

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick** City  
& County Council

THIS MONTH:

**New telephone system rolled out**

**8th European Greenways Award Ceremony hosted by the Council**

**Delegation from Hohenlohekreis Council, Germany visit Limerick**

**Culture Night opens doors to thousands of people**

**'Beat the Street' beats expectations**

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## Empowering the Citizen

### 1. Community Support Services

#### Waiting List

Housing Waiting List	3,289
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#### Allocations

	Metropolitan District	Newcastle West	Adare – Rathkeale	Cappamore – Kilmallock	Total
No of Units September 2017	14	2	0	2	18
Year to Date	156	17	12	27	212

#### Cemeteries

##### Total No of Burials in the City Graveyards

- Kilmurry: 3
- Castlemungret: 9
- Mount St. Oliver: 11
- Mount St. Lawrence: 12

#### Domestic Waste Refuse Waiver Scheme

Total number of waivers issued for Limerick City and County Council for September is 22 waivers, 18 were refused.

#### Limerick Homeless Action Team – Pathway Accommodation and Support System (PASS) Data.

Gender	Total
Male	176
Female	139
<b>Total</b>	<b>315</b>

Age Group	Total
18-24	55
25-44	175
45-64	76
65+	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>315</b>

**Table 3: Accommodation Type**

Accommodation Type	Total
Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA)	88
Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA)	189
Temporary Emergency Accommodation (low support) (TEA)	38
Other	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>315</b>

**Table 4: Families with dependent children breakdown**

	No. of families with dependent children	No. of Individual Adults	No. of Dependents
Individuals with dependent children	36	36	62
Couples with dependent children	23	46	44
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>106</b>

### 2. HAP Shared Services

The Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) plays a key part in national strategy providing a more integrated system of housing supports and is the largest non-capital programme in the Government's Rebuilding Ireland: Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness.

The HAP Shared Services Centre provides greater financial and operational efficiencies to the Council's clients through centralised service deliver.

For month end September, there were 27,242 active HAP tenancies, the weekly tenant debit was in excess of €1.1 million and the monthly landlord payment run was in excess of €18 million.

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### 3. Social Development

#### Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The Local Community Development Committee met in September and considered the implementation of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP), Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) and LEADER. The LCDC adopted the Learning Limerick Strategic Plan 2018-2023 - Helping to Grow Limerick as a Learning Region. The LCDC agreed to join Healthy Ireland Network. It approved 15 applications shortlisted by the Healthy Limerick Steering Group for funding of €100,000 to Pobal under Strand 1: Local Communities for a Healthy Ireland.

#### Healthy Limerick

Healthy Limerick was formally launched by the Minister of State, Department of Health with responsibility for Health Promotion, Catherine Byrne TD. More than a hundred people from a range of organisations from across the city and county including the Public Services Alliance participated in the event.

- Limerick City and County Council officially became a member of the national Healthy Cities and Counties Network.
- The Local Community Development Committee formally joined the Healthy Ireland Network.

**Healthy Limerick workshops:** Four workshops and/ or presentations were made on the social determinants of health to the Workplace Partnership Committee, Library Services staff, Limerick City and County Council and the Department of Public Health and Limerick Youth Service.

#### Age Friendly Limerick

Limerick Older People's Council hosted sixteen members of Fingal Older People's Council. The group visited a number of Age Friendly projects in Limerick during their two day visit, and the Limerick group used the visit as an opportunity to showcase some of the very good work being done through the Limerick programme.

Following discussion between the seven Councillors of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock and the Age Friendly Programme, grant aid has been approved, to provide age friendly seating at 22 locations across the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock. The Age Friendly programme has also

provided financial support to Positive Ageing Week, and has co-sponsored a Start Your Own Business Course for over 55's, being administered through the Local Enterprise Office. Age Friendly Limerick has also funded the installation of a hoist at Grove Island Swimming Pool.

#### Learning Limerick

Learning Limerick received a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Learning City Award at the third International Conference on Learning Cities held in Cork. The prestigious award was given to 16 cities that have achieved "exceptional progress" in promoting lifelong learning. The award recognises collaborative efforts to increase overall education levels in Limerick, reduce the region's high unemployment and improve living conditions.

#### Pride Of Place

Pride of Place judges visited St. Patrick's Villas, Castleconnell and Northside Youth Space, Ballynanty, which were selected as Limerick's representatives in the Pride of Place competition this year. Judging commenced on 6th September at St. Patrick's Villas, Castleconnell. A presentation was given by members of the St. Patrick's Villas Residents Association followed by a tour of the housing estate. The judges praised the warm welcome which they received in the estate and complimented the residents in maintaining the estate to such a high standard.

The judges visited Northside Youth Space (NYS) in Ballynanty where they were given a very informative presentation by Mr. Damian Landy, Manager, NYS, and members of Limerick Youth Service and Ballynanty Youth Club. This was followed by a tour of the building displaying the vast array of services being provided in the Centre: Ballynanty Youth Club; Youth Mental Health Project and Garda Youth Diversion Programme to name a few. The judges said "Northside Youth Space is providing an exceptional service and that the building was a fantastic asset to the area".

#### Limerick Sports Partnership (LSP)

Beat the Street went live on 13 September for the seven week programme. The target was to get 8,000 players engaged, to date Limerick has 11,500 players participating.

