement correspondence were issued as either Warnings (230), Directions (101) or Notices (115) throughout the year.

12+ Fixed Penalty Notices (€500) were issued in 2020. These were primarily for Waste Collection Offences and Air Pollution Offences.

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATIONS

The Council issued / reviewed a number of authorisations to individuals/companies in order to prevent/minimise environmental pollution.

Waste Facility Permits/Certificates of Registration	*20
Organic Solvents	0
Vehicle Refinishers	9
Air Pollution Licences	0
Farm Plastics Collection Points	8
Waste Electric and Electronic Equipment and Waste Batteries collection points	1
Authorisations to allow Farmers burn Green Agricultural Waste	213
Discharge to Waters Licences	0

* Subject to confirmation

The Council has an obligation to protect the the Public and/or Occupiers under the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act. This is achieved through inspections and enforcement notices.

2020 Summary	
Open cases	5
Closed cases	20
Cases investigated but not deemed dangerous	15
Total cases investigated	25

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE (ROADS AND HOUSING)

Operation and Maintenance (Roads) is the largest operational section of Limerick City and County Council. While the section caters for road reconstruction, surfacing and maintenance as well as Road Safety, Traffic Management and Structures, it also manages the Council's Fleet and Machinery Yard and deals with Insurance and Public Liability related work on behalf of the whole Authority.

Operations and Maintenance managed €30m of expenditure of the 2020 programme despite the restrictions imposed by COVID measures.

The majority of this programme is delivered through the operational staff based in the District offices and Depots.

Expenditure Category	Million
Special Grants	
National Transport Authority Limerick City Active Travel 2020/2021	€ 10.0
Department of Transport Limerick County Active Travel 2020/2021	€ 1.6
Department of Transport Limerick County Climate Adaption 2020/2021	€ 0.6
Additional Funding 2020/2021	€ 12.2
Public Road Works	
Restoration Improvement 84km of 4,048km (2%) (incl. Former National Roads and Own Resources)	€ 12.0
General Maintenance (€1,700 per km) (Patching, road repairs, drainage etc.)	€ 6.9
Public Lighting (operations and maintenance) - 23,000 Lights	€ 2.5
Restoration Maintenance - 117km of 4,048km (3%) (Surface dressing of Roads)	€ 1.7
Specific Drainage Grant (Roads related drainage)	€ 0.9
Bridge Rehabilitation - 16 Sites	€ 0.6
Winter Maintenance - up to 800km per event (Salting\Gritting)	€ 0.6
Safety Improvement Schemes - 18 sites (previously Low Cost Safety)	€ 0.4
Community Involvement Scheme* (6 of 761km, 0.8%) *Primarily to cater for Local Tertiary Roads (CIS)	€ 0.4
Sub-total	€ 25.4
Non-public Roads	
Local Improvement Scheme (LIS)	€ 0.4

ACTIVE TRAVEL MEASURES 2020 AND 2021

As a result of Stimulus Funds announced in July 2020, Limerick City and County Council secured funding through the National Transport Authority (NTA) of almost €10m for works in Limerick City, of which €3.1m was spent in 2020. The works are underway at 18 locations in the Greater Limerick City area.

To date, this has provided significant funding for upgrades of existing footpaths, cycle-lanes and bus corridors.

In 2020 substantial progress has been made on:

- O’Connell Avenue - Upgrading of the existing footpaths from Punch’s Cross to The Crescent.
- St. Nessan’s Road - Full re-surfacing of Carriageway, Bus lanes, and widening of Cycle-lanes
- Steamboat Quay - resurfacing and pedestrian improvements

NON-NATIONAL ROADS PROGRAMME 2020 RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT (LOCAL AND REGIONAL ROADS)

Typically the single most significant annual expenditure category is termed as Restoration Improvement. These are works deemed necessary to first strengthen and then surface or reseal public roads.

There are a variety of methods used including:

- Crushed Stone Overlays (Where the existing structure is weak)
- Recycled Stone Overlays (Using the existing stone to reshape the road)
- Macadam Overlays (Structural Improvements typically to trunk roads)

In 2020 €11.4m (including €1m on former National Road) was expended on Restoration Improvement schemes throughout the County improving 79km (2%) of the roads. This provides for a one in 50 year treatment.



RESTORATION MAINTENANCE (LOCAL AND REGIONAL ROADS)

Typically known as Surface Dressing these works are used to extend the life of a road, protect the road structure from ingress of moisture and provide a durable wearing course for traffic.

These schemes offer best value and longevity when the road drainage and roadside hedges/trees are well maintained. The role and responsibility of Landowners in this regard is critical and their co-operation is greatly appreciated.

In 2020 €2.65m was expended on 117 km of Restoration Maintenance Schemes improving 3% of the network. (The network maintenance rate is one in 34 years).

N69 KILCORNAN TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEME 2020 (€1.7m)

The Project is a road improvement capital works scheme located on the N69 national secondary road in Kilmoran, Co. Limerick. The scheme is approximately 1,150m in length. The completed scheme consists of traffic calming measures to discourage high speeds within the 60km/h Urban Speed Limit of Kilmoran village. The works entailed the provision of narrower carriageway lanes with road realignment to encourage the reduction of traffic speeds and improved sight distances at Junctions. This was achieved through the provision of kerbed road edges, provision of a footpath, street lighting, landscaped verges, alternative road surface finishes and gateway signs to both the east and west of Kilmoran.



HOUSING MAINTENANCE

2020 continued on the progress made in the previous years in the Housing Maintenance section, regarding the implementation of the revised operational structure and rollout of the SUGAR Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system for reactive maintenance, in conjunction with the Customer Services Section and the Business Improvement Unit.

The operational structure was in place for the full calendar year and matched existing staff to the electoral areas.



Additional staff resources were sanctioned and are in the process of being recruited. The structure responded to the challenges of Covid-19 with flexibility in the structure leading to a level of service balanced against the restrictions at the time.

The number of cases closed on CRM was 14,069. The introduction of Frequently Asked Questions and Tenant's Handbook assisted in achieving this level of close-out.

A revenue budget of €8.1m was spent maintaining 5,280 units across the city and county. The section remains one of the most challenging areas of the Council in terms of matching the required quality services with the expectations of tenants. The unit was also successful in applying for two tranches of voids funding amounting to €1.531m in void funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage which will result in 109 long term vacant housing units being returned for allocation and occupation. These units are delivered via a combination of direct labour, Council staff and external contractors to ensure the units are available as soon as possible. Work commenced on the Energy Upgrade scheme of 120 units with funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage of €3m and matching funds from Limerick City and County Council of €2.5m. SSE Airtricity was the contracted party to complete the works. In addition to the energy upgrade, other improvements were completed to these 120 homes. The project was nearing completion in December 2020. A Pilot Home Improvement Scheme for local authority tenants was launched in the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock. It resulted in excess of 50 approved works to be undertaken with grant allocations of 75% towards the approved works. Covid-19 restrictions have resulted in delays in completion and the final works will be completed in early 2021.

PARKS AND LANDSCAPING

The Council continued to provide an extensive grass cutting programme to the public in 2020, cutting approximately 300 hectares of grass between March and October. Areas were left to grow to support the Bee Friendly initiative in 2020 as part of its commitment to the National Pollinator Plan. Tree pruning and landscaping works were carried out throughout the City and County outside of the bird nesting season.

The Parks Department continues to maintain the Parks to the highest of standards. The People's Park in Limerick City retained the Green Flag status in 2020, which is indicative of the standard achieved in the Park.

This year saw a significant increase in the numbers of people using the parks and amenities, as a result of Covid-19. The footpaths in The People's Park received an upgrade, and planting at the entrances to Baggott Estate were carried out. Improvement works were carried out in Arthur's Quay Park. Maintenance works were carried out on the reeds in Westfield Wetlands to facilitate wildlife. The public toilets in Lough Gur were completely refurbished,

litter bins replaced, new seating and picnic benches installed and public lighting provided. The fencing for Abbeyfeale and Castleconnell playgrounds were replaced, providing a much needed boost to these playgrounds.

The Parks Department provides the annual "Bridges in Bloom" project with hanging baskets on the bridges on the approaches to the City. Flower tiers are also placed on the streets with greatest footfall, flower tiers were also placed on the plaza in front of Colbert Station. Flowers and bedding plants are cultivated in the Nursery for planting on roundabouts, bridges, hanging baskets and public spaces, ensuring that the city is looking its best at all times.

RECYCLING CENTRES AND BOTTLE BANKS

There are 68 bottle bank locations managed by the Council. There are three recycling centres, located in Newcastle West, Kilmallock and Mungret. The recycling centre in Mungret also operates a green waste yard for the intake of green waste and generation of compost, which the public can avail of. Special waste collection days are also held including hazardous waste disposal and a confidential shredding day. This year saw an increase in the number of households using the recycling facilities. This was as a direct result of Covid-19 and the number of people availing of the opportunity to declutter and carry out home improvements.

STREET CLEANING

The street cleaning crews continue to provide a 365-day service to ensure that the streets are swept and maintained to a high standard. The street cleaning crews also provide extensive assistance to Limerick Going for Gold and Tidy Towns. The city crews extended their service to provide street cleaning to the main routes in Raheen/Dooradoyle and Castletroy. Additional facilities were secured in the city with the lease of a garage on Carr Street. This will provide much needed storage for additional street cleaning equipment purchased for the city centre.

The street cleaning operations were under pressure during the summer as a result of Covid-19 with significant numbers of people out and about, leading to increased litter and illegal dumping. This resulted in increased services for litter bins and street cleaning.

CEMETERIES

A draft Burial Ground Strategy was prepared for Limerick City and County. Workshops were held with each of the four Districts in order to seek feedback from the Elected Members on the general findings of the proposed strategy. An extension to Caherconlish burial ground was constructed and completed in 2020, providing an additional capacity of twenty-seven years. A new burial section was developed in Mount Saint Oliver. Mount Saint Lawrence received an upgrade with the provision of new gates and CCTV to improve security of the burial ground. Surface water drainage works were carried out

in Shanagolden burial ground as a measure to artificially lower the ground water table in the burial ground. The Council grant-aided a community group in Anglesborough to provide a new burial ground.

The Cemeteries Maintenance team is responsible for the maintenance of over 250 cemeteries throughout Limerick City and County. Maintenance works including footpath upgrades were carried out in Clounanna, St. Nicholas Cemetery Adare, Beagh, Ballysteen, Fedamore, Castletown Conyers (Old), Galbally and Kilfinnane burial grounds. Tree surgery works were also carried out in a number of the burial grounds. Works commenced on repairing the ancient church ruin in Clonshire graveyard following the receipt of grant funding for same. Works were also carried out in St. Temple Mary, Bruree, Ballynamona Old, Hospital and Castletown Conyers (Old), Galbally, Kilfinnane.

Limerick Civic Trust continues to provide invaluable assistance to the Council in the ongoing maintenance of a number of cemeteries in the Metropolitan Area.

VETERINARY SERVICES

The Veterinary Services Team has carried out the following functions during 2020:

Food Safety:

- Official veterinary controls were carried out at six abattoirs and 13 small meat-manufacturing premises. One new food business was given conditional approval during 2020 and one new food business was given full approval during 2020.
- A Veterinary Inspector inspected all animals intended for slaughter for human consumption before and after slaughter, in accordance with food safety legislation.
- Veterinary Inspections carried out a structured programme of sampling of meat producing premises as part of the National Residue Control Programme and the National Microbiological Control Programme.
- The Veterinary Inspector for Limerick City and County Council has an active role in the Local Authority Veterinary Service Standardisation Working Group.

Control of Dogs:

- The Dog Control Team dealt with 599 complaints or cases during 2020.
- 107 dogs were processed in the Dog Shelter during the year. 75 of these were re-homed, 29 were reclaimed and only three were euthanised. The large number successfully rehomed was a significant improvement on previous years.
- The Dog Wardens carried out a planned programme of inspections of each of the 34 Dog Breeding Establishments registered with Limerick City and County Council based on a risk assessment.
- A dog licence compliance operation, targeting specific areas within the City and County initiated in 2019 continued to be implemented in 2020 resulting in a significant number of licences issued.

Control of Horses:

- The Horse Control Team dealt with 179 cases during 2020.
- 128 horses were processed in the Horse Pound during the year. 95 of these were re-homed, 32 were reclaimed and only one was euthanised.
- The Horse Control Team continues to work in co-operation with other Council departments, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and An Garda Síochána in enforcing the relevant horse control legislation.



CAPITAL INVESTMENT DIRECTORATE



Castletroy Playground Extension Site



O'Connell Street Revitalisation Project Computer Generated Image



Gough Place Housing Computer Generated Image

CAPITAL INVESTMENT DIRECTORATE

The Capital Investment Directorate is focused on the delivery of new infrastructure for Limerick. Design and Delivery Services, a department within Capital Investment, provides a service across the organisation with a multi-disciplinary team involved in the delivery of a wide range of programmes and projects. This team includes architects, engineers, technicians, building inspectors, an archaeologist and administrative staff. Project types include:

- Housing
- Traveller Specific Accommodation
- Active Travel and Public Transport Projects
- Flood Protection Schemes
- Greenways
- Distributor Roads
- Public Realm Projects
- Playgrounds
- Sports Facilities
- Heritage Projects
- Cemetery Projects
- Fire Stations
- Bridges
- Thermal Upgrades
- Demolitions
- Refurbishment Projects
- DPG and Private Housing Grants
- Per Cent for Art Projects



THE FOLLOWING TABLE SETS OUT THE CURRENT DESIGN AND DELIVERY SERVICES PROJECTS AND THEIR STATUS AT THE END OF 2020.

Housing Projects (General)

Project Name	No. Of Units	Stage at the end of 2020
Barnakyle, Patrickswell	24	Design
Broadford	18	Design
Clare Street, Limerick City	7	Pre-tender
Clonmacken, Limerick City	43	Construction underway
Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale	4	Pre-tender
Convent Street, Limerick City	2	Feasibility Studies
Deerpark, Adare	31	Design
Fannings Corner, Mary Street, Limerick City	3	Complete and allocated
Glenview Drive, Hospital	20	Construction underway
Gough Place, Rosbrien Road, Limerick City	17	Construction underway
Kilmurry Close, Garryowen, Limerick City	7	Complete and allocated
Knocklong	12	Tender
1-5 Liadhain Terrace, Kileely Road, Limerick City	5	Construction underway
Lisheen Park, Patrickswell	16	Complete and allocated
Lower Carey's Road, Limerick City	11	Complete
Michael Street, Limerick City	9	Feasibility Studies
Mulgrave Street, Limerick City	17	Construction underway
Old Christian, Rathbane, Limerick City	43	Construction underway
Pallaskenry	16	Feasibility Studies
St Patricks Villas, Castleconnell	4	Complete and allocated
Sycamore Crescent, Newcastle West	31	Design
Walters Well Phase 2, Limerick City	13	Complete and allocated

Housing Projects (Regeneration)

Project Name	No. Of Units	Stage at the end of 2020
45A/46 Cliona Park & Ballynanty Link Street	2	Construction underway
Churchfield, Phase 2, Limerick City	38	Pre-tender
Cliona Park Phase 3	18	Pre-tender
Cosgrave Park, Limerick City	30	Pre-tender
Dalgaish Park, Limerick City	27	Pre-tender
Orchard Site, Kings Island, Limerick City	27	Pre-tender
Sheep Street, Limerick City	8	Pre-tender



Liadhain Terrace, Kileely Road Housing Development

Housing Projects (Serviced Sites Fund)

Project Name	No. Of Units	Stage at the end of 2020
Clonmacken Phase 2	95	Feasibility Studies
Curragower Site	11	Feasibility Studies
Guinness Site	249	Feasibility Studies
Sonny's Corner Site	24	Feasibility Studies
Toppins Field	361	Feasibility Studies

Traveller Specific Accommodation

Project Name	No. Of Units	Stage at the end of 2020
Clondrinagh	10 no. Extensions	Complete and allocated
Clonlong Halting Site	2 no. Group Houses	Construction underway
Kilmurry View, Dublin Road, Limerick City	3 Extensions 1 no. refurb	Complete and allocated



Lower Carey's Road Housing Development

Active Travel & Public Transport Projects

Project Name	Stage at the end of 2020
Bus Shelter Programme	Various Stages
Clare Street to Condell Road Cycleway (Phase 1)	Preliminary Design
Dublin Road Bus Corridor - University of Limerick to Parkway Roundabout (Phase 1)	Preliminary Design
Golf Links Road Bus Priority Measures	Preliminary Design
Grove Island Roundabout Improvement Scheme	Design
Limerick Institute of Technology to City Centre Pedestrian and Cycle Route	Preliminary Design
Milford Road / Plassey Park Road Junction	Preliminary Design
Parnell and Davis Street Urban Realm Works - Phase 2	Complete
Parnell - Wickham - Clare Street Cycleway	Feasibility Studies
Raheen Roundabout to Quinn's Cross Cycle Scheme	Preliminary Design



Clare Street Housing Computer Generated Image



Wallers Well Housing Development

Flood Protection Projects

Project Name	Stage at the end of 2020
King's Island Flood Relief (Scheme)	Site investigation contract complete. Main Contract Pre-Tender.

Greenways

Project Name	Stage at the end of 2020
Castletroy Urban Greenway	Construction underway
Limerick Greenway (Great Southern Greenway)	Construction underway



Coonagh Knockalisheen Distributor Road Scheme



Limerick Greenway



Thomond Weir Percent for Art Scheme



Mungret College Refurbishment

Distributor Roads

Project Name	Stage at the end of 2020
Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road	Awaiting Departmental approval to appoint Contractor
Croom Distributor Road	Construction underway

Public Realm and Streets

Project Name	Stage at the end of 2020
Abbeyfeale Traffic Management	Design
Dock Road/Atlas Avenue	Awaiting Part 8 approval
Georgian Laneways	Feasibility Studies
Golf Links Road Realignment	Preliminary Design
LIHAF Mungret - Phase 2	Design
LIHAF Mungret - Phase 3	Preliminary Design
O'Connell Street Revitalisation Project	Construction underway
Parklet, Catherine Street	Complete
R445 Dublin Road Improvement Scheme	Feasibility Studies
Wayfinder Project	Feasibility Studies



Contact Signing for Housing Development at Glenview, Hospital

Playgrounds

Project Name	Stage at the end of 2020
Castletroy Playground	Tender
Kings Island Playground	Complete

Schools

Project Name	Stage at the end of 2020
Mungret College	Complete

Sports Facilities

Project Name	Stage at the end of 2020
Askeaton Swimming Pool Flood Protection Works	Part 8 In preparation
Newcastle West Regional Athletics Hub	Construction underway



Old Christians Housing Development, Rathbane



Old Christians Housing Development, Rathbane visit by Minister for Housing Darragh O'Brien

Heritage Projects

Project Name	Stage at the end of 2020
Canal Harbour Building	Pre-tender

Bridge Projects

Project Name	Stage at the end of 2020
Park Road Bridge	Part 10 application to An Bord Pleanála in preparation
Thomond Weir Bridge	Feasibility Studies

Cemetery Projects

Project Name	Stage at the end of 2020
Kilmurry Cemetery Columbarium Wall	Preliminary Design
Mount St. Lawrence Columbarium Wall	Preliminary Design



Guinness Site, Lower Carey's Road



Catherine Street Parklet



Catherine Street Parklet Street View

PerCent for Art

Project Name	Stage at the end of 2020
Na mBradáin ('The Salmon') at Thomond Weir	Complete
O'Connell Street Revitalisation Project - Art Installation	Preliminary Design

Fire Station Projects

Project Name	Stage at the end of 2020
Cappamore Fire Station	Feasibility Studies
Mulgrave Street Fire Station, Limerick City	Feasibility Studies

Other

Project Name	No. Of Units	Stage at the end of 2020
Metropolitan Depot	New Building	Preliminary Design
Demolition Programme (Regeneration and Non-Regeneration)	Demolition	Various Stages
Thermal Upgrade Programme (Regeneration)	Refurbishment	Various Stages
Disabled Persons Grants	Refurbishment & Extensions	Various Stages
Private House Grants	Refurbishment	Various Stages
Buy & Renew, Derelicts and SHIP Acquisitions	Refurbishment	Various Stages



Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale Sketch Up Image



Kings Island Playground



Croom Distributor Road



SOPHIE

JOHNO

ALAN

CIVIL DEFENCE

CIVIL DEFENCE



NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SHARED SERVICES DIRECTORATE

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SHARED SERVICES DIRECTORATE

LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Limerick City and County Council as Fire Authority operates and manages the Fire and Emergency Services in Limerick. Limerick Fire and Rescue Service has responsibility to protect the life and property of circa 200,000 people living in circa 70,000 houses and circa 18,000 commercial premises. Civil Defence is also part of the Fire and Emergency Services Department. This is a volunteer based organisation which supports the frontline emergency services as well as assisting at community events.

The Fire and Emergency Services Department has six broad areas of activity that are mutually supportive in the delivery of an integrated service to the public.

- A) Fire and Rescue Service
- B) Fire Prevention and Building Control
- C) Major Emergency Management
- D) Munster Regional Communications Centre.
- E) Civil Defence
- F) Water Safety

A) FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

The function of the Fire and Rescue Service is to make provision for the prompt extinguishing of fires in buildings and other places in its functional area and for the protection and rescue of persons and property from injury by fire and other emergency incidents. In this regard it maintains a fire brigade and provides fire stations, vehicles and equipment.

