



  
COMHAIRLE  
CATHRACH & CONTAE  
**Luimnigh**  
**Limerick**  
CITY & COUNTY  
COUNCIL

# ANNUAL REPORT 2015

## FOREWORD BY CONN MURRAY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE



2015 signalled a significant milestone with the creation and adoption of our first Corporate Plan for our new authority.

The plan seeks to define the Limerick we all desire to live, work, invest in and enjoy over the coming five years. It was adopted by the elected members in March 2015 following extensive consultation and sets out a core vision and strategy for Limerick City and County Council to continue its implementation of a new model of service delivery and management until 2019.

We are in the process of developing an operating model that, once fully embedded into our working practices, will ensure that we excel in the delivery of all our public services thus enabling government policy of Putting People First to be expressed. These changes involve the joining up of processes, systems and technology across more than 600 services to deliver them in a more effective way, while ensuring greater value for money.

This has required of us that we, as an organisation, adapt to the needs of a present day public. These needs have changed over the years and

the expectations on the authority have equally changed and become even more challenging. As an organisation, we need to be able to respond to these changes today and into the future, protecting what we already do well whilst seeking out new opportunities that we can do equally well. To make this possible, we are learning to challenge our existing ways of doing things, with a view to continuously improving what we do and how we do it.

I wish to thank and acknowledge the level of cooperation from all our staff and elected representatives as we strive to put this new model in place.

Throughout 2015 Limerick's economic performance continued to surpass all hopes and expectations since the launch of our Limerick 2030 Economic and Spatial Plan in 2013 with a target of creating 12,000 jobs.

Some questioned if we were being too ambitious, but just over two years later, we are almost half way there, with 5,872 jobs announced for Limerick in the interim.

The bulk of these posts will be filled by the end of next year and the last of them by 2019, by which time I am confident that we will have had many, many more.

It's an impressive rebound and one that may well even be unrivalled outside of the capital. There's much for us to be confident of and proud about today.

Limerick is a place that has come through a very difficult period, one in which we were disproportionately burdened by the fall-out from the economic collapse from 2007 onwards and ongoing social issues, particularly in the more densely populated areas of the city itself. But we have very much turned a corner and now Limerick is a place on its way up.

Principally we have used the recessionary years to address some of the issues that held us back before, even in the boom times. We have used that period to steady the ship, to charter a course ahead and we have most definitely now set sail on that course and the horizon is looking really good. It's been a

transformation of many parts here, all now coming together in a collective resource and with an energy that is going to drive our economy on in the years ahead. We have a collective vision for our city and region, we have a collective belief in our capacity to achieve that vision and we have a collective determination to deliver results.

As part of our strategy for infrastructural development in 2015, Limerick City and County Council confirmed Heads of Agreement with Troy Studios for a long-term lease of the former Dell Factory in Limerick. The proposed studio facilities in Limerick include the use of the 340,000 sq ft building in Castletroy, previously used as The Culture Factory for Limerick City of Culture 2014. The intention is for Troy Studios to be a fully-fledged leading studio facility to cater for film and TV productions by the end of 2016. We're delighted to be working with Troy Studios in facilitating the company in its plans to establish a significant media hub for film and television production in Limerick.

The Innovation Hub at LEDP Roxboro continues to expand and on completion will offer potential tenants the biggest modern open plan office footprint available in Limerick. The Council bought the former Anderson Jewellery Factory in Rathkeale which re-opened in November as the Rathkeale Enterprise Centre and is set to meet the requirements of many other tenants waiting to use the site.

Limerick hosted a successful international cluster conference in October and winning this conference illustrates the level of intent and, indeed, innovation there is today, indeed, having delegates from across the globe was an opportunity to tell the Limerick success story.

Our Sugar CRM system (Customer Relationship Management) continues to be rolled out across the organisations with 8000 cases and 450 staff currently on it with the goal of 800 staff using it in 2016.

Following demands from staff to learn more about the direction the organisation is taking, we held workshops throughout the year to meet staff in the organisation and share the vision with them. The implementation of the Limerick Regeneration

Framework Implementation Plan is well advanced under each programme heading, physical, social and economic in each of the four areas, Moyross, Southill, Ballinacurra Weston and St Mary's Park. The Lord Edward Street project has progressed towards site with 83 units planned for construction in early 2016, Cliona Park phase two has also commenced in Moyross with 10 units being constructed and the thermal upgrade project across all four regeneration areas with 134 houses completed in 2015. Refurbishment works in Nicholas Street are progressing and I was delighted that the hard work was recognised by the Irish Planning Institute by Council projects being short listing in five categories at the National Planning Awards.

Limerick City and County Council is a dynamic and responsive organisation which places the people we serve at the heart of our ambitions. To do this we must remain alert and ready to respond to needs new and old as they arise. It is my belief, and that of those who have externally validated what we have done to date, that we are well placed and structured to manage and lead Limerick into the future.

**Conn Murray**

*Chief Executive, Limerick City and County Council*

## INTRODUCTION BY CLLR. LIAM GALVIN, MAYOR OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF LIMERICK



I am delighted to introduce Limerick City and County Council's annual report for the calendar year 2015.

The details of the achievements during the year are set out under each Directorate's report but I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the many services provided by the Council, its departments and the elected members for the people of Limerick during 2015.

In the area of economic development, the revitalisation of Limerick continued and contributed to the transformation of the city centre and its environs into a leading investment location and attractive place to live in and visit. Ongoing investment has transformed Limerick City Centre with the arrival of more than 30 new retailers during the year. In the county, the new Rathkeale Enterprise Centre was opened and is providing a significant economic benefit to the wider area.

The Annual Rate of Valuation (ARV) in Limerick remained the lowest of all cities in the country. The Council also successfully operated financial support schemes including a Small & Medium Business Support Scheme and a Tourism Sector Support Scheme.

With the support of Elected Members and the Council, plans for a new media hub for film and TV in Limerick progressed. This project will create 500 jobs and will present a diverse range of opportunities for the creative industries in the Mid-West region.

Investment in local businesses made by Local Enterprise Office Limerick helped to create new jobs as well as a supportive environment for new and existing micro and small enterprises to expand their operations during 2015. The total amount of grant aid approved by LEO Limerick in 2015 was €808,362, in respect of 40 projects, while the amount paid out by LEO Limerick in respect of grant aid during the period was €717,758.

All of these developments are giving Limerick a competitive edge.

Riverfest, the St. Patrick's Festival and the Council's continued investment in and support for a wide variety of festivals and events helped to consolidate the local tourism sector's position as a key driver of economic growth and a vital source of income to Limerick during 2015.



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

The Public Bicycle Share Scheme recorded high levels of use, while a new Bike Parking scheme boosted the number of people cycling to work or shop in the city centre. The Smarter Travel Campus Programme was expanded with the inclusion of new academic and business campuses and the roll out of other initiatives to encourage sustainable travel.

Limerick Smarter Travel and Limerick Milk Market also launched new initiatives aimed at encouraging more Limerick families to take up cycling as part of their daily routine. The Parking 'Free From 3' meanwhile, initiative helped to increase footfall on the streets of the city and Kilmallock, Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale this Christmas.

Council staff, both indoor and outdoor, worked around the clock during December, including during the Christmas holiday period, to strengthen flood defences and support property owners affected by flooding along the Lower River Shannon.

Limerick City and County Council continued to play a central role in Limerick's ongoing cultural revolution, which in years to come will be reflected upon as one of the landmark, transformative periods in its long and illustrious history.

Following on from the hugely successful status as Ireland's City of Culture in 2014, Limerick was shortlisted as an Irish candidate for the 2020 European Capital of Culture designation. A Giant's Journey - one of the centrepiece events of Limerick National City of Culture 2014 - also was named overall winner of the 'Festival of the Year' award in the 2015 Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government scheme.

The Council, through the Limerick Arts Office, supported a number of other arts and culture developments during 2015 as well as groups catering for Limerick's aspiring young actors, dancers and singers including Limerick Youth Dance, Limerick Youth Theatre and County Limerick Youth Choir. Annual community festivals and events such as the 16th annual Éigse Michael Hartnett in Newcastle West, Culture Night, OpenHouse Limerick, the Limerick Literary Festival, and the spring and autumn concert series.

Limerick Museum and Archives' role in preserving and promoting our rich local heritage included a number of public exhibitions and projects such as 'Stand Up and Fight', 'Bring Out Your Lace' and 'Bring Home The Bacon', as well as a 1916 Roadshow. A Scholarship Programme was launched to provide a unique opportunity for a history student at UL to contribute to delivering a public history programme within Limerick Museum and Archives.

In the run-up to the 1916 Centenary, the Limerick Library Service and the 1916 Steering Committee launched a comprehensive programme of events representing the outcome of many hours of reflection, consultation and discussion involving hundreds of people all over Limerick.

In the area of environment, the Council continued its support for Limerick's Tidy Towns groups as well as Limerick Going For Gold, Burial Grounds Awards and Pride of Place, an all-island competition which delivered successes for Killeely and Scanlon Park in Castleconnell. The Council's support for the Southern Region Waste Management Office resulted in the rollout of numerous waste prevention activities and initiatives.

The Environment Section launched a new anti-litter campaign in late 2015 while Team Limerick Cleanup, a JP McManus Benevolent Fund initiative in conjunction with the Council, took place for the first time and was an outstanding success set to be replicated in other areas around Ireland. Elsewhere, Limerick City rose from 36th to 17th in the IBAL League of 40 surveyed Irish towns and cities, the highest ranking achieved by the City in the competition to date.

Our Emergency Services provided an invaluable public service throughout Limerick City and County during 2015, and Limerick Civil Defence and Limerick Fire & Rescue Service were particularly active during the period of severe weather in December. 2015 saw the delivery of a new water craft which was the culmination of 18 months' work, involving the training of 47 Swift Water Rescue Technicians as rescue boat operators.

In 2015, the Council hosted a historic first meeting of the joint city and county Comhairle na nÓg which enabled young people from across Limerick to put forward their opinions on a wide range of issues that affect them and their communities.

From a sports and recreation perspective, the Limerick Sports Partnership continued its programme of community initiatives aimed at increasing participation in sport and promoting a healthy lifestyle for all of Limerick's citizens. €130,000 in Dormant Accounts funding was secured for the establishment of a Community Sport and Physical Activity Hub in Croom and the creation of three Limerick Community Coaching Programmes.

The Council also continued its support for the Barrington's Hospital Great Limerick Run, which is now the largest participation event outside of Dublin and one of the highlights of the sporting and social calendar in Limerick.

A number of official receptions were hosted by the Council and Elected Members during the year for community groups, sporting organisations and individuals who represented their city and county with distinction. Memorable moments included the Civic Receptions for the All Ireland Under 21 Championship winning Limerick hurling team, An Garda Síochána, Limerick's religious orders, Ashleigh O'Hagan and Myles Breen.

Limerick City and County Council, complemented by the support of Elected Members and the commitment of staff, is committed to leading economic social and community development, and delivering efficiency and effective and value services for the citizens of Limerick during 2016.

**Cllr. Liam Galvin**

*Mayor of the City and County of Limerick*



*Riverside walkway in the city.*



# CONTENTS

Chief Executive's Foreword	2
Introduction by the Mayor	4
Members of Limerick City and County Council	10
Meetings	14
Strategic Policy Committees	15
Reserved Functions of Districts	18
Representation on Other Bodies	20
Electoral Areas	23
Events, Highlights and Receptions	24
Human Resources, Corporate, Finance and ICT	41
Home & Community, Culture and Sport	62
Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) HUB	100
Travel & Transportation and Environment	102
Economic Development & Planning	117
Regional Services	122
Customer Services	132
Service Operations, Change Management	135
Municipal Districts	140
Appendix	147



**Cllr. Liam Galvin**  
Mayor of the City and County of Limerick



**Cllr. Gerald Mitchell**  
Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick

# LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

## LIMERICK CITY EAST MEMBERS - 8 MEMBERS



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



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



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



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



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

## LIMERICK CITY NORTH MEMBERS - 6 MEMBERS



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



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



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



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



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



**Cllr. Maurice Quintivan**  
7, Stenson Close, Limerick.  
(SF)

# LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS

## LIMERICK CITY WEST MEMBERS - 7 MEMBERS



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



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



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



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



**Cllr. John Loftus**  
Apartment 2, 3 Lr. Glentworth  
Street, Limerick. (Jan.-Aug.:  
AAA, Sept.- Dec.: NP)



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



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

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE - 6 MEMBERS



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



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



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



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



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



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

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CAPPAMORE-KILMALLOCK - 7 MEMBERS



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



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



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



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



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



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



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

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST - 6 MEMBERS



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



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



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



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



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



**Cllr. John Sheahan**  
Ballyguilteneane, 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 16 occasions in 2015.

### CORPORATE POLICY GROUP

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

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

The CPG links the work of the different SPCs, acts as a type of cabinet and provides a forum where policy positions can be agreed for submission to the full Council which will retain the decision making authority. The CPG also monitors the performance of the Local Authority and plays a key role in preparing the budget. The CPG met on 10 occasions in 2015.

### COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

Title	No. of Members	No. of Meetings
Metropolitan District of Limerick	21	13
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	6	18
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	7	14
Municipal District of Newcastle West	6	17
<b>Strategic Policy Committees</b>		
Home and Social Development	19	5
Travel and Transportation	20	4
Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning	20	4
Community, Leisure and Emergency Services	19	3
Environment	20	4
<b>Local Operational Briefings</b>		
Limerick City East	8	10
Limerick City North	6	10
Limerick City West	7	10
<b>Other Committees</b>		
Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	12	5
Rural Water Committee	11	2
Audit Committee	7	6
Joint Policing Committee	31	2
Local Community Development Committee	17	11

## STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES

Each Strategic Policy Committee comprises of 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

### Members

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

### SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES Development / Construction

Mr. P.J. O'Grady

### Business / Commercial

Dr. Eileen Humphreys

### Trade Union

Mr. Mike McNamara

5 meetings of the Joint Limerick City and County Council Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee took place in 2015.

The members discussed the following:-

- Briefing on the New Tenant Purchase Scheme
- Update on the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)
- Presentation on the update of the Joint Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy
- Update on the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)
- Presentation on the Housing Strategy 2015 - 2017
- Update on the Office of Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan
- Briefing on the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018
- Presentation on the Purchase and Long Term Leasing programme.
- Update on the Home Improvement Scheme

## TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

### Members

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

### SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES Agriculture / Farming

Mr. Michael Lenihan

### Development / Construction

Mr. Pat McCarthy

### Business / Commercial

Mr. Michael Tiernan

### Trade Union

Mr. Frank McDonnell

The Council's Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee held 4 meetings in 2015.

Items discussed at the meetings included the introduction of a 30kph speed limit in housing estates, Parking By-Laws & Limerick Metropolitan District Movement Framework Strategy.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE & PLANNING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

### Members

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

### SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES

#### Agriculture / Farming

Mr. John Walsh

#### Development / Construction

Mr. Mike Ryan

#### Business / Commercial

Mr. Denis Doyle  
 Mr. David Jeffreys

The Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee held four meetings in 2015.

The members discussed the following:

- Local Economic and Community Plan
- Policy on taking in Charge of Housing Estates
- Policy on Planning Bonds
- Development Contribution Schemes
- Limerick Marketing Company
- Innovate Limerick
- Limerick 2030

## COMMUNITY, LEISURE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

### 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 McMahon  
 Cmhlr. Séighin Ó Ceallaigh  
 Cllr. Malachy McCreesh  
 Cllr. John Loftus  
 Cllr. Michael Collins  
 Cllr. Joe Crowley  
 Cllr. Seán Lynch  
 Cllr. Kevin Sheahan  
 Cllr. Brigid Teefy

### SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES

#### Agriculture / Farming

Ms. Mary Vaughan-Mullane

#### Development / Construction

Ms. Mary Fitzgerald

#### Business / Commercial

Mr. Liam Toland

The Community Leisure and Emergency Services, Strategic Policy Committee Meetings were held on 25th March, 16th September and 2nd December 2015.

Several presentations were made at these meetings as well as updates from council officials on their relevant work programmes.

The following matters were discussed:

- Public Participation Network (PPN)
- Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) / RDP
- Sports Capital Funding
- 1916 Commemoration Programme
- River Rescues

Eighty eight applications for funding were approved under the Arts Act 2003. A sub committee of the SPC was set up to review how the Council could engage with the Health Service Executive in their development of a Suicide Prevention Strategy.

## ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

### 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. Joe Crowley  
 Cllr. Noel Gleeson  
 Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon  
 Cllr. Eddie Ryan  
 Cllr. John Gilligan  
 Cllr. Ciara McMahon  
 Cllr. John Sheahan  
 Cllr. Brigid Teefy

### SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES

#### Agriculture / Farming

Mr. Thomas Blackburn  
 Mr. Eamonn English

#### Business / Commercial

Mr. Mark McConnell

\*Ms. Sinead Ryan

\*Ms. Sinead Ryan resigned from the Committee and was replaced by Mr. Seamus Leahy in September, 2015.

The following matters were discussed:

- Cemeteries Bye-Laws.
- Mount St. Lawrence extension – allocation of gravespaces.
- Bye-Laws for the Presentation of Waste
- Control of Horses.
- Dog Fouling
- Illegal dumping
- Team Limerick Clean Up Initiative
- Litter Management Plan
- Significant Water Management issues in Ireland (SIWI)
- Fairtrade Policy

Policy making, reports and strategies in relation to the following matters were agreed

- Litter Management Plan
- Control of Horse Bye-Laws
- Cemeteries Bye-Laws

## **METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK - RESERVED FUNCTIONS 2015**

Decision that proposed material alterations to the Patrickswell Local Area Plan 2015-2021 be put on public display.

Decision to make Patrickswell Local Area Plan 2015 – 2021.

Adoption of Schedule of Works 2015 for the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

Approval of proposed Park Bridge and Park Canal Traffic Reassignment, Traffic Calming and Pedestrian and Cyclist Improvements.

Approval of Proposed Residential Development at O'Malley Park, Southill, Limerick.

Approval of Proposed Residential Development at Cliona Park and Monabraher Road, Moyross, Limerick.

Approval of Proposed Residential Development at Cosgrave Park, Moyross, Limerick.

Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Approval of Proposed Mungret Environs Roadworks.

Approval of proposed works at Franciscan Friary, Henry Street, Bedford Row, Limerick.

Adoption of the Budgetary Plan for Limerick Metropolitan District for the financial year ended 31st December, 2016 in the total sum of €640,000.

Approval of allocations under the General Municipal Allocation 2015 for Special Projects, Limerick City West in the Metropolitan District of Limerick in accordance with Section 102 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.

Approval of proposed works at the former Dell Building, Plassey Road, Castletroy.

Amendment to the Chief Executive's Report in relation to proposed Urban Realm and Street

Improvement Works at Parnell Street, Wickham Street and Davis Street in accordance with Section 179(4)(b) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000-2015.

Approval to the taking in Charge of various housing estates in accordance with S.180 of the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2014 and S.11 of the Roads Act 1993.

## **MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE - RESERVED FUNCTIONS 2015**

Making of the Askeaton Local Area Plan 2015-2021 under section 20(3)(n) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

Agreement of Allocations under the General Municipal Allocation (GMA) 2015.

Making of the Adare Local Area Plan 2015-2021 under Section 20(3)(n) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), subject to two amendments.

Adoption of the Schedule of Works for the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale 2015.

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

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

Approval to N69 Robertstown Church Bridge Works.

Approval to Foynes Flood Alleviation Scheme.

Amendment to the Croom Local Area Plan 2009-2015 (which was extended for a further 5 years) under Section 20(3)(d) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, (as amended).

Adoption of the Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale for the financial year

ended 31st December, 2016, in the total of €275,000 in accordance with Section 102 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.

Taking in charge of estate in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2014 and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

### **MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CAPPAMORE-KILMALLOCK - RESERVED FUNCTIONS 2015**

Approval of Allocations under the GMA 2015 in accordance with Section 102 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.

Approval of the Schedule of Works 2015 for the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock.

Approval to the additions to the Record of Protected Structures of two structures in accordance with Section 55 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

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

Approval of works at Ballylahiff, Co. Limerick.

Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach.

Adoption of Budgetary Plan for Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock for the financial year ended 31st December, 2016, in the total sum of €310,000 in accordance with Section 102 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.

Approval that a number of estates be taken in charge in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Acts, 2000-2014, and Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993.

Approval to the holding of a number of Municipal Receptions.

### **MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST - RESERVED FUNCTIONS 2015**

Approval given to the deletion from the Record of Protected Structures of four structures, in accordance with Section 55 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Approval of Schedule of Works 2015 for the Municipal District of Newcastle West.

Approval of allocations under the GMA 2015 for Special Projects in accordance with Section 102 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.

Adoption of the Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Newcastle West for the financial year ended 31st December, 2016, in the total sum of €275,000 in accordance with Section 102 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.

Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach.

Taking in charge of housing estate in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2014 and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

## REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES

### LOCAL TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

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

### ASSOCIATION OF IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AILG)

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

#### Standing Policy Council of Association (AILG)

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

### SOUTHERN AND EASTERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

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

### LIMERICK MARKET TRUSTEES

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

### LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

Cllr. Kevin Sheahan

### IRISH PUBLIC BODIES MUTUAL INSURANCES LIMITED

Cllr. William O'Donnell

### LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS' ASSOCIATION

Cllr. John Sheahan

### GOVERNING BODY OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, CORK

Cllr. Eddie Ryan

### GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK

Cllr. Liam Galvin (*Mayor of the City and County of Limerick*)  
Cllr. Jerry O'Dea (*Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Limerick*)

### ADARE HERITAGE TRUST LIMITED

Cllr. Liam Galvin (*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

## **RCCN (RURAL COMMUNITY CARE NETWORK)**

Cllr. Jerome Scanlan  
Cllr. Francis Foley

## **HUNT MUSEUMS' TRUST**

Cllr. Joe Crowley  
Cllr. William O'Donnell

## **HUNT MUSEUM COMPANY**

Cllr. Jerry O'Dea

## **REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM WEST**

Cllr. Brigid Teefy  
Cllr. Malachy McCreesh  
Cllr. Michael Hourigan  
Cllr. Jerome Scanlan  
Cllr. Maria Byrne  
Cllr. Francis Foley  
Cllr. Michael Collins

## **RAPID ACTION IMPLEMENTATION TEAM FOR RATHKEALE**

Cllr. Stephen Keary

## **JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE**

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

## **BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL**

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

## **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. Joe Crowley

## **LIMERICK MARKETING BOARD**

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

## **BOARD OF INNOVATE LIMERICK**

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

## **LIMERICK AND CLARE EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD**

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

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

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

## **LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)**

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

## **RURAL WATER MONITORING COMMITTEE**

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

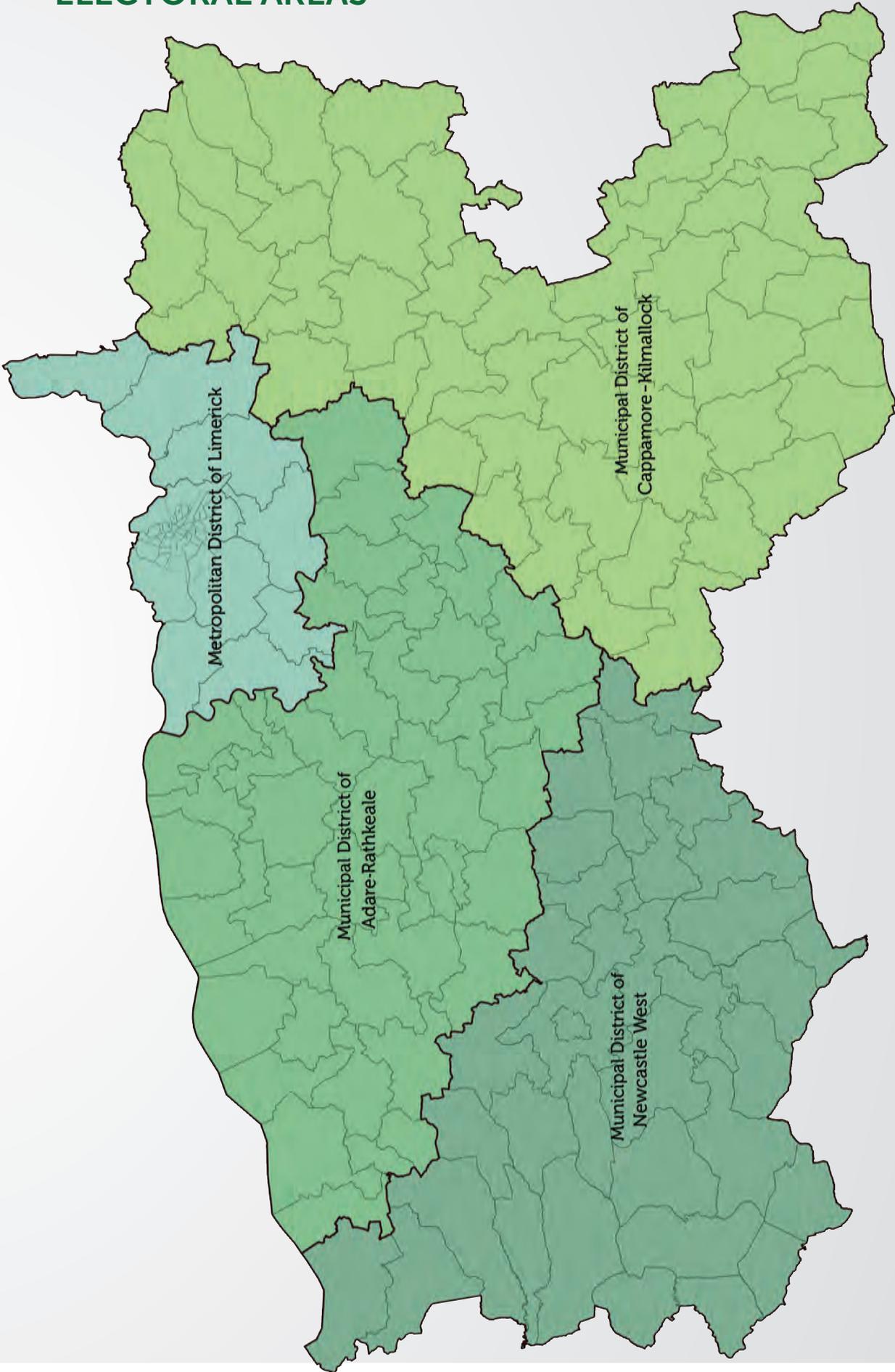
## **STEERING GROUP OF LIMERICK 2020**

Cllr. Liam Galvin (Mayor of the City and County of  
Limerick)  
Cllr. James Collins  
Cllr. Marian Hurley

## **STAKEHOLDER GROUP OF LIMERICK 2020**

Cllr. Tom Neville  
Cllr. Maria Byrne  
Cllr. Shane Clifford  
Cllr. Jerry O'Dea

# ELECTORAL AREAS



# Events, Highlights and Civic Receptions





## CIVIC RECEPTIONS



Civic Reception to posthumously honour 'Limerick Women of Distinction' Charlotte Grace O'Brien, Sophie Mary Peirce and Kate O'Brien in the University Concert Hall, University of Limerick on 6th March, 2015.