Limerick LSP hosted a seminar in Thomond Park to launch Positive Ageing Week with speakers covering topics including "Benefits of Physical Activity to delay onset of Dementia", "Healthy Eating for strong muscle

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and bone in later years" and "The Benefits of Physical Activity including Resistance Training to minimise falls as we get Older". 160 people attended the seminar, a full schedule of activities are taking place throughout Limerick during the week. As part of Positive Ageing Week, Mayor Seán Lynch hosted a Mayoral Reception for the Limerick Older Adult Go For Life Games Team who won the national finals in Dublin earlier this year. 35 Transition Year Students from 15 schools have commenced the LSP VIP Coaching and Mentoring Programme. During the academic year these students will gain experience in delivering physical activity in schools, clubs and community environments.

Following on from the success of summer inclusion camps a new Inclusion Club for children with intellectual disabilities has commenced at Limerick Southside Youth Space with 50 kids attending a two hour adapted physical activity sessions on a weekly basis.

All LSP community health and fitness programmes are up and running across the county i.e. Move & Lose, New Year New Start, Older Adult Fitness programmes at 7 Hubs, Men on the Move at 4 sites, Women on Wheels, Sportshall Athletics, Activation Workshops, Community Walking, Desk to 5K, Nutrition Information Workshops & for more information email [info@limericksports.ie](mailto:info@limericksports.ie)

### 4. Customer Services

A new telephone system was rolled out throughout the Council, with a single number for the organisation, 061 556000. On 20 September, the Council's first call centre, handled by Customer Services, went live, with the singular organisational number being answered by Customer Services in both Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle. In the eight days between going live and the end of the month, the total number of calls received was 5,909. This is broken down into the following;

- **General Queue** – Environment questions, reception calls: 5,586
- **Moyross Maintenance Queue**– Response maintenance of council tenancies: 59
- **Motor Tax Queue**– general queries: 264

This works out at roughly 740 calls per day, with the average response time being 9 seconds for calls to be answered.

With reception calls now being brought into the back office, through the call centre, this allows more focus on the citizen at the front desk, of which we had 2,788 between our Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle offices.

A total of 2,438 cases were logged throughout the month of September, the majority of which were for:

- Operations and Maintenance: 1,722
- Community Support Services: 286
- Planning & Environment: 179
- Customer Services: 120

### 5. Library Services

- To celebrate Culture night on 22 September, Newcastle West Library hosted a book launch for "Limerick and Kerry Railway - Twilight Years". The book is a personal chronicle by Liam O'Mahony, who worked for Córas Iompair Éireann (CIE) in West Limerick/North Kerry. Newcastle West native, Dr. Pat O'Connor, performed the launch and this was followed by a slide show to mark the 150th anniversary year of the coming of the railway to Newcastle West.
- Newcastle West Library is continuing to host "Digital Skill" for citizens, free internet training every Wednesday morning for the autumn season. These classes take place in the exhibition hall, they are well attended and there is a big uptake for places on the course.
- All main branches held award ceremonies and parties for children who participated in this year's Summer Reading Challenge.
- In the Granary Library this month's lecture was entitled "Thomas Ashe January 1885 to September 1917 - A life given for Ireland, an Oral Record", presented with audio clips by Maurice O'Keeffe of Irish Life and Lore. Born in 1885 in the small village of Lispolle, near Dingle, Co. Kerry, Thomas Ashe was a qualified teacher. He had great interest and involvement in the nationalist movement and was a member of the Irish Volunteers and Conradh na Gaeilge. He was recruited into the Irish Republican Brotherhood. In the years leading up to the 1917 Rising, he took up a more prominent role and by Easter Sunday 1916 he was the Commanding Officer of the Dublin 5th Battalion of the Volunteers. He was court-martialled and sentenced to death

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for his part in the rising. He served some time in a number of English jails and was arrested again in August 1917 and sentenced to two years hard labour. When the authorities turned down a request by Ashe and his fellow prisoners for political treatment they went on hunger strike. Thomas Ashe died on the 25 September from the effects of forced feeding.

- A new book entitled "Call to Dance - an experience of the Socio-cultural World of Traditional Breton Music and Dance" by Desi Wilkinson, was launched in the Granary Branch on 28 September by Paul Flynn, Traditional Arts Officer, the Arts Council. Desi Wilkinson is currently a traditional musician in residence at Mary Immaculate College.
- Special guest, Alan English, well-known sports writer and newspaper editor, presented the September meeting of the Rock Record club. Alan kicked off with some classic Bob Dylan and Graham Parker, from the pub rock scene of the 70's in the Granary on 22 September.
- In the Dooradoyle branch on 5 September, the local Health Service Executive Training Centre launched its mixed media exhibition. The exhibition included paintings, drawings, ceramics and other hand crafts. They have exhibited annually at the Limerick Show and were delighted to be able to display their artwork for friends and family.
- On 22 September, Jim Carroll's first exhibition was officially opened by Jean Ryan Hakizimana. Jim attends art classes given by Jean and this was a collection of his work to date.
- The Preschool story-time resumed on 6 September with a large attendance of children and parents. The group welcomed a new storyteller. Meditation continued on 7 and 21 September.