2020 brought particular difficulties for all staff and it particularly impacted on the Fire Services ability to deliver training as would have been the case in other years. All scheduled training was postponed during the first few weeks of the initial lockdown due to Covid-19. Following much planning and discussions, the Fire and Rescue Service was able to continue with its essential training for the remainder of the year. The following training courses were successfully delivered in 2020:

- Pump Operator Refresher Training
- Bronto Hydraulic Platform Operator Training
- Two Emergency First Responder Initial Courses

- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Accredited Compartment Fire Behaviour Initial Wearers Course
- Two Emergency Standard Driver Courses
- 12 two day Compartment Fire Behaviour Refresher training courses (140 staff trained in Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo)
- 12 one day Working at Heights Refresher training courses in Cappamore (All 140 staff trained)
- Three Emergency Lifts Operation Courses
- Three Methods of Entry Courses
- Two Recruits completed a QQI Initial Fire Fighter Skills course
- Two QQI Initial Breathing Apparatus Wearers Courses
- Four Water First Responder Courses for 35 staff
- Grievance and Disciplinary Training for Station Officers
- Multi Agency Emergency Tunnel Training and Exercise
- One week Fire Fighter Training Course for Transition Year Students
- Three Effective Decision Making Courses
- Peer Support Training
- Return to Work Training for two staff

As well as the above, on-going on-station training continued throughout the year in all stations.



SERVICE INDICATORS	WHOLETIME	RETAINED
Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire	1 min 29 secs	
Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire		4 mins 58 secs
Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other emergency incidents	1 min 29 secs	
Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other emergency incidents		4 mins 34 secs
Percentage of Attendances at Scenes		
Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	86%	25%
Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	13%	50%
Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes.	1%	25%
% of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	78%	37%
% of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	20%	49%
% of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	2%	14%
Total number of incidents in respect of fire	439	200
Number of incidents in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	379	50
Number of incidents in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	56	99
Number of incidents in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	4	51
Total number of incidents in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire)	207	222
Number of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	161	83
Number of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	42	109
Number of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	4	30

B) FIRE PREVENTION AND BUILDING CONTROL

The function of the Fire Prevention and Building Control Department is to ensure the safety, health and welfare of people who occupy or use buildings, through ensuring the reduction of fire risk, proper means of escape, the access for people with disabilities and the conservation of fuel and energy.

To deliver these functions, the work of this department includes assessing Fire Safety Certificate applications and Disability Access Certificates, inspection of commercial buildings and apartment complexes, investigating complaints and giving Community Fire Safety talks.

Fire Safety Certificates

2019 Statistics	
Total number of fire safety certificate applications received	162
Total number of fire safety certificate applications granted	151
Total number of applications deemed invalid.	24
Buildings inspected as a % of new buildings notified to the local authority	13%
Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority	668
Number of new buildings notified to the local authority that were inspected	87

Disability Access Certificates

2020 Statistics	
Total number of valid Disability Access Certificates received	118
Total number of Disability Access Certificates granted	113
Total number of Disability Access Certificates invalidated	8

Planning Referrals

Total number of Planning Referrals processed 2020	222
Total number of Valid Commencement Notices received (includes CNs (Commencement Notices), Short CNs, Opt-out CNs and seven day Notices)	494

Civil Defence

Total Expenditure costs for Civil Defence in 2020	€278,151
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C) MAJOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The functions of the Major Emergency Management section are to implement the provisions of the 2006 Framework for Major Emergency Management in Limerick City and County Council, to review and oversee Limerick City and County Council's Major Emergency Plan and to continually enhance Limerick City and County Council's capacity to respond to a major emergency.

The Framework for Major Emergency Management was activated twice in 2020. Once for severe weather in February/March and again in response to Covid-19 pandemic. There were six Crisis Management Team meetings in regard to severe weather and 57 Crisis Management Team meetings held in regard to Covid-19. Limerick City and County Council also attended the Regional Working Group and Regional Steering Group meetings in 2020. There were also specific Regional Steering Group/Regional Co ordination Group meetings held to discuss the response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The work completed by the section during 2020 consisted of:

- Review of the Regional Risk Assessments
- Appraisals for 2019
- Testing of the Inter-Agency Plan for the Limerick Tunnel
- Response to major flooding in the River Shannon
- Review of the Mid-West Mass Fatality Plan to include the response to Category III incidents and Covid-19.

- Assisting in the setting up of a National Temporary Body Storage Facility in Sarsfield Barracks in response to Covid-19.
- Review and testing of Goulding Fertiliser External Emergency Plan in accordance with the Seveso III Directive
- Review of Major Emergency Plan and Sub Plans (including response to the Pandemic) for Limerick City and County Council.

D) MUNSTER REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE

The Munster Regional Communications Centre (MRCC) is located adjacent to Mulgrave Street Fire Station. The MRCC is a centralised 24-hour service providing rapid response and mobilisation to 999/112 emergency fire calls. Limerick City and County Council is the contracting Authority for this Centre and provides the service on behalf of the seven member Fire Authorities in Munster (Clare County Council, Cork City Council, Cork County Council, Kerry County Council, Limerick City and County Council, Tipperary County Council and Waterford City and County Council).

There were a total of 22,208 calls handled during the year and mobilisation to 11,726 incidents.

The CTri project (National Mobilisation and Communication System) continued in 2020 with the configuration of the new national Command and Control system which is expected to go live in June 2021. A local training environment was installed in MRCC and all MRCC staff received initial training on the new software.

E) CIVIL DEFENCE

Limerick Civil Defence is a statutory volunteer based organisation that supports the front line emergency services while assisting our local community. Limerick Civil Defence supports the frontline emergency services in dealing with severe weather, flooding, major accidents and searching for missing people. Limerick Civil Defence also supports community events throughout the year.

During 2020 with the onset on COVID-19, Limerick Civil Defence has become a front line service. Limerick Civil Defence has completed 136 tasks providing sustained support to the community throughout the county. Support was provided to the Local Authority, Health Service Executive, Department of Justice and Equality and the Irish Blood Transfusion Service.

From the beginning of COVID-19:

- Teams of Limerick Civil Defence volunteers have been on call to assist during COVID-19.
- A total of 3,500 volunteer hours were provided by Limerick Civil Defence volunteers.

- These volunteers were supported by a fleet of Civil Defence Vehicles including four-wheel drive jeeps, vans, ambulances, minibuses and operational support vehicles.

Examples of the types of tasks undertaken by Limerick Civil Defence include:

- providing administrative assistance and medical cover to the Irish Blood Transfusion Service,
- transporting patients to hospitals for appointments
- transporting members of the public to testing centres,
- collection of medications and delivering to patients homes,
- delivering essential PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) on behalf of the HSE (Health Service Executive) and delivering to nursing homes,
- transporting COVID-19 positive persons from accommodation centres to other locations to allow for self-isolation and assessment hubs,
- transporting members of the public for oncology appointments
- transporting healthcare staff from their accommodation to work,
- collection, storage and distributing PPE for local authority sector,
- assembling and storing of PPE packs for funeral undertakers,
- upskilling of lifeguards in CFR (Cardiac First Response) with COVID precautions.
- assisting neighbouring counties with COVID positive patient transfers

Limerick Civil Defence's Covid-19 Team continues essential training during this time. This includes any Health Service Executive and Local Authority online training, Donning and Doffing of Personal Protective Equipment, Cardiac First Responder Advanced training, Emergency First Responder training, Critical Incident Stress Management training and 4x4 off road driving training.

F) WATER SAFETY

Lifeguards were employed by Limerick City and County Council for the June bank holiday weekend and from July to the start of September at Glin and Kiltewy piers. The lifeguards were busy with the arrival of many visitors to the piers due to the travel restrictions of Covid 19 and the staycation policy of the Government.

With a mixed variety of weather during the summer months of 2020, outdoor bathing still took place. Unfortunately the annual cross-river swim from Clare to Glin Pier, the 3km Open Water Swim and Glin Triathlon could not take place. However, plenty of water users arrived at the piers to make the best of the weather.

A new slip way was finalised at Glin Pier which has been welcomed by the locals and the many sailors who would have normally travelled to Foynes to launch their boats.

Replacement of lifebuoys continued as required in Limerick with the assistance of the Public Participation Network and local voluntary groups.



New slipway at Glin Pier

DIGITAL SERVICES

Limerick City and County Council established the Digital Services Unit to leverage the advantages of digital transformation. The unit comprises the following sections:

1. Digital Strategy: responsible for the development, co-ordination and implementation of Limerick's Digital Strategy and Smart Limerick Roadmap, including support for the National Broadband Plan.
2. Digital Customer Experience: responsible for digital service delivery to citizens and our external customers i.e. Limerick.ie, My Limerick and related websites.
3. Digital User Experience: responsible for digital service delivery to our staff, i.e. business systems, Sugar CRM (Customer Relationship Management), Intranet etc.
4. Data, Analytics and GIS (Geographic Information System): responsible for the data infrastructure, GIS and associated data.
5. EU Programmes: responsible for strategic coordination of EU funding.

Some of the highlights from 2020 include:

Digital Strategy:

- The Head of Digital Services and EU Programmes Dr. Mihai Bilauca, accompanied the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheahan to the International Towns Forum – Sustainable Development of Towns conference in Stanford University, California, USA in January. The forum aims to facilitate discussion and international cooperation on sustainable urbanisation approaches among a variety of diverse stakeholders. In his keynote address the Mayor presented and shared insights from our efforts in Limerick to innovate and create new solutions for energy generation and consumption for the sustainable development of Limerick as part of the +CityxChange EU project and also the EU Green Leaf City programme 2020. The wider economic and social development of Limerick City Region were promoted by the Mayor to the distinguished international audience from USA, EU, Australia and Asia.
- Digital Services attended a planning workshop on Advanced Manufacturing in Urban Settings, held at the Innovation Value Institute in Maynooth University in February. Advanced urban manufacturing can be viewed as the intersection between smart cities and data driven manufacturing. By leveraging digital technologies, regions (and urban settings) can support economic growth, leading transformation to a more sustainable growth model.
- Support for the National Broadband Plan continued throughout 2020, with the network build starting for 4,075 of the 21,131 properties in Limerick that fall within the State Intervention Area. In addition, a total of 14 rural Broadband Connection Points were approved for County Limerick by the Department of Rural and Community Development and will be rolled out in 2021, giving those communities access to a 500Mbps (Megabits Per Second) public broadband connection in the early stages of the delivery of the National Broadband Plan.
- In June, an Enterprise Architecture proposal developed by Digital Services for the integration of the National Service Catalogue in Local Authorities was approved by the Architecture and Standards Group of the Local Government Management Agency.
- In July, the Head of Digital Services made a presentation to the Limerick Joint Policing Committee (JPC) in order to review and seek approval to continue the operation of 268 CCTV cameras in Limerick City. This is part of the Smart Limerick's Safer Community Programme supporting the Limerick JPC Strategy 2016-2021.
- Work progressed in 2020 on the Council's expansion of its existing public Wi-Fi network in Limerick. In October, a supplier was appointed to deliver a network of 40 outdoor public Wi-Fi access points throughout the City and County under the WiFi4EU initiative, for which Limerick City and County Council has received funding from the EU and the Department of Rural and Community Development. Locations for the access points were identified, spread evenly across Limerick's four municipal districts, and network design exercises were completed in each town. Installation works will run January to May 2021, in line with national Covid restrictions. This deployment of additional public Wi-Fi services will be important both to attract tourists, investors and a talented workforce, as well as to minimise digital exclusion and complement the public services already provided in those locations.
- Also in October, the Head of Digital Services, Rob O'Driscoll, represented Limerick at the virtual fourth Annual Conference of the All-Ireland Smart Cities Forum. The theme of this year's Conference was "Building a Responsive and Resilient City in Post Crisis," with topics of Reimagining the City, Transforming Tourism and Disrupting Mobility.
- Digital Services expanded the Council's network of smart counters in the city in November when it commissioned the installation of a new Smartmicro Radar at the Riverpoint roundabout on Shannon Bridge. This radar captures useful anonymised data on vehicular, cyclist and pedestrian usage of the bridge, and is another example of work commissioned under the Digital Infrastructure programme of the Smart Limerick roadmap that will allow the Council to make factual, data-driven and informed decisions.

Council Digital Transformation:

- In March, an audit by Gas Networks Ireland (GNI) found that Limerick City and County Council was 100% compliant in terms of security, integrity, accuracy, and adequacy in its use of GNI GIS (Geographic Information System) data. This is a further reflection of the integrity of Limerick City and County Council and Digital Services in its treatment of sensitive data, made possible by using Open Source GIS systems PostGIS and QGIS (Quantum Geographic Information System).
- In June, a new and vastly improved public planning enquiry system for Limerick was deployed. Searching for planning applications is now easier, faster, and works across all modern browsers and on mobile, which will greatly improve the user experience of Limerick City and County Council online services. Costs for this service improvement were minimised by building upon Limerick City and County Council's existing Open Source technology stack of Linux, GeoServer, and PostGIS, providing excellent value for public funds. The new Planning Search can be found at <http://maps.limerick.ie/planningenquiry>.

- Also in June, Digital Services delivered a new enterprise mapping system, giving staff access to a greater range of data and more powerful GIS analytical tools, all from their browser. This advance built upon the strategic investments the Council had already made in Open Source GIS to date. Training was delivered in one-on-one virtual training sessions tailored to the particular staff member to facilitate staff who were remote working and ensure they could continue to work without interruption.
- In November, GIS completed the move of all its CAD (Computer Aided Design) licensing to the cloud, removing the need for staff to access their CAD licence via the Council network while working remotely. This further improved the user experience and remote working capabilities of all staff using GIS software.
- Rollout of the Council's new Sharepoint Online-based Electronic Document and Records Management System (EDRMS) continued throughout 2020. Part of the LITe (Limerick Information Transformation eProgramme) project which manages the Council's transition to and adoption of the new EDRMS, this new system enables more secure access to files and the automatic application of archival and retention policies to files, both of which help to satisfy the Council's GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) obligations. In addition the system will go some way towards eliminating paper-based records from the Council and the costs associated with printing, off-site storage and retrieval etc. The system has now been rolled out to approximately 594 users in 25 departments, and this rollout will continue in 2021.
- Some minor security and functionality updates were made to the Council's Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system as well as the CRM mobile app throughout 2020. A tender process is planned for 2021 to procure an enterprise-standard CRM platform for the Council.
- Throughout 2020, Digital Services worked on an extensive migration and upgrade of the business systems and backend databases under their support to new Windows Server 2016 and SQL Server 2017 infrastructure respectively, in order to increase the performance, security and resilience of those assets. This activity will continue in 2021.
- Also in April, Limerick's public consultation platform known as MyPoint was upgraded to a premium plan to allow an unlimited number of staff to use it to host consultations and surveys, both internally and externally. This additional 24/7 online channel of public engagement allows members of the public to engage with the Council through digital channels in the development of their communities by creating submissions online against consultations and surveys at a time and place that is convenient to them, and has been a vital tool during the pandemic to allow the public to continue to have their say on important matters while they could not attend consultation meetings or view documentation in person as they normally could. In 2020 the platform hosted 23 different consultations, including one for the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 Pre-Draft Consultation, and received a total of 311 submissions. In addition, three surveys were published and completed on topics such as the Limerick Laneways and the Westfield Wetlands, with a total of 334 submission received. Digital Services will continue to work with the Business Improvement and Communications and Marketing departments in 2021 to promote the internal and external use of the MyPoint platform.
- The datasets on the Council's Insight Limerick - Data as a Service platform continued to evolve and grow in 2020. In 2021 the focus of Digital Services in this area will move to determining what key datasets are required by the Council to understand and address some of its key issues, and to adapt Insight Limerick to automate the flow and presentation of these datasets in a new and improved user interface.

Limerick.ie - An Integrated Digital Experience Platform:

- The website achieved 99.99% uptime in 2020, while over 50 separate improvements were deployed
- In January, a number of website upgrades were deployed to Limerick.ie by Digital Services to support the launch of the new Limerick "Atlantic Edge, European Embrace" brand.
- From May to August, application forms for the Restart Grant and Restart Grant Plus schemes were published on Limerick.ie as part of the Council's efforts to implement these government schemes on behalf of the businesses operating in Limerick. These schemes were aimed at helping businesses with the costs associated with reopening and reemploying workers following the Covid-19 closures in the preceding months.

Online Services:

- In April, in response to the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on Limerick's business community, a Digital Retail Support project was initiated by Digital Services with a target of helping twenty local businesses to commence online trading by July 2020 as a support to the "Keep Limerick Open for Business" campaign. 36 SMEs with no previous online presence registered their interest in receiving assistance under this initiative. In addition, a register

- In October, a new GDPR-compliant cookie policy was added to Limerick.ie to make it compliant with recommendations from the Data Protection Commission. This policy explains to site visitors how and why cookies are being used on the website. They must give their consent for the use of any non-essential cookies, but are still allowed to access content even if they do not allow the use of certain cookies, and can withdraw their consent (switch off previously activated cookies) at any stage from any page on the site.
- In November, a procurement exercise was completed to secure a supplier for the provision of Web Design and Drupal Web Development for the next three years.
- The Smart Limerick team, through its Digital Leaders Network, has been disseminating this work done with the Limerick Digital Innovation Forum on imagining the futurist Smart Limerick City, and 2021 will see this work feed into the development of a Limerick Digital Strategy 2.0. The city has moved to a new level of digital maturity since the definition of its original Limerick Digital Strategy 2017-2020, and incorporation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals into the new strategy will ensure that Limerick's evolution as a smart city aligns fully with Ireland's national focus on sustainability.
- Also in 2020, the branding of the Smart City to promote the identity of Limerick as a Smart Sustainable City Region was developed through an URBACT project "Find Your Greatness", helping to define where and how this smart city branding sits in the context of Limerick's new overarching "Atlantic Edge, European Embrace" brand family. A cross-functional team of internal stakeholders worked to understand brand congruence and perception. This new model of communication with citizens of the smart city will build trust with the city, clarifying both its function and responsibilities, and improve public perception and organisational understanding while the implementation of the Smart City roadmap continues over the coming year.

My Limerick:

- Throughout 2020, a number of new features were released to the "My Limerick" portal on Limerick.ie. These features, requested by staff, citizens and elected members, have enabled more data to be displayed, improved the accuracy and reliability of this data, and enhanced the overall search capabilities. In addition, more meaningful email notifications and status updates will now be issued to citizens and elected members, all of which should greatly improve the experience for all users.
- The case synchronisation engine that moves case data between the Council's internal CRM and the "My Cases" service in the "My Limerick" was redesigned for improved performance and reliability.
- In October and November, two new permits services were brought online under "My Limerick", namely the Burning Agricultural Vegetation and Time In Need Grave permits. Digital Services will continue in its efforts to add more online permit and grant services to "My Limerick" in 2021.
- Also in November, an automatic SMS (Short Message Service) verification feature was deployed to allow new users to register for "My Limerick" and immediately avail of their chosen Council service in a single session.
- In 2020, Smart Limerick took, and will continue to take, a social science approach, leveraging its two-way communication model to design services that satisfy a relevant need in the city. This bi-directional data flow was insightful, as it mapped engagement pre-Covid, through initial lockdown and to subsequent changes. This allowed for real time monitoring of sentiment and tone across our social media channels, and the designing of responses to address current pain-points.
- Smart Limerick moderated the All Ireland Smart City Forum's "Smart Tourism" seminar in October, showcasing Ireland's approach to promoting tourism in a safe and socially-distanced manner. This referenced apps that allow remote visitation, virtual engagement, gamification, and 3D digital twins becoming part of how Ireland drives its touristic offering in the future. This virtual event will be replicated throughout 2021 as the Forum works collaboratively to position Ireland as a forward thinking digital influencer on the international stage, attracting more technologically inclined players and Investment.
- To ensure that no citizen of our smart city is digitally left behind or excluded, Smart Limerick, through the work of the Digital Inclusion working group formed under its Digital Leaders Network, co-funded research in 2020 into the topic of Digital Inclusion. This novel research considered the elements that lend themselves to exclusion in what is becoming an increasingly digital world. When considered in

Smart Limerick

- In 2020 the Smart Limerick team continued to support the strategic development of technology-driven innovation in Limerick. A series of design thinking workshops were run via the Limerick Digital Innovation Forum across six thematic pillars, bringing together industry specialists, technology experts and senior Council staff to "vision" the Limerick of the future. This evolved into the proposal of projects that meet the ideology of the Smart City, to add value across multiple stakeholder groups, and allowed for sharing information, understanding of contemporary issues, and the possibility of funding pilot initiatives to test solutions.

isolation these elements gave a certain level of insight, but this research went deeper, exploring the outcomes when the effect of one element is compounded by one of more other elements. Initial research interviews took a top down approach, focusing on representative bodies across the city and county. A second phase of research planned for 2021 will go deeper to grass roots level, speaking directly with those individual participants the initial research noted as having the potential to be significantly impacted with the ramifications of a digital divide.

- In February, the Public Sector Innovation Forum, supported by Smart Limerick, held an innovation course in Limerick’s Council offices. The material covered focused on citizen-centric innovation in the public sector. This collaboration led to two projects being proposed for the Public Sector Innovation fund later in the year.



Members of the Solidar Study visit enjoying the warm hospitality of St. Mary’s Men’s Shed.

EU PROJECTS OFFICE

2020 was the second full operational year of the EU Projects Office. The impact of Covid 19 on EU Projects in 2020 was mixed. On the negative side our ability to attend international project meetings, or to host international visitors came to standstill in March. Our last such meeting, on the 10th of March was hosting a Solidar Study visit, here to learn about community education as part of an Erasmus Plus project. However, the mass movement to online meeting platforms has meant greater participation at workshops as audiences are no longer limited by geography, and by traveling less our carbon footprint is certainly lower than 2019.

• **+CityxChange:** There have been a number of significant development in the H2020 (Horizon 2020) +CityxChange project this year. We brought on board a new car sharing partner in the project, GoCar, who have brought a renewed sense of ambition to eMobility (Electro Mobility)

and eMaaS (Electric Mobility as a Service) in Limerick. IES (Integrated Environmental Solutions) have successfully completed the Limerick Integrated Modelling and Decision Support Tool, while ARUP mitigated the Covid-19 impact on the inclusion of the Bold City vision and the UN Sustainable Development Goals in the Draft City and County Development Plan by deploying a Virtual Room to enhance online consultation.

