

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

THIS MONTH:

European Investment Bank backs rejuvenation of Limerick and confirms new Irish urban investment plans

Three awards for Limerick City and County Council

15,000 people attend 'Light Up Limerick'

51 new jobs as three new fashion outlets open in Crescent Shopping Centre

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Empowering the Citizen

1. Community Support Services

Waiting List

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Housing Waiting List | 3,310 |
|----------------------|-------|

Allocations

| | Metropolitan District | Newcastle West | Adare – Rathkeale | Cappamore – Kilmallock | Total |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------|
| No of Units November 2017 | 38 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 44 |
| Year to Date | 206 | 21 | 17 | 32 | 276 |

Cemeteries

Total No. of Burials in the City Graveyards

- Kilmurry: 7
- Castlemungret: 8
- Mount St. Oliver: 17
- Mount St. Lawrence: 16

Domestic Waste Refuse Waiver Scheme

Total number of waivers issued for Limerick City and County Council for November is three.

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

PASS Data Mid West Region November 2017 Limerick only.

| Gender | Total |
|--------------|------------|
| Male | 182 |
| Female | 127 |
| Total | 309 |

| Age Group | Total |
|--------------|------------|
| 18-24 | 45 |
| 25-44 | 185 |
| 45-64 | 73 |
| 65+ | 6 |
| Total | 309 |

Table 3: Accommodation Type

| Accommodation Type | Total |
|---|------------|
| Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA) | 75 |
| Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA) | 196 |
| Temporary Emergency Accommodation (low support) (TEA) | 41 |
| Other | 0 |
| Total | 312 |

Table 4: Families with dependent children breakdown

| | No. of families with dependent children | No. of Individual Adults | No. of Dependents |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Individuals with dependent children | 43 | 43 | 73 |
| Couples with dependent children | 23 | 46 | 47 |
| Total | 66 | 89 | 120 |

2. HAP Shared Services

The Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) provides housing assistance for households who qualify for social housing support, including many long-term rent supplement recipients.

The HAP Shared Services Centre currently administers the following transactional processes on a shared services bases for all 31 local authorities and the Dublin Regional Homeless Executive:

- Set-up and commencement of HAP tenancy
- Payment of monthly landlord rent
- Weekly differential rent debit
- Collection of tenant rent

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- Monitoring review and maintenance of HAP tenancies
- Recoupment management
- Reporting on various aspects of the transactions and data handled by the HAP SSC

At the end of November there were 30,031 active HAP tenancies.

The weekly tenant debit was €1.3 million and the monthly landlord payment run was €21 million.

A Data Analyst commenced employment with the HAP Shared Services Centre at the end of November.

HAP was shortlisted for a Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award. The award ceremony took place in the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Dublin with members of the HAP Team in attendance.

3. Social Development

Community Leisure and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee

The Community Leisure and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee was held on 9 November. The theme of the meeting was disability and accessibility and presentations were given by EmployAbility Limerick, Community Participation Network and Limerick Sports Partnership.

It was recommended that accessibility is embedded in all council policies.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The Local Community Development Committee received a presentation on socio-economic conditions in Limerick based on new Census statistics, the new RAPID programme and Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018. The LCDC approved the sectoral agreement between the LCDC (Local Action Group), Implementing Partners (Ballyhoura Development Company and West Limerick Resources) and the Local Enterprise Office.

Comhairle Na nÓg

The annual Comhairle Na nÓg event took place in the University of Limerick bringing over 100 young people

from schools and youth groups to examine young people's issues including a Healthy Limerick theme of the social determinants of health. Extra support was provided by Limerick City and County Council to provide transport through Rural Link to ensure young people from the county attended.

Learning Limerick

Learning Limerick Strategic Plan 2018-2022 entitled "Helping to grow Limerick as a Learning Region" was launched by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Stephen Keary on 30 November in the Hunt Museum.

Healthy Limerick

Healthy Ireland Strand 1 funding: Limerick LCDC was successful in its application for €100,000 for a range of actions promoting physical activity in Limerick. The fifteen actions are:

1. Inclusive Cycle Safety - Lead agency: Ballyhoura Beo, Ballyhoura Development
2. Northside Men on the Move Programme - Lead agency: Limerick Sports Partnership
3. Cycle Instructor Training Courses - Lead agency: Limerick Smarter Travel, Limerick City and County Council
4. Expansion of the current Fit for Work and Life Programme - Lead agency: PAUL Partnership
5. Fitness through Movement - Lead agency: Limerick City CDP
6. Street League Soccer - Lead agency: Community Substance Misuse Team
7. Cool Movers Programme - Lead agency: Limerick Sports Partnership
8. Inclusion Sport Club - Lead agency: Limerick Sports Partnership
9. Direct Provision Project: Now we're cooking and inclusion through soccer - Lead agency: Parkville F.C.
10. Active Murroe - Lead agency: Murroe Park Development Board
11. Local Loop Education Walk Initiative - Lead agency: Ballyhoura Beo, Ballyhoura Development
12. Social Farming initiative - Lead agency: West Limerick Resources
13. Active Abbeyfeale - Lead agency: Abbeyfeale Community Council

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14. Balance bike initiative with early years' services -
Lead agency: Limerick Smarter Travel, Limerick City
and County Council

15. Raising awareness of, and support for, Healthy
Ireland and Healthy Limerick - Lead agency:
Healthy Limerick

The process of receiving and reviewing expressions
of interest had a number of outcomes in terms of
increasing intersectoral partnership working, which
resulted in the programming of joint initiatives in Age
Friendly and Healthy Limerick.