## 6. Limerick Arts Office

### Festivals and Events Open Call

The Cross Party Culture and Arts Working Group along with the Limerick City and County Council Culture and Arts Office and members of the sector agreed to strategically invest in Festivals and Events in 2017/2018. This competitive, transparent open call offers the opportunity for funding for festivals, events and heritage events under three Strands;

1. Delivery and Programming of Small and Community focused Festivals/Events
2. Delivery and Programming of Medium and Large Scale Festivals/Events
3. Festival Development and Sustainability

This open call is part of the actions to support the implementation of the Limerick Cultural Strategy, "A Framework 2016 – 2030". Limerick City and County Council believe that Festivals and Events which focus on Arts, Culture and Heritage play a distinctive role in developing vibrant and sustainable creative communities. Two information clinics were held in Limerick City and Newcastle West and were well attended.

### Culture Night Limerick

Thousands of people turned out to sample some of the finest examples of culture across Limerick during Culture Night 2017. Over ninety free events across the city and county took place as part of the nationwide event on 22 September, all with the aim of showcasing culture under the strands of heritage, children, family, arts, design, theatre, film, music and dance. Culture Night gives a taster of the rich cultural activity across Limerick and becomes enlivened by people coming out and enjoying themselves on what has truly become a very special night. One of the thousands of people who attended Culture Night, Grainne Burrows said via Twitter her children Donnacha and Cliodhna were having a superb Culture Night in Limerick and they were looking forward 'to the next 100 culture nights' before adding it was 'better than the [Late Late] Toy Show'. Highlights included celebrated author Darren Shan; behind the scenes of a radio station at Spin SouthWest; The World Recipe Exchange on Bedford Row; Ceolchoirm le Kate and Deirdre Cussen at Red Door Gallery Newcastle West.

### Creative Ireland Workshop

The next step in the process of Creative Ireland is the drafting up the long-term plan setting out a five year focus. The 2018-2022 plans will shift towards collaborative projects between arts, heritage, history, libraries, the natural and built environment. This five year plan aims at bringing coherence to individual culture-based strategies and to align the work of different members of culture teams over the coming years. On 18 September, a cross department Culture Team Meeting was held in Culture House and attended by Michael O'Reilly from the national Creative Ireland Team. This provided the team with

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an insight into the recent developments relating to Creative Ireland Programme and next steps.

### Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) Scheme

At the September meeting of Limerick City and County Council the adoption of the amended SPC scheme was approved. This allows for a new SPC for Culture to be set up. The work of the SPC will be to look at policies relating to Culture of national, regional and local significance and align strategies for effective development of culture in Limerick.

### Arts Council

The annual application to The Arts Council under the Arts Council Partnership Local Authority Grant was submitted on 15 September. The purpose of the Partnership Local Authority Grant is to support the ongoing programme and strategic actions of the local authority arts services in developing the arts locally.

The Arts Council has identified the following priorities as part of its ten-year strategy, Making Great Art Work

- Policy
- Planning and decision making
- Children and Young people

### Festivals in Limerick in September

1 September - Pigtown Limerick Culture and Food Series

8 until 10 September - Elemental Limerick Arts Festival

21 until 24 September - Limerick Jazz Festival

29 September until 1 October - HearSay International Audio Arts Festival

## 7. Limerick Museum

- The number of visitors to Limerick Museum in its new location at the Franciscan Friary continues to increase. In September, it received 1,876 visitors, compared to 1,849 the previous month.
- By staying open late on Culture Night, on 22 September, the Museum, welcomed an extra 330 visitors between 5pm and 8.30pm.
- A 'Friends of Limerick Lace' group has been established, which will meet monthly, to study and assist with the preservation of the Museums Lace Collection. The idea was inspired by the Lace Study

Centre at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney, Australia.

## 8. Limerick City Gallery of Art

- The opening of Elizabeth Magill's exhibition, HEADLAND, initiated by Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA), alongside Landmarks and Lifeforms with work by Frieda Meany and Danny Osborne was attended by over 300 people. The official opening was performed by Dr Barbara Dawson, Director of Dublin City Gallery, The Hugh Lane.
- LCGA was the recipient of an Arts Council Touring and Dissemination Award to tour HEADLAND by Elizabeth Magill to the RHA, Dublin, in January 2018 and to the Ulster Museum, Belfast in May 2018.
- LCGA launched its autumn programme of events with six events taking place during September with the programme running until Christmas. The programme contains work by local artists, writers and musicians with most events free.
- The RTE Contempo Quartet held their first concert of the Complete Beethoven Cycle on 14 September and will continue until May 2018.
- The artworks from the Permanent Collection, loaned to the Hunt Museum and Glebe House & Gallery, Donegal, were returned. Estimated attendance for the Yeats Henry Exhibition at the Hunt Museum was 28,000 visitors.
- Our successful Children's Weekend Workshops recommenced in September and will continue until mid October.
- In September we have welcomed over 200 first year students from Limerick School of Art and Design in addition to a number of secondary school tours. These tours have been facilitated by Simon Fennessy Corcoran, M.A. Shinnors Scholar.
- Culture Night on 22 September, was hugely successful with around 520 visitors from 5-9pm. LCGA events included a jazz performance by The Mysterious Mr. Valentine, part of Limerick's Jazz Festival and Family workshops, and the exhibitions Headland, Landmarks & Lifeforms and Landscapes from the Permanent Collection.
- Ongoing plans continue for the essential work on the building, which will commence shortly.
- LCGA's attendance for September was 8,222.



