

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



## THIS MONTH:

**Vistakon** is investing over €100m in Limerick.

**Major housing programme underway.**

The search is on for Limerick's **Best Young Entrepreneur for 2015.**

A **civic reception** was hosted by the Mayor, Councillor Kevin Sheahan to honour Women and Men, Religious Orders and Congregations in the Diocese of Limerick.

A special commemorative piece of street furniture was unveiled to honour the Local Sporting Hero **John "The Bull" Hayes.**

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1. Financial Matters

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## Empowering the Citizen

### 1. Home and Social Development Update

#### Waiting List

Approved Applicants for Social Housing Support and Areas	Approved Applicants to the 30th of June 2015
Metropolitan District of Limerick	3,854
Municipal Districts:	
Adare-Rathkeale	328
Cappamore-Kilmallock	345
Newcastle West	359
Total	4,886

#### Allocations

	Metropolitan District	Newcastle West	Adare – Rathkeale	Cappamore – Kilmallock	Total
Year to end of last month	53	21	24	37	135
No of Units Allocated June	10	4	3	3	20
Year to Date	63	25	27	40	155

#### Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

There are currently 1,138 RAS tenancies (867 private and 271 Approved Housing Bodies) being sustained by the RAS unit.

During the period April to 30th June there were 34 contracts completed with RAS landlords to facilitate RAS contract renewals or alternative RAS accommodation provision.

During the period April to end of June there were 82 full inspections for renewal contracts and new properties were fulfilled.

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### Housing Assistance Payments

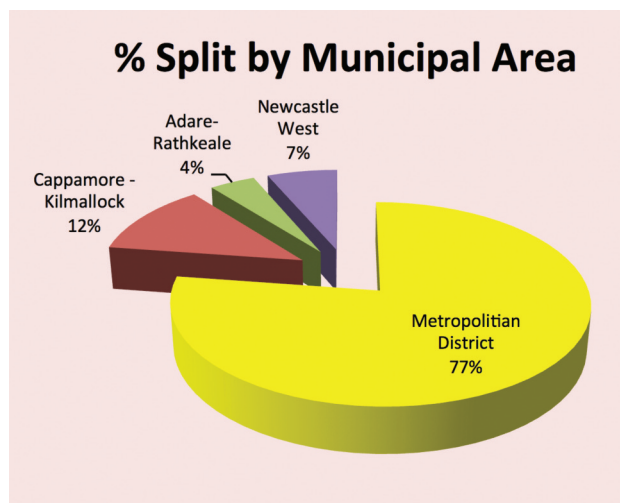
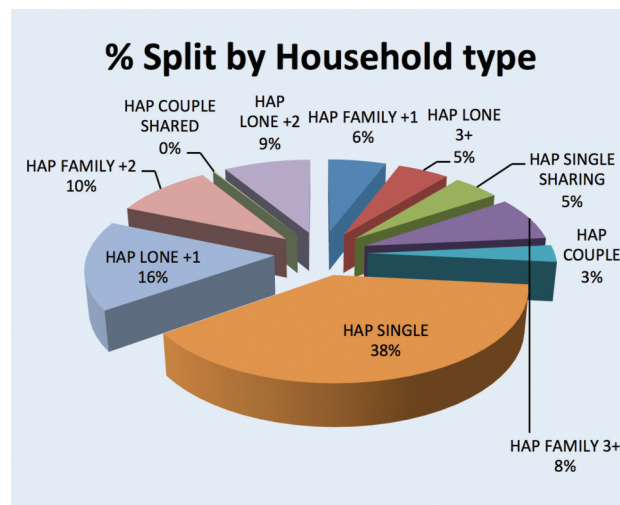
#### Limerick Hap

Limerick City & County Council has set up a total 623 tenancies to date and is averaging 16 tenancies a week for 2015. The following is a split by **household type** and **Municipal District**.