Civic Reception to posthumously honour 'Limerick Women of Distinction'. Receiving Scrolls were Ms. Iseult Murphy, Direct relative of Charlotte Grace O'Brien, Mr. Richard Langford, Direct relative of Sophie Mary Peirce and Mr. John O'Brien, Direct relative of Kate O'Brien.



Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, presenting Scroll to Mr. Dave Sheahan, Chief Superintendent, at Civic Reception held on 30th April, 2015 in recognition of An Garda Síochána's dedicated and unselfish contribution to successfully combating criminality and supporting communities in Limerick.



Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick with Mr. Dave Sheahan, Chief Superintendent and Members of An Garda Síochána and Mr. Conn Murray, Chief Executive, Limerick City and County Council at a Civic Reception held on 30th April, 2015 for An Garda Síochána.



Cllr. Liam Galvin, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick presenting Scroll to Ashleigh O'Hagan at Civic Reception held on 3rd November, 2015 in recognition of Ashleigh O'Hagan winning two World Bronze Medals and three World Placement Medals in Gymnastics at the Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles in 2015.



Cllr. Liam Galvin, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick with Ashleigh O'Hagan and Members of Limerick City and County Council at Civic Reception held on 3rd November, 2015.



Mr. Myles Breen and members of Bottom Dog Theatre Company at Civic Reception held on 16th December, 2015.



Cllr. Liam Galvin, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, presenting Scroll to Mr. Myles Breen at Civic Reception held on 16th December, 2015, in recognition of Myles contribution to the Arts and Theatre in Limerick, for being a wonderful ambassador over many years and for receiving the honour of Best Actor at Origin's First Irish Theatre Festival in New York.



Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick with members of Castletroy Golf Club at Civic Reception held on 11th February, 2015.



Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick presenting Scroll to members of Castletroy Golf Club at Civic Reception held on 11th February, 2015, in recognition of Castletroy Golf Club winning the Munster and All Ireland Junior Cup titles in 2014 together with acknowledging the contribution of the Club to the sporting life of Limerick since its foundation in 1937.



Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick presenting Scroll to Ms. Karin Fleming, Acting Principal, Crescent College Comprehensive at Civic Reception held on 13th May, 2015 in recognition of The Crescent College Comprehensive Senior Girls Hockey Squad winning The All Ireland Kate Russell Hockey Tournament 2015.



Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick with The Crescent College Hockey Squad at Civic Reception held on 13th May, 2015.

## CIVIC RECEPTIONS



Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick presenting Scroll to Ms. Miriam Dawson, Band Director, Limerick City Rhythm Band at Civic Reception held on 18th May, 2015, in recognition of the Band's musical contribution and vibrant energy to Limerick creating an atmosphere that inspires and brings joy.



Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick with members of Limerick City Rhythm Band at Civic Reception held on 18th May, 2015.



Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick with The Limerick Lakers Basketball Team at Civic Reception held on 13th May, 2015.



Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick presenting Scroll to Mr. Jamie McAuliffe, Captain, Under 20's Limerick Lakers Basketball Team 2014/2015 at Civic Reception held on 13th May, 2015 in recognition of the Club winning The Cork County Cup, The Cork League Cup and The Cork League Top Four Playoff Cup.



Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick presenting Scroll to Dr. Andrew Kelly, Area Director of Units, Red Cross at Civic Reception held on 13th May, 2015 in recognition of The Irish Red Cross Limerick Area celebrating seventy five years of volunteer service to the people of Limerick city and county.



Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick with members of Irish Red Cross at Civic Reception held on 13th May, 2015.



*Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick presenting Scroll to Sr. Eileen Lenihan on behalf of the Religious Orders in Limerick at Civic Reception held on 16th June, 2015, presented during the Year of Consecrated Life to Women and Men Religious Orders and Congregations in the Diocese of Limerick in recognition of their significant contribution to education, health care and many other spiritual and social projects in Limerick.*



*Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor and Members of the City and County of Limerick with Sr. Eileen Lenihan at Civic Reception held on 16th June, 2015 for The Religious Orders in Limerick.*



*Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick with members of The University of Limerick Orchestra at Civic Reception held on 11th February, 2015.*



*Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick presenting Scroll to Representative of The University of Limerick Orchestra at Civic Reception held on 11th February, 2015 in recognition of The Orchestra's contribution to the musical and cultural life of Limerick since its establishment in 1992.*

## MAYORAL RECEPTIONS



Back row L-R: John. B. Ryan, Limerick Musical Society (LMS), Ian Collins, LMS, Dave Griffin, LMS, Des Henn, LMS, Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Christy O'Connor, Limerick City and County Council, Gerry Ryan, LMS, Dermot Winston, Co-Chairperson of Limerick Musical Society, Cllr. Eddie Ryan. Front row L-R: Jacinta Florish, LMS, Laura Henebry, Co-Chairperson of Limerick Musical Society, Niamh Twomey, LMS, Patricia Heagney, LMS.



Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, hosted a Mayoral Reception for retiring Garda Detective Superintendent, Jim Browne pictured here with his wife Anne at Limerick City & County Council, Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay, on his last day of active duty after more than 30 years.

Picture: Keith Wiseman



*Cllr. Liam Galvin, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick and the Spokane Area Choir who were in town for the International Choral Festival, Limerick Sings. Pictured on Spokane Walk in the city. Spokane is twinned with Limerick.  
Picture Credit Brian Gavin Press 22*



*Visit by Estonian Ambassador to Mayor's Office.*



Limerick Captain Diarmaid Byrnes and team-mates celebrate with the Cross of Cashel Trophy and the Munster Cup upon their homecoming celebration after defeating Wexford in the Bord Gais Energy GAA Hurling All-Ireland U21 Championship Final in Semple Stadium. Limerick City and County Council Corporate Headquarters, Merchants Quay, Limerick.  
Picture credit: Diarmuid Greene/Fusionshooters.



Limerick supporter JP McManus along with AP McCoy during the homecoming celebration after Limerick defeated Wexford in the Bord Gais Energy GAA Hurling All-Ireland U21 Championship Final in Semple Stadium.  
Picture credit: Diarmuid Greene/Fusionshooters.



A young Limerick supporter during the homecoming celebration for the Limerick u21's after defeating Wexford in the Bord Gais Energy GAA Hurling All-Ireland U21 Championship Final in Semple Stadium on Saturday.  
Picture credit: Diarmuid Greene/Fusionshooters.



Limerick supporters Roisin Griffin, girlfriend of Limerick's Pat Ryan, Kathleen Ryan, Mother of Limerick's Pat Ryan and Amy Ryan, from Doon, Co. Limerick, sister of Limerick's Pat Ryan celebrate during the homecoming celebration for the Limerick u21's after defeating Wexford in the Bord Gais Energy GAA Hurling All-Ireland U21 Championship Final in Semple Stadium on Saturday. Picture credit: Diarmuid Greene/Fusionshooters.



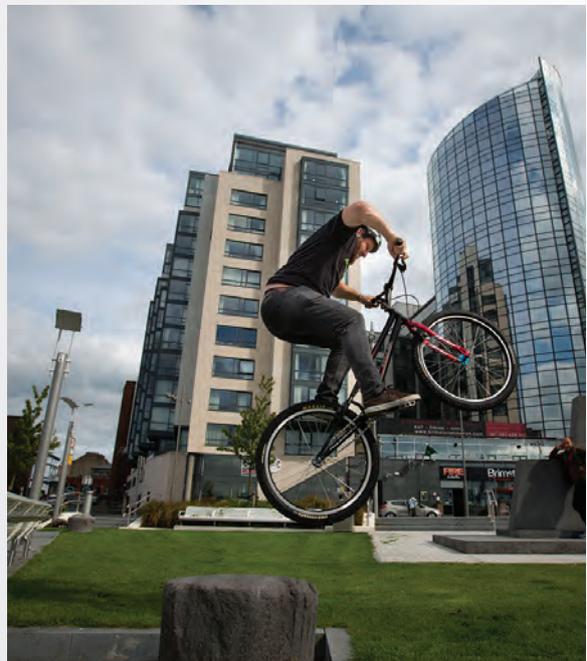
Spokane Delegation Visit to Mayor's Office.



*Italian Delegation visit to Limerick City and County Council, Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.*



*Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick at tree planting ceremony in Askeaton.*



*Sean Putt, Trails Addict at the launch of the BeSpoke festival on the boardwalk, Howleys Quay, Limerick.*



*Cllr. Michael Sheahan, Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Limerick launching National Tree Week 2015 with pupils from St. Munchin's College.*



*Thomas Nader, Austrian Ambassador, Tina Knox, Limerick City and County Council, Cllr. Liam Galvin, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, and Wilhelm Nest, Commercial Counsellor.*



Ceol and Damsha Traidisiúnta Luimnigh launch 2-2-2015.



Cruises Street kites in flight.



Arriving for the Presentation Ceremony at St. Mary's Boys National School were Cllr. Liam Galvin, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick with Private Ciara Quinn and Sergeant James Reddan.



Kites in flight in Cruises Street.



Cllr. Liam Galvin, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick at launch of Broadford Golden Mile.



Cllr. Liam Galvin, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick at launch of Templeglantine Golden Mile.



Launch of Limerick Men's Health Week.



Launch of the new look Limerick Going for Gold, Gerry Boland, Director McManus Charitable Foundation, Helen O'Donnell, Chair, Limerick City Centre Tidy Towns, Cllr. Frankie Daly, Deputy Mayor, Geraldine O'Regan, Live 95FM, Alan English, Limerick Leader and Roger Beck, Parkway Shopping Centre.



Participants in St. Patrick's Day Parade, Limerick.



Limerick City and County Council erected a giant poster of Paul O'Connell to pay tribute to the rugby legend ahead of his Munster departure and international retirement.



Cllr. Gerald Mitchell, Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick signing Book of Condolence for the Paris attacks with Pat Dowling, Deputy Chief Executive, Stephane Duclot, Acting Senior Planner and Christy O'Connor, Senior Executive Officer.



Launch of Limerick e-Parking.



Cllr. Liam Galvin, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick signing contract for Limerick Smarter Travel Route 2 Phase 2.



Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick presented awards to the four winners of the 2015 Limerick St. Patrick's Day Parade - Spotlight Stage School, John the Baptist Community School, Hospital, Limerick Learning Hub and Limerick City Rhythm Marching Band.



Cllr. Kevin Sheahan handing over the chain of office to the new Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Cllr. Liam Galvin at Annual Meeting. Also in photo is Mr. Conn Murray, Chief Executive.



Participants in St. Patrick's Day Parade.



St. Patrick's Day Limerick.



Pat Stephens, Limerick Clare Energy Agency, Kieran Lehane, Limerick City and County Council, Councillor Kieran O'Hanlon, Gerry Doherty and Helen Kenneally Environment Department, Limerick City and County Council at the launch of the Southern Regional Waste Management Plan



Participants in St. Patrick's Band Parade.

# Human Resources, Corporate, Finance & ICT



## SEAN COUGHLAN

*ACTING HEAD OF FINANCE,  
DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES / CORPORATE /  
FINANCE / I.C.T.*

### CORPORATE SERVICES

- Higher Education Grants
- Register of Electors 2015/2016
- Freedom of Information
- Health and Safety
- Twinning
- Procurement
- Corporate Communications Team
- National Day of Commemoration
- Corporate Plan
- Irish Language Scheme
- Energy Analysis – 2015

### FINANCE

- Financial Review
- Balance Sheet Review
- Revenue Expenditure Review
- Income Review
- Draft Statement of Comprehensive Income
- Draft Statement of Financial Position

### HUMAN RESOURCES

- Workforce Plan
- Change Management
- Recruitment and Staffing Complement
- Job Activation
- Shared Services
- Human Resource Management System (CORE)
- Pensions
- Work/Life Balance Measures
- Staff Training and Development
- Performance Management and Development System
- Employee Welfare
- Workplace Partnership
- Service Indicators

### ICT

- Information & Communication Technologies (ICT)

### CORPORATE SERVICES

- Higher Education Grants
- Register of Electors 2015/2016
- Freedom of Information
- Health and Safety
- Twinning
- Procurement
- Corporate Communications Team
- National Day of Commemoration
- Corporate Plan
- Irish Language Scheme
- Energy Analysis – 2015

### FINANCE

- Financial Review
- Balance Sheet Review
- Revenue Expenditure Review
- Income Review
- Draft Statement of Comprehensive Income
- Draft Statement of Financial Position



## 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 suitably placed to deliver the strategic and operational objectives of the organisation.

### WORKFORCE PLAN

During 2015 the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government approved Limerick City and County Council's workforce plan for the period 2014 – 2016. This plan sets out the current position with regard to staffing resources, expected staffing changes over the relevant period of the plan and the Council's proposals for dealing with those changes by way of recruitment/reassignment.

### CHANGE MANAGEMENT

The Department's involvement in the establishment of the new Operating included direct negotiations with trade unions, extensive discussion with individual staff members and detailed planning and implementation with Change Management and other Departments. Regular meetings of the Joint Union/Management Consultative Forum, where discussions took place in relation to Change management, took place during the year.

### RECRUITMENT AND STAFFING COMPLEMENT

Arising from competitions held, 90 new employees joined the Council in 2015.

Support of placement schemes for second and third level schools/colleges and other organisations also continued. A total of 58 placements were facilitated during 2015.

The following is a breakdown of 2015 candidates on a male/female basis:

	Male	Female
<b>No. of Candidates</b>	1394	496
<b>No. of Candidates called for interview</b>	317	127
<b>No. placed on Panel</b>	200	74
<b>No. Employed</b>	63	27

### JOB ACTIVATION

The Council facilitated participation in national employment schemes, such as Job Bridge and Gateway etc. 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. A small number of additional staff were recruited in 2015. Participants receive €20 per week in addition to their social welfare payment. A total of 28 Jobbridge Interns commenced placement during 2015.

## SHARED SERVICES

In November 2015 the Council's payroll function transferred to the Local Government Payroll and Superannuation Shared Services Centre. Referred to as MyPay, the service is based in Laois County Council. Stage two of the roll-out of this shared service involves the transfer of pension administration to MyPay. Preparatory work has commenced this substantial body of work.

## HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (CORE)

The roll-out of Version 19 of Core commenced during 2015. Preparatory work also commenced on the implementation of a Safety Management System. Under a PMDS Module in Core the Council is a validation site for the new Core Performance Management System.

## PENSIONS

41 lump sum gratuities were paid out during 2015 in accordance with relevant Circular Letters and Local Government Superannuation Schemes. The total value of these payments is as follows:

Gross Lump Sums paid	€1,961,528.37
Deductions made	€59,698.25
Nett Lump Sums paid	€1,901,830.12

## 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. One Hundred & Eighty Seven employees availed of the various schemes during 2015.

## STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

The training and development of our employees is a priority within the organisation and allows for the achievement of Corporate, Team and Personal objectives. In 2015 the Council focused on providing mandatory health and safety training and any essential training requested. The training unit provided funding for a number of further education courses, including the IPA Local Government programmes. The training unit provided 190 training courses in 2015 with 1091 employees in attendance.

## PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM (PMDS)

A revised formal performance management appraisal system is in operation since 2014. An annual Team Plan for each Directorate is created which outlines key objectives and targets for the year ahead. Based on the objectives set out in the Team Plan, each employee then creates a Personal Development Plan which includes the specific objectives and targets from the Team Plan that they are responsible for. A review of progress in relation to the achievement of targets takes place formally in an interim and end of year review/discussion. A final work performance evaluation is provided at year end. The end of year evaluation result is linked to incremental progression and has now replaced the annual incremental review process. The introduction of a competency framework which looks at the behaviour, skills and attitude, that underpin effective performance, is a welcome development. Senior Managers are involved in the implementation of the competency framework which will in turn be rolled out, on a phased basis, to all staff in the organisation. Feedback to date in relation to the competency framework has been very positive. The Council is a validation site for the CorePMDS On-line Module which is set to commence in the coming year and aims to streamline the PMDS process within the organisation.

## EMPLOYEE WELFARE

The Council continues to provide an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP). This is a confidential support service for all employees and their immediate family members who reside with them. The service includes a free 24 hour telephone service and provides assistance in relation to, e.g. family issues, addiction, work, relationship, bereavement and financial matters. An on-line health portal provides instant and unlimited access to emotional support video content, fitness videos and over 200 medical factsheets written in an easy to understand format.

## WORKPLACE PARTNERSHIP

Limerick City and County Council Workplace Partnership Committee (WPPC) held its inaugural meeting on the 29th January 2015. The Committee meets on a quarterly basis and its membership is comprised of representatives from both Management and Trade Unions. The WPPC is an Information and Consultation forum which allows Management and Trade Union Officials/ Representatives to pro-actively and constructively engage with each other.

## SERVICE INDICATORS

- C1: Total Number of WTEs
  - A. The wholetime equivalent staffing number as at 31st December 2015 = 1,034.05
- C2: Working Days lost to Sickness
  - A. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave = 3.43%
  - B. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave = 0.34%

## CORPORATE SERVICES

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

## HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS

Limerick City and County Council administered the Higher Education Grants Scheme for Renewals only for the 2014/2015 academic year. All new Higher Education Grant applications and applications for students who changed course were processed by the single awarding authority Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI).

Limerick City and County Council processed over 250 applications. Total expenditure amounted to over €1.4 m and this included an amount of €122,497 that was paid out as Special Rate of Maintenance Grants. A total of 66 students were awarded the Special Rate of Maintenance Grant in 2014/2015.

## REGISTER OF ELECTORS 2015/2016

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 2015 there were 3 Dáil Constituencies in Limerick. The constituencies were as follows and the number of Dáil Seats in each-

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

There were 134,603 Presidential Electors and 140,105 Local Government Electors on the Live 2015/2016 Register of Electors which was published on the 1st February 2015 and the Local Government Electorate is broken down as follows between the 6 Local Electoral Areas:-

Adare-Rathkeale	22,667
Cappamore-Kilmallock	27,196
Limerick City East	27,590
Limerick City North	20,935
Limerick City West	20,112
Newcastle West	21,605

A Supplement to the Register of Electors 2015/2016 with a total Electorate of 1,787 was published for The Marriage Equality (34th Amendment) and the Age of Eligibility for Election to the Office of President (35th Amendment) Referendums which were held on 22nd May 2015.

Members of the public can check if they are registered correctly on the Electoral Register online enquiries on [www.limerick.ie](http://www.limerick.ie). If your details are incorrect or you are not registered, please apply for an application form to [corporate@limerick.ie](mailto:corporate@limerick.ie)

The Draft Polling Scheme 2015 was adopted at the September 2015 Council Meeting. It was prepared in accordance with the recommendations contained in the Constituency Commission Report 2012 and these recommendations had been given legal effect by the Electoral (Amendment) (Dáil Constituencies) Act, 2013.

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

In 2015 there were 136 requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 to Limerick City & County Council.

Request Outcomes:

Granted	41
Part-Granted	56
Refused	28
Withdrawn	1
Live cases at 31st Dec 2015	10

### Freedom of Information Act 2014

The Freedom of Information Act 2014 was signed into law on the 14th Oct 2014. The purpose of the new legislation was to consolidate and update the FOI legislation and to replace the Freedom of Information Acts 1997-2003.

The policy of Limerick City & County Council is to give members of the public access to information held by the Authority in accordance with the provisions of the Act. Further information and application forms are available on the Council's website [www.limerick.ie](http://www.limerick.ie)

### Office of Ombudsman

This office was established under the Ombudsman Act 1980. It's role is to investigate complaints about administrative actions, delays or inactions adversely affecting persons or bodies in their dealings with state bodies including Local Authorities.

In 2015, Limerick City & County Council dealt with a total of 27 complaints that were made to the Ombudsman in relation to decisions/actions taken by the Council.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

Key activities for 2015 include:

- Implementation of the annual work programme.
- Annual review of risk assessments, standard operating guidance and ancillary safety statements.
- Ongoing implementation and improvement of the safety management system.
- Management of incidents and incident investigation.
- Participation at regional and national forums to ensure the interests of Limerick City and County Council are served.
- Review and introduction of Health and Safety Policies and Procedures.

## TWINNING

A delegation from Limerick City and County Council was invited to visit Hohenlohe to mark the 25th Anniversary of the long standing relationship between Hohenlohe and Limerick. The delegation was headed by Councillor Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick visited Hohenlohe County from the 7th to 11th April 2015.

The purpose of the visit was to strengthen the cultural and community exchanges between Limerick and Hohenlohe as both regions seek to build further on the links that have already been established.

The highlights of the visit included a day spent in Künzelsau, which is the second largest town in Hohenlohe County with a population of over 14,700. The County Administration is based in Künzelsau. During the visit the delegation toured the Administration Headquarters of the Würth Group which employs in excess of 70,000 people worldwide. Würth Ireland Limited, established in 1982 and based in Limerick, is a highly successful company with over 80 full time sales representatives covering the whole of Ireland and 50 internal support staff.

The delegation also visited Reinhold Wuerth University in Künzelsau where they met with the Director of International Relations regarding the

development of future relations with the third level sector in Limerick.

Following the visit to Reinhold Wuerth University, the delegates travelled to the Schlossgymnasium, a school which is twinned with St. Fintan's CBS, Doon.

The delegation also visited Stuttgart during their visit as well as the towns of Öhringen and Waldenburg.

## PROCUREMENT

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

During 2015 the following was achieved:

- The Procurement Procedures and Thresholds document was updated circulated and are supported by a wide range of templates and information.
- Information was circulated and training given to 40 staff on upcoming procurement changes:
- Directive 2014/23 Award of Concession Contracts
- Directive 2014/24 Public Procurement
- Directive 2014/25 Procurement by entities operating in the water, transport and postal services.
- The Council continued to use national frameworks such as Bulk Fuel, Gas/Electricity and PPE.
- The Legal Services tender was completed resulting in the appointment of a legal consortium for the Council for a period of five years.

## CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

- The Corporate Communications Team is a growing department based in Merchant's Quay.
- Its responsibilities include dealing with daily local and national media queries, publishing 'Council Connect' the staff magazine, overseeing Limerick.ie the official guide to Limerick and the Council website, social media and all corporate communications on behalf of the local authority.
- In 2015 the Corporate Communications Team issued press releases, news alerts, answered daily questions from local and national media and dealt with all queries posed on the Council's official Twitter account. Three staff magazines were produced and distributed to all Council staff with monthly e-newsletters circulated to keep staff updated and informed of Council changes and activities.
- Brand guidelines were developed with instructions on the use of the council's logo and guidance on using the brand of the council and its house style
- A web policy was also developed to provide an effective organisation-wide framework for governance and management of matters related to the delivery of online information and services for Limerick City and County Council

### Limerick.ie

The Corporate Communications Team has responsibility for the oversight of Limerick.ie – the all inclusive online voice for Limerick with comprehensive information on living, visiting and doing business in Limerick as well as being the official website of Limerick City and County Council.

A total of 608,558 users visited Limerick.ie in 2015, an increase of 34% on the previous year. A total of 2,872,079 pages were viewed. Visitor numbers peaked for the St Patrick's Festival, Riverfest and Christmas. Limerick.ie began to go under extensive re-development in 2015 and is set to re-launch in late 2016.

### Social Media

The use of corporate social media accounts has been developed to enhance and improve communication by the council, in particular, at times

of service disruption or extreme weather events i.e. water supply disruptions or flooding.

- Limerick City and County Council issued 739 tweets in 2015 and increased its Twitter followers by 44% on its @LimerickCouncil account
- Limerick City and County Council Twitter impressions for 2015 was 963,190 and its engagements were 26,853.
- Limerick.ie issued 647 tweets in 2015 and its Twitter followers increased by 36% in 2015
- Limerick.ie Twitter impressions for 2015 was 944,903 and its engagements for 2015 was 22,542.
- Limerick.ie Facebook followers increased by 56% in 2015 with 767 new posts. Limerick.ie Facebook impressions for 2015 was 3,806,929, its reach for 2015 was 2,062,631 with 147,311 engaged users.
- Limerick.ie began an Instagram account on 1st July 2015.

## PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

### Local Authority website and social media usage

- A. Total page views of the local authority's website in 2015 = 958,558
- B. Total number of followers at end 2015 of the LA's social media accounts = 25,697
- C. Total page views of all websites operated by the local authority including Limerick.ie, Christmas.limerick.ie, From Limerick With Love, Limerickcity.ie/library, Limerick City Gallery of Art:, Mount Saint Lawrence:, Limerick Smarter Travel:, Limerick 2020: = 3,425,212

## NATIONAL DAY OF COMMEMORATION

The Council hosted a Day of Commemoration Ceremony on Sunday the 12th July, 2015 to honour all Irish men and women who died in past wars or on service with the United Nations. This was the fifth year in which the ceremony was held at Merchant's Quay and more than 300 people were in attendance.

