

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

THIS MONTH:

Hap Hub handling 4508 active tenancies

---

Adare wins Limerick in Bloom competition

---

The 2015 Annual General Meeting of the Limerick Comhairle na nÓg was held in the University of Limerick

---

Limerick Sports Partnership hosted "Positive Ageing Week" calendar of events across Limerick City and County

---

Limerick Museum and Archives exhibition 'Stand Up & Fight' marked its 10,000th visitor

## CONTENTS:

### Empowering the Citizen

1. Home
2. HAP Hub Update
3. Green Schools
4. Limerick Going for Gold Awards incorporating Limerick in Bloom
5. Local Community Development Committee
6. Rural Development Programme (Leader)
7. Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)
8. Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

9. PPN Public Participation Network
10. Age Friendly Programme
11. Comhairle na nÓg AGM 2015
12. Limerick Sports Partnership
13. Library Service
14. Limerick Museum and Archives
15. Arts
16. Fire Service
17. Freedom of Information

### Economic Development and Planning

1. Planning
2. Economic Development
3. Innovate Limerick
4. Limerick Marketing Company
5. Local Enterprise Office Investment/Jobs
6. Travel and Transport

### Organisational Development

1. New Operating Model
2. Schedule of Meetings

### Financial Matters

1. Financial Matters

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

## Empowering the Citizen

### 1. Home and Social Development Update

#### Waiting List

Housing Waiting List	4,138
HAP Transfer List	900

#### Allocations

	Metropolitan District	Newcastle West	Adare – Rathkeale	Cappamore – Kilmallock	Total
Year to end of last month	103	31	30	48	212
No of Units Allocated September 2015	16	1	3	2	22
Year to Date	119	32	33	50	234

#### Home Improvement Schemes

Private Housing Grant Aid	Number of Grants paid at 31st October 2015	Euro Amount
MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	125	€529,347.46
HAGS (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	76	€666,949.21
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	160	€784,999.58

Total of 361 grants paid to date totalling €1,981,323.25.

Total allocation for 2015 is €2,861,549.

#### Rent Collection

##### Rent Collection Limerick City & County Council

Opening Balance 01/01/2015 €	Accrued Income €	Total for collection €	Receipts €	Closing balance 31/10/2015 €	% Collection
1,830,818	15,259,931	17,090,749	14,786,692	2,304,057	86.52%

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT****2. HAP Hub Update**

1. 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.
2. The HAP hub is currently handling 4,508 active HAP tenancies in fifteen Local Authorities and Kildare, Meath, Sligo, Mayo and Galway City & County Councils will join HAP in November.
3. Training has been provided by Limerick HUB staff onsite and in Limerick to these new local authorities during October and November 2015.
4. The HUB Shared Service Centre has recently relocated to new offices at the Granary.

**3. Green Schools**

- 70 plus teachers attended the Limerick City and County Council Green School's Seminar on the 1st October in the Maldron Hotel.
- Workshops relating to Litter and Waste, Energy, Water, Travel, Biodiversity and Global Citizenship were facilitated.

**4. Limerick Going for Gold Awards incorporating Limerick in Bloom**

- 350 people attended the Limerick Going for Gold Awards 2015 incorporating Limerick in Bloom.
- Castleconnell was awarded the top prize of €10,000, with €7,000 and €5,000 being presented to Athea (2nd) and South Limerick City (3rd) respectively.
  - In 4th place was Kilfinane (€3,000).
  - The other placed finalists were
    - \* Caherdavin and Croom (joint 5th) (€2,000),
    - \* The remaining finalists were awarded (€1,000).
- Adare was voted the overall winner of the Limerick in Bloom category and Ardpatrick was runner up.
- A number of other awards were also presented on the night including best Front Garden which was presented to John McCarthy, Kiltely.
- RTÉ News correspondent Joe Little and All-Ireland Under 21 winning Limerick Hurling manager were guest speakers on the night.
- Master of ceremonies was Mr. Richard Lynch and prizes were presented by Mayor Liam Galvin, Gerry Boland, JP McManus Charitable Foundation and JP McManus.

**5. Local Community Development Committee**

- The LCDC held its monthly meeting on 6th October.

**6. Rural Development Programme (LEADER)**

- The Rural Development Programme Local Development Strategy (LDS) for LEADER for the period 2014-2020 was approved by the committee for submission to Pobal/Department of the Environment Community and Local Government for evaluation. The finalised document with appendices was submitted on 22nd October, 2015.