## **9. Planning and Environment**

### **Litter/Waste Enforcement**

- A total of 136 complaints were received in September
- 13 on the spot litter fines were issued during the month
- Legal proceedings were issued in two cases under the Litter Pollution Act
- Legal proceedings were issued in one case under the Waste Management Act
- 11 warning letters were issued in relation to environmental issues
- Three Statutory Notices were served under Section 71 of the Waste Management Act
- One Statutory Notice was served under Section 55 of the Waste Management Act
- 6 Directions were served under the Waste Management Act
- 125 cases were closed resolved or completed in September

### **Air Noise and Water Pollution**

- 26 complaints were received in September
- 28 cases were closed or resolved during the month



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**10. Fire and Emergency Services**

**Statistics**

	Fire Related Calls	Non Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call outs 1/09/17 – 30/09/17	60	50	110
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	80	58	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	18	36	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	2	6	

	Received / Assigned	Validated	Invalidated / Refused	Granted	Completed
Fire Certificate Applications	6	2	2	21	
Disability Access Cert Applications	5	5	0	16	
Licensing Applications	13				
Commencement Notice	33	28	4		32
Completion Certificate	26	20	0		20
Sugar CRM Cases	26				8
Planning Referrals	19				13

**Civil Defence attendance at Events for month of September 2017**

- Glin Sprint Triathlon
- Think Pink Cycle Ahane
- Doon Vintage Show
- Company Marathon Challenge UL
- U21 Homecoming at Merchant's Quay
- Lisdoonvarna Matchmaking Festival
- CARI Fun Day

**Major Emergency Management**

The Information Management Officer training was held on the 21 September and representatives from the Gardai, HSE and the Ambulance Service were in attendance.

**Munster Regional Control Centre (MRCC)**

	No of Calls mobilised to an emergency incident by MRCC	Other Calls	Average call processing time	Total No. of calls in September
No. of call outs 1/09/17 – 30/09/17	756	1,055		1811
Average call processing time			1 min 16 secs	

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### 11. Access to Information

	September	2017 (Jan to September)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	37	145
FOI Internal Appeals	0	4
Information Commissioner Appeals	-	1
Total Ombudsman Requests	3	22
Total AIE Requests	1	6

### 12. Digital Strategy

#### Smart CCTV

- In response to the findings of the Limerick Hinterland Study, Limerick City and County Council working in partnership with An Garda Síochána, is proposing to install an integrated Smart CCTV platform in the 14 pilot towns of Limerick County included in the Hinterland Study.
- The tender process is now completed with works due to commence in Askeaton and Rathkeale in October.

### 13. Veterinary Services

- 18 stray or wandering horses were impounded.
- The Dog Control Unit dealt with 35 dogs.
- 42 food samples were submitted during September for analysis under the National Residues and Microbiological sampling programme.

### 14. Local Enterprise Office

- The Irish Artisan Charcoal Company represented the Local Enterprise Office Limerick at the National Ploughing Championship as part of the highly successful Enterprise Village Initiative which gave clients a wonderful opportunity to showcase their wares at the event.
- The Student Enterprise Programme, co-ordinated by the Local Enterprise Office was officially launched by The Mayor of the City and County

of Limerick, Councillor Stephen Keary on the 26 September. Over 500 secondary school students from all over Limerick attended the launch which challenges second level students to create their own mini business.

### 15. Delegation from Hohenlohekreis Council, Germany

Limerick City and County Council and the Hohenlohekreis Council in Germany have had a twinning partnership since 1990. Limerick City and County Council endeavours to support and encourage such twinning arrangements in a number of ways including hosting delegations when they visit Limerick. A delegation from Hohenlohekreis visited Limerick on 30 September. During their visit they went to Foynes Flying Boat and Maritime Museum, King John's Castle, Lough Gur Heritage Centre and John F. Kennedy Museum, Bruff. They also had meetings with Programme Leader, Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering and International Officer at Limerick Institute of Technology and with the Head of Department of Management and Marketing at University of Limerick. The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Stephen Keary accorded a Mayoral Reception for the Delegation at Council Offices, Dooradoyle on their last evening in Limerick.

### 16. Homecoming for the Limerick U21 Hurling Team

The Mayor of the City and County, Councillor Stephen Keary, hosted a Homecoming Ceremony in front of Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay on Sunday, 9 September for the Limerick U21 Hurling Team who were defeated by Kilkenny in the All Ireland U21 Championship title. The Mayor paid tribute to the hurlers, management and back room team for the honour and pleasure they had brought to the people of Limerick by their impressive performances.

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**Economic Development and Planning**

**1. Planning Applications**

A total of 92 new planning applications were received as follows:

Part 8	1
Housing developments	2
Domestic developments	62
Agricultural developments	7
Commercial developments/change of use	8
Community/educational developments	2
Other developments	10

The applications include proposals for:

- Construction of nine residential units in Rhebogoe.
- Part 8 for traffic calming measures in Rathkeale town.

**2. Derelict Sites**

- Four complaints were received
- 13 inspections were carried out
- 23 Statutory Notice was issued
- One case was closed through compliance

**3. Dangerous Structures**

- Three complaints were received
- Three inspections were carried out
- Three Statutory Notices were issued
- One case was closed through compliance

**4. Investment**

- More than 100 jobs are set to be created with the establishment of a new tech services centre in Limerick City. Business services and IT outsourcing provider HCL Technologies announced it will take on 30 new employees in September, with the rest to follow in the coming months. The new centre will be in the old Eircom building on Roches Street following renovations.

