

**LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK**  
**MEETING TO BE HELD ON 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015**

15<sup>TH</sup> April 2015

**To: The Mayor and Each Member of the Metropolitan District of Limerick**

**Re: Draft Schedule of Municipal District Works - (SMDW)**

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

I wish to refer to previous discussions regarding the requirement to prepare a Schedule of Municipal District Works

Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 inserts a new section 103A in the Local Government Act 2001 providing that, following the adoption of the annual budget, a schedule of proposed works of maintenance and repair to be carried out during the financial year in each municipal district shall be prepared, for adoption by the municipal district members.

The SMDW is, in effect, a plan of works that prioritises and apportions the use, within each municipal district, of funding provided in the overall local authority revenue budget for particular purposes

The SMDW in respect of the Metropolitan District should be formulated on the basis of the amount of funding provided for maintenance and repair in the annual budget of in respect of each relevant service division (e.g. housing, roads, amenities, street cleaning, drainage work, burial ground maintenance, etc.

Classification of items in the budget should largely determine what works and related expenditure are included in the SMDW but insofar as it may be necessary to make judgments in particular instances, it is considered that the term "maintenance" can include not only maintenance of the physical condition or fabric of items, but also more operational type matters such as grass cutting or tree pruning.

Within the level of funding available, details of the SMDW should be prepared on the basis of identified needs (taking account of relevant factors, for example, in the case of housing, age profile of stock) and priorities throughout the local authority area and taking due account of requirements in relation to standards and frequency of maintenance work. This should be informed by details of relevant requirements which were considered in the formulation of the overall local authority budget. It will also be relevant to have regard to the pattern of works and expenditure in previous years.

It is emphasised that adoption of the SMDW per se cannot involve revision of the adopted budget.

It is essential to maximise return on investment by avoiding dilution of expenditure which could result from spreading allocations too thinly across the Municipal District each year. This could be minimised by taking a multi-annual approach where possible in the preparation of the SMDW.

Maximising value for money, overall effectiveness, and return from investment should also be a key objective in prioritising works and allocating available funding within each municipal district, along with the need to ensure appropriate balance in the allocation of resources as between urban and rural areas in the district.

Apportionment of funding on a thematic basis within the district over the life of the council could help to this end. For example, specific housing estate(s) in one location could be prioritised for refurbishment in year one, with a commitment to undertake works in another area in subsequent years. Similarly, where an overall local authority maintenance programme is drawn up for a particular purpose (say windows and doors in local authority dwellings) which might need to extend over a number of years, the required works would be reflected in relevant annual SMDWs.

Any maintenance type functions, for example, grass cutting, planting or other maintenance of open spaces, that are carried out by means of specific purpose grants for such purposes to community groups such as tidy towns committees can be provided for, as appropriate, through the SMDW.

The GMA, which is a budgetary element providing funding for discretionary expenditure at metropolitan district level to be decided by the elected members in respect of each metropolitan district, is separate from the “strategic” budgetary funding for maintenance and repair, the utilisation of which is to be determined in the SMDW.

The Draft Schedule of Municipal District Works for the Metropolitan District of Limerick is set out at appendix 1 attached.

The approval of the Members is sought for the Draft Schedule as presented.

Pat Dowling,  
Director of Services.

Appendix 1

<b>SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS FOR THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT</b>
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<b>Work Category - Roads</b>	<b>€</b>
Restoration Improvement (RI) -Road Reconstruction	
Restoration Maintenance (RM) -Surface Dressing	
General Maintenance (GM)	
Parking	
Tar Patching (TP)	
Structures (STR)	
General Municipal Allocation (GMA)	
Low Cost Safety Improvement Works (LCSI)	
General Maintenance of National Roads-N21/N69	
Total Defined MD spending	
	<b>€400,000 Total City and County</b>
Winter Maintenance (WM)	
	<b>€180,000 Total City and County</b>
Community Involvement Schemes (CIS)	
Local Improvement Schemes (LIS)	
	<b>€181,500 Total City and County</b>
Public Lighting	
	<b>€2,525,401 Total City and County</b>

**Brief summary of the above Work Categories and Allocations for the Metropolitan District**

**Restoration Improvement (RI)                      €1,775,913.00**

This is a specific allocation under the Restoration Improvement Grant (RI). Many roads have deteriorated to such an extent that they require resurfacing, reshaping and strengthening to enable them to cater for the heavy vehicles and to prevent water lodging.