**7. Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)**

- The revised LECP Socio-Economic Statement and High Level Goals was noted by all 4 Municipal/Metropolitan Districts at their October meetings.

**8. Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)**

- The LCDC approved the mid-term review of the 2015 SICAP Programme at its October meeting. Payments for Q4 2015 were issued to Programme Implementers on this basis.

**9. PPN Public Participation Network**

- The new PPN website is live <http://limerick.ppn.ie/>. It will enable PPN members to:
  - Stay up-to-date with what is happening in Limerick PPN
  - Get information on Council funding, activities and plans
  - Share ideas with other members and hold on-line discussions
  - Elect representatives and influence Council policies
- Elections to elect PPN representatives onto Council Committees will be held in late November.
- The Secretariat is working with Dr. Chris McInerney, University of Limerick, to develop a training and support programme for Limerick PPN representatives on Council Committees.
- Limerick PPN has just engaged a new Community

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Engagement Worker to raise awareness of the PPN and strengthen community involvement.

- PPN Registration has re-opened, via [limerick.ppn.ie](http://limerick.ppn.ie)

### 10. Age Friendly Programme

- **OPRAH Pilot:** The OPRAH (Older People Remaining at Home) Steering Committee met in October. Referrals of clients finished in late September and progress is being made on supporting clients via personal centred care plans.
- **Older Adult Council:** The Limerick Older Adult Council held its second meeting on 22nd October, 2015. Members were divided into Thematic Working Groups to begin exploring and prioritising actions from the Limerick Age Friendly Strategy.
- **HaPAI (Healthy and Positive Ageing Initiative)** A body of research into the issues and concerns facing older people has been undertaken in Limerick as part of a national research initiative. An initial report on the findings of same will be available before year end.

### 11. Comhairle na nÓg AGM 2015

The 2015 Annual General Meeting of the Limerick Comhairle na nÓg was held in UL on 23rd 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.

### 12. Limerick Sports Partnership

Limerick Sports Partnership, Limerick City & County Council & Bruff Tidy Towns launched a new 3.5K Linear Sli Na Slainte Route in association with The Irish Heart Foundation.

5 schools and 150 1st Years completed the Schools Marathon Challenge with Castletroy College completing the Marathon 2 Hrs 2 Mins and 56 Seconds.

Limerick Sports Partnership hosted an excellent "Positive Ageing Week" calendar of events across Limerick City and County.

240 Older Adults took part in the following events:

- Aqua-Jogging in UL Sport Arena and Askeaton pools
- Orienteering in Curraghchase
- FitSteps Exercise to Dance in Southill
- Go for Life Games in Bruff
- Walks in Limerick City (3 bridges) and NCW Demesne
- Dancing in the Pery and Woodlands Hotels
- Please see link [www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJ7AaZUxArw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJ7AaZUxArw)

### 13. Library Service

1916 Commemoration: Defence Forces presentation of Tricolour and Proclamation to Limerick schools

- Members of the Defence Forces visited Abbeyfeale on 23rd October to present a handmade Tricolour and a copy of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic to students of the town's two primary schools. St Marys Boys National School and Scoil Mháthair Dé were among 3,200 schools nationally and 152 Limerick primary schools to receive the presentation as part of initiatives to mark the centenary of the 1916 Rising. Background information on the symbolism of the Tricolour and the etiquette attached to its display and storage was also provided while a commemorative pack containing a copy of Amhrán Na bhFiann amongst other items was presented to both schools.
- Children's Book Festival 2015 was the focus of the service at Watch House Cross Library during the month of October. Over 500 children from six local primary schools attended a variety of events which included storytelling, author visits, and an art work shop. A visit from Animal Welfare with Bertie the St. Bernard was a particular hit with the children from Thomond Primary School. During mid-term children attended a spooky story time with arts & crafts and the Book Festival was concluded with a fancy dress table quiz on Friday 30th October.
- Newcastle West Library held two events in October as part of the Children's Book Festival 2015. A Halloween arts and crafts workshop took place on 15th October and a History Day with Michael Moylan, commemorating the 1916 Rising was held on 23rd October. All local schools attended these events.
- The Granary Library had a full and varied programme of events for Children's Book Festival 2015. There were author visits from Oisín McCann, Tadhg Mac Dhonnagain and Sarah Moore Fitzgerald, as well as

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

storytelling from Niall De Burca and Eddie Lenihan. Children's Writing Workshops with Sarah Moore-Fitzgerald proved very popular with both teachers and pupils alike. Cork Circus Street Theatre presented Old Father Time to the junior classes.

