

BeSpoke Fest Limk

EVA art launch

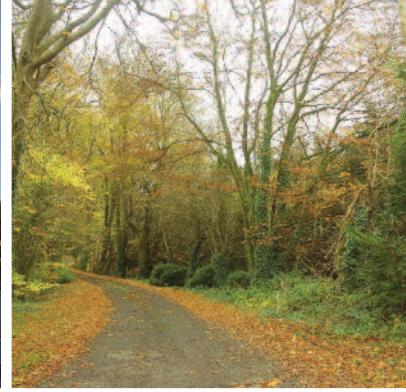
St Francis Boxing
Newcastle West
Our City launch

Front cover
Riverfest
Walkway no title

Boats on River Shannon
Eigse Michael Hartnett Festival

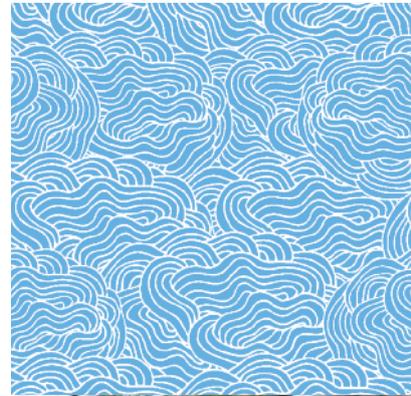
Culture and Chips

Annual Report 2016



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council



Joint Foreword

by Conn Murray, Chief Executive and
Cllr Kieran O'Hanlon, Mayor of City and County of Limerick

2016 is the year that Limerick positioned itself on the international stage. All of the plans, initiatives and actions we have worked on locally and nationally have culminated in Limerick launching a major drive to compete for investment worldwide.

Our ambitions for Limerick are clear. We want to position Limerick as the best placed English-speaking city in the European Union to capitalise on post Brexit inward investment opportunities.

Limerick City and County Council has established Limerick Twenty Thirty DAC which has been tasked with delivering over €500 million worth of transformational investment infrastructure across key strategic sites in Limerick city, with the capacity to create in excess of 5,000 jobs in the next five years.

Significant work has been carried out on the four key strategic sites preparing them for the planning and construction phases.

2016 has seen one of the strongest years ever for job creation. Almost 2,000 jobs were announced by foreign direct investment companies over the past twelve months, drawn to Limerick by the partnership and proactive approach adopted by the Council, third level institutions and local and state agencies.

This approach continues to be a unique selling point for the Limerick city region.

Allied to these FDI jobs is a strengthening entrepreneurial sector. Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Limerick's supports has resulted in an additional 129 net new jobs, while Innovate Limerick continues to

develop the environment in which innovation can grow and thrive.

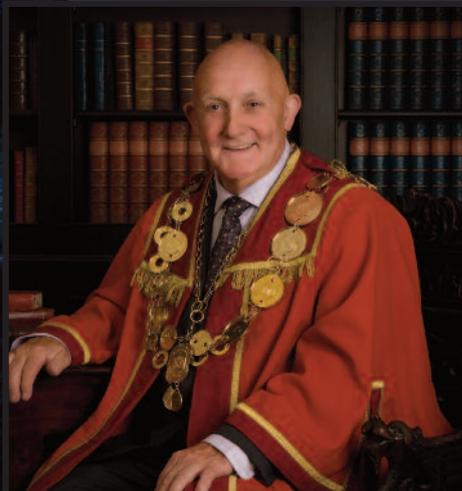
The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for Limerick, launched in 2016 will promote economic, social and community development across the city and county.

The Council also successfully operated financial supports for rate payers including the Small and Medium Business Support Scheme and a Tourism Sector Support Scheme following their adoption by the elected members.

It is important to plan for the future and over the course of 2016 a number of large infrastructure projects moved forward. Crucial to the continued development of the Limerick city region and the mid west as a whole is the Limerick Northern Distributor Road. Work has already begun on Phase One of the project from Coonagh to Knockalisheen. When completed, the road will open up the entire northside of Limerick city for potential investment.

And work has been re-started on a motorway between Limerick and Cork, which will further strengthen efforts to provide a western counter pole to the development around the capital.

A review of the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan (LRFIP) concluded that significant progress has been made in the three overarching pillars in the plan namely social, economic and physical. The report found that more than 300 jobs have been created as a direct result of Limerick Regeneration funding.



The communities are safer and working in partnership with the authorities, while youth crime has decreased significantly.

There is an increased attendance at school and other services with higher numbers from DEIS schools progressing in their education.

Building work is ongoing across the regeneration areas with 100 per cent of the new housing projects proposed at various stages of construction or planning.

The LRFIP review has set out a clear roadmap for the continued targeted investment in numerous areas from housing to social supports and economic development and the government has again stated its continued support for the important and necessary work that is being carried out by everyone in the targeted areas.

The jury visit for the 2020 European Capital of Culture bid showcased Limerick at its best. The bid process galvanised Limerick's arts and culture community, gave it renewed focus and the confidence to move forward and develop.

Limerick has shown itself to be a centre of creativity, which has been harnessed and has played a central part in shaping the new Limerick Cultural Strategy. This sets out a clear vision and ambition to plan strategically and look to the future, thus ensuring that culture continues to enrich and contribute to a vibrant Limerick.

2016 will be remembered as the year in which Ireland 'grew up', in the way we commemorated the 1916 Rising. The Limerick Centenary Programme co-ordinated

commemorations locally. Four memorial gardens, one in each of the districts were opened as a permanent reminder of 1916 and a statue of Con Colbert was unveiled in his birthplace in Monalena, Co. Limerick.

Another major event was the exhibition by Limerick Museum and Limerick Archives, "They Dreamed and are Dead" - Limerick and 1916'.

The Centenary Programme culminated in a special ceremony in The Granary Library for current and former elected members, city and county managers and chief executives to recognise their work and commitment to making Limerick a better place.

2016 marked the second anniversary of the amalgamated local authority and saw the implementation of a new Operating Model for Limerick City and County Council. This model based on strategic, operational and support services directorates have laid the foundations for improved efficiencies and better provision of services for the citizens of Limerick, based on the government's stated policies of 'Putting People First'.

Employees are a company's greatest asset and to improve the training and development of staff a new Compass for learning and development has been created to maximise the expertise in the Council for the benefit of all.

Limerick City and County Council has positioned itself to be a proactive organisation to serve the people of Limerick. Our ambitions are achievable thanks to the hard work of everyone, working together. Limerick is ideally placed to reap the rewards.

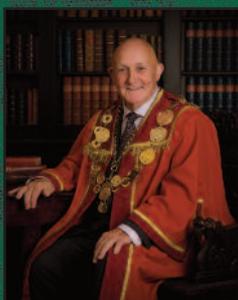
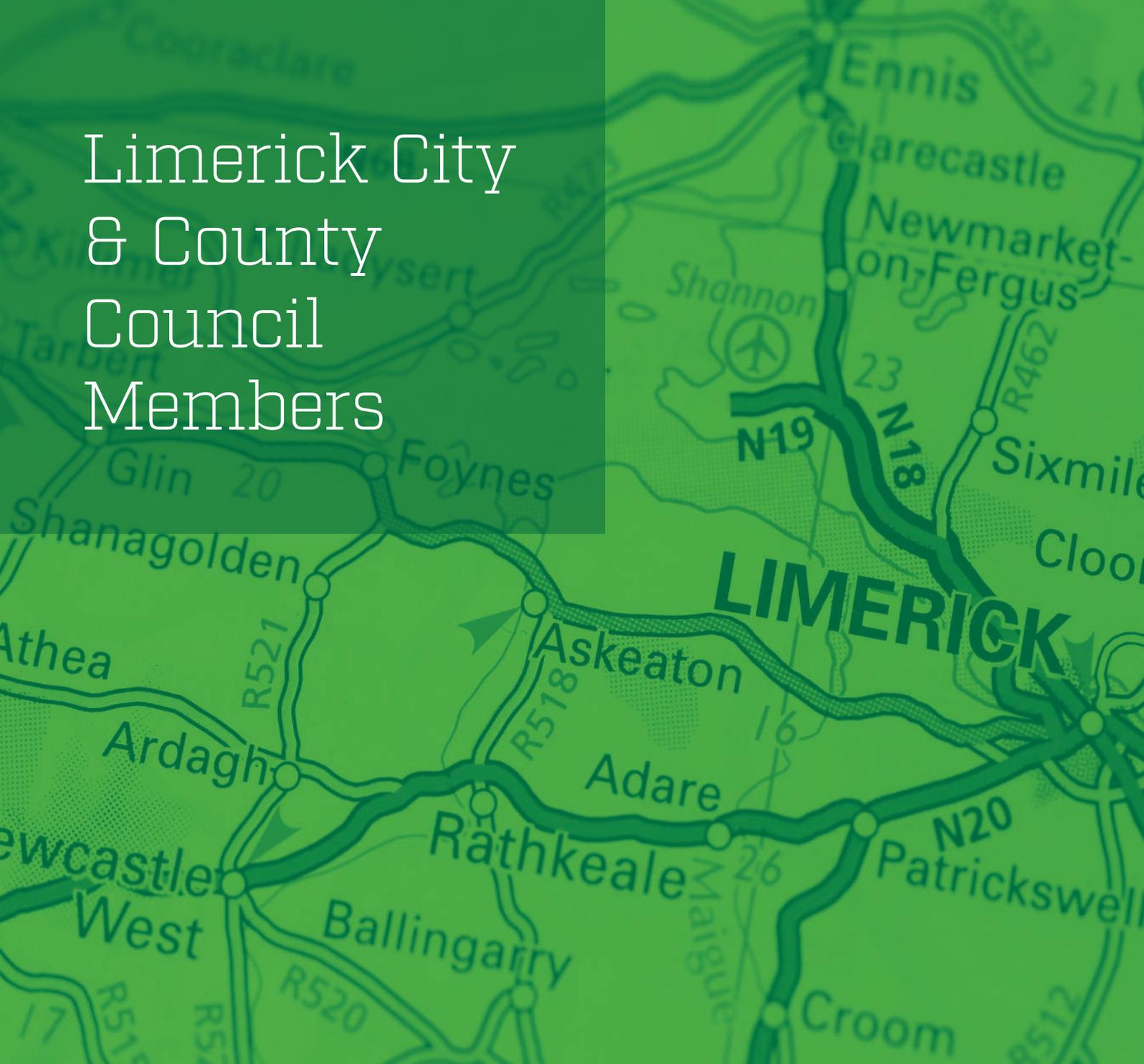


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Limerick City & County Council Members



Cllr Kieran O'Hanlon
Mayor of the City and County
of Limerick



Cllr Noel Gleeson
Deputy Mayor of the City and
County of Limerick

Members of Limerick City and County Council

As and from June, 2016

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 | 8 Members



Cllr Marian Hurley
Casa Loma, Annacotty
Co. Limerick
FG



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



**Cmhlr Séighin Ó
Ceallaigh**
Windy Ridge, Friarstown,
Grange, Co. Limerick.
SF



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



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



Cllr Joe Pond
Annacotty, Castletroy,
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 | 6 Members



Cllr John Costelloe
16, Nicholas Street, Limerick.
tSF



Cllr Vivienne 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
Carrig Donn, Revington
Park, North Circular Road,
Limerick.
FG



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

Members of Limerick City and County Council

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 West | 7 Members



Cllr Daniel Butler
106, The Grange, Raheen,
Limerick
FG



Cllr James Collins
Collins Bar, Dooradoyle,
Limerick.
FF



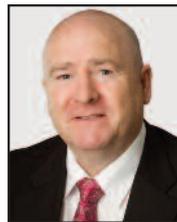
Cllr Elenora Hogan
Greenpark Avenue, South
Circular Road, Limerick
FG



Cllr Joe Leddin
Summerville Avenue, South
Circular Road, Limerick
LAB



Cllr John Loftus
Apartment 2, 3 Lr.
Glentworth Street, Limerick.
NP



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



Cllr Richard O'Donoghue
Kilatal, Balingarry,
Co. Limerick.
FF



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



Cllr Adam Teskey
Killeheen, Reens, Ardagh,
Co. Limerick
FG

Members of Limerick City and County Council

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

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 Seamus 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
Ballygultenane, Glin, Co. Limerick.
FG

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 21 occasions in 2016.

CORPORATE POLICY GROUP

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

- Councillor Kieran O’Hanlon, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick.
- Councillor Michael Donegan, Chairperson of the Home and Social Development SPC
- Councillor Frankie Daly, 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 8 occasions in 2016.

COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

Title	No. of Members	No. of Meetings
Metropolitan District of Limerick	21	14
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	6	16
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	7	13
Municipal District of Newcastle West	6	15

Strategic Policy Committees	No. of Members	No. of Meetings
Home and Social Development	23	4
Travel and Transportation	23	3
Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning	23	6
Community, Leisure and Emergency Services	23	4
Environment	23	3

Other Committees

Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	12	3
Rural Water Committee	11	4
Audit Committee	7	5
Joint Policing Committee	31	2
Local Community Development Committee	19	13

Local Operational Briefings / Workshops

	No. of Members	No. of Meetings
Limerick City East	8	13
Limerick City North	6	13
Limerick City West	7	13



Riverfest

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES

Each Strategic Policy Committee comprises elected Councillors and Sectoral Representatives, working together in a more participative form of democracy, thereby providing a more effective policy focus on the functions and activities carried out by Limerick City and County Council. Each SPC is supported in its work by a Director of Service. While each SPC formulates and develops policy, the final decisions will rest ultimately with the full Council.

HOME AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

ELECTED MEMBERS

Cllr. Michael Donegan (Chair)
Cllr. William O'Donnell
Cllr. Liam Galvin
Cllr. Jerome Scanlan
Cllr. Stephen Keary
Cllr. Adam Teskey
Cllr. John Costelloe
Cllr. Cian Prendiville
Cllr. Paul Keller
Cllr. Joe Leddin
Cllr. Joe Pond
Cllr. Francis Foley
Cllr. Jerry O'Dea
Cllr. Richard O'Donoghue
Cllr. John Gilligan
Cllr. Lisa Marie Sheehy

SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES

Development / Construction

Mr. P.J. O'Grady

Trade Union

Mr. Mike McNamara

*Community / Voluntary

Mr. Kevin O'Brien

Ms. Tracey McElligot

Ms. Sally Hogan

Mr. Jimmy Prior

*Social Inclusion

Ms. Rosemary Fitzgerald

*Are nominated via Public Partnership Network (PPN)

The Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) met 4 times in 2016 and held a workshop to consider a new allocations policy and amendments to the Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme. The SPC drafted a draft allocations policy for the allocation of social housing in Limerick City and County.

Councillors received presentations and discussed:

- Rebuilding Ireland – National Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness
- Progress on Limerick Regeneration
- Review of the Homeless Strategy
- Review of the Traveller Accommodation Plan
- Capital Housing Programme for acquisition, refurbishment and building of social housing
- Disabled Persons Grants
- Updates on current homelessness figures and initiatives
- Repairs and Maintenance Programme
- ASH – Selecting Sites for Social Housing (ASH) in Limerick City and County
- Updates on Syrian Resettlement Programme
- Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme and exclusions
- The operation of choice based letting schemes as part of the allocations policy
- Housing Need Assessment 2016

TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

ELECTED MEMBERS

Cllr. Frankie Daly (Chair)
Cmhlr. Séighin Ó Ceallaigh
Cllr. Elena Secas
Cllr. Elenora Hogan
Cllr. Michael Sheahan
Cllr. Gerald Mitchell
Cllr. Adam Teskey
Cllr. Daniel Butler
Cllr. Séamus Browne
Cllr. John Loftus
Cllr. Joe Pond
Cllr. Michael Donegan
Cllr. Seán Lynch
Cllr. Richard O'Donoghue
Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon
Cllr. Emmett O'Brien

SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES

Agriculture / Farming

Mr. Michael Lenihan

*Environment / Conservation

Mr. Brian Leddin

Development / Construction

Mr. Pat McCarthy

Business / Commercial

Mr. Michael Tiernan

Trade Union

Mr. Frank McDonnell

*Community / Voluntary

Mr. Denis McAuliffe

*Social Inclusion

Ms. Maureen Browne

*Are nominated via Public Partnership Network (PPN).

The Physical Development Directorate facilitates the operation of the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee (SPC).

During 2016, the Travel & Transportation SPC held meetings in June, October and December. Issues of strategic importance were considered and discussed at the meetings.

These issues included the Roads Budgets and programmes of work for 2016 and the allocation of funding under the various programmes of work.

The committee considered the requirement to deliver traffic calming solutions in areas of need and Safe Street Network Design strategies and also recommended the requirement to amend bye-laws to regulate the issue of sulky racing on the public road. Presentations and briefings were also given to the Members on a number of Transportation Challenges and Opportunities, Roads Reforms and Safety Issues and the Winter Road Maintenance Programme. The Regional Manager of Bus Éireann made a presentation at the December SPC Meeting on the Limerick City Network Service Improvements which had been implemented with effect from 4th December, 2016.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE & PLANNING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

ELECTED MEMBERS

Cllr. Noel Gleeson (Chair)
Cllr. Daniel Butler
Cllr. Elenora Hogan
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

SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES

Agriculture / Farming

Mr. John Walsh

*Environment / Conservation

Ms. Tracey Lynch

Development / Construction

Mr. Mike Ryan

Business / Commercial

Mr. Denis Doyle

Mr. David Jeffreys

*Community / Voluntary

Mr. Brian Thompson

*Social Inclusion

Mr. Mark Ryan

*Are nominated via Public Partnership Network (PPN)

6 meetings of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) were held in 2016. Main issues discussed:

- Local Economic and Community Plan
- Development Contribution Scheme
- Tourism
- EU Projects
- Strategic Sites
- Local Enterprise Office

Recommendation - No 1. Notice of Motion from Cllrs J Leddin and E Secas

It was agreed that the motion *'I will move at the next meeting that Limerick Metropolitan District is opposed to the removal from this Council of planning powers for estates of 100 or more houses to an Bord Pleanála which, if introduced, will further damage local democracy'* would be referred to the full Council with the view to writing to the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government setting out this Council's opposition to the proposal as tabled.

COMMUNITY, LEISURE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

ELECTED MEMBERS

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 McMahan

Cllr. John Costelloe

Cllr. Malachy McCreesh

Cllr. John Loftus

Cllr. Michael Collins

Cllr. Vivienne Crowley

Cllr. Seán Lynch

Cllr. Kevin Sheahan

Cllr. Brigid Teefy

SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES

Agriculture / Farming

Ms. Mary Vaughan-Mullane

Development / Construction

Ms. Mary Fitzgerald

Business / Commercial

Mr. Liam Toland

*Community / Voluntary

Ms. Marian Healy

Mr. Cillian Flynn

*Social Inclusion

Ms. Elisa O'Donovan

Ms. Donnah Vuma

*Are nominated via Public Partnership Network (PPN)



The Community and Leisure Services Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) met 4 times in 2016. Members received presentations and discussed:

- Update on new Operating Model
- Presentation on Local Economic Community Plan
- Presentation from Share a Dream Foundation
- Suicide awareness.
- Presentation on Limerick Public Partnership Network (PPN)
- The status of undocumented migrants
- Recreational facilities including swimming pools in the city and county
- LEADER funding under the Rural Development Plan

Members recommended the draft Fire and Emergency Operations Plan go to full Council for adoption.

A Suicide Awareness Working Group was set up by the SPC to examine the Regional Suicide Strategy and develop local actions and collaborations.

ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

ELECTED MEMBERS

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. Vivienne Crowley
Cllr. Noel Gleeson
Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon
Cllr. Eddie Ryan
Cllr. John Gilligan
Cllr. Ciara McMahan
Cllr. John Sheahan
Cllr. Brigid Teefy

SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES

Agriculture / Farming

Mr. Thomas Blackburn
Mr. Eamonn English

*Environment / Conservation

Anneke Verling

Business / Commercial

Mr. Mark McConnell
Mr. Seamus Leahy

*Community / Voluntary

Ms. Louise Madden
Mr. David Fitzgerald

*Are nominated via Public Partnership Network (PPN)

The Physical Development Directorate facilitates the operation of the Environment Strategic Policy Committee (SPC).

The Environment SPC met in June, October and December.

Presentations and briefings were given to the Members on issues of policy such as:

- The Water Framework Directive
- Climate Change
- Recent Waste Legislative Developments
- The Annual Report of the Southern Region Waste Management Plan 2015 – 2021.

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK - RESERVED FUNCTIONS 2016

The election of Deputy Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to hold office until the next Annual Meeting or until a successor has been elected.

Approval to the taking in charge of various housing estates in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

Amendment to the Southern Environs Local Area Plan 2011 – 2017

Adoption of the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2016 for the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

Approval to defer the sending of notices to make a new Local Area Plan for the Southern Environs for a further period of 5 years and extend the existing plan.

Decision to host a Civic Reception to honour Fionn O'Sullivan McCarthy on winning the World Irish Dancing

Championship in Boys Under 11 Age Group.

The adoption of a Statement of Consistency on the Draft Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2021.

Approval of proposed works at the Former GPO incorporating the 'Hanging Gardens' Henry Street and No. 19 Henry Street.

Approval of proposed works in relation to Verdant Place Flood Defence Wall.

Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District.

Approval of proposed Catherine Street / Roches Street Junction Improvement Works.

Approval of proposed works for 45a and 46a Cliona Park, Moyross and Cloncannane Road, Ballynanty.

Approval of proposed works in relation to Patrickswell Village Renewal Scheme.

Approval of proposed works at St. Mary's Park including, 20 No. infill housing units, public realm improvement works and all associated ancillary works.

Adoption of the Budgetary Plan for the Metropolitan District of Limerick for the financial year ended 31st December, 2017, in the total sum of €503,000.

Approval to the deletion of one structure from the Record of Protected Structures and the addition of three structures to the Record of Protected Structures in accordance with Sections 54 and 55 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE - RATHKEALE - RESERVED FUNCTIONS 2016

Approval of works at Rathkeale Enterprise Centre.

Adoption of the Schedule of Works for the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale 2016

Approval of allocations under the General Municipal Allocation

2016 for Special Projects, Community Initiatives and Parks, Pitches and Playgrounds.

Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach of the Municipal District

Approval of proposed N21 Adare Western Approach Improvement Scheme Works.

The adoption of a Statement of Consistency on the Draft Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2021.

Decision to host a Municipal Reception for Mr Ben Betts in recognition of his achievement in representing Ireland in the U20 Irish Rugby World Cup.

Agreement to proceed with the Pilot Project for the Introduction of 30 km/hr Special Speed Limits in Five Housing Estates in the District.

Adoption of the Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale for the financial year ended 31st December, 2017, in the total of €225,000 in accordance with Section 102 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.

Decision that the addition of Ballycullen House to the Record of Protected Structures 2016 should not be made at that point.

Approval to the taking in charge of the Estate at Cois Srutháin, Croom in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2015 and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CAPPAMORE - KILMALLOCK - RESERVED FUNCTIONS 2016

Approval to the addition of one structure to the Record of Protected Structures and deletion of one structure from the Record of Protected Structures in accordance with Section 55 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Adoption of the Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock for the financial year ended 31st December 2017, in the total sum of €250,000 including the amendment to move the amount of €100,000 from Special Projects - LA Infrastructure to D05 Tourism Development, Recreation and Amenity, in accordance with Section 102 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended).

Approval of Allocations under the General Municipal Allocation, Development Fund and Community Initiatives Scheme.

Approval to extend the life of the Cappamore Local Area Plan 2011-2017 for a further period of 5 years in accordance with Section 19(1)(d) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach.

Adoption of the Schedule of Works for the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock.

Agreement to proceed with the Pilot Project for the introduction of 30km/hr Special Speed Limits in 5 Housing Estates in the District.

Part 8 Approval for the construction of a pedestrian bridge and ancillary works at Northbridge, Kilmallock in accordance with Section 179 3(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2015 and Part 8 of the Planning and development Regulations, 2001-2015.

Decision to receive Deputations from the following:

- Kilfinane Community Council
- Glenbrohane Community Association
- Bruff Community Council
- Glenroe/Ballyorgan Community Council

Approval to the holding of Municipal Receptions for the following:

- Youth Bank Project
- John the Baptist Community Ladies Football Team
- J.P. McManus

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST - RESERVED FUNCTIONS 2016

Approval to the addition of 1 structure to the Record of Protected Structures in accordance with Sections 54 and 55 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Approval of Schedule of Works 2016 for the Municipal District of Newcastle West.

Agreement to proceed with the Pilot Project for the introduction of 30km/hr Special Speed Limits in 5 Housing Estates in the District.

Approval of Allocations under the General Municipal Allocation.

Adoption of the Budgetary Plan for Municipal District of Newcastle West for the financial year ended 31st December, 2017, in the total sum of €225,000 in accordance with Section 102 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.

The adoption of a Statement of Consistency on the Draft Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2021. Election of Cathairleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach.

Approval to the taking in charge of 3 housing estates in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2015 and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

Approval to fund Public Realm Plan and Pavement Renewal and Infrastructure Design for Glin.

Decision to receive Deputations from the following:

- Abbeyfeale Community Council
- Killeline Leisure Centre

Approval to the holding of Municipal Receptions for the following:

- Newcastle West GAA Under 16
- Tidy Town Committees in the District of Newcastle West

Part 8 Approval for works at Clash Road, Abbeyfeale from Feale Valley to Cois na Feile Estate.

Approval of Terms of Reference for Pool Feasibility Report for Newcastle West.

Recommendation to Full Council to begin process of renaming 'The Square' Newcastle West.



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. Vivienne Crowley
Cllr. Richard O'Donoghue
Cllr. John Gilligan

- Standing Policy Council of Association (AILG)
 - Cllr. Michael Hourigan
 - Cllr. Vivienne Crowley
 - Cllr. Richard O'Donoghue

SOUTHERN AND EASTERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

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

LIMERICK MARKET TRUSTEES

Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon (Mayor of the City and County of Limerick)
Cllr. Michael Hourigan (Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Limerick)
Cllr. Joe Leddin
Cllr. Malachy McCreesh
Cllr. John Loftus
Cllr. Vivienne Crowley
Cllr. Seán Lynch
Cllr. James Collins
Cllr. Michael Collins
Cllr. William O'Donnell
Cllr. Gerald Mitchell
Cllr. Marian Hurley
Cllr. Michael Sheahan
Cllr. John Costelloe
Cllr. Adam Teskey
Cllr. Joe Pond
Cllr. John Sheahan
Cllr. Daniel Butler

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 (Nominee of the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick)
Cllr. Michael Hourigan (Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Limerick)

ADARE HERITAGE TRUST LIMITED

Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon (Mayor of the City and County of Limerick)

WEST LIMERICK RESOURCES LIMITED

Cllr. Michael Collins
Cllr. Francis Foley
Cllr. Emmett O'Brien
Cllr. John Sheahan

BALLYHOURA DEVELOPMENT LIMITED

Cllr. William O'Donnell
Cllr. Michael Donegan

PAUL PARTNERSHIP

Cllr. Seán Lynch
Cllr. Frankie Daly
Cllr. Michael Sheahan

RURAL COMMUNITY CARE NETWORK (RCCN)

Cllr. Jerome Scanlan
Cllr. Francis Foley

HUNT MUSEUM TRUST

Cllr. Vivienne 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. Michael Sheahan
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. Frankie Daly
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 Hourigan (Mayor of the Metropolitan District
of Limerick)
Cllr. Cian Prendiville
Cllr. Michael Sheahan
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

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF ST. MUNCHIN'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED

Cllr. Vivienne Crowley

LIMERICK MARKETING BOARD

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

BOARD OF INNOVATE LIMERICK

Cllr. Joe Pond
Cllr. James Collins
Cllr. Stephen Keary
Cllr. Séamus Browne

LIMERICK AND CLARE EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

Cllr. Marian Hurley
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. Joe Pond
Cllr. Jerome Scanlan

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

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

RURAL WATER MONITORING COMMITTEE

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

STEERING GROUP OF LIMERICK 2020

Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon (Mayor of the City and County of Limerick)
Cllr. James Collins
Cllr. Marian Hurley

STAKEHOLDER GROUP OF LIMERICK 2020

Cllr. Adam Teskey
Cllr. Daniel Butler
Cllr. Joe Pond
Cllr. Jerry O'Dea

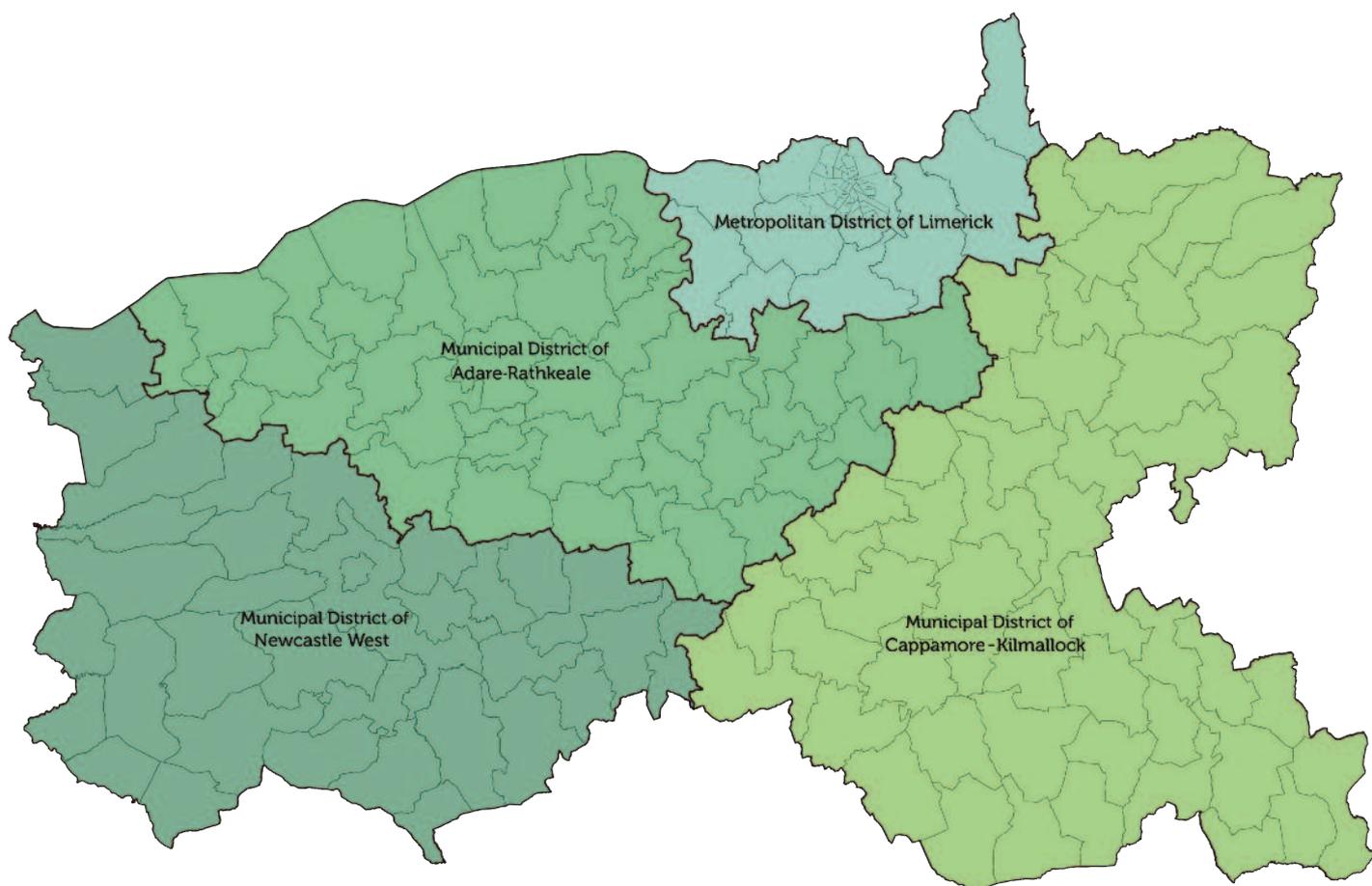
BELLTABLE ARTS CENTRE - SPECIAL SUB -COMMITTEE OF BOARD

Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon (Mayor of the City and County of Limerick)

Limerick 2030 Strategic Development DAC (formerly known as LCO Enterprise Development Company)

Cllr. James Collins
Cllr. Seamus Browne
Cllr. Joe Pond

Electoral Areas



Events, highlights and civic receptions

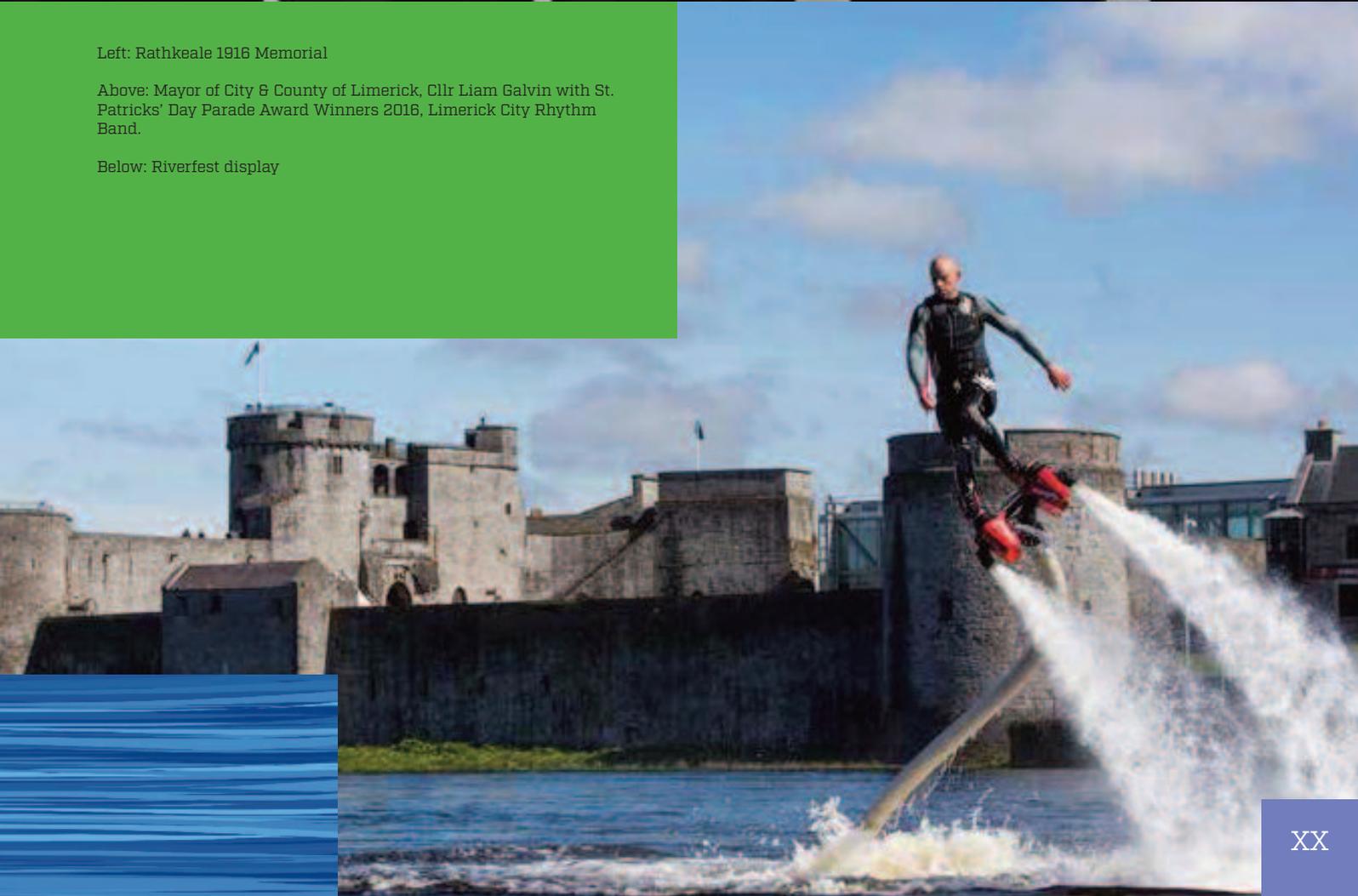




Left: Rathkeale 1916 Memorial

Above: Mayor of City & County of Limerick, Cllr Liam Galvin with St. Patricks' Day Parade Award Winners 2016, Limerick City Rhythm Band.