Limerick Sports Partnership (LSP)

The very successful Beat the Street Programme
concluded on 1 November. Over 13,000 participants
played the game over the seven-week period.
Fifty-nine teams from schools and communities
participated and travelled 105,000 miles.

The winning Schools and Community groups are as
follows:

Schools

- 1st St Brigid's National School - travelled 13,780
miles
- 2nd Gaelscoil Chaladh an Treoigh
- 3rd An Modhscoil

Community Groups

- 1st The Street Striders – Local Gardaí
- 2nd The second best is 1st Loser (how apt with the
name)
- 3rd St John's Hospital

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 @ 6 sites, Women on
Wheels Turbo Classes, Sportshall Athletics, Activation
Workshops, Community Walking, Desk to 5K, Nutrition
Information Workshops & for more info email info@limericksports.ie

4. Customer Services

During November Customer Services were invited by
NOAC, (National Oversight and Audit Commission),
to give a presentation in the Custom House regarding
the My Limerick platform to showcase the benefits
of this online system to our customers and elected
representatives.

November also saw the launch of a project which will
ultimately see the integration of housing maintenance
requests into Customer Services.

There is a very strong Business Process Improvement
approach to this integration with the intention of using
SugarCRM as the repository for all works, both planned
and responsive.

Each housing asset will contain a clear history of
works and activities. There will also be a system put in
place to capture information on works carried out in
certain areas on non-Council owned properties. There
will be an Operation Level Agreement signed between
the various parties and this will define the exact nature
of the integration and what services are covered.

The call centre has continued its success, with our
Customer Services Department receiving a total of
13,865 calls throughout the month of November.

This works out at approximately 700 calls per day, with
the average response time being 10 seconds for calls
to be answered.

Throughout the month of November, a total of 2,887
cases were logged, with the majority broken down as
follows;

- Operations and Maintenance: **2,181**
– almost half being housing maintenance.
- Community Support Services: **301**
- Customer Services: **104**

The total number of callers to our counters at
Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle was 2,321

5. Library Services

The Limerick Soviet came into existence in April 1919,
when the Limerick Trades and Labour Council called
for a complete work stoppage as a protest against
British government plans to place workers under
military law. A special strike committee was set up to
oversee the general strike, print and issue their own
money, publish their own proclamations, draft their
own permits and control food prices. Martial law was
rescinded on 26th April, 1919, and the strike committee
ordered everybody back to work.

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To commemorate this, local playwright and screenwriter Mike Finn is researching and writing a play 'Bread not Profits' inspired by the events. Mike is the Belltable Theatre's Artist-In-Residence and the new play will be performed in April 2019 on the centenary of the Limerick Soviet.

Mike visited the Granary and Newcastle West Libraries in November where his talk about the Soviet and his approach to researching and writing the play was well received by a large audience.

On 8 November Newcastle West Library held a celebration of the Irish language in all its forms including filíocht, amhránaíocht agus scéalaíocht. The day was enjoyed by students from all three post primary schools in Newcastle West. Gabriel Fitzmaurice regaled the pupils with stories from his own work and from other humorous texts. This event was supported by Foras Na Gaeilge.

The library played host to an exhibition titled "Out and About" for the month of November. This was officially opened by former Senator Dan Neville on 9 November and consisted of a group project based on the local surroundings in Newcastle West town. It was compiled under the guidance of Maureen Barry Fitzgerald from the Local Community and Education Training Board. Light refreshments were provided on that afternoon, accompanied by a sing song, the afternoon was enjoyed by all.

The Granary Library's Evening Lecture Series event on 7 November was entitled "Using the 1911 Census for Writing History: A Case Study" by Janet Moody. Janet is the author of the recently published work "The Tenement Dwellers of Church Street, Dublin, 1911". The book is based on her dissertation for the M.A. in the History of Family at the University of Limerick. Her talk illustrated how the 1911 Census can enable a micro-community of 527 people living in numbers 39 to 79 Church Street, in the heart of the worst slums in Dublin, to reveal themselves as real people living in real families.

- The launch of The Winter 2017 volume of The Old Limerick Journal took place in the Granary on 17 November. The journal was launched by Des Ryan, long time contributor to the journal. Also the second edition of "The Curious Story of the Limerick" by Dr. Matthew Potter was launched by Councillor Sean Lynch, Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, in the Granary on 22 November.

- An exhibition titled "Conrad: The Nostromo Passenger" which features images of the life, work and legacy of Joseph Conrad Korzeniowski is currently showing in the Granary Library. Graphic artist Krzysztof Ostrowski shows the impact of Conrad on modern mass culture. With the language of comics, the author tells about the extraordinary life of the most English of the Polish, and the most Polish of the English literary writers, Joseph Conrad (1857–1924). The exhibition was prepared by the Polish Book Institute.
- "Hatter's Castle" studio which is run by former Limerick County Council employee, Frank Bouchier, launched its first ever exhibition as a group and it ran for the month of November.
- Dooradoyle Library has developed a relationship with Red Hill School which is a co-educational special school in Patrickswell, for pupils with autistic spectrum disorder. Pupils from the school visited the branch again on the 14 November for a treasure hunt and story time session. Each month their knowledge of the library and how it works is increasing.
- The preschool story-time, Saturday morning story-time, meditation and Vodafone smart phone classes all continued throughout the month.

