

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

THIS MONTH:

109 homes and apartments under construction in Limerick

Mount Saint Lawrence Cemetery Extension officially opened

In excess of 600 people attend Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival

The office of refurbishment project at The Granary was awarded the Best 2016 Interior Architectural Project

A Civic Reception was accorded to Na Piarsaigh C.L.G.

New Operating Model established

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1. Financial Matters

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Empowering the Citizen

1. Home and Social Development

Waiting List

Housing Waiting List	4345
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Allocations

	Metropolitan District	Newcastle West	Adare – Rathkeale	Cappamore – Kilmallock	Total
No of Units April 2016	14	1	0	4	19
Year to Date	44	7	16	14	81

2. Department of Justice – Resettlement Programme

The Council has been asked by the Department of Justice and Equality to chair an inter-agency working group to assist with the resettlement of refugees from Syria in Limerick.

This countrywide 2016 re-settlement programme is designed to offer protection to persons who have fled their country of origin and sought protection in another country. The resettlement programme is being implemented in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for refugees (UNHCR) and Ireland's commitment to the programme. As part of this commitment a total of 25 families will be resettled in Limerick in 2016. Thirteen families will be resettled in Limerick City and County in late May and the remaining families will be resettled in Limerick City and County later in the year. The resettlement programme is a national programme and to date families have been resettled in over 20 towns and cities around the country.

Those admitted under the programme will have the same rights and entitlements as any Irish person (under the 1951 Geneva Convention) and access to mainstream services in the normal way.

Ireland is one of 25 countries that are participating in this important humanitarian programme.

3. Hap Shared Services Centre Update

- The Council operates the financial transactional shared service centre for all local authorities operating HAP during the pilot phase. The HAP Shared Services Centre is based in the Granary in Michael Street Limerick.
- Overall a total 9,691 HAP tenancies have been set-up to date which includes 770 closed tenancies. There are currently 8,921 active HAP tenancies.
- 3,498 HAP tenancies have been set-up in 2016, 3,068 of which are active HAP tenancies.
- Including Galway City Council who joined HAP on 1st February 2016, the HAP Hub currently manages HAP payments for twenty Local Authorities, including the Dublin Homeless Pilot. The remaining Local Authorities will come under HAP in 2016/2017.
- By 2020, the HAP Shared Services Centre will be managing approximately €450m per annum in payments on behalf of all 31 Local Authorities and the Dublin Homeless Executive.

4. Environment

Mount Saint Lawrence Cemetery Extension

- Mount Saint Lawrence Cemetery Extension was officially opened by Councillor Jerry O'Dea, Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, on 13th April 2016. The new cemetery facilities at Mount Saint Lawrence Cemetery comprise of 675 grave spaces, car-parking facilities, new cemeteries office and store.
- Councillor O'Dea was joined by Bishop of Limerick Brendan Leahy and Dean of Killaloe Rev. Gary Poulsen for the official opening.

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- The contractors for the new Extension were Nautic Building Company Limited of Abbeyfeale (construction work) and Punch Consulting Engineers (consulting engineers).
- Mount Saint Lawrence Cemetery & Extension comprises almost 20 acres and is one of the five largest cemeteries in Ireland and forms a key part of the social history of Limerick. The cemetery has an important place in the lives of people of Limerick since the first burial took place there in 1855.
- As part of the official opening ceremony, Bishop Brendan Leahy blessed the memorial stone, which was erected in the cemetery by the Limerick Diocese to commemorate all babies buried in Mount Saint Lawrence Cemetery.

Litter

- A total of 109 litter regulation enforcement complaints were received in April.
- 31 spot fines were issued during the month and legal proceedings were initiated in 5 cases.

Veterinary Services

- Our veterinary officers inspected and passed fit for human consumption 294 cattle, 451 sheep and 20 pigs processed in local abattoirs.
- Ongoing official food safety controls were undertaken in approved meat processing establishments.
- 20 food samples were submitted for routine microbiological and/or chemical analysis to official food safety laboratories.
- Our Dog Control Service dealt with 45 stray/surrendered dogs at the Dog shelter during the month.
- 18 straying or abandoned horses were impounded.