Representatives of the Roman Catholic Church, the Church of Ireland, United Presbyterian/ Methodist Churches, the Jewish Community and the Islamic Community conducted the multi faith commemoration at which Councillor Liam Galvin, 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 Curraghgower 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 "You'll never walk alone" and "Calling my Children Home" which were very appropriate for the occasion. The Council also had an Uilleann Piper, Harpist, Bugler and Drummer and these all added to making the event even more special.

The Council also had an exhibition running at the time of the event "Stand Up and Fight, Limerick's Military History from the Wild Geese to Gallipoli" and 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.



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



*National Day of Commemoration*



*Mr. Christy O'Connor, Senior Executive Officer, Limerick City and County Council with the officiating representatives of the Faith Traditions at the ceremony.*

## CORPORATE PLAN

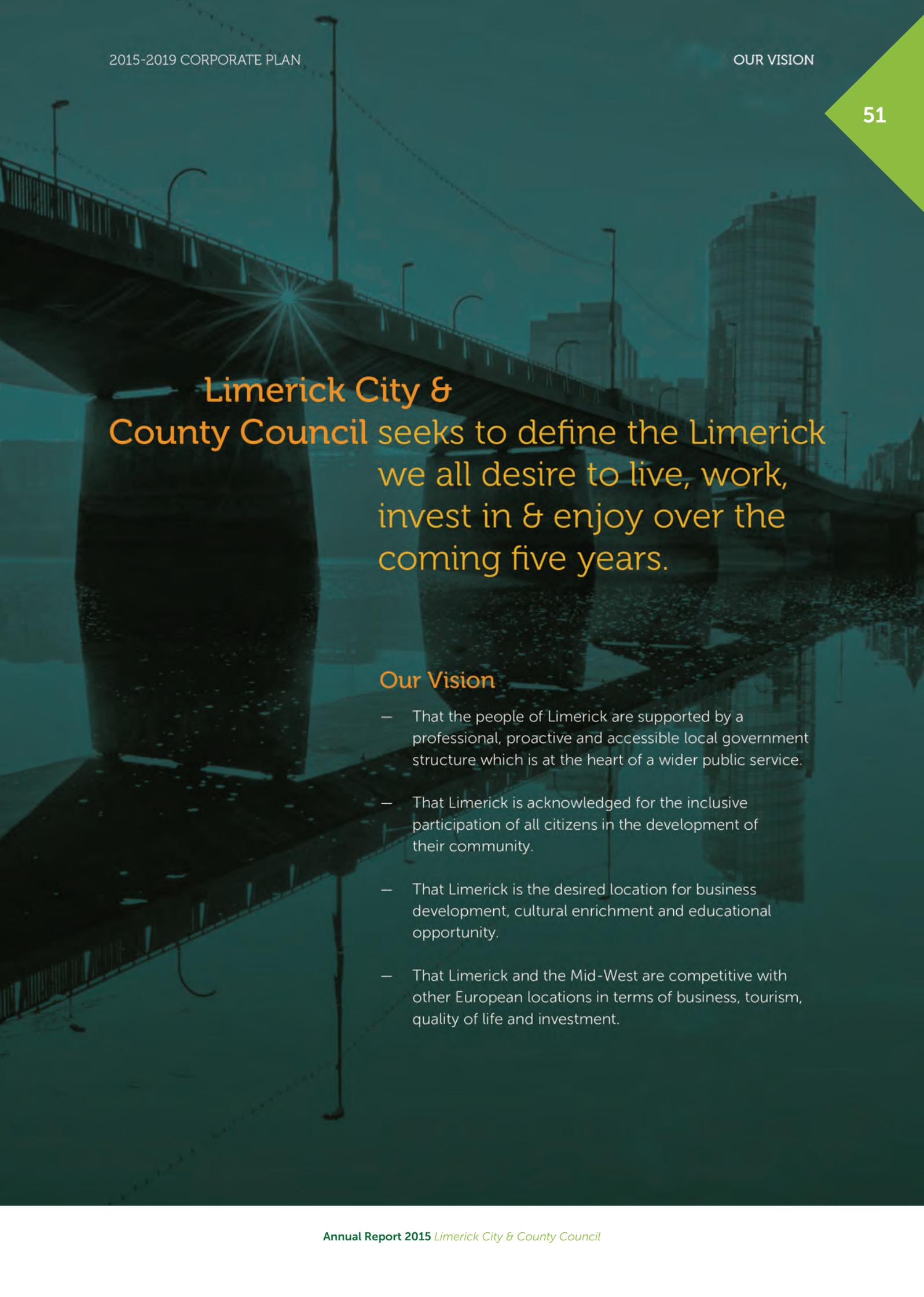
The Corporate Plan 2015-2019 was adopted on 23rd March, 2015.

### 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.



**Limerick City & County Council** seeks to define the Limerick we all desire to live, work, invest in & enjoy over the coming five years.

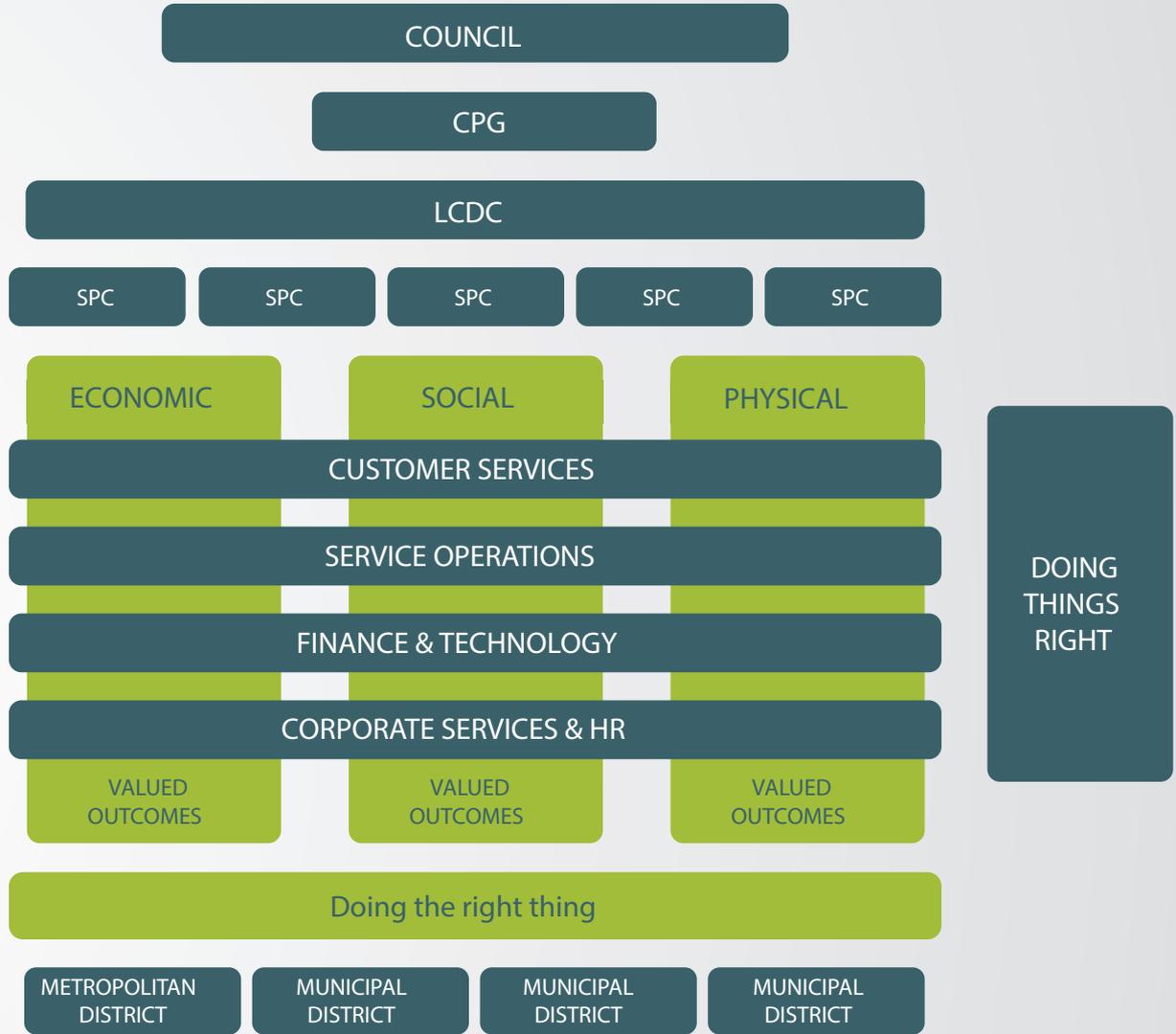
### Our Vision

- That the people of Limerick are supported by a professional, proactive and accessible local government structure which is at the heart of a wider public service.
- That Limerick is acknowledged for the inclusive participation of all citizens in the development of their community.
- That Limerick is the desired location for business development, cultural enrichment and educational opportunity.
- That Limerick and the Mid-West are competitive with other European locations in terms of business, tourism, quality of life and investment.

# Our Values

Democratic  
Ethical  
Respectful  
Impartial  
Accountable  
Transparent  
Participative  
Open  
Innovative  
Efficient  
Trust  
Effective  
Flexible  
Ambitious  
Equality  
Fair  
Accessible

**CORPORATE PLAN STRUCTURE**  
 We will do the right thing, by doing things right!



## IRISH LANGUAGE SCHEME

The Council submitted a 3 year Scheme which was approved by the Minister for the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht on the 14th May 2015. The Scheme contains a number of measures which the Council has undertaken to implement over a 3 year period to improve the use of Irish in the workplace.

On the 12th March 2015, the Council hosted an evening of traditional music, conversation and refreshments to celebrate Seachtain Na Gaeilge. This event was enjoyed by all who attended.

Comharthaíocht Dhatheangach / Corporate Bilingual signage for the organisation is being reviewed and will be in place in all of the main Corporate buildings, with area offices also to be provided with upgraded bilingual signage.

Road signage is also being reviewed in many locations and new bilingual signs have been ordered. This is an ongoing sign replacement programme.

The main phone lines to all Council switchboards are now being answered in Irish.



Attending the event were Paul Crowe, Senior Executive Officer, Limerick City and County Council, Cmhlr. Séighín Ó Ceallaigh, Deputy Mayor and Josephine Cotter Coughlan, Director of Service, Limerick City and County Council. Photograph Liam Burke/Press 22



To celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge Limerick City & County Council hosted an Oíche Gaeilge in Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay. Attending the event was a trad session of Irish music which was provided by Cathal Clohessy, fiddle, Eamon Costello, accordion & pipes and Ger O'Donnell, guitar, photographed above with Cmhlr. Séighín Ó Ceallaigh, Deputy Mayor. Photograph Liam Burke/Press 22

## LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL - ENERGY ANALYSIS - 2015

The following tables set out the energy cost & consumption for Limerick City & County Council in 2015

### Limerick City & County Council Annual Report Energy Cost & Consumption 2015

€ Euro

2015 Total Energy Spend	€4,011,600
2015 Electricity - Total Annual Spend	€2,880,704
2015 Electricity - Annual Spend on Water Services	€181,985
2015 Electricity - Annual Spend on Public Lighting	€135,193
2015 Electricity - Other than water & PL	€2,563,526
2015 Road Fuels (diesel / petrol / biofuel) - Total Annual Spend	€902,563
2015 Heating Fuels (Gas/ oil/ biomass etc) - Total Annual Spend	€228,333
2015 Misc. other fossil fuels (sml lpg etc) - Total Annual Spend	€-

### Analysed by Energy Type - MWh

2011 Electricity-Grid MWh	16,186.6
2011 Fossil Fuels MWh	11,357.5
2011 Renewable Energy - MWh	29.6
<b>Total Energy - MWh</b>	<b>27,573.7</b>

### Actions Undertaken in 2015

In 2015 {Limerick City & County Council} undertook a range of initiatives to improve our energy performance, including:

1	Water Services Upgrades	51	MWh of savings
2	Building Fabric & Services Upgrades	83	MWh of savings
3	Public Lighting	133	MWh of savings
4	Transport / Vehicles	81	MWh of savings
	<b>Total 2015</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>MWh of savings</b>

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

1	Water Services Upgrades	30	MWh of savings
2	Building Fabric & Services Upgrades	116	MWh of savings
3	Public Lighting	166	MWh of savings
4	Transport / Vehicles	121	MWh of savings
	<b>Total 2015</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>MWh of savings</b>

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

Unaudited Annual Financial Statement (AFS) for Financial Year ended 31st December 2015.

## BALANCE SHEET REVIEW

The Balance Sheet presented shows that Limerick City & County Council had Fixed Assets of €3,250,517,452 and Work In Progress of €34,061,723 as at 31 December 2015. 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 2014/2015. Capital income amounted to €69.3m in 2015, An increase of €8.1m on the 2014 figure of €61.2m. Grants accounted for 75% of total capital income in 2015.

Collection percentages for all areas of debt including Commercial Rates were under constant pressure during 2014 mainly due to the ongoing economic downturn and level of vacancy in Limerick area (see Appendix 7 of the AFS for figures).

## REVENUE EXPENDITURE REVIEW

Revenue expenditure for the year amounted to €152,774,551 before transfers. Transfer to reserves amounted to €13,631,587 giving a total expenditure figure for 2015 of €166,406,138. 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 €166,566,469 leading to a revenue surplus for 2015 of €160,330. This when added to the opening surplus of €599,561 gives an accumulated surplus at 31 December 2015 of €759,891.

Payroll continues to be the most significant cost with a total payroll cost in 2015 of €65,749,288. In 2015 payroll costs represented 39.5% of total expenditure. This indicates the need for the continued commitment to re-align pay and non-pay expenditure within the Council. Pensions & Gratuities are lower in 2015 compared to 2014 mainly due to greater level of retirement/resignation of staff in 2014. The pay costs and staff numbers will continue to be examined during 2016 in order to identify further savings where possible.

Expenditure is summarised by main area of expenditure as follows:

	2015	% of Expenditure	2014	% of Expenditure
	€	%	€	%
Payroll	65,749,288	39.5%	67,122,908	39.2%
Operational expenses	64,565,994	38.8%	65,382,318	38.2%
Administration expenses	8,660,352	5.2%	9,733,815	5.7%
Establishment expenses	2,457,532	1.5%	2,530,413	1.5%
Financial expenses	5,692,960	3.4%	12,925,105	7.5%
Miscellaneous	5,648,426	3.4%	5,310,958	3.1%
Transfers to reserves	13,631,587	8.2%	8,374,303	4.9%
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>166,406,138</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>171,379,819</b>	<b>100%</b>

## INCOME REVIEW

Revenue income for the year amounted to €166,566,469. This represented a decrease of €4,839,097 on the total income in 2014 (€171,405,565). The following table summarises the main income sources:

A number of income areas performed ahead of budget in 2015 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.

	2015		2014	
	€	%	€	%
Grants & Subsidies	45,651,496	27%	45,771,841	27%
Contributions from other local authorities	2,509,433	2%	4,647,370	3%
Goods & Services	48,165,487	29%	49,023,242	29%
	96,326,416	58%	99,442,453	58%
Local Property Tax	14,139,276	8%	14,625,159	9%
Rates	52,012,763	31%	53,649,542	31%
Pension Related Deduction	2,760,686	2%	2,929,305	2%
Transfer from Reserves	1,327,328	1%	759,106	0%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>166,566,469</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>171,405,565</b>	<b>100%</b>

## SUMMARY

The revenue surplus for 2015 is €160,330. As a result the accumulated revenue surplus at the end of 2015 is increased to €759,891 compared to €599,561 at the end of 2014. 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 efficiencies during these challenging economic times.

**C MURRAY**  
*Chief Executive*

## DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT) FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2015

The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure.

It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year. Transfers to/from reserves are shown separately and not allocated by service division.

### EXPENDITURE BY DIVISION

	Gross Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure	Net Expenditure
	2015	2015	2015	2014
	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	41,259,361	42,452,552	(1,193,192)	(2,065,621)
Roads Transportation & Safety	31,122,794	18,540,294	12,582,499	13,137,313
Water Services	13,315,144	13,447,345	(132,201)	(1,797,512)
Development Management	13,143,835	5,213,359	7,930,476	9,270,428
Environmental Services	29,921,392	9,153,225	20,768,167	22,531,588
Recreation & Amenity	11,309,584	631,331	10,678,253	9,270,784
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	2,147,968	1,197,487	950,480	1,149,511
Miscellaneous Services	10,554,474	5,690,823	4,863,652	12,066,572
<b>Total Expenditure/Income</b>	<b>152,774,551</b>	<b>96,326,416</b>		
<b>Net cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates &amp; Local Property Tax</b>			<b>56,448,135</b>	<b>63,563,063</b>
Rates			52,012,763	53,649,542
Local Property Tax			14,139,276	14,625,159
Pension Related Deduction			2,760,686	2,929,305
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers</b>			<b>12,464,590</b>	<b>7,640,943</b>
<b>Transfers from/(to) Reserves</b>			<b>(12,304,259)</b>	<b>(7,615,197)</b>
<b>Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year</b>			<b>160,330</b>	<b>25,746</b>
<b>General Reserve @ 1st January 2015</b>			<b>599,561</b>	<b>573,815</b>
<b>General Reserve @ 31st December 2015</b>			<b>759,891</b>	<b>599,561</b>

# DRAFT STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (BALANCE SHEET) AT 31ST DECEMBER 2015

	2015 €	2014 €
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Operational	688,191,172	692,471,509
Infrastructural	2,513,325,452	2,512,179,520
Community	11,955,768	7,329,489
Non-Operational	37,045,061	33,154,069
	<b>3,250,517,452</b>	<b>3,245,134,587</b>
<b>Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses</b>	34,061,723	28,607,979
<b>Long Term Debtors</b>	55,139,551	50,717,774
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Stocks	291,827	309,162
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	20,960,362	32,469,135
Bank Investments	62,233,193	65,885,083
Cash at Bank	4,136,517	1,871,382
Cash in Transit	4,827	4,827
	<b>87,626,727</b>	<b>100,539,590</b>
<b>Current Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)</b>		
Bank Overdraft	-	-
Creditors & Accruals	34,424,182	43,382,351
Finance Leases	-	-
	<b>34,424,182</b>	<b>43,382,351</b>
<b>Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)</b>	<b>53,202,545</b>	<b>57,157,238</b>
<b>Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year)</b>		
Loans Payable	66,373,599	79,148,544
Finance Leases	0	0
Refundable deposits	1,912,513	1,902,753
Other	1,882,353	881,960
	<b>70,168,465</b>	<b>81,933,256</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>3,322,752,806</b>	<b>3,299,684,321</b>
<b>Represented by</b>		
Capitalisation Account	3,250,517,453	3,245,134,587
Income WIP	33,333,204	27,915,075
Specific Revenue Reserve	384,904	384,904
General Revenue Reserve	759,891	599,561
Other Balances	37,757,354	25,650,193
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>3,322,752,806</b>	<b>3,299,684,321</b>

## INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICT)

The ICT Section of Limerick City & County Council continued to support sections in achieving their objectives throughout 2015. In addition to the operational activities such as, monitoring security, maintaining infrastructure & systems, and providing user & desktop support throughout 2015, several major projects were undertaken.

Some of these projects undertaken during 2015 were :-

### Limerick Domain Project

Limerick City Council & Limerick County Council both had Active Directory(AD) domains prior to merger. During the merger process a trust relationship was put in place between these domains, and a new Limerick.ie domain created for the new merged authority.

Migration to the new merged domain commenced in quarter three and involved the migration of all users from the legacy domains, migration of computer accounts, and the transition of authentication of legacy systems to the new domain. The project involved the creation of new security groups and permissions to systems, file-shares, printers and other network devices. The project was implemented with limited inconvenience to staff, and has simplified user logon with a single user account for network and email.

### Windows Server 2003 Project

Microsoft Windows Server 2003 was the operating system on the majority of servers in Limerick City & County Council. Windows Server 2003 became end-of-life (EOL) 14th July, 2015. This meant that Microsoft would no longer release bug fixes and new vulnerabilities would not be addressed, which meant our Windows Server 2003 systems would become a huge security risk.

Limerick City & County Council had over sixty servers running on Windows Server 2003. Migration of systems and data from these servers to new Windows 2008 Servers was a huge task, without causing disruption to users. The project included the creation of new servers, migration of systems

and data from old servers, and in some cases the upgrade of systems due to compatibility issues with the new operating system. The project was completed successfully by the target date.

### Wi-Fi Upgrade

This project involved the replacement of Wi-Fi controllers and access points and facilitated the delivery of a single Private and Single public Service Set Identifier (SSID) throughout the new merged authority.

The project delivered simplified but secure wireless access for staff & public on a single high performance network, eliminating previous black spots.

### Granary ICT Room Project

This project involved the relocation and expansion of the ICT Comms room in the Granary, and will facilitate the creation of a Disaster Recovery (DR) site for Merchants Quay in The Granary.

The new ICT room provides resources to allow for expansion of the ICT footprint within the Granary, and was an opportunity to consolidate current systems, and remove unnecessary equipment.

### HAP HUB Relocation

The HAP Hub was relocated from Merchants Quay to the Granary during Q3 – 2015. This involved cabling of the new offices, installation, configuration, and testing of active equipment, and the installation of Wi-Fi access points in preparation for the move. This was followed by the installation, configuration and testing of Desktops, phones, and printers. The 15 staff in the HAP Hub were successfully relocated to the Granary to the agreed schedule.

### 10GB LAN\SAN Network

The installation of Fibre facilitated 10GB network between Merchants Quay, the Granary, Dooradoyle, and Lissanalta House. This project involved the purchase, installation, configuration and testing of active equipment to enable this 10GB capacity. This gives improved network performance, and facilitates the replication and backup of data to DR sites.

### Redesign of Limerick.ie

As our current website is based on outdated technology and design an investment in the existing Limerick.ie, Council website and related sites under

the Limerick.ie umbrella is needed. The website is a key channel of communication and conduit for online services for Limerick's citizens.

Visitors to the website are continually increasing and demanding more online services. The development of the self service channel will lead to greater staff efficiencies and increased user satisfaction. An updated website will provide an overall improved professional and user-friendly portal for business and tourism.

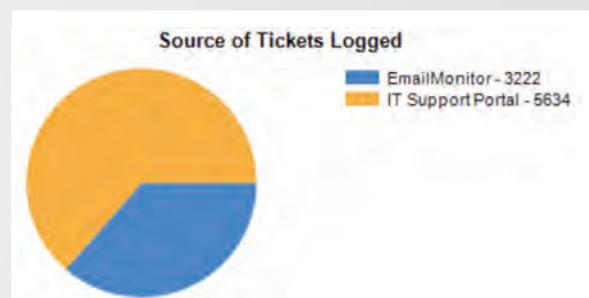
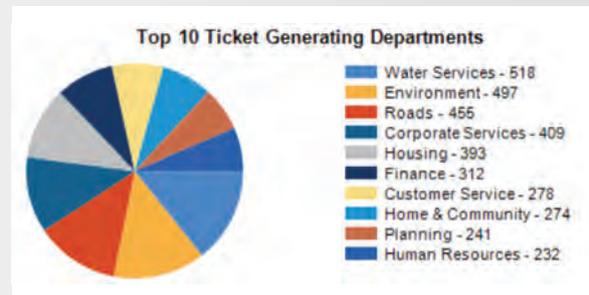
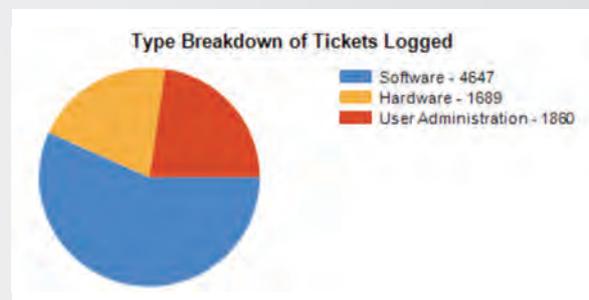
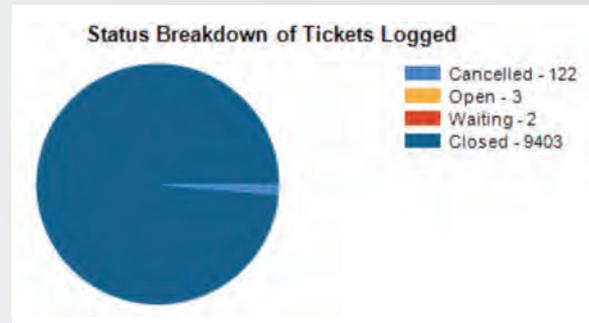
A procurement procedure "Competitive Dialogue" was used to select a supplier for the design and architecture of Limerick.ie, and Dara Design & Print Limited were awarded the contract in September, 2015. The design process commenced in Q4 – 2015.

### ICT Helpdesk

The ICT Helpdesk dealt with over 9,400 Tickets logged during 2015. 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.

