

LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL

County Hall,
Dooradoyle,
Limerick.

28th November 2006

Don Chathaoirleach Agus Do Gach Ball Don Chomhairle

Draft Budget 2007

A Chomhairroirleoir, a Chara,

The Draft Budget for the financial year ending 31st December 2007 has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2001, and has been circulated to the Members within the prescribed statutory period.

The Statutory Budget Meeting has been fixed for Monday, 11th December. This means that the process of adopting a Budget for the financial year ending 31st December 2007, must be completed within the prescribed period of twenty-one days commencing on that date. The Budget for 2007 must therefore be adopted on or before the 31st December 2006.

This report is presented to the Members in compliance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2001.

1. Introduction

In framing the Draft Budget for 2007, I have carefully assessed all costs and income sources and had regard to submissions made by I.B.E.C. and the Chamber of Commerce, in addition to views expressed by the Members during the consultation process with the Corporate Policy Group.

I am also deeply aware of the competitive environment in which Irish business operates and the need to restrict increases in charges in line with the general inflation rate. Indeed, it is misleading to compare commercial rate increases with the Consumer Price Index, which measures the changes in the cost of a basket of consumer goods, supermarket items and domestic electricity bills.

Limerick County Council has always been committed to ensuring a positive climate for existing business and new enterprises to operate, and have over the years played a key role in driving local economic development, by providing high quality infrastructure and other services to attract investment.

Overall therefore, the background to the Draft Budget 2007 was influenced by the competitive business environment, increased demand for high quality services and the continued need to invest in infrastructure. I also must have regard to Government policy and the need to implement Government priorities, and the aims and objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan.

2. Out-Turn 2006

In my Report to the Members, earlier this year, on the Annual Financial Statement for 2005, I was glad to report the final elimination of the Debit Balance. Throughout 2006, every effort has been made to ensure that no deterioration occurred on the

Revenue Account. The provisional out-turn figures, included with the Draft Budget for 2007, indicate that while excess expenditure will occur in a small number of activity areas, I am satisfied that this excess will be offset with savings in other areas, increased income yields or from the opening credit balance.

Overall, therefore, I expect the financial out-turn figures will not show any deterioration in the overall financial position.

3. Expenditure Requirements

The total estimated expenditure included in the Draft Budget for 2007 amounts to €118.044 million – an increase of €12.281 million over the adopted figure for 2006.

I propose to finance this level of expenditure from the following sources:-

1. Local Government Fund Grant	€25.778m	21.84%
2. Government Grants & Subsidies	€36.753m	31.14%
3. Commercial Rates	€25.936m	21.96%
4. Goods & Services`	€29.577m	25.06%
	€118.044m	100.00%

4. Commercial Valuation / Rates

The total estimated Commercial Valuation used in compiling the Draft Budget for 2007 is €429,650 – an increase of €20,000 (4.88%) over the 2006 figure. The level of valuation buoyancy in County Limerick over the past number of years has been very significant and demonstrates once again the attractiveness of County Limerick as a business location.

In my report to the Members last year on the Draft Budget for 2006, I referred to the inflation rate in the energy, construction materials and construction industry generally, and its impact on

our operations. While inflation in these sectors of our economy continues at over twice the general inflation rate, I propose to increase the rate for 2007 by 4% - in line with general inflation.

The Limerick County Rate for 2007 will still be one of the lowest of the thirty-four County and City Authorities in the country.

The new proposed Rate for 2007 is 60.3656.

5. Local Government Fund

At the time of writing this report and posting the Draft Budget, the Council have not been notified of the allocation for 2007 from the Local Government Fund. For the purpose of preparing this Budget, I have assumed a sum of €25.778 million – an increase of 7% over the 2006 allocation. Any adjustment necessary to the Draft Budget, when the notification is received, can be dealt with during the statutory budget process.

6. Development Fund

Earlier this year, I reported to the Members on the Development Fund, and a sum in excess of €18 million was allocated to various projects on roads, water, wastewater and community facilities. At this stage, I anticipate that a significant allocation will be available again for 2007 and I propose bringing a report to the Members early in the New Year.

7. Health and Safety

New regulations which came into operation in November, 2006 place additional responsibilities on the Council as an employer. While I am satisfied that significant progress has been made in this area in the recent past, a recent study of the sector shows that there is room for continuous improvement. Every effort must be made to ensure that all work sites are safe for both employees and the public.

8. Commercial Water Charges

The Government's Water Services Pricing Policy document required the introduction of universal metering of all non-domestic users by the end of 2006. A contract for this project, which will be financed from borrowing, has been signed and work will commence shortly. This metering programme will facilitate the application of user service charges to non-domestic users for water and wastewater.

9. Capital Investment Programme

The provisions of the Local Government Act 2001 require me to prepare and submit to the Members at Budget time a report outlining the proposed Capital Works Programme for the next three years (2007, 2008 and 2009). This report is now enclosed, with your budgetary documentation.

While the estimates included in the report are dependant on grant aid from the Department and various loan approvals, it does show an infrastructure investment by this Council for the period under review of almost €700 million.

10. Efficiency and Value for Money

The Indecon Report on Local Government Financing, published earlier this year, acknowledged the progress achieved by the Local Government Sector in recent years, in delivering Efficiency and Value for Money objectives. Many initiatives are now in place to support this agenda, including the new Financial Management System, five year multi-annual Capital Investment Programmes, Value for Money Auditing and enhanced technology systems. Building on these initiatives, it is now proposed to develop a costing model for the local Government Sector, which will deliver enhanced management information, particularly in relation to unit costs.

The existing costing system measures input costs, e.g. energy, materials, plant etc. It does not however relate these costs to outputs. For this reason, work has commenced on the development of a costing model for the Local Government Sector. At this stage, it is anticipated that the new model will form the basis for Local Authority Budgets for 2008. This is a very significant project and will require significant resources in 2007 if the key deliverable of new Budget format for 2008 is to be achieved. I will keep the Members informed of progress during 2007.

11. Annual Progress Report on Corporate Plan

Section 134 of the Local Government Act 2001 requires the preparation and submission of an annual progress report on the Corporate Plan to the Elected Members, at the same time as the Draft Budget or at such other time as the Elected Council may by Resolution decide. It is suggested that the appropriate time for submission of such a report would be at the end of the first quarter of each year, to facilitate the integration of year-end information, e.g. Service Indicators, etc., into the report.

12. Acknowledgements

The year 2006 presented many challenges, and I am pleased to report significant progress across all the Council activity areas, particularly on infrastructure improvements. This progress could not have been achieved without the co-operation and support of the Cathoirleach and Members and I thank you sincerely for same. I also wish to extend my appreciation to the staff at all levels for their continued support during 2006. I am confident that, working as a team, the progress achieved in 2006 can be further advanced in 2007.

13. Conclusion

As stated earlier in this report, in framing this Budget, I was very much aware of the competitive environment in which business operates, competing demands for available resources, and ensuring that service levels achieved in 2006 can be maintained in 2007.

I am pleased therefore to recommend the Draft Budget for 2007 to the Members for adoption.

Yours sincerely,

Edmond Gleeson
County Manager

PROGRAMME GROUP 1

Housing and Building

In presenting these expenditure proposals, totalling €10,140,000 on the revenue side, the opportunity is being taken also to take an overview of the wide range of activities in progress and planned under this programme.

LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSING

The Council is presently in year 3 of the five year Construction Programme which runs from 2004 to 2008 with a target of providing 531 units of accommodation. In the first two years of the Programme 231 units have been provided, 113 units commenced during 2006, while the number of completions will be 127. There are presently 110 units under construction. The total expenditure during 2006 will be €16.8 million. To date in 2006, a total of 154 offers of accommodation were made, of which there were 14 refusals.

VOLUNTARY HOUSING

The voluntary housing sector in County Limerick continues to be very active and over the past 14 years has provided 517 units of accommodation for elderly, disabled and homeless persons and families. 86 units are currently under construction and a further 143 units are at various pre-construction stages. There are 35 active housing associations in County Limerick, of which 29 operate on a totally voluntary capacity and are community based.

Recognising the outstanding contribution being made by the Voluntary Housing Sector in this county, it is proposed that a Voluntary Housing Services Company be set up to support the

Voluntary Housing Associations in meaningful and practical ways. The type of support proposed would incorporate Management, Development, Care and Maintenance.

A Structure for this new Company and a Business Plan have been prepared and presented to the Voluntary Housing Forum, which has unanimously supported the proposal.

Details regarding the proposed Company have recently been outlined to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee and a report on the matter will be presented to the full Council shortly. If established, the Company will be the first of its kind in the country and it is hoped that it will be replicated by other Authorities throughout the country.

WINDOW AND DOOR REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME

During 2006, the Council completed the fourth and final phase of its programme to replace windows and doors in local authority houses. The total number of houses completed in the four phases of the programme was 697, at a total cost of €2.36 million.

CENTRAL HEATING PROGRAMME

The Council continued delivery of its planned maintenance programme to install central heating in 710 local authority houses. At the end of September 2006, central heating has been installed in 422 houses, at a total cost of €2,960,792. Works under this programme will continue in 2007.