Below: Riverfest display

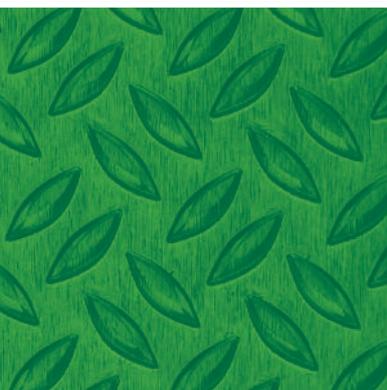




Above: Cllr Liam Galvin Mayor of City and County of Limerick with Minister Michael Noonan during the Taoiseach's visit to County Hall to highlight regional benefit of capital investments.

Below: William O'Neill (centre), Professor Don Barry (President of UL) Jacqui Hayes (Limerick City and County Archivist) Professor Anthony Mc Elliot (Head of History UL) Liam Galvin (City and County Mayor) Professor Bernadette Whelan (Dept of History UL) and Pat Dowling (Dept Chief Executive) Launch LRFIP - Minister Simon Covney Fine Geal at the launch of 'Stand Up and Fight' Exhibition at City Hall.





Above: Cllr Liam Galvin Mayor of City and County of Limerick with the Taoiseach Enda Kenny and Minister Michael Noonan during the Taoiseach's visit to County Hall to highlight regional benefit of capital investments.

Centre: Handing over by Dr. Thomas Ryan of his Collection of 25 Portrait Drawings of illustrious Limerick People to LCCC

Bottom: Some images from 'Stand Up and Fight, Limerick's Military Tradition' Exhibition



Pictured taking part in TLC2 at the Shannon Fields, Corbally was Faye Bresnan (2) |



Clockwise from left
 Killeely Tidy Towns at Tidy Towns Seminar, Adare.
 Annual Tidy Towns Seminar in Woodlands House Hotel, Adare.
 Launch of Going for Gold Competition
 Sean Tobin, Barry O'Connell and Tom Condon,
 Limerick Hurlers promoting Team Limerick Clean-up
 Paul O'Connell & Supt Dave Sheahan promoting Team
 Limerick Clean-up

Left: Rachel O'Neill, Limerick Rose promoting Team
 Limerick Clean-up





1916 Exhibition



Clockwise from left:
 Pat Nolan and Gus McCoy, Saint Marys Prize Band at the launch of They Dreamed and are Dead: Limerick 1916,
 Christy O'Connor, Limerick City and County Council and Councillor Gerald Mitchell, Deputy Mayor of Limerick City and County at the launch of They Dreamed and are Dead: Limerick 1916
 Martin Kiely, Frank Quaid, Michael O'Sullivan and Mike Hynes at the launch of They Dreamed and are Dead: Limerick 1916
 An image used in They Dreamed and are Dead Exhibition: A group of prominent separatists outside the Fianna Hall, behind John Daly's residence, 15 Barrington Street, Limerick (Courtesy Des Long).



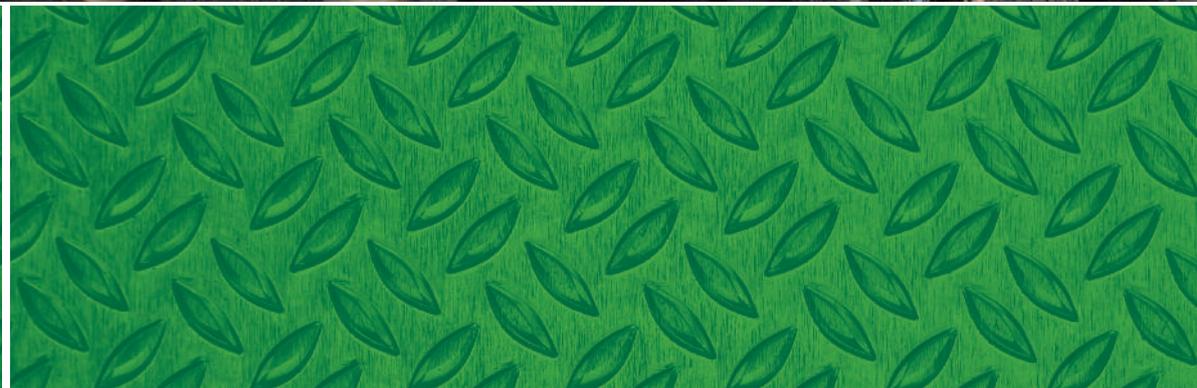
Clockwise from left:
 Ardpatrik Photo Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick and Gerry Boland, JP McManus Foundation present Limerick In Bloom Overall winner Award to Ardpatrik.
 Picture: Alan Place

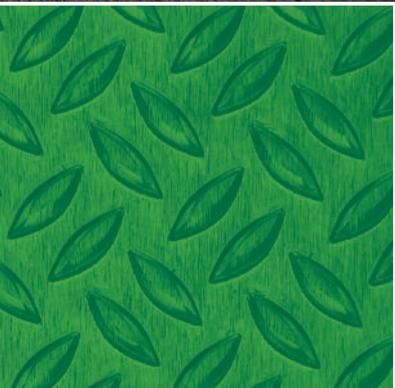
Cllr. L. Galvin Mayor of City and County of Limerick signing Book of Condolences for late Sir Terry Wogan, Freeman of Limerick



Limerick St. Patrick's Day Parade 2016







Left Page Bespoke Launch
 Fionn Civic Reception
 IBM Smarter Cities
 Right Page Africa Day Limerick 2016 Launch
 Traveller Pride Launch
 Finnish delegation to Limerick
 Na Píarsaigh Reception



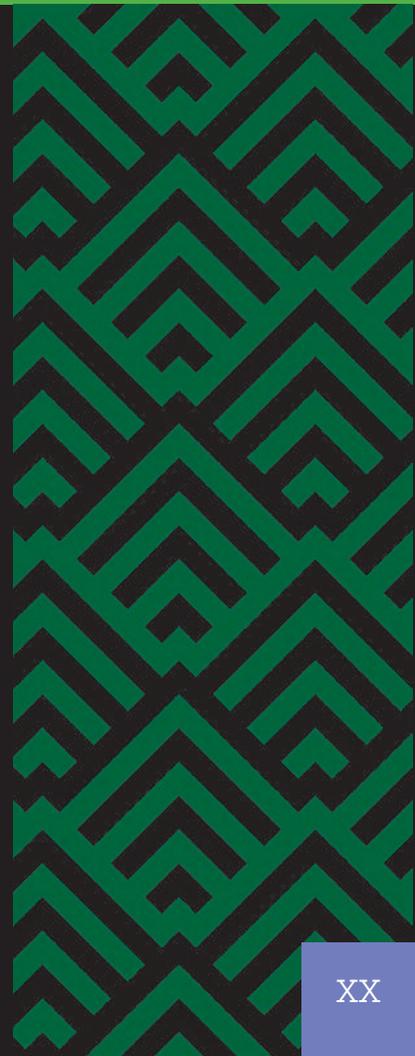


Pat Daly

Director of Economic
Development and Planning

Economic Development Directorate

Awards
Limerick 2030
Background and highlights
Investment
Innovate Limerick
Local Enterprise Office
Office of Communications and
Marketing
Public Interest Development Office
Forward Strategic Planning



Economic Development Directorate

In the story of Limerick's economic revitalisation, 2016 will be remembered largely as a year which illustrated just how far the city and county has come with significant international and indigenous investment, surpassing all previous years.

From the perspective of the Economic Development Directorate, which is charged with the promotion and development of Limerick, it was a year when delivery on the plans set out in 'Limerick 2030' – the much celebrated economic and spatial plan – became even more evident.

In 2016 almost 2,000 jobs were announced in Limerick including Nestle, EY, Fazzi, WP Engine, Becton Dickinson & Company and Redfaire.



Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, hosted a 'Welcome to Limerick' Reception for companies that have recently invested in Limerick

Awards

The performance of the Directorate was reflected in a number of prestigious national awards it received for Innovation and Economic Development winning the Chambers Ireland 2016 Excellence in Local Government Award for promoting economic development, recognising the Council's role in driving reshaping and future -proofing Limerick's economic future.

Limerick City also claimed the prestigious fDi Magazine's European City of the Future Award at a ceremony in Cannes, France.

Limerick Twenty Thirty

It was also the year that the Council established Limerick Twenty Thirty - the biggest single Irish commercial property development programme undertaken outside the capital. The special purpose vehicle is tasked, in the first instance, with delivering over €500m worth of transformational investment infrastructure across key strategic sites in Limerick City, with the capacity to create in excess of 5,000 jobs over the next five years. It is the first entity of its kind created by a local authority to deliver a city and county wide programme of investment.

Background

The Economic Development Directorate, which is charged with the promotion and development of Limerick now incorporates seven key sections:

- Investment
- Innovate Limerick
- Local Enterprise Office
- Office of Communications and Marketing
- Public Interest Development Office
- Forward/Strategic Planning

The following are some of the highlights under each of these sections.

Investment

The Investment Unit is tasked with supporting the efforts of IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland and other state agencies in creating the environment to facilitate job creation as well as gathering and disseminating economic data, managing the development fund and administering corporate support services.

2016 was a year of many highlights, including:

- Announcements of record industry investment and jobs – 1,957 in total – including Nestle, EY, Fazzi, WP Engine, Becton Dickinson & Company, Redfaire, Trusource Labs, ACI Worldwide, Cook Medical, Ortec Inc., Acacia Communications, Ripplecom, and Casa Systems
- Major retail investments and jobs announcements by Lidl, Aldi, Easons, House Limerick, La Cucina, Tuscany Bistro, Centra, Dealz and The Range
- Establishment of Limerick Twenty Thirty DAC. It will prioritise the redevelopment of 1.4 million sq ft of prime real estate across four disused sites into state-of-the-art office, retail, residential, education and enterprise space, accelerating Limerick's emergence as one of Europe's most attractive investment locations
- The Mayor of Limerick City and County hosted a 'Welcome to Limerick' Reception for companies and individuals who have invested in Limerick in the last two years.



The Biblical Centre, Dominic Street, which is being transformed into a new film and skills training hub



Minister for Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation, Mary Mitchell O'Connor TD, meeting with the Mid West Action Plan for Jobs Implementation

Innovate Limerick

Innovate Limerick, which aims to drive innovation and act as the delivery mechanism for the projects outlined in the Limerick 2030 Plan and the Limerick Regeneration implementation plans and others, also made considerable ground in 2016.

Among its achievements were:

- Completion of the 35,000 sq.ft Innovation Hub at Roxboro, offering potential tenants the biggest modern open plan office footprint available in Limerick
- Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government Simon Coveney, announcing grants of €2.25 million for Innovate Limerick to purchase the former Biblical Centre on Dominic Street (pictured below) and establish a Production and Digital Skills Academy
- Completing construction on Troy Film Studios, the former 340,000 sq.ft 'Culture Factory' at the old Dell building in Castletroy. The development of this major film production facilities hub in Limerick will not only support the creation of new jobs, the creation of new businesses, but will also lead to the creation of a completely new industry in Limerick and the Mid-West
- Creating a new website, 'Film in Limerick' (<https://film.limerick.ie/>), aimed at facilitating the growing film and television production industry in the region
- Getting €200,000 grant aid approval from Enterprise Ireland towards the cost of subdividing the Rathkeale Enterprise Centre into individual business units.

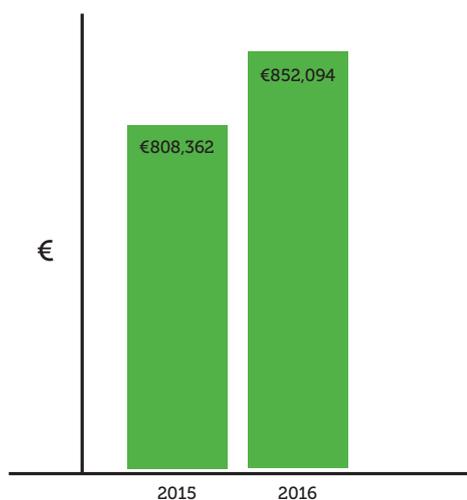
Local Enterprise Office

2016 was another successful year for Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Limerick in terms of providing financial and training supports for business.

Achievements include:

- A net gain of 129 posts in 2016 across 98 client companies with an overall employment level in LEO supported companies at 1,895 by year end
- Delivering grant aid of €852,094 to Limerick companies in 2016, up from €808,362 in 2015

GRANT AID PROVIDED



- LEO Limerick also acts as an agent for Microfinance Ireland (MFI) and in 2016 submitted 16 applications on behalf of clients to MFI. 11 loan applications were approved to a value of €225,999.

Office of Communications and Marketing

The Office of Communications and Marketing was established midway through 2016. Its responsibilities include handling corporate communications and developing and promoting the Limerick brand to visitors and international investors, through dynamic ongoing campaigns across traditional and new media.

Its activity included:

- Issuing 267 press releases, answering hundreds of queries from local and national media and managing the Council's official Twitter account
- Four staff magazines were produced and distributed to all Council staff with monthly e-newsletters circulated to keep staff updated and informed of Council changes and activities
- A special campaign involving Limerick City and County Council, the Health Services Executive and An Garda Síochána was run under the banner Limerick Public Services Working Together, working on Road Safety, Mental Health and Wellbeing and Personal and Home Safety
- Marketing campaigns were run throughout the year to promote the St Patrick's Festival, Riverfest, The October Bank Holiday weekend, Christmas in Limerick and other activities/events
- Produced the 'Our City, Our Stories' digital marketing campaign that aimed to capture the diversity and wit of Limerick people
- The Office was responsible for the launch of the Limerick Twenty Thirty company and associated marketing campaign achieving vast national and international coverage across traditional and online media platforms
- The Office secured a front page feature for Limerick on the European Business Magazine
- A Limerick Style Blogging event in association with local retailers was held to promote Limerick fashion and trended No1 on Twitter
- A monthly Limerick.ie Business Bulletin e-newsletter was created, acting as a shop window to the dynamic Limerick business community
- The Office generated nationwide penetration with the conclusion of the Limerick 2020 PR and marketing campaign
- Limerick.ie, which falls under the remit of the Office of Communications and Marketing, had a total of 793,621 users visited Limerick.ie, an increase of 33% on the previous year
- Its social media arm had 11,550 twitter followers by year end while Facebook followers were up by 57% to 14,087
- Instagram followers were up by 171% to 2,434

Public Interest Development Office

The Public Interest Development Office was established in September 2016 as part of the Economic Development Directorate to stimulate and consolidate Limerick's historic towns and city centre through built environment public interest development projects.

Achievements include:

- Its EU FP7 co-financed SmartOpenData project was completed in 2016. As project partner, Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) managed the pilot of two apps developed through the project, including testing and validation in real circumstances
- The EU INTERREG co-financed CREATE project (Connecting Rural Enterprise for a Transnational Economy) was also completed in 2016. As project partner, LCCC worked in cooperation with the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) to help Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) identify opportunities to improve their businesses through a mentoring programme and by sharing best practices from other partner regions
- LCCC was accepted as a partner for Phase 2 EU Urbact programme called Techtown in 2016. The main aim is to create an integrated action plan with a stakeholder group to help the city better understand and measure its digital ecosystem to help it gain competitive advantage
- LCCC successfully applied under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS) for funding for eight projects in 2016. These will enhance the attractiveness of towns and villages, with €380,000 the total grant amount allocated. The total budget is €447,058 (including matching funding of 15%) and the projects commenced in December 2016
- LCCC made a successful application under the Government Policy on Architecture, through DAHRRGA for the Open Source Georgian research project, with €22,000 secured to develop a governance model for an innovation lab and to develop a digital portal
- A new Targeted Vacancy Initiative was commenced in October 2016, with a particular focus on two demonstrator blocks in the Georgian Quarter of the City

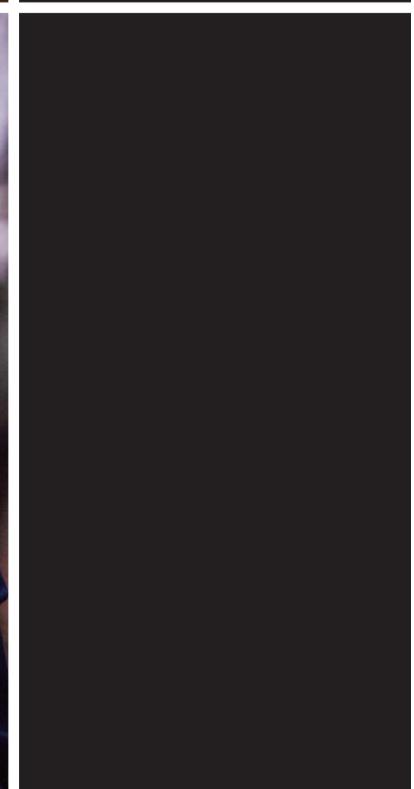
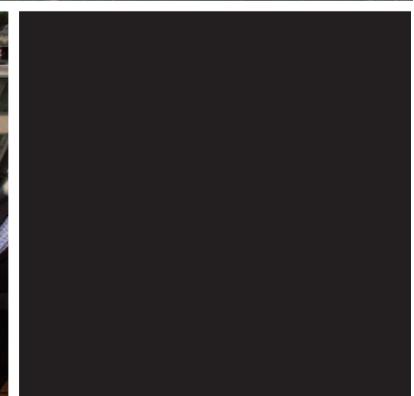
Opposite page

Global Sauces, Best Start Up Award Winner, National Enterprise Award 2016

Limerick City & County Council hosted the EU Project Techtown stakeholder session with partners from across Europe

Conn Murray, Chief Executive, Limerick City and County Council and Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, at the launch of the Limeri

Pat Fitzgerald, Senior Executive Officer, Limerick City & County Council, speaking at the 'Welcome to Limerick' Reception for companies that have recently invested in Limerick



Forward/Strategic Planning

The Forward/Strategic Planning Section is responsible for ensuring compliance with statutory requirements and national policy. This is achieved through the research, preparation and production of planning policy documents. A considerable scope of work was achieved during the year which included:

- **Local Area Plans:**
 - Following a period of extensive public consultation, an amendment to the Southern Environs Local Area Plan in relation to the Mungret Loughmore area was adopted to provide for the planned, coordinated and sustainable development of the Mungret area over the next six years and beyond
 - A report on the suitability of sites for a post primary school in the Castletroy area was prepared for the Department of Education
 - Both the Cappamore and the Southern Environs Local Area Plans were extended for a period of 5 years
- **Contribution Scheme:**
 - The review of both the Limerick City & County Development Contribution Schemes involved extensive public consultation with the public, the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee and the Elected Members
- **Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund:**
 - In response to the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Governments call for proposals under the €200m Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund, four applications were made to the Department to alleviate infrastructural blockages which are the main impediments to the development of certain key sites for housing development
- **Heritage:**
 - The Forward / Strategic Planning Section commenced the process of writing a new Heritage Plan for Limerick by publishing a background document 'Issues Paper Proposed Limerick City and County Heritage Plan 2017 – 2030' and inviting public submissions
 - The Heritage Office assisted a number of groups including historical societies and tidy town groups by carrying out bat walks and giving presentations
 - It facilitated the distribution of guide books published by the Heritage Council to libraries across the City and County for Heritage Week – 45 events took place in Limerick City and County during Heritage Week
 - 146 national schools in Limerick City and County, were engaged with on an Art competition organised by the Forward/Strategic planning section on the theme of Limerick's Heritage
 - Four grant applications were funded to the tune of €26,000. They were: Digital Atlas project for the historic core of medieval Limerick, managed by Museums and Archives; Limerick Lace, conference and public art managed by the City and County Archivist; Interpretative boards on biodiversity of the Westfields Wetlands, Limerick City managed by Environmental awareness office; Art competition for young people on Limericks Built, Natural and Cultural Heritage managed forward /strategic planning section
- **Limerick Age-Friendly Initiative**
 - The section worked with three community representative groups in Patrickswell, Abbeyfeale, and Caherconlish during 2016 to progress suitable locations for designated age-friendly parking and associated signage, public seating and outdoor exercise units, under the Age-friendly programme



Limerick Lace Exhibition 2016

Minister of State for Housing and Urban Renewal, Damien English TD, presenting the Promoting Economic Development Award to Innovate Limerick at the Chambers Ireland Awards

Pictured in Troy Studios are Trish Long of Disney and Troy Studios, Mike Cantwell, CEO, Innovate Limerick and Conn Murray, Chief Executive, Limerick City and County Council.



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council



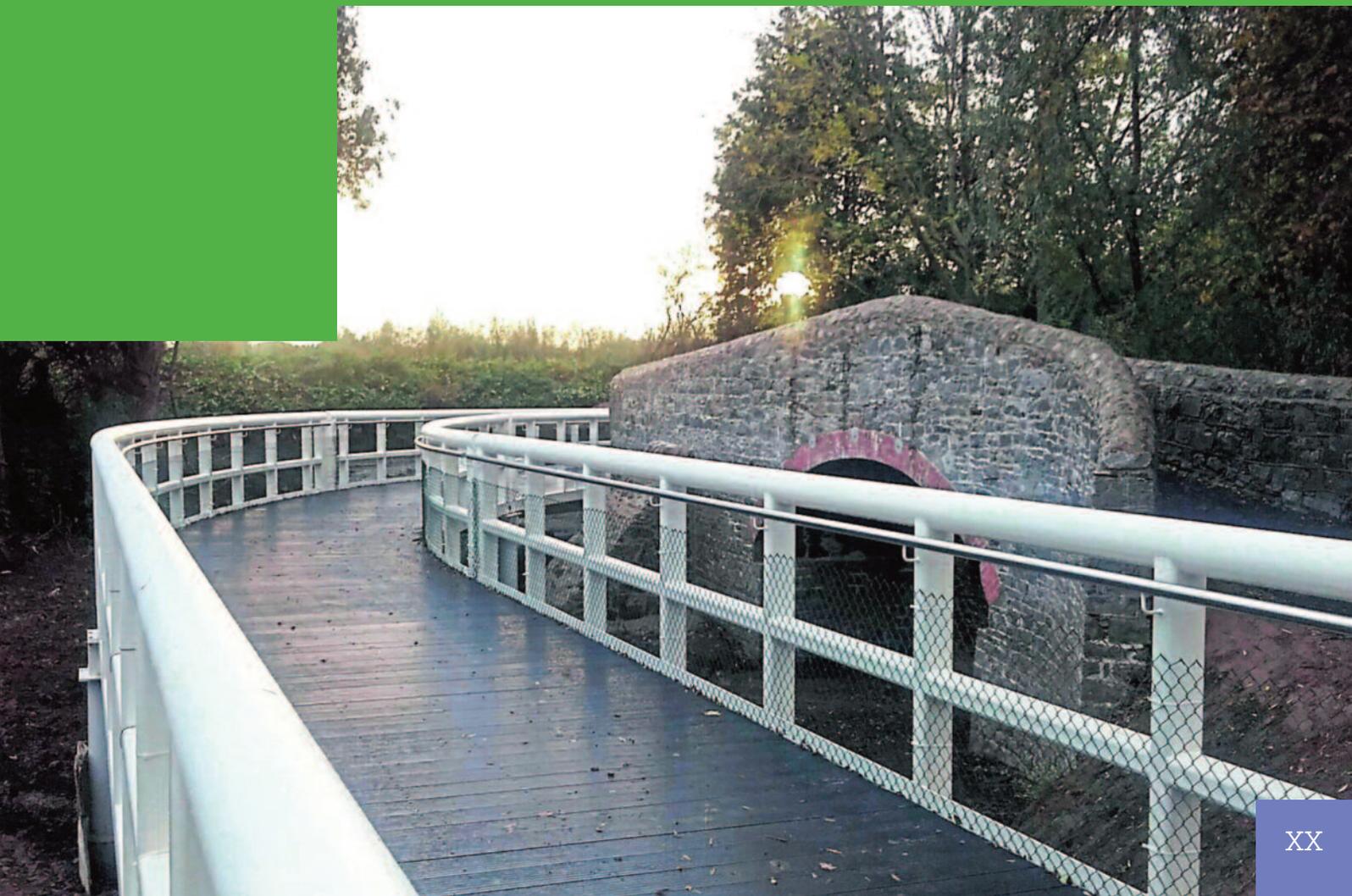
Limerick City by night

Opposite page
Limerick Smarter Travel, City Centre to
UL - Refurbished Towpath Bridge and
new Shared Walking Cycling Bridge.



Kieran Lehane
Director Physical Development

Physical Development Directorate





The Physical Development Directorate was set up in April 2016 as part of the implementation of the current operating model.

The Directorate is responsible for the development of policy and strategy in the area of transportation and environment.

The Directorate is also responsible for managing the Council's responsibilities under the Water Framework Directive and the Flood Directive.

Physical Development Directorate

As part of this role, the Directorate undertakes the following priority tasks:

- Planning and providing for the future physical environment of Limerick city and county
- Supporting the social and economic development of Limerick with the provision of appropriate infrastructure and the protection of a quality environment
- Developing and co-ordinating strategies to promote sustainable development, including quality transport infrastructure, environmental infrastructure, smarter travel options and accessibility to quality housing
- Developing strategies that will provide a public realm that is accessible and safe for all while promoting and supporting healthy lifestyles and behaviours

The Directorate is responsible for monitoring and evaluating an annual revenue budget of approximately €45m. This Directorate has the lead role on sourcing funding for all major development projects relating to roads, flood protection and environmental projects. In this regard, the Directorate is leading the physical development of Limerick, working closely with the Economic and Social Development Directorates and the relevant Strategic Policy Committees.

Some of the main areas of works progressed during 2016 include:

- Developed the scope of works for Limerick Urban Centre Revitalisation of O'Connell Street Project and subsequent appointment of Arup as Consulting Engineers. This project is a 50% European Regional Development funded project, with funding to the value of €4,045,025.00 coming from the ERDF
- Conducted review of characterisation of water bodies under Water Framework Directive and assessment of pressures on water quality
- Supported and facilitated the establishment of a Rivers Trust on the River Maigue
- Reviewed noise policy
- Commenced an Invasive species policy for the Council
- Contributed to the on-going CFRAM (Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management) project

by making a submission on behalf of the Council during the formal public consultation process

- Initiated consultations to progress strategic infrastructural road projects, such as the M20 and the Northern Distributor Road with relevant stakeholders throughout the year

The following projects were also progressed and/or completed under the Smarter Travel Programme during 2016:

- Route 2 – Shared walking and cycling path linking the City Centre, Corbally and University of Limerick
- Shannon Fields Shared Walkway/Cycleway Link 1 Phase 2
- Route 4 – Castletroy College Road and Kilmurry Link Road
- Gaelscoil Chaladh an Treoigh -Provision of Park & Stride Facility in Castletroy
- Community Bike Parking Infrastructure Initiative
- Limerick Metropolitan Cycle Network Study
- Implementation of a Behavioural Change Project across four project hub areas: City Centre, Corbally, Castletroy (incl. National Technology Park) and Southside Regeneration, working with 10 Communities, 32 Schools, 10 Workplaces and 5 Campuses.

Funding Allocations Received in 2016

Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport

Scheme	Allocation
Restoration Improvement	€6,220,563
Restoration Maintenance	€1,750,956
Discretionary Grant	€2,870,067
Bridge Rehabilitation	€339,000
Specific Improvement Grants	€500,000
Strategic Regional and Local Grants	€650,000
Safety Improvement Works	€267,500
Speed Limits	€165,000
Training Grant	€68,000
Total	€12,831,085

National Transport Authority

Scheme	Allocation
Parnell Street and Davis Street Upgrade	€500,000
Catherine Street/Roches Street Upgrade	€200,000

Office of Public Works

Scheme

Foynes Flood Alleviation Scheme
King's Island Flood Alleviation Scheme

Funding has also been sought from the Office of Public Works for Minor Flood Protection projects in Abbeyfeale, Athea, Condell Road, Corbally and Dromcollagher.

Legislation Implemented

Limerick City and County Council Road Traffic (30 kilometres per hour) Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws 2016 were adopted by the Council on the 28th November, 2016.





Limerick City and County Council Chief Executive Conn Murray, Minister of State for Tourism and Sport Patrick O'Donovan and Limerick Twenty Thirty Company Chairman Denis Brosnan at the Hanging Gardens site on Henry Street, Limerick.

Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council



Carmel Kirby
Director Social Development

Social Development Directorate

The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)
PPN Public Participation Network
Traveller Pride Week
Limerick Lifelong Learning
Pride of Place
Diaspora Grants
Integration Initiatives
Local Traveler Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC)
Syrian Resettlement Programme
Schools Programme
Community Playgrounds
Sporting Facilities
Capital
Community Initiative Grants
Limerick Sports Partnership

Social Development Directorate

The Social Development Directorate is committed to improving the quality of life for people and communities as part of the social commitment of the Corporate Plan. It is responsible for policy and strategy including supporting the work of the Home and Social Development SPC and the Community, Leisure and Emergency Services SPC. It is also responsible for the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), the Public Participation Network (PPN), preparation of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP), the Social Inclusion Activation Programme (SICAP), the Rural Development Strategy and liaises with Limerick Sports Partnership. The Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan and the Regeneration Programme are led from within the Directorate. The Directorate has the lead role on the selection and funding of all capital housing projects and engaging with relevant government departments/agencies.



Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, hosted a 'Welcome to Limerick' Reception for companies that have recently invested in Limerick

The Social Development Department has a key role in supporting community development and bringing the voice of communities and specific interests into local decision-making. It works closely with structures set up to represent local communities and interests including the Public Participation Network, Comhairle na nOg, Traveller Groups and Intercultural Working Group / and other committees. Engaging with communities underpins the work of the Social Development Department to achieve real change.

The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The LCDC, which oversees the implementation of various local community local development programmes and initiatives, continued to meet at least monthly during 2016. The high level of attendance and quality of engagement at meetings show the commitment of the partners to working together to improve quality of life in our communities. The signing of the LEADER contracts in August 2016 to deliver the Rural Development Strategy 2014-2020, with additional Local Authority funding, marks an exciting new phase for rural community investment. The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) has continued to deliver supports to its target groups (e.g. long-term unemployed and disadvantaged young people) and to support local community groups.

The LCDC met monthly in 2016. Membership was expanded to 19 members to increase sectoral representation.