6. Limerick Culture and Arts Office**Creative Ireland Projects**

- 1. Launch Mary Immaculate Children's Choir**
This year approximately 180 third and fourth class children from five local DEIS schools were involved in delivering the Mary Immaculate Children's Choir. Thirty-four Mary Immaculate College (MIC) students volunteered with the initiative which is directed by Máiréad Ní Chonduin, supported by the Transforming Education through Dialogue (TED) project and Department of Arts Education and Physical Education in MIC. The children sang at an end of semester event for students and staff on the 23 November and the project was delighted to receive funding for the choir from the Creative Ireland Limerick City and County Culture and Creativity Plan 2017.
- 2. Musicale – Music Festival for Young Performers**
MUSICALE was instigated by Music Generation Limerick City in association with the Limerick School of Music and delivered in partnership with

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various stakeholders such as Croagh School of Music, Irish Chamber Orchestra, Musical Fusion and private teachers and is a new music festival for Young Performers. The key element that makes the festival distinctive is that it is non-competitive. There was no adjudicator, no grading, no marks, no winners and no losers, instead each concert was hosted by a professional musician, who at the end gave a short speech of appreciation, honing in on what made it special for them with each performance and their advice to each musician on their musical journey. The cultural venues in the Georgian Quarter were host to the events including Culture House and the Coach House, Limerick City Gallery of Art and The Belltable.

3. Limerick Pop Up Museum

Limerick Museum in association with Creative Ireland, created a pop up Museum inviting the public to bring along historic objects relating to their community, including but not limited to old postcards, photographs or from local sporting events or businesses. The purpose of the pop up Museum is to engage people of all ages and walks of life in a reflection and conversation about the meaning of objects in our lives and histories. In November the pop up Museum took place in the following areas:

- 4 November - Kilmallock
- 11 November - Abbeyfeale
- 18 November - Newcastle West

4. SoulScapes

The medieval town of Kilmallock at Friar's Gate Theatre, provided the atmospheric backdrop to SoulScapes, a series of talks which were held during November and will featured contributions from an eclectic and respected line up of speakers including John Lonergan, Dr. Robyn Rowland, Helena Close and Diarmuid Lyng. As November is traditionally a month for reflection and remembrance, SoulScapes thought it an opportune month to have a theme of reflection, remembrance and importantly in the times we are in, celebration of the Irish spirit. On each Wednesday during November, four rich evenings for the mind and spirit were delivered that set out to inspire uplift and entertain.

5. Artist in Schools

An open call for the schools in the Municipal District of Newcastle West to participate in Artist in Schools programme was issued. Over four weeks in early 2018 students will be invited to work creatively with contemporary art curators and to

explore ideas of electricity, power and selfhood.

6. A Word in Your Ear

The Rathkeale Community Arts Group are creating a unique opportunity to hear some of Ireland's foremost writers read from their own work in this initiative that is being held in Rathkeale Arts Centre. In November Gabriel Fitzmaurice, a skilled broadcaster, poet and musician, read in an atmospheric evening from favourite poems and music from his childhood.

European Projects**1. European Outdoor Academy - School of Spectacle**

The history and heritage of the Hospital area of County Limerick was brought to life in a spectacular pageant including aerial dance, fire-drawing, lantern making and mass movement. The community of Hospital were enthralled by a wonderful performance co created by Walk the Plank from the UK and Fidget Feet, which are based in Limerick. Twenty-five local children and artists along with and creative practitioners from Greece, Cyprus, Lithuania, Bulgaria, United Kingdom, Italy, Argentina as well as Ireland told the story and performance entitled Glean Áine Alight.

It was based on the history and heritage of Hospital. Glean Áine Alight was the culmination of an eight day 'school' in Limerick involving 25 creative artists (18 local and seven international) shared their knowledge and learned new skills in outdoor arts for night time events, including fire techniques, aerial performance, fire drawing, production, sound and lighting.

The arts festival committee in Hospital brought together children and adults to share in this experience through lantern making and percussion workshops and performance. The local Hospital/Herbertstown GAA club was the base for all the activity during the week as well as the public performance.

The project is a legacy project from the Limerick 2020 bid and was put in place as part of the capacity building programme for Limerick to develop high quality, bold, ambitious and exciting projects and events which explore, investigate and celebrate the multiplicity and diversity of Belonging. It is a European funded project through Creative Europe and Limerick City and County Council.

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2. World Recipe Exchange

The World Recipe Exchange hosted a co-design workshop in Narrative 4 on 18 November. The workshop was facilitated by Migration Lab from Amsterdam. The aim of the workshop was to explore how citizens can connect with the project in a meaningful way. The World Recipe Exchange is a programme of food events that brings people together to celebrate diversity.