- The Evening Lecture for October in the Granary Library was entitled "News to Limerick from the Great War: Michael Bourke's letters Home" and was presented by Dr. Tadhg Moloney.
- The Granary Library hosted a number of poetry events during the Cuisle 2015 festival. Tim Cunningham & Paddy Moran held a schools master class poetry workshop. A schools poetry reading workshop with Mary O'Donnell & Tim Cunningham was very well received.
- The R.T.E Contempo Quartet presented the second in its series of lunchtime concerts entitled "20/20 Experience" in the Granary on Friday 23rd October. They performed the following classical pieces "Twenty Recommended Quartets Series (No.1), Zemlinsky – Quartet No. 3, Beethoven - Quartet Op. 59, No. 3 in C major & Razumovsky, to a very enthusiastic & appreciative audience.

**14. Limerick Museum And Archives**

The Part 8 for the Franciscan Friary was passed at the last Metropolitan Council Meeting. The move of Limerick Museum and Archive is on schedule for Easter 2016. The Museum has recently acquired a large collection from the recently closed St. Munchins CBS.

Limerick Museum and Archives exhibition on World War 1 '**Stand Up & Fight**' recorded a new achievement, as the exhibit marked its 10,000th visitor during October since its launch in May.

October also saw the launch of the [duchas.ie](http://duchas.ie) local history resource an event hosted by the Heritage Office and Limerick Museum and Archives. The website hosts a digitized collection of school-childrens' stories and folklore for every primary school in Limerick City and County in 1937.

**15. Arts**

- Launch 15th October in the Granary Library of the 40th Anniversary Edition of the Stony Thursday Poetry Book Vol. 14, 132 poets selected by editor Mary O'Donnell
- OpenHouseLimerick architectural festival 9th -11th October, 21 buildings, 8 events, 30+ volunteers, c.2,000 visitors
- The Castleconnell Concerts Series in All Saints Church, Zaide Quartet (France) in partnership with Music Network Tuesday 13th October and RTE Contempo Quartet Friday 23rd October in the Granary Library
- Park Kiosk Residency with Wildebeest Theatre Company, Separation performances 29th October to 8th November, deadline 16th Oct for applications for Artist's Studio, James Street and Artists Apartments 1-2 John's Square
- Limerick European Capital of Culture 2020 Bid submitted to Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
- Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA's) Permanent Collection curated by Paul M. O'Reilly, 4th September to 30th October. This selection of nearly 295 artworks representing 186 artists within the Collections of LCGA. This exhibition was to celebrate LCGA's 30 years as a designated Arts space in Limerick and south west.
- The Economy of Appearance by Mark Curran, curated by Helen Carey, 4th September to 30th October. This Solo exhibition continues Curran's long-term projects focused on the predatory impact of global capital, in which he explores these sites and beyond to try and elaborate our understanding of what is deciding all of our futures.
- Hyphae, an exhibition at the Bourn Vincent Gallery, University of Limerick which included The Mushroom Book, by John Cage, Lois Long and Alexander H. Smith from the Permanent Collection of LCGA.
- Artists Talk by Mark Curran in discussion with Justin Carville Thursday 29th October
- Attendance reached 13,000 for these particular exhibitions and featured the 30 Days Hath September Celebrations of daily events during the month of September.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT****16. Fire Service****1. iReports**

The iReports system for electronic incident reporting system for the 7 Fire Stations in Limerick is now complete and working well.

**2. Annual Licensing**

Approximately 180 licensing applications have been processed to date.

**3. RPAS Systems**

The Fire Service in Limerick is one of the first services in the country to acquire and train and we are awaiting licensing from the Irish Aviation Authority to use the Remotely-piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) also known as drones, for use at large incidents and major emergencies.

**4. National Fire Safety Week**

Limerick Fire and Rescue Service carried out a fire prevention and fire safety demonstration on Thomas Street in Limerick City on Tuesday 6th October 2015 as part of National Fire Safety Week 2015. The theme of this year's safety campaign was "Smoking at Home Can Cause Fatal Fires", which takes into account the significant number of domestic fires started each year as a result of burning cigarettes.

Open days were held in each of the retained stations. Smoke alarm testers were distributed in October to many community groups throughout Limerick City and County

**5. ISO/OHSAS**

NSAI has awarded Limerick City & County Fire Service ISO/OHSAS accreditation for 2016.

