Limerick
CITY & COUNTY
COUNCIL

Annual Report 2014

2014

Limerick
CITY & COUNTY
COUNCIL

Chief Executive's Foreword

We are now in a new era of Local Government in Limerick and the transformation of our Local Authority structure has been radical and immense. Our functions, funding, governance and operational arrangements all changed dramatically in preparation for our new single Limerick City and County Council which came into operation in June.

It has been a challenging road and will continue to be as we strive to deliver effective and efficient local government in Limerick providing quality services for all our customers.

Through the Metropolitan and Municipal Districts, Councillors are now able to work more directly at local level in the interests of our communities in Limerick.

Local Government is now closer and more responsive to the day to day needs of citizens and more representative of their priorities in setting policies and making decisions.

The new Limerick City and County Council now has a greater oversight role in the development and implementation of policy, enterprise support and community development.

Most importantly, local government has been given a wider and clearer role in economic development as we plan towards realising our goals of Project Limerick – our 2030 vision which is guiding the economic, social and physical renaissance of Limerick over the years ahead.

Limerick City and County Council, as one strong effective organisation, is helping us address the key issues for Limerick.

By promoting Limerick as a beacon of artistic endeavour to national and international acclaim during 2014, the contribution of our National City of Culture designation was immense, complimenting other actions and measures being undertaken by the Council to increase economic activity.

Combined with an historic commercial rates reduction, Limerick's status as a growing investment location was further strengthened by a series of positive jobs announcements and the delivery of initiatives by the Council to promote enterprise. Limerick was also named as one of the top cities in Europe to invest in the sixth global Site Selection 'Best to Invest Report'.

The SME Support Scheme, the first of its kind in the Limerick area, was launched by the Council during the year and saw financial support being provided to occupiers of commercial properties.

The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Limerick also became operational during 2014 as a key provider of a wide range of supports, information and advice to Limerick's micro and small businesses.

The Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan (LRFIP) was approved in February this year and sets out a shared vision for the regeneration areas to create safe and sustainable communities of opportunity where people of all ages enjoy a good quality of life, a decent home and a sense of pride about their place. These neighbourhoods will be fully integrated with the social, economic and cultural life of Limerick.

A total of 174 projects were supported in 2014 under the social intervention fund with a new funding

stream introduced to develop economic initiatives offering employment support, training/apprenticeships and job creation.

98 new-build homes were delivered in tandem with a programme of refurbishment of vacant properties and significant progress was made in all four regeneration areas in 2014 under the Thermal Upgrade Programme.

Strategic site purchases which align with the overall regeneration objectives continue to play a role and small scale capital projects continued in 2014 with a view to enhancing the environment, improving security and strengthening connectivity.

This year in a major development for the cultural sector in the Mid-West, the Council announced plans to work in partnership with Ardmore Studios to lay the foundations for the provision of a major film production facilities hub in Limerick.

Limerick City and County Council's delivery of a consistent, excellent service to its customers during 2014 was acknowledged nationally in November when it was named Local Authority of the Year at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards.

Limerick Smarter Travel and the Amalgamation Programme were both award winning projects, testament to the efforts of Council staff to make the merger of both local authorities a success throughout the last number of years.

One of our finest achievements as a Local Authority occurred at the beginning of the year with a comprehensive response to a number of unprecedented severe weather events.

I want to acknowledge staff who were exemplary in their response to a wide variety of problems encountered throughout Limerick during this period. Working in collaboration with other agencies, staff worked hard to keep roads open, restore water supplies, minimise the threat posed by flooding to life and property and ensure that assistance was available to anyone who needed it.

I also wish to pay tribute to the staff across the organisation who put in a huge effort joining up systems and technology across hundreds of services throughout the transformation process.
We look towards 2015 aware of the challenges, but facing the future with the optimism that all new beginnings bring.

Conn Murray Chief Executive,
Limerick City and County Council

Introduction by the Mayor

I am delighted to introduce Limerick City and County Council's Annual Report for the calendar year 2014. The details of the achievements during the year are set out under each Directorate's report but I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the many services provided by the Council, it's Departments and the Elected Members during the year.

2014 marked the formal amalgamation of Limerick City and County Councils, representing an historic change for Local Government in Limerick.

The formation of the new Local Authority was revealed in May with 40 Councillors elected to the newly merged Local Authority.

Elected Members, working in conjunction with the Council Executive and staff, were tasked with ensuring Limerick remains a vibrant place to live in, work in and visit and one that continues to prosper in terms of economic development, tourism, community engagement and active citizenship.

Their contribution and shared spirit of co-operation has helped the Council to further it's goals and objectives during the past year.

2014 will forever be remembered as the time when Limerick held the prestigious honour of being Ireland's inaugural National City of Culture.

The success of the year long programme of cultural events was exemplified during the Royal De Luxe visit of the Giant Granny which brought record crowds on to the streets of the city in scenes not witnessed for generations.

It was also an especially proud moment during the year to see President Michael D Higgins receive the Freedom of his birthplace in front of 1000 people at Limerick's ancient Milk Market – the first person to be honoured with the title by the newly merged Local Authority.

2014 saw the introduction of the biggest reduction in Local Authority rates in the history of the State. Sending out the clear signal that Limerick is open for business, the 15.8% reduction in the city's commercial rates brought about a single annual rate of valuation in Limerick.

In the area of travel and transportation, Limerick Smarter Travel continued to make significant progress in establishing Limerick as a model location for sustainable travel and for other towns and cities around Ireland to replicate.

The launch took place in December of the Coca Cola Zero Bike Scheme aimed at promoting a form of public transport that is healthy and inexpensive. The role played by the Council was key to the delivery of this Scheme and formed part of extensive efforts to get people to consider alternative, more sustainable travel methods.

Meanwhile, in an effort to ease traffic congestion in Limerick city and to increase footfall during the run up to Christmas, the Local Authority introduced a free Christmas Park & Ride service and the allocation of

Cllr. Kevin Sheahan,
Mayor of the City and County of Limerick.

Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick presenting President Michael D. Higgins The Freedom of Limerick, in Limerick's ancient Milk Market

3000 free on-street car parking spaces.

Tourism is a key driver of economic growth and a vital source of income to Limerick. Consequently, the Council continued it's investment in and support for a wide variety of tourism initiatives, festivals and cultural events during the year including the St. Patrick's Day International Band Championship and Riverfest.

Limerick City and County Council, through the Limerick Arts Office, supported a number of other arts and culture developments during 2014 including the appointment of the first Dance Artist in Residence at Dance Limerick. Annual community festivals and events such as the 15th Annual Éigse Michael Hartnett in Newcastle West, Cuisle, Culture Night Limerick, OpenHouseLimerick and the Limerick Literary Festival were also supported.

Meanwhile, the Council formalised it's 15-year friendship with New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA, with the signing of a Twinning Charter which it is hoped will lead to numerous cultural and community exchanges on both sides of the Atlantic over the coming years.

The Council's investment in community facilities and infrastructure continued in 2014.

In the area of housing, the Council successfully completed a pilot project involving the retrofitting of 49 homes across all of the Regeneration areas. This project has resulted in the development of a significant retrofitting programme with energy upgrade works earmarked for hundreds of homes. During 2014, the Council carried out more than 350 inspections of private rented accommodation in order to improve the housing standards for tenants.

The Council's partnership approach with housing associations also led to the delivery of new social housing units, including the provision of new apartments dedicated to older persons at Colivet Court as part of the Regeneration process. As the first point of contact for persons who become homeless, the Council's Homeless Action Team delivered a multidisciplinary approach to solving homelessness and those in need were accommodated in emergency hostels, transitional accommodation and long term supported housing throughout Limerick during the year.

The Council maintained its core objective of providing a quality service to local communities across Limerick during 2014.

Plans were announced during the year to build a new neighbourhood park in Mungret while Limerick Going

Housing Minister Jan O'Sullivan TD has welcomed the completion of 35 new apartments dedicated to older persons as part of the Limerick Regeneration Programme. The Minister joined members of the local community for an open viewing of Colivet Court in Colivet Drive, Southill, by staff from Limerick City and County Council and Cluid Housing Association.
Minister O'Sullivan had a look around the apartments.

For Gold continued to grow from strength to strength. The Council, in association with the JP McManus Charitable Foundation, provided a significant prize fund for businesses, community groups and individuals to improve their areas by getting involved in the National Tidy Towns Competition and reducing the impact of litter across Limerick.

The Council also provided valuable support to communities through Limerick in Bloom, the Burial Grounds Awards and Pride of Place.

As part of the Council's remit for protecting the local environment and promoting environmental awareness, the Environment Section facilitated a number of initiatives during 2014. The Council hosted a 'Bin It' workshop for Limerick schools to educate and raise awareness of littering, while it also hosted the Gum Litter Taskforce Campaign.

Team Limerick Clean-Up, a JP McManus Benevolent Fund initiative in conjunction with the Council's Environment Department, was also launched.

The Council hosted the Comhairle na nÓg which enabled young people across Limerick to put forward their opinions on a wide range of issues, that affect them and their communities. Through it's membership of the Limerick Integration Working Group, the Local Authority also played a central role in the delivery of objectives outlined in the Limerick City and County Integration Plan 2013-2016. A wide range of integration activities were completed in the areas of arts, sports, interfaith and social inclusion during 2014.

2014 also saw Limerick officially being declared as a member city of the European Intercultural Cities Initiative, giving it the opportunity to exchange and learn with other European cities such as Barcelona, Copenhagen, London and Montreal.

From a sports and recreation perspective, 2014 marked the merger of the City and County Sports Partnerships as part of efforts to develop a unified approach to increasing participation in sport in every community across Limerick. Among the actions undertaken during the year by the Limerick Sports Partnership (LSP) was the administering of a €50,000 grant scheme for local sports clubs and community groups.

Limerick City and County Council, complimented by the commitment of it's staff and Elected Members, looks forward to building on the achievements of the past year and working with local communities throughout 2015.

Cllr. Kevin Sheahan,
Mayor of the City and County of Limerick.

Vizes Court, St Joseph's Street - 29 units completed in July 2014

Contents

Chief Executive's Foreword	2
Introduction by the Mayor	4
Members of Limerick City and County Council	11
Meetings	15
Representation on Other Bodies	17
Strategic Policy Committees	20
Electoral Areas	21
Members and Meetings of Limerick County Council	22
Members and Meetings of Limerick City Council	26
Events & Highlights 2014	28
Corporate Services, Change Management and Human Resources	45
Travel & Transportation	60
Environment & Water	71
Home & Social Development	87
Community, Leisure & Emergency Services	95
Economic Development & Planning	133
Finance & ICT	141
Municipal Districts	147
Appendices	157

Pictured at the Winter Carnival in the Milk Market are, from left to right, Nathan Fitzpatrick, aged 6, Mason Fitzpatrick, aged 4, and Kevin Fitzpatrick, aged 6, from Rossa Avenue, Limerick City and Newport, Co. Tipperary.

Mayoral Chain exhibited in A Retrospective - Limerick City Council 1197-2014 in Limerick Museum 2014

Limerick City & County Council Members

Limerick City & County Council Members

Cllr. Kevin Sheahan
Mayor
of the City and County of Limerick

Cllr. Joe Crowley
Deputy Mayor
of the City and County of Limerick

Members of Limerick City and County Council

As and from June, 2014

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK (consisting of the Local Electoral Areas of Limerick City East, Limerick City North and Limerick City West) - 21 MEMBERS

Limerick City East Members | 8 Members

Cllr. Shane Clifford, The Spa, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick. (FF)

Cllr. Marian Hurley, Casa Loma, Annacotty, Co. Limerick. (FG)

Cllr. Paul Keller, 50A, Castletroy View, Childers Road, Limerick. (AAA)

Cmhlr. Séighin Ó Ceallaigh, 1 Sexton Street, Limerick. (SF)

Cllr. Jerry O'Dea, 'The Haggard,' Ballyclough, Rosbrien, Limerick. (FF)

Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon, Rhebogue, Dublin Road, Limerick. (FF)

Cllr. Elena Secas, 131, Curragh Birin, Castletroy, Limerick. (LAB)

Cllr. Michael Sheahan, 84 Kylemore, Old Schoolhouse Road, Monaleen, Limerick. (FG)

Limerick City North Members | 6 Members

Cllr. Joe Crowley, 29, Westfield Park, North Circular Road, Limerick. (FF)

Cllr. Frankie Daly, 64 Kilcredan, Rhebogue Avenue, Irish Estates, Corbally, Limerick. (LAB)

Cllr. John Gilligan, 36, Lee Estate, Island Road, Limerick. (NP)

Cllr. Michael Hourigan, Carraig Donn, Revington Park, North Circular Road, Limerick. (FG)

Cllr. Cian Prendiville, 45, Brookville Gardens, Clareview, Limerick. (AAA)

Cllr. Maurice Quinlivan, 7, Stenson Close, Limerick. (SF)

Limerick City West Members | 7 Members

Cllr. Daniel Butler, 106, The Grange, Raheen, Limerick. (FG)

Cllr. Maria Byrne, Mannixville, O'Connell Avenue, Limerick. (FG)

Cllr. James Collins, Collins Bar, Dooradoyle, Limerick. (FF)

Cllr. Joe Leddin, Summerville Avenue, South Circular Road, Limerick. (LAB)

Cllr. John Loftus, Apartment 2, 3 Lr. Glentworth Street, Limerick. (AAA)

Cllr. Seán Lynch, Ballycarney, Clarina, Co. Limerick. (FF)

Cllr. Malachy McCreesh, 59, Gouldavoher Est., Dooradoyle, Limerick. (SF)

Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale | 6 Members

Cllr. Stephen Keary, Clogh, Croagh, Co. Limerick. (FG)

Cllr. Ciara McMahon, Dirreen, Athea, Co. Limerick. (SF)

Cllr. Tom Neville, Kiltannan, Croagh, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick. (FG)

Cllr. Emmett O'Brien, Glenameade, Pallaskenry, Co. Limerick. (NP)

Cllr. Richard O'Donoghue, Kilatal, Ballingarry, Co. Limerick. (FF)

Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Cloonreask, Askeaton, Co. Limerick. (FF)

Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock | 7 Members

Cllr. Michael Donegan, Millmount, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick. (FF)

Cllr. Noel Gleeson, Cullenagh, Cappamore, Co. Limerick. (FF)

Cllr. Gerald Mitchell, Benrue House, Hospital, Co. Limerick. (FG)

Cllr. William O'Donnell, The Waterfall, Bruff, Co. Limerick. (FG)

Cllr. Eddie Ryan, Castlecreagh, Galbally, Co. Limerick. (FF)

Cllr. Lisa Marie Sheehy, Ballintubber, Kilfinane, Co. Limerick. (SF)

Cllr. Brigid Teefy, Ballybricken, Grange, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick. (NP)

Municipal District of Newcastle West | 6 Members

Cllr. Séamus Browne, Clash, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick. (SF)

Cllr. Michael Collins, Ballinvallig, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick. (FF)

Cllr. Francis Foley, Killarney Road, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick. (FF)

Cllr. Liam Galvin, Ballaugh, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick. (FG)

Cllr. Jerome Scanlan, Ballydonnell, Feohanagh, Co. Limerick. (FG)

Cllr. John Sheahan, Ballyguiltenane, Glin, Co. Limerick. (FG)

Limerick City and County Council
Council Members and Meetings

Limerick City and County Council Council Members and Meetings

There are 40 Members on the Council – 21 Members in the Metropolitan District of Limerick (consisting of the Local Electoral Areas of Limerick City East, Limerick City North and Limerick City West) 6 Members in the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale, 7 Members in the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock and 6 Members in the Municipal District of Newcastle West.

Meetings of the full Council are normally held on the fourth Monday of every second month, bi-monthly, in the Council Chamber at Dooradoyle. The full Council met on 10 occasions (excluding Committee Meetings) in 2014.

Corporate Policy Group

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

- **Cllr. Kevin Sheahan**, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick
- **Councillor Michael Donegan**, Chairperson of the Home and Social Development SPC
- **Councillor Maurice Quinlivan**, Chairperson of the Travel and Transportation SPC
- **Councillor Noel Gleeson**, Chairperson of the Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning SPC
- **Councillor Francis Foley**, Chairperson of the Community, Leisure and Emergency Services SPC
- **Councillor Michael Hourigan**, Chairperson of the Environment SPC

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 will retain 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 6 occasions in 2014.

Committees of the Council

Title	No. of Members	No. of Meetings
Metropolitan District of Limerick	21	8
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	6	7
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	7	7
Municipal District of Newcastle West	6	7

Committees of the Council

Title	No. of Members	No. of Meetings
Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	12	1
Rural Water Committee	11	1
Audit Committee	7	1

Metropolitan District Reserved Functions 2014

Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Adoption of Standing Orders for the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

Extinguishing of public right-of-way at Knockalisheen Avenue.

Approval of Proposed Residential Development at Athlunkard Street/Sheep Street/Meatmarket Lane, King's Island, Limerick.

Approval of Proposed Neighbourhood Park in the Grounds of Mungret College, Limerick.

Adoption of the Budgetary Plan for the Metropolitan Municipal District for the financial year ended 31st December, 2015 in the total sum of €640,000.

Approval of Proposed Rhebogue Neighbourhood Greenway.

Approval of Proposed Route 4 Ballysimon, Castletroy and Newtown Infrastructure Improvements.

Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale Reserved Functions 2014

Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas-Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District.

Adoption of Standing Orders for the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale.

Adoption of the Budgetary Plan for the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District for the financial year ending 31st December, 2015, in the total sum of €275,000.

Deferral of Notices to make a New Local Area Plan for Croom and Extend the Existing Plan.

Decision to make material amendments to the Proposed Adare Local Area Plan 2015-2021.

Decision to make material alterations to the Proposed Askeaton Local Area Plan 2015-2021 in accordance with the Chief Executive's recommendations dated 25th November, 2014.

Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock Reserved Functions 2014

Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas-Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District.

Adoption of Standing Orders.

Approval of Proposed Extension to the Existing Burial Ground at Ballingaddy North, Ballingaddy, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick.

Adoption of the Budgetary Plan for the Cappamore-Kilmallock District for the financial year ending 31st December, 2015, in the total sum of €310,000.

Municipal District of Newcastle West Reserved Functions 2014

Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas-Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District.

Adoption of Standing Orders.

Approval of Proposed N21 Newcastle West Pavement Improvement and Pedestrian Scheme 2014.

Adoption of the Budgetary Plan for the Newcastle West Municipal District for the financial year ending 31st December, 2015, in the total sum of €275,000.

Representation on Other Bodies

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Cllr. Seán Lynch.
Cllr. Michael Sheahan.
Cllr. Marian Hurley.
Cllr. Ciara McMahon.

Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)

Cllr. Michael Hourigan.
Cllr. Joe Crowley.
Cllr. Richard O'Donoghue.
Cllr. John Gilligan.

- **Standing Policy Council of Association (AILG)**

  Cllr. Michael Hourigan.
  Cllr. Joe Crowley.
  Cllr. Richard O'Donoghue.

Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly

Cllr. Joe Leddin.
Cllr. Noel Gleeson.
Cllr. John Sheahan.

Limerick Market Trustees

Cllr. Kevin Sheahan (Mayor of the City and County of Limerick).
Cllr. Michael Sheahan (Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Limerick).
Cllr. Joe Leddin.
Cllr. Malachy McCreesh.
Cllr. Séamus Borwne.
Cllr. John Loftus.
Cllr. Joe Crowley.
Cllr. Seán Lynch.
Cllr. James Collins.
Cllr. Jerry O'Dea.
Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon.
Cllr. Shane Clifford.
Cllr. Maria Byrne.
Cllr. William O'Donnell.
Cllr. Gerald Mitchell.
Cllr. Michael Hourigan.
Cllr. Marian Hurley.
Cllr. John Sheahan

Library Association of Ireland

Cllr. Kevin Sheahan.

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Limited

Cllr. William O'Donnell.

Local Authority Members' Association

Cllr. John Sheahan.

Governing Body of the National University of Ireland, Cork

Cllr. Eddie Ryan.

Governing Authority of the University of Limerick

Cllr. Jerry O'Dea.
Cllr. Michael Sheahan (Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Limerick).

Adare Heritage Trust Limited

Cllr. Kevin Sheahan (Mayor of the City and County of Limerick).

West Limerick Resources Limited

Cllr. Michael Collins.
Cllr. Francis Foley.
Cllr. Jerome Scanlan.
Cllr. John Sheahan.

Ballyhoura Development Limited

Cllr. William O'Donnell
Cllr. Michael Donegan

PAUL Partnership

Cllr. Seán Lynch.
Cllr. Frankie Daly.
Cllr. Daniel Butler.

RCCN (Rural Community Care Network)

Cllr. Jerome Scanlan.
Cllr. Francis Foley.

Hunt Museums' Trust

Cllr. Joe Crowley.
Cllr. William O'Donnell.

Hunt Museum Company

Cllr. Jerry O'Dea.

Regional Health Forum West

Cllr. Brigid Teefy.
Cllr. Malachy McCreesh.
Cllr. Michael Hourigan.
Cllr. Jerome Scanlan.

Cllr. Maria Byrne (replaced Cllr. Gerald Mitchell at November Meeting of Council on 24/11/14)
Cllr. Francis Foley.
Cllr. Michael Collins.

RAPID Action Implementation Team for Rathkeale

Cllr. Stephen Keary.

Joint Policing Committee

Cllr. Paul Keller.
Cllr. Joe Leddin.
Cmhlr. Séighin Ó Ceallaigh.
Cllr. Ciara McMahon
Cllr. Michael Hourigan.
Cllr. Stephen Keary.
Cllr. Liam Galvin.
Cllr. Gerald Mitchell.
Cllr. John Sheahan.
Cllr. Seán Lynch.
Cllr. Kevin Sheahan.
Cllr. Jerry O'Dea.
Cllr. Richard O'Donoghue.
Cllr. Eddie Ryan.
Cllr. Emmett O'Brien.

Board of Governors of St. John's Hospital

Cllr. Michael Sheahan (Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Limerick)
Cllr. Cian Prendiville.
Cllr. Maria Byrne.
Cllr. Gerald Mitchell.
Cllr. Jerry O'Dea.

Limerick Sports Partnership

Cllr. Seán Lynch.

Limerick Civic Trust

Cllr. Marian Hurley.

Board of Directors of Moyross Community Enterprise Centre

Cllr. Frankie Daly. (replaced Cllr. Michael Hourigan at Council Meeting of 22/9/14)

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

Cllr. Joe Crowley.

Board of 2014 Limerick City of Culture

Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, (Mayor of the City and County of Limerick).
Cllr. Michael Collins.
Cllr. Michael Sheahan.
Cllr. Marian Hurley.

Limerick Marketing Board

Cllr. Joe Crowley.
Cllr. Michael Hourigan.
Cllr. Michael Sheahan.
Cllr. Joe Leddin.

Board of Innovate Limerick

Cllr. Shane Clifford.
Cllr. James Collins.
Cllr. Maria Byrne.
Cllr. Séamus Browne.

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board

Cllr. Maria Byrne.
Cllr. Elena Secas.
Cllr. Lisa Marie Sheehy.
Cllr. Liam Galvin.
Cllr. Michael Donegan.
Cllr. Richard O'Donoghue,
Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon.

Audit Committee

Cllr. James Collins.
Cllr. Shane Clifford.
Cllr. Jerome Scanlan.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Cllr. Seamus Browne.
Cllr. Eddie Ryan.
Cllr. Jerome Scanlan.
Cllr. Daniel Butler.

Rural Water Monitoring Committee

Cllr. Eddie Ryan.
Cllr. Jerome Scanlan.
Cllr. Lisa Marie Sheehy.

Strategic Policy Committees

Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee

Cllr. Michael Donegan (Chair)
Cllr. William O'Donnell.
Cllr. Liam Galvin.
Cllr. Jerome Scanlan.
Cllr. Stephen Keary.
Cllr. Tom Neville.
Cllr. Maurice Quinlivan.
Cllr. Cian Prendiville.
Cllr. Paul Keller.
Cllr. Joe Leddin.
Cllr. Shane Clifford.
Cllr. Francis Foley.
Cllr. Jerry O'Dea.
Cllr. Richard O'Donoghue.
Cllr. John Gilligan.
Cllr. Lisa Marie Sheehy.

Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee

Cllr. Maurice Quinlivan (Chair)
Cllr. Frankie Daly.
Cllr. Elena Secas.
Cllr. Maria Byrne.
Cllr. Michael Sheahan.
Cllr. Gerald Mitchell.
Cllr. Tom Neville.
Cllr. Daniel Butler.
Cllr. Séamus Browne.
Cllr. John Loftus.
Cllr. Shane Clifford.
Cllr. Michael Donegan.
Cllr. Seán Lynch.
Cllr. Richard O'Donoghue.
Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon.
Cllr. Emmett O'Brien.

Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee

Cllr. Noel Gleeson (Chair)
Cllr. Daniel Butler.
Cllr. Maria Byrne.
Cllr. John Sheahan.
Cllr. Liam Galvin.
Cllr. Stephen Keary.
Cllr. Séamus Browne.
Cmhlr. Séighin Ó Ceallaigh.
Cllr. Cian Prendiville.
Cllr. Joe Leddin.
Cllr. James Collins.
Cllr. Jerry O'Dea.
Cllr. Eddie Ryan.
Cllr. Kevin Sheahan.
Cllr. Emmett O'Brien.
Cllr. Michael Collins.

