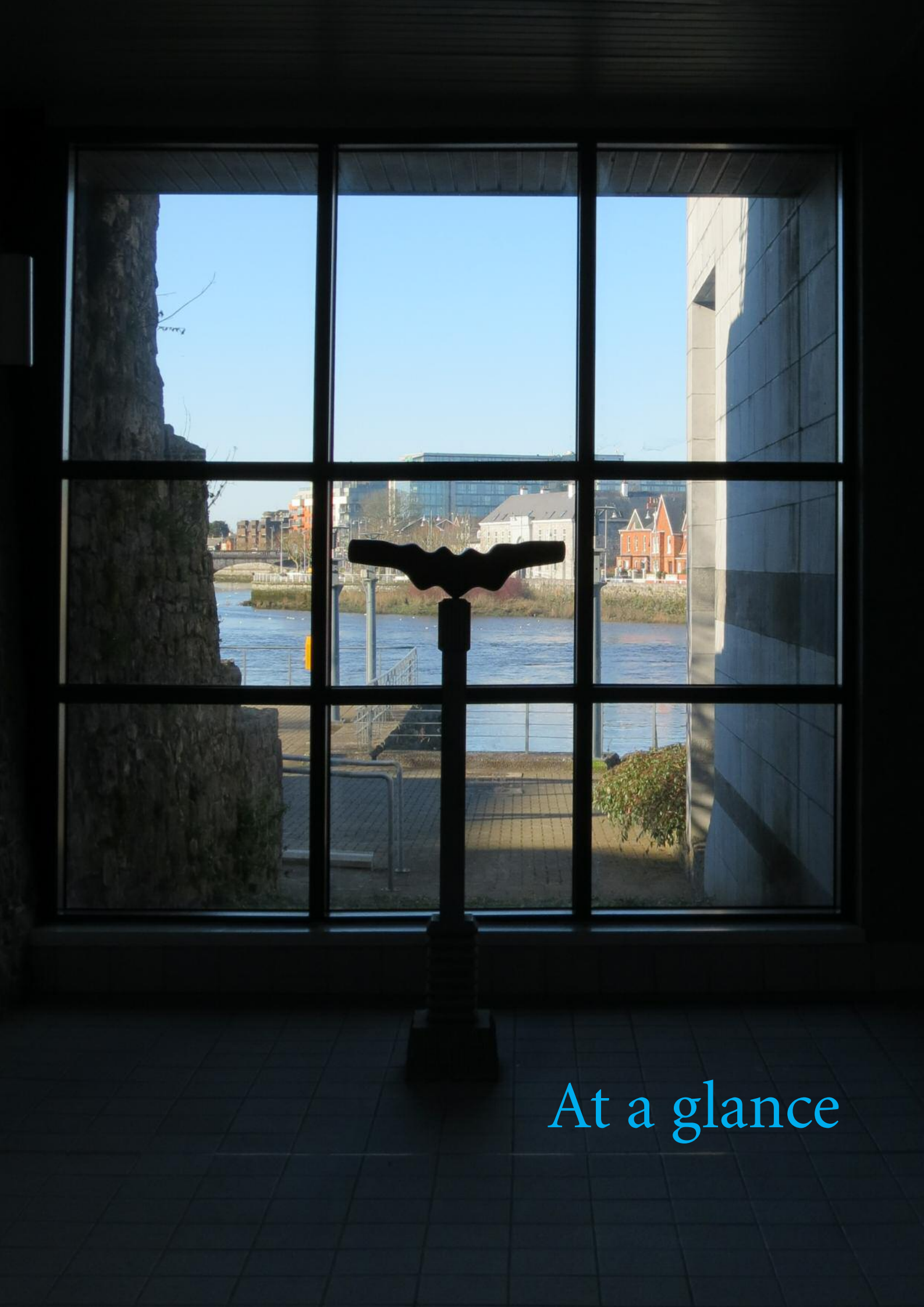




Limerick County Council
Comhairle Chontae Luimnigh



Limerick City & County Council's ANNUAL REPORT 2012



At a glance

MANAGER'S FOREWORD

Conn Murray
Limerick City & County Council
Manager/CEO

Limerick is at an exciting crossroads in its history as a new era dawns. 2012 was a year of great change in Limerick with the integration of both local authorities getting underway and a huge opportunity now presents itself to move forward with a single purpose to overcome current challenges.

Managing Limerick can be done more coherently and more effectively with a combined authority. This balanced approach will ensure that we sustain what has been achieved in the county while tackling the revitalisation of the city.

Nine new Directorates were created in 2012 to ensure that the two Councils adopt a unified path and that there is consistency in relation to the quality and level of services being provided by both organisations. The amalgamation presents a unique opportunity where there will be one voice for Limerick and where barriers between the two existing authorities will be removed. The structures necessary to facilitate the transition to the new single authority will continue to be developed and supported.

2012 was also a year of adjustment for staff and a cross functional senior change management team was appointed to address policies and practices to cope with new developments. I wish to extend my appreciation to the staff of both Councils for their commitment and dedication to service despite the on-going reductions in resources and on occasion, what I believe, to be the unwarranted negative focus placed on the public service in general.

Part and parcel of the unification is to get a clearer and more balanced approach to economic development and planning which effectively is where communities are established, how communities are planned and where they are situated. It is extremely important that our network of rural villages and towns are sustained while the city is an attractive, vibrant and safe location to enjoy.

To this effect, my 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 has never been more important.



I have great belief in the strength of the community - a re-generated city is good not just for Limerick, but for the region. If we are going to compete on an international front, which is what our ambition has to be, we have to operate as a vibrant region with a strong city of 100,000 people at its heart.

While there are great challenges facing Limerick, there are also real opportunities and local government must play a pivotal role in ensuring that both the city and county are excellent places in which to live, do business and to visit.

The designation in July 2012 of Limerick as the first National City of Culture in 2014 will help to shape, brand and promote a new Limerick. The aim of the National City of Culture Initiative is to deliver a programme of cultural events and engagement for one year, but which also has a longer-term positive impact. The National City of Culture Initiative will seek to bring artists, arts organisations, local authorities and civic groups that are working in Limerick together through the design of a calendar of events that showcases all that we have to offer based on our rich cultural and sporting heritage.

There is a two year process to the amalgamation in 2014 and I would like to acknowledge the huge amount of work which has taken place over the last 12 months.

It may be a challenging road ahead but it is a privilege for us all, Elected Members, staff and management, to help create a new entity and shape the next chapter of a revitalised Limerick into the future.

Message from the Mayor & Cathaoirleach

Cllr Gerry McLoughlin, Mayor of Limerick City

Cllr Jerome Scanlan, Cathaoirleach, Limerick County Council





We are delighted to introduce this Annual Report of Limerick City and County Councils for 2012. This report contains information about the many services provided by your local authorities, their elected members and various departments.

Despite the continuing fiscal challenges, we have maintained our commitment to delivering on various work programmes and working in partnership with each other statutory and local agencies to invest in services that impact on the day to day lives of the people of Limerick. Our aim in 2012 was to reduce costs and achieve better value for money, while at the same time maintaining vital community services and supports.

Economic Development remains one of the most important aspects of rejuvenating and reinvigorating Limerick. Significant cost savings have to be identified to reduce the commercial rates in the City and bring them in line with the County level.

To this effect in 2012, the City Council approved a 1.5% reduction in Commercial Rates while the seventh consecutive freeze on rates was applied in the County. This decision has sent out a clear signal that we are supporting local businesses and creating an environment for further economic activity against the backdrop of the harsh fiscal reality we continue to face.

New enterprises were supported through the Business Support Unit and the Retail Incentive Scheme and this will continue with the proposed establishment of a Local Enterprise Office, which will incorporate the functions and expertise of the City and County Enterprise Boards. Work started on a new economic and spatial strategy to drive development in Limerick and this will provide a blueprint for attracting investment and jobs to the Mid-West and enhance the local authority's role and remit in economic development.


Cultural and community highlights in 2012 included the commencement of work on two major tourism projects for Limerick worth over €10m with the re-development of King John's Castle and works at City Quays, which is being funded by Limerick City Council at a total cost of €4.8 million. The project will involve landscaping, the creation of a new boardwalk, and the construction of a walkway and is set for completion during 2013.

The ongoing preparation of the Strategic Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary will bring positive economic benefits for towns and villages located along the waterway while a major strategic plan for the future development and management of marine related industry and tourism will be created along Ireland's largest estuary.

The Local Authorities have also played a central role in liaising with community groups to deliver an expansive calendar of events and festivals for the Year of the Gathering in 2013.

Both local authorities jointly hosted the hugely successful National Pride of Place awards in Thomond Park where 10 local communities were recognised.





We were delighted to collaborate with the JP McManus Charitable Foundation which provided €50,000 to help urban and rural communities go the extra mile with the launch of the Going for Gold campaign. The campaign was a major success encouraging businesses, community groups and individuals to improve their areas in a bid to make Limerick litter free.

Meanwhile, rugby international and Munster star Paul O'Connell was granted the Freedom of Limerick.

The investment in water and waste water infrastructure continued with considerable progress being made on various water and sewerage schemes throughout the City and County. Contracts were signed for the Kilmallock Sewerage Scheme and Mungret Sewerage Scheme upgrades. In addition, a construction contract was awarded for the Mains Rehabilitation Programme in the amount of €1.5m.

2012 was also a milestone for Limerick County Fire and Rescue Service which celebrated its 70th anniversary and was awarded the prestigious ISO 18001 standard. There was national recognition too for the upgrade of the Baggot Estate and new playgrounds were facilitated across the county working in partnership with rural development and local groups.

Free public Wi-Fi and broadband access was made available throughout 2012 at a variety of public buildings across Limerick and improvements in road, water and waste water infrastructure continued with considerable investment in roads, water and sewerage schemes.

Providing housing to meet the needs of individuals and communities continues to be a priority in city and county. In August 2012, Limerick Regeneration came under the responsibility of the City Council following the end of the five-year term of office of the Limerick Regeneration Agencies. Following the successful downsizing of larger estates the focus of the new dedicated office is the construction of new houses and apartments and the refurbishment of existing homes. The first completed scheme in Cliona Park, Moyross is due to open in early 2013 and there are many projects progressing to tender and contract signings.

Work is continuing on the amalgamation process with the publication of plans to provide for the merger of both local authorities by 2014.

We would like to thank staff at all levels for their commitment in ensuring that delivery of work programmes in difficult circumstances during 2012 and look forward to your continued support in 2013.



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Service Reports

Pat Dowling
Director Of Service
Corporate Services And
Change Leader

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Partnership 24

Jimmy Feane
Director Of Service
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Paul Crowe
Director Of Service
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Josephine Cotter Coughlan
Director Of Service
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Oliver O'Loughlin
Director Of Service
Home & Community

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Kieran Lehane
Director Of Service
Sport & Culture

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Tom Enright Director Of Service Economic Development & Planning		Caroline Curley Director Of Service Environment		Pat Murnane Director Of Service Finance & ICT	
Economic Development	68	Environment	74	Finance	80
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Conferences/Seminars attended by the Members

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The Life in the city...

Highlights Of The Year





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1. Conferring of the Honorary Freedom of the City of Limerick on Paul O'Connell
2. Freedom of the City
3. Tom Mackey, former City Manager and Mayor, Cllr. Jim Long at The Opera Site
- 4-5 Civic Reception for Bóthar Soccer Club

This Page

6. Professor Michael A. Hayes, President Mary Immaculate College and Mayor, Cllr. Gerry McLoughlin at Mary Immaculate College
7. Deputy Kiernan O'Donnell, Mayor of Limerick, Cllr. Gerry McLoughlin, Ambassador Eckard Lübckemeier, Ambassador Emmanuelle d'Achon and Prof. Michael A Hayes
8. Mayor, Cllr. Gerry McLoughlin and students from Worcester, U.S.A.
9. Kieran Lehane, Mayor, Cllr. Jim Long and Ambassador Carlos García de Alba, Mexican Ambassador to Ireland
10. Brewster Band, Mayor, Cllr. Gerry McLoughlin and Kieran Lehane Director of Service Sport & Culture
11. Remembrance Ceremony



Highlights Of The Year



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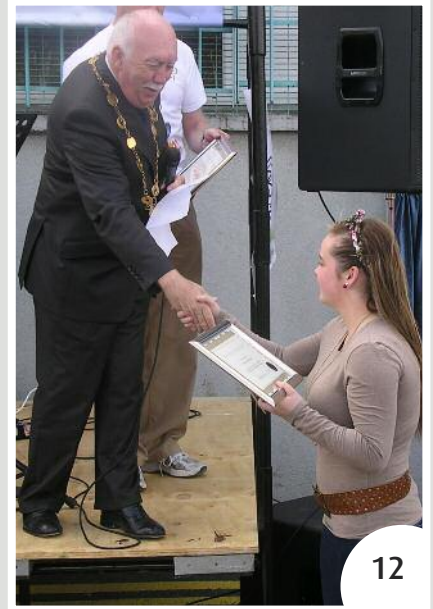
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- 1 Emergency Memorial Services
- 2 Seamus Heaney at Kate O'Brien Weekend
- 3 Jacqui Hayes, City Archivist and Dominique Bouchard, Curator Of Education and Outreach, Hunt Museum
- 4 Bin It Your Way Gum Anti Litter Campaign
- 5 Open House
- 6 Launch of the construction of Phase 2 of Vizes Court by Jan O'Sullivan T.D., Minister of State, Department of Environment, Community and Local Government.

This Page

- 7 Mayor Cllr. Jim Long with students from Presentation Primary School
- 8 Switching on the Christmas Lights
- 9 Launch of Going For Gold by JP McManus with children from St. Mary's School
- 10 Mayor Cllr. Jim Long with Ballinacurra residents
- 11 Contract signing for City Quays Project
- 12 Opening of all weather pitch Our Lady Of Lourdes

City of Sport





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- 1-2 The Great Limerick Run
- 3 UL Bohemians V Young Munster
- 4-5 Limerick FC V Manchester City match in Thomond Park

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- 6 Mike Tyson in Thomond Park
- 7-8 River Launch
- 9 LCC Cycle Path
- 10 Antrea Newport Limerick Masters SC
- 11 Southill Boxing Academy
- 12 Saturday tennis coaching at Limerick Lawn Tennis Club
- 13 Crusheen V Na Piarisigh in AIB Munster GAA Hurling Senior Club Champion



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City Festivals & Celebrations





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6-7 Riverfest

8-9 Limerick Jazz Festival

10 Lifelong Learning Festival Book

11-12 Elemental Arts & Cultural Festival

13 Yoga Festival

Members of the Limerick City Council



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- 1 Cllr Gerry McLoughlin, LAB
- 2 Cllr Cormac Hurley, FG
- 3 Cllr Denis McCarthy, FG
- 4 Cllr Ger Fahy, FG
- 5 Cllr Maria Byrne, FG
- 6 Cllr John Gilligan, Non-Party
- 7 Cllr Kieran O'Hanlon, FF
- 8 Cllr Maurice Quinlivan, SF
- 9 Cllr Michael Hourigan, FG
- 10 Cllr Orla McLoughlin, LAB
- 11 Cllr Tom Shortt, LAB
- 12 Cllr Kevin Kiely, Non-Party
- 13 Cllr Jim Long, FG
- 14 Cllr Pat Kennedy, FG
- 15 Cllr Joe Leddin, LAB
- 16 Cllr Diarmuid Scully, FG
- 17 Cllr Kathleen Leddin, Non-Party



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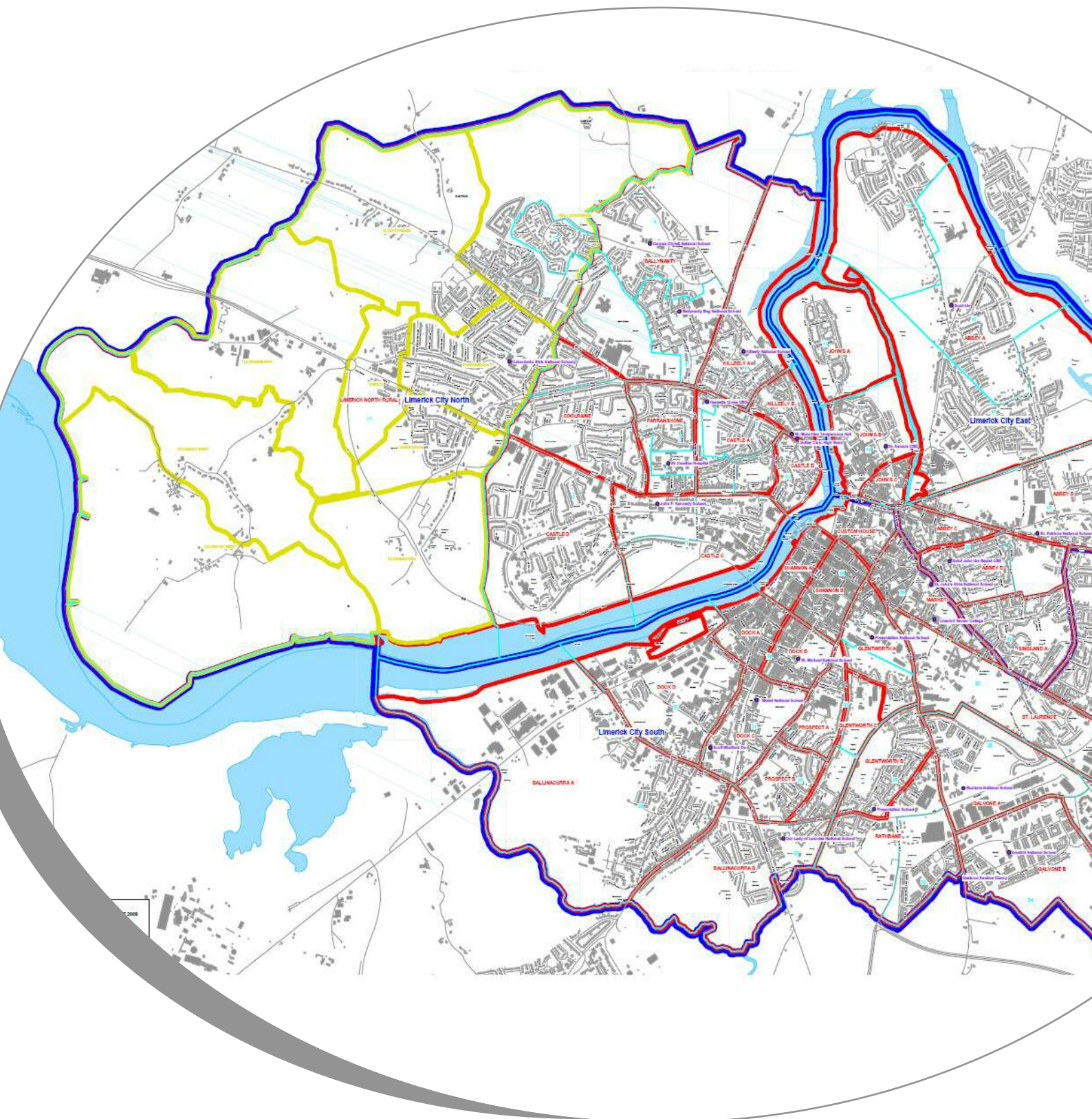


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Map of Electoral Areas



An aerial photograph of Limerick City North, showing the city built on a peninsula with the River Limerick flowing around it. The surrounding area consists of green fields and some distant hills under a blue sky with light clouds.