**Restoration Maintenance (RM) €490,207.00**

This is a specific allocation under the Restoration Maintenance Grant (RM). A large proportion of the condition of non-national roads is due to lack of proper and regular maintenance such as overlays and surface dressing. This allocation will extend the life of the pavement and delay the development of potholes, thus protecting the investment in roads. At the current level of funding the overlay and surface dressing life cycles for non national roads is up to 1:40 years.

**General Maintenance €735,092.00**

General maintenance covers a wide range of works such as verges and drainage, cleaning water channels, street cleaning, opening inlets, signage, elimination of localised flooding, junction maintenance, dealing with accidents, oil spillages, storms, emergencies and general repairs to roads and footpaths.

**Tar Patching (TP) €194,977.00**

Regular tar patching is necessary to prevent the deterioration of the road surface and substructure and in the interest of road safety.

**Structures (STR) €284,225.00**

Details of the funding made available for structures in the District are provided. The 2015 approved schemes are provided.

**Low Cost Safety Improvement Works (LCSI) €210,000.00**

The 2015 allocation provides funding to enable low cost safety improvement works on non-national roads to be carried out. The criteria for approval and grant allocation are based on accident data along with inspection of sites and discussions between the local authority and the Regional Road Safety Engineer. There are currently no schemes in the Newcastle West District.

**Parking & Traffic Management (PM) €1,235,269.00**

This includes for disc parking operation, traffic warden and traffic office salaries, traffic fines management system, communication equipment, software licences, operation and management of AUTC System, Traffic Lights, Traffic Signs and road markings, CCTV, VMS and the Car Park Guidance System.

**General Municipal Allocation (GMA) €110,000.00**

This allocation will be agreed at Municipal District level.

## **Items for which expenditure is provided on a City and County at large basis**

**Public Lighting (PL) €2,525,401**

This covers the operation, repair and maintenance of Public Lighting. The supply of energy is purchased through the National Procurement Service (NPS). The repair, replacement and maintenance of public lights are tendered separately. The above figure pertains to the whole City and County area.

**Road Safety: Engineering, Promotion, Education (RS) €628,518**

This includes for the cost of school wardens, road safety plan, road safety education and training. The above figure pertains to the whole City and County area.

**Winter Maintenance (WM) €400,000**

This provision is for the treatment of roads in severe weather in accordance with the Winter Service Plan and pertains to the whole City and County area.

**Community Involvement schemes (CIS) €180,000**

No grant will be forthcoming in 2015 but local authorities can set aside up to 7.5% of the RI and RM grants for CIS schemes. It is proposed to allocate the same funding as 2014. Circular RW3/2015 sets out the details of the Community Involvement Scheme. The above figure pertains to the whole City and County area.

**Local Improvement Schemes (LIS) €181,500**

The 2015 Road Grants allow for the allocation of up to 15% of the Discretionary Grant to be allocated to Local Improvement Schemes on private roads. An increased local contribution of 20% is now required for participating communities. Given the general pressure that exists on resources for the maintenance and upkeep of the public road system it is proposed to maintain the same allocation as 2014. The above figure pertains to the whole City and County area.

**Overheads (OH)****€1,247,009**

This includes for insurances (EL/PL), Health and Safety training and equipment, sick pay, holiday pay, legal costs, office expenses, etc. The above figure pertains to the whole City and County area.