Separately the Word Recipe Exchange hosted a public event at Celebrating Traditions Festival at the Hunt Museum where five recipes from around the world showcasing the culinary diversity of Limerick, were prepared.

Light Up Limerick

Limerick switched on its Christmas Lights to an audience of 15,000 on the 19 November. This event has grown exponentially increasing its audience by a third and creating a spectacle of fireworks, illumination and performance on Limerick's O'Connell Street.

Limerick City and County Council Open Call: Festivals and Events Grant Scheme

All Festivals and Events Grant applications were assessed by a panel composed of experts in the area of festivals and events and elected members, the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Stephen Keary (acting as chair of the panel) and Councillor Séighin Ó Ceallaigh (chair designate of the Cultural Strategic Policy Committee). There were a total of 85 applications received, requesting a total of €1,058,466. 58 were successful, with a total grant allocation of €260,000. Grant aid was awarded according to the aims and objectives for culture included in the Limerick 2030 Economic and Spatial Plan, Limerick Cultural Strategy: A Framework 2016-2030, the Creative Ireland Programme, The Limerick Heritage Plan and the Limerick Local Economic and Community Plan.

Chamber Awards

Riverfest 2016 was shortlisted for a Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award. The award ceremony took place in the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Dublin with members of the Culture and Arts Team in attendance.

Festivals in November

- Light Moves Festival of "Screendance" took place from the 2 to 5 of November in various locations in Limerick including Dance Limerick and Limerick City Gallery of Art.
- Celebrating Traditions in the Hunt Museum from the 23 – 26 November.

Arts Office Programme

- The fourth in the Castleconnell Autumn Concert Series took place on 28 November. Two of the top soloists in the country, Katherine Hunka, Leader of the Irish Chamber Orchestra and Dublin born Finghin Collins, played to an enchanted audience. This was the most highly attended concert in the series this year. The concert was programmed in partnership with Classcallinks and was a part of a classcallinks tour funded by an Arts Council Touring Award.
- An open call for bursaries supported four Limerick artists to attend 'Introduction to Arts and Health Workshop' which took place at University Concert Hall, Limerick in partnership with Waterford Healing Arts Trust.

7. Limerick Museum

- The museum received 1,483 visitors during this month.
- Many of the Museum's visitors also admired the exhibition of memorabilia relating to Richard Harris's life and career which we hosted in association with the Richard Harris International Film Festival.
- The Limerick Pop-Up Museum Project, which was funded by Creative Ireland, was rolled out across County Limerick. The venues were Adare, Askeaton, Kilmallock, Abbeyfeale, Newcastle West and Murroe and a large number of people attended, bringing their objects, their stories and their memories.
- Limerick Museum continues to benefit from the generosity of private donors and was in receipt of a ten-pound note issued by the Bank of Limerick which operated from 1789 to 1820.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**8. Limerick City Gallery of Art**

- LCGA continued its autumn programme of events with eight different events taking place. These included a talk with local historian and the artist, Theresa Nanigian, on the importance of markers which took place in the Milk Market. A story telling event titled, "Making a Living", with Jack Lynch and journalist, Razan Ibraheem, which looked at the place of markets and daily life in pre-civil war Syria.
- There was a good audience for the 3rd Con Tempo concert as part of the Beethoven Cycle which will continue until May 2018.
- The very successful children's workshops recommenced in early November and will continue until mid-December.
- Music Generation held a very well attended (over 280) number of young people's music groups from around the county in LCGA on 26 November.
- LCGA continue to facilitate the monthly meetings and demonstrations by the Limerick Art Society. The most recent event was a demonstration by artists, John Shinnors.
- Preparation continues for the essential Fire Safety work on the building.
- Visitor numbers to LCGA for this month was 7,395.

- One statutory Notice was served under Section 55 of the Waste Management Act.
- Seven Directions were served under the Waste Management Act.
- 89 cases were closed / resolved / completed in November.

Air Noise and Water Pollution

- 31 complaints were received in November.
- One Certificate of Compliance was issued under Article 17 of the European Union (Paints, Varnishes, Vehicle Refinishing Products and Activities) Regulations, 2012.
- One Certificate of Compliance was issued under Article 18 of the European Union (Installations and Activities using Organic Solvents) Regulations, 2012 and 2014.

9. Planning and Environment**Litter/Waste Enforcement**

- A total of 132 complaints were received in November.
- 43 on the spot litter fines were issued during the month.
- Legal proceedings were issued in one case under the Litter Pollution Act.
- Legal proceedings were issued in two cases under the Waste Management Act.
- 10 warning letters were issued in relation to environmental issues.
- Five statutory Notices were served under Section 9 of the Litter Pollution Act.
- Five statutory Notices were served under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act.



