

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

January 2019

THIS MONTH:

VISITORS - New Tourism Strategy adopted

INVEST – Major expansion plans announced

ROAD – Increase in allocation for national & local roads

BUILD – Council exceeds housing targets

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Economic Development Directorate

1. Trade & Investment

- A multi-million investment in an advanced manufacturing facility at Plassey has been announced by IDA Ireland. 100 tech jobs are to be created over the next five years with 60 construction jobs to be created during the building phase. The two-storey facility will also feature research and development in the 3,000 square foot complex.
- Mobile Phone Company, Three, has announced 30 new jobs for its customer service centre in the National Technology Park. The new roles will bring the total headcount at its Limerick operation to 500.
- 14 new jobs are to be created in Limerick as part of the 500 jobs announced by German discount retailer Aldi.

2. Limerick Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

- Local Enterprise Office Training and Development Programme for 2019 was launched by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor James Collins
- Online applications for Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur competition now open, we have begun the search to find Limerick's Best Young Entrepreneur 2019.
- The Student Enterprise Programme for academic year 2018-2019 launched nationally in Dublin with Josh Van der Flier as Ambassador. 22 secondary schools and 1,100 students taking part in Limerick.
- The Business and Retail Incentive Scheme for 2019 launched - this Scheme provides financial incentives to encourage new businesses to open in vacant units in Limerick City, and in towns around the county. The scheme is intended to address property vacancy rates, improve streetscapes and to support the business community.
- Three Limerick Craft Companies exhibited at Showcase Ireland 2019 in the RDS, Dublin.

- January Women in Business event with LEO's partner Network Ireland Limerick held in January with the theme 'Achieving Success through Wellness.'
- Six week start your own business course commenced in Kilmallock.

3. Innovate Limerick

On 24 January Innovate Limerick partnered with the Guinness Enterprise Centre for the launch of Prosper Limerick. The aim of this series of events is to develop a network of support among Limerick's business diaspora to enhance prosperity in the city and county. Guests at the event heard from early stage Limerick start-ups who are creating jobs in the city and county. Dr. Pat Daly, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Economic Development also addressed the meeting.

4. Digital Strategy

- Digital Strategy has successfully completed the procurement process for a new online public consultation platform. This new online engagement channel will be called My Point, and will be integrated with Limerick.ie to provide citizens with a mechanism to engage with the council 24/7 by creating submissions against consultations and surveys that the Council publishes online. The tender has been awarded and a contract will be signed in early February, with a pilot version of the platform to be deployed before the end of Q1 2019.
- Rollout of the Council's new EDRMS (Electronic Document Records Management System) has commenced with Digital Strategy and Archives now actively using the new system. Part of the LITE (Limerick Information Transformation eProgramme) programme, rollout will continue to other departments in a phased approach in the coming months.

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5. Marketing & Communications

Marketing

- Re-launched *Limerick Walk It - Run It - Love It* campaign for 2019.
 1. Produced and distributed 10,000 printed guides throughout Limerick, including distribution by Limerick Sports Partnership at the Operation Transformation walk attended by 800+ participants.
 2. Commissioned video showcasing Limerick city routes – reaching 161,000 people with 38,000 views on Facebook.
- Collated and produced Christmas in Limerick media book for analysis of media coverage reached throughout the campaign.
- Commenced seven week PR and marketing campaign for Limerick St Patrick's Festival.
- Produced a video highlighting the key activities undertaken by Marketing and Communications throughout 2018.
- Brand Limerick Project:
 1. Pre Qualification Questionnaire published to the OJEU for Strategic and Creative Services and Media Buying Services.
 2. Creative Collaboration process ongoing with Limerick School of Art and Design.
- Liaised with National Geographic Travel UK and Irish Independent travel writer and broadcaster, Pol Ó Conghaile regarding his itinerary and January 2019 visit to Limerick.
- Feature advert secured in:
 1. Limerick Visitor GuideMap 2019.
 2. Your Daily Adventure Guide 2019/2020.
- Commenced third level student marketing campaign 2019:
 1. Produced *Think Limerick* video to promote Limerick Student City to CAO applicants, reaching 58,000 people with the majority in our target audience of 16-19 year olds.
- Marketing materials supplied to:
 1. The Tourism Space Live, Thomond Park – event for tourism entrepreneurs and hospitality managers.
 2. Univeristy of Limerick Language Centre.