**List of Road Schemes 2015**

	<b>Work Type</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Amount €</b>
<b><u>Metropolitan East</u></b>			
Rossa Ave off Mulgrave st,	RI Overlay	143	€ 27,027.00
Colbert Ave	RI Overlay	145	€ 28,275.00
Bawnmore Rd, Junction Galvone Dr, Kennedy Pk,	RI Overlay	140	€ 31,500.00
O'Malley Park, opp Church,	RI Overlay	63	€ 10,017.00
Old Clare Street,	RI Overlay	60	€ 14,400.00
South Cloughan Rd	RI Overlay	230	€ 42,780.00
Old Windmill Rd	RI Overlay	80	€ 18,000.00
Kilmallock Road (Bengal Terrace)	RI Overlay	215	€ 58,050.00
R525 Daly's Cross to Nelsons Cross	Road Reconstruction	1100	€ 115,000.00
LS5124 Bloodmill Road	Road Reconstruction	1000	€ 115,000.00
LP1145 Fanningstown to Dooley Park	Restoration Maintenance	1000	€ 75,000.00
LS5012 Knockanbaun	Road Reconstruction	1400	€ 50,000.00
LT11031 Charcos to Boat club, Castleconnell	Road Reconstruction	1000	€ 65,000.00
LS5152 Roads at Clyduff	Road Reconstruction	500	€ 65,000.00
R512 Ballyneety to Donoghmore	Restoration Maint.	2000	€ 44,000.00
LP1113 Peafield Road	Restoration Maint.	1300	€ 35,100.00
LS5005 Newgarden Road, Castletroy	Restoration Maint.	1400	€ 13,500.00

LP1170 Commons Road	Restoration Maint.	1000	€ 22,500.00
LP1146 Knockae Road	Restoration Maint.	1000	€ 22,500.00
LS5113 Bushy Island to Donoughmore	Restoration Maint.	1000	€ 22,500.00
LS5106 Bohermore	Restoration Maint.	1200	€ 27,000.00
LS5006 Mountshannon Road	Restoration Maint.	1500	€ 30,000.00
Newtown Road	Thin Surface Overlay	150	€ 9,900.00
Hawthorns, Castletroy	Thin Surface Overlay	300	€ 17,550.00
Milford Grange, Castletroy	Thin Surface Overlay	1000	€ 54,000.00
College Court, Castletroy	Thin Surface Overlay	400	€ 21,000.00
The Orchard, Castletroy	Thin Surface Overlay	120	€ 7,000.00
The Tontines, Castleconnell	Thin Surface Overlay	150	€ 6,800.00
	<b>Sub-total</b>		€ <b>1,048,399.00</b>
	<b><u>Metropolitan North</u></b>		
Old Cratloe Rd (From LIT to Woodview Shops Junction)	RI Overlay	250	€ 75,000.00
Kinbranish Drive, Woodview	RI Overlay	250	€ 56,250.00
Lansdowne Gardens,	RI Overlay	210	€ 50,400.00
New Road (to Junction with Browns Quay – 100mx 7m)	RI Overlay	215	€ 51,600.00
Bridge St	RI Overlay	40	€ 11,400.00
Kileely Road (Hassetts Cross down)	RI Overlay	115	€ 14,835.00
Cashel Lane Thomondgate.	RI Overlay	153	€ 32,130.00
Caragh Ave	RI Overlay	115	€ 18,975.00
	<b>Sub-Total</b>		€ <b>310,590.00</b>

