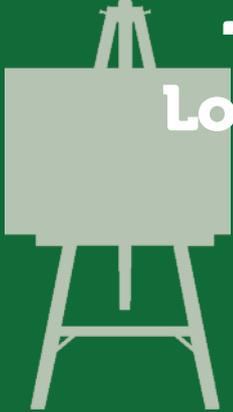


CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



**Through the
Looking Glass,
The Ludlow
Collection**
launched by
**Limerick Museum
and Archives**

.....

ROAD PROJECT

.....

**Official sod turning
for the N21 Killarney
Pole to Barnagh Phase
2 schemes took place**

150
took part in
annual
**Tidy
Towns
Seminar**

Vision

- That the people of Limerick are supported by a professional, proactive and accessible local government structure at the heart of a wider public service.
- That Limerick is acknowledged for its inclusive participation of all its 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 will compete with other European destinations in terms of business, tourism, living and investment.

Strategy

1. Empowering the citizen to participate in the development of their community, both rural and urban.
2. An environment for real economic development and job creation.
3. A new model of local governance and service delivery.

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Empowering the Citizen

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 2. Environmental improvements
 3. Age Friendly Programme
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 5. Rathbane Golf Course Tender Update
 6. Library Service
 7. Arts Service
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Economic Development and Planning

1. Planning Update
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 4. Travel and Transport
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Organisational Development

1. Change Management Update
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1. Rates
2. Draft Collection Figures

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Empowering the Citizen

1. Home and Social Development

Waiting List

Approved Applicants for Social Housing Support and Areas	Approved Applicants to the 28th of February 2015
Metropolitan District of Limerick	3,665
Municipal Districts:	
Adare-Rathkeale	306
Cappamore-Kilmallock	323
Newcastle West	331
Total	4,625

Allocations

	Metropolitan District	Newcastle West	Adare – Rathkeale	Cappamore – Kilmallock	Total
Year to end of last month	7	4	3	5	19
No of Units Allocated February	11	2	6	9	28
Year to Date	18	6	9	14	47

Home Improvement Schemes

Private Housing Grant Aid	Number of Grants paid at the 27th February 2015	Euro Amount
MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	10	65,524.89
HAGS (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	2	28,317.60
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	7	24,250.00

Awaiting notification of allocation for 2015.

Stock Management and Construction

Awaiting notification of allocation for 2015.

Rent Collection

Opening Balance 01/01/2015	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing balance 28/02/15	% Collection
1,830,818	1,836,107	3,666,925	1,897,957	1,768,968	51.8

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2. Environmental Improvements

Tidy Towns Seminar

Over 150 participants took part in the Limerick City and County Council annual Tidy Towns Seminar on the 17th February in the Woodlands Hotel Adare. Director of Service, Kieran Lehane was MC and speakers included:

- Peter Bluett, Chair of the Kilkenny Tidy Towns Group. Kilkenny was the overall National Tidy Towns winner in 2014.
- Ann O Leary, National Tidy Towns Adjudicator
- Pauline Mc Donagh from the Southern Region Waste Management Office
- Sinead Mc Donnell, Environment Awareness Officer

Fairtrade Fortnight

The Limerick launch of Fairtrade Fortnight took place in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle on Tuesday 24th February. Winners in the schools poster competition were presented with prizes by Limerick Metropolitan Mayor, Cllr Michael Sheahan. A presentation was given by Chief Adam Tampuri of Ghana, who is also chair of Fairtrade Africa and Fairtrade Africa's West Africa Network.

Green Schools

Ten green schools assessments took place in February.

Team Limerick Clean Up

Preparations are on going for Team Limerick Clean Up (TLC) on Friday, April 3rd. Over 6,500 participants have registered to date. Mr Noel Earlie of the McManus Benevolent Fund has presented TLC to all of the Municipal District Meetings in February. TLC is organised by Limerick City and County Council in conjunction with the McManus Benevolent Fund. Limerick's Live 95 fm, the Limerick Leader and Mr Binman are supporting partners.

Maintenance of Open Spaces Grant

The maintenance of open spaces grant was advertised, closing date is Friday 27th March.

Social Media

Ongoing updates and monitoring of [Facebook.com/LimerickEnvironment](https://www.facebook.com/LimerickEnvironment) and [Twitter @LimerickEnviron](https://twitter.com/LimerickEnviron)

Cemeteries

Conservation works are ongoing to roof at Mount St Lawrence Mortuary Chapel. Approximately 70 old headstones at Mount St Lawrence Cemetery have been repaired and repair works to old headstones in this

cemetery will continue in 2015. Both the conservation works to the Mortuary Chapel and repairs to headstones are being carried out by Limerick Civic Trust. The Council commenced drainage works at Shanagolden Cemetery.