DISABLED PERSONS' GRANTS

The DOEHLG has been reviewing the provisions of the Disabled Persons Grants Scheme and the Essential Repairs Grants Scheme and has indicated that revisions to the Schemes will be notified shortly. The Housing Strategic Policy Committee has been considering these Schemes in recent times and a submission has

been made to the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government (DOEHLG) reflecting the views of the members.

320 applications for Disabled Persons' Grants have been received to date this year and, of these, 260 have been assessed and the remainder are under consideration. The total expenditure in 2006 will be in the region of €1,000,000 with a similar provision for 2007.

ESSENTIAL REPAIRS GRANTS

45 applications for Essential Repairs Grants have been received to date this year and, of these, 43 have been assessed. The total expenditure will be in the region of €260,000, with €300,000 being provided for 2007.

Expenditure on Essential Repairs Grants and Disabled Persons Grants qualifies for 2/3 recoupment from the DOEHLG.

HOMELESS PERSONS

Dedicated services are provided for homeless persons and two specialist staff deliver these services. In 2006, 133 persons who were considered homeless were provided with assistance, either on an ongoing or emergency basis. These supports included the securing of emergency, transitional or long term accommodation. Persons who present as homeless are also provided with outreach support which consists of advice, tenancy support, liaison and referral to other agencies and rent arrears.

A new draft Homeless Strategy for the period 2007-2009 has been prepared and considered by the Homeless Forum. This draft strategy has recently been presented to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee and will be on the agenda for the December Council meeting.

In this budget it is proposed that an allocation of €375,000 be provided to assist in the delivery of homeless services, 90% of which can be recouped from the DOEHLG.

HOUSING SERVICES/ESTATE MANAGEMENT

The Housing Services Officer continues to provide a wide range of important services to individual households and to groups of households on an estate basis. During 2006, pre-tenancy courses at various locations will have been completed by 109 families who were allocated housing. It is planned to review the format and structure of the pre-tenancy training in 2007 to enhance the existing provision.

Following consultation with the residents concerned extensive refurbishment/improvement works have been carried out in Newcastle West, Caherconlish, Ballylanders, Glin and Abbeyfeale. It is planned to extend the estate refurbishment programme throughout the county in 2007. The works will be carried out in consultation with the elected members at area level and with the Residents' groups concerned and will be closely linked with the work of the Housing Services Officer.

In 2006, a community house was provided by Limerick County Council in Sharwood Estate, Newcastle West, to assist in the delivery of community based supports and services by all appropriate agencies. A community house has also been made available in Mullally Lawn, Cappamore.

It is proposed that the sum of €150,000 be provided for Estate Management/Housing Services.

TRAVELLER SUPPORT SERVICES

In 2006 the Council continued to deliver Traveller Accommodation in accordance with the Traveller Accommodation Programme. Forty-one Traveller families were provided with permanent accommodation in standard housing and halting site accommodation.

Capital Works include:

Castletroy:	7 Bay Permanent Halting Site
Clondrinagh	14 Bay Halting Site
Kilmallock:	Temporary Halting Site for 2 families
Rathkeale;	11 Bay Halting Site Refurbishment Works
Rathkeale	17 families accommodated in new Housing Development

House refurbishment works were completed in Askeaton, Rathkeale and Abbeyfeale.

Targets set out in the Programme are being achieved despite a background of legal challenges. The Council has also been active in the delivery of a pilot project being led by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, which is considering an inter-agency approach to the delivery of Traveller services.

It is proposed that an allocation of €295,936 be provided to assist in the delivery of Traveller Support Services.

A new Traveller Accommodation Programme was adopted by the Council in February 2005. The Programme proposes to address the accommodation needs of 91 Traveller families during the period 2005 – 2008.

MAINTENANCE OF HOUSING STOCK

The Council's rented stock is now 1,832 Units and it is proposed to provide €585,000 towards maintenance and repair of this stock. As the rented stock increases, the number of houses becoming vacant also increases and it is necessary to put these houses in tenable condition before allocation. It is, therefore, proposed to increase the pre-letting repairs allocation to €353,000. In addition €50,000 is proposed as a contribution towards the Horticulture Section who provide maintenance for the Council's housing estates.

RENTAL ACCOMMODATION SCHEME

The Rental Accommodation Scheme has been introduced to replace the current system, which is administered by the HSE, and which provides for the payment of rent supplement by the Community Welfare Officer to persons deemed to be in need of same. The Scheme proposes to transfer responsibility for rent supplement recipients with long term housing needs to housing authorities. It is introduced as an alternative housing option, for those in need, in addition to the existing options that are in place at present. Work on the implementation of the Scheme got under way in mid-September and it is estimated that by the end of the year, some 100 households will have signed up to the scheme.

INCOME

Housing Rents

While the rent review process is ongoing and nearing completion final figures will not be available until early in the New Year. The budget provides for a rental income of €4.3m for the year 2007, which is a modest increase on the income for the current year. This increase can be attributed to a combination of increased housing stock and a general increase in household incomes.

Income from Rental Accommodation Scheme

As previously stated, the Rental Accommodation Scheme has just recently got under way and it is envisaged that, on a full year basis, the scheme will be self-financing.

PROGRAMME GROUP 2

Road Transportation - Boithre

The total expenditure proposed under this programme for 2007 amounts to €34.566 million – an increase of €3.011m over the adopted figure for 2006.

NON-NATIONAL ROADS (MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENT)

This estimate provides for €21,710,549 for the maintenance and improvement of Non-National roads. This assumes that grant levels from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will be at least the same in 2007 as in the current year. This will allow for moderate increases in the areas of General Maintenance, Street Cleaning and the provision of Welfare Facilities, a key requirement under Health and Safety legislation.

ROAD RESTORATION PROGRAMME

This programme involves major annual grant allocations from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for strengthening and surface dressing of Regional and Local Roads. This restoration programme commenced in 1995 and is based on multi-annual plans prepared by local authorities, which prioritise the schemes having regard to road condition and traffic volumes. Since 1995, there has been a transformation in the condition of the Regional and Local Road network. However, there are still substantial sections of unimproved roads and the current level of investment must continue.

PUBLIC LIGHTING

The allocation for public lighting maintenance shows an increase of €106,756. This increase reflects an energy cost increase of 29%, higher than the industry norm of 20%. In addition, further increases in the overall numbers of lights powered and maintained by the Council will result from the take-over of the estates process now in train. It is anticipated that the National Roads Authority will continue to fund the energy and maintenance costs of public lighting associated with National Roads.

New requirements from the E.S.B. in relation to the use of overhead wires and the provision of supply points, together with changes in the market for the supply of electricity, have, as previously pointed out, resulted in significant changes in the overall environment concerning the provision of public lighting.

I have provided for a sum of €100,000 for the provision of new public lighting.

EU CO-FINANCE GRANTS

This very important programme of grants for road projects having a significant economic impact under the headings - Industry; Tourism; Rural Development/Agriculture and Forestry will cease at the end of the current programme.

In the current year, a grant total of €3,130,000 was received for the following projects:

	<u>Location</u>	Allocation €
	Southern Distributor Road, Newcastle West	20,000
R445/R506	Cappamore Road Junction	20,000
	Bloodmill Road, Ballysimon	20,000
R503	Limerick/Thurles Road (Ballynagown/Bunkey)	550,000
R518	Rathkeale/Askeaton	200,000
R522	Cork Bridge	1,340,000
R526	St. Nessian's Road, Dooradoyle	700,000
R512/R516	Bruff Town Junction with Hospital Road	280,000
	Total	3,130,000

We understand that while EU assistance for this scheme will no longer be available, it will continue on a nationally-funded basis.

PROGRAMME GROUP 3

Water and Sewerage / Seirbhísí Sláintíochta

The total budget for Programme Group 3 is €17.79 million, which is an increase of €2.466m over the adopted figure for 2006. Given the increases in both wages and energy costs, the level of overall increase is modest and has been targeted towards maintaining existing levels of service.

PURCHASE OF WATER - LIMERICK CITY COUNCIL

The Council purchases approximately 6 million cubic metres of water per annum from Limerick City Council which it uses to serve Limerick City Environs and surrounding areas, including Castleconnell, Ballyneety, Patrickswell, Mungret and Clarina. In tandem with the upgrade of the Clareville Water Treatment Plant, a new agreement is being negotiated with the City Council for the supply of this water.

WATER CONSERVATION PROJECT

I have allowed an amount of €423,700 to cover the cost of the Water Conservation Project in the coming year. The leakage detection crews have identified the levels of unaccounted water, including leakage, in various public water supply schemes in the county in order that repairs may be carried out. The reduction in leakage not only improves the level of service to consumers, but also helps free up capacity to permit development projects to proceed. One example of the results of this project is the fact that the water imports from Limerick City Council have held steady in recent years despite the fact that additional areas have been connected (e.g. Caherconlish) and that substantial new developments have been built in the City Environs.

SMALL CAPITAL SCHEMES / SCÉIMEANNA MION- CHAIPITIL

The Small Capital Schemes Programme is an invaluable mechanism for providing critical improvements to the water services infrastructure in the county. The programme has funded schemes such as the Tobergal interlink to Newcastle West, improved telemetry controls and new watermains. The matching funding will now come from the Development Fund.