### Ticket Statistics 2015



### Performance Indicators

C4: Overall cost of ICT provision per WTE

The total Figure is €3,165,186, when divided by the number of WTE of 1,034.05, the final figure is €3,060.96

# Home & Community, Culture and Sport



## PAT DOWLING

DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE,  
DIRECTOR OF HOME & COMMUNITY /  
CULTURE / SPORT

### HOME

- Home and Social Development
- Regeneration Programme
- Community Facilities
- Environmental Improvements
- Nicholas Street Refurbishment
- The Opera Centre Redevelopment
- Culture Night
- Irish Planning Institute National Planning Awards
- Events
- Home Improvement Programmes
- Housing Maintenance
- Energy Efficiency Programmes
- Allocations
- Rental Accommodation Scheme
- Homeless Service
- Performance Indicators

### COMMUNITY

- The Local Community Development Committee
- Pride of Place
- PPN Public Participation Network
- Diaspora Grants
- Lifelong Learning Festival
- Junior Achievement
- Limerick Comhairle na nÓg
- Africa Week / Limerick Intercultural City
- Local Travellers Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC)
- Contribution Scheme 2015
- Askeaton Pool and Leisure Ltd
- Grove Island Leisure Centre
- Estate Management Unit
- Limerick City Community Safety Partnership
- Working with the Elderly
- Encouraging Community Spirit
- Limerick Sports Partnership

### CULTURE

- Library Service Highlights 2015 Service Indicators
- 2016 Commemoration Programme
- Cultural and Civic Events 2015
- Children's Events 2015
- Music Library Events at the Granary Library
- Exhibitions 2015
- Limerick Arts Office
- Cultural Strategy Framework for Limerick
- Limerick's Bid for European Capital of Culture 2020
- Culture Night
- Arts Programming
- Art Form Development
- Training Programme
- Volunteers
- The Belltable Arts Centre
- Audience Development, Promotion and Social Media
- Portfolio of Arts Buildings
- Limerick Museum and Archives
- Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)



A key objective of Limerick City and County Council, in accordance with the Social Housing Strategy 2020, is to ensure “that to the greatest extent possible, every household will have access to secure, good quality housing suited to their needs at an affordable price and in a sustainable community.”

Limerick City and County Council provides housing accommodation for tenants through a combination of standard local authority housing, Traveller Accommodation, Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS), Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), Acquisitions and various Leasing Programmes. We also work closely with a number of Approved Housing Bodies to provide a wide range of housing solutions.

The Social Housing Strategy 2020, published in November 2014, by the DoECLG outlined the following strategic national objectives:

- €1.5 billion of Exchequer investment from 2015-2017;
- 35,000 new homes by 2020; and
- 75,000 units delivered through local authority housing support schemes.

Ministers Alan Kelly and Padraig Coffey launched the Social Housing targets 2015-2017 at the Lord Edward Street site on 1st April 2015.

The overall target for Limerick City and County Council up to 2017 is 753 units of which 293 units are capital funded. The overall target will be progressed through a blend of acquisition, building and leasing.

Key themes highlighted in this report include:

- 1.0 Capital Investment;
- 2.0 Approved Housing Bodies;
- 3.0 CAS Assistance Scheme (CAS) 2015;
- 4.0 House Purchase Programme;
- 5.0 Long Term Leasing Programme;
- 6.0 Traveller Accommodation;
- 7.0 Physical Regeneration Programme.

## 1.0 Capital Investment

The housing construction programme as at December 2015 consists of the following schemes:

Name of Scheme	Number of Units
Clare Street	6
Kilmurry Court, Garryowen	7
Hassett Villas, Thomondgate	3
Lisheen Park, Patrickswell	20
Glenview, Hospital	20
Deerpark, Adare	30
Clonmacken	40
Various Sites	10
Rathbane (SHIP – Social Housing Investment Programme)	8
Joseph Street	3
Waller’s Well Phase 2	18
<b>TOTAL (as at December 2015)</b>	<b>165</b>



Launch of the Social Housing Targets 2015-2017 in April, 2015 at the Lord Edward Street housing site, Limerick



Launch of the Social Housing Targets 2015-2017 in April, 2015 at the Lord Edward Street housing site, Limerick

## 2.0 Approved Housing Bodies

The Capital Team continue to work closely with the Approved Housing Bodies in order to meet the ambitious targets set out in the Social Housing Strategy 2020. The sector continues to advance projects approved under the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) 2015. Additional units are being progressed under the Capital Advanced Leasing Facility (CALF) with a significant number of units set for delivery throughout 2016.

The following new construction and refurbishment projects being progressed in collaboration with AHBs are as follows:

## Approved Housing Bodies Forum

A forum for Approved housing bodies (AHBs), held in conjunction with the Irish Council for Social Housing (ICSH), and hosted by Limerick City and County Council, took place on 20th July 2015 in Merchants Quay, Limerick. The forum was attended by representatives of Approved housing bodies based throughout Limerick and those looking to locate in Limerick. The main theme of the forum, chaired by Kathleen McKillion of the ICSH, was to encourage collaboration between the AHBs in meeting the ambitious targets set out in the Social Housing Strategy 2020.

Approved Housing Body	Name of Scheme	Number of Units
Cluid Housing Association	Hyde Road Refurbishment	20
Focus Ireland	Various	4
Focus Ireland	Bengal Terrace	4
Daughters of Charity Disability Support Services	Lisnagry	1
Mortgage to Rent	Various	4
Novas	Various	8
St. Joseph's Foundation	Liskennett, Kilmallock	9
<b>TOTAL (as at December 2015)</b>		<b>50</b>

## 3.0 CAS Assistance Scheme (CAS) 2015

Minister Alan Kelly announced CAS funding approval for Construction and Acquisition projects to be completed by Approved Housing Bodies throughout Limerick City and County in July 2015. The following schemes have been approved as at December 2015 and are being progressed.

Approved Housing Body	Name of Scheme	Number of Units
Mid West Simon Community	Speaker's Corner	4
Mid West Simon Community	Various locations	2
Respond!	North Circular Road	11
Cluid Housing Association	Castletroy	21
Co-operative Housing Ireland	Rhebogue	21
Peter McVerry Trust	Various locations	4
Focus Ireland	Various locations	15
<b>TOTAL (as at December 2015)</b>		<b>78</b>

#### 4.0 House Purchase Programme

During 2015 the Home and Social Development Directorate received approval to purchase 22 units at a cost of €3.9 million. Given the favourable market conditions at the time, the team were successful in purchasing 36 units within the allocated budget.

#### 5.0 Long Term Leasing Programme

The Capital Team continue to promote the long-term leasing facility to the owners of private rented accommodation. Where there is a demand for the property the owner is paid 80% of the market rent for that property, with maintenance of the property transferred to the Local Authority for the duration of the lease (10-20 years). Long-term leasing represents one of the many options available to Limerick City and County Council for the delivery of social housing. Submissions are sought on an on-going basis under this scheme.

#### 6.0 Traveller Accommodation

Limerick City and County Council continues to implement the Council's Traveller Accommodation Programme by providing new units and managing the Council's existing Traveller specific accommodation stock. Limerick City and County Council maintains 11 halting sites. A Traveller Accommodation Programme was adopted by the Council and a new Local traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee was established in September 2014. The inaugural meeting was held in December. The adopted programme sets out accommodation proposals for the period 2014-2018 and will be progressed in consultation with the committee.

##### Traveller Accommodation Programme

Name of Scheme	Stage
Castletroy	Extension of three bays, 95% complete (December 2015)
Bawney's Bridge	Refurbishment Works Complete (March 2015)

## REGENERATION PROGRAMME KEY MILESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2015

The Limerick Regeneration Framework Plan (LRFIP) was adopted by the elected members of Limerick City Council in February 2014. The implementation of this action-orientated and evidence-based plan is well advanced under each programme heading – Social, Economic and Physical Regeneration – and in each of the four areas: Moyross, Southill, Ballinacurra Weston and St Mary’s Park.

### Social

As part of the ‘whole of government’ approach the Social Intervention Programme aims to influence how mainstream funds are applied to social policy interventions to address social exclusion in the city, with specific focus on the regeneration areas, and improve the social coordination of the overall package of state funding. A total of 159 projects were supported in 2015 under the social intervention fund. The Council implemented an evaluation framework in 2015 for the monitoring of all grants and this has helped to shape future interventions and improve the services to the communities.



*Official Opening of Le Cheile National School at Roxboro.*

The Le Chéile National School, at Roxboro, was completed and opened its doors for the first time in September 2015. The new school is an amalgamation of Galvone National School and Southill Junior School next to the old Galvone National School building, where Gaelscoil Sheirse Clancy now resides. Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan who officially launched the opening remarked that the new school marked

“another really positive moment for the Limerick Regeneration programme. This school will also be a lasting legacy of that programme and will go on to make a huge contribution to life here on the south-side of the city.”

### Economic

The regeneration programme has a funding stream for economic initiatives to assist in meeting the economic objectives of the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan. These initiatives offer employment support, training/apprenticeships and job creation.

The Hospitality & Skills Training Programme located at the LEDP has been a great economic success since it came into operation in September 2014. It is a multi-partnership project which provides culinary, restaurant and bar skills to people in need of training & employment. 148 trainees joined the programme in 2015, 117 completed the training and 81 went on to employment in culinary skills and restaurant and bar operations. Monitoring of the outcomes of the programme continue after the trainees have graduated and enter employment and many of them have been promoted to supervisory positions. This is a key regeneration inter-agency project and the partners include the Limerick & Clare Education and Training Board, Solas, Limerick College of Further Education, Limerick City and County Council, Irish Hotel Federation and Employers.

### Physical

The physical regeneration programme includes key activities in the following areas:

- New Housing Construction;
- Major Refurbishment of Vacant Housing;
- Thermal Upgrade of Existing Homes;
- Construction of Community Facilities;
- Strategic Demolitions;
- Public Realm, Infrastructure and Environmental Works; and
- Strategic Site Acquisitions.

The LRFIP includes an objective to construct 593 new homes and the thermal upgrade of 1504 existing homes over the lifetime of the plan. At the end of 2015, the total number of new housing units completed stood at 108. Construction is due to commence on 94 housing units in Q1 2016 and 53 units in Q2 2016. Bringing vacant (void) houses back

into use continues across all areas with 68 homes now occupied following extensive refurbishment in 2015. A review of the retention and demolition strategy took place in 2015. The outcome of this review, to be published in 2016, is an overall reduction in the number of homes scheduled for demolition, as outlined in the adopted LRFIP. The reduction in the number of homes scheduled for demolition reduces the overall housing need in the regeneration areas for replacement homes.

The status of the physical regeneration programme as at December 2015 is as follows:

Status as at December 2015	No. of Units
Schemes with Preliminary Departmental Approval	132
Schemes at Design Stage / Part 8 Planning	104
Schemes at Detailed Design Stage	224
Thermal Upgrade Project (Planning/Tender stage)	328
Schemes at Construction Stage (incl. Thermal Upgrades)	181
Schemes Completed in 2015 (incl. Thermal Upgrades and Long Term Voids)	202

Key research, policy and evaluation documents published in 2015 include the:

- Development and Archaeological Strategy for King's Island (DASKIL): The DASKIL was completed in 2015 and is the first development and archaeological strategy of its kind in Ireland to recognise the regeneration and inherent potential of an area rich in archaeology but also strategically located - King's Island. The DASKIL is a visionary plan for sustainable development in realising the potential of the archaeological assets of King's Island to create economic, social and environmental benefit, addressing all aspects of sustainable development.
- Design and Public Realm Code for the Regeneration Areas: The Design and Public Realm Code for the Limerick Regeneration Areas was completed and endorsed by the DoECLG in August 2015. The Code helps ensure the best standards of urban design and place-making are consistently achieved in Limerick. It is a concise, visual guide that clearly explains the Office of Regeneration's expectations on design parameters for the built environment and the public realm.
- Monitoring Report for Physical Regeneration 2014-2015: In February 2015, one year on, from the formal adoption of the LRFIP, a Monitoring Report was prepared on the activities over the past year on Housing and Physical Environment projects. Strong progress has been made to date on the key indicators with 28 of the 38 objectives performing well/being met. It is vital that the progress shown across many of the indicators in this report is sustained over the lifetime of the regeneration programme. The report is available at: <http://www.limerick.ie/council/annual-monitoring-report-housing-and-physical-environment>.



*Photomontage of proposed new extension to Moyross Community and Enterprise Centre.*

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government, Alan Kelly T.D formally announced in September 2015, significant funding of €3 million for the redevelopment of the Moyross Community Enterprise Centre (MCEC). This project is scheduled to proceed to construction in 2016. The official opening of the Moyross AFC player facilities, adjacent to the MCEC, also took place in September.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS

The remediation of the Landfill Site at St Mary's Park, funded through the regeneration programme was completed in 2015, generating an improved environment for the area and the wider city. A programme of work to eradicate Japanese Knotweed, a highly problematic invasive species, on key development sites also forms part of the environmental programme. To improve community safety additional CCTV cameras have been approved for installation in Ballinacurra Weston and in St. Marys Park. A new water main network for St Mary's Park, delivered by Irish Water, commenced on site in December 2015 with work due to be completed by mid-2016.

## NICHOLAS STREET REFURBISHMENT

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

## THE OPERA CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT

Over €800,000 euros has been invested by the Office of Regeneration 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.

## CULTURE NIGHT

Limerick Soprano Sarah Shine performed at no.4 Patrick - one of the Opera Centre buildings and former home of the Singer Catherine Hayes on 18th September 2015. Activating the building provided a glimpse to the Limerick public of the potential and importance of this site – one of the major assets of the city.



Nicholas Street refurbishment - Before.



Nicholas Street refurbishment - After.



Opera singer Sarah Shine at the birthplace of Catherine Hayes - 4 Patrick Street.

## IRISH PLANNING INSTITUTE NATIONAL PLANNING AWARDS

Five Limerick City and County Council Regeneration projects were shortlisted in December 2015 for the Irish Planning Institute National Planning Awards.

These were:

- The Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan;
- The Tait Clothing Factory: An Online Multi-media Planning and Heritage Repository;
- The Development and Archaeological Strategy

for King's Island (DASKIL);

- The Statement of Community Involvement for 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.

## EVENTS

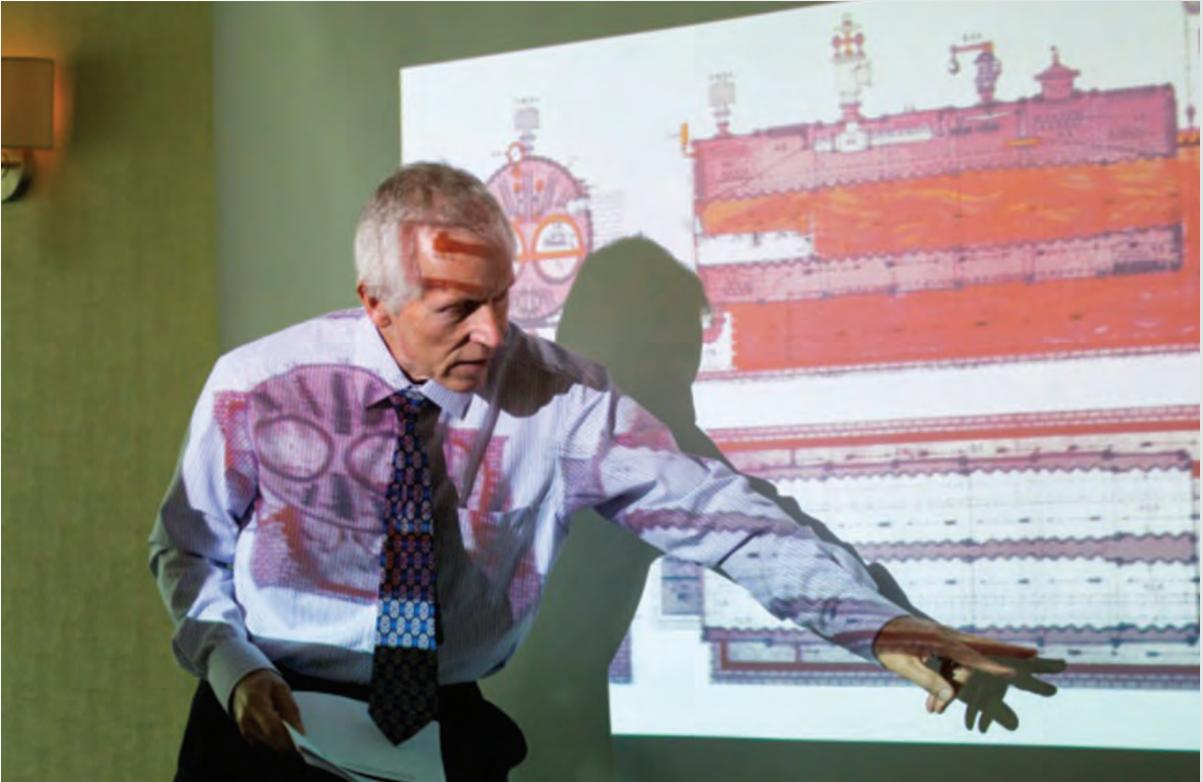
A one-off Open House Limerick Open day at the Tait Clothing Factory site at Lord Edward Street in June 2015 was attended by over 500 people. This event was followed by a seminar, 'The Tait Clothing Factory: A Testament to Time' funded by the Heritage Council took place in August 2015 during Heritage Week. Given the importance of the Clothing Factory to Limerick life a book on the Factory was commissioned in 2015 and is due to be published in 2016. Raising the awareness and profile of the regeneration areas is an important part of the work of Limerick City and County Council. Events such as the Open House Limerick 2015 bus tour of the regeneration areas assist in the process of promoting better understanding and breaking down barriers.



*Tait Clothing Factory Open Day in June 2015.*



*Tait Clothing Factory Open Day in June 2015.*



Heritage Council funded seminar 'The Tait Clothing Factory: A Testament to Time'.



Tait Clothing Factory Open Day in June 2015.



Heritage Council funded seminar 'The Tait Clothing Factory: A Testament to Time'.



*Regeneration Bus Tour delegation visiting Walnut House, Brown's Quay as part of Open House Limerick 2015.*

## HOME IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMMES

494 households received a Home Adaptation Grant, Mobility Aids Grant and Housing Aid for Older Person totalling €2.6 million to support independent living for older people and people with disabilities.

## HOUSING MAINTENANCE

### Operations North

€2.1m was spent on reactive maintenance and management of communal facilities, this significant level of funding ensures that we maintain a level of upkeep in our Council housing stock to achieve well maintained accommodation. Providing safe and quality homes to our Tenants is a key priority for

the Council and we ensure a high level of Customer Service is delivered to our Tenants by direct labour and contractors.

Expenditure of €240,000 on planned maintenance was provided County wide in 2015.

Refurbished 52 void units through special departmental funding for long term vacant stock with a value of €384,000 with €86,000 of this cost from the resources of Limerick City & County Council.

Refurbished 58 casual re-letting units through direct labour and specialist contractors at an average cost of €8,134.00.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMMES

Limerick City & County Council partnered with a number Energy Companies in 2015 to avail of the Better Energy Communities Grant. This Grant is designed to provide a tri-party funding model to upgrade housing stock with a greater level of energy efficiency. The level of investment from the Council and Department of Environment for all projects was €405,000

- Replaced the Storage Heating in 73 Units with the new High Energy Efficient Quantum Storage Heaters
- Cavity pumped 154 Units and also fully insulated the attics of each unit
- Externally Insulated 16 Units and re-fitted with A Rated Condensing Boilers.

## ALLOCATIONS

There were 395 offers of accommodation made and 304 households took up tenancies.

## RENTAL ACCOMMODATION SCHEME

At the 31st of December 2015 there were 1,136 RAS tenancies in place including 33 new transfers of rent supplement clients to RAS.

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

## HOMELESS SERVICE

The Homeless Action Team processed 1659 customer contacts in relation to homelessness last year. 740 clients were facilitated in Emergency Accommodation and a further 204 were provided with some form of supported housing through the Private Market or Voluntary Housing. Tenancy Sustainment is provided by the Team and also by Focus Ireland on behalf of the Local Authority to Tenants in both Local Authority and private rented accommodation.

The Regional Homelessness Management Group instigated a review of the model of homeless service provision in the Region in September, with a view to accelerating a move to housing- led solutions. The review report will be published in 2016. 3 housing led pilot projects were initiated in 2015 by the Homeless Action Team, to be delivered by Focus Ireland, Mid West Simon Community and Novas Initiatives, seeking long term solutions for 44 individuals and 15 families. These will come to fruition in 2016.

## PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

### H1 Social Housing Stock

The overall total number of dwellings provided (constructed or purchase) by the Local Authority in 2015 201

The overall total number of Social Housing dwellings in the Local Authority at 31/12/2015 5,099

### H2 Housing Voids

The percentage of the total number of dwellings vacant on the 31/12/2015 5.47%

### H3 Average re-letting time and cost

a) The time taken from the date of the vacation of the dwelling to the date in 2015 when a new tenancy had commenced in the dwelling, averaged across all units re-let in 2015. 19 weeks

b) The Cost expended on getting re-tenanted units in 2015 ready averaged across all units re-let in 2015. €4,588

### H4 Housing Maintenance Cost

Expenditure during 2015 on the repair and maintenance of housing bought or built by the Local Authority Compiled on a continuous basis from 01/01/2015 to 31/12/2015 divided by the number of directly provided units in the Local Authority stock at 31/12/2015. €372

### H5 Private Rented Sector Inspections

a) Total number of registered tenancies in the Limerick City & County Council areas 12,907

b) Number of inspections carried out 967

### H6 Long Term Homeless Adults

a) Number of adults individuals that are long-term homeless as percentage of the total number of homeless adult individuals:- 41%

b) Number of adults who have been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously or 6 months cumulatively over previous 12 months:- 81

c) Note: no of adults classified as homeless on 01/12/2015 196

## THE LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Local Economic Community Development Committee (LCDC) met on a monthly basis in 2015 and comprises of 17 members. They held 11 meetings in 2015. The membership is as follows:

### Public Sector Representatives

#### Local Authority Members

Cllr. Seamus Browne  
Cllr. Daniel Butler  
Cllr. Eddie Ryan (Chairperson)  
Cllr. Jerome Scanlan

#### Local Authority Staff

Mr. Conn Murray

#### Public Authorities

H.S.E  
D.S.P  
LCETB

Mr. Bernard Gloster  
Mr. Jim Lynch  
Mr. George O' Callaghan

### Non-Statutory Sector Representatives

#### Local Development Companies

Paul Partnership  
West Limerick Resources  
Ballyhoura Development

Ms. Anne Kavanagh  
Mr. Shay Riordan  
Ms. Carmel Fox

#### Community & Voluntary Representation

Ms. Nuala Rennison  
Mr. Cathal McCarthy  
Mr. Donal Cooper  
Ms. Marion Harnett

#### Environmental Pillar

Ms. Trish Forde-Brennan

#### Agricultural Sector

Mr. Aidan Gleeson

### 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

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- 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 2015 the Committee was proactive in the delivery of its functions and the key areas of work included:

- Monitoring, reporting and review of the 2015 Social Inclusion Activation Programme.
- Preparation of and submission of a successful single Expression of Interest to be the Local Action Group (LAG) for Rural Development Funding (EU Leader Programme) for Limerick. In 2015 a budget of €9.276 million was allocated for the Rural Development Programme in Limerick for the period 2014-2020.
- Preparation of a Rural Development Strategy for the period 2014-2020 which was approved by a national Independent Evaluation Committee.
- The completion of a Socio Economic Data Analysis for Limerick.

- Completed the preparation, consultation process and adoption of the High Level Objectives and Socio Economic Statement for the Local Economic Community Plan.
- Commenced the preparation of the Local Economic Community Plan.

## PRIDE OF PLACE

Limerick City & County Council continued its fine tradition of success in the annual IPB Pride of Place Competition which is run by Co-operation Ireland in 2015.

The council nominated 4 no communities/ community groups to participate – Killeely, Bruff/Grange/Meanus, Tait House Southill and Scanlon Park, Castleconnell.

Judging took place on 9th & 10th July with Mr. Donal Connolly, Waterford and Ms. Rita McNulty, Sligo. The judges commented that all four Limerick entries were of very high standard. Awards were announced at a gala ceremony in the West County Hotel, Ennis on Saturday 14th November 2015. Killeely took overall winner in the 0-300 population category while Scanlon Park Housing Estate in Castleconnell, Co Limerick picking up runner up in the Housing Estates Category.

## PPN PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK

434 groups registered with the PPN in 2015. The inaugural meeting of the PPN was held in Limerick Racecourse on 29th January 2015. The PPN Secretariat was established in mid April with 9 members representing the 4 Municipal Districts and the 3 sectors (Community & Voluntary, Social Inclusion and Environment). PPN Registration re-opened in October via [limerick.ppn.ie](http://limerick.ppn.ie) for any new groups wishing to register. Contract was signed with



BundlBee for the development of a tailor-made PPN website <http://limerick.ppn.ie/> which will enable PPN members to stay up to date with what's happening in Limerick PPN as well as getting information on Council funding and activities. It will also provide a platform for sharing ideas with other members.

The PPN has appointed Dr. Matt Cannon as Community Engagement Worker on a short-term contract. Matt's role is to raise awareness of the PPN and support organisations to become actively involved.

Limerick PPN was commended for Best Practice in Citizen Engagement in the recent Excellence in Local Government Awards 2015.

## DIASPORA GRANTS

Applications for funding were sought under the Community Tourism Initiative for the Diaspora. This initiative builds on the success of the Gathering in 2013, and follows from the inaugural Tourism Diaspora initiative in 2014. The initiative is designed to support community events and festivals which target additional overseas visitors.

19 applications were selected to receive funding under this initiative in Limerick in 2015. Funding is jointly provided by Fáilte Ireland, Irish Public Bodies and Local Authorities.

## LIFELONG LEARNING FESTIVAL

The fifth Lifelong Learning Festival was held from 23rd to 29th March, 2015. The theme of the festival this year was "Learning for Positive Living". There were over 150 events held throughout Limerick City and County. The launch of the festival was held in Lough Gur Visitor Centre on 13th March, 2015.

## JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

On Wednesday, 25th March, 2015 first year class from Ardscoil Mhuire Corbally visited City Hall on a School to Work day with Junior Achievement. They were welcomed by the Mayor, Cllr. Kevin Sheahan,

and Valerie Stundon, Water Safety Officer and Ellen O'Sullivan, Smarter Travel gave presentations on their careers.

## LIMERICK COMHAIRLE NA NÓG

Funding was received from DYCA for the enhanced Comhairle na nÓg programme for 2015.

