

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

June 2018

THIS MONTH:

The Honorary Freedom of Limerick was conferred on Detective Garda Ben O'Sullivan (Retired) and Posthumously on Detective Garda Jerry McCabe, R.I.P.

€234,660 received from CLÁR for schools - Community Safety Measures

US Sports analytics company STATS officially opened their headquarters in Limerick

Six new recruits for Limerick City Fire Station

CONTENTS:

Empowering the Citizen

1. Community Support Services
2. HAP Shared Services
3. Social Development
4. Civic Receptions
5. Customer Services
6. Library Services
7. Limerick Culture and Arts Office
8. Limerick Museum
9. Limerick City Gallery of Art
10. Planning and Environment
11. Fire and Emergency Services
12. Access to Information
13. Digital Strategy
14. Veterinary Services
15. Smarter Travel

Economic Development and Planning

1. Planning Applications
2. Investment
3. Marketing and Communications
4. Housing Capital and Physical Regeneration
5. Water Services
6. Forward Planning

Organisational Development

1. Communications
2. Schedule of Meetings
3. Training Fire and Emergency Services

Financial Matters

1. Home Improvement Schemes
2. Rent Collection
3. Commercial Rates and Loans
4. General Municipal Allocation



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae LuimnighLimerick City
& County Council

Empowering the Citizen

1. Community Support Services

Waiting List

Housing Waiting List	2,630
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Allocations

	Metropolitan District	Newcastle West	Adare – Rathkeale	Cappamore – Kilmallock	Total
No of Units June 2018	17	3	1	3	24
Year to Date	149	17	10	21	197

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

Individuals – 27 June 2018		
Location	Description	No.
McGarry House	Mixed low threshold accommodation for singles	30
St Patricks Hostel	Higher threshold accommodation for single males	47
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	24
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	17
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	12
Total		150

Families - 27 June 2018			
Location	Description	No. Adults	No. Children
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	8
		Families - 6	
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	50	80
		Families - 40	
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	14	17
		Families - 9	
Totals		70	105
		Families - 55	

Cemeteries

Total No. of Burials in the City Graveyards

- Kilmurry: 3
- Castlemungret: 4
- Mount St. Oliver: 17
- Mount St. Lawrence: 20

Domestic Waste Refuse Waiver Scheme

- Total number of waivers issued for Limerick City and County Council for June 2018 was 31 waivers approved, six were refused.

2. HAP Shared Services

The Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Scheme is a form of social housing support provided by all local authorities. Under HAP, local authorities can provide housing assistance to households with a long-term housing need, including many long-term Rent Supplement recipients.

Limerick City and County Council, HAP Shared Services Centre (SSC) is the national customer contact and financial transactional shared services centre for all 31 local authorities.

There were 37,751 active HAP tenancies at the end of June, 2018. A weekly average of 349 HAP tenancies has been set-up during 2018. The weekly tenant debit is just under €1.7 million and the June landlord payment run was just over €27 million.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Luimnigh

Limerick City
& County Council

3. Social Development

CLÁR

- CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) is a targeted investment programme for rural areas that aims to provide funding for small infrastructural projects in areas that experience disadvantage. The aim of CLÁR is to support the sustainable development of identified CLÁR areas with the aim of attracting people to live and work there. The funding works in conjunction with Local/Agency and other Departmental funding programmes and on the basis of locally identified priorities.
- Measure 1 under the programme covers support for Schools/Community Safety Measures and the Council received €234,660 under this measure 1 covering 10 projects right across the county.
- Measure 2 covers Play Areas including Multi Use Game Areas for Schools (MUGAs) this will be announced by the Department of Rural and Community Development in the coming weeks.

Outdoor Recreation Scheme 2018

- The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Michael Ring, T.D., has announced the launch of the 2018 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.

There are three measures outlined below:

Measure	Description	Max grant payable	Max applications per applicant body
1	Small Scale Maintenance/Promotion and Marketing	€20,000	10
2	Medium Scale Repair/Upgrade and New Trail Development	€200,000	4
3	Large Scale Repair/Upgrade and New Strategy Trail Development	€500,000	1

- The 2018 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme will provide funding for the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure and for the necessary maintenance, enhancement or promotion of existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in rural areas.

Healthy Limerick

- All 15 Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) actions funded by Healthy Ireland have concluded. Final nonfinancial report reviewed by the LCDC and submitted to Pobal.
- Limerick LCDC has applied for Healthy Ireland funding for eight actions covering the employment of the Healthy Limerick Coordinator, a small grant scheme, expansion of Parkrun in Limerick, development of 40 virtual walks, promotion of breastfeeding, support for Tobacco-Free Ireland, social farming and the expansion of the Social Health Education Project into the County.
- The 18 community initiatives funded with a Healthy Limerick small grant are beginning to roll out. These include:
 - Glórach Craft Coop: 12 people attended the Craft Coop open day in May. Its activities will really start in September. Excellent partnership working evidenced with West Limerick Resources and Abbeyfeale Community Council, who have also made links with Visit West Limerick, a local tourism initiative.
 - Cappamore Estates Committee ran a highly successful community fun day. Estate Management Unit, Housing Support Services of Limerick City and County Council, Ballyhoura Development and An Garda Síochána were all represented on the day.
 - Zion Vocal Ensemble Community Choir purchased its new piano and is very active in Limerick.