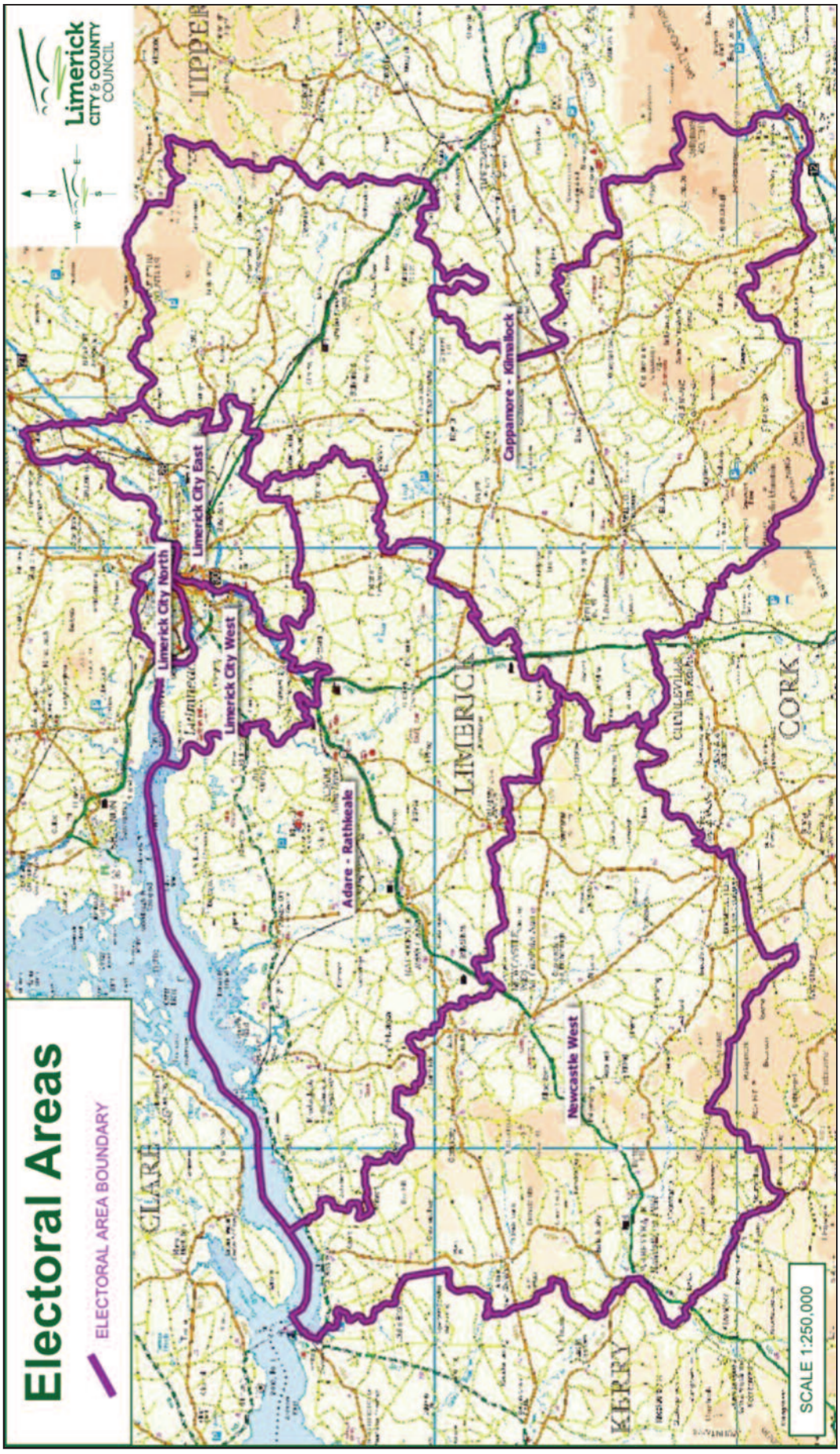
Community, Leisure and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee

Cllr. Francis Foley (Chair)
Cllr. Michael Hourigan.
Cllr. Michael Sheahan.
Cllr. Marian Hurley.
Cllr. William O'Donnell.
Cllr. Gerald Mitchell.
Cllr. Lisa Marie Sheehy.
Cllr. Ciara McMahon.
Cmhlr. Séighin Ó Ceallaigh.
Cllr. Malachy McCreesh.
Cllr. John Loftus.
Cllr. Michael Collins.
Cllr. Joe Crowley.
Cllr. Seán Lynch.
Cllr. Kevin Sheahan.
Cllr. Brigid Teefy.

Environment Strategic Policy Committee

Cllr. Michael Hourigan (Chair)
Cllr. Frankie Daly.
Cllr. Elena Secas.
Cllr. Jerome Scanlan.
Cllr. Marian Hurley.
Cllr. Malachy McCreesh.
Cllr. Paul Keller.
Cllr. James Collins.
Cllr. Joe Crowley.
Cllr. Noel Gleeson.
Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon.
Cllr. Eddie Ryan.
Cllr. John Gilligan.
Cllr. Ciara McMahon.
Cllr. John Sheahan.
Cllr. Brigid Teefy.

Electoral Areas



Members of Limerick County Council

FROM JANUARY TO MAY 2014.

Adare Electoral Area

Cllr. Rose Brennan, 14, Park Avenue, Adare, Co. Limerick. (FG)
Cllr. Daniel Butler, 106, The Grange, Raheen, Limerick. (FG) *(co-opted to the Council to fill the vacancy consequent on the death of his father Cllr. Richard Butler, RIP)*
Cllr. James Collins, Collins Bar, Dooradoyle, Co. Limerick. (FF)
Cllr. Leonard Enright, Ballyanrahan, Patrickswell, Co. Limerick. (FF)
Cllr. Patrick C. Fitzgerald, Anhid, Croom, Co. Limerick. (NP)
Cllr. Tomás Hannon, 4, Dromore Rise, Raheen, Co. Limerick. (LAB)
Cllr. Leo Walsh, Lower Raheen, Ballyneety, Co. Limerick. (FG)

Castleconnell Electoral Area

Cllr. John Egan, Abington, Murroe, Co. Limerick (FG)
Cllr. Noel Gleeson, Cullenagh, Cappamore, Co. Limerick (FF)
Cllr. Mary Harty, Corelish West, Pallasgrean, Co. Limerick (FG)
Cllr. Michael Sheahan, 84 Kylemore, Old Schoolhouse Road, Monaleen, Limerick. (FG)
Cllr. Mary Jackman, 5 Newtown, Castletroy, Co. Limerick. (FG)
Cllr. Brigid Teefy, Ballybricken, Grange, Co. Limerick. (NP)
Cllr. Eddie Wade, Cahernorry, Drombanna, Co. Limerick. (FF)

Kilmallock Electoral Area

Cllr. Mike Donegan, 21, Millmount, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick. (FF)
Cllr. Mike Houlihan, Bresheen, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick. (FG)
Cllr. David Moloney, Castle Street, Kilfinane, Co. Limerick. (LAB)
Cllr. William O'Donnell, The Waterfall, Bruff, Co. Limerick. (FG)
Cllr. Eddie Ryan, Castlecreagh, Galbally, Co. Limerick. (FF)

Newcastle West Electoral Area

Cllr. Michael Collins, Ballinvallig, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick. (FF)
Cllr. Francis Foley, Killarney Road, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick. (FF)
Cllr. Liam Galvin, Ballaugh, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick. (FG)
Cllr. Damien Riedy, Crean, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick. (FG)
Cllr. Jerome Scanlan, Ballydonnell, Feohanagh, Co. Limerick. (FG)

Rathkeale Electoral Area

Cllr. Stephen Keary, Clogh, Croagh, Co. Limerick. (FG)
Cllr. David Naughton, Ballysteen, Askeaton, Co. Limerick. (FG)
Cllr. John Sheahan, Ballyguiltenane, Glin, Co. Limerick. (FG)
Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Cloonreask, Askeaton, Co. Limerick. (FF)

Council Members and Meetings

There were 28 members on the Council – 7 Members in the Adare Electoral Area, 7 Members in the Castleconnell Electoral Area, 5 Members in the Kilmallock Electoral Area, 5 Members in the Newcastle Electoral Area and 4 Members in the Rathkeale Electoral Area.

Council Meetings were normally held on the fourth Monday of each month (except August when there was no Meeting) in the Council Chamber at Dooradoyle. The full Council met on 8 occasions (excluding Committee Meetings).

Corporate Policy Group

The Corporate Policy Group (CPG) is a Committee of the Council consisting of the Cathaoirleach of the Council and the Chairs of each of the Strategic Policy Committees. Membership was as follows:-

- Councillor John Sheahan, Cathaoirleach
- Councillor Stephen Keary, Chairperson of the Planning & Development SPC
- Councillor Leo Walsh, Chairperson of the Environmental SPC
- Councillor Tomás Hannon, Chairperson of the Housing SPC
- Councillor Francis Foley, Chairperson of the Social, Cultural and Community Development SPC
- Councillor Rose Brennan, Chairperson of the Transportation and Infrastructural SPC

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 will retain the decision making authority. The CPG also monitors the performance of the Local Authority and plays a key role in preparing the budget.

Committees of the Council

Strategic Policy Committee

Title	No. of Members	No. of Meetings
Housing	18	2
Transportation and Infrastructural	18	1
Planning and Development	18	2
Social, Cultural and Community Development	15	2
Environmental	15	3

Electoral Area Committees

Title	No. of Members	No. of Meetings
Adare Area	7	4
Castleconnell Area	7	4
Kilmallock Area	5	4
Newcastle West Area	5	5
Rathkeale Area	4	5

Other Committees

Title	No. of Members	No. of Meetings
Rural Water Committee	11	1
Audit Committee	5	2

In one of her final duties as Mayor of Limerick, Cllr. Kathleen Leddin presented her Mayoral Robe to Limerick Museum and Archives in the former Franciscan Church - set to become the Museum's new home.

Cllr. Kathleen Leddin is pictured presenting her Mayoral Robe to Limerick Museum Curator Brian Hodkinson at the Franciscan Church, the planned new location for the city museum.

The Mayoral Robe will be preserved by Limerick Museum and Archives and displayed among other rare items in the city's history including a Mace Bearer's uniform and a Civic Sword- regarded as one of the oldest in the country having been bequeathed to Limerick by Queen Elizabeth I.

Members of Limerick City Council

FROM JANUARY TO MAY 2014.

Electoral Area Limerick City North

Cllr. Michael Hourigan,'Carraig Donn', Revington Park, North Circular Road, Limerick. (FG)
Cllr. Cormac Hurley, 94, Sheelin Road, Caherdavin Park, Limerick. (FG)
Cllr. Tom Shortt, Walnut House, Brown's Quay, Thomondgate, Limerick. (Lab)
Cllr. Kevin Kiely, 27, Belfield Gardens, Farranshone, Limerick. (FG)
Cllr. Maurice Quinlivan, 7, Stenson Close, Limerick. (SF)
Cllr. Catherine Leddin, 8, Eden Terrace, North Circular Road, Limerick. (NP)

Electoral Area Limerick City East

Cllr. John Gilligan, 36, Lee Estate, Island Road, Limerick. (NP)
Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon, Rhebogue, Dublin Road, Limerick. (FF)
Cllr. Gerry McLoughlin, 5 Sarsfield Avenue, Garryowen, Limerick. (NP)
Cllr. Denis McCarthy, 4, Siul na hAbhann, Corbally, Limerick. (FG)

Electoral Area Limerick City South

Cllr. Joe Leddin, 'Hillcrest, Summerville Ave. S. C. Road, Limerick. (LAB)
Cllr. Maria Byrne, Mannixville, O'Connell Ave. Limerick. (FG)
Cllr. Ger Fahy, 19, McDermott Avenue, Janesboro, Limerick. (FG)
Cllr. Pat Kennedy, 'Fortview', Greenpark, South Circular Road, Limerick. (NP)
Cllr. Orla McLoughlin-McCarthy, 10, Carn na Ree, Bloodmill Road, Limerick. (Lab)
Cllr. Diarmuid Scully, 19, Lynwood Park,Limerick. FG
Cllr. Jim Long, 43, Ballinacurra Gardens, Limerick. FG

Limerick City Council

FROM JANUARY TO MAY 2014.

Council Members and Meetings

There were 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 were normally held on the fourth Monday of each month (except July and August when there were no meetings) in the Council Chamber at Merchant's Quay. The full Council met on 9 occasions (excluding Committee Meetings) in 2014.

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 was as follows:-

- Cllr. Kathleen Leddin, 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 4 occasions in 2014.

Number of Meetings Held

Monthly Council Meetings/Annual Meeting	5
Special Meetings	2
Protocol Meetings	2
Transportation & Infrastructure SPC Meetings	1
Social Policy & Housing SPC Meetings	2
Cultural & Sporting SPC Meetings	3
Economic Policy Dev. & Future Planning SPC Meetings	0
Environmental SPC Meetings	2
Area Meetings	2

Events & Highlights 2014

President Michael D. Higgins
Freedom of the City

President Michael D. Higgins receiving The Freedom of Limerick in the Milk Market from Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick accompanied by Mrs. Higgins.

Limerick City and County Council celebrate the Council winning Local Authority of the Year

1 Ian Talbot, Chief Executive, Chambers Ireland, Conn Murray, Chief Executive, Limerick City and County Council, Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Elaine Brick, AECOM, Alan Kelly, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government.

2 Conn Murray, Chief Executive of Limerick City and County Council with Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick celebrate the Council winning Local Authority of the Year at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards.

Limerick Band Parade
St Patrick's Day

Limerick Band Parade; St. Patricks Day

Celebrating Africa

1 Symposium on Partners for Growth between Ireland and Africa in the Hunt Museum

2 & 3 Sounds of Africa; Concert in St Mary's Cathedral

Visitors to City Hall

1 Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick welcomes former NASA astronaut Alfred 'Al' Worden

2 Cllr. John Sheahan, Cathaoirleach of Limerick County Council and Mayor Kathleen Leddin with Paul McEachern, First Secretary, Deputy Head of Mission of the Australian Embassy at Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay.

3 Mayor Kathleen Leddin presented Limerick Lace to Bill Linehan, President of Boston City Council. Conn Murray, Chief Executive of Limerick City and County Council with Bill Higgins, Southill Childrens Fund

4 The Mayor of Kansas at Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay.

5 Limerick Signs Twinning Agreement with New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA

Civic Receptions

Civic Reception accorded to the following:

1 Thomas Goulding, NCW
2 Ian O'Sullivan, Rathkeale
3 Adrian Kearns
4 Eoghan Clifford
5 Limerick Hurling Minors Team and Management

1 Limerick Minor Camogie Team on winning The All Ireland Minor Camogie Championship 2014.

2 County Limerick U14 LGFA Ladies Football Team on winning The U14 Munster Ladies Football Championship, The U14 All Ireland Ladies Football.

3. Limerick Intermediate Camogie Team on winning The All Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship 2014.

4. Limerick Junior Camogie Team on winning The All Ireland Junior Camogie Championship 2014.

Martin O'Neill
at Council Chamber, Dooradoyle

Martin O'Neill at Council Chamber, Dooradoyle

The above shows Irish Soccer Team Manager, Martin O'Neill speaking at a press conference in Council Chamber, Dooradoyle where he announced his first Ireland squad. Also in the picture are from left; Mayor Kathleen Leddin, Cllr John Sheahan, Cathaoirleach of Limerick County Council, Peter Sherard, FAI Director of Communications, and Conn Murray, Chief Executive of Limerick City and County Council.

1-3 World middleweight boxing champion Andy Lee arrived back to a heroes welcome at Merchant's Quay, where Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick honoured the boxer with a Civic Reception.

4 Artist Clare Hartigan presenting a painting to Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick.

Inaugural Meeting of Limerick City & County Council

1-6 Inaugural Meeting of Limerick City & County Council in University of Limerick.

Last Limerick City Council Meeting

1-2 Limerick City Council final Meeting after 817 years.

Last Limerick County Council Meeting

1-2 Limerick County Council last Meeting after 115 years.

Mayors Ball

1 Mike Fitzpatrick, Director of The Board of Limerick City of Culture, Mayor of Limerick, Kathleen Leddin and Sheila Deegan, Limerick City of Culture and Limerick City Arts Officer at the Mayors Ball in the Strand Hotel.

2-3 Guests at the Mayors Ball in the Strand Hotel

4 Guest of honour George Hook, 817 and last Mayor of Limerick, Cllr. Kathleen Leddin and Chief Executive Conn Murray at the Mayor's Ball held in the Strand Hotel, Limerick.

Launch of Local Enterprise Office

1

2

3

4

5

1 At the launch of the SME Online Search tool for over 80 Government SME supports worth over €2bn in Merchant's Quay are Sean Kelly MEP, Michael Noonan T.D. Minister for Finance, Peter Doyle MD of Key Ingredients & Pamela Malone Department of Finance. The online search tool is available at www.localenterprise.ie/smeonlinetool/businessdetails.aspx

2 A range of new services for small businesses and start ups across Limerick was announced by Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan TD and he officially launched the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) in Merchant's Quay, pictures here with Conn Murray, Chief Executive of Limerick City and County Council, Cllr. Joe Leddin, Deputy Mayor, Cllr. John Sheahan, Cathaoirleach, Limerick County Council and Eamonn Ryan, Head of Local Enterprise.

Limerick in Bloom

For the second year running, the West Limerick village of Athea has been named the overall winner of the Limerick in Bloom competition. 44 other groups throughout County Limerick were honoured for their participation in the annual competition, at an awards ceremony held at the Woodlands House Hotel in Adare, Co. Limerick.

1

2

3

4

1 From left to right, are Limerick hurling manager TJ Ryan, Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Gerry Boland of the JP McManus Charitable Foundation, Noel Earlie of the JP McManus Benevolent Fund, and Christy O'Connor, Senior Executive Officer, Limerick City and County Council.

2 Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Gerry Boland of the JP McManus Charitable Foundation with Athea Tidy Towns over all winners of Limerick in Bloom 2014

3 Tim Ryan, Galbally, Pat Casey, Ardpatrick, Marie McCarthy, Feenagh, Mary Lee Geary, Broadford, Dolly O'Neill, Adare, and PJ Russell, Kilmallock, along with Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, left, and Gerry Boland of the JP McManus Charitable Foundation, right.

4 Pictured is Christy O'Connor, Senior Executive Officer, Limerick City and County Council.

Limerick Person of the Year

1

2

3

1 Anna Potter carried the flame for the Special Olympic Ireland Games

2 Athletes take a well earned break at the Special Olympics Ireland Games held in Limerick 12-14 June 2014

3 Some of the talented athletes competing at the Special Olympics Ireland Games in Limerick 12-15 June 2014

Pat Dowling

Director of Services,
Corporate Services, Change Management
and Human Resources

Corporate Services, Change Management and Human Resources

CORPORATE SERVICES AND CHANGE MANAGEMENT

Change Management	46
Customer Services	49
Freedom of Information	50
Office of The Ombudsman	50
Register of Electors	50
Higher Education Grants	52
Health & Safety	52
Twinning Arrangements	52
Procurement Office	54
Corporate Communications Team	54
Energy Analysis – 2014	55
National Commemoration Ceremony	56

HUMAN RESOURCES

Workforce Plan	58
Change Management	58
Recruitment and Staff Complement	58
Job Activation	58
Payroll	58
Performance Management	58
Staff Training & Development	58
Human Resource Management System (CORE)	59
Pensions	59
Work Life Balance Measures	59
Service Indicators	59

Corporate Services and Change Management

The Corporate Services and Change Management Department covers a wide range of services in addition to providing Management Support Services. The Department deals with areas such as Facilities Management, Higher Education Grants, Register of Electors, Freedom of Information, Customer Services, Purchasing, Health & Safety and a wide variety of ancillary services relating to Council business. The Department also deals with matters relating to the new Single Authority.

Change Management

Creation of a New Local Authority

Limerick City and County Council was formally established on 1st June, 2014 under the Local Government Reform Act, 2014. Prior to the official merger, the staff, processes and technology across the 500 services provided by the Local Authority were brought together.

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

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

The Change Management Team has been working with Management Team, Staff and Councillors to create a new operating model for the new Council.

Our structure will:

- Empower our staff to make informed decisions efficiently and equitably
- Seek to simplify processes and procedures so that where possible we will operate on a one call answers all basis so that those engaging with us for our services have only to deal with one staff member. However, certain services require multiple engagements and more time to resolve
- Engage with our local development and social partners to actively participate through our Public Participation Network, our Local Community Development Committee and our Strategic Policy Committees

This means that:

- Under the leadership of our Elected Members we will change our organisation to meet the needs of Limerick over the coming years.
- Our staff will be central to delivering on our commitments in this plan and we will equip them with the necessary professional development.
- Our services will be aligned with the economic, social and physical challenges facing Limerick and the Mid West.
- We aim by the end of 2016 to have redesigned our customer services, our service operations, our finance and technology units and our corporate service and human resources units in place delivering measurable, time-based services which will demonstrate value for money and high quality.
- We are committed to reporting on and delivering on a broad range of services under the direction of our Municipal and Metropolitan Councillors.

Limerick City and County Council is a new Council, placing customer services at the heart of everything we do. We are maximising new and innovative service delivery channels to provide services that matter for the people of Limerick in the best possible way, achieving better value for money. The ultimate test of the efficiency of the new council will be the quality of the citizen and service outcomes it achieves either directly or indirectly. In seeking value for money the council will take into consideration the social, economic and environmental goals.

Corporate Services and Change Management

The new Council will:

1. Be an agile organisation that will be outcome driven through policies, processes and systems.
2. Innovate and adopt new ways of working including the expansion of Customer Services to make access to Council services easier and more cost effective while providing a high quality customer service and experience.
3. Through information provided by a new Customer Relationship Management System, employ data and feedback from users to shape policy and service design.
4. Consolidate our Service Operations to focus on best international practice with a particular emphasis on our maintenance services including housing and roads.
5. Increase the use of technology to provide Council services and greater co-ordination of digital service provision with partners to enable and encourage more households to get online.
6. Implement and publish appropriate performance measurement with targets that are relevant to the public.
7. Implement an integrated career based development programme for our staff to make sure that they have the necessary skills and capacity to meet the challenges that will arise during the life of this Plan.

'Putting People First' is the action programme for effective local government 2012 and outlines government policy for reform and development right across the local government system. This action programme is underpinned by the Local Government Reform Act, 2014. This programme 'sees local government leading economic, social and community development, as well as delivering efficient services that are good value'. The new Limerick City and County Council has kept 'Putting People First' at the heart of the design of the new Council which articulates clear requirements for:

- Leading economic, social and community development
- Delivering efficient and good value services, and
- Representing citizens and local communities effectively and accountably.

Corporate Services and Change Management

Awards

Limerick City and County Council won the overall award of 'Local Authority of the Year' at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards in November. In addition, Limerick City and County Council won the Local Authority Innovation Award for 'creating a new agile public governance model through the merger of Limerick City Council and Limerick County Council'. Limerick Smarter Travel won the Smarter Travel category for their work developing and promoting sustainable modes of transport for those living, working and studying in four hubs of Limerick City and suburbs. Limerick City and County Council was also shortlisted for two more awards; the City Quays Remodelling Scheme and Limerick City and County Council Business and Retail Incentive Scheme. As an organisation in existence less than 6 months at that stage, this was a great achievement and is testimony to the commitment of the staff to embracing the change. Chambers Ireland represents the business community and The Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards are held annually in association with the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

Miriam O'Donoghue and Pat O'Neill, Limerick Smarter Travel, Conn Murray, Chief Executive of Limerick City and County Council, Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick and Carmel Kirby, Limerick City and County Council celebrate the Council winning Local Authority of the Year at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards.

Corporate Services and Change Management

Customer Services

Our Customer Services Department was established initially to support the move of Directorates between locations thereby ensuring a continuation of service to our customers and elected representatives.

Customer Services is now evolving and in October 2014, all front line Environment services went live in Customer Services. This means that all Environmental service requests received via the counter, email, telephone or twitter in Dooradoyle, Merchant's Quay, Kilmallock, Newcastle West and Rathkeale are being handled in line with 'first point of contact resolution' where possible. Customer Services will try and answer queries and not transfer the customer to another area to be dealt with. Customer Services and Environment have signed an operation level agreement which outlines the responsibilities of each area around the delivery of the Service. There is a comprehensive IT system supporting Customer Services called Sugar CRM (Customer Relationship Management) and this system will be rolled out across the organisation in 2015.

The overall purpose of Customer Services is to improve and simplify public access to Limerick City and County Council's services across multiple locations. Therefore, there will be further integration of all Council front line services into Customer Services so as to provide a more efficient and streamlined customer experience.

Customer Services Staff Dooradoyle taking the first Environment Phone Call November 2014

Signing of Operation Level Agreement between Environment and Customer Services.

Front row L-R:
Christy O'Connor, Senior Executive Officer Environment, Triona Daly, Customer Services Co Ordinator.

Back row L-R:
Linda Reidy and Antoinette Holland, Customer Services.

Corporate Services and Change Management

Freedom of Information

In 2014 there were 81 requests made under the Freedom of Information Acts 1997/2003/2014 to Limerick City & County Council.

Request Outcomes

Granted	20
Part –Granted	41
Refused	7
Withdrawn	3
Live Cases at the 31st December 2014	10

Freedom Of Information Act 2014
The Freedom of Information Act 2014 was signed into law on the 14th October 2014.The purpose of the new legislation was to consolidate and update the FOI legalisation and to replace the Freedom of Information Acts 1997-2003. The policy of Limerick City & County Council is to give members of the public access to information held by the Authority in accordance with the provisions of the Act. Further information and application forms are available on the Council's website www.limerick.ie

Office of the Ombudsman
This office was established under the Ombudsman Act ,1980. Its role is to investigate complaints about administrative actions, delays or inactions adversely affecting persons or bodies in their dealings with state bodies including Local Authorities. In 2014, Limerick City & County Council dealt with a total of 29 complaints that were made to the Ombudsman in relation to decisions/actions taken by the Council.