Membership is

Elected Representatives

Cllr. Eddie Ryan (Chairperson)

Cllr. Seamus Browne

Cllr. Daniel Butler

Cllr. Jerome Scanlan

LA Staff

Mr Conn Murray

Statutory

Mr Tony Quilty; HSE

Mr Jim Lynch; DSP

Mr George O' Callaghan; LCETB

Local Development Companies

Ms Anne Kavanagh; Paul Partnership

Mr Pdraig Casey; Ballyhoura Development

Mr Shay Riordan; West Limerick Resources

PPN

Ms Zara O'Driscoll

Mr Tony Lynch

Ms Susan O'Neill

Ms Liz Price

Environmental Pillar

Ms Trish Forde-Brennan

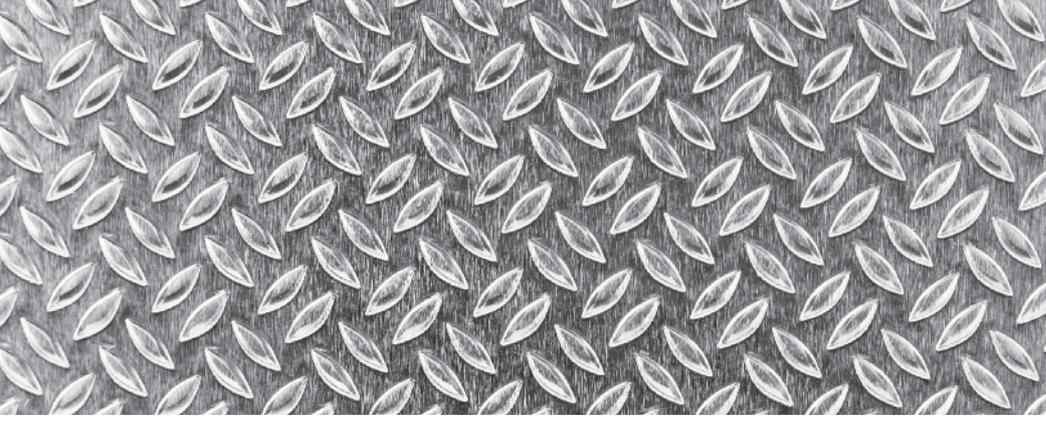
Agricultural Pillar

Mr Aidan Gleeson

Other Sectors

Mr James Ring; Limerick Chamber

Ms Fiona O'Grady; LYS



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.

In 2016 the Committee was proactive in the delivery of its functions and the key areas of work included:

- Monitoring, reporting and review of the 2016 Social Inclusion Activation Programme and budget of €2.19m. The Programme Implementers are PAUL Partnership, Ballyhoura Development Company and West Limerick Resources. The LCDC was also represented at national and regional seminars in best practice in service delivery
- The LCDC worked to complete agreement on the Rural Development Plan which was accepted by

the Department. The Heads of Agreement for LEADER funding of €9.276m for Limerick was signed with the Minister in August 2016. The Local Authority is acting as the Financial Partner with the implementing partners West Limerick Resources and Ballyhoura Development Company.

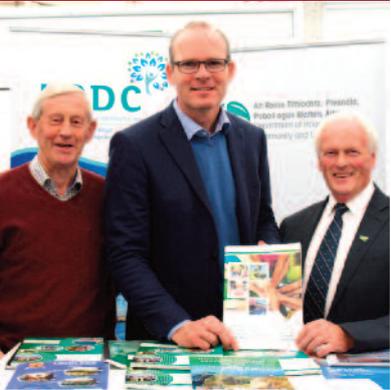
- Finalised the Local Economic Community Plan 2016-2021 which was approved by Council and the Regional Assembly and launch of the Local Economic Community Plan at the National Ploughing Championships.
- Developing an innovative funding model to employ a coordinator for Healthy Limerick based on the Healthy Cities and Counties model to promote a Healthy Limerick where everyone is empowered to enjoy positive wellbeing which is supported by every level of society and achieved by working together. Healthy Limerick will improve health, positive wellbeing and quality of life by ensuring that all sectors are aware of and collaborate to achieve a Healthy Limerick working with the social determinants approach to health

PPN Public Participation Network

The PPN forms an integral part of the consultative process with the community and voluntary sector and provides a conduit for community representation on a range of committees and structures. There were 442 groups registered in 2016 and a project co-ordinator was appointed in August for a 6 month period. The PPN produced a PPN newsletter introduced in February and held a Smarter Travel consultative workshop held on 6th December.

Traveller Pride Week

Traveller Pride Week 2016 included an exhibition on the theme of home created by traveller women and the launch of a locally produced nursery rhyme book written by the West Limerick Traveller Health Group which is now available in local libraries.



Comhairle na nÓg members at the National Showcase in the Aviva Stadium Lifelong Learning Launch

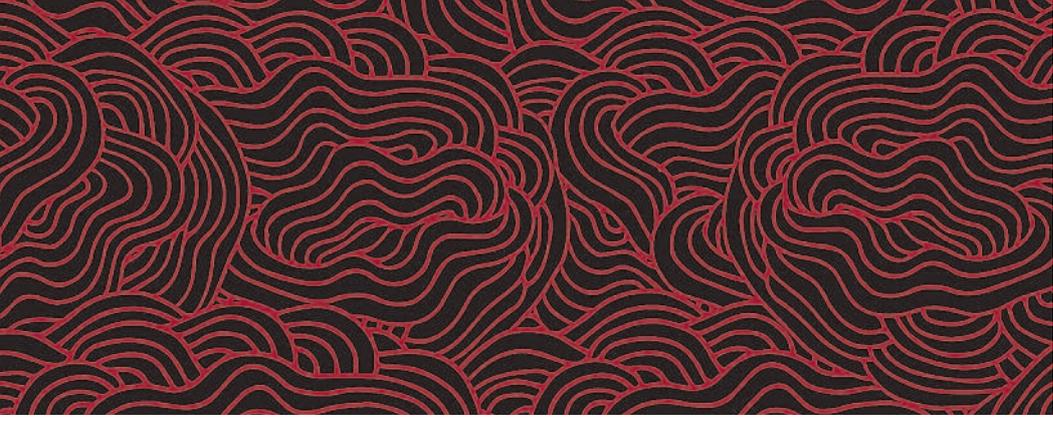
Launch of the LECP. Cllr. Noel Gleeson, Minister Simon Coveney, Department of Housing, Planning & Local government and Cllr. Eddie Ryan, Chairperson of LCDC

Dr. Maeve Liston, Mary Immaculate College, Mayor of Limerick Cllr. Liam Galvin and Dr. Ann Ledwith, UL.

The Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Heather Humphreys TD, signing the first batch of Funding Agreements under the LEADER Programme 2020.

2016 Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival





Limerick Lifelong Learning

The 6th Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival was held 16th to 22nd April on the theme of "Learning from Each Other in a Changed Limerick". Over 200 events and activities were held.

Two networking events held in the South Court hotel in February and October. Seven delegates from Learning Limerick attended a conference in Glasgow "Learning Cities 2040:

Global, Local, Connected, Sustainable, Healthy & Resilient" in June. A delegation from Limerick attended a conference on the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities which took place in China on 15th and 16th November. Delegates were Mayor Kieran O'Hanlon, Josephine Cotter Coughlan and Eimear Brophy of LCETB.

Pride of Place

A total of four Limerick groups and communities were shortlisted for the awards which were held in Belfast in November. Broadford scooped overall winner in the 0-300 population category and Liskennett Farm received a Special Award on the night. Murroe Community Council and Limerick Youth Theatre also participated.

Diaspora Grants

33 events were allocated funding under the Community Tourism Initiative for the Diaspora for 2016. The initiative, builds on the community involvement legacy of The Gathering 2013 and is a joint partnership between Limerick City and County Council, IPB Insurance and Fáilte Ireland. The festivals funded include 1916 Commemoration, walking events, music events and history events.

Integration Initiatives

Africa Day – programme of events held 23rd to 30th May. A successful intercultural week was led by the Integration Working Group from the 17th – 23rd October. Meetings started to revitalise the Intercultural Cities Programme.

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC)

The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) carried out a review of the Traveller Accommodation Plan 2014-2018.

Syrian Resettlement Programme

The Local Authority convened a multi-agency group to deliver an integrated approach to the Syrian Resettlement Programme in Limerick to successfully resettle 12 families in 2016 including inter-cultural training for staff.

School Programmes

Junior Achievement Awards – The Junior achievement awards ceremony was hosted on the 8th June

School Meals Scheme - 15 schools were awarded grants under the School Meals Scheme – 15 schools in the City & County availed of this scheme.

Comhairle na nÓg - The Limerick Comhairle met throughout 2016 and worked on the theme of Education for 2016. This included developing a project with the ETB on Restorative Practice in the Classroom which was displayed at a national showcase. Members also participated in the national Dail na nOg and held an AGM to select a topic and new members to Comhairle.

Community Playgrounds

14 community playgrounds are supported by the Limerick City & County Council Scheme of Assistance. They are located in Ballygarry, Broadford, Bruff, Croom, Caherconlish, Doon, Foynes, Glin, Hospital, Kilfinane, Murroe, Pallaskenry and Rathkeale.

Sporting Facilities

The Council provided financial and technical support to facilities operating at Grove Island, Askeaton Pool and Leisure Ltd and Rathbane Golf Course.

Limerick Sports Partnership

The Limerick Sports Partnership Strategic Plan 2016-2020 was launched in 2016 in partnership with our Stakeholders and Partners and identifies the requirements of targeted groups throughout Limerick.

Community Initiative Grants

Organisations that received funding in 2016 are as follows:

Adare/Rathkeale	Amount
Askeaton Civic Trust	€5,000.00
Foynes Aviation Museum	€5,000.00
Adare Heritage Trust	€4,000.00
Knockfierna Heritage Society	€2,000.00
Pallatine Association	€2,000.00
Crisis Response Team	€1,000.00
Limerick Community Games	€1,000.00

Cappamore/Kilmallock	Amount
Friars Gate Theatre	€3,000.00
Comhaltas Fleadh Luimni	€2,000.00
Lough Gur Development Society	€3,000.00

Metropolitan Area	Amount
Limericks Womans' Network	€1,250.00
Limerick Autistic Children (DOCHAS)	€1,750.00
St. Mary's Band	€750.00
St. Mary's /St. Senans Boys School (School of Music)	€1,750.00
Families in Need (Salesian Sisters)	€1,500.00
St. Mary's Bell Ringers	€1,500.00
Limerick Senior Citizens Club	€750.00
Limerick 23rd Scouts Caherdavin	€750.00
Caherdavin & District Actively Retired	€750.00
Garryowen Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann	€2,000.00
Mens Shed, Southill	€1,000.00
Care for the Aged	€500.00
St. John's Senior Citizens	€500.00
St. Brigid's / St. Patrick's Senior Citizens	€500.00
Monaleen Active Retirement	€500.00

Our Lady of Lourdes Centre	€500.00
Limerick Community Games	€500.00
O.N.E. (OGLAIGH NAISIUNTA NA HEIREANN TEORANTA)	€500.00
GAFF Limerick (old red cross building, Cecil St)	€1,000.00
St. Joseph's Active Retirement	€300.00
Limerick Suicide Prevention	€367.00
Cecilian Music Society	€834.00
Limerick Music Society	€833.00
32nd Limerick St. Paul's Scouts	€1,667.00
Our Lady Of Lourdes Community Services Group	€833.00
St. Saviours Boxing Club	€1,667.00
Ballybrown Community Resource Centre	€833.00
Patrickswell Tidy Towns	€417.00
Patrickswell Friday Club	€417.00

Newcastlewest	Amount
Abbeyfeale District Search and Rescue	€5,600.00
Abbeyfeale Community Leisure	€2,600.00
Glórach Theatre	€5,600.00
West Limerick Tourism	€3,600.00
West Limerick Community Radio	€2,600.00

Regional	Amount
University Concert Hall Ltd.	€17,000.00
Irish Chamber Orchestra	€3,000.00

OVERALL TOTAL SPENT 94,418.00

Social Development - Capital

REBUILDING IRELAND – ACTION PLAN FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

The Minister of State for Housing and Urban Renewal, Damien English T.D., visited Limerick city on the 31st August 2016 to partake in a seminar on 'Rebuilding Ireland', amongst other related engagements across the city.

The 'Rebuilding Ireland - Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness' is a housing programme comprising five pillars devised by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government in response to the current housing crisis. Launched in July 2016, this programme proposes the delivery of 47,000 units to 2021 with funding of €5.35 billion. The five pillars of this action plan can be summarised as:

Pillar 1 Address Homelessness;

Pillar 2 Accelerate Social Housing;

Pillar 3 Build More Homes;

Pillar 4 Improve the Rental Sector; and

Pillar 5 Utilise Existing Housing.

During his visit to Limerick, the minister undertook a site visit to Lord Edward street construction project and met with new resident Michael Hannon who has moved into one of the refurbished houses delivered as part of the scheme.

Over 120 people were in attendance at the Rebuilding Ireland seminar, held at the Strand Hotel. The seminar included a presentation on the property market in Limerick, delivered by Gordon Kearney of Rooney Auctioneers, and on the opportunities offered by the Rebuilding Ireland programme, delivered by Conn Murray, Chief Executive, Limerick City & County Council and Seamus Hanrahan, Senior Project Manager, followed by a wide ranging open forum discussion.

Representatives from the Approved Housing Bodies, built environment industry, local authorities and Government Agencies involved in the financing and delivery of housing were in attendance.

General Housing Delivery

Signs of the recovery in the housing sector have begun to take hold in Limerick with the number of approved Housing projects across Limerick as at December 2016 set to bring 790 housing units to fruition. The project stages range from inception to construction stage.

The overall target covering the period to the end of 2017 is 753 units. Targets under the Rebuilding Ireland programme are expected to be announced in Q1 2017.

Acquisitions

Acquisitions Programme 2016

Under the Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP) 2016, Limerick City & County Council advanced the acquisition of 50 houses, with 26 properties achieving 'Sale Agreed' status and an additional 24 at 'Sale Agreed', which are projected to close in early 2017.

Acquisitions Programme – Part V

Part V negotiations for the acquisition of 66 housing units in private housing developments reached agreement in principle, with the first Part V houses to be handed over to Limerick City & County Council in early 2017.

Housing Capital – Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)

The Council submitted four applications for funding under the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund to the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government.

These applications relate to the following areas:

- i. Mungret;
- ii. Castletroy;
- iii. Greenpark; and
- iv. Adare.

An announcement on project selection and funding by the DHPCLG is scheduled for Q1 2017.

Deep Retrofit of Watergate Flats

Deep Retrofit works at the Watergate Flats are well

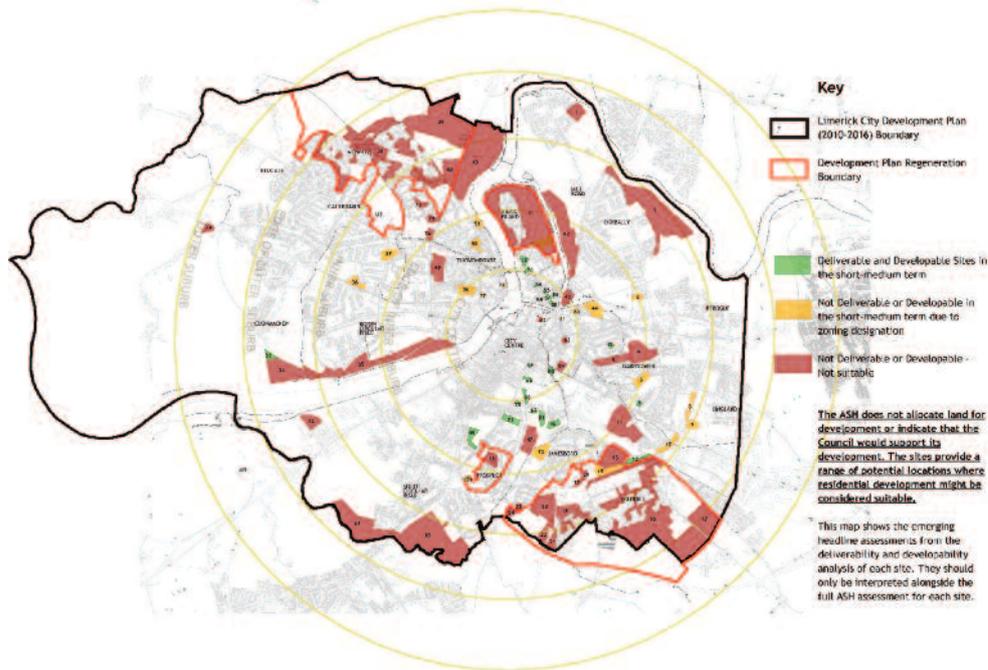


Top: Michael Hannon, new Lord Edward Street resident, showing his new home to Minister of State Damien English in September 2016

Middle: Visit to Lord Edward Street housing site, Limerick, during the 'Rebuilding Ireland - Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness' seminar in September 2016

Bottom: Visit to Watergate Flats in December 2016





underway, with Phase 1 nearing completion. Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, Simon Coveney visited the site in December to review progress and meet with residents to hear first-hand of the positive impact of the works on the enhancement of comfort levels in their homes and improvement to quality of life.

RESEARCH AND POLICY FORMULATION

The Social Development Directorate has produced a draft policy document for the selection of sites for social housing in Limerick. This was presented at the Housing Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) on the 11th April 2016. The policy document, entitled Assessment for Selecting Sites for Social Housing (ASH) for Limerick City and County, seeks to:

- identify in an objective and consistent manner, suitable sites for social housing in appropriate locations
- Assess their potential; and
- Assess development timelines

The methodology has tested sites within the ownership of the council in two pilot areas, Limerick City and Newcastle-West. The intention is to extend the agreed methodology in accordance with the settlement hierarchy adopted in the statutory Limerick City & County Development Plans. This policy will guide the provision of social housing in Limerick under the Rebuilding Ireland programme.

LAUNCH OF REVIEW OF THE LIMERICK REGENERATION FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

One of the high points of the year was the launch by Mr. Simon Coveney T.D., Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government on the 9th December 2016, of The review of the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan.

The review shows that significant investment in physical, social and economic support is having real impacts on the lives of people living in the regeneration communities and in the wider city areas.

Investment in school services, community centres, family support and youth work and activities for young people, have supported increased attendance at schools, a reduction in early school leaving, and higher numbers progressing to third level education.

The physical regeneration programme has gathered real momentum, now having strong visibility and enhancing the aesthetics of the various programme areas. The overall plan has an ambitious target of 600 new housing units, as well as upgrading 1,500 existing houses.

Of the proposed new housing units, 110 have already been delivered, while a further 131 units are under construction and the remainder at approval/design stage.

The progress is equally telling when it comes to upgrades; almost two thirds – 900 – already completed or at various stages of delivery.

The full review in addition to the Executive Summary is available online at the following link:

<https://www.limerick.ie/council/limerick-regeneration-framework-implementation-plan-review>



Top: Extract from Review document of the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan showing overlap of three regeneration strands

Bottom: Students of the Skills Training courses delivered by the Hospitality, Education & Training Centre in Roxborough, Limerick City

LIMERICK REGENERATION FRAME - WORK IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The regeneration programme is guided by the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan (LRFIP), which the elected members of Limerick City Council approved in February, 2014. The visionary plan, which we are seeing very significant progress on already, sets out how the shared vision for stronger communities can and will be delivered.

That vision is about creating 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.

It will ensure that these are well serviced and attractive neighbourhoods that will be fully integrated with the social, economic and cultural life of Limerick.

The following provides a list of the main work programme in 2016 and projects to be advanced in 2017 under the three pillars of regeneration.

Socio-Economic Overview

The Social Intervention Programme in 2016 has been a major catalyst for the wider regeneration programme and has, in many instances, attracted additional funding to the regeneration areas which, in turn, has increased the supports being provided to the community.

In keeping with the national reform agenda the investment strategy aims to improve the coordination of the overall package of state and non-state funding into policy interventions. This "whole of government" approach was further supported during the year by the progression, by the Chief Executive, of the multi-partner 'Local Strategic Advisory and Monitoring Committee' which seeks to target further efficiencies and solutions through collaboration by sharing knowledge, learnings and experience across the stakeholders as well as key agencies across the city and region.

The Social Intervention Fund is available to support community- based projects that are aligned to the strategic objectives of the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan. By the February 2016 deadline, some 121 applications were received and assessed by an independent assessment panel

under five themes - Education and Learning, Health and Well-being, Ageing Well, Employability and Work, Families and Youth at Risk and Community.

Further to a comprehensive monitoring and review of the LRFIP, the Social Intervention Fund, Economic and Physical Projects and Programmes for 2012 – 2014 was presented to the Local Strategic Advisory and Monitoring Group, including the DHPCLG in October 2016. A summary report was launched by Mr. Simon Coveney T.D., Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government on the 9th December 2016.

Economic Overview

There was a renewed focus on the Economic Pillar of Regeneration in 2015/2016, with the investment strategy focusing on short-term returns in smaller projects as well as mid-to longer term investment that is targeting the generation of a greater number of sustainable job opportunities for the communities.

Review of the Economic Pillar of the LRFIP

Economic consultants were appointed in July to review the economic pillar of the Limerick Regeneration Framework implementation and provide further recommendation in the context of an overall analysis of all strands of the programmes.

The report, including the economic review, was launched by Mr. Simon Coveney T.D., Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government on the 9th December 2016.

The review illustrated that significant investment in social and economic support is having real impacts on the lives of people living in the regeneration communities and in the wider city areas. Among other aspects, it showed that investment in school services, community centres, family support and youth work and activities for young people, have supported increased attendance at schools, a reduction in early school leaving, and higher numbers going on to third level education.

Acquisition of the Biblical Centre

The Minister for Housing, Planning, community and Local Government, Simon Coveney, announced a grant of €2.25 million to enable Innovate Limerick to purchase the former Biblical Centre on Cecil Street in Limerick City Centre in order to establish a Production and Digital skills Academy.

Innovate Limerick was established by Limerick City

and County Council to help drive innovation and act as the delivery mechanism for the projects outlined in the Limerick 2030 plan and the Limerick Regeneration implementation plans and others.

The academy will be focused on digital media training, with employment opportunities targeted specifically at a cohort of local residents from the regeneration areas. This model builds upon the considerable success of the 'Hospitality Skills and Training' programme which received funding from the regeneration programme and partner organisations (DSP, ETB, Irish Hoteliers, PAUL Partnership, LIT and LEDP) in 2014/2015.

Troy Studios

Another example of the level of ambition of the regeneration programme is an initiative to support people in the areas in targeting job opportunities with Troy Studios. The Office of Regeneration facilitated collaboration through Innovate Limerick with Troy Studios, Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board and the Department of Social Protection to commence planning for the skills and training that will be required by residents of regeneration areas to enhance their employment prospects for Troy Studios posts.

Fulflex Complex, Galvone Industrial Estate

The regeneration programme also purchased The Fulflex complex in Galvone with the objective of creating a Social Enterprise Innovation Hub (SEIH) in Southill to meet the economic development objectives as set out in the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan. The SEIH will specifically deliver on the following goals of the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan:

1. Ensuring the growth of local capacity through the provision of focused sector training and employment opportunities.
2. Development of a stronger engagement platform to promote economic activity in the target areas between all stakeholder groups and local resources.
3. Foster a culture of social innovation and social

enterprise in Regeneration areas.

4. Creation of a programme of civic and economic interventions to attract, support and grow micro and community enterprise.
5. Development of niche economic activities that will leverage off existing third level and regional enterprise expertise.
6. Creation of a series of hubs for a thematic economic development approach across all communities.
7. Contribute to the knowledge economy in key areas of community development through sustained evaluation and research, e.g. community health and well-being.
8. Attract inward investment into areas of Regeneration through infrastructural improvements and institutional supports.
9. Creation of employment opportunities in Regeneration process for local residents and within new enterprise established in the area.
10. Economic integration of Limerick Regeneration areas within the broader economic and spatial development plans for Limerick City.
11. Provision of communications infrastructure to support enterprise and socio economic development through all communities.
12. Develop long term engagement with the sector to develop a sustainable level of economic activity in areas of regeneration Former Fulflex Building, Southill which will now house the Social Enterprise Innovation Hub

PHYSICAL REGENERATION

The LRFIP outlines a requirement to deliver 593 new homes and refurbishment of 1504 existing homes.

Over 70% of the new-build programme has received approval from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government with proposals for the remaining homes well advanced.

Construction of the Lord Edward Street scheme is due for completion in Q4 2017 (81 units), Cliona Park Phase 2 (10 units) to be completed in Q1 2017, Churchfield Phase 1 (42 units) will be completed in



The former Biblical Centre, Cecil Street, which will be repurposed as the Production & Digital Skills Academy
Troy Studios now occupy former Dell Industrial Building, Castletroy, Limeric
Former Fulflex Building, Southill which will now house the Social Enterprise Innovation Hubk



Cliona Park Phase 2 site which will deliver 10 housing units, image taken in January 2017
Lord Edward Street site which will deliver 81 housing units, image taken in January 2017





Q1 2018 and 8-10 Gaol Lane (3 units) is substantially complete with new residents to move in in Q1 2017.

A total of 90 units are at detailed design stage including 45A and 46A Cliona Park (2 units), Cosgrave Park Phase 1 (30 units) and St. Mary's Park Infill (19 units). Schemes at design stage/ approaching Part 8 Planning application stage in 2016 include Cliona Park Phase 3 (18 units), the Orchard site (27 units) and Palm Close (27 units). These schemes will be progressed to detailed design stage in 2017.

There was also significant progress in 2016 on the Thermal Upgrade Programme, with 278 units thermally upgraded to a Building Energy Rating (BER) of at least 'C' and 640 units are currently on site or in preparation (e.g., condition and other surveys are underway). This project has the impact of improving visual amenity and addressing the issue of fuel poverty in addition to the primary objective of improving the thermal performance of residents' homes.

Environmental improvement projects are progressing in tandem with the Construction and Thermal Upgrade Programme.



Key environmental projects completed to date include:

- St. Mary's Park Remediation Project: Removal of the historical landfill and remediation of approximately 15,000m² of contaminated land
- A programme of works to eradicate Japanese Knotweed: 10 sites have advanced from July 2015 to February 2016 with treatment underway
- New pedestrian connection to our Lady of Lourdes Church and landscaping works
- Environmental Improvements at the Galvone Industrial Estate
- Environmental Improvements at the Orchard site and also to sites at Bridge - Street and Gaol lane
- Environmental Improvements and removal of contaminated soil at Parade Park (site opposite King John's Castle) in preparation for a new public park.
- Environmental Improvements to the rear of Our Lady of Lourdes Community Centre.

Churchfield Phase 1 site which will deliver 42 housing units,

27 Nicholas Street, which is undergoing refurbishment
Phase 1 Stabilisation Works at the Fireplace Site, Nicholas Street, Kings Island

Projects and plans funded under the regeneration programme also ensure there are management plans and projects in place that protect the City's heritage of special historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest.

These include:

- Turner Vinery: Progressing approval for reinstatement of ironmongery and glassworks of a vinery at Tait House designed by Richard Turner of Kew Gardens fame
- Fireplace site: Stabilisation works
- Opera Centre: Stabilisation works - over €800,000 has been invested by Limerick City and County Council in the stabilisation works to the Opera Centre site which addressed key issues to ensure sustainable re-use of these buildings including weatherproofing and stabilisation work to parapet walls at roof level and building facades.

Considerable progress has also been made in 2016 in returning derelict and semi-derelict buildings acquired under the regeneration programme to productive use.

Refurbishment and remedial/repair works are taking place in several structures on Nicholas Street with the objective of improving the environmental quality of this important city street, and returning vacant buildings to commercial, residential, cultural and community use.

The buildings within the ownership of Limerick City and County Council include 24, 25, 26 (vacant plot), 27 and 35 Nicholas Street, and the 'Fireplace Site' (36-39).

Demolition and Retention Strategy Review

In line with the objective for continuous monitoring and evaluation of the Limerick Regeneration Framework implementation Plan (LRFIP), a review of the Retention and Demolition strategy took place in 2015 and was approved by the DECPLG in early 2016.

Under this review, a number of houses previously scheduled for demolition have been reclassified for retention. The demolition classification has been refined into two categories as follows:

- Short-to-medium term demolition (0-6 years)
- Long-term demolitions (7+ years).

The review has provided for the retention of an additional 44 houses. Given that new housing proposed in the regeneration areas is replacement housing, the overall number of houses required, based on the original 2014 calculation, reduces from 593 to 549.



Limerick Hinterland Study

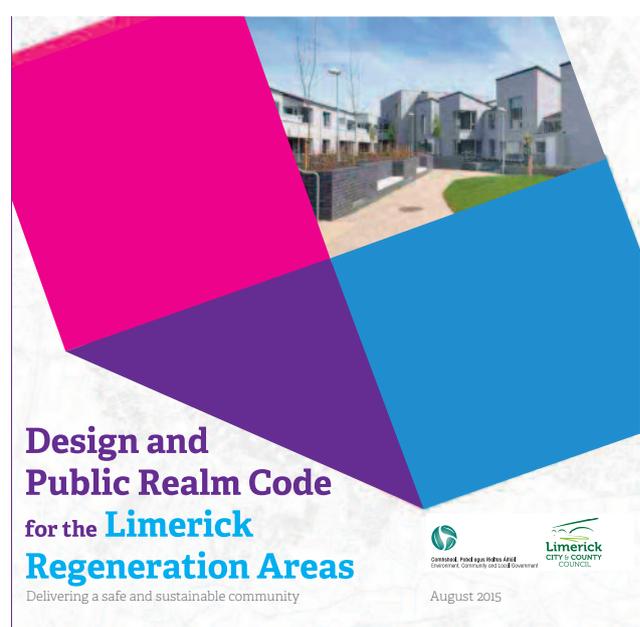
Following the publication of the Limerick Hinterland Study, dedicated funding of approximately €1.5million was awarded by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (DHPCLG) in 2016 for the delivery of 7 projects in Limerick County. This funding award will be matched by the Council to bring the total investment to €3 million. The projects below were identified and deemed by the DHPCLG to be consistent with the recommendations of the study

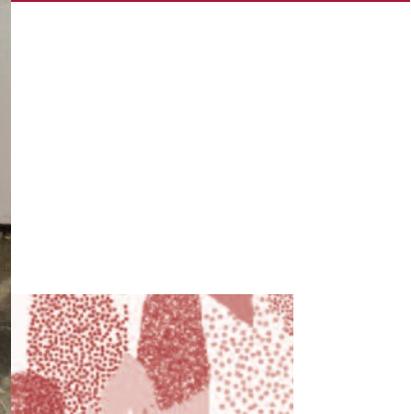
- Great Southern Greenway
- Murroe Sports Facility
- Newcastle West Athletics Hub
- Kilmallock Pedestrian Bridge
- Patrickswell Village Renewal
- Countywide CCTV Investment
- Rathkeale Pre-Social Cohesion Project.

Awards

The dedication to quality across the regeneration programme was validated last year as five regeneration projects were nominated at the Irish Planning Institute National Planning Awards, with two projects awarded a special commendation. These included the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan and the Design and Public Realm Code for the Limerick Regeneration Areas.

The National Planning Awards recognise successful and innovative planning strategies, schemes or developments, which make an outstanding contribution to the quality of life in urban and rural parts of Ireland. In particular the award for the LRFIP recognises the contribution of the communities to the planning process.





SYMPOSIA

Spånga Tensta City District Administration

Delegates from the Spånga Tensta City District Administration in Sweden visited Limerick in June 2016 as part of a research trip. The visitors were given a tour of the regeneration areas and other key projects in Limerick City following a detailed presentation and open forum to set the context.

National Co-Design Symposium

Members of the Council attended the National Co-Design Symposium in Royal Hospital Kilmainham entitled 'Housing for Older People – Thinking Ahead'. Run by Ireland Smarter Ageing Exchange (ISAX), one of the presentations at the symposium was on our own Southill Older Person's Accommodation, Colivet Court, Southill, which was held up as best practice in Older Person's accommodation, in addition to some of the findings made by the IBM Smarter Cities researchers regarding the harnessing of technology to improve the quality of life of Older Residents.

UK National Housing Maintenance Programme

Limerick City & County Council facilitated the UK National Housing Maintenance Programme research visit to Limerick. A visit to the Hospitality Education and Training Centre formed part of their programme followed by a seminar held at the Absolute Hotel.





Josephine Cotter Coughlan
Director Customer Services

Customer Service Directorate

Customer Services
Digital Strategy
Libraries and Museum and Archive
Arts and Culture



Street Party, Limerick European Capital of Culture.

Co LYT Filming in Lough Gur



In 2016, over 36,000 customers interacted at our counters in Dooradoyle and Merchants Quay, with queries ranging from requests for information to accessing detailed services from the Council.

Last year also saw the number of services we deliver expanded. An Operation Level Agreement was signed with Community Support Services to add value for the customer and empower advisers to answer queries there and then. This is in line with the principles under 'Putting People First', where services are to be delivered at the closest point to the customer.

2016 also saw the remodelling of the Customer Services centre in Merchants Quay, which now offers customers, councillors and staff a single point of contact to interact in a bright and spacious area.

A single counter offers access to services of the Council in line with the Council's Digital First principal, (where possible) for service delivery. Display screens in Dooradoyle and Merchants Quay show public notices and messages from the Council.

Also in Merchants Quay, interactive tablets are available for customers to avail of if they so wish so as to gain further information on our services. Customer Services worked closely with the Council's Communications Team to support over 90 service requests received via the Council's Twitter account.