Pride of Place

The following entries have been chosen to represent Limerick in the Irish Public Bodies (IPB) Pride of Place Competition for 2018:

- Kilmeedy Community Development Group – 0–300 Population category.
- Limerick Civic Trust – Creative Place Initiative.
- Children's Grief Centre – Communities Reaching Out Initiative.

Age Friendly Limerick

- The Healthy and Positive Ageing Initiative (HAPAI) carried out a survey of people aged 55 and over in 20 local authority areas around the

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Luimnigh

Limerick City
& County Council

country, including Limerick City and County. To officially launch the findings from this survey the Department of Health hosted a joint conference with the Health Service Executive (HSE) and Age Friendly Ireland.

- The launch event was held in Dublin on 20 June. One of the key note speakers was Chairperson of Limerick Older Peoples Council, Ms. Mary Cronin. Mary, a lifelong athlete, now in her 70's, still competes in 10K and 5K road races. Mary spoke about the importance physical activity played over the years in maintaining her positive mental health. She was joined on the podium, by Minister Jim Daly and other guest speakers.
- The survey is the first to provide comparable evidence across 20 local authority areas on a broad range of areas including; housing conditions and attitudes to future housing choices, perception of safety; loneliness and social isolation, health behaviours, internet use, volunteering, transport need, access to services, and satisfaction with the built environment, among others.
- The aim of the survey is to provide both national and local service-providers and stakeholders with the evidence needed to identify the gaps in supports and to develop the kind of communities that can allow everyone to age positively in their local communities. The survey supports the development of the Age Friendly programme through consultation with older people on their attitudes, experiences and preferences as they age in their local areas. A total of 10,540 people age 55 and older (minimum of 500 people in each local authority area) were surveyed.

Intercultural Cities

- Limerick City and County Council has begun a collaboration with senior members of the Sikh community around honouring the memory and raising the profile of Limerick native Max Arthur Mc Auliffe. Mr. Mc Auliffe, a native of Strand, Templeglantine, became renowned in Sikh culture and religion in the mid 1800's, when he translated into English, many of the Sikh religions most holy texts.

4. Civic Receptions

Freedom of Limerick

The Honorary Freedom of Limerick was conferred on Detective Garda Ben O'Sullivan (Retired) and Posthumously on Detective Garda Jerry McCabe, R.I.P., in recognition of their bravery in the carrying out of their duties on behalf of the people of Limerick and Ireland and as a token of the high esteem and affection in which they are held by the people of Limerick on 28 June.

Mayoral Reception

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Stephen Keary, held a Mayoral Reception for the principle response agencies i.e. Limerick City and County Council, The Health Service Executive, Mid-West Community Health Care, 12th Infantry Battalion Sarsfield Barracks, Limerick City and County Council Fire and Emergency Services, An Garda Síochána, The Order of Malta Ireland Ambulance Corps, the Irish Red Cross and The Civil Defence on 27 June in recognition of their involvement in the response to the extreme weather events including Storm Ophelia, Storm Emma, severe cold weather and snowfall that caused widespread disruption to communities in many parts of the country including Limerick City and County.

Reception

The Municipal District of Newcastle West accorded a Municipal District reception to the Feenagh Kilmeedy Scór Group in recognition of the group winning the All Ireland Senior Scór Léiriú Competition 2018 on 21 June. The reception was held at the District offices at Áras William Smith O'Brien, Newcastle West.

5. Customer Services

On 20 June, the management of all housing maintenance requests went live officially in Customer Services. This go live was the culmination of over six months of collaboration between Customer Services, the Business Improvement Unit, the Operations and Maintenance Department, the Social Development Directorate and the Design and Delivery Department.

All maintenance requests for Council properties within the Metropolitan area, will firstly be referred to the Operations and Maintenance Department, who will then liaise with the relevant area; either the Social

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Luimnigh

Limerick City
& County Council

Development Directorate or the Design and Delivery Department regarding the works requested. This will include requests inside and outside of Regeneration areas. The Operation Level Agreement to cover this integration has been signed and all areas will maintain up to date information regarding the status of requested works.

Over 70% of all housing maintenance requests to the Council are in the Metropolitan area so with this in mind, the main emphasis has been on putting a more streamlined process in place to handle these areas in particular. However, any housing maintenance requests received directly by Customer Services for any area of the County will be handled in line with the agreed Operation Level Agreement.

Customer Services staff supported the roll out of a new version of the Sugar Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system called v1.5.1. This new version has many user-friendly improvements but one important feature that supports our customers and public representatives is that they will now receive an automatic email when a requested case is closed. The email will advise of the status of the case and will give the appropriate update. This feature is in line with our 'Digital First, but Inclusive' principle regarding the delivery of as best a Customer Service as we can in the Council.