Water Pollution

The EPA published the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems 2013: Review 1st July 2013 – 30th June 2014 and Proposals for 2015-2017 on the 3rd of February. During the period in question, the Council carried out 53 inspections of septic tanks. During this round of inspections, the failure rate was almost 80%. This was due in part to the inspections being targeted in areas of known problems with on-site systems. The most common problem encountered was failure to desludge the tank, with 24 systems failing on this basis, but most failed systems had other problems as well. Other commonly encountered problems were roof water entering the system (16 cases) and direct discharges to surface waters (15 cases). To date, there has been a high level of co-operation with the inspection process and 25 of the 42 systems that failed are now compliant. There is grant aid of up to €4,000 is available for works required to upgrade a system. To date four grants have been paid following satisfactory completion of the required works. A second round of inspections began in July 2014. The Council carried out 25 inspections between July and December. The failure rate for this round of inspections was 44%, which is in line with the national average.

3. Age Friendly Programme

- Older Persons Remaining at Home (OPRAH) Programme: Steering Committee held its first meeting in February. Co-ordinator in process of identifying referrals for Programme. Next Steering Committee meeting late March 2015.
- A tender for a baseline analysis of older people in Limerick is being progressed. It is hoped to go to tender for this research when this analysis is complete.

4. Public Participation Network (PPN)

The process for nominations to the PPN Secretariat is underway.

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Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

- The LCDC met on the 12th February. At this meeting the recommendations of the Evaluation Sub-Committee for the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) were ratified by the LCDC. Letters of notification are to issue in accordance with Pobal guidance.
- Ruth Minogue and Associates appointed to prepare the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening for the Local Economic and Community Plan.

5. Rathbane Municipal Golf Course Tender Process

- The closing date for receipt of tenders for the provision of Management Services for Rathbane Municipal Golf Course was 6th February. Tenders were opened and evaluated against the qualifying criteria. An evaluation team is being established to evaluate the tenders.

6. Library Service

- The Granary Library evening lecture held on 17th February was an illustrated lecture by Dr. Brian B. Murphy, OSB. The lecture entitled **Glenstal Abbey: Its History & Gardens** generated a lot of interest and there was a very good attendance on the night.
- The fifth performance by the RTE Contempo Quartet in the Granary Library Lunchtime Concert Series took place on Friday 27th February and featured guest artist; guitarist Alec O'Leary. Over 100 people attended the event.
- Newcastle West Library held a workshop on the art of making the St Bridget's Cross and other traditional crafts on Saturday 1st February (St. Bridget's Day) which was attended by over 35 people.
- In February, Newcastle West Library collaborated with four local primary schools in an art competition. Local students designed art works with Irish captions for the upcoming Seachtain na Gaeilge.

7. Arts Service

- A training day was delivered to arts festivals about how

- to apply for funding in Dance Limerick on 2nd February
- Limerick Literary Festival (20th-22th February), in honour of Kate O'Brien, expanded to include the Literature of Loss conference
- Artists in Schools call, 9 Residencies awarded for 2015 (panel decision in February)
- Grants under the Arts Act call, deadline Friday 27th February (85+ applications).

8. Limerick Museum and Archives

Limerick Museum and Archives launched: **Through the Looking Glass, The Ludlow Collection** on 26th February in Merchants' Quay. This collection of 56 rare photographs capture unique images of people ice-skating on the frozen Shannon in 1900 to pigs on Parnell Street on their way to Matternons. The collection is on display until the end of April. Work commenced on the preparation of an historical Digital Atlas of Limerick.

10. Limerick Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- Úna McCarthy the New Director/Curator of Limerick Gallery of Art took up the position on 16th February.
- Continued exhibit of three exhibitions, **With Bread** by Abigail O'Brien, **Excavation** by Anthony Haughey and **Prints from Life**, a selected exhibition from LCGA's Michael O'Connor International Poster Collection curated by Caitlin Quinn.
- Attendance of 5,500 visitors this month to view Gallery exhibitions, with bookings coming from Mary Immaculate College and local secondary schools.
- Facilitation of three workshops by Aislinn O'Donnell from Mary Immaculate College in connection with the Adult and Further Education class on philosopher Maxine Greene who has written extensively on the arts.

11. Fire and Emergency Services Update

Keeping Communities Safe

Limerick City and County Council Fire service will undertake a review of its current services in light of the approaches and the targets of 'Keeping Communities Safe' and prepare a revised statutory Section 26 Plan in 2015. Adoption of the Section 26 Plan is a reserved function. The new Section 26 Plan will set out the Council's overall approach to delivering the approaches and targets of this

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policy. Limerick City and County Council Fire Authority has commenced the preparation of the draft Section 26 Plan.

Civil Defence

The new headquarters for Limerick City and County Council Civil Defence, located at the Docklands Business Park, is currently being purchased by Limerick City and County Council. It is expected that the legal process will be completed early in 2015.

Name for New Powerboat

Primary school children across Limerick are being asked to suggest names for a new power boat which has been launched by the Limerick Fire and Rescue Service.

Demonstration Day

A demonstration day was held on Friday 13th February 2015 at the Fire Station in Mulgrave Street. The demonstration day was conducted by fire fighters from Limerick City and County Fire Stations. Councillors, members of the Management team and press were invited to attend and it was a great success. Letters of gratitude were sent in from Councillors who attended on the day and were very impressed with the work carried out by the fire fighters.

