

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



3%
Reduction in
2015
Local Property Tax

200,000
Visitors
for City of
Culture
'Granny'



**Major IDA
Jobs
Announcements**

Vision

- That the people of Limerick are supported by a professional, proactive and accessible local government structure at the heart of a wider public service.
- That Limerick is acknowledged for its inclusive participation of all its citizens in the development of their community.
- That Limerick is the desired location for business development, cultural enrichment and educational opportunity.
- That Limerick and the Mid-West will compete with other European destinations in terms of business, tourism, living and investment.

Strategy

1. Empowering the citizen to participate in the development of their community, both rural and urban.
2. An environment for real economic development and job creation.
3. A new model of local governance and service delivery.

Introduction

Conn Murray, Chief Executive, Limerick City and County Council, September 2014

Our new authority came into being on 1st June 2014 and the inaugural meeting of Limerick City and County Council was held on 6th June 2014 at which our new Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach were elected.

The past two years have been spent preparing the organisation for the change. Government policy, consumer behaviour and demands on service are moving more quickly than ever before and that means we have to accelerate our rate of change too. Consumers of services are increasingly using technology in all aspects of their everyday lives and the pace of transition to online service provision is moving faster than had been anticipated.

However the need to have face to face accessibility to services remains an organisation priority and will be

reflected in our roll out of the customer services desks throughout the county. We intend to build on what is already provided but with a view to enhancing our presence in the rural communities where possible and practical.

As we already know, change and the pace of change creates discomfort for many and this discomfort will continue as we challenge traditions, explore new opportunities where possible, but yet remain vigilant on the reality of our resource base. I am confident that we have the right strategies and the right team to ensure that we as an organisation will emerge a true leader in the delivery of democratic governance and effective public service in the region.

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Empowering the Citizen

1. Home And Social Development

The Home and Social Development Directorate has responsibility to deliver an effective social housing programme in Limerick City and County Council.

Currently there is a housing stock list of 5,189 properties and there are 4,203 applicants on the Housing waiting list.

Approved Applicants for Social Housing Support and Areas	Approved Applicants to the 16th of September 2014
Metropolitan District of Limerick	3,336
Municipal District of Adare	
- Rathkeale	272
Municipal District of Cappamore	
- Kilmallock	294
Municipal District of Newcastle West	301
Total	4,203

Housing Assistance Payment

The Housing Assistance Payment Scheme, which was enacted by way of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014, commenced for Limerick City & County Council on the 15th of September 2014.

Limerick City & County Council operated a pilot scheme on an administrative basis from April 2014. The 120 clients that signed up to this scheme will now be transferred to the statutory scheme. A target of 251 sign ups has been set for Limerick for year end by the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government.

With regard to the Rental Accommodation Scheme, there were 400 units for inspection to the end of year 2014 with 236 inspected as of 30th September 2014. There were 64 contracts renewed to the 30th September 2014.

Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan (LRFIP)

The LRFIP was approved by Council in February 2014. The status of the Physical Regeneration Programme 2014 as of September 2014 is as follows:

Voluntary Housing

There are a total of 1,137 social housing units provided through the Voluntary Housing Sector.

Voluntary Housing Schemes under construction in 2014

- Liskennett, Bruree (St Joseph's Foundation)
- Maiden Street, Newcastle West (St Vincent De Paul)
- Cois Na Feile, Abbeyfeale (CLUID)
- Mulgrave Street (Novas, Brother Russell)

Current Status	Number of Units
Schemes with Preliminary Departmental Approval	106
Schemes at Design Stage/ Part 8 Planning	180
Schemes at Detailed Design Stage	98
Thermal Upgrade Project (Scope of Works/Cost Plan/Tender Stage)	257
Schemes at Construction Stage (including Thermal Upgrades)	37
Schemes Completed in 2014 (including Thermal Upgrades)	140