3. Mary Immaculate College International Office.
 4. Place EE workshop (Platforms for Ageing Community Engagement – Exchange & Enterprise) - a project focusing on aiding older persons to battle isolation by using the internet as a platform of engagement.
- Marketing support provided to IloveLimerick.ie
 - Orla O'Connor speaker at *Spending Trends: Tourism, Retail and Hospitality Industry Insights & Marketing Trends* hosted by Limerick Chamber.
 - Produced four Limerick.ie e-newsletters with subscribers at 2,979.
 - Monthly Limerick.ie Business Bulletin e-newsletter issued with subscribers at 517.

Social Media

- Posted 25 times on Limerick.ie's Facebook with total page likes now 22,048. Posts reached 371,962 users with 18,867 engagements.
- Tweeted 18 times on Limerick.ie's Twitter, @limerick_ie, with total followers now 15,508. Our tweets earned 68,700 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).
- Posted nine times on Limerick.ie's Instagram and created two Stories, with total followers now 5,374.
- Tweeted 11 times on Limerick Marketing's Twitter, @limkmarketing, with total followers now 2,535. Our tweets earned 23,000 impressions (number of times users saw our tweet).
- Posted 11 times on Limerick City and County Council's LinkedIn with total followers now 1,935.

Limerick.ie

A total of 120,581 people visited the Limerick.ie website in January 2019 – a 4% increase on the same period in 2018.

Content Report: 361 events, 64 articles and 40 amenities added to Limerick.ie website in January 2019.

The most popular pages on Limerick.ie in January 2019 were:

1. www.limerick.ie
2. </council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning>
3. </council>

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- 4. /council/services/housing/social-housing/housing-assistance-payment-hap
- 5. /discover/whats-on/browse

39% of website pageviews were in Discover section and 31% of pageviews were in the Council section.

- Some of the other grant categories include minor works at O'Rourke's Cross, Beary's Cross and Brooks Bridge; national pavement works at Adare West Approach: Abbeyfeale to Mount Mahon pavement strengthening, and national secondary minor works at Kilcoman and national secondary pavement at Foynes to Sroolane.

Communications

- Issued nine news releases from the Office of Marketing and Communications.
- Wrote seven speeches for the Office of the Mayor
- Produced and distributed the Winter 2018 edition of the Council Connect magazine.
- Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter.
- Tweeted 93 times on Limerick City and County Council's Twitter account, @limerickcouncil, with total fans now 11,531. Our tweets earned 141,400 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).

Regional and Local Road Grants Allocations 2019

- The Council has been advised by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport that there will be €483,400,000 in funding available under the 2019 Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations of which €26,199,251 will be allocated to Limerick. This represents an increase of about 38% on the 2018 grant allocation.
- This allocation will enable the Council to undertake road maintenance and improvement works across the City and County under the following expenditure headings:

Physical Development Directorate

1. Travel & Transportation Strategy

National Road Grant Allocations 2019

- Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) has recently advised the national road allocation for Limerick for 2019. These grants are for the improvement and maintenance of national roads. The total allocation is €10,284,374, an increase of 12% from 2018.
- The major road schemes include inter alia the schemes in the following table:

Limerick City and County Council Selected - 2019 National Road Grant Allocations	
Limerick to Cork	€2,150,000
Foynes to Limerick	€1,400,000
N21 Abbeyfeale Relief Road	€450,000
N21 Newcastle West Relief Road	€450,000

Limerick City and County Council 2019 Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations		
1	Restoration Improvement	€8,991,000
2	Restoration Maintenance	€1,454,000
3	Supplementary Restoration Maintenance	€574,000
4	Discretionary Grant	€3,497,000
5	Bridge Rehabilitation	€427,000
6	Specific Improvement Grants	€1,200,000
7	Strategic Regional and Local Roads	€7,500,000
8	Safety Improvement Works	€358,000
9	Speed Limits	€187,500
10	Training Grant	€68,000
11	Drainage Works	€856,000
12	Community Improvement Scheme	€86,751
13	Former National Road	€1,000,000
	Total Allocation	€26,199,251



2. Environment Strategy

City and County of Limerick (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-Laws, 2019

- Limerick City and County Council has adopted and made the City and County of Limerick (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-Laws, 2019 in relation to the segregation, storage and presentation of waste throughout Limerick city and county. These Bye-Laws will come into force on 1 March 2019, and a person found guilty of a contravention of the Bye-Laws shall be liable on conviction to a financial penalty of up to €2,500.