10. Fire and Emergency Services

Statistics

| | Fire Related Calls | Non Fire Related Calls | Total |
|--|--------------------|------------------------|-------|
| No. of call outs 1/11/17 – 30/11/17 | 87 | 43 | 130 |
| % of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call | 70 | 40 | |
| % of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call | 22 | 46 | |
| % of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call | 8 | 14 | |

| | Received / Assigned | Validated | Invalidated / Refused | Granted | Completed |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-----------------------|---------|-----------|
| Fire Certificate Applications | 12 | 8 | 4 | 21 | |
| Disability Access Cert Applications | 14 | 7 | 1 | 9 | |
| Licensing Applications | 13 | 13 | 0 | | |
| Commencement Notice | 38 | 35 | 3 | | 38 |
| Completion Certificate | 42 | 33 | 6 | | 39 |
| Sugar CRM Cases | 2 | | | | 1 |
| Planning Referrals | 20 | | | | 17 |

Civil Defence attendance at Events for month of November 2017

- Avian Flu Training, Mallow
- CDOA Education & Training Seminar, Trim
- First Aid Expo, Oola
- Irish Provinces Indoor Rowing, UL
- Certification and 1916 Commemoration Medal Ceremony
- Deceased Members Mass
- Annual Ambulance Competition

Major Emergency Management

- A Inter-Agency table-top exercise involving Gardai, HSE and Limerick City and County Council was held on 30 November to test the External Emergency Plan for Gouldings Fertiliser in accordance with the Chemicals Act (Control of major Accidents involving Dangerous Substances) Regulations 2015. Representatives from the Fire Service, Operations and Maintenance and Environment attended this exercise.
- The Severe Weather Assessment Team was activated in response to Storm Ophelia and Storm Brian.

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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 November |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| No. of call outs 1/11/17 – 30/11/17 | 834 | 900 | | 1,734 |
| Average call processing time | | | 1 min 12 sec | |

11. Access to Information

| | November | 2017 (Jan to November) |
|---------------------------------------|----------|------------------------|
| Total Freedom of Information Requests | 23 | 184 |
| FOI Internal Appeals | 2 | 6 |
| Information Commissioner Appeals | - | 1 |
| Total Ombudsman Requests | 1 | 26 |
| Total AIE Requests | - | 7 |

12. Digital Strategy

Limerick.ie awards

- Limerick.ie won a Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award in outstanding customer care.
- Limerick.ie was also shortlisted for an Eir Spiders award for usability.

Dog Licences

- Customers can now purchase and renew their dog licences on Limerick.ie. These licences and payments are managed and stored in the CRM.

Christmas.Limerick.ie

- The new Christmas.Limerick.ie site was launched in collaboration with our colleagues in Marketing and Communications.
- This is the first Limerick.ie affiliated site. It delivers a unique innovation that makes it possible to share content between Limerick.ie sites thereby allowing content authors to write once and publish multiple times. This ensures efficiency and accuracy of our online content.

13. Veterinary Services

- 29 stray or wandering horses were impounded.
- The Dog Control Unit dealt with 38 dogs.
- Eleven food samples were submitted during November 2017 for analysis under the National Residues and Microbiological sampling programme.
- The Dog Licence Awareness Campaign continued to be implemented by the Dog Wardens.

14. Limerick Smarter Travel

The Limerick city centre to UL and Corbally riverside shared walk and cycleway won the Local Authority Engineering Initiative Award at the recent Engineers Ireland awards.

The flagship route of Limerick Smarter Travel was chosen for promoting walking and cycling as alternative modes of transport.

There have been extensive renovations carried out on the existing masonry arch bridges along the original route. One of the bridges was rebuilt with the original stone and reinforced to cater for the expected footfall, while two others have been re-pointed and widened in some cases. All improvements have been carried out with the needs of people with differing abilities in mind.

Limerick Smarter Travel Green Way was also shortlisted for a Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award. The award ceremony took place in the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Dublin with members of from the Limerick Smarter Travel in attendance.

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Economic Development and Planning

1. Planning Applications

A total of 99 new planning applications were received as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Part 8 | 1 |
| Housing developments | 2 |
| Domestic developments | 73 |
| Agricultural developments | 4 |
| Commercial developments/change of use | 9 |
| Community/educational developments | 10 |
| Other developments | 11 |

The applications include proposals for:

- Part 8 for the construction of 20 two storey residential units at Glenview, Hospital, Co. Limerick.
- Construction of 12 two storey semi-detached houses at Churchtown, Newcastle West
- Construction of 49 residential units at Barnakyle, Patrickswell

2. Investment

Limerick's Crescent Shopping Centre had a major boost in November with the opening of three new top-rated fashion outlets: Gap, Superdry and Selected. The international traders will be located in the City Mall following the completion of extensive refurbishment works at a cost of approximately €15 million. A combined total of 51 of jobs have been created by the three retailers.

3. Innovate Limerick

Innovate Limerick sponsored the Best Innovation (Research, Development and Innovation) Award at the Limerick Chamber Presidents Dinner and Regional Business Awards which took place in the Strand Hotel on 17 November. The winners of this category were ON Semiconductor. This company is a leading supplier of semiconductor-based solutions and their products help engineers solve unique

design challenges in automotive, communications, computing, consumer, industrial, medical, aerospace and defence applications.