Electoral Area Limerick City North

Cllr Michael Hourigan	FG
Cllr. Cormac Hurley	FG
Cllr. Tom Shortt	The Labour Party
Cllr. Kevin Kiely	Non Party
Cllr. Maurice Quinlivan	Sinn Féin
Cllr. Catherine Leddin	Non Party

An aerial photograph of Limerick City East, showing a mix of urban development and green spaces. A river flows through the area, and a bridge is visible in the distance.

Electoral Area Limerick City East

Cllr. John Gilligan	Non Party
Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon	FF
Cllr. Gerry McLoughlin	The Labour Party
Cllr. Denis McCarthy	FG

An aerial photograph of Limerick City South, featuring a large green field with a red running track in the foreground. The city buildings are visible in the background, along with a river and a bridge.

Electoral Area Limerick City South

Cllr. Joe Leddin	The Labour Party
Cllr. Maria Byrne	FG
Cllr. Ger Fahy	FG
Cllr. Pat Kennedy	Fine Gael
Cllr. Orla McLoughlin-McCarthy	The Labour Party
Cllr. Diarmuid Scully	FG
Cllr. Jim Long	FG

Council Members And Meetings

There are 17 members on the Council – 6 members in the Limerick City North Electoral Area, 4 members in the Limerick City East Electoral Area, and 7 members in the Limerick City South Electoral Area. Council Meetings are normally held on the fourth Monday of each month (except July and August when there are no meetings) in the Council Chamber at City Hall. The full Council met on 14 occasions (excluding committee meetings).

Corporate Policy Group

The Corporate Policy Group (CPG) is a Committee of the Council consisting of the Mayor and the five Chairs of the Strategic Policy Committees. Membership is as follows:

- Cllr. Gerry McLoughlin, Mayor;
- Cllr. Ger Fahy, Chairman, Transportation and Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee;
- Cllr. Diarmuid Scully, Chairman, Economic Policy Development and Future Planning Strategic Policy Committee;
- Cllr. Michael Hourigan, Chairman, Cultural and Sporting Strategic Policy Committee;
- Cllr. Tom Shortt, Chairman, Social Policy and Housing Strategic Policy Committee;
- Cllr. John Gilligan, Chairman, Environmental Strategic Policy Committee;

The CPG links the work of the different SPCs, acts as a type of cabinet and provides a forum where policy positions can be agreed for submission to the full Council which retains the decision making authority. The CPG also monitors the performance of the local authority and plays a key role in preparing the budget. The CPG met on 14 occasions.

Number of Meetings Held

Monthly Council Meetings/Annual Meeting	14
Special Meeting	10
Protocol Meetings	1
Transportation & Infrastructure SPC Meetings	4
Social Policy & Housing SPC Meetings	3
Cultural & Sporting SPC Meetings	3
Economic Policy Dev. & Future Planning SPC Meetings	4
Environmental SPC Meetings	4
Area Meetings	4
Joint Policing Meetings	2

Strategic Policy Committees



Environmental Strategic Policy Committee

Elected Members

Cllr. John Gilligan, Chairman,
36, Lee Estate, Island Road, Limerick

Cllr. Maurice Quinlivan,
7, Stenson Close, Limerick

Cllr. Cormac Hurley,
94, Sheelin Road, Caherdavin Park, Limerick

Cllr. Kathleen Leddin,
8 Eden Terrace, North Circular Road, Limerick

Cllr. Jim Long,
43, Ballinacurra Gardens, Limerick

Cllr. Orla McLoughlin,
27 Derrynane, Old Cork Road, Limerick

Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon,
Rhebogue, Dublin Road, Limerick

Cllr. Gerry McLoughlin,
5 Sarsfield Avenue, Garryowen, Limerick.

Sectoral Interests

- **Business / Commercial / Development**
Ms. Catherine O'Farrell, 9A Knockhill, Ennis Road, Limerick
- **Environment / Conservation / Culture**
Mr. Seán Griffin, 98, Hyde Road, Prospect, Limerick.
- **Community / Voluntary / Disadvantaged / Trade Union**
Mr. Hilario Jing Bagalacsa, 34, Carn Na Ree, Old Singland Road, Limerick.
- **Education Sector**
Dr. Colin Fitzpatrick, University of Limerick, Plassey Technological Park, Castletroy, Limerick.

The members met on four occasions in 2012. Presentations were received and discussions were held on a wide range of issues including;

- Presentation on proposed history of Mount Saint Lawrence cemetery
- Limerick City Council Biodiversity Plan
- Control of Horses Bye-Laws
- Quarterly Reports on Horse Control figures
- Presentation from Bord Gáis on proposals to remediate Dock Road site
- 5th Annual report on Waste from the Regional Waste Management Office
- Dog litter & Dog Control Bye laws
- Environment Improvement Initiative Grant 2012
- Limerick City Council Litter Management Plan 2010 - 2013
- "A Resource Opportunity", Waste Management Policy in Ireland
- Limerick City Council Tree Policy
- Presentation on Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 - Action Plans
- Limerick City Council Tree Policy
- Proposed change to Rules & Regulations for the Regulation of Burial Grounds.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made to the Limerick City Council for their approval;

- Adoption of the Proposed Bye Laws for Dog Litter and Dog Control 2012
- Adoption of Biodiversity Plan for the City
- Adoption of Control of Horse Bye Laws
- That Limerick City Council removes the derelict Fisheries Weir from the Shannon at Thomondgate and puts an effective programme of maintenance in place along the Abbey River and along the bank of the Shannon between the Shannon Bridge and Barrington's Pier.



Social Policy And Housing Strategic Policy Committee

Elected Members

Cllr. Tom Shortt, Chairman,
Walnut House, Browns Quay, Thomondgate, Limerick.

Cllr. Joe Leddin,
'Hillcrest', Summerville Avenue, S. C. Rd, Limerick

Cllr. Ger Fahy,
19, McDermott Avenue, Janesboro, Limerick

Cllr. John Gilligan,
36, Lee Estate, Island Road, Limerick

Cllr. Pat Kennedy,
'Fortview', Greenpark, South Circular Road, Limerick

Cllr. Denis McCarthy,
4, Siul na hAbhann, Corbally, Limerick

Cllr. Maurice Quinlivan,
7 Stenson Close, Limerick

Sectoral Interests

- **Urban Planning / Architecture / Engineering**
Mr. Michael Landers, Architect, Elliot Maguire Landers Architects, 20 Cruises Street, Limerick
- **Education Sector**
Professor Des McCafferty, Head of the Department of Geography, Mary Immaculate College of Education, South Circular Road, Limerick
- **Community / Voluntary / Disadvantaged / Trade Union**
Mr. Jim Prior, Co-Ordinator, Southill Family Resource Centre, 10, The Brambles, Huntshill, Dooradoyle, Limerick.

Mr. Michael McNamara, President, Limerick Council of Trade Unions, Mechanic's Institute, Hartstonge Street, Limerick.

The Director of Service provided reports, reviews were completed and discussions took place on the following issues;

- Review of Capital Expenditure 2011 and five years from 2007-2011
- Brief Summary of Principal Housing Operations 2011
- Review of Estate Management Grants Process
- Report on Energy Efficiency Works
- Report on Housing Maintenance
- Report on Capital Allocations 2012
- Report on Social Intervention Grants 2012
- Report on the Legislative powers of Local Authorities in relation to dealing with Anti-Social behaviour.
- Report on Estate Management Grants
- Progress of the Regeneration Programme discussed at each meeting.

The following policies were adopted by Limerick City Council

- To approve the Social Intervention Grants
- A number of Notices of Motion were also discussed.
- Paul Partnership gave a presentation on the Limerick City Care & Repair Project.



Culture And Sporting Strategic Policy Committee

Elected Members

Cllr. Michael Hourigan, Chairman,
'Carraig Donn' Revington Pk., N. C. Rd Limerick

Cllr. Kevin Kiely,
27 Belfield Gardens, Farranshone, Limerick

Cllr. Cormac Hurley,
94 Sheelin Road, Caherdavin Park, Limerick

Cllr. Kathleen Leddin,
8, Eden Terrace, North Circular Road, Limerick

Cllr. Denis McCarthy,
4, Siul na hAbhann, Corbally, Limerick

Cllr. Tom Shortt,
Walnut House, Brown's Quay, Thomondgate, Limerick

Sectoral Interests

- **Environmental / Conservation / Culture**
Ms. Elaine Barry, Co-Ordinator, Limerick City Sports Partnership, Unit 9 Steamboat Quay, Dock Road, Limerick
Ms. Joanne Beirne, Belltable Arts Centre, O'Connell Street, Limerick
- **Community / Voluntary / Disadvantaged / Trade Union**
Mr. Stephen Casey, Mid West Spina Bifida Association, Saoirse, Delta Retail Park, Ballysimon Road, Limerick
Ms. Jennifer Moroney Ward, Northside Learning Hub, Kileely House, New Road, Limerick.

The Committee met on four occasions during 2012. Presentations were received and discussions were held on a wide range of issues including:

- Presentation on the Review of the Joint City Council and Limerick City Sports Partnership, Sport and Recreation Action Plan 2011, and a Plan for 2012
- Presentation on the Update of the Great Limerick Run
- Presentation on the Belltable Arts Centre
- Presentation on Limerick City Sports Partnership
- Presentation on The Gathering Project.

The following recommendations were made to the City Council for approval:

- To explore the possibility of acquiring the former Jesuit Church at the Crescent which would serve as an important future asset for the City. Its usage could include a City Library or other civic purposes
- To hold a reception to honour Limerick F.C. after their recent success in winning the Eircom League First Division Championship
- That Limerick City Council, in partnership with Limerick Regeneration, Weston Villas and Prospect FC, redevelop and upgrade Caledonian Park on a similar design and model used for Shelbourne Park, to include soccer pitches, perimeter running track and associated facilities
- Approval of grants for 2012 under the Arts Act.
Total amount: €12,000.



Economic Policy Development And Future Planning

Strategic Policy Committee

Elected Members

Cllr. Diarmuid Scully, Chairman,
19, Lynwood Park, Limerick

Cllr. Kevin Kiely,
27, Belfield Gardens, Farranshone, Limerick

Cllr. Maria Byrne,
Mannixville, O'Connell Avenue, Limerick

Cllr. Michael Hourigan,
'Carraig Donn', Revington Pk, Nth Circular Rd, Limerick

Cllr. Jim Long,
43, Ballinacurra Gardens, Limerick

Cllr. Gerry McLoughlin,
5 Sarsfield Avenue, Garryowen, Limerick

Sectoral Interests

• Business / Commercial Development

Mr. Tony Connolly, Proprietor, Tony Connolly Limited, 12, Patrick Street, Limerick

Mr. John McInerney, P. J. Hegarty and Sons Limited, Mount Kennet Place, Henry Street, Limerick.

• Environment / Conservation / Culture

Mr. Mike Fitzpatrick, Head of the School, Limerick School of Art & Design, Clare Street, Limerick

• Urban Planning / Architecture / Engineering

Mr. Richard Rice, Architect, Healy & Partners, Barrow House, Michael Street, Limerick

• Education Sector

Ms. Marian Duggan, Head of the School of Business & Humanities, Limerick Institute of Technology, Moylish Park, Limerick

The Committee met on four occasions in 2012.

Presentations were received and discussions were held on a wide range of issues including:

- Review of the Development Contribution Scheme
- Retail Incentive Scheme
- Presentation on Development Plan Variation 2 adoption of the Core Strategy
- Presentation received on the Strategic Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary
- Presentation on the review of the Casual Trading Bye-Laws
- Presentation on "Renewing Limerick City- Public Engagement Feedback" from the University of Limerick
- Presentation on Job Creation potential of the Mondragon Cooperative Business Model
- Presentation from Mr Michael Cawley, C.O.O. & deputy CEO Ryanair on "The Growth Solution for Shannon Airport"
- Presentation on the Mid-West Area Strategic Plan
- Up date on the Development Scheme
- Briefing on Economic Development in Limerick
- Report on the City Centre Review
- Presentation on Unfinished Housing estates and housing Land Availability.



Transportation & Infrastructure

Strategic Policy Committee

Elected Members

Cllr. Ger Fahy, Chairman,
19, McDermott Avenue, Janesboro, Limerick

Cllr. Maria Byrne,
Mannixville, O'Connell Avenue, Limerick

Cllr. Pat Kennedy,
'Fortview', Greenpark, South Circular Road, Limerick

Cllr. Joe Leddin,
'Hillcrest', Summerville Avenue, South Circular Road, Limerick

Cllr. Orla McLoughlin,
27 Derrynane, Old Cork Road, Limerick

Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon,
Rhebogue, Dublin Road, Limerick

Cllr. Diarmuid Scully,
19 Lynwood Park, Limerick

Sectoral Interests

- **Business / Commercial / Development**
Mr. Tony Brazil, Managing Director, Limerick Travel, Bedford Row, Limerick
- **Environment / Conservation / Culture**
Mr. James Nix, 24 Belfield Park, Ennis Road, Limerick
- **Urban Planning / Architecture / Engineering**
Ms. Maria Kyne, Head of the School of the Built Environment, Limerick Institute of Technology, Moylish Park, Limerick
- **Education Sector**
Professor Merritt Bucholz, University of Limerick, Plassey Technological Park, Castletroy, Limerick

The committee met on four occasions during 2012.

Presentations were received and discussions were held on a wide range of topics including:

- Infrastructure Projects
- Smarter Travel
- Water Conservation
- Establishment of Irish Water
- Green Routes
- Public Lighting
- Orbital Route
- Coonagh/Knockalisheen distributor Road
- City Centre re-modelling
- Water mains rehabilitation works
- John's Square refurbishment
- Extinguishments of rights of way
- Taking in charge of roads and services
- Declaring roads to be public
- Public lighting
- Parking.

The following recommendations were made to City Council for approval:

- Reports on various notices of motion
- Roads Programme for 2012
- Recommendations on taking in charge of estates, roads and services
- Recommendation on implementation of the "Olympic Trails" project.



Representation on Other Bodies

Association Of Municipal Authorities Of Ireland

Cllr. Maurice Quinlivan

Cllr. Denis McCarthy

Association Of City And County Councils

Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon

Cllr. Denis McCarthy

Cllr. Michael Hourigan

Local Authority Members Association

Cllr. Pat Kennedy

Mid West Regional Authority

Cllr. J. Leddin, Chairman

Cllr. Kathleen Leddin

Cllr. Denis McCarthy

Cllr. Michael Hourigan

Cllr. Diarmuid Scully

Cllr. Ger Fahy

Southern And Eastern Regional Assembly

Cllr. Denis McCarthy

Regional Health Forum West

Cllr. Joe Leddin

Cllr. Michael Hourigan

Cllr. Ger Fahy

Board Of Governors Of St. John's Hospital

Cllr. Gerry McLoughlin (Ex Officio)

Cllr. Jim Long

Cllr. John Gilligan

Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon

Cllr. Denis McCarthy

Board Of PAUL Partnership

Cllr. Denis McCarthy

Cllr. Orla McLoughlin

Cllr. Maurice Quinlivan

Membership Of The Hunt Museum Company

Cllr. Kathleen Leddin

Hunt Museum Trust

Cllr. Cormac Hurley

Management Committee Of The Market Trustees

Cllr. Tom Shortt

Cllr. Diarmuid Scully

Board Of The Limerick Market Trustees

Cllr. Gerry McLoughlin (Ex Officio)

Cllr. John Gilligan

Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon

Cllr. Tom Shortt

Cllr. Maria Byrne

Cllr. Diarmuid Scully

Cllr. Ger Fahy

Cllr. Michael Hourigan

Cllr. Maurice Quinlivan

Board Of Governors Of St. John's Hospital

Cllr. Gerry McLoughlin (Ex Officio)

Cllr. John Gilligan

Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon

Cllr. Jim Long

Cllr. Denis McCarthy

Limerick City Sports Partnership

Cllr. Maria Byrne

Joint Policing Committee

Cllr. Michael Hourigan (Chairman)
Cllr. Cormac Hurley
Cllr. Denis McCarthy
Cllr. Ger Fahy
Cllr. Maria Byrne
Cllr. Diarmuid Scully
Cllr. Orla McLoughlin
Cllr. Tom Shortt
Cllr. Gerry McLoughlin
Cllr. Maurice Quinlivan
Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon
Cllr. Kathleen Leddin
Cllr. John Gilligan

Vocational Education Committee

Cllr. Orla McLoughlin
Cllr. Joe Leddin
Cllr. John Gilligan
Cllr. Denis McCarthy
Cllr. Maria Byrne
Cllr. Jim Long
Cllr. Cormac Hurley
Cllr. Michael Hourigan
Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Limited

Cllr. Ger Fahy

Board Of Management Of St. Enda's Sports Complex

Cllr. Ger Fahy
Cllr. Orla McLoughlin
Cllr. Pat Kennedy

Board Of Directors Of The Belltable Arts Centre

Cllr. Tom Shortt

Limerick Civic Trust

Cllr. Michael Hourigan

Limerick City Enterprise Board

Cllr. Gerry McLoughlin
Cllr. Maria Byrne
Cllr. Diarmuid Scully
Cllr. Kathleen Leddin

Eu Operational Committee

Cllr. Gerry McLoughlin, Mayor
Cllr. John Gilligan

Audit Committee

Cllr. Gerry McLoughlin (Current Mayor)
Mr. John Quinn, former Mayor and retired Councillor
Mr. Tom Kirby, former Director Mid West Regional Authority
Ms. Deirdre Frawley, Limerick City VEC
Mr. Tom Kennedy, Lecturer, University Of Limerick

Board Of Directors Of Moyross Community Enterprise Centre Ltd

Cllr. Kevin Kiely

Board Of Management Of St. Munchin's Community Development Company Limited

Cllr. Kevin Kiely

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Cllr. Gerry McLoughlin (Chairman)
Cllr. Joe Leddin
Cllr. Jim Long
Cllr. Ger Fahy
Cllr. Maurice Quinlivan

City Development Board

Cllr. Ger Fahy (Chairman) (Chair, Transportation & Infrast. SPC)
Cllr. Michael Hourigan (Chair, Cultural And Sporting SPC)
Cllr. Diarmuid Scully (Chair, Economic Policy Development & Future Planning SPC)
Cllr. Tom Shortt (Chair, Social Policy & Housing SPC)
Cllr. John Gilligan (Chair, Environmental SPC)
Cllr. Gerry McLoughlin, Mayor

Health Service Executive

Cllr. Michael Hourigan, Vice Chairman





Corporate Services and Change Leader

Pat Dowling

Director of Services, Corporate Services and Change Leader

Corporate
Health & Safety
Partnership



Corporate Services

- Successful operation of meetings of City Council.
 - 49 Meetings.
- Organisation of Civic and Mayoral Receptions.
 - 42 Mayoral Receptions
 - 5 Civic Receptions
 - 1 Freedom Of The City
- Publication of Supplements to the Register of Electors, Draft Register of Electors, Register of Electors, and Edited Version of Register of Electors.
- Ongoing implementation of Irish Language Scheme.
- Assessing, processing and payment of Higher Education Grants.
- Continued updating information on City Council website and intranet.

