

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

March 2018

THIS MONTH:

Tens of thousands of people enjoy Limerick's St. Patrick's Festival

18,500 volunteers make TLC4 the biggest ever

Port Company unveils €100 million investment plan for Limerick Docklands

'For the Good of the Child' to be filmed in Limerick

Design Brief for Opera Site in Limerick

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Empowering the Citizen

1. Community Support Services

Waiting List

Housing Waiting List	3,119
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Allocations

	Metropolitan District	Newcastle West	Adare – Rathkeale	Cappamore – Kilmallock	Total
No of Units March 2018	25	2	2	3	32
Year to Date	78	7	4	8	97

Cemeteries

Total No. of Burials in the City Graveyards

- Kilmurry: 5
- Castlemungret: 12
- Mount St. Oliver: 15
- Mount St. Lawrence: 21

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

Individuals - 20 March 2018		
Location	Description	No.
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	31
St Patrick's Hostel	Higher threshold accommodation for single males	47
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	21
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	11
Temporary Emergency Provision TEP 1 (Edenvilla)	Low threshold, night by night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	20
TEP 2 (Phoenix Lodge)	Low threshold, night by night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	6
Total		136

Families - 20 March 2018			
Location	Description	No. Adults	No. Children
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	3	3
		Families - 3	
Emergency Apartments		5	4
		Families - 3	
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	33	46
		Families - 23	
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	13	18
		Families - 9	
Childers Road Family Initiative	Family Hub	42	63
		Families - 30	
Totals		96	134
		Families - 68	

Domestic Waste Refuse Waiver Scheme

- Total number of waivers issued for Limerick City and County Council for March was 124 waivers approved, seven were refused.

2. HAP Shared Services

The Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Scheme is one of the key elements of the Government's policy on social housing. The HAP Shared Services Centre is the national customer contact and financial transactional-shared service for HAP.

Limerick City and County Council operates the HAP Shared Service Centre on the behalf of the 31 Local Authorities along with the Dublin Regional Homes Executive.

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There were 34,764 active HAP tenancies at the end of March 2018. A weekly average of 350 HAP tenancies have been set-up during 2018. The weekly tenant debit is over €1.5 million and the March landlord payment run was over €24 million.

There are currently 57 people working in the HAP Shared Services Centre.

3. Social Development

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The LCDC Annual Report for 2017 was presented to the full Council for noting.

LEADER Funding

The Local Action Group approved funding of €1,795,950 for projects located in East Limerick under the LEADER Programme 2014-2020.

Learning Limerick

As part of the successful Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival, which took place from 19 to 25 March, an International Seminar on 'Equitable and Inclusive Learning Regions' was held on 22 March in ENGINE. Representatives from Limerick, Cork, Belfast and Bristol Learning Cities shared their experiences on Global Goals and local actions. The seminar offered a wonderful opportunity to explore partnership initiatives with Limerick and other learning cities continuing their work as part of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities.

Age Friendly Limerick

In the first step of a process to have Shannon declared the first "Age Friendly" Airport in the world, 10 members of Limerick Older People's Council joined with 10 colleagues from Clare Older People's Council to conduct a walkability study of the Airport. The results of the study will be forwarded to the World Health Organisation along with a request for Age Friendly status to be conferred on the Airport.

4. Customer Services

On 1 March, Limerick was hit by another red weather alert, Storm Emma and 'The Beast from the East'.

This weather alert saw temperatures plummet, with snowfall causing major disruption across Limerick City and County. Throughout the storm, and the closure of the council offices, Customer Services call centre remained open and available to the citizen to support their requests. The call centre extended the main telephone number until 1pm on Saturday 3 March. Customer Services also worked very closely with the Major Emergency Team to ensure essential services continued throughout the city and county. During Storm Emma, 168 cases were logged on Sugar Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system.

The project to integrate Housing Maintenance into Customer Services continued to advance during March. A digital process, which will allow for prompt updates from third party service providers on maintenance requests were defined with a planned start date agreed.

Customer Services handled and processed 82 Residential Parking Permits throughout the month of March.

The call centre has continued its success with our Customer Services Department receiving 13,535 calls throughout the month of March. This works out at approximately 715 calls per day with the average response time being 13 seconds for calls to be answered.

