

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

THIS MONTH:

Over 10,000 volunteers registered to participate in Team Limerick Clean Up 2 on Good Friday

Pilot meals on wheels service being rolled out in Foynes area

A significant operational response to deal with flooding and storms continued throughout February

The Council has been allocated €4 million towards the repair bill for flood damaged roads

Twenty five portrait drawings donated to the Council by Dr. Thomas Ryan.

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1. Financial Matters

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Empowering the Citizen

1. Home and Social Development

Waiting List

Housing Waiting List	4,295
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Allocations

	Metropolitan District	Newcastle West	Adare – Rathkeale	Cappamore – Kilmallock	Total
No of Units Allocated February 2016	12	1	5	4	22
Year to Date	21	5	8	9	43

Home Improvement Schemes

Private Housing Grant Aid	Number of Grants paid at February 2016	Euro Amount
MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	16	€64,353.00
HAGS (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	10	€88,332.21
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	28	€87,972.04

Total of 54 grants paid to date totalling €240,657.30

Rent Collection

Rent Collection Limerick City & County Council

Opening Balance 01/01/2016 €	Accrued Income €	Total for collection €	Receipts €	Closing balance 29/02/2016 €	% Collection
2,035,821	1,921,684.80	3,957,505.80	1,811,498.09	2,146,007.71	54%

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2. HAP HUB Update

- Under the Government's HAP statutory pilot Limerick City & County Council is providing a transactional shared service HUB for all local authorities operating HAP during the pilot phase.
- At 29th of February 7,728 HAP tenancies had been set-up to date which includes 539 closed tenancies. There are currently 7,189 active HAP tenancies.
- Galway City Council joined HAP on 1st February, bringing the total number of Local Authorities, including the Dublin Homeless Pilot, to twenty. The remaining Local Authorities will come under HAP in 2016.
- The HAP hub will hold interviews for new clerical staff from 8th of March to 11th. 80 candidates have been shortlisted for interview over this period.
- The HAP Hub team will present to the Local Government Management Agency board in late March in one of the final steps in the process of moving from the HAP Hub from its current pilot phase to it becoming the lead authority providing the shared services requirement for the HAP initiative nationally.

3. Environment

Green Schools Assessments

- 15 Green Schools Assessments took place
- Support for St Pauls National School, Dooradoyle stand at Green Schools Expo which took place in the RDS, Dublin.

Organising for Team Limerick Clean Up 2 continues

- Over 10,000 volunteers registered to participate in TLC2 on Good Friday, 25th March 2016 to date www.teamlimerickcleanup.ie
- Statutory meeting for TLC2 took place
- 4 Health and Safety Briefings have taken place to date. (Kilmallock, Adare, Ardagh and Dooradoyle)
- Team Limerick Clean Up Steering Group attended The People of the Year Awards in the Clarion Hotel. The Team Limerick Clean Up Steering Group was nominated for the April Award.

Free Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off Day in Mungret Recycling Centre

- A successful event at the Mungret Recycling Centre. The following were collected;

- 10 fluorescent tubes, 30 litres of engine oil, 3 oil filters, 2 drums of aerosols, 2 boxes of waste paint, 3 drums of cosmetics/medicines/pesticides etc.

4. Community and Leisure

Local Community Development Committee

The LCDC held 2 meetings in February.

Rural Development Programme (LEADER)

- Preparation for signing of LEADER contract in train.
- Developing Procedures Manual for LEADER.

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

- SICAP End of Year 2015 Reports for all 3 No SICAP Lots in Limerick evaluated and approved by LCDC at meeting of 2nd February, 2016.
- SICAP Annual Plans for all 3 No SICAP Lots in Limerick evaluated and approved by LCDC at meeting of 16th February, 2016.
- Programme funding for March 2016 drawn down.

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

- Draft LECP prepared for consideration by relevant internal committees.

Tourism Diaspora Grant Scheme 2016

- Call for applications advertised - closing date for applications 11th March, 2016.

Age Friendly Programme - Older People Remaining at Home (OPRAH) Pilot Research Project

- OPRAH Pilot Research Programme finishing on 4th March, 2016.
- Local Co-ordinator will return to existing HSE position.
- Final participant assessments completed by end February 2016, and fed into Trinity College Dublin for analysis and inclusion in report on OPRAH Programme nationally.
- Local Menu of Services being finalised for publication and the Council's web site.
- Pilot meals on wheels service being rolled out in Foynes area.
- Continued liaison with transport and friendly call providers regarding expansion of services to older adults.

