

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



THIS MONTH:

The Silicon Valley based company, **Uber** has announced the creation of 150 jobs for Limerick City.

Limerick City and County Council has signed the Heads of Agreement with **Troy Studios** for a long term lease of the former Dell factory in Castletroy.

Limerick Marketing launched a new **Experience Limerick brochure**, which features a number of suggested tours of Limerick.

Limerick City and County Council brings splash of colour to city centre with new animated **Urban Garden**.

The **Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS)** have allocated an additional €1,008,750 in Grant funding under the category of Road Restoration Improvement.

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by the Mayor Councillor Liam Galvin in Merchant's Quay on Friday 17th July for the Mexican Ambassador.

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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 31st of July 2015
Metropolitan District of Limerick	3,896
Municipal Districts:	
Adare-Rathkeale	334
Cappamore-Kilmallock	349
Newcastle West	365
Total	4,944

Allocations

	Metropolitan District	Newcastle West	Adare – Rathkeale	Cappamore – Kilmallock	Total
Year to end of last month	63	25	27	40	155
No of Units Allocated July	10	5	2	3	20
Year to Date	73	30	29	43	175

Home Improvement Schemes

Private Housing Grant Aid	Number of Grants paid at July 2015	Euro Amount
MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	89	€329,310.86
HAGS (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	50	€472,536.67
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	63	€285,185.71

€1,087,033.24 paid to date up to 31/07/2015.

There have been a total of 33 grants paid and recouped from the Department in the last month.

Rent Collection

Opening Balance 01/01/2015 €	Accrued Income €	Total for collection €	Receipts €	Closing balance 23/07/2015 €	% Collection
1,830,818	6,780,921	8,611,739	6,622,884	1,988,855	76.9

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2. Cemeteries

Development works continued at Mt St Lawrence Cemetery Extension.

Draft Cemeteries Bye Laws 2015 for the regulation of cemeteries have been prepared and the draft Bye Laws are on public display. The Council have invited written submissions on the draft Bye Laws with a closing date of 2nd September for receipt of same.

3. Awareness

Live interviews began for the Limerick Going for Gold Challenge Category on Live 95fm with coverage of each of these groups in the Limerick Leader. The Limerick Going for Gold Challenge Category has a top prize of €10,000.

The Gum Litter Task Force's 'Bin your Gum When Your Done' Campaign was launched.

4. Litter

Draft Litter Management Plan 2015-2018 has been prepared. The draft Plan sets out the Council's objectives for managing and dealing with the challenge of litter in Limerick City and County over the next three years.

The emphasis of this Plan will be on adopting a best practice approach. The Council's aim is to reduce the amount of litter in the first instance, create awareness about littering and work in partnership with Tidy Towns groups, Resident Associations, sporting bodies, community groups, schools, citizens and relevant business groups.

The Council invites written submissions in relation to the proposed Plan, which will be taken into consideration by the Council before the Plan is made.

5. Veterinary

Draft Control of Horses Bye Laws for the regulation of the control of horses have been prepared. The draft Bye Laws are on public display and written submissions have been invited on same with a closing date of 2nd September.

6. Local Community Development Committee

The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) held its monthly meeting on 14th July, 2015.

Departmental Regional Information Event for Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Chairs, Chief Officers and Elected Members was held in Limerick.

7. Rural Development Programme (LEADER)

Confirmation was received on 10th July, 2015 that Limerick Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Expression of Interest as the Local Action Group for the Rural Development Programme (LEADER) was successful.

Departmental/Pobal Briefing on the preparation of the Rural Development Programme Local Development Strategy was held in Tullamore on 16th July, 2015.

Departmental/Pobal Briefing on the preparation of the rural tourism elements of Rural Development Programme Local Development Strategy was held in Longford 29th July, 2015.

Local Community Development Committee Rural Development Programme Working Group met to progress development of Local Development Strategy on 28th July, 2015.

8. Local Economic and Community Plan

Public Consultation for Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) Socio-Economic Statement and High Level Goals (SES and HLGs) was completed on 2nd July 2015. Submissions were evaluated and a report on same prepared for Advisory Steering Group.

Engagement with Municipal/Metropolitan Districts on Socio-Economic Statement (SES) and High Level Goals (HLGs) took place throughout July.

9. Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

Programme Implementers Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) Annual Plans for 2015 were entered on the Integrated Reporting and Information (IRIS) System, which was approved by Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and second tranche payments were issued.