Pollution Control

The Council hosted the annual training event for the Shannon Estuary - Anti Pollution Team, (SE-APT), at Worlds End, Castleconnell on the 27th and 28th April. SE-APT is a grouping of 4 Local Authorities namely Limerick, Clare, Kerry and Galway Councils plus Shannon Foynes Port Co, (SFPC) and major local businesses who have a common interest in protecting the Shannon Estuary. Its resources are also available to members to deal with inland pollution incidents.

A simulated event of a Central Heating Oil delivery Lorry

entering the river at Worlds End was carried out. The sensitive location raised many challenges for the group including Environmental, the city's water intake at Clareville and PR issues. Additional talks were also given by Dr. Dennis Doherty of the ESB, Hugh Conlon, Asst. Harbour Master, SFPC, and Jack O'Sullivan, Environmental Consultant.

5. Community And Leisure

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

- The LCDC held 1 meeting in April.

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

- The draft LECP was revised following LCDC and Advisory Group meetings in April and is to be considered by the May meeting of the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC.

Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival 2016

The Thomond Park Showcase opened the festival which is in its 6th year, providing a snapshot of what the festival week entails. More than 600 people attended the showcase and enjoyed a wide range of free activities and workshops from history, culture and sports to business and health studies.

With the theme 'Learning from Each Other in a Changed Limerick', the festival ran from 16th to 22nd April comprising of over 200 events and activities. This year's festival linked learning with the 1916 centenary celebrations in Limerick and also the Limerick 2020 bid for European Capital of Culture, and promoted Limerick as a learning and cultural region of excellence.

6. Limerick City Gallery of Art

Exhibition

EVA INTERNATIONAL Still (the) Barbarians curated by Koyo Kouoh

April 16 – 17 July 2016

EVA International is Ireland's Biennial of Contemporary Art and was launched this month. Every two years EVA International works with guest curators to create a 12-week programme of exhibitions and events that engage with the people and City of Limerick. Since its foundation

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in 1977, EVA International has worked with some of the world's leading artists and curators, bringing outstanding exhibitions to audiences on the west coast of Ireland.

EVA International 2016 curated by Koyo Kouoh will be entitled **Still (the) Barbarians** and will investigate the post-colonial condition of Ireland as a point of departure from where artistic reflections, critical redefinitions and political transformations are articulated.

Still (the) Barbarians features 57 artists from over 30 countries, the exhibit of artworks is in various venues around Limerick City, including Limerick City Gallery of Art, Cleeve's Condensed Milk Factory, The Sailor's Home, The Hunt Museum, King John's Castle, Ormston House and Mother Macs.

- Official launch and Opening of EVA INTERNATIONAL Still (the) Barbarians curated by Koyo Kouoh took place on Friday 15th April with an attendance of over 400 guests to the launches at the Limerick City Gallery of Art and at Cleeve's Condensed Milk Factory.
- EVA INTERNATIONAL Still (the) Barbarians curated by Koyo Kouoh also featured a series of weekend events and performance in participating venues throughout Limerick City.
- Audience figures for April were over 7,000 visitors.

7. 1916 Commemoration

- To mark the 1916 centenary, Mayor Liam Galvin opened four Memorial Gardens on 24th/25th April. These gardens will serve as a permanent legacy of the 2016 Commemoration of the Easter Rising. The gardens are located at Merchants Quay, Newcastle West Area Office, Rathkeale Library and Area Office and Kilmallock Library and Area Office. The design approach has reflected on the Rising in 1916 and represents the main focus of that time. The important elements include the Irish flag, the Proclamation and 7 trees representing the seven signatories.
- Sinead McCoole presented a 1916 commemorative lecture entitled 'The Women of Limerick' in the Granary Library on 19th April.
- Newcastle West Library hosted a Multimedia exhibition on Donal Sheehan, who lost his life in 1916, which was prepared by local artist Liz Ryan, on 21st April.

- Dr. John O'Callaghan presented a 1916 commemorative lecture entitled 'For My God and My Country' The Life, Death and Afterlife of Con Colbert' in Newcastle West Library on 26th April.
- A Commemorative Garden with 7 trees for the 7 signatories of the Proclamation was opened in Grange on 24th April.
- A re-enactment of the march in 1916 by 300 Irish Volunteers to Glenquin Castle, Ashford, Co. Limerick to receive a shipment of arms took place on 24th April.