Staff from Customer Services attended an information evening with Failte Ireland. The purpose of this event was to link up front line service providers and to empower them to be tourism advocates for Limerick.

A Mayoral reception was held in June to recognise the front line staff involved in the continued provision of services during the severe weather events of this winter. Customer Services were represented at this ceremony in recognition of the provision of a helpline for the Council during these storms.

Customer Services handled and processed 101 Residential Parking Permits throughout the month of June.

The call centre received 12,117 calls throughout the month of June. This works out at approximately 606 calls per day, with the average response time being 12 seconds for calls to be answered.

Throughout the month of June 2,712 cases were logged, with the majority broken down as follows:

- Operations and Maintenance: 1,886 – over half of which being housing maintenance

- Housing Support Services: 299
- Planning and Environmental Services: 205
- Customer Services: 160
- Veterinary: 59

The total number of callers to our counters at Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle was 2,262.

6. Library Services

- 2018 Summer Stars Reading Programme was launched at Dooradoyle Library with a special event on 19 June to mark the official launch of the popular reading challenge across Limerick City and County. The launch celebrated reading for children of all ages as guest of honour, author Róisín Meaney, spoke passionately about the joy of getting lost in a good book to a rapt audience from St. Paul's National School. The children also enjoyed a selection of readings of childhood favourites from invited guests, Sinéad McDonnell, Environment Awareness Officer, Limerick City and County Council, teachers Tomás O'Brien and Ciara Flannery. The Summer Stars Reading programme will run throughout the summer in public libraries all over Ireland. All participants will receive a Summer Stars Reading Card to record and track their own progress as they go. There will be rewards and incentives along the way and a certificate and medal of achievement at the end for all who complete the programme.
- As part of Cruinníu na nÓg, under the Creative Ireland Programme, six library branches hosted events including *Movies at the Libraries*. A special screening of the classic silent movie *Safety Last* starring Harold Lloyd followed by fun activities for children were held in Newcastle West, Kilmallock, Adare, Dooradoyle, Watch House Cross and The Granary libraries.
- In Watch House Cross library, the Homeless Action Unit held two days of training for their staff on 14 and 21 June. The library was delighted to host the June meeting of the Staff Liaison Network with 30 Council staff in attendance.
- Limerick City Community Development Project held their Adult Learners Awards Ceremony in the library on 21 June with 50 adults being presented with certificates.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Luimnígh

Limerick City
& County Council

- Newcastle West Library hosted an art exhibition with adult learners from the Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme, Shanagolden. These paintings are part of their Level Five Painting/drawing module. The title of the exhibition *In the Making* was chosen as this was the start of the journey in artwork for many students. The exhibition was officially opened by Triona Lynch of Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB).
- Digital skill classes for seniors continued during the month of June.
- The knitting club continued on Friday mornings.
- Dooradoyle Library continues to host monthly meetings of the Limerick Bat Group. This group can be contacted at Limerickbatgroup@gmail.com. The Preschool Story-time, and meditation classes continued throughout the month.
- In association with Ballyhoura Development, a second group of senior citizens completed their five-week Digital Skills for Citizens Training *Bring Your Own Device* course on 19 June. The focus is on getting the members of the group set up to use email, to book a flight, tax the car and internet banking, etc.
- On 14 June Dooradoyle Library hosted a talk on Mothers' Health. There were three speakers from *Mymind.org* and Limerick Mental Health Association. The talk was followed by a question and answer session and workshops for the audience of 40.
- On 15 June an exhibition of artwork *A Long Time Coming* by Tarah Scott was opened.
- From 27 June to 29 June, Dooradoyle Library hosted three days of Music Workshops for 15-18 year olds. These were organised and run by Limerick Youth Service and covered all aspects of the music industry.
- The Granary Library *Lunchtime Concert Series* kicked off this month on 6 June with some traditional music. Adam Agee and John Sousa, two of Colorado's most sought-after traditional Irish musicians gave a wonderful performance to a very appreciative audience. Since 2004, they have been journeying together through the Irish idiom on fiddle, guitar and tenor banjo, enchanting listeners on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.
- The branch also welcomed rock band *Sons of Southern Ulster* on 8 June. The group performed

songs from their debut album *Foundry Folk Songs*, a reflection on growing up in Cavan in the 1980s.