#### HUB Update

For the purposes of the HAP statutory pilot, the Council is providing a transactional shared service HUB for all local authorities operating HAP during the pilot phase. There are currently 13 (no) WAVE 1 Local Authorities commenced on HAP and it is envisaged that a further 6 Local Authorities will commence during Q3, 2015.

Currently, there is a total of 2,388 active tenancies.



### Home Improvement Schemes

Private Housing Grant Aid	Number of Grants paid at the 30th June 2015	Euro Amount
MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	75	€276,600.64
HAGS (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	45	€418,487.74
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	49	€219,260.57

€914,348.95 paid to date up to 30/06/2015.

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## Stock Management and Construction

Awaiting allocation for 2015.

### Housing Construction Programme

Name of Scheme	Stage	Number of Units	Euro Allocation
Rathbane (SHIP – Social Housing Investment Programme)	Design Stage awaiting Departmental Approval	7	€486,770
Lisheen Park, Patrickswell	Departmental approval received. Tender documents being prepared to procure Integrated Design Team	20	€3,700,000
Glenview, Hospital	Departmental approval received. Tender documents being prepared to procure Integrated Design Team	20	€3,700,000
Deerpark, Adare	Departmental approval received. Tender documents being prepared to procure Integrated Design Team	30	€5,250,000
Clonmacken	Departmental approval received. Tender documents being prepared to procure Integrated Design Team	40	€7,120,000

### Job Stimulus Programme

Name of Scheme	Stage	Number of Units	Euro Allocation
Hasset Villas	Design team appointed. Land survey completed and work on initial design has commenced	3	€450,000
Kilmurry Court	Design team appointed. Land survey completed and work on initial design has commenced	6	€900,000
Clare Street	Ready to procure for Integrated Design Team	6	€1,000,000

### Traveller Accommodation Programme

Name of Scheme	Stage	Euro Allocation
Castletroy	Extension of three bays, project more than 85% complete	€200,000

### Voluntary Housing

The Construction and Acquisition team are currently meeting with all Approved Housing Bodies (AHB's) to discuss a partnership approach in order to achieve the targets set out in the Social Housing Strategy 2020. A forum for the AHB's will take place on July 20th in conjunction with the Irish Council for Social Housing (ICSH). This forum provides the opportunity for the local authority, the ICSH and the AHB's to work together in order to deliver social housing units, to promote good

practice and the transfer of knowledge between the organisations.

The Department of Environment, Community and Local Government issued a call for proposals for 2015 in which 15 applications were returned by Limerick City & County Council for approval. If successful the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) applications will deliver a large number of units through construction and acquisition. It is expected to receive confirmation of these CAS projects in July 2015.

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### Voluntary Housing New Construction/ Refurbishment:

- Cluid – 20 units at Hyde Road Limerick – Site survey works are currently underway.
- STEER – 4 units have been approved under the Social Housing Leasing Initiative (SHLI) in Kilfinane.
- Focus received approval for the purchase of 4 houses in 2014 – 3 properties were purchased and are currently being renovated with fourth property at sale agreed stage.
- Focus – 4 units at Bengal Terrace, agreeing Payment and availability Agreement.
- Renovations ongoing to property purchased by Daughters of Charity in November/December 2014.
- 1 property finalised under the Mortgage to Rent Scheme in 2015 bringing the total to 4 properties.
- Novas received approval for the purchase of 8 properties under the Capital Advance Leasing Facility.

### Rent Collection

Opening Balance @01/01/2015	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing balance @ 30/06/15	% Collection
1,830,818	6,074,740	7,905,558	5,916,063	1,989,495	74.8%

### Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan (LRFIP)

The Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan (LRFIP) was approved by the Elected Members in February 2014. The programme has transitioned well from planning to implementation phase.

The status of the regeneration programme under the three pillars of regeneration is as follows:-

#### Social:

This year there was a review of the criteria for funding under the Social Intervention Fund with projects being expected to link outcomes more closely with the objectives of the LRFIP. The project dossier was revised and following the call for proposals a total of 147 applications were submitted by 90 organisations. 127 projects were endorsed by the independent assessment panel funding subsequently approved. An appeals process has recently been completed with details to be sent to applicants shortly.

