

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

April 2018

THIS MONTH:

€2 million commitment from Minister for Rural and Community Development, Michael Ring, TD for Limerick to fund Social Inclusion and activation measures up to 2022

EVA International 2018 officially opened

Shannon Fisherman documentary launched

"Open Calls" for Bursary opportunities announced

Éigse Michael Hartnett 2018 Literary and Arts Festival launched

50,000 units to be delivered by 2021 under Rebuilding Ireland

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Empowering the Citizen

1. Community Support Services

Waiting List

Housing Waiting List	3,089
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Allocations

	Metropolitan District	Newcastle West	Adare – Rathkeale	Cappamore – Kilmallock	Total
No of Units April 2018	19	2	3	7	31
Year to Date	97	9	7	15	128

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

Individuals – 27th April 2018		
Location	Description	No.
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	33
St Patrick's Hostel	Higher threshold accommodation for single males	45
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	20
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	20
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	10
Total		148

Families - 27th April 2018			
Location	Description	No. Adults	No. Children
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	7
		Families - 6	
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	39	61
		Families - 29	
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	13	18
		Families - 9	
Totals		58	86
		Families - 44	

Cemeteries

Total No. of Burials in the City Graveyards

- Kilmurry: 3
- Castlemungret: 4
- Mount St. Oliver: 16
- Mount St. Lawrence: 19

Domestic Waste Refuse Waiver Scheme

- Total number of waivers issued for Limerick City and County Council for April 2018 was 52 waivers approved, 12 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 Services Centre on behalf of the 31 local authorities along with the Dublin Regional Homes Executive.

There were 35,723 active HAP tenancies at the end of April 2018. A weekly average of 353 HAP tenancies have been set-up during 2018.

The weekly tenant debit is almost €1.6 million and the April landlord payment run was almost €26 million.

There are currently 56 people working in the HAP Shared Services Centre.

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3. Social Development

Community Leisure and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee

The draft Limerick Integration Plan 2017-2021 "Belonging to Limerick: Connecting People and Communities" sets out the proposals by the Integration Working Group following an extensive consultation process to engage with and support the new communities now resident in Limerick. The plan focuses on diversity advantage and the members of the Strategic Policy Committee recommended that the plan go before full council for consideration.

Mo Foley Walsh, Healthy Limerick Co-Ordinator presented on the following strategies:

- National Physical Activity Plan.
- Get Ireland Walking.
- Phase 1 of Play Strategy for Limerick City and County.

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) Launch

The national launch of the new Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme was held in the Southill Area Centre in Limerick on 20 April. The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Michael Ring, TD launched the national programme, which is committed to funding of €190 million on social inclusion and activation measures up to 2022. The allocation for Limerick is in excess of €2 million, which is managed by the LCDC.

Healthy Limerick

The Healthy Limerick Steering Group organised a small grants scheme for communities in Limerick city and county to promote social connectedness at a local level. It is also a pilot to demonstrate the feasibility of running a small grant fund through the local authority/LCDC structure, with learning to be shared with Healthy Ireland in the Department of Health. Eighteen groups (all but two are volunteer-led) were approved for grants of between €400 and €1,000.

LEADER Funding

The LCDC Local Action Group (LAG) continued the delivery of the EU Leader Programme 2014-2020. Letters of funding offers to the value of €3.5 million have been issued to various project promoters in Limerick.

CLÁR Programme

CLÁR is a targeted investment programme for rural areas that aims to provide funding for small-scale infrastructural projects in areas that have experienced significant depopulation. The aim of CLÁR is to support the sustainable development of designated CLÁR areas with the aim of attracting people to live and work there. The funding works in conjunction with local funding and is based on locally identified priorities. A submission was made to the Department of Rural and Community Development seeking up to €400,000 for identified projects in CLÁR areas.

4. Customer Services

Owing to the critical front line role that Customer Services provides, staff from the department were among a group of wider council employees who were invited to represent the council at a function in Dublin Castle in April. This was hosted by An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar and it acknowledged the public sector staff involved in the response to recent Storms Ophelia and Emma.

On the 24 April, Customer Services invited staff from the Operations and Maintenance Department to the Woodlands House Hotel to discuss items such as Freedom of Information, the 'My Limerick' platform of the limerick.ie website, the mobile version of Sugar Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system and Customer Services in general. The purpose of this exercise was to discuss with Operations and Maintenance what is new in Customer Services, how it affects them and how Customer Services can support them in the carrying out of their duties more efficiently. It was also an opportunity for the Operations and Maintenance team to provide feedback to Customer Services and share ideas on business improvements. Approximately 30 supervisors, engineers and support staff attended. The feedback received is being compiled so that Customer Services can better support the crews on the ground.