- Continuing the music theme Freddie White, the great singer and songwriter performed once again to a very appreciative audience in The Granary Library on 19 June.
- Special guest at this month's Rock Record Club was, Limerick Historian, Tony Browne.
- On 26 June the branch hosted an information evening for parents entitled "Moving from Home to Childcare". The panel of speakers included a Public Health Nurse, an Early Years Coordinator, a Speech and Language Therapist, an Infant Mental Health Therapist and a Childcare Committee Representative. They spoke on the following topics: Tips for choosing Childcare for your Baby, Preparing Yourself and Baby for the Move, Attachment and Childcare, Talking to Your Baby, Language and Play, Overview of The Affordable Childcare Scheme and Thinking of your Baby's Eating and Drinking needs.
- To celebrate Bike Week, on 19 June, Green-Schools Travel and the Limerick Smarter Travel School project ran a miniature bicycle competition inviting students to make their own miniature bicycle. A selection of the models were on display and the competition ran in partnership with the Limerick City and County Council, Environment Department of Limerick City and County Council.
- Limerick Writer's Centre presented *On the Nail* at the Library on 28 June. A Literary Evening with Eileen Sheehan and Stephanie Conn. Stephanie's *The Woman on the Other Side*, was published in 2016 and her latest collection *Island* published in April of this year. Eileen's *Song of the Midnight Fox* was published in 2004. Eileen's poetry is written from a benevolent pagan perspective.

7. Limerick Culture and Arts Office

Cruinniú na nÓg: 23 June

Cruinniú na nÓg is an initiative of the Creative Ireland Programme at the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and is presented in partnership with RTÉ and the Local Authorities including Limerick City and County Council. It is a new national day of creativity for children and young people. The programme of events for Limerick spanned the city

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Luimnígh

Limerick City
& County Council

and county of Limerick, including film production workshops, arts and creativity workshops, screenings, and a special highlight of the day, a Young Film Convention. All events were free and activity-based, with plenty of opportunities for young people to harness their imagination and unlock their creativity by 'doing', 'making' and trying something new.

Hundreds of children participated in the Young Film Convention in council headquarters in Merchant's Quay, where they worked together to build a city of Lego and captured it with stop motion animation so that their vision of Limerick will be recorded for posterity. The popular Limerick BrickCon brought models of buildings in Limerick while experts from the Fresh Film Festival introduced children as young as three to stop motion animation. Young Irish Filmmakers were on hand with professional digital equipment and a green screen to introduce our youngest citizens to this technology, which is used in the film, tv and video game industries. Boys and girls of all ages came dressed as their favourite Movie Hero in wonderful colourful costumes. Make-up artist Elaine Hopkins (who has worked on Film and TV productions such as *Ripper Street* and *Vikings*) was on hand to enhance their wonderful creativity.

Young YouTubers Sean Treacy and Luke Culhane regaled their peers with their stories of being successful on YouTube and Street Boy (Paul Fitzgerald) MC'd the day, had some really thoughtful questions including safety online and how to create content, get followers and deal with negativity.

In glorious sunshine, hundreds of children and their families enjoyed Movies in the Garden at the Hunt Museum. Many adults told us that the 1967 Disney Film, *The Jungle Book*, was the first cinema experience they had and wanted to share the memory of that with their children. Older children and teenagers in family groups watched the classic love story of pirates and princesses in the afternoon screening of *The Princess Bride*. The productive work of the Claymation participants at the Hunt Museum was screened after *The Princess Bride*, showcasing the response to the Hunt Museum Summer Exhibition, *Signals of Change*.

Kilfinane Youth Club worked with film maker Emma Sams having a film shoot in the sunshine learning new skills ensuring a future generation of film makers in Limerick. Despite the good weather, Limerick Libraries reported many young children enjoying the special screening of the classic silent movie *Safety Last!* starring Harold Lloyd.

Limerick City and County Council in association with Fresh Film Festival, Limerick Youth Service, The Hunt Museum and Happenings, designed and delivered the inaugural Cruinniú na nÓg day of events under the umbrella Green Light Limerick, celebrating culture and creativity through the interdisciplinary and collaborative medium of film.

Strategic Developments and Supports

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.

LEO Festivals and Events Development Programme

The final module of the professional development programme for Festival and Events Organisers in Limerick took place on 25 June. This programme is the result of a panel recommendation as part of the 2017 Limerick City and County Council Festivals and Events Grant Scheme. Feedback from the programme has been excellent with some groups already actively planning and working with their committees on improvements. Attendance at each of the modules was extremely good and all groups engaged with the trainer and each other with great positivity and energy. On the night, certificates of attendance were presented to all participants.

Framework Agreement

This is an agreement reached by the Arts Council and Limerick City and County Council. Its purpose is to highlight the shared strategic priorities for arts development in Limerick City and County over the period of the agreement and setting out a vision and goals for what can be achieved together. In June, a meeting between Senior Management of the Arts Council, the Chief Executive and Culture and Arts Office of Limerick City and County Council took place to progress the Framework Agreement.

Invitation to Collaboration Application

An Invitation to Collaboration Award from The Arts Council, supports initiatives in the field of local-authority-led arts development. The emphasis is

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Luimnígh

Limerick City
& County Council

placed on supporting partnerships that focus on developing projects, resources or services that are ambitious and are testing new ground. Limerick City and County Council led on a submission with Donegal County Council and Kerry County Council and Fidget Feet to create an opportunity for us to work together and build on our experiences and learning in developing new work by Irish artists and delivering on excellence in arts participation. The Bingo Wings Project will allow for commissioning of new work and performances in circus arts; will work across generations with a multi-disciplinary immersive theatre performance and ensures support for artists and their professional development.