10. Pride of Place

Pride of Place judging took place in Limerick City and County on Thursday and Friday 9th and 10th July. Limerick was represented in this All Ireland Community Competition by Bruff, Killeely, Tait House, Southill and Scanlon Park Housing Estate, Castleconnell. The Judges for the competition were Mr. Donal Connolly, Waterford and Ms. Rita McNulty, Sligo. The Judges commented that all four Limerick entries were of a very high standard. The results of the Pride of Place Competition will be announced at an Awards Ceremony in Ennis, Co. Clare in November.

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11. Estate And Tenancy Support

Scanlon Park, Castleconnell - Intensive support was provided to residents committee in lead-up to judging for national Pride of Place Competition which took place on Friday 10th July. The residents of the estate did themselves proud and represented Limerick with distinction.

Cois Ma, Croom - Completion of environmental improvement works by installation of two specially-designed outdoor benches, with the assistance of residents.

Geitne Close, Askeaton - Installation of three raised flower/shrub beds, with the assistance of residents.
Watergate Flats - Regular meetings between Council officials and members of recently-formed residents committee regarding a variety of issues, including upgrade works in CCTV and access security.
Ongoing liaison, both formally and informally, with other residents groups.

Pre-Tenancy training meetings – 25.

12. Tenancy Enforcement

Number of complaints received: 35

Number of cases opened: 11

Number of interviews conducted: 48

Number of verbal/written warnings: 3

Other actions: (i) Two Excluding Order Application Hearings in District Court - 1 Order granted and the other case adjourned (ii) Tenancy Statutory Notices issued under Sections 13 & 15 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014 relating to (a) illegal occupation of Council house and (b) abandoned property.

13. Libraries Update

Minister launches National Reading Programme at Dooradoyle Library

Minister for Education and Skills, Jan O'Sullivan launched the 2015 National Summer Reading Programme on Tuesday 21st July at Dooradoyle Library. Over 50,000 children in Ireland will take part in the Public Libraries' Summer Reading Programmes this year.

To celebrate the launch, Dooradoyle Library held a party with over 120 children in attendance. Myles Breen, stalwart of panto and theatre, provided great entertainment for both children and adults and there was face painting, sweets and treats for all who attended.

Children have signed up for the Summer Reading Buzz, which is being run at all library branches throughout the City and County. They are busy getting their cards stamped and collecting their rewards as they progress with the challenge to read up to 10 books during the holidays.

Watch House Cross Library

Watch House Cross had three visits from St Lelia's Summer Camp during July, twenty children were treated to a storytime and colouring session in the library. Moyross Community Drama Group gave a sneak preview of the melodramatic comedy, 'Saving the house of Delmege' on the library floor. It was performed in the Hunt Museum on the 10th and 11th of July. St. Munchin's CDP held their Awards Ceremony in the library on the 14th of July. 60 adults were presented with certificates for programmes completed during the year. Summer Art & Craft sessions are being held for children between the ages of 5 and 10yrs, every Thursday at 3.30p.m.

Granary Library

At the Granary Library, Literacy & Numeracy Camps were run with two schools, St. John's National School and Our Lady of Lourdes. Camps were attended by pupils, teachers and parents and a certificate presentation took place in St. John's National School which was attended by Minister Jan O'Sullivan.

The launch of "Ireland's Heartbeat 2015 - An Anthology of Spiritual Songs, Poems & Prophecies" took place at the Granary Library on 3rd July. This anthology contains songs, poems and prose by 100 adults, youths and children throughout Ireland as well as Irish abroad and visitors to Ireland.

1916/2016 Commemoration Programme

Chief Executive, Conn Murray, Mayor, Councillor Liam Galvin and 1916/2016 Co-ordinator for Limerick, Damien Brady, met with Ministers Heather Humphreys and Alan Kelly in Dublin on Tuesday 14th July to give an update on the progress made on the county plan being developed as part of Ireland's 2016 Centenary Programme.

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14. Limerick Museum And Archives

Limerick Museum & Archives launched a summer series of lectures in City Hall focusing on World War 1 as part of the Stand Up & Fight Exhibition. Dr. Clodagh Tait spoke on the 1st July on the impact of war deaths. Ronan Hayes spoke on the 15th July on the military weaponry and tactics during World War 1. The series runs fortnightly until the end of August.

15. Arts

Limerick 2020 bid, Citizen Brainstorming Session 21st July, Kitchen Table Conversations, European Workshop, Focus Group Meetings.

Culture Night 2015, 85+ submissions processed, initial press information prepared and disseminated.