The Housing Maintenance digital process went 'live' on 11 April. This process is of great value to Customer Services staff as they can now view the full history of a housing maintenance case, specifically communications between supervisors and contractors. This provides Customer Services staff with the most up to date information to relay to the customer.

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Customer Services handled and processed 69 residential parking permits throughout the month of April.

The call centre has continued its success with our Customer Services department receiving a total of 13,240 calls throughout the month of April. This works out at approximately 662 calls per day with the average response time being 17 seconds for calls to be answered.

A total of 2,935 cases were logged throughout the month of April, the majority of which were:

- Operations and Maintenance: 2,005– over half of which being housing maintenance.
- Community Support Services: 376.
- Planning and Environmental Services: 238.
- Customer Services: 143.

The total number of callers to our counters at Merchants Quay and Dooradoyle was 2,888.

5. Library Services

- Read Your Mind launches in Limerick City and County Libraries.

Jigsaw Limerick in collaboration with Limerick City and County Library have launched Read Your Mind at library branches across Limerick.

Jigsaw Limerick is a free, non-judgemental and confidential mental health support service for young people aged 12 - 25 living, working or studying in Limerick. It provides guidance and support for young people who are going through a difficult or distressing time as well as providing advice and guidance for anyone who is concerned about a young person in their life. The Read Your Mind catalogue is available to help people find the right book for them; covering topics including anger, anxiety, autism, bullying, creativity, low mood, mindfulness, parenting and families, social media, and much more. It brings together an invaluable collection of 108 books on mental health that are available for free to young people, their parents, and friends at libraries across Limerick City and County.

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Stephen Keary attended a joint launch in the Granary Library on 11 April and Kilmallock Library on 12 April.

Libraries pride themselves on being at the heart of the community and this 'Read Your Mind' project offered the opportunity to collaborate with Jigsaw and make this excellent collection of titles available in Limerick to all those who need it. Self-help books are now recognised as a vital source of support for people experiencing mental health difficulties. This collection will be available to all in branch libraries in Limerick City and County.

The catalogue is available to view online https://www.jigsaw.ie/jigsaw_limerick/content/docs/Limerick_Jigsaw_RYM.PDF

- To celebrate Poetry Month in Limerick the Granary Branch in association with Limerick Writers' Centre hosted the following events: "Come Gather 'Round People" – the Poetry of Bob Dylan with Gerry Hanberry on 5 April, "Bringing out the Romantic in You: Shelley, Keats and Wordsworth with Dr. John McDonagh on 12 April and "Poetry and Politics" with Eoin Devereux and Kevin Higgins on 19 April.
- Also Limerick Writers' Centre presented "On the Nail" at the library – a literary evening with Jacqueline Saphra and Ron Carey plus limited "open mic" on 26 April.
- The Granary Branch hosted Eamonn Hehir music gig on 13 April. The concert celebrated 30 years of song-writing, performed by Eamonn accompanied by James Hanley on keyboards, John Steele on electric guitar and Jenny McMahon. All very well received by an appreciative audience of over fifty on the night.
- Continuing music events included the Desi Wilkinson traditional music session. He is currently a traditional musician in residence at Mary Immaculate College. Students from Mary Immaculate College joined him for the lunchtime concert.
- The library hosted the Limerick School of Music end of year concert on 26 April. This included a senior cello ensemble, a thirteen-piece guitar ensemble, string quartet and two junior ensembles on 6 April.
- The Library hosted "Irish Wildlife Exhibition Natural History" on 20 and 21 April. The Irish Quaternary Association (IQUA) invited the public to come along to the Granary Branch to their exhibition of extinct and contemporary Irish mammals recreating prehistoric landscapes with animal models, paintings and 3D maps including the mammoth, brown bear, giant Irish deer and arctic fox.

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- On 17 April The Granary Branch hosted energy workshops for children in which pupils were introduced to Guzzler, the puppet who loves to waste energy. The workshops are a good introduction for children to all aspects of energy in our lives in a fun and interactive way.
- On 27 April The "Climate Hope Forum" was organised by An Taisce Green-Schools. The aim of the forum is to bring together students and teachers, local authorities and local councillors interested in climate change. Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Stephen Keary, Sinead McDonnell, Environment Education Officer, Limerick City and County Council along with students and teachers from six schools all attended.
- Dr. Brian Murphy gave a fascinating history lecture at Kilmallock Library on 17 April on foot of the publication of his most recent title "The Life and Tragic Death of Winnie Barrington". Brian's talk was very informative on the burning of Creameries in East County Limerick as part of the offensive of the Crown forces in 1920/1921. This talk was also held in the Granary Branch.
- Kilmallock Library was delighted to host an Information Talk from John McElhinney from Mental Health Ireland on Tuesday evening 3 April. The 'Mind your Mental' Health Information evening forms part of the Healthy Ireland in the Library Programme. John's talk was full of useful tips to help us take care of ourselves in our day to day lives.
- Spring into Story Time was celebrated in Kilmallock Library with a Little Reader Workshop on 18 April.