**5. Innovate Limerick**

Innovate Limerick arranged for Minister Patrick O'Donovan, T.D. to visit Troy studios and meet with the NBC production team on 22 September.

**6. Marketing and Communications**

- Marketing support provided for the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) 'Local Authorities Ireland' stand at the National Ploughing Championships 19 – 21 September.
- Continued campaign to encourage third level students to visit Limerick City – digital display adverts and postering on University of Limerick, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick Institute of Technology, Limerick School of Art and Design, Central College Limerick and Limerick College of Further Education campuses.
- Half page Limerick.ie advert designed for Tourism Ireland Travel Guides 2018 for circulation in five key international markets – USA, Great Britain, Germany, France and Spain.
- Design and installation of large Limerick.ie feature advert in Shannon Airport Baggage Hall.
- A total of six Limerick.ie e-newsletters issued throughout September.
- Thirteenth monthly Limerick.ie Business Bulletin e-newsletter issued by the Office of Marketing and Communications.

**Social Media**

- Posted 34 times on Limerick.ie's Facebook with total fans now 17,168
- Tweeted 15 times on Limerick.ie's Twitter with total followers now 12,953
- Posted 6 times on Limerick.ie's Instagram with total followers now 3,078
- Tweeted 8 times on Limerick Marketing's Twitter with total followers now 1,841

**Limerick.ie**

A total of 83,616 people visited the Limerick.ie website in September.

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The most popular pages on Limerick.ie in September 2017 were:

1. Limerick.ie
2. [www.limerick.ie /council](http://www.limerick.ie/council)
3. [www.limerick.ie /council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning](http://www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning)
4. [www.limerick.ie/discover/whats-on/festivals/culture-night-2017](http://www.limerick.ie/discover/whats-on/festivals/culture-night-2017)
5. [www.limerick.ie/discover/whats-on/browse](http://www.limerick.ie/discover/whats-on/browse)

## 7. Digital Strategy

### IRDG (Industry Research and Development Group) Smart Connected Devices Series Conference

- Limerick City and County Council presented the IoT aspect of its digital strategy.
- Dr Patricia Florissi, Vice-President, Distinguished Engineer and Chief Technology Officer at Dell EMC commented that "It is amazing that Limerick has nurtured the digital ecosystem...that it takes Limerick to bring Ireland to the next level".

### Smart Summit London

- Limerick City and County Council presented Smart Limerick to an international audience of government leaders and technologists from the private and public sectors.

### Smart City Forum

- The All Ireland Smart City Forum held a seminar in Croke Park on 13 September with the theme 'The Challenge of Smart Cities in Ireland'.
- The Forum is made up of local government officials representing Cork, Dublin, Limerick, Galway, Waterford, Belfast and Derry.
- Over 160 people attended with a number of exhibitors and presenters including Limerick who presented Limerick's Digital Transformation to date.

### TM Forum launches City as a Platform Manifesto

- On 20 September, the industry association for digital service providers (TM Forum), of which Limerick City and County Council is a member, unveiled its 'City as a Platform' Manifesto in Yinchuan, China.
- The aim of the manifesto is to accelerate the development of smart cities globally.
- The manifesto signatories including Atlanta, Chicago, Dublin, Las Vegas, Leeds, Limerick, Liverpool, Medellin, Miami, Milton Keynes, Tampere, Utrecht, Wellington and Yinchuan. These cities share a common desire to develop a new city-scale data economy using digital platforms.

### Techtown

- TechTown is a network of 11 cities including Limerick which aims to explore how small and medium sized cities can maximise job creation using the potential of the digital economy.
- Limerick City and County Council attended a transnational meeting in Dubrovnik, Croatia which focused on The Smart City Agenda. Our delegation learned how other cities are approaching and delivering their Smart City agenda from smart parking solutions to innovative citizen collaboration portals.

## 8. Housing Capital and Regeneration

### General Housing Programme

An overview of the Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness was presented by Carmel Kirby, Acting Director of Services, Social Development Directorate, to the Full Meeting of Limerick City and County Council on 25 September.

The main points of this presentation included the following:

- In August 2017, the Council's housing waiting list figure stands at 3,260 applicants. This represents a 22% reduction from figures recorded in November 2015.

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### Homelessness

A combination of temporary transitional accommodation in family hubs and permanent housing is being urgently delivered to provide 69 units of accommodation for homeless families. The breakdown of this accommodation is as follows:

- 10 units provided at Family Hub - Twin Oaks
- 30 units Family Hub - Purchase negotiations advancing to 'sale agreed' status
- 4 units at Phoenix Lodge
- 25 additional permanent homes to be provided through void refurbishment

The Council is currently searching the market and liaising with Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) to identify properties suitable for single individuals. In the meantime, option of providing demountable accommodation is being examined for immediate provision of 20 single units.

### Delivery under the Current Housing Programme

2,443 additional tenancies have been provided by the Council since 2015. These comprise of the following:

New units delivered and allocated

• New Build Regeneration	122 units
• Acquisitions	183 units
• Part V	5 units
• Voids	154 units
• Leasing	43 units
	<b>507 units</b>

1,936 units delivered and tenanted through Rental Accommodation Scheme and Housing Assistance Payment Scheme.