This year also brought the integration of housing maintenance calls from our Moyross Depot into Customer Services. An Operation Level Agreement was signed with Housing Maintenance to cover the efficient logging of maintenance queries and a system for updating customers on progress of requests.

Our Customer Relationship Management system was also enhanced by the introduction of SugarCRM to Community Support Services and Operations and Maintenance teams. The system helps to understand customers' needs and builds relationships with them by providing the most suitable services and enhancing customer service. It integrates front and back office systems to create a database of customer contacts. Customer Services staff have facilitated training and ongoing support of the system throughout the year.

This is all in keeping with the local authority's dedication to continuously striving to have the best possible system so that our customers are happy with the services we deliver.

The following figures detail the amount of requests from the public and elected representatives that were recorded on SugarCRM during 2016:

- 27,248 Requests Received with 83.31% closed and 70.07% resolved
- 3,852 representations received from 40 Councillors, five TDs, three Ministers, with 80% Closed and 72% Resolved

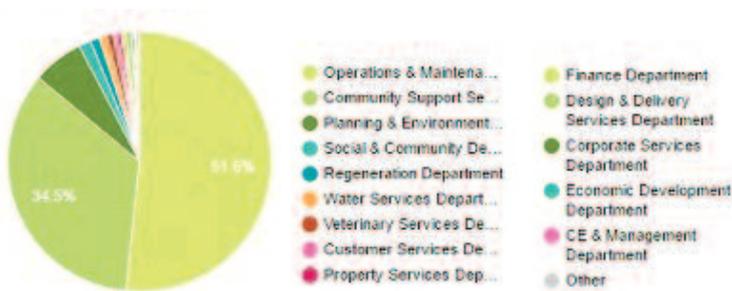
How long does it take?

- 6.9 working days to solve most requests (median).
- 31 working days (average).



What departments receive the most representatives from public representatives

Representatives in 2016

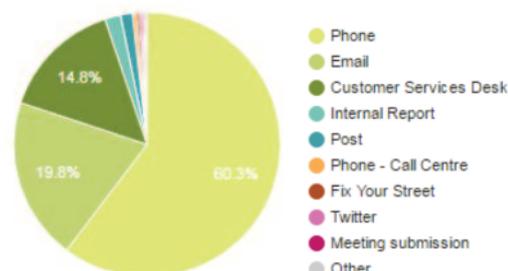


What are the high demand areas?

Recorded - total cases in 2016



Customer Channels



Customer Service Interview

Email-19.8% in 2016. Twitter-Usage 90 in 2016

Channel	Counter
Phone	16,430
Email	5,399
Customer Services Desk	4,027
Internal Report	519
Post	390
Phone - Call Centre	132
Fix Your Street	105
Twitter	90
Meeting submission	67
Import	36
Major Emergency Helpline	32
Phone - NECL	19
Fax	2
Total	27,248

Customer Survey

Customer Services further rolled out this survey in 2016. It provides an independent feedback from customers regarding the Council's service delivery. They also empower the citizen to recommend changes and give their opinions on services the Council provides so as to allow us to strive to improve the services we deliver.

Based on responses received in 2016:

- 63% of customers were satisfied with service received
- 59% of customers found it easy to get help
- 77% of customers agree customer services advisers are helpful
- 50% of customers agree that we solved their issue

Such is the economic and cultural renaissance taking hold in Limerick that last year it was selected as a 'City of the Future' by fDi Intelligence, a specialist division of the Financial Times. It's a proud title and reflects the exciting journey Limerick has been on over the past five years or so. But it's also a title that Limerick has fully deserved.



Digital Team

Digital Strategy

Not wanting to rest on our laurels, we inevitably looked in 2016 at our digital presence and how digital technologies can help us build a sustainable and smarter Limerick that anchors and is the key economic driver for the entire region.

We see clever use of technology as a way of helping meet the challenges we are currently faced with. These challenges include population growth, ageing population (243% by 2046), increase in the labour force (14% by 2026), etc.

Limerick City & County Council firmly believes that digital technologies can be an enabler for us to engage society, collaborate with agencies and enterprises and deliver on our role as a key support for private sector and communities.

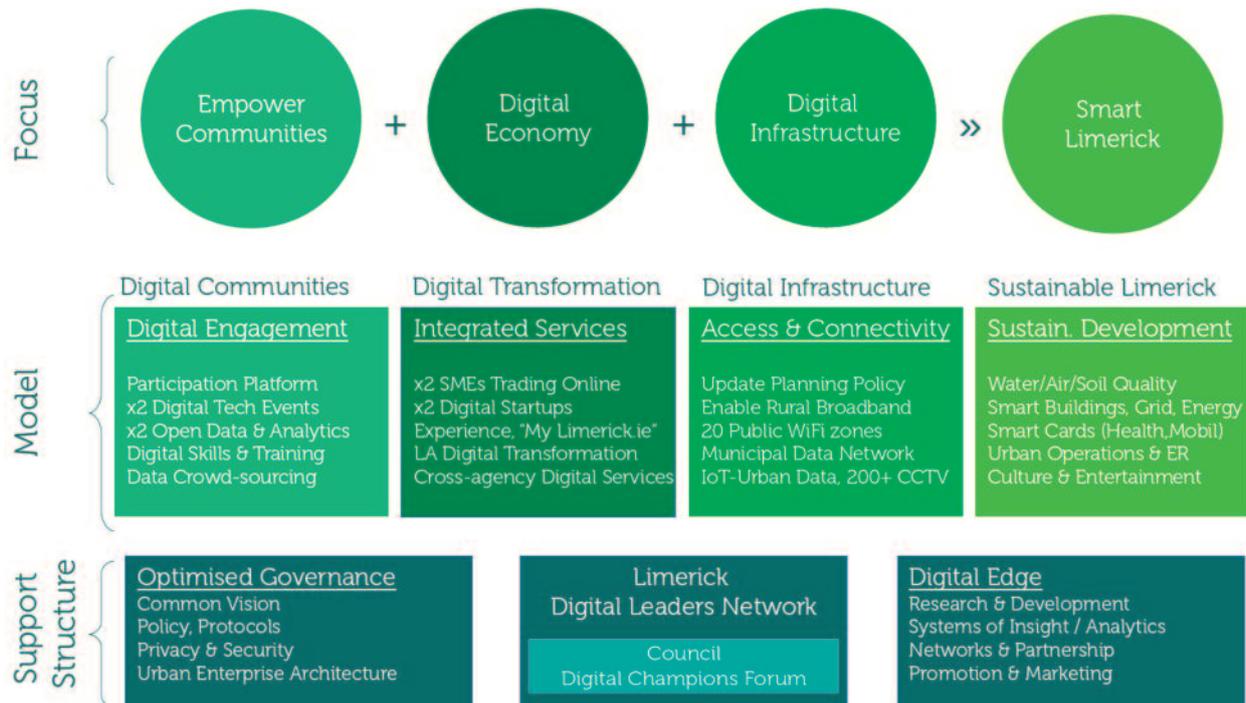
Seizing on the opportunity presented by digital, Limerick City & County Council last year became the

first Council in Ireland to establish a Digital Strategy department tasked with the development of Limerick's Digital Strategy.

The Digital Strategy Department comprises the following units:

1. **Digital User Experience** – External: responsible for digital service delivery to our external customers i.e. Limerick.ie and related websites.
2. **Digital User Experience** – Internal: responsible for digital service delivery to our internal customers i.e. Sugar- CRM, Records Management System Generic Intranet etc.
3. **Data, Analytics and GIS**: responsible for the data infrastructure, GIS and associated data sets.

Limerick Digital Strategy Framework



Some of the projects undertaken during 2016 include:

- Limerick Digital Strategy aims to develop 'Ireland's First Digital City' and lay the foundation for the 'Sustainable Smart Limerick City, Region and Communities'. It's a Limerick that uses digital technologies to empower communities, create better services, accelerate sustainable social and economic growth and improve the quality of life for all.

The digital strategy framework developed in 2016 has been defined to connect, enable and accelerate the outcomes from existing strategies through the use of technology and the adoption of digital transformation principles for economic, social and physical development. The strategy will be informed through stakeholder and public consultation before publication in 2017.

IBM Smarter Cities Challenge

In 2015 Limerick was selected through a competitive process as one of 17 cities worldwide to participate in IBM's Smarter Cities Challenge programme. This is a philanthropic initiative which contributes the skills and expertise of IBM's top-talent to address critical challenges facing cities around the world. As part of this programme IBM has deployed since 2010 over 800 top experts to help more than 130 cities worldwide. While almost 50% of population is under 35 years the city and county, we have a large and rapidly growing population of senior citizens. The challenge presented to the IBM team was to 'assess current activities and develop a set of recommendations enabling Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) to predict and respond to the needs of senior citizens through better management of shared information'. After conducting more than 45 interviews during a three-week period in May of 2016 with a broad range of Limerick stakeholders, the IBM team has concluded that three overarching needs emerge:



- The need to develop more effective insights
- The need to accelerate existing projects
- The need to optimise activities and projects through stronger governance

Following this analysis, the IBM Team made 15 recommendations in the final report which received the support from the full council in November 2016 (www.limerick.ie/scc)

- Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) invested €500,000 in a research program in collaboration with LERO Annual Report 2016 Limerick City and County Council
 - The Irish Software Research Centre and Digital Strategy Department in the Council. The programme will focus on IT and enterprise architecture needed to create smart cities of the future. It attracted wide coverage by the national and international media in October 2016 (Irish Times Business & Technology, Silicon Republic, etc.).

High-speed rural broadband

To support the roll-out of high-speed broadband in rural areas the Broadband Officer role has been established in Digital Strategy Department as part of the National Broadband Plan. In October 2016 a number of 135 strategic connection points and 20 community access hubs have been mapped and prioritised especially in remote areas with low or no broadband connectivity.

Invasive Species Smart Phone App:

The Digital Strategy department in partnership with our colleagues in Environment launched a new mobile app called 'Report Invasive Species'. This app allows members of the public to report sightings of invasive plant species such as Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed and Himalayan Balsam. These sightings can then be viewed on a geographic map. This crowd sourced data will then feed into the Council and local community groups mitigation plans and as open data in the Insight Limerick service.

Limerick.ie Design Phase:

The design phase for the new Limerick.ie web platform was completed in 2016. This project engaged with a number of different Limerick.ie stakeholders both internally and externally. For the first time, a thorough research phase gathered insightful information on our customers' expectations of Limerick.ie. The finished designs – all 104 of them - reflect this insight into how Limerick.ie can better serve its customers on both desktop and mobile devices to become an integrated information and digital marketing platform for the city and county. The Limerick.ie web platform will be officially launched in early Q2 of 2017.

Training.Limerick.ie:

Training.Limerick.ie is an online training delivery platform for council employees. It facilitates the online delivery of courses on specific topics through the use of audio, interactive video and documentation. At present there are courses available for Alfresco, Agresso and staff briefings on various Council departments.

Electronic Document and Records Management System

2016 saw the first pilot sites set-up for the new Records Management system. These pilot sites included Digital Strategy, Archives and Corporate Services. Together with our colleagues in the Archives department a file plan was developed the Alfresco document management system. This system allows for the online storage and retrieval of documents in a state of the art digital repository that can easily integrate with systems such as the CRM and our Limerick.ie web platform.

CRM support:

To support the development of Customer Services we have enhanced our CRM (Customer Relationship Management system) and increased its adoption across the council, leading to a 40% increase of the number of cases tracked in 2016.

Integration

A program of system integration started in 2016 in order to increase efficiencies and reduce staff costs for manual data handling, while increasing the accuracy and the quality of the data. In 2016 we integrated our Housing system with the National Housing Assistance Payments system (HAP) and the Rental Accommodation Scheme system (RAS)

Insight.Limerick.ie

Digital Strategy has been working on a Data Catalog and Map Catalog as part of the Insight Limerick initiative.

Insight Limerick aims to address the need for information sharing by increasing the availability, quality, transparency and ease of access to data. Employees can search the new 'Data Catalogue' for data sets related to Limerick, along with meta-data about when the data was created, the data owner, usage restrictions, and other information, such as how to view and access that data. We estimate that over 1,000 datasets will be made available to our employees by 2018. The Insight Limerick service will also provide open data, analytics and reporting services according to the public according to the "Open" principle underpinning Limerick's Digital Strategy.

Also available is the new 'Map Catalog', an inventory of unique maps displaying information on distinct areas of interest, such as the new CFRAM flooding data provided in November 2016 by the OPW.

Digital Champions Forum

A cross discipline group has been established in September 2016 to support the development and implementation of Limerick's Digital Strategy. The

group has undertaken the first benchmarking of Limerick's digital maturity using international best practice models developed by TM Forum and the Innovation Value Institute, Maynooth. The benchmarking exercise has shown that Limerick is well under- way in its ambition to become a smart city, region and community while highlighting clear areas where further work is required. It provides the rationale and informs the development of new capabilities under Limerick's Digital Strategy.

Promotional Work

We have intensified our efforts for promoting Limerick as an attractive place for investment at national and international level by developing our networks and partnerships. In 2016 Limerick established - in collaboration with other Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2016 Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Luimnigh cities like Cork, Dublin, Belfast and Waterford - the 'All Ireland Smart Cities Forum' which was launched in December 2016. (www.smartcitiesforum.ie)

International Forums

Limerick joined international forums such as TM Forum, the Connected Cities Advisory Board of the Wireless Broadband Alliance and the Open and Agile Smart Cities in an effort to bring international best practice to Limerick and to share and promote our work to an international audience.

In collaboration with cities like San Jose, Palo Alto, Dublin, Liverpool and others, Limerick participated in the development of the 'Connected Cities Blueprint', a document that aims to enable cities worldwide to share experiences and help one another maximize opportunities and overcome challenges in the journey towards becoming smarter.

Lero researcher Dr Markus Helfert,
Director of the Business Informatics
Group at Dublin City University,
Beatrice Heneghan and Limerick City
and County Councils Head of Digital
Strategy Dr. Mihai Bilanca



Library Service Highlights 2016



Top: Mayor of the City and County of Limerick Cllr. Liam Galvin at the opening of memorial garden at Merchants Quay

Middle: The crowd assembling at Glenquin Castle in anticipation of the arrival of the marching groups at the Footsteps to Freedom event in April

Bottom: Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Cllr. Liam Galvin with members of the Colbert Family, Fiona Dore-Buckley and Michael Colbert

Centenary Programme 1916-2016

The Limerick Centenary Programme for 2016 was a big success for Limerick City and County Council and contained a wide and varied range of events and initiatives. Chief among them were:

- In April, Mayor Liam Galvin opened four memorial gardens to serve as a permanent legacy of the 2016 Commemoration of the Easter Rising. The gardens are located at Merchants Quay, Newcastle West Area office, Rathkeale Library and Area Office and Kilmallock Library and Area Office.
- The Granary Library hosted a series of public lectures which included Sinead McCoolle on the Women of Limerick and Diarmaid Ferriter's take on the Rising entitled Scrambling for the Bones of the 1916 Patriots.
- The Footsteps to Freedom event re-enacted the march in 1916 by 300 Irish Volunteers to Glenquin Castle, Ashford, Co. Limerick .
- To mark the centenary of the execution of Limerick man Con Colbert, a sculpture was unveiled at his birthplace in Monalena, County Limerick. A large crowd lead by the Newcastle West Pipe Band marched from the Mill in Castlemahon to his home in West Limerick for the unveiling
- Exhibitions included Limerick Genealogy's Roots of the Rising on the family history of Ned Daly, Aislinn O'Keeffe's exhibition exploring the role of revolutionary women, As if She had a Right to be There and the photographic exhibition Revolution: a Photographic History of Revolutionary Ireland.
- In December, Mayor Kieran O'Hanlon hosted a special 1916 Centenary Commemoration ceremony to acknowledge and celebrate the years of outstanding and committed public service from sitting and former Councillors, the current Chief Executive and former City and County Managers.

Cultural and Civic Events 2016

- The Granary hosted the following authors as part of the Limerick Literary Festival 2016. Judi Curtin, best-selling author of the Alice & Megan and Eva series, spoke about her writing to invited classes from local schools. Mike MacDomhnaill, former winner of the RTE Francis MacManus award, read from his award winning story Uncle Ned and a selection of his poetry.
- Time & Spaces, a new collection by poet William Heffernan, was officially launched at Kilmallock Library in January, while the Granary hosted a number of book launches, including those of both Falling Gradient: Limerick's Railway Connections by Joe Coleman and 1916-2016 An Anthology of Reactions from the Limerick Writers' Centre.
- The Granary Library celebrated Culture Night on Friday, the 16th September, with Silver, a special interlinked performance of the poetry of Mary Coll and the music of composer Fiona Linnane.
- Éigse Michael Hartnett 2016 was officially opened by Mayor Liam Galvin at Newcastle West Library in April. The keynote speaker on the night was poet Rita Ann Higgins.
- Glin Library hosted the opening of the County Fleadh Ceoil on May 30th. John Healy of Glin Comhaltas welcomed over 70 people. There was music, song, tin whistle playing, storytelling and sean-nós dancing. After which, all in attendance were entertained by the poems of Gabriel Fitzmaurice.
- In June, Duo Cello Jaya played a lunchtime concert in the Granary. Cellists Ella Bokor & Mircea Marian were accompanied by guest cellist, Adrian Mantu, from the RTE Contempo Quartet.
- Colorado native, Jon Sousa, a traditional Irish music guitarist and former student at the Irish World Academy of Music & Dance, performed to a rapt audience at a lunchtime concert in November.
- Other live performances in 2016 included concerts from We/or/Me with special guest Great...in small Doses and singer Freddie White.

Exhibitions 2016

- Dooradoyle Library hosted Freeman's Choice, an exhibition of paintings by Dr. Thomas Ryan, R.H.A. and Freeman of Limerick, in November. This event was opened by Mayor, Kieran O'Hanlon, who emphasised Dr. Ryan's contribution to the arts both in Limerick, through his long association with the Limerick Art Society, and nationally, through The Royal Hibernian Academy.
- Kilmallock library was host to Farmers, Friars and Frontiers: the Archaeology of the Ballyhoura Hills, a travelling exhibition focusing on Bronze Age farmers, Iron Age frontiers and the medieval friars.
- Newcastle West Library celebrated Limerick Traveller Pride Week in June with an exhibition of a specially commissioned wooden carving of the 1916 Proclamation created by members of the local travelling community.



Duo Cello Jaya and guest Adrian Mantu performing at the Granary

Dr. Thomas Ryan, R.H.A. and Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon at the opening of Freeman's Choice at Dooradoyle Library



Children's Events 2016:

- The Public Libraries' Summer Stars Reading Programme was more successful than ever in 2016. Over 50,000 children in Ireland took part in 2016 with almost 2,000 registering in Limerick alone. The children who successfully completed the Reading Challenge were rewarded with some great prizes at special events held in their local libraries.
- Children's Book Festival was celebrated across library branches in the City and County with a varied programme of events including visits from storyteller Niall De Burca, musician Etain McCooey, the Cork Circus and writers Marie Louise Fitzpatrick, Bob Burke and Sarah Moore Fitzgerald. Other popular events were science workshops with Michael Moylan, story time, and art & craft sessions for children of all abilities.
- Both Watch House Cross and Granary libraries played host to special visits from city primary school classes as part of the Doodle Den literacy programme aimed at promoting literacy in a fun, interactive way.
- The 100th birthday of Roald Dahl was celebrated in Adare Library with a novel event in which children from local schools listened to author Róisín Meaney read from *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, while all enjoyed some chocolate treats courtesy of Adare Health Food Store.
- Author visits to libraries included the best-selling Shane Hegarty, David O'Doherty and Chris Judge to the Granary while renowned Irish language author Ré O Laighléis visited Newcastle West Library as part of a special event in conjunction with Foras na Gaeilge.
- The Granary Library was delighted to host the launch of *A Mash of Memories* in April. The book is a collection of stories by St Patrick Girls' national school writing club, published in collaboration with Professor Sarah Moore Fitzgerald, University of Limerick.
- In October, Watch House Cross Library launched the book, *What if the Dream Come True*, a selection of drawings, diary entries and poems created by children from local schools and inspired by the 1916 Rising.



Pictured at the launch of the 2016 Summer Reading Programme for Limerick : author Róisín Meaney and Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Cllr. Gerald Mitchell with students Hollie McDonald, Ashley Wheelan and Camryn Franklin from Corpus Christi Cllr. Elena Secas at the launch of *What if the Dream Come True* at Watch House Cross Library
 Roald Dahl's 100th Birthday Celebration at Adare Library
 Pupils from St Patrick's Girls NS at the launch of their book, *A Mash of Memories* in the Granary Library



Limerick Museum

In March 2016, Limerick Museum held a major exhibition in partnership with the Archives Service entitled 'They Dreamed and are Dead. Limerick and 1916.' A focal point of the exhibition were two historical flags borrowed from the Royal Collection and the Imperial War Museum, namely a tricolour seized from Limerick Volunteers in 1916 and flag bearing the coat of arms of Limerick, which was in Roger Casement's possession when he was arrested in Kerry following the unsuccessful attempt at landing an arms shipment from Germany off the Kerry coast.

A number of other successful exhibitions were held during the year, most notably a photographic exhibition on the Holocaust of 1941-45 and one on Limerick men who fought in the Spanish Civil War (1936-39).

Limerick Museum and Archives 1916 Exhibition in City Hall



Arts and Culture

Since the 1980s there has been a major growth in the awareness of the role of culture in the life of cities: its contribution to citizens' well-being and to the prosperity of a city. Many of the cities which have held the European City of Culture title had not only a successful year but have benefitted from a lasting legacy.

In 2014 Limerick gave witness in splendid celebration to its own cultural legacy by becoming the first National City of Culture in Ireland. Seeing and experiencing the benefits of placing culture at the centre of a city's development, LCCC took the brave step to submit a bid for the European Capital of Culture (ECOC) 2020.



Public Consultations as part of Limerick
2020 European Capital of Culture Bid



Reasons to Bid:

- Bidding for the ECOC acting as a catalyst for a step-change in the city, or an area of a city
- Bidding for the ECOC amounts to a measurable increase in the self-esteem of citizens and pride in the city
- It would ensure increased engagement with the cultural offers of the city, especially with audiences less likely to attend or participate
- It would herald a development of new cultural offers, new skills, new opportunities for artists and cultural organisations
- Would lead to a greater international understanding and profile, often seen in increased tourism and reputation.

Throughout 2015 and 2016 the Limerick 2020 team worked to develop the bid. The selection process was in two stages: pre-selection (shortlisting) and final selection. The bid-book set out Limerick's objectives, programme, financial plans, and management structure as a candidate city.

As one of 4 candidates Limerick prepared the bid-book and submitted it in line with the rules in the call. At pre-selection in December 2015, the Limerick 2020 team presented the bid to the

Panel and answered their questions.

The national authority and the European Commission were present as observers in order to ensure the rules are followed. At the end of the meeting the Panel announced that Limerick along with Galway and The Three Sisters (Waterford, Wexford and Kilkenny) had made it to the Final Selection – a considerable achievement for Limerick and acknowledgement of the measure of its cultural strength. The Panel's report at this stage offered recommendations to the short-listed cities. The national authority formally approved the Panel's recommendations and invited the short-listed cities to the Final Selection.

Limerick now had 5 months to revise the bid. Far more detail was required at this stage, especially on the programme and the finances.

The Final Selection process was the same as for the pre-selection (submission of a revised bid-book, presentation, Q&A) with one major addition. Shortly before the final selection meeting a delegation of the Panel, with the same observers, visited each of the short-listed cities. Limerick's Jury Visit took place on July 12th 2016.



Limerick 2020 Silent Disco at Cleeves as part of the Jury visit

Limerick 2020 Jury Visit

The judging panel was welcomed to Limerick on Tuesday the 12th July 2016 by a citywide street celebration that showcased the best of Culture in Limerick and acted as a 'thank-you' to the public for its support for the European Capital of Culture bid.

An open invitation was issued by the newly elected Mayor of Limerick Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon and the Limerick 2020 bid team to the public to join them in the city for a feast of festivities; the response was emphatic as the people of Limerick turned up in their thousands for a day – a remarkable and memorable day in its own right for Limerick as the city beat like one great cultural drum of celebration.

The programme showcased Limerick's cultural confidence and gave the people of Limerick the opportunity to show their support and commitment to the bid by simply turning up. The carnival atmosphere was created by 'switching on' key locations in the city: A Garden Party in the Hunt Museum grounds; Cabaret Caravan in the Urban Garden; a silent disco for 300 people at EVA International in Cleeves; a Street Food Market on the Boardwalk with surprise performance by Rusangano Family - all of this culminating in Culture and Chips

in the Crescent on O'Connell Avenue with live DJ, flying trapeze by Fidget Feet and the best of Limerick's culinary and artisan food producers.

Following the visit the delegation reported back to the whole Panel. The Panel then based its assessment and decisions on the candidates' approach to the 6 categories of criteria in the decision using as evidence the bid-book and the presentation and Q&A session. On the 16th of July the Panel announced which candidate should hold the title. Galway was awarded the Bid but Limerick stood immensely proud of this latest cultural flowering that has only added to the widening awareness of a city in the midst of a great renaissance.

Limerick Arts Office

The Arts Office of Limerick City and County Council commissioned the Cultural Strategy Framework in 2016 and launched it in June. Limerick Arts Office worked in partnership to create this strategy with Council departments, citizens, businesses and voluntary and community organisations, artists and arts organisations across Limerick.

16 April – 17 July 2016



EVA INTERNATIONAL
IRELAND'S BIENNIAL

STILL (THE) BARBARI -ANS

#EVA16
#weareculture

limerick
2016



www.eva.ie



Curated by Kov



Opposite page:
Top: Scene from County Limerick Youth
Theatres The Rescue

Middle left: Limerick2020 2 European
Capital of Culture Street Party

Middle right: World Recipe Exchange at
Limerick2020 European Capital of
Culture Street Party

It sets out a clear vision and ambition that allows us to strategically plan and look to the future. This will ensure culture continues to contribute to a vibrant Limerick in developing the city and region.

The Cultural Strategy represents an integrated set of choices that will pave the way for effective planning to achieve change through cultural engagement.

We continue to be responsible for spearheading its delivery in partnership with the public, private and voluntary sectors and work closely with all agencies and individuals who have an interest in, or are actively involved in cultural provision.

The 2030 Cultural Strategy will act as a catalyst for a further step-change in Limerick's cultural development, building on the success of National City of Culture in 2014.

It will also generate a greater local, national and international understanding of the transformative power of culture in Limerick, through its citizens, artists, cultural sector and all those who use their creative skills to find new ways of belonging to Limerick and to each other.

International Partnerships

A policy of supporting increased international partnerships included a partnership project called the 'School of Spectacle with Fidget Feet and Irish Aerial Creation Centre along with partners Walk the Plank (UK) Pafos 2017, Plovdiv 2019.

In 2016 the Co. Limerick Youth Theatre led a European collaboration project exploring themes of 1916 with Loimaan Teatteri from Finland. The site specific work transformed a derelict site, in Knocklong, toured related school workshops, and including hosting 17 Finnish youth theatre practitioners and was shown on RTE Nationwide.

The Belltable

In 2016 a Service Level Agreement was signed with the Lime Tree Theatre to operate for five years the theatre venue and the previous Credit Union side of the building. The Belltable name was secured, a new Programme Manager was recruited, and in April the Belltable relaunched. The Belltable has rehearsal, meetings and office space and is funded by the Arts Council and by Limerick City and County Council. This collaboration has proved to be an important development in arts provision for audiences and artists.

Volunteers

Limerick Arts Office recognises the valuable work of volunteers and developed from Limerick National City of Culture 2014 a cohort of volunteers to participate in and support major arts events and festivals. In 2016 Limerick Arts Office took a new approach and worked with a locally based coordinator to develop a team for the management of volunteers for events including Limerick 2020, Culture Night and Open House Limerick.

Festivals and Events and Continued Professional Development

The Shannon Region Conference Bureau Seminar in June invited arts organisations and venues to meet with consultants from the Bureau and explore opportunities to become hosts for conferences in their field of interest.

In partnership with Failte Ireland and the Creative Europe Desk from The Arts Council, a funding information half day seminar and networking event at Culture House was held to bring the active festival and event sector in Limerick together.



Donation of 25 Portrait Drawings By Dr. Thomas Ryan, Royal Hibernian Academy (RHA) to Limerick City and County Council

In February a collection of twenty five portrait drawings of illustrious Limerick people by Limerick born artist, Dr. Thomas Ryan RHA, were kindly donated to the council by the artist and are now hanging in Culture House.

Eigse Micheal Hartnett Literary and Arts Festival, Newcastle West

The committee for Eigse was supported to increase autonomy and to deliver the festival to communities and audiences in Newcastle West. The committee responded with a revitalised brand and a new web-site, both of which signalled a real renewal of the festival. The festival speakers and events included Rita Ann Higgins, the Michael Hartnett Poetry Award, Colum McCann and Colm Mac Con Iomaire and Memorial Lecture with Donal Ryan.





Limerick Theatre Bursary

Continuing the legacy of Limerick National City of Culture 2014 and the bid process for ECOC 2020, Limerick Arts Office worked with the Theatre Strand of L.A.C.E. to develop a new funding scheme – Limerick Theatre Bursaries.

The nature of the Limerick Theatre Bursaries were informed by Limerick Professional Theatre Sector Needs Survey (2016) and the Limerick Cultural Strategy: A Framework 2016 – 2030 and recognised the need to support the research and development of creative work in the Limerick theatre sector, as well as its presentation. Introducing the bursaries, our aim was to support theatre practitioners based in Limerick City and County in their professional development, build capacity in the sector and deliver the highest standard in creativity and excellence in all aspects of cultural activity.

Limerick Arts Office invited individuals and organisations working in the Limerick theatre sector to apply for this funding opportunity under the categories below:

Limerick Theatre Research and Development Bursaries of €2,500 each (3 Awards)

Limerick Theatre Production and Presentation Bursary of €2,500 (1 Award)

The successful recipients were;

Wildebeest Theatre, CallBack Theatre, Ann Blake and Bottom Dog

Culture Night

A remarkable 100 events took place between 5pm and 11pm on Friday 16th September across the city and county.

Culture Night is one of the most popular nights of celebration in Limerick, bringing everyone together under a unified sense of belonging. Culture is embedded as part of the profile of Limerick for many decades and it is as multiple and diverse as its citizens and landscape.

Limerick's Culture Night is divided into six themes:

- Heritage
- Children and Family
- Art and Design
- Theatre and Film
- Poetry and Writing
- Music and Dance.

The total audience across all 118 programmed events at 76 venues/locations was 18,300.

Curator Koyo Kouoh at the EVA International 2016 opening

Opposite page:
Fab Lab Limerick

Artist John Shinnors at the Hunt Museum Garden Party During the European Capital of Culture Jury Visit



Limerick City Gallery of Art

Limerick City Gallery of Art continued its diverse range of high quality exhibitions with eight contemporary exhibitions and four selected exhibitions from the Permanent Collections of Limerick City Gallery of Art and welcomed over 85,000 visitors throughout the year.

One of the highlights was the presentation of Sean Lynch's exhibition, which commenced its Irish tour at LCGA direct from the Venice Biennale 2015 and Niamh McCann's exhibition, *Just Left of Copernicus*, the recipient of an Arts Council Touring Award. Both these exhibitions were opened by the Chair of the Arts Council, Sheila Pratchke.

EVA International, curated by Koyo Kouoh, took centre stage from April to July with LCGA one of six major venues throughout the city. Some 11 artists were included in the exhibition of the works of highly regarded artists from Africa, Europe and Asia. LCGA collaborated with EVA International on the Young EVA programme for children with artist Alice Maher.

The Association of Local Arts Officers celebrated its 30th anniversary with an exhibition drawn from Local Authority's collections titled 'Ceiluradh 30 Years Artists Places', with 30 artists were represented in the exhibition. Concurrently, artist Sinead Ní Mhaonaigh held a solo show, while Michele Hourrigan curated a show with artists Seanie Barron and Quim Packard. Marian Fitzgibbon selected an exhibition of work from the Permanent Collection by women artists entitled *That Lady*.

The autumn programme opened with Michael McLoughlin's exhibition *Cumann*. This was a people centred project and the artists worked with 17

different community groups from around the city and county to produce a spatial sound installation. Shinnors Scholar Simon Corcoran curated a show from the Permanent Collection with groups who participated in *Cumann*. The other show held in the upstairs galleries was by artist Paul Murnaghan. A series of artists talks were held throughout the exhibitions.

The final two exhibitions in 2016 were Amanda Coogan's 'I'll sing you a song from around the town' and Maggie Madden's exhibition of new work entitled 'somewhere in the middle'. Amanda Coogan's exhibition was a joint initiative of RHA and West Cork Arts Centre and was accompanied by a catalogue. Amanda worked with four students from Limerick School of Art and Design (LSAD) who performed a four-hour durational piece over four days. Both artists are graduates of LSAD, which has garnered a significant national and international reputation.

LCGA continues to play a significant role in supporting local initiatives including Limerick Literary Festival; *Make a Move* – Urban Street Art collaboration; *Light Moves* Screen Dance Festival and *Culture Night*, the national celebration of the arts in Ireland.

From a national perspective, LCGA worked with RTE to present six concerts in the spring and summer; with *Create* on a day long seminar on socially engaged practice; *Age and Opportunity* on a six week training programme.

artSpace, the weekly children's workshops commenced in September. Tours of various exhibitions were offered to primary, secondary and post-primary colleges.





Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

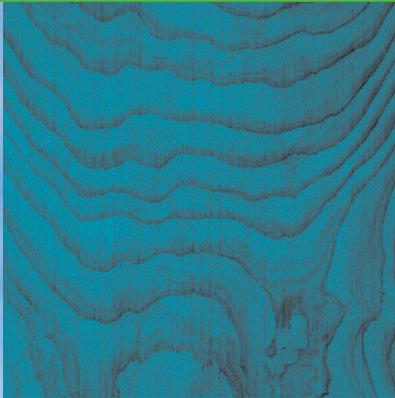


THANK U TO ALL TLC VOLUNTEERS

Gordon Daly
Director Service Operations



Service Operations Directorate



Community Support Services
Operation & Maintenance Services
Property Services
Design and Delivery Services
Planning & Environmental Services
Veterinary Services
Business Improvement Unit

Community Support Services

REFUSE COLLECTION CHARGES SUBSIDY SCHEME

Limerick City & County Council continued to provide a waiver scheme during 2016.

The Qualifying Criteria for inclusion in the scheme is as follows:

- Applicant must be of pension age, i.e. 66 years old or over.
- Applicant must be in receipt of a State Contributory/Non Contributory Pension/Widows (ers) Pension only.
- Applicant must be living alone or with a spouse/partner who is a qualifying OAP also.
- Applicant must be in receipt of a Disability Allowance

The waiver scheme service was offered to 3,186 households who qualify on income grounds in 2016. The level of service provided is as follows:

- 18 lifts Residual Waste Bin or 180 kg in total whichever is reached first
- 18 lifts Dry Recycling bin or 180 kg in total whichever is reached first
- 18 lifts Organic Waste bin or 180 kg in total whichever is reached first

CEMETERIES

In 2016 there have been 561 internments in Mount Saint Lawrence, Mount Saint Oliver, Kilmurry and Castlemungret.

In the County Cemeteries there have been on average 430 internments in 2016 .

2016 TENANT (INCREMENTAL) PURCHASE SCHEME

From 1st January 2016, existing tenants of Limerick City & County Council have an opportunity to purchase their homes through an Incremental Purchase Scheme introduced under Part 3 of Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014. Limerick City & County Council have received 73 applications in 2016.

HOME IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMMES

There are three different types of home improvement grants.

This year 556 households benefited from receipt of a total of €2.7m, as per the following table:

District	Amount	2016 No. of Grants
Rathkeale	€272,298.68	56
NCW	€683,816.60	142
Kilmallock	€452,241.22	69
Metropolitan	€1,338,547.24	289
Total	€2,746,903.74	556

The details of the grants are as follows:

Home Adaptation Grant: This Grant assists in the carrying out of works which are necessary for the purpose of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability. The types of works allowable include the provision of access ramps, downstairs toilet facilities, stair-lifts, accessible showers, adaptations to facilitate wheelchair access and extensions.

Mobility Aids Grant: This Grant is available to cover a basic suite of works to address mobility problems, the works aided are grab-rails, access ramps, level access showers and stair-lifts.

Housing Aid for Older Grant – This Grant is available to assist older people living in poor housing conditions to have necessary repairs or improvements carried out, the types of works aided include re-roofing, re-wiring, replacement of windows and doors and the provision of central heating (where none exists).

DISABLED PERSONS GRANTS

This year 112 households received disabled persons grants totalling €905,903.18 to support independent living for people with disabilities, please see table below:

District	Amount	2016 No. of Grants
Rathkeale	€63,438.65	11
NCW	€92,038.77	15
Metropolitan	€713,318.76	78
Kilmallock	€37,107.00	8
Total	€905,903.18	112

LEGAL

Consents to Sale

60 applications received in 2016

43 issued

19 awaiting further information from Solicitors/purchasers.

Deeds of Discharge:

156 applications received

147 Deeds issued

18 awaiting further information.

Cottage Purchase Annuities

22 applications received

20 issued

4 awaiting further information.

LOANS

There were 28 applications for loans received in 2016, which include 12 Shared Ownership restructuring loans.

Shared ownership restructuring loans:-

This scheme was introduced by the Dept in 2016 to give people the option to consolidate remaining share ownership loan balances along with the rental equity balance (i.e. the share of the house still in the

ownership of the Council) to one annuity loan.

In total, 12 Shared Ownership restructuring loans have been received to date. Eight are being processed, three have been approved by the loan committee and are ready to proceed, with one refused.

HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT LIMERICK (HAP)/ RENTAL ACCOMMODATION SCHEME (RAS)

Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Limerick

HAP has been introduced to provide a more integrated system of housing supports and aims to:

- Allow all social housing supports to be accessed through the local authority
- Allow recipients to take up full-time employment and still keep their housing support

Any household that qualifies for social housing support qualifies for HAP. Rent Supplement recipients who qualify for social housing support are being transferred to HAP on a phased basis.

HAP Limerick carries out a range of functions, the principal ones being:

- Setting-up and commencement of HAP tenancies in Limerick city and county
- Calculating differential rent for all HAP tenancies in Limerick city and county
- Amending existing Limerick HAP tenancies

At 31 December, 2016 there were 1,771 HAP tenancies in place in Limerick. This is an increase of 653 tenancies over the course of 2016.

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

Under the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS), Limerick City and County Council arranges for accommodation for qualifying households with private landlords and voluntary/ approved housing bodies. In order to qualify for RAS, a household must be in receipt of Rent Supplement for a minimum of



Sinead Fitzgibbon with her new pre-loved sofa at Mungret Recycled Centre during "National Reuse Month"

18 months. The Council pays the landlord an agreed monthly rent, and the RAS tenant pays the Council a weekly differential rent.

At 31 December, 2016 there were 1,122 RAS tenancies in place, including 36 new transfers of rent supplement clients to RAS during the calendar year.

Assessments and Allocations Section

- 1 No of allocations in 2016 - 274
- 2 No of offers made - 320
- 3 No of offers accepted and rejected - 274 and 46 respectively.
- 4 Total no of cases assigned to Allocations Team - 773
- 5 Total no of cases assigned to Assessments Team - 385
- 6 Total No of cases closed by both teams - Allocations 664 & Assessments 351

HOUSING WELFARE UNIT

The Housing Welfare Unit is comprised of three main strands:

- Traveller Assessments & Allocations
- Housing Welfare Issues
- Housing Grant Applications

Limerick City & County Council continues to implement the Council's Five Year Traveller

Accommodation Programme by providing new units to families and managing existing Traveller specific accommodation stock. LCCC maintain 11 Traveller specific housing schemes. The Traveller Accommodation Programme was reviewed in December 2016; the progress of the programme will continue to be monitored by the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Over the course of 2016 a number of environmental education and awareness initiatives were undertaken. These initiatives are vital to our work as they instil care of the environment, raise awareness of obligations under environmental legislation and provide services to schools and a range of volunteer groups working to improve their communities. Services also comply with the Council's obligations under the Southern Regional Waste Management Plan and the Council Litter Management Plan.

Household Hazardous Waste Collections:

There was a free household hazardous waste drop off day for listed materials held in the Kilmallock and Newcastlewest Recycling Centres and Mungret Recycling Centre.

Earth Day - 5 Rs Event at Mungret Recycling Centre:

Some 200 people visited the Mungret Recycling Centre for the 5 Rs, namely Rethink, Reuse, Restore, Repair and Recycle. Visitors were treated to:

- StopFoodwaste.ie - kitchen and information on

- Foodwaste prevention and composting
- Back2New exhibited some of their latest upcycled furniture
- Bags of mulch and compost from the recycling centre were available to site users
- Students from St Paul's NS, Dooradoyle attended
- Villiers "Dressing Up pollution" was modelled dress and the Villiers Students gave a presentation on St Paul's about the dress.
- Security in Shredding shredded confidential information free of charge for site users

EDUCATION

An Taisce Green Schools

The following are the key stats with regard to the An Taisce Green Schools programme:

- Some 170 Schools are registered for the Green Schools Programme
- Green Flag Themes breakdown as follows - Global Citizenship, 15; Biodiversity 17; Travel 36; Water 26; Energy 24; Litter & Waste 22.
- Limerick City and County Council assess Green Schools
 - Supporting Schools attendance at Expos
 - Organise the annual Limerick City and County Council An Taisce Green Schools Teachers Seminar

ECO Unesco Munster ECODens –

Limerick City and County Council supports the Munster EcoDen by providing a small amount of funding and an EcoDen Adjudicator.

Environmental Workshops for schools –

Limerick City and County Council and the Department of Communications Climate Action and Environment, via the Local Agenda 21 Environment Partnership Fund, jointly supported a range of workshops for schools across the city and county.

Supporting Limerick's 3rd Level initiatives

- Limerick City and County Council inaugural Waste Prevention and Resource Efficiency Award in Limerick Institute of Technology SCIFEST 2016 initiative was won by Laurel Hill Colaiste. Students

Caitlin O'Brien and Kelly Nido were awarded a trophy and class ecotrip to the Cloughjordan Eco-Neighbourhood.

- Limerick City & County Council hosted a stand at Limerick Institute of Technology during Science Week
- Limerick City and County Council sponsored a theme and hosted a stand at the All Ireland Environmental Colloquium in University of Limerick

TIDY TOWNS

The following are some of the key results from the 2016 Tidy Towns programme.

- Snapshot of Tidy Towns Results 2016
 - Gold Medal: – Adare
 - Bronze Medal: Ardpatrik (314pts), Galbally (313 pts), Kilmallock (308 pts) and Newcastle West (301 pts) were awarded bronze medals in their respective categories
 - Ardpatrik was highly commended
 - Galbally was commended
 - Rockhill (232 pts) received an endeavour award
 - Limerick city centre, meanwhile, added 12 points this year bringing total to 286 points
- Tidy Towns Supports
 - Organised annual Tidy Towns Seminar
 - Organised visit for groups to the EcoNeighbourhood, Cloughjordan including a café conversation led by Davie Philips of Cultivate on environmental issues
 - Operated stand at Kilmallock Tidy Towns Supervalu Event
 - Made site visit to Bruff Tidy Towns
 - Delivered afterschool Environmental Talk in Our Lady of Lourdes Tidy Towns area
 - Sponsored the Ballyhoura Tidy Towns Awards
 - Had a Conversation Café in Limerick City Centre involving a Café Conversation
 - Provided assistance to the Limerick City Centre Tidy Towns Committee.
 - Assisted local projects via Local Agenda 21 Environment Partnership Fund Initiative.



St. Brigid's National School visiting Mungret Recycling Centre during 'National Reuse Month'

Opposite page
 Clr. Kieran O'Hanlon Mayor of City and County Council and students from St. Brigid's National School during 'National Reuse Month'

St. Patrick's National School students during 'National Reuse Month'

Limerick Going for Gold Environment Improvement Grants and Competition

- Limerick Going for Gold Environment Improvement Grants (50% funded by the McManus Charitable Foundation):
 - 144 groups from across Limerick City and County participated in the Limerick Going for Gold Environment Improvement Grants and Competition
 - €84,000 was distributed in grant aid with grants ranging from €200-€2000 for environmental projects
- Limerick Going for Gold Competition
 - €76,000 was distributed in prize funds at the Limerick Going for Gold Awards
 - Glin won top award in the Community Challenge Category, receiving €10,000,
 - Killeely finished 2nd, receiving €7,000
 - Adare finished 3rd, receiving €5,000
 - Ardpatrik was the overall winner in the Limerick in Bloom with Strand in runners-up position (€3,000).
 - Glenbrook Glendale Lawn scooped the €2,000 first prize in the Estates/ Residential Area category.

FAIRTRADE

- **Fairtrade Fortnight Launch in Limerick** - Fairtrade Banana Farmer Maria Genao from the Dominican Republic was among the special guests in attendance at Fairtrade Fortnight Launch in Limerick. Over 100 guests (councillors, students, teachers and parents) attended the event, which also hosted a schools Fairtrade Poster Competition. The first prize in the competition was awarded to Alan Wallace, Desmond College, Newcastle West. Fionn Ó Cinnéide and Tiarnán Ó Seachnasaigh, An Mhodscoil, O'Connell Ave, Limerick and Caoimhe O'Meara and Sarah Kelly, Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh, Roxborough, Co Limerick were awarded second and third place respectively
- **Fairtrade Birthday** - Limerick City celebrated its 11th Fairtrade birthday as a Fairtrade City. The occasion was marked with the annual school's Christmas Card Competition. Jessica Griffin, a

first year student at John the Baptist Community School in Hospital and fifth class pupil Paul Reddan from Corpus Christi Primary School in Moyross were chosen ahead of hundreds of other local primary and secondary school students who took part.

National Reuse Month Events

- Back2New Upcycling and the PALLs Limerick and Adapt House Reuse Initiative were awarded €1,000 and an Endeavour Award at the Limerick Going for Gold Final for their waste prevention projects.
- Limerick City and County Council launched an online Repair Directory - www.limerick.ie/council-servicegroup/reuse-and-repair-guide
- A social Media Reuse and Repair competition was held across @limerickenviron and facebook.com/limerickenvironment
- Reuse and Repair Event at Mungret Recycling Centre.

The following took place at our Reuse and Repair Event at Mungret Recycling Centre:

- ReUse Cottage launched
- StopFoodwaste.ie kitchen and information on Foodwaste prevention and composting
- Back2New exhibited some of their latest upcycled furniture
- Students from St Brigid's NS, Singland attended along with 200 site users on the day

EPA - Local Authority Prevention Network (LAPN)

Five Crèches/ Childcare facilities are working with Limerick City and County Council on a waste prevention and resource efficiency project. This project aims to assist creche facilities identify money that they knowingly spend but unknowingly waste! Funded via LAPN.

Free Shredding Event for European Data Protection Day in Mungret Recycling Centre

- Working with 'Security in Shredding', this Free Event for householders and SMEs diverted 3,400KG confidential paper from landfill. An increase of 1,400KG on 2015.



Team Limerick Clean Up

'Team Limerick Clean Up' is one of the most exciting green initiatives launched in Limerick. Sponsored by the JP McManus Benevolent Fund and spearheaded by Paul O'Connell, it is coordinated by Limerick City and County Council with the support of Mr Binman, the Limerick Leader and Live 95FM and sees thousands turn out to clean up Limerick on Good Friday.

Key developments in 2016 were:

- Shortlisted for European Excellence Award
- Winner of Community Initiative Category of the Chambers Ireland Excellence Award
- Over 13,600 volunteers registered to participate in TLC2 on Good Friday, 25th March 2016 www.teamlimerickcleanup.ie
- Over 98 tonnes of litter was collected for recycling, energy recovery and disposal at landfill
- A total of 6 Health and Safety Briefings were held at various venues (Kilmallock, Adare, Ardagh and Dooradoyle).
- 1 statutory meeting for TLC2 took place
- The TLC Steering Group, (McManus Benevolent Fund, Mr Binman, DMC Communications and Limerick City and County Council) are grateful for the ongoing support of the Councillors for this initiative
- Team Limerick Clean Up forms part of the Council's National Spring Clean



Launch of Team Limerick Clean Up TLC 2016

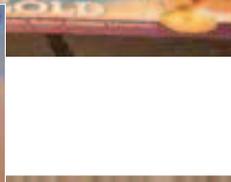
Diane McCabe, DMC Communications, Joe Clery, Mr. Binman, Cllr. Gerald Mitchell, Deputy Mayor & Noal Earlie, McManus Benevolent Fund at Team Limerick Clean Up Steering Group

Mr. J.P. McManus at Staken Wallace

Mr. J.P. McManus and Paul O'Connell with Young Munster rugby team

Opposite Page:
Limerick Going for Gold Competition Awards 2016 night at the Limerick Strand Hotel





HOMELESS SERVICES

The Limerick Homeless Action Team (LHAT) processed 2350 customer contacts in relation to homelessness last year. 748 placements were made by LHAT in Emergency Accommodation, while the treatment centre at Cuan Mhuire accepted a further 284 placements. A further 321 were provided with some form of supported housing through the Housing Led Approaches, the Private Market or Voluntary Housing.

Homeless Services are provided on a 24-7-365 basis through the Limerick Homeless Action Team, which operates from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, the Out Of Hours Service which opens Monday to Friday from 5pm to 9pm and Saturday and Sunday from 12pm to 4pm, and a 24 hour Freephone Service at 1800 60 60 60.

Tenancy Sustainment is provided to Tenants in both Local Authority and private rented accommodation by LHAT and by projects funded through Limerick City and County Council and delivered by Focus Ireland and Sophia Housing.

A Support Worker was engaged in the latter part of 2016 to assist families in Bed and Breakfast accommodation to access permanent accommodation and any necessary support services. A Respite Service for families in emergency accommodation was also initiated with Extern.

Other provision includes Housing Led Initiatives for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, youth housing initiatives, a prison Inreach worker, a drop in centre, alcohol / drug misuse and mental health supports, as well as emergency hostel and long term supported accommodation.

Estate Management Unit

The Estate Management Unit is comprised of three main strands:

1. Estate Support
2. Individual Tenant Support
3. Tenancy Enforcement/Anti-Social Behaviour

Estate Supports

- The main aim of this programme is the provision of supports with a view to improving quality of life and developing community spirit within Council estates. To this end, the Unit works closely with existing residents' associations and encourages the formation of new groups, supporting the implementation of key actions identified by them to improve their estates. Two new committees were established in 2016 in Kilmallock, to represent residents in the Millmount/Desmond Place and Deebert 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 children 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. Guest speakers with expertise in a variety of areas are also invited to speak.
- 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. This Unit engaged intensively with residents in the Watergate Flats complex, which comprises of 99 units of accommodation right in the heart of the city and, to a lesser extent, with Thomondgate Residents Association.

Individual Tenant Support

- The Unit provides a service, supported by the Housing Welfare Officer, 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 such training meetings in 2016 was 216.

Tenancy Enforcement/Anti-Social behaviour

- The Unit deals with in excess of 400 complaints each year, with approximately half of these relating to antisocial 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.
- The unit secured 3 new excluding orders against individuals in the District Court in 2016, the effect of which was to legally bar those individuals from named locations.

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. Gardai have been very pro-active in enforcing these and some offenders were in receipt of prison sentences for breaches. Limerick City & County Council is one of the most proactive local authorities in the country in the use of this powerful legislative tool.

- During 2016, five illegal occupiers suspected of being engaged in anti-social behaviour were ordered to vacate Council houses by An Garda Síochána.
- New legal provisions for dealing with breaches of tenancy were introduced in April 2015 when relevant sections of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act were enacted. Again, the Council has been very proactive in using these legal powers to deal with a variety of issues, leading, for example, to 10 houses being repossessed and taken back into stock for re-letting.
- The Unit carries out garda checks on prospective new tenants, 654 formal reviews were undertaken during the year.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE - RATHKEALE

ROADS

Expenditure on maintenance and improvement works on roads in 2016 in the Adare/Rathkeale Municipal District was financed by way of Government grants and the Council's own resources.

Road expenditure programmes during 2016 included:

- Road surface dressing of 15km of roadway at a cost of €342,000.
- Road reconstruction works of 12km to the value of €1,231,000.
- Repairs to roads following severe weather damage of €513,000.
- Bridge rehabilitation works to the value of €126,000.
- Low cost safety improvement works at junctions in Kilcoleman, Ballykealy & Liskennett, Granagh.
- Footpath works at Pallaskenry, Croom, Ballyhahill, Rathkeale, Askeaton & Shanagolden.
- Pedestrian Crossing/Speed Ramps Rathkeale.
- Great Southern Trail Maintenance Works.
- Winter Maintenance.

HOUSING MAINTENANCE

The Housing Maintenance crew for the Adare/Rathkeale Municipal District is based in the Rathkeale office.

Thirty One Council houses were upgraded with funding under the 2016 Pre-Letting and Voids Programme. These have now been let to new tenants.

Routine maintenance issues with houses also forms part of the works of the Maintenance crew and in 2016 over 574 service requests were attended to by the Adare/Rathkeale Housing Maintenance crew.

Cemeteries Maintenance

The cemeteries maintenance budget for the Adare/Rathkeale Municipal District was €23,543 for 2016. Maintenance works were carried out at Rathkeale, Kilmacow, Adare & Knockpatrick.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

Housing Grants Scheme Adare/Rathkeale Municipal District.

In 2016, eleven applications under the Housing Adaptation Grants for People with a Disability were approved at a cost of €63,451.

Twenty Six applications under the Mobility Aids Housing Grants were approved at a cost of €116,518.

Twenty Seven applications under the Housing Aid for Older People were approved at a cost of €115,463.

Also twelve Council properties within the district had works completed on them for persons with a disability at a cost of €65,000.

CORPORATE SERVICES

The Adare/Rathkeale Municipal District held 16 meetings and had one Municipal District Civic Reception during 2016.

A reception was held in July to acknowledge the achievement of Ben Betts, Shanagolden with the Ireland Junior U20 Rugby World Cup Team.

CUSTOMER SERVICES

The roll out of the customer services initiative with the introduction of the Sugar CRM system continues to be expanded upon. All calls with regard to housing maintenance, housing grants, roads maintenance and general environmental queries are logged on this system by the Adare/Rathkeale office.

WASTE WATER SERVICES

Irish Water has been established as the organisation with overall responsibility for water and waste water matters throughout Ireland. The waste water crew at Rathkeale continues to act as an agent for this organisation and on their behalf operates and maintains a large number of waste water treatment plants throughout the West Division.



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CAPPAMORE-KILLMALLOCK

ROADS

Expenditure on maintenance and improvement works on roads in 2016 in the Cappamore Kilmallock Municipal District was financed by way of Government grants and the Council's own resources.

Road expenditure programmes during 2016 included:

- 26 road surface dressing projects at a cost of €523,108
- 27 road reconstruction works to the value of €1,837,150
- Repairs to roads following severe weather damage of €603,280
- Local Improvement and Community Involvement Schemes to the value of €105,000
- Low cost safety improvement works at Lissard, Galbally.
- 0.5 km. of footpath construction/repairs at a cost of €130,000
- Signage, Road markings and Lining to the value of €140,000
- Bridge repairs at a cost of €73,000
- Winter Maintenance

HOUSING MAINTENANCE

Cappamore Kilmallock Municipal District maintained 718 Social houses at a cost of €350,000.

Five long term voids have been upgraded and re-let at a cost of €120,000.

A total of 961 service requests were dealt with by Housing Maintenance.

CEMETERIES MAINTENANCE

The cemeteries maintenance budget for the Cappamore Kilmallock Municipal District was €26,500 for 2016.

Ballingarry (new) Burial ground was completed and officially opened in November 2016.

This €350,000 project has provided 699 burial plots,

together with parking facilities adjacent to Ballingaddy church and the old Ballingaddy Burial ground.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

During 2016, a total of 70 private house grants to the value of €530,475 were approved.

The total grants payout was €452,241.

Also nine Council properties within the district had works approved for persons with a disability to the value of €53,496.

CORPORATE SERVICES

The Cappamore Kilmallock Municipal District held 13 meetings and received deputations from Glenroe-Ballyorgan, Bruff and Kilfinane Community Councils during the year.

Municipal District Civic Receptions were held on three occasions:

- On 18th February the committee honoured the Killeely Dromkeen Community Group on their success at the All Ireland Pride of Place Awards
- On 22nd March the committee held a Civic Reception for J.P. McManus at Áras Mainchín Seoighe, to acknowledge his contribution to the communities of Cappamore and Kilmallock
- On 17th May Hospital Handball Club were honoured to mark their achievements in the World Handball Championships 2015, which were held at Calgary, Canada.



Main page: Severe Weather Fund - Concrete Channel on L1516 Ballintober
Middle: Balingaddy New Burial Ground, Officially Opened 30.11.2016
Bottom: J.P. McManus received a presentation from the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE - ROADS

Expenditure on maintenance and improvement works on roads in 2016 in the Newcastle West Municipal District was financed by way of Government grants and the Council's own resources.

Road expenditure programmes during 2016 included:

- Road surface dressing of 17km of roadway at a cost of €403,500
- Road reconstruction works to the value of €1,417,000
- Repairs to roads following severe weather damage of €255,000
- Bridge rehabilitation works to the value of €126,000
- Low cost safety improvement works at junctions in Broadford and Castlemahon
- Footpath works at Mountcollins, Athea, Glin, Knockaderry, Ballyagran, Broadford and Newcastle West
- Winter Maintenance

HOUSING MAINTENANCE

The Housing Maintenance crew for the Newcastle West Municipal District is also part of the Newcastle West office.

Seventeen Council houses were upgraded with funding under the 2016 Preletting and Voids Programme. These have now been let to new tenants.

Four houses were also upgraded as part of the Syrian resettlement programme.

Routine maintenance issues with houses also forms part of the works of the Maintenance crew and in 2016 over 900 service requests were attended to by the Newcastle West Housing Maintenance crew.

CEMETERIES MAINTENANCE

The cemeteries maintenance budget for the Newcastle West Municipal District was €26,000 for 2016. Maintenance works were carried out at Springfield Cemetery Broadford, Holy Cross

Cemetery Athea, St. Mary's Cemetery Abbeyfeale and Monagea Cemetery..

BALLINGRANE BITUMEN DEPOT AND 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.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

Housing Grants Scheme newcastle West Municipal District

In 2016, there were 20 applications under the Housing Adaptation Grants for People with a Disability approved at a cost of €153,157.65.

There were 38 eight applications under the Mobility Aids Housing Grants approved at a cost of €145,724.75.

And there were 84 applications under the Housing Aid for Older People were approved at a cost of €384,934.20.

Also, 15 Council properties within the district had works completed on them for persons with a disability at a cost of €92,038.77.

CORPORATE SERVICES

The Newcastle West Municipal District held 18 meetings and had two Municipal District Receptions during 2016.

The first reception was held in March to acknowledge the success of committees from the Newcastle West Municipal District in the National Tidy Town Competition.

The second reception was held in June to acknowledge Newcastle West GAA club on winning the u16, Minor and Senior County Football titles.

MOTOR TAXATION

The Motor Taxation Section in Newcastle West had a total of 24,475 routine transactions during 2016 behalf operates and maintains a large number of waste water treatment plants throughout the West Division.

CUSTOMER SERVICES

The roll out of the customer services initiative with the introduction of the Sugar CRM system continues to be expanded upon. All calls with regard to housing maintenance, housing grants, roads maintenance and general environmental queries are logged on this system by the Newcastle West office.

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 schemes throughout West Limerick.



ROADS AND TRAFFIC AREA

Road Programmes during 2016 in the Limerick Metropolitan District included:

- Road surface dressing of 18km of roadway at a cost of €485,000
- Road reconstruction works of 24km to the value of €4.27 million (including a special grant to repair roads damaged during the severe floods)
- Minor footpath, road repairs and local amenities under the GMA scheme at a cost of €480,000
- Bridge rehabilitation works at Park Bridge and Meelick Bridge to the value of €70,000
- Pedestrian Crossings at Clonmacken, South Circular Road and at Mungret Soccer Club
- Winter Maintenance.

TRAFFIC

The Traffic Section includes a staff complement of 10 persons which is responsible for maintaining the metropolitan traffic system including the UTC (Urban Traffic Control), which monitors traffic flows around the city centre, traffic signals, road markings, bollards, signage, on-street parking, event management and school wardens. During 2016, the Limerick e-Parking system was further developed following its launch in November 2015.



Top: New Pedestrian Crossing at Clonmacken

Middle: Pedestrian Crossing on South Circular Road showing approach markings, signage and beacons

Bottom: Launch of Limerick e-Parking System

BRIDGE REHABILITATION

2016 was a busy year for bridge repairs in Limerick City and County Council with works by way of repairs and full replacements at separate bridges at Athea, Askeaton, Shanagolden, Carrickerry, Ballyhahill, Ballysteen, Rathkeale, Pallaskenry, Meelick Road and Park Road in 2016.

Other than full bridge replacement, the structural repairs included cleaning, re-pointing, sealing (combination of installation of concrete rubbing strip and surface dressing) and also their parapets were raised to 1.2m above the rubbing strip in line with the Design of Roads and Bridges manual (DMRB) where possible.

Works specific to each structure are outlined in the table below:

- Knocknagornagh, Athea
- Askeaton Town on the River Deal
- Shandid Lower, Shanagolden
- Ballycullen, Askeaton
- Glenbaun, Carrickerry
- Knockdown, Athea
- Glensharrold, Carrickerry
- Ballyhahill Village
- Askeaton/Ballysteen Road
- Rathkeale/Cloncagh Rd
- Rathnasaer Rd, Rathkeale

- Don Bosco, Pallaskenry
- Meelick Bridge
- Park Canal Bridge

The design of the Repairs/Replacements was carried out by Punch Consulting Engineers and construction works were carried out by Cumnor Construction Ltd., following a tender process.

Works were carried out in consultation with all the relevant Statutory Authorities and were supervised by Council staff.

Examples of the work carried out are as shown on the photographs below.



Before and After Photographs - Knocknagornagh, Athea
Before and After Photographs - Knocknagornagh, Athea - After

HOUSING MAINTENANCE

Housing Maintenance remains one of the most dynamic areas of the Council in terms of delivering a quality services while managing the expectations of our tenants.

In 2016 we saw Service Requests rise to over 12,000 for the first time with 9,000 of these in the Operations North Area. Business Analysis of the Housing Maintenance Function lead to a new approach in this area where the function will be centrally managed to maximise all direct labour and have a balanced approach to standards countywide.

Further stock analysis will lead to a comprehensive plan to address properties most in need of repair into the future with planned maintenance. Void funding from Central Government provided additional funding for properties vacant for longer than 6 months.

In 2016 we secured an additional €384,000 for 18 properties countywide with the balance funded from Council resources.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMMES

Limerick City & County Council partnered with SSE Airtricity in 2016 to avail of the Better Energy Communities Grant from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland.

This Grant is designed to provide tri-party funding model to upgrade housing stock with to a higher level of energy efficiency.

The Watergate Apartment Complex in the centre of Limerick was the successful project. Due to the complexity of the project in terms of upgrading systems with residents in situ, it was decided to split the project into 2 Phases with 56 Units completed in Phase 1.

The grant for the project from both the SEAI and SSE Airtricity came to a total of €480,000 with the balance

€1.4m provided by the Council via Central Government Grants.

The project has changed both the quality of accommodation and comfort of our Tenants in Watergate while also enhancing the visual locality with an impressive finish to the building.

ROAD SAFETY

JUNIOR SCHOOL WARDEN SCHEME

The Junior School Wardens of St Joseph's Boys National School Rathkeale and Ballylanders Primary schools continued to provide safe crossing facilities for their classmates during 2016. The scheme, which has been in operation in the County since 1975, owes its continued success to the huge commitment and dedication of the pupils, parents, teachers and the Gardai.

CYCLING SAFETY TRAINING

Participation in the Primary Schools Cycling Safety & Skills programme continued during 2016, with 336 pupils from ten primary schools in the city and county participating. The programme, which provides children with an understanding of cycling safety theory, bicycle care and practical bicycle safety, is conducted over a number of weeks on the schools grounds as part of the school timetable. This programme continues to be sub-vented by Limerick City & County Council and also receives support funding from the Road Safety Authority.



Junior School Wardens St Josephs Boys NS Rathkeale
Emergency Services at Lifesaver Project Raheen November 2016

LIFESAVER PROJECT

The successful Lifesaver Project initiative, which is led by An Garda Síochána and supported by the Limerick Ambulance Service, the H.S.E., Limerick City & County Council Fire Service and the Road Safety Departments of Limerick City & County Council, continued during 2016 with two presentations held in the Southcourt Hotel Raheen.

This programme continues to attract large numbers of students from second & third level institutions in both City & County and has been integrated as part of the transition year programme. Participation in the programme continues steadily with attendance figures in the region of 1600 during 2016.

Lifesaver Project is a very honest account of the reality of Road Safety in Ireland today with students who participate in the programme receiving poignant, focused information and advice on the dangers and consequences of road traffic collisions.



PARKS AND LANDSCAPING



PARKS AND LANDSCAPING

Limerick City and County Council's Parks and Landscaping team had an exceptionally busy year. We continued with our annual intensive maintenance programme in respect of grass cutting, tree pruning and landscaping works. Some 220 hectares of grass were included in our grass cutting programme from April to October. Our tree pruning and landscaping works were at their busiest between November and March.

Flowers and bedding plants were cultivated in the nursery for planting in flower towers and hanging baskets and winter and summer beds on roundabouts and public spaces.

The Parks and Landscaping team provide advice, support and on the ground assistance to Tidy Towns, Going for Gold and schools groups.

Exceptional events that took place in 2016 were supported by the Parks and Landscaping team. We

assisted with the planning and planting of the 1916 commemorative gardens. We also provided planting and landscaping services for the City of Culture jury visit in July when the City looked its impressive best. A major achievement for the Parks and Landscaping department was the development and opening of Mungret Park with 2km of walk and cycle paths, a 3,000sqm universal access playground and attractive landscaped areas.

The park, which opened on August 5th, 2016, has been embraced by the public and provides a wonderful amenity in the Mungret area.



Aerial Mungret Park

STREET CLEANING SERVICES.

The street cleaning team involves a 365 days per year service in the City. The requirements are reduced outside of City centre and the City environs and municipal district operate on a frequency appropriate to needs and resources.