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Home Improvement Schemes

Private Housing Grant Aid	Number of Grants paid at the 30th of September 2014	Euro Amount
MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	103	420,840
HAGS (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	36	309,873
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	180	688,959

Once Off Adaptation Grants for 2014	
Allocation in Euro	Number of Grant
315,356	62

Stock Management and Construction

Voids (Vacant) Housing Stock 2014 Euro Allocation	Total Units	Completed at the 30th of September 2014
968,150	86	51

Name of Programme	Number of Units for 2014	Number of Units Completed at the 30th of September 2014
Energy Efficiency Programme	310	91
SEAI Programme (Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland)	912	834

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

Job Stimulus Programme			
Name of Scheme	Stage	Number of Units	Euro Allocation
Hasset Villas	Going to tender for design team	3	450,000
Kilmurry Court	Going to tender for design team	6	900,000
Clare Street	Going to tender for design team	6	1,000,000

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Traveller Accommodation Programme

Name of Scheme	Stage	Euro Allocation
Castletroy	Extension of three bays, project s gone to tender, awaiting Departmental Approval	200,000
Bawneys Bridge	Refurbishment works, tenders received, awaiting Departmental Approval	150,000

Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 will be included in the next quarterly report.

2. Limerick Local Community Development Committee

- The Limerick Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) has been established for the purposes of developing, co-ordinating and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development. The Local Government Reform Act, 2014 provides legislative underpinning for the establishment of LCDCs and for the preparation and implementation of Local Economic and Community Plans.
- Cllr. Eddie Ryan has been appointed as Chairman of the Limerick LCDC and meetings will be held on a monthly basis.

3. Keeping Communities Safe

'Keeping Communities Safe' is the output from a review in 2012 of fire services and fire safety in Ireland. It aims to provide a comprehensive, balanced strategy to ensure the safety of the public in their homes and other locations, as well as worker safety in providing emergency services. It is an integrated blue-print for further development of the critical public safety roles performed by local authority fire services, to be implemented in the period 2013 – 2015.

Limerick City and County Council Fire Service will undertake a review of its current services in light of the approaches and the targets of 'Keeping Communities Safe' and prepare an updated / revised statutory Section 26 Plan in 2014. Adoption of the Section 26 Plan is a reserved function.

Abbeyfeale Fire Station was temporarily closed on 26th September 2014 after a number of firefighters were unable to report for duty due to illness. The decision to close the station was in accordance with health and safety requirements, but the Council was satisfied that sufficient and appropriate fire cover was provided by the three neighbouring stations in Listowel, Newcastle West and Castleisland during the closure period. There were no call-outs during this period and the station re-opened on Monday, 6th October.

4. New Libraries Strategy

This National Library Strategy has been developed under the direction of the Committee for the Development of the Public Libraries Strategy 2013-2017.

It is a requirement under the new Strategy that each library authority produce a five year Library Development Plan.

In April, Cappamore Library & Arts Studios was officially opened to the public by Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan. Since then the library has registered 1,300 new members and over 17,500 items have been issued.

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Update On Age Friendly Programme

Phase 1 consultations have taken place throughout May to July inclusive. There were eight consultations with older people at various points in the county with over 350 participants.

Phase 2 consultations are in planning and should be completed by Christmas.

A seminar and workshop was held on 12 September, 2014 in Adare. More than thirty participants from the main service providers were brought together.

New Limerick Museum

The lease for the Franciscan Church has been signed.

Stage 1

A Capital Grant for essential repair works of €65,000 was sanctioned by the Department. This amount with a matching Council sum of €21,667 was expended in September 2014 and the grant will be claimed in October 2014.

5. Limerick City Of Culture 'Made In Limerick' Programme

Limerick City and County Council has provided direct support of €1.9m in 2013 and 2014 to Limerick National City of Culture.