A total of 2,800 cases were logged throughout the month of March, the majority of which were:

- Operations and Maintenance:
 - over half for housing maintenance. 1,877
- Community Support Services: 371
- Planning and Environmental Services: 227
- Customer Services: 119

The total number of callers to our counters at Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle was 2,712.



5. Library Services

- Kilmallock Library hosted the first of a programme of Digital Skills - Bring your own device classes at the Library on 20 March. These classes aim to give people the confidence, motivation and skills to take their first steps online on their own smartphone, tablet or laptop. These are hosted in partnership with Ballyhoura Development CLG and Bruree IT.
- The second Little Reader Workshop took place at Kilmallock Library on 21 March. This involved interactive rhyming and story time with opportunities for parents and carers to mingle see how exploring books and stories with your child is educational and great fun.
- On 21 March Ann Marie McCarthy led a class from Scoil Mocheallóg through a workshop focused on positive living. The "Chill Out Charlie" workshop focused on empowering very young children through the medium of stories, art and meditation to relax their busy minds. This workshop was hosted as part of the Healthy Ireland at your Library Initiative.
- To celebrate Lifelong Learning Week 19 until 25 March, the Granary Library hosted the following events:
 - Merriman Research presented a workshop in which Hannah Dowdall and others spoke about research regarding Brian Boru and the great Gaelic Dalcassian Clan along with research on DNA and the O'Brien Family.
 - "An Introduction to the Local Studies Collection" with Librarian, Mike Maguire. The talk generated a lot of interest from members of the public in general and from second and third level history students.
- The Granary Library, Limerick Childcare Committee – Little Voices ABC Start Right in partnership with the Limerick Speech and Language Department held a presentation on Child Language Development on 24 March. The event gave parents practical tips and ideas on how to develop their child's speech and communication skills from age 0 – 5 years.
- On the 7 March, Academos String Orchestra which showcases students from The Irish World Academy, University of Limerick, CIT Cork School of Music, Royal Irish Academy of Music with members of the Irish Chamber Orchestra directed by Katherine Hunka, gave a wonderful lunchtime performance of classical and folk music.
- The Granary Library was thrilled to host an Evening Concert with Gabrielle Louise on the Friday of St. Patrick's weekend. Gabrielle Louise is noted for her poignant lyrics and lush voice anchored deeply in folk and Americana. Local musician Mike O'Donovan, made a special guest appearance on the night. The evening was an outstanding success.
- This month's host of Rock Record Club, on 23 March was Limerick singer/songwriter Ger Costelloe. Ger is well known on the city's live music circuit.
- The Granary Library hosted a Meditation Workshop for children as part of its Healthy Ireland Programme on 16 March.
- The Granary Library was also delighted to host the launch of Limerick School of Art and Design: Third Year Ceramic Exhibition – "Clayworks" on 12 March. The exhibition was on display on the main library floor from the 12 to 16 of March. The evening was a huge success with over 150 in attendance at the opening.
- The branch facilitated a workshop for parents organised by the HSE - Area Based Childhood Programme on 6 March. The workshop titled "Understanding Your Toddler and Their Tantrums" had three guest speakers. The presenters included a Child psychologist, a Creative therapist and an Infant Mental Health and Wellbeing specialist. The event proved very popular and ended with a lively question and answer session.
- Newcastle West Library hosted two events as part of the Healthy Ireland at your Library Programme. On 13 March a talk on healthy eating "Nourish Nutrition", creating wellness from within, and on 23 March "Mindfulness and Meditation" morning, in this session we learned basic body awareness meditation and looked at how mindfulness can be practiced during our daily routines.
- International Women's Day on 8 March was celebrated with writer's, Mary Coll and Helena Close. Also entertaining on the night were Inbhear Community Singing Group with Fiona Collins guitarist and vocalist. A thoroughly enjoyable evening for all and it marked the 100th anniversary for women's struggle for the Right to Vote. International women's day is a celebration of women's achievements in fighting for equality and economic justice.

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- On 15 March, Newcastle West Library hosted a book signing of the recently published book "History of Ardagh" by Mary Kury. A short film by Jerry McMahon taken in Ardagh in the 1960's was also shown. Refreshments were provided on the night.
- An awards ceremony for the Glór na nGael Art Competition was held on 22 March. Posters were displayed in Newcastle West Library and all the local national schools participated in the event with a large turn-out on the night.
- Abbeyfeale Library held a talk entitled "Anxiety and Connecting with Teenagers" on 15 March as part of Healthy Ireland at your Library Initiative.