As always, the Street Cleaning team provides significant and important support to the events that are run throughout the functional area – The Great Limerick Run, rugby and GAA matches, City of Culture Jury visit, Pan Am World Reunion in Foynes, to name a few.

RECYCLING CENTRE AND BOTTLE BANKS

These services are run by the Operations and Maintenance services team. There is a network of 64 bottle bank locations throughout the Council's functional area.

There are 3 recycling centres – Kilmallock, Newcastle West and Mungret which are operated under

contract and a mini recycling centre in Park road. The recycling centre in Mungret also operate a green waste yard for the intake of green waste and generation of compost. Special waste collection days are also held including hazardous waste disposal and a confidential shredding day.

CEMETERIES MAINTENANCE

The Cemeteries Maintenance team is responsible for the maintenance of over 250 cemeteries throughout the Limerick City and County. Grass cutting, litter picking and maintenance programmes are in operation in the larger active cemeteries.

Improvement works were carried out in Caherconlish and Drommon cemeteries and conservation works were carried out in Mount St Lawrence and Castletownconyers.

The team works closely with Monumental Sculptors and issues permits to erect headstones in line with the Cemeteries by laws.

Property Services

Property Services is a department within the Service Operations Directorate. Its objective is to provide best practice solutions to the maintenance, management and recording of the Council's property infrastructure to ensure preservation of the Council's physical assets and best return on investment.

Its work includes maintaining and protecting the Council investment in its corporate building infrastructure at the following sites: Corporate Headquarters, Merchants Quay and Council Offices at Dooradoyle, Michael Street (Granary), Patrick Street, No. 2 Pery Square and Lissanalta House. Additional locations may be added in the future as deemed appropriate by Management Team

The Department is also responsible for the acquisition of all land/buildings on behalf of the Council to further the corporate objectives of the Council. All purchased land and buildings are registered by the Department. Licences are also given to community groups, sporting organisations and others to use Council land and buildings on a short term basis. The Department is also responsible for bringing forward disposals including freehold and leasehold interest to the elected Council for its consideration under Section 183 of the 2001 Local Government Act.

The table below illustrates the activity in this area for 2016:

Number of Licences issued including renewals	13
Number of Disposal Notices Approved by Council Freehold	17
Number of Disposals Notices Approved By Council Leasehold	1

In 2016 Property Services acquired a new software package to establish the first single Property Interest Register for Limerick City and County Council. The Council will populate all significant buildings and land over .2 ha into the Register during 2017.

Property Services is an operational Department and it makes its decisions in accordance with the strategic objectives of the Council as advised by the Social, Physical and Economic Development Directorates.



DESIGN AND DELIVERY SERVICES

Design and Delivery Services is a department within the Service Operations Directorate. It is a corporate department responsible for the following:

- The construction of large and financially costly infrastructure
- Large scale, non routine, renewal or refurbishment programmes that are likely to involve external contractors
- The creation of Frameworks or Panels of consultants/contractors which may be used for works of different scales
- Civil Engineering contracts of a scale that are not carried out by our own maintenance crews
- New-build of houses or offices for the Council (excluding houses provided directly under Part 5)
- Archaeology Services
- Procurement advice and processing services corporately.

It carries out its work/projects on the advice and direction of the Economic, Social and Physical Development Directorates.

In 2016 the Department participated significantly in the roll out of an upgrade to the Council's financial management system. A procurement module is now an integrated part of the system and assists in monitoring compliance with procurement rules and regulations.

The Department was established in the summer of 2016 and had the following projects on hand at end of 2016:

Foynes Flood Relief Scheme	Construction Stage
Kings Island Flood Relief Scheme	Design Stage
Verdant Place Flood Relief Scheme	Construction Stage
Mungret Road Scheme	Construction Stage
Patrickswell Village Renewal	Part 8 Planning Completed
Abbeyfeale Traffic Management	Preliminary Design
Caherconlish Junction Realignment	Part 8 to be lodged
Mungret College Roof Repairs	Preliminary Design
Croom Distributor Road	Part 8 to be lodged
Parnell, Mallow Street Public Realm	Part 8 Completed
Parnell Street, Davis Street	Construction Stage
Thomond Bridge Rehabilitation	Tender Stage
R445 Kilmurry Roundabout	Design Stage
Catherine/Roches Street Junction	Tender Stage
O'Connell Street Public Realm	Preliminary Design
Gaol Lane Housing	1 unit at Part 8 Planning stage
Athlunkard Street Housing	8 units at tender stage
Churchfield Housing Phase 1	42 units under construction
Cosgrave Park Housing	30 Units Part 8 granted
Palm Close Housing	26 units Part 8 to be lodged
Orchard Site for Housing	27 units Part 8 to be lodged
176 & 177 Cliona Park	2 units Completed
Lord Edward Street Housing	81 units under Construction
Cliona Park Phase 2	10 units under Construction
8-10 Gaol Lane Housing	3 units under Construction
Ballinacurra Weston Refurbishments	13 units Completed
St. Mary's Park Infill Housing	19 units Part 8 Completed
Cliona Park Phase 3 Housing	18 units Part 8 to be lodged
45-46 Cliona Park Housing	2 units at Tender Stage
Dalgaish Park Housing	17 units at Preliminary Design
Clonmacken Housing	40 units at Preliminary Design
Deerpark, Adare Housing	30 units at Preliminary Design
Glenview Drive, Hospital	20 units at Preliminary Design
Lisheen Park, Patrickswell	20 units at Preliminary Design
Kilmurry Court, Garryowen	6 units Part 8 to be lodged
Thermal Upgrade Housing	107 Units Completed
Thermal Upgrade Housing	105 Units Construction
Thermal Upgrade Housing	124 Units to Start



Lord Edward Street housing 81 units under construction
Aerial view

Planning and Environment

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

This new Planning & Environmental Services Department which has been created in April 2016, deals with all consents, licences, permits, inspections and enforcement relating to planning and environmental matters.

PLANNING -

Development Management
Development Contributions
Architectural Conservation
Enforcement
Taking in Charge Service Indicators
Planning Key Performances Indicators

ENVIRONMENT –

Waste infrastructure
Waste Regulation – Authorisations including granting and verification
Air Noise and Water Team
Water quality
Discharging Licensing
Septic tank inspections
Air quality
Noise
Summary of Activity 2016

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Activity in 2016 at our planning department reflects the economic resurgence ongoing in Limerick. There has been a continuing increase in terms of planning activity over the year, from pre-planning meetings, planning applications received and general enquiries from the public.

In particular, the number of planning applications received in 2016 has seen an increase of more than 10% from 2015, which already saw an increase of 10% from the previous year. A significant increase in terms of major planning applications - some which are listed below - were also noted this year:

- 16/1 Permission granted to Limerick Institute of Technology for the demolition of 95sqm. of unoccupied floor space and the demolition of entrance structures and canopies; the change of use of unoccupied floor space (7,328sqm.) (in addition to part of the existing car park) from retail and related used to education and training use with related ancillary enterprise and innovation uses and ancillary café use (140sqm.). The development will also consist of the following: additional floor space at ground level (100sqm.) and at first floor level, within the existing building envelope (2,751sqm.) for education and training use with related ancillary enterprise and innovation uses; bike storage areas (58sqm.); storage area (44sqm.); elevational amendments, including new opes and signage; revised internal layouts; alterations to existing roof profile (without increasing the maximum height of the building); provision of roof plant; new service yard to the south; bus shelter; all hard and soft landscaping; revisions to existing car park; external lighting; boundary treatments; changes to levels; and all associated development above and below ground. The gross floor space of the new educational facility (including ancillary café use and external storage areas) will be 10,281sqm (Under consideration by An Bord Pleanála).
- 16/906 Permission granted to Ortec NCW Ltd for the construction of a two storey extension to the existing manufacturing building, with mezzanine level office areas, associated elevational changes and a roof plant area. Increase to the existing mezzanine area. The construction of a single storey utility building including an ESB substation. The construction of a service yard to include cooling tower, storage and wastewater tanks, storage shed and pipe bridge. Associated site works and car parking including a perimeter fence and landscaping. Provision of illuminated signage on the front elevation of the building at Newcastle West Business Park, Station Road, Newcastle West

- 16/800** Permission granted to Kirkland Investments Ltd for the demolition of the former ESB premises, demolition of rear annex, circa 1868, and demolition of 20th century staircase additions to No. 104 Henry St., known as 'The Bishop's Palace'. Change of use of No. 104 Henry Street, known as 'The Bishop's Palace,' from commercial use to residential use to provide 7 no. apartments, and all ancillary development works, including refurbishment and restoration of the building, change of use of the 2-storey over basement building on Henry Street known as 'The Coach House' from commercial use to café/restaurant use and all ancillary development works, including refurbishment and restoration of the building. Construction of a commercial building comprising 15-storeys over 2 basement levels fronting Lower Cecil Street and Bishop's Quay, and comprising 4-storeys fronting Henry Street, to provide 14,325sq.m. approx. of office floor space overall and 2 no. café/restaurant units. Construction of a residential building comprising 7-storeys over 2-basement levels fronting Bishop's Quay to provide 35 no. apartments at Bishop's Quay, Lower Cecil Street & Henry Street (Under consideration by An Bord Pleanála).
- 16/70** Permission granted to Wychwood Properties Ltd for the construction of an extension of 7,125sq.metres of office accommodation (including the provision of an electrical sub station & switch room), all associated site works and for alterations to layout and elevations southern staircore of development as granted planning permission under reference 15/95 (currently under construction) at City East Plaza, Towlerton, Ballysimon.
- 15/645** Permission granted to Eoin Ryan Statutory Receiver to Budelli Construction Ltd. for (1) the change of use of the existing Ardhu House from commercial to residential use to provide 4 no. apartments; the removal of single storey extensions to the rear and side of Ardhu House; the removal of a three storey extension to the front of Ardhu House and all ancillary refurbishment and restoration works to the existing building; (2) the change of use of an existing apart hotel building from commercial use to residential use to provide 61 no. apartments; (3) the removal of a single storey glazed link between the apart hotel building and Ardhu House; (4) vehicular access via existing entrances on Ennis Road and Roses Avenue; (5) surface level car park; (6) provision of internal roadways; (7) the construction of 9 no. detached two storey dwelling houses, driveways, entrances and access roadways; (8) connection to existing surface and foul sewers; (9) all ancillary site development and boundary treatment works (Ardhu House is a protected structure R.P.S. No. 281 and is on the N.I.A.H. 21511001) at Ardhu House (formerly known as the Clarion Suites) Ennis Road, Roses Avenue & North Circular Road.
- 16/244** Permission granted to EI – SUB Limited for the construction of 46 no. dwelling houses (10 no. 4 bed detached houses, 14 no. 3 bed town houses, 2 no. 2 bed & study houses and 16 no. 3 bed semi-detached houses) roads, infrastructure, landscaping and ancillary works associated with the site at Skagh, Croom.
- 16/50** Permission granted to the Board of Management of Colaiste Chiaráin for the construction of (i) a two storey, post primary school, to be used for educational purposes, (ii) 3 no. playing pitches, (iii) internal vehicular & pedestrian infrastructure including roads, footpaths, car parking spaces and bus & car set-down areas, (iv) a vehicular and pedestrian access off the New Distributor Road identified in the Croom Local Area Plan which is to be constructed by the local authority, (v) the provision of a temporary construction access from the L-1478-1, (vi) an on-site foul pumping station, (vii) an underground tank to facilitate rainwater harvesting and a Class 1 interceptor and (viii) all ancillary site development works, Skagh, Croom
- 15/978** Permission granted to Eppsont Limited for a residential development consisting of 40 no. two storey dwellings, 18 of which have an option for an alternative house type design; 5 no. serviced sites; 2 no. vehicular accesses; and all ancillary car parking, landscaping and site development works at Graigue, Adare.
- 16/71** Permission granted to Cook Medical Europe Ltd for the construction of a 3 storey office building including a data centre, utility building and esb substation on a 2.7 Hectare site. The building has a floor area of 4,900m2 approximately. Permission is also sought for a new service/ visitors entrance, new roundabout, alterations to existing vehicular entrance, service yard, bicycle shelter, smoking shelter, signage, flag poles, security fencing, hard & soft landscaping, 190 no. car parking spaces (of these 10 no. spaces are accessible), circulation roads, footpaths, and all associated site works at O'Halloran Road, National Technology Park, Plassey.

DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Monies received in accordance with the Development Contribution Schemes in 2016 have seen an increase of almost 50% from the previous year.

DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Monies received in 2016 in accordance with Development Contribution Schemes	€2,795,211.03
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Monies outstanding relating to applications which have commenced in 2016 in accordance with Development Contributions Schemes	€448,566
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ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION

During the course of the year €156,000 was awarded by LCCC under the provisions of the Built Heritage Investment Scheme operated by the Department of the Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural, and Gaeltacht Affairs (DAHRR&GA). Approximately 60% of this funding was dispersed to projects within the Metropolitan District, while the balance was dispersed to projects throughout the county. The total number of projects aided came to 17.

Two projects in the county qualified for assistance under the Structures at Risk Scheme, which is also operated by the Council on behalf of DAHRR&GA. These received grants of €10,000 and €25,000 respectively.

An aspect of the conservation works undertaken by some owners in 2016 was the success enjoyed from making applications for assistance under the provisions of other grant schemes, such as those available from the Heritage Council or operated by the Irish Georgian Society. Other property owners, who have buildings that qualify, were assisted by the Thatching Grant Scheme operated by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community, and Local Government. Indeed, some owners of thatched houses received grant-aid from three different sources to assist in defraying the cost of restoring their buildings.

All projects aided involve structures which will contribute

TAKING IN CHARGE 2016

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.	56
B Number of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question	7
C Number of dwellings in respect of column B	436
D Number of estates in column A not completed to the satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission	17
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	4
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.	4

to the mainstream economy through being additions to the tourism product, improved places to work, or providing refurbished dwellings.

A further option by which owners are assisted in undertaking appropriate works, and which is gaining increased attention, is the tax-break available for dwellings and commercial premises in selected historic cores in Limerick through the Living City Initiative.

A total of six buildings and structures were added to the Record of Protected Structures during the year and the process for making a further addition was initiated in respect of another building during the course of the year.

ENFORCEMENT

Complaints Received	371
Dismissed	161
Resolved	46
Warning Letters Issued	154
Enforcement Notices Issued	96
Prosecutions Initiated	40
Injunctions	0
Convictions	5



Environmental Services

The Environmental Services cover a broad range of responsibilities relating to over 100 pieces of Environmental law in three main areas namely Infrastructure, Regulation and Enforcement. The general categories in these areas are Waste, Litter, Water, Air, Noise and Public Health. This department also carry out work under a Service Level Agreement with Irish Water relating to discharges to Sewer.

WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE

The Infrastructure managed by this department includes 2 licensed Landfills which are currently closed but require environmental after care, one located at Long Pavement and the other at Gortadroma.

1 waste to energy plant at Gortadroma Landfill which produced 7,502,608 kWh of electricity generated from landfill gas.

In addition there are 26 Historic Landfills (closed former landfills that were operated by the Council before licensing existed).

WASTE REGULATION – AUTHORISATIONS INCLUDING GRANTING AND VERIFICATION

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

Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration

- 51 active Limerick City and County Council Waste Facilities Permits/Certificates of Registration in place at the end of 2016. These sites are for the processing or transfer of waste - soils and stones, paper, compost, end of life vehicles and similar wastes e.g. scrap metals. 79 inspections/audits were undertaken in 2016.

Packaging Regulations

- 7 Packaging Self Compliers were issued and audited with a further 17 joining Repak – the national compliance scheme. Total Limerick registrations = 338 premises.

Commercial Food Waste

- 49 commercial food waste producing premises were inspected i.e. restaurants, take aways and hotels.

Agricultural Waste

- 107 Permissions to burn green agricultural waste were issued to farmers.
- 9 Farm Plastic collection sites were authorised by the Council at which a total of 1574 tonnes of waste farm plastics were collected.

Construction and Demolition Waste

- 249 inspections were undertaken in relation to waste management activities on construction sites. This process requires the developer to submit a plan outlining types of waste being generated and how it is planned to manage same.

Authorised Waste Collectors

- 82 authorised waste collectors had their office headquarters in Limerick at end of 2016. 30 waste collectors were inspected/audited in 2016.

Waste Enforcement Correspondence

483 waste related complaints were received during 2016. 184 warning letters and 163 statutory notices were issued. 45 waste related prosecutions were initiated in 2016.

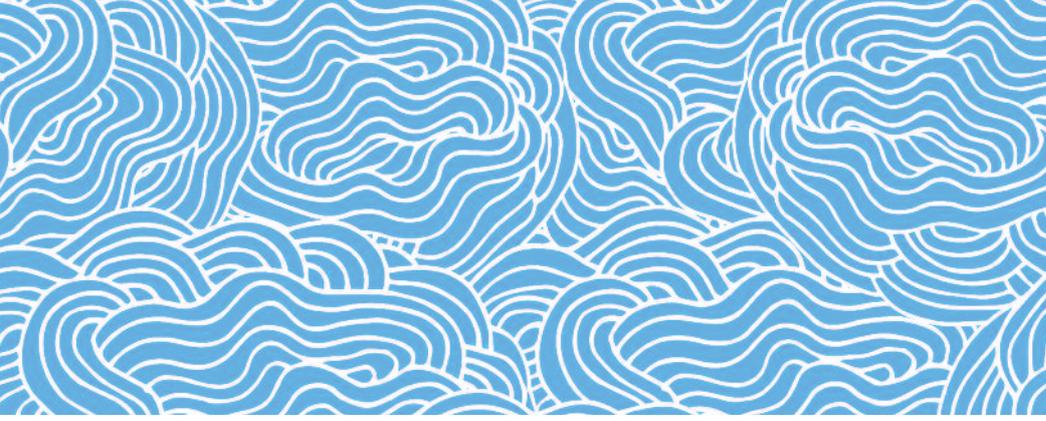
Litter Management.

The Litter Team continued to enforce the provisions of the Litter Pollution Acts, Waste Management Acts together with the Limerick County Council (Storage, Presentation and Segregation for the purpose of and in the course of the Collection of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-Laws 2011 and the Limerick City Council Bye Laws for the "Presentation and Collection of Household Waste and Commercial Waste", during 2016.

It is recognised that an effective enforcement policy complemented by targeted awareness activities are required to make progress in relation to illegal and indiscriminate litter disposal activities.

- A total of 3,405 complaints related to litter were investigated during 2016.
- A total of 499 on-the-spot fines were issued to offenders.

The total amount of income from spot fines was in excess of €22,100.



- 11 cases were referred for legal proceedings under the Litter Pollution Act.
- Fines were also issued under the presentation of waste bye-laws.
- Household Waste Disposal surveys were issued to properties in urban / rural areas in order to ascertain that households had proper refuse collection arrangements in place.
- 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.

There are five Inspectors carrying out litter/illegal dumping patrols throughout Limerick City and County.

AIR NOISE AND WATER TEAM

The Air Noise and Water Team is responsible for the implementation of Local Government environmental legislation aimed at protecting and improving water quality and air quality and preventing or alleviating noise and other nuisance.

WATER QUALITY

SEPTIC TANK INSPECTIONS

The programme of septic tank inspections continued in 2016, with a total of 44 systems being inspected in the year.

Total septic tanks inspection	Compliant	Non compliant	Registered	Un registered
44	16	28	34	10

Specific areas of activity related to water quality in 2016 included implementing the programmes of measures under the Water Framework Directive (WFD), particularly in relation to agriculture, unsewered industries and septic tanks.

DISCHARGE LICENSING

The Council is responsible for licensing discharges of trade and sewage effluent to waters from unsewered industries. There are currently 32 such licences in place which cover a range of facilities including hotels, nursing homes, quarries and industrial premises. All of these licences have been screened to ensure that the conditions attached to them are compatible with the achievement of our water quality obligations under the WFD. A total of 78 compliance checks were carried out in 2016, including on-site audits and submission reviews.

AIR QUALITY

Significant efforts continued in 2016 to raise awareness of the Solid Fuels Regulations and the ban on marketing, selling, distributing or burning smoky fuels within the restricted area. Awareness campaigns were run using posters and social media. A total of 39 inspections were carried out in 2016 under the Solid Fuel Regulations.

Fixed Penalty Notices have been introduced for alleged offences under the Regulations. Persons found to be marketing, selling or distributing prohibited fuels in breach of the Regulations are now liable for a fixed payment notice of between €250 and €1,000. The Council issued one fine for alleged breach of the regulations in 2016.

Work in relation to the regulation of solvent users such as dry cleaners and vehicle refinishers were ongoing, with a high level of compliance achieved in these sectors. Fixed Penalty Notices have also been introduced for alleged offences under these Regulations. The Council issued one fine for alleged breach of the solvent regulations in 2016.

NOISE

Complaints related to noise nuisance have increase significantly in recent times, with a total of 109 complaints being received in 2016. These related to a range of issues including noisy neighbours, traffic noise, wind farms and other commercial activities.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY 2016

Complaints Investigated	Investigated in Reporting Year
Litter	3405
Waste	608
Water/Wastewater	128
Air/Odour	98
Noise	128
Totals	4387

Inspection Activities	Completed End of Year
Waste /Litter Inspections	5412
Water/Wastewater Inspections	1270
Air/Noise Inspections	187
Environmental reviews of planning applications / permissions	817
Totals	7686

Environmental Enforcement Actions	Completed during year
Waste 'warning letters'	283
Waste Statutory Notices	173
Waste Fines	1
Litter Fines	474
Other Fines	25
Water 'warning letters'	30
Water Statutory Notices	31
Noise 'warning letters'	4
Noise Statutory Notices	6
Solvent Regulations/Smoky Coal Fines	2
Air 'warning letters'	7
Air statutory notices Section 16 APA (info)	5
Totals	1041

VETERINARY SERVICES

Veterinary Services delivered official veterinary controls in 20 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 seven abattoirs, 13 small meat manufacturing premises 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 2016 were as follows: Cattle 1,789, Sheep 7,034, Pigs 178, Goats 6.

A total of 71 food samples were submitted for analysis under the National Residue and Microbiological Monitoring Plans.

Veterinary Services received 656 complaints re stray dogs/out of control dogs in 2016.

Our dog wardens dealt with a total of 711 stray and unwanted dogs during 2016, which is on a par with the previous year.

Of these, 55% were re-homed and 5% were reclaimed by their owners.

Rehoming rates have improved significantly since the introduction of the Limerick Dog Shelter Facebook page, with 392 dogs being rehomed in 2016.

The Limerick Dog Shelter Facebook page was very active in 2016 with almost 7,500 likes to date and is now one of the main contact points for the shelter.

There were 34 Dog Breeding Establishments on the Limerick City and County Council Register of Dog Breeding Establishments at the end of 2016.

Veterinary Services staff carried out regular planned inspections of dog breeding establishment based on a risk assessment of each premises.

Veterinary Services dealt with 269 cases/complaints re stray horses in 2016.

206 stray horses were seized and impounded of which only 14 were reclaimed by their owners and a further 16 horses were re homed.



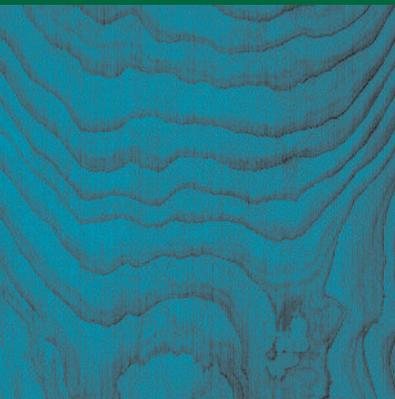




Gordon Daly
Director Service Operations



Business Improvement Unit



(formerly the Change Management Team)

Implementation of the New Operating Model

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.

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.

The new operating model is embodied in the Corporate Plan 2015-2019, in particular in Aim 7 – Be efficient, effective and committed to providing services that will underpin an innovative Limerick. The approach will allow us to deliver on outcomes against our three strategy pillars of economic, social and physical development.

Our new structure strives to:

- 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 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 local authority, 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.

Achievements in 2016:

- Service Catalogue for the organisation finalised with over 600 services recorded
- The new operating model went live in April 2016, introducing 3 overarching strategic directorates of Social Development, Physical Development and Economic Development.

At the centre of the organisation a new Customer Services Directorate was introduced in addition to a Service Operations Directorate supported by the Support Services Directorate. This directorate also supports the Regional Services Directorate and the HAP Shared Services Centre.

The Change Management Team, which oversaw the setting up of the new directorates and movement of 188 staff, has now transitioned to a Business Improvement Unit.

A Guide to the New Operating Model was published in April 2016 which gave details on the new structure and all the key contacts for services

- By means of improving services to customers:
 - Access provided to front line housing services at the Customer Services Centre.
 - Roll out of Sugar Customer Relationship Management system (Sugar CRM) training and usage throughout the organisation
 - All customer issues and complaints are recorded and addressed via SugarCRM
- The original pilot for the roll-out of the new operating model was the Environment Department, whereby the back office processes have been simplified, standardised and integrated into our SugarCRM for use by other enforcement, inspections and licensing services in the Council
- The Change Liaison Network continued to provide two way communication on the Change Programme with representatives from all work areas to ensure effective business improvements.
- The Staff Survey undertaken in December 2016 under the auspices of a Staff Development Plan was analysed and the findings fed back to staff
- A Compass for Learning and Development 2016-2020 was developed by HR and the Change Management Team based on findings from the staff survey. A summary of this was published in the September edition of Council Connect and it will continue to evolve as the organisation evolves

- Development work has taken place with staff with an expertise in the area of Project Management to develop a toolkit, templates and training for use as a standard in the local authority. 60 staff have been trained in project management in 2016
- A monthly staff newsletter with 4 short articles goes out via email in conjunction with the Communications Office by means of keeping staff up to date on progressions in LCCC.
- Eight Steps to Business Improvement – Business Improvement Units (BIU) continue to work with all departments on these:
 1. Services and functions defined
 2. Business Process Improvements completed
 3. Risk Register updated
 4. Team Communication Approach active
 5. Operational Level Agreements between departments in place
 6. Key Performance Indicators defined
 7. Customer Service Integration (where relevant) & CRM Training completed
 8. Workforce Planning active

A Business Improvement Unit replaced the Change Management Team in October 2016 with the expected outcomes i.e. business process improvements implemented in LCCC that yield some or all of the benefits of:

- customer experience improved
 - revenue increased
 - cost efficiencies identified and created
 - time efficiencies identified and created
 - alignment to LCCC's core standardised processes
 - digital integration solutions used.
- A three year Business Improvement Strategy for LCCC will be produced in 2017.



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Sean Coughlan

Director Support Services



Support Series Directorate

Corporate Services

H.R. Services

Finance Services

ICT Services

CORPORATE SERVICES

Corporate Services Department provides a wide range of support services to Mayor, Councillors, staff and management of Limerick City & County Council.

In this regard the primary role or function of Corporate Services is Meetings Administration for Meetings of Limerick City and County Council, Metropolitan District Meetings, Municipal District Meetings, Joint Policing Meetings and Local Electoral Area Briefings. The department also deals with the Register of Electors, Higher Education Grants, Freedom of Information, Office of Ombudsman, support services for Mayor, Twinning/ Sister City Relationships, Civic and Mayoral Receptions, Corporate Plan, Irish Language Scheme, Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and a wide variety of ancillary services relating to Council business.

REGISTER OF ELECTORS 2016/2017

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 and Local Elections and Referendums. The publication date for the Register of Electors is 1st February and the Register comes into effect on the 15th February each year.

In 2016 there were two Dáil Constituencies in Limerick. The constituencies were as follows and the number of Dáil Seats in each-

- Limerick City 4 Seats
- Limerick County 3 Seats

There were 136,152 Presidential Electors and 141,753 Local Government Electors on the Live 2016/2017 Register of Electors which was published on the 1st February 2016 and the Local Government Electorate is broken down as follows between the 6 Local Electoral Areas:-

Adare Rathkeale	22,835
Cappamore-Kilmallock	27,412
Limerick City East	28,094
Limerick City North	21,210
Limerick City West	20,475
Newcastle West	21,727

A Supplement to the Register of Electors 2016/2017 with a total Electorate of 1,299 was published for The General Election which was held on Friday 26 February 2016.

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

HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS

Limerick City and County Council administered the Higher Education Grants Scheme for Renewals only for the 2015/2016 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 26 applications. Total expenditure amounted to €143,128 and this included an amount of €20,643 that was paid out as Special Rate of Maintenance Grants.

A total of 12 students were awarded the Special Rate of Maintenance Grant in 2015/2016.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS

It is the policy of Limerick City & Council to give members of the public access to information held by the Authority in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2014. Further information and application forms are available on the Council's website www.limerick.ie/council/freedom-information

In 2016, there were 157 requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 to Limerick City & County Council:

Decisions:

Granted	51
Part-Granted	70
Refused	30
Withdrawn	4
Transferred	1
Live cases at 31st Dec 2016	12

OMBUDSMAN REQUESTS

The Office of the Ombudsman was established under the Ombudsman Act 1980. The role of the Office 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 2016, Limerick City & County Council dealt with 27 complaints that were made to the Ombudsman in relation to decisions/actions taken by the Council.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Limerick City & Council comply with Access to Information on the Environment Regulations 2007, whereby, subject to certain exceptions, information relating to the Environment must be made available on request. In 2016, Limerick City & County Council received 6 requests.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Key Limerick City and County Council Health and Safety activities for 2016 include:

- Completion of the annual work programme
- Introduction of a new Safety Statement and Safety Management System and annual review of Ancillary Safety Statements
- Ongoing implementation and improvement of the safety management system
- Management of incidents and incident investigation
- Introduction of Standard Operating Guidance Manual
- Review and introduction of Health and Safety Policies and Procedures.



TWINNING 2016

The Landrat of Hohenlohekreis, Dr. Matthias Neth, invited a delegation from Limerick City and County Council to visit Hohenlohe from Tuesday 27th to Friday 30th September 2016

The purpose of the visit was to strengthen the economic, social and cultural links between Hohenlohe, Germany and Limerick.

Limerick County Council had been twinned with Hohenlohe for a period of 25 years prior to the amalgamation and the relationship has continued between Hohenlohekreis and Limerick City and County Council. The visit also provided the opportunity to sign the twinning agreement between Limerick City and County Council and Hohenlohekreis.

The visit involved a number of meetings summarised as follows:

Party leaders of Hohenlohe District Council

A presentation was given to the Party Leaders of Hohenlohe District Council on the plans to develop the key strategic sites in Limerick through the Limerick Twenty Thirty Strategic Development DAC. The presentation highlighted that this redevelopment is not only changing the face of city and county visually, but turning Limerick and the Mid-West of Ireland into a national and international economic powerhouse.

The key points in the presentation were:

- Limerick is recognised as an international investment location
- Pro-business environment
- Proactive and supportive local authority
- Share investment (€1bn) Limerick 2030 plan
- Excellent talent base

Dr. Matthias also gave a presentation on the structure of the County Council in Hohenlohe and also explained the economic and tourism drivers within the region.

Reinhold Würth University in Künzelsau

The delegation visited Reinhold Würth University in Künzelsau. The University has had initial discussions with University of Limerick about establishing a partnership agreement.

District Senior Citizens Council

A presentation was given to members of the District Senior Citizens Council on the Limerick City and County Council's Age Friendly strategy and implementation of same. The Senior Citizen's Council was very impressed with the tangible projects that have been implemented on the ground as part of this strategy.

Guided tour of the State Horticultural Show Öhringen 2016

The delegation received a guided tour and presentation on the State Horticultural Show in Öhringen where high quality agriculture products including fruit, vegetables and bee-keeping products were on display. This show rotates between different cities on an annual basis and it was very evident through successful marketing how the organisers optimised visitor numbers.

Tour of bioenergy village Untermaßholderbach

The delegation received a very informative presentation and tour of the bioenergy village Untermaßholderbach. The stakeholders demonstrated significant co-operation in the Community in relation to optimising milk and energy production while ensuring inclusivity within

the Community. The Community there was able to demonstrate its long term viability and sustainability.

Guided tour of historic old town of Heidelberg

The delegation received a very informative guided tour of the history and culture of Heidelberg.