### Delivery of new Rebuilding Ireland Housing Targets

Projected Housing Targets under Rebuilding Ireland are:

• General Housing	1,604 units
• Regeneration	316 units
• Congregated settings	125 units
	<b>2,045 units</b>

1,496 units are in train to deliver the new programme as follows:

- 645 are underway across 41 approved new-build social housing schemes
- Approval expected in Quarter 4 2017 to deliver a further 221 units across 19 schemes
- 425 units will be delivered by private contractors at Mungret and Greenpark
- 80 units from seven sites currently identified subject to rezoning
- 125 units committed from Part V acquisitions

National and local barriers to delivering a housing programme were outlined and options for accelerated delivery were discussed including Accelerated Delivery and Enabling Private Contractor Development.

### Accelerated Delivery

#### Rapid Build Programme

Two sites have been identified for Rapid Delivery Housing schemes. These are:

• Rathbane/Old Christians Site	34 units
• Patrickswell	16 units
	<b>50 units</b>

In addition to an expedited procurement process, there is potential to activate Emergency Planning to further shorten timeframes for delivery under Section 179(6)(b) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 with agreement of the Council

- Re-zoning Public Land to Residential
- Analysis carried out for the Assessment for Selecting Sites for Social Housing (ASH) in 2015 assessed 80 sites Limerick City. 23 sites out of 80 passed the strategic constraints of no flooding, zoning, or environmental issues

A number of sites within the Council's ownership are currently being examined that are serviced, on underutilised lands and suitable for housing but which require a rezoning in statutory Development Plans and Local Area Plans. Seven sites for rezoning initially identified in Limerick city with potential to deliver approximately 80 units. Further sites will be investigated, with an anticipated variation date of Quarter 2 2018.

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& Contae **Luimnigh****Limerick City**  
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The Strategic Development and Management Plan currently being prepared for the Department will set out the position on all sites across city and county.

**Enabling Private Contractor Development**

- Reduced Development Levies
- Enabling private contractors to develop public land under licence i.e. Mungret (Limerick 2030)
- Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) of €200m announced in June 2016 for Greenpark and Mungret will increase the supply of housing delivered through Private Contractor Development. This fund will be used to provide access infrastructure to facilitate the opening up of development on major housing sites in return for an 'affordability' dimension and aim to significantly increase the supply of housing.

**9. Local Enterprise Office**

- 22 applications received from Limerick based companies for the Local Enterprise Office Innovation Investment Fund with six businesses qualifying for the Regional Investor Ready Programme which commenced on 29 September.
- Four Priming and three Business expansion grants were awarded to Limerick businesses in September.
- Food Industry Networking Seminar, organised in conjunction with Innovate Limerick was held on 11 September at the South Court Hotel with 35 companies in attendance. This event provided an opportunity for food businesses in the area to meet, network and learn more about how collaboration and networking together can benefit the whole Limerick food industry.
- A one-day Start Your Own Business Course was held on the 13 September with 19 participants in attendance.
- A Social Media Bootcamp for Small Business Owners commenced on 18 September which was again booked out with 12 participants.
- A six week Start Your Own Business Course commenced on the 21 September with 19 Participants.

**10. Forward Planning**

- The Forward Planning Section commenced the review of the Castletroy Local Area Plan with the publication of a "First Issues" document on the 30 September. The document is on display until the 6 November and comments and observations are welcomed during this period.
- At the September Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare - Rathkeale, the Elected Members deferred the making a new Local Area Plan for Rathkeale and extended the Plan for a period of five years in accordance with Section 19 (1)(d) and 19(1)(e) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (Amended).
- At the September Meeting of the Municipal District Cappamore - Kilmallock meeting, the Elected Members deferred the making of a new Local Area Plan for Kilfinane and extended the plan for a period of five years in accordance with Section 19 (1)(d) and 19(1)(e) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (Amended).
- An Amendment to the Hospital Local Area Plan 2012 -2018 (As Extended) was prepared and placed on public display on 23 September and will remain on display until 6 November. The Amendment relates to a change in the zoning matrix.
- The Limerick City and County Council Heritage Plan 2030 was launched by the Mayor of the City and County, Councillor Stephen Keary and Dr. Pat Wallace, former Director of the National Museum.
- Dr. Una Fitzpatrick, Co-ordinator of the National Pollinator Plan with the National Biodiversity Data Centre visited the Council to outline how the Council could improve biodiversity for pollinators.

**11. Limerick Smarter Travel****Bus in the city**

'Bus in the City' is the Limerick Smarter Travels schools programme annual flagship event for European Mobility Week 16 until 22 September, where we team up with schools, An Taisce Green-Schools Travel programme, Bus Eireann and An Garda Síochána to run a series of interactive workshops on Limerick City buses. The purpose of the event is bringing students out of the classroom to experience public transport first hand and learn more about the various aspects of public transport. As the bus proceeds along its

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set route, students are invited to interview the bus conductor, receive talks about the environmental benefits of sustainable travel from Green-Schools and learn more about infrastructural improvements in place as part of the Limerick Smarter Travel Project as they are encountered along the route. Salesians Primary, The Model and St Patrick's Girls school took part this year.