WATER PRICING POLICY

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government has produced a Water Services Pricing Policy, whereby local authorities must implement a comprehensive and transparent system of charging for public water and wastewater services to the non-domestic sector. In accordance with the Government's Water Pricing Policy Framework, the following measures must be put in place:-

- *Collection of capital contributions from all non-domestic users by local authorities in a structured and uniform manner.*
- *Application of user service charges to non-domestic users for purposes of recovering the full operating costs appropriate to such users.*
- *Achievement of universal metering of all non-domestic users by the end of 2006.*

The above policy will require local authorities to borrow monies to finance the non-domestic cost element of water services capital schemes and to recover this cost from non-domestic users over a period not greater than 20 years.

In order to comply with the above policy, the Council will continue to advance the provision of a universal water metering programme in 2007. A contract for the universal metering programme has recently been entered into and provision of meters to those non-domestic customers who do not currently have a meter will commence early in 2007. Funding of the non-domestic element of major capital

schemes will have to be raised through borrowing. The costs associated with these borrowings will have to be borne by the Council in the interim and these are reflected in the budget figures.

The coming year, therefore, can be regarded as a transition period with the rollout of the metering programme compiling new customer databases, etc., all of which must be undertaken while at the same time ensuring that a reliable billing process is in place.

In compliance with the Water Pricing Policy Framework Document, I have therefore fixed the following schedule of charges for 2007:-

<input type="checkbox"/>	Metered Water:	€1.10 per cubic metre
<input type="checkbox"/>	Metered Waste:	€0.75 per cubic metre
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fixed Charge:	€350
<input type="checkbox"/>	Standing Charge Per Meter:	€200 Per Year

RURAL WATER PROGRAMME / CLÁR UISCE TUAITHE

The Council has received approval from the Department to a Design / Build / Operate project for various Group Water Supply Schemes with their own water supply sources. The project will involve the appointment of a contractor who will upgrade the water treatment facilities and operate these for a period of up to 20 years. The project is aimed at improving the water quality of Group Water Supply Schemes in the county. The capital works element of the project is almost complete and the individual group schemes have contracted with the service provider for the operation and maintenance element of the project.

I have allowed for a sum of €650,000 in respect of subsidies to Group Water Schemes for 2007. This sum is fully recoupable from the Department.

LIMERICK MAIN DRAINAGE

I have provided a sum of €1,470,000 in respect of the County Council's contribution to the ongoing running costs of the new Sewage Treatment Plant at Bunlicky for 2007. The running costs of improved treatment facilities throughout the county will become an increasing cost to the Council over coming years.

PROGRAMME GROUP 4

Development Incentives & Controls

There was a general increase in the level of activity in the Planning and Development area in 2006 with the number of applications expected to reach an all time high. The main priorities in 2007 will continue to be; to meet our statutory requirements in the determination of planning applications, registration of quarries and planning enforcement. The main focus in the Forward Planning Department will be on the two-year review of the County Development Plan, together with the ongoing extensive programme of Local Area Plan preparation and review.

The issue of turnover of planning staff continues to be a matter of serious concern for Planning Authorities generally and in this Council it has again had a major impact in the past year with staff moving to other authorities and the private sector.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

It is anticipated that over 3700 planning applications will have been received in 2006. The level of invalid applications, at 18%, showed a slight fall on the previous year, but continues to be a wasteful draw on our resources. A number of initiatives were implemented during the year to help address this problem but additional efforts will be required in 2007 in this area.

COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN – LOCAL AREA PLANS

The statutory two-year review of the County Development Plan will have to be completed early in 2007. While some initial preparatory work has already been carried out, a significant volume of work will

be involved in this review. Work will also continue on the review of a number of Local Area Plans which have now been in place for six years or where a commitment was given to review at an earlier stage, including Adare, Rathkeale, Castleconnell, Abbeyfeale and Newcastle West. In addition new plans are being prepared / finalised for Kilfinane and Caherconlish, while Village Design Statements will be prepared / finalised for Athea, Murroe and Ardagh.

DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

It is anticipated that over €12 million will be collected in development contributions in 2006. A significant spending programme was approved in February 2006 for capital works, whether as matching funds, development supports or other supports. It is proposed that a new list of allocations under the development fund will be brought before the Council early in the New Year, where full details of the monies collected and projects, which have benefited to-date, can also be considered. As the current Development Contribution Scheme is now three years in place, it is intended that the preparation of a new scheme will commence in Autumn 2007.

TOWNS AND VILLAGES

Significant progress is being made by the Council, in conjunction with private developers, using a PPP approach for the provision of water and sewage services in small towns and villages. Funding in excess of €2 million was made available from the development fund over the past couple of years for projects at Kilfinane, Bruree, Bruff, Caherconlish, Feenagh, and Adare, while a number of other projects are at an advanced stage. The promotion of this approach, which has operated very successfully to date, will continue next year.

TECHNOLOGY

Further progress was made during 2006 in the development and use of technology to provide information on the planning and development process. The online planning enquiry system (E-Plan) is

now used extensively by the general public and further development works are under way to improve both the quality and availability of the information. The number of hits on the website continues to increase each year with over 200,000 hits on the planning site in 2006. It is very important that adequate resources are made available for the continued development of this information resource, which is an extremely useful tool for relaying information in relation to the whole planning area.

CONSERVATION

Provision is made for an increase of €100,000 under the conservation grant scheme in 2007, bringing the total budget to €300,000. Additional monies over the budget allocation were received during 2006 with the sum of €350,000 being drawn down from the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government and paid out to the owners of protected properties in the County through the Conservation Grant Scheme. This exceeds the initial sum allocated for 2006 from the Department by €150,000, due to Limerick County Council drawing down additional conservation grants where other local authorities had failed to use up their allocation.

BUILDING CONTROL

The Draft Budget makes provision for expenditure amounting to €234,500. The main function of the Building Control Section is to maintain construction standards as set out in the Building Control Act, 1990. This is achieved by carrying out inspections of building sites throughout the County and by liaising with developers. In some instances, enforcement proceedings are taken. The Budget is largely utilised on salaries for the staff in the Section and, indeed, with the growth in the construction sector in recent years, the staffing complement is the minimum necessary to maintain a service. On the income side, an increase is anticipated from €75,000 in the 2006 Budget to €94,000 in 2007, which reflects the increased activity referred to above.

HERITAGE

A sum of €15,000 is being set aside as matching funds, in accordance with the strategy set out in the County Heritage Plan to progress a number of initiatives in the heritage area, including the preparation of an Environmental / Recreational Management Framework for the Limerick Uplands and a lake study for Lough Gur. Both initiatives contribute to overall development of the whole heritage area and are to be welcomed.

HEALTH & SAFETY

A sum of €12,000 is provided for the ongoing purchase of protective wear and other equipment for Planning Staff going out on site inspections / site visits, to ensure compliance with the requirements in the most recent health and safety legislation.

TOURISM PROMOTION

This provision includes Limerick County Council's annual contribution towards a number of regional tourism initiatives such as Meet Limerick Shannon Conference Bureau, Limerick Co-ordination Bureau and the new ***visitlimerick.com*** website which was initiated during 2006.

An increase of €20,000 over the 2006 allocation, is being proposed under this heading for 2007 to accommodate the growing number of requests for assistance towards local tourist initiatives, festivals and events around the county.

URBAN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL AND TIDY TOWNS

Funding from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government has seen the extension of this scheme to Kilfinane during 2006 and is due to be completed in 2007. A local scheme, providing support for smaller renewal projects in towns and villages

throughout the county, has traditionally been funded by the Council and a sum of €110,000 was provided for this purpose in 2006. With the inception of the Development Fund, it is considered that works of this nature, which largely comprise infrastructural improvements and enhancements to the selected towns and villages, would be more appropriately funded from this new source in the future. Consequently there is no provision in the revenue budget under this heading for 2007. The scheme however will continue to operate under the new funding source and details will be brought to the Council in early to mid 2007.

It is proposed to continue the same level of assistance towards Tidy Towns participants and other community groups as in 2006 in recognition of the significant voluntary effort which is demonstrated annually in this competition, and other successful initiatives such as the Pride of Place and Golden Mile Schemes. Funding under this heading was increased in 2006 by €25,000 to provide assistance towards the insurance and energy costs of Christmas lighting in applicant towns and villages. A similar provision is included for 2007 but it is intended that a review of the operation of the scheme in this first year will be conducted in the New Year, with a view to refining the criteria as may be deemed appropriate.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE FUNCTION

At the direction of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, a comprehensive review of the ten year Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural development of County Limerick was undertaken and published early in 2006. The review takes into account new policy development at national, regional and local level, as well as other economic and social changes since the launch of the Strategy in 2002, and aims to focus the efforts of the County Development Board over the three year period 2006-2008 on the achievement of twenty-one priority actions as identified in the review. The co-ordination role played by the Community and Enterprise department in servicing and steering the Board is crucial to the delivery of these actions.

The social inclusion agenda, which is being driven nationally, comprises a significant element of the work of this department and so included under this heading is an allocation towards the co-ordination and achievement of actions outlined in the Integrated Plan for Delivery of Public Services to Travellers in County Limerick. This plan is the outcome of an interagency approach to delivering services to Travellers in County Limerick. It was completed at the direction of a high-level action group comprising representatives from the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform and the Department of the Taoiseach and as a result of the selection of County Limerick as one of eight pilot areas for such an approach.