3. Water Services

Capital Works

- Watermain rehabilitation works complete in Ballingaddy.
- Watermain rehabilitation works progressing in Islanduane and Ennis Road.
- Works progressing on upgrade to Athea Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Works progressing on upgrade to electrical panels in Castletroy Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Limerick City Sewer Rehabilitation works progressing on Catherine Street and O'Connell Street as per programme.

4. Mid West Road Design Office

N20 Ballyphilip to Howardstown Pavement Scheme

- The N20 Ballyphilip to Howardstown North and N20 Ballymacrory pavement improvement scheme extends from 1km south of Anhid Cross on the N20 to 6kms south of Hynes's Cross.
- The contract for these works was awarded to Clare Civil Engineering Ltd. Works commenced in early January with an expected duration of 8 – 10 weeks.

N21 Templeglantine Pavement Scheme

- The N21 Templeglantine Pavement Scheme is located on the N21 national primary road at Templeglantine village. The scheme commences at the traffic island east of the junction of the N21 and extends approximately 1km to the west through Templeglantine village to the 100km speed limit sign.
- The contract was awarded to Roadstone Ltd. Works commenced in early January with an expected duration of 6 - 8 weeks.



Social Development Directorate

1. Tourism Development

- Limerick City and County Council held an inception meeting with a number of stakeholders in January 2019 to discuss tourism in West Limerick. It is intended that the group will meet quarterly, and support a number of tourism projects progressing in the area, including the Great Southern Greenway, Shannon Estuary Way and an interpretative space in Glin Library.
- The Contractor is on site and work has commenced on the installation of an underpass under the existing N21 carriageway linking the Great Southern Greenway via the Barnagh Tunnel, work is expected to be completed Summer 2019.

Adoption of the Tourism Strategy

- The Limerick Tourism Development Strategy – Action Plan 2019 - 2023 was adopted by Full Council at the January meeting. Members welcomed the plan which will focus on four thematic areas – Into the Blue (Waterways); Alive and Kicking (Arts and Culture and Events); Energy Unleashed (Activities) and Vibrant History (Heritage and History). Staff from the Tourism Development Department will update the Councillors on an annual basis on progress on the Action plan deliverables.

Walking videos

- A series of six walking videos were launched, which were funded under the Outdoor Recreation Fund. The Tourism Department in partnership with the Local Development Companies identified relevant Country walks which resulted in promotional videos being produced for the following locations: Broadford/Ashford Walking Trails; Clare Glens; Knockfiema; Knights Walk, Glin; Keale River Walk, Ballyorgan and Castleconnell.

2. Urban & Rural Community Development

- The Community Development Department and Urban and Village Renewal Department merged on 2 January to create the new Urban and Rural Community Development Department.

Statutory meeting

Limerick Community Development Committee Meeting was held on 15 January, 2019.

Domestic Waste Refuse Waiver Scheme

Bin Waivers:

Issued:	1,370
Refused:	88

Cemeteries

No. of Burials in City Cemeteries	47
Mount St. Lawrence	22
Mount St. Oliver	13
Castlemungret	10
Kilmurry	2

Age Friendly Programme

Acorn Tablet Project

Following the provision of funding by Minister Michael Ring T.D., the Acorn pilot project was launched in Limerick on 14 January, the Mayor of the city and county of Limerick, Councillor James Collins. 31 older residents from across the county, will benefit from a 12 week programme of intensive training, aimed at giving older people an opportunity to become familiar with the use of a tablet, and to learn how to navigate the internet, manage a calendar and other skills required to effectively use IT.



Housing and Public Realm Training

On 30 January, a training session was hosted by Age Friendly Limerick and delivered by Jack Keyes, Senior Housing Advisor to Age Friendly Ireland. The session provided participants with an opportunity to discuss new and existing material relating to the area of housing, drawing on universal design principles and referring to Part M requirements. It set out the common principles between housing provision for older people and people with disabilities. It also covered the public realm, specifically Age friendly practices around public seating, toilets, parking, pedestrian crossings, parks and green areas.