Annual General Meeting of the Limerick Comhairle na nÓg was held in UL on 23 October, 2015. It was attended by more than 80 youth delegates from schools, youth clubs and youth programmes. The delegates discussed the topics of homelessness and direct provision, which the 2014/5 Comhairle had been working on for the previous 12 months.

## AFRICA WEEK / LIMERICK INTERCULTURAL CITY

A successful week of events were completed to mark Africa Day 2015. The main events were:

- Seminar on Integration and Interculturism "Footprints: Our Shared Journey, Our Integration".
- Ethiopian Modern Dance Performance in University of Limerick
- A Dance and Art Workshop was held in Watchouse Cross Community Library
- Africa Day Festival in the Milk Market was held on Sunday May 31st. Food stalls, dancing, singing, drumming, fashion show, children's games and activities (provided by Limerick Sports Partnership).

## LOCAL TRAVELLERS ACCOMMODATION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (LTACC)

The LTACC met on 12th February, 30th April, 2nd September, 28th October and 16th December 2015. There are 12 members on this committee. The committee is a consultative committee and the membership includes elected members, officials of the Council and members Traveller Community.

## CONTRIBUTION SCHEME 2015

Limerick City & County Council received applications for grant assistance which encourage and support a number of community, cultural or heritage initiatives in Limerick City & County. The Contribution Scheme is open to community based / not for profit organisations and applications must be directly related to one or other of the following categories: - Initiatives/events which promote culture and local heritage. Initiatives/events which generate civic pride. All 23 applications were approved by the Council Members and paid out during 2015.

List of all the organisations that received funding is below.

Electoral Area	Organisation	Amount
Adare/Rathkeale	Limerick Community Games	€2,000
	Adare Heritage	€10,000
	Askeaton Civic Trust	€5,000
	Foynes Aviation & Maritime Museum	€8,000
Cappamore/Kilmallock	Comhaltas Fleadh Luimní 2015	€2,000
	University Concert Hall	€17,000
	Irish Chamber Orchestra	€3,000
	East Limerick Community Radio	€2,000
	Friarsgate Theatre	€3,000
	Lough Gur Development Co-operative	€3,000
Limerick Metropolitan	Limerick Musical Society	€1,000
	Cecilian Musical Society	€1,000
	Hunt Museum	€3,500
	Limerick Marine Search & Rescue	€5,000
	Limetree Theatre (69 O'Connell St)	€4,000
	Rape Crisis Mid West	€2,000
	St. Gabriel's School & Centre	€2,000
	Limerick Youth Service	€1,500
Newcastlewest	Abbeyfeale Community Leisure	€2,000
	Abbeyfeale District Search & Rescue	€5,000
	West Limerick Community Radio	€2,000
	Glórach Theatre	€5,000
	West Limerick Tourism	€3,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>€92,000</b>

## ASKEATON POOL AND LEISURE LTD

Askeaton Pool and Leisure Centre continued to offer a broad range of leisure and recreation opportunities to the West Limerick area in 2015.

In addition to memberships and pay-as-you-go usage options, the Centre provides lessons to 46 schools from all over Limerick County. The Centre caters for swimmers of all ages and abilities and is now open three mornings a week at 7.30am. Public lessons are also available 5 days a week.

## GROVE ISLAND LEISURE CENTRE

Grove Island Leisure Centre continued to offer excellent facilities for health and fitness in the Limerick area in 2015. An extensive selection of exercise equipment ensures a maximum range of fitness and health facilities for all their members. A new water circulation pump was installed in the Leisure Centre in 2015.

## ESTATE MANAGEMENT UNIT

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

### (i) Estate Supports

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

- Scanlon Park Estate in Castleconnell was chosen for entry in the All-Ireland National Pride of Place competition in the Housing Estates category. Huge work went in to preparing the estate by the committee and residents, in partnership with the Council, leading up to the visit by the judges on the 10th July 2014 and one could sense that the judges were hugely impressed by the formal presentation made by the group, the physical environment within the estate and the community spirit displayed. This spirit paid off handsomely when they were announced as national runners-up in their category at the awards ceremony held in Ennis in November.
- Estate management support in the larger urban estates was provided mainly through the Office of Regeneration and/or through approved bodies grant-aided by the Council. This Unit did engage 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.

### (ii) Individual Tenant Support

- The Unit provides a service, led by its social worker, of intensive support for tenants who may be identified as vulnerable or in need of such help for any other reason. In addition, there is monitoring of individual tenancies that may require particular attention to prevent problems occurring.
- Pre-Tenancy training is provided for all newly-appointed tenants. Among other things, the terms of the Letting Agreements which are signed are clearly explained so that the obligations of both the tenants and, indeed, the Council are clearly understood. The number of tenants that undertook such training in 2015 was 277.

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

- The Unit deals with in excess of 400 complaints each year, with approximately half of these relating to anti-social behaviour. The Council's

policy is to respond to these issues quickly and firmly and it works in close co-operation with An Garda Síochána where necessary.

- 3 new excluding orders were secured against individuals in the District Court in 2015, the effect of which was to legally bar those individuals from named estates, or, as in one of these cases, a halting site. This brought the total number of such Orders in operation by the end of the year to 11. 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.
- The most significant development in this area was the coming into legal force on the 1st April 2015 of those provisions of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014 relating to anti-social behaviour. This brought an end to a legal vacuum which existed for some year's prior following superior court judgments relating to provisions previously relied on under the Housing Act 1966.
- The Unit carries out garda checks on prospective new tenants. 563 such formal reviews were undertaken during the year.

## Y1: PARTICIPATION IN COMHAIRLE NA NÓG SCHEME

A. Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/*Comhairle na nÓg* Scheme 38%

## Y2: GROUPS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

A. The number of organisations included in the County Register at 31/12/2015 442

and the proportion of those organisations that opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN 51



Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)



Pride of Place Runner Up Scanlon Park Co Limerick.



Pride of Place Winner Killeely Co. Limerick.



Lifelong Learning Launch.



Drumming workshop on Africa Day.



Africa Day Launch.



Launch of Killeely Golden Mile.

## LIMERICK CITY COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP



The main activity of the Partnership is the delivery of the Limerick City Community Safety Partnership Coordinator Scheme. The aim of the Scheme is to improve community safety in public housing estates in

Limerick City by reducing the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour; improving the environment; raising community spirit and creating a general awareness of community safety through education. The scheme is delivered by a team of three (3) Coordinator who work on designated estates on a daily basis.

During the year January to December 2015 the Community Coordinators delivered the following programmes to national schools across the city:

Eyes Open; Internet Safety; Traffic Club; Active Citizenship; Anti-Social Behaviour; 'JUMP', Anti-Bullying Programme; Intergenerational Programme.

Also, during the year Sinead, Jean and Yvonne worked on environmental projects with three schools, John the Baptist, St. Patrick's Boys National School and Corpus Christi to improve their school gardens.

As part of our Active Citizenship programme the Community Coordinators brought 5th and 6th class students to Dail Eireann in May and June 2015.

### WORKING WITH THE ELDERLY

The Community Coordinators actively work with the elderly in the community, in particular the following clubs:

St. John's Active Retirement Club  
Janesboro Active Retirement Club  
St. Bridget's Active Retirement Club  
St. Mary's Active Retirement Club



*Launch of Age Friendly Limerick 2015-2020 officially declaring Limerick as an Age Friendly location.*

In April and October 2015, the Community Coordinators organised two 'Afternoon Tea' events for the elderly. Both events were hugely successful with in excess of 200 senior citizens from across the city attending the event.

In September 2015, the Community Coordinators organised a trip to Dail Eireann for the senior citizens. Fifty older people from across the city travelled to Dublin for the visit.

Yvonne McMahon is trained to deliver the 'Go for Life' programme. This programme seeks to empower older people to choose, plan and lead the recreational sports or physical activities they wish to pursue. As part of the 2015 Lifelong Learning Programme, the Community Coordinators delivered this programme in April to older people across the city. The event was very well supported.

### ENCOURAGING COMMUNITY SPIRIT

A key task for the Community Coordinator is to become well known to the residents on the states. With this aim a number of 'Fun Days' were held in 2015.

In July 2015 Jean Ryan worked with the Garryowen Community in organising a Fun Day for the whole community. This event was very well attended and the prizes for the games were sponsored by the Community Coordinators.

## LIMERICK SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

In 2015 Limerick Sports Partnership secured funding to the value of €800,000 (includes Core, Education and programme funding) from multiple funders to assist with its operations. Key funders are Sport Ireland (formerly Irish Sports Council), LCETB YP Fund, The HSE and the Dormant Accounts programme. The 3 key functions of the LSP are to Inform, Educate and Enable, individuals and communities to engage in physical activities. Our aim is to increase participation numbers by 1% annually and decrease sedentary behaviour by 0.5% annually.

Key successes in 2015 were the Women on Wheels programme which had 110 women aged 25 – 65 Years engaging in Cycling from April to October. Over 1545 children participated in the Sportshall Athletics programme at the 5 Hubs established between City and County. 2000 children completed the GLR Schools training programme and the UL Sport Kids run attracted 3300 participants with 1750 of the participants attending Limerick schools. This event also resulted in €11,500 being returned to the schools for Physical Activity programmes.

The Men on the Move programme is well established at 4 locations with a further 4 communities (130 men) joining the programme this year as part of a PhD research programme. The Disability Forum was established during the year and they hosted 2 sports days for over 500 individuals with a disability. These events created links between the participants and sports opportunities around Limerick.

The VIP Programme (Volunteer Inspired Participation) has grown from strength to strength with 25 TY students attending this year. Every Thursday they attend courses and programmes delivered by the LSP so as to become trained coaches/leaders in their communities. The VIP's also assisted the LSP in delivering programmes and in hosting mass participation events, they are an excellent crew.

2015 also saw the LSP delivering Community coaching training courses for Jobseekers in partnership with the LCETB. 25 individuals were recruited for the programme with 19 completing the 14 weeks and the community placement. This programme was funded by dormant accounts who also funded our new Sports Hub in Croom. Croom were successful in obtaining €70,000 to increase participation in PA at its existing facilities.

We maintained our high standards of course delivery around best practice with the new safeguarding course and sports first aid courses for clubs and community groups.

Finally, Community walking groups are growing across the county where the LSP is in a position to provide a facilitator for 6 weeks to get groups established and out walking.

In total 43,667 participants and participants places were engaged by the LSP during the year.

### LIBRARY SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS 2015 SERVICE INDICATORS

• Recorded Visits	776,100
• Items issued	750,000
• Registered Readers	31,455
• Hours of Internet/Wi-Fi use	78,131
• Exhibitions	20
• Events & Activities	380

### 2016 COMMEMORATION PROGRAMME

The Library Service, under the guidance of project co-ordinators Damien Brady and Tony Storan, hosted the official launch of Limerick City & County Council's Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme on the 7th December in the Granary Library. The Limerick programme is the outcome of consultations with interested local groups, organisations and individuals, who were invited to participate in its planning and implementation. Led by the council, it will contain events and initiatives ranging across all seven strands of the Ireland 2016 Programme.

### CULTURAL AND CIVIC EVENTS 2015

- The Granary Lecture series continued to be a big success in 2015. Highlights included popular author Michael Smith's presentation on one of history's great explorers, Sir Ernest Shackleton and News to Limerick from the Great War presented by Dr. Tadhg Moloney.
- Kilmallock Library hosted the launch of Our Proud Heritage: a History of Kilmallock GAA Club 1884-2015 in December. President of the GAA, Aogán Ó Fearghail, launched this comprehensive, beautifully produced book with an evening of celebration, attended by over 200 people.
- Best-selling author Donal Ryan launched the debut novel of local writer Carole Gurnett entitled *The Curtain Falls* at Dooradoyle Library in March.
- Life Long Learning Week 2015 was celebrated in several of our branch libraries. Watch House Cross Library held workshops on genealogy and first aid for parents. The Granary Library held a series of events including a talk on Limerick and the Limerick, and a workshop on upcycling.
- Éigse Michael Hartnett, featuring keynote speaker world-renowned author Joseph O' Connor,



Michael O'Reilly, Ireland 2016, Deputy CEO Pat Dowling, Cllr. Liam Galvin, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick and Damien Brady, City & County Librarian, at the official launch of Limerick's 2016 Centenary Programme.



*The Defence Forces visiting St Mary's Boys National School, Abbeyfeale to present a tricolour and copy of the Proclamation to mark the centenary of the 1916 Rising. In all, 152 Primary Schools were visited as part of this initiative.*

and International Women's Day highlighting a talk by author Liz Gillis on Women of the Irish Revolution were among the highlights of the year in Newcastle West Library.

- A special piece of street furniture was unveiled on the grounds of Cappamore Library & Arts studios to honour local sporting hero, John "The Bull" Hayes. The wrought iron seat was designed by the blacksmithing students of St. Michaels Community College, Cappamore under the tutorship of Eric O'Neill, resident artist of Cappamore Arts Studios.

## CHILDREN'S EVENTS 2015

- Minister for Education and Skills, Jan O'Sullivan launched the 2015 National Summer Reading Programme on Tuesday 21st July at Dooradoyle Library. To celebrate the launch, Dooradoyle Library held a party with over 120 children in attendance. Myles Breen, stalwart of panto and theatre, provided great entertainment for both children and adults and there was face painting, sweets and treats for all who attended. Over 50,000 children in Ireland took part in the Public Libraries' Summer Reading Programmes in 2015 with over 1,300 registering in Limerick.
- Children's Book Festival was celebrated across library branches in the City and County with a varied programme of events including visits from storytellers Niall De Burca and Eddie Lenihan and writers Oisín McCann and Sarah Moore Fitzgerald. Other popular events were history workshops with Michael Moylan, story time, art and craft sessions and a visit from Bertie the St. Bernard and Limerick Animal Welfare.
- Watch House Cross Library held exciting, well-attended shows from Aaron Towers and the Cork Circus.
- Popular author Michael Smith presented an illustrated lecture Tom Crean for local schools at Dooradoyle Library in June.
- Newcastle West Library, in collaboration with local primary schools, marked Seachtain na Gaeilge with a competition to design art works with Irish captions.
- Adare Library hosted a very entertaining puppet



Author Michael Smith speaking to a rapt audience at the Granary Library as part of the annual evening Lecture Series.



Jan O'Sullivan, Minister for Education and Skills, pictured with Zoe and Ava Ryan, Castletroy at the launch of the public libraries Summer Reading Programmes in Dooradoyle Library.

show as part of the annual Feile na Maighue celebrations.

- Abbeyfeale Library held the prize giving ceremony for Fleadh by the Feale Art Competition in April. Entries were submitted from all local national schools and a large crowd of over 150 attended.

## MUSIC LIBRARY EVENTS AT THE GRANARY LIBRARY

- The RTE ConTempo String Quartet performed a series of lunch-time concerts during 2015 regularly attracting crowds of over 100 music lovers to each of their recitals.
- The Granary hosted a dynamic new band, Guitarchestra, for Culture Night in September. This group of 10 young guitarists played an eclectic set of film, television and games music to an audience of over 150.
- Other live performances in 2015 included concerts from singer Freddie White and The Modern Irish Quartet.

## EXHIBITIONS 2015

- Watch House Cross Library hosted an exhibition from the Hunt Museum as part of its Communities of Culture programme entitled A Story to Tell – Moyross. This exhibition has attracted a lot of local interest and comment.
- Kilmallock Library held its 3rd annual open invite Group Exhibition of Art work in August. Designed to showcase and support the wealth of creative talent in the region, the exhibition, entitled Crinniú, saw 13 artists display work varying from needlework to ceramics, upcycled furniture, sculpture and painting.
- In March, Newcastle West Library hosted a beautiful exhibition of artwork from Granagh Artist Grace McCarthy and in May showcased the work of students from VTOS Lifelong Learning Centre in Shanagolden.



*Peg Prendeville, Branch Librarian, with some of her loyal library visitors.*



*Children's Book Festival at Watch House Cross Library.*



*The RTE ConTempo String Quartet performing at the Granary Library.*



## LIMERICK ARTS OFFICE



As a result of Limerick being the first National City of Culture in 2014, we are at a key point in our cultural history and development.

National City of Culture 2014, has provided a powerful legacy for citizens and practitioners and has placed culture as a central component of the infrastructure and philosophy of the City and County plans for the future.

## CULTURAL STRATEGY FRAMEWORK FOR LIMERICK

In 2015 work began on a new Cultural Strategy Framework for Limerick, to be consulted on and approved in 2016. This supports new initiatives and audience growth throughout the whole of the geographical area of Limerick City and County.

## LIMERICK'S BID FOR EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2020

The Limerick bid for European Capital of Culture (ECoC) 2020 is at the heart of the developing cultural strategy. The Arts Office is one of the key reference points for the European Capital of Culture 2020 bid having kept abreast of the opportunity since 2010.

The Limerick 2020 bid team presented to the European jury in November 2015 and were shortlisted as one of the Irish applicants for European Capital of Culture 2020, from which the winner will be selected in mid 2016.

Our audience figures in Limerick are greatly increased and for the first time we have rigorous evaluations, from Limerick National City of Culture 2014, regarding the impact of arts and culture, in the Social Impact Study and the Economic Impact Assessment.

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

Support was divided into the following areas;

1. Information and Advice
2. Supporting and developing The Arts Infrastructure
3. Support for the Individual Artist
4. Festival Programming

Festivals provide opportunities for audiences and artists to experience new work and ways of making work and respond to the interests of audiences.

Festivals which fall under our remit:

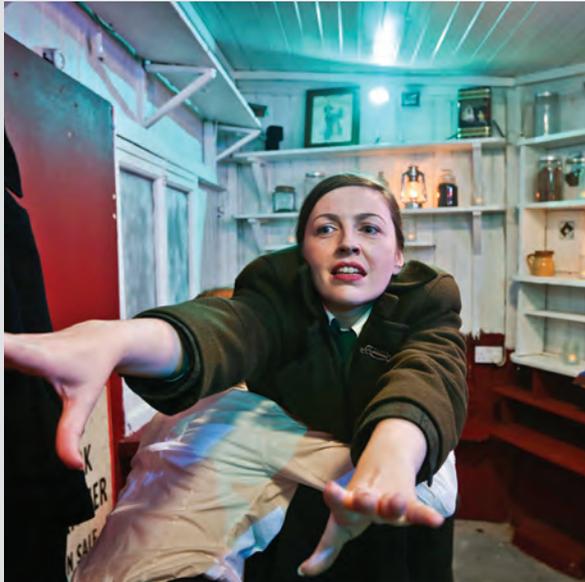
- The Literary Limerick Festival Initiative (Limerick Literary Festival in honour of Kate O'Brien, Eigse Michael Hartnett Literary and Arts Festival, Cuisle, Limerick City International Poetry Festival and SoulScapes).
- Festival partnerships through our Youth Arts strand (Fresh Film Festival, Make A Move Festival, Elemental Festival), Dance strand (Light Moves Festival of Screendance), Music strand (Limerick Jazz Festival, The West Limerick Singing Club Garry McMahon Singing Week end, HearSay International Audio Arts Festival, the Joyce Singing Weekend and the Limerick Pipe Organ Festival), Visual Art strand (Askeaton Contemporary) and Architecture strand (OpenHouseLimerick).
- EVA International is supported.

## CULTURE NIGHT

2015 presented the biggest ever Culture Night with over eighty-five events. Culture Night is delivered across Limerick City and County Council and part funded through the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. This night of free events and activities in Limerick's cultural venues is attended by young and old alike and in terms of audiences is one of the most successfully attended nights of the year.



Cllr. Liam Galvin, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick launching Limerick Culture Night.



Park Kiosk Project with Wildebeest Theatre.



Éigse Michael Hartnett Festival 2015, Newcastle West

## ARTS PROGRAMMING

Youth Arts (County Limerick Youth Theatre, Limerick Youth Choir and the Youth Drama Programme), Education (The Artists in Schools Scheme run in the County), Dance (Integrated Dance and Artist in Residence at Dance Limerick), The Music Programme (The Castleconnell Autumn Concerts Series, RTÉ Contempo Quartet "20/20 experience" Concert Series, Drombanna Community Choir), Visual Art (Ormston House members exhibition, Limerick Printmakers), the Literature Programme (Festivals) and the yearly poetry anthology The Stony Thursday Book, the editor in 2015 was Mary O'Donnell and 2015 was the 40th Anniversary Edition of The Stony Thursday Book, Theatre, (HatchLK, based at 69 O'Connell Street, Theatre Artist Development Scheme) and Architecture.

## ART FORM DEVELOPMENT

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

## BUILD THE CULTURAL CAPACITY OF PRACTITIONERS AND THE SECTOR: TRAINING PROGRAMME

In 2015 a programme of training that originated in partnership with the Limerick National City of Culture 2014 Visual Art Legacy and Commissioning, was extended and delivered to festivals and cultural practitioners across disciplines. Training was provided in partnership with the Association of Irish Festival Events, Visual Artists Ireland, Limerick School of Art and Design, Music Network, Limerick 2020, Glenstal Abbey School and Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.

## PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL TO PARTICIPATE IN CULTURE: 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 2015 Limerick Arts Office worked with Volunteer Ireland to identify and train volunteers for Culture Night and OpenHouseLimerick.

## THE BELLTABLE ARTS CENTRE

A Service Level Agreement was progressed with the Lime Tree Theatre to operate for five years the theatre venue and the previous Credit Union side of the building. In 2015 capital works were completed to the Credit Union side, providing for an Arts Hub with rehearsal, meetings and office space.

69 O'Connell Street is now programmed by the Lime Tree Theatre, 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.

## AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT, PROMOTION AND SOCIAL MEDIA

A new logo to give a cohesive identity to the Arts Office was designed and delivered in 2015. In partnership with Limerick Marketing an innovative, new joint marketing campaign was provided to seven autumn festivals through the 061 September 2015 Festivals Promotion. Audience development was supported through improved data capture with a new partnership with the Lime Tree Theatre to provide on line booking and box office services for Arts Office events.

The Arts Office Newsletter is a seasonal e-zine that provides information on artistic and cultural events, funding and training opportunities and reaches over 3,379 people. The Arts Office uses a range of social media to promote events, with Facebook (People reached in the last 28 days - approx 7,596, Fans - approx 1,295) and Twitter 5,747.



Limerick Literary Festival launch.



Limerick Culture Night.



Limerick Literary Festival launch.



Limerick Culture Night.



Limerick Literary Festival launch.



Limerick Culture Night.



*Eigse Newcastle West.*



*Story Thursday launch.*



*Limerick Culture Night.*

## PORTFOLIO OF ARTS BUILDINGS WITHIN THE REMIT OF THE ARTS OFFICE

Dance Limerick, 1-2 John's Square, ground floor, basement and Dance Limerick Space.	Limerick Arts Office shares services between Dance Limerick and the Artists' Apartments, which are situated above the offices of Dance Limerick. This has allowed for cost effective shared measures.
Artists' Apartments, 1-2 John's Square, floors 1-2.	Now in their third year of operation the Artists' Apartments are a successful support scheme. Six medium term apartments are licensed to cultural practitioners and are fully occupied. Two further apartments are for short term use to support visiting practitioners to arts organizations in the city and defray accommodation costs to arts organizations. Both schemes have a high level of demand.
Cappamore Arts Studios	Four Arts Studios are licensed and a bursary scheme is in place to support artistic vibrancy in the rural community and to provide vital support to artists. These studios are fully occupied.
James Street Artists' Studios	Eight artists' studios. Eight Artists' Studios near John's Square provide 24 hour access to individual studios. Artists pay a monthly license fee to cover costs and these studios are fully occupied.
69 O'Connell Street (formerly Belltable)	Theatre and offices for use by arts organizations. The former Sarsfield Credit Union is refurbished and the intention is to make the entire building, theatre and Credit Union side, an Arts Hub.
Miss Alton's Cottage, Glensheen	Planning permission has been granted for parking for the cottage, a beautiful listed building in the scenic countryside of South Limerick. The cottage requires modernisation and progressing this is a goal for 2016. Following this it is intended to work in partnership with cultural organisations to use the cottage for residencies.
Park Kiosk, People's Park	Following the success of this programme during Limerick National City of Culture 2014 Limerick Arts Office is managing the historic Park Kiosk. The Park Kiosk Residencies provide a space for artists, communities, audiences and participants. 'Separation' by Wildebeest Theatre Company was performed in Autumn.



[WWW.LIMERICK2020.IE](http://WWW.LIMERICK2020.IE)

**limerick**  
2020 ( )

## **limerick 2020 ( )**

Limerick's bid for European Capital of Culture in 2020 comes at a time when the local authority, academic institutions, business communities, cultural practitioners and the wider citizenship are working towards a new vision for Limerick and its future.

The Limerick 2020 bid shows ambition, pride, energy and a unified plan to further harness the vibrancy seen in 2014 and to further showcase Limerick as a creative city that can drive the economic renaissance of our region. We see the potential of this bid to enhance our already solid reputation for innovation and education. We see the opportunities of the bid to create and further build on Limerick's sense of pride and place. We believe a successful bid will develop a cultural environment that is accessible to all.

Limerick 2020 is about developing the cultural heart of the city in tandem with social and economic regeneration. The creative pooling of energy, vision, passion and innovation is showing that together we are more, as a people a city and a region.  
#Limerick2020



Men and horses could not know the horror that lay before them  
The men of the Royal Service Corps deployed at the New Barracks, Limerick, departing with a full field  
for the war. The newly built Quarters Cottages, in Prospect are in the background.  
Patricia Hasebeck Flynn: The Hasebeck Collection

poppies blow,  
Between the crosses  
row on row,  
That mark our place  
and in the sky,  
The larks, still brave  
singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid  
guns below

John McCrae  
'In Flanders Fields,'  
May 1915



Launching Stand Up and Fight Exhibition.

## LIMERICK MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

Limerick Museum and Archives held a series of joint exhibitions in the 2015. The Ludlow collection showcased the work of an amateur photographer with its wonderful images of Limerick people skating on ice 100 years ago. The exhibition ran in the glazed street of civic buildings.