A recent 'Information' update day was held in Ballinacurra Weston following a request submitted through the Regeneration Committee. Approximately 70 residents attended the 'world-style' cafe information session held in

the 'West End Youth Space' during the course of the day. The session was supported by Our Lady of Lourdes CSG and Estate Management. The session gave the team an opportunity to update residents and a number of matters were brought to the Council's attention. A progress update was also given to the residents of Southill by way of a leaflet drop and the Northside Office are in the process of initiating the 'No Reply' Text Message Service which has been running well in the Southside for the last year. The service allows the Council to provide text updates to residents and can be used by community groups to promote local events.

A key component of the Framework Implementation Plan is the Local Advisory Committee element. The Chief Executive has brought a multi-agency group of senior management together as a forum to address cross-agency matters affecting the regeneration communities and wider city. The first meeting proper of the 'Local Strategic Advisory and Monitoring Group' was held on 26th June 2015. The Chief Executive met with the Regeneration Consultative Forum in Southill on 16th June 2015 to discuss a number of matters raised by the

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community representatives. The matters arising from that meeting were brought to the Strategic Group for discussion at the meeting on the 26th.

### Economic:

Similar to 2014, a number of projects under the Social Intervention Fund (SIF) call for 2015 are focussed on 'Employability and Work'. 12 projects have been considered by the Assessment Committee and approved. In addition to the "Hospitality and Skills Training" programme operating successfully from Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership (LEDP) in Roxboro (walk-in interviews are held every Monday morning) a number of other employment generating initiatives are being developed and promoted.

The Office of Regeneration is focussed on the regeneration communities and is working with a number of groups including Moyross Community Enterprise Centre, Tait House, Saint Mary's Community Centre Committee, Saint Mary's Aid, Limerick City Build and the Kings Island Traders to progress projects.

### Physical Regeneration Status Q2 2015

Part 8 Planning was approved by the Elected Members for 140 new units in May and June. These schemes are as follows: Churchfield, Southill: 80 units; Cliona Park Phase 2, Moyross: 10 units; Cosgrave Park, Moyross: 50 units. The Part 8 Planning process is ongoing for 2 units at Gaol Lane.

The Thermal Upgrade Project continues across all four regeneration areas with 295 no. units in Detailed Design Stage, and 104 no. units at Construction Stage.

Work also continues on bringing Long Term Voids across the four regeneration areas back into use with 28 no. units completed to the end of June 2015. Construction work on 1-3 Weston Gardens is nearing completion.

The Lord Edward Street project is advancing with the demolition and enabling works contract now complete. The Main Contract has issued to tender with Tender Returns due in July with a projected start on site date in September.

The Tait Clothing Factory Open Day, held on 27th June 2015, drew much citywide interest and was a great success with an estimated 500 visitors.

Current Status	Number of Units
Schemes with Preliminary Departmental Approval	158
Schemes at Design Stage / Part 8 Planning	75
Schemes at Detailed Design Stage	234
Thermal Upgrade Project (Planning/Tender stage)	295
Schemes at Construction Stage (incl. Thermal Upgrades)	131
Schemes Completed in 2014 (incl. Thermal Upgrades)	140
Schemes Completed in 2015 (incl. Thermal Upgrades)	110

## 2. Waste Management

- Regulatory changes to household waste collection have been enacted during June. They will have the effect of ensuring all household waste collectors offer a "Pay-By-Weight" service for all waste streams collected.
- Training Sessions for all Local Authorities took place in Limerick City and County Council during the month.

## 3. Cemeteries

- The Council entered into a contract with Nautic Building Company Ltd. Glenashrone, Abbeyfeale for the development of extension and cemetery facilities at Mt St Lawrence Cemetery.
- The works consist of cemetery extension/boundary walls, car parking for 25 cars, cemetery office/store. Works commenced on site in early June.
- The cemetery extension when completed will provide approx. 630 plots.
- The projected completion date for these works is August 2015.