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Age Friendly Programme - Cul Taca Brokerage Programme

- Exploratory discussions with relevant stakeholders in February 2016.
- Presentation to "Meeting of Minds" group (UL Hospitals Group) agreed for March 2016.

Leisure Facilities

- Expression of Interest to upgrade the pool plant room at Askeaton Leisure Centre under Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government's Local Authority Swimming Pools Grants Scheme submitted.
- Ongoing energy efficiency works at Grove Island Leisure Centre - new pool pumps installed. Finalising replacement of lighting.
- Rathbane Golf Course – finalising tender documentation for new operator.

Lifelong Learning Festival

A Networking Event for all event hosters of Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival was held in the Southcourt Hotel on Wednesday, 10th February, 2016. There was great collaboration among various community groups / organisations who will be holding events during the festival, which will run from 16th April to 22nd April, 2016 in various venues throughout Limerick City and County. A large number of events have been received to date for the festival and will be available at a later date on www.limerick.ie/lovelearning.

5. Library Service

- Newcastle West Library held a poetry recital by Tim Cunningham on Thursday 25th February. Tim Cunningham is a Limerick born poet and he read some of his poetry in the library to commemorate and celebrate the centenary of his father's death. He has five collections published : Don Marcelino's Daughter, Unequal Thirds, Kyrie , Siege and Almost Memories
- The Granary hosted the following authors during the Limerick Literary Festival 2016. Judi Curtin, best selling author of the "Alice & Megan" series and also of the smash hit "Eva" series spoke about her writing to invited classes from local schools. Mike MacDomhnaill who won RTE's Francis MacManus award in 2013, read from his award winning story "Uncle Ned" and a selection of his poetry.

1916 Commemoration

- The Granary Library hosted a public lecture entitled "Scrambling for the bones of the 1916 patriots: commemoration, memory and politics." by Professor Diarmaid Ferriter on Tuesday 16th February. Diarmaid Ferriter is one of Ireland's best- known historians and is Professor of Modern Irish History at UCD. The lecture generated huge interest with over two hundred and ten in attendance on the night.
- The Granary also hosted the launch of an exhibition by Limerick Genealogy entitled "Roots of the Rising: The family history of Ned Daly". Limerick born Edward "Ned" Daly was commandant of Dublin's 1st battalion during the 1916 Easter Rising. He was the youngest man to hold that rank, and the youngest to be executed. Included in the exhibition are some newspaper clippings, family photographs, Daly Family Tree, letters, photographs & copies of census records.

6. Limerick Museum & Archives

Limerick Museum and Archives in partnership with the History Department in the University of Limerick announced the inaugural Limerick Museum and Archives Scholar. The scholarship was awarded to a History PhD student in the University of Limerick for a three year period. The scholar will be involved in all areas of museum and archives work from collection management, oral history, exhibition research and production to access, education and outreach activities.

The scholarship supports the achievement of key objectives of the *Limerick Charter: Commitment to Cohesion and Convergence* to which both the University of Limerick and Limerick City and County Council are signatories. These objectives include upholding the value of learning and maximising equality of opportunity for education, as well as welcoming and celebrating visitors and facilitating their sharing in Limerick's pursuits, their appreciation of Limerick's heritage and culture, and their enjoyment of Limerick's warm hospitality.

7. Arts

The Limerick Literary Festival in honour of Kate O'Brien featured talks by the very popular Louis de Bernieres and artist Pauline Bewick. Sara Baume was named the winner of the Kate O'Brien Award.

Limerick Arts Office provided advice, mentoring, feedback and letters of support to ten vibrant arts festivals for their applications to the Arts Council Festivals and Events Scheme.

The Grants under the Arts Act funding applications deadline for submission was the 5th of February. There was a high level of interest and the applications have been processed and assessed by an expert panel.

Numerous submissions have been made for the important Michael Hartnett Annual Poetry Award 2016. This is the fifteenth year of this award to mark Michael Hartnett's contribution to literature in English and Irish. It is jointly funded by the Arts Office, the Council and the Arts Council.