**17. Freedom of Information**

Total Freedom of Information Requests 2015	Freedom of Information Requests October 2015	Total Ombudsman Requests 2015	Ombudsman Requests October 2015	Total AIE Requests 2015	AIE Requests October 2015
122 Applications 6 Internal Appeals 4 Information Commissioner Appeal	17 Applications	21 Applications	3 Applications	10 Applications	2 Applications

## Economic Development and Planning

### 1. Planning

- Ninety one (91) new planning applications were received during October 2015. Breakdown as follows: Domestic (50), Housing Developments (1), Commercial Developments (9), Industrial (2), Education (2), Other (27).
- The second and third lectures under The Limerick's Built Heritage lecture series took place during October. The series of exploratory evening lectures aims to raise awareness of Limerick's unique built heritage.
- On Friday 30th October, on the invitation from the Heritage Services, within the Economic Development and Planning directorate and the Museum and Archives Section, Minister Jan O'Sullivan, TD, launched the digitised Schools Collection from the National Folklore Collection, UCD, in Merchants Quay. The on-line collection contains the folklore material recorded by national school pupils between 1937 and 1939. It consists of over half a million pages recorded by around 50,000 primary school pupils in the 26 counties.

### 2. Economic Development

- Submitted application to The Southern Regional Assembly under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) designated Urban Grant Scheme.
- Tenders for appointment of an integrated Design Team for the development of the Hanging Gardens Office development were assessed.
- Approval / preparatory funding received for the preparation of an EU funded project entitled "Smart Ageing Communities" from the Northern Periphery Programme.

### 3. Innovate Limerick

Innovate Limerick submitted pilot Rural Economic Development Zone (REDZ) applications to the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government for Newcastle West and Kilmallock/Charleville. Both applications were successful with Newcastle West being awarded €47,000 and Kilmallock/Charleville awarded maximum grant of €150,000.

The International Cluster Conference was held in the Limerick Strand Hotel on 30th September and 1st of October, and proved a great success with over 200 delegates from around the world attending the two day event. The Conference was opened by Mr. Conn Murray, Chief Executive of Limerick City and County Council and was also addressed by speakers such as Dr. Christian Ketels of Harvard Business School.

### 4. Limerick Marketing Company

Limerick Marketing, in collaboration with Fáilte Ireland, welcomed 9 journalists of the Association of Heritage Writers (AJP - Association des Journalistes du Patrimoine), a French media association that covers a wide spectrum of media and subjects including architecture, history, culture and tourism to Limerick this month. The group had the opportunity to meet with Limerick Metropolitan Mayor Jerry O'Dea, Limerick 2020 representatives, Limerick Archives staff and to visit iconic Limerick attractions including King John's Castle, the Hunt Museum, St. Mary's Cathedral, Georgian Limerick and Adare Village.

### 5. Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

Limerick Business Week took place from 5th to 9th October with a range of well attended events and initiatives coordinated by the LEO offices throughout the City and County in partnership with other agencies and organisations. Some of the main events included:

- David McWilliams as keynote speaker at the launch of Limerick Business Week
- Women in Business Networking Event with guest speaker Deirdre Smith
- Startup Gathering Initiatives on Thursday 8th October

### Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur (IBYE)

The Limerick IBYE judging and awards took place on Thursday 1st October 2015. The IBYE competition was open to people aged between 18-30 and the category winners are:

#### 1. Best Business Idea – Pre-Trading

Chris Kelly from Clarina whose company is "Talamh" was awarded €10,000 investment.

#### 2. Best New Business – Trading up to 24 months.

Kieran Normoyle from Patrickswell whose company is Deviate Aspire. He was awarded €20,000 investment.

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

### 3. Best Established Business (trading for more than 24 months)

Mark Sheahan from Grange was awarded €20,000 investment for his company, Recycle Right.

From the three category winners, Chris Kelly was further awarded the title of Limerick's Best Young Entrepreneur.

### Trading Online Vouchers

The voucher is a financial incentive to small business to develop or enhance their ability to trade online. Under the scheme a qualifying business may apply for matching funding to a maximum of €2,500 or 50% of eligible expenditure. Applications will open again in 2016 for this scheme.