4. Marketing and Communications

- Hosted top fashion press and influencers in Adare Manor to promote shops and boutiques of County Limerick through the #LimerickTagged fashion PR event. Reached in excess of 700,000 social accounts on Twitter and Instagram and trended number one on Twitter.
- Limerick.ie engaged with Pippa O'Connor during her three-day Fashion Factory event in Limerick to reach prospective visitors online.
- Provided marketing material and MC'd the two day National Convention of Older Peoples Councils of Ireland hosted by Age Friendly Limerick. Over 200 delegates attended and many expressed a desire to return to Limerick as visitors.
- Commenced seven week digital, print and radio marketing campaign for Christmas in Limerick 2017.
- Design and distribution of Christmas in Limerick Event Guide 2017 throughout Limerick City and County, North Kerry, Clare and Tipperary and began national digital marketing campaign. Dedicated section promoting Christmas in Limerick created on Limerick.ie.
- Contined rollout of Limerick Student City marketing campaign through on campus promotion and distribution of Limerick.ie Student Map & Guide to 15,000 students and digital campaign on social media.
- A total of five Limerick.ie e-newsletters issued throughout November
- Monthly Limerick.ie Business Bulletin e-newsletter issued by the Office of Marketing and Communications.
- Began winter safety message campaign in association with Health Service Executive, University of Limerick Hospital Group and An Garda Síochána under the #LK Working Together.
- Participated in tabletop exercise for Major Emergency Management.
- Limerick.ie sponsored the Tourism and Travel Award at the ISAX Smart Ageing Innovation Awards.

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Social Media

- Posted 18 times on Limerick.ie's Facebook with total fans now 17,645
- Tweeted 14 times on Limerick.ie's Twitter with total followers now 13,360
- Posted 16 times on Limerick.ie's Instagram with total followers now 3,299
- Tweeted 12 times on Limerick Marketing's Twitter with total followers now 1,930

Limerick.ie

A total of 86,767 people visited the Limerick.ie website in November 2017.

The most popular pages on Limerick.ie in November 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/christmas/light-limerick-christmas
5. www.limerick.ie/discover/whats-on/browse

5. Digital Strategy

Insight.Limerick.ie

- Insight.Limerick.ie is a new site for publishing open data, reports and insights on Limerick to facilitate better data driven decision making. It is the result of over three years of staff co-operation and investment in our data infrastructure.

TechTown

- A delegation from Digital Strategy and Innovate Limerick travelled to Copenhagen for a transnational meeting that focused on peer reviews of each cities action plan for developing jobs in the digital economy.

6. Housing Capital and Regeneration

General Housing Programme

House Construction

- Stage 1 approval was received from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government (DHPLG) for proposed Housing projects at

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| - Upper Carey's Road | 11 units |
| - Lower Carey's Road | 11 units |
| - Ballygrennan | 3 units |
| - Killeely Road | 5 units |
| - Old Christians Site | 34 units |
- The proposed housing scheme at Glenview, Hospital, Co. Limerick (20 units) was submitted for Part 8 Planning Application.
- Works are at an advanced stage for the provision of family hubs and refurbishment of housing units for homeless families.

Regeneration

- Construction of the Moyross Community Enterprise Centre is continuing apace with a 2018 completion date on target.
- The refurbishment of Verdant Crescent (14 units) is well underway with an anticipated completion date in early 2018.
- The Main Contract for the Child and Family Centre in Southill, adjacent to the Le Chéile National School at the Southside Education Campus, has commenced on site and is on schedule.
- Contract was signed for development of 19 houses in St. Mary's Park.
- Limerick Regeneration won an Excellence in Local Government Award in the Promotion of Economic Development category, for its work in the Hospitality Education and Training Centre based in the Innovation Hub in Roxboro.

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7. Water Services

Minor Capital Works

- Watermain Leak Detection and Repair contracts progressing in Limerick City.

8. Forward Planning

- Two submissions were made to the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government on the Draft National Planning Framework. One from Limerick City and County Council and the second consisted of a joint submission on behalf of Limerick City and County Council, Clare County Council, Tipperary County Council, Shannon Group, Shannon Foynes Port Company, University of Limerick, Limerick Institute of Technology and Mid-West Region Action Plan for Jobs.
- Following the closing date for submissions to the Proposed Castletroy Local Area Plan "First Issues" document on the 6 November the submissions were summarised and are currently being considered.
- At the November Meeting of the Municipal District of Cappamore - Kilmallock, the Elected Members deferred the making a new Local Area Plan for Caherconlish 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).
- The Chief Executive's Report on a proposed Amendment to the Hospital Local Area Plan 2012 - 2018 (As Extended) was issued to the Elected Members on the 24 November. This report and the proposed amendment will be considered at the Municipal District of the Cappamore – Kilmallock meeting in December 2017.
- A submission was made to the Heritage Council on the Draft Heritage Council Strategic Plan.
- In response to a call from the Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht a submission was made on the draft update of the Article 6 Commission guidance document 'Managing Natura 2000 sites - the provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive'.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**Organisational Development****1. Communications**

- Issued 27 news releases from the Office of Marketing and Communications
- Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter
- Tweeted 42 times on Limerick City and County Council's Twitter account with total fans now 9,527.