Visit of Giant Granny

More than 200,000 people were in Limerick over the weekend of 5th-7th September for the hugely successful visit of Royal Deluxe 'Giant Granny'. A huge amount of work was carried out by Council staff behind the scenes and a lot of consultation with city centre traders occurred to make sure Granny's visit to Limerick went without a hitch.

Made in Limerick Legacy Projects

Limerick National City of Culture 2014 will leave a lasting legacy with 109 projects successfully awarded funding under 'Made in Limerick' funding stream. Three new projects include:

Film Limerick

Limerick City of Culture, in partnership with Behind the Scenes, is pleased to announce the creation of a unique and exciting scheme 'Film Limerick'. This project is a unique opportunity for new and emerging filmmakers across the city and county to have their films produced with both funding and industry support. Film Limerick is a legacy project that will see two successful applicants receive up to €15,000 towards production of their film. Ronan Cassidy has been appointed project manager to deliver the project.

Craft Hub

In partnership with the Limerick Craft Collective, the Limerick Craft Hub showcasing the crafts from across the city and county opened in July 2014 for two years at 9 Lower Cecil Street. There is a retail space, studios and workspace, all of which will be open to the public. A project manager, Clare Jordan, has been appointed.

Limerick's Urban Horse

Fifteen unique original life size horse sculptures have been developed by artist and educator Angela Connolly of Limerick Corridor Art Programme (LCAP) and subsequently further enhanced and decorated by young people in Limerick.

The 15 colourful Urban Horses will sit on the grassy slopes of the People's Park from Culture Night, the 19th of September. Before the end of the year the Urban Horses

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will travel and appear in different locations across Limerick to surprise and delight audiences.

6. Environmental Improvements

National Tidy Towns Success 2014 - There were 61 entries from across Limerick in this year's competition.

- Adare was awarded a gold medal along with the Limerick County award and the Regional Best Bring Bank Award. Dolly O' Neill, Adare Tidy Towns was named one of the Tidy Towns Heroes for 2014.
- Galbally, Ardpatrick, Kilmallock and Newcastle West have all been awarded bronze medals in this year's competition with Galbally receiving a highly commended award and Ardpatrick receiving a commended award.
- Elton Tidy Towns received a special endeavour award, while Kilmallock Tidy Towns and Coláiste Iosaef were awarded the 'Can It' award.
- Limerick City Centre Tidy Towns scored highest in the urban area with 270 marks, an excellent mark for their 3rd year in the competition and their chairperson, Helen O'Donnell, was awarded a Tidy Towns Hero Award.

Limerick Going for Gold

The Grand Final was held in the Strand Hotel on 16th September.

- In the Tidy Towns Category, Cahedavin was awarded first prize, with O'Malley Keyes (2nd) and Annacotty (3rd) respectively.
- The Community Challenge Category was won by Kilteragh, 2nd Glenbrook/Glendale/Glenlawn, while 3rd was South Limerick City.

There were other categories and prizes for individual merit award, best front garden and an endeavour award.

Waste Management

Agreement was reached in the High Court with Greyhound Recovery and Recycling on Friday 19th September 2014 for the removal of circa 3,600 tonnes of waste from their premises and to have the entire site at Galvone Industrial Estate cleared within a period of three weeks.

Gortadroma Waste to Energy Facility Project Proposal

Consideration is currently being given to a proposal for the lease of approximately fifteen hectares of land at Gortadroma Landfill site for the development of a waste to energy project. Bids were received in May 2014 from two companies of which Cadence EnvironPower has been selected as the preferred bidder.

Their proposal provides for the gasification of waste

which would generate renewable electrical energy by thermal conversion of solid waste. Consultations are ongoing regarding the proposed lease in connection with the above project.

Regional Waste Management Planning

The local authorities of the Southern Waste Region agreed to prepare a new waste management plan for the Southern Waste Region following the evaluation of the four existing waste management plans.

This procedure for plan development is in accordance with the European Communities (Waste Directive) Regulations, 2011 and the Waste Management (Planning) Regulations, 1997. Pre-draft consultation was advertised on the 10th October 2013 and following a 2-month consultation phase the written submissions were considered in the preparation of the new draft waste management plan (draft plan).