6. Limerick Culture and Arts Office

The Limerick St Patrick's Festival Programme

The Limerick St. Patricks Festival Programme 2018 honoured the theme of circus celebrating the 250th anniversary of Circus world wide. The programme was the largest to date entertaining audiences over the Bank Holiday weekend with two parades, a video mapping and fireworks display, a 39 metre panoramic wheel, John McCarthy Circus Bar Archive Exhibition in the Limerick Museum and Fossett's Circus.

In addition to this, Limerick welcomed 21 bands to the International Band Championships with six American Bands, one German and one United Kingdom band joining in the festivities. The creative content of the Limerick St. Patrick's Day parade included Lumen, Limerick's own Street Spectacle Group, Luxe, Macnas and Artastic, bringing great creative entries, colour and performance to this year's Parade.

The second instalment of the European Outdoor Arts Academy: School of Spectacle, took place in March and was strategically designed to take place in the run up to St Patrick's Day so that street spectacle professionals from Bulgaria, Lithuania, Cyprus, and Ireland could come together to train for a week but also use their expertise in delivering an element of the Limerick St. Patrick's Day Parade. Giant puppets, stilt walkers and aerial crane performances were the highlight of the spectacle. The training was led by professionals from Walk the Plank from Manchester and locally based Fidget Feet and co funded by Creative Europe, Limerick City and County Council and The Arts Council.

Limerick Cultural Civic Engagement Programme St Patrick's Festival

Limerick Culture and Arts office has strategically established a Cultural Civic Engagement Programme, which aims to encourage active civic engagement in the five civic cultural events delivered by Limerick City and County Council each year. The programme through open calls for participation and/ or volunteers also targets specific groups vulnerable to exclusion as part of its delivery.

For the Limerick St. Patrick's Festival, the programme succeeded in engaging:

- 64 groups for the St. Patrick's Day Parade
- 21 bands for the International Band Championships
- A total of 448 volunteer hours were achieved by 64 volunteers taking part in the delivery of the St. Patrick's Day Parade and International Band Championships.

Benefits and impacts of the programme include: work experience for student event management students from LIT; community engagement for new Irish living in Limerick who wish to engage with the cultural life of the city; acquiring credits for residency applications; improving language and communication skills; targeted inclusion of at risk groups from regeneration areas ensuring they are part of the cultural life of the city; a behind the scenes experience of the festival for tourists and visitors to Limerick.

As one American participant in the volunteer programme wrote: "Well organized, very non-clique-ish as these things can be in the U.S. I thank Karen (Volunteer Coordinator) for the opportunity to do this, something I never dreamed of doing, but now that I have, participating in a St. Patrick's Day parade in Ireland should be on everyone's 'bucket list'. I will brag about this for years to come".

Creative Ireland

A presentation on The Artists in Schools initiative funded by Creative Ireland was made to the Newcastle West Municipal District meeting on 7 March outlining the activity and engagement in the schools in the area with Eva International.

Funding and Opportunities

Two Studios in James' Street Artists' Studios awarded following open call.

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Limerick City and County Council Strategic Funding

Five letters of support for organisations and individuals making applications to the Arts Council Grant Awards were provided under the new Limerick City and County Council Strategic Funding Award.

Michael Hartnett Annual Poetry Award 2018 Call Out

The deadline for applications was extended until 6 March. This year's adjudicators, Jo Slade and James Harpur, selected winners:

- Mary O'Malley, *Playing the Octopus* (Carcenet 2016)
- Macdara Woods, *Music from the Big Tent* (Dedalus 2016)

This is the 18th year of this annual award, which is jointly funded by Limerick City and County Council and The Arts Council to the value of €4,000. This year, as it is a shared Award each poet will receive €2,000.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Garraí Eoin Comhaltas Ceoltoirí Éireann performed in Council Headquarters, Merchant's Quay on 15 March.

Cultural SPC

The Cultural Strategic Policy met on the 5 March to discuss recommendations on strategic investment priorities for the delivery of the Limerick Cultural Strategy objectives in 2018. The priorities for the investment of €500,000 were recommended to be brought forward to Full Council for approval.