<b>Metropolitan West</b>			
Glenworth St,	RI Overlay	90	€ 29,700.00
Catherine Street upper,	RI Overlay	148	€ 44,400.00
Dock Road (Roundabout)	RI Overlay	150	€ 45,000.00
Dominic Street,	RI Overlay	93	€ 27,900.00
SCR – (Greenpark Cl to Kyleglass)	RI Overlay	114	€ 17,784.00
Henry St/O’Curry St Junction	RI Overlay	14	€ 6,300.00
SCR Opposite Mary Immaculate Collage	RI Overlay	20	€ 3,600.00
Newham Street	RI Overlay	95	€ 31,350.00
Summerville Ave	RI Overlay	96	€ 23,904.00
R526 Patrickswell Main Street	RI Overlay	700	€ 90,000.00
LP1426 Clarina Cross to Ballybrown Church	Surface Restoration	1000	€ 80,000.00
LS80451 Cooperhill Farm Road	Road Reconstruction	600	€ 46,600.00
LT14241 Clounanna	Road Reconstruction	800	€ 43,200.00
LS8061 Elm Park	Road Reconstruction	1200	€ 65,000.00
LP1425 Ferrybridge road	Restoration Maintenance	1000	€ 27,000.00
LP1407 Limerick Racecourse road	Restoration Maintenance	1300	€ 32,000.00
LS 8045Newtown Hill	Restoration Maintenance	1200	€ 27,000.00
LT11442Rosbrien cul de Sac Fitzgerald	Restoration Maintenance	1000	€ 13,500.00
LS51001Mungret Graveyard cul de sac	Thin Surface Overlay	500	€ 13,500.00
Redwood Estate, Dooradoyle	Thin Surface Overlay	250	€ 11,250.00
Raheen Gardens, Raheen	Thin Surface Overlay	200	€ 12,600.00
Meadowlawn, Raheen	Thin Surface Overlay	150	€ 9,900.00

LS8052Patrickswell church	Thin Surface Overlay	200	€ 10,107.00
	<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>€ 711,595.00</b>
	<b>Overall Total</b>		<b>€2,070,584.00</b>

## Home and Social Development

The Limerick City & County Council was created in June 2014 with the resultant creation of new Districts. As a result 2015 is the baseline for data for the new organisation. Where possible data was extrapolated from 2014 but as the systems did not record it in District format an element of estimation is required. Other Housing Services, for example, assessments, allocations, rent Collection, estate Management and homeless services are not broken down per district and are serviced centrally.

There are **3289** no of Council housing units within the Metropolitan District. In 2014 we received **5345** repair requests for the area. Approximately 90% of all repair requests in 2014 were closed within the year.

Housing repairs are carried out based on need and budgetary constraints. Repairs are categorised into emergency, urgent and routine. Examples of each are listed below:

### Emergency Repairs

- Fire
- Flood including significant leaks or flooding from water or heating pipes
- No electricity
- No gas
- No water
- No hot water
- No heating
- Blocked flue to open fire or boiler
- Blocked or leaking foul drains
- Unsafe access path or step

### Urgent repairs

- Faulty sockets or switches

- Faulty storage heaters
- Faulty door entry system
- Partial loss of water supply
- Loose or detached banister or hand rail
- Unsafe timber flooring or stair treads
- Storm damage

### **Routine Repairs**

- All other items of joinery, electrical, plumbing and plaster work.

### **Time Scales for Carrying Out Repairs**

The aim is to carry out repairs within the following timescales:

<b>Category of Repair</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Emergency	1 to 3 working days
Urgent	Within 7 working days
Routine	Within 6 working weeks

### **Pre letting Repairs**

**Vacancies: In 2014 there were 142 no of allocations to casual vacancies (including transfers)**

Should a tenant wish to surrender their property, they have an obligation to provide notice to Limerick City & County Council (4 weeks) of their intention to vacate. On foot of this notice, we will carry out an inspection of the dwelling where all necessary repair works are identified. If there are no repairs required, the property will immediately be subject to relet procedures. A gas safety check will be carried out on any property that has a gas heating system, before the new tenant moves in, and an electrical safety check will be carried out to all vacant properties.

The cost of making good a vacant house varies considerable depending on the age of the house, the condition the tenant has left it in and current letting standards.