Festivals development in partnership with Limerick Marketing Company to promote September as Limerick's Culture Month with Culture Night, Elemental, Love Letters from Limerick, Pulitzer Prize-Winning Novelist Richard Ford, Limerick Jazz Festival and Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA).

Music programming for Autumn, Castleconnell concerts and RTE Contempo Quartet in partnership with the Granary Library and Limerick City Gallery of Art.

16. Fire and Emergency Services Update

iReports

Work is progressing on the development of the iReports system for electronic incident reporting from our 7 Fire Stations.

17. Freedom of Information

Freedom of Information Requests 2015	Freedom of Information Requests July 2015	Ombudsman Requests 2015	Ombudsman Requests July 2015	AIE Requests 2015	AIE Requests July 2015
86 4 Internal Appeals 1 Information Commissioner Appeal	18	15	4	7	1

Economic Development and Planning

1. Limerick Marketing Company

Limerick Marketing launched a new Experience Limerick brochure, which features a number of suggested tours of Limerick. Three of the four tours are in county Limerick and the brochure has been specifically designed to increase the target stay from one to two nights to three to four nights, given the strong growth in tourism in Limerick.

2. Urban Garden

Work commenced on a vibrant urban garden in O'Connell Street. Trees and shrubs have been planted in a new public realm space outside Penney's on O'Connell Street as part of Limerick's new urban garden which will see food kiosks, brightly coloured seating and a children's fun space with an arts and crafts theme installed over the summer months.

3. Planning

126 new planning applications were received during July 2015. Breakdown as follows; Domestic 66, Housing Developments 1, Commercial Developments 17, Industrial 2, Retail 2, Education 6, Other 30 and Part 8 2.

The current applications include proposals for a new bank in Castletroy, two new schools in Mungret, the development of a Civic Museum in the Franciscan Friary and public realm works and street improvements in Parnell St, Wickham St and Davis St.

71 planning applications were granted including a housing development for Castleconnell and improvement works/extensions at Dromtrasna, Monaleen, Monagea and Ballybrown National Schools.

Glenbrook, Glendale, and Glenbrook Lawn, Old Singland Road were taken in charge during the month.

A Variation to the Croom Local Area Plan to facilitate the development of a new post primary school was adopted.

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4. Economic Development

Job Announcements / Investments for Limerick

The Silicon Valley based company, Uber has announced the creation of 150 jobs for Limerick City before the end of 2015. Uber's first Centre of Excellence outside of the USA will be located on Thomas Street.

Limerick City and County Council confirmed that it has signed the Heads of Agreement with Troy Studios for a long term lease of the former Dell factory in Castletroy. Troy Studios will operate the facility as a fully – fledged studio to cater for film and television productions. It is anticipated that the studios will be fully operational by mid 2016.

5. Local Enterprise Office

The main activities of the Local Enterprise Office included the following:

- 6 additional mentoring assignments;
- Retail Development Programme for Newcastle West completed – 13 participants;
- Food Academy Start Programme with Bord Bia and Super Valu – 10 food businesses;
- Business Advice clinics held for 17 clients;
- Start your own business bootcamp – nine attendees.

Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur (IBYE)

Applications for Limerick's Best Young Entrepreneur for 2015 closed on 31st July with 41 applications received by Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Limerick. The Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur (IBYE) competition is open to people aged between 18-30 years in the following categories:

- Best Idea (not yet trading);
- Best Start Up (trading for 24 months or less);
- Best Established Business (trading for more than 24 months).

The competition has a €50,000 Investment Fund with the overall winner going forward to a national competition later in the year.

Tenders for the Design of the new Foot Bridge advertised.

Tenders for the Joint Partner for the development of the Opera Centre site received.

Purchase of the 'Cleaves' Site completed.

6. Travel and Transport

Limerick City & County Council were notified on Friday 17th July that the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) have allocated an additional €1,008,750 in Grant funding under the category of Road Restoration Improvement. This grant is part of an additional €24,000,000 in funding made available nationally this year for road improvements.

It is intended that the additional funding will be used to carry out additional road improvements throughout the City and County with schemes being picked from the Multi Annual Road Works Plan.

€1,000,000 will deliver approximately between eight to nine kilometres of Road Restoration Schemes based on an average rural road width of six metres.

The Council is delighted to receive this additional grant allocation for road improvements at a time when Grant funding has been limited.

Capital Works

The Mungret Environs Roadworks Scheme 2015 – The Part VIII for this Road Scheme to facilitate the construction of new Schools at Mungret Park was approved by the Metropolitan Area Members.