### Car Sharing comes to Limerick

Limerick Smarter Travel launched Car Sharing Clubs on the streets of Limerick during European Mobility Week from 16 until 22 September to support the idea that "sharing gets you further". Six on street dedicated car club bays were established in order to promote more sustainable travel and reduce the number of cars on city roads.

### Balance Bike Bonanza

To promote the concept of sharing at a young age balance bikes were distributed by Limerick Smarter Travel in conjunction with the Environmental Awareness Office during Mobility Week to all crèches and preschools that were successful in their applications. Balance Bikes are designed for children from 18 months to 5 years to learn to balance on a bike in a safe way. Children as young as 22 months old can learn to balance on their own. At the age of four or five, when they get taller and stronger, they can smoothly transfer to a pedal bike without ever needing training wheels. Promoting sustainable travel and cycling from an early age.

## 12. Public Interest Development Office

- Place EE (Platforms for Ageing Community and Engagement- Exchange and Enterprise) was launched in Coleraine on the 12 September. This European Northern Periphery and Arctic Project has a Limerick City and County Council budget of €273,458 with seven partners from across Europe. The project will run for 36 months and the main aim is to produce innovative solutions to building ICT literacy in remote locations.

- Two Living City Initiative Clinics were held with the Living City Initiative Implementation Team, one new application received under the rented residential element of the scheme.
- The Public Interest Development Office organised a training workshop for sustainable street design as part of the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets training for Limerick City and County Council staff who are involved in public realm/ roads and housing working schemes. This training day was offered through the School of Architecture at the University of Limerick and was attended by 22 Limerick City and County Council staff. The training day is part of an advanced theory seminar in sustainable community design.

## 13. Limerick Joint Policing Committee (JPC) Strategic Plan 2016 – 2021

At a Meeting of the Limerick Joint Policing Committee held on 15 September, Members were circulated with a copy of the JPC Strategic Plan 2016 - 2021.

## 14. Tourism

The 8 European Greenways Awards Ceremony was held in Adare, County Limerick, on the 28 September with seven greenways from Belgium, Serbia, Portugal, Spain and Ireland awarded as reference of best practices in Europe. The event was hosted by Limerick City and County Council in conjunction with the European Greenways Association, and the awards were presented by the Mayor of Limerick City and County, Councillor Stephen Keary. The delegates participated in a cycle on the Great Southern Greenway Limerick from Templeglantine to Abbeyfeale on the 29 September.

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



## Organisational Development

### 1. Communications

- Issued 22 news releases from the Office of Marketing and Communications
- Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter
- Tweeted 44 times on Limerick City and County Council's Twitter account with total fans now 8,731

### 2. Schedule of Meetings

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
<b>Full Council</b>		
Meeting of Limerick City and County Council	25.09.2017	Dooradoyle
Special Meeting regarding Knockfierna Heritage Site	25.09.2017	Dooradoyle
Adjourned Full Council Meeting	28.09.2017	Dooradoyle
Corporate Policy Group Meeting	19.09.2017	Merchant's Quay
Metropolitan District of Limerick	18.09.2017	Merchant's Quay
Party Leaders' Meeting	25.09.2017	Dooradoyle
<b>Operational Briefings</b>		
Limerick City East	05.09.2017	Merchant's Quay
Limerick City North	05.09.2017	Merchant's Quay
Limerick City West	05.09.2017	Merchant's Quay
<b>Municipal District of:</b>		
(a) Adare-Rathkeale: Monthly Meeting	12.09.2017	Rathkeale
(b) Newcastle West: Monthly Meeting	06.09.2017	Newcastle West
(c) Cappamore-Killmallock: Monthly Meeting	21.09.2017	Killmallock
<b>Strategic Policy Committee Meetings</b>		
Home and Social Development	11.09.2017	Dooradoyle
Local Community Development Committee	05.09.2017	Merchant's Quay
Joint Policing Committee Meeting	15.09.2017	Merchant's Quay
Audit Committee Meeting	20.09.2017	Dooradoyle
Protocol Committee Meeting	25.09.2017	Dooradoyle

### 3. Training Fire and Emergency Services

- BA Refreshers
- CFBT Refreshers
- SOG Training
- Ship & Ports Course
- Sub Station Officer Course
- Personal Fitness and Wellbeing Training

### 4. Digital Strategy

#### CRM Mobile App

- The CRM mobile app is now in use by 30 members of staff on a pilot basis.
- This mobile app enables staff to update cases in the CRM from any location which in tandem with My Limerick helps citizens stay informed of the progress of their cases.

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



## Financial Matters

### 1. Home Improvement Schemes

SEPTEMBER 2017	MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HAG (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	No.
Kilmallock	€5,620.00	1	€0.00	0	€19,635.66	2
Metropolitan	€37,765.00	9	€41,602.71	4	€10,150.00	2
Newcastle West	€14,725.00	3	€5,787.00	2	€12,792.46	5
Rathkeale	€0.00	0	€4,590.00	1	€2,850.00	1
	<b>€58,110.00</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>€51,979.71</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>€45,428.12</b>	<b>10</b>