6. Limerick Culture and Arts Office

The Autonomy Project

Limerick Culture and Arts Office presented The Autonomy Project (funded through the Arts Council's Invitation to Collaboration scheme) comprising of professional artists and original youth performances to audiences in Limerick, beginning on Easter Monday for five days of events from 2-7 April. The performances of original works from Limerick's finest youth groups and leading professional dance, visual and sound artists exploring our autonomy in society took place in two venues.

The Autonomy Project @ The Sailors Home : This multi-genre installation performance presented original works by six leading artists: Visual Artist, Seamus Nolan (F**k IMMA), Performance, Artist Fergus Byrne (Future Histories), Performing Artist, Deirdre Murphy (Capitalism the Musical), sound installation by Siobhan Kavanagh and Adam Gibney (Doom Opera and Synthesiser 7:(un)Certain), Dance Artist Lisa McLoughlin (Anima).

The Autonomy Project @ Dance Limerick. These performance film, dance and music showcased the original works created by our youth group partners: Limerick Youth Theatre, Dance Limerick, Music Generation Limerick City and GOSHH along with two outstanding professional performances, Goblom (Ella Clarke and Caitríona Ní Mhurchú) and Contemporary Circus Maleta Company.

As part of the project, an interdisciplinary conference took place in the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at the University of Limerick on 20 April. Officially opened by Deputy Mayor Councillor Marian Hurley, the daylong conference included papers by leading Irish Artists, academics as well as contributions by the youth partners.

The Autonomy Project progresses Limerick Culture and Arts Office's Youth Arts Strategy, by developing and strengthening partnerships between four youth groups partners, Limerick Youth Theatre, Dance Limerick, Music Generation Limerick City and GOSHH (Gender, Orientation, Sexual Health, HIV).

Launch of Shannon Fisherman Documentary

Commissioned by Limerick City and County Council Archives under the Creative Ireland Programme in Limerick the documentary features fishermen from along the Shannon who recount their experiences of fishing for a living along the Estuary. Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Josepha Madigan TD officially launched the documentary in Istabraq Hall on 6 April, with the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Stephen Keary and many of the fishermen who worked along the River Shannon in attendance.

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Éigse Michael Hartnett 2018

The annual Éigse Michael Hartnett Literary and Arts Festival takes place each year in Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, Hartnett's home-town and is supported by the Arts Council and Limerick City and County Council. This year it took place from 12-14 April and was officially launched by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Stephen Keary.

The opening night of Eigse also saw the joint winners of this year's Michael Hartnett Poetry award honoured: Macdara Woods for Music from the Big Tent (Dedalus Press 2016) and Mary O'Malley for Playing the Octopus (Carcanet 2016).

Integrated Dance Programme

The aim of this project is to introduce participants to dance as an art form whilst facilitating active and productive engagement in dance activities amongst disabled and non-disabled participants. The integrated dance programme covers a wide geographical area in County Limerick. The towns and villages represented by the schools are Rathkeale, Abbeyfeale, Dromcollogher, Newcastle West, Pallaskenry and Castletroy. The programme involves many agencies including, service provider management, care staff, transition year co-ordinators, teachers, transport providers and participants. For the 2017-2018 programme, there has been an increased number of students participating from 230 to 310 and the culmination of this year's work was hosted by Castletroy College on 16 April.

Riverfest Launch

The press launch for Riverfest took place on 10 April in House. This is the city's premier summer festival, and highlights announced on the day included sailing regatta, kayaking and water based performances on the river Shannon, the popular BBQ Competition, the Riverfestival village in Arthur's Quay Park, the Bon Secours Great Limerick Run and a spectacular fireworks display.

World Recipe Exchange

It has been almost a year since Ormston House received the research and development grant from the European Cultural Foundation followed by funding from Limerick City and County Council. Since then

they have worked on developing the programme, building the World Recipe Exchange community and bringing the international residents of Limerick city together while sharing food. The research and development phase is concluding and to celebrate their achievements, a small gathering with all those who helped make World Recipe Exchange happen over the past year took place on 19 April in Ormston House.