PROGRAMME GROUP 5

Environmental Protection

WASTE MANAGEMENT

GORTADROMA LANDFILL

As the remaining landfill cell has limited capacity at present, construction work on the expansion of the landfill has just commenced. The first of the three new cells is estimated to be completed and approved by the E.P.A. by May 2007.

The Landfill Gas Utilisation Project will be operational in 2007. This will generate c.1 MW of electricity for the National Grid. Limerick County Council will retain ownership of the electricity in order to be in a position to receive the best price available at the time. It is estimated that this project will pay for itself over the 8-10 year contract period.

A figure of €80,772 is included as a contribution to the local development fund, which is spent in consultation with the local group. A 1Km section of the White River walking trail will be constructed in 2007, using monies from the fund.

A figure of €1,050,000 has been included on both the expenditure and income sides in respect of the Government levy of €15 per tonne which is imposed on all waste deposited in landfill sites and forms part of the Environment Fund, which is utilised to support environmental and recycling initiatives.

It is expected that the Council will receive €6.7 million in gate fees at the Landfill in 2007. This is based on an intake of 15,000 tonnes approximately in the first six months and 50,000 tonnes for the remainder of the year. The gate fee will remain unchanged for the first half of the year and may be adjusted slightly after that to reflect volumes being accepted into the Landfill.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

The programme of waste awareness for schools, householders and businesses will continue and be strengthened in 2007, with particular emphasis on waste prevention and home composting. Raising awareness and advertising of the Council's recycling infrastructure, including the Council's three civic amenity centres, will continue. The Environment Section will continue to participate in all national and local waste-awareness campaigns.

RECYCLING INITIATIVES

An operational budget of €583,000 was made available in 2006 and the amount sought for 2007 is €785,382. This increase is to cover the running costs of the three Civic Amenity Centres including the Mungret Facility, which opened to the public on October 2nd 2006. Visitor numbers are increasing monthly at this site and this increase is predicted to further increase in 2007.

Following the successful rollout of kerbside collection and the opening of the Civic Amenity Centres, the recycling receptacles at bring banks for plastics and newspapers have been removed within the City Environs. The Civic Amenity Centres accept a wide range of items and have a large capacity.

It is anticipated that there will be an increase in income from the DOEHLG to €420,000 from €200,000 in 2006. This is in respect of the ongoing running costs of the provision of recycling infrastructure across the county, including the provision of a network of bring centres as well as the three civic amenity centres at Kilmallock, Newcastle West and Mungret.

REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

A new Regional Waste Management Plan was adopted in May 2006 and will run until 2011. There are significant requirements for the Council in the delivery of the initiatives contained within the plan, including better regulation of the waste industry and a stronger focus on prevention of waste. The costs incurred for the running of the Regional Waste Management Office are split between the four participating local authorities: Limerick County and City, Clare and Kerry County Councils. Costs are divided proportionally on a population basis. The net cost to Limerick County Council is estimated at approximately €166,575.

END OF LIFE VEHICLES (ELV'S)

New waste management regulations to deal with End of Life Vehicles (ELV's) came into force in 2006. These regulations require the local authority to set up a register on companies creating or placing, or intending to create, ELV's for recycling. In addition, the Council will be required to issue waste permits for the provision of Authorised Treatment Facilities (ATF's) for the processing of ELV's.

SHANNON RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The County Council is the statutory coordinating authority for the Shannon River Basin Management System project. This project, which involves 18 local authorities and numerous state and semi-state agencies and NGO's, is 100% funded by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. A sum of €3.032m is included under this heading. The new Water Framework Directive Monitoring Programme becomes operational in 2007 and an amount of €1 million is provided in the above figure for the upgrade of monitoring facilities in local authorities in the Shannon River Basin District, while a further €480,000 is provided for the upgrade of the hydrometric network throughout the District.

This Estimate also includes a provision for the Shannon River Basin Advisory Council.

POLLUTION CONTROL

Provisions of €1,010,124 and €202,000 are included for pollution control and the operation of the Environmental Laboratory respectively for 2007. These will allow for the greatly increased obligations of the Council to comply with recent environment legislation, which includes the Drinking Water Regulations, Phosphorous Regulations and the Water Framework and Nitrates Directives. For example, there is a mandatory requirement to sample an additional 135 Group water schemes under the Drinking Water Regulations. It is also mandatory to sample and analyse an additional 324 river samples under the WFD. The Section will continue to investigate environmental complaints relating to water, air and noise nuisance.

CIVIL DEFENCE

A sum of €109,702 has been provided in respect of the County Council's contribution to the running costs of Civil Defence for 2007 which includes salaries and loan charges towards the refurbishment of Civil Defence HQ in Annacotty.

FIRE SERVICE

A total sum of €6,548,186 is provided for Fire Services in 2007, and of this, the salary-based costs amount to €2,955,509.

An additional sum of €95,567 has been included in the draft estimate for 2007 to provide an additional fire fighter in each station (6 in total) from the middle of the year. This is to increase the number of fire fighters available for incident call-out in order to address a current health and safety issue in terms of fire fighter availability.

A new national framework for Major Emergency Planning is required to be implemented in all local authorities. Limerick County Council has appointed an additional Assistant Chief Fire Officer to assist in the implementation of the framework. The cost of this post is circa

€54,000. Also €20,000 has been provided towards the appointment of a Regional Assistant Chief Fire Officer, who will be appointed in the Region, to also assist in the implementation of the framework.

WATER SAFETY

This allocation provides for the erection and maintenance of lifebelts and safety signage at all known bathing areas and dangerous places near water in the County. At least one person was rescued from near drowning in the County during 2006, using a Council lifebelt. Provision is also made for a statutory contribution to Irish Water Safety, which is the National Body established by the Minister to prevent drowning in Ireland. Lifeguards are employed seasonally, and it is proposed to recruit one extra seasonal lifeguard in 2007 to enable seven-day cover to be provided at Glin Pier and Killeery Pier. A total of six temporary employees are required to provide service at those piers. It is also proposed to begin implementing the Maritime Safety Act, 2005, which deals with such issues as personal water craft, regulation of power boats and compulsory wearing of lifejackets and flotation aids in the interests of public safety.

BURIAL GROUNDS

The Council continues to implement the key recommendations of the Burial Ground Maintenance and Development Strategy adopted in 2003 by:-

- (a) Providing an enhanced level of grant aid to voluntary community groups, who do such great work in maintaining burial grounds. In 2006, assistance was provided to over 100 such groups. Also in 2006, an awards scheme to recognise and reward endeavour and best practice in this area was initiated and it is intended to build on this in 2007.
- (b) Providing capital grants and technical assistance to community groups to develop, manage and maintain new facilities within their parishes. New burial grounds have been provided under this initiative in Fedamore, Crecora and

Monagea and proposals are at an advanced stage in Oola, Mountcollins and Ballingarry.

Due to limited resources over the years, the key area of management of records relating to burial grounds has not received the attention it deserved. It has been possible in 2006 to dedicate some staff in Head Office to this area on a more sustained basis and, as a result, there have been very significant benefits. Provision has been made to maintain this in 2007 and, also, to put in place a more realistic means of rewarding our Caretakers on whom we rely so much.

Provision has been made for a modest increase in the budgets provided to Area Engineers to cover general maintenance and minor capital improvement works.

Finally, active consideration is being given to the provision of new facilities in Kilmallock and Abbeyfeale, and, depending on progress, detailed proposals will be brought to the Council at the earliest opportunity.

PROGRAMME GROUP 6

Recreation and Amenity / Caitheamh Áiseanna

LIBRARIES /LEABHARLANNA

The Library Service is one of the most widely used public services provided by the County Council. In the past year we recorded 18,900 registered readers, 346,000 book issues and 348,000 visits to the 5 full-time libraries.

The Library Service is used by a diverse range of County Limerick residents. Last year for example, 124 cultural/civic events were hosted, 35 exhibitions were held, 2,400 children participated in Children's Book Festival and 1,420 people took part in Seachtain na Gaeilge.

The Library Service provides public access to the Internet in 21 branch libraries throughout the County with 33,326 public hours of Internet usage recorded. In addition, the Library Service hosts one of 8 national EU information centres aimed at bringing relevant information about the EU to members of the public, in easy and accessible format.

The Library provides a comprehensive range of services to our multicultural community including foreign language books, language learning facilities and online access to 200 international newspapers.

In the coming year, it is planned to complete the building and fit out of the new replacement library at Rathkeale, which will greatly enhance the level of Library provision to the public in Rathkeale and its environs.

It is also intended to finish the new library and archive building at Dooradoyle in 2007. This will allow for a new state of the art local history, archives and research service for the public.

The 2007 Budget allows for the increased salary costs arising out of the recent library restructuring agreement.

The provision for purchase of books is €482,000 and includes a sum of €61,300 in respect of school library books, which is recoupable from the Department of Education & Science. This allows for meeting the Branching Out national performance indicator for book expenditure (€3.27 per capita).

ARCHIVES

In pursuance of Section 65 of the Local Government Act 1994, Limerick County Council has a statutory obligation to preserve and make available to the public its archives. The cost of the Archives Service is jointly funded by Limerick County Council and Limerick City Council. The net figure shown in the estimate is €65,300.