In April a major exhibition commemorating Limerick's major role in the First World War opened. 'Stand Up and Fight' curated by Limerick Museum and Archives focused on Limerick's wider military tradition while commemorating the 4,000 men from Limerick that died in one of the world's worst wars. As part of Heritage week a major lecture by Kevin Myers was hosted by Limerick Museum and Archives which focused on 1915 as a year in which Limerick suffered its worst casualties in World War 1, in Gallipoli and on the Western Front.

Celebrating Limerick lace continues to be an important theme for Limerick Museum and Archives. 'Bring Out Your Lace' was held in August when the public were invited to bring their lace for identification and conservation advice. Many pieces were of high quality Limerick lace while others were foreign lace, crochet or machine made lace.

## LIMERICK ARCHIVES

In April 2015 Limerick Archives in partnership with Mary Immaculate College published *City and Cemetery: A History of Mount St Lawrence Cemetery*. The book explores the history of Limerick's largest cemetery where over 70,000 people are buried. With over 80 oral history interviews and illustrated with images from family albums, the book is a major social history of Limerick.

In March 2015 Limerick Archives launched a new publication titled 'Poem and Place: Limerick and the limerick'. For the first time the link between the world wide famous poetic form and the place Limerick has been explored. All primary schools in Limerick city and county were invited to write new limericks for the publication and the winning entries illustrate the book.

## LIMERICK MUSEUM

In 2015 visitor numbers were 40% above the previous year. 308 items were added to the catalogue, including 1916 and War of Independence memorabilia from the Slattery and Dargan families and items from St Munchin's school which closed during the year. During the year the museum provided images to illustrate nine books and tv programmes. During Heritage Week the museum organised talks and walks around the medieval city with funding from the Irish Walled Towns Network.



*The Ludlow Collection - Children in Thomondgate Enjoying Winter.*



*Bring Out Your Lace event in Heritage Week.*

## LIMERICK CITY GALLERY OF ART (LCGA)

Limerick City Gallery of Art continued its diverse range of high quality range of contemporary exhibitions with 11 exhibitions, of which 7 were Solo exhibitions with over 70 artists exhibited and 6 selected exhibitions from the Permanent Collections of Limerick City Gallery of Art.

Undoubtedly the highlight of the year was the presentation of a significant body of work hung in the "salon" style from the Permanent Collection, curated by Paul M O' Reilly. It also provided the gallery with the opportunity to present recent acquisitions which had not been previously been seen by the public.

The Exhibitions featured were: *With Bread by Abigail O' Brien-*, *Excavation by Anthony Haughey ; Prints from Life curated by Caitlin Quinn from the Michael O'Connor Poster Collection of LCGA; WASTELAND -Czech artists Eva Kořátková and Dominik Lang, travelling exhibition Commissioned by Project Arts Centre, Dublin and curated by Tessa Giblin; Drawings I, from the Permanent Collection, The Mushroom Book, by John Cage, Lois Long and Alexander H. Smith, from the Permanent Collection; Plan A + PLAN B curated by Suzannah O'Reilly; Drawing from the Collection, Shadow Light by Gavin Hogg, GALLERY by Ramon Kassam; Drawings II from the Permanent Collection; AT A TIME by Daphne Wright, EYE BEFORE E EXCEPT AFTER SEE by Vanessa Lopez, Photography from the Permanent Collection; The Economy of Appearances by Mark Curran, Celebrating 30 years (1985-2015) Limerick City Gallery of Art's Permanent Collection, curated by Paul M. O'Reilly, The Future is Self-Organised – Artist-Run Spaces curated by Pallas Projects, Visions of Now, group exhibition by Limerick Artists.*

In addition to the exhibition programme LCGA celebrated its 30th anniversary as a dedicated gallery space with a month long celebration of arts and culture, 30 Days Hath September, emanating from the city of Limerick and beyond. The gallery worked with University of Limerick, The Hunt Museum, Dance Limerick, Music Generation, Limerick Jazz Festival and the Irish Chamber Orchestra. This

programme also included national artists including Paula Meehan and the Van Burgh Quartet. All events were free.

Throughout the year LCGA continued its support and collaboration with artists and community organisations, the Arts Office and Limerick 2020. These projects included:

- A song of the (Urban) Bees a collaboration with Softday productions and LCGA
- Make a Move Festival – Urban Art Programme
- Culture Night 2015
- Two Christmas recitals

LCGA continued to work with local and national organisations including EVA International, University of Limerick, Project Arts, West Cork Arts Centre, Highlanes Gallery, Drogheda and Model Arts, Sligo, the National Women's Council of Ireland.

The Shinnors Scholar was awarded to Simon Corcoran who commenced his research in October 2015; this is a jointly supported initiative between LCGA and LIT.

LCGA continued to provide an education and outreach programme for schools and academic institutions in the city.

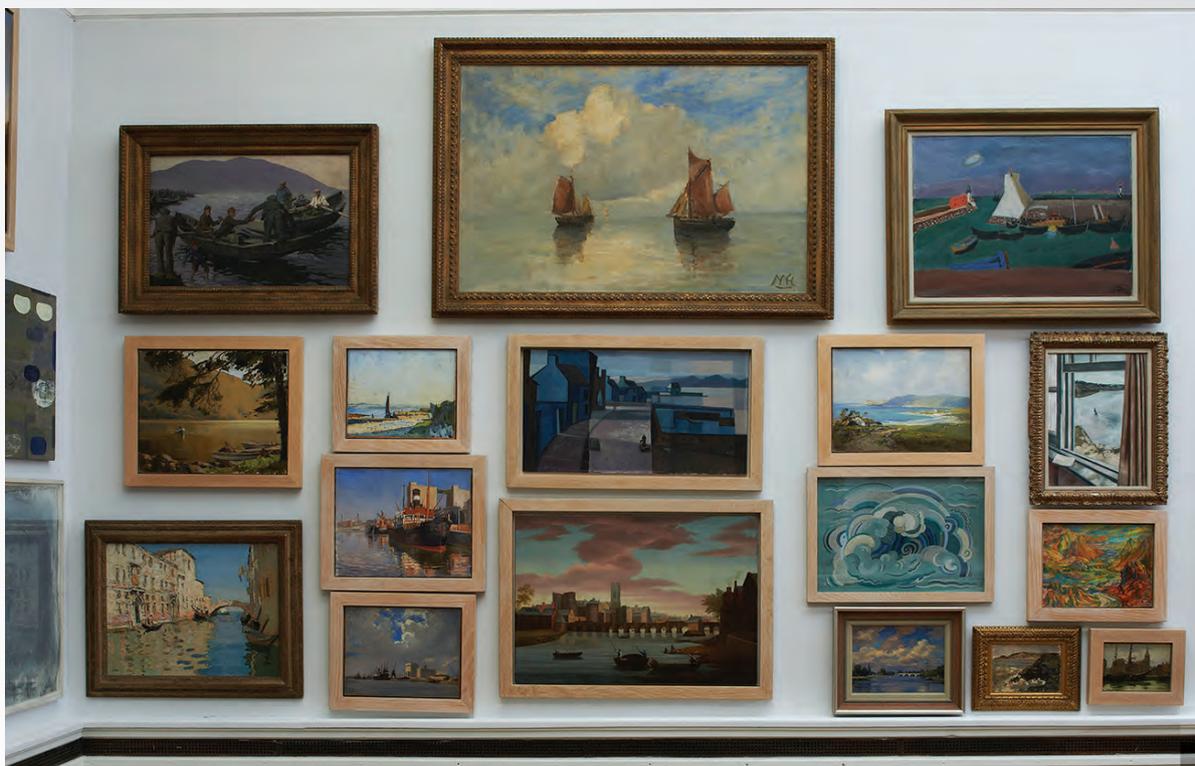
LCGA continued to grow its visitor attendance with over 80,000 for 2015.

LCGA has joined the Arts Council's Here and Now visual arts audience programme to support and develop its visitor experience. The result of this national survey will be available in 2016.

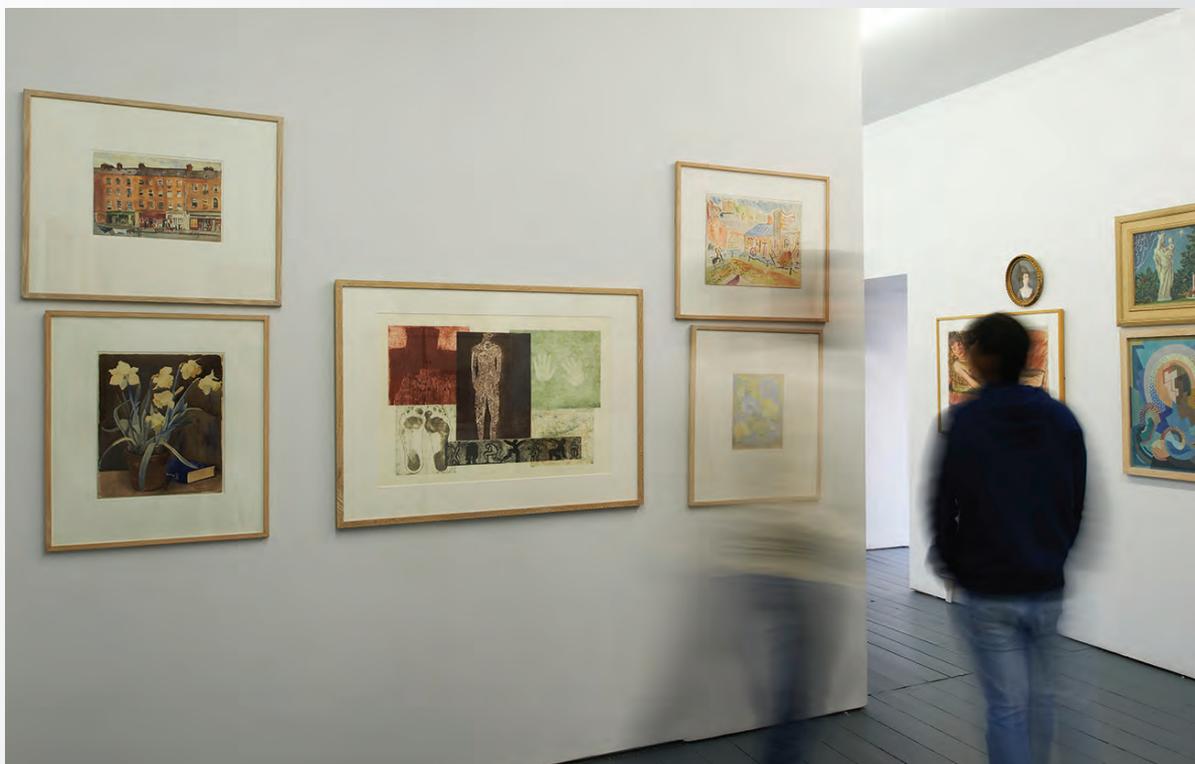
LCGA is funded by Limerick City and County Council and the Arts Council.

LCGA currently has three full-time employees with 7 part-time assistants and the Shinnors Scholar.

[www.limerick.gallery.ie](http://www.limerick.gallery.ie)



*Images of exhibition in 2015.*



*Installation of the Permanent Collectoins.*

# Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) HUB

**EOGHAN PRENDERGAST**  
*DIRECTOR OF SERVICE,  
H.A.P. PROJECT*



## HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS (HAP) HUB (TRANSACTIONAL SHARED SERVICES CENTRE)

Limerick City & County Council are the City and County Manager's Association nominated lead authority in respect of the HAP project and in that context are providing a transactional shared service hub for all local authorities operating HAP during the pilot stage. 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 Hub 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 Hub will be handling 70,000 tenancies in all local authorities around the country, with an expected €450m volume of financial transactions.

There were 6,615 HAP tenancies set up by the Shared Service Centre at 31st December 2015.



*The Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) team.*

# Travel & Transportation and Environment



**KIERAN LEHANE**  
*DIRECTOR OF TRAVEL & TRANSPORTATION /  
ENVIRONMENT*

## ENVIRONMENT

- Waste Infrastructure
- Waste Regulation Authorisations Including Granting and Verification
- Street Cleaning / Parks & Horticulture
- Refuse Collection Charges Subsidy Scheme
- Cemeteries
- Conservation Works
- Burial Grounds Awards Ceremony
- Veterinary Services
- Pollution Control and Water Quality Team
- Water Quality And The Water Framework Directive
- Good Agricultural Practice
- Discharge Licensing
- Septic Tank Inspections
- Community Approach To River Management
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Service Indicators

## TRAVEL & TRANSPORTATION

- Road Works Programme 2015
- Low Cost Safety Improvements
- Structures/Bridges Works 2015
- Maintenance & Operations Service
- Upgrade of Flood Defences (CFRAMS)
- The Limerick Metropolitan District Movement Framework Strategy
- Smarter/Sustainable Travel
- Road Safety
- Service Indicators 2015



## ROADS PROGRAM 2015

An extensive roads maintenance program costing in excess of €20 million was carried out across the City and County during 2015 ranging from minor road patching, footpath repairs and surface dressing to more extensive road reconstruction and overlay schemes.

Funding nationally on road maintenance is at a 15 year low and schemes are prioritised by our engineers where roads are in greatest need of repair following extensive pavement condition surveys and assessments. Approx 3 km of roads were overlaid at 23 locations in the City and approx 82km of surface dressing were completed at 97 locations throughout the county and road restoration schemes were carried out on approx 80km of road at almost 100 locations. the bigger schemes completed during 2015 included Old Cratloe Road, Lansdowne Gardens and the R518 at Bruree.

A number of Road works and Flood relief schemes were advanced to design stage during 2015.

### Kings Island Flood Relief

Arup Consultants were appointed to commence design work on measures to be carried out to prevent a repeat of flooding that occurred in Kings Island in 2014.

### Foynes Flood Relief

Detailed design of this scheme was completed in

2015 and the tender for the works contract was advertised with a view to appointing a Contractor in 2016.

### Askeaton Flood Relief

Consultants were appointed in 2015 and preliminary design of scheme was begun.

### Mungret Roadworks

This scheme was advanced through the Part VIII Planning process. Detailed design of the scheme was completed and the construction contract was awarded to Fox Civil Engineering at an overall project cost of approx. €4. Construction will begin early in 2016

### Patrickswell Village Renewal

Consultants were appointed to begin design of a village renewal scheme for Patrickswell

### Parnell St./Davis St./Wickham St.

Following approval of the Part VIII Planning procedure at the end of 2015, detailed design work for this scheme commenced and it is expected that a Contract will be awarded and works commence in 2016.

### Coonagh Knockalisheen

Progress was made on land acquisition for this scheme. Detailed design of the scheme was completed and it is expected that the Tender for the first part of the Contract will be advertised in 2016 with work to commence before end 2016.



Road Resurfacing works on Newenham Street..



Proposed Davis St. Streetscape.

## LOW COST SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Low Cost safety Improvements were provided at the following locations :

R818 Graigeen, Askeaton  
 R519 Lisamoate, Ballingarry  
 R527 Tipperary Road  
 R445 Island Road  
 L1144 Rosbrien  
 R858 Brookville  
 R445 Pennywell/Clare St.

## STRUCTURES/BRIDGES WORKS 2015

Rehabilitation work was carried out on a total of 9 bridges in Limerick City & County in 2015. Of these 5 structures were on Local Roads and 4 were on Regional Roads. In the main repair works included work to spandrel walls, edge beams, arch barrels and abutments. The works were carried out at the following locations.

Duncaha, Shanagolden  
 Gortnakistin, Doon  
 Fairy Hall, Montpellier  
 Portnard, Cappamore  
 Cloghnamanagh, Fedamore  
 Nantinan, Rathkeale  
 Ashgrove, Old Mill, Newcastle West  
 Loughill Bridge



Portnard Bridge L1127.

## MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS SERVICE

### Response to Winter Flooding

The winter of 2015 was one of the wettest on record with some weather stations recording in excess of twice the normal winter rainfall. The effect of this was experienced in Limerick with widespread flooding of rivers and other water courses resulting in extensive flooding of roads and lands. The area between Parteen Weir and Limerick City was worst effected resulting from very high discharges of flood water at Parteen Weir into the lower Shannon by the ESB.

The Council's response to this flood event commenced in late November and one of the most prolonged and wettest winters on history has resulted in flood waters staying at a historically high level on the river Shannon and its tributaries. This wet weather was also accompanied by a large number of severe storms in December including Storm Desmond, Storm Eva and Storm Frank, The response to the flooding has been County wide however it has been most concentrated in the area between Limerick City and Parteen weir including the villages of Castleconnell and Montpellier due to the discharge of Flood water at Parteen Weir. Flooding of property did occur in a number of locations including Annacotty and Corbally however the response and knowledge of the Council Staff particularly in the Annacotty Area was excellent



Loughill Bridge L6106.



*The Shannon in Flood at Castletroy.*



*Council Workers respond to flooding in the City.*

in minimising the effect of these floods on the communities effected and has been acknowledged by locals.

The prolonged wet period and severe flooding has resulted in significant damage this winter to infrastructure including roads, bridges, flood defences and costal walls and piers. The Directorate compiled a list of flood damaged roads and structures with an estimated repair bill in excess of €6.0 million and submitted this to the DTTAS for funding and a program of repair works is expected to commence in 2016.

## **UPGRADE OF FLOOD DEFENCES (CFRAMS)**

The Office of Public Work (OPW) is the lead agency for flood risk management in Ireland and is the national competent authority for the EU Floods Directive. OPW works in close partnership with all Local Authorities in delivering the objectives of the CFRAM Programme. CFRAM is Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management.

The national CFRAM programme is central to the medium to long-term strategy for the reduction and management of flood risk and is now nearing completion. the study has identified a number of locations throughout Limerick that are vulnerable



*Artists Impression of new Flood Defence Wall at Verdant Place.*

to flooding. The Kings Island Flood Relief Scheme is been advanced under this program and Arup Consulting Engineers were appointed to this scheme in 2015. Preliminary design is progressing on schedule and an EIS for the Kings Island Scheme is expected to be lodged with An Bord Pleanala in 2017, with construction of main flood defence works to follow after planning approval.

An advance contract is currently at Part VIII consultation, incorporating a flood defence wall at Verdant Place. Subject to confirmation of the Part VIII construction on Verdant Place Flood Defence Wall is scheduled for completion by the end of 2016

## THE LIMERICK METROPOLITAN DISTRICT MOVEMENT FRAMEWORK STRATEGY

The Limerick Movement Framework Study was completed during 2015 working closely with the National Transport Authority. The main objective of the study were to develop a long-term vision for the Limerick Metropolitan Area in terms of accessibility, mobility and sustainability and to identify a comprehensive series of measures to upgrade the existing transportation network over a rolling 5-year period. Particular emphasis is placed on prioritising and facilitating movement via sustainable transport modes for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport and on establishing Limerick City as a major walking and cycling destination for citizens and visitors ensuring that it is easy and comfortable for them to move around.

### SMARTER/SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

Works continued in 2015 on works under the Smarter Travel initiative. Infrastructural works completed in 2015; Board Pleanála granted permission for work to commence on the Flagship Route 2 Cycling walking path which will link the University of Limerick to the City, a contract has been placed for the work which will be completed late summer 2016. To allow for the completion Route 2 Link 1 phase 2 Shannon Fields, the existing



High quality Pedestrian Crossing Lower Mallow Street.

path was acquired by LST this allowed the final phase of the work to commence in October 2015 and will be completed January 2016. A new traffic management system has been introduced at Park Bridge.

Route 3 Rhebogoe Neighbourhood Greenway was completed in October 2015 and included traffic calming measures, new footpaths, lighting and signage and a reduced 30KM speed limit.

Infrastructural improvement work for Route 4 Castletroy/Newtown area was completed in Autumn 2015 and included improvements to 12 junctions, 10 T junctions, traffic calming and 2 demonstration roundabouts which were designed to current best practice and the National Cycling Manual which included a road segregated cycling lane within the rotary lanes of the roundabouts. A new Bus/cycling interchange was built at the Newtown Shopping centre.

The number of firms participating in the Workplace and Campus Programme has increased to eleven, up from 8 in 2014, with over 32,000 employees and students now participating in developing a Travel Action Plan.

Limerick Smarter Travel is also involved with the Planning Department at the pre-planning stage to advise on mobility management plans. Mobility management plans which are part of a planning application are referred to Limerick Smarter



Route 4 Castletroy.

Travel for comment and to date over 20 grants of permission have conditions attaching relating to mobility management.

Since the project commenced there has been ongoing community engagement, 14 volunteers from 10 communities have been trained in bike maintenance, and hold regular bike maintenance days for their local communities.

Limerick Smarter again planned and organized the BeSPOKE Bike Festival during Bike Week in 2015. This included a series of weeklong events were run by LST throughout the city culminating in the Riverside Family which took place on Sunday 21st June with an attendance of 550 cyclists. The cycle route followed the same 8km route as 2014, finishing on the City Quay's new boardwalk. The cycle parade was followed by entertainment and refreshments on Howley's Quay and City Quay's and was a great family event.

## ROAD SAFETY

### Junior School Warden Scheme

The Junior School Wardens of Rathkeale & Ballylanders primary schools continued to provide safe crossing facilities for their classmates during 2015. 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.

### Lifesaver Project

The successful Lifesaver Project initiative, which is led by An Garda Siochana and supported by the Limerick Ambulance Service, the H.S.E., Limerick City & County Councils Fire Service and the Road Safety Departments of Limerick City & County Council continued during 2015 with two presentations held in the Southcourt Hotel Raheen on the 10th & 11th November, 2015.

This programme has been very well received by second & third level institutions in both City & County and has become part of the transition year programme. Attendance figures continue to grow



Junior School Wardens Ballylanders 2015.



Lifesaver Project Stakeholders.

with attendance figures reaching 1800 second level & Yourth Reach students during 2015. The 2015 event received coverage on national media & airways. Lifesaver Project is a very honest account of the reality of Road Safety in Ireland today with students participating in the programme receiving poignant, focused information and advice on the dangers and consequences of road traffic collisions.

### Cycling Safety Training

2015 proved once again a very successful year for the Cycling Safety & Skills programme with 607 pupils from seventeen primary schools in the County participating. The programme which provides children with an understanding of cycling safety theory, bicycle care and practical bicycle safety is conducted on the schools grounds and planned to work into the school timetable. This programme is subvented by Limerick City & County Council and also receives support funding from the Road Safety

Authority.

### Road Safety Together Committee

The Road Safety Together Committee which comprises representatives of the Road Safety Authority, The Garda Síochána, The National Roads Authority, Limerick Cycling, University of Limerick, the Health Service Executive & Limerick City & County Council met on one occasion during 2015 and discussed such topics as:-

- Public Transport/Smarter Travel.
- Speed Limits
- Collisions
- Road Safety Education
- Traffic Management at Emergencies
- Health & Safety
- Signposting
- Road Safety Plan.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE INDICATORS 2015

Surveyed:

92.84% of total Regional & Local Road network surveyed in 2015

### BREAKDOWN OF SURVEY RDS

Rating	PSCI										Grand Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
LP	0.00%	0.03%	0.60%	3.80%	6.23%	15.88%	37.78%	23.35%	11.03%	1.29%	100%
LS	0.20%	0.20%	1.47%	5.81%	11.36%	20.10%	35.83%	18.55%	6.12%	0.36%	100%
LT	3.10%	2.68%	4.35%	13.69%	13.21%	23.27%	28.56%	7.62%	3.49%	0.02%	100%
R	0.00%	0.02%	0.37%	2.68%	2.43%	19.50%	35.06%	26.60%	10.48%	2.86%	100%

### Notes on Indicators

LP = Local Primary Road

LS = Local Secondary Road

LT = Local Tertiary Road

R = Regional Road

Rating 1 = Failure – Restoration Required

Rating 10 = Excellent – No Maintenance Required

# ENVIRONMENT

The Environment Department covers a broad area of activity including waste, litter, environmental awareness, street cleaning, parks, playgrounds, cemeteries, veterinary services, pollution and water quality.

## WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE

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

- (1) 2 licensed Landfills in after care phase at Longpavement and Gortadroma and 26 Historic Landfills (former sites operated by the Council)
- (2) 5 Civic Amenity Centres located at Mungret, Kilmallock, Newcastle West, Park Road Depot and Gortadroma Landfill cater for the recycling of a comprehensive range of materials including green waste, timber and larger items like white goods and furniture
- (3) 64 Bring Banks located throughout Limerick for Glass, Can and Textile recycling
- (4) 1 waste to energy plant at Gortadroma Landfill which produces 1 MW of electricity from landfill gas. This site also operates as a waste transfer station.

## 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

- 52 active Limerick City and County Council Waste Facilities Permits/Certificates of Registration in place at the end of 2015. 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. 28 of these facilities were inspected/audited in 2015. 21 new/reviews of Waste Facility Permits/Registrations were undertaken in 2015.

### Packaging Regulations

- 4 Packaging Self Compliers were issued and audited with a further 18 joining Repak – the national compliance scheme. Total Limerick registrations = 316 premises.

### Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Waste Batteries

13 temporary collection points were authorised by Limerick City and County Council in 2015. The collection points supplement the "Take Back" of WEEE/Batteries at the recycling centres and retail outlets.

### Commercial Food Waste

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

### Agricultural Waste

- 126 Permissions to burn green agricultural waste were issued to farmers
- 8 Farm Plastic collection sites were authorised by the Council at which a total of 1,500 tonnes of waste farm plastics were collected.

### Construction and Demolition Waste

- 32 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

- 96 authorised waste collectors had their office headquarters in Limerick at end of 2015. 13 waste collectors were inspected/audited in 2015.

### Waste Enforcement Correspondence

783 waste related complaints were received during 2015. 125 warning letters and 287 statutory notices were issued. 41 waste related prosecutions were initiated in 2015.