A budgetary provision for maintenance and pre lettings for 2015 has been made as follows:

<b>Maintenance:</b>	<b>€1,448,533</b>
<b>Pre Lettings:</b>	<b>€880,970</b>

The following Traveller specific accommodation is situated within the District:

Toppins Field	Halting Site
Bawney's Bridge	Halting Site
Clondrinagh	Halting Site
Longpavement	Halting Site
Rhebogue	Group Housing Scheme
Clonlong	Halting Site
Castletroy	Halting Site
Childers Road	Halting Site

A budgetary provision of **€367,900** has been made for Traveller sites maintenance & repair.

## **PRIVATE HOUSING GRANTS**

The following private house grants are available from the Council:

### **HAGS- Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme:**

Available to assist in the carrying out of works which are reasonably necessary for the purposes of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability who has enduring physical, sensory, mental health or intellectual impairments. The types of works available include the provision of access ramps, downstairs toilet facilities, stair-lifts, accessible showers,

adaptations to facilitate wheelchair access, extensions and any other works deemed necessary. Applicable to works costing in excess of €6,000.00.

**MAGS- Mobility Aids Grant Scheme:**

Available to cover works to address mobility problems, primarily associated with ageing. The type of works available include: grab rails, access ramps, level access showers, and stair-lifts. Applicable to works not in excess of €6,000.00.

**HOPS- Housing Aid Older People:**

Available to assist older people living in poor conditions to have necessary repairs of improvements carried out. The types of works available under the scheme include: re-roofing, re-wiring, and the provision of central heating (where none exists) and the replacement of windows & doors.

The Council is required to provide 20% towards the costs of such grants with the DECLG meeting 80%. A similar provision to 2014 has been provided in 2015. Assuming DECLG approval to maximise the Council's provision, the overall spend on private house grants for 2015 is estimated as follows:

<b>Revenue Budget Provision for the Metropolitan District</b>	<b>€378,000</b>
<b>Estimated Overall District Spend</b>	<b>€1,890,000</b>

**ENVIRONMENT**

The Environment Department covers a broad area of activity including waste, litter, pollution, veterinary services, parks, playgrounds and cemeteries.

The proposed schedule of works for the Metropolitan District for 2015 may be summarised as set out here under.

## **Street Cleaning**

The Environment department carries out street sweeping, clean ups of illegal dumping, collection and disposal of litter bin waste, weed control and public realm maintenance in the Metropolitan Area. The overall budget for these works is €3.038M. Daily street sweeping is carried out in the city centre area and weekly to six weekly schedules are carried out in the environs. The work programme also allows for the pick up of waste and litter from groups such as Tidy Towns Groups, Spring Cleans and Community Groups. Waste from street sweeping operations is disposed of under contract at a cost of approx €350,000.

## **Recovery and Recycling Facilities operation**

The Environment Department provide 2 recycling centres in the metropolitan area, located in Mungret and Park Road. The Mungret centre also operates a green waste facility where green waste is tromelled and processed to produce compost. A network of 27 bottle banks are provided and serviced in the Metropolitan area. The overall cost of these facilities is €198,000

## **Horse Control**

Limerick City & County Council seized 413 stray horses in 2014, of which 13 were reclaimed by their owners. Approximately 75% of these horses were seized in the City area.

The 2015 budget annual budget adopted by the Council in relation to Animal Welfare Services is €617,000. It is forecast that in excess of 300 horses will be seized in the Metropolitan Area in 2015 at an approximate cost of €450,000. It is also forecast that the number of these seized animals likely to be reclaimed will be minimal.

## **Dog Control**

The Dog Warden Service dealt with a total of 705 stray and unwanted dogs during 2014, of which approximately 250, or 35% originated in the Metropolitan Area. Of these 705 dogs, 25 were reclaimed and 349 re-homed. Regrettably, it was necessary to put 329 dogs to sleep. It is

anticipated that the Dog Warden Service will impound approximately 250 dogs in the Metropolitan Area in 2015, at an approximate cost of €75,000.