A second concert RTÉ Contempo Quartet 20/20 Experience took place at Limerick City Gallery of Art, Thursday 25th of February.

Limerick is through to the next round of the competition for designation as European Capital of Culture 2020. The second bid book will be submitted on the 17th of June. A presentation to the European Jury takes place on 14th July.

8. Fire & Rescue Service

1. Statistics

Year	No of Fire Related Calls	No of Non Fire Related Calls	Total
Year to date	129	75	204
1/2/16 – 29/2/16	50	37	87

Year	No of Fire Certificates received	No of Disability Access Certificates received	Total
Year to date	26	13	39
1/2/16 – 29/2/16	14	8	22

2. Training

The following courses were held in February 2016:-

- Whole Time Recruits Course (on-going) - Dublin
- 2-week Breathing Apparatus Initial Wearers Course - Bray
- 3-day Compartment Fire Behaviour Training - Bray
- 2-week Station Officers Course - Nenagh
- On-Site Coordinator training - Ennis
- Casualty Handling Course - Limerick City
- Railway Incident Training - Colbert Station & City Station
- Rescue from Lifts and Fire Fighting Lifts - Limerick City
- Fire Fighting in Tunnels - Limerick Tunnel & City Station
- Rescue from Confined Spaces - Limerick City
- Emergency Service Driver Training
- 3 x Transition Year 1 week training courses

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9. Service Operations

Property Services

1. Work on Phase 2 of the Merchants Quay Plaza Improvement Programme continued throughout February by the appointed contractor Maramba Road Services Ltd and is due for completion in March.
2. Boundary fencing contract at the Fairgreen, Ballysimon Road completed.
3. Scoping of work required to complete a Property Services Register for the Council commenced in February.

Maintenance Service

A significant operational response to deal with Flooding and Storms continued throughout the month of February including the tidal flooding that occurred on the 8th February at Askeaton, Foynes and Limerick City (St Mary's Park, Verdant Place, Corbally Road, Long Pavement and other locations).

Following a submission to the Department of Transport on damage by recent winter flooding, Limerick City & County Council has been allocated €4 million towards the repair bill for flood damaged roads. This work will be undertaken as part of the annual road works programme.

Change Management

Briefings for staff and the Change Liaison Network on the staff survey carried out in late 2015 have taken place in February 2016. The feedback received will assist in finalising responses to the issues raised.

The Change Management team continued with implementation arrangements for the new operating model in February and briefing sessions for Councillors in each Municipal/Metropolitan District will be arranged in March and early April.

10. Freedom of Information

	2016	February
Total Freedom of Information Requests	23	10
FOI Internal Appeals	1	1
Information Commissioner Appeals	1	1
Total Ombudsman Requests	3	1
Further information sought on open cases	2	
Total AIE Requests	1	

Economic Development and Planning

1. Planning

- One hundred and nine (109) new planning applications were received during February 2016. Breakdown as follows; Domestic (48), Housing Developments (4); Commercial Developments (15); Education (3), Industrial (3) Other (35), Part 8 (1).
- The current applications include proposals for major office developments at Ballysimon and Castletroy, A health Hub in Rutland Street, an industrial development at the Irish Cement facility at Mungret, and flood relief works at Verdant place, Kings Island.
- Ninety four (94) planning applications were granted during the month, including a Retirement Village at Clarina, a Smokeless Fuel Manufacturing facility at Foynes, a factory extension at Knocklong and a Storage facility at the Irish Cement Works at Mungret.
- The proposed amendment and Chief Executive report on the submissions received during the public display period, to the Southern Environs Local Area Plan in relation to the Mungret, Loughmore area, was considered at the Metropolitan Meeting on the 15th February 2016 and the public display period of the proposed material alterations commenced on the 27th February for a 4 week period.
- Forward Planning prepared a submission as part of an overall co-ordinated submission on the Irish Water investment Plan 2016.
- Four grant applications were submitted to the Heritage Council for Heritage Projects under the Heritage Plan for 2016.
- Five section 57 declarations outlining works to protected structures which are exempted development were issued.