International Mobility Awards

12 applications received and assessed.

Closing dates for Open Calls

The closing date for two open calls was 19 June and the following applications were received:

- Festivals and Events: 60 applications received
- Made in Limerick - Creative Ireland: 18 applications received

Bursaries

Following panel assessment letters were issued to successful and unsuccessful applications in relation to The Irish Youth Training Choir, Meitheal, The Tyrone Gutherie Bursary and Blas Summer School.

8. Limerick Museum

- Limerick Museum received 2,038 visitors in June.
- A major exhibition of photographs and other material on Limerick's Medieval Castles and Tower Houses was held in the Museum from 7-29 June. Covering a period of 450 years, the exhibition was hosted by Limerick Museum and curated by Joseph Lennon and Daiva Stasiukynaite.
- On 19 June, Dr. Matthew Potter gave a lecture on Padraig Pearse in St. Mary's Cathedral as part of its 850th anniversary celebrations.
- Friends of Limerick Lace Group held a meeting in the Museum on 21 June.

9. Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

EVA International 2018 curated by Inti Guerrero continued through June and will end on 8 July. Ongoing guided tours taking place at LCGA and the other citywide venues, the attendance for June was 5,365 visitors.

Young EVA Audio Collective, an education programme for school students from Thomond Community College to creatively explore and engage with sound technologies at the 38th EVA International. On 21 June the collective presented their final composition at Limerick City Gallery of Art as an immersive audio installation and event with an attendance of 45 people.

The exhibition at the Draoitacht Arts Centre, Blanchardstown, Dublin of the exhibition MAKing Art: The DRAWing Exhibition which featured 23 artworks from LCGA's/National Collection of Contemporary Drawing for a temporary exhibition finished and the works were returned. Ongoing plans for collaborative projects between LCGA and Draoitacht for a three year period are being developed.

Collection of loaned painting from the Permanent Collection of LCGA by Maurice MacGonigal, A Dublin Studio, for inclusion in the Crawford Art Gallery summer exhibition, *Naked Truth: The Nude by Irish Artists*.

LCGA is working with three venues in Co. Leitrim, Co Cork and Dublin for the forthcoming exhibition with Anita Groener, tour to take place during 2019. The exhibition has been the recipient of an Arts Council Touring and Dissemination Award.

Ongoing negotiations and planning for touring retrospective exhibition by Mary Swanzy curated with Sean Kissane, Irish Museum Modern Art, tour taking place in 2019.

Work placement by University of Limerick student in relation to LCGA, Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI) application to the Heritage Council of Ireland.

It is envisaged that work will commence 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.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



10. Planning and Environment

Litter/Waste Enforcement

- 148 complaints were received in June.
- 237 inspections were undertaken throughout the month.
- 17 on the spot litter fines were issued in June.
- Legal proceedings were issued in three cases under the Waste Management Act.
- 32 warning letters were issued in relation to environmental issues.
- 8 Notices were served under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act.
- One Statutory Notice was served under Section 55 of the Waste Management Act.
- Two Statutory Notices were served under Section 71 of the Waste Management Act.
- 16 Directions were served under the Waste Management Act.
- 86 cases were closed / resolved / completed in June.

Air Noise and Water Pollution

- 38 complaints were received in June.
- 42 inspections were undertaken throughout the month.
- One Notice was served under Section 23 of the Water Pollution Acts 1977 – 2007.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



11. Fire and Emergency Services

Statistics

	Fire Related Calls	Non Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call outs 1/06/18 – 30/06/18	123	54	177
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	67%	67%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	24%	27%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	9%	6%	

	Received / Assigned	Validated	Invalidated / Refused	Granted	Completed
Fire Certificate Applications June	20	18	8	14	
Disability Access Cert Applications June	10	10	2	13	
Licensing Applications June	6	6	0	6	
Commencement Notice June	43	33	6	33	
Completion Certificate June	19	19	0	19	
Planning Referrals June	21				17
Sugar CRM Cases June	4				1

Civil Defence attendance at Events for the month

- Exercise at Limerick Fire Brigade Passing Out Parade.
- St. Mary's Cathedral 850th anniversary service.
- Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes.
- Bike Week - Dawn Cycle.
- Three Bridge Family Cycle.
- Civil Defence Presentation to Strategic Policy Committee in Council Chamber.
- Thomond Swim.
- St. Mary's Aid Regatta.
- Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes.
- Mid Summer Tea Party with An Garda Síochána.
- Mayoral reception for response to extreme weather events.
- Conferring of the Honorary Freedom of Limerick on Detective Garda Ben O'Sullivan (Retired) and posthumously on Detective Garda Jerry McCabe R.I.P.