During 2012 there were 34 Freedom Of Information Requests

Granted	23
Part-granted	5
Refused	7
Withdrawn	0
Live Cases at end of 2012	2
Total	34

(also 3 cases live from previous year)

Workplace Partnership

The Workplace Partnership process continues to be the mechanism used for consultation and information sharing between the trade unions, management and staff. It is pivotal in the delivery of change and modernisation as part of the transformation of the public service and also in the amalgamation of Limerick City and County Council.



Health & Safety

To develop a safety management system that will demonstrate good governance in respect of health and safety

Key activities during 2012 were as follows

- Continuation of the Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) offering confidential assistance and a specialist information service to employees and their families.
- Six Safety Management Committee reviews.
- Risk Assessments.
- Management of the council's safety statements.
- Safety Consultation with staff including six meetings of the Safety Representatives Committee.
- Safety Training including: Health and Safety Induction, First aid, Safe pass, Working at Heights, Site Dumper, Temporary Traffic Management, Employee Assistance programme, Driver CPC, Abrasive Wheels, Managing Safely in Construction for Managers, Confined Spaces, Location of Underground Services, Safety Auditors, Manual Handling, Safepass Tutor, Signing lighting and guarding at roadworks, Playground Equipment Maintenance and Inspection.
- Review of National Health and Safety Policies and Procedures.
- Safety Inspections.
- Management of the Accident investigation and reporting system.
- Health and Safety promotion including: Marie Keating Foundation and Annual Quiz.



Human Resources

Jimmy Feane
Director of Services, Human Resources

Human Resources
Training
Retirements and deaths in service

Service Indicators



Recruitment

The staffing complement including part-time employees for Limerick City Council at 31st December 2012 was 490 (518 in 2011). The figures are categorised as follows with the 2011 figures in brackets.

	2012	2011
Managerial/Administrative	159	(176)
Professional/Technical	48	(52)
Full-time Fire-Fighter	60	(60)
Craft, General and related grades	200	(211)
Other staff	23	(18)

*490 equates to 450.54 on a full time basis
(518 equates to 474.14 on a full time basis)*

The figures demonstrate a 5.4% reduction on the previous year. The challenge for the City Council is to continue to maintain and improve services while employee numbers decline.

Work Experience/Work Placements

The City Council continue to place emphasis on strengthening our relationship and supporting the various placement schemes for second and third level schools throughout the county and city and also with many other organisations including FÁS and the VEC.

43 students availed of this facility in 2012.

Jobs Initiative Scheme

Limerick City Council in conjunction with FÁS continued to support the employment of 8 staff members under the Job Initiative Scheme.

Breakdown of male/female invited for interview 2012

Post Title	Male	Female
Childcare Co-Ordinator		4
Health & Safety Officer	8	7
Acting Staff Officer	1	7
Acting SEO Regeneration	5	4
Acting Project Manager Regeneration	6	-
Superintendent	8	-
Tenancy Enforcement Officer	6	9
Assistant Engineer	11	3
Environmental Inspector	8	5
Project Co-Ordinator Smarter Travel Project	7	-
Supervisor – Parking Control	7	2

Family Friendly Policies

The number of staff who have availed of leave under the various schemes in 2012:

Parental	24
Worksharing	39
Career Break/Secondment	26
Term Time	8
Flexitime	151

Training

Limerick City Council's commitment to training and staff development ensures that its staff has the necessary skills and competencies to respond to the ongoing challenges of providing a high quality, customer focused and cost effective service.

Service Indicators: Corporate Issues

C1 Working Days lost to Sickness

A. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through certified leave.	4.88
B. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through uncertified leave	0.96

C2 Staff Training and Development

A Expenditure on Training and Development as a percentage of total payroll costs	4.64
--	------



1



2



3



4



6



5



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Retirements/Resignations 2012

During 2012, 37 employees' ceased employment with the City Council.

24 retired including

6 on ill health retirements

1 Non Pensionable Gratuity

3 retired under Cost neutral early retirement

1 other Early retirement.

1 Death in Service in 2012

The value of the 24 retirement lump sums, Including the Non Pensionable Gratuity is as follows:

Gross Lump Sums paid €1,611,975.03

Nett Lump Sums paid €1,541,940.13



7



8

- 1 Deirdre O'Dea and Pat Dowling
- 2 Eileen McMahon and Pat Dowling
- 3 Jean Ryan and Con Murray
- 4 John McEntee and Tom Mackey
- 5 Moira O'Dwyer and Tom Mackey
- 6 Ollie McLoughlin, Kieran Lehane and Mayor, Cllr. Gerry McLoughlin
- 7 L to R: Gerry Ryan, John Cole, Barbara McLoughlin, Jim McNamara, Brendan McKernan
- 8 Tom Mackey, Mayor Cllr. Jim Long and Cllr. Kevin Kiely
- 9 Tom Mackey and Jan O'Sullivan, T.D. Minister of State, Department of Environment, Community and Local Government.

List of 2012 Retirements

Ray Hennessy	Craftsman
Dolores Doyle	City Librarian
Nora Noonan	Clerical Officer
John Cole	Staff Officer
Eileen McMahon	Executive Librarian
Deirdre O'Dea	Senior Executive Librarian
Jim McNamara	Staff Officer
Moirá O'Dwyer	Professionally Qualified Social Worker
Gerry Ryan	Assistant Staff Officer
John McEntee	Health & Safety Officer
Brendan MacKernan	Staff Officer
Sean Moroney	General Operative
John Ryan	Glazier/Craftsman
Tom Mackey	City Manager
Barbara Clinton	Clerical Officer
Christy Young	Driver
Phyllis Roberts	School Warden
Des Ryan	General Operative
Paul O'Doherty	Foreman
Joseph O'Donoghue	Semi Skilled Operative
Oliver McLoughlin	Tenancy Enforcement Officer
Albert Browne	General Operative
Tom Cooney	Supervisor
Terri Butler	Emergency Control Operator
Jean Ryan	Senior Executive Officer

Please remember the following staff member who died in service:



John Flanagan (1950 - 2012)

John Flanagan worked with the Parks Department from December 1996 to February 2012.

John was based in O'Brien Park, Clare St. He maintained the Park and surrounding green areas to a very high standard which was recognised by the local community.

John was very popular with his work colleagues who were shocked to hear of his unexpected death in Paris at the Ireland v France rugby international.

He was a fanatical Munster supporter who along with his wife Irene travelled to all of the matches at home and abroad.

Sympathy was extended to his family on behalf of Limerick City Council.

Long Service Awards



1



2



3



4



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8

- 1 Ann Cusack and Catherine Bowes Kelly
- 2 Ann Marie Meehan, Deirdre Minogue and Teresa Griffin
- 3 Bridgeen Phayer, Mayor Cllr. Jim Long, Eugene Duffy and Marie McDermott
- 4 Back Row L to R: John Hayes, Gerry Ryan and Pa Moloney
Front Row L to R: Patrick Lyons, Joe Barry and Martin O'Loughlin

- 5 L to R: Seán Ryan, Brian O'Brien, and David Conway
- 6 Esther Lane
- 7 Geraldine Dollard, Jennifer Withero and Freda Ryan
- 8 James Kearns and Irene Griffin
- 9 Liz Creamer and Denise McAuliffe



9



10



11



12



13



14

- 10 Majella O'Callaghan and Maria O'Sullivan
- 11 Michael Collopy and Matthew O'Malley
- 12 Sadie Doyle and Mary Hynes
- 13:14 Group Photos of recipients of Long Service Awards



Travel & Transport

Paul Crowe
Director of Services, Travel & Transport

Road
Service Indicators

The primary objective of the Roads and Transportation Department is to provide a well-maintained public road network subject to financial and human resource constraints. Limerick City has an extensive and heavily trafficked road network that requires Limerick City Council to continue to invest heavily in road maintenance, road improvements, and traffic management, on all categories of road in the city, over the coming years. During 2012 The Roads & Transport Department continued with its program of managing the traffic and roads in the City. Listed here in this section is a short summary of the larger projects delivered during 2012.

Limerick Road Repair Programme 2012

Limerick City Council is responsible for the maintenance of over 220km of non-national roads within its functional area. Maintenance and improvement works involves road resurfacing and minor road repair works.

Limerick City Council receives funding for road maintenance through the Block Grant and Specific Improvement Grants (SIG) from The Department of Transport, and from Limerick City Council's own resources. The following resources were allocated to road maintenance in 2012;

SIG Ennis Road	€175,000
SIG Careys Road	€170,000
Block Grant	€1,600,000
Own resources	€1,130,690
Total	€3,075,690

Limerick City Regional and Local Road Resurfacing Contract 2012

This contract allowed for;-

- Resurfacing of approximately 35,000m² of roads,
- Reinstatement of street furniture including manholes, cover boxes for sluice valves, hydrants, gas service covers, road drainage gullies,
- Reinstatement of Road Markings,
- up to 500 Minor Repair Works, i.e. patch repairs of areas less than 100m² and potholes,
- Reconstruction of approximately 250m of concrete foot-ways along the side of the roads to be resurfaced,
- Remedial works for road drainage.

Road	Area	Length	Width	Area
Specific Improvement Grant				
SIG R857 Ennis Road	North Ward	430	11	4730
SIG Carey's Road	South Ward	475	7	3325
Block Grant/Own Resources				
R526 Patrick Street	South Ward	165	11	1815
R527 Ballysimon Road	South Ward	660m	5.0m	3300
Ellen Street	South Ward	220	8.3m	1830
Michael Street	South Ward	230	9	2086
Mungret Street	South Ward	85	6.5	550
South Circular Road	South Ward	225	7.7	1728
Doneen Road	North Ward	314	7	2198
Pinewood Avenue	North Ward	97	6.5	630
Ashwood Avenue	North Ward	100	6.5	650
Willow Grove	North Ward	100m	6m	600
Glenview Avenue	North Ward	100m	5m	500
Westfield Park (East)	North Ward	156m	6.6m	1030
Westfield Park (West)	North Ward	140m	6.3m	882
Mosgrove Avenue	North Ward	12	7	84
Park Road	East Ward	120	8	960
Richmond Park	East Ward	130	7.5	978
Rosendale Gardens	East Ward	105	8	840

Roseville Gardens	East Ward	111	7.2	800
Georgian Village	South Ward	271	6.6	1788
65-80 Ballinacurra Gardens	South Ward	209	7.95	1665
Greenpark Close	South Ward	70	7.8	550
Meadowlands Avenue	South Ward	150	8.6	1290
Butterfield Avenue	South Ward	61	8.1	495
Canon Breen Park -roadway	North Ward	42	7.6	320
Canon Breen Park - footway	North Ward	50	2	100
Junction Ennis Road and Ashbourne Park - roadway	North Ward	76m	6.5	300
Blackthorn Drive - roadway	North Ward	155m	7	1086
Road 119-6 between Blackboy Road and Greenhill Road	South Ward	48	9.7	467
Bloodmill Road -roadway	South Ward	30	9	270
Ellen Street - footway	South Ward	40m	2m	80m
Punches Cross	South Ward	14m	6m	84m
Verona Esplanade	South Ward	78m	6.4m	497m
Ashbourne Park, Courtbrack Avenue	South Ward	121m	6.5m	787m

Road	Area	Length	Width	Area
Limerick Regeneration Areas				
Glenagross Road and Cosgrave Park, Moyross	Regeneration North	225	8.16	1836
Hartigan's Hill	Regeneration North	420m	8.5	3570
Main Road, Moyross	Regeneration North	725m	9m	6525
Byrne Avenue from its junctions with Hyde Rd to Rosbrien Rd	Regeneration South	510m	7.4	3774
Lenehan Avenue (Western half) from its Junctions with Hyde Rd to Byrne Ave	Regeneration South	210m	6	1260

Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road Scheme

The proposed Coonagh to Knockalisheen Road Scheme will comprise the construction of a 2.6km long urban style dual carriageway which will link Coonagh Roundabout on the Ennis Road with the Knockalisheen Road at a point close to the Limerick - Clare County Boundary. The scheme will include new roundabout junctions at intersections with the Cratloe Road and the Knockalisheen Road and with a proposed new access road to Moyross. Other elements of the scheme include upgrade and widening of the Knockalisheen Road and improvement works to the Cratloe Road including realignment of a section of the Pass Road to improve its junction with the Cratloe Road.

The purpose of the scheme is to provide a high quality distributor road for the transport of people and goods in safety and comfort along the north western outskirts of Limerick City in accordance with national and local development objectives. It is intended that the scheme will form an initial phase of the proposed Limerick Northern Distributor Road link to the east side of Limerick City which will help to address inadequacies of the existing road network in the north Limerick City area. The need for the scheme has also been identified as an important element of proposals for regeneration of the Moyross area.

Following An Bord Pleanála approval of the CPO Order and EIS for the scheme in September 2011, the detailed design of the scheme has been progressed during 2012 and is now ready to proceed to tender stage subject to funding approval. Other preparatory activities completed during 2012 include the following:-

- completion of ground investigation works contract
- procurement and substantial completion of advance archaeological works contract
- commencement of diversions of existing overhead ESB lines to facilitate the scheme
- appraisals of existing trees and wildlife.
- planning of ducting installations to be carried out in early 2013 to accommodate diversion of Eircom services to facilitate the scheme
- prequalification of Main Contractors who will be invited to tender for the scheme
- preparation of Notice to Treat documentation for land acquisition due to commence in first quarter 2013.



Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road Scheme
Proposed Roundabout at Cratloe Road



Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road Scheme
Proposed Roundabout at Moyross Access Road



An Roinn Iompair
Turasóireachta agus Spóirt
Department of Transport,
Tourism and Sport

William Street & Sarsfield Street Public Realm Enhancement Scheme

The recently completed William Street & Sarsfield Street Public Realm Enhancement Scheme comprises the fourth stage of the Limerick City Centre Remodelling. This ambitious initiative aims to make the City Centre a pedestrian-friendly environment and a far more attractive place in which to shop, to visit, do business, and pass the time of day.

The project was co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund through the Southern and Eastern Regional Program, administered in Ireland by the Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly.

The €4.5m construction contract was carried out by McGinty O'Shea Limited. The extensive up-grading works have included the provision of improved facilities for buses; defined loading, taxi and parking bays; footpath widening and re-surfacing; remodeling of road junctions and improved pedestrian crossings; creation of a new plaza area; under-grounding of cables and renewal of essential services; improved street lighting, street trees and new street furniture. A particular feature has been the inclusion of distinctive lighting cones along both William Street and Sarsfield Street, further enlivening the renewed streetscape.

Development of the scheme entailed on-going consultation with key stakeholders and the local traders throughout the design and construction stages. It has also required the review of city centre traffic management measures as an integral part of the Urban Traffic Control system recently implemented by the City Council.

The design for the enhancement of William Street and Sarsfield Street was prepared by Nicholas de Jong Associates (Urban Design), with White Young Green (Consulting Engineers) and Lawlor & Partners (Project Management), on behalf of Limerick City Council (Transportation and Infrastructure).



John's Square Public Realm Enhancement Scheme

The recently completed up-grading of the historic John's Square represents another stage in the ambitious programme, led by Limerick City Council, which aims to make the City Centre a pedestrian-friendly environment and a far more attractive place in which to shop, to visit, do business, and pass the time of day.

The project was co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

The €1.5m construction contract was carried out by Wills Bros Ltd, Civil Engineering Contractors.

John's Square is Limerick's oldest public space. Designed by Francis Bandana in the 1750s, it was the City's first taste of fashionable civic urban architecture and a forerunner to the Georgian New Town developed by Edmond Sexton Perry later in the 18th century. The Square was the traditional gateway to the medieval quarter of Limerick, physically unrelated to Newtown Perry and thereby retaining a unique, isolated character within the expanding City. It continues to provide important first impressions for both residents and visitors.

The extensive public realm improvements include traffic calming and shared surface treatment; rationalized and re-defined parking; high quality surface finishes; provision of open pedestrian public space, seating and performance areas; distinctive lighting; and new tree planting to complement the two large existing trees that have been retained.