## **Waste Management**

The Council will expend €80,000 in respect of aftercare operations at Long Pavement. These operations include environmental monitoring, licence fees and gas management.

## **Waste regulation, Monitoring and Enforcement Expenditure**

The Council will expend €100,000 in relation to developing policy, planning, enforcement against illegal waste, the issue of authorisations under the Waste management act and the inspections and monitoring of the those authorisations. The Environmental Department will carry out approximately 100 inspections in support of these activities in 2015.

## **Waste Management Planning**

The Environmental Department will carry out works including the support and development of regional waste policy documents and supports including a contribution to the development of the regional waste management Plan.

## **Pollution Control Team: Discharge Licensing.**

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014, Irish Water became the statutory body for the administration of licences to discharge to the public sewers. The Pollution Control Team works in partnership with Irish Water in this regard and a service level agreement is in place.

The Pollution Control Team carried out 94 onsite discharge licence inspections to sewers in 2014, and anticipates a similar level of activity in 2015.

Discharge to sewer licences are inspected on rotation, with emphasis being put on recently granted licences in order to ensure the adoption of best practices.

Discharge licensing inspections are carried out on a county wide basis. The cost of the inspection, and of any sample which the Council takes as part of that inspection, is borne by the licence holder. This charge is invoiced in the year following the year of audit. Charges are set by way of a condition of each individual licence.

### **Pollution Control Team: Air Pollution.**

The Pollution Control Team is responsible for the enforcement of the requirements of the Air Pollution Act 1987 and related Regulations.

This includes:

- *The European Union (Installations and Activities using Organic Solvents) Regulations 2012 and 2014.* These Regulations control the use of solvents in dry cleaners. ***It is planned that 12 inspections will take place in 2015.***
- *The European Union (Paints, Varnishes, Vehicle Refinishing Products and Activities) Regulations 2012 and 2014.* These regulations control the use of certain solvent-based substances in car repair installations, among other activities. ***40 inspections are planned for 2015.***
- *The Air Pollution Act (Marketing, Sale, Distribution and Burning of Specified Fuels) Regulations. 2012.* These Regulations prohibit the marketing, sale, distribution and burning of bituminous (or smoky) fuels within the Specified Area of Limerick. ***It is planned that 20 inspections will be carried out on a seasonal basis in 2015.***
- *The Air Pollution Act 1987 (Petrol Vapour Emissions Regulations) 1997.* These regulations control the emission of petrol vapours at service stations and similar installations. ***It is planned that 90 inspections will be carried out in 2015.***

### **Litter Team**

The Litter Team is actively involved in enforcing the provisions of the Litter Pollution Act, the Waste Management Act and the Bye Laws for Household and Commercial Waste. This team carries out daily patrols, monitors high risk areas and responds to complaints received regarding the following;

instances of littering, dumping, waste which is not presented for collection in a satisfactory manner, illegal signage, graffiti, abandoned cars, illegal storage of waste and littering.

The Litter Team issues fines under the Litter Pollution Act and Bye Laws for Household and Commercial Waste. It is estimated that approx 500 litter fines will be issued in 2015 in respect of the Metropolitan area. This team also serves notices/directions under both the Litter Pollution Act and Waste Management Act on householders and landowners requiring them to keep their property free of litter/waste.

The Litter Team issues questionnaires to householders and owners of commercial premises to establish if they have a refuse collection service in place and serves notices if no response is received. It is estimated that approx 70 notices/directions under Waste Management Act and Litter Pollution Act will issue in Metropolitan area in 2015.

The Litter Team initiates court proceedings for non payment of fines and non-compliance with notices/directions and will take approx 40 court proceedings in 2015 in the Metropolitan area. The Litter Team budget for 2015 is €391,862.

There are two Environmental Inspectors based in the Metropolitan area and the approximate cost of this service is €160,000.