### Litter Management

Limerick City achieved the 'Clean to European Norms' in the Irish Business against Litter rating for 2015.

During 2015, Limerick City and County Council's Litter Management team continued to enforce the provisions of the Litter Pollution Acts, Waste Management Acts together with the Limerick County Council Bye-Laws for the "Presentation, Storage & Segregation for the purpose of an in the course of the "Collection of Household and Commercial Waste" and the Limerick City Council Bye Laws for the "Presentation and Collection of Household Waste and Commercial Waste". It is recognised that an effective enforcement policy complemented by targeted awareness activities are necessary in order to change behaviours, thereby reducing the volume of litter generated in Limerick.

- A total of 2,099 complaints related to litter and waste were recorded on the Environment Section's databases during 2015.
- Over 558 on-the-spot fines were issued to offenders for litter related offences. The total amount of income from spot fines was in excess of €36,000.
- The Council had 27 successful prosecutions for non-payment of litter fines in 2015.
- Fines were also issued under the Presentation of Waste Bye Laws.
- Clean-up works were undertaken at litter "Black Spots" and "No Dumping" signs were erected at sites and on routes prone to illegal dumping. Furthermore, CCTV units were placed at selected sites, where feasible.

The Litter Team includes five Environmental Inspectors patrolling the City and County.

### Litter Management Plan 2015 -2018

The Litter Management Plan 2015-2018 was adopted by the Council in September 2015.

The emphasis of this Plan is adopting a best practice approach by seeking to:

- minimise litter in the first instance,
- creating awareness about littering,
- work in partnership with the relevant business groups, resident associations, tidy towns groups, sporting bodies and community groups and schools and citizens of the City and County to improve litter management and enforcement of litter legislation.

The Litter Management Plan is reviewed annually and a report on the Plan will be submitted to the Council for consideration annually.

### Dog Litter Awareness Campaign

- The Environment Department carried out a further campaign aimed at encouraging dog owners to clean up after their animals which foul in public areas.
- The campaign team visited the city centre and environs, towns and villages throughout Limerick and distributed pooper scoopers, "degradable" bags, information leaflets, etc.

### Awareness

2015 was another busy year for Environment Awareness in Limerick City and County.

- There are 176 schools registered for the An Taisce Green Schools programme. 144 Schools have Green flags.
- 65 teachers participated in the Annual Green Schools Seminar in October.
- Facebook and twitter accounts are maintained by the Environment Department.
- Participation in the LAPN network with the 'St Michaels Rowing Club Reusable Water Bottle Project'.
- 2 Community Waste Prevention and Resource Efficiency Workshops took place in the community.
- Life Long Learning week home composting and food waste prevention workshop.
- A successful Tidy Towns Seminar was hosted in February to assist Tidy Towns groups across the City and County.
- Limerick Going for Gold campaign was run in conjunction with the JP McManus Charitable Foundation. The campaign aims to make Limerick a brighter, better and cleaner place to live and work. The overall winner of Going for Gold 2015 was Castleconnell. Adare won the Limerick in Bloom Category.
- Over 10,054 volunteers representing over 200 organisations participated in the inaugural Team Limerick Clean -up equating to a minimum of 20,108 hours of litter picking on Good Friday 2015. Mr Binman trucks cleared the equivalent of 4,000, 240 litre wheeled bins of TLC bagged litter. An army of volunteers were served tea, coffee and hot cross buns at 66 locations across the county.
- Team Limerick Clean-up was logged as an event under National Spring Clean. Additional National Spring Clean events also took place. The Council



Twins from Corpus Christi Primary School, Moyross, Patricia and Bridget Kerrigan with Fairtrade Christmas Cards which Patricia designed.



Fair Trade birthday celebrations in The Strand Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick.



Residents of Castleconnell claimed the top prize in Limerick Going for Gold 2015.



Gordon Daly, Director of Service, Limerick City and County Council, Noel Earle and Joe Clery, Team Limerick Clean Up Steering Committee at Limerick Going for Gold Final.



Cllr. Liam Galvin, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick and Helen O'Donnell, Chair, Limerick City Centre Tidy Towns launching Limerick Gum Litter Campaign.



Cllr. Liam Galvin, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Sinead McDonnell, Environmental Awareness Officer, Pauline McDonagh, SWMRO, Helen O'Donnell, Chair, Limerick City Centre Tidy Towns, and St. Michael's Rowing Club promoting the use of re-usable water bottles.



*Enjoying the sunshine at the Dog Fouling Campaign launch.*



*Paul O'Connell, rugby legend and Limerick residents pose for a photo during Team Limerick Clean-Up.*



*JP McManus and Limerick residents during Team Limerick Clean-Up.*

provided gloves, bags and litter pickers and collected the bagged litter.

## STREET CLEANING / PARKS & HORTICULTURE

The Parks, Landscaping and Cleansing teams had another very busy year in 2015.

### Street Cleaning.

- Continued to provide a daily street sweeping and rubbish removal service resulting in maintaining Limerick's "Clean to European norms" IBAL status.
- Street cleaning crews provided extensive assistance to Going for Gold, Tidy Towns, Team Limerick Clean-up and National Spring Clean events.
- Additional street cleaning was required to assist the Great Limerick Run, Riverfest, Commemoration Sunday, Thomond Park rugby matches and GAA matches.

### Parks and Landscaping

- Carried out an ambitious grass cutting programme in 2015 covering 225 hectares, between April and October.
- Tree pruning and landscaping programmes were completed throughout the city and county.
- Part VIII Planning Permission was granted for the development of Mungret Neighbourhood Park which is due to be constructed in 2016.
- Numerous civic events were hosted in the public parks throughout the year.
- Flower towers, bridges in bloom, roundabouts and hanging baskets were cultivated and planted to bring a splash of colour to public spaces.

## REFUSE COLLECTION CHARGES SUBSIDY SCHEME

The Council issued a total of 5,521 waivers to qualifying households in 2015.

## CEMETERIES

### Cemeteries Bye Laws 2015

Limerick City and County Council Cemeteries Bye Laws 2015 were approved by the Council at its November meeting. These bye-laws are for management and regulation of cemeteries within the administrative boundary of Limerick City and County Council and replace existing Bye Laws for cemeteries.

### Extension to Ballingaddy Cemetery

The Council awarded contract to Martin Cussen Construction & Civil Engineering Ltd., Ballygeale, Newcastle West for the development of a cemetery extension and car-parking at Ballingaddy in December 2015 and works commenced on site. The cemetery extension, when completed, will provide approximately 700 grave spaces.

### Mount St. Lawrence Extension

The extension to Mount St Lawrence Cemetery, car parking, office and store facilities were completed during 2015. The new Cemetery Extension provides 675 grave spaces at Mt St Lawrence Cemetery. The development works were carried out by Nautic Building Co. Ltd., Abbeyfeale.

## CONSERVATION WORKS

Conservation works at Mt St Lawrence Mortuary Chapel continued during 2015. The works which were supervised by Limerick Civic Trust were carried out under a Community Employment Scheme.

The conservation works to the Mortuary Chapel consisted of the removal of vegetation growth, repairs and slating of apse roof, masonry works and pointing, cleaning out of gullies and drains, painting of doors.

Conservation works were completed to stabilise the west gable of the church in Kilmeedy. In Castletown Conyers the first stage of a multi-phase project was completed. This entailed removing much of the heavy vegetation. Repairs to boundary walls were carried out in conjunction with Ballyhoura Development Ltd. and West Limerick Resources Ltd. in Dromin, Patrickswell-Lough Gur and Nantinan.

## BURIAL GROUND AWARDS CEREMONY

A Burial Grounds Awards Ceremony was held at The Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, County Limerick in December 2015. This was the 8th year of the awards ceremony which acknowledged the combined hard work and commitment of burial ground committees, community groups and individuals for the upkeep and maintenance of the county's burial grounds. As in previous years, there were awards in two categories – Modern and Ancient. Approx 180 people attended the awards ceremony and the prizes were presented by Cllr. Liam Galvin, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick.

Cahernorry, Ballyneety achieved the overall award in the Ancient section and Doon was named the overall winner of the Modern section.

## VETERINARY SERVICES

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

At the abattoirs, all animals intended for slaughter for human consumption were inspected by a veterinary inspector before and after slaughter, as required under food safety law. Total numbers inspected in 2015 were as follows; Cattle 2949, Sheep 10,340, Pigs 167, Goats 47.

Our dog wardens dealt with a total of 705 stray and unwanted dogs during the year which is on a par with the previous year. Of these, 59% were reclaimed and 8% were re-homed. Rehoming rates have improved significantly since the introduction of the facebook page in June with approx 70 more dogs rehomed in 2015. The number of dogs reclaimed by their owners has also seen an improvement on 2014 rates with 25 more dogs being reclaimed. The Limerick Dog Shelter facebook page has been a huge success with over 5,000 likes to date and is

now one of the main contact points for the shelter.

343 stray horses were seized and impounded in 2015 of which only 10 were reclaimed by their owners and a further 15 rehomed.

## POLLUTION CONTROL AND WATER QUALITY TEAM

The pollution Control and Water Quality Division 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 AND THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

Specific areas of activity related to water quality in 2015 included implementing the programmes of measures under the Water Framework Directive (WFD), particularly in relation to agriculture, unsewered industries and septic tanks. A project was also undertaken to develop a community based approach to river enhancement.

## GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE

The programme of measures in relation to agriculture is the Good Agricultural Practice Regulations 2015. The Council undertook a total of 769 farm inspections in 2015 with a view to working with farmers to achieving compliance with these regulations and reducing the impact of agriculture on water quality. This work provides a double dividend, in that it protects the environment and also protects economic development in the agriculture sector, which is dependent on the sector being able to achieve sustainable intensification.

## DISCHARGE LICENSING

The Council is responsible for licensing discharges of trade and sewage effluent to waters from unsewered industries. There are currently 31 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 126 compliance checks were carried out in 2015, including on-site audits and submission reviews.

## SEPTIC TANK INSPECTIONS

The programme of septic tank inspections continued in 2015, with a total of 26 systems being inspected in the year.



*Children from Scoil Fhionain, Kilfinane with their Teacher at Streamscapes*

Total Septic Tanks Inspection	Compliant	Non Compliant	Registered	Un Registered
51	12	39	44	4

## COMMUNITY APPROACH TO RIVER MANAGEMENT

A community based project commenced on the River Loobagh in early 2015. It began with a partnership project between local anglers, Inland Fisheries Ireland and the Environment Section to carry out river improvement works. Funding was provided by the Councillors in the Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District from the General Municipal Allocation.

An education and awareness programme called Loobagh Streamscapes was delivered to all the schools and several community groups in the catchment. This received very positive feedback and led to a study trip to the Ballinderry Rivers Trust in Northern Ireland by a group of stakeholders to look at the Rivers Trust model. Following this trip the decision was made to establish a Rivers Trust for the entire River Maigue and it is hoped that this will be established in 2016.

## AIR QUALITY

Significant efforts continued in 2015 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.

Work in relation to the regulation of solvent users such as dry cleaners and vehicle refinishers was ongoing, with a high level of compliance achieved in these sectors.

## NOISE

Complaints related to noise nuisance have increase significantly in recent times, with a total of 103 complaints being received in 2015. These related to a range of issues including noisy neighbours, traffic noise, wind farms and other commercial activities.

## SERVICE INDICATORS – ENVIRONMENT

### E 1. % of Households with access to a 3 bin service.

Comment: Supplied by the National Waste Collection Permit Office.

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### E 2. % of Environmental Pollution Cases Closed

#### Total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2015, the number of pollution cases closed from 1st Jan to 31st December 2015 and the total number of cases on hands at 31st December 2015

The total number of pollutions of all types in respect of which complaint was made through made any means and whether instigated by public or local authority itself from 1st Jan to 31st December 2015. 3,227

The total number of pollution cases on which either a decision was taken and no investigation was warranted or an investigation was finalised (whether through prosecution or otherwise) during 2015 (regardless of when the case commenced)	3,265
The total number of pollution cases of all types not finalised at 31st December 2015	340

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### E 3. Percentage of LA area within the 5 levels of litter pollution.

The percentage of the area within the LA that when surveyed was unpolluted or litter free.

The percentage of the area within the LA that when surveyed was slightly polluted.

The percentage of the area within the LA that when surveyed was moderately polluted.

The percentage of the area within the LA that when surveyed was significantly polluted.

The percentage of the area within the LA that when surveyed was grossly polluted.

Comment: Supplied by Tobin Consulting Engineers.

# Economic Development & Planning



**PAT DALY**  
*DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING*

- Development Management
- Appealed to an Bord Pleanála
- Development Contributions
- Enforcement 2015
- Performance Indicators
- Forward Planning
- Economic Development
- Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

## DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Some of the major planning decisions in 2015 were:

15/96 – Permission granted to Kieran Wallace Receiver over Regalview Holdings Ltd. (In Receivership) for the construction of a 3 storey office building extension (including provision of electrical sub station and all associated site works) to existing 3 storey building at City East Plaza, Towlerton, Ballysimon.

15/180 – Permission granted to Johnson and Johnson for the construction of a new production hall with mezzanine plant space, a single storey loading bay, a new 3 storey office block and single storey canteen (total extended area building area 7,142m<sup>2</sup>) all to the north-west of the existing building; the expansion of the existing staff car park to provide 80 additional parking spaces; the construction of a new site entrance to internal roadway; the erection of a new boundary fence to extended site; hard and soft landscaping and all associated site works at Vistakon Ireland Ltd., National Technology Park, Plassey.

15/283 – permission granted to Analog for a 10 year permission for an extension of Manufacturing facility to provide R&D Pilot Line/Manufacturing use.

15/431 – Permission granted to Denton Construction Ltd for the construction of 26 semi detached and 3 detached houses and for the completion of partly constructed roads and services layout along with associated site works at Arraview, Newcastle West.

15/818 Permission granted to CPL Fuels Ireland Limited for minor amendments to Phase 1 of a previously approved development under planning reference 14/603.

15/8002 – Part 8 granted for (i) provision of 10 no. residential units; (ii) hard landscaping including provision of shared surface area, adjustments to existing footpaths and installation of street lighting and street furniture; (iii) soft landscaping including planting & trees; (iv) new boundary treatments to adjacent lands; (v) upgrading and re rooting of foul sewers and surface water drainage; and (vi) all associated site works at Moyross

### APPEALED TO AN BORD PLEANALA

Valcroft Ltd, 13/733- Development to replace the previous permitted waste management activity, buildings and plant on site as permitted under P94/1259, P98/1584 and P08/245.

### DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Monies received in 2015 in accordance with Development Contribution Schemes	€1,886,578.91
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Monies outstanding relating to applications which have commenced in 2015 in accordance with Development Contributions Schemes	€1,186,340.99
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### ENFORCEMENT

Complaints Received	426
Dismissed	32
Resolved	135
Warning Letters Issued	220
Enforcement Notices Issued	78
Enforcement Notices Issued under Sc 155	22
Prosecutions Initiated under Sc 154	31
Prosecutions Initiated under Sc 151	1
Injunctions	0
Convictions under Sc 154	5
Convictions under Sc 151	0

## PLANNING KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS REPORT

### Time Period

Jan-Dec 2015

#### New Housing Development

No. of applications decided	10
No. decided within 8 weeks	3
No. of decisions which required submission of further information	7
No. of decisions where extension of time was agreed under S.34(9)	0
Average length of time taken (in days) to decide a case where further information was sought	77.85
No. of grants	8
No. of refusals	2
No. of cases where the decision was confirmed with or without variations by An Bord Pleanala	0
No. of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	0

#### Individual Houses

No. of applications decided	173
No. decided within 8 weeks	64
No. of decisions which required submission of further information	102
No. of decisions where extension of time was agreed under S.34(9)	4
Average length of time taken (in days) to decide a case where further information was sought	73.49
No. of grants	153
No. of refusals	20
No. of cases where the decision was confirmed with or without variations by An Bord Pleanala	6
No. of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	2

#### Other: Not requiring EIA

No. of applications decided	654
No. decided within 8 weeks	350
No. of decisions which required submission of further information	300
No. of decisions where extension of time was agreed under S.34(9)	3
Average length of time taken (in days) to decide a case where further information was sought	73.92
No. of grants	624
No. of refusals	30
No. of cases where the decision was confirmed with or without variations by An Bord Pleanala	36
No. of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	8

#### Other: Requiring EIA

No. of applications decided	3
No. decided within 8 weeks	1
No. of decisions which required submission of further information	2
No. of decisions where extension of time was agreed under S.34(9)	0
Average length of time taken (in days) to decide a case where further information was sought	67
No. of grants	3
No. of refusals	0
No. of cases where the decision was confirmed with or without variations by An Bord Pleanala	0
No. of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala.	0

## TAKING IN CHARGE SERVICE INDICATORS 2015

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.	54
B Number of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question.	28
C Number of dwellings in respect of column B.	2031
D Number of estates in column A not completed to the satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission.	18
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.	6
F Number of estates in Column D in respect of which works were undertaken by the authority to bring the estate to taking in charge standard.	3

## FORWARD PLANNING

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

### County and City Development Plans

A number of variations to the City and County Development Plans were adopted by the Council during 2015, to incorporate the Limerick 2030 Economic & Spatial Plan and the Shannon Estuary Integrated Framework Plan.

### Local Area Plans

Following a period of extensive public consultation the Adare, Askeaton and Patrickswell Local Area Plans were prepared and adopted in February and March 2015.

### Conservation

The Council continues to provide a planning advisory service to any person wishing to carry out works to buildings of architectural significance and protected structures within the City and County. A total of 52 Section 57 declarations were processed outlining the type of works which would or would not materially affect the character of protected structures or any element of the structures. 3 structures were added and 9 were deleted from the Record of Protected.

### Heritage

€12,000 was secured under the Heritage Officers grant scheme for survey works to Bouchiers Castle, Lough Gur and the Limerick's Golden Mile 2015 rural heritage competition.

The Limerick's Built Heritage lecture series took place in late 2015 consisting of 6 exploratory evening lectures raising awareness of Limerick's unique built heritage.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Economic Development Unit activity centres around the promotion and development of economic potential of Limerick. The work includes the realisation of the Limerick 2030 Projects, Innovate Limerick Projects, Local Enterprise Office initiatives and Interagency Co-operation on Investment Opportunities.

Key Highlights for 2015 include;

- Major investment/ jobs announcements from Dell, ICON, Northern Trust, Three, Uber, Viagogo, and Vistakon
- Business & retail Incentive Scheme extended to Dec 2016
- Rathkeale Enterprise Centre officially opened in November 2015
- The Council agree a development partnership

with Troy Studios to deliver a major Film Production Facility at Castletroy

- Council acquire the old Cleeves site, an 8 acre site adjacent to the city centre
- The Living Cities Scheme was launched in May 2015 with the view to revitalise the Georgian Quarter of Limerick.
- The 3rd International Cluster Conference was hosted by the City & County Council in October 2015
- Limerick hosted the Global Irish Economic Forum in November 2015

## LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO)

In 2015 LEO Limerick continued to raise its profile and to promote its role as the lead agency for small business development in the City and County. The year was another successful year in both providing financial support for business and also in providing training and development for owner managers and key employees of small business in Limerick.

LEO Limerick provided financial assistance to enterprises during 2015 by way of grant aid. The three main categories of grants are Feasibility Study, Priming Grant Aid, and Business Expansion Grant aid. LEO Limerick adopted a policy of making 30% of Priming Grants and 40% of Business Expansion Grants in refundable form in order to achieve an overall refundability of 30% of approvals. Feasibility Grants continue to be non repayable. Refundable Aid is repaid to LEO Limerick by standing order over a specified number of months, usually 36 months.

The total amount of grant aid approved by LEO Limerick in 2015 was €808,362, in respect of 40 projects, of which €270,108 (33.4%) was refundable aid. The amount paid out by LEO Limerick in respect of grant aid during the period was €717,758 of which €237,617 (33.1%) was paid by way of refundable aid. Pre 2015 approvals by LEO Limerick amounting to €147,085 and 2015 approvals amounting to €108,784 were de-committed during the period, leaving the outstanding grant liability of LEO Limerick at the end 2015 at €372,380.

The financial assistance paid by LEO Limerick during 2015 provided assistance for the creation of 70 additional jobs in the sector. Employment



*Limerick Business Week.*

projections by the promoters of projects approved during 2015 has indicated an additional 120 jobs will be created in 2016 as a direct result of the financial assistance received.

As regards training and development 1134 participants took part in some aspect of the programme, either training and development, workshops, or other activities, with a further 1100 students taking part in the Student Enterprise Education Programme. This represents an increase in the numbers that took part in the 2014 programmes. There was a great interest during the year in companies availing of LEO Limerick's development programmes and this is in line with the continued emphasis by LEO Limerick on this area.

LEO Limerick's approach of segmenting and targeting companies by their lifecycle status has proved beneficial to ensuring growth and development of companies that have been assisted by LEO Limerick. LEO Limerick is at present working with companies with potential and willingness for growth and in 2016 will allocate greater resources to these companies.

# Regional Services – Water, Waste Management, Fire & Emergency Services and Road Design Office



## CAROLINE CURLEY

*DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL SERVICES – WATER /  
WASTE MANAGEMENT / FIRE & EMERGENCY  
SERVICES / ROAD DESIGN OFFICE*

### WATER SERVICES

- Rural Water Programme 2015
- Subsidy towards the Operational Costs of Group Water Schemes
- Private Well Grants

### FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- Fire and Rescue Service
- Service Indicators
- Fire Prevention, Building Control & Dangerous Buildings
- Major Emergency Management
- Munster Regional Communication Centre
- Civil Defence

### MID WEST NATIONAL ROAD DESIGN OFFICE

- Foynes to Limerick Scheme
- Killarney Pole to Barnagh Phase 2
- N24 Dromkeen Traffic Calming Scheme
- N21 Adare Western Approach Scheme
- Improvement/Re-alignment Works
- Bridge Rehabilitation Works
- Road Safety
- External Accreditation/Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

## 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 will be accountable to two regulatory bodies – The Commission for Energy Regulation (CER) who is the economic regulator for the water industry, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) who is the environmental regulator. Limerick City and County Council are still responsible for the rural water programme and the activity in this area is outlined below.

## RURAL WATER PROGRAMME 2015

Limerick City and County Council received a Rural Water Programme grant allocation of €650,000 in 2015 from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government and the allocation enabled investment in areas such as:

- Grants to Upgrade existing Group Water Schemes
- Takeover of Group Water Supply Schemes

## 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. 42 Group Water Schemes received a subsidy towards their operational costs in 2015 with a total of €891,145 being paid out.

## PRIVATE WELL GRANTS

Grants totalling €92,645 were paid to 54 individuals under this heading in 2015. 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.

### W Water

#### W1: Percentage of drinking water in private supplies in compliance with statutory requirements

This data is available directly from the EPA but not per local authority area.

## FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Limerick City and County Council as 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.

- A) Fire & Rescue Service
- B) Fire Prevention, Building Control and Dangerous Buildings
- C) Major Emergency Management
- D) Munster Regional Communications Centre.
- E) Civil Defence

### A) 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.

Limerick Fire and Rescue Service successfully attended 1521 incidents from 1st January to 31st December, 2015.

ISO9001:2008 Quality Standard Certification and OHSAS 18001:2007 Health & Safety Certification was awarded in 2015 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.

Limerick Fire & Rescue Service officially launched their new power boat (Fire swift) in 2015.

Recruitment took place of ten whole time and seven retained fire fighters in 2015.



*Limerick City Fire and Rescue Training.*



*Limerick City Fire and Rescue new rescue boat pictured doing manoeuvres in the River Shannon.*



*Limerick City Fire and Rescue Full Time block training.*



*Limerick City Fire and Rescue Full Time block training.*



*Limerick City Fire and Rescue Full Time block training.*

**SERVICE INDICATORS****WHOLETIME****RETAINED**

Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire	1 min 30 secs	
Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire		5 mins 26 secs
Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other emergency incidents	1 min 42 secs	
Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other emergency incidents		5 mins 23 secs
<b>Percentage of Attendances at Scenes</b>		
Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	87.45%	19.11%
Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	11.13%	56.37%
Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes.	1.41%	24.5%
% of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	76.32%	29.12%
% of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	21.73%	51.64%
% of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	1.93%	19.23%
Total number of incidents in respect of fire	707	283
Number of incidents in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	495	39
Number of incidents in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	63	115
Number of incidents in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	8	50
Total number of incidents in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire)	323	208
Number of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	158	53

Number of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	45	94
Number of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	4	35

## B) FIRE PREVENTION, BUILDING CONTROL & DANGEROUS BUILDINGS

The function of the Fire Prevention, Building Control & Dangerous Buildings 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

Total number of fire safety certificate applications received	177
Total number of fire safety certificate applications processed (including cases deemed invalid)	157
Total number of applications deemed invalid	19
Buildings inspected as a % of new buildings notified to the local authority	15.7%
Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority	305
Number of new buildings notified to the local authority that were inspected	48

### Disability Access Certificates

Total No. of valid Disability Access Certificates received	122
Total No. of Disability Access Certificates processed (incl. cases deemed invalid)	119
Total No. of Disability Access Certificates invalidated	7

Total number of Planning Referrals processed	280
Total number of Commencement Notices received	282

Total Expenditure costs for Civil Defence	€311,159.13
Gifts received by Civil Defence	Sports wear

Total expenditure for Fire Service (incl Central Mgt Charge)	€10,764,869.44
Total population of Limerick City & County Limerick	199,139
Total expenditure per capita	€70

## C) 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 2015.

- Major Emergency Management Committee meetings held throughout the year.
- Attended MEM Inter-Agency Regional Working and Steering Groups meetings for the Mid-West Region.
- Trained Limerick City & County Council personnel in the following:
  - Information Management Officers
  - Local Coordination Centre Training
- Chairperson for the Mid-West Region Mass Fatality Plan and Voluntary Emergency Services Sub-Groups.
- Completed the National Annual Appraisal on Limerick City & County Council's preparedness for Major Emergency Management.
- Major Emergency Management Structures were activated for a two month period during the severe weather and flooding events in 2015/2016.