Register of Electors

The Register of Electors is updated and produced annually and comprises a list of all persons over the age of 18 years resident in the City and County who are entitled to vote in Elections to the Dáil, the European Assembly, Presidential, Local Elections and Referenda. The publication date for the Register of Electors is 1st February and the Register comes into effect on the 15th February each year.

There are 3 Dáil Constituencies in Limerick. The constituencies are as follows and the number of Dáil Seats in each-

Limerick City	4 Seats
Limerick	3 Seats
Kerry North/ West Limerick	3 Seats

There were 133,476 Presidential Electors and 138,702 Local Government Electors on the Live 2014/2015 Register of Electors which was published on the 1st February 2014 and the Local Government Electorate is broken down as follows between the 6 Local Electoral Areas:-

Adare-Rathkeale	22,572
Cappamore-Kilmallock	27,096
Limerick City East	27,345
Limerick City North	20,662
Limerick City West	19,739
Newcastle West	21,288

A Supplement to the Register Of Electors 2014/2015 was published for the Local and European Elections, which were held on Friday 23rd May 2014 with a total Electorate of 2,595.

Members of the public can check if they are registered correctly on the Electoral Register online enquiries on www.limerick.ie. If details are incorrect or not registered members of the public can apply for an application form to corporate@limerick.ie

Corporate Services and Change Management

1 Limerick Count Centre at the University of Limerick.

2 Chris O'Brien and Peter Fiztgerald, pictured at the Limerick Count Centre at the University of Limerick.

3 Anne Linnane and Maurice Fitzgerald, pictured at the Limerick Count Centre at the University of Limerick.

Corporate Services and Change Management

Higher Education Grants

Limerick City and County Council administered the Higher Education Grants Scheme for Renewals only for the 2013/2014 academic year. All new Higher Education Grant applications and applications for students who changed course were processed by the single awarding authority Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI).

Limerick City and County Council processed over 353 applications. Total expenditure amounted to over €3.2m and this includes an amount of €294,904 that was paid out as Special Rate of Maintenance Grants. A total of 120 students were awarded the Special Rate of Maintenance Grant in 2013/2014.

Health & Safety

Key activities in 2014 include:

- Standardisation of safety management systems across Limerick City and County Council to demonstrate good governance in relation to safety and health.
- Implementation of programmed safety inspections.
- Management of accident reporting and investigation.
- Annual review of risk assessments, standard operating procedures and safety statements.
- Review and integration of National Health and Safety Policies.
- Identification and completion of health and safety training.
- Participation at regional and national forums to ensure the interests of Limerick City and County Council are advanced.

Twinning Arrangements

Sister City Relationship with Spokane, Washington State

The Limerick Spokane Sister City Relationship was officially begun on 4th March, 1990 when the Mayors of Spokane and Limerick signed a joint agreement linking the two cities. Amongst the objectives of the Sister City Relationship is to foster and encourage bonds of friendship and understanding between the two cities and to bring events of Irish Culture to Spokane. Mayor Cllr. Kathleen Leddin and a Council Official visited Spokane in May 2014. While there a number of meetings were held with the Spokane Limerick Board Members and a Mayoral Reception was hosted by the Mayor of Spokane in honour of Mayor Leddin's visit. Mayor Leddin also visited the Sister City 'Connections' Garden and addressed a meeting of the Spokane City Council.

Memorandum of Understanding with Santa Clara, California

Limerick City and County Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Santa Clara, California to formulate a Sister City Relationship in a bid to strengthen economic and civic ties between the two cities. Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick was joined at the Sister Cities International Conference in San Jose California by Mayor of Santa Clara, Jamie Matthews, to sign the Agreement which aims to increase economic development, cultural exchanges, educational opportunities and technical exchanges between both cities. The establishment of a permanent relationship will also increase awareness of both Limerick and Santa Clara as being centres for education, innovation and business development. Limerick is the first Sister City for Santa Clara for more than 30 years. Schools from Santa Clara have enjoyed enchanges with the Redemptorist and Salesian Schools in Limerick while bands from the Californian city have taken part in the Limerick International Band Championship. Exchanges have also taken place between both Irish and US Rotary Clubs based in the localities. Limerick has now joined Coimbra, Portugal and Izumo, Japan as one of Santa Clara's Sister Cities.

Corporate Services and Change Management

Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick signs Twinning Agreement with New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA.

Corporate Services – Twinning 2014

A delegation from Hohenlohekreis visited Limerick City and County Council early in April 2014. In the course of their visit they toured Adare including the Heritage Centre, Adare Manor and the Trinitarian Abbey. They also visited the Flying Boat Museum in Foynes. The delegation toured King John's Castle and were given a guided tour of the University of Limerick where they enjoyed lunch at Plassey House.

A delegation from New Brunswick, New Jersey visited Limerick City and County Council in November 2014. A twinning or "sister cities" declaration was signed by the Mayor of New Brunswich and the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick. In the course of their visit, the delegation toured Lough Gur, Adare, King John's Castle. Some members of the delegation met with the Chamber of Commerce. They also visited Vistakon whose headquarters is located in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

A delegation including Mayor Mark Holland from Kansas City, Wyandotte County visited Limerick City and County Council in May 2014. In the course of their visit the delegation met with the Innovation Hub and Marketing Limerick. The delegation toured King John's Castle. They visited St. Mary's Cathedral and the Hunt Museum.

Corporate Services and Change Management

Procurement Office

The role of the Procurement Officer includes the carrying out of Corporate wide procurements, the provision of guidance and support on procurement, to assist in the preparation of tender documents and to develop standard documentation and templates for use in the procurement process.

During 2014 the following were achieved:

- A Procurement Procedures and Thresholds document was introduced and is supported by a wide range of templates and information.
- 20 staff received in-house training on National and European Public Procurement Rules.
- Commenced using national frameworks such as Bulk Fuel, Gas and PPE.
- A Legal Services tender was run which has resulted in a consortium being put in place to provide legal services

Corporate Communications Team

- The Corporate Communications Team was established in 2014 and is based in Merchant's Quay.
- It's responsibilities include dealing with daily local and national media queries, publishing 'Council Connect' the staff magazine, overseeing Limerick.ie, the official guide to Limerick and the Council website, social media and all corporate communications on behalf of the Local Authority.
- In 2014 the Corporate Communications Team issued press releases, news alerts, answered questions from local and national media and dealt with all queries posed on the Council's official twitter account. Three staff magazines were produced and distributed to all Council staff.
- The use of corporate social media accounts has been developed to enhance and improve communication by the Council, in particular at times of service disruption or extreme weather events i.e. water supply disruptions or flooding.
- Nearly half a million users visited Limerick.ie in 2014, an increase of 40% on visitors on the previous year. Visitor numbers peaked for the St Patrick's Festival, Riverfest and the visit of the Giant Granny. Limerick.ie is set to go under extensive re-development in 2015.

Draw Out, Parnell Street

Corporate Services and Change Management

Limerick City & County Council - Energy Analysis – 2014

The following tables set out the energy cost & consumption for Limerick City & County Council in 2014

		€uro
2014	Total Energy Spend	€4,404,098
2014	Electricity - Total Annual Spend	€3,063,850
2014	Electricity - Annual Spend on Water Services	€171,409
2014	Electricity - Annual Spend on Public Lighting	€143,499
2014	Electricity - Other than water & PL	€2,748,941
2014	Road Fuels (diesel / petrol / biofuel) - Total Annual Spend	€1,110,719
2014	Heating Fuels (Gas/ oil/ biomass etc) - Total Annual Spend	€229,529
2014	Misc. other fossil fuels (sml lpg etc) - Total Annual Spend	€-

Actions Undertaken in 2014

In 2014 {Limerick City & County Council} undertook a range of initiatives to improve our energy performance, including:

1	Water Services Upgrades Building Fabric & Services	353	MWh of savings
2	Upgrades	330	MWh of savings
	Total 2014	683	MWh of savings

In 2014 {Limerick City & County Council} intends to undertake a range of initiatives to improve our energy performance, including:

1	Transport Energy Building Fabric & Services	268	MWh of savings
2	Upgrades	105	MWh of savings
	Total 2014	373	MWh of savings

Corporate Services and Change Management

National Commemoration Ceremony

Limerick hosted a Day of Commemoration Ceremony in July 2014 to honour all Irish men and Irish women who died in past wars or on service with the United Nations. This was the fourth 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 the City and County of Limerick presided.

National Day of Commemoration

Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick laid the wreath in honour of all those Irishmen and Irishwomen who died in past wars or on service with the United Nations.

Limerick City and County Council honour all those Irishmen and Irishwomen who died in past wars or on service with the United Nations, Pat Dowling, Limerick City and County Council with the officiating representatives of the Faith Traditions at the start of the Ceremony.

Nightime view of Georges Quay, Limerick.

Human Resources

The role of the Human Resources department is to ensure that the Council has available to it the required number of suitably qualified and skilled staff in the right locations to deliver the objectives of the organisation.

Workforce Plan

During 2014 the Council adopted a Workforce Plan for the period 2014-2016. It set out the current position with regard to staffing resources, the expected changes over the relevant period of the plan and the Council's proposals for dealing with those changes by way of recruitment/reassignment.

Change Management

The Department's approach to the successful establishment of the new Council was multi faceted. It involved direct negotiations with trade unions, extensive discussion with individual staff members and detailed planning and implementation with Change Management/Other Departments

Recruitment and staffing complement

The Council's staffing complement including part-time employees at 31st December 2014 was 1180.

Competitions were held to fill sanctioned essential posts and 46 new employees joined the Council in 2014.

Support also continued for placement schemes for second and third level schools/colleges and other organisations. A total of 64 placements were facilitated during 2014.

Breakdown of posts for interviews for 2014 on male/female basis:

	Male	Female
No. of Candidates	704	167
No. of Candidates called for interview	220	79
No. Placed on Panel	282	41
No. Employed	38	11

Job Activation

The Council facilitated participation in national employment schemes, such as Job-Bridge, Gateway etc. The Gateway initiative was introduced in 2013 to provide short-term work opportunities for the longer-term unemployed. The Council employed 118 people under this scheme during 2014, with contracts of 22 months duration. Participants receive €20 per week in addition to their social welfare payment.

Payroll

In 2014 a single payroll system was established for the new Council following consultation and discussion with staff and trade unions. The Council is now planning for the transition to the national local government shared services for payroll in the summer of 2015.

Performance Management

The Council operates a formal performance management appraisal system. Teams agree their objectives for the year ahead and these are formally reviewed at various points during the year and evaluated at year end. Objectives for individual employees are also agreed with their specific line manager under this system. These are also reviewed during the year and formally evaluated at year end by the line manager.

Staff Training and Development

During 2014 the Council carried out comprehensive training for staff, concentrating primarily on statutory and Health & Safety initiatives. The National training grants in the Non-National Roads, Water Services and Environmental areas assisted significantly in the provision of same. The aforementioned performance management system forms the basis of other essential training provision. Despite fewer financial resources available, the Council's commitment to supporting further education and IPA Local Government programmes continued.

Human Resources

Human Resource Management System (CORE)

The CORE System will be upgraded to a new Version of the software in 2015 (Version 19). Work has commenced on the preparatory work for this upgrade with a Go Live date set for May 2015. The new version of CORE will have increased Self Service functionality and a general upgrade to facilitate ease of use.

Pensions

28 lump sum gratuities were paid out during 2014 in accordance with the City pension scheme. The total value of these payments is as follows:

Gross Lump Sums paid	€1,355,345.22
Deductions made	€78,822.15
Nett Lump Sums paid	€1,276,523.07

14 employees resigned under the Voluntary Redundancy Scheme and the value of the lump sums paid was €811,334.48

Work Life Balance Measures

The Council operates schemes, in so far as possible, that facilitate staff to remain within the workforce but maintain family responsibilities or pursue other opportunities. The numbers involved are:

Part time working week (work sharing/parental leave)	155
Career Break /External secondment	35
Unpaid Leave during the year	25

Service Indicators

% of working days lost to sickness absence through self certified sick leave = 0.35%.

% of working days lost to sickness absence through certified sick leave = 3.74%.

Number of Gateway participants who commenced a work placement during 2014 expressed as a % of the placements allocated to the Local Authority = 107.27%

Paul Crowe

Director of Services,
Travel & Transportation

Limerick's status as a Riverside City was confirmed today with the official opening of a €5 million euro revamp of its historic quays.

Travel & Transportation

Road Works Programme 2014	62
Smarter/Sustainable Travel	65
Road Safety	67
Transportation & Infrastructural SPC	68
Service Indicators 2014	68
Foynes to Limerick Scheme	69
Killarney Pole to Barnagh - Phase 2	69
Road Safety Schemes	69
External Accreditation	69

Road Works Programme 2014.

N21 Newcastle West Pavement & Pedestrian Improvements.

This scheme provided replacement of existing pavement, footpaths and kerbs on a section of the N21 on the Limerick side of Newcastle West town as well as realignment of the junction with the R520 and the construction of a pedestrian bridge to provide additional safety to pedestrians along this section of roadway. Work commenced in October, 2014 and will be completed early in 2015.

N21 Newcastle West

N21 Templeglantine Traffic Calming

Works were completed on provision of a Traffic calming scheme on the N21 in Templeglantine. This section of the N21 has a Hotel, Church, Primary School and Community Hall which results in relatively high volumes of traffic and pedestrians movement. The works included build outs, traffic islands, new public lights and improved signage.

N21 Templeglantine

Southern Green Route

Phase 1 of the Limerick Southern Green Route from Ballinacurra Creek to Punches Cross reached substantial completion during 2014. The scheme commenced in April 2013 and has been funded by the National Transport Authority as part of a nationwide plan to improve reliability of public transport services and encourage a mode change. Works on the scheme in 2014 involved the installation of new road surfacing, line-marking, signage, boundary treatments, gating of the Baggot Estate and various accommodation works and tie-in details.

(Photo - Southern Green Route (Ballinacurra Road)

Southern Green Route (Ballincurra Road)

Travel & Transportation

Low Cost Safety Improvements

Low Cost safety Improvements were provided at the following locations :

Bloodmill Road,
Thomond Bridge/Clancy Strand
N21 Wards Cross, Abbeyfeale

Surface Dressing & Reconstruction

The Council provided Surface Dressing on 7 km of Regional Roads and 63 km of Local Roads in 2014. In addition re-construction works were carried out on 13 km of Regional Roads and 67 km of Local Roads in the same period.

Structures/Bridges Works 2014

Work was carried out to repair or replace a number of bridges in 2014.

Glasha Bridge, Doon, Deck Replacement

The existing concrete slab deck was replaced by new pre-stressed concrete beams and reinforced concrete bridge deck at a cost of €140,000.

Coon Bridge Extension

Coon Bridge is located on Local Road L13083, on the County boundary between Limerick and Cork. Remedial works included the demolition of a section of the existing masonry retaining wall; repointing and under pinning of abutments; pressure grouting arch barrel; widening of existing culvert with precast box culverts; construction of reinforced concrete river training walls and road resurfacing. The cost of this work was €100,000.

The Council received a specific Improvement Grant of €200,000 towards upgrading both Glasha Bridge and Coon Bridge. Cork County Council contributed €40,000 towards the cost of the works at Coon Bridge as the bridge is on the Limerick/Cork border.

Glasha Bridge – old deck has just been dismantled and removed.

Coon Bridge – Base has been prepared for bridge extension.

Bridge replacement Pallasgreen
A new bridge was constructed over the Mulkear River at Pallasgreen on Local Road L1135 during 2014 at a cost of €720,000. This bridge replaced an older bridge which was defective. During construction work, a temporary bridge had to be provided as there was no alternative access for some landowners.

Pallasgreen Bridge

Emergency repairs
Emergency repair works were carried out on a number of bridges in 2014, including Castlecreagh Bridge, Galbally; Mountplummer Bridge, Broadford and Strand Bridge, Monagea.

In addition a flash flood event in the village of Doon and its environs on the evening of the 24th of July 2014 caused significant damage to six Local Authority bridge structures and road embankments in the area. The Council quickly arranged for repair works to these structures.

Strand Bridge – underpinning/floor being poured

Smarter/Sustainable Travel

Works continued under the Smarter Travel Initiative, with the aim of transforming people's travel behaviour towards a healthier and more sustainable form of travel. A cycling link has been provided between Limerick City and the University of Limerick along the Dublin Road R445. Improvement work is ongoing on the shared cycling/walking path (Route 2 phase 1) from Leila Street along the canal bank to the Guinness Bridge this work includes the installation of rest areas, bike stands and gym equipment, lighting and CCTV. The remaining infrastructural improvement work, the Guinness Bridge to the University of Limerick is awaiting a decision from An Board Pleanála.

An additional secure cycle parking in City Centre has been provided in Howley's Quay Car park in addition to the existing one in the Anne St. Car Park. A third area is currently under construction in Denmark Street Car Park which will open in 2015.One bike corral has been provided in the city centre and a further two are planned.

The Limerick Smarter Travel School Project is being delivered in partnership with An Taisce Green-Schools (GST) programme. LST is funding the accelerated delivery of the Green Schools Travel module in schools within the demonstration area, 24 schools have worked with LST since the commencement of the programme and it is hoped to engage a further 9 in 2015/16. The Limerick Smarter Travel School Project was short-listed and received a commendation at the Irish Planning Institute Awards in Dublin Castle in February 2014.

Eight of Limerick's largest workplaces and three campuses with over 9000 employees and 23,000 students are participating in LST's Workplace and Campus Programme to develop a Travel Action Plan, completed travel plans have been delivered to each organisation in 2014.

Since the project commenced there has been ongoing community consultation, The Big Action Travel Challenge plan was launched in autumn 2014 and will be rolled out in 10 communities within the demonstration area where communities will be consulted around travel planning for their local area leading to the development of new initiative.

Limerick Smarter planned and organized the BeSPOKE Bike Festival during Bike Week in 2014 this includes the hugely popular EXPO on Bedford Row, where the Minister Alan Kelly TD launched National Bike Week 2014. A series of weeklong events were run by LST throughout the city culminating in the Riverside Family which took place on Sunday 22nd June with an attendance of 1200 cyclists. The cycle route followed an 8km loop, finishing on the City Quay's new boardwalk. The cycle parade was followed by entertainment and refreshments on Howley's Quay and City Quay's and was a great family event.

A new website has been built and can be viewed on https://smartertravel.limerick.ie/ LST is also available on Facebook at www.facebook.facebook.com/LimerickSmarter accumulative reach 714,306 in 2014 and on Twitter at www.Twitter.com/lksmartertravel Total twitter impressions 4575.

Travel & Transportation

Limerick Bike Parade

Bike Scheme

The Coke Zero Bike Scheme is a public bike share scheme which has been funded by the NTA for Cork, Galway and Limerick. The installation of the Limerick scheme commenced in August 2014 with an advanced enabling works contract by Maramba Road Services Limited, providing power to the majority of sites. The main installation works contract was awarded to Sierra Construction. Installation of the bike stands commenced on site in September 2014. The scheme will eventually consist of 23 bike stations located at strategic points around the city centre. Currently sixteen sites are operational around Limerick City Centre with another six due for completion shortly. The final site will be located within the confines of the newly proposed Colbert Station redevelopment project. The long term plan for the scheme will be the provision of an extension of the scheme to the University of Limerick campus and various city suburbs.

Seating & Bike Parking

Coca-Cola Zero Bikes Arrive in Limerick:
Minister for Education and Skills Jan O'Sullivan TD joined Hugh Creegan, Deputy CEO of the National Transport Authority, Cllr Maria Byrne, Deputy Mayor of Limerick, Frank O'Donnell, General Manager of Coca-Cola HBC Ireland and Northern Ireland, and David Wallace former Ireland and Munster rugby player to officially launch the Coca-Cola Zero Bikes in Limerick.

Road Safety

Lifesaver Project
During 2014 the successful Lifesaver Project initiative, which is led by An Garda Siochana and supported by the Limerick Ambulance Service, the H.S.E., Limerick City & County Fire Service and the Road Safety Department of Limerick City & County & City Council continued with two presentations in the Southcourt Hotel Raheen during October.

This programme continues to be part of the second & third level institutions calendar of events in both City & County. The event was attended by over 1600 second level & Youth Reach students during 2014. Students participating in the Lifesaver Project receive poignant, focused information and advice on the dangers and consequences of road traffic collisions.

Lifesaver Project Road Safety Event South Court Hotel Raheen

Junior School Warden Scheme

The Junior School Warden Schemes of Rathkeale & Ballylanders primary schools continued to provide safe crossing facilities for their classmates during 2014. This scheme which has been in operation in the County since 1975 owes its success to the huge commitment from the pupils, parents, teachers and Gardai.

Junior School Wardens Rathkeale

Cycling Safety Training

The Cycling Safety & Skills programme continued during 2014 with 630 pupils from nineteen primary schools in the City & County participating during 2014. This programme provides children with an understanding of cycling safety theory, bicycle care and practical bicycle safety and is planned to work into the school timetable.

The programme is subvented by Limerick City & County Council and also receives support funding from the Road Safety Authority.

Transportation & Infrastructural S.P.C.

Due to the fact that Local Government Elections took place in 2014, the Council's Transportation & Infrastructural Committee held it's final meeting in March, 2014.

Items discussed at the meeting included an update on a meeting between Elected members and Officials of the Council with the NRA to discuss proposals for improvements to the County's National Roads system and details of the transfer of services from the Council to Irish Water.

Local Government Service Indicators 2014 - Limerick City & County Council

Surveyed:

79.6% of total Regional & Local Road network surveyed (this includes the city) in 2014

35 % of Regional Roads

94% of Local Primary Roads

94% of Local Secondary Roads

60% of Local Tertiary Roads

BREAKDOWN OF SURVEY RDS

Rating	PSCI 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Grand Total
LP	0.00%	0.06%	0.18%	3.03%	6.26%	17.22%	40.70%	23.36%	7.68%	1.49%	100.00%
LS	0.19%	0.14%	0.66%	4.64%	11.21%	23.25%	39.49%	15.45%	4.13%	0.85%	100.00%
LT	4.42%	2.94%	4.02%	16.05%	18.24%	25.25%	21.41%	6.05%	1.63%	0.00%	100.00%
R	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.35%	4.16%	13.68%	21.29%	44.73%	14.99%	0.79%	100.00%
	4.61%	3.14%	4.86%	24.07%	39.87%	79.40%	122.89%	89.60%	28.44%	3.13%	

Notes on Indicators

LP = Local Primary Road LS = Local Secondary Road LT = Local Tertiary Road R = Regional Road

Rating 1 = Excellent – No Maintenance Required
Rating 10 = Failure – Restoration Required

Travel & Transportation

Foynes to Limerick Scheme

The Mid West National Road Design Office has been requested by the National Roads Authority to progress the design of a new roadway between Foynes and Limerick of approximately 35km in length to dual carriageway standard. Engineering Consultants have been appointed to the Limerick to Foynes project and works are progressing through the constraints / route selection stage.

Killarney Pole to Barnagh - Phase 2

Funding has been made available to construct Phase 2 of N21 Killarney Pole to Barnagh Road Safety Scheme. Separate procurement processes have been finalised for the appointment of a Main Works Contractor and for the appointment of Engineering Consultants.

Road Safety Schemes

The office has been requested to assist in the project management of a number of Part 8 Developments for Limerick City & County Council, Tipperary County Council & Clare County Council.

Examples of such projects include:

- The N21 Templeglantine Traffic Calming Scheme which has been constructed.
- N20 O'Rourke's Cross. The Mid West National Road Design Office has been tasked with progressing the preliminary design of a roundabout junction at this location.
- Funding has been made available to construct the N24 Dromkeen Traffic Calming scheme. A procurement process has been completed and a contractor appointed.
- Funding has been made available to undertake the Portumna to Lehinch Pavement Overlay Schemes in County Tipperary – Phases 1 & 2. The procurement process for Phase 1 is complete. The design of Phase 2 is substantially complete.
- Funding has been made available to progress the N67/N85 Blake's Corner in Ennistymon, Co Clare. Engineering Consultants have been appointed from the NRA framework and works have developed towards the identification of the preferred option.

External Accreditation

The Mid West National Road Design Office continues to retain both the ISO 9001:2008 standard with the NSAI and CPD accreditation with Engineers Ireland.

Mid West
National Road Design Office

Port of Foynes

Templeglantine Traffic Calming Scheme

Kieran Lehane

Director of Services Environment and Water

Photo Credit: Mary McCarthy Westfields

Environment & Water

ENVIRONMENT

Environment Department 72
Waste Infrastructure 73
Litter Management 74
Street Cleaning/Parks & Horticulture 75
Southern Region Regional Waste Management Office 76
Education and Awareness 76
Veterinary Services 79
Pollution Control & Water Quality Management 79
Septic Tank Inspections 81
Burial Grounds/Cemeteries 2014 82
Services Indicators 84

WATER SERVICES 85

Services Indicators 85

Environment & Water

Environment Department

The Environment Department covers a broad area of activity including waste, litter, pollution, veterinary services, parks, playgrounds and cemeteries.

Environmental Strategic Policy Committee – Limerick County Council
The then Limerick City & Limerick County Council's Environmental Strategic Policy Committee met on three occasions during 2014, to discuss policy issues of strategic importance to the Council.

A meeting of the County Council's Environmental SPC was held on 19th March, 2014.

The following matters were discussed:
- Scheme of Assistance for maintenance of open spaces.
- Election/public meeting posters.
- Dog fouling in graveyards.
- A Presentation was made by Mr. Jack O'Connor, BHSL, with regard to "animal by-products as fuels".