7. Limerick Museum

- Limerick Museum received 1,986 visitors in March.
- The John McCarthy Circus Exhibition of Limerick-related circus memorabilia was held in the Museum from 16 to 18 March in partnership with Limerick Culture and Arts Office and attracted hundreds of visitors.
- As part of Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival (19-25 March), the Museum organised a number of events. Two lectures were held in the Granary Library in partnership with the Library Service: 'Limerick and the Industrial Life of the Irish State in the 1920s and 1930s' by Professor Frank Barry (Trinity College) and

'An introduction to Limerick Lace' by Dr Matthew Potter (Limerick Museum).

- 'Learn to be a hands-on Archaeologist' for children under 12 was organised by Dr. Kathy Swift, Mary Immaculate College and held in the Museum.
- A Lecture and demonstration on the care and conservation of Limerick Lace was given by Rachel Phelan, textile conservator, to the Friends of Lace Group on 11 March.

8. Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- The exhibitions, "Repair", a survey exhibition of the work of Bernadette Cotter, "Known Unknowns", curated by Shinnors Scholar, Simon Corcoran, and selections from the Permanent Collection finished on 25 March.
- Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA) launched the Bernadette Cotter catalogue with an Artists discussion with fellow artists Alice Maher and Dr. Austin McQuinn on 22 March with an attendance of 30 people.
- Overall attendance to LCGA three exhibitions finishing on 25 March was 17,165.
- artSpace, the weekend children's workshops continued until 10 March.
- The RTE ConTempo Quartet concert on 8 March was well attended by 35 patrons.
- Negotiations with Draocht Arts Centre, Blancherstown, Dublin for loans from the National Collection of Contemporary Drawing for a temporary exhibition with plans to collaborate for a three-year period.
- LCGA facilitated two weekend workshops for members of Fidget Feet, Aerial Dance Theatre in the HUB, with around 15 participants.
- Work placement by University of Limerick student in relation to LCGA MSPI (Museum Standards Programme for Ireland) application to the Heritage Council of Ireland. The intention is that LCGA will submit an application for full accreditation this year.
- Regular meetings are taking place between staff of the Gallery and the EVA International team in preparation for the opening of the next edition of Ireland's only Biennial of Visual Art.

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- Meetings continue with the Project Team to address the essential Fire and Safety work required in the building and subject of a Department of Arts grant that has been matched by Limerick City and County Council.
- Internal meetings continue to decide how to celebrate the forthcoming 70th Anniversary for the extension to the Gallery, which opened in 1948 to house the Permanent Collection.

Air Noise and Water Pollution

- 29 complaints were received in March.
- Two statutory Notices were served under Section 12 of the Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts.
- Two statutory Notices were served under Section 23 of the Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts.
- Legal proceedings were issued in one case under the Air Pollution Act.

9. Planning and Environment

Litter/Waste Enforcement

- 170 complaints were received in March.
- 23 on the spot litter fines were issued during the month.
- Legal proceedings were issued in two cases under the Litter Pollution Act.
- 20 warning letters were issued in relation to environmental issues.
- One Statutory Notice was served under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act.
- Two Statutory Notices were served under Section 55 of the Waste Management Act.
- Four Statutory Notices were served under Section 71 of the Waste Management Act.
- Eight Directions were served under the Waste Management Act.
- 66 cases were closed / resolved / completed in March.



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10. Fire and Emergency Services

Statistics

	Fire Related Calls	Non Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call outs 1/03/18 – 31/03/18	81	53	134
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	64	62	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	27	25	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	9	13	

	Received / Assigned	Validated	Invalidated / Refused	Granted	Completed
Fire Certificate Applications March	20	11	3	16	
Disability Access Cert Applications March	19	11	2	11	
Licensing Applications March	4	4	0		
Commencement Notice March	44	34	8	34	42
Completion Certificate March	22	22	0	22	22
Planning Referrals March	21				17
Sugar CRM Cases March	4				2

Civil Defence attendance at Events for the month

- Storm Emma: Transferring palliative care nurses from Milford Hospice to different locations. Transferring Health Service Executive nurses to Limerick Maternity Hospital, University Hospital Limerick, Croom Hospital and St. John's Hospital.
- Rás Luimni Cycle Race, Caherconlish
- Rith Relay Race, Mary Immaculate College
- St Patrick's Day Parades in Limerick City, Newcastle West and Rathkeale
- International Band Championship
- Team Limerick Clean-up4

Major Emergency Management Events for the month

On-Site Co-ordination Centre training was held on the 6 March

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 March
No. of call outs 01/03/18 – 31/03/18	1082	913	1:11	1995

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11. Access to Information

	March	2018 (Jan to March)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	20	60
FOI Internal Appeals	-	2
Information Commissioner Appeals	-	-
Total Ombudsman Requests	4	9
Total AIE Requests	1	2

12. Veterinary Services

- 29 stray or wandering horses were impounded.
- The Dog Control Unit dealt with 22 dogs.
- 18 food samples were submitted during March for analysis under the National Residues and Microbiological Sampling Programme.
- The Dog Licence Awareness Campaign continued to be implemented by the Dog Wardens.