Letters of Support

Eight letters of support for organisations and individuals making applications to the Arts Council funding schemes were provided under the new Limerick City and County Council strategic funding award.

Open Calls for Bursary Opportunities

Limerick Culture and Arts Office, Limerick City and County Council, announced the following funding bursary opportunities on 25 April. These bursaries are to support the professional development of individual creatives and artists in Limerick in line objective one of the Limerick Cultural Strategy, A Framework 2016-2030.

- Blas International Summer School Bursary.
- Meitheal Summer School Bursary.
- Irish Youth Choir Bursary.
- Drama League of Ireland Summer School Bursary.
- Tyrone Guthrie Centre Regional Bursary Scheme.

Theatre and Film Bursaries

The selection panels for the Limerick short film bursaries and the Limerick theatre bursaries were selected and met on the following dates

- Limerick Short Film Bursaries 2018 – 23 April.
- Limerick Theatre Bursaries 2018 - 25 April.

Recommendations from the panels will go forward to the Cultural SPC.

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Festivals and Research Partnership with UL

Limerick Culture and Arts Office in partnership with the Kemmy Business School and Dr. Annmarie Ryan at the University of Limerick rolled out a Festivals strategic marketing for tourism project. This working partnership involved the strategic marketing for tourism students undertaking a programme of work that focused on Limerick festivals. The goal was to support locally based festivals in their strategic marketing activities, while at the same time exposing the students to the complexity of festivals as a cultural and tourism 'product'. The key focus of the project was to consider the following

1. the positioning of the festival
2. setting measurable goals in specific markets
3. devising of a range of strategies that will enable the achievement of those goals

In this project, the students based their work on the needs and goals of each festival, setting measurable targets and devising a strategy to help you achieve these. The final presentation and outcomes of the research was presented to each festival in Culture House on 16 April providing an information sharing and network opportunity for the four festivals that took part, Limerick Fringe, EVA International, HearSay, Limerick Literary Festival.

LEO Festivals and Events Development Programme

Limerick Culture and Arts Office are working with Limerick Enterprise Office to deliver bespoke professional development training for festival organisers. The curriculum for the training was confirmed in April and the 16 festivals are now registered to being the training course that will take place over six weeks. This programme is the result of a panel recommendation as part of the 2017 Limerick City and County Council festivals and events grant scheme.

7. Limerick Museum

The Museum received 1,487 visitors in April.

Dr. Fiona McDonagh, Mary Immaculate College brought a number of students of Contemporary and Applied Theatre Studies to the Museum on 12 April where they engaged with the exhibits as part of the module on Community Theatre.

Friends of Limerick Lace Group held two meetings in the Museum on 5 and 19 April.

An exhibition of paintings by renowned Irish artist Samuel Walsh opened in the Museum on 27 April and will continue until 1 June.

8. Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- The RTE ConTempo Quartet held their monthly concert in the current series on 5 April which was well attended by around 35 patrons. The Beethoven Series of the 9 Quartets will continue until May. Negotiations are taking place to continue the series in the Autumn of 2018.
- EVA International 2018 was officially opened on 13 by Inti Guerrero with an attendance of over 300 people. The exhibition is presented in city wide venues and runs until 8 July. EVA International 2018 attendance to end of April was over 5200 visitors.
- EVA International hosted workshops with school groups from 23 April for two weeks as part of the Education programme.
- EVA International will host a series of events and tours over the coming months.
- Official opening at the Draocht Arts Centre, Blancherstown, Dublin of the exhibition MAKing Art: The DRAWing Exhibition on 25 April which featured 23 artworks from LCGA's/National Collection of Contemporary Drawing for a temporary exhibition which runs until 16 June. Ongoing plans for collaborative projects between LCGA and Draocht for a three year period.
- LCGA was awarded a touring grant from the Arts Council for our forthcoming exhibition with Anita Groener, tour to take place during 2019.

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- Work placement by UL 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.
- Ongoing meetings 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.

9. Planning and Environment

Litter/Waste Enforcement

- 184 complaints were received in April.
- 28 on the spot litter fines were issued during the month.
- Legal proceedings were issued in four cases under the Litter Pollution Act.
- Legal proceedings were issued in three cases under the Waste Management Act.
- 26 warning letters were issued in relation to environmental issues.
- Three statutory notices were served under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act.
- Three statutory notices were served under Section 55 of the Waste Management Act.
- One statutory notice was served under Section 71 of the Waste Management Act.
- 16 Directions were served under the Waste Management Act.
- 97 cases were closed / resolved / completed in April.