2. Schedule of Meetings

| Name of Meeting | Date | Location |
|---|-------------|-----------------|
| Three Special Meetings • Housing Action Plan • Ward's Cross and Other Junctions on N21 • Proposed Variation to Limerick County Development Plan 2016 (as extended and Proposed Variation to Southern Environs Local Area Plan 2011-2017 (extended to 2021) | 6.11.2017 | Dooradoyle |
| Budget Meeting | 17.11.2017 | Dooradoyle |
| Full Council | 27.11.2017 | Dooradoyle |
| Corporate Policy Group Meeting | 13.11.2017 | Dooradoyle |
| Corporate Policy Group Meeting | 20.11.2017 | Merchant's Quay |
| Metropolitan District of Limerick | 20.11.2017 | Merchant's Quay |
| Party Leaders' Meeting | 6.11.2017 | Dooradoyle |
| Party Leaders' Meeting | 27.11.2017 | Dooradoyle |
| Protocol Committee | 27.11.2017 | Dooradoyle |
| Operational Briefings | | |
| Limerick City East | 7.11.2017 | Merchant's Quay |
| Limerick City North | 7.11.2017 | Merchant's Quay |
| Limerick City West | 7.11.2017 | Merchant's Quay |
| Municipal District of: | | |
| (a) Adare-Rathkeale: Monthly Meeting | 9.11.2017 | Rathkeale |
| Special Meeting: Chief Executive's report in conjunction with Part 8 for Traffic Calming Measures – Rathkeale Town | 15.11.2017 | Rathkeale |
| Special Meeting to discuss junction on the Adare By-pass | 27.11.2017 | Dooradoyle |
| (b) Newcastle West: Monthly Meeting | 8.11.2017 | Newcastle West |
| (c) Cappamore-Killmallock: Monthly Meeting | 24.11.2017 | Killmallock |
| District JPC Subcommittee Of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale | 9.11.2017 | Rathkeale |
| Audit Committee Meeting | 20.11.2017 | Dooradoyle |
| Local Community Development Committee | 7.11.2017 | Merchant's Quay |
| Culture & Arts | 16.11.2017 | Merchant's Quay |
| Strategic Policy Committee Meetings | | |
| Community Leisure & Emergency Services | 9.11.2017 | Merchant's Quay |

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3. Training Fire and Emergency Services

- 25 fire fighters were trained as Swiftwater First Responders. This training course provides the knowledge and skills to undertake bank based and shallow water rescues at water incidents, including floods and swiftwater incidents.
- Six fire fighters were trained in Compartment Fire Behaviour Training in Hackettstown, Co. Carlow. This training equips fire fighters with the knowledge and skills to deal with situations where there is the possibility of a sudden increase in the burning rate and severity of fires through phenomena such as flashover or backdraught.
- Emergency Service Driving Standards training continued throughout November with 11 fire fighters being trained and tested by the RSA.

4. Digital Strategy

Digital Strategy receives Council approval

- The Digital Strategy for Limerick received Council approval at the Council meeting on 27 November. This decision signals the beginning of a programme of collaborative digital transformation as we build Ireland's first Digital City.

National Service Catalogue

- The Digital Strategy Department received approval for a national service catalogue. This is a significant milestone towards establishing a common catalogue of the services that we offer as local authority and will facilitate greater co-operation, shared technologies, processes and greater efficiencies between local authorities.

AutoCad

- Digital Strategy have upgraded all Autodesk licencing to the new Enterprise Collection. AutoCAD users can now freely avail of over 20 additional Autodesk products. This improvement raises the council's ability to effectively manage and share critical infrastructure information such as BIM, and perform highly technical tasks in a fraction of the time.



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Financial Matters

1. Home Improvement Schemes

| NOVEMBER 2017 | MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme) | No. | HAG (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme) | No. | HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme) | No. |
|----------------|---|-----------|---------------------------------------|-----------|---|-----------|
| Kilmallock | €0.00 | 0 | €24,022.02 | 1 | €20,275.00 | 3 |
| Metropolitan | €26,757.00 | 9 | €143,969.30 | 12 | €44,759.28 | 11 |
| Newcastle West | €24,400.00 | 5 | €33,880.00 | 5 | €42,291.74 | 8 |
| Rathkeale | €0.00 | 0 | €3,447.50 | 1 | €26,029.80 | 6 |
| | €51,157.00 | 14 | €205,318.82 | 19 | €133,355.82 | 28 |

Total Monies issued in November 2017 = €389,831.64

Total Grants issued in November 2017 = 61

| JANUARY TO NOVEMBER 2017 | MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme) | No. | HAG (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme) | No. | HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme) | No. |
|--------------------------|---|------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|---|------------|
| Kilmallock | €29,424.46 | 12 | €139,872.96 | 9 | €91,852.25 | 21 |
| Metropolitan | €297,365.29 | 76 | €497,522.29 | 53 | €204,340.61 | 68 |
| Newcastle West | €199,665.03 | 46 | €108,055.50 | 16 | €314,208.78 | 69 |
| Rathkeale | €71,026.38 | 17 | €35,579.26 | 7 | €99,336.10 | 23 |
| | €597,481.16 | 151 | €781,030.01 | 85 | €709,737.74 | 181 |

Total Monies issued January to November 2017 = €2,088,248.91

Total Grants issued January to November 2017 = 417

2. Rent Collection

| Opening Balance @ 01/01/2017 | Accrued Income | Total for collection | Receipts | Closing balance 30/11/2017 | % Collection |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| €1,957,582 | €12,575,186 | €14,532,768 | €11,913,056 | €2,619,712 | 82% |