The Budget allows for the employment of a temporary Assistant Archivist, which is necessary to prepare and catalogue the archives prior to the move to the new archive building in Dooradoyle.

It is planned in 2007 to continue the creation of a Records Management Database to allow for a streamlined approach for the administration of all Council records.

OPERATION OF PARKS

During 2006, the Council embarked on an ambitious programme for development of playgrounds at selected locations throughout the county. Funding for this programme is provided by means of a combination of grant assistance from the Department's Local Authorities Playgrounds Scheme, the Development Fund and also a local contribution.

While the provision of such worthwhile community facilities is to be welcomed, there will be an ongoing cost to the Council in respect of maintenance, inspection and repairs and replacement of equipment. A sum of €30,000 is being provided for this purpose in 2007.

CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

A total sum of €180,000 has been provided in respect of the operation of this scheme in 2007. Traditionally, the scheme has been used to support a number of specialist interest tourism projects in our towns, as well as some facilities and projects in the City and Environs which have a regional significance.

In previous years, a schedule of proposed allocations from the Scheme has been submitted to the Council as part of the budget process. It is intended to seek greater input from the members in compiling the schedule of recommendations regarding assistance from the Scheme in 2007 and work will commence on this process early in the New Year.

ARTS OFFICE

The estimated 2007 expenditure for the County Arts Office, including salaries and programmes, is €255,048 and the anticipated income is €82,500.

This provision includes Bursaries and Grants under the Arts Act and initiatives, such as:-

- Primary School Residency Programme.***
- Support for county festivals.***
- Writer/Poet in Residence Programme.***
- Eigse Michael Hartnett Programme and Michael Hartnett Poetry Award.***
- Visual arts Programme.***
- Lecture/Recital Programme similar to Mozart series.***
- Arts Programme for Active Age.***
- Film Maker in Residence.***
- Arts Health Programme in Hospitals.***
- Expansion of Youth Theatre Programme.***
- Youth Choir.***
- Integrated Dance Project.***

HORTICULTURE SERVICE

The Horticulture Service provides for the maintenance and upkeep of a large number of public open spaces including public parks, river walks, road verges and roundabouts and housing estates throughout the County. The number of employees in this service totals nine and, in all, they maintain an estimated 502 acres of open space and 345 estates. Included in the amenity areas are Lough Gur, Clare Glens, Plassey Walk, Adare Park, and the Demesne in Newcastle West. The Horticultural Service promotes National Tree Week and the judging of gardens for the Better Environment Awards.

€764,197 has been provided for the Horticulture Service, an increase of €85,237 over 2006 largely as a result of wage increases provided for in the National Agreement.

PROGRAMME GROUP 7

Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare

HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS

The estimated cost of this scheme for 2007 is €4,733,000 which is almost fully recouped from the Department of Education and Science. In excess of 1,500 applications will be dealt with during the year including new applications and renewals. The position regarding the possible transfer of Higher Education Grants to the V.E.C. has been checked with the Department of Education and Science and the Department has indicated that the full budget should be included by the Council for 2007.

PROGRAMME GROUP 8

Miscellaneous Services

CONTROL OF DOGS

The estimated cost of this service for 2007 amounts to €255,000. The County Council operates this service on behalf of both the County and City and the income from the City is reflected in the total income of €211,000. A new dog pound is under construction in Mungret adjacent to the new Civic Amenity site and, hopefully, will be open for business in the New Year.

FOOD SAFETY

This service is provided at an estimated cost of €220,000 under contract to the Food Safety Authority of Ireland. It is estimated that the full costs will be recovered by a combination of abattoir fees and a grant from the F.S.A.I.

CONTROL OF HORSES

The expenditure for the control of horses is estimated at €150,000. This cost is almost fully met by recoupment from the Department of Agriculture.

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

The total provision under this heading is €2.912 million. The sum provides for the loan charges for County Hall and the Newcastle West Area Office. The provision also allows for the completion of the building on the O'Toole site. Construction is expected to be completed by mid-year and following fitout it is hoped to occupy the building before year end. Rental/lease charges for the Laboratory and Motor Taxation buildings are also included.

CENTRAL MANAGEMENT CHARGES

LEGAL COSTS

The provision for these costs for 2007 is €400,000 which is an increase of €100,000 over the 2006 costs. The increase reflects increasing activity across all headings.

TRAINING

The provision for training has been increased by €45,000, in anticipation of the additional commitments in this area which will arise on full implementation of the Performance Management Development System throughout the organisation, by early 2007. The proposed increase also acknowledges the very onerous demands which have been placed on the Council as an employer by Health and Safety legislation and the need for ongoing awareness training for staff in this area. In addition to the continuation of the Return to Learning Initiative in 2007, it is proposed also to provide internet/intranet facilities, together with the relevant training to employees in a number of depots around the county, as a further initiative under Workplace Partnership.

The allocation for training will ensure the Council is in a position to meet the Government requirement that a minimum of 3% of payroll is spent on Training.

REVENUE BUDGET - SUMMARY
PROGRAMME GROUP 1 - HOUSING AND BUILDING

EXPENDITURE	Adopted by Council	Adopted 2006	INCREASE/ DECREASE
<u>Local Authority Housing</u>			
Maintenance Repair and Improvement	585,000	552,000	33,000
Maintenance Repair/ Pre-letting Repairs	353,000	333,000	20,000
Central Heating Project Loan Charges	158,600	150,000	8,600
Horticultural Works - Housing Estates	50,000	50,000	0
Loan charges- External Repair Programme	296,000	258,800	37,200
Estate Management/Ext Paint Sch	100,000	150,000	-50,000
Rent Collection	288,627	276,700	11,927
Loan Charges	6,000	6,000	0
Other (Fire Insurance)	156,000	130,700	25,300
Rental Assistance scheme	940,000	200,000	740,000
Assistance to Homeless Persons(Sec10 Hsg. Act 1988)	375,000	369,000	6,000
<u>Assistance to People Housing Themselves</u>			
Loan Charges - Annuity Loans & Shared Ownership	880,300	969,000	-88,700
Loan Charges - Private Sites	6,600	6,600	0
Loan Charges - Shared Ownership Loans(equity)	231,000	243,000	-12,000
Housing Finance Agency - Previous Loan Scheme	85,000	85,000	0
Loan Charges - Rental Subsidy	546,000	215,000	331,000
Other (Fire Insurance & Mortgage Protection Ins.)	127,500	150,550	-23,050
<u>Assistance to People Improving Houses</u>			
Loan Charges_ Essential Repair Grants	0	27,000	-27,000
Loan Charges _ Disabled Persons Grants	0	29,300	-29,300
Disabled Persons Grants	1,000,000	1,000,000	0
Essential Repair Grants	300,000	260,000	40,000
<u>Administration and Miscellaneous</u>			
Direct Administration	2,503,293	2,213,582	289,711
Apportioned - Central Management Charge	791,245	709,382	81,863
Traveller Support Services	295,936	305,600	-9,664
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	10,075,101	8,690,214	1,384,887

PROGRAMME GROUP 1 - HOUSING AND BUILDING

INCOME	Adopted by Council	Adopted 2006	INCREASE/ DECREASE
<u>Government Grants</u>			
Subsidy - Homeless Persons	293,400	332,100	-38,700
Subsidy - Social Worker	134,000	112,163	21,837
Grants - Disabled Persons Grants	666,666	666,666	0
Grants - Essential Repairs	200,000	173,334	26,666
Grants - Traveller Accommodation	55,000	46,000	9,000
Loan Charges Rental Subsidy	546,000	215,000	331,000
Grant - Rental Assistance Scheme	913,700	150,000	763,700
<u>Goods and Services/ Own Resources</u>			
Rental Assistance Scheme Local Cont	17,000	50,000.00	-33,000
Rents	4,300,000	3,700,000	600,000
Shared Ownership Equity - Rent	252,000	278,400	-26,400
Internal receipts - major repairs prog	296,000	258,800	37,200
Internal receipts -Central Heating Programme	158,600	150,000	8,600
Repayments - Loan Interest repayments	854,000	864,000	-10,000
Repayments - Transfer Loans Res	442,000	442,000	0
Repayments - H.F.A. - Previous Loan Scheme	85,000	85,000	0
Superannuation	139,200	138,000	1,200
Halting Sites E.S.B. / Rents	10,000	12,000	-2,000
Apportionment of Support Income	30,070	23,619	6,451
Other	20,000	19,200	800
TOTAL INCOME	9,412,636	7,716,282	1,696,354

PROGRAMME GROUP 2 - ROAD TRANSPORT AND SAFETY

EXPENDITURE	Adopted by Council	Adopted 2006	INCREASE/ DECREASE
<u>Road Upkeep</u>			
National Primary Roads	1,486,179	1,433,875	52,304
National Secondary Roads	429,088	410,165	18,923
Non National Roads Maintenance & Improvement	21,710,549	19,616,928	2,093,621
Public Lighting - Maintenance	907,846	841,090	66,756
Public Lighting - Repairs Damaged Lights	15,000	20,000	-5,000
Public Lighting -	100,000	200,000	-100,000
<u>Road Improvements</u>			
Local Imp Schemes(Incl admin)	1,054,094	330,000	724,094
<u>Road Traffic</u>			
Parking	94,750	91,500	3,250
School Wardens	140,000	137,000	3,000
Safety and Education	9,000	4,000	5,000
Road Safety Campaign	12,700	12,700	0
<u>Administration and Miscellaneous</u>			
Direct Administration	4,654,659	4,804,300	-149,641
Apportioned - Central Management Charge	2,708,399	2,565,855	142,544
Motor Taxation	1,164,378	1,087,700	76,678
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	34,486,642	31,555,113	2,931,529