Library Service

- Watch House Cross Library hosted the exhibition, 'Revolution; a photographic history of Revolutionary Ireland 1913-1923. Over 400 children from local schools were given an hour long tour of the exhibition of 35 photographs. This was followed by a question and answer session. The schools who attended were Corpus Christ, J.F.K. Caherdavin Boys, Salesian Primary & Meelick National School.
- Watch House Cross Library hosted a second visit from the Senior Infants' class from St Michael's Infant School as part of the Doodle Den Programme. The children participated in an art & craft session with emphasis on numeracy skills, and a story time was also held.
- The official opening of Éigse Michael Hartnett 2016 by the Mayor Liam Galvin took place in Newcastle West Library on 14th April. The Keynote Speaker on the night was Poet Rita Ann Higgins. The presentation of Michael Hartnett Poetry Award 2016 was made on the night to John McAuliffe and Doireann Ní Ghríofa.
- To mark Lifelong Learning Week the Granary hosted a Fair-trade talk entitled "Let's go Bananas" on 20th April. (A group's recollections & observations of a Fair-trade banana Co-operative in Ghana & the impact of Fair-trade on the peoples' lives). The talk was given by Dolores O'Meara, of Limerick Fair-trade City Project.
- The Granary Branch facilitated the Book Launch of "A Mash of Memories" on 27th April. The book is a collection of stories by St Patrick Girls' National School Writing Club, Sixth class 2015. The book was published in collaboration with Professor Sarah Moore Fitzgerald, University of Limerick.

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8. Fire & Rescue Service

Year	No of Fire Related Calls	No of Non Fire Related Calls	Total
1/4/16 – 30/4/16	175	40	215
Year to date	406	162	568

Year	No of Fire Certificates received	No of Disability Access Certificates received	Total
1/4/16 – 30/4/16	14	11	25
Year to date	55	33	88

Major Emergency Plan

The Major Emergency Plan is currently being reviewed to reflect the new Council structure. New Flood Response and Oil Pollution Plans are currently being drafted. An Inter-Agency Communications Seminar was held on 6th April at which many of the Council's Media Liaison Officers attended.

10. Freedom of Information

	2016	April
Total Freedom of Information Requests	49	9
FOI Internal Appeals	1	-
Information Commissioner Appeals	1	-
Total Ombudsman Requests	5	1
Further information sought on open cases	3	-
Total AIE Requests	1	-

Civil Defence attendance at Events

- Charity Paddle in aid of the Rape Crisis Centre
- Religious Procession for Our Lady of Perpetual Help
- Kayaking event in Castleconnell
- Nenagh Classic Cycle Race
- 1916 Memorial gardens openings at Merchant's Quay, Sarsfield Bridge & Kilmallock
- 1916 Memorial gardens openings at Newcastle West & Rathkeale.

9. Civic Reception

A Civic Reception was accorded to Na Piersaigh C.L.G. in recognition of their achievement in winning the A.I.B. All Ireland Hurling Club Final.

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Economic Development and Planning

1. Planning

One hundred (100) new planning applications were received during April 2016.

Breakdown as follows; Domestic (61) Housing Developments (4), Agriculture (11), Commercial (2), Education (2), Industrial (2), Part 8 (3), Other (15).

The current applications include a Part 8 application for the completion of an existing partially completed office building at the 'Hanging Gardens' at Henry Street, a residential development in Murroe, and an application for the replacement of fossil fuels at the Limerick Cement Factory in Castlemungret.

2. Conservation

During the month of April three projects, one being a privately owned property, another being a publicly owned property, and the third qualifying as a Historic Irish House structure, were nominated for consideration by the Minister for the Arts, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht under the Structures at Risk Fund 2016.

3. Housing Capital and Regeneration

- The Council has produced a draft policy document for the selection of sites for social housing in Limerick which was presented at the Housing SPC on the 11th April 2016.