The draft plans will be published on the 18th November 2014, a further two month public consultation phase will follow and written submissions will be accepted until 23rd Jan 2015.

Parks/Playgrounds

The Parks department has been very busy over the Summer period with a significant number of events held in the People's Park in conjunction with City of Culture. There was very positive feedback from the general public in relation to the condition of the parks and the floral displays throughout the city.

Mungret Neighbourhood Park

The Part 8 report for a new neighbourhood park on a site at Mungret College was approved at the October Metropolitan District meeting.

The total area of the proposed neighbourhood park is fifteen hectares (37 acres) and will include parkland, a playground (2,845 sqm in area which will facilitate play equipment that would be accessible for all children including those with disabilities), picnic facilities, outdoor exercise equipment, walking and cycle tracks and car parking.

Crescent Playground, Dooradoyle

The official opening of a new playground adjacent to the Crescent Shopping Centre Dooradoyle took place on Saturday 27th September. The playground circa 750 sq.m in size was developed following co-operation between Limerick City and County Council and the owners of Crescent Shopping Centre, Clancourt. The playground which will serve as play area for visitors to the shopping

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centre and for the wider Dooradoyle / Raheen area has been very busy since it opened for use in early September.

Parade Park

Part 8 planning permission was granted for the Parade Park project in March 2014 and archaeological test trenching was carried out on the site in July 2014. The project is being developed in conjunction with Limerick Civic Trust and will commence in November of this year. Funding provision has been provided for in the 2014 Regeneration budget.

Swimming Pool/Running Track

Discussions are underway re the feasibility of developing a 25m indoor swimming pool and running track in Newcastle West.

Cemeteries

Conservation works at Mount St Lawrence Cemetery:
The Environmental Section has entered into an agreement with Limerick Civic Trust to carry out conservation works to the Mortuary Chapel and also to clean and repair old headstones throughout the 18-acre site.

Ballingaddy Cemetery Extension

The Council has purchased a site measuring .522 hectares adjacent to the existing Ballingaddy Cemetery. Part 8 planning has recently been approved for this development. Final design works for the cemetery will commence in the near future.

Castlemungret Cemetery Phase Two

The layout of Phase two of Castlemungret Cemetery is almost complete. This phase provides approx 1400 additional gravespaces.

Pollution

On 4th August 2014 there was a major pollution incident on the River Loobagh in Kilmallock. The incident was caused by the leakage of approximately 70,000 gallons of slurry from a steel slurry tank on a farm about 1km upstream of the Riversfield Water Treatment Plant. This resulted in a major fish kill in which, it is estimated, that up to 1000 trout and salmon died. In addition, the water treatment plant was shut down, but this did not interrupt water supply as it was possible to switch to an alternative source. Council staff working with Inland Fisheries Ireland located the source of the incident and worked with the farmer responsible to stop the discharge.

Economic Development and Planning

1. Foreign Direct Investment/Job Creation

- Limerick is now ranked as one of the top ten places in Europe in which to invest. This ranking was awarded by the international magazine, Site Selection in its 6th annual Global 'Best to Invest' Report 2014.
- There were three major IDA job announcements for Limerick in the last two months; Optel Vision, Viagogo Group and Ethicon Biosurgery Ireland, creating close to 450 jobs and over €80 million in investment for the local economy.