13. Environmental Awareness

TLC4 is sponsored by the JP McManus Benevolent Fund and is co-ordinated by a steering group which includes Limerick City and County Council, JP McManus Benevolent Fund (Helen O'Donnell and Noel Earlie), Martinstown Stud, (Paul Foley), DMC Communications, (Diana McCabe and Carly Baker) and Mr. Binman (Joe Cleary). Its media partners are the Limerick Leader and Limerick's Live 95FM.

The aim of TLC4 is:

- Making your local community a cleaner environment for yourself and your neighbours.
- Coming together as a community.
- Bagging the waste and leaving it at the designated TLC collection point.

It is a significant volunteer effort

- Volunteers are advised to go out on the morning of Good Friday – Mr. Binman trucks follow up from 11.00 am and on into the afternoon and early hours of Sat morning.
- Volunteers organise the locations for the litter picks locally and the time that groups meet on Good Friday morning.

- They also organise tea and coffee meet ups.
- TLC4 - 18,500 + volunteers.
- 550+ groups participating.
- 250+ designated litter collection points.
- 9 Mr. Binman trucks on the road aiming to collect all TLC litter on Good Friday (increase of 2 from last year).
- Volunteers are mainly contacted by text message.

TLC4 Health and Safety talks took place in Templeglantine, Kilmallock and Dooradoyle

- Key message - No one should put themselves or any other person at risk during any TLC event. If you think a littered area is too dangerous for you or your group of volunteers then it is.

TLC4 Supply distribution points

- Newcastle West, Kilmallock, Murroe, Dock Road Limerick City and Mungret Recycling Centre.
- These are managed by Limerick City and County Council and Mr. Binman.

Helen O'Donnell (Steering Group) and Volunteers coordinated the Fairtrade tea and coffee events at 90 locations.

- These locations are supplied with hotcross buns for the occasion.
- Volunteers manage the individual locations.
- Fairtrade tea and coffee is supplied to groups.

Waste Characterisation Statistics

Waste Characterisation Study will get underway 3 April. The aim of this is to inform local regional and national policy and to respond to requests for volunteers and help quantify what is being reported anecdotally year on year.

Previous years volunteer numbers

- Inaugural TLC 2015 10,000 volunteers
- TLC2 2016 13,000 + volunteers
- TLC3 2017 16,500 + volunteers

14. Civic Reception

A Civic Reception was accorded to The Mid-West School for the Hearing Impaired on 8 March in recognition of the school's contribution to the establishment of Irish Sign Language as an official national language.

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Economic Development and Planning

1. Planning Applications

A total of 122 new planning applications were received as follows:

Part 8 Development	1
Housing developments	1
Domestic developments	75
Agricultural developments	16
Commercial developments /change of use	8
Community / Educational Developments	9
Other Developments	12

The current applications include proposals for:

- Construction of 49 residential units at Patrickswell, Co. Limerick.
- A solar farm at Islandduane, Mungret, Co. Limerick.

2. Investment

- The Shannon Foynes Port Company published its Limerick Docklands Framework Strategy, which aims to transform 75 acres of Limerick Docklands Estate, resulting in a €100 million investment.
- Fine Grain Property is planning to invest €35 million on a new four-storey office development at the National Technology Park in Plassey.
- A new substantial 18,000 square foot food and wine hall opened on O’Connell Street in March with up to 50 jobs being created. Limerick hospitality firm the Savoy Group and Findlater and Co., the general grocers and wine merchants brand with a rich and storied heritage dating back to 1823, have come together to create the vibrant new setting in a first of its kind for the city.
- It has been announced that a new €1.6 million period drama, ‘For the Good of the Child’ is to be filmed in Limerick City. Independent producer, Marina Donahue, is to develop the film in the heart of the city – and in other parts of the county. The move could bring up to 70 jobs to Limerick while production is ongoing.