## D) MUNSTER REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE

The Munster Regional Communications System (MRCC) is located on the same site as Mulgrave Street Fire Station. The MRCC Project 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 County and City 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 4 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 Service Medals 30 & 50 Years.*



*Civil Defence Service Medals 30 & 50 Years.*

## E) CIVIL DEFENCE

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

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

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

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

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

### 1. FOYNES TO LIMERICK SCHEME

The MWNRDO has been tasked by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to progress the design of a new roadway between Foynes and Limerick of approximately 35km in length to dual carriageway standard.

The preferred route corridor was put on public display in Limerick and Foynes on the 1st & 2nd December 2015 with over 700 people attending over the two days. The scheme is now progressing through the Design Phase towards the preparation of the Geographical Information Survey and Compulsory Purchase Order to be published in 2017.

### 2. KILLARNEY POLE TO BARNAGH PHASE 2

The second and final phase of the Killarney Pole to Barnagh road project commenced construction in February 2015 and was completed, ahead of schedule and fully opened to traffic, in November 2015. The entire scheme was officially opened by Cllr Liam Galvin, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, on the 26th November 2015.

### 3. N24 DROMKEEN TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEME

This traffic calming scheme commenced in February 2015 and was completed in June 2015.

### 4. N21 ADARE WESTERN APPROACH SCHEME

This 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. A Public Information Evening was held at the Dunraven Arms Hotel on the 15th of September 2015 to seek the views of the public with regard to the initial proposals. The Elected Members were briefed on two occasions on the 8th of September and the 10th of November 2015 in relation to this proposed scheme.

### 5. IMPROVEMENT/RE-ALIGNMENT WORKS

Engineering Consultants were appointed in September 2015 to the N24 Beary's Cross Improvement Scheme and the N20 O'Rourke's Cross Improvement Scheme. Work is ongoing in identifying the preferred solutions for each of these schemes.

Traffic safety measures were also designed and installed at N69 Kiltteery, N21 Adare Western approach and N21 Sweeps Cross during 2015.

### 6. BRIDGE REHABILITATION WORKS

Bridge rehabilitation works commenced in relation to 16 bridge structures across counties Limerick, Clare and Cork. Section 85 Agreements were entered into with both Clare County Council and Cork County Council and a contractor was appointed to carry out works in relation to same.

### 7. ROAD SAFETY

The MWNRDO continues to undertake Road Safety Audits in the region throughout the year as the completion of this work is a priority for TII as it will help to identify safety improvement schemes to be designed by the MWNRDO or assigned to engineering consultants. Nine locations are currently being assessed in relation to this safety improvement work.

### 8. EXTERNAL ACCREDITATION/ CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

The MWNRDO retained its accreditation to the ISO 9001:2008 standard during 2015 and also carried out its own series of internal audits throughout 2015 and implemented a continuous improvement approach to its operations. The MWNRDO has also been successful in retaining its CPD Accredited Office status with Engineers Ireland in 2015.



Killarney Pole to Barnagh Phase 2 Scheme.



Official opening of Killarney Pole to Barnagh Phase 2 Scheme by Cllr. Liam Galvin, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick.



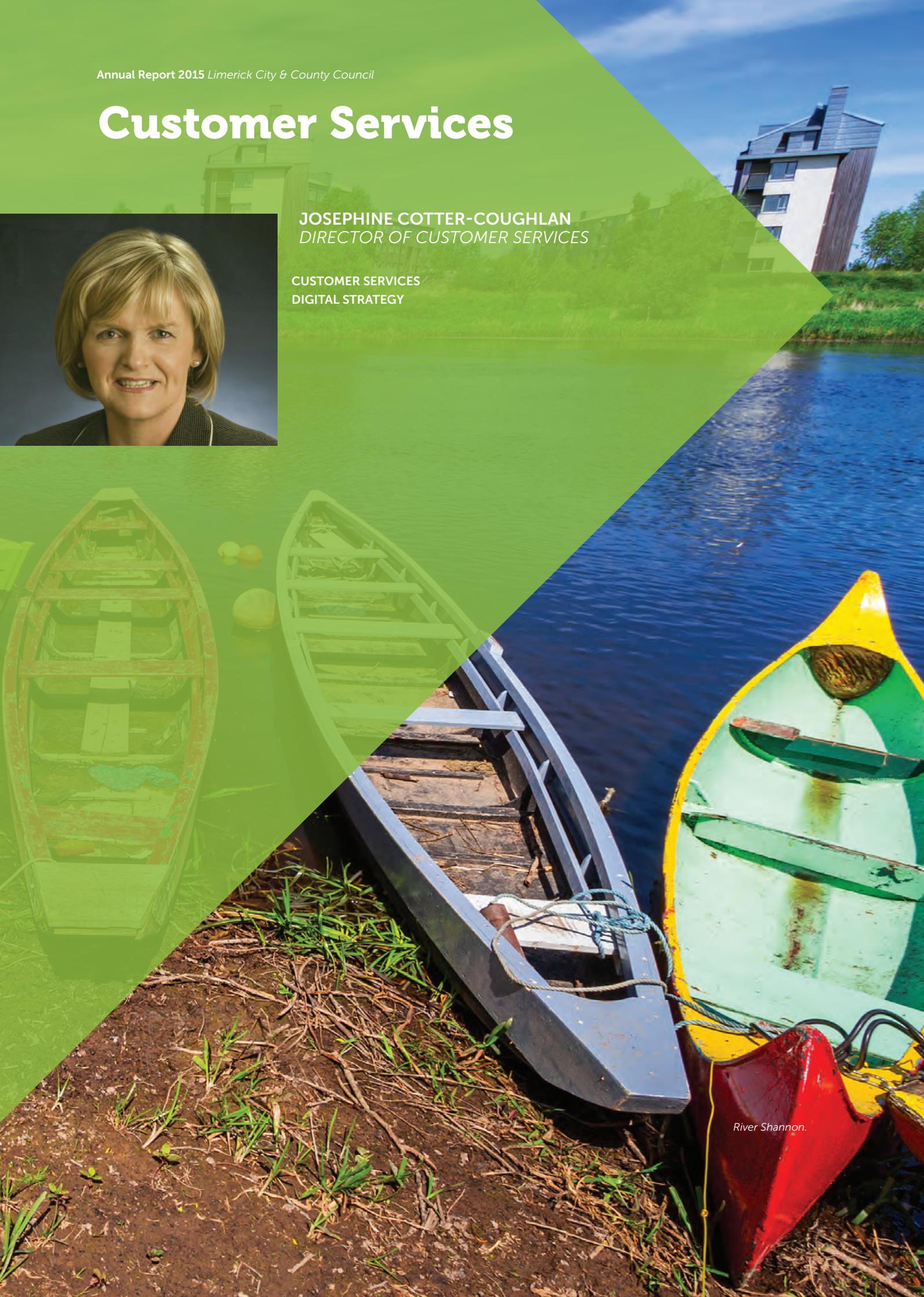
Bridge Rehabilitation Works – Boherdotia Bridge, Ballylahiff, Oola, Co. Limerick.

# Customer Services



**JOSEPHINE COTTER-COUGHLAN**  
*DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMER SERVICES*

**CUSTOMER SERVICES**  
**DIGITAL STRATEGY**



*River Shannon.*

Customer Services continued to expand the number of services delivered in 2015. A further enhanced Operation Level Agreement was signed with Environment so as to empower advisers to answer queries there and then and to add value for the customer. This is in line with the principles under 'Putting People First' where services are to be delivered at the closest point to the customer.

2015 also saw the integration of the Cash Office into Customer Services in Merchants Quay. A detailed Operation Level Agreement was signed with Finance so as to cover the running of this service. Again, this integration has led to improved customer service as advisers are trained in not only cash handling processes but also in answering queries relating to general Council service delivery. Motor Tax phone calls were also integrated in 2015 into Customer Services with assistance given to enable the online taxation of vehicles.

Over 30,000 customers interacted at our counters in Dooradoyle and Merchants Quay in 2015 with queries ranging from requests for information to requesting detailed services from the Council.

The new Customer Relationship Management System, SugarCRM, was introduced on phased basis during 2015 in the Council. 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. The Council continuously strives to have the best possible system so that our customers are happy with the services we deliver.

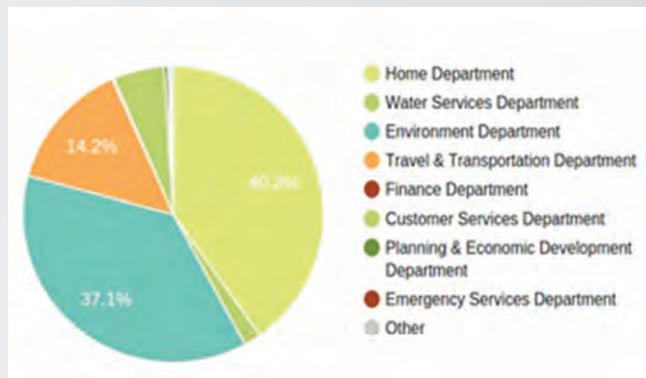
The following figures detail the amount of requests from the public and elected representatives that were recorded on SugarCRM during 2015.

- 19,421 Requests Received with 86.50% Closed with 83.58% Resolved.
- 2,863 Representations received from 40 Councillors, 5 TDs, 3 Ministers with 75.06% Closed with 70.81% Resolved.

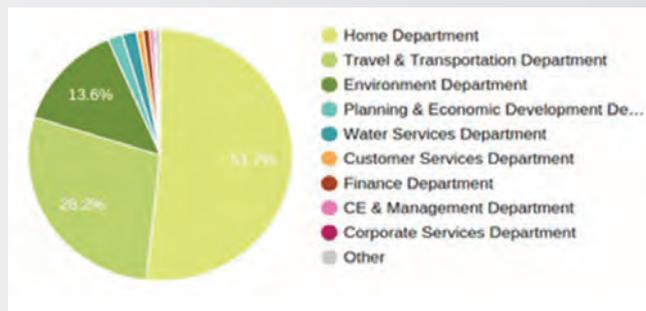
### How long does it take?

- 5.16 working days to solve most requests (median).
- 15.07 working days (average).

### What are the high demand areas? Recorded Cases



### What departments receive the most representations from public representatives? Representations



## CUSTOMER SURVEY

Customer Services introduced this survey on a pilot basis in December 2015. It provides an independent feedback from customers regarding the Council's service delivery.

Based on responses received during the pilot:

- 80% of customers would recommend us.
- 77% of customers found it easy to get help.
- 85% of customers agree customer services advisers are helpful.
- 76% of customers agree that we solved their issue.

## DIGITAL STRATEGY

In December, 2015 a Digital Strategy Department was established under the Customer Services Directorate. The Digital Strategy Department is responsible for Limerick Digital Strategy development and it's implementation for a Smart Limerick. In addition, a Council Digital Transformation Program has commenced which will include the following areas :

- Customer facing elements of ICT such as applications and web development;
- Intranet, extranet and data;
- Analytics and GIS (Geographical Information Systems);

A key goal of Digital Strategy is to develop and deliver an excellent digital customer experience working together with all Council departments.



Dooradoyle L-R : Caitlin Kirwan, Antoinette Holland, Stephanie Sheehy, Aedin Foley, Ailis Madden, Joanne Fleming, Fiona Casey, Georgina McCarthy.



Merchants Quay L-R : Oonagh Kirby, Elizabeth Frawley, Gillian McNamara, Stuart Calton, Aisling Walshe, Janette Deegan.

# Service Operations Change Management



**GORDON DALY**  
*DIRECTOR OF SERVICE OPERATIONS /  
CHANGE MANAGEMENT*

**CHANGE MANAGEMENT  
PROPERTY SERVICES**



Design of a New Operating Model for a New Local Authority

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

*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 Change Management Team has been working with Management Team, Staff and Councillors to complete the detailed design of the new operating model for the new Council for implementation in 2016.

Our new structure will:

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

This means that:

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

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

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.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Access provided to front line environment services at the Customer Services Centres
- The Environment Department's back office processes have been simplified, standardised and integrated into our Customer Relationship Management system (SugarCRM). These include standard processes for enforcement, inspections

and licensing which it is anticipated can be applied to other services in the Council.

- Access to front line Motor Tax services at all 5 Customer Service Centres has been provided.
- By means of improving Customer Services:
  - Roll out of SugarCRM training and usage throughout the organisation
  - All customer issues and complaints are recorded and addressed via CRM
- Customer survey undertaken showing customers to be for the most part satisfied with the Council service.
- All frontline service requests for Annacotty Depot are now taken at Customer Services.
- Property Services Department was established as one of the first new departments in the new operating model. It's function Includes the acquisition, disposal, protection and management of all council land and buildings. It also includes managing the corporate buildings infrastructure including area offices, fire stations and libraries as well as the facilities management of these buildings.
- Operation and Maintenance Services Department was established. It's function Includes

maintenance for roads, housing, parks and environment, surface water drainage and council property. It also includes responsibility for the machinery yard and fleet management, traffic, parking and event management services (city centre) and response to flooding events. The department is divided into 3 geographical areas – North Division, West Division, South Division. It will also include a Central Service Operations Team to co-ordinate maintenance, insurance and other matters across the directorate.

- Director level and senior manager assignments were made to the new directorates to assist with the final design stage of the operating model.
- A Change Liaison Network was established with representatives from all work areas to ensure effective two way communication on the Change Programme.
- Following a number of staff focus groups, a staff survey was undertaken to support the production of a Staff Development Plan.
- Project Management toolkit and templates produced for use as a standard in the local authority with training of staff to follow in 2016.



*Newly refurbished office accommodation for the Housing Assistance Programme team carried out by Property Services at the Granary.*

## PROPERTY SERVICES

The Property Services Department was established within the new Service Operations Directorate on 1st October 2015. Prior to that these services were provided within the Economic Development and Planning Directorate and within Corporate Services.

There are 3 teams within Property Services:

- **Property Management**
- **Facilities Management**
- **Corporate Buildings**

The Property Management team manages land and property (other than local authority houses) owned by Limerick City and County Council and in 2015 continued to be a key support service to other directorates for the purchase, disposal, leasing and licencing of all property for the Council. This unit also continued to ensure that the local authority maximises effectiveness as well as optimising economic return in the use of its existing property portfolio.

The Facilities Management team operates within the Property Services section and manages the 6 main corporate buildings which include

- **Corporate Headquarters Merchants Quay**
- **Dooradoyle**
- **Lissanalta House**
- **No 2 Pery Square**
- **The Granary**
- **Patrick Street**

Property Services also manages the Corporate Buildings upgrade programme.

This unit customizes and refurbishes office space within the organisation in accordance with the Change Programme. During 2015 the HAP refurbishment project at The Granary was completed and has since been shortlisted for an award at the Irish Design and Buildings Awards 2016.

Two of the key acquisitions completed in 2015 were sites which were identified as key strategic sites under Limerick 2030 An Economic and Social Plan - 16-18 Henry Street (Hanging Gardens ) and also the former Cleeves Site on North Circular Road. Also in 2015 the property unit supported the redevelopment project for the Arthurs Quay area by progressing the acquisition of Arthurs Quay Park through the CPO mechanism.

Property services are also responsible for the recording and storage of the data trail associated with the purchasing and disposing of property. In this regard work on the establishment of an electronic property register was progressed in 2015 and a suitable GIS based property information system for the maintenance of local authority property records was identified.



*Newly refurbished office accommodation for the Housing Assistance Programme team carried out by Property Services at the Granary.*

# Municipal Districts

ADARE - RATHKEALE

CAPPAMORE - KILMALLOCK

NEWCASTLE WEST





*Thatched Cottages in Adare, Co. Limerick.*

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE

The Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale, which was set up in June 2014 following the Local Elections, comprises of six elected representatives and provides a wide range of engineering and administrative services which includes Housing, Road Improvement & Maintenance, Burial Grounds and Community Play Grounds.

The Waste-Water Services Section continues to operate as an agent for Irish Water.

### ROADS

Substantial improvement works were undertaken during the year to the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale roads network by way of Government funding and own resources which included:-

- Road overlays at Kilfinny, Adare & Skehanagh, Ardagh.
- Road Strengthening & Surface Dressing works on local & regional roads
- Footpath Upgrades at Foynes, Rathkeale and Glin.
- Upgrade of Bridges at Ballyegna, Nantinan and Shanagolden
- Road overlays
- Winter Maintenance.

### HOUSING

The Adare-Rathkeale Housing Department carries out maintenance and improvement works to its stock of housing units as well as maintenance works to Council Burial Grounds, Residential Caravan Sites and Libraries in the Municipal District.

Four vacant houses were upgraded under the Voids programme in 2015.

32 units of accommodation received the Dimplex Quantum Storage Heating System installed along with new high energy efficiency hot water cylinders. This new system is a third cheaper to run than the older storage heating systems. Tenants who signed up with SSE will receive free monthly heating credit for the first 12 months.

The Council also approves various Housing Aid Grants, such as the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme for People with a Disability; the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme and the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme. An allocation of €339,530 was received from the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government during 2015 with a total of 49 applicants receiving grant aid under the various schemes.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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

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

### LIFEGUARD SERVICE

Temporary lifeguards and pier attendants were employed at both Glin and Killeery Piers during the 2015 summer bathing period.

### PLAYGROUNDS

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

### ARTS CENTRE

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



*Low Cost Safety Improvements Graigeen, Askeaton.*



*Bridge Improvement Works at Ballyegna.*

## AREA RECEPTIONS

Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal Area held civic receptions for six groups from across the municipal district during 2015.

These groups were Ballylanders Ladies Football team (Limerick Senior Ladies Football Champions 2015); Radharc na Cille Residents (National Pride of Place); Bruff G.A.A. Club (County Premier Intermediate Hurling Champions 2014); Murroe – Boher Ladies Football Team (All Ireland Club Ladies Junior Football Champions 2014); John the Baptist, Hospital, Junior Ladies Football Team (All Ireland Schools “B” Ladies Football Champions 2015); Doon G.A.A.Club (All Ireland Junior “B” Hurling champions 2014).

## HOME AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Housing Maintenance crew responded to 783 service requests during the year, 98% of which were carried out by 31st December 2015. In addition to Maintenance and pre letting works in 2015, funding was provided for a Voids Retrofitting Programme.

During 2015, Housing Grants, which are 80% financed from Central Funds, continued to be an important contributor towards the support of people in their homes. The expenditure for Kilmallock area was €449,345. A sum of €35000 was expended on Disability Works carried out on Council owned properties to accommodate Council tenants.

## UNFINISHED HOUSING ESTATES

Works continued to a number of unfinished estates to bring them up to a standard to facilitate taking in charge by the Council. Significant works were carried out at Cois Srúthán, Croom to bring the estate up to standard.

## CHARLEVILLE KILMALLOCK REDZ 2015/2016

Under the Charleville Kilmallock Rural Economic Development Zone (REDZ) initiative, Kilmallock area received grant aid to the value of €44,179 for specific projects.

These projects were: Footbridge Development, Kilmallock; Feasibility Study, Stone Mansion, Kilmallock; Loop Walk development - non invasive survey, pathway design and tree planting.

## ROADS

Expenditure on maintenance and improvement works on roads in 2015 was financed by way of Government grants and the Council's own resources.

Extensive Road Reconstruction and Surface Restoration Works were carried out, both on regional and local roads.

- Under the Community Involvement Scheme, four projects were completed in Tankardstown, Knocksouna, Brickfield, and Kilfrush, Knocklong, with a total budget of €81000. These works were carried out on local tertiary roads and the works consisted of drainage works, road reconstruction and surface dressing.
- A Local Improvement Scheme was completed at Rockhill in 2015 which had a budget of €72,986.
- A sum of €50,000 was expended on rehabilitation works on Garrienderk Bridge on the R515, Kilmallock Charleville road.
- There was an allocation of €27,000 from the Development Fund for footpaths in Bruff and Kilfinane.

## CUSTOMER SERVICES

Kilmallock office commenced using the Sugar CRM system to log all customer queries relating to Housing and Environmental issues.



*Cllr. Eddie Ryan, Cathaoirleach and Members of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock make a presentation to Murroe-Boher ladies football team, 8th January, 2015.*



*Tree planting funded by the Redz Initiative on Kilmallock loop walk December 2015.*

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST

The office of the Municipal District of Newcastle West provides a range of services throughout West Limerick, including Road Maintenance, Housing, Burial Grounds, Planning Clinics, Motor Tax, as well as operation of the Council's Machinery Yard & Bitumen Depot. The expansion of services under the new Customer Service model continues to be developed and implemented. The Water Services Section acts as an agent for Irish Water.

### ROADS

Expenditure on maintenance and improvement works on roads in 2015 was financed by way of Government grants and the Council's own resources.

Road expenditure programmes included:

- Major road surface overlay on the N21 at for Phase 2 Barnagh, Newcastle West
- Major upgrade in Templeglantine village on N21
- Road strengthening and surface dressing schemes on regional and local roads
- Road overlays at St Mary's Road, N21, Newcastle West
- Footpath upgrading at Abbeyfeale, Dromcollogher and Newcastle West
- Major Footpath works at Castlemahon.
- Winter Maintenance

### DEMESNE, NEWCASTLE WEST

This public amenity continues to increase in popularity, with large numbers enjoying the facilities. Large numbers are also attending the playground at the entrance to the Demesne. Also the public roadway into the Demesne was upgraded during 2015 with the opening of a new development in this area.

### HOUSING

#### Housing Grants Scheme

Twelve applications under the Housing Adaptation Grants for People with a Disability were approved at a cost of €67,719. Thirty two applications under the Mobility Aids Housing Grants were approved at a cost of €128,900. Eighty nine applications under the

Housing Aid for Older People were approved at a cost of €477,354.

#### Housing Maintenance

The Housing Maintenance crew for the Newcastle West Municipal District is also based at the office. Forty vacant Council houses were upgraded with funding under the 2015 Preletting and Voids Programme. The majority of these houses have been let to new tenants. Routine maintenance issues with houses are also dealt with by this crew.

### WATER SERVICES

Irish Water has been established as the organisation with overall responsibility for water and waste water matters throughout Ireland. The water crew at Newcastle West acts as an agent for this organisation and on their behalf operates and maintains a large number of water schemes throughout West Limerick.

### BALLINGRANE BITUMEN DEPOT & MACHINERY YARD

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

### MOTOR TAXATION

The Motor Taxation Section in Newcastle West had a total of 27,754 routine transactions during 2015

### CUSTOMER SERVICES

The roll out of a new 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 now logged on this system by the Newcastle West office.

# Appendix

## CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS

*Lough Gur, Co. Limerick.*

A scenic landscape photograph of Lough Gur, Co. Limerick. The image shows a wide river flowing through a valley, with green hills and trees on either side. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The water in the river reflects the sky and the surrounding landscape. In the foreground, there are some reeds and grasses along the riverbank.

## CONFERENCES/SEMINARS ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2015

DATE	TITLE	VENUE	NO.
9th – 11th January	Seminar organised by Ace Training entitled 'Tourism, Technology & Competitive Strategies For 2015'	Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	1
23rd – 25th January	Seminar organised by Ace Training entitled 'The Finance Act 2014'	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	1
20th – 21st February	Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises Entitled 'Sustainable Tourism Development'	Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway	1
27th March	NFLA (Nuclear Free Local Authorities) Forum Spring 2015 entitled 'Nuclear risks and energy opportunities, which direction should Ireland go?'	Newry & Mourne Council Offices, Newry	3
10th – 12th April	Seminar organised by The Institute of Professional Training entitled 'Changing trends and approaches to drug and alcohol abuse'	Bewley's Hotel, Dublin Airport,	2
15th April	Creating a brand for your area – Battlefield Tourism A lost field	Crowne Plaza Dundalk, Dundalk, Co. Louth	2
17th – 18th April	Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises entitled 'Equal Status Rights Explained'	The Connact Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway	1
8th – 9th May	Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises entitled 'Crime Prevention and Community Safety'	The Connact Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway	1
12th – 13th June	Seminar organised by Superior Training entitled 'Local Government and Economic Development'	The Park House Hotel, Edgeworthstown, Co. Longford	1
8th July	Seminar organised by Teagasc entitled 'Supporting The Future Development of Rural Irish Business'	Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick	2
27th – 28th July	Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises entitled 'Planning and Building Regulations'	The Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway	1

DATE	TITLE	VENUE	NO.
31st July – 1st August	Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises entitled 'Changes To Community Development'	The Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway	2
7th – 9th August	Seminar organised by Celtic Conferences entitled 'Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015'	The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	1
18th – 20th September	Seminar organised by Celtic Conferences entitled 'Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015'	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	3
30th September – 1st October	Clusters as Drivers of Competitiveness	Limerick Strand Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick	1
16th October	Conference organised by Community Awareness of Drugs entitled 'Cannabis – Why Not'	The Radisson Blue Royal Hotel, Dublin 8	1
30th October	Seminar 'New Nuclear risks in the Irish Sea Submarines'	Council Chambers, Town Hall, Dundalk, Co. Louth	2
3rd November	Conference organised by The National Sustainability Summit 2015 entitled 'Securing Ireland's Future'	Aviva Stadium, Dublin	1
7th November	Seminar – Planning & Environmental Law	Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, Dublin 8	1
11th November	Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed Forum	The Clarion Hotel, Sligo	1
20th – 22nd November	Seminar organised by Celtic Conferences entitled 'Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015'	The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	3
9th December	Adapt National Conference 'The Changing Face of Domestic Abuse'	The Greenhills Hotel, Limerick	1
11th – 12th December	Seminar organised by Superior Training entitled 'Local Government Environment Policy Opportunities for Local Communities'	Park House Hotel, Edgeworthstown, Co. Longford	1



COMHAIRLE  
CATHRACH & CONTAE  
**Luimnigh**  
**Limerick**  
CITY & COUNTY  
COUNCIL