Munster Regional Control Centre (MRCC)

	No of Calls mobilised to an emergency incident by MRCC	Other Calls	Average call processing time (secs)	Total No. of calls in June
No. of call outs 01/06/18 – 30/06/18	1483	1880	1:13 min	3363

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Comhairle Cathrach

& Contae Luimnígh

Limerick City

& County Council

12. Access to Information

	June	2018 (Jan to June)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	22	115
FOI Internal Appeals	1	3
Information Commissioner Appeals	-	-
Total Ombudsman Requests	2	14
Total AIE Requests	1	4

13. Digital Strategy

- The contractors appointed to support the Council in the transition to and adoption of an Electronic Records Management System (EDRMS) based on Sharepoint Online - have started work to implement the technical solution.
- A new version of Customer Relationship Management has been deployed in the Council. This release adds a lot of new features, including automatic case resolution emails, improved case email templates, a knowledge base, and integration with GeoDirectory for standardisation of addresses.
- Digital Strategy in collaboration with Strategic and Forward Planning have installed new pedestrian counters at locations along O'Connell Street. The 15 minute interval data from these sensors will further improve informed decision making and planning for Limerick City and can be provided to businesses and retailers to gain insights into trends and support strategic growth.

14. Veterinary Services

- Three stray or wandering horses were impounded.
- The Dog Control Unit dealt with 30 dogs.
- 23 food samples were submitted during June for analysis under the National Residues and Microbiological Sampling Programme.
- The Dog Licence Awareness Campaign continued to be implemented by the Dog Wardens.

15. Smarter Travel

- Limerick Smarter Travel ran the annual BeSPOKE Bike Week Festival this year from 9-17 June.
- Community groups, schools and workplaces had the opportunity to apply for funding support to run bicycle related events throughout the city and county. Events included free bicycle repair workshops, organised cycles, a movie showing, and safety promotions.
- 9 June saw Bike Week kicked off with a 'Share the Road' themed event on Bedford Row. Musgrave Group brought an articulated lorry onto the street so that the public could sit in the driver's seat and see the blind spots experienced by drivers. This event was run in conjunction with an Garda Síochána who were on hand on the day to provide safety information.
- A number of LST partner workplaces got involved in BeSPOKE by holding cycling promotions including bike repair days, tailored bike fittings, organised cycles, and conference bike challenges.
- Schools competed with each other for the most cyclists throughout the week and a number participated in Cycle on Wednesdays (COWs). St. Brigid's National School won the Golden Bike Award for first place while St. Patrick's Girls National School came in second place for the Silver Bike Award.
- The BeSPOKE Three Bridge Family Cycle was held on 16 June on Howley's Quay, fun family activities including a bouncy castle and face-painting were on the Quay from 4pm for all to enjoy. Coke Zero brand ambassadors joined the fun to promote their Coke City Bikes.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Comhairle Cathrach

& Contae Luimnígh

Limerick City

& County Council

Economic Development and Planning

1. Planning Applications

A total of 118 new planning applications were received as follows:

Part 8 Developments	2
Domestic Developments	70
Agricultural Developments	16
Commercial Developments/Change of Use	10
Community/Educational Developments	2
Other Developments	18

The current applications include proposals for:

- Part 8 for the construction of 43 residential units at Sycamore Avenue, Rathbane.
- Construction of a 60 bed ward block at University Hospital Limerick, Dooradoyle.

2. Investment

- US sports analytics company STATS officially opened their European and Middle Eastern Headquarters in Limerick, with plans by the company to employ 150 people by 2020.
- Recruitment agency Sanderson announced plans to open a new office in Limerick. The company, which turns over €400 million a year, expects to recruit up to twelve people for its new office on Henry Street over the next 18 months.
- Electricity Exchange, one of the leading providers of smart grid technology and virtual power plant service, is to expand its workforce in Limerick by the end of this year. The Company, which is 50% owned by Bord na Móna, operates a virtual power plant from its 24-hour operations centre at the National Technology Park in Plassey. It currently employs 24 people however that is set to increase to 60 by the end of this year.
- Specsavers opened its third store in Limerick in June. Located in Castletroy, the store is run by a team of six professionals.

3. Marketing and Communications

- Tender process underway for the creation of a brand identity for Limerick to communicate Limerick as a contemporary international location to live, work, invest, study and visit.
- Laura Ryan, keynote speaker at the Public Sector Digital Marketing Summit, The Mansion House, Dublin showcasing the digital transformation of Limerick.ie to delegates. Trended #1 on Twitter.
- MC'd Freedom of Limerick event honouring the late Detective Garda Jerry McCabe and retired Detective Garda Ben O'Sullivan.
- Commissioned Economic Data Profiling Report for Limerick – Executive Summary in advance of report's official launch in July 2018.
- Produced new #ThisIsLimerick 16 page marketing brochure highlighting Limerick's key statistics and unique selling points.
- Marketing support provided to Limerick Market Trustees for inaugural Limerick Garden Festival.
- Marketing materials supplied to UL Hospitals Group for Healthy Ireland Health and Wellbeing Conference.
- Feature advert on Limerick Visitor Guide Map 2018/2019.
- Feature June What's On advert for social and digital media marketing.
- Collaborated in the production of Limerick: The Best of Ireland Series Guide 2018/2019.
- Produced four Limerick.ie e-newsletters..
- Monthly Limerick.ie Business Bulletin e-newsletter issued by the Office of Marketing and Communications.