2. Innovation

- The Innovate Limerick offices at LEDP Roxboro have been refitted and hotdesking space is now available for businesses to rent at competitive prices with the company due to be launched at the end of October.
- The 3rd International Clustering Conference has been secured by the Council and its partners for Limerick for 2015 as a joint initiative between PSI Fribourg and Innovate Limerick.
- Planning is now underway around the development of the Innovation Hub at LEDP Roxboro that will extend to 40,000sq ft and will act as stage two incubation and innovation space for projects graduating from both LIT and University of Limerick. The project is being coordinated by Innovate Limerick in conjunction with LEDP, LIT, UL, Regeneration and Enterprise Ireland and should be completed by Autumn 2015 creating close to 150 direct jobs. An additional 75 jobs will be created in the ten associated Community Enterprise Centres located right around the City and County.
- Innovate Limerick has secured and signed the contract for the 100,000sq ft Anderson Site in Rathkeale on approximately five acres, which is in turn key operation and ready to let.

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3. Site Acquisitions

Significant progress has been made on key strategic sites critical to the development of Limerick 2030, job creation and community development including the Opera Site, Colbert Station, Hanging Garden, Cleeves, the Innovation Hub, the former Anderson facility in Rathkeale, the Hatchery building, Kantoher and Mungret College.

- The Hatchery site at Kantoher was acquired by the Council and is currently undergoing minor modernisation works with 10,000 sq ft to be sublet to local businesses.
- Limerick City & County Council has secured an option to purchase the Cleeves site from Kerry Group which comprises an area of 3.2 hectares, and contains a number of historically significant buildings and has the capacity to accommodate a variety of uses including office, education, residential and tourism related activities.
- Master planning is currently underway for the Council's recently purchased Mungret College and associated lands. The subject lands include residential, agricultural, open space/amenity and education zoned uses including a number of residential sites which, in the short term, have the potential to deliver a significant return in value.

4. Retail And Business Incentive Scheme

- Limerick City & County Council's Retail & Business incentive scheme has been nominated for a national innovation award. To date the scheme has supported ten new businesses with a further twelve applications in the pipeline.

5. Launch Of Local Enterprise Office Limerick

- A service level agreement was put in place which brings the Local Enterprise Office (LEO), Limerick under the remit of Limerick City and County Council. It was formally launched in May as part of the Economic Development and Planning Directorate of the local authority and is based at 7/8 Patrick Street, bringing the functions of the former County and City Enterprise Boards together.

6. Limerick Marketing

- Limerick Marketing partnered with Tourism Ireland and Shannon Airport on an inbound route marketing campaign to promote Limerick city and county across the new Ryanair German (Memmingen, Berlin) and French routes (Nice, Paris and Poitiers) and Aer Arann's Bristol, Birmingham and Manchester routes. Key messages promoted were Limerick City of Culture and Limerick as a Gateway to the Wild Atlantic Way.
- Limerick Marketing continues to build on its strong relationship with Shannon Airport and has identified space within the Airport to communicate and promote the Limerick message. Discussions with the School of Architecture at UL are ongoing as to the most effective use of the space.
- According to online giant Expedia, Limerick is now the 4th most popular destination in Ireland for tourism with a 46% increase from last year (Dublin came 1st, Galway 2nd, Killarney 3rd and Limerick and Cork in joint 4th position). Limerick hoteliers have reported that the impacts are due to Limerick City of Culture, Rugby World Club Sevens and the new Shannon routes.
- Discussions are ongoing with regards to the Limerick Christmas marketing campaign

7. Planning And Development

- The Council's decision to refuse Parkway Retail Site development is under appeal to An Bord Pleanála and Council's decision to grant permission to Croom School was overturned by An Bord Pleanála.
- Progress has been made on the former Opera Site with a development framework drawn up for the site which proposes that it should comprise of a mixed use knowledge based office, educational and financial services development. It is intended to go to market seeking expressions of interest in developing the site by the end of 2014.
- Planning discussions are underway for the Colbert Station site which will have the capacity to accommodate 11,500 sq.m. over five floors including retail at ground floor level and office accommodation for knowledge and digital activity.
- The Hanging Gardens site is currently in the process of being purchased. It will provide advanced office accommodation for FDI services based activity for which there is an active pipeline.