It is intended that the new pedestrian-friendly space will provide the venue for performances and events, as well as an attractive amenity in which to meet and enjoy the City.

Development of the scheme entailed on-going consultation with key stakeholders and the local traders throughout the design and construction stages. It has also required the review of city centre traffic management measures as an integral part of the Urban Traffic Control system recently implemented.



City Quays Limerick Riverside Improvement Strategy

The City Quay's project represents the next stage in the City Riverside Improvement Strategy, which aims to provide a high quality waterside environment for public use and enjoyment of the River Shannon, as well as a unique setting for the on-going revitalisation of the city centre. The project is being undertaken by Limerick Council at a total cost of almost €5 million, with part-funding secured through Fáilte Ireland under the National Tourism Investment Programme.

The River Shannon is one of the most important assets of the city, providing a unique natural resource for both residents and visitors. This stage of the strategy will see substantial up-grading of the waterfront between Shannon Bridge and Sarsfield Street, comprising widened and resurfaced footpaths in high quality materials, boardwalks extending out over the river, a distinctive

viewing/performance structure, new street furniture and improved street lighting, seating areas and landscaping.

The project will reinforce the recently completed improvement works on O'Callaghan's and Clancy's Strands through the realisation of a continuous visitor trail around the key sections of the river with enhanced water-based activities, while also complementing the public realm improvements of the City Centre.

The construction contract for the quays has been awarded to L&M Keating Limited, with a contract period of 9 months. Development of the design proposals has entailed on-going consultation with key stakeholders and local businesses, which will continue throughout the construction programme.



Limerick designated Smarter Travel Demonstration Area



In February 2012 Minister Alan Kelly announced that €9m of funding will be made available to Limerick City following a national competition for a major new sustainable transport investment programme.

The Limerick Smarter Travel proposal, a joint initiative between Limerick City Council and Limerick County Council in partnership with the University of Limerick, will see Limerick City centre and surrounding areas transformed into a Smarter Travel Area. A wide range of measures and interventions targeted at commuter and personal travel will be rolled out by Limerick City Council and Limerick County Council over the next 5 years.

In broad terms, the project to transform the City into a smarter travel area will include:

- improved cycling ways, including safe routes to school and to key business and workplace zones
- secure cycle parking in town centres or at public transport nodes
- better walking facilities, including pedestrianisation
- lower speed limits in residential and town centre areas
- school and workplace travel planning
- e-working
- car clubs

The Limerick City Smarter Travel project will have a number of benefits including the reshape and transformation of the city, reduce congestion and pollution, improve road safety, create local employment opportunities and improve people's health and fitness.

The Limerick Smarter Travel proposal provides the opportunity to assess Smarter Travel measures across a range of communities in a city context. The proposal is focused on four hubs – City Centre, Corbally, Castletroy and Regeneration Hub. This Smarter Travel initiative seeks to facilitate travel in a more sustainable manner, within and between the hubs. The proposal is tailored to meet the varying travel needs of communities within the hubs.

University of Limerick (UL) is a key partner in the proposal and design, visualization and research for the bid was provided through the departments of Civil Engineering and Architecture.



PIMMS Capital

Limerick City Council concluded its involvement in the PIMMS Capital project during 2012 with the publishing of the Regional Action Plan (ROP) for The Southern and Eastern Region. Throughout the EU, increased reliance on the car has resulted in high levels of congestion and more pollution, leading to economic, environmental and health problems for our regions and cities. ERDF investment in infrastructure could accelerate this trend if parallel alternative measures are not introduced at the same time. Mobility Management aims to reduce reliance on the car by encouraging travellers to use other modes. It comprises 'soft' measures (e.g. information or coordination of existing users/services), which enhance the effectiveness of 'hard' measures of traffic planning (e.g. new tram lines, new roads, new bike routes, bus priority corridors and walking routes).

The overall objective of PIMMS CAPITAL is to stimulate modal shift towards more sustainable forms of transport by increasing the implementation of high quality mobility management techniques and policies in European regions.

The Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly identified 3 good practices which had synergies with the sustainable transport objectives of the Regional Operation Programme 2007-2013. As the Regional Assembly itself has no direct responsibility for implementation of transportation or travel policy it worked with Limerick City Council, one of the Gateway Cities in the Region, on the Project. Priority 3 of the ROP 2007-2013 is dedicated to Sustainable Urban Development where it seeks to enhance the attractiveness of designated Gateways and Hubs as places to live in, to work in and to invest in. Sustainable urban development involves more than just investment in physical infrastructure. It requires co-ordinated planning and development of the physical environment, the economic base of the urban centre, its knowledge and research capacity and culture and leisure infrastructure. Promoting and planning for clean urban transport systems and sustainable transport modes are important facets of this and for this reason 2 of the good practices examined by the Region focused very much on Mobility Planning and Management. The third good practice was concerned with technological investments for integrated ticketing. The Regional Action Plan sets out a number of actions to which are aimed at promoting a modal shift in the Limerick area.

Service Indicators: Roads

R1: Road Restoration Programme

A	Number of kilometres of local and regional roads improved and maintained under the Restoration Programme per annum.	4
B	Number of kilometres of local and regional roads constructed under the specific improvement grants scheme per annum.	0



EUROPEAN REGION



Ireland's EU Structural Funds
Programmes 2007 - 2013

Co-funded by the Irish Government
and the European Union



SOUTHERN & EASTERN
Regional Assembly
Promoting Our Region





Water & Emergency Services

Josephine Cotter-Coughlan
Director of Services, Water and Emergency Services

Water
Service Indicators

Fire & Rescue Services
Service Indicators



Water Services

The Water Services Department, incorporating both water and waste water continues to manage a significant capital and revenue programme ranging from the Bunlicky Water Treatment Operation and Maintenance Contract and ongoing water conservation programme to the Operate and Maintain contract for the Clareville Water Treatment Plant. The efficient provision of water and waste water services while ensuring a reduction in the amount of unaccounted for water in the city remains the priority within this department.

Clareville Water Treatment Plant

The Clareville Water Treatment Plant under the operations of a private contractor by means of a Design Build Operate type contract. The commencement date for this contract was April 2007 and this will see the operator in place until April 2027. An increase in capacity from 50MLD to 87MLD is available since April 2010. The strategic development of this water production facility will lead to a doubling of the capacity of the plant in the longer term and safeguards the provision of potable water to the City and County for that period. This increased capacity is predominantly to meet the needs of Limerick County and will be recouped accordingly. The plant has operated efficiently for the last period with a compliance rate to the EU Drinking water Standards of 100%. The plant has consistently produced on average up to 54,000,000 litres of water daily. The plant produced a total of 19,710,000,000 litres of water in 2012. This is a reduction of approximately 10% on the 2011 water production. This is due to the good work of the Water Conservation Projects outlined below.

Water Conservation / Water Distribution Network

Limerick City Council is committed to the implementation of its five-year Water Services Strategy as approved by the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government. The strategy provides for the strategic provision, rehabilitation and maintenance of the water production, distribution and conservation systems within the city area. Schemes initiated in 2012 include

- A "Find & Fix" project to a value of €3.3M throughout the City.
- A Mains Rehabilitation Project (Package 1) which allows for the replacement of Mains throughout the City that have an extensive burst history. This project also facilitates the elimination of common looped lead mains which traditionally have had a poor service to the consumer.
- Contract Documents for a Mains Rehabilitation Project (Package 2) were prepared in 2012 and are currently with the DEHLG for their approval.

Limerick City Trunk Mains

Contract documents were prepared in 2012 for the commissioning of a new ring water main for the city to support present and future development. New ring water mains have been laid along the course of the Southern Ring Road, the Monaleen Road and from Rosbrien to the Dock Road and from the Dock Road to Caherdavin. This project is due to go to contract in early 2013.

Over 200 metres of the existing Distribution Water Main were replaced during 2012. Additional valving works were carried out in the City to improve the water supply system and to minimise those areas affected during periods of works or shutdown.

The City Council's internal leakage detection programme in the city mains system continued during the past year with in excess of 700 leaks identified and repaired resulting in additional savings in the supply of water. The City Council assisted consumers in repairing and locating leaks on the private side along with repairs completed by the Council on the public infrastructure.

Bunlicky Waste Water Treatment facility

In this plant the city has a modern up to date fully integrated drainage system, which is providing substantial benefits in the improved quality of the water in the river Shannon and provides adequate capacity for the development of the City and its environs for the foreseeable future.

The rehabilitation of city centre sewers to obtain the maximum benefit from the installation of the Main Drainage Scheme needs to be undertaken as a Phase 2 development of the Limerick Main Drainage Project. A proposal to appoint consultants to advance Phase 2 has been completed in 2011 and is still awaiting final approval of the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government.

The long term (20years) operate and maintain contract for the treatment works was awarded to a private contractor in May 2010, this contract awarded the operation and maintenance of the Waste Water Treatment facility, the pumping stations and all the sewers DN 900mm and above.

In 2012 the plant operated extremely efficiently, with the operator making process changes to improve the efficiency of the plant and to ensure a quality discharge to meet the EPA Discharge licence requirements.

Flood Alleviation

Floodgates are installed at times of high tides which correspond to forecast south westerly strong winds to prevent against possible road flooding or damage to O'Callaghan Strand and Clancy Strand.

The Water Services Department also operates a proactive gully cleaning programme whereby all the 7,600 gullies in the City were jetted and washed out, with the connection pipes to the main sewer also jetted at least once a year. Areas susceptible to high levels of leaf fall are targeted in a higher frequency.

General Operations Water and Waste Water

Limerick City Council Water Services Department has a 15 man out door work force which respond to the day to day requirements of the consumers and the general public.

In 2012 they responded to 1,293 recorded complaints. These complaints varied between blocked sewers to low water pressure, etc. The average waiting time for a complaint to be dealt with was less than 1 day and in many cases in times of extreme emergency and immediate response was provided. In addition to this these crews responded to new water main connection requests, water main breaks and new sewer connection requests.

Public Toilets

There are three new state of the art wheelchair accessible public toilet facilities in Limerick City. The first facility is near the entrance to the People's Park. The second facility has recently been installed on Lower Bedford Row to replace the older model that had been in service for sixteen years. A third facility is located in Shelbourne Park. Limerick City Council provides for the cost of maintenance and upkeep of these facilities from within our own resources with a small return supplementing these resources by the user.

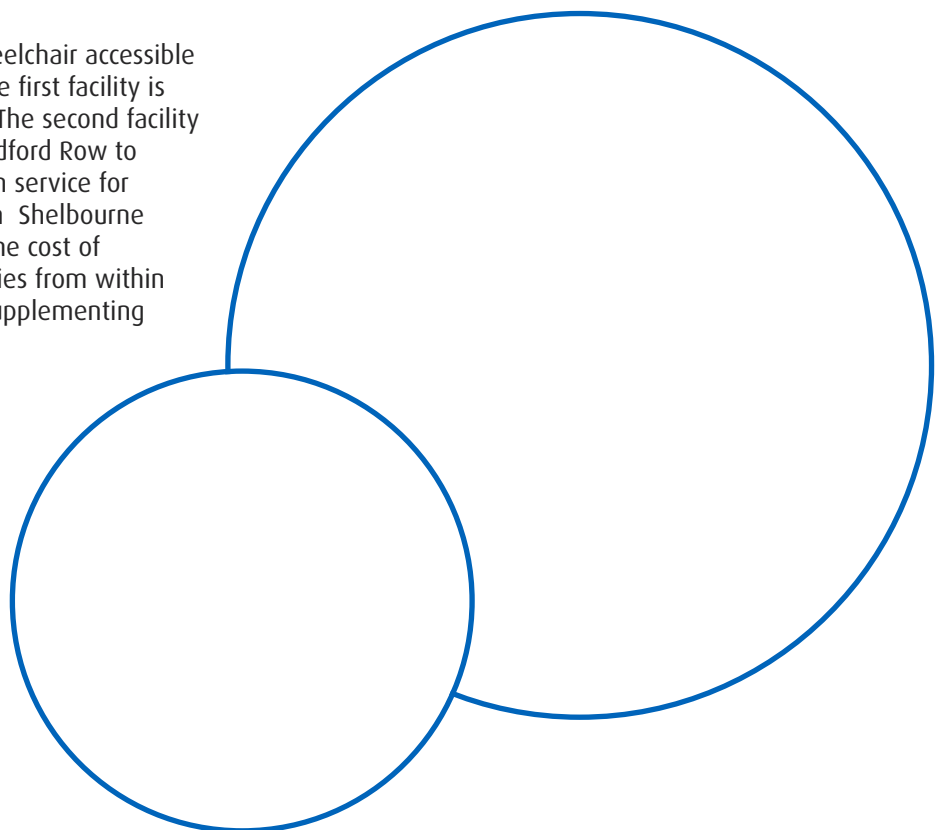
Service Indicators: Water

E1 Unaccounted For Water

A. Unaccounted for water (UFW) as a percentage of total volume of water supplied under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for.	55.72
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E2 Drinking Water Analysis

A. Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to public schemes.



Fire & Rescue Services

Civil Defence

Through the Local Authority and Emergency Services, the Civil Defence responds to emergency relief and support to ensure the operation of vital services and the maintenance of public life as well as the many community based events during the year.

Volunteers train in such areas as Manual Handling, Patient Handling, Cardiac First Response, Occupational First Aid, Emergency First Response, Emergency Medical Technician, Instructional Methods, Communications Level 1 & 2, Basic Auxiliary Fire Service, Pump Operation, Map Reading, GPS, Basic Search & Rescue, VHF Marine Radio Licence and Coxswain - Level 2 Certificates.

During 2012, the Search and Rescue service have assisted in many searches during the year on and along the River Shannon. Limerick City volunteers also spent 10 days in Glendore searching.

2012 Highlights in the Community for Civil Defence

St. Patrick's Day Festival	Thomond Park
Jackman Park	Riverfest Festival
Great Limerick Run	Walk of Dreams
Dingle Marathon	Limerick Pride Festival

to name but a few.

Major Emergency Management

- Attended MEM Inter-Agency Regional Working and Steering Groups meetings for the Mid-West.
- Merged the Limerick City Council and Limerick County Council's Major Emergency Plans, Mobilisation Procedures and Contacts Lists as part of the amalgamation of the Limerick Local Authorities.
- Trained Limerick City Council personnel in the following:
 - Information Management Officers
 - On-Site Co-ordination Centre
 - Local Co-ordination Centre
- Completed the National Annual Appraisal on Limerick City Council's preparedness for Major Emergency Management.



Fire Prevention, Building Control & Dangerous Buildings Department

- The function of the Fire Prevention, Building Control & Dangerous Buildings Department is to ensure the health, safety and welfare of people who occupy or use buildings, through ensuring the reduction of fire risk, proper means of escape, the access for people with disabilities and the conservation of fuel and energy. To achieve these, a summary of the duties of this department are:
- Fire Safety Certificate applications are assessed pre commencement of construction of buildings.
- Applications for Disability Access Certificates are made prior to the occupation of new buildings, buildings that have been subject to material alterations and buildings that have been subject to certain material changes of use.
- Commercial buildings and apartment complexes are inspected randomly, and often on the basis of complaints received, for deficiencies in relation to fire safety. Actions are taken to improve fire safety where required.
- Where the Fire Authority is a notifiable party, inspections are carried out on premises in advance of annual licensing renewals and licence transfers. The purpose of these inspections is to ensure the safety of the public.
- Inspections are carried out at selected building sites to ensure that construction is in accordance with the Building Regulations.
- Complaints regarding dangerous buildings are investigated, and appropriate actions taken to eliminate the risk posed to the public.
- Community Fire Safety talks are given to all members of the community, particularly to school groups and the elderly.



Fire & Emergency Operations

Achievements

- The service successfully attended 1202 incidents from 1st January to 31st December, 2012. Of this number, 855 were fire incidents.
- A new Training Policy was implemented across the service which provides for improved opportunities to conduct training and development courses on and off-shift for all firefighting personnel.
- Training commenced on the implementation of the National Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs). Training courses were also provided for staff in the following areas: Abrasive Wheels, Aerial Ladder Platform Operator, Cardiac First Responder, Driver Training, Emergency First Responder, Line Rescue, Manual Handling, Swift Water Rescue Technician Refresher, Winching, Working at Heights, as well as various Senior and Junior Officer Training Courses and Seminars.
- Swift Water First Responder training was provided to Limerick County Council Fire and Rescue Service personnel by Limerick City instructors.
- All operational crews undertook and completed 5 days of block training at Limerick City Fire Station.
- Fire personnel presented the Schools Fire Safety programme to 4th Class pupils in City primary schools.
- The Fire and Rescue Service Safety Statement was reviewed and updated.
- Service and maintenance contracts were reviewed for fire engineering equipment, pumps, fire lockers and winches.
- The programme of pre-fire planning was continued for high risk premises within the Service's operational area.
- New equipment was purchased to improve the safety of fire personnel responding to water-related incidents.
- We received delivery of two new Water Tender firefighting appliances which were fully funded by the DoECLG.
- 5 new recruit fire fighters completed their initial training and commenced working on shift in March.
- A competitive tender competition was conducted for the replacement of all firefighting PPE.

Service Indicators: Fire Service

F1 Fire Service Mobilisation

A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire	1.21
C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other emergency incidents.	1.20

F2 Percentage of attendances at scenes

A. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	90.09
B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	8.79
C. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	1.12
D. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	85.57
E. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	12.37
F. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes.	2.06

F3 Fire prevention

A. Total number of fire safety certificate applications received	71
B. Total number of fire safety certificate applications processed (including cases deemed invalid)	58
C. Total number of applications deemed invalid.	1





Home & Community

Oliver O'Loughlin

Director of Services, Home & Community

Housing

Service Indicators

Community

Service Indicators



Housing

The main achievements can be summarised under the following headings

Capital Investment

- Continued progress achieved on capital investment such as construction, acquisition, Voluntary Housing Assistance and Energy Efficiency Programme.
- Total capital expenditure €40.5m
- Limerick City Council purchased 94 housing units in 2012

Home Improvement Programmes

- Expenditure of €1.96m on grant assistance for Home Adaptation Grants, Housing Adaptation Grants & Housing Aid for the Elderly.