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### 4. Awareness

- Over 140 applications received and currently being processed for the Limerick Going for Gold Environment Improvement Grant & Competition (incorporating Limerick in Bloom) 36 groups have been shortlisted for the Community Challenge Category which has a top prize of €10,000.
- Ballyhoura Tidy Towns Awards were held in the town of Hospital on the 25th June and was attended by the Environment Awareness Officer.
- Attendance at several Green School Flag raising ceremonies, including Kildimo and Castleconnell.

### 5. Local Community Development Committee

- The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) held its monthly meeting on 2nd June, 2015. The three Local Development Companies gave presentations on SICAP (Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme) and an update on programmes being delivered.
- Draft High Level Objectives (HLO) and Socio Economic Statement for the LECP (Local Economic & Community Plan) were finalised and issued for public and stakeholder consultation.

### 6. Libraries Update

Popular author **Michael Smith** presented an illustrated lecture on one of history's great explorers, Sir Ernest Shackleton, entitled "**Shackleton-By Endurance We Conquer**" on Tuesday 16th June in the Granary Library. The lecture was a great success with well over a hundred in attendance.

The **Adult Education Group** launched its **Adult Learner Yearbook** in the Granary Library on Friday 12th June. The book entitled "**The Red Door Collection**" is a collection of student writings by adult learners taking classes with the Limerick City **Basic Education Solutions**. Guest speaker was the writer and director, **Gerry Stemberidge**.

The wonderful **RTE Contempo Quartet** held the last concert of its "**Father & Sons**" lunchtime Granary Library concert series on Friday 26th June. The guest artist on this occasion was Dublin born flautist, **William Dowdall**. The concert series has been hugely popular with over 125 in attendance for the final concert.

On Saturday 27th June, a special commemorative piece of street furniture was unveiled on the grounds of

Cappamore Library & Arts Studios to honour the Local Sporting Hero **John "The Bull" Hayes**. This special wrought iron seat was designed by the blacksmiths students of **St. Michaels Community College, Cappamore** under the tutorship of Mr. Eric O'Neill, who is a resident in the Arts Studios in Cappamore. The project was funded by the **Skills for Work Programme**, which retrains older adults in the community.

Newcastle West Library hosted an exhibition of pottery and paintings by the students of the **Gortboy Training Centre** in June. The exhibition which contains a wide range of beautiful artistic pieces was launched on Friday 26th June with a large crowd in attendance.

### 7. Limerick Archives and Arts Update Archives

On 20 June 2015, Limerick Museum and Archives held a roadshow in Merchant's Quay as part of the preparations to mark centenary of the 1916 Rising.

The roadshow was held to engage with the public in relation to the exhibition and to acquire material which will be used to supplement the Museum and Archives's existing collections. The roadshow was very successful as a wide variety of artifacts were received, including photographs, paintings, medals, letters, diaries, testimonies and other memorabilia.

#### Arts

- Applications for Artists' Studio, James Street and Cappamore Arts Studio and for Arts Office bursaries: Tyrone Guthrie Bursary, Irish Youth Choir Summer Course Bursary and Drama League of Ireland Summer School Bursary received and in process of assessment.
- OpenHouseLimerick Tait Clothing Factory Free Open Day was held on Saturday 27 June
- Advice and support documentation for applications to Create the Arts Council Artist in the Community Scheme and Travel and Training Awards.

### 8. Fire and Emergency Services Update

#### Courses to Primary Schools

Limerick Fire & Rescue Service recently conducted Schools Fire Safety talks in Primary schools across Limerick.

#### RPAS Systems

The Fire Service in Limerick is one of the first services in the country to be evaluating the use of Remotely-piloted

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Aircraft Systems (RPAS) also known as drones, for use at large incidents and major emergencies.