## **Cemeteries**

There are approx. 250 cemeteries in Limerick. There are three large cemeteries in the Limerick Metropolitan area, i.e.; Mount St Oliver Cemetery, Mount St Lawrence Cemetery and Castlemungret Cemetery. There are also a number of smaller cemeteries in the metropolitan area. The overall budget for the provision of cemeteries services is €821,314. The cemeteries budget for the metropolitan area is estimated to be in the region of €550,000. The Council allocates burial ground grants to burial ground committees. It is estimated that approx. 20 such grants will be provided in the Metropolitan area at a cost of €7,000.

## **Septic Tank Inspections**

The Water Services (amendment) Act 2012 required the registration and inspection of septic tanks and other onsite treatment systems. The EPA publishes the National Inspection Plan and based on the national priorities Limerick City & County Council identify properties to be inspected within each risk category.

Work continues in this area for 2015. Systems for inspection will be selected in accordance with the National Inspection Plan published by the EPA in February 2013. The EPA has stipulated that Limerick complete a minimum of 42 inspections by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015. These will be carried out throughout the Metropolitan District of Limerick and the Municipal Districts at properties to be identified within each risk category. Inspections are to commence in March 2015.

It is anticipated that the majority of inspections to be carried out in 2015 will be within the Metropolitan District.

### **Water Quality Management**

Under the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) there is an obligation on the Council to achieve a significant improvement in river water quality. The Environment Water Quality Team undertake a programme of farm inspections and general monitoring of rivers with a view to achieving significant improvement in water quality.

This team will carry out a minimum of 500 farm surveys (125 per quarter) in 2015.

It is envisaged that a number of these farm surveys will be undertaken in the Metropolitan District in 2015.

### **Parks, Open Spaces & Green Areas**

The Environment Department carries out a wide range of functions in relation to parks and open spaces. These works include; tree pruning, grass cutting, hedge trimming and small maintenance and landscaping works. The works also include planting summer bedding and planting and placing flower towers and hanging baskets on a seasonal basis.

The Environment Department also undertakes playground maintenance, community clean ups, round about maintenance, litter picking and waste disposal etc. The Environment Department also provides grant aid to community groups.

The 2015 work programme in support of the activities as outline above will involve expenditure in amount of €1.3M (including both discretionary and nondiscretionary expenditure) in respect of Parks, Pitches and Open Spaces. €15,000 in respect of Playground Maintenance and the provision of Environment grants to Community Groups of €45,000.

### **Maintenance of Open Spaces Grant Scheme in Housing Developments**

Limerick City & County Council will administer the maintenance of open spaces grant scheme in housing developments in 2015. There is a total budget of €61,500 to be spent across the 4 Municipal Districts. The grant is allocated on an application basis based on a number of factors including acreage of green space to be maintained, number of houses in estate and number of applications received by the Council for the scheme.

Having regard to the level of applications received in 2014, it is reasonable to assume that 50% of the budget for 2015 will be allocated in the Metropolitan District

## **Limerick Going for Gold Environment Improvement Grant Scheme**

Limerick City & County Council will administer a Limerick Going for Gold Environment Improvement Grant Scheme across all four municipal districts in 2015. €77,000 is set aside in the budget for this scheme. A matching contribution is also expected from the McManus Charitable Foundation. The grant will be allocated on the basis of applications received, considered in accordance with relevant criteria. This is the first year of this Grant scheme and all applications will be considered. The Environment Department will also operate the Limerick Going for Gold Competition and the Local Agenda 21 Environment Partnership Fund.

## **Anti-litter Awareness Initiatives**

The Council's Anti litter awareness Initiatives funds programmes such as anti dog litter campaigns, national spring clean, adverts in local media. There is a sum of €55,000 which will be allocated in 2015. A significant portion of this funding will be part of Limerick City & County Councils contribution to Team Limerick Clean Up.