The policy document, entitled **Assessment for Selecting Sites for Social Housing (ASH) for Limerick City and County**, seeks to:

- Identify in an objective and consistent manner, suitable sites for social housing in appropriate locations;
- Assess their potential; and
- Assess when they are likely to be developed in line with the targets set out in the Social Housing Strategy 2020.

The methodology has tested sites within the ownership of the Council in two pilot areas, Limerick City and

Newcastle-West. The intention is to extend the agreed methodology to the wider Limerick County area in accordance with the settlement hierarchy adopted in the statutory Limerick City and County Development Plans.

It should be noted that, as an evidence base document, the ASH is only one input into the decision-making process for suitable sites and will sit alongside other policy documents, including the Core Strategy and Housing Strategy of the Development Plan which will allow the Council to make informed and integrated policy decisions.

- There are currently 109 homes and apartments under construction in Limerick, with a further 70 at Enabling Works stage. This includes the commencement of construction at 8-10 Gaol Lane. This project establishes a precedent for the reactivation of vacant property in Limerick City Centre.
- A Part 8 Planning Application was submitted on 7th April 2016 for an infill scheme at 45A and 46A Cliona Park and the creation of a link street between Moyross and Ballynanty.
- Part V of the Planning & Development Act 2000-2015 provides a mechanism for the delivery of social housing within private developments. There has been a general increase in the level of enquiries from developers regarding this scheme. The Council views this as an important component in the provision of social housing.
- The Housing Acquisition Programme 2016 is targeting the purchase of c.50 housing units.
- The delivery of the Housing and wider Regeneration programme is impacting positively on the Social, Economic and Physical wellbeing of Limerick, and this will continue over the coming years to the betterment of City and County.

4. Water Services

Major Capital Works

Design Review Reports for Askeaton and Dromcollogher Sewerage Schemes have been completed.

Minor Capital Works

The City watermains rehabilitation and lead service replacement contract (Work Package 2) is 35% completed. Contractors have been appointed by Irish Water for watermain rehabilitation works at Mountcollins and

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Carrigeen, Croom and for a new watermain to connect Loghill to the Shannon Estuary Water Supply Scheme.

5. Economic Development/ Investment

- The Economic Development Directorate has been reconfigured. The Directorate now comprises the following business units; Limerick 2030, Forward Planning, Local Enterprise Office, Corporate Accounts/Investment, City & Town Management, Innovate Limerick, and Communications/Marketing.
- Part 8 Planning proposal for the redevelopment of the Hanging Gardens office complex, Henry Street, Limerick was prepared and put on public display.
- Work was completed on the draft Local Economic and Community Plan.
- The Council, through Innovate Limerick supported the Irish Technology Leaders Group Young Innovators event in Shannon Airport. The event brought together 800 school students from across the country to explore, through technology, what the world would be like in 100 years time. Overall winners of the event was St Patricks Comprehensive School, Shannon, Co Clare
- Masters students in the University of Limerick presented Marketing Projects/Proposals for Limerick 2020 to a Council panel during the month.

6. Local Enterprise Office

- Enterprising students from Desmond College, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick won the prize for best display in the Intermediate category at the National Student Enterprise Awards in Croke Park on 20th April. Operating under the trading name of Centurians, the 5-student team have developed and created a wallet that will protect your contactless credit cards keeping them safe from fraud and skimming.
- An event to support women in business in the Mid-West region featuring inspirational entrepreneurs and speakers was held on 21st April and attended by 100 delegates.
- 4 projects have been approved for grant aid of €80,450 by the Evaluation Committee in April with the potential to create 11 jobs.

7. Forward Planning

- The amendment to the Southern Environs Local Area Plan in relation to the Loughmore/Mungret area was adopted at the Metropolitan District Meeting on 18th April 2016.
- The Council's Heritage Officer made a presentation to the Mungret Historical Society on the topic of the natural History of Mungret and the adjoining Shannon River.
- 9 Section 57 Notices outlining works to protected structures were issued during the month.