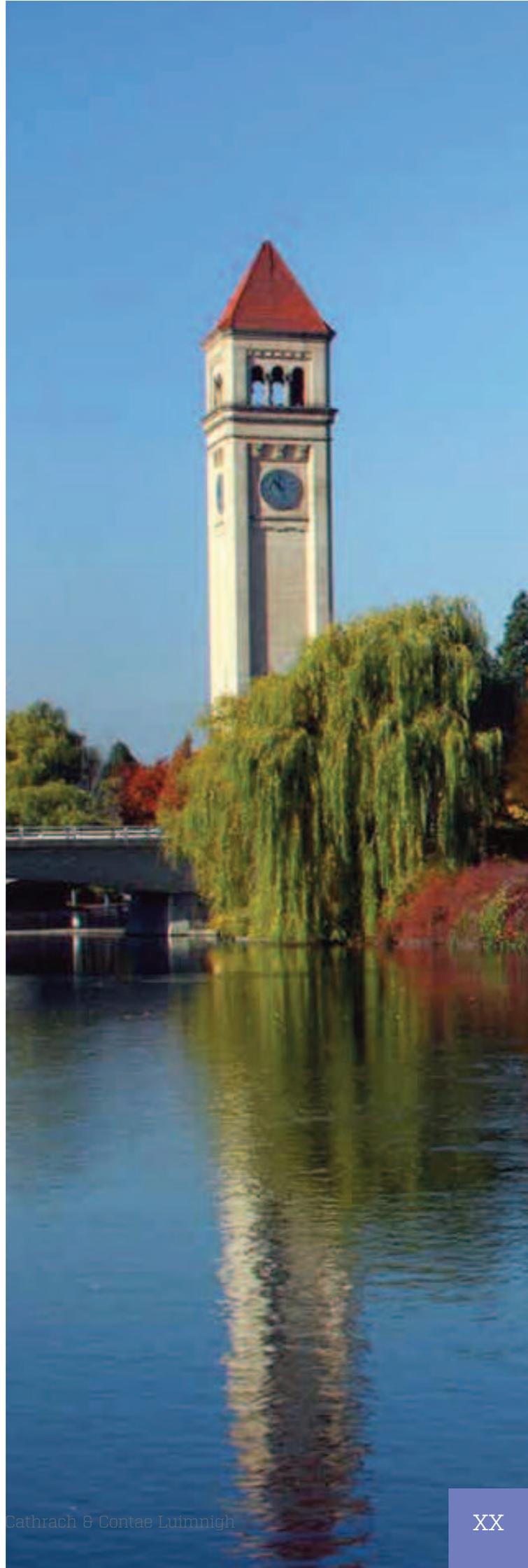
SISTER CITIES

Dublin City Council's International Relations Division, working with local authorities in Ireland and with cities in the United States of America, hosted the US – Ireland Sister Cities Summit in Dublin on 21st – 23rd April, 2016. This Summit was the first of its kind in the world to identify projects and actions that cities can take together to improve business, education and social justice. It also marked thirty years of twinning between Dublin and San Jose in California.

Limerick has a Sister Cities Relationship with Spokane in Washington State, New Brunswick in New Jersey and Santa Clara in California. Representatives from each of these cities attended the Cities Summit.

The event focused on celebrating and realising practical results from sister city relationships. Up to 32 US cities sent delegates to the Summit in Dublin to connect with their counterparts from sixteen cities and counties in Ireland. Three hundred and fifty delegates from the US and Ireland participated in the well organised, fast paced and stimulating event.

Taoiseach Enda Kenny, who was presented with Spirit of Ireland Award by San Jose, spoke about the power of sister cities in sharing expertise, supporting investment and stimulating innovation. Having formally welcomed delegates to the conference session of the Summit in Croke Park, Dublin's Lord Mayor took part in the Mayor's Panel. While the Summit focused on US – Ireland cities and counties, the presence of the Mayors of Dublin's sister cities of Guadalajara (Mexico) and Liverpool emphasised the global nature of the Sister Cities Movement. During his address, President Michael D. Higgins raised the issue of global challenges of sustainability and migration. He stressed the importance of cities collaborating and sharing solutions to shared challenge. The performance by Fusion, a Belfast music and theatre performance, addressed the troubles and the path to peace.





New Brunswick Delegation at US Sister Cities Summit in Croke Park.

Santa Clara Delegation at Culture House during visit to Limerick prior to US Sister Cities Summit in Dublin

Over thirty panelists from business, local government, social action groups, education and culture stimulated debate which focused on how cities/counties can facilitate cultural understanding, urban solutions and economic development.

A powerful musical rendition from the High Hopes Choir brought the first day of the Summit to a close while the Willis Clan from Belfast's sister city of Nashville played at the Summit Dinner. The GAA sponsored delegates' attended the football games and the Laochra pageant on 24th April.

The Delegation from Santa Clara visited Limerick prior to the above Summit from 18th to lunchtime on 21st April. The Delegation from New Brunswick visited Limerick on 20th April until lunchtime on 21st April and the delegation from Spokane visited Limerick after the Summit in Dublin from 25th to 27th April, 2017. A comprehensive programme of events was organised by Limerick City and County Council for the delegations while in Limerick which included a visit to University of Limerick, attendance at a Civic Reception in Council Offices, a Mayoral Reception, visits to Limerick's tourist attractions in both city and county and attendance at Spokane, Washington various meetings.

NATIONAL DAY OF COMMEMORATION

The Council hosted a Day of Commemoration Ceremony on Sunday the 10th July, 2016 to honour all Irish men and women who died in past wars or on service with the United Nations. This was the sixth year in which the ceremony was held at Merchant's Quay and more than 400 people were in attendance.

The 12th Infantry Battalion, Sarsfield Barracks performed the Guard of Honour and rendered honours when the National Flag was hoisted to full mast.

Representatives of the Roman Catholic Church, the Church of Ireland, the United Presbyterian/ Methodist Churches, the Jewish Community and the Islamic Community representatives conducted the multi faith commemoration at which Councillor Kieran O'Hanlon, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick presided.

The music for the event was very moving and was provided by the Limerick based Choir "The Curraghgowder Singers" under the direction of Choir Master Mr. Timothy Schinnick. There was over 80 Members of the Choir in attendance at the ceremony. Some of their songs included 'All Hail the Power of Jesus Name' and 'Homeward Bound', which were very appropriate for the occasion. The Council also had uilleann piper Michael O'Connell, bugler Martin Doyle, drummer Sadhbh Ryan, all adding to making the event even more special.

The Museum, which is located at Merchants Quay, opened for the morning of the ceremony and many of the people that attended the ceremony also took the opportunity to view the exhibition.





National Day of Commemoration







Limerick lace re interpreted by Polish artist Nespoon

ARCHIVES

Limerick Archives held a number of events in 2016 celebrating Limerick's tradition of lacemaking. In January a design competition was held with Limerick School of Art and Design (LSAD) to inspire new ideas for lace while, in October, a major multi-site exhibition and conference titled 'Hybrid' was held. As part of 'Hybrid', a visiting street artist from Poland, NeSpoon, created a stunning lace inspired installation in the plaza area of Merchants Quay while exhibitions were staged in LSAD on Clare Street and FabLab on Rutland Street.

Limerick Archives produced a series of events to mark the commemoration of the 1916 Rising. A major exhibition was launched in April titled 'They Dreamed and are Dead' in partnership with Limerick Museum. This exhibition focussed on the major role that the Daly family played while also looking at life in Limerick in 1916, including education, sport and fashion while also looking at the reality that many Limerick men were fighting in the Somme that year. A beautifully illustrated publication by the same

name was also produced examining in an accessible manner the major role that Limerick played in the planning of the Rising.

Limerick Archives celebrated the songs of 1916 in major concert 'Songs of Rebellion' in partnership with the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance. The role of song was explored by historians while some of Ireland's best traditional vocalists performed the songs themselves. John Lyons, Róisín ní Gallóglaigh, Muireann nic Abhlaoibh sang a range of songs that reflected the nationalist tradition, from 'Grace' to the 'Limerick Lasses', the Battle of Aughrim, while historians Dr Maura Cronin, Liam Irwin and Dr Rúan O'Donnell examined the historical background to these songs and their value as historical resources.

In November a one-day conference was held in partnership with the University of Limerick that brought speakers from the world of journalism, politics and academia, such as Fergal Keane, Kingsley Donaldson and Patrick Geoghan, who focussed on aspects of commemoration and the shaping of consensus through history

CORPORATE PLAN

The Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019 was adopted on 23rd March, 2015.

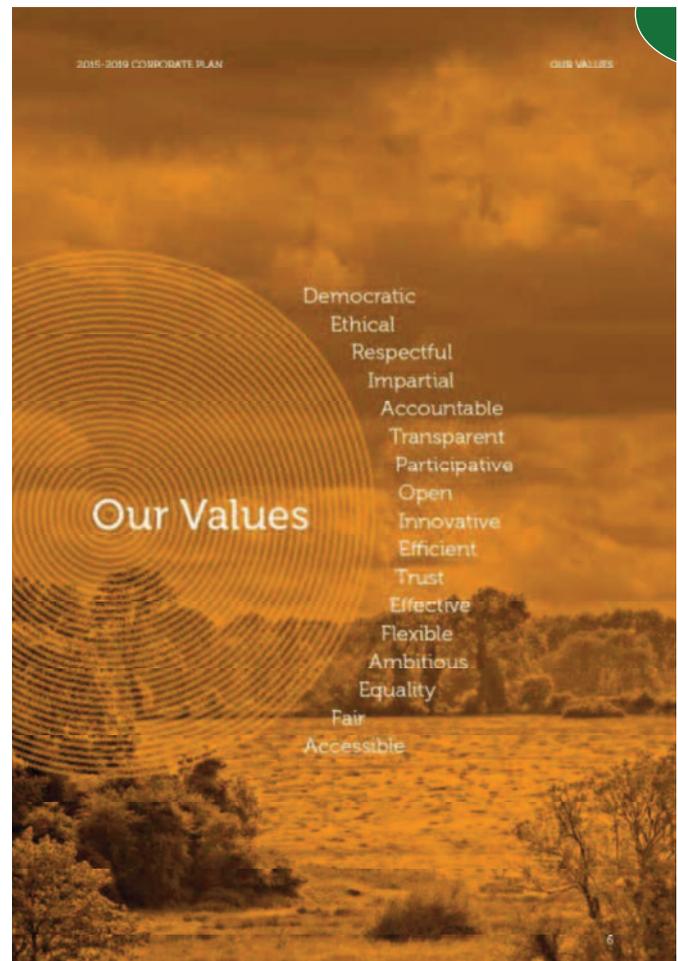
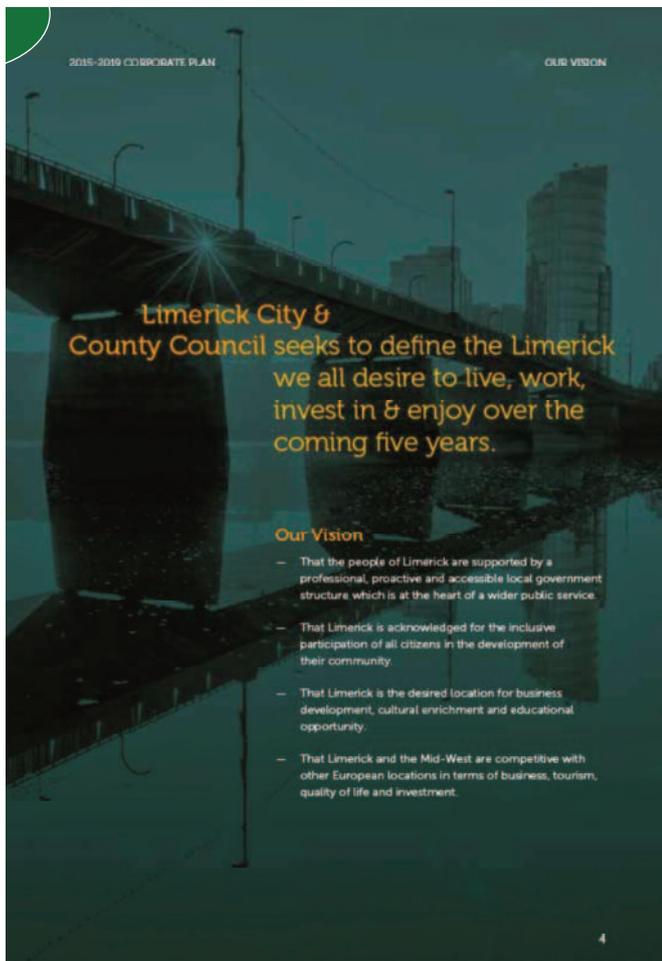
Strategy

- Empower the people of Limerick to participate in the development of their community, both rural and urban
- Create a pro-business environment for sustainable economic development and job creation
- Create a new model of local governance and service delivery based on excellence in council leadership.

Aims

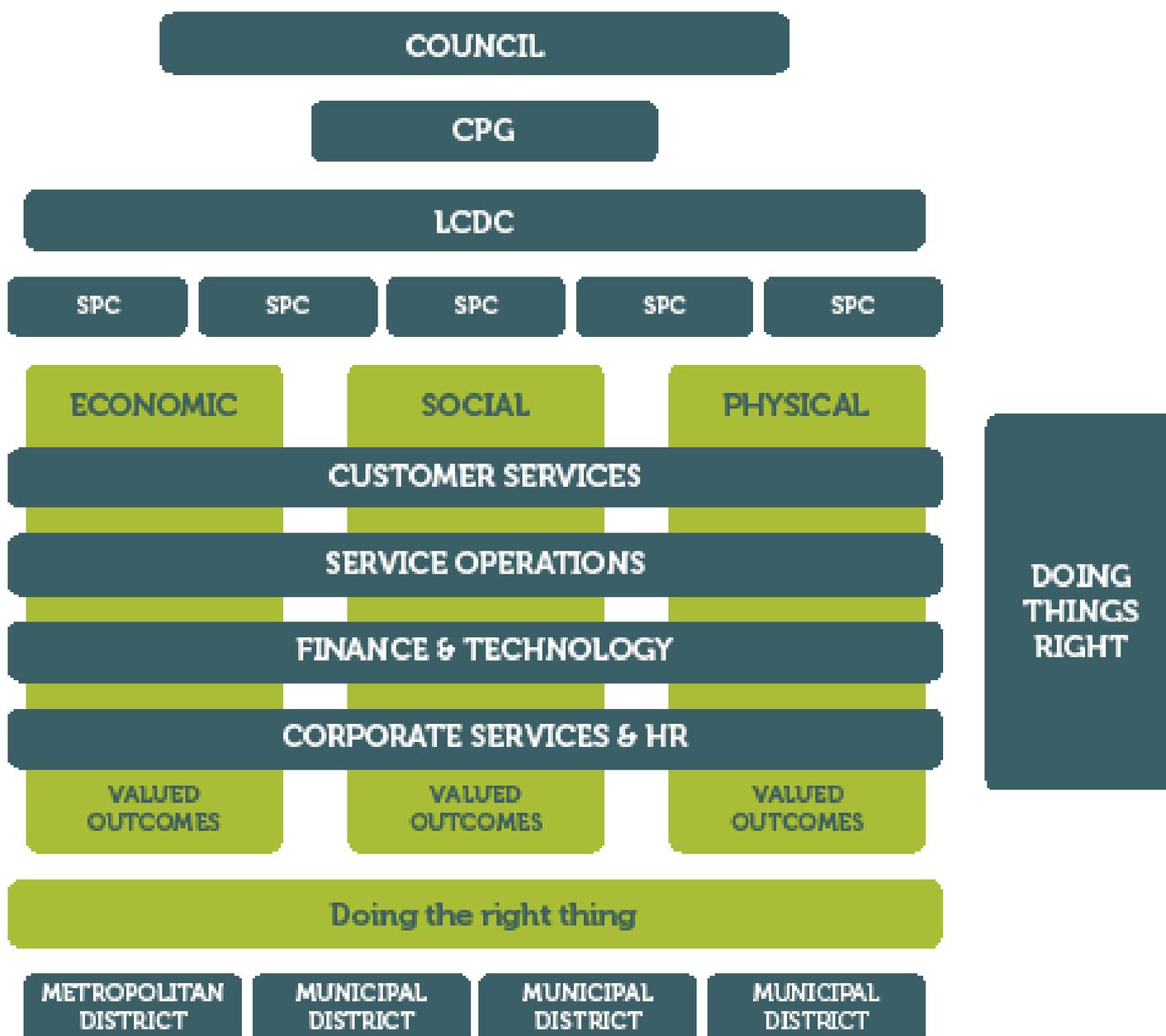
- Build a City and County Council that is recognised as ambitious for the people of Limerick

- Grow our economy and create opportunity in Limerick
- Invest in Limerick's infrastructure, protect its natural and built environment and unique heritage mix
- Promote a socially integrated, healthy & safe Limerick
- Actively engage with our communities
- Work with our colleagues across the public sector and our partners in the private sector to deliver on a shared commitment to Limerick as set out in The Limerick Charter
- Be efficient, effective and committed to providing services that will underpin an innovative Limerick.



OUR STRUCTURE

We will do the right thing by doing things right



Limerick City & County Council Annual Report

Energy Cost & Consumption 2016

€uro

2016 Total Energy Spend	€ 3,689,668
2016 Electricity - Total Annual Spend	€ 2,682,062
2016 Electricity - Annual Spend on Water Services	€ 65,368
2016 Electricity - Annual Spend on Public Lighting	€ 1,853,530
2016 Electricity - Other than water & PL	€ 763,164
2016 Road Fuels (diesel / petrol / biofuel) - Total Annual Spend	€ 791,769
2016 Heating Fuels (Gas/ oil/ biomass etc) - Total Annual Spend	€ 215,836
2016 Misc. other fossil fuels (sml lpg etc) - Total Annual Spend	€ -

Analysis

2016 Electricity-Grid MWh	19,506.4
2016 Fossil Fuels MWh	9,939.0
2016 Renewable Energy - MWh	12.3
Total Energy MWh	29,457.7

Actions Undertaken in 2016

In 2016 {Limerick City & County Council} undertook a range of initiatives to improve our energy performance, including:

1	Water Services Upgrades	2	MWh of savings
2	Building Fabric & Services Upgrades	19	MWh of savings
3	Public Lighting	134	MWh of savings
4	Transport / Vehicles	32	MWh of savings
	Total 2016	187	MWh of savings

In 2017 {Limerick City & County Council} intends to undertake a range of initiatives to improve our energy performance, including:

1	Water Services Upgrades	2	MWh of savings
2	Building Fabric & Services Upgrades	127	MWh of savings
3	Public Lighting	134	MWh of savings
4	Transport / Vehicles	32	MWh of savings
	Total 2017	296	MWh of savings

Human Resources

The Human Resource Department provides a wide range of support services to the staff and management of Limerick City & County Council. In this regard the primary role or function of the Human Resources Department is to ensure that the required number of suitably skilled and qualified staff are best placed to deliver the strategic and operational objectives of the organisation.

Workforce Plan

Limerick City and County Council's workforce plan for the period 2014 – 2016 sets out the current position with regard to staffing resources and staffing changes expected over the relevant period, including the Council's proposals for dealing with those changes by way of recruitment/reassignment. A new plan will be produced in 2017.

Recruitment and Staffing Complement

Arising from competitions held, 131 new employees joined the Council in 2016.

Support of placement schemes for second and third level schools/colleges and other organisations also continued. A total of 68 placements were facilitated during 2016.

The following is a breakdown of 2016 candidates on a male/female basis:

	Male	Female
No. of Candidates	1053	673
No. of Candidates called for interview	428	339
No. placed on Panel	235	189
No. Employed	97	53

Job Activation

The Council facilitated participation in national employment schemes, such as Job Bridge and Gateway etc.

A total of nine Job Bridge Interns commenced placement during 2016. The Gateway initiative was introduced in 2013 to provide short-term work opportunities for the longer-term unemployed with contracts running over a 22 month period. During 2016, Limerick City and County maintained its commitment to those employees recruited under this programme whose contracts of employment extend beyond 2016.

Shared Services

The Council's payroll function transferred to MyPay, based in Laois County Council, during 2015. Stage two of the roll-out of this shared service involves the transfer of pension administration to MyPay. Preparatory work is advancing for the transfer of this function towards the end of 2017.

Human Resources Management System (CORE)

The implementation of Core Safety Management System was advanced during 2016. The Council also carried out testing on the Performance Management Development System module in its role as a validation site.

Pensions

34 lump sum gratuities were paid out during 2016

Gross Lump Sums paid	€1,374,887.60
Deductions made	€99,947.22
Nett Lump Sums paid	€1,274,940.38

Work/Life Balance Measures

A range of work/life balance schemes are available to our employees. These include Parental Leave, Work-Sharing, Shorter Working Year, Career Break, etc. 217 employees availed of the various schemes during 2016.

Staff Training and Development

The Training Unit continues to provide a wide range of courses which enables both staff and management to carry out their work duties in an efficient, productive, competent manner and in a safe work environment. The Unit looks to have continuous improvement in both skills and service delivery, highly motivated staff and sees training and development as being a pathway for all staff. A total of 827 staff received training in 2016 and this training was dispersed amongst the following categories: Health and Safety (Statutory), Job Specific/Essential and Further Education.

Employee Welfare

The Council has an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) in place and continues to promote this facility to its staff. This Programme provides confidential support to all employees and it includes a free 24 hour telephone service and provides support in relation to, e.g. family issues, addiction, work, bereavement, financial matters and it has a counselling service. As part of the Employee Assistance programme Limerick City & County Council piloted a Mindfulness/Well-being Programme and will expand on this in the coming year.

Workplace Partnership

The Workplace Partnership Committee continues to meet on a quarterly basis. This is an Information and Consultation forum which allows the Trade Unions and Management to continually engage with each other.

Performance Management and Development System (PMDS)

The Performance Management and Development System continues to be a high priority in linking together the Corporate objectives, Team objectives and Personal objectives to ensure that all staff can see the vision for the Council and how all staff can contribute to achieve this. The Competency Framework has been rolled out for Senior and Middle Managers and incorporated into their Personal Development Plans (PDP's).



Finance Services

Statement of Financial position (Balance Sheet) at 31st December

	2016	2015
	€	€
Fixed Assets		
Operational	696,412,681	688,191,172
Infrastructural	2,519,493,081	2,513,325,452
Community	13,022,422	11,955,768
Non-Operational	37,211,940	37,045,061
	3,266,140,124	3,250,517,452
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses	47,021,851	34,061,723
Long Term Debtors	52,013,709	55,139,551
Current Assets		
Stocks	347,335	291,827
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	23,727,979	20,960,362
Bank Investments	84,174,364	62,233,193
Cash at Bank	490,400	4,136,517
Cash in Transit	4,827	4,827
	108,744,905	87,626,727
Current Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)		
Bank Overdraft	-	-
Creditors & Accruals	32,285,843	34,424,182
Finance Leases	-	-
	32,285,843	34,424,182
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)	76,459,062	53,202,545
Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year)		
Loans Payable	81,401,809	66,373,599
Finance Leases	0	0
Refundable deposits	1,893,531	1,912,513
Other	830,697	1,882,353
	84,126,037	70,168,465
Net Assets	3,357,508,708	3,322,752,806
Represented by		
Capitalisation Account	3,266,140,124	3,250,517,453
Income WIP	47,224,666	33,333,204
Specific Revenue Reserve	-	384,904
General Revenue Reserve	810,407	759,891
Other Balances	43,333,512	37,757,355
Total Reserves	3,357,508,708	3,322,752,806

Statement of comprehensive income for year ending at 31st December

Expenditure by Division	Gross Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure	Net Expenditure
	2016 €	2016 €	2016 €	2015 €
Housing & Building	101,063,961	102,400,472	(1,336,512)	(1,193,192)
Roads Transportation & Safety	36,213,815	20,963,759	15,250,057	12,582,499
Water Services	12,798,072	12,873,457	(75,385)	(132,201)
Development Management	13,318,280	5,836,915	7,481,365	7,930,476
Environmental Services	27,845,668	8,540,091	19,305,577	20,768,167
Recreation & Amenity	11,295,697	858,498	10,437,199	10,678,253
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,258,793	555,331	703,462	950,480
Miscellaneous Services	8,677,008	8,537,350	139,658	4,863,652
Total Expenditure/Income	212,471,293	160,565,873		
Net cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates & Local Property Tax			51,905,420	56,448,135
Rates			50,965,698	52,012,763
Local Property Tax			14,625,159	14,139,276
Pension Related Deduction			2,053,048	2,760,686
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers			15,738,485	12,464,590
Transfers from/(to) Reserves			(15,687,969)	(12,304,259)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year			50,516	160,330
General Reserve @ 1st January 2016			759,891	599,561
General Reserve @ 31st December 2016			810,407	759,891

Balance Sheet Review

The Balance Sheet presented shows that Limerick City & County Council had Fixed Assets of €3,266,140,124 and Work In Progress of €47,021,851 as at 31 December 2016. A full breakdown of these figures is set out in Notes 1 & 2 to the AFS.

Appendix 5 of the AFS sets out a summary of the Capital expenditure and income for 2015/2016. Capital income amounted to €108.83m in 2016, An increase of €39.5m on the 2015 figure of €69.3m. Grants accounted for 55% of total capital income in 2016, with loan financing accounting for 22%.

Collection percentages for Commercial Rates and Housing Rents performed better in 2016 than 2015 with collection percentages for Housing Loans under constant pressure (see Appendix 7 of the AFS for figures).

Revenue Expenditure Review

Revenue expenditure for the year amounted to €212,471,293 before transfers. Transfer to reserves amounted to €15,907,053 giving a total expenditure figure for 2016 of €228,378,346. The details of the additional expenditure over adopted budget at Service level are set out in the report to Council under Section 104 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended by Local Government Reform Act, 2014), which will be circulated to Council. Actual income for the year was €228,428,863 leading to a revenue surplus for 2016 of €50,516. This when added to the opening surplus of €759,891 gives an accumulated surplus at 31 December 2016 of €810,407.

Payroll continues to be the most significant cost with a total payroll cost in 2016 of €66,339,116. The change between 2015 and 2016 is mainly due to the increased operational expenditure from HAP. The pay costs and staff numbers will continue to be examined during 2017 in order to identify further savings where possible.

Expenditure is summarised by main area of expenditure as follows:

	2016 €	% of Expenditure %	2015 €	% of Expenditure %
Payroll	66,339,116	29.0%	65,749,288	39.5%
Operational expenses	126,155,631	55.2%	64,565,994	38.8%
Administration expenses	9,074,655	4.0%	8,660,352	5.2%
Establishment expenses	2,677,393	1.2%	2,457,532	1.5%
Financial expenses	3,328,338	1.5%	5,692,960	3.4%
Miscellaneous	4,896,161	2.1%	5,648,426	3.4%
Transfers to reserves	15,907,053	7.0%	13,631,587	8.2%
Total Expenditure	228,378,346	100%	166,406,138	100%

Income Review

Revenue income for the year amounted to €228,428,863. This represented an increase of €61,862,394 on the total income in 2015 (€166,566,469).

A number of income areas performed ahead of budget in 2016 resulting in surplus income over budget. In particular the non-principal private residence charge contributed to a favourable outturn versus budget. I would like to commend the significant effort by staff in these sections to generate additional income. Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) is the main reason for increase in income from Goods and Services.

The following table below summarises the main income sources:

Summary

The revenue surplus for 2016 is €50,516. As a result the accumulated revenue surplus at the end of 2016 is increased to €810,407 compared to €759,891 at the end of 2015. The retention of cumulative surplus is a very positive reflection of the efforts of the elected members and staff to manage the financial situation of Limerick City & County Council, and is also reflective of the continuous efforts of the staff of Limerick City & County Council in achieving better value for money and increasing overall efficiency.

I ask the members to consider the Annual Financial Statement under Section 108 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended by Local Government Reform Act, 2014).

C Murray
Chief Executive

Income Review:

	2016		2015	
	€	%	€	%
Grants & Subsidies	93,685,313	41%	45,651,496	27%
Contributions from other local	2,699,688	1%	2,509,433	2%
Goods & Services	64,180,872	28%	48,165,487	29%
	160,565,873	70%	96,326,416	58%
Local Property Tax	4,625,159	6%	14,139,276	8%
Rates	50,965,698	22%	52,012,763	31%
Pension Related Deduction	2,053,048	0.9%	2,760,686	2%
Transfer from Reserves	219,084	0.1%	1,327,328	1%
Total Income	228,428,863	100%	166,566,469	100%

ICT Services

The ICT Section of Limerick City & County Council continued to support sections in achieving their objectives throughout 2016. In addition to the operational activities such as, monitoring security, maintaining infrastructure & systems, and providing user & desktop support throughout 2016, several major projects were undertaken.

Some of these projects undertaken during 2016 were :-

ITSM Service Desk

The IT Infrastructure Library (ITIL) is a globally recognized set of best practices and standards that support IT service management (ITSM). ITIL defines functions related to service strategy, service design, service transition, service operation and continual service improvement.

I.T. Service Management (ITSM) refers to the entirety of activities – directed by policies, organized and structured in processes and supporting procedures – that are performed by an organization to plan, design, deliver, operate and control information technology (IT) services offered.

At present, ITSM methods have evolved to include specific ways to enable and optimize assessment, planning, and implementation of ITIL best practices.

Limerick City & County Council commenced the

introduction of an ITSM Service Desk during 2016, and will continue to build on this throughout 2017 in an effort to improve service delivery.

Fibre Projects

The ICT section extended the Council Fibre Network during 2016, adding 11 sites to the network, bringing the total to 16 sites as set out :-

1. Merchants Quay to Dooradoyle.
2. Lissanalta House
3. The Granary
4. Patrick Street
5. Fire Station Mulgrave Street
6. Art Gallery, Pery Square
7. Park Road Depot
8. Roads Depot, Park Road
9. Parks Department, Edward Street
10. Southside CCTV Recording Centre in LEDP
11. Innovate Limerick in LEDP
12. South-Side Regeneration Office
13. Roxboro Library
14. Rathbane Housing Depot
15. New Museum, Henry Street
16. Dooradoyle Library

Traditional I.T.

Technology Focus

"Fire-fighting

Reactive

Users

Isolated, Silos

"One-Off", Adhoc

Informal Process

ICT Internal Perspective

Operational Specific

Becomes

→

→

→

→

→

→

→

→

→

ITSM Process

Process Focus

Preventative

Proactive

Customers

Integrated, Enterprise Wide

Repeatable, Accountable

Formal Best practice

Business Perspective

Service Orientation

In addition to providing a high speed Wide Area Network between Council Offices, this fibre has been utilised for traffic control & CCTV Cameras. It is proposed to extend this Fibre Network further during 2017, and bring the monitoring of all Council owned CCTV cameras in Limerick to a single central point.

Business Process Improvement

1. Preventative Maintenance (P.M.).

Preventative maintenance roster in place for 08:00 a.m. checklist since July, 2016.

- Any issues Detected early.
- Aim to Resolve by 09:00 a.m.
- Checklist includes Visuals of Data Centre
- Constantly growing
 - Issue arising during the day added to checklist where appropriate
- Roster includes a backup person
- If any issue is not resolved early users can be notified
 - Users are aware of issue, and no requirement to log a call

Process has decreased downtime, ensuring all systems are available to users from 09:00 a.m.

2. Subject Matter Experts (S.M.E.'s)

Commenced Implementation during 2016.

A Subject Matter Expert (S.M.E.) is some who :-

- understands a particular subject better than most other people
- can explain it to you in simple terms
- understands what's core and what's peripheral in that knowledge domain
- also understands both the inside view and the outside view on the subject*
- is familiar with the most recent developments in the field
- but also has solid grasp of the basics
- and is acknowledged by others in the field as an expert

The benefits are :-

- Experience working in this area/ knowledge/expertise
- Lower costs
- Can help identify weak areas and show you how you can improve
- Improve user performance of Systems
- They understand every aspect and can serve as a resource for any questions/problems you encounter.

3. Scheduled Works eMail

Commenced during 2016.

- Weekly eMail sent to all users each Friday outlining Scheduled works for the following week.
- Users aware of works that will affect them, and have an ICT contact.
- Users can plan their work around these works if necessary.

4. Root Cause Analysis

Root Cause Analysis techniques were implemented during 2016 in an effort to eliminate reoccurrence of problems.

Root Cause Analysis (RCA) is a technique that helps people answer the question of why a problem occurred. It seeks to identify the origin of a problem using a specific set of steps, with associated tools, to find the primary cause of the problem.

Five Identifiable Steps :-

1. Define The Problem
2. Collect Data
 - a. Proof the Problem Exists
 - b. Specific Symptoms
3. Identify Possible Cause Factors
 - a. Sequence of Events
 - b. Conditions that Allow the Problem to Occur
 - c. What other Problems Surround the

Occurrence of the Central Problem

4. Identify the Root Cause(s)
5. Recommend & Implement Solutions

New Operating Model.

ICT assisted Change Management with the implementation of the New Operating Model early in 2016. This involved moving close on 200 staff members, updating Active Directory with the new structure, and updating rights to documents and systems.

Disaster Recovery Enhancements

- Installed 3 X Dell DR Appliances + 4 Expansion slots
- Facilitates Backup to Disk (Faster than Tape)
- Based in Lissanalta House (Backup is Offsite)
- Includes Deduplication
 - Optimizing storage by eliminating duplicate copies
- Keeps record of Point-in-Time
- Backup Software
- Mini-Tender under OGP Framework
- Three Responses
- Veeam Availability Suite Enterprise selected
- Integrates with Dell DR Appliances & VMware
- Faster backup, increases backup window
- Can boot server to Login Screen when Backup is complete
- Replications
- All Servers Replicated nightly
- Keep a rotation of 10 working days
- Alternative to DR Appliance & Veeam
- Faster recovery that restore of Backup
- Replications held Off-Site in Lissanalta House

Wide Area Network Upgrade

Procurement for upgrade of the Wide Area Network commenced Q4 – 2016.

- Includes all sites not in Fibre Project
- 38 Sites Throughout City & County
- Tender :- Closing Date 14/10/2016
- Three Responses
- Currently being assessed
- Will facilitate VoIP Phone system to Area Offices
- Planned Rollout Q1 – 2017

VoIP Phone System

A procurement procedure for the purchase of a new VoIP Phone system was carried out during Q4 of 2016. Following the Tender process, a new Cisco VoIP system was purchased towards the end of 2016, it is proposed to rollout the new system during Q1 & Q2 2017. The new system replaces the old City Ericson System, and the old County Nortel system.