Air Noise and Water Pollution

- 29 complaints were received in April.
- Two statutory notices were served under Section 107 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act.
- Legal proceedings were issued in two cases under the Air Pollution Act.



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10. Fire and Emergency Services

Statistics

	Fire Related Calls	Non Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call outs 1/04/18 – 30/04/18	96	37	133
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	73%	70%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	20%	21%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	7%	9%	

	Received / Assigned	Validated	Invalidated / Refused	Granted	Completed
Fire Certificate Applications April	19	3	4	14	
Disability Access Cert Applications April	16	2	2	12	
Licensing Applications April	6	6	0		
Commencement Notice April	51	47	4		47
Completion Certificate April	27	13	0		13
Planning Referrals April	44				28
Sugar CRM Cases April	4				0

Civil Defence attendance at Events for the month

- Ballingarry 7k Run/Walk.
- Colaiste Mhuire Askeaton 5k Run.
- Department of An Taoiseach function Dublin Castle.

Major Emergency Management Events for the month

- Attended Department of An Taoiseach function Dublin Castle.
- Council personnel attended the Information Management Officer training course held in April.
- The following meetings were held in April
 - Major Emergency Management Committee meeting
 - Regional Working Group meeting
 - Regional Steering Group meeting

Munster Regional Control Centre (MRCC)

	No of Calls mobilised to an emergency incident by MRCC	Other Calls	Total No. of calls in April
No. of call outs 01/04/18 – 30/04/18	742	943	1685

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11. Access to Information

	April	2018 (Jan to April)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	14	74
FOI Internal Appeals	-	2
Information Commissioner Appeals	-	-
Total Ombudsman Requests	1	10
Total AIE Requests	-	2

12. Digital Strategy

Smart City Exchange

- Digital Strategy coordinated the submission of Limerick's proposal for the +CityXChange project to the European Commission, in Trondheim, Norway on 5 April.
- The +CityXChange is a project proposal under the Horizon 2020 Smart Cities and Communities 2018 call developed in partnership with members from 7 EU countries, looking at how a smart city can better manage its energy usage and deploy new energy solutions in order to become a "positive energy" city. This is essential to counter climate change and make the city a better place to live, work and do business.

LITe

- The Limerick Information Transformation Electronic (LITe) project will transform how the council manages information. It aims to increase the use of electronic records and documents in order to provide more efficient public services.
- The procurement process for consultancy services has been completed, while procurement of associated plugins is at an advanced stage. An initial build of the "cloud" platform for our electronic records has also been completed and is currently in use by the LITe project team.

13. Veterinary Services

- 11 stray or wandering horses were impounded.
- The Dog Control Unit dealt with 20 dogs.
- 39 food samples were submitted during April for analysis under the National Residues and Microbiological Sampling Programme.
- The dog Licence awareness campaign continued to be implemented by the dog wardens.

14. Smarter Travel

Limerick Smarter Travel (LST) carried out a balance bike initiative supported by the Healthy Ireland Fund. LST collaborated with the Limerick Childcare Committee and the Healthy Ireland Smart Start Programme in order to best identify and form relationships with our target audience. It was decided that early years services in Limerick that had completed the Healthy Ireland Smart Start Programme, which encourages healthy lifestyle behaviours in early childhood, would be invited to participate in our initiative. Once signed up participants underwent a one-day sprocket rocket training class with a Cycling Ireland instructor. Sprocket rocket enables participants to teach young people to cycle in an environment where the emphasis is on the pleasure of participating and the joy of learning new skills, balancing, cornering, braking and pedalling. Two training sessions were carried out, one on 24 March and the second on 28 April. 17 early years services participated in the training and on completion; each service was presented with five balance bikes and five helmets. It is hoped that the provision of cycle training and resources at an early age will lead to an increased uptake and appreciation of cycling for the benefitting children into the future.

15. Local Enterprise Office

- A highly interactive "Presentation and Pitching Skills for Business" course took place with six participants in attendance.
- An "Introduction to Tendering" course was held in conjunction with Intertrade Ireland with eight participants in attendance.

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- A "Succession Planning Programme for Small Business" commenced with five companies represented.
- A six week "Start Your Own Business" course commenced with eight participants.
- A one day "Start Your Own Business" course took place with 14 in attendance.
- A Social Media "Bootcamp for Small Business Owners" commenced which was again booked out with 12 participants.
- The IBYE National Final was held on the 22 April. Local Enterprise Office Limerick was represented by Padraig Hayes of MyBEV.ie and Paddy Finn of Electricity Exchange. Paddy was runner-up in the Best Established Business category, which was won by the overall winner of the competition.