Social Media

- Posted 46 times on Limerick.ie's Facebook with total page likes now 19,434. Posts reached 93,049 users with 13,070 engagements.
- Tweeted 33 times on Limerick.ie's Twitter, @limerick_ie, with total followers now 14,522. Our tweets earned 108,500 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).
- Posted 19 times on Limerick.ie's Instagram with total followers now 4,214.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Comhairle Cathrach

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Limerick City

& County Council

- Tweeted 5 times on Limerick Marketing's Twitter, @limkmarketing, with total followers now 2,233. Our tweets earned 15,900 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).

Limerick.ie

- A total of 70,121 people visited the Limerick.ie website in June - 52% on the same period in 2017.

The most popular pages on Limerick.ie in June were:

1. www.limerick.ie
2. [/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning](http://council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning)
3. [/discover/whats-on/browse](http://discover/whats-on/browse)
4. [/council](http://council)
5. [/council/how-can-we-help/contact-us](http://council/how-can-we-help/contact-us)

4. Housing Capital and Physical Regeneration

Housing Capital

- Part 8 Planning Permission was granted for a new 5 unit housing scheme at St. Patrick's Villas, Stradbally, Castleconnell.
- A Part 8 planning application was submitted for a 43 unit housing scheme at Rathbane adjacent to the Old Christians GAA grounds.

Physical Regeneration

- The Elected Members of Limerick City and County Council approved the leasing of 24 and 25 Nicholas Street at the May meeting. Jada Construction have taken possession of these two buildings and will commence pre-letting construction work in early July.
- Limerick City and County Council has partnered with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection and Moyross Development Company to deliver a trainee programme in Modular Building with Clenn Construction in Galvone Industrial Estate. 13 trainees started on 1 June with another 13 due to start in September.
- €3.7m of Social Intervention Funding has been allocated for 2018.

5. Water Services

- Lead replacement works progressing in Mayorstone and Corbally.
- Watermain rehabilitation progressing in Oola, Pallaskenry and Kildimo.
- The €1M Limerick City Sewer Rehab contract has been awarded to GMC Utilities Group and will commence with investigation and cleaning works in July.

6. Forward Planning

- As part of the consultation process for the Castletroy Draft Local Area Plan a public information event was held.
- A joint application was made with Clare County Council to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for funding for Local Authorities in support of targeting of invasive species on the River Shannon.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Organisational Development

1. Communications

- Issued 25 news releases from the Office of Marketing and Communications.
- Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter.
- Tweeted 105 times on Limerick City and County Council's Twitter account, @limerickcouncil, with total fans now 10,696. Our tweets earned over 210,000 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).

2. Schedule of Meetings

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Full Council Annual Meeting of Limerick City and County Council Special Meeting to seek the Members' approval to the granting of the Honorary Freedom of Limerick to retired Detective Garda Ben O'Sullivan and posthumously to Detective Garda Jerry McCabe, RIP	29.06.2018 13.06.2018	Dooradoyle Dooradoyle
Operational Briefings Limerick City East Limerick City North Limerick City West	05.06.2018 05.06.2018 05.06.2018	Merchant's Quay Merchant's Quay Merchant's Quay
Metropolitan District of Limerick Special Meeting to pass a vote of sympathy on the death of former Councillor Seamus Houlihan RIP Monthly Meeting Annual Meeting	07.06.2018 18.06.2018 25.06.2018	Merchant's Quay Merchant's Quay Merchant's Quay
Municipal District of: (a) Adare-Rathkeale: Monthly Meeting Annual Meeting (b) Newcastle West: Monthly Meeting Annual Meeting (c) Cappamore-Killmallock: Monthly Meeting Annual Meeting	26.06.2018 26.06.2018 15.06.2018 27.06.2018 28.06.2018 28.06.2018	Rathkeale Rathkeale Newcastle West Newcastle West Killmallock Killmallock
Strategic Policy Committee Meetings Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Community Leisure and Emergency Services Environment	11.06.2018 18.06.2018 25.06.2018	Merchant's Quay Dooradoyle Merchant's Quay
Audit Committee Meeting	20.06.2018	Dooradoyle

3. Training Fire and Emergency Services

- Six new recruits for Limerick City Fire Station successfully completed a 15 week training program which culminated in a passing out parade on 1 June. These six new recruits have since taken up their roles in their respective shifts.
- Nine Fire Fighters in Newcastle West successfully completed a three day course in HGV (heavy goods vehicle extrication). This course trains fire fighters how to safely deal with RTC's involving trucks and buses.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

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Financial Matters

1. Home Improvement Schemes

JUNE 2018	MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HAG (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	No.
Kilmallock	€21,670.00	5	€39,996.42	2	€13,931.00	3
Metropolitan	€24,720.00	6	€71,260.49	6	€26,050.00	5
Newcastle West	€9,361.23	2	€0.00	0	€35,325.13	6
Rathkeale	€6,821.90	2	€2,700.00	1	€3,990.00	1
	€62,573.13	15	€113,956.91	9	€79,296.13	15