The second City Engage Week was run online with nine events taking place between the 14 and 18 September, while Limerick City and County Council led group submissions to the public consultation on the Irish Renewable Energy Support Scheme, with two of our proposals taken on board. MPower has completed the installation of their Smart Link Units in all five Positive Energy Block buildings and are working with ESB Networks on mapping out the grid in the District. GKineetic have carried out substantial surveys of the river, and commissioned a hydrology study, which indicates good power generation potential for the chosen site at Thomond Weir. They have also developed a two-phase deployment plan for turbines in the river. As we enter year three of the project, there are many milestones still to be achieved, made even more pressing by shortened timescales. However we are also witnessing an increase in interest from external partners, which may indicate what will be the ultimate success of +CityxChange, a new way of thinking about how we manage Energy in Limerick, a Community way.



Representatives from the cities of Perugia (IT), Braganca (PT), Candelaria (ES), Wroclaw (PL), Budafok (HU), Voru (EE), and Alba Iulia (RO) during their visit to Limerick as part of the FIndYourGreatness Project.

• **Find Your Greatness:**

In February, we were lucky enough to be able to host the last face-to-face meeting possible to date in this project, and Limerick made it a meeting to remember. We were joined from the Urbact Secretariat in Paris by Nuala Morgan, Head of Unit for Capitalisation and Communication, and over two days we planned out the meeting schedules, topics, and future actions for the project. It also happened to be the run up to the general election, and as luck would have it An Taoiseach was present in the same restaurant as the group dinner, and at the end of the night he kindly came over to introduce himself to the group. It was an experience that will be talked about until the end of the project. Since then there have been a number of online

transnational meetings. We have formed the Urbact Local Group and have co-created a roadmap to deliver the first ever Smart City Brand Strategy by the end of 2022.

• **Coordination:** We started 2020 attending a January project review meeting in Brussels. While there, we met with staff from several MEP's offices to update them on ongoing European Projects as well as informing them about the European Expo 2020. We also met with the Irish Regions European Office where we discussed possibilities for cooperating in the framework of the Week of European Regions and Cities 2020 with the view of having a heightened presence for Limerick and the Mid-West there. In October, this happened, with two workshops:

1. A Workshop co-organised with the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission on "How to implement and monitor the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)"
2. A Workshop co-organised with the Irish Regions European Office on "Green Cities by Co-Design," where Limerick was represented by the Chief Executive.

Coordination meetings continued every two months as scheduled between all EU Projects. This provided us with added resilience when it came to processing extensions, re-budgeting exercises, and delays to start dates. Through shared experiences, the problems were halved. Part of our coordination activities involved liaising with the European Expo Team whose excellent work kept the flag, or rather all 27 flags, flying in Limerick during Covid. We will endeavour to keep the lights on for their return in 2022.

PROJECT APPLICATIONS:

This year we were a part of six H2020 applications totalling a potential €1.3m for Limerick City and County Council, of which two are still being reviewed by the Commission, two surpassed the threshold (one of which is on the reserve list for funding), and two did not meet the threshold. We have also submitted an Expression of Interest to the Climate Action Fund for a €3m project related to the hydrokinetic turbines in +CityxChange. The two projects currently under review are:

• **Horizon 2020 - TENURE:** If successful, this project will develop a new collaborative framework between local and regional authorities to foster innovative public energy governance leading the transition towards sustainable, carbon neutral and liveable urban areas. Since Local Energy Planning represents a key enabling tool for supporting energy transition and clean growth, shared responsibilities and collaborative frameworks among the different actors need to be fostered and supported by effective and inclusive public governances capable of driving the changes towards a more sustainable and inclusive society. Such cooperation activities and capacity building programs will in turn enable innovation and

replication frameworks among city networks, creating a solid base for achieving the sustainable development goals envisaged.

• **Horizon 2020 - SARGON:** (Smart manAgement of Retrofit for enerGy efficient multi-resOurces buildings) Buildings account for around 40% of the total energy consumption across Europe, making building stock responsible for 36% of the total EU CO2 (Carbon Dioxide) emissions, energy consumption in the building sector in OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) countries has continually increased since the 1960s. To tackle this the SARGON project, if successful, will see the instillation of smart sensors and energy monitors in selected Limerick City and County Council buildings to improve our energy efficiency as an organisation. We are partners with the Limerick based Lightsource Labs as part of this proposal.

Of particular note:

• **RE-MIND:** Congratulations to Urban and Rural Community Development, who through their exceptional work on the Place-EE Interreg project, were invited to be part of a four month Covid response project coordinated by Ulster University called RE-MIND. This project is looking at the impact from COVID-19 Isolation on Mental Health in Northern Periphery and Arctic Regions, and is reviewing public health initiatives across the region for evidence of good practice and respective monitoring systems to systematically identify practices.

We will continue in 2021 to seek further funding and EU projects aligned to the strategic objectives of the Council, to continue to expand our EU network of partners, cities and regions and to raise the international profile of Limerick as a major city region in EU and beyond. In particular, we aim to bring all EU projects and people with a strong European interest in Limerick closer together, so that when the times comes to hug again, we can give a true Limerick European Embrace.

THE HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT (HAP) SHARED SERVICES CENTRE

Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) operates the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Shared Services Centre (SSC) on behalf of 31 local authorities and the Dublin Regional Homeless Executive (DRHE). This national customer contact and financial transactional Shared Service for HAP was awarded to LCCC in 2016 following a tendering process. The HAP Shared Service Centre forms part of the National and Regional Shared Services Directorate within Limerick City and County Council and is supported by Council services including Human Resources, Information Communication Technology, Finance and other support services of the Council. Total annual expenditure on HAP was €604m in 2020.

The aim of the HAP SSC is to provide greater financial and operational efficiencies to its local authority clients through centralised service delivery; to provide

best practice customer service through an ongoing commitment to investment in new SSC management technologies; and, to be a best practice data management and analytics hub for HAP, contributing to better policy, strategy and operations for HAP SSC and its stakeholders.

HAP has been identified as a key part of the national strategy to provide a more integrated system of housing supports and is the largest non-capital programme in the Government's Rebuilding Ireland: Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness and it:

- Allows all social housing supports to be accessed through the local authority; and
- Allows recipients to take up full-time employment and retain their housing support.

The principal financial transactions carried out by HAP SSC are:

- As the national customer contact centre for HAP, daily liaison with HAP landlords and tenants, and with local authority clients
- Set-up of HAP tenancies, in 2020 a total of 15,885 tenancies were completed
- Payment of monthly landlord rent which in December 2020 was in excess of €52 million per month
- Charge of tenant differential rent for all tenancies which is in excess of €2.9 million per week
- Management of the debt collection process (95-99% collection rate monthly)
- Over 70,000 customer calls handled by the debt collection department
- Monthly recoupment from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)
- Monitoring, reviewing and maintenance of HAP tenancies with over 55,000 amendments completed in 2020
- Tax clearance checking of landlords
- Data analytics for stakeholders including local authorities and government departments
- At the end of 2020 over 86,982 tenancies have been set up since the inception of the scheme
- 59,821 active HAP tenancies were managed by the HAPSSC as of 31 December 2020

SOUTHERN AND REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT

Southern Region Waste Management Plan 2015-2021

The Southern Waste Region comprises ten local authorities: Carlow, Clare, Cork City, Cork County, Limerick City and County, Kerry, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Waterford City and County and Wexford. The Southern Waste Region is one of three waste regions in the country. The other Waste Regions are the Eastern Midlands Region (EMR) and Connaught Ulster Region (CUR).

Limerick City and County Council and Tipperary County Council are the lead authorities for the Southern Waste Region. They are responsible for the co-ordination, implementation and monitoring of the Southern Region Waste Management Plan 2015 – 2021. The Plan is the framework for the prevention and management of wastes in a safe and sustainable manner.

Limerick City and County Council hosts the Southern Region Waste Management Office (SRWMO), which is based in Lissanalta House and is a section of Limerick's National and Regional Shared Services Directorate. Significant progress has been made with regard to the three headline targets in the plan namely:

- Prevention of Waste Arisings
- The reduction of Waste to Landfill
- Increasing the Municipal Recycling Rate

My Waste.ie

A number of national initiatives were progressed during 2020 including further upgrades to the mywaste platforms to provide updated advice, information and tips on managing waste to the citizens with extra information provided during the Pandemic. An upbeat campaign encouraging the good waste management at home and tips for preventing waste over the Christmas season was also ran. These projects were funded by Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC).

Covid-19 Impacts

A key decision by the DECC was to establish a Covid -19 High Level Advisory Group for waste and the Dept designated the Regional Waste Management Planning Offices (RWMPOs) as the sectoral lead. The RWMPOs worked with the CCMA (County and City Management Association) who led the Local Authority Business Continuity Group. The RWMPOS developed a risk based monitoring and early warning system for the sector and initially produced weekly reports and then reduced the frequency as restrictions lifted. This required the co-operation of a wide range of waste sector stakeholders including Government and regulatory bodies, representative associations, industry operators and observers and as a result waste collection and processing continued for all householders.

Illegal activities including littering continued during the pandemic and RWMPOS ran a national awareness campaign discouraging illegal activities and highlighting the continuity of service as all Civic Amenity site in Limerick remained open.

Civic Amenity Site Review

A Civic Amenity Site Review report was published in 2020 which recommends creating a consolidated, co-ordinated, integrated public waste infrastructure network, that responds sustainably to consumer needs and policy challenges and the Circular Economy.

Historic landfill

Progress on the road map for historic landfill has been achieved, investigations and remediation were funded by DECC and €1.65M was spent in 2020. Targets were met despite the impact of restriction on site works.

Waste Capacity Monitoring

The SRWMO published a quarterly waste capacity report during the year and was instrumental in the development of a National Waste Contingency strategy which is critical to the management of residual waste nationally. Municipal residual waste capacity was managed adequately in 2020 as waste arisings reduced due to impact of Covid-19 restrictions on commercial activity. There is still no residual waste treatment options in the Southern Region, all waste is transported to facilities outside the Region for disposal or recovery and there is continued reliance on export for this stream.

Construction and Demolition Waste

The Regions have produced a capacity report on construction and demolition waste which recommends including circular economy objectives in City and County Development Plans. It also recommends conditioning of planning permissions, capacity monitoring and investigation of alternatives.

The SRWMO has also commenced working with Limerick 2030 and its partners to introduce circular economy thinking and reuse ideas to the Opera Project with the intention of this being an exemplar project for national learning.

Virtual Road Show

A Regional virtual road show was also prepared for every local authority in this region and included highlighting their own facilities. Social posts were prepared and 9 pieces of unique videos were provided to each Local Authority which included areas such as textile management, greener cleaning/greener gardening and food waste management.

Reuse Month

The Objectives of reuse month are to raise awareness about the benefits of reusing and repairing everyday items, to prevent waste by sharing reuse and repair skills and to extend supply chains and reach a new audience. This was done through workshops, information videos and through social media posts.

The upcycle challenge competition as part of Reuse month was very successful with over 296 entries and the Southern Region Winner of Upcycle Challenge was Keel-Castlemain Men's Shed.





SUPPORT SERVICES DIRECTORATE

SUPPORT SERVICES DIRECTORATE

CORPORATE SERVICES, GOVERNANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services Department provides a wide range of support services to the Mayor, Councillors, staff and management of Limerick City and County Council. In this regard, a primary role of the Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services Department is Meetings Administration for Meetings of Limerick City and County Council, the Metropolitan District, the Joint Policing Committee and Local Electoral Area Briefings. The Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services Department also deals with Data Protection, Archives, Health and Safety, Facilities Management, Procurement, Customer Services, the Register of Electors and Corporate Governance. It also provides support to the Mayor's Office and manages Twinning/Sister City Relationships, Civic and Mayoral Receptions, the Corporate Plan, the Annual Service Delivery Plan, the Irish Language Scheme, Child Safeguarding Policy and a wide variety of ancillary services relating to Council business.

CIVIC RECEPTIONS

A Civic Reception was held on 28 February in recognition of Sr. Phyllis Donnellon and Celia Holman Lee's contribution to Limerick. Sr. Phyllis Donnellon was recognised for her many years of commitment as a Little Company of Mary Sister in caring for the sick and their families and her ongoing support in providing person focused care throughout the Mid-West. Celia Holman Lee was recognised for her contribution to the Irish Fashion Industry for over five decades, and as the founder of Ireland's longest running modelling agency based in her beloved Limerick.

SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING - COLBERT STATION

Signing of Memorandum of Understanding by The Land Development Agency in conjunction with Limerick City and County Council, C oras Iompair  ireann (CIE) and the Health Service Executive (HSE), for the development of the new Colbert Station district of Limerick City took place on 10 January. The development will explore how this strategic land bank, in excess of fifty hectares under state ownership, will be re-imagined and redeveloped to create a new 21st Century urban neighbourhood at Limerick's city centre train and bus station, Colbert Station.

MAYORAL RECEPTIONS

The following Mayoral receptions were held in 2020:

- Ilen Project, in recognition of their achievement on river and sea which have succeeded in finding so powerful a resonance in our City and County.
- Limerick Golf Club, in recognition of the achievement by the Men's and Ladies Teams on winning five Munster and three All Ireland Championships in 2019.
- Ann Boland, in recognition of Ann's efforts and commitment in raising public awareness and much needed funds for the provision of vital lifesaving equipment – defibrillators.
- Pat Lysaght, in recognition and appreciation of Pat's contribution to environmental awareness of Limerick's waterways and for his love of flora and fauna in our rivers.
- Helen O'Donnell, in recognition of Helen's commitment to making Limerick a really great place to live, work and enjoy, and for her contribution to Limerick, as a volunteer working with others, on Tidy Towns and Team Limerick Clean-Up, and as a spokesperson for the business community.
- Publication of new Limerick Hurling book '20/20 Vision – Hurling and Limerick.
- Jerry Cronin, in gratitude and recognition of his tremendous achievements and contribution to the development of soccer in Newcastle West over many years.
- Geiptine Singers, in recognition of their achievement in bringing beautiful singing to local, national and international venues, concerts and churches.
- Michael Mulcair, in appreciation of his commitment to the sporting fabric of Askeaton over many decades, being a founder member of Askeaton AFC in 1953 and Askeaton Swimming Club in 1959.
- The Creative Show in recognition of creating an environment, through the performing arts, of acceptance and inclusion for artists with mixed abilities.
- Jack O'Sullivan, in honour of his valued contributions to Parish, Sporting and School Life in Monaleen Community.
- Dave Mahedy, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to sports and recreation in University of Limerick and Limerick, both as a mentor and a leader for over 35 years.

- Pat Kearney, in recognition of his commitment to the development and growth of business and residential projects and the constant support of many worthy charities in Limerick city and county over 50 years.
- Dr. Angela Collins O'Mahony, Founder of Collins Steeplejacks in 1968 making her Ireland's only female steeplejack and founder of other companies for which she was awarded Businesswoman of the Year, Bowmaker Award for Irish Industry and was conferred with an Honorary Doctorate for her commitment to serving the needs of rural Ireland in terms of employment, manufacture, tourism and services.
- Noel O'Dwyer, in recognition of his Irish International hockey career from 1951-1963. His tally of 42 international caps for Ireland set a new record at the time.
- Marie Bartlett, in recognition of her International hockey career between 1969 – 1982.
- Lillian Moran Sullivan, in recognition of her involvement in Irish Ladies Hockey, past National President and past National Chairperson of the Alzheimer Society of Ireland.
- Marie Crawford, in recognition of her International hockey career 1979-1984.
- Billy Ahern, in appreciation for his decades of voluntary work in the promotion, preservation and fostering of Gaelic culture and especially for his devotion to the great work of the GAA in Abbeyfeale, Limerick County Board and Munster Council GAA.
- Tom Madigan, in recognition of being one of the Founders of Limerick Ladies Gaelic Football and in recognition of his tremendous contribution to Shanagolden Community Council and St. Senans G.A.A. Club.
- John Quane, in recognition of his contribution to both Club and County Football as a player and coach over a number of years.
- Eamonn Cregan, in recognition of his many sporting achievements and contribution to the Gaelic Athletic Association as a player, coach/manager and mentor over many decades and also to his association with Mary Immaculate College during which he was in collaboration with the late Noreen Lynch.
- Kilcornan Gaelic Football Marathon Teams, in recognition of the longest marathon playing gaelic football (seven a side) – 60 hours 5 minutes, achieved by Kilcornan GAA Club in Kilcornan, Co. Limerick, from 23rd to 25th May, 1986. This world record was monitored and ratified for entry in The Guinness Book of Records.

DELEGATIONS THAT TRAVELLED ABROAD

Following the attendance of the Limerick delegation with +CityxChange EU Project at the Barcelona Smart Cities Expo World Congress 2019 an invitation was received by the Mayor from the Center for Sustainable Development and Global Competitiveness at Stanford University to give a keynote address at the International Towns Forum – Sustainable Development of Towns, on 18 January, 2020. The Mayor of the City and County, Councillor Michael Sheahan, accompanied by The Head of Digital Strategy, Limerick City and County Council, attended the Forum which was held on the Stanford University Campus in the San Francisco Bay Area of California, USA. The forum aimed to facilitate discussion and international co-operation on sustainable urbanization approaches among a variety of diverse stakeholders. Through the forum, Limerick was able to work collaboratively with leading international cities and towns from USA, Asia, Australia and Europe that share the same ambition and desire on several perspectives of sustainable development for urban areas and share innovative ideas to improve understanding of urban environments and urbanization process worldwide. In his keynote address Mayor Sheahan presented and shared insights from the efforts in Limerick to innovate and create new solutions for energy generation and consumption for the sustainable development of Limerick as part of the +CityxChange EU project.

The Mayor of the City and County, Councillor Michael Sheahan, led a delegation to New York from 11 February to 15 February for the launch of the new Brand of Limerick in the Irish Consulate, New York, on 13 February.

On 12 February, he attended a luncheon meeting with officials from the Bloomberg Philanthropy to discuss the initiation of a joint project with them. Separately, the other Council Members of the delegation visited the Bank of Ireland Innovation Lab in Midtown, Manhattan and met with BOI executives. The Innovation Lab is a business accelerator facility where Irish firms who wish to expand into the US markets can utilize the facilities and services to establish a foothold in the US market.

On 13 February, the delegation met with the USA Team of Tourism Ireland in the New York offices on Park Avenue. The purpose of this meeting was to brief them on the Limerick Brand. It was agreed that the New York office of Tourism Ireland would 'adopt' Limerick for 2020 to receive focused attention in tourism promotion.

Mayor Sheahan hosted a lunch for the family representatives of Ms. Ellen O'Grady to acknowledge her pioneering police and community work in New York City at the turn of the last century. Ms. O'Grady was born in Henry Street, Limerick in 1863 and emigrated to the USA in 1880. She was appointed to the Deputy Police Commissioner post in the New York Police Department in 1918, the first woman to be appointed to such a role in the United States. The delegation attended an Irish Department of Foreign Affairs reception at the Irish Consulate hosted by the Consul General Mr. Ciarán Madden. The Consulate

reception afforded the Limerick delegation to launch Brand Limerick in the US. The event was attended by 85 members of the Limerick diaspora in the New York area with attendees from the social, political, business, educational, sporting and cultural life of the city and region. The families of Ms. Ellen O'Grady and a delegation from New Brunswick, which has a Sister City relationship with Limerick, also attended.

Councillor James Collins, Cathaoirleach of Metropolitan District of Limerick, accompanied by Director of Service, travelled to Queens County, New York 5 – 9 March 2020 to attend the Annual Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade at Rockaway, Queens, New York. While there, they met with Mr. Patrick Benn, Principal, Glenn Construction, to receive an update on progress in establishing a modular housing factory at Galvone Industrial Estate, Limerick. They also attended mass for peace and justice at St. Francis de Sales Church, Rockaway and a breakfast networking event at Knights of Columbus Hill, Rockaway where they had an opportunity to brief those present and highlight Limerick's story in terms of investment and tourism. They also had the opportunity to meet with members of the Irish American Community.

Councillor Collins addressed the crowd at the Parade from the viewing stand and had the opportunity to meet Mr. Seán Lane, Chairman of the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade and Mr. Hilary Beirne, Chairman, St. Patrick's Day Foundation, New York and Chief Administrator of NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade. That evening he attended an Awards Ceremony in Knights of Columbus Hall where a presentation of trophies and awards were presented to honorees and winners. He received a presentation to mark Limerick's attendance at the Parade and associated events.

The Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Adam Teskey, led a delegation to represent Limerick and participate at the Tybee Island Parade, Savannah, Georgia, USA from 10 – 15 March. The visit represented a great opportunity to create new economic, social and cultural links between Savannah and Limerick. Savannah has very rich Irish Heritage and ancestry dating back to the mid-18th Century once colonisation commenced there. Around the 1840's the influx increased dramatically as a large employment boom in Savannah attracted the Irish before and after the Potato Famine. When Boston and New York were closing their doors to the Irish with their signs that "No Irish need apply", Savannah welcomed the Irish in their droves. Accordingly, recent census information states that 1 in 4 of Savannah's population claim to have Irish origin.

Savannah has many similarities with Limerick as it has similar population size and is built on an Estuary linking the Savannah River to the Atlantic Ocean. In addition, it has built a tourism industry out of its former waterfront industries, which mirrors Limerick's potential under its new status as a Failte Ireland appointed Gateway to the Wild Atlantic Region. It also represents an exemplar on how Limerick can optimise the potential of the current Tourism and new Brand Strategies.

Several meetings were arranged with key players in Savannah to create the linkages and forge new contacts for our mutual benefit in the future.

JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

Four Joint Policing Committee Meetings were held in 2020.

The following matters were discussed at such meetings:

- Updates from Chief Superintendent
- Presentation on the role of The Community Policing Co-Ordinator
- Presentation by Divisional Drugs Unit
- Presentation by Housing Service Officer, on Community Sustainment/Estate Management
- Overview of Crime Statistics from Senior Intelligence Analyst
- Update on Garda Operating Model
- Limerick Joint Policing Committee Annual Report 2019
- Consultation on CCTV in accordance with Section 38 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005
- Covid 19 Community Response Centre Limerick Division
- Issues in relation to scramblers, quads and electric scooters
- Presentation on Policing Plan, University of Limerick Academic Year 2020/2021
- Presentation by Crime Prevention Officer, Limerick Division, Property Marking Ireland, seeking funding for a Telesis Property Marking Machine for Limerick

REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The Register of Electors is updated and produced annually and comprises a list of all persons over the age of 18 years resident in Limerick City and County who are entitled to vote in Elections to the Dáil, the European Parliament, Presidential Elections, Local Elections and Referendums. The date for publication of the Live Register of Electors is 1 February annually and this Register comes into effect on 15 February each year.