PROGRAMME GROUP 2 - ROAD TRANSPORT AND SAFETY

INCOME	Adopted by Council	Adopted 2006	INCREASE/ DECREASE
<u>Government Grants</u>			
National Primary Grants	1,486,179	1,433,875	52,304
National Secondary Grants	429,088	410,165	18,923
Non National Road Grants	16,859,000	15,365,246	1,493,754
Other (L.I.S. Road Safety)	739,000	288,600	450,400
L.I.S Dept Comm Rural	176,000		176,000
<u>Goods and Services</u>			
Parking fees/Fines	74,800	74,950	-150
Contributions to Local Improvement Schemes	139,094	41,400	97,694
Superannuation	493,400	489,100	4,300
Motor tax refunds	60,000	45,000	15,000
Apportionment of Support Income	66,214	56,041	10,173
Other	203,800	104,400	99,400
TOTAL INCOME	20,726,575	18,308,777	2,417,798

PROGRAMME GROUP 3 - WATER AND SEWERAGE			
EXPENDITURE	Adopted by Council	Adopted 2006	INCREASE/ DECREASE
<u>Water Supply</u>			
Operation and Maintenance	5,010,450	4,603,824	406,626
Water Conservation	423,700	335,000	88,700
Loan Charges Metering prog	404,400	100,000	304,400
Loan Charges Major Cap	790,350	757,000	33,350
Water Purchase	1,799,000	1,497,900	301,100
Water Collection Costs	623,777	344,500	279,277
<u>Sewerage</u>			
Operation and Maintenance	2,629,141	2,395,100	234,041
Limerick Main Drainage	1,470,000	980,000	490,000
Public Conveniences - Maintenance	57,000	55,000	2,000
<u>Water & Sewerage</u>			
Small Schemes Capital Contribution/ Matching Funds	0	100,000	-100,000
<u>Private Installations</u>			
Grants - Individual Water Supplies	150,000	200,000	-50,000
Subsidy to Group Schemes	650,000	650,000	0
Group Schemes Administration	321,844	325,000	-3,156
<u>Administration and Miscellaneous</u>			
Direct Administration	2,016,083	1,732,463	283,620
Apportioned - Central Management Charge	1,393,117	1,248,008	145,109
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	17,738,862	15,323,795	2,415,067

PROGRAMME GROUP 3 - WATER AND SEWERAGE

INCOME	Adopted	Adopted	INCREASE/
	by Council	2006	DECREASE
<u>Government Grants</u>			
Group Schemes - Administration Grant	350,000	325,000	25,000
Group Schemes - Subsidy	650,000	650,000	0
Grants - Individual Water Supplies	150,000	200,000	-50,000
<u>Goods and Services</u>			
Water Charges	4,700,000	4,135,000	565,000
Shannon Estuary Scheme- Recoupment from A.A.L.	408,000	330,000	78,000
Fluoridation - Mid Western Health Board	75,000	39,600	35,400
Superannuation	141,800	140,600	1,200
Water Connections	230,670	215,000	15,670
Apportionment of Support Income	21,593	18,629	2,964
Other	32,000	32,300	-300
TOTAL INCOME	6,759,063	6,086,129	672,934

PROGRAMME GROUP 4 - DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES AND CONTROLS

EXPENDITURE	Adopted by Council	Adopted 2006	INCREASE/ DECREASE
<u>Planning</u>			
Development Plan	30,000	50,000	-20,000
Planning fee refunds	207,000	75,000	132,000
Health & Safety	161,000	122,000	39,000
Building control	234,500	258,000	-23,500
<u>Industrial Development</u>			
Industrial Promotion	1,300	1,300	0
County Enterprise Board/ Soft Supports	246,867	252,100	-5,233
<u>Other Development</u>			
Tourist Promotion	95,000	75,000	20,000
Contribution to Regional Authority	138,183	130,987	7,196
Contribution to Regional Assembly	52,239	49,713	2,526
<u>Renewal Programmes</u>			
Urban and Village Renewal	0	110,000	-110,000
Loan Charges Urban & Village Renewal	313,089	318,000	-4,911
Grants - Tidy Towns/Community Groups	51,000	51,000	0
<u>Representational Functions (Sec.5 of 1991 Act)</u>			
	5,000	5,000	0
<u>Promotion of Interest of the Local Community (Sec.6)</u>			
	15,000	15,000	0
<u>Director of Community & Enterprise</u>			
Director of Community & Enterprise Function	299,700	350,200	-50,500
Dir of Comm & Ent Operational Costs	184,000	155,000	29,000
Rural Community Care Network	20,000	20,000	0
Community & Voluntary Forum	43,000	43,000	0
<u>Twinning of Local Authority Areas</u>			
	70,000	70,000	0
<u>Administration and Miscellaneous</u>			
Direct Administration and Overheads	3,101,699	3,049,610	52,089
Apportioned - Central Management Charge	450,891	460,732	-9,841
Contribution to General Council of Co. Co.	17,325	16,500	825
Contribution to L.A.M.A.	4,500	4,000	500
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5,741,294	5,682,142	59,152

PROGRAMME GROUP 4 - DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES AND CONTROLS

INCOME	Adopted by Council	Adopted 2006	INCREASE/ DECREASE
<u>Government Grants</u>			
County Enterprise Board	246,867	252,100	-5,233
Community & Voluntary Forum	43,000	43,000	0
Conservation Grant	300,000	214,200	85,800
Heritage Council	15,000		15,000
<u>Goods And Services</u>			
Planning Fees	1,800,000	1,400,000	400,000
Enforcement/objections	69,000	37,000	32,000
Superannuation	131,500	130,400	1,100
Apportionment of Support Income	8,803	6,780	2,023
Commencement Notices	94,000	75,000	19,000
Misc Planning(dev plans & copies perms)	47,539	56,441	-8,902
TOTAL INCOME	2,755,709	2,214,921	540,788

PROGRAMME GROUP 5 - ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

EXPENDITURE	Adopted by Council	Adopted 2006	INCREASE/ DECREASE
Waste Disposal			
Abbeyfeale & Morenane Landfill Aftercare	15,000	55,500	-40,500
Gortadromma - Operation of Landfill	1,710,947	1,630,803	80,144
Gortadromma - Local Development Fund	80,772	82,550	-1,778
Gortadromma - Loan Charges	2,187,359	309,000	1,878,359
Gortadromma - Aftercare & Rehabilitation	350,000	357,500	-7,500
Gortadromma-Development Works	0	1,000,000	-1,000,000
Other Waste Costs	876,765	751,466	125,299
Regional Waste Management Plan	447,423	480,813	-33,390
Environmental Awareness	70,000	65,000	5,000
Recycling Initiatives	785,382	583,000	202,382
Social Inclusion Provision	275,000		275,000
Clean Up Operations& Abandoned vehicles	193,000	190,000	3,000
Landfill Levy	1,050,000	930,000	120,000
Traveller Management Costs	61,000	61,000	-0
Burial Grounds			0
Loan Charges- Mungret Burial Ground	89,600	91,000	-1,400
Burial Ground Upkeep & Imp & Grants	656,500	500,000	156,500
Safety of Structures and Places			
Civil Defence	239,702	142,700	97,002
Water Safety	94,100	77,500	16,600
Derelict sites	75,000	75,000	-0
Fire Protection			-
Salaries, Fees, Pensions and Allowances	2,955,509	2,561,813	393,696
Buildings and Equipment	203,655	224,405	-20,750
Fees to Other Local Authorities	2,746,536	2,664,540	81,996
Regional Control Centre	212,027	203,327	8,700
Miscellaneous	430,458	366,142	64,316
Pollution Control			
Pollution Control & Equipment	1,010,124	878,900	131,224
Operation of Laboratory & Provision of Equipment	202,000	199,180	2,820
Litter Control	355,386	369,700	-14,314
River Basin Systems	3,032,480	1,615,257	1,417,223
Administration and Miscellaneous			
Pensions Environmental	173,534	159,000	14,534
Energy Agency	143,532	68,000	75,532
Admin Salary	55,366	52,600	2,766
Insurance - P.L.& Casual Trading	65,400	80,500	-15,100
Apportioned - Central Management Charge	1,776,456	1,492,667	283,789
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	22,620,013	18,318,864	4,301,149