3. Marketing and Communications

- Continued PR and Marketing campaign for Limerick St. Patrick’s Festival 2018.
- Distributed 20,000 Limerick St. Patrick’s Festival Guide 2018 throughout Limerick City and County.
- Commenced eight week PR and Marketing campaign for Riverfest Limerick 2018.
- Produced and launched digital Limerick Festivals Guide 2018.
- Easter in LimerickDedicated section promoting the offering created on Limerick.ie.
- Promoted Easter in Limerick on social media
- Produced What’s On advert for The Limerick Magazine.
- Produced six Limerick.ie e-newsletters.
- Monthly Limerick.ie Business Bulletin e-newsletter issued by the Office of Marketing and Communications.

Social Media

- Posted 59 times on Limerick.ie’s Facebook with total fans now 19,136. Posts reached 221,000 users with 55,000 engagements.
- Tweeted 43 times on Limerick.ie’s Twitter, @limerick_ie, with total followers now 14,098. Our tweets earned 143,500 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).
- Posted 11 times on Limerick.ie’s Instagram with total followers now 3,920.
- Tweeted 12 times on Limerick Marketing’s Twitter, @limkmarketing, with total followers now 2,104. Our tweets earned 20,600 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).
- Live Tweeted St. Patrick’s Day Parade and the International Band Champonship
- Supported TLC 4 with Tweets and retweets from the day, giving people a floavour of what was happening across the city and county.

Limerick.ie

A total of 124,238 people visited the Limerick.ie website in March – a 16% increase on the same period in 2017.

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The most popular pages on Limerick.ie in March 2018 were:

1. /discover/eat-see-do/festivals/limerick-st-patricks-festival
2. www.limerick.ie
3. /discover/eat-see-do/festivals/limerick-st-patricks-festival/st-patricks-day-parade
4. /discover/whats-on/browse
5. /council

4. Digital Strategy

On 27 March, the Digital Strategy department gave a presentation on the URBACT Network Techtown project to the Urban Development Network at the Irish Cities and Towns seminar, organised by the European Commission in Cork City Hall. The aim of this event was to exchange ideas and find solutions to common challenges faced by cities and towns in implementing sustainable urban development strategies in Ireland.

5. Water Services

Minor Capital Works

- Watermain Leak Detection and Repair contracts progressing in Limerick City.
- Watermain rehabilitation complete in Clohessy Park, Fedamore and The Hill, Kilmallock.
- Lead replacement works commenced in Farranshone.

6. Design Brief for Opera Site

Limerick City and County Council has prepared a Design Brief for the Opera Site in Limerick which provides a framework for the development of this site in accordance with the provisions of the 'Limerick 2030: An Economic and Spatial Plan for Limerick' and Limerick City Development Plan.

The Design Brief is intended to guide future development on the site, having regard to the statutory planning context and site-specific constraints.

Public Consultation on this Design Brief has been held for a four-week period from 4 March to 3 April.

7. Housing Capital and Physical Regeneration

General Housing Programme

House Construction

- Approval was received from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) to commence construction of the Hassett Villas refurbishment project (three units). In tandem with adjacent Buy and Renew projects underway on Shelbourne Terrace and Treaty Terrace, this work will deal with vacancy and improve the overall environment of this part of the city.

Regeneration

- The Thermal Upgrade Programme continues apace with approval received from the DHPLG for the following contracts:
 - Approval to award Contract for TU-MOY 111 (Moyross, 34 units)
 - Approval to award Contract for TU-BCW 112 (Ballinacurra Weston, 24 units)
- Limerick City and County Council are collaborating with EVA International regarding the temporary use of the Lord Edward Street Heritage Building, and preparations are underway for their occupation of this building for the duration of the EVA International Art Biennial, commencing in April 2018. EVA's presence in this building is an important part of public engagement with the community.
- Allocations for Churchfield Phase 1 are underway, with residents anticipated to commence moving into their new homes in mid-April 2018.
- Environmental works at Parade Parklet are nearing completion, which will see the enhancement of the context of King John's Castle and the Bishop's Palace.
- Following completion of the environmental improvement works at the Thomond Weir Building, preparations are now underway to commission a mural artwork to enrich the public realm in this area.