In 2020, there were two Dáil Constituencies in Limerick. The constituencies and number of Dáil Seats in each were as follows:

- Limerick City four Seats
- Limerick County three Seats

There were 142,904 Presidential Electors and 150,468 Local Government Electors on the 2020/2021 Live Register of Electors which, was published on 1 February. The Local Government Electorate is broken down as follows between the six Local Electoral Areas:

Adare-Rathkeale	23,637
Cappamore-Kilmallock	28,284
Limerick City East	26,052
Limerick City North	26,414
Limerick City West	23,355
Newcastle West	22,726

A total of 6,045 electors were added to the Supplement to Registers of Electors 2019/2020 for the General Election which took place on 8 February.

HEALTH AND SAFETY TRAINING UNIT

Corporate Services has a dedicated Health and Safety Training team who are responsible for drafting and implementing a comprehensive Health and Safety training programme. Training requirements are based on the needs identified through the Performance Management Development System (PMDS) and prioritisation was given to Health and Safety Training required for specific roles. In order to ensure effectiveness and value for money, training was mainly delivered utilising in-house facilities with internal trainers where possible, but primarily with external trainers, including trainers who won tenders through the Regional Training Centre, Roscrea. Obviously, like all sections of Limerick City and County Council, the Covid-19 Pandemic massively affected the Health and Safety Units training plans for the year and the reduction in numbers compared to 2019 is a reflection of this.

See below listing of training carried out by the Health and Safety Training unit during 2020:

Course Name	No. Staff Trained
Asbestos Awareness/Handling	14
Chainsaw Training New	12
Chainsaw Refresher training	8
CSCS Locating Underground Services	8
CSCS SLG	4
CSCS SLG Information update	29
Driver CPC 1	70
Driver CPC 2	4
Driver CPC 3	4
Driver CPC 4	5
Driver CPC 5	8
First Aid Response	17
First Aid Refresher	11
Forklift Training	12
HIAB Crane Operations	4
Manual Handling	123
Safe Pass	103
Winter Service Operators	14
Winter Service Operators Refresher	12
Total	462

NATIONAL DAY OF COMMEMORATION

The Council hosted a Day of Commemoration Ceremony on 12 July to honour all Irish men and women who died in past wars or on service with the United Nations. Due to Covid 19 restrictions, a small ceremony was held at Merchant's Quay. This was the ninth year in which the ceremony was held by Limerick City and County Council. The 12th Infantry Battalion, Sarsfield Barracks performed the Guard of Honour and rendered honours when the National Flag was hoisted to full mast. The music for the event was provided by Don Phelan and Michael O'Connell.

LOCAL ELECTORAL AREA BRIEFINGS FOR METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

Local Electoral Area Briefings to discuss operational issues relating to Limerick City East, North and West are usually held on the first Tuesday of every month except for the month of August. A total of 30 Briefings were held in 2020.



CHRISTMAS PRAYER SERVICE

An Online Christmas Prayer Service was held in St. Mary's Cathedral on 18 December, at which councillors and staff participated.

ANNUAL SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN

Section 134 (a) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, requires the Chief Executive to prepare a Service Delivery Plan annually which identifies the principal services to be provided by the Council to the public following the adoption of its annual budget. The Service Delivery Plan sets out the work programme for each Directorate based on the adopted budget.

The Elected Members at their January Council Meeting adopted Limerick City and County Council's Annual Service Delivery Plan 2020. The review of the 2019 Annual Service Delivery Plan was circulated to Members as part of the 2020 Annual Service Delivery Plan.

IRISH LANGUAGE SCHEME (2019 – 2022)

The Official Languages Act 2003 provides for the preparation by public bodies of a language scheme detailing the services, which they will provide through the medium of Irish, through the medium of English, and through the medium of Irish and English and the measures to be adopted to ensure that any service not currently provided by the body through the medium of the Irish language will be so provided within an agreed timeframe.

Limerick City and County Council adopted its second Irish Language Scheme for 2019 – 2022 on 1 February 2019 and is committed to delivering on all aspects of its Irish Language Scheme. Limerick City and County Council is guided by the principle that the provision of Irish Language services should be based on a range of factors, including the following:

- The importance of a proactive approach to the provision of services in the Irish language, the level of demand for such services:
- The resources, including human and financial resources, and the capacity of the Council to develop or access the necessary language capability to provide these services.

Limerick City and County Council established a cross departmental Irish Language Working Group who convened on a number of occasions in 2020 to further the Council's Irish Language Scheme commitments.

ENTERTAINMENT AND ASSOCIATED EXPENSES

Expenditure on entertainment and associated expenses included costs associated with receptions, scrolls for recipients at receptions and catering costs associated with same.

CORPORATE PLAN ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Section 134 (11) of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended requires the preparation of an Annual Progress Report in respect of the Council's Corporate Plan, and for such report to be submitted to the Elected Members.

See attached appendix for report on review of the Corporate Plan.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

During 2020, the Council had to react to unforeseen events such as the Covid-19 global pandemic, which demonstrated the professionalism, commitment and determination of staff to manage the impact of these events. Limerick City and County Council delivered all of its key services throughout 2020, and led the community effort to deal with the challenges posed by the virus.

The pandemic placed additional demands on the Council in 2020 for works such as the Limerick City Mobility Plan, and in the provision of services generally. The Council's COVID-19 Community Response team worked around the clock, in association with An Garda Síochána, multiple sporting, volunteer and religious groups, to put in place a co-ordinated response to provide assistance to the vulnerable and elderly across Limerick during 2020.



Dr. Pat Daly, Chief Executive meeting with staff members who worked on re-assignments with HSE.

The mobility plan for Limerick City and the 'COVID-19 Community Response' team demonstrated the responsiveness that the local authority can provide when an emergency takes grip of the county. The crisis highlighted the true nature of public service in communities across Limerick. Faced with the challenge of social distancing, and with many of our staff working from home, we had to deliver support and bring novel solutions to complex problems posed by the new realities of lockdown.

IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY GROUP FOR A DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYOR FOR LIMERICK

The Implementation Advisory Group (IAG) for the Directly Elected Mayor was established in December 2019 to advise government on how to shape the role of directly elected mayor for Limerick. In 2020, the IAG met as follows:

- 19 February
- 11 March
- 16 June
- 29 June
- 14 July
- 27 July
- 30 July
- 20 August
- 3 September
- 15 September
- 15 October

In October, Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with responsibility for Local Government and Planning, Mr. Peter Burke, T.D., received the final report of the Implementation Advisory Group into the establishment of the role of Directly Elected Mayor with executive functions for Limerick City and County.

The report set out an ambitious and dynamic vision for Limerick under a Directly Elected Mayor, and identifies the key building blocks to develop a new structure and governance model for Limerick City and County Council. In arriving at its report, the Group, which is representative of the main stakeholders in Limerick, consulted widely with the business community, academic institutions, public service providers, and community and political representatives in Limerick. The Group also commissioned a public consultation exercise, undertaken by the University of Limerick, which sought to “start a conversation” on the potential of a Directly Elected Mayor for Limerick. The consultation was unique in that, due to COVID-19, it was a fully interactive, real-time consultation carried out on a wholly digital platform.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Limerick City and County Council recognises its obligation to protect as far as reasonably practicable the safety health and welfare of all employees and anyone who may be affected by our work activities.

The Health and Safety Department monitors and coordinates the Council’s Safety Management System in order to eliminate or reduce, as far as reasonably practicable, the risks to employees, contractors, visitors and members of the public. It is also committed to continual improvement of the safety management system in an effort to ensure legal compliance and a positive safety culture.

ARCHIVES

Limerick Archives provides for the preservation of and access to the archival records of Limerick City and County Council. The archives relate to the functions of Limerick City and County Council and include minute books, financial records and manager’s orders reflecting local administration. The collection also includes of predecessor bodies such as the Board of Guardian Minute Books and records donated from other bodies such as the De Vere Papers of Curraghchase and the Chamber of Commerce. Many of these collections have been digitised and are available on Limerick.ie

In 2020, the Sean Wall archive was donated to the archives by his family. As Sean Wall was a former chairman of Limerick County Council and was killed during the War of Independence this is a wonderful addition to the archives and cataloging and processing work was completed on the collection to allow for exhibition in 2021 as part of the Decade of Centenary Commemorations.

In 2019-2020 the archives and records management team as part of the LITe Programme rolled out SharePoint to 600 staff. LITe (Limerick Information Transformation e Programme) is creating a digital records management system to provide for good governance of digital records and is also providing an archive repository for the permanent preservation of Limerick City and County Council’s digital records.

DATA PROTECTION

The Council must ensure that it processes the personal data of its staff, customers, providers and any other individuals (referred to as data subjects) in compliance with the provisions of The Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679.

The Council has a Data Protection Officer in place who can be contacted by email at dataprotectionofficer@limerick.ie. The Role of the Council’s Data Protection Officer is set out in Article 39 of the GDPR as follows:

- To inform and advise the controller, the processor and the employees who carry out processing, of their obligations pursuant to the GDPR and data protection legislation.
- To monitor compliance with the GDPR, with other Union or Member State data protection provisions and with the policies of the controller or processor in relation to the protection of personal data, including the assignment of responsibilities, awareness-raising and training of staff involved in processing operations, and the related audits.
- To provide advice, where requested, as regards the data protection impact assessment and monitor its performance pursuant to Article 35 of the GDPR.
- To cooperate with the supervisory authority – The Data Protection Commission.
- To act as the contact point for the supervisory authority on issues relating to processing, including the prior consultation referred to in the data protection impact assessment process, and to consult, where appropriate, with regard to any other matter.
- The data protection officer in his or her role shall have due regard to the risk associated with processing operations, taking into account the nature, scope, context and purposes of processing.

The Data Protection Unit received 43 Data Subject Access Requests in 2020. This was a decrease of two requests from the previous year. Of these requests, 20 were granted/part granted, 19 refused, one withdrawn and three requests were live cases at year-end.

In the case of the 19 refusals above, the Council had no personal data in respect of nine of these requests, the applicant could not be linked to the data in nine cases and the remaining one case was refused as the documents requested had already been provided under the Freedom of Information Act.

The Data Protection Unit received 93 Third Party Data Access Requests in 2020. Of these, 89 requests were from An Garda Síochána of which 60 were granted/part granted, 28 were refused as the Council did not have the personal data requested and one request was ongoing at year-end.

Four requests were received from other Third Parties, one was granted and three were refused, as there was no legal basis to share the personal data requested.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Facilities manage the five Corporate Office Buildings in Limerick City (former City Hall Merchant's Quay, former County Hall Dooradoyle, Lissanalta House Offices, The Granary Building and Patrick Street offices).

A Corporate Buildings portfolio totaling approximately 32,000m² area for up to 800 staff comprising buildings of various ages and condition with some of the buildings protected structures.

As well as managing the Corporate Buildings, the Facilities Team provide advice on building maintenance and Covid-19 safety to the managers of all Council offices located throughout the County, including Area Offices, Fire Stations, Arts Buildings, and Libraries. The aim over time is to increase the Corporate Buildings Facilities Management portfolio to include all Council buildings.



The Facilities Team manage the everyday maintenance of the Corporate Office Buildings with the assistance of a Maintenance Contractor and in house Facilities staff who manage repairs, security, housekeeping and event management.

In addition, the team manage the delivery of essential building services upgrade works,

- Refurbished office fit outs
- Master planning building upgrades
- Scheduling and facilitating office moves
- Procurement and management of consultant design teams and contractors
- Management Multi Annual Building Maintenance Contract
- Managing Health and Safety, statutory servicing and maintenance of building plant
- Hosting civic events, council meetings, election counts

- Coordinating Facilities needs of tenants in our offices including Irish Water, General Motors and Failte Ireland
- Management of contract cleaning, waste disposal and reduction on energy usage

2020 PROJECTS

Covid-19 Building Safety

In 2020, in addition to the everyday duties, the Facilities Team had the new challenge of keeping offices Covid-19 safe for essential staff attending the offices to deliver services to our customers.

This included supply of gel dispensers and sanitising supplies to offices, enhanced contract cleaning regimes, occupancy limits set on office spaces, queuing systems for public counters and installation of Covid-19 signage throughout all our buildings.

Opera Site Decant

Facilities Management progressed the fit out of new offices in 2020 to facilitate the decanting of the Council Offices in Granary and Patrick Street as part of the Opera site redevelopment.



Office Fit Outs

We delivered various office fit outs during 2020 including a new office for Southern Regional Waste Management Office (SRWMO) in Lissanalta House.

New Staff Kitchen Lissanalta House

As part of the remodelling of the former unused canteen space in Lissanalta House to provide new offices for SRWMO, a new staff kitchen was fitted out for staff in the building.

New Water Refill Station, Merchant's Quay

As part of a countywide installation of new Water Refill Stations in Limerick, the Facilities Team facilitated the coordination and installation of the new water refill

station location outside the entrance to the Corporate Headquarters in Merchant's Quay for use by citizens and visitors to the area for water supply.

Christmas Lights Merchant's Quay Corporate Head Quarter

To match the new lighting along the riverfront, Facilities Management installed external lights to the entrance and garden pergolas to the Corporate Headquarters for Christmas. This has been a positive enhancement of the lighting around the building at night and was retained in place into 2021.

PROCUREMENT

Limerick City and County Council recognises its responsibility in adhering to Procurement Rules as set out in The European Unions' Public Procurement Directive 2014/24/EU. The Procurement Unit provides support, guidance and oversight in respect of procurement activities, monitors procurement compliance and measures compliance against total spend.

In 2020, the Council shows a 96% compliance rate against the annual spend. The Unit continually relays all procurement data, both national and local, to all staff and ensures that the principles of procurement are at the forefront when supplies, services and/or works are being acquired and also that value for money and quality of services are maintained.

CUSTOMER SERVICES

Throughout 2020, Customer Service provided support to our elected representatives, customers and staff. Covid-19 - resulted in a national lock down in March, and the department found itself at the forefront of dealing with the significant changes in how the Council interacts with its citizens.

The back office demands increased considerably due to the Council's public offices being either opened for reduced hours or fully closed to the public. This resulted in an increased volume of phone calls, emails, postal correspondence, CRM case creation, appointment requests and motor taxation queries. Staff co-operated fully with the transition to remote working and made huge efforts to ensure service interruptions were kept to an absolute minimum. Customer's visits to the office were managed in a manner that ensured the welfare and safety of all.

The call centre volumes increased from 150,000 to 151,200, email increased by 30% to 26,000 and Tweets increased by an additional 100% to 654.

It is estimated that 38,000 customers interacted at our counters in Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle to access the various services provided by the Council. 34,883 requests were logged on our Customer Relationship Management System with over 25% of the requests coming from our Elected Members, TDs and Senators.

The My Limerick portal on www.limerick.ie can be used by public representatives to log and track the cases. During 2020, a number of technical improvements were completed, to improve the functionality of the platform. Customer Services worked closely with the elected representatives to enhance the use of the My Limerick platform and improve the quality in which cases were recorded, managed and responded to. This year witnessed further strengthening of the Councillors Account Managers role, which provides for dedicated staff members to assist Elected Members in accessing all Council services. They provide key supports to optimize the promptness and quality of responses to representations received on behalf of Limerick's citizens.

Covid-19 Community Response Line: Customer Services undertook to support the delivery of this initiative in conjunction with the Urban and Rural Community Development Department and community volunteers throughout Limerick. This support line was introduced as a measure to assist those households that needed support for the collection and delivery of key essential needs such as food, fuel and medical prescriptions. Since July, 569 service requests have been completed by Customer Services under this initiative.

Major Weather events continue to arise in Limerick, Storms Ellen and Frances arrived in August. Customer Services is the first point of contact and provides a key role in assisting the Operations Department to manage the increased demand for service requests due to the adverse weather conditions. Service requests included fallen trees, housing maintenance and repairs to surface water issues.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS

It is the policy of Limerick City and County Council to give members of the public access to information held by the Authority in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2014. Further information and application forms are available on the Council's website <https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/your-council/freedom-of-information>

In 2020, Limerick City and County Council received 162 requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2014. The following is the breakdown of decisions made on these requests:

Open cases at 01/01/2020	14
Requests received 2020	162
Granted	32
Part Granted	68
Refused	51
Withdrawn	13
Transferred	3
Open cases at 31/12/2020	9

OMBUDSMAN REQUESTS

The Office of the Ombudsman was established under the Ombudsman Act 1980. The role of the Office is to investigate complaints about administrative actions, delays or inactions adversely affecting persons or bodies in their dealings with state bodies including Local Authorities.

In 2020, Limerick City and County Council dealt with 32 complaints that were made to the Ombudsman in relation to decisions/actions taken by the Council. Of these 32 complaints the following is the breakdown of the results of the investigations carried out by Office of the Ombudsman:

Cases closed	23
Decisions not yet determined	9

ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Limerick City and County Council comply with Access to Information on the Environment Regulations 2007 to 2014 whereby, subject to certain exceptions, information relating to the Environment must be made available on request. In 2020 Limerick City and County Council received seven requests. The following is the breakdown of decisions made:

Open cases at 01/01/2020	1
Requests received 2020	7
Granted	3
Part-granted	5
Open cases at 31/12/2020	0

RE-USE OF PUBLIC SECTOR INFORMATION

European Communities (Re-use of Public Sector Information) Regulations 2005 allows an individual or a legal entity to make a request to Public Bodies to release documents for re-use.

Limerick City and County Council received one request and this was granted.

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT

The Business Improvement Department are a small dynamic team who drive and support the Business Improvement approach in Limerick City and County Council. There are up to 15 projects ongoing within the organisation at any one time that use our 'Define, Measure, Analyse, Improve, Control' approach. The department provides several services including providing support to staff who have recognized an opportunity for improvement. We guide them through the approach, help them to gather data to make informed decisions, look for opportunities and outcomes and use tools like process mapping and cause and effect diagrams to tell the story of their improvement. As the Business Improvement Department evolves, more emphasis is placed on evidence and measurement to ensure decisions are well informed. Data is gathered on each project on the 'as is' position before we embark on any improvement to ensure we have a baseline to assess the impact of any improvement.

When Covid-19 hit our shores in early 2020, the Business Improvement team immediately sought to introduce an employee app 'Council Connect'. With over 600 staff members without access to email, the app provided us with the opportunity to give real time notifications to all staff on Covid 19 health and safety information, Human Resources policy information and employee wellbeing notifications. June saw the work of the Business Improvement Department on the app recognised by the internationally recognised Bloomberg Philanthropies in their newsletter 'Spark' which is sent to thousands of international subscribers.

Limerick City and County Council is the only local authority in Ireland to have all our capital projects managed through a cloud-based project management system Cora. Cora is a key deliverable of 'Project 18', which aims to embed a Project Management Framework into Limerick City and County Council. This system has been integrated with Agresso, our financial management system, meaning time, scope and money are now tracked across all projects. In 2020, we added additional functionality in Cora to allow for the digital approval of all job code set ups and budget adjustments. This removes the requirement for paper approvals, allows the approval to take place remotely through a workflow approval system and provides a digital audit record of a project from beginning to end. Reporting capabilities within the system were also extended in 2020 with a large suite of reporting options available to our management team ensuring transparency and good governance on all Capital projects.

In line with our commitment to citizen engagement, 2020 saw the council wide use of My Point, our online engagement portal <https://mypoint.limerick.ie/>. The portal allows our citizens to have their say on projects that are being developed by Limerick City and County Council and 2020 saw over 20 consultations and 5 surveys supported by Business Improvement through this portal.

The Business Improvement Department will continue to work with all departments to explore all possible engagement platforms to provide not only insight into what our citizens require but also to serve as a measure of our effectiveness.

The Department also continue to facilitate the 'Staff Liaison Network' a two-way communication platform for staff to discuss potential business improvements within their area. 2020 saw the addition of a Staff Liaison Network dedicated to non-desk based staff with six network meetings held throughout the year. The networks provide opportunities for staff to have their say on potential improvements, talk with colleagues about opportunities for change in their departments and provide feedback on draft projects.

Having a dedicated Business Improvement team shows Limerick City and County Council's absolute commitment to the provision of responsive, efficient and innovative services and we will continue to strive to deliver the highest possible quality of service to our citizens.



OUR APPROACH

SUPPORTING OUR PEOPLE BASED ON LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL'S CORE VALUES

HUMAN RESOURCES

Introduction

A motivated and committed workforce equipped to provide the optimum standards of service delivery is fundamental to the attainment of the strategic and operational goals of Limerick City and County Council. In 2020, the Human Resources Department continued to provide a wide range of supports to our most valuable resource – our staff.

Work/Life Balance Measures

A range of work/life balance measures were available to Council employees during 2020. These included Parental Leave, Carer's Leave, Work-Sharing, Shorter Working Year, and the option to avail of a Career Break. 303 employees availed of the various schemes/leave types in 2020.

COVID-19

The onset of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has had major impact globally. Within Limerick City and County Council, the Human Resources Department has provided assistance to staff through the following measures;

1. Facilitation of remote working
2. Development of a COVID-19 Policy and Procedure
3. Issue of Frequently Asked Questions documents in line with National Guidance
4. Development of forms to assist staff in availing of COVID related special leave

5. Provision of advice on Returning to Work
6. Development of an online COVID-19 Return to Work form, (in conjunction with ICT, BIU and Digital Strategy Departments)
7. Development, launch and use of the "Council Connect" the staff and councillor mobile communication app to disseminate information
8. Liaison with internal and external stakeholders to create a co-operative approach to working during the COVID-19 pandemic
9. Creation of a COVID-19 Consultation Group, comprising union lead worker representatives and senior management
10. Regular engagement with the Crisis Management Team

MYPAY SHARED SERVICES CENTRE - SUPERANNUATION AND PAYROLL

Since the Council's superannuation function was transferred to MyPay in August 2018, MyPay are now dealing with the majority of queries for superannuation with support from Superannuation Staff in the Council. The Payroll function also continues to be administered by MyPay with support from the Payroll Staff in the Council.