Kings Island Flood Relief Scheme - Arup Consulting Engineers were appointed as design consultants for the provision of engineering, environmental and planning consultancy services for the King's Island Flood Relief Scheme.

Askeaton Flood Relief Scheme - MHL Consulting Engineers were appointed as design consultants for the provision of engineering, environmental and planning consultancy services for Askeaton Flood Relief Scheme.

Limerick Smarter Travel Route 4 – Castletroy - A construction contract for traffic calming and cycling infrastructure upgrades was awarded to Wills Bros Civil Engineering and work has commenced on site.

Limerick Smarter Travel Route 2 - Canal Bank Rhebogue - Traffic Management Upgrade Works Contract was awarded to P & D Lyndon and work has commenced on site.

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Limerick Smarter Travel Route 3 - Rhebogue Road - Traffic Management Upgrade Works Contract was awarded to TBEB Ltd and work has commenced on site.

Limerick Smarter Travel have introduced bike maintenance training courses for individuals living in the four smarter travel study hubs. The course was offered free of charge to participants, in return the participants will run monthly bike repair events in their areas for one year with support from Limerick Smarter Travel. 12 people completed the six week accredited course and graduated on Friday 24 July 2015.

Organisational Development

1. Change Liaison Network

At the July meeting, the Network received a presentation on the 2030 Economic Strategy from the Chief Executive followed by a discussion on the way forward.

The Change Liaison Network agreed an information pack for communication to colleagues in the organisation. The information the network members will deliver, gives an overview of the change programme and addresses:

- What are we doing?
- Why are we doing it?
- How are we doing it?
- Who is doing it?
- When are we doing it?
- What have we achieved to date?
- What will the 3 Strategic Directorates (social, economic, physical) look like?
- What will Service Operations look like?
- Questions from Staff?
- Benefits to Staff?

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.

2. Staff Development Programme

Following the presentation given at the organisation-wide staff briefing sessions at the end of May, the first step of planning the staff development programme got underway with six staff focus groups taking place on 13th and 14th July with a cross section of 60 staff from the organisation.

3. Moves in Motor Tax

All over-the-counter Motor Tax services in Limerick have been provided from Dooradoyle and Newcastle West since mid-July. This follows the re-location of the Motor Tax Office at Lissanalta House to the Council Offices, Dooradoyle and the scheduled ending of over-the-counter Motor Tax services at Merchants Quay in Limerick since 10th July. During the moves customers were encouraged to use the on-line Motor Tax service. Staff co-operation from Finance, IT, Customer Services and Facilities Management has made for a smooth transition.

4. Mayoral Receptions

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by the Mayor Councillor Liam Galvin in Merchant's Quay on Friday 3rd July for a group of U.S. Students from Seton Hall University in New Jersey and Gannon University in Pennsylvania, who travelled to Limerick to volunteer in various community organisations around Limerick throughout the week, which included the Franciscan Friars in Moyross, Northside Family Resources Centre, Limerick Youth Service, the Butterfly Club and Novas Initiatives.

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by the Mayor Councillor Liam Galvin in Merchant's Quay on Friday 17th July for the Mexican Ambassador, Carlos Garcia de Alba, who was accompanied by the renowned flautist, Horacio Franco, Musicians, Daniel Ortega and Arturo Plancarte, the Ambassador's partner, Fiona Roche, and the new Honorary Consul of Mexico in Limerick, Ronan Brannigan. The visit coincided with a special concert by Horacio Franco at St. Mary's Cathedral on Saturday, July 18th, to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Mexico and Ireland.

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5. National Day Of Commemoration

The National Day of Commemoration Ceremony was hosted by the Council on Sunday, 12th July. The ceremony was to honour all Irishmen and Irishwomen who died in past wars or on service with the United Nations. In excess of 300 people attended the event representing a broad cross-section of various religious beliefs. The ceremony finished with a minute's silence and Mayor Galvin laid a wreath.