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8. Road Investment Programme

- The tender for the N21 Newcastlewest Footpath and Pavement Improvements scheme, including a new pedestrian footbridge at Courtney Bridge, has been awarded to P & D Lydon. Construction is due to commence on site on 22nd September 2014.
- The tender for the N69 Glin Riverwall protection works was awarded to L & M Keating Ltd. Construction commenced on site on 15th September. The Patrickswell to Raheen Cycleway, along the old N21, is due to be tendered on 24th September next.
- A contract for the maintenance and repair of the public lighting network was awarded to AUS Airtricity Utility Solutions, following an open competition. Contract duration is two years with an option to extend for a further 12 months.
- Design work is progressing on the Foynes to Limerick Road scheme which is currently in the Route Selection / Constraints phase. It is anticipated that the first public consultation will take place in January 2015.
- Procurement of engineering consultants for the N21 Barnagh-Killarney Pole Phase II scheme is being finalised. Procurement of contractor for main works is also nearing completion. It is expected that both appointments will be made in 2014.
- Construction on the N21 Templeglantine Traffic Calming Scheme is substantially complete.
- Procurement of the construction contract for the N24 Dromkeen Traffic Calming Scheme has been advertised. Closing date is 8th October 2014.
- Munster Bridges Contracts 2 & 3 – Limerick City & County Council is the lead authority, with Section 85 Agreements in place with Clare and Cork County Councils. Procurement for works contractor is ongoing.
- NRA approval has been received to procure engineering consultants to examine both the N20 O'Rourke's Cross and N24 Beary's Cross junctions. This process will commence in the next few weeks.
- The final design of the Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road scheme is now completed and permission has been received from the DTTAS to advance to full tender.
- Designers have been appointed to develop an upgrade scheme for Parnell Street, Davis Street and Wickham Street. It is hoped that detailed consultation will take place with stakeholders before the end of this year and

that a Part 8 submission can be lodged in early 2015.

- The advance works contract for electrical ducting for the Coca Cola Zero Bike Scheme have been completed at 20 of 23 sites. Installation of the bike stations is expected to commence in the next two weeks.
- The roadworks scheme is substantially completed in rural areas and benefitted from the dry summer. A total of eight local improvement schemes were undertaken, at a cost of €225,755, including local contribution of €45,150 and are almost completed. A total of 12 community involvement schemes were undertaken and completed, at a cost of €184,534, including local contribution of €36,907.
- The city overlays contract to carry out approx €750,000 worth of road overlays at over twenty locations around the city is 50% complete.
- Limerick City & County Council has revised its winter maintenance plan to reflect the new authority boundaries.

9. Flood Repairs And Defences

A funding application was made to Government in February 2014 for funding to carry out extensive repairs and increase the height of flood embankments and flood defences in the city.

Limerick City & County Council will lead a project to identify, design and deliver a scheme of appropriate flood management and flood protection measures for St. Mary's Park.

Following the significant flooding event in Doon and surrounding area in July, emergency remedial works were undertaken at a number of locations. We have been asked to submit details of expenditure incurred on the response and are in the process of preparing that submission.

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Organisational Development

1. Creation Of A New Local Authority

Limerick City and County Council was formally established on 1st June, 2014 under the Local Government Reform Act, 2014. Prior to the merger, the staff of the two councils joined up people, processes and technology across the 500 services provided by the local authority.

The Limerick Reorganisation Implementation Group implementation plan affirmed the need for the new authority to “embrace change, modernise, transform and adapt to new financial circumstances and deliver even better services with scarcer resources.”

The Government public service reform plan outlined key commitments and actions for change across the Public Service under five central themes:

- Placing customer service at the heart of everything we do;
- Maximising new and innovative service delivery channels;
- Radically reducing our costs to drive better value for money;
- Leading, organising and working in new ways; and
- A strong focus on implementation and delivery

2. Establishing Customer Services

The next step in the transformation is to make it easier for customers to access services by establishing and rolling out Customer Services. All front line services including service requests, information, motor tax, cash payments, post and reception will be accessed at Customer Services.