SUPERANNUATION

Following the unwinding of the pay cuts introduced under Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest (FEMPI) legislation, a large proportion of pensioners were due an increase in their pensions. Following an instruction from Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER)/MyPay, it was necessary to link these pensions to their respective former pay grades that would update the pensions automatically in the future. This project required a Superannuation Officer to carry out the work.

PAYROLL

The Payroll Department oversees the payment of salaries, wages and pensions to retired and existing members of staff. During 2020, the payroll unit implemented the pay increase introduced from 1 January, 2020 and 1 October 2020, respectively.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The Human Resources Department, and Limerick City and County Council as a whole, continued to foster a productive relationship with our colleagues in the unions throughout 2020. This engagement occurred through quarterly meetings of the Partnership forum and also through regular discussions with individual unions.

RECRUITMENT

With the emergence of Covid-19 in 2020, recruitment of new staff into the Council still continued. This involved adaptation and utilising of online platforms at times instead of the more traditional face to face interviews. There were 33 competitions held in 2020, with 19 of these online.

Large recruitment processes included those for Administrative Officer, Senior Staff Officer, and Driver Plant Operator B. Competitions also commenced for branch librarians and library assistants in 2020. Over 970 individual interviews were carried out for positions within the Council in 2020.

The Recruitment Section continues to contribute to the development of Limerick City and County Council's Workforce Planning process, ensuring that the Council is well placed to provide for the business needs of the organisation and the service needs of our citizens.

Our Recruitment Schedule, published at regular intervals, sets out our recruitment plan for the weeks and months ahead. For those preparing applications, Interview Preparation Videos and our Interview Preparation Booklet is freely available to everyone, on our Learning and Development Platform at <http://training.limerick.ie/>

LEARNING AND WELLBEING

Learning

The Learning and Wellbeing Unit, organised programmes of training and workshops to meet the needs of management and staff alike arising from requests received through the Performance Management and Development System (PMDS) and identified training needs of the organisation. All training was delivered online post Covid-19. Health and Safety Training is not included in the statistics below.

Essential Training/Corporate/Roscrea/Other - 64 courses held with 928 attendees.

An extensive Cyber security training programme was delivered over 20 sessions to approx 800 staff.

The IPA Certificate and Diploma in Local Government continue to be very much in demand with 35 staff completing the certificate course in 2020 and a further 15 undertaking the Diploma programme. Interest was strong in the continuous education option also, with 22 staff receiving financial support to pursue further studies.

Wellbeing

The wellbeing function has been significantly strengthened with dedicated staff resources to this area. Prior to Covid-19 the team held two Lifestyle Choice talks and two Understanding Grief talks during the January/February period. All events post Covid had to be delivered online and included eight Mindfulness workshops and two Mental Health for Managers Workshops.

In addition to actively promoting the EAP programme, the Wellbeing Team introduced a monthly wellbeing newsletter with information and links to additional national and local supports.

An extensive Flu vaccination was delivered by the team whereby all staff were afforded the opportunity to avail of the vaccine. Seven clinics were held during October/November period and 522 staff received the vaccine.

Other Supports/Services

- Specsavers vouchers: 74 issued
- Cycle to Work scheme: 47 applications
- Tax Saver Scheme: one application
- Four Workplace Partnership Meetings held
- 14 vaccination clinics held

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICT)

The ICT Section of Limerick City and County Council continued to support sections in achieving their objectives throughout 2020. In addition to the operational activities such as, monitoring security, maintaining infrastructure and systems, and providing user and desktop support throughout 2020, several major projects were undertaken.

Some of these projects undertaken during 2020 were :-

Remote Working

Outside of the day-to-day operations, ICT assigned a huge resource to facilitating new ways of working outside of the office due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some technologies we introduced for the first time, while others innovations included reconfiguring and reuse of existing technologies to facilitate flexible working for COVID-19.

These included :-

1. Connectivity to Network for Home Working (630 staff with facility to work from home).

- a. Extended capacity on Palo Alto Firewall Global Protect VPN.
- b. Created a New Citrix Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) environment to extend number of concurrent connections to 250.
- c. Configured Pool of VMware Horizon HTML access Thin-Client Desktops to facilitate using VMware View desktops through a WEB Browser. (Previously these VMware View Desktops were accessed internally on Thin-Clients). This utilised a resource of 250 VMware desktops that would otherwise be lying idle when office staff were working from home, and eliminated the need for further investment.
- d. Prepared How-To-Connect documents for users to configure their own remote connections once added to the relevant AD groups by ICT.

2. Remote ICT Support.

- a. Implemented a Remote Support Add-On to our Service Desk Management system called Zoho.
 - i. This facilitates ICT to support Home Workers that are having difficulty connecting to the Network via any of the facilities mentioned at No.1 above.
 - ii. ICT Technicians can take control of a user's device without it being connected to the Council Network, and assist them to connect (ICT cannot take control without users accepting the request).

3. CISCO VoIP Phone System and Call Centre.

- a. Provided "Soft Phone" through Jabber, and configured Jabber to Route all calls through "Call Manager".
 - i. This allows for VPN users to call other VPN users on the internal CISCO VoIP Phone System, previously, this was not possible, VPN users could only call extensions in Council Buildings.
- b. Configured CISCO Finesse Call Centre to integrate with "Soft Phone".
 - i. This facilitates Customer Services, HAP SSC, and ICT users to have full CISCO Finesse Call Centre functionality from home over Global Protect VPN.
- c. Enabled a facility to forward telephone extensions to Mobile phones.
- d. Configured a facility to add a mobile number to the end of a hunt sequence, which facilitated redirection of calls to a Hunt Sequence to Mobile if not answered by the internal extensions in the hunt sequence.

4. Communications\Meetings.

- a. CISCO WebEX Meetings.
 - i. Acquired WebEx Meetings Licences for Crisis Management Team to hold meetings and collaborate, but still facilitate Physical Distancing.
 - i. Enabled the Team to join meetings from Laptops, Smart Phones, Tablets etc. from any location.
 - ii. Facilitated sharing of documents, presentations etc. with participants in meetings.
 - iii. Integrated WebEx Meetings with existing CISCO Video Conferencing units to facilitate joining WebEx Meetings on these units.
 - iv. Purchased additional Video Conferencing Units.
- b. Microsoft Teams.
 - i. Acquired 1,000 subscriptions for a 6 month free trial of Microsoft Teams to facilitate all desk based staff to join online meetings.
 - ii. Upgraded SharePoint online subscription to Office365 E1 to facilitate continued use after trial period expired.
 - iii. Installed Microsoft Teams on all Council owned Desktops and Laptops, and also all VMware and Citrix Desktops.
 - iv. Prepared a Step-by-Step guide for Staff to use Microsoft Teams.
 - v. Implemented MS-Teams as a collaboration tool for a LCCC Staff.

- vi. All line Managers using MS-Teams for staff meetings.
- vii. MS-Teams can be used for Voice and Video Phone calls where staff do not have access to the Councils' CISCO VoIP phone system from home.
- viii. Purchased and configured Cloud Video Interop (CVI) licences to facilitate joining TEAMS meetings on Cisco Video Conferencing Units.

5. Equipment

- a. Purchased and configured over 300 new laptops for Council Staff remote working.

Cyber Security

Cyber security describes the discipline dedicated to protecting that information and the systems used to process or store that information. The security refers to the body of technologies, processes, and practices designed to protect networks, devices, programs, and data from attack, damage, or unauthorized access

In addition to initiatives introduced during previous years, ICT continued to improve the Councils Cyber Security Posture through the following :-

- **New Firewalls.**
Two new Firewalls were installed in both Dooradoyle and Merchant's Quay in a High Availability cluster during 2020. These new devices give further benefits.
- Benefit from PAN OS upgrades, current version is PAN 9.0.8, our hardware will not support anything higher. PAN OS v9.1 will be the last supported on current hardware.
- Palo Alto Networks (PAN) have announced the first machine learning firewall in the world. PAN OS v10 is required which will not run on current hardware.
- Significant increase in the hardware performance.
- Global Protect VPN has identification and quarantine of compromised devices.
- 5G Security.
- IoT Security.
- **Awareness Training\Phishing Campaigns.**

A security awareness-training program has many benefits and can fortify the Councils' protection against phishing and other hacking attacks.

ICT will continue to undertake "Monthly Simulated Attack Series". The number of staff falling victim to these campaigns is constantly reducing, which would indicate that staff awareness is increasing. Staff members falling victim to these monthly campaigns have to undertake interactive online training, and complete an online assessment. Repeat offenders are targeted for further training.

Endpoint Encryption.

All laptops had encryption software updated during 2020 to ensure that Personal and Business data is protected from loss or breach.

In addition to measures mentioned above, ICT continues to ensure all devices are updated with security updates in a timely manner, and are continuously monitoring activity on the Councils' infrastructure.

WiFi4EU.

Funding for WiFi4EU was secured during 2019 and the project continued during 2020 with the following achieved.

1. Design - completed selection of towns and villages based on population and feasibility.
2. Tender - advertised tender and completed procurement to contract award phase.
3. Rollout - agreed business premises owners to locate access points on their premises, and commenced installations.

Limerick 2030 Projects.

ICT have completed fibre installations to connect both Carlton House and Barrow House to connect to the Council's wide area network for occupation by Council Staff, relocating from The Granary and Patrick Street.

ICT have also been involved in the design and layout of the new offices, and planning the process for occupying these new offices during Quarter One - 2021.

ICT Service Desk

The ICT Service Desk dealt with over 14,000 Tickets logged during 2020. The Service Desk endeavours to respond to and resolve service requests in a timely and courteous manner. In addition to providing support to users the ICT Helpdesk team also carry out other tasks as set out :-

- Create knowledge base articles for user empowerment.
- Liaise with ICT\Digital Strategy teams to resolve issues and prevent future issues.
- Keep users fully informed of changes/issues.
- Develop and enforce policies and procedures around the provision of services and hardware.
- Office and equipment organisation and maintenance.
- ICT Project support.

FINANCE

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Annual Financial Statement for Financial Year ended 31st December 2020

Balance Sheet Review

The Balance Sheet presented shows that Limerick City and County Council had Fixed Assets of €3,326,056,205 and Work In Progress of €96,759,196 as at 31 December 2020.

Capital income amounted to €144.5m in 2020, An increase of €45.3m on the 2019 figure of €99.2m. Grants accounted for 57% of total capital income in 2020.

Collection percentages for Commercial Rates was 81% (compared to 88% in 2019) with collection percentages for Housing Loans and Housing Rents under constant pressure. These collection percentages are in a backdrop of a Covid-19 global pandemic.

Revenue Expenditure Review

Revenue expenditure for the year amounted to €831,732,338 before transfers. Transfer to reserves amounted to €17,592,047 giving a total expenditure figure for 2020 of €849,324,386. The details of the additional expenditure over adopted budget at Service level are set out in the report to Council under Section 104 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended by Local Government Reform Act, 2014), which will be circulated to Council. Actual income for the year was €849,378,247 leading to a revenue surplus for 2020 of €53,860. This when added to the opening surplus of €833,703 gives an accumulated surplus at 31 December 2020 of €887,563.

Payroll continues to be the most significant cost with a total payroll cost in 2020 of €77,155,285. The change between 2019 and 2020 is mainly due to the increased operational expenditure from HAP and national pay agreement increases. The pay costs and staff numbers will continue to be examined during 2021 in order to identify further savings where possible.

Expenditure is summarised by main area of expenditure as follows:

	2020	% of Expenditure	2019	% of Expenditure
	€	%	€	%
Payroll	77,155,285	9.1%	75,959,219	11.5%
Operational expenses	721,669,245	85.0%	542,418,076	81.9%
Administration expenses	17,168,416	2.0%	17,578,445	2.7%
Establishment expenses	2,793,550	0.3%	2,588,030	0.4%
Financial expenses	5,148,800	0.6%	7,511,204	1.1%
Miscellaneous	7,797,041	0.9%	5,719,250	0.9%
Transfers to reserves	17,592,047	2.1%	10,158,998	1.5%
Total Expenditure	849,324,386	100%	661,933,222	100%

Income Review

Revenue income for the year amounted to €849,378,247. This represented an increase of €187,434,721 on the total income in 2019 (€661,943,526). The following table summarises the main income sources:

	2020		2019	
	€	%	€	%
Grants & Subsidies	578,588,285	68%	413,611,839	62%
Contributions from other local authorities	4,012,383	0%	3,494,643	1%
Goods & Services	186,515,882	22%	167,671,168	25%
	769,116,550	91%	584,777,650	88%
Local Property Tax	19,914,252	2%	18,732,067	3%
Rates	59,744,550	7%	56,019,388	8%
Transfer from Reserves	602,896	0.1%	2,414,420	0.4%
Total Income	849,378,247	100%	661,943,526	100%

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) is the main reason for increase in income from Goods and Services. Central Government Covid-19 support is the main reason for increase in Grants and Subsidies to compensate for loss of operational income (e.g. traffic management income, planning fees), contribution towards additional Covid-19 related costs incurred by the Council and commercial rates waivers for 9 months of 2020. The non-principal private residence charge performed ahead of budget in 2020 resulting in surplus income over budget.

Summary

The revenue surplus for 2020 is €53,860. As a result the accumulated revenue surplus at the end of 2020 is increased to €887,563 compared to €833,703 at the end of 2019. The retention of cumulative surplus is a very positive reflection of the efforts of the elected members and staff to manage the financial situation of Limerick City & County Council in a very challenging year, and is also reflective of the continuous efforts of the staff of Limerick City & County Council in achieving better value for money and increasing overall efficiencies, which is an important foundation for the difficult year ahead in 2021.

Due to COVID-19, 2020 has been a very challenging year for the Council's Ratepayers. But supports from central government (listed below) have aided businesses.

- Restart Grant: Equivalent to the Rates Bill for 2019 with a minimum payment of €2,000 and maximum payment of €10,000
- Restart Grant Plus: Equivalent to the Rates Bill for 2019 with a minimum payment of €4,000 and maximum payment of €25,000
- 30% Additional Top-Up Payment
- 9 Month Rates Waiver
- Local Authority support schemes (SME & Tourism)

These central Government financial supports have proved to be critical to the presenting of a positive outturn for the annual financial statement for 2020.

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT)
FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2020**

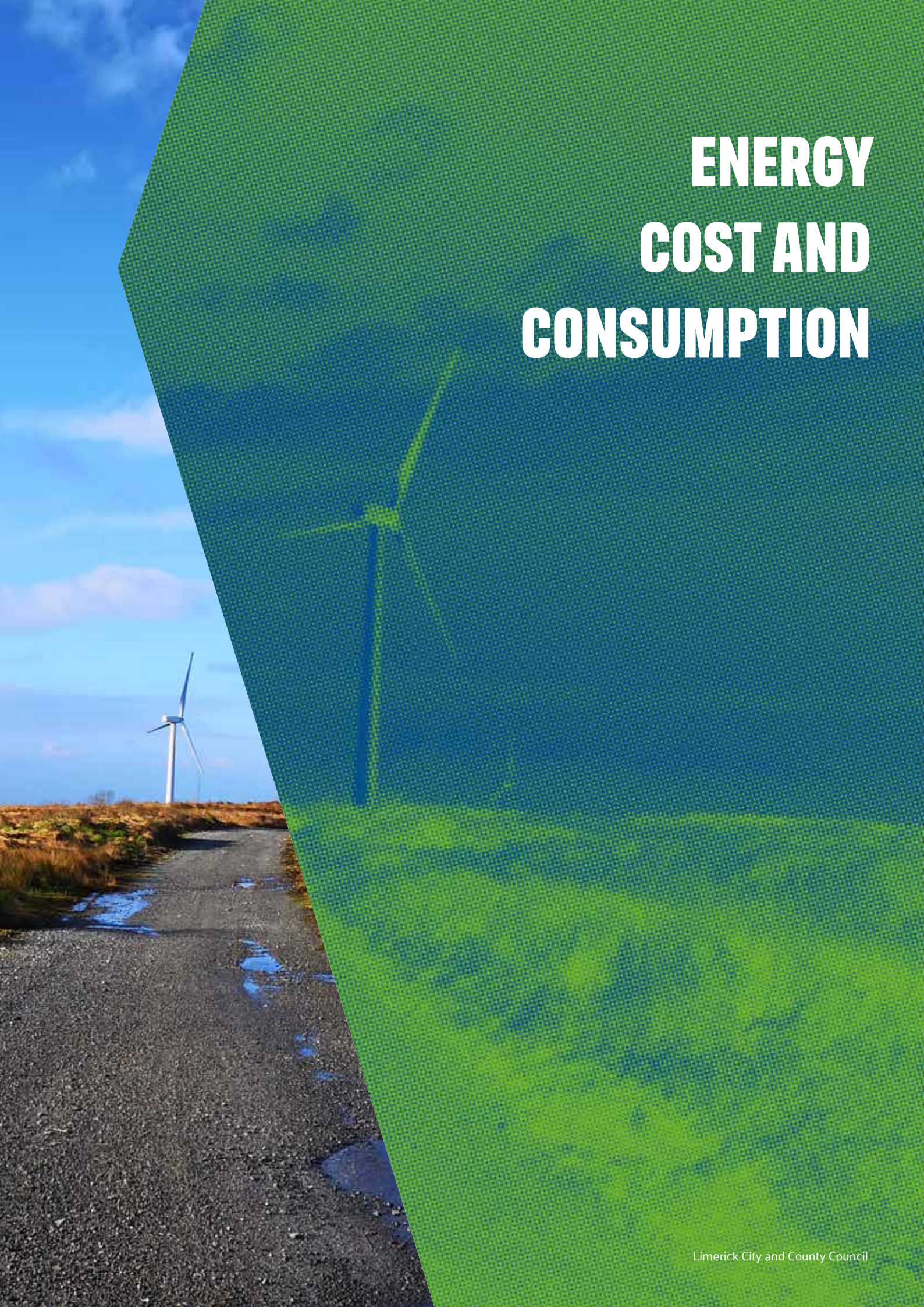
The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure. It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year. Transfers to/from reserves are shown separately and not allocated by service division.

Expenditure by Division

	Gross Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure	Net Expenditure
	2020	2020	2020	2019
	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	646,396,437	647,207,075	(810,639)	323,694
Roads Transportation & Safety	46,782,853	28,228,581	18,554,273	18,078,203
Water Services	13,430,335	13,393,982	36,353	(26,966)
Development Management	44,332,831	34,909,598	9,423,233	9,858,802
Environmental Services	31,423,071	8,629,391	22,793,680	22,059,387
Recreation & Amenity	12,896,196	897,184	11,999,012	12,170,543
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,203,301	504,162	699,139	644,519
Miscellaneous Services	35,267,314	35,346,577	(79,263)	3,888,391
Total Expenditure/Income	831,732,338	769,116,550		
Net cost of Divisions to be funded from			62,615,788	66,996,573
Rates & Local Property Tax				
Rates			59,744,550	56,019,388
Local Property Tax			19,914,252	18,732,067
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers			17,043,013	7,754,882
Transfers from/(to) Reserves			(16,989,153)	(7,744,579)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year			53,860	10,303
General Reserve @ 1st January 2020			833,703	823,400
General Reserve @ 31st December 2020			887,563	833,703

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (BALANCE SHEET) AT 31st DECEMBER 2020

	2020	2019
	€	€
Fixed Assets		
Operational	758,752,302	737,085,482
Infrastructural	2,524,416,526	2,526,234,900
Community	12,769,338	12,904,510
Non-Operational	30,118,040	36,440,772
	3,326,056,205	3,312,665,664
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses	96,759,196	88,979,832
Long Term Debtors	84,855,608	74,314,040
Current Assets		
Stocks	390,970	373,383
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	41,507,006	46,014,573
Bank Investments	112,847,572	65,208,422
Cash at Bank	4,060,414	5,234,172
Cash in Transit	2,712	2,712
	158,808,673	116,833,262
Current Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)		
Bank Overdraft	-	-
Creditors & Accruals	65,470,218	54,158,909
Finance Leases	-	-
	65,470,218	54,158,909
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)	93,338,455	62,674,353
Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year)		
Loans Payable	122,940,907	88,229,465
Finance Leases	0	0
Refundable deposits	3,864,856	2,448,882
Other	8,179,754	4,511,106
	134,985,518	95,189,453
Net Assets	3,466,023,946	3,443,444,435
Represented by		
Capitalisation Account	3,326,056,205	3,312,665,664
Income WIP	94,422,080	87,488,484
General Revenue Reserve	887,563	833,703
Other Specific Reserves	-	-
Other Balances	44,658,097	42,456,583
Total Reserves	3,466,023,946	3,443,444,435



ENERGY COST AND CONSUMPTION

LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL – ENERGY COST and CONSUMPTION 2020

Limerick City and County Council Annual Report Energy Cost and Consumption 2020	€uro
2020 Total Energy Spend	€ 3,775,806
2020 Electricity - Total Annual Spend	€ 2,831,854
2020 Electricity - Annual Spend on Water Services	€ 29,098
2020 Electricity - Annual Spend on Public Lighting	€ 1,993,961
2020 Electricity - Other than water and PL	€ 808,795
2020 Road Fuels (diesel / petrol / biofuel) - Total Annual Spend	€ 566,371
2020 Heating Fuels (Gas/ oil/ biomass etc) - Total Annual Spend	€ 377,581
2020 Misc. other fossil fuels (sml lpg etc) - Total Annual Spend	€

2020 Electricity-Grid MWh	15,150.0
2020 Fossil Fuels MWh	10,100
2020 Renewable Energy - MWh	-
Total Energy MWh	25,250.0

ENERGY SAVINGS REPORT

Actions Undertaken in 2020

In 2020, Limerick City and County Council} undertook a range of initiatives to improve our energy performance, including:

Water Services Upgrades	MWh of savings
Building Fabric and Services Upgrades	230
Public Lighting	600
Transport / Vehicles	20
Total 2020	850



MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

Limerick City and County Council

MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE

Service Operations Directorate (West) Operations and Maintenance - Roads

2020 was a difficult year, it started with exceptionally high rainfall through the month of February, followed by a countrywide lockdown due to the global pandemic in March. Our working methodologies had to change drastically to mitigate for the risks associated with Covid-19. Despite all this, our staff have delivered on a very ambitious programme of works and great progress has been made on strategic projects that will benefit the District into the future. Some highlights include:

- The ongoing development of the Limerick Greenway
- the extension of the Public Sewer and resurfacing works on the Rathkeale road in Adare, as well as the completion of River looped walk
- Significant Road reconstruction and footpath improvement works in Rathkeale and Ballingarry
- Traffic Calming and Village Centre enhancement works in Shanagolden and Croom
- Rectification of Coastal Erosion issues at Foynes Yacht Club
- Development of the New Distributor Road in Croom
- Kilcornan Traffic Calming Works

Funding has been secured for the following projects which will progress next year:

- Foynes Marine Cove Culvert and Flood Prevention Works
- Rathkeale River Walk
- Askeaton Public Realm study
- Askeaton Undergrounding of Over Head Services
- Adare Fountain Refurbishment
- Adare CFRAMS
- Banogue Traffic Calming
- Croom Village Centre Carparks

Applications for funding have been made for the following projects:

- Askeaton Looped River Walk
- Rathkeale Inner Relief Road



New Greenway Rathkeale

Service Operations Directorate (West) Operations and Maintenance - Roads

Expenditure on maintenance and improvement works on roads in 2020 was financed by way of Government grants and the Council's own resources.