PLACE – EE (Platforms for Ageing Community Engagement-Exchange and Enterprise)

Three Place EE workshops took place during January in Newcastle West with a wonderful group of 106 older participants in attendance. Workshops covered the following topics: gaining an understanding of perceptions on barriers to services, loneliness and social exclusion; an older people’s attitudes towards younger people and local knowledge; crafts and skills that are ‘threatened’ or in danger of being lost.

Healthy Limerick

Two of the nine community projects funded by a small grant (with Healthy Ireland funding) that are led by students from Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh (community enhancement work around Nicholas Street) and Laurel Hill Coláiste (intergenerational project with residents of St Paul’s Nursing Home) progressed significantly this month.

The number of private, public and community premises signed up to We’re Breastfeeding Friendly Limerick reached 90. Preparations continued for the formal handover of the We’re Breastfeeding Friendly concept to Healthy Ireland.

Work continued on the local action plan aligned to international best practice to support *Tobacco Free Ireland* with a wide range of partners with a stake in the next generation being tobacco free.

An interagency/inter-county meeting was hosted by Healthy Limerick to explore building on the current success of the expansion of the Social and Health Education Project (SHEP) to the county - with four

more short courses starting this month in Newcastle West, Abbeyfeale, Kilmallock and Hospital - by expanding the initiative within the region.

Derelict Sites and Vacant Homes/Properties

63	Inspections carried out
5	URCD information notices posted
5	Statutory Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act
4	Cases closed through engagement
5	Properties entered onto the Derelict Sites Register
3	Properties put forward for Buy and Renew
2	CPO’s approved by An Bord Pleanála
4	Properties put forward for C.P.O. under Housing Act or Derelict Sites Act

A “Pilot” Vacant Homes Survey was carried out in January 2019 by the inspectors of the Urban and Rural Community Development Department. Approximately, 1,200 properties were surveyed to determine the level of vacancy in Limerick city and county.

The survey will give an accurate level of vacancy in targeted small areas of population and identify homes that can be reactivated for social housing utilising the Buy and Renew and Repair and Lease Schemes.

Environment Awareness

Limerick City and County Council in conjunction with Security in Shredding facilitated a ‘Free Shred Event’ to celebrate European Data Protection Day 2018, promoting awareness of the incoming General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and promoting good waste management practices.

Limerick Senior Hurling Stars Launched Milestone TLC5 in Castleconnell.

Registration is now open for the fifth edition of Team Limerick Clean-Up (TLC), set to take place this Good Friday, 19 April, across Limerick city and county.

Ongoing assessments of Green Schools’ Programmes across Limerick City and County progressed during January.

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Limerick Community Development Committee

Leader Funding

Two Leader projects were approved by the Local Action Group to the sum of €40,882.27 at the January Local Community Development Committee meeting.

3. Culture & Arts

Cultural Strategic Policy Committee

A workshop was held on 29 January for the elected members and sectoral interests to review investment and discuss and recommend the strategic priorities for the delivery of the cultural strategy for 2019.

Strategic Developments

National Volunteer Strategy Workshop Newcastle West 24 January

The Department of Rural and Community Development has called for input on key aspects to be included in a National Volunteering Strategy. Representation on behalf of the Limerick City and County Council through the council's Cultural Civic Engagement Programme were made at a workshop hosted by the Limerick Volunteer Centre in Newcastle West on 24 January. The Limerick Volunteer Centre along with all other centres in Munster have partnered to make a joint submission representing the interests of volunteer programmes in Munster.

Integrated Dance

Limerick Culture and Arts Department are working in partnership with West Limerick Children's Services and dance artist Mary Hartney on a new pilot initiative for Integrated Dance. Participants with their parents/guardians met for an information evening on Monday 21 January in West Limerick Children's Services, Gortboy, Newcastle West.

Helium Arts

Helium Arts Children's Creative Health Programme, Creative Health Hub Associate Artist Paul Bokslag has begun the new programme in the Paediatric Outpatients in University Hospital Limerick. Limerick Culture and Arts Department is working in partnership with Helium Arts, brokering partnerships for the Steering Committee for the programme.