2. Travel and Transport Smarter Travel

- National Transport Authority Campus 10000 Step Challenge, launched in Mary Immaculate College, Limerick Institute of Technology, University of Limerick and Limerick College of Further Education
- Northern Commute Mobility Management Plan launch in Northern Trust, Ballysimon Road.

Organisational Development

1. Customer Services

- The Customer Services Department continues to support the Council in delivering services and supporting citizens, customers, councillors, communities and businesses who lodged 2,986 requests (cases) in February.
- In advance of the recent General Election, there were 623 representations lodged in February, (20% of all cases lodged), making it the busiest month for representations on SugarCRM (Customer Relationship Management).
- The closing date for entry to the Supplementary Register of Electors was the 9th February. Between the 1st February and the 9th February, Customer Services dealt with 450 customers at the counter with applications. There were 200 applications handled on the closing date itself.
- The following table details how many cases were recorded on SugarCRM by Department for February-

Department	Number of Cases Recorded
Home Department	1440
Travel and Transport Department	658
Environment	644
Customer Services Department	110
Digital Strategy	76
Other Departments	58
Total	2,986

Digital Strategy:

The Digital Transformation Team (DTT) has recently been formed under the Digital Strategy Department - goals of the team will include making more services available online for Limerick's citizens.

To further support Council services, work has commenced on an Enterprise Architecture project that will provide an integrated view of all Council Systems, Data and Services. Additional project progress in February for the DTT includes:

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- CRM (Customer Relationship Management) Mobile App: Work has started on the selection of a suitable mobile solution. The target is to roll out mobile support of cases, contacts and organisations by the end of Quarter 1 for Council staff. On-going updates to the CRM software have included the addition of inspection and project tracking modules.
- Work has commenced on the upgrade of internal and public web mapping to include wider browser support and improved user experience, an example of benefits from this improvement will be easier navigation of maps relating to Planning applications.
- Redevelopment of Limerick.ie: A design team has been engaged to redesign Limerick.ie. Stakeholder requirements have been gathered and the web site features have been defined. Work on the initial designs have commenced to build a user-centred, mobile friendly Limerick.ie.
- Records Management: A pilot of a new Records Management system is underway between Operations, Corporate Services, Archives and the Digital Transformation team. This project will help streamline how the organisation handles our digital records to make it easier to create and retrieve records as well as to collaborate as a whole.

2. Donation of Artwork**Donation Of Twenty Five Portrait Drawings By Dr. Thomas Ryan, Royal Hibernian Academy (RHA) To Limerick City And County Council**

A collection of twenty five portrait drawings of illustrious Limerick people by Limerick born artist, Dr. Thomas Ryan RHA, were kindly donated to the Council by the artist which are now hanging in Culture House, Pery Square. The official handing over took place in Culture House on Wednesday, 17th February.

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3. Schedule of Meetings

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Members Meetings		
Special Meeting - To pass a vote of sympathy on the death of Sir Terry Wogan, RIP	05.02.2016	Dooradoyle
Special Meeting - In relation to the lease of lands at Gortadroma	12.02.2016	Dooradoyle
Special Meeting - To pass a vote of sympathy on the death of Councillor Joe Crowley, RIP	18.02.2016	Dooradoyle
Metropolitan District of Limerick		
Monthly Meeting	15.02.2016	Merchant's Quay
Municipal District of:		
(a) Newcastle West Monthly Meeting	10.02.2016	Newcastle West
(b) Adare Rathkeale Monthly Meeting	09.02.2016	Rathkeale
(c) Cappamore / Kilmallock Monthly Meeting	25.02.2016	Kilmallock
Party Leader's Meeting	12.02.2016	Dooradoyle
Operational Briefing's		
Limerick City East	03.02.2016	Merchant's Quay
Limerick City North	03.02.2016	Merchant's Quay
Limerick City West	02.02.2016	Merchant's Quay
Local Communtiy Development Committee	02.02.2016	Merchant's Quay
Strategic Policy Committee Meetings		
Home & Social Development	08.02.2016	Dooradoyle
Audit Committee Meeting	19.02.2016	Merchant's Quay

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1. Financial Matters

Commercial Rates - Loans

Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2015	Opening Balance 1 Jan €	Accruals €	To Collect €	Receipts €	Arrears €	%
As at 29th February 2016	21,436,980	51,137,694	72,574,674	3,557,255	69,017,419	5%

The Date for Making the 2016 Rate was 2nd February 2016.