Road expenditure programmes during 2020 included:

- Road Surface Dressing to 23kms of roadway at a cost of €642,369
- Road Reconstruction Works to 12kms of roadway to the value of €1.87 million
- Drainage Improvement Works at Loughill, Courtmatrix, Ballywilliam, Corbally and Knockpatrick totaling €200,000
- Low Cost Safety Improvement Works at Shanagolden, Croom and Kelliher's Cross €112,000
- Winter Maintenance of the N21 and N69 Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)
- Winter Maintenance of the Regional Roads Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS)

GMA and Development Fund Projects

- General Municipal Allocation to the Value of €270,000 included upgrading signage, drainage, public lighting and footpaths.

- Development fund Projects to the value of €70,000 provided for car parking and footpaths in Shanagolden, Rathkeale and Croom

Community Involvement Schemes

A number of Community Involvement Schemes totaling 1.4 kilometres at a cost of €109,475 were completed in the District during 2020 and included locations at Kilfinny, Fanningstown and Raheen

HOUSING

The Housing Department continued with maintenance and improvement works to its stock of housing units as well as maintenance works to Council Burial Grounds, residential caravan sites and libraries in the Municipal District during 2020.

Housing Aid Grants such as the Housing Adaptation Grant for People with Disabilities, the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme and the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme. An allocation of €537,000 was received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage during 2020 with a total of 85 applicants receiving grant aid under these various schemes.

Eight Disabled Person Grants were awarded to tenants of Council properties in 2020 in the amount of €80,000 and included properties at Rathkeale, Askeaton, Croom, Fedamore, Adare and Banogue.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST

SERVICE OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE - ROADS

Expenditure on maintenance and improvement works on roads in 2020 was financed by way of Government grants and the Council's own resources. The Newcastle West roads crew maintains 24% of the county's roads.

Road expenditure programmes during 2020 included:

- Road surface dressing of 30km of roadway to the value of €731,000
- Road reconstruction works to the value of €2,195,000
- Road overlays at Newcastle West and Knockaderry and Ballygran
- Bridge rehabilitation works at Abbeyfeale and Templeglantine
- Low cost safety improvement works at Lee's Cross and Bruff Line
- Footpath upgrade works at Abbeyfeale, Newcastle West, Broadford and Dromcolligher

- Major drainage improvements at Newcastle West, Ballingarry, Knockaderry
- Active Travel July Stimulus Programme footpath reconstruction at Churchtown, Newcastle West and Dromcolligher
- Winter Maintenance
- General road maintenance and safety measures
- Local Improvement Schemes - six schemes completed to the value of €319,146

SERVICE OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE - HOUSING MAINTENANCE

The Housing Maintenance crew for the Municipal District of Newcastle West is responsible for the maintenance of 648 houses within the District, which is 12% of the overall Council housing stock.

The District had a pre-letting budget of €68,539 for minor works to vacant properties prior to letting in 2020 and €198,856 was spent on response maintenance requests from existing tenants.

The crew received 1,369 service requests in 2020.

SERVICE OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE - COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES - HOUSING GRANTS SCHEMES

In 2020, 23 applications under the Housing Adaptation Grants for People with a Disability were approved at a cost of €159,954.26.

34 applications under the Mobility Aids Grants were approved at a cost of €177,476.03.

81 applications under the Housing Aid for Older People were approved at a cost of €349,543.47.

Also 11 Council properties within the District had works completed on them for persons with a disability at a cost of €73,052.77.

SUPPORT SERVICES DIRECTORATE - CORPORATE SERVICES

The Municipal District of Newcastle West held 13 meetings during 2020.

SUPPORT SERVICES DIRECTORATE - MOTOR TAXATION

The Motor Taxation Section in Newcastle West had a total of 30,283 routine transactions during 2020.

SUPPORT SERVICES DIRECTORATE – CUSTOMER SERVICES

The customer services initiative and the use of Sugar CRM system continued during 2020. All queries and service requests received at the office were logged on this system by Newcastle West office staff.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE – WATER SERVICES

Irish Water is the organisation with overall responsibility for water and waste water matters throughout Ireland. The water services crew at Newcastle West acts as an agent for Irish Water and on their behalf operates and maintains a large number of water schemes throughout the County.

SERVICE OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE – BALLINGRANE BITUMEN DEPOT AND MACHINERY YARD

The Bitumen depot at Ballingrane and the Machinery Yard Newcastle West continues to play a central role in the Council's Roadworks and Winter Maintenance programmes. All bitumen used in the county is distributed through the depot at Ballingrane and Council vehicles are maintained by the Machinery Yard. The upgrading of the Council fleet of vehicles continued during 2020.

NEWCASTLE WEST DISTRICT PROJECTS

- Newcastle West Public Realm and Movement Plan**
 A number of Workshops were held with Elected Members with respect to Newcastle West Public Realm and Movement Plan. Full Public Consultation on this Plan is likely to proceed in early 2021.
- Regional Athletics Hub Newcastle West.**
 Limerick City and County Council purchased 9.44 acres in Cloonysrehane, Newcastle West for the development of a 400m, eight lane athletics track with associated field sports. A Part VIII planning process has been completed and an application for funding under the Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund has been submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport to progress the works which was successful. Construction work is to commence in 2021.
- Newcastle West - Vision 2023**
 This plan is providing a blue print for the future development of Newcastle West and the progression of strategies within the plan is continuing in conjunction with the Newcastle West Development Association. A new website was developed for the town www.newcastlewest.ie and this received a commendation award from Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2019.
- Glin Public Realm Plan**
 Strategies within the plan are currently being progressed.

- Fuller's Folly**
 Infrastructural upgrade works have been carried out and it is proposed that the Folly will be a potential tourist hub for the town and surrounding area. The development of Fuller's Folly will form part of the overall plan to develop tourism in the West Limerick region.
- Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan**

This project is currently at detailed design stage with surveys and ground investigation works underway.



Mcadam overlay works at Bishop Street, Newcastle West

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CAPPAMORE-KILMALLOCK

In 2020, the total amount invested in delivery of direct local services in the Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District was over €9m covering services such as Roads, Housing, Library, Fire, Culture and Arts, Parks and Landscaping Cemeteries and Customer Services. There has been significant investment in completing and progressing capital projects, some in conjunction with Ballyhoura Development, including Clare Glens, East Wall Walkway, West Wall Walkway, Lough Gur, Bruff Sli na Slainte and Murroe Field Project.

Kilmallock-Cappamore has been very successful in getting funding approved across the Municipal District in 2020, working closely with Ballyhoura Development:

Grant type	Amount
Town and Village Renewal	70,700.00
CLAR	68,332.00
Limerick Rural Development Programme	462,625.00
LEADER Rural Development Programme	744,057.41
Community Enhancement Programme	48,611.74
SICAP	422,350.40

Arts and Culture Grant Funding allocated to the region in 2020

Arts Act	€3,110 given to Cappamore Kilmallock Artists in 2020
Festival and Events Grants	Cappamore Show (deferred to 2021) €6,000 Hospital Arts and Culture Show €1,500 HearSay International Audio Arts Festival (deferred to 2021) €17,500 The Ramble €2,000
Limerick Creative Ireland	Friars Gate Theatre Reflections workshop €4,000 Maigue Rivers Trust Festival of the Maigue €2,500 Kilfinane Collage Project and Street Festival €3,000

SERVICE OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE - ROADS

Expenditure on maintenance and improvement works on roads in 2020 was financed by way of Government Grants and the Councils own resources.

Road expenditure programmes during 2020 included:

Work Category	€
Restoration Improvement (RI) -Road Reconstruction	2,847,166
Restoration Maintenance (RM) -Surface Dressing	913,437
Drainage Works	200,000
Drainage Works OPW	118,500
General Maintenance (GM)	1,585,574.80
General Maintenance Safety (GMS)	168,000
Parking	41,000
Footpath Repairs (FR)	95,000
Bridge Rehabilitation (STR)	150,000
Low Cost Safety Improvement Works (LCSI)	140,000
Local Improvement Schemes	59,200
Community Improvement Schemes	170,000
Climate Action	343,000
Active Travel	170,000
Mulcair River Drainage Works	170,000
General Municipal Allocation	711,200 (Over 2 years)
Total Defined MD Spending	7,882,07

Examples of works undertaken can be seen in the photographs attached.



Surface dressing

SERVICE OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE - HOUSING

Housing Maintenance

- 769 social housing stock in Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District. (14% of overall housing stock)
- Total Requests for Housing Maintenance in Cappamore-Kilmallock in 2020 was 1,259(9% of the overall total), with 1,255 closed.
- €498,563 for ordinary maintenance and pre-letting works.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES HOUSING GRANTS Pilot House Scheme

In 2020, a pilot Housing Refurbishment Grants scheme was launched in the Cappamore Kilmallock Municipal District, which allowed Local Authority Tenants to apply for a grant towards refurbishment of their bathroom, internal doors, kitchen units, boundary walls/fence, external gates, dry lining, external painting, or replacement of bath with shower.

There were 55 applications in total, with 47 approved. Four applications were withdrawn and four returned to sender, leaving 39 applications. Of these, 17 had been completed by the end of 2020.

Due to the Covid 19 restrictions causing a delay to some works being undertaken the deadline for completion of works has been extended to the end February 2021.

Private House Grants

In relation to the ongoing House adaptation grants available to private home owners, 22 Mobility aid Grants were issued, totalling €107,149.80, 16 Housing Adaptation

for persons with disability Grants were issued totalling €154,199.30 and 35 Housing Adaptation for Older Person Grants were issued totalling €175,983.91.

Disabled Persons Grant

Nine Disabled Person Grants were approved for Local Authority tenants totalling €63,515.20

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS

The Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District held eight District Meetings, one Annual Meeting, one Special Meeting, and one Budgetary Planning meeting in 2020. six workshops and three JPC meetings were also held. In total 12 weekly online updates were provided to the Elected Members at the beginning of the first phase of lockdown, when the meetings in March, April and May had to be deferred due to Covid-19 restrictions.



Doon Industrial Estate Active Travel

CAPPAMORE KILMALLOCK AWARDS

- St. Michael’s Day Care Centre – Cappamore, were a shortlisted entry for Pride of Place 2020 under the Age Friendly Initiative
- Kilmallock West Wall Walkway, was shortlisted for:
 - Heritage and Conservation Awards, 2020
 - Excellence in Local Government Awards, 2020
 - Irish Building and Design Awards, 2020

LOUGH GUR

98,000 people visit Lough Gur lakeshore park each year with potential to increase numbers. In 2020 a Kiosk and Playground were developed on the grounds by Limerick City and County Council, which fulfills 2020-2023 Limerick Tourism Development Strategy and Ireland 2040 objectives. In 2020 Lough Gur was covered significantly

in the media. Although Covid-19 led to closure of the Lough Gur amenity area and facilities for three months, leading to a 25,000 loss, a return to the great outdoors by members of the public bodes well for Lough Gur’s future.

BRUFF PUBLIC REALM

Red Scape consultants, which have been appointed to develop a Public Realm plan for Bruff, undertook a walk around with representatives of Bruff Community and Lough Gur Heritage Centre on 15 December as part of the consultation process. Topics discussed included

- Pedestrian and cycle connection between Lough Gur and Bruff
- Built attractions for Tourism
- Sean Wall Memorial
- Refurbishment of Village Park
- Traffic Management plan and parking
- Regeneration of main street including lighting, tree planting etc
- Derelict Buildings
- Walking trails

Examples Of Capital Work projects undertaken in the Cappamore-Kilmallock District in 2020 include:

- Kilmallock Looped Walks
- CAS- Cappamore Housing (12 Units)
- Kilmallock Medieval Mansion
- Hospital Social Housing (20 Units)
- Lough Gur
- Town and Village Renewal

SUGAR CRM CASES

Cases Created			Cases Closed		
Total cases 2020	3977		Total cases 2020	3167	
Councillors	321	8%	Councillors	238	74%
Senators/TDs	605	15%	Senators/TDs	507	84%
Public	3051	77%	Public	2422	79%

Department	Total Cases	Public Cases	Councillors	TDs/ Senators
Roads Maintenance	1388	1043	176	169
Housing Maintenance	1280	1233	14	33
Housing Support Services	476	113	42	321
Planning and Environment	276	244	15	17
Public Lighting	115	77	15	23
Veterinary Department	86	73	12	1
Urban and Rural Community	98	84	7	7
Parks Maintenance	45	35	6	4
Claims Management	2	2	0	0
Corporate	1	1	0	0
Digital Services	10	4	6	0
Street Cleaning	6	5	1	0
Design and Delivery	7	3	2	2
Limerick Regeneration	24	20	2	2

RESERVED FUNCTIONS

Despite Covid-19 restricting movement, meetings and some activities, the Cappamore-Kilmallock District adjusted accordingly through the implementation of

- Health and Safety Training
- Community Response
- Remote working
- Delivery of essential services during Phase 1 of Lockdown
- Full delivery of Schedule of Municipal District works 2020. In total 12 weekly online updates were provided to the Elected Members at the beginning of the first phase of lockdown.

Adoption of the Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock for the financial year ending 31 December 2021, in the total sum of €295,000 including

Service	General Municipal Allocation-2021	Cappamore-Kilmallock MD
B04	Local Roads	€130,000
D05	Tourism Development Recreation and Amenity	€10,000
F04	Community Initiatives	€10,000
	Special Projects-LA Infrastructure	€100,000
	Special Projects LPT	€45,000
Total	General Municipal Allocation	€295,000

Approval of Allocations under the General Municipal Allocation, Development Fund, Community Initiatives Scheme and Community Facilities Grants Scheme 2020 and 2021.

Approval to the taking in charge of 3 housing estates in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2015 and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas Chathaoirleach.

Special Meeting regarding a Part 8 application under Local Government Act 2001.

Adoption of the 2020 Schedule of Works for the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock.

Decision to receive Deputations from the following:
Bruff/Grange/Meanus Community Council
Step Forward Disability Group Hospital

Adoption of the Minutes of previous Meeting.

Meetings of the Joint Policing Sub-Committee of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock.

APPENDICES

CONFERENCES/SEMINARS ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2020

Date	Title	Venue
10th – 12th Jan	Seminar organised by Celtic Conference entitled 'The Finance Act 2019'	The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth.
21st – 23rd Jan	Seminar organised by Celtic Conference entitled 'Health and Safety in the Workplace'	O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.
28th – 29th Feb	Seminar organised by Colmcille Heritage Trust entitled '31st Colmcille Winter School'	Colmcille Heritage Centre, Gartan, Church Hill, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.
6th Mar	Seminar organised by The Academy of Urbanism's entitled 'Resilience, Revival and Regeneration'	Limerick Strand Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick.
15th May	Seminar organised by Irish Green Building Council entitled 'Regeneration Recreating Liveable Zero Carbon Cities'	Webinar

CORPORATE PLAN 2019-2024

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2020

APRIL 2021

Introduction

The Local Government (Reform) Act 2014 provides for the publication of the Corporate Plan which sets out the Council's "vision", "strategy" and "aims" for the term of the Council. The act also provides for the preparation of an Annual Progress Report on activities under the plan.

The Corporate Plan 2019-2024 is a high-level strategic plan, which was approved by the Council in 2019 and sets the strategic direction for the Council during its term of office. The strategic direction is delivered under the leadership of the Management Team. The Corporate Plan aligns with national policy and strategies that will influence the work of Limerick City and County over the next five years and beyond.

A Service Delivery Plan and Schedules of Municipal Works will be prepared for each year of the Corporate Plan with Directorate Plans, Team Plans and individual Personal Development Plans providing a clear link between our Corporate Strategy and individual performance. Continuous assessment of this plan will take place in the form of the Monthly Chief Executives report, The Councils Annual Report, NOAC indicators, yearly Corporate Plan reviews and Annual Financial Statement and Audit Reports. Each review mechanism will provide for the opportunity for corrective action where necessary and may be in the form of amendments to budget allocation or resource allocation as appropriate.

Corporate Plan 2019-2024 - Our Vision

- That the people of Limerick are supported by a professional, proactive and accessible local government structure, which is at the heart of a wider public service.
- That Limerick is acknowledged for the inclusive participation of all citizens in the development of their community and Council activities.
- That Limerick offers a real and unique competitive advantage for business development, and an unparalleled quality of life resulting in high quality sustainable homes and communities, cultural enrichment and educational opportunities.
- That Limerick rivals other Tier 2 cities throughout Europe in terms of business, tourism, education and investment.
- That Limerick's new brand identity will unlock advantages and experiences for all of its audiences, making the most of Limerick's physical and cultural connections.
- That Limerick values the importance of partnership working to improve the health and well-being of our citizens.
- That Limerick is a driver of innovation, harnessing the voice of our people to create a lasting and positive impact on people's lives.

Annual Progress Report 2020

Section 134 of the Local Government Act 2001, requires the Chief Executive to prepare an annual progress report in respect of the Local Authority's Corporate Plan and such report shall be submitted to the Elected Members. In accordance with the policies as set out in "Putting People First" and the requirements as set out in the Local Government (Reform) Act 2014, it was necessary to provide that a process is in place within the organisation to translate the high level goals and aims as set out in the Corporate Plan down to Directorate, Department, Team and Individual level. This links in with the Performance Management Process rolled out across the Local Government Sector.

The outturn/progress for 2020 is presented in accordance with the Goals of the Corporate Plan.

GOAL 1: MAINTAIN A CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL THAT IS RECOGNISED AS AMBITIOUS AND INNOVATIVE FOR THE PEOPLE OF LIMERICK

Sustainable travel projects

A number of sustainable travel projects are progressing including,

- Castletroy Urban Greenway project tendered and contractor appointed
- Parnell-Wickham Street to Clare Street Cycleway, planning process scheduled Q2 2021
- Condell Road to Arthur's Quay Cycleway, planning process scheduled Q2 2021
- LIT to City centre pedestrianisation and cycle scheme, planning process scheduled Q2 2021
- South Circular Road to Bishop's Quay Cycle Scheme, planning process scheduled Q2 2021
- Drafting of City Centre Bridges Strategy is nearing completion;
- Cycleway project works at St Nessan's Road, Dooradoyle Road, Groody Valley Road and Coonagh Roundabout-Shelbourne Road.

Project Opera

Planning permission was granted for the development of the Opera site in February 2020 by An Bord Pleanála. Cogent Associates were appointed in February 2020 as Project and Cost Managers for the scheme.

The development is divided up into separate construction contracts. The development comprises 550,000 sq. ft. of commercial space in a 3.7 acres site in downtown Limerick. The campus will include office accommodation, an Aparthotel, a New Limerick Library, retail, restaurants, apartments and a major public plaza.

Demolition and enabling works commenced onsite in November 2020 but were suspended due to the recent four-month Covid-19 lockdown. Works have now recommenced onsite and contractors John Sisk & Sons are now progressing at pace with works due to be completed in Q1 2022. The campus wide Basement and One Opera Square Office Building are now fully designed by Coady Architects, and procurement of building contractors to deliver the works contract are underway, with an appoint to be made in Quarter 4 2021.

Cleeves Riverside Quarter

A Project Team of Designers, Planners and Quantity Surveyors was appointed in September 2020. Since then, the Team have been developing a deep understanding of the constraints and opportunities the site presents in relation to planning policy, ecology, hydrology, protected structures etc.

LTT received an Options Appraisal Report from the Project Team in late April and this report presents a number of variations for consideration in terms of residential accommodation, Grade A Commercial Office space and a new 'place making' public realm and cultural/visitor location for workers, residents and visitors to Limerick.

The initial round of public consultations is expected to take place in Q3 2021 and following this important step, the Master Plan will be completed before progressing with the Developed Design and the submission of a planning application.

Under the current programme, a planning application will be submitted direct to ABP in mid 2022.

Positive City Exchange (+CityxChange)

+CityxChange uses the concept of a Positive Energy Block (PEB) as a driver for change in relation to energy use, energy generation, regulation, mobility, and retrofit. A PEB is a compact area, which over a year produces more energy than it consumes. The Innovation Playground is an area of Limerick city centre where different virtual and physical places and activities related to innovation are brought together into a coherent whole to facilitate collaboration, empower citizens, and find new ways of addressing challenges related to climate change and the energy transition. This project, in close collaboration with Trondheim in Norway and seven follower cities, has reached implementation stage.

From Smart meters and monitoring the demand for energy to working with both local and national organisations to scope balancing that demand with a supply of clean green energy. Introducing Vehicle to Grid capability in the heart of Limerick's Georgian District, and once again harnessing the power of the river. These are just some of the innovative elements that this interagency team are working on to combat climate issues and create a sustainable positive energy city.