The County Limerick Youth Theatre

Following the success of the pantomime, which had 94% capacity, a call for applicants was made for new members. Weekly workshops on a Tuesday commenced for the new term on 15 January and welcomed new members. The County Limerick Youth Theatre has an open recruitment policy and welcomes young people from all backgrounds and abilities.

A Piano for Dolores

The *Piano for Dolores* took place in Ormston House, 9-10 Patrick Street, Limerick from 12 noon until 9pm, allowing music lovers to come and remember the rock superstar on 14 January. The focal point was a piano. *Piano for Dolores* was brought to the public by *Dolce Vita* in association with the Culture and Arts Department.

Operational

Licensing meeting for St. Patrick's Day Festival

A statutory event licencing meeting for the 2019 St. Patrick's Day Festival took place on Monday 28 January with attendees present representing Limerick City and County Council (Planning and Environmental Services, Operations and Maintenance, Fire and Emergency Service and Limerick Culture and Arts Department) An Garda Síochána, HSE and Grooveyard Event Management, the company who won the tender for the delivery of Civic Festivals. The first draft of the Event Management Plan was reviewed and comments/amendments noted.

Open Calls

The International Mobility Award 2019 Round 1 closing date for applications was Monday 7 January 2019. 12 applications were received with a total ask of €13,330. The Assessment Panel met on Wednesday 16 January.

The 2019 Grants under the Arts Act were advertised on Tuesday 29 January. The total fund for 2019 is €20,000. The annual scheme offers grant funding to amateur, community or voluntary groups, or organisations, and individual arts practitioners, to stimulate public interest in the arts, promote the knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts or assist in improving the standards of the arts. The closing date for applications is 5.00pm Thursday 28 February 2019.

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Four letters of support were issued in line with the Limerick City and County Council Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts for applications to the Arts Council's Bursary Awards.

Creative Ireland

Limerick Culture and Arts Department and Local Enterprise Office delivered a joint presentation on Limerick Festival and Events Professional Development Training at the recent Creative Ireland Coordinators meeting in Dublin on 30 January 2019. The training programme was developed and delivered in 2018 through a collaboration between Culture and Arts Department and Local Enterprise Office as a response to recommendation from assessment panel of the Limerick City and County Council Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2017 Strand 3.

The Creative Ireland Programme encourages cross-departmental collaboration and Limerick's case served as an example of such successful joint effort to improve service delivery in the area of culture and creativity.

4. Libraries, Gallery & Museum

Library Services

- An exhibition to mark the centenary of the First Dáil, was launched by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor James Collins, at Dooradoyle Library on Monday 28 January, 2019. At the First Dáil assembly at the Mansion House, Dublin in January 1919, Michael Colivet (Limerick City), Dr. Richard Hayes (Limerick East) and Con Collins (Limerick West) represented Limerick. Descendants of all three Limerick TDs from 1919 appeared as guests and were presented with a copy of the book "*Revolutionary Limerick: The Republican Campaign for Independence in Limerick, 1913-1921*" by John O'Callaghan. The elected members of Limerick City and County Council attended the ceremony. This was part of the National Commemorations Programme: Decade of Centenaries, 2012-2022.
- Dooradoyle Library also hosted two art exhibitions this month starting with Caoimhe O'Flanagan and followed by St. Saviours Community Art Group. Age Action continued computer classes every Tuesday morning with one to one tuition, while the Digital Skills classes held in conjunction with Ballyhoura Development CLG continued on Tuesday afternoons. A group of pupils from Catherine McAuley School visited the branch on Tuesday 29 January for quizzes and games. The Adult Book Clubs resumed for 2019 with the morning group reading "*Beatlebone*" by Kevin Barry and the evening group choosing "*Staring at Lakes*" by Michael Harding. The Children's Book Club also met on 31 January. Meditation classes and pre-school story-time sessions also continued.
- Newcastle West Library exhibited paintings by Jean Ryan Hakizimana for the month of January. Born in Rwanda, of Burundian parents, Jean has made Limerick his home and is well known for his art classes and exhibitions. Sheila O'Regan from West Limerick 102fm was present for afternoon tea on 17th to celebrate the vibrancy and colour of the work with an audience of local art enthusiasts.
- The Granary Library officially opened the exhibition, "*World War 1: Ireland's Humanitarian Effort*" by St. John Ambulance on 11 January. The tragedy of the First World War brought out the best in many Irish people. Thousands gave freely of their time. The number of volunteers, the range of activities, the funds raised, the sacrifice made, including the ultimate sacrifice, is largely unrecognised, unmentioned, and unremembered. This exhibition, curated by Pádraig Allen, sets out to recall some of those stories, recognising and remembering personal stories and the citizen's overall contribution. The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor James Collins officiated; in attendance were local St. John Ambulance Officers and Officers from the Order of Malta.
- A Limerick Lace workshop with Toni O'Malley was held on 24 January. Weekly meditation classes, weekly meeting of this "*Nitter Natter*" group, who knit for charity on Fridays at the Granary, and, of course, a variety of book club gatherings continued throughout the month.
- Engaging children in the world of books and reading is of course, a strong focus of library activities and The Granary Library filled the month with targeted activities. These included: Storytime for children with Róisín Meaney on Saturday 5th, Storytime with staff member, Caroline, on Wednesdays 9th, 23rd and 30th, Junior Book Club with Julie on Friday 11 January and a visit of St. Mary's Preschool on 17 January, with staff member, Gráinne, running a Storytime and colouring session for 19 children aged 3-4.