16. Environmental Awareness

- Annual Tidy Towns Seminar on the 11 April in Woodlands House Hotel, Adare:
 - Urban and Village Renewal
 - Conscious Cup
 - Climate Change and
 - TLC4 Update
- Presentation to teacher training students in Mary Immaculate College in conjunction with Limerick City Centre Tidy Towns group.

Tóla Bowen MacCurtáin, Gael Colaiste Luimnigh won the Limerick City and County Council Environmental Prize during Limerick Institute of Technology's Scifest 2018.

Economic Development and Planning

1. Planning Applications

A total of 108 new planning applications were received as follows:

Part 8 Development	3
Housing developments	1
Domestic developments	63
Agricultural developments	13
Commercial developments /change of use	5
Community / Educational Developments	3
Other Developments	20

The current applications include proposals for:

- Part 8 for the construction of five residential units at Sexton Street North and Quarry Road, Limerick.
- Part 8 for the construction of four residential units at Stradbally North, Castleconnell.
- Construction of three production/storage buildings at Ballygiltinan North, Glin.

2. Investment

- AMCS, a fast-growing Limerick software group, has raised over €100m in funding, in the largest investment deal ever completed by a private Irish Technology company.

3. Marketing and Communications

- National digital, print and radio marketing campaign for Riverfest Limerick 2018 underway following successful launch of event in House Limerick.
- Design and distribution of 20,000 Riverfest Limerick Event Guides throughout Limerick City and County, North Kerry, Clare and Tipperary.
- Turned Limerick red for #Bordeauxbound campaign to support Munster in the European Rugby Champions Cup semi-final V Racing 92.

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- Feature advert and editorial in Coach Tours UK Magazine April 2018.
- Feature What's On advert in The Limerick Magazine April 2018.
- Marketing materials supplied to:
 - Travel agents from Dubai, Qatar, India and China partaking in Fáilte Ireland's Ireland Specialist Mega Familiarisation Trip
 - Water Safety Conference delegates, Absolute Hotel.
- Produced seven Limerick.ie e-newsletters.
- Monthly Limerick.ie Business Bulletin e-newsletter issued by the Office of Marketing and Communications.

Social Media:

- Posted 29 times on Limerick.ie's Facebook with total page likes now 19,215. Posts reached 33,961 users with 10,463 engagements.
- Tweeted 23 times on Limerick.ie's Twitter, @limerick_ie, with total followers now 14,291. Our tweets earned 78,600 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).
- Posted 4 times on Limerick.ie's Instagram with total followers now 4,061.
- Tweeted 17 times on Limerick Marketing's Twitter, @limkmarketing, with total followers now 2,153. Our tweets earned 21,900 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).

Limerick.ie

A total of 104,921 people visited the Limerick.ie website in April 2018 – a 3% decrease on the same period in 2017.

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

1. www.limerick.ie
2. www.limerick.ie/riverfest
3. www.limerick.ie/council
4. www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning
5. www.limerick.ie/council/your-council/jobs

Local Enterprise Office

- Ten grants approved for April meeting, totalling €249,707 grant funding with 17 jobs approved for these projects.

Innovate Limerick

- The Minister for Business Enterprise and Innovation, Heather Humphreys, TD visited ENGINE where Innovate Limerick show cased their projects to date and their plans for 2018.
- Dr. Janice O'Connell has joined the Innovate Limerick team as the Mid-West Tech Ambassador. She has formed the Mid-West Tech Network and holds monthly Rapid Talks at ENGINE. These talks include high profile guest speakers on topics such as Blockchain and Virtual Currency, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. The next talk takes place on 11 May and will focus on Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality. The talks and training at ENGINE have attracted over 600 participants to date.

4. Housing Capital and Regeneration

General Housing Programme

- Under Rebuilding Ireland, the national target for new social housing is 50,000 units to be delivered by 2021, comprising a blend of built, acquired and leased properties. In April, each local authority received updated targets for 2018-2021, and it is expected that local authorities will focus their delivery streams in line with the ratios indicated. For Limerick City and County Council, the 2018-2021 targets are 1,365 units delivered by 2021, with 251 units to be delivered in 2018.
- During his most recent trip to Limerick, Minister of State, Mr Damien English TD, Minister at the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG), visited recently completed properties delivered under the Buy and Renew programme at Shelbourne Terrace and Treaty Terrace, Thomondgate.
 - The *Buy and Renew* programme is making a positive impact with six vacant units returned to use in recent weeks and a further 23

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units at Sale Agreed stage. In addition, the complementary Repair and Lease scheme which also targets vacancy has a further six units in progress and an additional 11 units with Agreements-to-Lease signed and 43 units currently under consideration.