Environmental Strategic Policy Committee – Limerick City Council
Limerick City Council's Environmental Strategic Policy Committee met on two occasions in 2014. The Environmental SPC met on 24th February, 2014 during which policy making, reports and strategies in relation to the following matters were discussed:
- Litter Management
- Draft Tree Policy
- Control of Horses
- Regional Waste Management Planning
- Temporary Signage.

The Environment SPC also held a Special Meeting on 7th April, 2014 during which the issue of the control of horses was discussed.

Paul O'Grady Taking Water Sample from the River Maigue, Bruree

Mt St Laurence Burial Ground in Winter

JP McManus and Richard Lynch Going for Gold Final

Waste Infrastructure

The infrastructure unit operates a full range of public and internal facilities. Some of the services in this area include:

1 2 licensed Landfills in after care phase at Longpavement and Gortadroma 26 Historic Landfills (former sites operated by the Council)
2 5 Civic Amenity Centres located at Mungret, Kilmallock, Newcastle West, Park Road Depot and Gortadroma Landfill cater for the recycling of comprehensive range of materials including green waste, timber and larger items like white goods and furniture.
3 64 Bring Banks are located in settlements through out the City and County for Glass and Cans
4 1 waste to energy plant at Gortadroma producing 1 MW of electricity form landfill gas and a waste transfer station.

Waste Regulation – Authorisations including Granting and Auditing

There are a large number of authorised waste sites in Limerick which are governed by various regulations under the Waste Management Act including

- 50 active Waste Facilities Permits/Registrations, which are sites for the processing or transfer of Soils and Stones, Paper, Compost, End of Life (scrap) Vehicles and similar wastes.
- 16 (13 County and 3 City) new/reviews of Waste Facility Permits/Registrations in 2013.
- 200 waste collectors
- 10 Packaging Self Compliers were issued and audited
- 40 Food waste premises were inspected
- 95 Permission to burn Green Agricultural Waste
- 5 temporary scrap metal collection sites were authorised
- 6 Farm Plastic collection sites were authorised
- 21 car producers were registered under the End of Life Regulations.

Waste Enforcement

754 Waste related complaints were received during 2014. 76 warning letters issued, 77 statutory notices issued and 13 waste related prosecutions undertaken.

Of note was a high court action taken against a household waste operator to remove odorous material from a site in Galvone industrial estate. The Council also secured the removal of an illegal skip operator and the impounding of 4 waste collection vehicles used in unauthorised activities.

Waste Segregation

Statistics in relation to waste segregation are compiled by the National Waste Collection Permit Office in Offaly County Council. The 2014 returns are not available as yet. The figures as outlined hereunder relate to the levels of activity in 2013.

99% of households who utilise a waste collection service are provided with segregated waste collection for dry recyclables.

75% of households who utilise a waste collection service are provided with segregated collection for organics.

Housing waste sent for Recycling
45% of household waste collected from kerbside is sent for recycling.

The total tonnage of Household waste collected from kerbside which is sent for recycling is 18,423 tonnes.

Household waste sent for landfill
The total percentage of household waste sent to landfill is 46%, and representing a tonnage of 18824 tonnes.

Litter Management

During 2014, Limerick City and County Council's Litter Management team were actively involved in enforcing the provisions of the Litter Pollution Acts, Waste Management Acts together with the Limerick County Council Bye-Laws for the "Presentation, Storage & Segregation for the purpose of an in the course of the "Collection of Household and Commercial Waste" and the Limerick City Council Bye Laws for the "Presentation and Collection of Household Waste and Commercial Waste". It is recognised that an effective enforcement policy complemented by targeted awareness campaigns are necessary in making progress in reducing the volume of litter generated in Limerick.

- A total of 2,829 complaints related to litter and waste were recorded on the Environment Section's databases during 2014.
- Over 794 on-the-spot fines were issued to offenders for litter related offences.
  - The total amount of income from spot fines was in excess of €36,000.
- A total of 48 cases were referred for legal proceedings under the Litter Pollution Acts, 30 of which resulted in a conviction.
- Fines were also issued under the presentation of waste bye-laws.
- Clean-up works were undertaken at litter "Black Spots" and "No Dumping" signs were erected at sites and on routes prone to illegal dumping. Furthermore, CCTV units were placed at selected sites, where feasible

The Litter Team includes two Environmental Control Officers, two Environmental Inspectors and one Litter Warden patrolling the City and County.

Dog Litter Awareness Campaign

- The Environment Dept in conjunction with and An Garda Siochána carried out a joint campaign aimed at encouraging dog owners to clean up after their animals that foul in public areas.
- The campaign commenced in the city centre in mid October and targeted the city centre and the city environs.

Michael Walsh, Environmental Inspector, Garda David O'Connell, Mairead O'Donovan and Michaela Deegan with her 'My Canine Companion' dog 'Meggie'

Garda David O'Connell and 'Meggie' from 'My Canine Companion'

Street Cleaning/Parks & Horticulture

2014 was an extremely busy year for the Parks and Landscaping and Cleansing teams which got off to a very challenging start with the flood event in January 2014 and Storm Darwin in February 2014.

Street Cleaning

- Continued to provide a daily street sweeping and rubbish removal service resulting in an improved IBAL rating of clean to European norms
- Street Cleaning crews provided extensive assistance in the clean up after the flood event in January 2014
- Support was also provided for the large number of City of Culture events. In Particular, the visit of the Giant Granny kept our teams very busy in the first weekend of September.
- Additional street cleaning was required to assist the Great Limerick Run, Riverfest, Commemoration Sunday, Thomond Park rugby matches and GAA games.
- Street Cleaning very actively supported Tidy Towns, Going for Gold and Spring Clean events throughout the year.

Parks and Landscaping:

- Storm Darwin - Parks and Landscaping crews worked through the night on 12th February to remove fallen trees and get roads opened as quickly as possible. Works continued throughout the year dealing with the aftermath of the storm.
- Bandstand in People's Park was restored to its former glory providing a lovely focal point in the park which can be used for performances.
- Parks played an important role in a number of City of Culture events hosting the Special Olympics Opening Ceremony, Proms in the park, Culture and Chips, and open air cinema.
- The Giant Granny spent a wonderfully peaceful night in Shelbourne Park and had a refreshing afternoon snooze in Lee Estate during her visit to Limerick and was carefully minded by Parks staff
- Other events hosted - 4th of July celebration, Hallowe'en Spooktacular.
- Extensive grass cutting, tree pruning and estate maintenance programme was carried out.

Bin it your way - asking people to do the right thing and put their litter in a bin Cllr. Joe Crowley, Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick & Helen O'Donnell, Limerick City Centre Tidy Towns Group

Environment & Water

Donal O'Grady. Senior Hurling Captain, raising the Green Flag at Feenagh NS

Limerick City and County schools receive their green flags at the an Taisce Green Schools

Southern Region Regional Waste Management Office

Limerick City and County Council are joint lead authority with Tipperary County Council for the Southern Waste region. The draft Southern Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 was published and advertised on the 18th November 2014 and a 2 month public consultation phase followed. 95 submissions were received and considered and amendments have been incorporated into the new plan which is expected to be published in Quarter 2 of 2015.

The strategic vision of this new plan is to rethink our approach to managing waste, by viewing waste as material resource leading to a healthier environment and sustainable commercial opportunities for our economy.

Prevention, reuse, repair and recycling programmes will continue to be policy actions going forward. The Plan shows that waste generation per household is continuing to fall and recycling/recovery rates are rising. The Southern Regional Waste Management Office will continue to engage with all stakeholders to run ambitious programmes going forward with over 50 policy actions published. This Region has also published 28 policy statements and siting criteria to support sustainable waste infrastructure.

Education and Awareness

2014 was a busy year for Environment Awareness in Limerick.

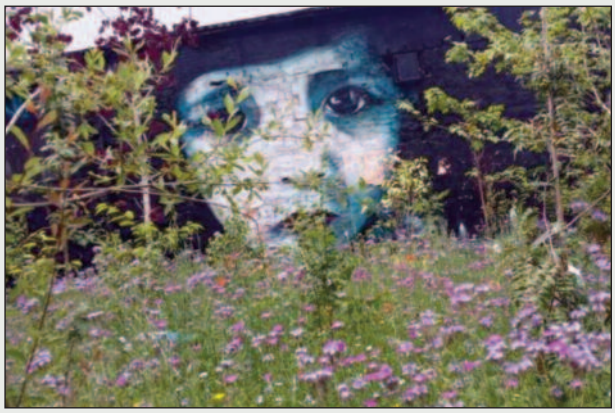
- There are 176 schools registered for the An Taisce Green Schools programme. 122 Schools have Green flags.
- Over 70 teachers participated in the Annual Green Schools Seminar in October.
- 16 environmental workshops were facilitated for schools.
- Facebook and twitter accounts are maintained by the Environment Department.

- A successful Eco Unesco Capacity Building workshops was hosted with Limerick Youth Service Centre.
- A Christmas advert was produced to promote Green Christmas.
- 2 successful Christmas Jumper Upcycling Workshops were facilitated in the City Centre and Newcastlewest with the local Tidy Towns Groups.
- Participation in the LAPN network with the 'Food Waste Prevention Web' based in the Moyross Community.
- 2 Community Waste Prevention and Resource Efficiency Workshops run in the community.
- Life Long Learning week home composting and food waste prevention workshop.
- The Environment Department exhibited at the ICMSA AGM in Southcourt Hotel.
- Two successful Tidy Towns Seminars were hosted in February to assist Tidy Towns groups across the City and County.
- The overall winner in Limerick in Bloom was the Athea Tidy Towns.
- Limerick Going for Gold campaign was run in conjunction with the JP McManus Charitable Foundation. The campaign aims to make Limerick a brighter, better and cleaner The overall winner of the Going for Gold Tidy Towns Category was Caherdavin and Kilteragh were successful in the Community Challenge Category.
- Over 2000 volunteers participated in 150 clean-up events during National Spring Clean. Bags, gloves, litter pickers were given to schools, residents associations, community groups, etc. The Environment Department continues to support groups with clean ups throughout the year.
- Team Limerick Clean Up was launched.

JP McManus and Horse Racing Legend AP McCoy with representatives of Caherdavin Tidy Towns at Limerick Going for Gold 2014

Representatives of Limerick Senior Hurling Team at Going for Gold 2014

Environment & Water



Biodiversity Garden Thomas Street

Veronica Santorum, Frederic Vyghen and Mary Conroy, www.limericksbuzzing.ie

Limerick Youth Service carry out innovative works to brighten up Post Office Lane for the City Centre Tidy Town Initiative

Veterinary Services

The Veterinary Section delivered official veterinary controls in 22 approved meat processing premises during the year. This service is provided under a contract arrangement with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland. The premises supervised included abattoirs, fresh meat cutting establishments and meat product plants located in Limerick City and County.

At the abattoirs all animals intended for slaughter for human consumption were inspected by a veterinary inspector before and after slaughter, as required under food safety law. Total numbers inspected in 2014 were as follows; Cattle 2234, Sheep 7551, Pigs 206, Goats 28.

Our Dog Control Service covers both the Limerick City and County. Our dog wardens dealt with a total of 705 stray and unwanted dogs during the year. Of these, 25 were reclaimed and 349 re-homed. Regrettably, it was necessary to put 329 dogs to sleep.

413 stray horses were seized and impounded in 2014 of which 21 were reclaimed by their owners.

Pollution Control & Water Quality Management

Pollution Control Team: Discharge Licensing.

Under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts 1977-2007, premises that discharge trade effluent to the public sewer, or to surface or ground waters, require a discharge licence.

The Pollution Control Team manages the issuing of licences to discharge to waters and subsequent enforcement. Audit inspections of premises by technical staff members are carried out on an ongoing basis. The total number of inspections of water licences for 2014 was 125, which includes 105 administrative desktop inspections and 20 on-site visits. The latter may be broken down by municipal area as follows:

• Adare-Rathkeale:	15
• Cappamore-Kilmallock:	3
• Newcastle West:	2
Total:	20

From 1st January 2014, Irish Water became the statutory body for the administration of licences to discharge to the public sewers. The Pollution Control Team works in partnership with Irish Water in this regard and a service level agreement is in place. Technical staff members carry out onsite inspections of premises and advise Irish Water on applications for licences and enforcement issues. A total 205 inspections of discharge to sewer applications were carried out in 2014. 94 of these were administrative desktop inspections and 111 were on-site inspection. The latter may be broken down as follows:

• Metropolitan District:	94
• Cappamore-Kilmallock	5
• Adare-Rathkeale:	5
• Newcastle West:	7
Total:	111

In 2015 a similar programme of audit inspections is in place. It is planned that 25 discharge to water licences will be inspected during 2015. Discharges to water licences are given priority as these discharges pose a higher risk to watercourses or groundwater.

Each discharge licence holder is obliged to submit regular monitoring reports comprising of sampling of their discharge by an independent laboratory. If a review of these monitoring data shows that problems are arising with the discharge, this case is given priority. Priority is also given to locations where a pollution incident has recently occurred.
Discharge to sewer licences are inspected on rotation, with emphasis being put on recently granted licences in order to ensure the adoption of best practices.

Helen O'Donnell, Limerick City Centre Tidy Towns Group with pupils from St. Mary's NS at the Launch of Going for Gold Short Story Competition.

Gerry Boland of the JP McManus Charitable Foundation, Dr. James Ring, Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick and David Deighan - Received Going for Gold Special Award.

Recipients of the Limerick Going for Gold Individual Merit Award 2014 with Gerry Boland of the JP McManus Charitable Foundation and Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick.

Caherdavin Tidy Towns winner of the Limerick Going for Gold Tidy Towns Category 2014

Claire Waters, Barrington Street, is presented with her first place award in the Garden Competition Category by Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick and Roger Beck, Parkway Shopping Centre manager.
Picture credit: Diarmuid Greene/Fusionshooters Diarmuid.

Members of Limerick Youth Service are presented with their endeavour award by Gerry Boland of the JP McManus Charitable Foundation, along with Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick.

Discharge licensing inspections are carried out on a county wide basis. The cost of the inspection, and of any sample which the Council takes as part of that inspection, is borne by the licence holder. This charge is invoiced in the year following the year of audit. Charges are set by way of a condition of each individual licence.

Pollution Control Team: Air Pollution

The Pollution Control Team is responsible for the enforcement of the requirements of the Air Pollution Act 1987 and related Regulations. This includes:

- The European Union (Installations and Activities using Organic Solvents) Regulations 2012 and 2014. These Regulations control the use of solvents in dry cleaners. It is planned that 12 inspections will take place in 2015.
- The European Union (Paints, Varnishes, Vehicle Refinishing Products and Activities) Regulations 2012 and 2014. These regulations control the use of certain solvent-based substances in car repair installations, among other activities.40 inspections are planned for 2015.
- The Air Pollution Act (Marketing, Sale, Distribution and Burning of Specified Fuels) Regulations. 2012. These Regulations prohibit the marketing, sale, distribution and burning of bituminous (or smoky) fuels within the Specified Area of Limerick.
- The Air Pollution Act 1987 (Petrol Vapour Emissions Regulations) 1997. These regulations control the emission of petrol vapours at service stations and similar installations. It is planned that 90 inspections will be carried out in 2015.
- The investigation of air pollution complaints from the public as they arise.

Pollution Control and Water Quality Management

The Pollution Control Division is responsible for the implementation of local Government environmental legislation in the following areas: air, water, noise and nuisance.

Septic Tank Inspections

The Water Services (amendment) Act 2012 required the registration and inspection of septic tanks and other onsite treatment systems. The EPA publishes the National Inspection Plan and based on the national priorities Limerick City & County Council identify properties to be inspected within each risk category.

Limerick was required to complete a minimum of 50 inspections of systems between July 2013 and July 2014. Inspections began in August 2013 and 53 inspections were completed within the timeframe. Inspections continued in the latter part of 2014. Limerick was required to complete a minimum of 23 inspections from July 2014 to December 2014. 25 inspections were completed within the timeframe.

Work continues in this area for 2015. Limerick is required to complete a minimum of 42 inspections by 31st December 2015. Inspections are to commence in March 2015. Five members of staff in the Pollution Control Section are trained and registered with the EPA.

Water Quality Management

A Water Quality Management team was established in 2002. The team undertake a comprehensive programme of farm inspections and general pollution investigations with a view to achieving significant improvement in river water quality. It is planned to carry out approximately 500 farm surveys in 2015.

Burial Grounds/Cemeteries 2014

There are approx 250 cemeteries in Limerick City and County. However, a large number of these cemeteries are full and there are graves available for sale in approx 15 cemeteries. The following developments took place in cemeteries in 2015;

Extension to Ballingaddy Cemetery
The Council purchased .5 ha for extension to Ballingaddy Cemetery. Part V111 Planning was approved for this development.

Extension to Caherconlish Cemetery
The Council purchased .2 ha for extension to Caherconlish Cemetery.

Development of Second Phase of Castlemungret Cemetery
The second phase of Castlemungret Cemetery was developed during 2014 to provide approx 1,900 additional gravespaces in Castlemungret.

Mount St Lawrence Extension
The Council invited tenders to develop 1 acre site extension to Mt St. Lawrence Cemetery.

Mt St Lawrence Mortuary Chapel

During 2014, the Council entered into agreement with Limerick Civic Trust to carry out conservation works to the Mortuary Chapel at Mt St Lawrence Cemetery and also to repair old headstones in the cemetery. The works which are supervised by Limerick Civic Trust are being carried out under a Community Employment Scheme.

The conservation works to the Mortuary Chapel consist of the removal of vegetation growth, repairs to the roof covering the apse, slating of apse roof, masonry works and pointing, cleaning out of gullies and drains. The interior works include repairs to altar railing, paintwork. In addition, the Council received approval for a small grant for specific works to the chapel under the Built Heritage Jobs Leverage Scheme which was funded by the Dept. of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Under the agreement with Limerick Civic Trust approx 50 old headstones were repaired in 2014.

Ancient Cemeteries

The following conservation works were carried out in ancient cemeteries;

Ballynoe, Bruree	vegetation control in Tower House in this cemetery
Nantinan	improvement works to roof which was damaged by Storm Darwin
Kilkeedy Vault	take down and store dangerous roof and replace with roof cladding.

A large amount of repairs/improvement works were carried out by the Council's area offices in ancient cemeteries.

The Council is also supported by FÁS, Ballyhoura Development, West Limerick Resources in the upkeep and maintenance of cemeteries- both ancient and new- throughout County Limerick These works are carried out under CE Schemes, TUS Schemes and RSS Schemes.

Burial Ground Awards Ceremony

A Burial Grounds Awards Ceremony was held at The Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, County Limerick on Thursday, 11 December 2014. This was the 7th years of the awards ceremony which acknowledged the combined hard work and commitment of burial ground committees, community groups and individuals for the upkeep and maintenance of the County's burial grounds. As in previous years there were awards in two categories – Modern and Ancient. Approx 180 people attended the awards ceremony and the prizes were presented by the Mayor, Cllr. Kevin Sheahan.

Castlejane, Knocklong achieved the overall winner's award in the Ancient section and Kilcoleman Rathkeale was named the overall winner of the Modern section.

Jacqui Hayes and Dr. Matt Potter, Mt. St. Laurence Cemetery

SERVICE INDICATORS – ENVIRONMENT.

E 1. Number of Waste Facilities authorised by the Local Authority.

The number of waste facility permits and certificates of registration granted by the LA and not yet expired as at 31/12/2014.
Comment: Supplied by the National Waste Collection Permit Office.

E 2. No. / % of Households with access to a 3 bin service.

The number of households, based on 2011 Census, who are in receipt of a 3 bin service at 31/12/2014.
Comment: Supplied by the National Waste Collection Permit Office.

E 3 No. of Waste Complaints lodged with the EPA Office of Environmental Enforcement.

No. of distinct complaints relating to waste within the LA area that were referred to the OEE in the period 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014 because the problem persisted after investigation of the complaint by the LA.	1.

E 4. Percentage of other environmental pollution complaints closed.

Percentage of Litter Pollution cases closed by 31/12/2014	92.01%.
Percentage of Air Pollution cases closed by 31/12/2014	97.50%.
Percentage of Noise Pollution cases closed by 31/12/2014	89.11%.
Percentage of Water Pollution cases closed by 31/12/2014	100%.

E 5. Percentage of LA area within the 5 levels of litter pollution.

The percentage of the area within the LA that when surveyed was unpolluted or litter free.
The percentage of the area within the LA that when surveyed was slightly polluted.
The percentage of the area within the LA that when surveyed was moderately polluted.
The percentage of the area within the LA that when surveyed was significantly polluted.
The percentage of the area within the LA that when surveyed was grossly polluted.
Comment: Supplied by Tobin Consulting Engineers.

Water Services

Irish Water (I.W.) was established in 2013 as Ireland's new national water utility and is responsible for providing and developing water services throughout Ireland. The statutory responsibility for operation of water and waste water infrastructure and delivering water and waste water services transferred to I.W. on the enactment of the Water Services Act 2013. Limerick City and County Council completed Service Level Agreements (S.L.A.) with Irish Water. The S.L.A. defines the relationship between the Council and Irish Water and is effective from January 2014. It is effective for a period of 12 years and is subject to review in year 2 and year 7. Irish Water will be accountable to two regulatory bodies – the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER) who is the economic regulator for the water industry, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) who is the environmental regulator. Limerick City & County Council are still responsible for the rural water programme in relation and the activity in this area is outlined below.

Rural Water Programme 2014

Limerick City & County Council received a Rural Water Programme grant allocation of €985,900 in 2014 from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government and the allocation enabled investment in areas such as:

- Grants to Upgrade existing Group Water Schemes
- Takeover of Group Water Supply Schemes
- Improvements to Small Public Water and Sewerage Schemes

Subsidy towards the Operational Costs of Group Water Schemes

The operational subsidy grant provides assistance to group water schemes supplying water for domestic use. Group water schemes are entitled to claim an annual and advance subsidy each year. 43 Group Water Schemes received a subsidy towards their operational costs in 2014 with a total of 936,455 being paid out.

Private Well Grants

Grants totalling €116,650 were paid to 65 individuals under this heading in 2014. The purpose of the grant is to help private individuals provide good quality, potable drinking water for their homes. A maximum grant of €2,031 or 75% of the cost of the works, whichever is the lesser, may be awarded. Application form and details are accessible from the Water Services section of Limerick City and County Council website.

W: Water	Complete
W1: Unaccounted for Water as a percentage of total volume of water supplied under LA Schemes	
The following indicator is presented in the Performance indicators report: Unaccounted for water (UFW) as a percentage of total volume of water supplied in 2014 under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for under a Service Level Agreement	37.21 %
In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: Total volume of water (m3) supplied from 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014 under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for under an SLA, divided by 365 days	94017
Volume of unaccounted for water (m3) lost from 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014 under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for under an SLA, divided by 365 days	34986
W2: Percentage of drinking water in compliance with statutory requirements	
This data will be obtained directly from the EPA Public schemes	

Caroline Curley

Director of Services,
Home & Social Development

Colivet Court, Carew Park, Southill - 35 Units Completed in June 2014
Winner of the Royal Institute of Architects in Ireland (RIAI) Award for Best Housing 2014

Home & Social Development

Capital Investment	88
Voluntary Housing	88
Home Improvement Programmes	88
Housing Maintenance	88
Energy Efficiency Programmes	88
Allocations	88
Inspections	88
Rental Accommodation Scheme	88
Homeless Services	88
Traveller Accommodation	88
Housing Assistance Payment	89
Limerick HAP	89
HAP Transactional Shared Services Centre	89
Regeneration Programme	89
Home & Social Development SPC	90
Performance Indicators	92

Home & Social Development

The main achievements can be summarised under the following headings:

Capital Investment

Continued progress achieved on capital investment in construction, acquisition, Voluntary Housing Assistance, Local Authority DPGs and Energy Efficiency Programme with a total capital expenditure of €29.47m.

The following new housing schemes commenced:

Garryowen	6 units
Thomondgate	3 units
Clare Street	6 units
Caherconlish	10 units
Rathbane	7 units

Voluntary Housing

There are over 40 Voluntary Housing Associations operating in Limerick City and County. 37 units of accommodation were provided under the Capital Assistance Scheme through Approved Housing Bodies. 11 units of accommodation were provided under the Capital Advance Leasing Facility Scheme and 64 units under lease agreements.

Home Improvement Programmes

525 households received a Home Adaptation Grant, Mobility Aids Grant and Housing Aid for Older Person totalling €2.9 million to support independent living for older people and people with disabilities.

Housing Maintenance

€4m expended on continued maintenance and improvement of Council housing stock to achieve good quality and well maintained accommodation which meets the highest standards and is cost effective.

- Expenditure of €597,000 on planned maintenance.
- Provided 61 Local Authority disabled person grants totalling €455,000
- Refurbished 94 long term void units through special departmental funding for long term vacant stock

Energy Efficiency Programmes

€1.4m spent to upgrade 1,449 housing units under the rolling annual programme to enhance the energy efficiency of council housing stock and SEAI Area Based Projects.

Allocations

347 households on the waiting list received new accommodation through Limerick City and County Councils in 2014. The type of accommodation ranged from small single type to family type accommodation.

Inspections

1,130 property inspections were carried out on council housing stock.

Rental Accommodation Scheme

At the 31st of December 2014 there were 1,169 RAS tenancies in place including 59 new transfers of rent supplement clients to RAS.

402 inspections of properties took place in relation to standards of private rented accommodation.