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- Adare Library's weekly Parent and Toddler Group recommenced with regular Friday morning sessions.
- First Year students from Scoil Pól, Kilfinane visited Kilmallock Library on Thursday 17 and 31 January as part of that "Well Read" Programme in operation at Scoil Pól. This programme is an initiative in secondary schools that seeks to grow a reading culture throughout the whole school environment. Recent research into the impact of digitisation on reading practices across the EU has found that young "digital natives" are much more likely to absorb information from the printed book rather than digital devices or screens. This research supports the value of proactively supporting a reading culture in all schools.
- The result of a collaboration between Kilmallock Traveller Group and Kilmallock Women's Group was exhibited in the library in January. The idea behind this project, under the guidance of Marion Clarke, Community and Family Support Worker with Ballyhoura Development CLG was to build bridges between two communities through what they have in common as women living their daily lives in the same town. The resulting fabric piece is a wonderful depiction of the town but perhaps a more lasting result is encapsulated in this quote from a participant "It wasn't easy to get started, but we just decided we would start. So we all turned up one night and there was no looking back". From planning to completion, the group talked, laughed and discovered things they did not know about each other. This project was funded and supported by Healthy Ireland, Ballyhoura Development CLG and the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.
- At Watch House Cross Library, a ten-week course began on 18 January for "Silver Learners", introducing the use of internet and email. Topics covered during the classes include online banking, booking holidays and using applications such as Skype. Fetac accredited courses on a wide range of subjects such as Excel, Graphic Design, Driver Theory SPSV, Maths and Driver Theory training continue to run weekly in the library's dedicated training rooms. The International Women's Organisation held their January meeting at Watch House Cross on Tuesday 22 January. Also in WHC Library *Les Enfants Francophones de Limerick* (EFL), facilitate French language classes for teenagers on Tuesdays. Story sessions for children and book clubs for all ages were held throughout the month.

Limerick Museum

- Limerick Museum received 1,653 visitors.
- Limerick Museum held a very successful Pop-Up Museum in St Paul's Community Centre, Mungret on 20 January.
- Limerick Museum has collaborated with the Hunt Museum and the Diocese of Limerick to hold an exhibition, Visible Reminders of Invisible Light, which opened on 24 January and will continue until 24 March. The exhibition, curated by local artist Maurice Quillinan weaves together many strands around the theme of family and celebrates Limerick's long tradition in visual culture. Artists across Limerick have given their individual interpretation of 'family' in the new exhibition, and the project saw 17 contemporary artists create new works based on the historic collections held in both museums.
- An exhibition on Limerick's role in the First Dáil that was curated by Limerick Library Service and Limerick Museum opened in Dooradoyle Library on 28 January.
- The exhibition Limerick's 130 Years of All-Ireland Success continued throughout the whole of January.
- Friends of Limerick Lace Group held a meeting in the Museum on 17 and 31 January.

Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- Exhibition of LOUISE BOURGEOIS PRINTS: Autobiographical Series and 11 Drypoints, A Hayward.
- Touring exhibition from Southbank Centre, London exhibited from 17 January to 17 February. The first exhibition in Limerick of works by the internationally acclaimed artist of the 20th century.
- Recently donated artworks by Janet Mullarney and Maggie Madden temporarily exhibited for two weeks, along with other works from the Permanent Collection including works by Mike Fitzpatrick, Alice Maher, Breon O'Casey, Jack Donovan and Suzannah O'Reilly.
- Preparation and installation of Siobhan McDonald's Crystalline: Hidden Monuments, which officially opened on 31 January. The exhibition in LCGA is a Creative Ireland commission to address the late



prehistory (Bronze Age) linear earthworks in Ireland called the Black Pig's Dyke. In this new project, titled Hidden Monuments, McDonald presents a series of artistic enquiries to remind us of the Cairns, standing stones and Megalithic structures that foreshadow our architectural histories.

- Anita Groener's, *The Past is a Foreign Country*, exhibition received an Arts Council Touring and Dissemination Award managed by LCGA and opened at The Dock, Carrick-on-Shannon on 19 January. It will tour to The Lab, Dublin and Uilinn, Skibbereen, Cork in 2019.
- LCGA's visitor attendance for January was 5,140
- LCGA loaned two works by Mary Swanzy from the Permanent Collection to a major retrospective exhibition of her work, being toured by IMMA to the Crawford Art Gallery, Cork. This exhibition will tour to LCGA in the summer.
- LCGA continues to negotiate the use of the HUB with local groups for workshops and events.

5. Limerick Sports Partnership (LSP)

- Limerick Sports Partnership (LSP) hosted the annual Operation Transformation Walk in Lough Gur with 1,600 participants completing the walk with local Leader Jean Tierney.
- Limerick LSP was allocated €378,000 in Funding from our principal funder Sport Ireland, this was again the highest allocation across all 29 LSP's. This is in recognition of the work being done and the level of support being contributed by local stakeholders.
- The LSP commenced its 20 week Boxing Clever Physical Activity and Education programme. This programme contains three components, QQI Level 5 Health Related Fitness, QQI Level 5 Community Addiction Studies Course and Fitness through Boxing. All 24 participants are on a pathway of recovery from addiction. LSP has partnered with MWRDAF, CSMT and DEPS on this project.
- The LSP has recruited a Sports Development officer working with schools and projects for Women in Sport – LSP has eight full time staff.
- LSP were successful in securing another candidate (Assistant SDO) for the Aspire Graduate programme funded under dormant accounts.

Housing Development Directorate

1. Housing Strategy Implementation

Housing Delivery

Limerick City and County Council continues to provide social housing through the following programmes:

- Construction
- Acquisitions
- Leasing

Limerick City and County Council also works closely with Approved Housing Bodies/Voluntary Housing Sector in supporting both the acquisition and construction of social housing to meet the objectives of Rebuilding Ireland.

Serviced Sites Fund

- Limerick City and County Council recognises the challenge of affordability both for private tenure and private-rented tenure and welcome measures by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government on the prioritisation of affordable housing policy.
- On 29 June 2017, Minister Eoghan Murphy invited applications under the serviced sites fund from 11 local authorities, where it is felt there is a more pressing need for affordable homes, to support the provision of key enabling infrastructure on their land, to get their sites ready for the delivery of affordable housing.
- Limerick was not included in this initial call but made a significant case to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in Q4 2018 and again in January 2019 demonstrating the requirement for affordable housing in the City and some key settlements in the County.

Southside Masterplan

- Under the Public Land Activation Programme the Housing Development Directorate, commenced the reimagining of 75 hectares of land to the southside of Limerick city with the appointment of a masterplanning team led by Allies and Morrison.