Regeneration

- The completion of Churchfield Phase 1 has provided 42 new houses in Southill. The construction of Churchfield Phase 2 (38 units) will follow and will serve to consolidate the heart of Southill
 - The official opening of the recently completed Churchfield housing development, Southill, was attended by Minister of State, Mr Damien English TD, at the DHPLG. The Minister met with new residents of the scheme and was brought on a tour of their homes followed by refreshments in the newly extended Southill Area Centre.
- The thermal upgrade programme continues apace with approval received from the DHPLG for the following contract
 - Approval to issue Tender for Contract for TU-SMP 113 (St Mary's Park, 29 houses).
- Limerick City and County Council provided the historic building on Lord Edward Street, which is part of the recently completed housing scheme, to EVA International for the duration of the Art Biennial. EVA's presence in this building is an important part of public engagement.
- Social Intervention Fund: an application for funding for 2018 has been submitted. All applications for this fund are assessed by an independent evaluation panel who submit their recommendation to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for approval.
- Completion of CCTV in Galvone Industrial Estate by Regeneration.
- Community Consultative Forum met with new Chief Superintendent Gerard Roche to discuss future policing review that took place on 15 January.

5. Water Services

- Watermain leak detection and repair contracts progressing in Limerick city.
- Lead replacement works progressing in Farranshone.

6. Forward Planning

- Variation no. 6 to the Limerick County Development Plan 2010-2016 (as extended) which proposes to incorporate changes to Chapter 8 in relation to Transport and Infrastructure was adopted at a Special Council meeting in April.
- A submission was made to Irish Water on the Irish Water Investment Plan 2020 -2024 Consultation on the Proposed Methodology.

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Organisational Development

1. Communications

- Issued 20 news releases from the Office of Marketing and Communications.
- Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter.
- Tweeted 148 times on Limerick City and County Council's Twitter account, @limerickcouncil, with total fans now 10,477. Our tweets earned over 312,100 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).

2. Schedule of Meetings

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Full Council Special Meeting of Limerick City and County Council to discuss Proposed Variation No. 6 to the Limerick County Development Plan 2010-2016 (as extended) to incorporate Changes to Chapter 8 – Transport and Infrastructure Section	10.04.2018	Dooradoyle
Operational Briefings Limerick City East Limerick City North Limerick City West	03.04.2018 03.04.2018 03.04.2018	Merchant's Quay Merchant's Quay Merchant's Quay
Metropolitan District of Limerick	16.04.2018	Merchant's Quay
Municipal District of: (a) Adare-Rathkeale: Monthly Meeting (b) Newcastle West: Monthly Meeting (c) Cappamore-Killmallock: Monthly Meeting	10.04.2018 11.04.2018 19.04.2018	Rathkeale Newcastle West Killmallock
Strategic Policy Committee Meetings Travel and Transportation Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Community Leisure and Emergency Services Environment Home and Social Development	09.04.2018 09.04.2018 16.04.2018 23.04.2018 30.04.2018	Merchant's Quay The Engine, Innovate Limerick Merchant's Quay Dooradoyle Dooradoyle
Local Community Development Committee	03.04.2018	Merchant's Quay

3. Training Fire and Emergency Services

- Six fire fighter recruits completed an eight week training block in the UK and returned to Limerick to continue their training prior to their passing out parade.
- 52 fire fighters were trained in the skills required to deal with Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV) road traffic collisions.
- 35 fire fighters completed a two-day training course in aircraft fire fighting at Shannon Airport.
- 12 fire fighters and officers were trained in tactical fire ventilation to learn the skills necessary to rapidly and safely clear a building of smoke.
- Two fire fighters attended an initial recruits course in Ennis.

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Financial Matters

1. Home Improvement Schemes

APRIL 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	€18,477.50	2	€18,735.00	4
Metropolitan	€43,675.79	10	€52,388.80	6	€41,116.29	11
Newcastle West	€5,400.00	1	€0.00	0	€38,289.10	7
Rathkeale	€0.00	0	€0.00	0	€7,905.61	2
	€49,075.79	11	€70,866.30	8	€106,046.00	24

Total Monies issued in April 2018 = €225,988.09

Total Grants issued in April 2018 = 43

JANUARY TO APRIL 2018	MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HAG (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	No.
Kilmallock	€10,500.00	2	€88,586.55	8	€41,467.35	8
Metropolitan	€56,575.79	13	€96,770.81	10	€56,575.79	13
Newcastle West	€44,077.25	10	€18,165.00	6	€77,924.26	15
Rathkeale	€14,173.13	3	€17,673.50	2	€15,486.23	5
	€125,326.17	28	€221,195.86	26	€191,453.63	41