### Training Day at UL Medical School

Firefighters from Green Watch, Limerick City Fire Station participated in a training day with GP Registrars at the Graduate Entry Medical School (GEMS) at the University of Limerick. Ambulance Service Paramedics and the Irish Coast Guard Helicopter were also in attendance.

## 9. Freedom of Information

Freedom of Information Requests 2015	Freedom of Information Requests June 2015	Ombudsman Requests 2015	Ombudsman Requests June 2015	Total AIE Requests 2015	AIE Requests June 2015
68 4 Internal Appeals 1 Information Commissioner Appeal	8 2 Internal Appeals	11	1	6	3

## Economic Development and Planning

### 1. Recent Investments

- Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, operating as Vistakon Ireland, is investing over €100m in expanding its Vistakon Ireland contact lens production facility in Limerick. The 18 month construction phase, at the facility at the National Technology Park in Plassey, is expected to create 200 temporary jobs.
- Dell has launched its first dedicated internet of things (IoT) lab in Europe at its Limerick operation. The lab will be one of the basis for its new IoT division focused on bringing together end-to-end IoT solutions that span hardware, software and services. The Limerick lab provided European customers with a dedicated space to build, model, architect and test their IoT solutions – and get them to the market faster.

### 3. Local Enterprise Office

The main activities of the Local Enterprise Office during June 2015 included the following:

#### Financial Assistance

- Financial assistance by way of grant aid, approved by the Evaluation and Approvals Committee in June, in a total amount of €84,750 for 6 projects with a job creation capacity of 7 new full time jobs immediately and potential for further jobs in 2016.

- Approval for projects over €40,000 considered by the Evaluation and Approvals Committee are referred to Enterprise Ireland for final approval. During June grant aid of €63,066 for one project with a job creation potential of 8 new full time jobs in 2015/16 has been recommended to Enterprise Ireland for approval.
- One further start up business approved for priming grant amounting to €23,245 from the European Global Fund for Andersen, Rathkeale.

#### Trading On-Line Vouchers

- The National Digital Strategy aims to get more businesses trading online. The Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources (DCENR) has launched an Online Trading Voucher Programme and has teamed up with the Local Enterprise Offices to deliver this to Irish business. Vouchers are available to a maximum value of €2,500 or 50% of eligible expenditure.
- The vouchers are targeted at businesses who satisfy the following criteria - Limited Online Trading presence; Less than 10 employees; Turnover less than €2m; Applicant business must be registered and trading for at least 12 months.
- The Local Enterprise Office, Limerick has approved 51 vouchers to date, 26 in 2014 and 25 so far for 2015. The total value of vouchers approved is €102,602 to date.



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### Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur (IBYE)

The search is on for Limerick's Best Young Entrepreneur for 2015. The IBYE competition is open to people aged between 18-30 in the following categories:

1. Best Idea (not yet trading)
2. Best Start Up (trading for 24 months or less)
3. Best Established Business (trading for more than 24 months).

Applicants must submit an online application and optional video by the closing date of the 31st July 2015. The full terms and conditions of the competition are available on [www.localenterprise.ie/limerick](http://www.localenterprise.ie/limerick).

### 4. Food Strategy for Limerick

LEO Limerick have taken on James Burke and Associates to "Develop an Integrated Strategy for Micro Food Producers in Limerick City and County". The methodology consists of:

- Understanding the present situation
- Stakeholder meetings
- One to One interviews
- Desk research
- Set up and develop a stakeholder representative group
- Prepare an action plan
- Develop an overall food strategy for Limerick.

A draft report should be available in 4/6 weeks and when finalised it will be brought to the Economic Development SPC for discussion and recommendation to the Council for implementation. This final report should be available in September.

### 5. Forward Planning

- Under section 54 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) a number of Structures were removed and added to the Record of Protected Structures.
- The Chief Executive's report on the submissions received during the public display period on the proposed variation to the County Development Plan in relation to the proposed northern distributor road was completed.
- The Chief Executive's report on the submissions received during the public display period on the proposed amendment to the Croom Local Area Plan in relation to zoning of additional educational lands was completed.