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Organisational Development

1. Communications

- Issued 36 news releases from the Office of Marketing and Communications.
- Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter.
- Tweeted 191 times on Limerick City and County Council's Twitter account, @limerickcouncil, with total fans now 10,300. Our tweets earned over 500,000 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).

2. Schedule of Meetings

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Full Council Meeting of Limerick City and County Council	26.03.2018	Dooradoyle
Operational Briefings Limerick City East Limerick City North Limerick City West	06.03.2018 06.03.2018 06.03.2018	Merchant's Quay Merchant's Quay Merchant's Quay
Metropolitan District of Limerick	20.03.2018	Merchant's Quay
Municipal District of: (a) Adare-Rathkeale: Monthly Meeting (b) Newcastle West: Monthly Meeting i Special Meeting to discuss Local Authority Houses within the Municipal District of Newcastle West. ii Special Meeting to discuss Roads within the Municipal District of Newcastle West. (c) Cappamore-Kilmallock: Monthly Meeting	21.03.2018 07.03.2018 20.03.2018 20.03.2018 29.03.2018	Rathkeale Newcastle West Newcastle West Newcastle West Kilmallock
Strategic Policy Committee Meetings Cultural	05.03.2018	Dooradoyle
Local Community Development Committee	06.03.2018	Merchant's Quay
Corporate Policy Group Meeting	20.03.2018	Merchant's Quay
Joint Policing Committee Meeting	23.03.2018	Merchant's Quay
Joint Policing Sub Committee Meetings Newcastle West Municipal District Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District	07.03.2018 29.03.2018	Newcastle West Kilmallock
Protocol Committee Meeting	26.03.2018	Dooradoyle
Party Leaders' Meeting	26.03.2018	Dooradoyle

3. Training Fire and Emergency Services

- Fifty-five firefighters were trained in the skills required to deal with Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV) road traffic collisions. This is a three-day course that covers the rescue of casualties from cars, vans HGVs and buses. This is one of the largest courses of its kind ran in Ireland, with all of our 150 personnel plus fire fighters from Clare Fire Service being trained over a 10 week period from March to May. This course is being run locally on the Cleaves Site on O'Callaghan Strand with the kind assistance of Pat Tieman Motors, Geary Motors, Shannon Transport and Bus Eireann, for providing demonstration sessions to the crews.
- Thirty-four firefighters have received a two-day training course in aircraft fire fighting at Shannon Airport. This course provides the crews with a familiarisation of the Shannon Airport site, equipment and dealing with aircraft fires and rescue of casualties from planes.
- An officer was trained as a Breathing Apparatus Instructor.
- Five officers/fire fighters were trained as HGV RTC Instructors as part of the delivery of the above course.
- One fire fighter was refreshed in Compartment Fire Behaviour Training.

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Financial Matters

1. Home Improvement Schemes

MARCH 2018	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	€17,602.50	2	€6,910.00	2
Metropolitan	€10,400.00	2	€10,978.01	2	€0.00	0
Newcastle West	€15,250.00	3	€0.00	0	€7,186.28	2
Rathkeale	€5,400.00	1	€0.00	0	€1,748.00	1
	€31,050.00	6	€28,580.51	4	€15,844.28	5

Total Monies issued in March 2018 = €75,474.79

Total Grants issued in March 2018 = 15

JANUARY TO MARCH 2018	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	€82,696.65	7	€27,007.35	5
Metropolitan	€12,900.00	3	€44,382.01	4	€5,985.00	2
Newcastle West	€38,677.25	9	€18,165.00	6	€39,635.16	8
Rathkeale	€14,173.13	3	€17,673.50	2	€7,580.62	3
	€65,750.38	15	€162,971.16	19	€80,208.13	18

Total Monies issued January to March 2018 = €308,929.67

Total Grants issued January to March 2018 = 52

2. Rent Collection

Opening Balance @ 01/01/2018	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing balance 31/03/2018	% Collection
€2,589,197.00	€3,662,818.00	€6,252,015.00	€3,340,728.00	€2,911,287.00	53%

3. Commercial Rates and Loans

Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2018	Opening Balance 1 Jan €	Accruals €		Vacant Property Adjustment €	Writes offs/ Waivers €	Total for Collection €	Amount Collected €	Arrears €	Specific Doubtful Arrears €	% Collected
As at 31st March 2018	14,501,047	55,118,523	*	192,427	338,754	69,088,389	11,633,403	57,454,986	3,467,243	18%