Housing Maintenance

- Expenditure of €2.9m on continued maintenance of our housing stock to achieve high quality, well maintained units.
- 3,464 repair requests were received, over 88% were completed in 2012

Energy Efficiency Programmes

- Programme to develop a housing stock which is energy efficient.
- Total expenditure in 2012 on this programme was €956,547.
- Expenditure of €100,000 on the Boiler Replacement Project.

Allocations

- 204 households were accommodated by Limerick City Council in 2012

Inspections

- 170 property inspections were carried out by Limerick City Council on its housing stock

Tenancy Enforcement Unit

- Over 94% of complaints received were resolved by this unit in 2012

Rental Accommodation Scheme

- 118 applicants were transferred to Social and Voluntary Housing under this Scheme in 2012. This brings the total number of transfers to 685 since the inception of the scheme in 2006.
- 519 inspections of properties were carried out by this unit on behalf of Limerick City Council and the Private Residential Tenancies Board.

Homelessness Services

- Expenditure of €2.6m on provision of emergency accommodation, staff of the homeless person centre & long term support of housing solutions.

Traveller Accommodation

- Limerick City Council maintains 7 Halting Sites in the City.
- Expenditure of €368,000 on continued maintenance and refurbishment of these sites.
- A Housing Welfare Service operates across all sites.



Regeneration

The five year remit of the Limerick Regeneration Agencies ended on the 31st July 2012 and all functions of the Agencies were transferred to the newly created Office of Regeneration from that date.

The following is a list of the key milestones & achievements in the 2012 period:

The 34 unit Cliona Park development, currently approaching completion, will provide new homes in the heart of Moyross which create an urban edge to Moyross Avenue and new links to the surrounding area. Construction work commenced in 2012 on sheltered accommodation schemes in Vizes Court (Phase 2) and Colivet Court in Carew Park. These schemes comprise 29 and 35 units respectively. The proposed 79-unit scheme at Lord Edward Street, close to the Regeneration area of Ballinacurra Weston, has advanced to detailed design stage following the approval of the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government. The sensitive redevelopment of this historic edge of city centre site will contribute to the rejuvenation of this area of Limerick city. This project is programmed to advance to construction in mid 2013.

Departmental approval has been received to advance design proposals for a housing scheme adjacent to the Southill Area Centre. The rezoning of part of the site to facilitate this development is complete. Approval to advance design proposals for Cosgrave Park, Moyross has also been received. A design team will be appointed to develop proposals for a site at Sheep Street/Athlunkard Street, King's Island in early 2013. Proposals for housing adjacent to the crèche in Saint Mary's Park and adjacent to the King's Island Medical centre are also advancing.

Development proposals have been refocused following direct engagement with community leaders. Consultation has reached a point where wider community engagement in the process of the creation of their living environment can advance.

A pilot scheme to upgrade the thermal performance of 30 houses carried out with the Southill Development Cooperative, at the end of 2012, proved successful. This scheme has both direct and indirect benefits. The upgrading of the building fabric is complemented by the positive impact on the development of skills and local employment.

Strategic demolitions continued in 2012 with a total of 91 properties demolished. These demolitions were aligned with the overall strategic objectives. The extent of future demolition has been re-evaluated with the number of units proposed for demolition being reduced from that originally envisaged. Retention and refurbishment will be pursued where feasible.

Small scale capital projects continued in 2012 with a view to enhancing the environment, improving security and improving connectivity. Planning permission to create an entrance to St. Nessen's Community College from Moyross has been approved. This project which removes a physical barrier between adjoining areas has both functional and symbolic importance.

Strategic site purchases which align with the overall regeneration objectives continue to play a role and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Infrastructural projects will play an important role in addressing physical isolation which is a factor impacting on all of the Regeneration areas. The Coonagh to Knocklisheen Distributor road is a vital component in improving connectivity to Moyross. This project is programmed to advance to construction in 2013.

Physical regeneration was advanced in tandem with the social, cultural and economic aspects of the process during 2012.

The Office of Regeneration financially supported and will continue to support in 2013 regeneration programmes which are additional to mainstream funding for social policy interventions under existing statutory programmes to local communities designated as disadvantaged and people at risk of social exclusion.



Limerick City Community Safety Partnership

The Community Co-ordinators always strive to promote and enhance community spirit in the areas we work in. Since the Community Coordinators scheme began in 2007, we have organised many successful community fun days. Summer 2012 was no different, as we organised fun days for residents in Sarsfield Park and Janesboro.

In Sarsfield Park, children burned a lot of energy on the bouncy castle, while residents of all ages tucked into the mouth watering BBQ food. A DJ was also on hand to entertain those who attended. In Janesboro residents came out to enjoy the music and food that was provided with children taking part in traditional sports games. The Community Fun Day in Janesboro was organised in conjunction with the Janesboro Tidy Towns Committee in order to celebrate Janesboro's success in winning the Going for Gold Competition. Residents young and old came out to help and enjoy the food and local DJ Kieran McCarthy ensured that residents got up to enjoy a dance.

The Community Co-ordinators were kept busy during the summer months by working with other agencies to run fun camps for young people. Children were given the opportunity to engage in various activities over the course of the camp, including mountain walking in the Galtee Mountains, sports in Shelbourne Park and swimming in the Aquadome in Tralee. We worked on the camps with

Ballynanty Resource Centre, SMILES, Northstar, Kileely Court, Limerick City Sports Partnership, Munster Rugby and Northside Regeneration. The children thoroughly enjoyed the camp and the fact that agencies came together to run the camp made it even better.

The Community Co-ordinators ran a Road Safety Awareness event over 3 days for children in Corpus Christi Moyross and St. Munchin's Girls National School.

Representatives from the National Road Safety Authority attended to promote awareness of road safety. Younger children engaged in 'Streetsmart' which involved a 'streetscape' mat on which children were invited to carry out typical everyday cycling and pedestrian tasks.

Older schoolchildren were invited inside the Road Safety Authority's interactive shuttle bus which provided children the opportunity to engage in activities such as using a driving simulator, testing their brake reaction time and practising the driver theory test.



Community

The Community and Enterprise Department is charged with achieving a co-ordinated and integrated approach to the social and cultural development of Limerick City via Limerick City Development Board and related programmes, and to support Limerick City Council which is charged with leading the process.

In November 2012, all local authorities were informed by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government that new structures would be developed to provide for new local authority responsibilities, principally Socio-Economic committees (SECs) and Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs). It is proposed that Development Boards will continue to operate until SECs are introduced in local authority areas in 2013.

Joint Limerick City/County Economic Development Committee

The Joint Limerick City/County Economic Development Committee continued its work early in 2012 with the drafting of a strategy based on a limited set of economic priorities for implementation to complement the unification process of Limerick City and County Councils.

Social Inclusion

Limerick City Council in co-operation with the Limerick City/County Integration Working Group hosted Africa Day celebrations at the request of Irish Aid from 25th – 27th May, 2012.

Events included;

- African Drumming and Storytelling at Limerick City Library
- Art workshop at Limerick City Gallery of Art
- Voices of Africa Concert at Belltable Arts Centre
- Limerick Sportsfest at Crescent College
- May Music event in the Peoples Park
- Family Fun Day at Daghdha Dance Studios Integration

The Limerick Integration Working Group (IWG) operates under the Social Inclusion Measures Committees of both Limerick City and County Development Boards. The IWG was established with the aim of bringing together statutory, community and voluntary bodies to address integration needs of migrant and host communities in Limerick. A review of the Limerick City & County Integration Plan 2010 – 2012 was carried out during 2012 with a view to having a new plan in place for 2013.



The Annual Co-operation Ireland Pride of Place Awards

The Pride of Place Awards recognise the selfless work, being done all over the island of Ireland, by local community and voluntary groups to create caring, viable, vibrant and visible communities. The following five groups participated in this competition;

- St. Mary's A.I.D.
- St. Munchins Family Resource Centre
- Our Lady of Lourdes Parish
- Doras Luimni
- Garryowen Community Committee

The Pride of Place /IPB Insurance Awards ceremony took place in Thomond Park on Saturday, 3rd November, 2012. In keeping with the success of previous years for Limerick City entries, St. Munchins Family Resource Centre claimed first prize in its category.

Youth

Limerick City Comhairle na n-Óg is a local youth council, which gives young people the opportunity to be involved in the development of local services and policies. Limerick City Development Board with the support of key partner Limerick Youth Service is responsible for the delivery of the Comhairle na n-Óg programme as part of implementing the National Children's Strategy at local level. The following were the main activities for 2012;

- Participation in Dáil Na n-Óg – National Youth Parliament in Croke Park
- Comhairle na n-Óg Annual General Meeting
- Launch of Information DVD on Bullying "If You Really Knew Me"
- Work on strengthening the composition of the Limerick City Comhairle Na n-Óg Steering Committee.



Limerick City Childcare Committee

The priority for 2012's Local Implementation Plan for Limerick City was the promotion of Siolta and Aistear, and Language Development.

The key areas of work which Limerick City Childcare Committee undertook in 2012 included;

- Supporting Childcare Services in managing the ECCE, CCS and CETS childcare programmes
- Supporting the sustainability of childcare services through our partnership with Limerick City Enterprise Board "The Business Management Development Programme for Childcare Managers"
- Promoting quality through a series of workshops based on the Siolta and Aistear Frameworks.
- Supporting Parent and Toddler groups and the promotion of supports available to Parents through the Parents Expo
- Support to Childminders and the School Age Childcare Sector.
- Promoting access to accredited training through our Training and Development Grant Scheme which attracted 40 applicants in 2012, and through supporting practitioners to access the Certificate in Inclusive Practice in Mary Immaculate College (Level 6 special purpose award delivered through blended learning).
- Continued professional development supported through First Aid training, and the Hanen Programme supporting Speech and Language Development.
- Participation on the Startright Consortium.
- Limerick City Childcare Committee also commenced discussion on the amalgamation process with County Limerick Childcare Committee towards the end of 2012.



Limerick City Childrens Services Committee

Since its inception, Limerick City Childrens Services Committee, (CSC), has been directed in its thinking, planning and strategising by the national Agenda for Childrens Services and the need to provide effective service coordination for Childrens Services in Limerick. During 2012, funding was approved under the "Supporting Social Inclusion and Regeneration in Limerick", (SSIRL) initiative in respect of four City based consortia projects;

- The Limerick City Childrens Services Committees
- Startright Limerick
- Limerick DEIS Band One Whole School Literacy Initiative
- St. Kieran's Education Campus Full Service Extended School Model

The Childrens Services Committee will play a coordinating role in relation to the above work during 2013 and 2014 as well as continuing with it's other projects including further embedding of the Limerick Assessment of Need System and Common Assessment Framework.



Community & Voluntary Forum

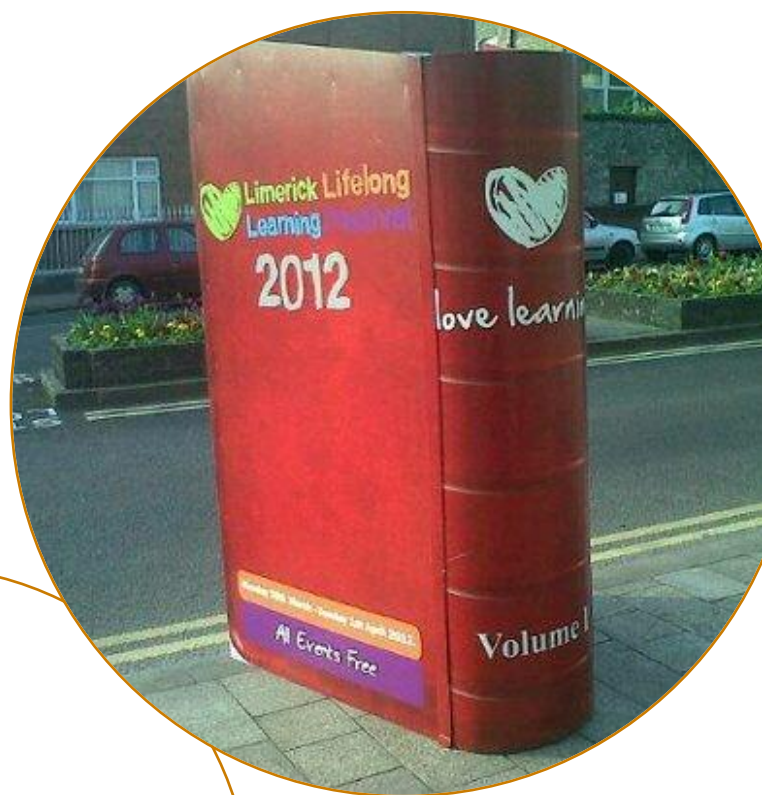
Limerick City Community & Voluntary Forum continued its work during the year including;

- Update and maintenance of membership database
- Working with Dept. of Politics & Public Administration, University of Limerick to develop training. Information and discussion seminar held.
- Communicating information and best practice through community festivals and fairs
- Supporting participation of community groups

Work to increase membership on the Forum is due to be undertaken during 2013.

Limerick City of Learning

The second Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival took place from 26th March to 1st April, 2012 with a wide variety of free events undertaken. The Festival was organised by the Limerick City of Learning Steering Committee. Work is already underway for an even bigger festival in 2013 to include an increased number of events in County Limerick.



National Day of Commemoration Ceremony

Limerick hosted a Day of Commemoration Ceremony in July 2012 to honour all Irish men and Irish women who died in past wars or on service with the United Nations. This was the second year in which this Ceremony was held in Limerick. Representatives of the Roman Catholic Church, the Church of Ireland, the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches, the Jewish Community and the Islamic Community conducted the multi-faith commemoration at which the Mayor of Limerick presided.



Traveller Interagency Committees

The following are the 2012 achievements under the Interagency Plan for the delivery of Services to the Traveller Community;

- The High Level Group met twice on March 7th and September 26th. Catherine Linehan Traveller Policy Division, Department of Justice & Equality attended the meeting on September 26th.
- Four Operational Group Meetings took place on January 24th, May 6th, September 11th and December 11th.
- All Interagency Site Meetings were put on hold pending a Traveller Engagement Action which is being led out by PAUL Partnership and is in progress
- Funding from the Limerick Traveller Development Group was redistributed between Youth Health and Wellbeing Project (led by Limerick Youth Service) and the Traveller Engagement Project (PAUL)
- Several meetings were held regarding the Clondrinagh Halting Site and an Interagency community relations project for this site is at the planning stage led by the VEC
- The Community Health Advocacy Programme continues with 18 Traveller Participants in training. A partnership between the HSE, VEC and PAUL Partnership
- Two Reports on the Interagency Plan were produced; January to June and July to December.

Service Indicators: Community Participation

CP1 Participation in local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Óg scheme

A.	Percentage of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Óg scheme	20.00
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CP2 Groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum

Number of groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum	140
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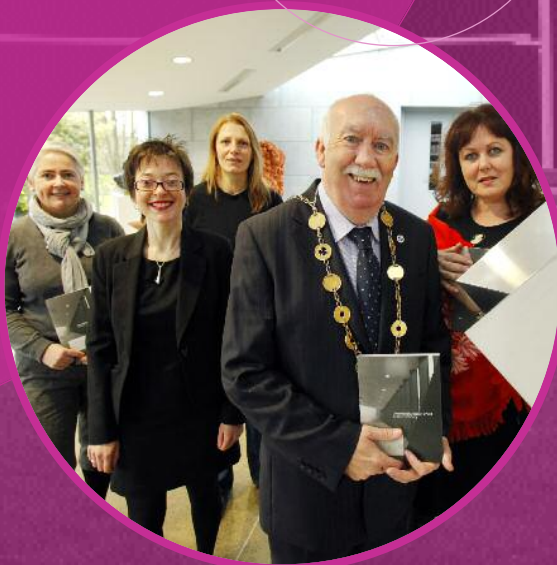


Sport & Culture

Kieran Lehane
Director of Services, Sport & Culture

Library
City Museum
Art Gallery
Arts Service
Sport & Recreation
Archives

Service Indicators



Library And Information Service

Central Library, the Granary

Retirements

Early in the year three valued senior staff retired from the library service - Dolores Doyle, City Librarian, Deirdre O'Dea, Senior Executive Librarian and Eileen McMahon, Executive Librarian. A special event was held at the library to mark the occasion and to celebrate the many years of remarkable service they had given to the city.

Events

During an exciting and very busy year at the Granary some of the events and activities which took place were -

Africa Day

The library's involvement in the Africa Day celebrations was very successful and enjoyable. It was an opportunity to celebrate the great cultural diversity now found in Limerick. The events held in the library included drumming workshops for both adults and children with Drum Dance Ireland, an art workshop led by Rwandan-born, Limerick based artist Jean Ryan Hakizimana and African storytelling with Jumoke Oyewo. The whole occasion created a great buzz amongst both the public and the staff.

Titanic Exhibition

In April we held an exhibition relating to the sinking of the Titanic in order to mark the 100th anniversary of this event. The exhibition focused on the Limerick links to the Titanic disaster.

The Earl Connolly Collection

In June we had a special event to accept the donation of a significant collection to Limerick City Library – Mrs. Callie Connolly, widow of the late Limerick Leader entertainments columnist, Earl Connolly, donated his collection of cinema-related books to the library and a special event was held to mark this donation.

Book Launch

In October approximately 100 people attended the launch by Mr. Frank Prendergast of the latest book by Mr. Críostóir O'Flynn, Old Chuch Street: A Memoir of Limerick.

Music Library 21st Birthday Celebration

The Music Library in the Granary marked 21 years in operation with a birthday celebration on Thursday 13th December. The music event, featuring top bands Windings and Fred, was arranged in order to promote the music library, established in 1991 by then City Librarian, the late Mr. Maurice Flynn. Other performances on the night included the jazz trio, Juxtaposition, a classical recital by Hungarian violinist, Bálint Varay and a traditional music performance. Limerick is one of very few libraries in Ireland boasting such a comprehensive music collection in a dedicated space. The music library holds an extensive CD collection covering many genres, a large collection of biographies, scores, music reference books and DVDs.