PROGRAMME GROUP 5 - ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION			
INCOME	Adopted	Adopted	INCREASE/
	by Council	2006	DECREASE
<u>Government Grants</u>			
Civil Defence	130,000	99,900	30,100
Shannon River Basin-	3,000,000	1,555,000	1,445,000
Anti Litter Initiative	16,000	18,500	-2,500
Recycling Grants Operational Costs	420,000	200,000	220,000
WEEE Reg Fees	1,000	1,500	-500
Waste Enforcement	301,541	206,000	95,541
Environmental Partnership	6,500	5,000	1,500
<u>Goods and Services</u>			
Landfill Gate Fees	6,700,000	5,975,000	725,000
Landfill Levy	1,050,000	930,000	120,000
Waste Plan	280,848	318,000	-37,152
Waste Miscellaneous	162,000	141,700	20,300
ELV Registration	100,000		100,000
Litter - fines etc	27,000	20,000	7,000
Burial Fees - Mungret	104,000	100,000	4,000
Burial Fees - Other	204,000	190,000	14,000
Fire Fees	200,000	225,000	-25,000
Fire Safety Certs	520,000	413,700	106,300
Fire Licence sec 2481	21,000	22,000	-1,000
Course Expenses & Miscellaneous	35,050	42,436	-7,386
Derelict Sites	20,000	10,000	10,000
Pollution Licence Fees	160,000	177,000	-17,000
Shannon RBD Advisory Council	19,082	48,700	-29,618
Energy Agency	90,000	50,000	40,000
Water Pollution court	12,000	10,000	2,000
Superannuation	144,700	143,400	1,300
Apportioned - Central Management Charge	43,986	33,168	10,818
TOTAL INCOME	13,768,707	10,936,004	2,832,703

PROGRAMME GROUP 6 - RECREATION AND AMENITY

EXPENDITURE	Adopted by Council	Adopted 2006	INCREASE/ DECREASE
<u>Swimming Pools</u>			
Contributions	20,000	20,000	0
<u>Libraries</u>			
Archive Service	65,300	43,500	21,800
Library Service	3,056,423	2,707,303	349,120
<u>Parks & Open Spaces</u>			
Operation of Parks	30,000		30,000
<u>Community Employment Schemes</u>			
	201,900	227,700	-25,800
<u>Other Recreational and Amenity</u>			
Horticultural Service	764,197	678,960	85,237
Special Amenity Works	32,500	23,500	9,000
Grants_ Sli na Slainte	3,500	3,500	0
Contributions	180,000	186,000	-6,000
Arts Activities	255,048	218,000	37,048
<u>Administration and Miscellaneous</u>			
Insurance	59,400	75,500	-16,100
Pensions	26,730		26,730
Apportioned - Central Management Charge	400,146	372,295	27,851
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5,095,143	4,556,258	538,885

PROGRAMME GROUP 6 - RECREATION AND AMENITY

INCOME	Adopted by Council	Adopted 2006	INCREASE/ DECREASE
<u>Government Grants</u>			
Grant - Community Employment Schemes	201,900	227,700	-25,800
Grant - School Library Scheme	61,300	61,300	0
Grant - Library Digitisation	18,000	18,000	0
Grant - Arts Act	82,500	70,000	12,500
<u>Goods and Services</u>			
Library Other	24,000	24,000	0
Superannuation	80,800	80,100	700
Apportionment of Support Income	1,501	1,477	24
TOTAL INCOME	470,001	482,577	-12,576

PROGRAMME GROUP 7 - AGRICULTURE EDUCATION HEALTH AND WELFARE

EXPENDITURE	Adopted by Council	Adopted 2006	INCREASE/ DECREASE
<u>Agriculture</u>			
Land Drainage	283,000	290,000	-7,000
Loan Charges - Limerick Harbour Comm	7,925	7,925	0
<u>Education</u>			
Vocational Education Committee/Stat Demand	38,000	38,000	0
V.E.C. Pensions	3,127,126	2,714,600	412,526
Higher Education Grants	4,733,000	4,250,000	483,000
<u>Health and Welfare</u>			
Mid-Western Health Board - Expenses	150,000	100,000	50,000
Rates Abatement - Community Facilities	81,252	80,000	1,252
<u>Administration and Miscellaneous</u>			
Apportioned - Central Management Charge	717,646	663,249	54,397
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	9,137,949	8,143,774	994,175

PROGRAMME GROUP 7 - AGR, EDUCATION HEALTH AND WELFARE

INCOME	Adopted by Council	Adopted 2006	INCREASE/ DECREASE
<u>Government Grants</u>			
Recoupment - V.E.C. Pensions	3,127,126	2,714,600	412,526
Recoupment - Higher Education Gr	4,716,770	4,233,750	483,020
<u>Goods and Services</u>			
Recoupment - Loan Limk Harbour Comm.	7,925	7,925	0
Apportionment of Support Income	25,164	21,358	3,806
TOTAL INCOME	7,876,985	6,977,633	899,352

PROGRAMME GROUP 8 - MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

EXPENDITURE	Adopted by Council	Adopted 2006	INCREASE/ DECREASE
<u>Provision of Accomodation</u>			
Loan Charges	2,912,198	2,568,738	343,460
Lease Charges	106,500	101,500	5,000
Plant & Materials	3,074,000	2,330,000	744,000
<u>Financial Management</u>			
Rate Collection	561,297	547,600	13,697
Irrecoverable Rates	1,050,000	2,300,000	-1,250,000
Rate Refunds	1,583,800	338,800	1,245,000
Bank Charges/ Overdraft Interest	371,100	110,000	261,100
Valuation Listing Fees	80,000	80,000	0
<u>Elections</u>			
Register of Electors	75,000	56,000	19,000
<u>Administration of Justice - Consumer Protection</u>			
Residential homes	2000	2,000	0
Courthouses	70,000	70,000	0
Control of Dogs	255,000	230,000	25,000
Food Safety	220,000	243,000	-23,000
Coroners	172,566	100,000	72,566
Control of Horses	150,000	120,000	30,000
<u>Property Damage</u>			
Malicious Damage	0	2,000,000	-2,000,000
<u>Administration and Miscellaneous</u>			
Apportioned - Central Management Charge	1,026,787	1,098,912	-72,125
Sundry Debtors	200,000	65,000	135,000
Insurance P.L.	73,000	62,500	10,500
<u>Chairman's Allowance</u>			
Chairman's Allowance	40,810	38,500	2,310
<u>Entertainment and Associated Expenses</u>			
	45,000	43,000	2,000
<u>Expenses of Members of Local Authorities</u>	235,000	235,000	0
<u>Members Representational Allowance</u>	466,445	448,756	17,689
<u>S.P.C Chairs Allowances</u>	25,400	25,400	0
<u>S.P.C External Members Expenses</u>	10,000	10,000	0
<u>Representation at Conferences</u>	263,400	263,400	0
<u>Expenses of Members Attending Conferences Abroad</u>			
	5,000	5,000	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	13,074,303	13,493,106	-418,803

PROGRAMME GROUP 8 - MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

INCOME	Adopted by Council	Adopted 2006	INCREASE/ DECREASE
<u>Government Grants</u>			
Court Services	70,000	70,000	0
Malicious Injuries	0	2,000,000	-2,000,000
Dept of Agriculture Grant(Abattoirs)	203,000	223,000	-20,000
Dept of Environment Control of Horses	145,000	115,000	30,000
<u>Goods and Services</u>			
Control of Dogs	211,000	210,000	1,000
Plant & Materials	3,074,000	2,330,000	744,000
Veteninary Fees (Abattoir)	17,000	20,000	-3,000
Superannuation	69,300	68,700	600
Agency Work	200,000	65,000	135,000
Apportionment of Support Income	14,569	15,829	-1,260
Other	556,500	54,000	502,500
TOTAL INCOME	4,560,369	5,171,529	-611,160

EXPENDITURE	Managers	Adopted	Adopted	INCREASE/ DECREASE
	Budget	by Council	2006	
1. Remuneration - including Superannuation and Social Welfare Contributions of Officers	4,736,673	4,736,673	4,373,400	363,273
2. Travelling and Removal Expenses	102,000	102,000	80,000	22,000
3. Office Accommodation and Requisites	1,666,914	1,646,914	1,553,500	93,414
4. Computer Services	1,277,500	1,277,500	1,206,500	71,000
5. Legal Expenses	400,000	300,000	300,000	0
6. Insurance	125,500	125,500	114,300	11,200
7. Membership subscriptions to Outside Bodies	6,000	6,000	5,000	1,000
8. Partnership Projects	75,000	75,000	72,500	2,500
9. Audit	38,000	38,000	40,000	-2,000
10. Staff Recruitment and Development	280,000	280,000	240,000	40,000
11. Arbitration Scheme	102,100	102,100	95,900	6,200
12. Staff Training	575,000	575,000	530,000	45,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	9,384,687	9,264,687	8,611,100	653,587
INCOME				
Partnership Recoupment	62,500	62,500	13,000	49,500
Contributions to Superannuation	149,200	149,200	147,900	1,300
Other Income	200	200	16,000	-15,800
TOTAL INCOME	211,900	211,900	176,900	35,000