### Travel and Transport

Construction of the Limerick Smarter Travel Route 4 Castletroy and Newtown Junction project was awarded to Wills Brothers, Building Contractors. This Smarter Travel Pilot Scheme involves the construction of Tabletop Improvements to junctions on Castletroy College Rd and Kilmurray Link Road, with traffic lights constructed at junction of both roads. It also includes the installation of cycle friendly improvements to two existing roundabouts.

Tenders have been received for a group of Non National Road Overlay Contracts at various locations in Limerick City and County. The tender assessment process is nearing completion with a tender award scheduled for July.

Bike Week was held between 13th & 21st June 2015. Activities during this event included Exhibitions showcasing smarter travel initiatives, a bike parade, free bike maintenance and awards for the schools travel projects as well as other activities and initiative throughout the city and county.

A Summer Solstice cycle between Limerick and Lough Gur was held on 21st June 2015.

## Organisational Development

### 1. Change Liaison Network

The Change Liaison Network continued their induction in June. There are 30 members on this network representing the various sections of the organisation. The role of the network is to be a liaison point for two way communication with staff and the Change Management Team; to support the roll out of the Change Programme; to drive a Continuous Improvement Approach; and to share ideas and examples of good practice. A list can be found on the Change Management section of the intranet.

### 5. Civic and Mayoral Receptions

A civic reception was hosted by the Mayor, Councillor Kevin Sheahan on 16th June. Presented during the Year of Consecrated Life to Women and Men Religious Orders and Congregations in the Diocese of Limerick in recognition of their significant contribution to education, health care and many other spiritual and social projects in Limerick.

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by the Mayor Councillor Liam Galvin in Merchant's Quay on Monday, 29th June,

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2015 for choral groups from Eastern Washington University and Spokane Area Youth Choirs. Following a recital by the choirs Mayor Galvin accompanied the Group to the Spokane Walk.

### 6. Schedule of Meetings Elections At Annual Meetings

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Full Council Annual Meeting	26.06.2015	Dooradoyle
<b>Metropolitan District of Limerick</b>		
Monthly Meeting	15.06.2015	Merchant's Quay
Annual Meeting	19.06.2015	Merchant's Quay
<b>Municipal District of:</b>		
<b>Newcastle West</b>		
Monthly Meeting	03.06.2015	Dromcollogher
Annual Meeting	23.06.2015	Newcastle West
<b>Adare-Rathkeale</b>		
Annual Meeting	09.06.2015	Rathkeale
Monthly Meeting	09.06.2015	Rathkeale
Workshop	12.06.2015	Rathkeale
Special Meeting	16.06.2015	Rathkeale
Special Meeting	26.06.2015	Dooradoyle
<b>Cappamore-Kilmallock</b>		
Monthly and Annual Meeting	25.06.2015	Kilmallock
Local Community Development Committee Meeting	02.06.2015	Merchant's Quay