New Reading Initiative

A new reading initiative, The Lexile Rating System, designed in America, has been rolled out in the Granary Library. It aims to identify a child's reading level and match a book suitable to their reading age. Several Limerick secondary and primary schools have visited the library to take part in the programme. The Lexile system is the latest in a range of reading initiatives that Limerick libraries have rolled out. (www.lexile.com).

Events Celebrated in the Library during the year included the following:

- Fair Trade Fortnight
- Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival
- Titanic Centenary
- World Refugee Day
- Children's Book Festival
- Culture Night
- Library Ireland Week



Local Studies Department

Website development: Our digitisation and website development programme received a very welcome endorsement at the start of the year when John Grenham featured the local studies website in his Irish Times column and described it as an “extraordinary cornucopia of records”.

The main emphasis this year has been on the continuing development of the “Obituaries, Death Notices, etc.” feature on the website. This resource, which is proving invaluable to local historians and family history researchers, now has all such records from the Limerick Chronicle newspaper from 1838 to 1929 – more than 20,000 individual entries (38 years added during 2012).

Local Studies Files – we have now placed the content of 155 files on the website. This constitutes an online encyclopedia of Limerick. This is also an ongoing project, with many further local studies files to be added to the website.

Twitter: We launched an innovative project on Twitter called @Limerick1912, where we traced life in Limerick from 100 years ago. There are now 1700 followers subscribed to this service, with 1.5 million impressions generated so far on Twitter. The project, a ground breaking one for a public library in Ireland, has been described in the Limerick Leader as the “140-character vanguard in the drive to digitise local history”.

Lectures: 2012 was the thirteenth year of the History Lecture series. There were six lectures in the series held during the year.



Watch House Cross Community Library

2012 was another very successful year for Watch House Cross Community Library. The library issued 97,000 books which was a 5% increase on 2011.

Adult Education Classes

Adult Education classes continue to be very popular in Watch House Cross Community Library. In 2012, the courses provided included computer skills, creative writing, local history and conversational Spanish and Irish, all of which made use of the excellent facilities in the library.

Family Reading

The literacy programme ‘Read together, Learn Together, Family Reading’, which ran in Watch House Cross Community Library in 2012, proved to be a very effective way of promoting reading and learning in the local community. This programme united libraries, schools and families in encouraging reading in the home and introduced young children and their parents to their local library.

Children’s Activities

The Library’s Parent and Toddler group continued to grow in popularity, meeting every Friday in the library to enjoy songs, rhymes, stories, toys and books. The weekly Library story-time continues to attract large numbers of local children.





Limerick Museum

- Successfully moved museum to its new temporary location in City Hall.
- Visitor numbers for the year down by c4,000 due to closure and relocation of museum.
- Provided illustrations for 9 books and journals, helped with 4 TV programmes and gave one permission for a transcript of a letter in the collection to be published. Loaned 3 items to the Hunt Museum for their "Food" exhibition.
- Provided supervision for 31 researchers, 7 of whom were accessing material in Limerick City Archives.
- Acting curator gave 3 public lectures, including to Royal Irish Academy, and published 2 articles and a book titled Aspects of Medieval N. Munster.
- Acting curator co-edited the 2012 volume of the Old Limerick Journal.
- Initiated project in conjunction with Mary Immaculate College and Trinity College Dublin to transcribe the early documents in the papers of Lord Limerick housed at the National Library of Ireland. Continued liaison with the international Genes of Gallgoídiil project based in Mary Immaculate College.
- Ongoing research project on Limerick lace with view to major exhibition in new premises.
- Alan O'Driscoll, a student from Mary Immaculate College, on very successful 15 week placement in the autumn. Short placement of Transition Year student Jennifer Brosnan.
- Online database Estate Maps and rentals of Co. Limerick extensively updated. New major database, Who was Who in Early Modern Limerick, launched and updated. The museum's online databases now a major resource for genealogical research. Initiated conversion of an existing database for modern Limerick to a format compatible for online.
- Provided text and illustrations for the Limerick section of the Irish Walled Towns Network.
- Approx. 900 items added to collection, including a large collection of bill and letterheads, an 18th century marriage settlement, a table barometer, and a letter from Limerick Gaol 1829.

Limerick City Gallery of Art

During 2012, Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA) sought to maximise citizens' connection to the municipal gallery, housing one of Ireland's strongest collections as well being one of the most important Arts providers in the Mid West. With 70,000 visitors passing through the doors of LCGA and over 12 exhibitions taking place through 2012, LCGA fulfilled this objective and in doing so, is one of Limerick's primary tourist attractions.

With its newly refurbished facilities, including a café – Zest – and education facility, along with state of the art Visual Art storage provision, LCGA can justifiably claim to be a key national Visual Arts provider, and a gateway to the Visual Arts in the South and Mid West. This pre-eminent position was endorsed by the Arts Council upholding their level of funding for 2012 LCGA programme.

LCGA exhibitions included Paris-based artists Cleary and Connolly, bringing their work directly from Farmleigh galleries, and in doing so, further developing their association with Limerick's Mary Immaculate College. Other exhibited artists include Brian Duggan and his transformation of the Carnegie Galleries into swings that tempted all ages to part-take in this playful activity. Collaborations with the local exhibition group OCCUPY SPACE, was the beginning of close relationships with local artists. One of the highlights of the year was the collaboration with the Arts Council for its 60th anniversary, INTO THE LIGHT, which saw citizens of Limerick work select a vast and epic exhibition from the Arts Council's collection, which explored and levered open Limerick's own engagement with the Pop Art and Modernism of the 60s and 70s decades. The exhibition was also the occasion for an Arts Council commission of an art work for the Arts Council's Collection, Emmet Kierans.

Engagement with Limerick's street artists, along with Limerick School of Art and Design (LSAD) and the Department of the Environment of Limerick City Council saw the transformation of the hoardings at Athlunkard Street and Island Road, into a riot of colour and positivity – Graffiti Artists and Urban artists built on the Make A Move Hip Hop Summer festival in 2012. It is hoped to continue this positive engagement with young artists to make Limerick a true exponent of quality street art through 2013 and beyond.

Further Education and Access project, run by Shinnors Scholar Aoibheann McCarthy for LCGA, saw thousands of school going children take part in school tours, in workshops and in curriculum related sessions. Whether it is for families at the weekend or for the dedicated Arts professional, the Access Programme has played a big part in connecting LCGA to a very wide range of Limerick citizens.

Partnerships with galleries and arts institutions nationally and internationally are underway, building on the reputation of LCGA. Also recognising the close connection of Limerick Citizens to their Collection of paintings and artworks, LCGA have received gifts of works to enhance the Collection, and are developing means by which the Collection can be both added to and conserved with greater efficiency and research over the next 2 years. LCGA is definitely thriving and its place in the Georgian Quarter of Limerick is as a beacon to citizens and visitors alike to visit this handsome part of Limerick.



Art Service

2012 was a busy year for the Arts Service in Limerick City Council. Five new festivals emerged as part of the cultural calendar of Limerick, King's Island Fair Day, Make A Move, 4th of July, Elemental Arts & Culture Festival and Limerick Jazz Festival highlighting the commitment of individuals and artists in working towards making Limerick a City of Culture.

The service continued to deliver with the mission of the Arts Service in mind;

Limerick City Council will integrate planning and support for the continued advancement, participation and collaboration in the arts into its overall service provision in order to ensure that the arts and artists are nurtured within the planned development of Limerick, and in turn, the arts and artists are enabled to make a fundamental contribution to the life of their audiences, the people of Limerick and its surrounding region, citizens and visitors alike.

Support was divided into the following areas;

1. Information and Advice

Support and advice for people in the arts community and those interested in engaging with the arts as well as inquires for the individuals and members of the public.

2. Supporting and developing The Arts Infrastructure of the City

- Recommendations on revenue funding for established arts organisations
- Recommendations on Grants under the Arts Act
- Facilitation of development of cultural infrastructure through partnership
- Management of Limerick Artists' Studios
- Membership of the boards of management committees of a number of events, organisations and institutions.

3. Support for the Individual Artist

- For residencies, travel bursaries and specific originated arts interventions.

4. Arts Programming

Annual events such as The Kate O'Brien Weekend, eva International, Cuisle Limerick City International Poetry Festival, Open House Limerick and Culture Night

5. Art form development

- support for festivals as part of the annual cultural calendar
- support for organisations involved in art forms such as theatre, dance, visual art, music, literature, architecture, community arts

6. Art and Education

Each event organised by The Arts Office of Limerick City Council endeavours to provide an educational aspect to allow younger audiences to participate fully in the yearly programme of events. The Cuisle Young Poet of the Year Competition, organised as part of the Cuisle Poetry Festival, extends this opportunity to a national audience. Young eva, as part of eva International

The 28th Kate O'Brien Weekend

The 28th Kate O'Brien weekend took place in the Belltable Arts Centre from Friday 24th – Sunday 26th February. Speakers confirmed include John Boyne, Frank McNally, Katharine Towers, Susie Boyt, Dr. Loic Guyon, Dr. Niamh Hourigan, Knute Skinner, Vivienne McKechnie and Seamus Heaney. Music this year was new compositions with words by Mary Coll and music by Fiona Linnane sung by contralto Sarah-Ellen Murphy with Limerick's Colette Davis as accompanist.

The theme for the 2012 weekend was 'Tell it slant' a quote from an Emily Dickinson poem about telling the truth.

Arts Council's Artist in the Community Scheme - Cultural Diversity and the Arts

Information Session Limerick – 1st March 2012

Twice yearly, the Arts Council offers grants to enable artists and communities of place/or interest to work together on contemporary collaborative arts project through the Artist in the Community Scheme managed by Create. An information event in Limerick provided information about how to apply to the Artist in the Community scheme. Diverse communities attended to find out about funding opportunities for working with artists and artists attended to find out about funding opportunities for working with diverse communities.

Joint Oireachtas Committee

The Oireachtas Joint Committee on Environment, Transport, Culture and the Gaeltacht agreed to consider the topic

'Utilising the Arts to combat disadvantage among the young, the old and the socially disadvantaged and to encourage their greater integration and social inclusion within local communities'. Limerick City Council attended to present to this committee on Tuesday 13th March and Director of Service, Pat Dowling along with the Arts Officer attended and presented making recommendations about how the arts can address the above topic and how the arts can be protected within local government.

CUISLE: Limerick City International Poetry Festival

From October 10-13 Cuisle celebrated the best in Irish and international poetry. Cuisle brings the energy of language in all its vitality to Limerick and is supported by The Arts Council and Limerick City Council. The 17th Cuisle Limerick City International Poetry Festival had lunchtime and evening readings that featured the best of local, national, and international poetry. This was supplemented by a varied programme for schools, screenings of poetry films, and the Young Poet of the Year Award.

The festival provides discussions, open mic sessions, and book launches -- including the annual Stony Thursday Book and in 2012 it was edited by Limerick Poet Jo Slade.

The Stony Thursday Book

Edited in 2012 by Jo Slade, poets gathered at the Belltable Arts Centre to celebrate the publication.

Jo said *"To my delight this editorship has been an illuminating, interesting and rewarding experience. I have spent long hours during a damp, grey summer sifting through several sizable piles of poems, (mostly submitted by email) from poets all over the world. Technologies have changed the forward motion of poetry irrevocably. A more diverse, pluralist community of poets are emerging. This is welcome evidence of a new connectivity, a connectivity that promotes inclusiveness not through sameness but through its difference and diversity. This can only benefit the writing and reading of poetry generally"*.



Sport and Recreation

The Gathering

The Gathering has been described as one of the biggest tourism initiatives ever staged in Ireland and is expected to bring 325,000 extra visitors to the country in 2013. Local Gathering Community Meetings were held in Adare and Limerick City in 2012 with over 300 people attending. Both authorities came together to optimise efforts to drive the success of the Gathering. Some funding in respect of projects was provided by I.P.B. Insurances and The Gathering Ireland. A number of projects were successful in their application for this funding. Three flagship projects have been identified for Limerick for 2013 namely;

- Limerick City Weekend of Welcomes; (24th/28th October, 2013)
- Limerick International Fashion and Design Week;(Week commencing 28th October, 2013)
- The Gathering Race Meeting and Concert; (10th November, 2013)

Municipal Golf Course

Funding was received from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for two projects in 2012 namely;

- (a) A Junior Golf Teaching Course and
- (b) Upgrade of sewerage facilities and minor works to the Clubhouse.

Works in relation to the upgrade of sewerage works commenced in November 2012. It is anticipated that these works will be completed in the first quarter of 2013.

Great Limerick Run

The Great Limerick Run took place on Sunday, 6th May, 2012. This year represented the third running of the event which continues to attract growing participation numbers each year. A total of 8,501 people took part in the event which also attracted an estimated 25,000 supporters lining on the route.

Grove Island Leisure Centre

A procurement process for an Operator to provide operational, maintenance and management (including marketing) to Grove Island Leisure Centre was commenced in 2012.



Archives

In March 2012 Limerick City Archives launched an exhibition in the Hunt Museum on Ranks Flour Mill. This very successful exhibition ran for three months.

A publication on the History of Ranks Flour Mill in Limerick was also published. The book was a social and economic history of one of Limerick's most defining industries, utilising oral histories and heavily illustrated with archival photographs donated by the former Ranks workers and their families.

The exhibition and publication were awarded 'Best interpretation/publication 2012' by the Industrial Heritage Association of Ireland.



Service Indicators: Library Services

LIBRARY SERVICES

L1 Library Public Opening Hours

A. Average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries	41.29
B. Average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries (where applicable)	9.43
C. Percentage of full time libraries that have lunchtime openings	66
D. Percentage of full time libraries that have evening openings	66
E. Percentage of full time libraries that have Saturday openings	66

L2 Library Visits

Number of visits to full time libraries per 1,000 population	5016.20
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L3 Library Stock

A. Annual expenditure on stock per head of population (county/city wide)	1.65
B. Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for books	4.50
C. Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for other items	1.38

L4 Internet Access through Libraries

Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population	628.10
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Economic Development & Planning

Tom Enright

Director of Services, Economic Development & Planning

Economic Development
Planning

Service Indicators

Economic Development (Incorporating Property Management)

Promoting and developing the economic potential of Limerick City

Research and support for the new Economic and Spatial Plan for Limerick which will be launched in 2013.

Approval of three businesses under the Pilot Retail Incentive Scheme who received year one grants totalling €28,000 in 2012.

Creative Limerick – Connect to the Grid. The scheme continues to occupy vacant retail units that are between retail lettings and support the local creative industry.

Publication of the first Economic Development newsletter outlining the supports available from Limerick City Council to businesses in the City.

Free Park – Car Parks. Survey of participants and Christmas relaunch of free parking initiative including radio campaign.

Parks Atlantic Project - Interreg IVB Territorial Atlantic Area Programme – Publication of 4 postcard series highlighting the parks and natural heritage of the City and a community and international seminar on development and publication of Report on Sustainable Development of Parks and their economic contribution to City life.

Marketing of Limerick City Centre – Supports to Christmas marketing campaign which focused on promoting city businesses and animation of streets with trees, carol singing and Christmas related entertainment activities

Property Management

Derelict Site notices were served on the owners of 66 properties and 4 new sites were entered in the Derelict Sites Register. Two sites were acquired through derelict site compulsory acquisitions as part of the Regeneration Strategy.

The Property Management Unit of the Economic Development Department continued to advance a significant number of matters under this area of responsibility during 2012 including settlement of outstanding CPO compensation claims, land acquisitions/disposals, evaluation of strategic land holdings/opportunities, leases, licences, requests for wayleaves, land ownership queries, queries on rights of way, adverse possession issues, perfection of legal title on land, collection of rents owing, site inspections, maintenance of sites, Part V, trespass/squatters etc. Operative Notices were served under the Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road Compulsory Purchase Order 2010.



Planning

Realising the economic potential of the City by the provision of infrastructure and the promotion of retailing, tourism and general commercial and industrial development.

Key services of this department include:

- The Review of the City Development Plan
- The Control of Development
- The implementation of Government programmes for tax exempt developments
- The Conservation of Natural and Built Environment
- The provision of advice and guidance
- Operation of the Casual Trading Area
- Advise and Management of City Events.

A considerable scope of work was achieved during the year, which included:

- Preparing documents for one variation to the City Development Plan 2010-2016
- Participation in the Shannon Integrated Framework Plan
- Carried out a review of the development contribution scheme and commenced on the preparation of a new scheme
- Ongoing work on the review of the Regional recreational Strategy
- Participation in Mid-West Area Strategic Plan(MWASP)
- Ongoing liaison with Limerick Regeneration Agency
- Planning applications published on line
- Participation in the Limerick Clare, Recreational Strategy
- Participation in the management of the events in the City
- Participation on the Festivals Committee of Limerick City Council.

Significant planning permissions issued in 2012 included:

- Development of entertainment venue, Parnell Street
- Development of Creative Learning Centre LEP, Roxboro
- Construction of 14 Semi Detached Dwellings at Dromroe
- Construction of a Youth Centre at Ballynanty
- 275sq.mtr. extension to Aldi Store, Roxboro
- Redevelopment of Royal Cinema by City of Limerick VEC to Digital Cinema
- Development of Clubhouse at Richmond Rugby Club

Development levies in the amount of €790,480.00 were collected in 2012



Service Indicators: Planning

P1 Planning Applications – Decision Making INDIVIDUAL HOUSES

A. Number of applications decided	0
B. Number of decisions in A which were decided within 8 weeks	0
C. Number of decisions in A which required the submission of further information	0
D. Number of decisions in A where an extension of time was agreed by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000	0
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	0
F. Percentage of applications granted	0
G. Percentage of applications refused	0
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	0
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	0

NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

A. Number of applications decided	0
B. Number of decisions in A which were decided within 8 weeks	0
C. Number of decisions in A which required the submission of further information	0
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000	0
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	0
F. Percentage of applications granted	0
G. Percentage of applications refused	0
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	0
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	0



Other: not requiring Environment Impact Assessment

A. Number of applications decided	171
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	81
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	90
D. Number of decisions in A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000	0
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	63.78
F. Percentage of applications granted	96.49
G. Percentage of applications refused	3.51
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	100
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	0

Other: requiring Environment Impact Assessment

A. Number of applications decided	0
B. Number of decisions in A which were decided within 8 weeks	0
C. Number of decisions in A which required the submission of further information	0
D. Number of decisions in A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000	0
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	0
F. Percentage of applications granted	0
G. Percentage of applications refused	0
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanála	0
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála	0

P2 Planning Enforcement

A. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were investigated	128
B. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were dismissed	16
C. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiations	0
D. Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	112
E. Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	35
F. Number of prosecutions	6

P3 Planning Public opening hours

A. Average number of opening hours per week	35
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P4 Pre-Planning Consultations

A. Number of pre-planning consultation meetings held	134
B. Average length of time (in days) from request for consultation with local authority planner to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation	10

P5 New Buildings inspected

A. Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	20
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P6 Taking Estates in Charge

A. The number of residential estates for which the planning permission has expired, in respect of which formal written requests for taking in charge (from residents or developers), were on hands at the beginning of the year.	90
B. Number of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question	2
C. Number of dwellings in respect of B	275
D. Percentage of estates in A not completed to satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission.	14.44
E. Number of estates in D in respect of which enforcement action was taken in the year in question and/or the bond was called in	9
F. Number of estates in D in respect of which works were undertaken by the authority to bring the estate to taking in charge standard	0







Environment

Caroline Curley
Director of Services, Environment

Environment

Service Indicators

Environment

Throughout 2012 the Environment Department continued to provide essential environmental services and worked with local groups to support them in improving their communities.