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 Nov. 2017 | 18,789,867 | 53,739,377 | 1,459,536 | 2,912,964 | 68,156,744 | 49,816,324 | 18,340,420 | 2,981,491 | 76% |

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 Nov. 2017 | 537,803 | 1,286,843 | 532 | 1,825,178 | 1,445,953 | 379,225 | 79% |

Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No of days in overdraft 0

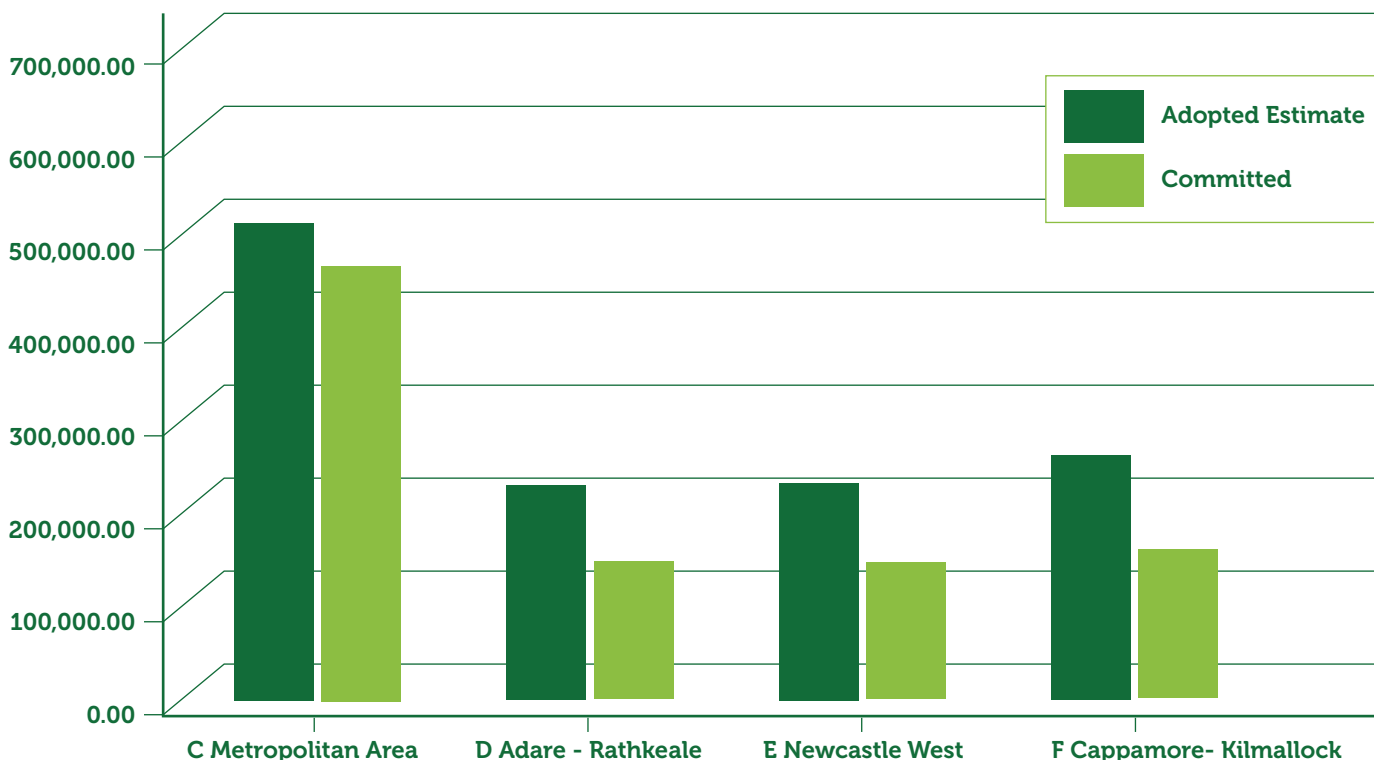
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4. General Municipal Allocation 2017

Adopted Estimate €1.203 Million

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



| Municipal (Code) + (Text) | Value Adopted Estimate | Value Committed |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| C Metropolitan Area | 503,000.00 | 462,607 |
| D Adare - Rathkeale | 225,000.00 | 147,544 |
| E Newcastle West | 225,000.00 | 143,804 |
| F Cappamore - Kilmallock | 250,000.00 | 161,178 |

5. European Investment Bank Investment

European Investment Bank Vice President Andrew McDowell travelled to Limerick for the announcement, which will see the bank commit to €85million in lending to Limerick City and County Council to be spent on transforming the 1.62 hectare Opera Site in the city centre into one of the country's top urban commercial/office developments, with the capacity for 3,000 jobs.

This is the first EIB finance is to be made available for a local authority programme in Ireland since

1993. The EIB finance contract for the 25-year loan - the EIB's largest ever urban investment in Ireland - was signed at the Council's Corporate Headquarters in Limerick today by Mr McDowell and Conn Murray, Chief Executive of Limerick City and County Council. Also in attendance were Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Stephen Keary, Chairman of Limerick Twenty Thirty Denis Brosnan, Chief Executive Officer of Limerick Twenty Thirty David Conway as well as Oireachtas and other public representatives.