PROGRAMME GROUPS	2007		INCOME 2007		EXPENDITURE 2006		INCOME 2006	
	ESTIMATED €	ADOPTED €	ESTIMATED €	ADOPTED €	ADOPTED €	OUT TURN €	ADOPTED €	OUT TURN €
1 HOUSING & BUILDING								
1.1.	3,358,227	3,308,227	6,091,600	6,091,600	2,476,200	2,317,103	4,788,000	4,753,380
1.2.	1,876,400	1,876,400	2,086,100	2,086,100	1,669,150	1,590,000	1,756,500	1,555,000
1.3.	1,300,000	1,300,000	866,666	866,666	1,316,300	1,316,300	840,000	840,000
1.8.	3,605,372	3,590,473	368,270	368,270	3,228,564	3,339,000	331,782	285,000
TOTAL-PROGRAMME 1	10,140,000	10,075,101	9,412,636	9,412,636	8,690,214	8,562,403	7,716,282	7,433,380
2 ROAD TRANSPORT & SAFETY								
2.1.	24,688,662	24,648,662	18,874,267	18,874,267	22,522,058	24,222,000	17,209,286	18,600,000
2.2.	1,054,094	1,054,094	1,104,094	1,104,094	330,000	880,000	370,000	770,000
2.3.	256,450	256,450	74,800	74,800	245,200	245,000	74,950	75,000
2.8.	8,567,107	8,527,436	673,414	673,414	8,457,855	8,541,000	654,541	706,401
TOTAL PROGRAMME 2	34,566,313	34,486,642	20,726,575	20,726,575	31,555,113	33,888,000	18,308,777	20,151,401
3 WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE								
3.1.	9,066,677	9,051,677	5,413,670	5,413,670	7,638,224	7,995,941	4,719,600	4,808,252
3.2.	4,171,141	4,156,141	32,000	32,000	3,530,100	3,579,083	32,300	140,000
3.3.	1,121,844	1,121,844	1,150,000	1,150,000	1,175,000	1,170,000	1,175,000	1,170,000
3.8.	3,430,419	3,409,200	163,393	163,393	2,980,471	2,965,805	159,229	170,000
TOTAL-PROGRAMME 3	17,790,081	17,738,862	6,759,063	6,759,063	15,323,795	15,710,830	6,086,129	6,288,252
4 DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES & CONTROLS								
4.1.	632,500	632,500	2,263,000	2,263,000	505,000	610,000	1,726,200	1,900,000
4.2.	248,167	248,167	246,867	246,867	253,400	282,248	252,100	282,000
4.3.	649,511	649,511			734,700	753,460		
4.4.	5,000	5,000			5,000	-		
4.5.	561,700	561,700	43,000	43,000	583,200	500,000	43,000	92,100
4.6.	70,000	70,000			70,000	70,000		
4.8.	3,580,445	3,574,415	202,842	202,842	3,530,842	3,428,644	193,621	191,000
TOTAL-PROGRAMME 4	5,747,323	5,741,294	2,755,709	2,755,709	5,682,142	5,644,352	2,214,921	2,465,100
5 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION								
5.1.	7,827,648	8,102,648	9,064,889	9,064,889	6,496,632	7,067,476	7,815,700	8,400,000
5.2.	746,100	746,100	308,000	308,000	591,000	591,000	290,000	290,000
5.3.	408,802	408,802	150,000	150,000	295,200	275,000	109,900	89,000
5.4.	6,548,186	6,548,186	776,050	776,050	6,020,228	6,137,029	703,136	789,000
5.5.	4,599,989	4,599,989	3,191,082	3,191,082	3,063,037	2,749,284	1,790,700	1,696,273
5.8.	2,214,293	2,214,289	278,686	278,686	1,852,767	1,894,842	226,568	275,300
TOTAL-PROGRAMME 5	22,345,017	22,620,013	13,768,707	13,768,707	18,318,864	18,714,631	10,936,004	11,539,573

PROGRAMME GROUPS	2007		INCOME 2007		EXPENDITURE 2006		INCOME 2006		OUT TURN €
	ESTIMATED €	ADOPTED €	ESTIMATED €	ADOPTED €	ADOPTED €	OUT TURN €	ADOPTED €		
6 RECREATION AND AMENITY									
6.1. SWIMMING POOLS	20,000	20,000			20,000	-			
6.2. LIBRARIES	3,181,723	3,121,723	103,300	103,300	2,750,803	2,780,000	103,300	106,000	
6.3. PARKS, OPEN SPACES, RECREATION CENTRES	231,900	231,900	201,900	201,900	227,700	149,000	227,700	149,000	
6.4. OTHER RECREATIONAL/AMENITIES	1,235,245	1,235,245	82,500	82,500	1,109,960	1,134,960	70,000	69,000	
6.8. ADMINISTRATION AND MISCELLANEOUS	496,808	486,276	82,301	82,301	447,795	436,000	81,577	132,311	
TOTAL-PROGRAMME 6	5,165,676	5,095,143	470,001	470,001	4,556,258	4,499,960	482,577	456,311	
7 AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION & HEALTH & WELFARE									
7.1. AGRICULTURE	310,925	290,925	7,925	7,925	297,925	298,000	7,925	7,925	
7.2. EDUCATION	7,898,126	7,898,126	7,843,896	7,843,896	7,002,600	7,000,000	6,948,350	6,945,750	
7.3. HEALTH/WELFARE	261,252	231,252			180,000	180,000			
7.8. ADMINISTRATION/MISCELLANEOUS	731,561	717,646	25,164	25,164	663,249	663,000	21,358	21,000	
TOTAL-PROGRAMME 7	9,201,864	9,137,949	7,876,985	7,876,985	8,143,774	8,141,000	6,977,633	6,974,675	
8 MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES									
8.1. LAND ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT	3,018,698	3,018,698			2,670,238	2,670,000			
8.2. PLANT AND MATERIALS	3,074,000	3,074,000	3,074,000	3,074,000	2,330,000	2,330,000	2,330,000	2,330,000	
8.3. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	3,646,197	3,646,197	249,000	249,000	3,376,400	3,716,670	26,000	399,000	
8.4. ELECTIONS	75,000	75,000	1,000	1,000	56,000	356,000	500	180,000	
8.5. ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE/CONSUMER PROTEC	869,566	869,566	651,000	651,000	765,000	649,916	643,000	441,000	
8.6. PROPERTY DAMAGE	-	-			2,000,000	-	2,000,000	-	
8.7. MARKETS/FAIRS/ABATTOIRS									
8.8. ADMINISTRATION AND MISCELLANEOUS	1,313,517	1,299,787	585,369	585,369	1,226,412	1,277,331	172,029	360,000	
8.9. CHAIRMAN'S ALLOWANCE	40,810	40,810			38,500	38,500			
8.10. ENTERTAINMENT AND ASSOCIATED EXPENSES	45,000	45,000			43,000	45,000			
8.11. EXPS. OF MEMB OF L.A.'S & REPR AT CONFERENCE	1,000,245	1,000,245			982,556	982,000			
8.12. EXPS. OF MEMB ATTENDING CONFERENCES ABRO	5,000	5,000			5,000	-			
TOTAL-PROGRAMME 8	13,088,033	13,074,303	4,560,369	4,560,369	13,493,106	12,065,417	5,171,529	3,710,000	
TOTAL OF ALL PROGRAMME GROUPS	118,044,307	117,969,307	66,330,045	66,330,045	105,763,266	107,226,593	57,893,852	59,018,692	

* YEAR 1=forthcoming financial year.

**YEAR 2=current financial year.

TABLE B

CALCULATION OF ANNUAL RATE ON VALUATION 2007

Limerick County Council

PROGRAMME GROUP

	<i>Estimated</i>	
	<i>Out Turn For 2006</i>	
<i>I. Gross Revenue Expenditure (Per Table A)</i>	<i>Col. 1</i>	<i>Col.2</i>
	€	€
1. Housing & Building	10,075,101	8,562,403
2. Road Transportation & Safety	34,486,642	33,888,000
3. Water Supply & Sewerage	17,738,862	15,710,830
4. Development Incentives & Control	5,741,294	5,644,352
5. Environmental Protection	22,620,013	18,714,631
6. Recreation & Amenity	5,095,143	4,499,960
7. Agriculture, Education, Health	9,137,949	8,141,000
8. Miscellaneous services	13,074,303	12,065,417
TOTAL	117,969,307	107,226,593
Plus County Charge (Town/Borough Councils)		
Minus County Charge(County Councils)		
Plus provision for Debit Balance		
Adjusted Gross Expenditure (A)	117,969,307	107,226,593
 <i>II. Gross Revenue Income (Per Table A)</i>		
1. Housing & Building	9,412,636	7,433,380
2. Road Transportation & Safety	20,726,575	20,151,401
3. Water Supply & Sewerage	6,759,063	6,288,252
4. Development Incentives & Control	2,755,709	2,465,100
5. Environmental Protection	13,768,707	11,539,573
6. Recreation & Amenity	470,001	456,311
7. Agriculture, Education, Health& Welfare	7,876,985	6,974,675
8. Miscellaneous services	4,560,369	3,710,000
Total = (B)	66,330,045	59,018,692
III. Net Expenditure (A-B)=(C)	51,639,262	48,207,901
 IV. Other Income\ Credit Balance		
Provision for Credit Balance		
Local Government Fund Income	25,778,203	24,005,408
Sub-Total = (D)	25,778,203	24,005,408
 V. Amount to be Levied = (C)-(D)	25,861,059	23,952,803
 VI. Net Effective Valuation	429,440	
 VII. General Annual Rate on Valuation	60.2204	

* YEAR 1= The forthcoming Financial Year.

**YEAR 2= The Current Financial Year.