Total Monies issued January to April 2018 = €537,975.66

Total Grants issued January to April 2018 = 95

2. Rent Collection

Opening Balance @ 01/01/2018	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing balance 30/04/2018	% Collection
€2,589,197	€5,072,253	€7,661,450	€4,661,004	€3,000,446	61%

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 30th April 2018	14,501,047	55,119,177	*	192,377	343,830	69,084,017	18,654,208	50,429,809	3,380,085	28%

* 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 30th April 2018*	461,159	258,422	719,581	506,820	212,761	70%

Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No of days in overdraft 0

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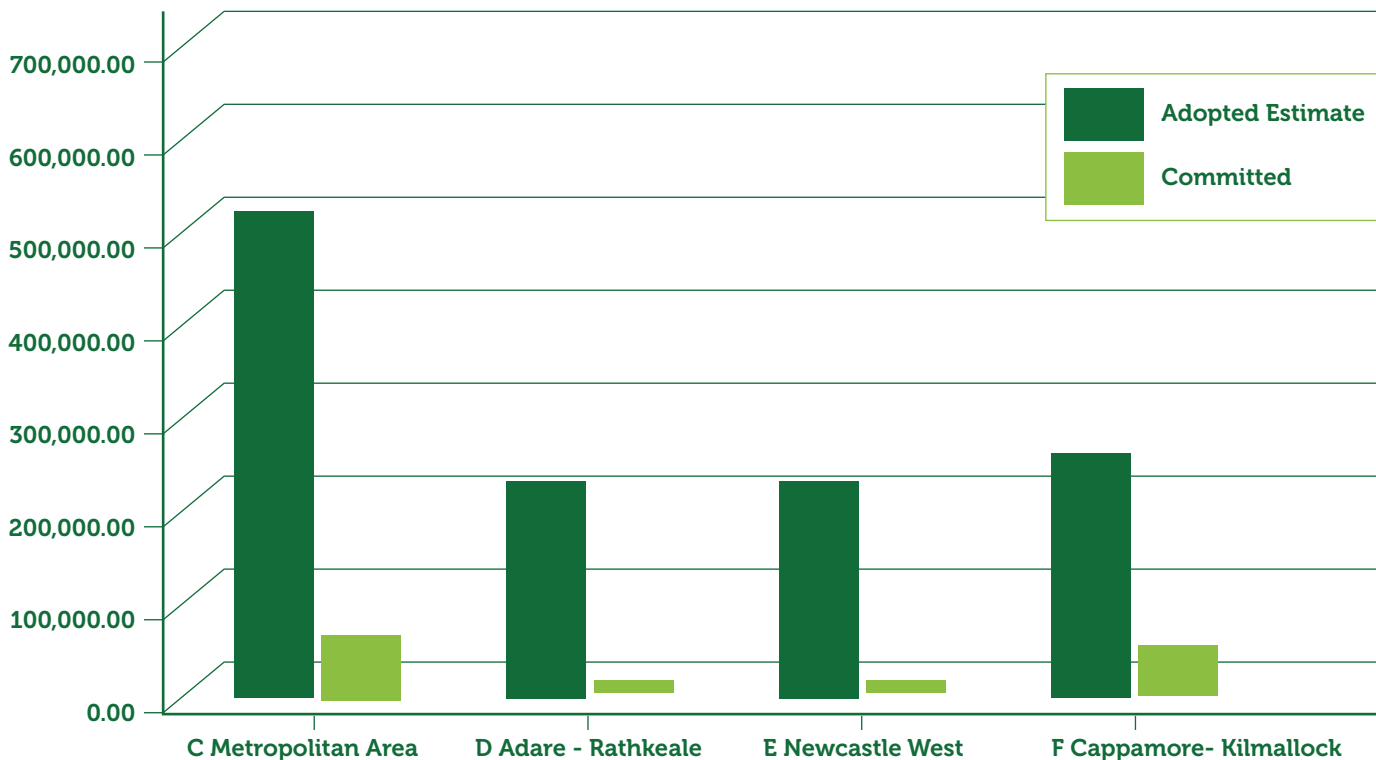
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4. General Municipal Allocation 2018

Adopted Estimate €1.203 Million

Graph outlining adopted budget and committed expenditure up to 30th April 2018



Municipal (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate	Value Committed
C Metropolitan Area	503,000.00	51,376
D Adare - Rathkeale	225,000.00	12,626
E Newcastle West	225,000.00	17,230
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	250,000.00	41,659