Homeless Services

The Homeless Action Team processed over 1,800 customer contacts in relation to homelessness last year. 738 clients were facilitated in Emergency Accommodation and a further 170 were provided with some form of supported housing through the Private Market or Voluntary Housing. Tenancy Sustainment is provided by the Team and also by Focus Ireland on behalf of the Local Authority to Tenants in both Local Authority and private rented accommodation. From 2015 the Domestic Violence Services previously funded by the Local Authority and HSE are now being centrally funded by the Child and Family Agency TUSLA in an effort to ensure a greater co-ordinated level of service.

Traveller Accommodation

Limerick City and County Council maintains 11 Halting Sites in the city and county €467,000 was expended in 2014 on continued maintenance and refurbishment.

Home & Social Development

A Housing Welfare Service operates across all the sites and Limerick City and County Council provide assistance to members of the Traveller Community with regard to their accommodation needs. In 2014, seven Traveller families were provided with Local Authority Housing and improvement works commenced in two Halting Sites. Seven families were also provided with mobile home accommodation. Social Work and associated housing supports are offered to members of the Traveller community.

A Traveller Accommodation Programme was adopted by the Council and a new Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee was established in September 2014. The inaugural meeting was held in December. The adopted programme sets out accommodation proposals for the period 2014-2018 and will be progressed in consultation with the committee.

Housing Assistance Payment
Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) is a new social housing support introduced by local authorities. HAP will replace rent supplement for those with a long term housing need who qualify for social housing support. The introduction of HAP means that local authorities can now provide housing assistance for households with a long term housing need including many long-term Rent Supplement recipients.

Limerick HAP
Limerick City & County Council commenced an administrative pilot for HAP in April 2014. During this stage the Council transferred 120 rent supplement recipients to HAP. On the 15th September 2014, following section 50 regulations, Limerick City and Council commenced HAP on a statutory basis and a further 90 tenancies were set-up on HAP which included rent supplement recipients and new applicants.

HAP Transactional Shared Services Centre
Limerick City and County Council are the City and County Manager's Association nominated lead authority in respect of the HAP project and in that context are providing a transactional shared service hub for all local authorities operating HAP during the pilot stage.

The transactional processes provided include the following:
- set-up and commencement of HAP customer / supplier
- payment of monthly rent to HAP landlords
- debit of weekly rent contribution
- collection of weekly rent contribution from HAP recipient households
- monitoring, review and maintenance of HAP customers
- making recoupment claims to the DECLG.

There were 485 HAP tenancies set-up by the Shared Service Centre at 31st December 2014.

Regeneration Programme Key milestones and achievements in 2014

The Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan (LRFIP) was approved in February 2014. The Plan sets out a shared vision for the regeneration areas to create safe and sustainable communities of opportunity where people of all ages enjoy a good quality of life, a decent home and a sense of pride about their place. These neighbourhoods will be fully integrated with the social, economic and cultural life of Limerick.

Social:
As part of the “whole of government” approach the Social Intervention Programme aims to influence how mainstream funds are applied to social policy interventions to address social exclusion in the city, with specific focus on the regeneration areas and improve the coordination of the overall package of State funding. A total of 174 projects were supported in 2014 under the social intervention fund.

The Council will implement an evaluation framework which will be a comprehensive tool for the monitoring of all grants in 2015. This should serve to shape future interventions and improve the services to the Communities.

Home & Social Development

Economic:
A new funding stream has been introduced to develop economic initiatives offering employment support, training/apprenticeships and job creation. 17 projects were supported in 2014.

A new "Hospitality & Skills Training Programme" came into operation in September at the LEDP with the first intake of 25 students resulting in a 90% progression rate into employment.

Physical:
Providing sustainable neighbourhoods for current and future residents of the regeneration areas.

Development of new homes:
98 new-build homes have been delivered to date in tandem with a programme of refurbishment of vacant properties.

Over 60% of the Regeneration new-build programme has received approval from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government with proposals for the remaining homes well advanced. Planning permission has been secured for schemes at Lord Edward Street (83 homes) and Sheep Street (10 homes). A planning application for 80 homes in Southill was submitted in December 2014.

Refurbishment of existing homes under the Thermal Upgrade Programme;
Significant progress has been made in all four regeneration areas in 2014. The Thermal Upgrade Programme, which deliver all existing homes to a Building Energy Rating of C has advanced with seven building contracts complete and five more underway. All work to the 1,504 homes involved will be complete by 2018. Strategic site purchases which align with the overall regeneration objectives continue to play a role.

Site assembly to facilitate physical, social and economic regeneration.
Work is underway on the completion of a prominently located unfinished housing development at Waller's Well (10 homes) and will be completed in April 2015.

The delivery of this scheme will have a positive impact at a city-wide level in addition to the delivery of new homes.

Development of Community Facilities/ Infrastructural Projects
Small scale capital projects continued in 2014 with a view to enhancing the environment, improving security and strengthening connectivity. Projects such as the construction of a new entrance to Saint Nessan's Community College, Moyross and the improvement works to the playing facilities of Moyross United were widely welcomed in 2014.

Strategic demolitions
Strategic demolitions continued in 2014 with 78 houses demolished. These demolitions were aligned with the overall strategic objectives. Retention and refurbishment will be pursued where feasible.

Home & Social Development Strategic Policy Committee

Two meetings of the Joint Limerick City and County Council Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee took place in 2014.

The member discussed the following:

- Presentation from the Samaritans
- Update on the Housing Assistance Payment Programme
- Presentation on the update of the Joint AntiSocial Behaviour Strategy
- Update on the Office of Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan
- Briefing on the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018
- Announcement on the Home Improvement Scheme.

Home & Social Development

Vizes Court, Joseph's Street - 29 Units Completed in July 2014

Home & Social Development Performance Indicators

Performance Indicators

H1 Social Housing Stock

The overall total number of dwellings provided (constructed or purchase) by the La in 2014	377
The overall total number of social housing dwellings in the La at 31/12/2014	6,635

Note: *5,211 dwellings directly provided by LA; 1,169 RAS units; 210 HAP units; 45 Social Housing Leasing Initaitive*

H2 Housing Voids

The percentage of the total number of dwellings vacant on the 31/12/2014	5.25%

Note: *Includes units vacant for demolition programme*

H3: Average reletting time and cost

a.	The time taken fro the date of the vacation of the dwelling to the date in 2014 when a new tenancy had commenced in the dwelling, averaged across all units relet in 2014.	67.5 weeks

Note: *A programme was undertaken to reinstate long term voids in 2014 which included 97 units were vacant for more than 52 weeks.*

b.	The cost expended on getting re-tenanted units in 2014 ready averaged across all units re-let in 2014.	€6,654

H4: Housing Maintenance Cost

Expenditure during 2014 on the repair and maintenance of housing bought or built by the La compiled on a continuous basis from 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014 divided by the no. of directly provided units in the La stock at 31/12/2014	€841.28

H5: Private Rented Sector Inspections

a.	Total number of registered tenancies in the LA areas	7183
b.	Number of inspections carried out	402

H6: Long Term Homeless Adults

a.	Number of adults individuals that are long-term homeless as a percentage of the total number of homeless adult individuals –	33.88%

Note: *No. of adults classified as homeless on 31/12/2014 – 245.*

No. of adults who have been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously, or 6 months cumulatively over the previous 12 months.	83

Josephine Cotter-Coughlan

Director of Services Community, Leisure and Emergency Services

Community, Leisure & Emergency Services

COMMUNITY AND LEISURE

Local Community Development Committee	96
Limerick Intercultural City	98
Limerick Integration Working Group	98
Limerick Age Friendly Programme	99
Limerick Childcare Committee	99
Pride of Place	101
Limerick Comhairle na Nóg	101
Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival	102
Public Participation Network	102
Sport	103
Estate Management Unit	104
Contribution Scheme	106
Limerick City Community Safety Partnership	107
Performance Indicators	110
Library Services	112
Arts Services	114
Limerick Archives	118
Limerick City Gallery of Art	120
City of Culture 2014	123

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Fire Prevention, Building Control and Dangerous Buildings	126
Service Indicators	127
Civil Defence	130

Community, Leisure & Emergency Services

Community

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Section 49A of the Local Government Act 2001, as inserted by the Local Government Reform Act 2014, provides for the establishment of Local Community Development Committees for the purposes of: 'Developing, co-ordinating and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development'.

Functions of LCDC include:

- to prepare the community elements of a 6-year Local Economic and Community Plan
- to implement, or arrange for the implementation of, the community elements of the Plan
- to review the community elements of the Plan at least once within the period of 6 calendar years and, if necessary, to amend the community elements of the Plan
- to monitor on an on-going basis the implementation of the community elements of the Plan and, if appropriate, to revise the actions and strategies set to achieve the objectives of the community elements of the Plan,
- to coordinate, manage and oversee the implementation of local and community development programmes that have been approved either by the relevant Local Authority or by agreement between the LCDC and a relevant public authority (e.g. government department, State agency etc.)
- to improve the coordination of public-funded local and community development programmes and reduce duplication
- in addition to public-funded programmes, to coordinate generally the local and community development programmes within the operational area of the LCDC
- to consider a draft of the economic elements of the Plan and adopt a statement for consideration of the Council in this regard, and
- to prepare an annual report on the performance of its functions.

The Limerick LCDC was established in July 2014. It comprises 17no. members (both statutory and non-statutory socio-economic partners drawn from the Limerick City and County administrative area).

Community, Leisure & Emergency Services

Membership of the Committee is as follows:

Public Sector Representatives

Local Authority Members	Cllr. Seamus Browne	
	Cllr. Daniel Butler	
	Cllr. Eddie Ryan	
	Cllr. Jerome Scanlan	
Local Authority Staff	Mr. Conn Murray	
Public Authorities	H.S.E	Mr. Bernard Gloster
	D.S.P	Mr. Jim Lynch
	LCETB	Mr. George O' Callaghan

Non-Statutory Sector Representatives

Local Development Companies	Paul Partnership	Ms. Anne Kavanagh
	West Limerick Resources	Mr. Shay Riordan
	Ballyhoura Development	Ms. Carmel Fox
Community & Voluntary	Ms. Nuala Rennison	
Representation	Mr. Cathal McCarthy	
	Mr. Donal Cooper	
	Ms. Marion Harnett	
Environmental Pillar	Ms. Trish Forde-Brennan	
Agricultural Sector	Mr. Aidan Gleeson	

Cllr. Eddie Ryan has been appointed as Chairman of the Limerick LCDC.
Progress / Achievements in 2014

- Limerick LCDC membership finalised in June 2014
- 5 No. statutory meetings held:
  - 15th July;
  - 2nd September;
  - 30th September;
  - 11th November;
  - 2nd December.
- Terms of Reference & Standing Orders were drawn up and adopted;
- Conflict of Interest policy drawn up and adopted;
- Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP):
  - Lots agreed – 3no Sub-Lots for Limerick City and County;
  - SICAP Stage 2 tender process was managed by the LCDC – Invitations to Tender were circulated on 20th October 2014 with the closing date for receipt of tenders being 19th December 2014;
  - SICAP Evaluation Sub-Committee formed (5no. members);
  - SICAP Evaluation Team formed (3no. members);
  - Tenders Evaluation Process December 2014 – January 2015;
- Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP):
  - Preliminary work on data gathering and analysis to inform the development of the LECP was progressed;
  - A Working Group to progress the plan was formed.

Community, Leisure & Emergency Services

Intercultural Cities Conference 2014

Cllr. Maria Byrne speaking at Intercultural Cities Conference

At Intercultural Cities Conference All Star Hurler Seán Óg Ó hAilpín with staff of Limerick City & County Council Seamus O'Connor, Martina Caulfield, Deirdre Minogue and Áine Frawley.

Limerick Intercultural City

Limerick was officially declared as an intercultural city during the hosting of a major intercultural conference in Limerick on 21st and 22nd November. The 'Sports, Arts and Culture' Intercultural Cities Conference and Workshop was held in the Limerick Strand Hotel and was addressed by speakers including former international rugby star Keith Wood, All Star Hurler Seán Óg Ó hAilpín and Grand Slam winning rugby player Niamh Briggs.

A charter was signed by Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick officially declaring Limerick as an intercultural city. Forty international delegates attended the two day Intercultural Cities Conference which included a mix of panel discussions, presentations and group dialogue co-ordinated by the Community Department of Limerick City and County Council.

Limerick Integration Working Group

The Limerick Integration Working Group launched its second Integration Plan – Towards Intercultural Limerick – Limerick City and County Integration Plan 2013-2016, following on form the good work undertaken in the previous Integration Plan.

Limerick City hosted Africa Day/Week from 17nd May to 24th May, 2014 inclusive. As in previous years Limerick City & County Council worked in co-operation with Limerick Integration Working Group, which comprises a number of statutory, voluntary, community and migrant groups, in the delivery and design of Africa Week events.

Events were designed to highlight a positive image of Africa and to celebrate the diversity and opportunities of the African continent within the African and Irish community alike. Particular highlights were the SportsFest, The Symposium on Partners for Growth – The Relationship Between Ireland and Africa, the Sounds of Africa Concert and the Signature Concert. The significance of celebrating the African culture in Limerick in an even a more inclusive way than before was particularly apt given Limerick's designation as City of Culture 2014. A number of consultation meetings were held with the African Community with regard to the design and delivery of Africa Week 2014.

Community, Leisure & Emergency Services

Limerick Age Friendly Programme

The primary aim of the Limerick Age Friendly Programme is to make Limerick City and County a great place in which to grow old. The Programme is overseen by a voluntary Alliance of state sector bodies and community organisations which provide services to Older Adults. The voice of the Older Adult is central to the Programme.

In 2014, an extensive consultation took place with more than 700 older adults. The findings of the consultation were presented at a seminar and workshop held in September, 2014 at which more than 40 key service providers attended. The findings will inform the development of actions that will be contained in the Limerick Age Friendly Strategy.

2014 saw the completion of Age Friendly Towns Plans for Cappamore and Limerick Northside.

Limerick Childcare Committee

In 2014, Limerick City Childcare Committee and Limerick City Childcare Committee merged to form a single Limerick Childcare Committee. The new Committee continued meeting its key objectives around of the provision of information and support for childcare providers and parents in the early years' childcare sector.

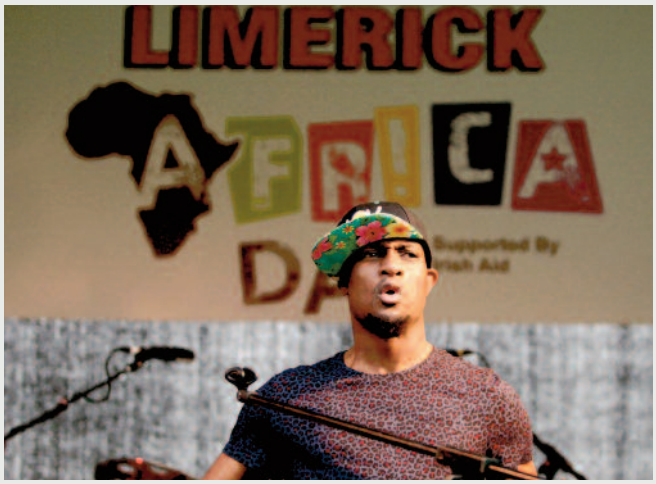
Launch of Integration Working Group Progress Report.

Launch of Integration Working Group (IWG) Progress Report

Limerick Age Friendly Seminar Sept 2014

Limerick Age Friendly Seminar Sept 2014

Community, Leisure & Emergency Services



Africa Day Limerick - Sounds of Africa

Community, Leisure & Emergency Services

Pride Of Place

Limerick City and County continued its fine tradition of success in the annual Pride of Place Competition in 2014.

The Council nominated 4no communities to represent Limerick the 2014 competition - Kileely, Feale Life (Abbeyfeale), Radharc na Cille Estate (Kilmallock), and the CWELL project (King's Island).

Judging took place in July and the awards were announced at the gala ceremony in the West County Hotel, Ennis on Saturday 15 November, 2014. Radharc na Cille took second prize in Category 9, the Housing Estates Category. The CWELL project was recognised with a Special Category award.

Limerick Comhairle Na Nóg

2014 saw the coming together of the Limerick City and Limerick County Comhairlí into a unified Youth Council for Limerick.

At its Annual General Meeting on 24 October, 2014, held for the first time in the University of Limerick in association with the Department of Public Administration, more than 200 young people for all over Limerick met to discuss a range of issues relating to the topic of Direct Provision.

The unified Comhairle will continue to work on the topics identified in its annual plan over the course of 2015.

Pride of Place - FEALE LIFE

Pride of Place - KILEELY

Pride of Place Radharc na Cille

Community, Leisure & Emergency Services

City of Learning Week

Moyross, City of Learning Week

Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival

The 4th Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival took place between 7th-13th April, 2014. The theme for the festival was in keeping with Limerick's designation in 2014 as the first national City of Culture – Your Learning – Your Culture. More than 150 learning activities took place during the festival including arts and crafts, culture, gardening, recreation, health and well-being, and IT.

Public Participation Network

Steps towards the establishment of a new community participative structure, to be known as the Public Participation Network (PPN), began in 2014.

PPN were to be established in each Local Authority area following the recommendation of the Report of the Working Group on Citizen Engagement with Local Government (February 2014).

The Report identifies two distinct roles for the PPN:

- To facilitate better communication and representation between local communities and local government
- To facilitate local groups and organisations to network and influence on issues of common interest.

An extensive public consultation and registration process was undertaken between October to December 2014, with over 20 public meetings being organised. 434 groups registered with the PPN in Limerick by the closing date for registrations.

The PPN will replace the Community and Voluntary Fora as the nominating body for community representatives onto Council committees, such as the Strategic Policy Committees, the Joint Policing Committee and the Local Community Development Committee.

Community, Leisure & Emergency Services

Sport

Limerick Sports Partnership

In 2014, County Limerick Local Sports Partnership (CLLSP) and Limerick City Sports Partnership merged to form a single LSP for Limerick City and County. The LSP continued meeting its key objectives around information, education and implementation of programmes throughout Limerick.

The LSP's provided education and training to 1,294 coaches/administrators and teachers in the various sporting clubs and schools throughout the county.

These programmes/courses are part of the "Continuous Professional Development" (CPD) for the participants. They ensure that safety, best practice and efficient governance are available to our coaches and the participants at grassroots level. 1360 coaches have completed the Code of Ethics "basic awareness" course to date with another 36 completing the Children's Officer Course. Education and training courses delivered also include Active Leadership, Sports First Aid and Club Development Seminars with over 300 coaches/administrators attending the seminar series programme.

Limerick Sports Partnership has had direct contact through targeted programmes and events resulting in 34,396 participant places from key target groups; disadvantaged youth, older adults, travellers, young people, teenage girls and mothers. Programmes included active girls and mothers, meet and train, gaelic for girls, older adult sports fests, mass participation events (run/walks/jogs/cycles), school completion physical activity programmes, Link2BActive, girls outside, fittlesticks and fitwalk.

In 2014, Limerick Sports Partnership launched a €50,000 Club and Community Links Grant Scheme. 62 Clubs and Community Groups across Limerick City and County benefitted from grants of €500 - €1000. Clubs and Community Groups were committed to hosting "Come and Try, Open Day" Activities in their Communities in order to be more inclusive for new members. In total, 7,000+ participants benefitted from this grant scheme.

Key programmes delivered in 2014 included a new Men-on- the-Move programme in Hospital-Herbertstown, Abbeyfeale and Limerick City. This programme targeted 50 men aged 35+ to reengage in physical activity. New communities will be targeted for this initiative in 2015.

The Schools Marathon Challenge was expanded this year to include Companies/Organisations. 180 employees from 8 Companies participated in a training programme prior to completing the full marathon at UL Sport Arena in October. The popularity of this event has guaranteed keen interest from new companies to participate in 2015.

Other Key Activities Include:

- Women on Wheels cycling programme with 50 beginner cyclists participated in an 8 week programme in advance of the 50k and 80k Tour de Burren
- Operation Transformation and Let's Go Walking Limerick 2014 with over 500 participants
- Meet and Train Groups & Feet on the Street
- New Year, New Start
- Sports Talk (physical activity and mental health support)
- Splash & Dash – Primary School programme in Askeaton and UL
- Older Adult Go for Life Games Programme
- School Completion Programmes based around health and physical activity
- Community Health & Wellness Workshop delivered to over 2397 participants
- Mother of all Sport – Tag Rugby programme delivered at 4 locations
- VIP Programme
- Coordinated activities and programmes around Bike Week, Recreation Week, Mobility Week, World Heart Day, National Trails Day, World Diabetes Week, National Play Day activities
- Sportshall Athletics programme with 12 primary schools and 1000+ kids
- GLR Kids run for Fun – over 2,300 kids took part in this event which was preceded by a 4 week training programme in their schools
- 1,230 children from disadvantaged communities participated in Easter, Summer and Halloween Camps.

Community, Leisure & Emergency Services

One of the key successes of the LSP is its ability to work in partnership with a number of agencies so that programmes and projects can be developed further and can become more sustainable. This is very evident in the case of projects developed with Limerick City & County Council, West Limerick Resources, LCETB, University of Limerick, HSE, Limerick Youth Service, Mid-West Regional Drug & Alcohol Forum, Sports Forum, Disability Forum and the Limerick Childcare Committee.

The Sports Partnership is based in the UL Sport Arena and for more information on upcoming events/activities and education courses please see www.limericksports.ie

Askeaton Pool and Leisure Ltd

Askeaton Pool and Leisure Centre continued to offer a broad range of leisure and recreation opportunities to the West Limerick area in 2014.
In addition to memberships and pay-as-you-go usage options, the Centre provides lessons to 46 schools from all over Limerick County. The Centre caters for swimmers of all ages and abilities and is now open three mornings a week at 7:30am. Public lessons are also available 5 days a week.

Grove Island Leisure Centre

A re-launch of the leisure centre was held in the summer of 2014.

A gas powered Combined Heat and Power Plant was installed in the Grove Island Leisure Centre in 2014. This has resulted in immediate savings in energy costs at the centre. The installation was funded by Limerick City and County Council and SEAI Grant funding.

A new suite of gym equipment was installed at the centre, availing of Sports Nation Grants to purchase the equipment.

Rathbane Golf Course

A tender for the procurement of an operator for the management of the Rathbane Municipal Golf Course was published in December, 2014. It is expected that the new operator will be appointed in 2015.

Estate Management Unit

The Estate Management Unit is comprised of three main strands: (i) Estate Support (ii) Individual Tenant Support and (iii) Tenancy Enforcement/Anti-Social Behaviour

(i) **Estate Supports**

- The main aim of this programme is the provision of supports with a view to improving quality of life of and developing community spirit within Council estates. To this end, the Unit works closely with existing residents' associations and encourages the formation of new such groups, supporting the implementation of key actions identified by them to improve their estates. The support provided varied from assistance in provision of minor infrastructural works such as fencing, walls, signage etc. to softer measures such as committee skills training, contributing towards clean-up days, events for kids etc.

- Two meetings of the very successful Estate Residents Representative Forum were held during the year. The main purpose of the Forum is to provide a platform where representatives from each residents' association can meet with each other and with Council officials with a view to sharing information and experiences in a spirit of partnership.

- Radharc na Cille Estate in Kilmallock was chosen for entry in the All-Ireland National Pride of Place competition in the Housing Estates category. Huge work went in to preparing the estate by the committee and residents, in partnership with the Council, leading up to the visit by the judges on the 28th July 2014 and one could sense that the judges were hugely impressed by the physical

environment within the estate and the community spirit displayed. This spirit paid off when they were announced as national runners-up in their category at the awards ceremony held in Ennis in November.

- Estate management support in the larger urban estates was provided mainly through the Office of Regeneration and/or through approved bodies grant-aided by the Council.

(ii) **Individual Tenant Support**

- The Unit provides a service, led by its social worker, of intensive support for tenants who may be identified as vulnerable or in need of such help for any other reason. In addition, there is monitoring of individual tenancies that may require particular attention to prevent problems occurring.

- Pre-Tenancy training is provided for all newly-appointed tenants. Among other things, the terms of the Letting Agreements which are signed are clearly explained so that the obligations of both the tenants and, indeed, the Council are clearly understood. The number of tenants that undertook such training in 2014 was approx. 215.

(iii) **Tenancy Enforcement/Anti-Social Behaviour**

- A total of 435 complaints were recorded by the Unit in 2014, with approximately half of these relating to anti-social behaviour. The Council's policy is to respond to these issues quickly and firmly and it works in close co-operation with An Garda Síochána where necessary.

- 7 Excluding Orders were secured against individuals in the District Court in 2014, the effect of which was to legally bar those individuals from named estates. This brought the total number of such Orders in operation by the end of the year to 12. A breach of such an Order is deemed to be a criminal offence, punishable by fine and/or imprisonment.

Community, Leisure & Emergency Services

Contribution Scheme 2014

Limerick City & County Council received applications for grant assistance which encourage and support a number of community, cultural or heritage initiatives in Limerick City & County. The Contribution Scheme is open to community based / not for profit organisations and applications must be directly related to one or other of the following categories: -

Initiatives/events which promote culture and local heritage.
Initiatives/events which generate civic pride
All 23 applications were approved by the Council Members and paid out during 2014.

List of all the organisations that received funding is below.