Economic Development and Planning

1. Planning

- Ninety one new planning applications were received during February 2015. Breakdown as follows; Domestic (58), Housing Developments (1); Commercial/Industrial Developments (10); Retail (2), Educational/medical (2), Agricultural (7), Other (6), Part VIII (5).
- Forty one planning applications were granted and 10 were refused during February 2015.
- Permission was granted for a housing development (55 units) in Castletroy.
- Askeaton Local Area plan (LAP) was adopted. The aim of the LAP is to establish a framework for the planned, coordinated and sustainable development of the town.
- The process to vary the Limerick County Development Plan to incorporate the Strategic Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary commenced during the month.

2. Limerick Marketing

- Work commenced on prospectus for Opera Centre site.
- Design stage with FabLab students for Plug into Limerick project at Shannon Airport.
- Profile published on Viagogo to highlight Limerick as a location in which to work in Fusion Magazine.
- Supported City Guide and Adare Guide with funding and content which have been published and will be distributed nationally and internationally.

3. Innovate Limerick

- Building work commenced in former Anderson building in Rathkeale on behalf of Design Pro Ltd who intend occupying 25,000 sq ft of the building. There are on-going discussions with other interested parties regarding the taking up of space within the building.
- The dates and the speakers for the International Cluster Conference to be held in Limerick have been confirmed. The conference will take place in Limerick on 30th September and 1st October 2015. Further details can be seen at <http://dev.pst-fr.com/>

4. Travel and Transportation

- Minister for Transport, Paschal Donoghue TD performed the official sod turning for the N21 Killarney Pole to Barnagh Phase 2 scheme on 16th February.
- Minister Paschal Donoghue received a project briefing session on the N24 Dromkeen Traffic Calming project from staff of the Road Design Office
- Construction works commenced on the N24 Dromkeen Traffic Calming scheme
- Tenders for Engineering Consultants to be appointed to design improvements works for the N24 Beary's Cross were received and opened
- Tenders for Engineering Consultants to be appointed to design improvements works for the N20 O'Rourke's Cross were received and opened
- A briefing session for the local authority members of the Stakeholder Advisory Group for the King's Island Flood Defence project was held on 18th February 2015 and agreed the matter of community representation.
- Two bridges at Gortnageeragh, Doon North, which collapsed during the flash flooding in the Doon area in

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- July 2014 were successfully reconstructed enabling the re-opening, in February, of local road number LS5031.
- The Council put contingency arrangements in place around the City and County in advance of the exceptionally high tides in February. No incidences of flooding were reported.
 - The Council welcomed the grant of €5m towards the construction of the Coonagh Knockalisheen Road set to commence, following procurement, later in the year.

Organisational Redevelopment

1. Change Management Update

Following 24 workshops to staff in December and January and Councillors in February, a comprehensive FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) document has been posted on the intranet covering a range of topics:

2. Customer Charter

A Customer Charter for the Council has been compiled which sets out how we intend to deliver our services. This Charter is a bringing together of our existing procedures and it can be accessed on the following link; <http://www.limerick.ie/council/customer-charter>. In summary, the Customer Charter places a responsibility on all of us to ensure basic customer service principles are adhered to. The Charter also advises our customers what we expect from them in terms of their dealings with us. Feedback on any aspect of the Charter is welcome at all times. There is now a clearly defined Complaints procedure available on: <http://www.limerick.ie/council/compliments-comments-and-complaints>

3. Sugar CRM (Customer Relationship Management)

Sugar CRM continues to be rolled out across the organisation. The plan involves having all departments complete by 2015.

4. Limerick 2020

Proposal to have website set up regarding Limerick's Capital of Culture Bid 2020. Project team in place to review specification.

5. Civic Reception

Limerick City and County Council held a Civic Reception on Wednesday 11th February to celebrate the achievements of the UL Orchestra and also Castletroy Golf Club.

The UL Orchestra was honoured in recognition of its contribution to the musical and cultural life of Limerick since its establishment in 1992. Special recognition was awarded to Castletroy Golf Club for winning the Munster and All Ireland Junior Cup titles in 2014 together with its contribution to the sporting life of Limerick since its foundation in 1937.

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Financial Matters

1. Rates

The Council has issued 2015 Rate Demands to its customers. The Council has been informed that the number of appeals made to the Valuation Commissioner out of the revaluation for Limerick City and County Council is 300. The final date from making an appeal to the Valuation Commissioner expired on Sunday 8th February.

Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No. of days in overdraft 0

2. Draft Collection Figures

Collection Rates 2015	Opening Balance 1 Jan €	Accruals €	To Collect €	Receipts €	Arrears €	%
As at 28 February	24,973,510	52,417,290	77,390,800	3,525,827	73,864,974	5

Collection Loans 2015	Opening Balance 1 Jan €	Accruals €	To Collect €	Receipts €	Arrears €	%
As at 28 February	548,793	8,876*	557,669	327,454	230,216	59

*loan accruals for Jan/Feb not yet updated on system