Total Monies issued in June 2018 = €255,826.17

Total Grants issued in June 2018 = 39

JANUARY TO JUNE 2018	MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HAG (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	No.
Kilmallock	€37,429.91	8	€128,533.07	10	€65,468.35	15
Metropolitan	€125,192.76	28	€269,921.74	26	€108,525.79	24
Newcastle West	€63,438.48	14	€18,165.00	6	€122,224.39	23
Rathkeale	€23,295.03	6	€20,373.50	3	€25,081.23	7
	€249,356.18	56	€436,993.31	45	€321,299.76	69

Total Monies issued January to June 2018 = €1,007,649.25

Total Grants issued January to June 2018 = 170

2. Rent Collection

Opening Balance @ 01/01/2018	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing balance 30/06/2018	% Collection
€2,589,197	€7428,038	€10,017,235	€6,997,474	€3,019,761	70%

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 June 2018	14,501,047	55,056,291	*	344,937	719,294	68,493,107	29,826,980	38,666,127	3,147,736

* 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 June 2018	461,159	634,097	1,095,256	746,847	348,409	68%

Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No of days in overdraft 0

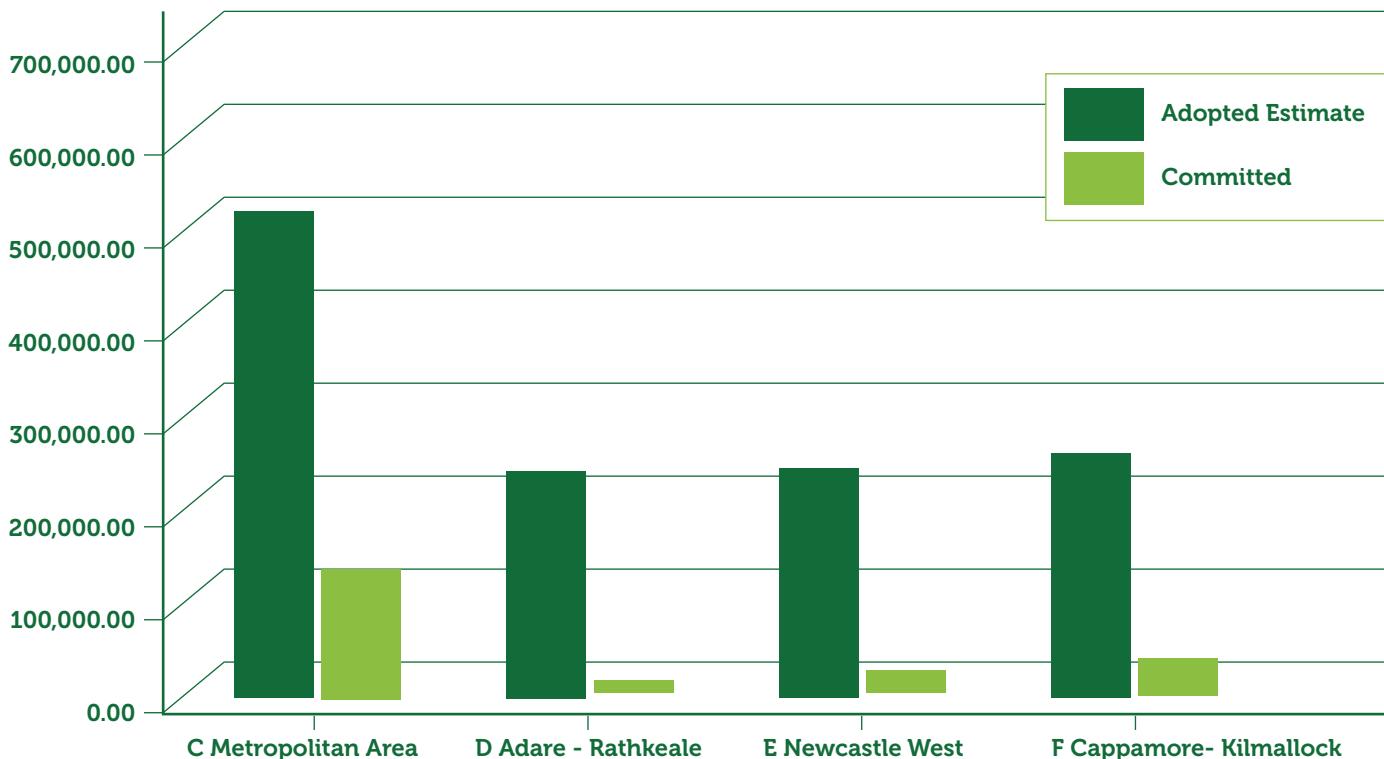
CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



4. General Municipal Allocation 2018

Adopted Estimate €1.203 Million

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



Municipal (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate	Value Committed
C Metropolitan Area	503,000.00	112,297
D Adare - Rathkeale	225,000.00	12,626
E Newcastle West	225,000.00	29,525
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	250,000.00	17,371