50 Days of Summer

An eight-week multimedia national tourism marketing campaign to position Limerick as a domestic holiday and leisure tourism destination through Limerick 50 Days of Summer. The campaign featured an exciting competition giving away 50 unique Limerick edge and embrace experiences through a dedicated campaign hub Limerick.ie/50Days which had over 84,000 entries.

Shop Limerick

Developed and launched Shop Limerick, in partnership with Limerick Local Enterprise Office and Limerick Chamber, in response to the Covid-19 crisis and its effects on Limerick businesses. Limerick.ie/Shop is a virtual marketplace connecting consumers directly with Limerick's businesses, allowing them to shop safely and efficiently while supporting the local economy. The online platform now hosts 287 homegrown Limerick businesses.

Directly Elected Mayor for Limerick City and County Council with executive functions:

The Government established an Implementation Advisory Group (IAG) in December 2019, to advise the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage on how best to establish and shape the role of the directly elected mayor with executive functions (DEM) in Limerick City and County Council, in accordance with the outcome of the plebiscite of 24 May 2019 and the Government's detailed policy proposals document.

The IAG was chaired by Tim O'Connor and included Elected Members, representatives of a broad range of stakeholders in Limerick and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

The IAG consulted widely with the business community, academic institutions, public service providers, community and political representatives in Limerick. It also commissioned a public consultation exercise, undertaken by the University of Limerick, which sought to "start a conversation" on the potential of a Directly Elected Mayor for Limerick.

Separate to the consultations, the IAG met 10 times during 2020 and the Chair presented its final report to Minister of State Peter Burke in October 2020 which included 69 recommendations on how best to establish and shape the role of a DEM. In January 2021, the Government approved the drafting of legislation for the new role of a directly elected mayor for Limerick City and County. This work is ongoing and it is hoped that the necessary legislation will be in place to allow for an election in 2021.

GOAL 2: GROW OUR ECONOMY AND CREATE OPPORTUNITY IN LIMERICK

Brand Limerick

After a highly collaborative 18-month process, Limerick's new brand identity Limerick Atlantic Edge European Embrace was officially launched. Following the brand unveiling, a multi-market advertising campaign 'Percentages' commenced rollout across print, digital display, social media, out-of-home and radio in Ireland, Great Britain, Germany, France, Spain, Italy and the USA.

+CityxChange Lighthouse City

The +CityxChange vision is to enable the co-creation of the future we want to live in as part of the European Clean Energy Transition in cities by developing and deploying Positive Energy Blocks and Districts (PEB/PED) in the city centre. As part of this transition the project is developing a digital twin of the city centre that will enable building energy modelling to support the deployment of energy efficiency measures including the potential to install renewable sources on individual building. The project is also developing proposals for the installation of a river turbine and small scale solar farm to support the proposed PEB. To support these actions the project has developed frameworks and tools to support public consultation and engagement. These included:

- hosting "city engage week 2" from the 14 to the 19 September. It consisted of a series nine online webinars and workshops on the theme of renewable energy targeted at owners and occupiers of buildings in the Georgian Neighbourhood and those with an interest in sustainable development.

- The hosting of an open call where teams involving local community groups supported by designers, artists were invited to design, create and test ideas to improve the usability of the laneways in the city centre. Grants of up to €5,000 were made available to 5 groups.

The project supported the development of a virtual engagement room to support the initial consultation stage on the new County Development Plan

Development Plan for Limerick City and County

The preparation of the first combined development plan for Limerick City and County, titled 'Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028' commenced on the 15th August 2020, with the publication of an Issues Paper. Following the pre-draft consultation period the draft plan was prepared and issued on the 26th April 2021 to the Elected Members for their consideration. It is expected that the Plan will be adopted in May 2022.

Development of E Hubs in County Towns

Innovate Limerick are working with private and public bodies to build a network of quality e-hubs throughout the Midwest. Current hubs such as the Yard in Newcastle West, Croom Enterprise Centre, Kantoher Enterprise Centre will join with new hubs in Abbeyfeale (under construction) and other rural towns to offer quality workspace alternatives to employees and businesses who want to work remotely. An E – Hub Coordinator was appointed in 2020. Building work commenced on Abbeyfeale E –Hub and the network will be launched in September 2021 with its own central booking system and a dedicated network manager. The development of this e-hub network connected to the Digital Collaboration Centre, Engine and the Accelerator through Innovate Limerick will allow opportunities developed centrally to flow out to businesses located in the hubs. In 2020, the initial concept design on branding of Network was explored with partners.

GOAL 3:

INVEST IN LIMERICK'S INFRASTRUCTURE, PROTECT ITS NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND UNIQUE HERITAGE MIX

Limerick Urban Centre Revitalisation - O'Connell Street Project

The aim of the LUCROC project is to revitalise the urban area to a high quality public realm, thereby redefining its role as a destination within the city centre and providing a stronger and more visually appealing urban link and destination within the city.

The aims of the project is to revitalise the City Centre and improve the O'Connell Street area for retail and commercial activities through enhancements to the streetscape and improved circulation and access for sustainable travel modes. The project also aims to enhance areas adjacent to the City Living spaces (such as the Georgian Quarter) by improving the human scale of the streetscape in the City Centre. Stakeholder consultation commenced in 2020 and will continue to take place throughout the project to enable stakeholders and the general public to review and comment on proposals.

Foynes to Limerick Road Project

Limerick City and County Council has applied to An Bord Pleanála for approval of the Foynes to Limerick Road (including Adare Bypass) project. The proposed project is 35km in length and will provide for a bypass of Adare and also connect the Core Port of Foynes to the motorway network near Limerick.

The road development is comprised of the construction of:

- Approximately 15.6km of dual carriageway from Foynes to Rathkeale (with approximately 1.9km of single carriageway road between Ballyclogh and Askeaton)
- Approximately 17.5Km of motorway from Rathkeale to the existing motorway network at Attyflin (N21/N20/M20 junction)
- A service area for Heavy Goods Vehicles near Foynes

An Bord Pleanála held a virtual oral hearing via Microsoft Teams for the Foynes to Limerick Road (including Adare Bypass) which concluded on the 23rd February 2021. A decision on the application is expected in the Autumn 2021.

N/M20 Cork to Limerick Project

Limerick City and County Council, in partnership with Cork County Council, Cork City Council, Transport Infrastructure Ireland and the Department of Transport are developing the N/M20 Cork to Limerick project. An improved transport network between Cork and Limerick has been identified in the 2018-2027 National Development Plan as a major enabler for balanced regional development.

The N/M20 Cork to Limerick project is currently at Option Selection stage. The Option Selection process has considered and assessed a range of feasible options within the study area under the three headings – engineering, environment, and economy. A number of road-based and rail-based options have been shortlisted to proceed further in the Option Selection process along with an active travel strategy (walking and cycling).

Consultation undertaken for the N/M20 Cork to Limerick Project in recent months generated huge levels of public engagement with over 40,000 uses made of different elements of the virtual format used by the N/M20 Project Office. The public have actively engaged with the consultation process as demonstrated by the 38,000 online visits to the virtual consultation room. In addition, we have held 726 individual consultation meetings (online and telephone), received 1,091 submitted feedback forms and over 1,000 written/email submissions.

The feedback and submissions received through this public consultation will be considered by the project team in Stage 2 of the option selection phase. This will involve further refinement of the road-based and rail-based options followed by appraisal under the following criteria Safety, Economy, Environment, Accessibility and Social Inclusion, Integration and Physical Activity.

The Stage 2 assessment and appraisal will lead to the identification of the best performing option or combination of options, which will be taken forward as the preferred option. The preferred option will be identified at a future public display, which is expected to take place in Q3 2021. The project team will then engage directly with the property owners, businesses, and other stakeholders along the preferred option as the design is developed.

Northern Distributor Road Project

This scheme will provide a northern distributor road around Limerick City, improving accessibility to the city from County Clare and relieving pressure on the existing river crossings in the City Centre. The road will provide significant improvement in connectivity between different areas along the northern fringe of the city, allowing people living in residential areas to the east of Limerick to access employment areas in the west of Limerick and vice versa. The scheme is currently at Stage II Appraisal with the Department of Transport.

Private Downsizing scheme

Limerick City and County Council developed a policy where persons over the age of 55 who own their own home, and who find their dwellings too large for their needs, may request the Council to purchase their home in return for a lifelong tenancy in a managed Older Persons Scheme. The private downsizing scheme is a voluntary scheme which means that you do not have to move unless you choose to do so. The Council's aim is not just to help people wanting to transfer to a smaller home but to release properties that are in high demand for families that need them most.

Limerick City and County Council wish to deliver more age-friendly private downsizing housing options to Limerick residents, planning ahead to ensure the right housing options and supports are in place as our population ages, reducing the likelihood of entering into nursing homes / care facilities.

Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) - Mungret

The Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) is a key element of Pillar 3 of Rebuilding Ireland: An Action Plan for Housing & Homelessness to unlock sites to deliver 20,000 housing units. The Mungret LIHAF infrastructure project was approved in 2017 to receive funding of €10.5m of which €7.88m will be grant funded from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The link road, which will be 18.5m wide; consisting of 6.5 metre carriageway, 2 x 3 metre shared surfaces for pedestrians and cyclists, 2 x 1 metre grass verges, is 2.9km in length. The overall land take for the proposed road is approximately 4.5 hectares. Typical road grass services will include drainage, public lighting, landscaping and other services. The purpose of the infrastructure is to unlock the provision of approximately 2,000 new homes on public and private lands in the long term, stimulate the local economy, promote employment and provide key services within Mungret. Part 8 planning was granted for Phase 2 in March 2021.

Colbert Station development

The Guinness site, is one of five sites around the city centre that have received funding under the governments SSF (Serviced Sites Fund) scheme. The objective of the Serviced Sites Fund is to support local authorities in the provision of key enabling infrastructure (e.g. streets, underground services, etc.) on Council land to get the sites ready for the delivery of affordable housing. The support has been given to the Council by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in the form of a funding allocation on foot of a competitive bid application by the council.

The Guinness plot, is to act as a first mover high quality housing project within the area, and the project is currently being tested at varying densities to establish a sustainable cost rental model.

A mixture of social and affordable apartments, with appropriate community facilities are being explored for the site. In 2021, the Council will look to run a series of workshops with Councillors, the surrounding residents and interested citizens, to influence and provide ideas for what kinds of public spaces and community facilities could form part of the new scheme.

Addressing dereliction

The Council is committed to protecting the natural and built environment and heritage mix of our lands in both the city and county environs, by taking a hands-on approach to addressing dereliction and vacancy. The Council proactively works with property owners in relation to addressing dereliction in a timely manner. Owners of derelict and vacant properties are provided with information in relation to the different schemes available. In circumstances where the property is not taken out of a derelict state, then Limerick City and County Council have used their legislation powers under the Derelict Site Act, 1990 whereby a property is acquired under CPO in order to protect our towns and villages. This strategy has resulted in derelict and vacant properties being brought back into reuse either through our Housing Development Directorate or by way of private sale on the open market. Alternatively, the council interacts with localised community groups to develop a property, as a collaborative project, for the benefit of the community.

The section is also supportive of the Woodlands Creation Scheme, in conjunction with other departments, whereby funding has been made available Public Bodies for the development of forestry – and many parcels of currently owned council lands have been made available for this purpose.

The department works closely with the councils Conservation Officer working to protect Heritage assets in the City and County.

GOAL 4: TRANSITION TO AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE CARBON NEUTRAL ECONOMY

Climate Action Plan

Limerick City and County Council is continuing to work with the Atlantic Seaboard South Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) to prepare the forthcoming local authority Climate Action plan and a representative from the Council attends the monthly CARO regional steering group meetings. Information provided by CARO has been presented to the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee for information purposes.

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy - Adaption Implementation Plan

The Adaptation Implementation Plan is part of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2019-2024) and was completed and adopted in 2020. An action tracker was developed and circulated to the relevant sections in LCCC. An annual return on implementation of actions for year 1 (September 2019-2020) was submitted to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications in October 2020.

Developing green infrastructure

In December 2020 LCCC tendered for consultancy services to develop a Blue Green Infrastructure (BGI) Strategy for Limerick City and Environs. The successful tenderer was LUC/Tobin. Work on developing the strategy began in March and the strategy development will run in parallel with and inform the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028. The BGI strategy will create an inventory of Blue Green Assets within the study area, assess their condition and make recommendations for their protection, enhancement and expansion. It will also identify opportunities to employ nature based solutions in the urban environment.

In terms of nature based solutions, significant progress has been made in upskilling staff in the area of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS). SuDS introductory and evaluation courses have been run in house with over 30 staff trained to date. More robust policies on SuDS have also been drafted for the new development plan to ensure that the

full benefits in terms of amenity, biodiversity and water quality are realised as well as water quality. A policy on green roofs has also been introduced.

Biodiversity

Appropriate policies to further this objective are being developed as part of the Blue Green Infrastructure Strategy and will inform the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028

Noise Action Plan

Implementation of the Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 is continuing with several “hotspots” analysed in detail and cost benefit analyses carried out which have been submitted to TII. A new approach to planning applications for residential and other noise sensitive developments near major roads has been introduced which relies on the principles of good acoustic design, which balances the need to optimise land use with the need to protect amenity and health. Planning for Round 4 of the noise action planning is progressing with data collection for production of strategic noise maps under way.

All Ireland Pollinator Plan

- The Council became a partner to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan in 2019, since then a number of initiatives have been progressed to implement the plan:
- Areas of several parks and other greenspaces have been developed into wildflower meadows.
- Road verges in a number of areas around the city have been allowed to grow to create corridors for pollinators.
- Pollinator friendly designs were produced for a total of 10 roundabouts in the city and county and company sponsorship is being sought to implement these designs. One pollinator has already been planted with funding from the DHLGH under the National Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Bedding plants have been replaced with pollinator friendly perennials in a number of public planting scheme.
- An educational video about the Corbally Meadow Pollinator Area has been produced
- The Council funded completion of an e learning module on bumble bee identification which is available through its website and that of the National Biodiversity Data Centre
- A pollinator friendly garden called the Pollen Patch has been developed beside the Merchant’s Quay Office.

Measures for eradication, control and containment of invasive species

The DHLGH project to eradicate of giant hogweed from the river Loobagh catchment entered its third year. This project has employed primarily manual means to control this invasive species in the Loobagh corridor with minimal use of herbicides. This has reduced the impact on water courses and has allowed more rapid re colonisation by native species.

An invasive species control plan has is also being finalised for Westfield’s Wetland in Limerick City.

Newcastle west Area Office has been conducting a pilot initiative to control Japanese knotweed in the Newcastle west Municipal District.

Water & Air Quality

LCCC has a dedicated team of three scientists and one administrator tasked with implementing the River Basin District Management Plan 2018-2021 in Limerick. The team carries out investigative assessments in priority water bodies to identify pressures and works with the relevant sectors to mitigate any impacts. Air quality is monitored at a number of locations in the City to assess the effects of any changes related to transportation and heating systems on air quality.

GOAL 5: PROMOTE A SOCIALLY INTEGRATED, HEALTHY AND SAFE LIMERICK

URBACT Health & Greenspace project

URBACT is a European exchange and learning programme that promotes integrated sustainable urban development. Limerick is one of nine partner cities in the URBACT Health and Greenspace Project, long with Lead Partner Budapest (HU), Espoo (FI), Messina (IT), Breda (NL), Santa Pola (ES), Suceava (RO) and Tartu (EE) and Poznan (PL). The object of the URBACT Health and Green Space Project is to support and enhance the provision of quality green infrastructure in urban areas for their health benefits.

The focus of this project in Limerick is on enhancing and animating green spaces in ways that promote better physical, mental health and social interaction. A number of parks and greenspaces around the city have been selected and, by working with local stakeholders, plans are being developed for how these green spaces can better serve the surrounding communities. A range of pilot actions is also being trialled such as developing orienteering trails in the Baggot Estate and developing wildflower meadow in Mayorstone and Johnsgate.

Horizon 2020 Go Green routes

Go Green Routes is an EU funded project, which aims to make our cities healthier and more active. The focus of Go Green Routes will be on developing nature-based solutions and promoting active travel to make cities more sustainable. Limerick is one of almost 50 project partners in Go Green Routes which include participants from the industry, technology companies, academic institutions along with other European and global cities. The project is being led by the University of Limerick.

Age Friendly

The ambition of Age Friendly is that Limerick will become a great place in which to grow old, have easily accessible public buildings, shops and services. It will incorporate older people's views into significant decisions being made about Limerick. It will promote a positive attitude to ageing and address stereotypes about older people, and will create opportunities for older people to be engaged with their city and county socially, as employees and volunteers.

In 2020, the Age Friendly Programme provided key supports to older people and this proved critical during the pandemic. Supports packs delivered to over 1500 older people, a peer-to-peer friendly call service called Reaching Out/Staying Connected, collaboration between Nanjing, China and Age Friendly Limerick (donation of 20,000 face masks to nursing homes in Limerick) and publication of a Demetia and Age Friendly book.

Learning Limerick

Learning Limerick is a multi-sectoral partnership group, with representatives from education, local government, childcare, social welfare, enterprise, youth work, local development and migrant integration. Limerick became a UNESCO Learning city in 2017 and its vision is that Limerick will become a vibrant learning region where people are living healthier, happier and more productive lives as a result of their involvement with Lifelong learning. The purpose of Learning Limerick is to work in partnership with relevant stakeholders to promote awareness of the importance of lifelong learning for every person, family, community and workplace in Limerick.

In 2020, the Lifelong Learning Festival was delivered online. The theme of the festival was 'Celebrating and building Learning Communities. The festival saw the organisation of 79 free, online events that spanned a variety of topics and sectors. The events were delivered in a multitude of ways including online, interactive information sessions; live presentations via Zoom/YouTube/Facebook; short films and pre-recorded events and activities; webinar panel discussions; and live chats.

Healthy Initiatives Programme

The delivery of the Healthy Ireland Programme led to many new Initiatives being delivered in Limerick such as the "Breastfeeding Friendly" and "Not Around Us" programmes. Health and Wellbeing supports, including the Keep Well Campaign have been delivered through various services of the Council including the Sports Partnership, Libraries, Culture and Arts and community development supports.

GOAL 6: ACTIVELY ENGAGE WITH OUR COMMUNITIES

Public Participation Network

In 2020, the Public Participation Network significantly increased the number of representatives on Council Committees resulting in improved sectoral representation at policy development level. The Council continued to actively engage with communities across urban and rural Limerick in the delivery of mainstream government programmes in social inclusion and community development.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The LCDC has strategic and oversight role in the development and delivery of key community programmes and funding. These programmes include management of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) under the oversight of the LCDC. Under the programme, one-to-one interventions are provided to people, targeting those that are most disadvantaged, to address needs and support inclusion. The SICAP budget for Limerick in 2020 was €2.3 million.

The LCDC also manages the EU LEADER Programme, which is the mainstream local rural development programme. In Limerick the allocation of funding for the 2016-2020 programme, totalling €9,576 million was completed in 2020. The LEADER Programme is delivered into rural Limerick with the Local Development Companies responsible for delivery of the programme on the ground – West Limerick Resources in West Limerick and Ballyhoura Development in East Limerick. Additional funding for continuity of LEADER (LEADER Transition Programme) has been put in place by government until the next EU LEADER programme is in place (after 2023).

Community Grant/Funding Schemes

The Council is also responsible to delivery of a range of grant schemes from central government into local communities. These are at different grant thresholds ranging from very small grants in programmes such as the Community Enhancement Scheme, COVID Fund in 2020, grants for rural areas experiencing depopulation (CLÁR), small grants under Healthy Ireland, to larger-scale grants under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme and the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS). Across these programmes, the Council works directly with communities and in cooperation with the Local Development Companies in Limerick to promote community engagement, delivery of quality projects where there is a wide distribution of participation and benefits across communities in Limerick.

Covid-19 Community Response

The Limerick COVID-19 Community Response was established in March 2020 and was a collaboration between Limerick City & County Council, An Garda Síochána, HSE and a range of sporting, community and voluntary groups across Limerick. The call for support from older and vulnerable members of our communities was met with an unprecedented response from the people of Limerick. Thousands of requests were responded to by a bank of almost 2000 volunteers. The supports expanded as the need rose, and with the provision of government, funding, longer-term initiatives were able to be rolled out to the people of Limerick.

My Point Engagement Portal

Limerick City and County Council created an online engagement portal 'My Point' in 2019, which provided the public with the opportunity to give feedback and complete surveys on the services provided by the local authority. Sixty-seven online consultations have taken place with the public to date and this feedback is used to inform our decision-making processes and to ensure the public have input into the services delivered by Limerick City and County Council.

Actively engaging with our communities as part of the Development Plan for Limerick

The pre – draft public consultation process, which resulted in 248 submissions, included a social media campaign (using Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat and Instagram which included biteable video clips), radio interviews, an online webinar, an online portal and virtual public engagement room (which had nearly 3000 page views), a direct mailing campaign, an interactive schools programme, presentations to the Public Private Network (PPN), 30 public meetings (by appointment) and 38 virtual meetings were held with a wide variety of stakeholders.

GOAL 7: WORK WITH OUR COLLEAGUES ACROSS THE PUBLIC SECTOR AND OUR PARTNERS IN THE PRIVATE AND VOLUNTARY/COMMUNITY SECTOR TO DELIVER ON A SHARED COMMITMENT TO LIMERICK AS SET OUT IN THE LIMERICK CHARTER

Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan 2014-2023

The Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan 2014-2023 drives the physical, social and economic regeneration of four communities in the City with the objective of improving their quality of life. A Jobs Initiative Coordinator was appointed to create the environment for sustainable job creation. The Social Intervention Fund is the backbone of social regeneration by giving funding to many of the groups, initiatives and projects that contribute to improved social cohesion.

Progress is over half way on the physical regeneration projects with a number of large housing projects due to start in 2021 in each of the communities. The Thermal Upgrade project continued in 2020 however, progress was delayed due to Covid-19 and will recommence once the restrictions are lifted. Demolitions continue on a phased basis in the context of re-designing the area's for improved safety for residents.