The new system brings many new features that will support the efficient operation of the Council. These include Contact Centre, which is to be used by Customer Services, HAP Shared Services Centre, & ICT. Contact Centre integrated with Sugar CRM, which will support more efficient handling of cases by phone.

As part of the new VoIP Phone system rollout the Council will implement a new single number.

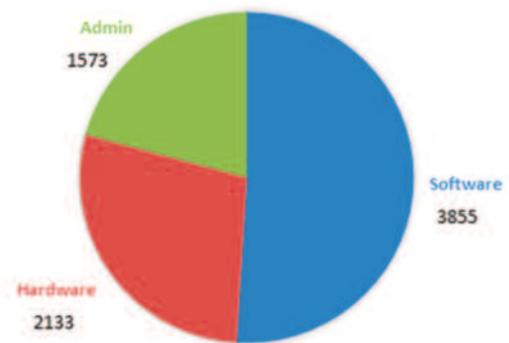
1. The new Council number will be 061-556000, replacing the existing 061-407100 in Merchants Quay, and 061-496000 in Dooradoyle.
2. The new main number will run in tandem with the old numbers for a period of time (yet to be determined), to allow familiarisation with the new numbers by Staff and Members of the Public.

ICT Helpdesk

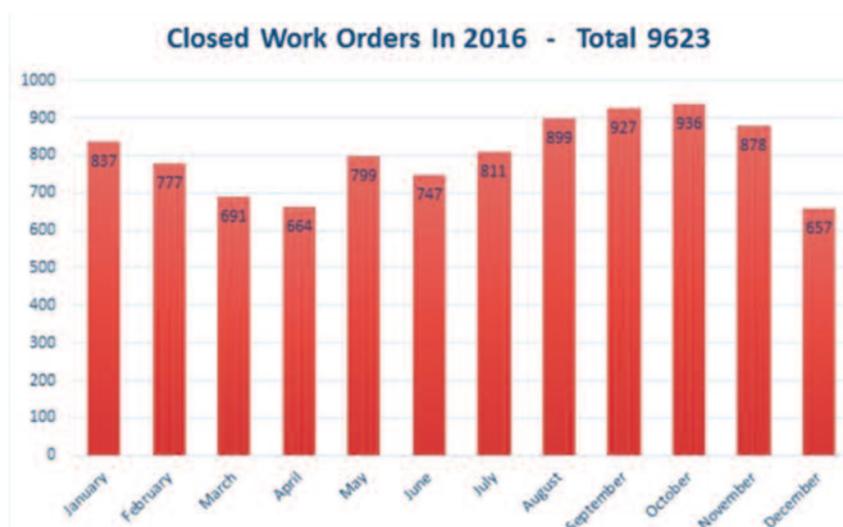
The ICT Helpdesk dealt with 9,623 Tickets logged during 2016. The Helpdesk endeavours to respond to and resolve requests in a timely and courteous manner. In addition to providing support to users the ICT Helpdesk team also carry out other tasks as set out :-

- Create knowledge base articles for user empowerment
- Liaise with other ICT teams to recommend and help instigate changes to resolve or prevent future issues
- Keep users fully informed of changes/issues
- Develop and enforce policies and procedures around the provision of services and hardware
- Office and equipment organisation and maintenance
- ICT Project support

BREAKDOWN OF TICKETS LOGGED



Ticket Statistics 2016.





Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Caroline Curley

Regional Services



Regional Services Directorate

Fire and Emergency Services
Southern Region Waste Management Office
Water Services
Mid West Road Design Office

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICE

Limerick City and County Council as the Fire Authority operates and manages the Fire and Emergency Services in Limerick. Limerick Fire and Rescue Service has responsibility to protect the life and property of circa 200,000 people living in circa 70,000 houses and circa 18,000 commercial premises.

Limerick Fire and Emergency Services also manage the Munster Regional Communications Centre, which is responsible for the efficient and effective mobilisation of fire appliances and other agencies within the Munster region. Civil Defence is also part of the Fire and Emergency Services Department. This is a volunteer based organisation which supports the frontline emergency services as well as assisting at community events.

The Fire and Emergency Services Department has five broad areas of activity that are mutually supportive in the delivery of an integrated service to the public.

1. Fire & Rescue Service
2. Fire Prevention and Building Control
3. Major Emergency Management
4. Munster Regional Communications Centre.
5. Civil Defence

FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

The function of the Fire and Rescue Service is to make provision for the prompt extinguishing of fires in buildings and other places of all kinds in its functional area and for the protection and rescue of persons and property from injury by fire and other emergency incidents. In this regard, it maintains a fire brigade and provides fire stations, vehicles and equipment. The fire brigade is an organised body of persons trained and equipped for extinguishing fire occurring in buildings and other places and for rescuing persons and property from such fires and other emergency incidents.

Ten new whole time fire fighter recruits were employed in Limerick Fire and Emergency Services based at Mulgrave Street. The new recruits were spread across the four full-time watches.

Limerick Fire and Rescue Service successfully attended 1,515 incidents from 1st January to 31st December, 2016.

ISO9001:2008 Quality Standard Certification and OHSAS 18001:2007 Health & Safety Certification was awarded in 2016 for the Fire and Rescue Service (whole time and retained fire service).

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, Positive pressure ventilation training, three week recruit retained fire fighting training, Power boat operator training course, Manual Handling Instructor, Management of Water and Flood Water incidences, Chainsaw Operator, 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.

FIRE PREVENTION & BUILDING CONTROL

The function of the Fire Prevention and Building Control Department is to ensure the safety, health 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 deliver these functions, the work of this department includes assessing Fire Safety Certificate applications and Disability Access Certificates, inspection of commercial buildings and apartment complexes, investigating complaints and giving Community Fire Safety talks.

Fire Safety Certificates

2016 Statistics

Total number of fire safety certificate applications received	185
Total number of fire safety certificate applications processed	199
Total number of applications deemed invalid.	25
Buildings inspected as a % of new buildings notified to the local authority	14%
Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority	435
Number of new buildings notified to the local authority that were inspected	60

Disability Access Certificates

2016 Statistics

Total No. of valid Disability Access Certificates received	135
Total No. of Disability Access Certificates processed	134
Total No. of Disability Access Certificates invalidated	10

Planning Referrals

Total number of Planning Referrals processed	277
Total number of Valid Commencement Notices received (includes CNs, Short CNs, Opt-out CNs and 7-day Notices)	369

Civil Defence

Total Expenditure costs for Civil Defence in 2016	€297,695
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MAJOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The functions of the Major Emergency Management section are to implement the provisions of the 2006 Framework for Major Emergency Management in Limerick City and County Council, to review and oversee Limerick City and County Council's Major Emergency Plan and to continually enhance Limerick City and County Council's capacity to respond to a major emergency. In this regard, the Fire and Emergency Services Department carried out the following duties during 2016:

- Major Emergency Management Committee meetings held
- 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 Officer
 - On-Site Co-ordination Centre training
 - Local coordination Centre Training
- Chairperson for the Mid-West Region Mass Fatality Plan Sub-Group
- Completed the Mass Fatality Plan and held a workshop with all the Principal Response Agencies
- Completed the National Annual Appraisal on Limerick City & County Council's preparedness for Major Emergency Management
- Major Emergency Management structures were activated for a two month period during the severe flooding event at the end of 2015 through to the start of 2016
- Developed a new Flood Response Plan for Limerick City and County Council
- Provided workshops on the new Flood Response Plan to all relevant Local Authority personnel
- Reviewed, tested and reported on the External Emergency Plan for Atlantic Fuels Supply Company in accordance with the Seveso III EU Directive.

MUNSTER REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE

The Munster Regional Communications System (MRCC) is located on the same site as Mulgrave Street Fire Station. The MRCC was set up to improve the speed of response and efficiency of the call-out system for the fire authorities in Munster and became operational in December, 1992. Limerick City & County Council is the contracting Authority for this system and provides the service on behalf of the seven member Fire Authorities in Munster (Clare County Council, Cork City Council, Cork County Council, Kerry County Council, Limerick City & County Council, Tipperary County Council, Waterford City and County Council).

The MRCC is a centralised service providing rapid response and mobilisation to 999/112 emergency fire calls. Since its inception in 1992, the Centre has processed in excess of 500,000 calls, and now mobilises 65 retained and four full-time Fire Stations in Munster. The MRCC also provides support to the Fire Services during the lifespan of emergency incidents until they are closed out. The service operates 24 hours a day 365 days a year and deals with approximately 25,000 emergency calls per annum.

CIVIL DEFENCE

Limerick Civil Defence provides emergency relief and support, when called upon by Limerick City and County Council and other civil and frontline statutory authorities as well as assisting at community based events.

Basic training for volunteers consists of Occupational First Aid, Cardiac First Response, Communications, Manual Handling, Fire Awareness, Foot-drill, Map reading, GPS, Basic Search & Rescue, Child Protection Courses and Equipment Familiarisation.

Volunteers also specialise in different areas such as Emergency First Response, Emergency Medical Technician, Instructional Methods, Auxiliary Fire Service, Pump Operation, VHF Marine Radio, Kayaking and power boating - Level 2 & Level 3.

The Civil Defence College in Roscrea offers courses

to Civil Defence Officers. It also provides upskilling for Instructors and volunteers in all disciplines in many different areas – CISM (Critical Incident Stress Management), Instructional Methods, Search Manager, Child Protection, Drone training etc.

The new headquarters for Limerick City and County Council Civil Defence, located at the Docklands Business Park, was officially opened on the 14 January 2016. This new building further enhances the training and operational facilities which are available to all volunteers which will also benefit the wider community.



New recruits Civil Defence





SOUTHERN WASTE MANAGEMENT

SOUTHERN REGION WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2015-2021

The Southern Waste Region comprises 10 local authorities: Carlow, Clare, Cork City, Cork County, Limerick City & County, Kerry, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Waterford City & County and Wexford. The Southern Waste Region is one of three waste regions in the country. The other Waste Regions are the Eastern Midlands (EMR) & the Connaught Ulster (CUR) Waste Regions.

Limerick City & County Council and Tipperary County Council are the joint lead authorities for the Southern Waste Region. They are responsible for the co-ordination, implementation and monitoring of the Southern Region Waste Management Plan 2015 – 2021 (the Plan). The Plan is the framework for the prevention and management of wastes in a safe and sustainable manner.

Limerick City & County Council host the Southern Region Waste Management Office (SRWMO), which is based in the Regional Directorate, Lissanalta House. The SRWMO's annual report for 2016 is now available on www.srwmo.ie. It details the progress made on the 8 major objectives of the Plan:-

1. Waste related environmental policy

The SRWMO is involved in ongoing discussions with relevant bodies to ensure waste authorisations reflect the plan targets.

The availability of a national central portal for local authority authorised facilities to submit their annual returns has allowed the SRWMO to monitor and report on their capacity on a regional and national basis. A detailed analysis of the key performance indicators (KPIs) listed in the Plan is available on www.srwmo.ie.

2. Prioritising Waste Prevention

In 2016 a number of regional successful campaigns were targeted at households, schools, communities & businesses i.e. Hazardous Waste Prevention, Bread Waste Prevention, No Junk Mail and Choose Tap Water.

In 2016, baseline data on waste arising at each local authority HQ was collated and this will now inform future waste prevention measures. Participation in the National Waste Prevention Plan (NWPP) steering committee has been ongoing.

3. Transitioning towards a circular economy

One of the region's circular economy activities included a joint resource efficiency event with Limerick Local Enterprise Office in Adare in October 2016.

Re-use Month in October 2016 proved a great success and featured various upcycling and reuse activities with over 58 events in the Region.

In 2016, the SRWMO contributed to funding for SMILE Resource Exchange and EcoMerit business certification.

4. Co-ordination and engagement with relevant stakeholders

The Southern Region Waste Co-ordinator is a member of the National Co-ordination Committee for Waste Management Planning. The Regions work together with the national training body as well as the Waste Enforcement Lead Authorities.

5. The promotion of sustainable waste management treatment

During 2016 there was a national waste infrastructure deficit due to the lack of suitable outlets for municipal residual wastes. Arrangements were made with a number of landfills to increase their capacity for a defined period via Section 56 Orders, under the Waste Management Act 1996.

In 2016 the Waste Regions commissioned a study to analyse the current status and future need for Construction & Demolition (C&D) waste facilities.

6. Co-operation with the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities

The SRWMO is working closely with the Southern WERLA to ensure implementation of the relevant policy actions of the Plan.

7. Applying relevant environmental and planning legislation

The Southern Region's high risk historic unauthorised landfill sites (Class A) were ranked, prioritising the sites for further investigation and remediation.

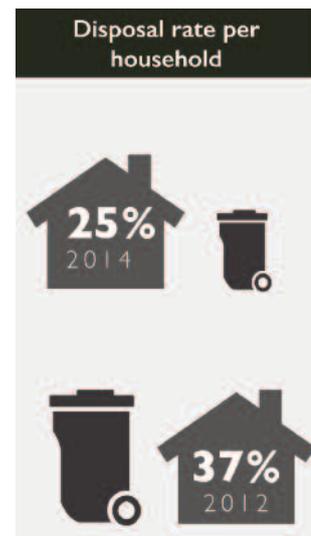
Appropriate Assessment screening is required prior to granting waste authorisations. In 2016 the SRWMO developed a screening template and organised training for all local authorities.

- 8. The establishment of policy measures for other waste streams not subject to EU or national waste management performance targets. Hazardous waste initiatives included free collection days for households.

Support was also lent to the EPA's Farm Hazardous Waste Collection days.

The SRWMO participates in a number of working groups that consider potential producer responsibility initiatives.

Household disposal and recycling/recovery rates are highlighted below:-



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 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. Irish Water is 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 and County Council is still responsible for the rural water programme and the activity in this area is outlined below.

RURAL WATER PROGRAMME 2016:

Limerick City and County Council paid capital grants to the value of €150,000 towards the upgrade of existing group water 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. 40 Group Water Schemes received a subsidy towards their operational costs in 2016 with a total of €783,747 being paid out.

PRIVATE WELL GRANTS:

Grants totaling €163,594 were paid to 88 individuals under this heading in 2016. 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 the Limerick City and County Council website.



MID WEST NATIONAL ROAD DESIGN OFFICE

FOYNES TO LIMERICK SCHEME

The MWNRO has been tasked by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to progress the design of a new roadway between Foynes and Limerick of approximately 33km in length to dual carriageway standard.

A high quality road between Foynes Port and the existing core road network in Limerick is required to meet the objectives of the Trans European Transport Network (TEN-T), with the aim of supporting the development of Foynes as a Tier 1 port in accordance with the National Ports Policy.

Consideration and planning of this route commenced in 2014 and is currently entirely funded by Transport Infrastructure Ireland as it involves national routes. A number of stages have been completed as part of the planning and development of the scheme. These include:-

- The publication of the Study Area in July 2014
- The publication of the route corridor options in March 2015
- The announcement of the 300m wide preferred route corridor in December 2015
- The publication of Route Selection Report in June 2016
- The design update in September 2016 which presented a provisional 100m wide corridor and a provisional junction strategy for the scheme.

As the project evolved into more detailed proposals, the Council carried out wide ranging consultation with individual landowners and other interested parties in 2016 which has involved hundreds of meetings with members of the public and in excess of 1,000 submissions received.

During 2016 the scheme also progressed through the Design Phase towards the preparation of the Geographical Information Survey and Compulsory Purchase Order to be published in late 2017.

N21 ADARE WESTERN APPROACH SCHEME

The N21 Adare Western Approach Scheme is located on the western outskirts of Adare Village on the National Primary Road between the junction with the L1422 Blackabbey Road and the junction with the R519 Ballingarry Road.

The scheme consists of approximately 1.3km of pavement improvement works, safety improvements, drainage, kerbing, footpaths, lining and signing and the construction of an attenuation tank and a carpark opposite Scoil Naomh Iosaf.

The Part VIII for the scheme was approved at the June 2016 Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale. The construction of the drop-off area outside Scoil Naomh Iosaf in Adare was completed in September 2016 and ground investigation works were carried out in the last quarter of 2016.

Invasive Species

Following a request from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), staff in the MWNRO underwent training in 2016 in relation to the identification and treatment for Invasive Alien Plant Species. Invasive Alien Plant Species are non-native plant species with very rapid growth, tenacious root systems and hazardous properties which can be extremely damaging to the road infrastructure. TII set up a Framework of contractors who specialise in the management, treatment and eradication of Invasive Alien Plant Species.

Following staff training TII subsequently requested a drive by survey to be completed by the trained staff of the MWNRO in order to identify the presence of Invasive Alien Plant Species along the National Routes within Co. Limerick. Subsequent to this survey a tender process was undertaken to procure a specialist contractor for the management and treatment of the identified Invasive Alien Plant Species within Co. Limerick. A 4 year call-off contract was entered into with Invasive Plant Solutions and Limerick City & County Council for the management, treatment and eradication of the identified Invasive Alien Plant Species within Co. Limerick. Treatment commenced in October 2016 with the aim of full eradication of all identified Invasive Alien Plant Species along the national routes by October 2020.

PAVEMENT IMPROVEMENT SCHEME ON N21 AT BALLINLYNY & BALLYMURRAGH

This scheme included the inlay/overlay of approximately 3.2km (Ballinlyny) and 1.2km (Ballymurragh East) of the N21 National Primary Road (near Newcastlewest). The works also included the installation of safety barriers and fencing, application of road markings, drainage works, accommodation works and the construction of a new segregation island and surface improvements at the Lay-by Area in Ballymurragh East.

Following a competitive tender process a contractor was appointed and completed these works in the first quarter of 2016 at a tender cost of €1.8m approx.

IMPROVEMENT/RE-ALIGNMENT WORKS

Work is ongoing in identifying the preferred solutions for the N24 Beary's Cross Improvement Scheme and the N20 O'Rourke's Cross Improvement Scheme and Engineering Consultants were appointed and plans were prepared during 2016 to facilitate a planned Part 8 planning application in relation to same.

ROAD SAFETY

The MWNDRDO continues to undertake Road Safety Audits. A Road Safety Audit is undertaken to identify potential safety hazards within a scheme design or construction as they could affect road users. The MWNDRDO undertook ten Road Safety Audits in the region in 2016.

In addition MWNDRDO undertakes review of locations in the region identified by TII as having a high rate of collisions. The completion of this work helps to identify safety improvement schemes to be designed by MWNDRDO or assigned to engineering consultants. Thirteen sites with high collision rates were assessed to analyse the collision history and identify possible safety improvement measures.

EXTERNAL ACCREDITATION/ CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

The MWNDRDO retained its accreditation to the ISO 9001:2008 standard during 2016 and also carried out its own series of internal audits throughout 2016 and implemented a continuous improvement approach to its operations. The MWNDRDO has also been successful in retaining its CPD Accredited Office status with Engineers Ireland in 2016.





Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Eoghan Prendagast
Director New Directive



Regional Services Directorate

Housing Assistance
Payments (HAP)
Shared Service Centre

HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS (HAP)

Limerick City & County Council is the designated lead authority for the Housing Assistance Payments Shared Services Centre, providing a transactional shared service centre for all local authorities operating HAP. This is a national transactional Shared Service operated by Limerick City & County Council, processing Housing Assistance Payments on behalf of all local authorities under HAP across the country, as well as the Dublin Region Homeless Executive.

HAP has been introduced to provide a more integrated system of housing supports and aims to:

- allow all social housing supports to be accessed through the local authority
- allow recipients to take up full-time employment and still keep their housing support

Any household that qualifies for social housing support qualifies for HAP. Rent Supplement recipients who qualify for social housing support will be transferred to HAP on a phased basis.

The HAP Shared Service Centre carries out a range of financial transactions on behalf of each local authority under HAP, the principal ones being:

- Set-up and commencement of HAP tenancies
- Payment of monthly landlord rent
- Tax clearance checking
- Collection of tenant differential rent debit for all tenancies
- Management of the debt collection process
- Monitoring, reviewing and maintenance of HAP tenancies
- Recoupment from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government

By 2020, the HAP SSC will be handling 70,000 tenancies in all local authorities around the country, with an expected €600m volume of financial transactions.

There were 18,230 HAP tenancies set up by the Shared Service Centre at 31st December 2016.

During 2016, HAP SSC began to serve ten new local authorities, bringing to 28 the number of local authorities serviced, as well as the Dublin Region Homeless Executive. The final three local authorities to commence HAP, Dublin City Council, Fingal County Council and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, will begin in March 2017.





Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council





Appendix



Appendix

CONFERENCES/SEMINARS ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF
LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL JANUARY
TO DECEMBER 2016

Date	Title	Venue	No.
8th – 10th	January Seminar organised by Celtic Conferences entitled 'The Finance Act, 2015'	The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	3
11th February	Seminar organised by The Wheel entitled 'Demystifying EU Funding – Helping organisations to access the cash'	Carmelite Community Centre, Aungier's Street, Dublin 2	2
15th – 17th April	Seminar organised by Celtic Conferences entitled 'Auditing and Governance in Local Government'	The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	1
19th April	Conference organised by the Standards Commission entitled 'Lobbying Regulation Open-House Sessions'	The Office of the Ombudsman, Dublin 2.	1
21st – 24th April	Conference organised by Dublin City Council entitled 'The All Ireland – US Sister Cities Mayor's Summit'	Croke Park, Dublin	3
10th – 12th June	Seminar organised by the Institute of Professional Training entitled 'The Councillor and Local Development and Enterprise, all that you need to know'	Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	1
24th – 25th	June Seminar organised by Superior Training entitled 'Oireachtas Reform and the Councillor'	Park House Hotel, Edgeworthstown, Co. Longford	1
16th – 22nd July	Seminar organised by MacGill Summer School entitled 'The 36th Annual MacGill Summer School and Arts Week'	Highlands Hotel, Glenties, Co. Donegal	1
22nd – 24th July	Seminar organised by Celtic Conferences entitled 'Domestic Water Saving and Conservation Techniques'	The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	1
5th – 7th August	Seminar organised by Celtic Conferences entitled 'Brexit, The Economic Consequences for Ireland'	The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	1
26th – 28th August	Seminar organised by Celtic Conferences entitled 'Local Economic and Community Plans'	The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	1
2nd – 4th September	Seminar organised by Celtic Conferences entitled 'Entitlement to Health Services'	The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	1
9th – 11th September	Seminar organised by the Institute of Professional Training entitled 'EU-UK, Brexit Implications for Regional and Local Government'	The Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal 1	
11th – 13th November	Seminar organised by Celtic Conferences entitled 'Waterways Ireland, The Vision and Expectations for 2017 to 2020'	The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	1
18th – 20th November	Seminar organised by Celtic Conferences entitled 'Rebuilding Ireland - Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness'	The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	3

Performance Indicators

01/01/2016 ? 31/12/2016 (Annual)

TOPIC	INDICATOR	VALUE	COMMENTS
Housing: H1, H2 & H4 Approved	A. Overall total number of dwellings provided by the LA during the year	752	
	B. Number of dwellings directly provided	51	
	B1. Number of dwellings constructed	2	
	B2. Number of dwellings purchased	49	
	C. Number of dwellings provided under RAS	36	
	D. Number of dwellings provided under the HAP Scheme	653	
	E. Number of dwellings provided under the SHCEP	12	
	F. The overall total number of social housing dwellings in the LA at year end	7801	
	G. The total number of dwellings directly provided (constructed or purchased) by the local authority	5141	
	H. Total number of dwellings provided under the RAS	1122	
	I. Total number of dwellings provided under the HAP if operated	1526	
	J. Total number of dwellings provided under the SHCEP	12	
	K. No. of single rural dwellings that are planned for demolition or sale due to dereliction	0	
	A. Percentage of the number of dwellings at H1G that were vacant on year end	3.73 %	
	The number of dwellings within the overall stock that were not tenanted at year end	192	
A. Expenditure in the year on repair & maintenance of housing bought or built by the LA divided by H1G	356.56		
Expenditure on repair and maintenance of LA stock compiled on a continuous basis during the year	€1833089		
Housing: H3 & H5 Approved	A. Average time taken from date of vacation of dwelling to date when a new tenancy had commenced	17.39 wk	
	B. Average cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted during the year ready for re-letting	8604.64	

TOPIC	INDICATOR	VALUE	COMMENTS
	No of dwellings that were re-tenanted on any date in the year (excl. those vacant for estate refurbishment)	137	
	No. of weeks from when previous tenant vacated dwelling up to date new tenant's first rent debit	2383 wk	
	Total expenditure on repairs necessary to enable re-letting of the dwellings included above	€1178836	
	A. Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area at end of June 2016	13211	
	B. Number of rented dwellings inspected during the year	1352	
	C. Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2016 that were found not to be compliant with the Standards Regulations	99.78	
	D. Number of non-compliant dwellings that became compliant during 2016	6	
	The number of dwellings inspected that were found not to be compliant with the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations	1349	
Housing: H6 Approved	A. Number of adults in emergency accommodation long-term as a % of the total number of homeless adults	48.95%	
	Number of adults classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on night of the 31/12/2016	143	
	Number of adults on that date who had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously or for 6 months cumulatively within the previous 12 months	70	
Roads: R1 & R2 Approved	% Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating	100 %	
	% Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating	98 %	
	% Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating	98 %	
	% Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating	81 %	
	% Regional roads that received a PSCI rating during the year	77 %	
	% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	2 %	
	% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	22 %	
	% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	61 %	
	% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	14 %	

TOPIC	INDICATOR	VALUE	COMMENTS
	% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	4 %	
	% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	24 %	
	% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	59 %	
	% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	12 %	
	% Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	8 %	
	% Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	37 %	
	% Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	48 %	
	% Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	5 %	
	% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	20 %	
	% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	31 %	
	% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	28 %	
	% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	3 %	
	A1. Kilometres of regional roads strengthened using Road Improvement grants	11.5 km	
	A2. Road Improvement Grant amount spent on Regional Roads (strengthening)	€1680548.00	
	B1. Number of kilometres of regional roads resealed using Road Maintenance grants	11.7 km	
	B2. Road Maintenance Grant amount spent on Regional Roads (resealing)	€363358.00	
	C1. Kilometres of Local roads strengthened using Road Improvement grants	52.2 km	
	C2. Road Improvement Grant amount spent on Local Roads (strengthening)	€4195961.00	
	D1. Number of kilometres of Local roads resealed using Road Maintenance grants	67.6 km	
	D2. Road Maintenance Grant amount spent on Local Roads (resealing)	€1270246.00	
Motor Tax: R3 Approved	% of motor tax transactions online	65.60 %	
Water: W1 Approved	% of Private Drinking Water Schemes in compliance with statutory requirements	1.00 %	
Waste: E1 Approved	No. households in an area covered by a licensed operator providing a 3 bin service at	41396	

TOPIC	INDICATOR	VALUE	COMMENTS
	31/12/2015, (2016 census)		
	% households within the LA that the number A represents	58.29 %	This information has been provided by external organisations to the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPPO) but has not been made available to the local authority for validation before deadline of 27th April 2017.
Environmental Pollution: E2 Approved	Total number of pollution complaint cases	4087	A number of cases from previous years were closed in 2016
	Number of pollution cases not investigated or finalised	4189	
	Number of pollution cases that arose in 2016 not finalised	207	
	Number of pollution cases in respect of complaint during the year	4087	
	Number of pollution cases closed during the year	4189	
	Total number of cases on hand at year end	207	
Litter Pollution: E3 Approved	Percentage of area unpolluted by litter	1 %	Litter Survey results are being co-ordinated at national level by Tobin Consulting Engineers. The Survey results have not been provided for validation by the local authority by the deadline of 27th April. 2017
	Percentage of area slightly polluted by litter	1 %	
	Percentage of area moderately polluted by litter	1 %	
	Percentage of area significantly polluted by litter	1 %	
	Percentage of area grossly polluted by litter	1 %	
Planning: P1 Approved	Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	13.79 %	
	Total no. of new buildings notified to the local authority	435	
	No. of new buildings notified to the local authority during the year subject of at least one inspection	60	
Planning: P2 & P3 Approved	A. Number of planning decisions subject of appeal to An Bord Pleanála determined by board in 2016	32	
	B. % of the determinations which confirmed (with or without variations) the decision made by the LA	81.25 %	

TOPIC	INDICATOR	VALUE	COMMENTS
	Number of determinations confirming the LA's decision with or without variation	26	
	A. Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the LA during 2016 that were investigated	371	
	B. Total number of cases that were closed during 2016	417	
	C. % cases at B dismissed re Section 152(2) or closed because statute barred or exempted development	38.61 %	
	D. % of cases at B that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	11.03 %	
	E. % Cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	50.36 %	
	F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2016	1010	
	Number of cases at 'B' that were dismissed under section 152(2), Planning and Development Act 2000	161	
	Number of cases at 'B' that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	46	
Planning: P4 & P5 Approved	Number of cases at 'B' that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	210	
	AFS Programme D data divided by the population of the LA area	23.01	
	AFS Programme D consisting of D01, D02, D03 (inclusive of the central management charge)	€4490299	
	A. The average no. of weeks taken to deal with applications for fire safety certificates received in the year.	3.49 wk	
	Number of fire safety certificates issued in respect of applications received	141	
	The number of weeks from the date on which a complete and valid application was received by the local authority to the date on which a fire safety certificate issued to the applicant, with any partial week decimalised to two decimal places, totalled for all fire safety certificates issued in respect of applications received in 2016.	492.23 wk	
Fire Service: F1 Approved	AFS Programme E expenditure divided by the census 2016 population served by the Fire Service	76.32	
	AFS Programme E expenditure data consisting of E11 - Operation of Fire Service & E12 Fire Prevention	€15190353	
Fire Service: F2 & F3 Approved	A. Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of Fire	1.45 min	
	B. Average time (mins) to mobilise fire	6.57 min	

TOPIC	INDICATOR	VALUE	COMMENTS
	brigades in Part-Time Stations in respect of Fire		
	C. Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of other accidents	1.48 min	
	D. Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations in respect of other accidents	5.37 min	
	A. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is within 10 mins	68.10 %	
	B. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins	24.17 %	
	C. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is after 20 mins	7.73 %	
	D. % of non-fire cases in which first attendance at scene is within 10 mins	55.53 %	
	E. % of non-fire cases in which first attendance at scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins	35.48 %	
	F. % of non-fire cases in which first attendance at scene is after 20 mins	9.00 %	
	Total no. of call-outs in respect of fires during the year	1025	
	No. of fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	555	
	No. of fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins	197	
	No. of fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 mins	63	
	Total number of call-outs in respect of all other emergency incidents during the year	490	
	No. of non-fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 mins	216	
	No. of non-fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins	138	
	No. of non-fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 mins	35	
Library Service: L1 Approved	Number of library visits during the year	703650	
	Number of items borrowed during the year	649878	
	A. Number of library visits per head of population	3.61	
	B. Number of items issued to borrowers during the year	649878	

TOPIC	INDICATOR	VALUE	COMMENTS
Library Service: L2 Approved	The Annual Financial Statement Programme F data / by the population of the LA area per 2016 census	30.38	
	AFS Programme F02 Cost of Library Service	€5930362	
Youth and Community: Y1 & Y2 Approved	A. Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme	48.28 %	
	Total number of secondary schools in the LA area at year end	29	
	Number of second level schools in the LA area from which representatives attended the Comhairle na nÓg AGM	14	
	A. Number of organisations included in the County Register and the proportion who opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN	11.76	
	Total number of organisations included in the County Register for the local authority area	442	
	Total number of those organisations that registered for the first time in 2016	7	
	Number of organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College when they registered for the PPN	52	
Corporate: C1 & C2 & C4 Approved	Wholetime equivalent staffing number at year end	1068.09	
	Percentage of paid working days lost due to sickness absence through medically certified leave	3.54 %	
	Percentage of paid working days lost due to sickness absence through self- certified leave	0.33 %	
	Number of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave	8890.5 day	
	Number of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave	814.5 day	
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave	302.5 day	
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave	11 day	
	All ICT Expenditure in the period 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2016 divided by the WTE no.	2685.63	
Total revenue expenditure on Account Elements	€2868494.78		
Corporate: C3 Approved	Total page views of the LA website in 2016	3337779	
	Total number of social media users at 31/12/2016 following the LA on social media sites	37233	

TOPIC	INDICATOR	VALUE	COMMENTS
	The cumulative total page views of all websites operated by the LA during 2016	3337779	
	Total no. of social media users who, at 31/12/2016, were following the LA on any social media sites	37233	
Finance: M1 & M2 Approved	A. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2012 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€-22982	
	B. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2013 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€573822	
	C. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2014 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€599562	
	D. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2015 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€759891	
	E. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2016 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€810407	
	F. Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2016 as a percentage of Total Income from the AFS statement	0.36 %	
	G. Revenue Expenditure per capita in 2016	1088.62	
	The 2016 Total Income figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€228209778	
	The 2016 Total Expenditure figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€212471293	
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2012	66.0 %	
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013	65.0 %	
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	65.0 %	
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	75.0 %	
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016	77 %	
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2012	90.0 %	
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013	89.0 %	
Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	87.0 %		
Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	89.0 %		

TOPIC	INDICATOR	VALUE	COMMENTS
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016	94 %	
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2012	77.0 %	
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013	75.0 %	
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	77.0 %	
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	78.0 %	
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016	74 %	
Economic Development: J1 to J3 Approved	A. The no. of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the year	125.0	
	A. The no. of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in the year	58	
	A. The no. of participants who received mentoring during the year	232	
	B. The no. of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in the year	43	