Citizens will be able to request each of the 500 services from Customer Services using on-line, website, post, calling in, phone or email.

Customer Services will be located in Kilmallock, Rathkeale, Newcastle West, Dooradoyle, and Merchant's Quay.

3. Information On Services - Service Catalogue

An innovative, unique next step in the transformation is to provide comprehensive information on services to citizens. The Senior Change Management Team is assisting staff to create what is called a 'Service Catalogue'. This will provide the information required by citizens and Customer Services staff on each of the 500 services to provide a high quality customer service and experience.

4. Facilities

An extensive building upgrade programme has been underway since 2013 including upgrades to offices, council chambers and meeting rooms.

5. Workforce Planning

The organisation has developed a workforce plan to manage the reduction in numbers where appropriate and to identify additional skill sets and competencies required as we go forward.

6. ICT and Digital Strategy

The ICT architecture will be aligned to support the needs of the new organisation in the new operating model. This will also require a digital transformation programme that will place a new focus on the customer experience.

7. Communications

An internal communications structure is in place to assist with internal communications across the organisation about the change programme. Internal and External Communications are being carried out according to the roll out of the Change Programme. It is recognised that the Members have expressed concerns in relation to Communications and these concerns will be addressed.

8. Academic Programme

The Change Programme will include both internal and external engagement with the academic sector to ensure optimum input of research and knowledge into the organisational development.

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Financial Matters

1. Local Property Tax

At the Council meeting on the 30th September 2014, it was decided to reduce the Local Property Tax for 2015 by 3%. For 32% of Limerick's liable population this will mean an annual reduction of €2.70, for 33%, an annual reduction of €6.75 and for 23% a yearly reduction of €9.45. For Limerick City and County Council this will mean a reduction in its revenue budget for 2015 of €485.883k.

2. General Municipal Allocation

The draft General Municipal Allocation for 2015 has been agreed at €1.5M. The total breakdown is as follows; Local Roads €160k, Traffic Management €110k, Tourism Development, €370k, Parks Pitches and Playgrounds €320k, Community Initiatives €90k and Special projects €450k. Meetings with the Municipal Districts took place on the 9th and 10th of October.

3. Quarterly Accounts

Quarterly accounts up to Sept 2014 are currently being prepared. The figure for quarter end June 2014 showed a deficit for the six months January to June 2014, of €4.506M. This was due mainly to unanticipated expenditure as regards flood and storm damage in the first quarter of the year. We are pursuing the Department on the issue of flood funds as promised by Government.

4. Small And Medium Business Support Scheme

As at the end of July 2014, 492 businesses signed up for the small and medium business support scheme. Businesses set up to pay by direct debit are still eligible for the scheme up to 31st December. The scheme has generated in the region of €2M as regards additional cashflow for the Council.

5. Rent Collection

Rent Collection Limerick City & County Council (The aged debt report is not yet available but it is anticipated that it will be available shortly)						
Opening Balance @01/01/2014	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing balance @31/08/2014	% Collection	
1,477,480	7,788,756	9,266,236	7,556,516	1,709,720	81.55%	

Collection Rates 2014	Opening Balance 1 Jan €	Accruals €	To Collect €	Receipts €	Arrears €	%
As at 30 Sept	25,505,113	51,743,425	77,248,538	35,044,540	42,203,998	45

Collection Loans 2014	Opening Balance 1 Jan €	Accruals €	To Collect €	Receipts €	Arrears €	%
As at 30 Sept	598,023	1,322,187	1,920,211	1,330,825	589,386	69

6. 2013 Draft Financial Accounts

The 2013 draft financial accounts were submitted to the Council at the September meeting. Limerick City Council recorded an overall surplus of €18,161 for the year while Limerick County Council recorded a surplus of €578,644. Both sets of accounts are currently being audited by the Local Government Auditor.