### Microfinance Ireland Applications

Number of loan applications submitted by LEO Limerick to Microfinance Ireland by end October - 15

Number of Applications Approved - 8

Value of Approvals - €128,997

Jobs Created - 13

## 6. Travel and Transport

- Tenders have been received for the construction contract of the Foynes Flood Alleviation Scheme which consists of construction of a flood defence wall 1.3km in length. Tenders are currently being assessed.
- Following a tendering process, a contractor has been appointed for the overlay works at 28 different locations in Limerick City and County. The successful contractor is Wills Bros Ltd. These works are currently underway.
- 2 Bridge Rehabilitation contracts are currently at construction.

#### Contract 1: West Limerick Bridges Rehabilitation

Repairs to Nantinan, Ashgrove, Duncaha and Loghill bridges. Tender cost €116k. Contractor: Cumnor Construction Ltd.

#### Contract 2: East Limerick Bridges Rehabilitation

Repairs to Cloghnamanagh, Portnard, Fairyhall and Gortnakistin bridges. Tender cost: €128K. Contractor: P&D Lydon Plant Hire Ltd.

## Organisational Development

### 1. New Operating Model

#### Target Operating Model Implementation Underway

- Following the announcement of the assignments of Directors and Senior Managers to the new operating model, a series of meetings are taking place led by these project managers who have been charged with designing the new departments. (Please note these staff will continue in their existing roles and their existing staff will continue to report to them as normal.)
- The project managers are required to establish and lead a Change Project Team for their area of responsibility and consult with all staff affected. The key outputs required are:
  - (i) Define the function of your department
  - (ii) Identify the services to be provided
  - (iii) Identify staff currently assigned to these services
- Each member of Senior Team is required to brief all staff in their areas following the meetings. The design stage will be required to be signed off on prior to implementation. This process will also assist in identifying service locations and office accommodation needs.
- **Customer Services Business Requirements** - A workshop was held with the Change Liaison Network (CLN) to share the content of a draft specification and get feedback from the network on it. The details are available on the CLN folder on the intranet.
- **Staff Focus Groups and Staff Survey** - The Change Liaison Network (CLN) were presented with the findings of the staff focus groups by the independent facilitator who had undertaken these. The findings are being communicated to colleagues by network members and the presentation is available on the CLN folder on intranet. The themes will inform the imminent staff survey which all staff are encouraged to complete.
- **Staff monthly e-newsletter** - The 2nd edition was published including news items on the 4 new graduates Limerick has as a result of the LGMA Graduate Recruitment Programme, consultation with staff on the new [Limerick.ie](http://Limerick.ie) website, ways staff can have their say and a staff profile of Al O'Regan, Traffic Warden in Kilmallock.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT****2. Schedule of Meetings**

<b>Name of Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
Corporate Policy Group	16.10.2015 20.10.2015	Merchant's Quay Dooradoyle
<b>Members Meetings</b>		
Briefing on Gortadroma Legal Advice on Limerick Northern Distributor Road	20.10.2015	Dooradoyle
Limerick.ie Workshop	21.10.2015	Merchant's Quay
<b>Metropolitan District of Limerick</b>		
Monthly Meeting	19.10.2015	Merchant's Quay
General Municipal Allocation Workshop	09.10.2015	Merchant's Quay
General Municipal Allocation Workshop	16.10.2015	Merchant's Quay
General Municipal Allocation Workshop	19.10.2015	Merchant's Quay
Draft Budgetary Plan 2016	19.10.2015	Merchant's Quay
<b>Municipal District of:</b>		
<b>(a) Newcastle West</b>		
Monthly Meeting	07.10.2015	Newcastle West
Chief Executive Meeting on Feasibility Study Swimming Pool Newcastle West	05.10.2015	Newcastle West
Feasibility Study for Regional Athletics Track Newcastle West	21.10.2015	Newcastle West
Budget Workshop	21.10.2015	Newcastle West
Draft Budgetary Plan 2016	21.10.2015	Newcastle West
<b>(b) Adare Rathkeale</b>		
Monthly Meeting	14.10.2015	Croom
Budget Workshop	20.10.2015	Rathkeale
Draft Budgetary Plan 2016	20.10.2015	Rathkeale
<b>(c) Cappamore-Kilmallock</b>		
Monthly Meeting	15.10.2015	Kilmallock
Budget Workshop	22.10.2015	Kilmallock
Draft Budgetary Plan 2016	22.10.2015	Kilmallock
Party Leader's Meeting	14.10.2015	Merchant's Quay
<b>Operational Briefing's</b>		
Limerick City East	06.10.2015	Merchant's Quay
Limerick City North	06.10.2015	Merchant's Quay
Limerick City West	06.10.2015	Merchant's Quay
Limerick City West	20.10.2015	Patrick Street
Local Community Development Committee	06.10.2015	Merchant's Quay
<b>Strategic Policy Committee Meetings</b>		
Home & Social Development	12.10.2015	Dooradoyle
Environment	28.10.2015	Dooradoyle