6. Schedule of Meetings

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Full Council Meeting	21.07.2015	Dooradoyle
Special Council Meeting	29.07.2015	Dooradoyle
Metropolitan District of Limerick	20.07.2015	Merchant's Quay
Municipal District of:		
Newcastle West		
Monthly Meeting	15.07.2015	Newcastle West
Adare-Rathkeale		
Monthly Meeting	14.07.2015	Rathkeale
Special Meeting	14.07.2015	Rathkeale
Special Meeting	21.07.2015	Dooradoyle
Cappamore-Kilmallock		
Monthly Meeting	16.07.2015	Kilmallock
GMA Meeting	06.07.2015	Kilmallock
Audit Committee	02.07.2015	Merchant's Quay
Corporate Policy Group	13.07.2015	Merchant's Quay
Local Community Development Committee	14.07.2015	Merchant's Quay

7. Draft Polling Scheme 2015

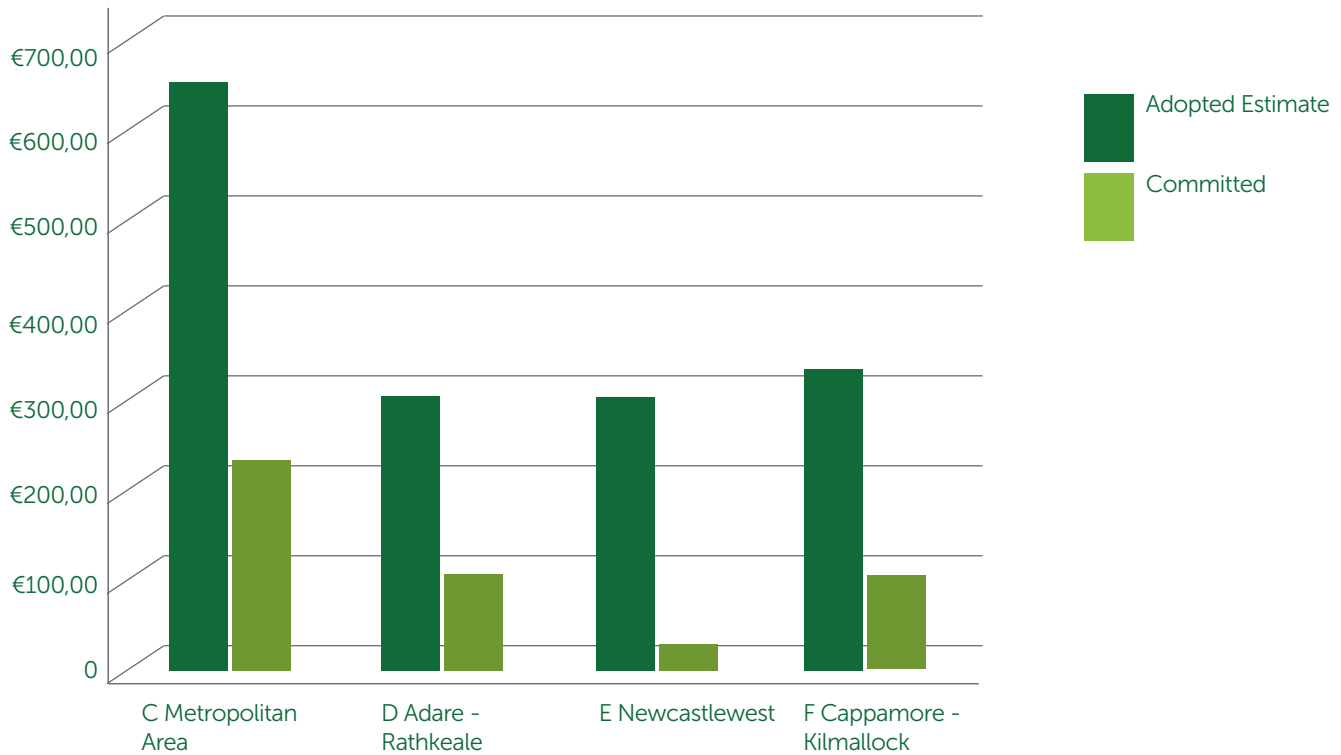
A new Polling Scheme was prepared as a result of the changes to the Dáil Constituencies and the establishment of Limerick City and County Council. The Draft Scheme was on public display for five weeks from Monday 13th July 2015.

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General Municipal Allocation 2015 Adopted Estimate €1.5 Million

Graph outlining adopted budget and committed expenditure up to 31st July 2015.



Commercial Rates - Loans

Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2015	Opening Balance 1 Jan €	Accruals €	To Collect €	Receipts €	Arrears €	%
As at 31st July	24,966,926	51,805,705	76,772,631	34,634,876	42,137,755	45

Debtor Loans	Opening Balance 1 Jan €	Accruals €	To Collect €	Receipts €	Arrears €	%
As at 31st July	548,793	850,020	1,398,813	992,489	406,324	71

Recourse To Overdraft Facility

No of days in overdraft 0