Organisational Development

1. Customer Services

- The Customer Services Department continues to support the Council in delivering services and supporting citizens, customers, councillors, communities and businesses who lodged 2,186 requests (cases) in April.
- The customer footfall through Reception and Customer Services in Dooradoyle and Merchants Quay in April was 2,975.
- Customer Services Advisers continue to assist with training and embedding of SugarCRM in the organisation. During April, our advisers held refresher training with staff from the Cleansing and Parks and Landscaping teams. This ongoing training and support of SugarCRM by customer services is vital to the efficient use of the system and is necessary so as to ensure accurate reporting and quality service to the Council's customers.
- The following table details how many cases were recorded on SugarCRM by Department for April-

Department	Number of Cases Recorded
Operations and Maintenance	1,337
Planning and Environmental Services	262
Community Support Services	207
Digital Strategy	144
Other Departments	138
Customer Services	98
Total	2,186

2. Schedule of Meetings

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Metropolitan District of Limerick		
Monthly Meeting	18.04.2016	Merchant's Quay
Municipal District of:		
(a) Newcastle West		
Monthly Meeting	06.04.2016	Newcastle West
Change Programme Briefing	06.04.2016	Newcastle West
(b) Adare Rathkeale		
Monthly Meeting	11.04.2016	Rathkeale
(c) Cappamore / Kilmallock		
Monthly Meeting	21.04.2016	Kilmallock
Change Programme Briefing		
Workshop General Municipal Allocation	06.04.2016	Kilmallock
Joint Policing Committee	15.04.2016	Merchant's Quay
Operational Briefing's		
Limerick City East	05.04.2016	Merchant's Quay
Limerick City North	05.04.2016	Merchant's Quay
Limerick City West	05.04.2016	Merchant's Quay
Strategic Policy Committee Meetings		
Home & Social Development	11.04.2016	Dooradoyle
Local Community Development Committee	05.04.2016	Merchant's Quay
Audit Committee	25.04.2016	Merchant's Quay

3. Fire Services Training

Passing out Parade in Dublin City Fire Brigade

The new whole time recruits had their passing out parade in Dublin City Fire Brigade Training Centre on Wednesday 27th April 2016.