- 2522 environmental complaints were processed
- 67 groups received funding through the environmental improvement grants
- 21 groups received Local Agenda 21 funding
- 29 Tidy Towns Groups including a City Centre Group entered the National Tidy Towns Competition and were supported by the Environment Department.
- Continued support for low income households through the refuse service subsidy scheme; 3,500 households were supported through the waiver scheme in 2012.

The street cleaning team continued to provide a 365 days of the year service including cleaning 420km of footpath, emptying 205 street litter bins, implementation of graffiti and weed control programme.

O'Connell Monument

Refurbishment works were carried out to the O'Connell Monument to restore it as a centrepiece to the Crescent. The works involved the installation of water jets and lighting around the base of the monument to highlight the statue of Daniel O'Connell. New paving and planter beds were placed and planted with a colourful display. The completed works bring a renewed focus to the Georgian Crescent.

Going for Gold and Tidy Towns

Going for Gold campaign was run in conjunction with Tidy Towns competition and JP McManus Trust. This campaign which aims to make Limerick a brighter, better and cleaner place to work live and visit was launched in May 2012. There were four categories - 28 Groups entered the Tidy Towns Category, 32 groups participated in the 'Other Groups' category and 31 entered the 'Most Creative Garden Category'. 31 individuals were nominated for an 'Individual Merit' Award. The overall winner of Going for Gold 2012 was Janesboro Tidy Towns.

Street Art Initiative

The Environment Department co-sponsored a Street Art Initiative with Limerick College of Art and Design and the Limerick City Gallery of Art as part of National Recreation Day. The site at the junction of Island Road and Athlunkard Street in King's Island now hosts an attractive collective mural.

Chambers Ireland Award

The Environment Department received a Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award under the Parks and Recreation category for the Baggott Estate Amenity Enhancement Works. The project included the rejuvenation of 1100m of walkways which have been restored and the provision of adult exercise equipment, monitoring cameras, a broadband server and the erection of directional and information signage.



Biodiversity Plan

In 2012 Limerick City Council adopted its first Biodiversity Plan for the city. The Biodiversity Plan aims to

- improve our understanding and appreciation of Limerick city's habitats
- identify where we can find key sites containing habitats within Limerick city
- highlight what we can do to maintain Limerick city's biodiversity for the future
- be a first step in developing biodiversity objectives for the city

The Presentation of Waste Bye Laws (as amended 2012)

New bye laws were introduced in April 2012 as part of the 'clean streets initiative'. The bye laws restrict the hours that bins are left out for collection and have contributed to a cleaner city centre.

Dog Litter and Dog Control Bye Laws 2012

New Dog Litter and Dog Control Byelaws 2012 were adopted at the December 2012 meeting of the Council. The aim of the Byelaws is to regulate the control of dogs and the collection of dog litter.

Environmental Awareness

- 30 of the 32 primary schools and 13 of the 14 secondary schools in the City are now registered for the An Taisce Green Schools programme.
- 26 primary schools and 8 secondary schools have Green Flags.
- A successful Green Schools seminar was held jointly with Limerick County Council.
- Over 400 pupils from 5 Primary Schools were entertained by an educational puppet show on litter and waste which was held in the schools.
- To Celebrate Earth Day there was a successful
- Earth Day Video Contest and 'Climate for Change' talks in the City

- A Regional 'Reuse' Exhibition was hosted in Limerick City Centre to promote the use of the free national reuse website www.FreeradeIreland.ie. The exhibition was held over a three week period and highlighted the importance of reuse as a waste management option
- Social Media was embraced by the Environment Department with a facebook and twitter account.
- A successful community gardening workshop was hosted in City Hall and workshops were held on composting and waste prevention.
- Master Composter volunteers participated in 4 events to promote composting and the master composting demonstration site continues to operate in O'Brien Park.
- A successful Community Garden Seminar was hosted in City Hall
- The city celebrated fair trade fortnight and its 7th birthday as a Fairtrade City.
- The Environment Department sponsored the 'Most Environmentally Friendly Entry' in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. The Limerick Print Makers were winners on the day.
- A Joint Christmas Newsletter with Limerick County Council was produced to promote Green Christmas and Christmas tree recycling was offered to householders.
- A new dog litter leaflet was produced and Any Bag Any Bin was promoted to tackle the issue of dog fouling.
- Undertook a household hazardous waste prevention project in conjunction with the Regional Waste Management Office and the residents of Castletroy View.
- Successful waste prevention project with the management of Arthur's Quay Shopping Centre to improve their waste management practices and help reduce waste.
- Successful Tidy Towns Seminar hosted in February to assist groups entering Tidy Towns.



Parks Department

The Parks department maintained and managed eight city parks and 350 acres of open space in 2012 which included daily and seasonal horticultural maintenance operations, grass cutting, tree management and flower planting. The Bridges in Bloom project continued with eight bridges adorned with colourful displays from May to October. The Parks Department worked in tandem with the Limerick Business Group to enhance the city centre with suitable floral displays. The three urban forests at Corbally, Baggott Estate and Childers Rd were maintained in 2012. Park events programmes and activities were held at various parks. All events attracted good crowds and received very positive feedback.

Cemeteries

During 2012, the Archives Department prepared digitised records of all burials in Mt. St. Lawrence Cemetery. This involved the inputting of records for approx 70,000 burials in Mt. St. Lawrence Cemetery onto a database and will be made available to the public. The project was led by the Archives Department in conjunction with Mary Immaculate College.

Maintenance and environmental works were carried out throughout the year including grass and weed control, maintenance of pathways and removal of refuse.

Burials

Mount Saint Oliver	224
Mount Saint Lawrence	100
Mount Saint Lawrence Extension	75



Service Indicators: Environmental Services

WASTE MANAGEMENT

E3 Waste Segregation

- A. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for dry recyclables.
- B. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for organics.

E4 Housing Waste Sent for Recycling

- A. Percentage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling.
- B. Tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling.
- C. Tonnage of household waste recycled, which arises from waste collected from recycling facilities (i.e. bring banks, civic amenity centres, transfer stations and other recycling facilities). 1171.53

E5 Household Waste Sent for Landfill

- A. The percentage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill
- B. The tonnage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill

E6 Recycling facilities

- A. The total number of Bring Sites in the local authority area. 21
- B. The total number of Civic Amenity Centres in the local authority area 1

Glass

- A. The number of Bring Sites for recycling 19
- B. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling 1
- C. The total number of facilities for recycling 20
- D. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population 1.76

Cans

- E. The number of Bring Sites for recycling 21
- F. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling 1
- G. The total number of facilities for recycling 22
- H. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population. 1.94

Textiles

- I. The number of Bring Sites for recycling 5
- J. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling 1
- K. The total number of facilities for recycling 6
- L. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population 0.53

Batteries

- M. The number of Bring Sites for recycling 0
- N. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling 1
- O. The total number of facilities for recycling 1
- P. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population 0.09

Oils

- Q. The number of Bring Sites for recycling 0
- R. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling 1
- S. The total number of facilities for recycling 1
- T. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population. 0.09

Other materials

- U. The number of Bring Sites for recycling 4
- V. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling 1
- W. The total number of facilities for recycling 5
- X. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population 0.44

E7 Litter Prevention and Enforcement		
A.	Number of full-time litter wardens	2
B.	Number of part-time litter wardens	0
C.	Number of litter wardens (both full- and part-time) per 5,000 population.	0.18
D.	Number of on-the spot fines issued	908
E.	Number of on-the spot fines paid	506
F.	Number of prosecution cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	116
G.	Number of prosecutions secured in cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	60
H.	Number of notices issued (under sections 9, 15, 16, 17 and 20 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997)	44
I.	Total number of prosecutions taken (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	116
J.	Total number of prosecutions secured (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	60
K.	Percentage of areas in the local authority that are unpolluted (i.e. litter-free)	0
L.	Percentage of areas in the local authority that are slightly polluted with litter	0
M.	Percentage of areas in the local authority that are moderately polluted with litter	0
N.	Percentage of areas in the local authority that are significantly polluted with litter	0
O.	Percentage of areas in the local authority that are grossly polluted with litter	0

E8 Environmental Complaints and Enforcement		
A.	Total number of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution (relating to waste, litter, water pollution, noise pollution, air pollution)	1942
B.	Number of complaints investigated	1942
C.	Number of complaints resolved where no further action was necessary	1686
D.	Number of enforcement procedures taken	256

E9 Percentage of Schools participating in environmental campaigns		
A.	Percentage of primary schools participating in environmental campaigns	93.94
B.	Percentage of secondary schools participating in environmental campaigns	92.86



Finance & ICT

Pat Murnane

Acting Director of Services, Finance & ICT

Financial Review – Limerick City Council

Service Indicators

ICT

Financial Review – Limerick City Council

Year ended 31st December 2012

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REVIEW

Revenue Expenditure Review

Revenue expenditure for the year amounted to €75,051,194 before transfers. Transfer to reserves amounted to €7,010,752 giving a total expenditure figure for 2012 of €82,061,946. This total expenditure figure was lower than the budgeted expenditure by €896,949. The details of the additional expenditure over adopted budget at Service level are set out in the report to Council under Section 104 of the Local Government Act 2001, which was circulated for the March 2013 Council Meeting. Actual income was under budget by €868,121 leading to a revenue surplus for 2012 of €28,829. This when added to the opening surplus of €497,471 gives an accumulated surplus at 31 December 2012 of €526,300.

Payroll continues to be the most significant cost with a total payroll cost in 2012 of €31,176,419 (excludes VEC Pensions). This 2012 payroll figure is comparable to 2011 figure, with the payroll cost in 2011 (€31,526,348). In 2011 payroll costs (excluding VEC pension) represented 35.3% of total expenditure. This increased to 38.0% in 2012 which is a significant percentage of overall expenditure. This indicates the need for the continued commitment to re-align pay and non-pay expenditure within the City Council. Payroll costs in 2012 remained in line with 2011 levels despite the introduction of measures that continued to control payroll costs in 2012 including the non renewal of temporary contracts, non-filling of vacancies that arose in 2012. Pensions & Gratuities are higher in 2012 compared to 2011 mainly due to early-exit scheme at end of February 2012. The pay costs and staff numbers will continue to be examined during 2013 in order to identify further savings where possible.

Expenditure is summarised by main area of expenditure as follows:

	2012	% of Expenditure	2011	% of Expenditure
	€	%	€	%
Payroll	31,176,419	38.0%	31,526,348	35.3%
Operational expenses	27,068,162	33.0%	33,526,898	37.5%
Administration expenses	5,391,627	6.6%	5,794,722	6.5%
Establishment expenses	2,861,803	3.5%	3,132,304	3.5%
Financial expenses	7,526,687	9.2%	7,391,921	8.3%
Miscellaneous	1,026,495	1.3%	1,214,308	1.4%
Transfer to reserves	7,010,752	8.5%	6,792,759	7.6%
Total Expenditure	82,061,946	100.0%	89,379,259	100.0%

NOTE: VEC Pensioners were paid by Limerick City Council for half (approx) in 2011, and not paid in 2012

Revenue Income Review

Revenue income for the year amounted to €82,090,775. This represented a decrease of 8.3% on the total income in 2011 (€89,558,905). The following table summarises the main income sources:

	2012		2011	
	€	%	€	%
Grants & Subsidies	13,038,133	16%	19,620,717	22%
Contributions from other local authorities	10,720,218	12%	10,998,487	12%
Goods & Services	18,746,221	23%	18,590,463	21%
	42,504,572	52%	49,209,667	56%
Local Government Fund	7,758,879	9%	8,204,778	9%
Rates	30,468,252	37%	30,721,667	34%
Pension Related Deduction	1,359,072	2%	1,422,793	1%
	82,090,775	100%	92,339,296	100%

A number of income areas performed ahead of budget in 2012 resulting in surplus income over budget. In particular the non-principal private residence charge, environment related income and housing related income contributed to a favourable outturn versus budget. The benefit of other increases in income such as Accommodation of Homeless Persons would be cancelled by similar increases in expenditure. The main reason for the reduction in overall income is due to the fact that VEC pensions were no longer processed by the Local Authority since mid 2011, and any new Higher Education Grants applications for new students were managed centrally from September 2012 onwards. This decrease in income was cancelled by a similar decrease in expenditure.

The total of Transfers from Revenue to Capital Account in 2012 was €5,794,018 (excluding Loan reserves). Below find an extract of the largest of these transfers:

Insurance (Self-Insurance)	€2,286,009
RAS Ringfence (per Departmental Circular)	€878,924
Funding Road Resurfacing & related works 2012.	€495,000
Housing Grants - Limerick City Council contribution	€392,485
Waste Water Treatment Plant additional costs 2012	€380,000
Corporate Buildings Capital Replacement Fund	€270,014
Munster Regional Control Centre Capital Balance Adjustment	€190,797
Capital Replacement Fund - Waste Water Treatment Plant	€170,000
Limerick City Council contribution to House Energy Efficient Programme	€157,001
Contribution to Vehicle Replacement Fund 2012	€113,440
Limerick City Council contribution to House Boiler Replacement Programme	€100,000
Limerick City Council contribution to House Retro Fitting Programme	€95,032

Balance Sheet Review

The Balance Sheet presented shows that Limerick City Council had Fixed Assets of €1,019,939,875 and Work In Progress of €21,217,275 as at 31 December 2012. A full breakdown of these figures is set out in notes 1 & 2 to the Annual Financial Statement for 2012.

Appendix 5 of the AFS sets out a summary of the Capital expenditure and income for 2011/2012. Capital income amounted to €49.7m in 2012, a decrease of €25.3m on the 2011 figure of €75m. Grants accounted for 83% of total capital income in 2012.

Government Debtors declined to €0.25m at 31 December 2012, compared to €0.27m at 31 December 2011. Government Debtors is maintained at this level mainly due to timely payment of current claims by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. Collection percentages for all other areas of debt including Commercial Rates and Water were under constant pressure during 2012 mainly due to the ongoing economic downturn and level of vacancy in Limerick City (see Appendix 7 of the Annual Financial Statement 2012 for figures).

Summary

The revenue surplus for 2012 is €28,829. As a result the accumulated revenue surplus at the end of 2012 is increased to €526,300 compared to €497,471 at the end of 2011. The retention of cumulative surplus for a seventh year is a very positive reflection of the efforts of the elected members to address the historic financial situation of Limerick City Council, and is also reflective of the continuous efforts of the staff of Limerick City Council in achieving better value for money and increasing overall efficiencies during these challenging economic times.



Income & Expenditure Account Statement

For Year Ending 31st December 2012

The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure. It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year.