Electoral Area	Organisation	Amount
Adare/Rathkeale	Adare Heritage	€10,000
	Askeaton Civic Trust	€ 5,000
	Foynes Aviation & Maritime Museum	€15,000
	Limerick Community Games	€ 2,000
	Total Grants for Adare/Rathkeale	**€32,000**
Cappamore/Kilmallock	Comhaltas Fleadh Luimni 2014	€ 2,000
	East Limerick Community Radio	€ 2,000
	Friarsgate Theatre	€ 3,000
	Limerick Animal Welfare	€ 1,000
	Lough Gur Development Co-operative	€ 3,000
	Total Grants for Cappamore/Kilmallock	**€11,000**
Limerick Metropolitan District	Cecilian Musical Society	€ 1,000
	Hunt Museum	€ 2,500
	Irish Chamber Orchestra	€ 5,000
	Limerick Marine Search & Rescue	€ 5,000
	Limerick Musical Society	€ 1,000
	Limetree Theatre	€ 4,000
	LSPCA	€ 1,000
	Limerick Youth Service	€ 1,500
	Rape Crisis Mid West	€ 2,000
	St. Gabriel's School & Centre	€ 2,000
	University Concert Hall	€18,000
	Total Grants for Limerick Metropolitan	**€43,000**
Newcastlewest	Abbeyfeale Community Leisure	€ 2,000
	Abbeyfeale District Search & Rescue	€ 5,000
	West Limerick Community Radio	€ 2,000
	Total Grants for Newcastlewest	**€ 9,000**
Total Paid for Contribution Scheme 2014		**€95,000**

Community, Leisure & Emergency Services

Safety Partnership - Older Person's Safety Information Day, St. John's Hall.

Safety Partnership - Jean Ryan, Community Co-ordinator, at Older Person's Tea Dance, Thomond Park.

Limerick City Community Safety Partnership

Educational Activities:

During the academic year, the Community Coordinators work with an average of 500 national students weekly, delivering the above referenced programmes in the following schools.

Gaelscoil Sairseal - Mary Street
Galvone National School
Queen of Peace National School
Southill National School
Michael's Primary School
Christian Brother's Primary School
St. John's National School
St. Munchin's Girls School
Corpus Christi
St. Lelia's National School
Ballynanty Girls School
Caherdavin Boys School
Caherdavin Girls School
St. Patrick's Boys School
St. Patrick's Girls School

During the period January to December 2014, the Community Co-Ordinators worked with primary and secondary schools delivering the following programmes:

Eyes Open (5th and 6th Classes) with the following themes: Know your Community, Fire Safety; Water Safety; Road Safety, Environmental Awareness and Animal Safety. For this programme we worked with Fire Brigade and Environmental Department of Limerick City & County Council, An Garda Siochana and Animal Welfare Society.

Internet Safety (4th Class) with the following themes: Divulging Personal Information, Cyber Bullying, and Using Email. This programme was developed by the Community Coordinators.

Traffic Club: (Pre-School and Junior Infants) with the following themes: holding hands to keep safe, stopping at the kerb, looking for traffic, listening for traffic, crossing safely, safe in the car, playing safely and being seen.

Community, Leisure & Emergency Services

Active Citizenship: (5th and 6th Class) with the following themes: Rights and Responsibilities, What is a Community?, Voting system in Ireland, importance of voting, local government.

Anti-Social Behaviour Programme (6th Class). This is a five week programme which aims to encourage young people to reflect on anti-social behaviour, to think about their behaviour and that of others. This programme was developed by the Coordinators.

'JUMP' (3rd, 4th and 5th Class) This 'after school's programme offers alternative activities allowing children to socialise after social in a safe environment where children learn to focus on team work, participation and how to follow rules. This programme was developed by the Coordinators.

Anti-Bullying Programme (4th and 5th Class). This programme helps young people to better understand what it may feel like to be bullied. It looks at cyber-bullying and its effects on the young people with more access to mobile phones and computers. This programme was developed by the Coordinators.

Safety Street 2014

In October 2014, the Community Coordinators delivered Safety Street 2014 at 'The Factory' Galvone, Limerick. This year, with the focus on mental health awareness, we created three Workshops.

Workshop A looked at promoting Positive Mental Health. Gerry Carew, an artist and therapist working in the area of mental health, provided a safe space to explore, in both groups and individual formation, their own unique creative voice.

Workshop B: Grainne Doyle worked with students to explore the effects of Eating Disorders on the individual, family and society.

Workshop C: Margaret Collins Smyth explored the destructive impact of bullying with particular emphasis on cyberbullying.

In excess of 500 Transition Year students from across the city and county attended the Workshops over 3 days.

Cappamore Information Evening

Junior Achievement

Community, Leisure & Emergency Services

Working with the Elderly:

The Community Coordinators actively work with the elderly in the communities. We have eight Active Retirement Groups within our designated areas.

They include:
- St. Mary's Active Retirement Group
- King's Island Active Retirement Group
- Janesboro Active Retirement Group
- St. John's Active Retirement Group
- St. Brigid's Active Retirement Group
- St. Lelia's Active Retirement Group
- Kileely Court Active Retirement Group
- Moyross Active Retirement Group

Two Tea Dances were held in 2014 – both in Claughaun GAA – the first in April 2014 and the second in October 2014. In excess of 150 older people from across the city attended the two events.

Yvonne McMahon is a trained to deliver the 'Go for Life' programme. This programme seeks to empower older people to choose, plan and lead the recreational sports or physical activities they wish to pursue. This programme is delivered to St. Brigid's Active Retirement Club, St. John's Active Retirement Club and Janesboro Active Retirement Club on a bi-weekly basis.

In September 2014, the Limerick City Community Safety Partnership delivered a 'Safety Day for Older People' at St. John's Pavillion Limerick. This event allowed our older people to meet with the Gardai and Fire Officers to discuss any issues they had around their own personal safety or house safety. Over 200 older people from across the city and county attended this event.

Encouraging Community Spirit:

A key task for the Coordinators is to become well known to residents on the estates. With this aim a number of 'Fun Days' were held in 2014.

In July 2014 we worked with the Garryowen Community in organising a Fun Day for the whole community. This event was very well attended and the prizes for the games were donated by the Community Coordinators.

In conjunction with the Janesboro Tidy Towns Committee, a Fun Day was organised in September 2014.

Improving the Environment:

The physical condition of a neighbourhood has a material bearing on the 'feel good' factor of the residents. The Coordinators promote greater responsibility in communities for their own environment and practical solutions such as litter picks and community clean ups have been delivered.
In April 2014 we worked with students from St. John's Girls School and Galvone National School in clearing up some of the green areas in their respective areas.
In June 2014 we worked with the residents of Glasgow Park to clean up their area – a former dumping area was cleaned up, walls painted and flower planted. The residents are now maintaining this area.

Easter & Summer Camps

The Community Coordinators worked with the School Completion Team to run a 4 day Easter Camp at St. Mary's National School. In excess of 30 local children attended this camp. In July 2014 the Community Coordinators in conjunction with the Garryowen Community Worker organised two, 3 day Summer Camps at St. John's Girls School. In excess of 50 local children attended these camps.

The coordinators also worked for 3 weeks on the Northside Summer Camps.

Organisations:

The Limerick City Community Safety Partnership sits on the following organisations:
- Care & Repair
- NOPAG
- Garryowen Community Development Committee
- Janesboro Tidy Towns Committee
- Northside Children & Youth Partnership.

Community, Leisure & Emergency Services

Y1: Participation in Comhairle na nÓg Scheme

The following indicator will be presented in the performance indicators report:

A.	Percentage of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na nÓg Scheme.	21.57%

Y3: % of nominees to LCDC membership via the PPN structures from the most marginalised SICAP groups

The following indicator will be presented in the performance indicators report:

A.	The overall number of private sector members of the Local Community Development Committee at 31/12/2014 nominated via the People's Participation Network structures who are any of; Travellers, Roma, Unemployed, People with Disabilities, Lone Parents or Families in Disadvantages Areas and Disadvantaged or New Communities (including Refugees/Asylum Seekers).	3 of 5

Y4: Number progressing to FT, PT or self-employment within 6 months of receipt of a Goal 3 employment support

The following indicator will be presented in the performance indicators report:

A.	The no. of people in the 'Individuals supported into employment or self-employment' category, who commenced that employment within 6 months of receiving a Goal 3 support, included in the Local Community Development Programme Annual Report for 2014, the figures for which will be available by end March 2015 (although the report is not published by Pobal until the Autumn).	407

Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick doing the Ice Bucket Challenge at Merchant's Quay.

Community, Leisure & Emergency Services

Library Services

Service Indicators 2014

• Registered Readers:	33,812
• Items issued:	792,571
• Recorded Visits:	681,324
• Hours of Internet/Wi-Fi use:	95,593
• Exhibitions:	20
• Events & Activities:	375

City of Culture Events 2014

The Library Service was an integral part of Limerick City of Culture. Highlights from the Library's programme of events included:

- Public Lectures from historian Diarmaid Ferriter and economist Stephen Kinsella drew standing room only crowds to the Granary Library.
- The Visiting Writers Limerick 2014 brought many renowned authors and poets to our libraries including Donal Ryan, Louis De Bernieres, Andrew Miller, Richard Blanco, Paul Lynch, Colin Barrett and Kevin Barry at the Granary.
- Claire Keegan visited both Adare and Kilmallock Libraries and Dooradoyle Library hosted a poetry reading from Clairr O'Connor, Vivienne McKechnie, Jo Slade, and a fiction reading from Sun Wei & Mike McCormack.
- 'The Communities of Culture' programme had two exhibitions in Watch House Cross library, Moyross Threads and Moyross: a Story to Tell.

Cultural and Civic Events 2014

- Kilmallock Library played host to a number of civic receptions honouring successful GAA teams including the All Ireland Ladies Junior Football Champions Murroe Boher and Kilmallock, who are the Munster Senior Hurling Champions for 2014.
- In December, the Russian Community of Limerick presented an evening showcasing the culture and history of the Russian-speaking countries at the Granary Library.
- Life Long Learning Week 2014 was celebrated in several of our branch libraries. Watch House Cross Library hosted Bringing Stories to Life, a fun practical workshop for grandparents, parents, childminders and children and Dooradoyle Library held a workshop on window box planting, home composting and waste prevention in conjunction with the Parks and Environment Department.
- Éigse Michael Hartnett and International Women's Day were among the highlights of the year in Newcastle West Library and Seachtain na Gaeilge was marked with a programme of special events organised with the support of Glór na nGael.

Authors Sun Wei & Mike McCormack at Dooradoyle Library

Professor Diarmaid Ferriter explains The Irish Republic 1964-2014: What the Hell Happened & Why?

Community, Leisure & Emergency Services

Children's Events 2014

The Schools Library service continued to provide many services to schools, pupils and teachers in Limerick City & County throughout 2014. Over 3,500 primary school children borrowed books, while class visits continued on a regular basis to all main library branches. Many events such as author visits, lectures, creative writing and art workshops took place across the city and county to which school groups were invited. Some events also took place in schools which don't have access to a nearby library. Events were also held in conjunction with other organisations such as Sustainable Energy Ireland, LGMA and the Hunt Museum.

5th Class Colaiste Íosaf Kilmallock with Poet & Writer Gabriel Fitzmaurice at Kilmallock Libary

- Children's Book Festival was celebrated across the City and County with a varied programme of events including visits from poet and writer Gabriel Fitzmaurice, history workshops with Michael Moylan, story time and lively art and craft sessions.
- The Summer Reading Challenge once again proved a huge success in both City and County branches with over 1,600 children taking part.
- Adare Library celebrated Féile na Maighue with a bilingual puppet show and visit from Limerick author Róisín Meaney.
- In 2014, to support Going for Gold Moyross, Watch House Cross Library invited the children from Corpus Christi & St Munchin's national schools to 'The Rubbish Monster' an educational and amusing show designed to teach the benefits of reducing, reusing & recycling our rubbish.
- Abbeyfeale Library hosted a colourful exhibition of art by local children as part of the annual Fleadh by the Feale Festival.

A New Library for Cappamore

Cappamore Library & Arts Studios was officially opened to the public by Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan on Monday, April 14th. Since that date, 1,500 members have registered and 26,000 items have been issued.

New library Cappamore

Music Library Events at the Granary Library

- In April, the Modern Irish Jazz Quartet, featuring world-renowned vibes player, Tony Micelli, played an evening concert at the Granary.
- In May, one of Ireland's foremost popular singers, Freddie White, played a lunchtime show in the Granary while on a tour of Ireland.
- From August through to November a monthly recital with the RTÉ ConTempo Quartet was well attended and appreciated by an ever increasing audience of music lovers.

Community, Leisure & Emergency Services

Freddie White performing at the Granary Library

Exhibitions 2014:

- West Coast Reflections, an exhibition of paintings and photography inspired by the West Coast of North America from artist Sandra Sheehan Cunningham was held at Dooradoyle Library in August.
- Limerick City Adult Education Services art classes exhibited their work at Watch House Cross Library in May.
- Kilmallock Library held its 2nd annual open invite Group Exhibition of Art work during the summer months. Designed to showcase and support the wealth of creative talent in the region, the exhibition, entitled Crinniú, saw 14 artists display work varying from needlework to ceramics, sculpture and painting.

Arts Service

The year of Limerick, National City of Culture 2014, stimulated major growth across art forms, with new projects, external expertise and increases in organisational capacity. Importantly the 109 'Made in Limerick' projects, many of which were community led, youth and civic in nature, ensured barriers to participation were removed. This resulted in greatly increased audience numbers across artforms.

Rationalisation of the two arts programmes for City and County began and a strategy is emerging, supporting new initiatives and audience growth throughout the whole of the geographical area of Limerick City and County.

Limerick National City of Culture 2014

The Arts Office was one of the key reference points for the National City of Culture team, providing an in-depth knowledge of existing arts provision, groups and contacts, property and venues for exhibitions and events and support in relation to legacy planning programming. A social impact study is underway as part of the review of Limerick City of Culture. In funding 109 'Made in Limerick' projects, Limerick City of Culture recognised the existing festivals and events landscape that had been established over the years with support from Limerick City and County Council Arts Office.

Limerick Arts Office supports provision for the arts across all arts forms.

Support was divided into the following areas;

1. **Information and Advice**
- Support and advice for people in the arts community, those interested in engaging with the arts, inquiries for individuals and members of the public.

2. **Supporting and developing The Arts Infrastructure**
- Recommendations on revenue funding for established arts organizations.

Community, Leisure & Emergency Services

- Recommendations on Grants under the Arts Act.
- Facilitation of development of cultural infrastructure through partnership.
- Management of a portfolio of Arts Buildings.
- Membership of boards of management and committees.

3. **Support for the Individual Artist**

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

4. **Festival Programming**

Festivals provide opportunities for audiences and artists to experience new work and ways of making work and respond to the interests of audiences. Festivals which fall under our remit:

- The Literary Limerick Festival Initiative (Limerick Literary Festival in honour of Kate O'Brien, Eigse Michael Hartnett Poetry, Arts and Literary Festival, Cuisle, Limerick City International Poetry Festival and SoulScapes).
- Festival partnerships through our Youth Arts strand (Fresh Film Festival, Make A Move Festival, Elemental Festival), Music strand (Limerick Jazz Festival, Garry McMahon Singing Week end) and Visual Art strand (Askeaton Contemporary, Hospital Shop Window Festival).
- OpenHouseLimerick festival of architecture through our Architecture strand.
- EVA International is supported.

Eigse Michael Hartnett Festival 2014

Culture Night 2014

Culture Night

2014 presented a bumper Culture Night, for Limerick National City of Culture, with over sixty-nine free events in Limerick's cultural venues. Culture Night is one of the most successfully attended nights of the year. This Culture Night was the first devised and delivered as a joint initiative across Limerick City and County Council and part funded through an application to the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Culture Night, Limerick Urban Horse Project

Community, Leisure & Emergency Services

5. **Arts Programming**
   Youth Arts (County Limerick Youth Theatre, County Limerick Youth Choir and the Youth Drama Programme), Education (The Artists in Schools Scheme run in the County), Dance (Integrated Dance and Artist in Residence at Dance Limerick), The Music Programme (The Castleconnell Autumn Concerts Series, RTE Contempo Quartet "Father and Sons" Concert Series, Drombanna Community Choir), Visual Art (Ormston House members exhibition, professional training programme in partnership with Visual Arts Legacy and Commissioning), the Literature Programme (Festivals) and the yearly poetry anthology The Stony Thursday Book, edited this year by Peter Sirr and launched at Cuisle, Theatre (Theatre Artist in Residence at Friarsgate, Kilmallock) and Architecture.

6. **Art form development**

- Support for festivals as part of the annual cultural calendar.
- Support for organisations involved in art forms.

Culture Night, Macnas

Launch of Stony Thursday Poetry Book, Cuisle Poetry Festival, Jo Slade

Launch of Stony Thursday Poetry Book, Cuisle Poetry Festival, Peter Sirr, Editor and Sheila Deegan, Limerick Arts Officer

Community, Leisure & Emergency Services

7. **Portfolio of Arts Buildings within the remit of The Arts Office**

Dance Limerick, 1-2 John's Square, ground floor, basement and Dance Limerick Space.	Repair of the roof and walls of the Dance Limerick Space took place. Limerick Arts Office initiated elements of cost effective shared services between Dance Limerick and the Artists' Apartments.
Artists' Apartments, 1-2 John's Square, floors 1-2.	Now in their second year of operation. Six medium term apartments are licensed to cultural practitioners, through open call and are fully occupied. Two further apartments are for short term use to support visiting practitioners to arts organizations. Both schemes have a high level of demand.
Cappamore Arts Studios	Four new Arts Studios were launched in spring as part of the new library complex. One studio was licensed and a new bursary scheme announced to support artistic vibrancy in the rural community and to provide vital support to artists.
James Street Artists' Studios	8 artists' studios. The Arts Office undertook a license and management review and undertook minor repair works to one unoccupied studio to make it suitable for use. The 8 studios are fully occupied.
69 O'Connell Street (formerly Belltable)	Theatre and offices for use by arts organizations. The former Sarsfield Credit Union was refurbished and the intention is to make the entire building, theatre and Credit Union side, an Arts and Culture Centre.

69 O'Connell Street (formerly The Belltable Arts Centre)

Limerick Arts Encounter was developed as a collaboration between the Arts Office in Limerick City & County Council and the Lime Tree Theatre in light of the closure of The Belltable Arts Centre. The programme ran from mid-September 2013 to March 2014 and encompassed theatre, film, visual art, sonic art, dance and literature. 69 O'Connell Street is now programmed for April 2014-March 2015 by the Lime Tree Theatre, funded by the Arts Council. The collaboration has proved to be an important development in arts provision for audiences and artists.

A public consultation around the future use of 69 O'Connell Street (formerly The Belltable) was tendered and undertaken and completed in July 2014. Recommendations in the report are currently being considered.

A small amount of capital works were completed in the Sarsfield Credit Union side of the building which will bring life into the building for arts organisations.

Social media 2014

The Arts Office Newsletter is a seasonal e-zine that provides information on artistic and cultural events, funding and training opportunities and reaches over 2764 people. The Arts Office uses a range of social media to promote events, with Facebook (860 followers) and Twitter (4043 followers).

Community, Leisure & Emergency Services

Limerick Archives

Limerick Archives had an eventful 2014 responding to Limericks designation as National City of Culture. The Haselbeck exhibition in January was a very popular start to the year, followed in March by the City of Churches exhibition which travelled the city until September. In partnership with LSAD, Limerick Museum and the Limerick Leader a photographic exhibition of 1970's Limerick went on display in Shannon Airport in March and moved to City Hall in September. Titled 'From Limerick With Love' this was an engaging and affectionate portrait of 1970's Limerick in a decade of huge change. December saw the launch of Amazing lace in partnership with Limerick Museum, celebrating the rich cultural legacy that this major industry created.

Haselbeck Collection in City Hall

Ilustration of Limerick for City of Churches Exhibition, by Jacob Stack for Limerick Archives

Limerick with Love Corbally Clean-up August 1976

Veronica Rowe at Amazing Lace Exhibition

Community, Leisure & Emergency Services

Limerick With Love Exhibition

Jacqui Hayes Archives, Cormac Hurley, Anne and Sharon Slater - Limerick With Love Exhibition

Community, Leisure & Emergency Services

Installation of Permanent Collection December 2014

Limerick City Gallery of Art

Limerick City Gallery of Art continued its high quality and diverse range of contemporary exhibition programme with 13 separate exhibitions, including 4 exhibitions selected from LCGA's Permanent Collections. In addition the gallery was host to the second EVA International exhibition curated by Bassam El Baroni which was exhibited through Limerick City. 15 artists from the 55 artists selected from the EVA International 2014 exhibition presented their work in the Gallery.

The solo exhibition/artists were Michael Warren, Ewa Partum, Dennis McNulty, Elaine Byrne, John Shinnors, and Andrew Kearney. The group exhibitions included by Rita Duffy, Jamal Penjweny, Lida Abdul, Michael Canning, and Gillian Kenny.

Throughout the year LCGA continued its support and collaboration with local artists & community groups, the Arts Office and Limerick City of Culture.

- The Starting with T collaboration with Mary Wycherley, Monica Spencer and Mary Nunan worked with a local women's group and Fab Lab.
- Tom Fitzgerald Book Launch and pop up exhibition of prints
- Poetry Book launches for local poets.
- Song of the [Urban] Bees a Softday and LCGA collaboration, presented a newly re-scored live performance of Amhran na mBeach (Song of the Bees) which was funded by the Limerick City of Culture
- Make A Move Festival - Urban Art programme

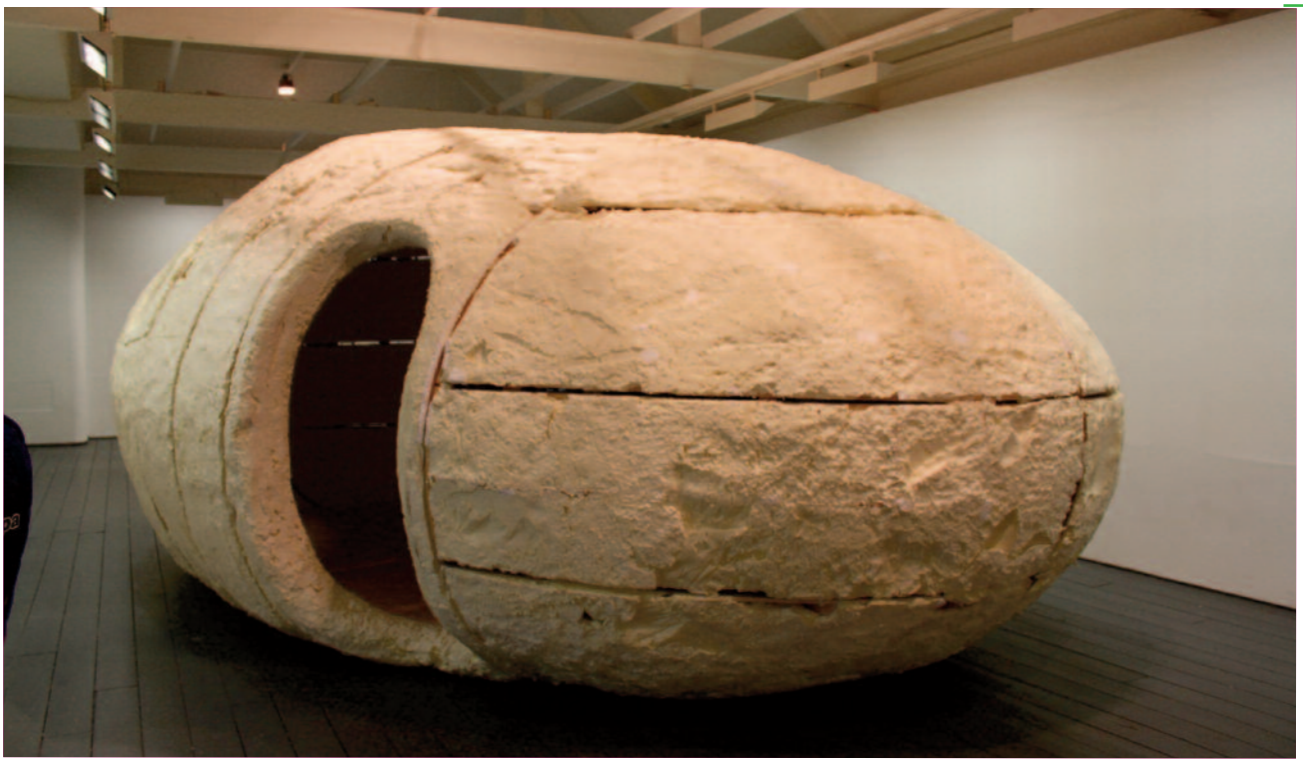
LCGA also worked with groups such as IKT-International Association of Curators of Contemporary Art,; Fáilte Ireland – International Travel Writers; Life Long Learning Festival; in addition to a range of schools and academic institutions from the city and county.

LCGA continued its Access Education programme and hosted Family Crafternoons; Heritage Week Family Workshops; Culture Night workshops and performances; Jazz Festival performance; Open House Workshops; Philosophy workshops with Schools & Colleges.

LCGA continued to have good visitor attendance to its exhibition programme and access programme with an attendance of over 77,000 visitors, who enjoyed free admission to the Gallery programme.

Úna McCarthy was appointed Director/Curator of LCGA in February 2015, succeeding Helen Carey who resigned in September 2014.

Community, Leisure & Emergency Services



RAUMPLAN - Elaine Byrne September 2014

EVA International 2014 installation - Raqs Media Collective + Iswanto Hartono in LCGA

Community, Leisure & Emergency Services

Michael Canning Installation at LCGA November 2014

John Shinnors Installation at LCGA December 2014

Limerick is now a fabulous cultured Lady

Hosting the first National City of Culture in Limerick in 2014 has generated a great sense of engagement, enjoyment and pride amongst the citizens of Limerick. This ambitious undertaking has been memorable and successful and although the year is coming to an end, we can now go forth and tell the world a new story about a new vibrant Limerick.

The dynamic cultural scene that flourished this year especially through the 109 'Made in Limerick' events which were run by communities, associations, organisations and cultural institutions, have captured the hearts and minds, the histories and the stories that make Limerick great.