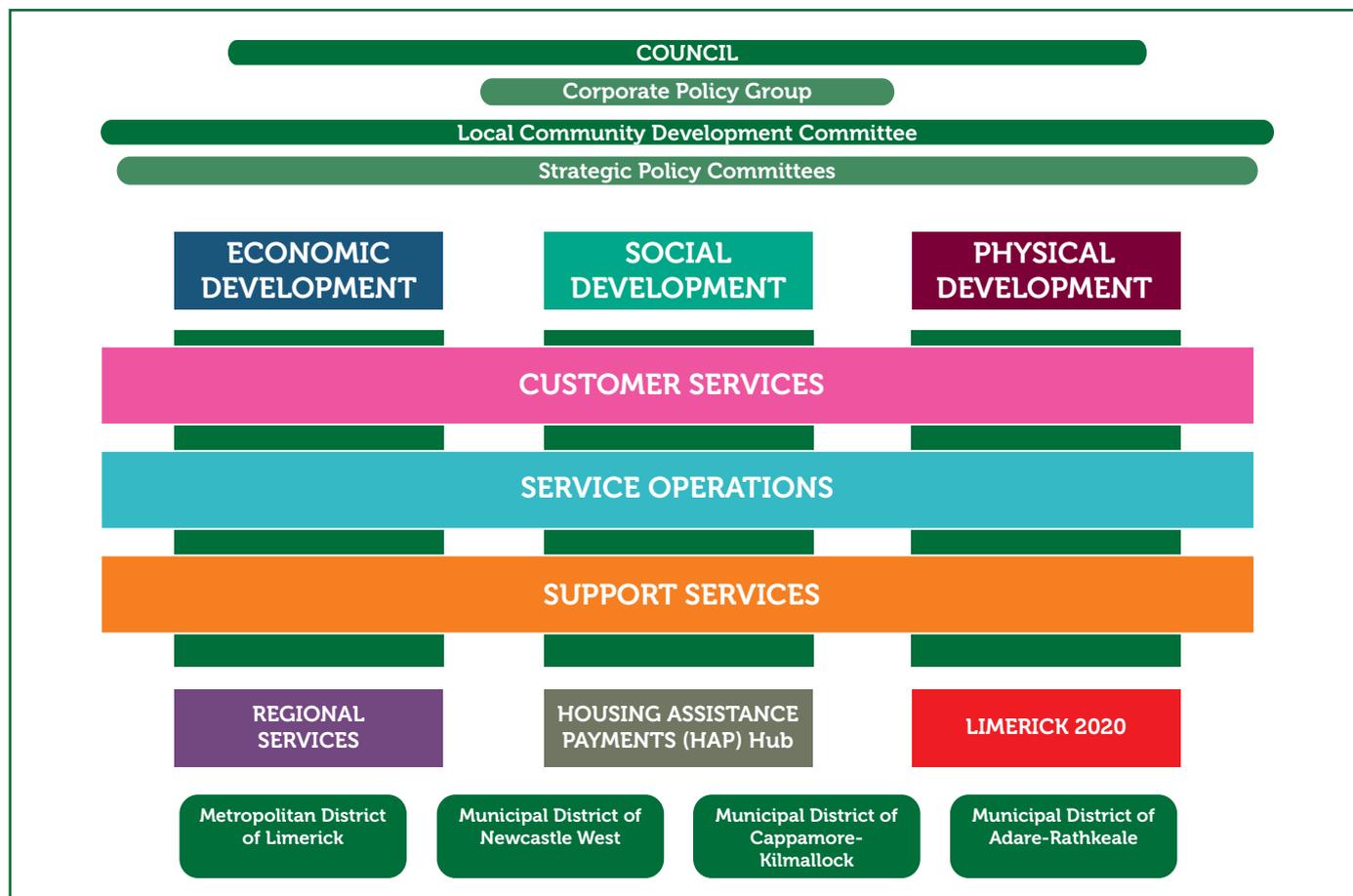
Training

The following courses were held in April 2016:-

- Hiab Lorry Mounted Crane Operator Training x 2 Courses - Total 11 Operators trained.
- Winch Operator Course x 2 Courses - Total 12 Operators trained.
- Chainsaw Operator Course x 2 courses.
- Block Training Whole time Fire-fighters Completed - Topics Covered Casualty Handling, Rail Incidents, Use

of FF Lifts & Rescue of Passengers, Tunnel Procedures Refresher, Confined Space / Sewer Rescue.

- Whole Time Recruits training with Dublin Fire Brigade completed.
- Instructor Provided to National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) on Instructor 1 course.
- Heavy Vehicles Instructor course.
- Mid-West Road Design office and Council staff received training in Water Safety, Manual Handling and Occupational First Aid.



4. Change Management

The Council's new Operating Model was established on the 18th April 2016.

A special edition of Council Connect 'Your Guide to Our New Operating Model' was published and distributed to all staff and councillors. It contains the following information:

- Overview of Our New Operating Model and It's Objectives
- Location, Function & Contacts of all the New Directorates and Departments
- Organisational Structure - Senior Staff Assignments
- Locations at a Glance
- Metropolitan & Municipal Assignments of Directors
- The 40 Councillors Elected to Limerick City and County Council.

5. Property Services

- The office refurbishment project for the Housing Assistance Payments project at The Granary was awarded the Best 2016 Interior Architectural Project at the Irish Buildings and Design Awards. This work was carried out by the Council with Carr and Associates Architects.
- The first meeting of the Property Interests Register Steering Group was held during April. This project is now moving towards implementation stage with the establishment of the Steering Group to oversee and guide the project strategically.
- The Council has appointed 2 no. Facilities Officers to improve the customer service experience at the Front area of Corporate Headquarters. The appointed officers will enhance the customer service presence at Corporate Headquarters and will form part of the overall Property Services team.

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1. Financial Matters

Home Improvement Schemes

Private Housing Grant Aid	Number of Grants paid at April 2016	Euro Amount
MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	48	€208,001.10
HAGS (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	24	€209,931.33
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	57	€170,940.10

Total of 129 grants paid to date totalling €588,872.53.