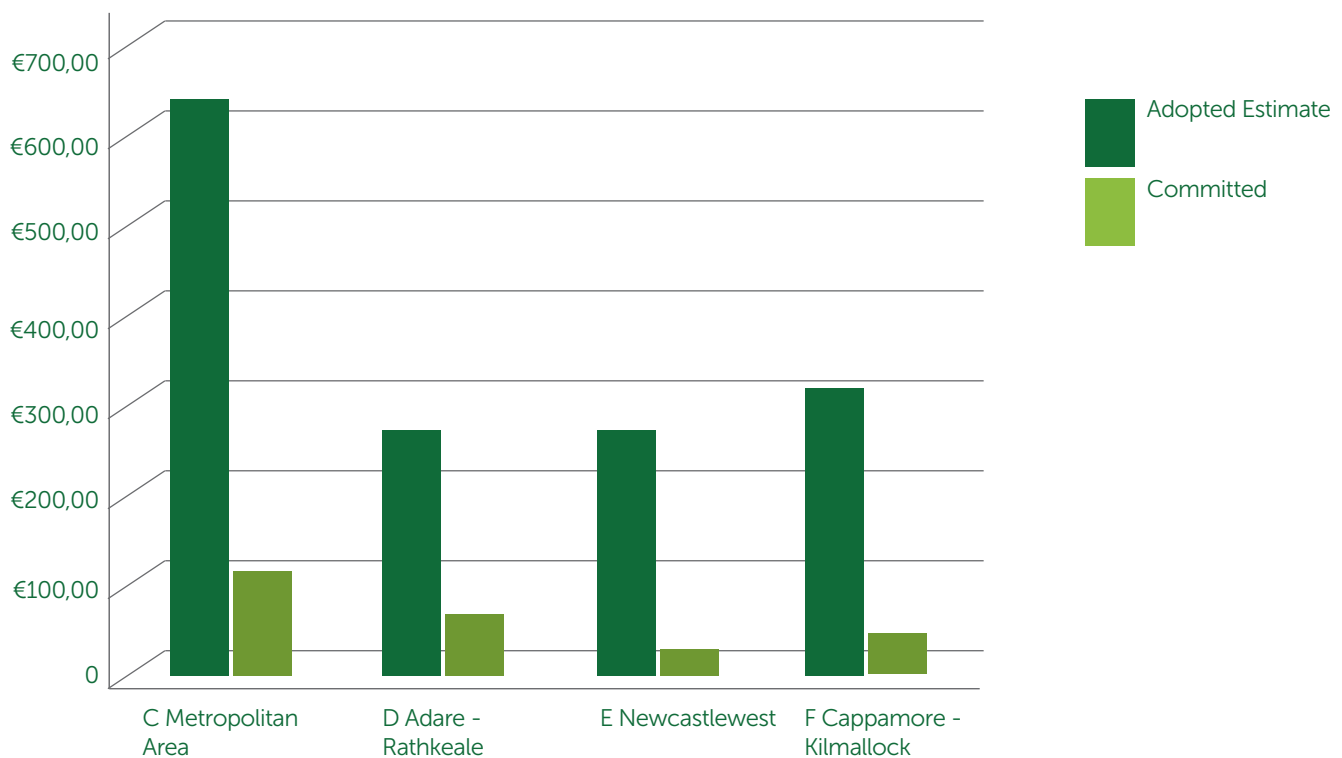
The following were elected at various Annual Meetings that took place in June

Mayor of the City and County of Limerick:	Councillor Liam Galvin
Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick	Councillor Gerald Mitchell
Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Limerick	Councillor Gerry O'Dea
Deputy Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Limerick	Councillor Shane Clifford
Cathaoirleach of Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District	Councillor Richard O'Donoghue
Leas Cathaoirleach of Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District	Councillor Kevin Sheahan
Cathaoirleach of Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District	Councillor William O'Donnell
Leas Cathaoirleach of Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District	Councillor Michael Donegan
Cathaoirleach of Newcastle West Municipal District	Councillor Michael Collins
Leas Cathaoirleach of Newcastle West Municipal District	Councillor Francis Foley.

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### General Municipal Allocation 2015 Adopted Estimate €1.5 Million

Graph outlining adopted budget and committed expenditure up to 30th June 2015.



### Commercial Rates

#### Draft Collection Figures

Collection Rates 2015	Opening Balance 1 Jan €	Accruals €	To Collect €	Receipts €	Arrears €	%
As at 30th June	24,966,926	51,916,855	76,883,781	22,633,562	54,250,219	29

Debtor Loans	Opening Balance 1 Jan €	Accruals €	To Collect €	Receipts €	Arrears €	%
As at 30th June	548,793	711,750	1,260,543	837,766	422,777	66

### Recourse To Overdraft Facility

No of days in overdraft 0