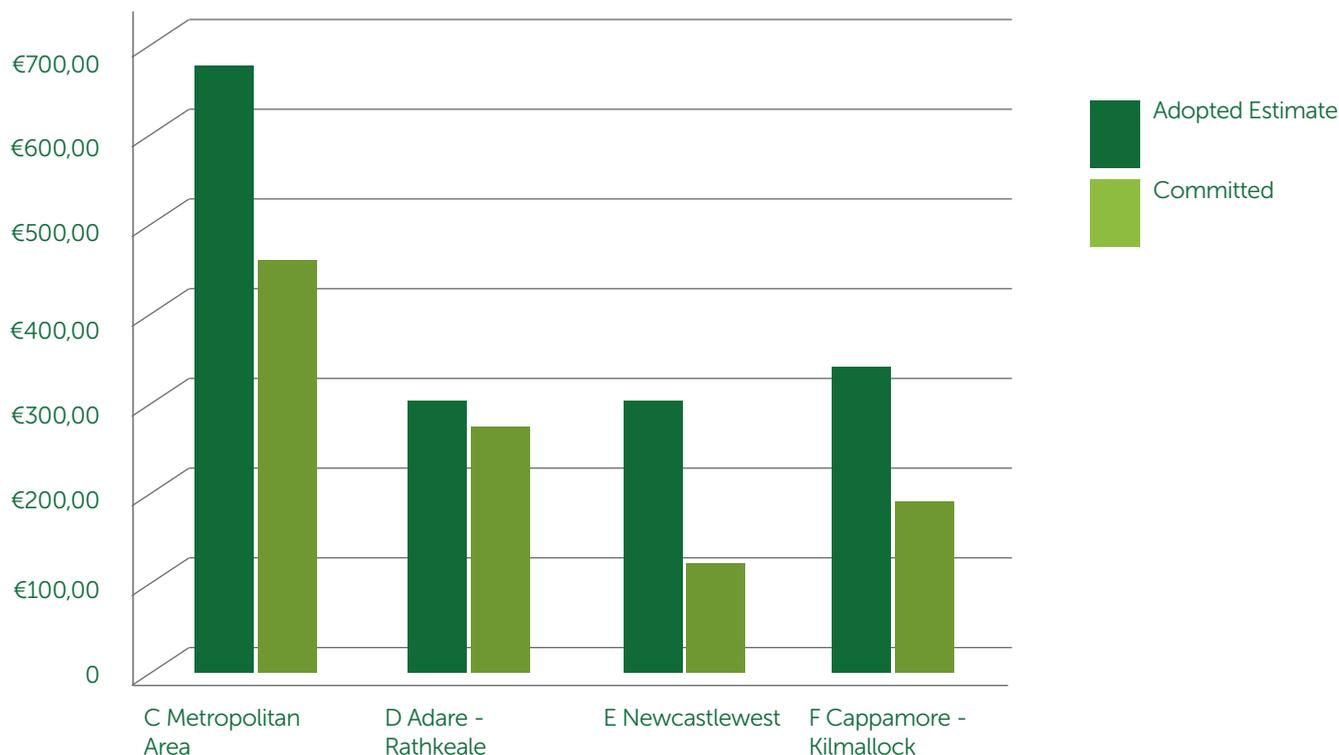
# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



## 1. Financial Matters

### General Municipal Allocation 2015 Adopted Estimate €1.5 Million

Graph outlining adopted budget and committed expenditure up to 31st October 2015



Municip (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate	Value Committed
C Metropolitan Area	640,000.00	420,243.81
D Adare - Rathkeale	275,000.00	238,131.43
E Newcastle West	275,000.00	95,163.99
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	310,000.00	165,612.48

## Commercial Rates - Loans

### Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2015	Opening Balance 1 Jan €	Accruals €	To Collect €	Receipts €	Arrears €	%
As at 31st October 2015	24,966,926	50,545,414	75,512,340	44,725,339	30,787,001	59%

Debtor Loans	Opening Balance 1 Jan €	Accruals €	To Collect €	Receipts €	Arrears €	%
As at 31st October 2015	549,750	1,248,557	1,798,307	1,423,606	374,701	79%

## Recourse To Overdraft Facility

No of days in overdraft 0