Rent Collection

Rent Collection Limerick City & County Council

Opening Balance 01/01/2016 €	Accrued Income €	Total for collection €	Receipts €	Closing balance 30/04/2016 €	% Collection
2,035,821	4,355,220.55	6,391,042	4,196,504	2,035,821	65.7%

Commercial Rates - Loans

Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2015	Opening Balance 1 Jan €	Accruals €	To Collect €	Receipts €	Arrears €	%
As at 30th April 2016	21,453,866	51,137,694	72,591,560	16,201,016	56,390,544	22%

The Date for Making the 2016 Rate was 2nd February 2016

Debtor Loans	Opening Balance 1 Jan €	Accruals €	To Collect €	Receipts €	Arrears €	%
As at 30th April 2016	478,052	403,366	881,418	481,999	399,419	55%

Recourse To Overdraft Facility

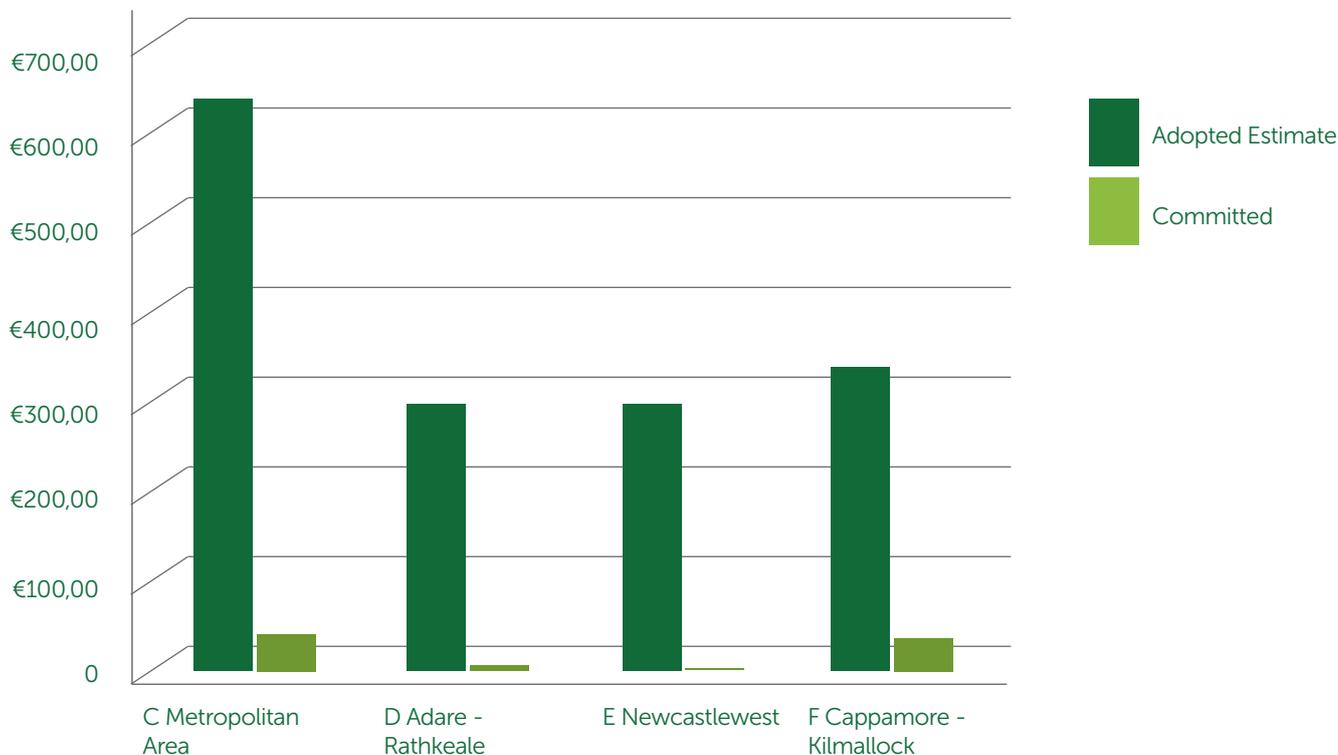
No of days in overdraft 0

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General Municipal Allocation 2016 Adopted Estimate €1.5 Million

Graph outlining adopted budget and committed expenditure up to 30th April 2016



Municip (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate	Value Committed
C Metropolitan Area	640,000.00	42,362.38
D Adare - Rathkeale	275,000.00	4,032.14
E Newcastle West	275,000.00	0.00
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	310,000.00	23,125.28