Total Monies issued in September 2017 = €155,517.83

Total Grants issued in September 2017 = 30

JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER 2017	MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HAG (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	No.
Kilmallock	€39,423.46	11	€115,580.94	8	€44,858.22	16
Metropolitan	€243,344.29	60	€317,659.31	35	€137,308.11	49
Newcastle West	€162,429.31	38	€74,175.50	14	€264,228.97	59
Rathkeale	€63,981.38	15	€32,131.76	6	€56,819.83	13
	<b>€509,178.44</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>€539,547.51</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>€503,215.13</b>	<b>137</b>

Total Monies issued January to September 2017 = €1,551,941.08

Total Grants issued January to September 2017 = 324

### 2. Rent Collection

Opening Balance @ 01/01/2017	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing balance 30/09/2017	% Collection
€1,957,582	€9,972,433	€11,930,015	€9,665,325	€2,264,690	81%

### 3. Commercial Rates and Loans

#### Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2017	Opening Balance 1 Jan €	Accruals €	Vacant Property Adjustment €	Writes offs/ Waivers €	Total for Collection €	Amount Collected €	Arrears €	Specific Doubtful Arrears €	% Collected
As at 30th Sept. 2017	18,789,867	53,861,241	660,447	1,354,028	70,636,633	37,301,248	33,335,385	3,967,395	56%

#### The Date for Making the 2017 Rate was 2nd February 2017

Debtors Loans	Opening Balance 1 Jan €	Accruals €	Writes offs/ Waivers €	To Collect €	Receipts €	Arrears €	% Collection
As at 30th Sept. 2017	537,803	773,111	532	1,311,446	918,644	392,802	70%

#### Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No of days in overdraft 0

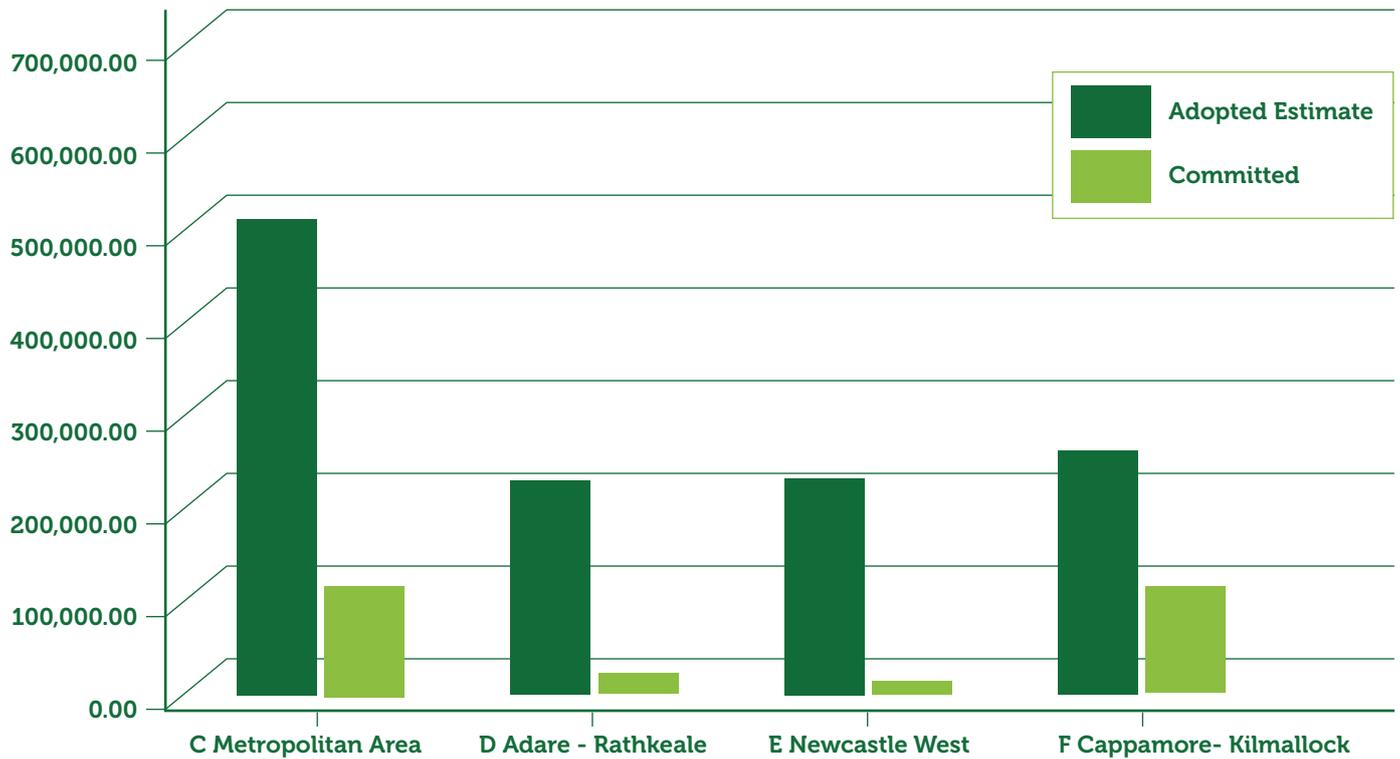
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**4. General Municipal Allocation 2017**

**Adopted Estimate €1.203 Million**

Graph outlining adopted budget and committed expenditure up to 30th September 2017



Municipal (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate	Value Committed
C Metropolitan Area	503,000.00	99,312
D Adare - Rathkeale	225,000.00	23,650
E Newcastle West	225,000.00	18,141
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	250,000.00	96,601