* The Date for Making the 2018 Rate was 2nd February 2018

Debtors Loans	Opening Balance 1 Jan €	Accruals €		To Collect €	Receipts €	Arrears €	% Collection
As at 31st March 2018*	461,159	4,039	**	465,198	442,590	22,608	95%

** accruals to end of February 2018 are not updated due to systems updates being applied.

Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No of days in overdraft 0

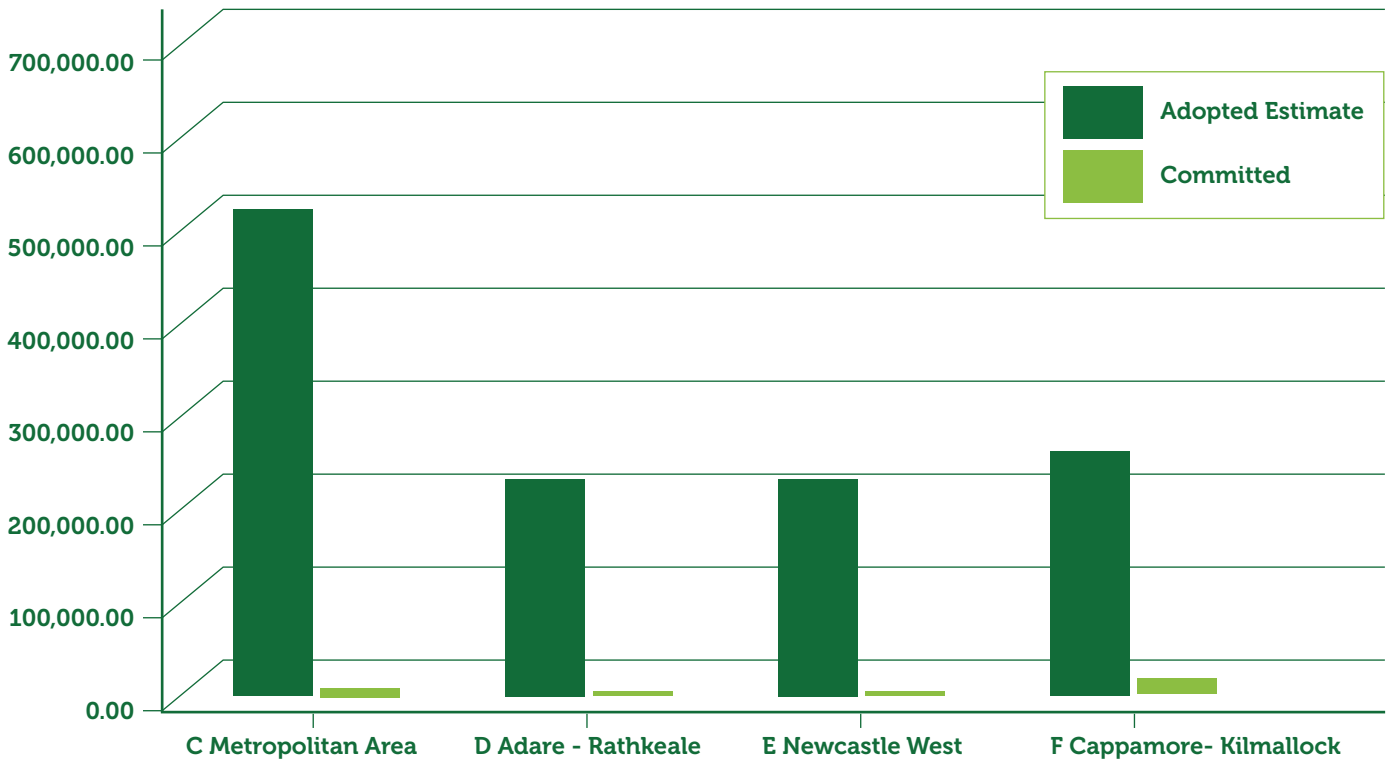
CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



4. General Municipal Allocation 2018

Adopted Estimate €1.203 Million

Graph outlining adopted budget and committed expenditure up to 31st March 2018



Municipal (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate	Value Committed
C Metropolitan Area	503,000.00	10,456
D Adare - Rathkeale	225,000.00	5,925
E Newcastle West	225,000.00	2,717
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	250,000.00	31,537