Expenditure by Division	Gross Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure	Net Expenditure
	2012 €	2012 €	2012 €	2011 €
Housing & Building	14,625,419	15,469,035	(843,616)	(696,898)
Roads Transportation & Safety	8,802,394	4,621,955	4,180,439	4,141,270
Water Services	12,370,869	8,890,736	3,480,133	4,347,888
Development Management	3,942,851	839,113	3,103,738	3,594,840
Environmental Services	18,508,669	7,052,036	11,456,632	10,435,329
Recreation & Amenity	5,319,737	584,693	4,735,044	4,873,185
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	2,880,853	2,341,764	539,089	704,329
Miscellaneous Services	8,600,403	2,705,240	5,895,163	5,976,890
	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditure/Income	75,051,194	42,504,572		
Net cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates & Local Government Fund			32,546,622	33,376,834
Rates			30,468,252	30,721,667
Local Government Fund - General Purpose Grant			7,758,879	8,204,778
Pension Related Deduction			1,359,072	1,422,793
			-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers			7,039,581	6,972,405
Transfers from/(to) Reserves			(7,010,752)	(6,792,759)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year			28,829	179,646
General Reserve @ 1st January 2012			497,471	317,825
General Reserve @ 31st December 2012			526,300	497,471

Balance Sheet

At 31st December 2012

This account summarises Limerick City Council's financial position at the year end, indicated by the value of its assets less its liabilities and the level of balances and reserves at its disposal

	2012 €	2011 €
Fixed Assets		
Operational	345,615,375	337,587,132
Infrastructural	649,335,542	658,190,173
Community	6,138,038	6,138,038
Non-Operational	18,850,919	17,878,060
	1,019,939,875	1,019,793,404
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses	21,217,275	17,737,688
Long Term Debtors	14,743,189	16,241,470
Current Assets		
Stocks	199,157	253,459
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	16,669,450	8,935,977
Bank Investments	17,283,731	23,319,067
Cash at Bank	6,996,552	537,294
Cash in Transit	-	-
Urban Account	-	-
	41,148,890	33,045,797
Current Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)		
Bank Overdraft	-	-
Creditors & Accruals	15,492,151	10,760,398
Urban Account	-	-
Finance Leases	-	-
	15,492,151	10,760,398
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)	25,656,738	22,285,400
Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year)		
Loans Payable	21,372,734	23,379,665
Finance Leases	-	-
Refundable deposits	512,225	423,265
Other	264,581	1,169,082
	22,149,540	24,972,012
Net Assets	1,059,407,537	1,051,085,949
Represented by		
Capitalisation Account	1,019,939,875	1,019,793,404
Income WIP	19,168,472	15,147,930
Specific Revenue Reserve	-	-
General Revenue Reserve	526,300	497,471
Other Balances	19,772,890	15,647,144
Total Reserves	1,059,407,537	1,051,085,949

Service Indicators: Revenue Collection

REV 1 House Rent		
A.	Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from House Rent	91.98
B.	Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are up to 4 weeks old	13.5
C.	Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 4-6 weeks old	7.3
D.	Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 6-12 weeks old	8.4
E.	Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are more than 12 weeks old	70.8

REV 2 Housing Loans		
A.	Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from Housing Loans	79.21
B.	Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are up to 1 month old	1
C.	Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 1-2 months old	1
D.	Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 2-3 months old	3
E.	Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are more than 3 months old	95

REV 3 Commercial Rates		
A.	Amount collected at year-end as a percentage of amount due from Commercial rates	55

REV 5 Non-Domestic Water Charges		
A.	Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due for Non-Domestic Water Charges	68

Service Indicators: Motor Taxation

M1 Number of Motor Tax Transactions		
A.	Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter	32988
B.	Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	3736
C.	Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	21921
D.	Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter	56.25
E.	Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	6.37
F.	Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	37.38

M2 Time Taken to Process Motor Tax Postal Applications		
A.	Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application	3602
B.	Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application	71
C.	Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	8
D.	Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application	55
E.	Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application	96.41
F.	Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application	1.90
G.	Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	0.21
H.	Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application	1.47

M3 Time Taken to Process Driving Licence Applications

A.	Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	3677
B.	Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application	2197
C.	Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	504
D.	Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application	149
E.	Percentage of overall Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	56.34
F.	Percentage of overall Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application	33.66
G.	Percentage of overall Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	7.72
H.	Percentage of overall Driving Licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application	2.28

M4 Public opening hours

A.	Average number of opening hours per week	28.5
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ICT Department

In line with the strategic requirements for Limerick City Council the ICT department continues to support, recommend and provide the information and communication technology infrastructure, applications and systems required for all sections of Limerick City Council. The ICT service desk system offers comprehensive support to end users, councillors, museum and libraries of Limerick City Council dealing with over 3,600 support requests in 2012.

The ICT Department continued in 2012 to focus on efficiencies and cost reductions initiatives.

Reduced Licensing costs by using Open Source technologies

Following the adoption of Open Source technologies in the previous years during 2012 we continued the deployment of new, business systems without any licensing costs.

An Extranet collaboration portal which allows Limerick City Council to share documents, track project status, update and share calendars of events with other organizations has been deployed using the open source Alfresco Enterprise portal.

We continued in 2012 to up-skill our staff in using document, spreadsheet and presentation authoring systems. Training has been provided to 40 users on using LibreOffice, an open source office productivity suite.

To facilitate public access to the Internet using inclusive technologies two community centres have been provided under the DIEGO project with touch screen PCs and open source technologies which reduced the annual maintenance costs to a fraction of the existing costs.

Expanded Network Services

During 2012 new offices have been provided with the necessary data and networking infrastructure. The Smarter Travel office is now operating in the Granary building and the North-side and South-side Regeneration offices have been provided with access to the wider Council data network.

To improve the connectivity between City Council's public buildings and also to support the development of a municipal data network a pilot project has started in 2012 to deploy fibre connections between City Hall and other public buildings. This network will allow the provision of multiple data connectivity services, i.e. the expansion of

the Free Public WiFi, improved connections to traffic management devices, parking guide systems, etc. and at the same time reducing costs and increasing the reliability compared with the existing connections.

Data Access on Mobile Devices

In order to improve the effectiveness of our staff the ICT Department continued the expansion of mobile technologies use for access to corporate data. A mobile device management system has been introduced to facilitate remote management of an increased number of devices.

Geographical Information Systems

The development of Geographical Information Systems continued in 2012 with a move towards increased collaboration and sharing of spatial data across various sections. Corporate Browser, a system that allows all staff in Limerick City Council to access and share important data sets, has been deployed. This allows staff to make informed decisions based on relevant and accurate data for example the water, roads and fibre networks, the list of CCTV cameras, community facilities, etc. Works have commenced on recording new data sets from the City with a high level of accuracy: trees, green spaces, traffic control equipment, etc.

In 2012 work continued on expanding our historical data sets with a new project aimed at mapping and recording each grave in the Mount Saint Lawrence Cemetery. This project is done in collaboration with Mary Immaculate College and the City Archives department. The end result of this project will be a website where the public can browse and search the entire burial registry for the Mount Saint Lawrence Cemetery and precisely identify the location of each headstone.

City Archives Online

Following the initial publication of online Municipal Archives and based on the successful implementation of the online Museum Catalogue we started the implementation of a system that connects the City Archives, the Jim Kemmy Municipal Museum and all other historical resources available for Limerick in a single web based portal. This will allow the public to explore online the full breath of historical data in a consistent manner.

Social Media

Limerick City Council continued in 2012 to utilize social media to further enhance communications with the public and various stakeholder organizations. In 2012 we increased

the usage of social media by publishing articles, facilitating discussions and disseminating information through various media related to conducting City business on Twitter, Facebook, Foursquare, etc.

The Council uses 8 Facebook sites, 7 Twitter accounts and also two YouTube channels. Over 1,400 users follow Limerick City Council Twitter @limerickcityco.

Data Protection

In 2012 the ICT Department with the support from all other sections has responded to 17 Data Protection requests.

Free Internet Access over WiFi

In an effort to improve the visitor experience in Limerick the Free Public WiFi initiative started in 2011 has been expanded in 2012 to cover the Milk Market and the Hunt Museum. Our plan is to provide the highest standards of communications and a “connected” visitor experience in all our public spaces by providing free Internet access in all the public locations. As part of the redevelopment of Howley's Quay free WiFi access to the Internet will be provided as a pilot for a municipal data network.

DIEGO

The DIEGO project (Digital Inclusive eGovernance) is a project co-financed by the European Commission under the CIP ICT-PSP to provide access to e-Government services for all citizens, with special attention to the elderly, the disabled or people living in rural areas and to those to whom new information and communication technologies are still unknown. As part of the DIEGO Project, the ICT Section organized in April 2012 an international seminar on inclusive technologies. The DIEGO partners from Spain, UK, Cyprus, Greece and Italy used this opportunity to learn about the policies and strategies implemented at national and local level in order to boost ICT innovative projects and to combat digital exclusion in Ireland and in Limerick. On this occasion the DIEGO portal was launched: simply.limerick.ie.

In partnership with Limerick Community Connect over 500 people received training using the facilities in the Public Libraries on how to access public services through the DIEGO platform. The public can also access the DIEGO platform using a touch window interface which has been installed in City Hall.

Limerick.ie – The official guide to Limerick, Ireland

Following the launch in 2010 of limerick.ie, a new all inclusive on-line voice for Limerick, the ICT Department in Limerick City Council has continuously provided support and development resources in order to ensure that limerick.ie has a 100% availability rate.

In its second year the popularity of the website is continuing to grow with unique visitor numbers for 2012 alone expected to reach 300,000. Since its launch date, over 440,000 people from 188 countries have visited the website.

At the end of 2012 almost 2,000 amenities are available online and during the year almost 2,000 events have been advertised. The website has been used as the central source of information for events and promotional campaigns in Limerick: St. Patricks Festival, Riverfest, Bicycle Parade, Christmas in Limerick, etc. A section that presents information about major towns and villages in Limerick County is a new addition to the site. “Limerick insider” has online promotional videos which in 2012 covered some of Limerick's best attractions and major events which took place throughout the year.

Limerick.ie is continuing to evolve and development works have commenced in 2012 to launch a new version of the site in January 2013. The new version of Limerick.ie will offer an enhanced user experience with a fresh look and improved navigation and search facilities.

The IT Department have also been working on a new project to ensure that Limerick will be represented in the ever growing mobile markets with the launch of Limerick.ie iPhone and Android apps in 2013.

Limerick.ie is supported by Limerick City Council, Limerick County Council, Shannon Development, Limerick Co-Ordination Office, Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership, Limerick Chamber, Limerick Regeneration, Integrating Limerick Working Group, Limerick City Enterprise Board, PAUL Partnership and Limerick City and County Development Boards.

Appendix 1

LIMERICK CITY COUNCIL SEMINARS/CONFERENCES 2012

DATE	TITLE	VENUE	NO.
20th - 22nd January, 2012	Training Seminar "The Tragic Impacts of Major Flooding and Freezing Spells - An Ever Increasing Problem"	Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	1
20th - 22nd January, 2012	Training Workshop for Councillors "The Rise of the Creative Individual, Master Strategies for Top Professional Achievement in 2012"	Portlaoise, Co. Laois	2
24th January, 2012	Seminar organised by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government "A Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland"	Dublin	4
27th - 29th January, 2012	Conference organised by Celtic Conferences "Understanding EU Funding and Functions"	Rosscarbery, Co. Cork	1
27th - 29th January, 2012	Professional Development Conference for Councillors "The Role of the Council in encouraging and supporting the development of enterprise through tourism and sport"	Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	1
28th January, 2012	Symposium hosted by The John Boyle O'Reilly Society of Ireland "From the Earth a Cry"	Drogheda, Co. Louth	1
2nd February, 2012	Seminar co-hosted by Irish Penal Reform Trust and the Community Platform "The Vicious Circle of Social Exclusion and Crime: Ireland's Disproportionate Punishment of the Poor"	Dublin	2
10th - 11th February, 2012	UCD Garret Fitzgerald Spring Seminar "Democracy in the 21st Century"	Dublin	4
10th - 11th February, 2012	Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland Spring Seminar 2012 "Local Government - Renewal and Development"	Cavan	3
16th - 17th February, 2012	Mid West Regional Authority 17th Annual Conference "Economic Development in the Regions : The Way Forward"	Ennistymon, Co. Clare	1
23rd - 26th February, 2012	Rattoo Heritage Society 21st Annual Kerry Environmental Conference and Training Seminar	Tralee, Co. Kerry	1
24th - 26th February, 2012	Colmcille Winter School Conference "Can the tourism industry lead economic recovery in Ireland"	Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	1
9th March, 2012	Seminar organised by Kerry County Council and Kerry Community and Voluntary Forum "Building Community Preparedness and Resilience"	Killarney, Co. Kerry	1
9th - 10th March, 2012	Elected Members Training Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises "Guide to Septic Tanks"	Galway	1
23rd - 25th March, 2012	Training Seminar organised by Kadenza Consultancies "Amalgamations and Reforms in Local Government"	Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	2
27th March, 2012	Launch of Report "Monitoring Integration in Dublin" and Workshops	Woodquay Venue, Dublin	1
28th March, 2012	Dundalk Chamber of Commerce in association with Eures Cross Border Partnership and Louth Local Authorities Conference entitled "What it takes to succeed in the tourism sector"	Dundalk, Co. Louth	2

DATE	TITLE	VENUE	NO.
30th - 31st March, 2012	Elected Members Training Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises entitled "Personal Injuries"	Tralee, Co. Kerry	2
3rd April, 2012	Seminar entitled "Looking Globally, Legislating Locally : The Irish Legal Capacity Bill"	Dublin	4
6th - 7th April, 2012	Esperanza Enterprises Elected Members Training Seminar "Disability Access Certificate"	Galway	2
13th - 14th April, 2012	LAMA Spring Seminar 2012 "The Role of Local Authorities in enabling Economic Development and Local Government Reform"	Waterford	2
20th April, 2012	Nuclear Free Local Authorities Ireland Seminar "Nuclear Developments across the Irish Sea and Sustainable Energy Communities in Ireland"	Dundalk, Co. Louth	4
27th April, 2012	Conference entitled "The Agri-Food Sector in the Cork Region: Our Commitment"	Kinsale, Co. Cork	1
28th April, 2012	Sheehy Skeffington School "Putting Human Rights at the Heart of the Good Society"	Dublin	2
30th April, 2012	Border, Midland and Western Regional Assembly Annual Conference "Renewable Energy - Revitalising Ireland's Regions"	Castlebar, Co. Mayo	3
4th - 5th May, 2012	Elected Members Training Seminar "Non Payment of Local Government Charges and Fines and Consequences"	Galway	1
9th - 12th May, 2012	19th ECAD Mayors Conference "Co-Operation in practice - a broader perspective"	Killarney, Co. Kerry	1
10th - 11th May, 2012	Annual Conference of the Association of County and City Councils	Kilkenny	2
24th May, 2012	Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly Annual Conference "The Jobs Challenge - the Local and Regional Response"	Kilkenny	3
25th - 27th May, 2012	Conference organised by Celtic Conference "West Cork Fusion"	Rosscarbery, Co. Cork	3
6th June, 2012	Annual General Meeting of Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Limited	Dublin	1
13th June, 2012	IBIS Evening Lecture "Should ambulances stop at the Border? The Challenge of co-operation in healthcare provision"	Dublin	2
15th - 16th June, 2012	Elected Members Training Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises "Getting to Grips with the Nation's Debt"	Galway	1
21st - 23rd June, 2012	National Tourism Conference "Pride in our County - Pride in our Place"	Carlow	2
22nd - 24th June, 2012	Byrne / Perry Summer School "A Decade of Commemorations 2012 - 2022"	Gorey, Co. Wexford	1
22nd - 24th June, 2012	Conference organised by Celtic Conferences "Advancing Technology in Majority World Education"	Rosscarbery, Co. Cork	4
5th - 8th July, 2012	Tipperary International Peace Conference	Ballykisteen, Tipperary	1
13th - 14th July, 2012	Elected Members Training Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises "Local Authority Housing"	Galway	1

DATE	TITLE	VENUE	NO.
20th - 22nd July, 2012	Conference organised by Celtic Conferences "Mind Mapping and Efficient Reading Techniques"	Rosscarbery, Co. Cork	3
22nd - 27th July, 2012	32nd Annual MacGill Summer School and Arts Week	Glenties, Co. Donegal	8
23rd - 27th July, 2012	The John Hewitt International Summer School "The State of Hope"	Armagh	1
30th - 31st July, 2012	Elected Members Training Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises "Criminal Law for the Local Representative"	Galway	1
3rd August, 2012	IPA Certificate in Local Government Studies Exams	Dublin	1
3rd - 4th August, 2012	Elected Members Training Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises "Local Government Auditing"	Galway	2
6th - 9th August, 2012	William Carleton Summer School	Clogher, Co. Tyrone	2
10th - 12th August, 2012	Conference organised by Celtic Conferences "Creating Employment Opportunities in Local Food Production"	Rosscarbery, Co. Cork	7
12th - 17th August, 2012	Parnell Summer School 2012 "Sovereignty and Society"	Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow	1
15th - 19th August, 2012	Merriman Summer School 2012 "Thriving at the Crossroads: Rural Ireland in a Globalised World"	Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare	7
24th - 25th August, 2012	Elected Members Training Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises "Education (Amendment) (Protection of Schools) Bill 2012"	Westport, Co. Mayo	2
24th - 26th August, 2012	Conference organised by Celtic Conferences "Utilising your Tax Entitlements and Reliefs"	Rosscarbery, Co. Cork	4
6th - 8th September, 2012	Kennedy Summer School	New Ross, Co. Wexford	2
7th - 8th September, 2012	Elected Members Training Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises "Development Initiatives for your Community"	Westport, Co. Mayo	1
13th - 15th September, 2012	Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland Centenary Annual Conference	Ballinasloe, Co. Galway	3
19th - 22nd September, 2012	Kerry Autumn Environmental, Cultural and Heritage Conference and Training Seminar	Tralee, Co. Kerry	2
21st - 22nd September, 2012	Elected Members Training Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises "Revenue Collection and Dealing with Difficult Debt"	Tralee, Co. Kerry	1
28th - 29th September, 2012	LAMA Autumn Seminar "The Challenge for Local Authorities - Can we do more with less"	Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	1
28th - 30th September, 2012	Greystones Town Council in association with Ards Borough Council and the La Touche Legacy Committee 2012 Autumn Seminar	Greystones, Co. Wicklow	2
September - December, 2012	Diploma in Local Government Studies with Institute of Public Administration (5 Tutorials, 2 in 2012)	Ennis, Co. Clare	1
5th - 6th October, 2012	Elected Members Training Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises entitled "Protecting the Public from Dishonest Trading"	Galway	2

DATE	TITLE	VENUE	NO.
12th - 14th October, 2012	Conference organised by Ace Training "Michael Collins and the creation of Irish Democracy"	Rosscarbery, Co. Cork	1
13th October, 2012	IHRC and Law Society of Ireland 10th Annual Human Rights Conference "Promoting and Protecting Human Rights in Ireland: The Role of the Irish Constitution and European Law"	Dublin	4
16th October, 2012	National Rural Development Conference 2012 "Maximising the use of rural resources"	Enfield, Co. Meath	2
18th October, 2012	Web Summit Dublin 2012 Political Briefing	Dublin	2
19th - 21st October, 2012	Training Seminar organised by Kadenza Consultancies "Publication of the Valuation (Amendment) Bill 2012. What will it mean for Local Authorities"	Glaslough, Co. Monaghan	1
25th October, 2012	Respond! Jubilee 30th Anniversary Conference "Better being promoting well being within communities"	Cork	1
9th - 10th November, 2012	Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises 'Education for Work Initiatives'	Westport, Co. Mayo	1
16th - 18th November, 2012	Seminar organised by Ace Training "Chambers of Commerce Building Business"	Rosscarbery, Co. Cork	1
27th November, 2012	Conference "Grand Challenges for Global Agriculture and Food"	Dublin	1
30th November - 2nd December, 2012	Conference organised by Kadenza Consultancies "Is a Century of Municipal Local Government Service to be abolished"	Gormanstown, Co. Meath	2
7th - 9th December, 2012	Conference organised by TGR Seminars "Putting People First - Reform and Strategic Planning for 2013"	Bunratty, Co. Clare.	1
14th - 16th December, 2012	Seminar organised by Celtic Conferences "Budget 2013 Seminar"	Rosscarbery, Co. Cork	2