Promotion of Fire Safety

Promoting public awareness of fire safety, and actively educating the community about fire prevention measures. In this regard, the Fire Service participates in school visits, talks to community groups, Transition year courses and media fire safety campaigns.

Supporting the Arts

As a part of the Arts Council Framework Agreement Programme, the Rural Arts and Excellence Strand included the Castleconnell Autumn Concerts Series 2020 online and The Éigse Michael Hartnett and The Éigse Michael Hartnett Annual Poetry Award, in a blended model. The Young People, Children and Education Strand included a re-modelled Artists in Schools, Limerick Culture and Arts Office worked in partnership with Music Generation Limerick City. Partnerships to deliver for young people were supported with the County Limerick Youth Theatre, Limerick Youth Choir and Integrated Dance.

In 2020, supports for Arts in Health programme were delivered in partnership with Helium Arts, Arts as an intervention to improve maternal and infant mental health and wellbeing and the University Hospital Limerick Arts Committee.

Civic Festivals

A successful virtual Riverfest took place. Culture Night / Oíche Chultúir also went digital for 2020. The successful Christmas in Limerick campaign was delivered to create a festive atmosphere for the people of Limerick. The Christmas in Limerick programme 2020 included the Walking in a Window Wonderland Trail with the twelve windows of Christmas to entice people into the city centre. Ireland's St. Patrick's Festivals were cancelled by National Government on March 10, due to COVID-19. The International Band Championships 50th anniversary were rescheduled.

Creative Ireland programme

Creative Ireland is an all-government five-year initiative, from 2017 to 2022, which places culture and creativity at the centre of public policy. The Limerick Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018 - 2022 sets out six strategic priorities for Limerick.

In 2020, Limerick City and County Council delivered the following:
20 projects to support Limerick Creatives and to bring creativity to our communities. Over 60 projects uploaded to the Creative Ireland portal.

Made in Limerick Grants were offered as part of the Limerick Creative Ireland Programme to deliver activities taking place in 2020.

Cruinniú na nÓg, a national day of creativity for children and young people, took place on 13 June 2020. Children and young people were invited to take part in a range of events and workshops delivered by Limerick Culture and Arts Office in partnership with Fresh Film. Cruinniú na nÓg is a national initiative that celebrates and encourages participation in culture and creativity through performance, coding, theatre, art and music workshops, readings, screenings and special events. All events are free of charge, child-centred and activity-based. 2020 events took place online due to Covid-19 restrictions.

YOUTH A number of projects supported the ambitions of the Creative Youth Plan, published by Creative Ireland. Projects included The East Limerick Filmmakers, (ELF), the Training Smart Initiative, with the Limerick Youth Dance Company (LYDC) and Future Creators Creative Youth Forum Sharing in the Irish Aerial Creation Centre (IACC) - between three youth groups; Irish Aerial Creation Centre performance group, the Irish Chamber Orchestra's Youth Orchestra and the Limerick Youth Dance Company. Building on this a new major Future Creators Limerick Project was developed with the support of the Creative Ireland Pillar 2, Cross Sectoral and Legacy Strand. Three groups of young people, from three artistic organisations - the Irish Aerial Creation Centre, Irish Chamber Orchestra Youth Orchestra and Limerockers Cru - are producing a Film, with classical music, hip hop and aerial dance.

Creative Communities Jobs Stimulus Measure 2020. This additional grant was provided as part of Limerick Creative Ireland Programme to deliver activities in 2020. It supported nine projects in Limerick City and County across art forms and projects including printmaking, theatre, film, community engagement and preparing content for online platforms.

GOAL 8:

BE EFFECTIVE AND COMMITTED TO PROVIDING SERVICES THAT WILL UNDERPIN AN INNOVATIVE LIMERICK

Ongoing introduction of online services

Building Control Management system, which provides an online platform for processing fire safety certificate applications, disability access certificates and commencement notices.

Providing an online payments system for fire invoices and obtaining copies of fire safety certificates, which will provide a better customer experience in paying their invoices outside work hours. It will save processing costs, transparent and contactless.

CTRI project

Migration to National best practise in terms of standards of staffing, governance and structure.

Development and implementation of national technology platforms for the effective and efficient mobilisation of Fire Service resources and the facilitation of access to management information and Fire Service data.

Development of communications technologies to facilitate effective communications between Fire Service resources and Regional Communications Systems.

Development of common national training process and procedures to an accredited standard.

Development of common national funding model ensuring that the operational cost of the system provision is distributed equitably across all its constituent Fire Authorities.

Service Catalogue

The Service Catalogue is an internal list of services, which is mapped to our Customer Relationship Management System. This ensures that all customer requests are routed to the correct area and provides Limerick City and County Council with live data on citizen needs. This data is then used to make informed evidence-based decisions on budget and staffing allocations for council services.

Cora Project Management System

The Cora Project Management System is a key deliverable of 'Project 18', which aimed to embed a Project Management Framework into Limerick City and County Council and provide a system (Cora) that will monitor all Capital projects across the organisation. This system has been integrated with Agresso, our financial management system, meaning time; scope and money are now tracked across all projects. Cora also ensures that projects are connected back to our corporate aims to guarantee we are delivering on the promises we have made to our citizens.

Request for job code set-ups and budget adjustments can be made online through Cora which ensures there is a digital audit trail and also assisted in facilitating remote working through Covid-19.

HAP & RAS

Both the HAP & RAS provide Housing Solutions to those persons eligible on the Social Housing waiting list for Local Authorities. In Limerick, some 3,500 households are accommodated between both schemes with HAP Tenants in tenancies over 2 years and RAS Tenants in tenancies over at least 6 years. There has been significant movement in the past 12 months for those who qualify for a transfer to move into more permanent housing in Council Housing Stock and Approved Housing Bodies.

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans	
Number of Applications Received	66
Number of Loans Approved	28
Number of loans Drawn Down	9
Value of loans Drawn Down	€1,058,700.00

Tenant Purchase

The Tenant Purchase Scheme has had a strengthening communities impact since introduction in 2016. While it offers Housing Tenants an opportunity to become homeowners with discounts of between 40% and 60% depending on income, it more importantly invests into communities with a sign of confidence by the new home owners.

No of Eligible Applications received in 2020	12
Total No of Sales completed in 2020	12

Housing Grants

Housing Grants provide not only Local Authority Tenants the opportunity to have their Council House improved to meet their change in circumstances due to a capacity issue. But they are also offered to those home owners who equally meet the capacity criteria or are over 65. These Grants offer a lifeline to persons who may have been hospitalised and require various adjustments to their homes to prolong their ability to live independently. Limerick City and County Council have funded in the region of €4.5m of Grants between all schemes in 2020.

HAP Shared Services Centre

Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) operates the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Shared Services Centre (SSC) on behalf of 31 local authorities and the Dublin Regional Homeless Executive (DRHE).

The aim of the HAP SSC is to provide greater financial and operational efficiencies to its local authority clients through centralised service delivery; to provide best practice customer service through an ongoing commitment to investment in new SSC management technologies; and, to be a best practice data management and analytics hub for HAP, contributing to better policy, strategy and operations for HAP SSC and its stakeholders.

As at March 2021, over 90,000 tenancies have been set-up with over 60,000 active tenancies. The goal for 2021 is to set-up 15,000 tenancies.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

01/01/2020 - 31/12/2020 (Annual)			
Limerick City and County Council			
Status: Locked			
Topic	Indicator	Value	
Housing: H1, H2 & H4 Approved	A. No. of dwellings in the ownership of the LA at 1/1/2020	5385	
	B. No. of dwellings added to the LA owned stock during 2020 (whether constructed or acquired)	109	
	C. No. of LA owned dwellings sold in 2020	18	
	D. No. of LA owned dwellings demolished in 2020	1	
	E. No. of dwellings in the ownership of the LA at 31/12/2020	5475	
	F. No. of LA owned dwellings planned for demolition under a DHPLG approved scheme	47	
	A. The percentage of the total number of LA owned dwellings that were vacant on 31/12/2020	3.70 %	
	The number of dwellings within their overall stock that were not tenanted on 31/12/2020	201	
	A. Expenditure during 2020 on the maintenance of LA housing compiled from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020, divided by the no. of dwellings in the LA stock at 31/12/2020, i.e. the H1E less H1F indicator figure	€1894.49	
	Expenditure on maintenance of LA stock compiled from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020, including planned maintenance and expenditure that qualified for grants, such as SEAI grants for energy efficient retro-fitting works or the Fabric Upgrade Programme but excluding expenditure on vacant properties and expenditure under approved major refurbishment schemes (i.e. approved Regeneration or under the Remedial Works Schemes).	€10283312.39	
	Housing: H3 & H5 Approved	A. The time taken from the date of vacation of a dwelling to the date in 2020 when the dwelling is re-tenanted, averaged across all dwellings re-let during 2020	59.85 wk
B. The cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted in 2020, averaged across all dwellings re-let in 2020		€33482.64	
The number of dwellings that were re-tenanted on any date in 2020 (but excluding all those that had been vacant due to an estate-wide refurbishment scheme)		138	
The number of weeks from the date of vacation to the date the dwelling is re-tenanted		8259.3 wk	
Total expenditure on works necessary to enable re-letting of the dwellings		€4620605	
A. Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area at end of June 2020		13541	
B. Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2020		774	
C. Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2020 that were found not to be compliant with the Standards Regulations		99.46 %	
D. Number of dwellings deemed compliant in 2020 (including those originally deemed non-compliant)		35	
Housing: H6 Approved	A. Number of adult individuals in emergency accommodation that are long-term homeless as a % of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation at the end of 2020	50.73 %	
	The number of adult individuals classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on the night of 31 December 2020 as recorded on the PASS system	205	
	The number out of those individuals who, on 31/12/2020, had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously, or for 6 months cumulatively within the previous 12 months	104	

Roads: R1 & R2 Approved	A. (a) The % of Regional road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2020	93.70 %	
	A. (b) The % of Local Primary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2020	96.80 %	
	A. (c) The % of Local Secondary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2020	96.60 %	
	A. (d) The % of Local Tertiary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2020	85.90 %	
	B. (a.1) The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2020	4.40 %	
	B. (a.2) The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2020	21.00 %	
	B. (a.3) The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2020	51.60 %	
	B. (a.4) The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2020	22.70 %	
	B. (b.1) The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2020	10.40 %	
	B. (b.2) The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2020	26.60 %	
	B. (b.3) The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2020	35.10 %	
	B. (b.4) The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2020	27.00 %	
	B. (c.1) The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2020	12.90 %	
	B. (c.2) The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2020	33.00 %	
	B. (c.3) The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2020	30.90 %	
	B. (c.4) The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2020	21.90 %	
	B. (d.1) The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2020	21.80 %	
	B. (d.2) The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2020	27.00 %	
	B. (d.3) The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2020	30.40 %	
	B. (d.4) The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2020	9.80 %	
	A1. Kilometres of regional road strengthened during 2020	22.0 km	
	A2. The amount expended on regional roads strengthening work during 2020	€5918364.00	
	A3. The average unit cost of regional road strengthening works per square metre (€/m ²)	€34.00	
	B1. Kilometres of regional road resealed during 2020	19.4 km	
	B2. The amount expended on regional road resealing work during 2020	€604684.00	
	B3. The average unit cost of regional road resealing works per square metre (€/m ²)	€5.15	
	C1. Kilometres of local road strengthened during 2020	63.1 km	
	C2. The amount expended on local road strengthening work during 2020	€6059741.00	
	C3. The average unit cost of local road strengthening works per square metre (€/m ²)	€19.13	
	D1. Kilometres of local road resealed during 2020	103.8 km	
	D2. The amount expended on local road resealing work during 2020	€2295185.00	
	D3. The average unit cost of local road resealing works per square metre (€/m ²)	€4.54	

Motor Tax: R3 Approved	A. The percentage of motor tax transactions which were dealt with online (i.e. transaction is processed and the tax disc is issued) in 2020	83.72 %	
Water: W1 & W2 Approved	% of Private Drinking Water Schemes in compliance with statutory requirements in respect of the monitoring of the quality of private drinking water supplies during 2020	100 %	
	The number of registered schemes monitored by each local authority as a percentage of total schemes registered	78.38 %	
	The number of registered schemes monitored in 2020	87	The response to Indicator W2 for 2019 was provided by LCCC to NOAC in line with the Guidelines and identified the number of schemes audited. It would appear from communication received from NOAC in late November 2020 that the word audited was replaced with monitored. This change to the indicator was not noticed when we were asked to confirm our statistics. Had we prepared our statistics based on monitored, LCCC would have scored 100% for 2019. The returns for 2020 have noted that the indicator refers to monitored.
	Total number of registered schemes in 2020	111	
Waste: E1 Approved	A. The number of households, based on the 2016 Census, who are situated in an area covered by a licensed operator providing a 3 bin service at 31/12/2020	49468	
	B. The % of households within the local authority that the number at A represents (based on agglomerations of more than 500)	120.63 %	
Environmental Pollution: E2 Approved	A1. Total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2020	1442	
	A2. Number of pollution cases closed from 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020	1657	
	A3. Total number of cases on hands at 31/12/2020	148	
	The opening number of cases carried forward from the year end 2019	363	
Litter Pollution: E3 Approved	A1. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2020 was unpolluted or litter free	2 %	
	A2. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2020 was slightly polluted	65 %	
	A3. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2020 was moderately polluted	31 %	
	A4. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2020 was significantly polluted	2 %	
	A5. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2020 was grossly polluted	0 %	
Green Flag Status: E4 Approved	A. The % of schools that have been awarded/renewed green flag status in the two years to 31 December 2020	37.06 %	
	Schools which attained a Green Flag for the first time in 2020	3	
	Schools which renewed their Green Flag in 2020	26	
	Schools which held a Green Flag from 2019 and therefore do not require renewal until 2021	34	
Energy Efficiency: E5 Approved	A. The cumulative % of energy savings achieved by 31/12/2020 relative to baseline year (2009)	100 %	

Public Lighting: E6 Approved	A. Total billable wattage of the public lighting system	9158.75 MWh	
	B. Average billable wattage of the public lighting system	93.68 W	
	C. Percentage of the total system that LED lights represent	45.26 %	
	Number of LED lights in the public lighting system	10552	
	Number of SOX-SON lights in the public lighting system	12763	
Planning: P1 Approved	A. Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	12.52 %	
	Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority i.e. buildings where a valid Commencement Notice was served in the period 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020 by a builder or developer on the local authority	695	
	Number of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2020 that were the subject of at least one on-site inspection during 2020 undertaken by the local authority	87	
Planning: P2 & P3 Approved	A. Number of LA planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in 2020	40	
	B. % of the determinations at A which confirmed (either with or without variation) the decision made by the LA	75.00 %	
	Number of determinations confirming the LA's decision (either with or without variation)	30	
	A. Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020 that were investigated	374	
	B. Total number of investigated cases that were closed during 2020	384	
	C. % of the cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	47.14 %	
	D. % of cases at B that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	0.26 %	
	E. % Cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	52.60 %	
	F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2020	967	
	Number of cases at 'B' that were dismissed under section 152(2), Planning and Development Act 2000	181	
	Number of cases at 'B' that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	1	
	Number of cases at 'B' that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	202	
Planning: P4 & P5 Approved	A. The 2020 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census	€19.42	
	AFS Programme D data consisting of D01 - Forward Planning, D02 - Development Management, D03 - Enforcement (inclusive of the relevant Programme D proportion of the central management charge) for 2020	€3785082	
	A. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2020 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of their receipt	55.45 %	
	B. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2020 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant	44.55 %	
	The total number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2020 that were not withdrawn by the applicant	101	
	The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2020 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of the date of receipt of the application	56	
	The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2020 that were decided (granted or refused) within an agreed extended time period	45	

Fire Service: F1 Approved	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme E expenditure data for 2020 divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census figures for the population served by the fire authority as per the Risk Based Approach Phase One reports	€86.02	
	AFS Programme E expenditure data consisting of E11 - Operation of Fire Service and E12 - Fire Prevention for 2020	€17357571	The total for E14 Agency and recoupable Services is €3,864,733 which includes the Central Management Charge for E14 of €669,858
Fire Service: F2 & F3 Approved	A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire	148 min	
	B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	4.97 min	
	C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	148 min	
	D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	4.57 min	
	A. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is within 10 minutes	67.14 %	
	B. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	24.26 %	
	C. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	8.61 %	
	D. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	56.88 %	
	E. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	35.20 %	
	F. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	7.93 %	
	Total number of call-outs in respect of fires from 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020	639	Whole time - 439 Retained - 200
	Number of these fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	429	Whole time - 379 Retained - 50
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	155	Whole time - 56 Retained - 99
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	55	Whole time - 4 Retained - 51
	Total number of call-outs in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire) from 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020	429	Whole time - 207 Retained - 222
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	244	Whole time - 161 Retained - 83
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	151	Whole time - 42 Retained - 109
Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	34	Whole time - 4 Retained - 30	
Library Service: L1 Approved	A. Number of visits to libraries per head of population for the LA area per the 2016 Census	0.88	
	B. Number of items issued to library borrowers in the year	311011	
	C. Library active members per head of population	0.11	
	D. Number of registered library members in the year	34849	
	Number of visits to its libraries from 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020	171874	

Library Service: L2 Approved	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme F data for 2020 divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census	€31.65	
	B. The annual per capita expenditure on collections over the period 1/01/2020 to 31/12/2020	€1.27	
	A. AFS Programme F data consisting of F02 - Operation of Library and Archival Service (inclusive of the relevant proportion of the central management charge for Programme F) for 2020	€6169474	
	B. The annual expenditure on new stock acquired by the library in the year	€246788.17	
Youth and Community: Y1 & Y2 Approved	A. Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme	41.03 %	
	Total number of second level schools in the LA area at 31/12/2020	39	
	Number of second level schools in the LA area from which representatives attended the local Comhairle na nÓg AGM held in 2020	16	
	A. Number of organisations included in the County Register and the proportion who opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN	35.61	
	Total number of organisations included in the County Register for the local authority area as at 31/12/2020	132	
	Total number of those organisations that registered for the first time in 2020	31	
	Number of organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College on whatever date they registered for the PPN	47	
Corporate: C1, C2, C4 & C5 Approved	A. The wholetime equivalent staffing number as at 31 December 2020	1248.11	
	A. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2020	3.01 %	
	B. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2020	0.21 %	
	Total Number of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2020	9446.66 day	
	Total Number of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2020	599.36 day	
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of self-certified sick leave days in 2020	8.58 day	
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of medically certified sick leave days in 2020	918.24 day	
	If any staff are on long-term sick leave (i.e. a continuous period of more than 4 weeks), include a text note of the number of staff on long-term sick leave	91	
	A. All ICT expenditure in the period from 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020, divided by the WTE no.	€3672.26	
	Total ICT expenditure in 2020	€4583389.81	
	A. All ICT expenditure calculated in C4 as a proportion of Revenue expenditure	0.55	
	Total Revenue expenditure from 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020 before transfers to or from reserves	831732338	

Corporate: C3 Approved	A. The per capita total page views of the local authority's websites in 2020	2193	
	B. The per capita total number of followers at end 2020 of the local authority's social media accounts (if any)	142	
	The cumulative total page views of all websites operated by the local authority for the period from 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020 obtained from a page tagging on-site web analytics service or equivalent	4273402	
	The total number of social media users who, at 31/12/2020, were following the local authority on any social media sites	277333	
	The number of social media accounts operated by the local authority	56	
	Indicate if there was a change to the cookie policies on the local authority sites and the date this came into effect	Yes. Limerick City and County Council published a new Cookie policy on Limerick.ie on 5th October 2020. The Cookie policy is managed through OneTrust Cookie Consent - this allows visitors to Limerick.ie to manage which cookies are used during their visit to the website.	
Finance: M1 to M4 Approved	A. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2016 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€810407	
	B. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2017 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€812260	
	C. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2018 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€823400	
	D. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2019 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€833704	
	E. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2020 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€887565	
	F. Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2020 as a percentage of Total Income in 2020 from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	0.10 %	
	G. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2020	€4267.50	
	H. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2020 excluding significant out of county / shared service expenditure	€1164.20	
	The 2020 Total Income figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€848775352	
	The 2020 Total Expenditure figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€831732338	
	The 2020 Revenue expenditure excluding county / shared service expenditure for the service providers of HAP, MyPay, DRHE and Dublin Fire Services	€226901176	
	A. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2016	77.0 %	
	A. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2016	94.0 %	
	A. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2016	74.0 %	
	B. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2017	82.0 %	
	B. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2017	96.0 %	
	B. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2017	78.0 %	
	C. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2018	85.0 %	
	C. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2018	95.0 %	
C. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2018	75.0 %		

D. a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019	88.0 %	
D. b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019	96.0 %	
D. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019	78.0 %	
E. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	81 %	
A.2 Per capita total cost of settled claims for 2019	€23.34	
A.3 Per capita total cost of settled claims for 2020	€18.74	
IPB Insurance: Number of notified claims for 2018	273	
IPB Insurance: Number of notified claims for 2019	209	
IPB Insurance: Number of notified claims for 2020	262	
IPB Insurance: Number of settled claims for 2018	179	
IPB Insurance: Number of settled claims for 2019	178	
IPB Insurance: Number of settled claims for 2020	207	
IPB Insurance: Total cost of settled claims for 2018	€3414281.60	
IPB Insurance: Total cost of settled claims for 2019	€4549740.66	
IPB Insurance: Total cost of settled claims for 2020	€3652088.16	
Total cost of claims settled under excess for 2018	€0	
Total cost of claims settled under excess for 2019	€0	
Total Cost of claims settled under excess for 2020	€0	
Self-insured: Number of notified claims for 2018	0	
The no. of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2020	468	
The no. of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2020	202	
A. The number of participants who received mentoring during the period 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020 per 100,000 population	141.6118	
The no. of participants who received mentoring during the period 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020	276	
A. Does the local authority have a current tourism strategy?	Yes	
B. Does the local authority have a designated Tourism Officer?	Yes	



ATLANTIC EDGE
LIMERICK
EUROPEAN EMBRACE



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**
Limerick City
& County Council

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