And when 2014 ends, what we have created will continue to be put to use – for many years, because Limerick City of Culture was not just a cultural project it was also about reimagining Limerick. It was a chance to talk about the conflict between the cliché of our city and the hidden values of our city. It was our time to refresh the positive hidden values – to turn a fresh eye not a blind eye on Limerick. And look what's been achieved. The new positive image of Limerick, sense of pride and well-being in the city is palpable. We have shown that Limerick is a friendly attractive city to live in and is creative and vibrant city open to new ideas.

To deliver this massive project and hundreds of events we are indebted to numerous people and groups. We thank sincerely the many creative people who joined us and gave so much of their time, energy and enthusiasm. We especially thank the individuals, organisations and companies who believed in the value of the year of culture and its resonance for Limerick and gave us their support generously and wholeheartedly. We thank the team, staff, volunteers and all the statuary agencies and organisations that made the events possible. Finally, we thank the people of Limerick for participating in the year and having so much fun.

Limerick is sharp, lively, passionate, proud, historic, funny, opinionated, welcoming, even occasionally pure awkward and a wonderful place of culture.

Thank you for being part of it.

1. Dancers Laura Minogue and Shona Cobb from Riverdance at the Culture House, Pery Square, Limerick National City of Culture 2014.
2. Pictured backstage at the Winter Carnival in the Milk Market are members of the Limerick Gospel Choir having their picture taken with the aid of a 'selfie stick'.
3. Pictured at the singalong screening of Disney's 'Frozen' in Limerick School of Art and Design are Lucy Madigan, aged 4, and Ellie Madigan, aged 8, from Dooradoyle, Limerick.

4. Limerick wrapped up the successful year of Culture with family friendly events in the City. Conductor David Brophy at the Phoenix Rising, RTE Concert Orchestra and Mícheal O Suilleabhain.

5. DrawOut

6. Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys TD took time on a recent visit to Limerick City of Culture to drop by Culture House. Members of Unlucky Cabin Boy preforming.

Community, Leisure & Emergency Services

Fire Prevention, Building Control & Dangerous Buildings

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 include assessing Fire Safety Certificate applications and Disability Access Certificates, inspection of commercial buildings and apartment complexes, investigating complaints and giving Community Fire Safety talks.

Total number of fire safety certificate applications received Total number of fire safety certificate applications processed	145
(including cases deemed invalid)	152
Total number of applications deemed invalid.	32

New Buildings Inspected Buildings inspected as a % of new buildings notified to the Local Authority	16.7%
Total number of new buildings notified to the Local Authority	305
Number of new buildings notified to the Local Authority that were inspected	51

Disability Access Certificates - 2014 Statistics

Total No. of valid Disability Access Certificates received	88
Total No. of Disability Access Certificates processed (incl. cases deemed invalid)	82
Total No. of Disability Access Certificates invalidated	4

Total number of Planning Referrals processed	196
Total number of Commencement Notices received	343

Fire & Emergency Operations

The Limerick City & County Fire Service successfully attended 1594 incidents from 1st January to 31st December, 2014.

ISO9001:2008 Quality Standard Certification and OHSAS 18001:2007 Health & Safety Certification was maintained in Limerick Retained Fire Service.

The former fire prevention offices at Limerick City Fire Station were converted to a training and development centre by Limerick City Full time Fire Fighters and Officers.

Training continued on the roll-out of the National Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs), NDFEM-accredited Sub Officer Course, Breathing Apparatus (BA) Refresher training, recruit training, cardiac First Responder, Approved Driving Instructor, Driver Training, Emergency First Responder, Marine VHF Radio, Methods of Entry, Road Traffic Collision Procedures as well as various Senior and Junior Officer Training Courses and Seminars.

Fire personnel presented the Schools Fire Safety programme to 4th Class pupils in primary schools.

Limerick Fire & Rescue unveiled their new power boat in 2014.

Community, Leisure & Emergency Services

SERVICE INDICATORS	WHOLETIME	RETAINED
Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire	1 min 28 secs	
Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire		5 mins 28 secs
Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other emergency incidents	1 min 41 secs	
Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other emergency incidents		6 mins 18 secs
Percentage of Attendances at Scenes		
Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	88.84%	22.8%
Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	10.05%	50.29%
Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes.	1.096%	26.9%
% of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	84.61%	25.61%
% of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	13.84%	52.21%
% of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	1.538%	22.16%
Total number of incidents in respect of fire	712	249
Number of incidents in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	486	39
Number of incidents in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	55	86
Number of incidents in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	6	46
Total number of incidents in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire)	220	248
Number of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	36	52
Number of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	4	106
Number of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	385	45

Community, Leisure & Emergency Services

Flooding in February, 2014.

Major Emergency Management

- Major Emergency Management Committee meetings held throughout the year.
- Attended MEM Inter-Agency Regional Working and Steering Groups meetings for the Mid-West Region.
- Trained Limerick City & County Council personnel in the following:-
  - Information Management Officers
  - Media Liaison Officers (Inter-Agency Seminar)
- Updated and tested the Atlantic Fuels External Emergency Plan in accordance with the SEVESO II Directive
- Merged Limerick City & County Council's MEM Risk Assessments.
- Merged Limerick City & County Council's Saadian Text Messaging Services.
- Chairperson for the Mid-West Region Mass Fatality Plan and Voluntary Emergency Services Sub-Groups.
- Completed the National Annual Appraisal on Limerick City & County Council's preparedness for Major Emergency Management.

Munster Regional Communications Centre

The Munster Regional Communications Centre is responsible for the efficient and effective mobilisation of fire appliances and other agencies within the Munster region.

The Centre currently provides emergency call-taking and mobilisation services for 7 Local Authority Fire Services in the Munster Region; namely Clare County Council, Cork City Council, Cork County Council, Kerry County Council, Limerick City and County Council, Tipperary County Council and Waterford City & County Council.

Since its inception in 1992, the Centre has processed in excess of 500,000 calls, and now mobilises 65 retained and 4 full-time Fire Stations in Munster. The Centre itself is a 24x7x365 operation, and employs a system of procedures to ensure that it operates to the highest possible standard. Approximately 26,000 999/112 emergency calls are answered and processed per annum in a speedy and efficient manner, so that the correct Fire Brigade is mobilised to an emergency incident in as efficient a manner as possible.

New Powerboat for Fire Service

Community, Leisure & Emergency 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.

Basic training for volunteers consists of Manual Handling, Cardiac First Response, Occupational First Aid, Communications, Fire Awareness, Footdrill, Map reading, GPS, Basic Search & Rescue, Child Protection Courses and Equipment Familiarisation. Twenty Four Recruits successfully completed their induction training and received certification as Cardiac First Responders and Occupational First Aiders.

Limerick Civil Defence hosted a Regional Competition in Annacotty for Civil Defence Units from Six Local Authorities.

Volunteers specialise in different areas with Emergency First Response, Emergency Medical Technician, Instructional Methods, Auxiliary Fire Service, Pump Operation, VHF Marine Radio Licence and Coxswain - Level 2 & Level 3. Certificates, communications.

The Civil Defence College in Roscrea trains the Instructors in all disciplines and upskills our volunteers in many different areas – CISM, instructional methods, Search Manager, etc.

The new headquarters for Limerick City and County Council Civil Defence, located at the Docklands Business Park, was purchased by Limerick City and County Council.

Community, Leisure & Emergency Services

Lifesaver Project Road Safety Event South Court Hotel Raheen

Pat Daly

Director of Services Economic Development and Planning

Economic Development and Planning

Development Management	134
Forward Planning	134
Conservation	134
Innovate Limerick	134
Local Enterprise Office (LEO)	134
Key Performance Indicators	135
Property	138
Economic Development	138

Economic Development & Planning

Development Management

Some of the major planning decisions in 2014 were:

- **Regeneron Ireland:** PA 13/745 - Major biopharmaceutical manufacturing facility - Raheen Business Park,Limerick - **Granted.**
- **Aldi Supermarket:** PA 13/502 - Supermarket - Newcastle West. **Granted.**
- **HSE:** PA 13/737 - University Hospital Limerick - four storey education building. **Granted.**
- **Vistakon:** PA 13/746 - Wind Turbine - National Technology Park - Plassey - Limerick. **Granted.**
- CPL Fuels: PA 14/603 - Significant industrial development - Foynes - **Granted.**
- **Parkway Valley (Horizon Mall):** PA 14/828 - Major Retail Development - Parkway - Limerick - **Refused**.

Appealed to An Bord Pleanala

- Brookvale Hamilton Plaza: PA 14/900 - Major Office Development - National Technology Park - Plassey, Limerick - **Granted.**
- Bus Eireann: PA 14/1029 - Major redevelopment of Colbert Station - Limerick. **Granted.**
- Auginish : PA 14/1083 - Major gantry crane ship unloader - Foynes - **Granted.**
- Century Point Estates Limited: PA 14/1105 - Significant residential development (102 dwellings) - Adare - **Refused**

Development Contributions

Monies received in 2014 in accordance with Development Contribution Schemes	€1,428,312.67
Monies outstanding relating to applications which have commenced in 2014 in accordance with Development Contributions Schemes	€768,301

Forward Planning

The Forward Planning Section is responsible for the research, preparation and production of planning policy documents and planning for the sustainable development of housing, infrastructure, economic and environmental development in the County.

Local Area Plans

The Abbeyfeale and Newcastle West Local Area Plans were prepared and adopted in July and August 2014.
The review of the Adare, Patrickswell and Askeaton Local Area Plans commenced in the last quarter of 2014.

Conservation

Under the Built Heritage Jobs Leverage Grant Scheme, there was €257,000 allocated to renovation of Protected Structures.

Innovate Limerick

The first meeting of the Board of Innovate Limerick was held in September, 2014. Purchased Andersen site from the receiver and commenced plans to redevelop the site into smaller units. Launched Shadow Board Initiative in conjunction with LEO and Limerick Chamber of Commerce. Welcomed delegation from Freiburg in Switzerland to Limerick and announced a joint venture with them to run the 2015 International Cluster Conference in Limerick. Established joint venture relationship with Ardmore Studios.

Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

The Local Enterprise Office, Limerick was officially opened on 19th May 2014 by Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan TD who announced a range of new services for small businesses and start ups across Limerick.

Eamon Ryan, formerly CEO of Limerick City Enterprise Board, was appointed as Head of Enterprise for Limerick City and County.

During 2014 the Local Enterprise Office approved 37 businesses for grant aid amounting to €764,374 and paid out grants amounting to €511,026 to 43 businesses resulting in the direct creation of 61 new jobs in Limerick.

LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY PLANNING KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS REPORT 2014

Time Period Jan-Dec 2014

New Housing Development	
No. of applications decided	11
No. decided within 8 weeks	5
No. of decisions which required submission of further information	6
No. of decisions where extension of time was agreed under S.34(9)	0
Average length of time taken (in days) to decide a case where further information was sought	76.5
No. of grants	8
No. of refusals	3
No. of cases where the decision was confirmed with or without variations by An Bord Pleanala	3
No. of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala.	1

Individual Houses	
No. of applications decided	151
No. decided within 8 weeks	47
No. of decisions which required submission of further information	98
No. of decisions where extension of time was agreed under S.34(9)	5
Average length of time taken (in days) to decide a case where further information was sought	75.04
No. of grants	126
No. of refusals	25
No. of cases where the decision was confirmed with or without variations by An Bord Pleanala	3
No. of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala.	3

Other: Not requiring EIA	
No. of applications decided	667
No. decided within 8 weeks	363
No. of decisions which required submission of further information	303
No. of decisions where extension of time was agreed under S.34(9)	1
Average length of time taken (in days) to decide a case where further information was sought	73.16
No. of grants	627
No. of refusals	40
No. of cases where the decision was confirmed with or without variations by An Bord Pleanala	22
No. of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala.	11

Other: Requiring EIA	
No. of applications decided	5
No. decided within 8 weeks	2
No. of decisions which required submission of further information	3
No. of decisions where extension of time was agreed under S.34(9)	0
Average length of time taken (in days) to decide a case where further information was sought	93.33
No. of grants	5
No. of refusals	0
No. of cases where the decision was confirmed with or without variations by An Bord Pleanala	0
No. of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala.	0

Planning Enforcement	
Total number of cases subject to complaints that were investigated	422
Total number of cases subject to complaints that were dismissed	1
Total number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiation	153
Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	215
Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	87
Number of enforcement notices issued under Sc 155	34
Prosecutions initiated under Sc 154	57
Prosecutions initiated under Sc 151	0
Injunctions	0
Convictions under Sc 154	8
Convictions under Sc 151	0

Public Opening Hours	
Average number of opening hours per week	35

Taking in charge service indicators 2014		
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	68
B.	Number of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question	36
C.	Number of dwellings in respect of column B	2146
D.	Number of estates in column A not completed to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority in line with the planning permission	21
E.	Number of estates in column D in respect of which enforcement action was taken in The year in question and/or the bond was called in	16
F.	Number of estates in column D in respect of which works were undertaken by the Authority to bring the estate to taking in charge standard	3

Economic Development & Planning

Property

The Council's Property Unit will continue to ensure that the Local Authority maximises effectiveness in the use of Council owned property and in conjunction with change management plans the development of a Council Assets Register and property protocol.
The property department continues to focus on the development and implementation of a Council Derelict Sites Strategy and City and Key Town Improvement Plans.

In 2014 Limerick City and County Council also completed the acquisition of Mungret College and lands and progressed the completion of a number of strategic sites identified in Limerick 2030 including the Hanging Gardens and Cleeves.

Economic Development

Promoting and developing the economic potential of Limerick City and County

Key highlights for 2014 were as follows:-

- **Limerick 2030:** An Economic and Spatial Plan for Limerick - The Limerick 2030 Plan continued to be advanced during 2014, the key projects progressed were as follows:-
  - **Opera Site** (Government announcement committing Revenue to the site)
  - Hanging Gardens development (now in the ownership of LCCC)
  - **Cleeves** site due diligence and purchase
  - **The Limerick Footbridge project** (Feasibility Study completed) and the redevelopment plans for these and other strategic sites will continue to be progressed during 2015.

- **Business & Retail Incentive Scheme -** Over 30 new retail outlets opened in the core city centre area in 2014. The Business & Retail Incentive Scheme supported the opening of many of these new outlets that opened during 2014.There was strong interest and take up of the Scheme in Newcastle West and ongoing efforts will be made to promote the Scheme in all areas throughout 2015.

- **Great Streets –** A pilot scheme to improve the appearance of key streets in our City and Town Centres was launched in 2014. The initial pilot focused on Roches Street in Limerick City Centre. The Scheme will be promoted in Limerick City Centre, Kilmallock, Rathkeale, Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale to encourage take up during 2015.

- **Retail Excellence Ireland –** Limerick nominated as Pilot City - Retail Excellence Ireland, Limerick Chamber and Limerick City & County Council continued to work together to promote Limerick as a retail destination for new retail investment. This ongoing promotion is resulting in a City Centre that is vibrant and has attracted significant new investment during 2014.

- **Christmas in Limerick City Centre –** Limerick City Business Association and Limerick City & County Council worked in partnership to deliver an engaging Christmas experience in Limerick City Centre for 2014. The turning on of the Christmas lights was one of the key highlights and saw record numbers attending this event.

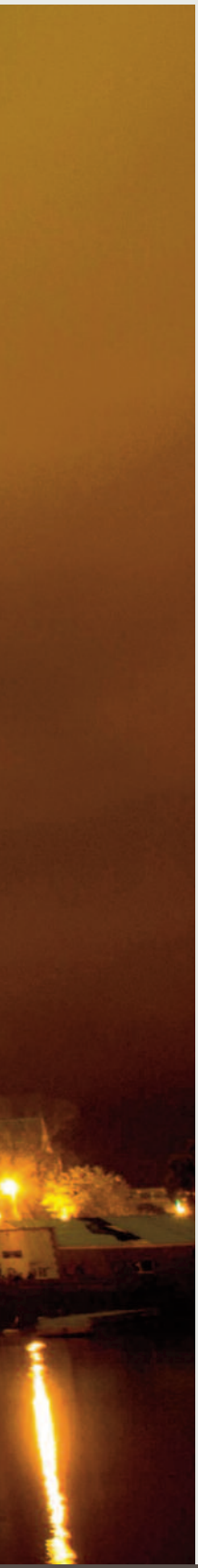
- **Opera Centre Site –** Where possible the promotion of short-term lettings will continue to be supported during 2015.

- **Living Cities Initiative -** The Living Cities Initiative is a pilot project focussed on urban regeneration. The initiative seeks to tackle vacancy in the historic areas of the City Centre and it is anticipated that it will be rolled out during 2015.

Bridge in Castleconnell, Co. Limerick

Tom Gilligan

Head of Finance, Motor Tax and I.C.T.



Finance & ICT

FINANCE

Budget 2014 and 2015 142
Irish Water 142
Rates Revaluation Process 142
Commercial Rates 143
Small and Medium Enterprise Support Scheme 2014 143
Audit Committee 143
Merger of Limerick City Council and Limerick County Council 144
SEPA Migration Project and Amalgamation of Bank Accounts 144

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICT)

Information & Communication Technologies ICT 145

Budget 2014 and 2015

The 2015 Budget reflects the need to continue a strong financial management ethos while making every effort to meet the ever increasing demands on the services of Limerick City and County Council. The following table depicts Revenue expenditure by Division for Budget 2015 compared to the consolidated budget for 2014. The expenditure for Budget 2015 is €155.87m. This compares to €173.16m for Budget 2014, with changes arising from Irish Water being a significant adjustment from year to year.

Division	Budget 2015	Budget 2014
A. Housing and Building	35,279,023	28,848,355
B. Road Transportation & Safety	29,876,430	30,943,153
C. Water Services	15,812,222	29,097,161
D. Development Incentives & Controls	11,789,067	11,209,616
E. Environmental Protection	30,012,274	37,992,048
F. Recreation & Amenity	11,622,906	9,882,156
G. Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	2,555,504	4,045,591
M. Miscellaneous Services	18,824,709	21,138,111
	155,872,135	**173,156,191**

Irish Water

In 2014, due to changes in the provision of goods the Council substantially reduced its own expenditure as regards non payroll costs for the provision of water services. This has resulted in a reduced budgeted expenditure and recoupment from Irish Water in the 2015 budget. There will be ongoing meetings with Irish Water in order to review and discuss the Council's service level agreement and expenditure commitments for 2015.

Rates Revaluation process

Limerick, during 2014 went through a rates revaluation process. This involved the Valuation Office posting over 6,700 final Valuation Certificates to commercial and industrial ratepayers in the Limerick City and County Council rating authority area on the 11th December 2014.The new valuations took effect from 1st January 2015 and will form the basis for commercial rates in Limerick in 2015 and subsequent years.

Finance & ICT

Year	Rates	Diff in Yrs €
2008	55,606,941	-
2009	56,869,574	1,262,633
2010	58,176,362	1,306,788
2011	59,268,125	1,091,763
2012	59,276,025	7,900
2013	58,090,716	-1,185,309
2014	53,667,967	-4,422,749

Commercial Rates Harmoniation

2014, was historic as regards preparing the budget as it saw for the first time the rate harmonisation of both City and County. This resulted in a substantial decrease in the rate demands payable by commercial businesses for 2014 as reflected in the Table below. Limerick City and County Council as a combined authority had a rate demand in 2014 of €53.668m compared to a figure in 2008 of €55.607m. This indicates a reduction of €2m or 3.5%. However, the change is far more stark in the recent past i.e. from 2014 to 2012 in that whilst the rate demand peaked in 2012 (€59.276m) significant reductions especially to the City demand has seen total rates billed decrease to €53.667m. This represents a drop of €5.6m, (9.4%) in the 3 year period. Along with parking, this makes Limerick the most cost effective location in order to do business in within this country.

This unprecedented reduction in rates, particularly in 2014 has helped stimulate the local economy and highlighted the commitment of the Council to businesses in order to generate employment and create an environment for continued growth and prosperity.

Small and Medium Enterprise Support Scheme 2014

In 2014 the Council set up the Small and Medium Enterprise Support Scheme to help Rate customers. The fund, the first of its kind in the Limerick area, was paid as a financial support to occupiers of commercial properties with a total annual commercial rates bills of up to and including €10,000 but not less than €750 in 2014, subject to number of terms and conditions. The Scheme proved to be very successful, with 431 individuals and companies availing of the Subsidy payments. The actual amount collected as a direct result of the scheme was €1.521 million. This contributed in no small way in helping to reduce the level of arrears on the Rate Account at the end of 2014. It is recommended that the Council continues with the Scheme for 2015 with the same terms and conditions applying.

Audit Committee

The Council's new Audit Committee met back in December and with the establishment of NOAC (The National Audit & Oversight Commission) which will provide an increased oversight and scrutiny within the Local Government Sector. NOAC has a wide range of functions that include the development of consistent audit principles and is a very significant development in public accountability, bringing an added dimension of independent scrutiny to local government performance.

Finance & ICT

Merger of Limerick City Council and Limerick County Council

The merging of the financial systems of the two Limerick Local Authorities represented one of the most significant challenges faced by the Finance and ICT department during 2014. In order to ensure the success of the project the Finance Department had to assign significant resources throughout the year to ensure that the merger of financial systems, accounting methodologies and procedures, customer and supplier accounts were done successfully. The financial merger process was facilitated by the creation of a team focused on the creation of a newly merged financial management system with feed in from all of the other Council Departments. Whilst the financial merger process is coming to a conclusion, which will enable the finalisation of the first merged set of accounts for the local authority for the financial year 2014, the work of the project team is ongoing particularly with the upgrading of the current system to a new web integrated package.

SEPA Migration Project and Amalgamation of Bank Accounts

During 2014 Limerick City and County Council was involved in the migration to SEPA which is a payments initiative for the simplification of bank transfers within the Eurozone Area. Also, as part of the merger the Council was engaged in setting up a single bank account for its day to day financial transactions which involved writing to all its customers and suppliers to advise them of the changeover.

Information & Communication Technologies (ICT)

The Information Systems Sections of Limerick City & County Council while continuing to support sections in achieving their objectives, we continued to maintain & upgrade existing end-user systems, monitor security, consolidate servers, maintain & upgrade WEB sites, and provide a user Helpdesk, throughout 2014.

Some of the major areas of activity were :-

Electronic Council Meetings & Representations
All Members have been now issued with iPADs, with initial training being carried out. A process has been implemented to upload all meeting documentation to our Alfresco Extranet, this has facilitated the introduction of electronic meetings.

All representations are now being processed with Sugar C.R.M., it is envisaged that Sugar CRM will be updated to allow Members to email representations directly to it.

Customer Relationship Management System (C.R.M.)
Customer Services are now live with Sugar C.R.M. for Environment Services. Work will be ongoing into 2015 and beyond with all interactions with customers, for all services, being recorded and processed through Sugar C.R.M.

Systems Merger
The ICT systems merger programme consists of 102 projects and included 160 systems with all major systems merged since 1st June. The scale and diversity of systems made this a hugely complex task which involved alignment and improvement of processes in addition to the technical aspects of the project. Operational systems were available at all times to staff and citizens during the integration. Work will be ongoing through 2015 to complete merger of all systems.

Move Management
The final moves were carried out early 2014 with the occupation of 8, Patrick Street, and the consequential moves of Fire from Mulgrave Street, and Environment within the Dooradoyle offices. Works to fit-out Patrick Street were carried out early January which included a Fibre Link to Merchants Quay.

New Mail System
The rollout of the new single email system (Microsoft Exchange 2013) was completed during 2014. This involved migration of over 750 users, their mailboxes, calendar, and contacts from the old @limerickcity.ie and @limerickcoco.ie mail systems to the new @limerick.ie system.

This system has a feature called Database Availability Groups (DAG), which provides, high availability and site redundancy for email.

New Council Website
The design of a new joint Website for Limerick City & County Council http://Limerick.ie/Council was launched in June, 2014 and was built by the local Council software development team. The design is based on the Council service catalogue, the site will be user friendly and jargon free. Users will retrieve information quickly and easily online on all services available to them. The website forms part of the Limerick.ie domain where all business, citizen and user needs are available from a single location. From the June to December period Limerick.ie has been viewed 1.5 million times by over 300,000 unique users.

ICT Helpdesk
A new ITIL compliant Helpdesk system, BMC Track-It was put in place during 2015. Users can log calls through the ICT Support Portal, or by email, this logs the call automatically and sends the users an acknowledgement email with a Ticket Number. There were over 6,000 calls logged in the system from June to December 2014.

Windows XP End-Of-Life
After 12 years, support for Windows XP ended April 8, 2014. After this date Microsoft no longer provided security updates or technical support for Windows XP. P.C.'s running Windows XP after this date will become vulnerable to security attacks, and viruses. ICT staff upgraded over 750 desktops to Windows 7 during 2014. This was mainly a labour intensive project, with a team of four staff dedicated to the project for a period of five months.

Adare, Co. Limerick

Municipal Districts

Adare - Rathkeale	148
Cappamore - Kilmallock	150
Newcastle West	153

Adare - Rathkeale

Following the local elections of 2014 the Rathkeale Electoral Area became the Adare Rathkeale Municipal District and now comprises of six elected representatives.

The Rathkeale Area Office will continue to provide a wide range of engineering and administrative services to the Adare/Rathkeale Municipal District which includes Housing, Road Improvement & Maintenance, Burial Grounds, Community Play Grounds, Water & Waste-Water Services. A new customer service system to track customer requests & queries across the organisation was implemented also during 2014.

Funding was secured from the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government during 2014 for Public Area Enhancement.
Submissions for funding was received from a number of towns and villages under this initiative which included community groups in Rathkeale, Foynes, Shanagolden, Glin, Ballingarry & Croagh.