Debtor Loans	Opening Balance 1 Jan €	Accruals €	To Collect €	Receipts €	Arrears €	%
As at 29th February 2016	491,916	- *	491,916	283,752	208,164	58%

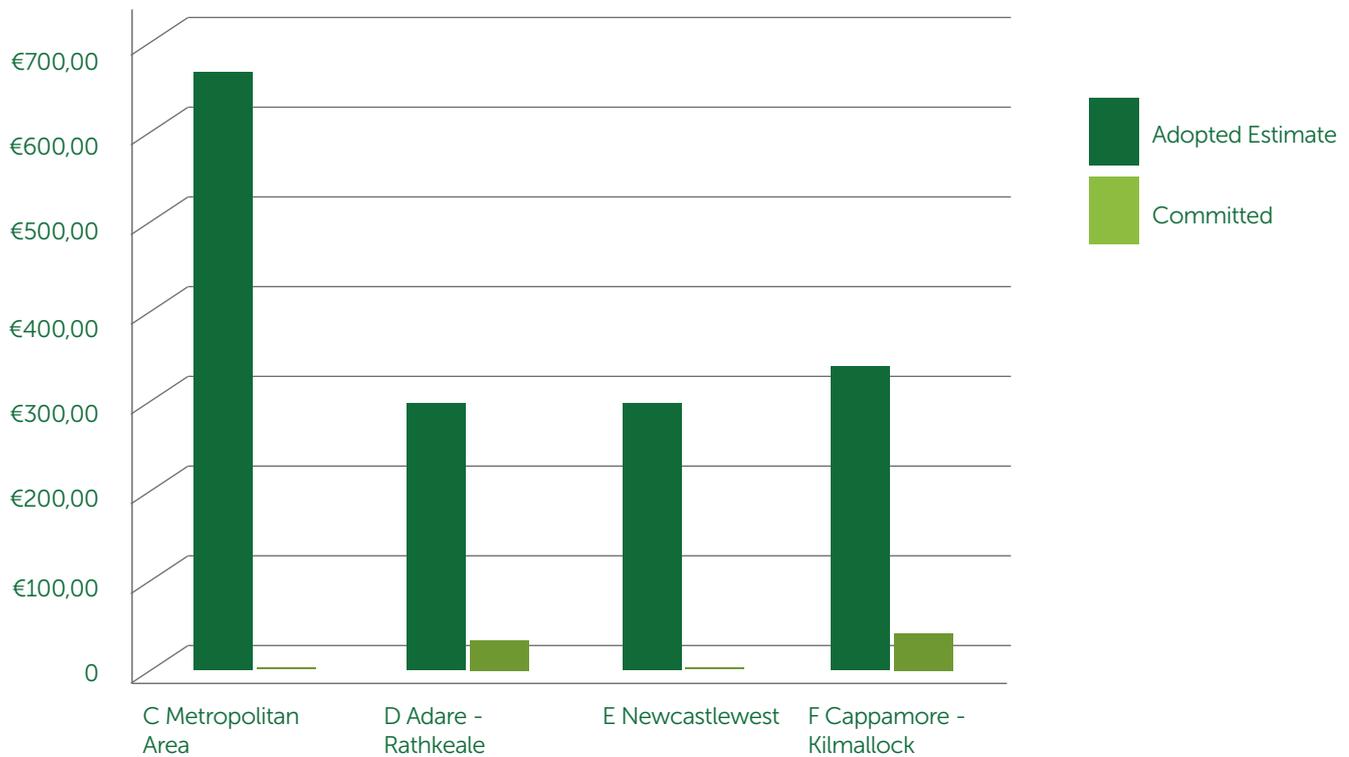
* Accruals for Jan & Feb not applied as 4th March

Recourse To Overdraft Facility

No of days in overdraft 0

General Municipal Allocation 2016 Adopted Estimate €1.5 Million

Graph outlining adopted budget and committed expenditure up to 29th February 2016



Municip (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate	Value Committed
C Metropolitan Area	640,000.00	0.00
D Adare - Rathkeale	275,000.00	905.85
E Newcastle West	275,000.00	0.00
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	310,000.00	8,258.93