Substantial improvement works were undertaken during the year to the Adare/Rathkeale Municipal District roads network which included:-

- Major road surface overlay at Ardagh.
- Road Strengthening & Surface Dressing works on local & regional roads
- Development Fund works were carried out at Askeaton, Ballingarry & Kilcolman.

Wild Atlantic Way Viewing Point - Foynes

Funding was secured from Failte Ireland during 2014 for the development of the Wild Atlantic Way Viewing Point in Foynes. These works are still ongoing.

Housing

The Adare/Rathkeale Housing Department carries out maintenance & improvement works to its stock of housing units as well as maintenance works to Council Burial Grounds, Residential Caravan Sites & Libraries in the Municipal District.
Twenty Two vacant houses were upgraded under the Voids programme in 2014.

The Council also approves various Housing Aid Grants, such as the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme for People with a Disability; the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme, & the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme. An allocation of €351,436 was received from the Department of Environment, Heritage & local Government during 2014 with a total of 71 applicants receiving grant aid under the various schemes.

Public Area Enhancement - Croagh Co. Limerick

Municipal Districts

Wild Atlantic Way - Viewing Point Foynes

Water Services

Irish Water was established during 2014 and now has responsibility for water & waste water operations country wide. The Shannon Estuary Water Supply Scheme continues to supply water to the Aughanish Alumina Plant as well as the surrounding hinterland, including Askeaton, Foynes, Kildimo, Pallaskenry & Ballyhahill.

Maintenance & Improvement works continued to be carried out during the year to burial grounds in the Adare/Rathkeale Municipal District.

Environmental Services

Recycling facilities are located in a number of towns and villages throughout the Adare/Rathkeale Municipal District.

The Council also undertakes street cleaning works in many towns and villages, with the use of a mechanical suction sweeper as well as manual cleaning.

Lifeguard Service

Temporary lifeguards and pier attendants were employed at both Glin and Kilteery Piers during the 2014 summer bathing period.

Playgrounds

A number of Community Developed Playgrounds are located at Rathkeale, Askeaton, Ballingarry, Foynes, Adare, Pallaskenry & Glin. These facilities are managed by community playground committees with facilities available to all members of the public.

Arts Centre

The Rathkeale Arts Centre which is located in Áras Sean Finn, hosted many and varied arts related events during the year, including drama, painting exhibitions, music, cinema nights etc. Events are managed by the local Arts committee and overseen by the Council Arts Office.

Cappamore-Kilmallock

Kilmallock Area Committee held 4 meetings during 2014, and received a deputation from Elton Tidy Town Association at its March meeting.

The final meeting of the Committee, comprising David Moloney (chairman), Michael Donegan, Michael Houlihan, William O'Donnell and Eddie Ryan, was held on 24th April 2014.

The Inaugural Meeting of Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District was held on 12th June 2014 at Aras Mainchin Seoighe, Kilmallock. Cllr. Eddie Ryan was elected Cathaoirleach.

At it's meeting of 27 November 2014 the Municipal District held a joint Civic Reception for Kilmallock and Ballylanders G.A.A. clubs, to mark their victories in the County Senior Hurling and Football championships respectively.

Cllr. Eddie Ryan, Cathaoirleach and Members of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock make a presentation to Ballylanders G.A.A. Club 27 November 2014

Home and Social Development

The maintenance of Housing stock in the Municipal District is now operated by the North and South Operational Areas. In addition to Maintenance and pre letting works in 2014, funding was provided for a Voids Retrofitting programme, and for targeted Energy Efficiency improvement works. This work involved attic and cavity wall Insulation and associated ventilation in accordance with current Building Regulations.

During 2014, Housing Grants, which are 80% financed from Central Funds, continued to be an important contributor towards the support of people in their homes.

Radharc na Cille housing estate in Kilmallock achieved a runner up placing in the Housing Estates category of the 2014 National Pride of Place Awards.

Burial Grounds

Part 8 Planning Permission was secured during 2014 for the construction of an extension to the existing burial ground at Ballingaddy, Kilmallock.

Located 2.8 kms southeast of Kilmallock town, the development of this graveyard extension will result in excess of 700 additional plots with car parking also being provided.

Caherconlish Burial Ground - Half an acre cleared at a cost of approximately €20,000 in preparation for the creation of an additional 80 spaces.

Unfinished Housing Estates

During 2014 , works continued to a number of unfinished estates to bring them up to a standard to facilitate taking in charge by the Council.

Significant works were carried out at the following estates:
The Hawthorns, Ballyagran; Glengrove, Kilmallock; Bellview , Kilmallock.

Works ongoing at Bellview, Kilmallock - unfinished Housing Estates

Public Area Enhancement Scheme

75% Funding provided by the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government under the Public Area Local Enhancement Scheme , resulted in the construction of a 450m riverside walk extending from North Bridge to the Industrial Park. In conjunction with Kilmallock Tidy Towns, 45 trees were planted in December 2014 along the new walkway sponsored by local people and the Kilmallock diaspora in Australia and the U.K.

Roads

Under the Community Involvement Scheme, three projects were completed in the area with a total budget of €44,867. These works were carried out on local tertiary roads and the works consisted of drainage works, road reconstruction and surface dressing.

A Local Improvement Scheme was completed near Granagh in 2015 which had a budget of €35,661.

There was an allocation of €200,000 from the Development Fund for various projects including footpaths in Kilmallock, Bruff, Galbally, Kilfinnane and Knockainey.
A Pedestrian Crossing was provided at the Library, Cappamore, and Pedestrian access was facilitated at the Day Care Centre.
Clearance works to the Old Cork Road, Holycross have made it passable for the first time in many years and make it possible to use as a walking or cycling trail once further works in 2015 are complete.
Preliminary design work has begun on the proposed pedestrian bridge over the River Loobagh in Kilmallock.

Kilmallock Town Wall

In 2014 Limerick County Council applied successfully to the Heritage Council under the Irish Walled Towns Network grants for funding towards repairs to the medieval town wall. Work commenced at the end of September and were completed in 4 weeks. In total, 30m of town wall at the western side of the town were consolidated.

During 2014 the Gateway Project based in Kilmallock carried out sensitive and extensive cleaning of vegetation from the inner and outer faces of the town wall. In particular, the section in the car-park behind King's Castle is much improved.

Riverside Walk, Kilmallock, Constructed In 2014 Under The Public Area Local Enhancement Scheme, Planting And Seats By Kilmallock Tidy Towns.

The Square, Newcastle West

Newcastle West

Following the local elections in May 2014, the Newcastle West area, became the Municipal District of Newcastle West. The office at Newcastle West continues to provide a range of services throughout West Limerick, including Road Maintenance, Housing, Burial Grounds, Planning Clinics, Motor Tax, as well as operation of the Council's Machinery Yard & Bitumen Depot. The expansion of services under the new Customer Service model is being developed and implemented and the water services section acts as an agent for Irish Water.

Roads

Expenditure on maintenance and improvement works on roads in 2014 was financed by way of Government grants and the Council's own resources.

Road expenditure programmes during 2014 included:

- Major road surface overlay on the N21 at for Phase 1 Barnagh, Newcastle West
- Major upgrade in Templeglantine village on N21
- Road strengthening and surface dressing schemes on regional and local roads
- Road overlays at Station Road, Newcastle West and Ashford village
- Footpath upgrading at Athea, Abbeyfeale, Ardagh and Newcastle West
- Upgrade local bridge at Broadford
- Winter Maintenance

Demesne, Newcastle West

This public amenity continues to increase in popularity, with large numbers enjoying the facilities. Large numbers are also attending the playground at the entrance to the Demesne.

Municipal Districts

River Arra at North Quay, Newcastle West

Housing

Housing Grants Scheme
In 2014, sixteen applications under the Housing Adaptation Grants for People with a Disability were approved at a cost of €130,082.33.Thirty five applications under the Mobility Aids Housing Grants were approved at a cost of €132,015.19. Forty seven applications under the Housing Aid for Older People were approved at a cost of €294,547.57.

Housing Maintenance

The Housing Maintenance crew for the Newcastle West Municipal District is also based at the office. Twenty eight vacant Council houses were upgraded with funding under the 2014 Voids Programme. The majority of these houses have been let to new tenants. Routine maintenance issues with houses are also dealt with by this crew.

Water Services

Irish Water has been established as the organisation with overall responsibility for water and waste water matters throughout Ireland. The water crew at Newcastle West acts as an agent for this organisation and on their behalf operates and maintains a large number of water and sewerage schemes throughout West Limerick. These include water treatment plants at Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale, which are two of the largest towns in the County, and between them produce in the region of 1.5 million gallons of water per day.

Ballingrane Bitumen Depot & Machinery Yard

The Bitumen Depot at Ballingrane and the Machinery yard based in Newcastle West continues to play a central role in the Road Works Programme. All bitumen used in the county is distributed through the central depot at Ballingrane and the Council fleet of vehicles is maintained by the Machinery Yard.

Motor Taxation

The Motor Taxation Section in Newcastle West had takings of almost €6.2 million in 2014 with the number of routine transactions carried out during the year totalling 29,569. A further 1000 statutory off the road declarations were also processed by the office.

Customer Services

The roll out of a new customer services initiative also began during 2014 with the introduction of the Sugar CRM system. This system is to be further expanded upon during 2015.

Esther Lane, Maria Croke O'Sullivan and Yvonne Daly, staff of Limerick City and County Council, May Riverfest.

Appendices

Conferences & Seminars Attended 158
Local Elections 164
(Disclosure of Donations & Expenditure)

Conferences/Seminars attended by Members of Limerick City and County Council
January to December 2014

DATE	TITLE	VENUE	NO.
3rd – 5th January	Seminar organised by Celtic Conferences entitled 'Public Presentation and PR Management'	Rosscarbery, Co. Cork	2
3rd – 5th January	Seminar organised by Superior Training entitled 'Canvassing Tips 2014'	Bewley's Hotel, Newlands Cross, Naas Road, Dublin 22	3
3rd – 5th January	Seminar organised by Ace Training Entitled '2014 European Elections Information Seminar for Councillors'	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	5
3rd – 5th January	Seminar - Crime prevention through Partnership	Blue Haven Hotel, Kinsale, Co Cork	2
10th – 12th January	Seminar organised by Superior Training Entitled 'Political Reform 2014'	Bewley's Hotel, Newlands Cross, Naas Road, Dublin 22	5
10th – 12th January	The Building Control Amendment Regulations 2013	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	1
10th – 12th January	Employment Law – Mediation v Litigation	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, West Cork	1
17th – 18th January	Seminar – Local Government Bill 2013	Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co Kerry	1
17th – 19th January	Seminar - The Councillor and Irish Water	Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny, Co Donegal	4
17th – 18th January	Seminar organised by Superior Training entitled 'Local Government Bill 2013'	Ballinasloe, Co. Galway	1
17th – 19th January	Seminar organised by Ace Training entitled 'Rural Housing – Planning & Development Design Guidelines	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	4
17th – 19th January	Seminar – Credit Union and the Rules Governing Them	Bewleys Hotel, Newlands Cross, Naas Road, Dublin	1
23rd – 25th January	Seminar – Media Skills for Councillors	Clifden House Hotel, Clifden, Co Galway	1
24th – 26th January	Seminar – Common Agriculture Policy, An overview of CAP Reform	Bewleys Hotel, Newlands Cross, Naas Rd, Dublin	4
24th – 26th January	Seminar organised by Celtic Conferences entitled 'Doing More with Less – Managing Time and Productivity'	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork	2
24th – 26th January	Seminar – Municipal Water – The Challenges for Local Authority	Clonree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co Donegal	1

Conferences/Seminars attended by Members of Limerick City and County Council January to December 2014

DATE	TITLE	VENUE	NO.
24th – 26th January	Seminar organised by Ace Management and Training entitled 'Domestic Water Charges – Preparation and Practicalities'	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	4
31st January – 1st February	LAMA Spring Seminar 2014	Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan	1
31st January – 1st February	Seminar- National Programme of Revaluation of Commercial and Industrial Properties	The Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway	3
31st January – 1st February	Conference organised by Waterford County Council on Mental Health and Suicide Awareness Entitled 'Supports and Developments in Mental Health Care'	Dungarvan, Co. Waterford	1
31st Jan – 2nd February	Seminar – An Inconvenient Reality	Gold Coast Hotel, Ballinacourty, Dungarvan	2
31st January – 2nd February	Seminar - Changes to Construction Tendering for Local Authorities	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, West Cork	1
31st January – 2nd February	Merriman Winter School 2014	Limerick	1
31st January – 2nd February	Seminar organised by Ace Training entitled 'Good Governance of Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisation of Ireland	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	3
7th – 9th February	Seminar organised by Ace Training entitled 'Sport and Community Planning'	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	4
14th – 16th February	Seminar organised by Institute of Professional Training entitled 'From Ballot Box to the Council Chamber'	Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	4
14th – 16th February	Seminar – Local Authority Employment – Law, Practice & Procedure	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, West Cork	1
14th – 16th February	Seminar – On Overview of Irish Water and its Functions	Bewleys Hotel, Newlands Cross, Dublin 22	1
20th – 22nd February	Seminar - Seanad Reform and Councillor	The Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co Wexford	1
21st February	Attendance as Mayor at National Planning Awards 2014 Dinner	Dublin	1

Conferences/Seminars attended by Members of Limerick City and County Council
January to December 2014

DATE	TITLE	VENUE	NO.
21st – 23rd February	Seminar – Deal with Difficult Times	Bewleys Hotel, Newlands Cross, Clondalkin, Dublin.	1
21st – 23rd February	Seminar organised by Ace Training entitled 'Local Government Law Update: 2014'	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	3
21st – 23rd February	Seminar – Domestic Water Charges Preparation & Practicalities	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, West Cork	1
21st – 23rd February	25th Colmcille Winter School	The Colmcille Heritage Centre, Gartan, Letterkenny, Donegal	1
24th February – 3rd March	39th Annual Queen's County St. Patrick's Day Parade	Rockaway Beach, Queens, New York	1
27th – 28th February	Conference and Exhibition organised by Discover Boyne Valley/Meath Tourism entitled 'Showcasing a unique destination The Boyne Valley'	Gormanstown, Co. Meath	1
28th February – 1st March	Seminar – Budgets and Financing of Local Authorities	Talbot Hotel, Wexford	1
28th February – 2nd March	Seminar organised by Ace Training entitled 'Managing Diversity in the Community'	Rosscarbery, Co. Cork	2
28th February – 2nd March	Seminar organised by Ace Training entitled 'A Guide to EU Education Programmes'	Carlingford, Co. Louth	4
6th – 7th March	Association of County and City Councils Annual Conference entitled 'Councillors and Change - New challenges for Irish Local Government	Silver Russell Hotel, Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan	9
7th – 8th March	Seminar – Empowering Communities through Local Government	The Connacht Hotel, Old Dublin Rd, Galway	2
7th – 9th March	Seminar – Succession Law & Tax Planning	Bewleys Hotel, Newlands Cross, Clondalkin, Dublin	2
7th – 9th March	Seminar organised by Ace Training entitled 'Dignity at Work – A Guide to Bullying and Harassment in the Workplace'	Carlingford, Co. Louth	1
7th – 9th March	Seminar organised by Ace Training entitled 'Charities, Regulation & Legislation'	Rosscarbery, Co. Cork	2

Conferences/Seminars attended by Members of Limerick City and County Council
January to December 2014

DATE	TITLE	VENUE	NO.
11th – 12th March	Seminar organised by Superior Training entitled 'Media Skills for Councillors'	Bundoran, Co. Donegal	2
13th - 19th March	St.Patrick's Day Parade	New York	1
14th - 16th March	Seminar – The Councillor Post 2014	Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny, Donegal	2
14th – 16th March	Seminar organised by BG Seminarz entitled 'Value for Money in Local Government'	Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	1
21st – 22nd March	Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises Entitled 'Dealing with Vacant Space'	Galway	1
21st – 23rd March	Changes to the Construction Contract Act 2013 for Local Authorities	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	1
28th – 30th March	An overview of the Local Property Tax Clondalkin, Dublin	Bewleys Hotel, Newlands Cross,	1
28th – 30th March	Seminar organised by Ace Training entitled 'Retirement Entitlements and Taxation Benefits for Councillors'	The Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork	8
January – April	Diploma in Genealogy	University College Cork	1
4th – 5th April	Seminar organised by Superior Training entitled 'Retirement Planning for Councillors'	Dundalk, Co. Louth	1
4th – 5th April	Seminar – Data Protection	Aras an Mhuilinn, Mount St., Mullingar, Westmeath	1
4th – 6th April	Seminar organised by Celtic Conferences Entitled 'West Cork Tourism Seminar on Internet Marketing'	The Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork	4
11th April	NFLA All Ireland Forum Spring 2014 Meeting And Seminar entitled 'Irelands Future Energy Policy and UK Nuclear Update'	Newry, Co. Down	1
11th – 12th April	Seminar - National Register of Health Services Providers Identifiers	The Connacht Hotel, Old Dublin Rd, Galway	1
11th - 13th April	Environmental & Cost Effective Solutions to Waste Water Treatment	Ramada Viking Hotel, Waterford	1

Conferences/Seminars attended by Members of Limerick City and County Council
January to December 2014

DATE	TITLE	VENUE	NO.
11th – 13th April	Seminar organised by Ace Training entitled 'MABS and the Insolvency Service of Ireland'	The Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork	6
12th - 13th April	Seminar – The Local Government Arts Services	Clybaun Hotel, Knocknacarra, Galway	1
16th April	Attendance as Mayor at State Gathering to commemorate the 1000thAnniversary of The Battle of Clontarf	Dublin	1
18th – 19th April	Crime and its Impact on Quality of Life	Quality Hotel, Killarney	1
18th - 20th April	5 Weeks Countdown to Local Elections 2014	Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Donegal	2
18th – 20th April	Seminar organised by Ace Training entitled 'Chambers of Commerce Building Business'	Rosscarbery, Co. Cork	3
25th – 27th April	Seminar organised by Ace Training entitled 'Know your Rights : 2014 Social Welfare, Health and Taxation'	Rosscarbery, Co. Cork	2
25th – 27th April	The Elected Member, the Enviroment and the Community	The Clanree, Hotel, Letterkenny, Donegal	1
29th April – 1st May	Ilen School Gandelow Venice Project	Venice, Italy	1
2nd – 4th May	Seminar - Getting your Vote Out	Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny, Donegal	2
2nd to 4th May	River Flooding & Management Issues	Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co Donegal	1
2nd – 4th May	Seminar organised by Ace Training entitled 'Retirement Entitlements and Taxation Benefits for Councillors'	Carlingford, Co. Louth	1
5th – 13th May	Visit Visit Visit	Boston, US St.Louis, US Spokane, US	2 1 1
9th – 10th May	Seminar organised by Superior Training Entitled 'Reformed Local Government And The Councillor'	Bunclody, Co. Wexford	1
9th – 11th May	Seminar organised by Ace Training entitled 'Waste Management Legislation – Responsibilities of Local Authorities in Disposing and Recycling Electrical and Electronic Equipment'	The Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork	6

Conferences/Seminars attended by Members of Limerick City and County Council January to December 2014

DATE	TITLE	VENUE	NO.
9th – 11th May	Managing Change in Local Government	Quality Hotel, Killarney, Co Kerry	1
16th - 18th May	Strategic Environmental Assessments and Decision Making	Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co Donegal	1
16th – 18th May	Seminar organised by Ace Training entitled 'Tourism Technology and Competitive Strategies'	Carlingford, Co. Louth	2
18th – 20th May	European Cities Against Drugs 21st ECAD Mayors' Conference	Stockholm, Sweden	1
28th Jul – 5th Aug	Limerick Sister Cities Twinning	Sant Clara,California, USA	1
9th August	Public Health Seminar on HSE Tobacco Control Policy	Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co Cork	1
12th – 14th Sept	Social Housing in Ireland	Bewleys Hotel, Newlands Cross, Naas Rd, Dublin	1
21st & 22nd November	Meeting Management – Principles and Best Practice	Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co Cork	2
28th November	Southern & Eastern Joint Regional Assemble Annual Conference "Maximising EU Funding Opportunities 2014-2020"	Ferrycarrig Hotel, Wexford	2
4th – 8th December	Meetings with The Passage Day Centre, The Joint Homelessness Team Centre, London Irish Centre and Associations that provide services of support for the Irish Community in the Greater London Area.	London	1
5th & 6th December	Seminar – Alignment of Local Government & Local Development	The Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway	2
5th & 6th December	Seminar – Housing & Local Government	Lord Bagenal Hotel, Leighlinbridge, Co Carlow	1
5th & 6th December	Seminar – Charities, Regulation & Legislation	Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co Cork	2
12th & 13th Dec	Seminar – Protected Disclosures Act 2014	The Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway	1
12th December	Nuclear Free Local Authorities All Ireland Forum Winter 2014	Dublin City Hall, Dame Street, Dublin 2	1
12th to 14th Dec	Tourism Technology & Competitive Strategies for 2015	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	1

Local Elections (Discosure of Donations and Expenditure)

In accordance with the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure Act) 1999, all candidates must submit a statement of election expenses and statutory declaration on the prescribed form to Limerick City and County Council

For **successful candidates**, the following are the details:

Name		Expenses
Browne	Séamus	€2,360.00
Butler	Daniel	€3,758.59
Byrne	Maria	€2,688.24
Clifford	Shane	€6,770.00
Collins	James	€7,785.30
Collins	Michael	€1,795.90
Crowley	Joe	€4,400.00
Daly	Frankie	€4,048.30
Donegan	Michael	€7,205.00
Foley	Francis	€1,446.23
Galvin	Liam	€4,705.71
Gilligan	John	€7,726.90
Gleeson	Noel	€2,798.00
Hourigan	Michael	€2,123.74
Hurley	Marian	€3,444.59
Keary	Stephen	€4,587.22
Keller	Paul	€1,579.95
Leddin	Joe	€3,300.00
Loftus	John	€2998.00
Lynch	Seán	€4,959.67

Name		Expenses
McCreesh	Malachy	€1,971.42
McMahon	Ciara	€3,492.45
Mitchell	Gerald	€8,433.91
Neville	Tom	€5,835.10
O'Brien	Emmett	€7,608.92
ÓCeallaigh	Séighin	€2,823.65
O'Dea	Jerry	€8,760.62
O'Donnell	William	€1,773.49
O'Donoghue	Richard	€9,354.26
O'Hanlon	Kieran	€4,832.00
Prendiville	Cian	€2,615.92
Quinlivan	Maurice	€1,761.14
Ryan	Eddie	€8,337.77
Scanlan	Jerome	€2,435.00
Secas	Elena	€4,918.56
Sheahan	Kevin	€7,460.00
Sheahan	John	€3,707.09
Sheahan	Michael	€1,810.74
Sheehy	Lisa Marie	€1,286.77
Teefy	Brigid	€6,698.86

Unsuccessful candidates are required to include details on their form of any donations (either a single donation or an aggregate of donations) received in excess of €600.00.

For **unsuccessful candidates**, the following are the details:

Name		Donations	Expenses
Ahern	Seamus	€0.00	€2,700.00
Brennan	Rose	€1,917.36	€3,169.76
Casey	Gerry	€0.00	€375.00
Cavanagh	James	1,200.00	€9,800.00
Cronin	Felim	€1,975.74	€519.00
Duruagwu	Sunnymartins	€150.00	€1,754.99
Egan	John	€0.00	€11,273.76
Enright	Kathleen	€1,611.55	€0.00
Fitzgerald	Patrick C.	€0.00	€6,150.00
Goulding	Stephen	€4,830.34	€2,000.00
Hannan	Noel		€350.00
Hannon	Tomás	€0.00	€6,181.30
Harrington	Joe	€1,511.55	€0.00
Hayes	Desmond	€0.00	€7,414.80
Hickey	Jim	€0.00	€3,030.00
Houlihan	Michael	€1,646.21	€2,300.00
Kelly	Christy	€0.00	€3,953.15
Kiely	Sarah Lee	1,950.78	€569.00
Kilcoyne	Fergus	€2,629.74	€2,113.97
Leahy	John	€0.00	€564.00
Leddin	Geraldine	€0.00	€5,980.00

Name		Donations	Expenses
Long	Jim	€1,710.00	€0.00
McCarthy	Cathal	€0.00	€492.00
McCarthy	Denis	€2,302.04	€3,435.22
McInerney	Christy	€0.00	€1,447.13
McLoughlin	Gerry	€0.00	€8,000.00
McLoughlin	Orla	€0.00	€3,000.00
Meagher	Joseph	€250.00	€2,001.00
Mulcahy	Derek	€0.00	€2,250.00
Mulqueen	Frank	€1,869.04	€278.64
O'Gorman	Tina	€1,288.52	€150.00
O'Mahony	Sean	€0.00	€1,010.51
Pond	Joe	€0.00	€4,750.00
Riedy	Damien	2,605.81	€720.00
Riordan	Denis	€0.00	€10.00
Ryan	Richie	€0.00	€4200.00
Ryan	Frank	€0.00	€5,820.00
Scully	Diarmuid	€1,809.04	€353.00
Sheahan	Seámus	€0.00	€2,050.00
Shortt	Tom	€0.00	€3,880.00
Towell	Derrick	€1,579.95	€0.00
Walsh	Leo	€1,676.76	€1,266.05

The following unsuccessful candidates did not return a statement:

Name	
Griffin	Jason
Hennelly	Sarah Jane
McCarthy	Patrick
Smith	Richard (Richie)

Seventh annual Culture Night Limerick in Limerick's People's Park, in partnership with the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Limerick City and County Council Arts Office, and Limerick City of Culture.

Celtic Graveyard ruins in Co. Limerick