- Allies and Morrison, an architecture and masterplanning practice based in London and Dublin, is working with a team of Irish consultants and will now embark on the holistic masterplanning of the Baggot Estate, Ballinacurra Creek, Toppin's Field and the Rosbrien lands adjacent to the M20. The process to date involves thorough engagement and consultation with local community groups and interested stakeholders.
- A second roundtable public workshop was held on 31 January, where a presentation on the feedback of the first workshop in November was discussed.
- The team is at the early stages exploring a wide range of options for new recreation uses, nature conservation, homes, employment and community infrastructure. In addition to public workshops, focussed consultation with key stakeholder groups will be progressed throughout February and March 2019.
- Of particular interest to the Housing Development Directorate is the provision of affordable housing at Toppin's Field in accordance with its current residential land use zoning and the tenure diversification strategy adopted as part of the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan /Limerick City Development Plan 2010-2016 (as extended).

Housing and Disability Strategy Group

- A meeting of the Housing and Disability Strategy Group took place in January 2019 with key service providers (HSE, Acquired Brain Injury Ireland, Enable Ireland, Brothers of Charity and other key service providers).
- Key actions agreed and being progressed to ensure efficient allocations of Limerick City and County Council housing stock include:
 1. Submission of Demand Information from Service Providers.
 2. Development of a design checklist for the construction and refurbishment of building stock for prospective clients of the key service providers.

2. Rebuilding Ireland

Rebuilding Ireland – Limerick exceeds 2018 targets

- Rebuilding Ireland is the primary policy document underpinning the work of the Housing Development Directorate. A €6 billion programme set to deliver 50,000 homes across the country by 2021.
- In Limerick the delivery target for 2018 was 251 new homes through building, buying and leasing. Limerick City and County Council have exceeded the target set by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.
- The Housing Development Directorate are actively progressing capital appraisals for funding approval to meet the overall 2018-2021 target of 1365 new homes under the construction, acquisition and leasing streams.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Service Operations Directorate

1. Housing Support Services

Waiting List

Housing Waiting List	2,908
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Allocations

	Metropolitan District	Newcastle West	Adare – Rathkeale	Cappamore – Kilmallock	Total
Number of Units January 2019	7	1	1	2	11
Year to Date	7	1	1	2	11

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

Individuals – 31 January 2019		
Location	Description	No.
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	31
St. Patrick's Hostel	Higher threshold accommodation for single males	48
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	23
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	12
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		144

Families - 31 January 2019			
Location	Description	No. Adults	No. Children
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	11
		Families - 6	
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	42	57
		Families - 30	
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	12	17
		Families - 9	
Totals		60	85
		Families - 45	



Home Improvement Schemes

JANUARY 2019	MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HAG (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	No.
Kilmallock	€10,650.00	2	€14,448.23	1	€19,295.17	3
Metropolitan	€2,495.00	1	€7,640.00	4	€3,372.50	3
Newcastle West	€21,200.00	4	€34,855.61	1	€14,619.09	1
Rathkeale	€0.00	0	€15,066.08	2	€5,795.00	4
	€34,345.00	7	€72,009.92	8	€43,081.76	11

Total Monies issued in January 2019 = €149,436.68

Total Grants issued in January 2019 = 26

2. Planning & Environmental Services

Litter/Waste Enforcement

- 191 complaints were received in January.
- 239 inspections were undertaken throughout the month.
- 31 on the spot litter fines were issued in January.
- Legal proceedings were issued in four cases under the Litter Pollution Act.
- Legal proceedings were issued in three cases under the Waste Management Act.
- 17 warning letters were issued in relation to environmental issues.
- Three Notices were served under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act.
- Two Notices were served under Section 55 of the Waste Management Act.
- One Notice was served under Section 9 of the Litter Pollution Act.
- Nine Directions were served under the Waste Management Act.
- 119 cases were closed / resolved / completed in January.

Air Noise and Water Pollution

- 33 complaints were received in January.
- Three Notices were served under Section 26 of the Air Pollution Act 1987.

- One Notice was served under Section 23 of the Water Pollution Acts.
- One Notice was served under Section 110 of the Public Health (Ireland) Act 1878.
- One Certificate of Compliance was issued under the European Union (Paints, Varnishes, Vehicle Refinishing Products and Activities) Regulations, 2012.

Planning Applications.

A total of 77 new planning applications were received as follows:

- Part 8 - 1
- Domestic Developments – 45
- Agricultural Developments – 12
- Commercial Developments/Change of Use – 8
- Sporting/Community & Educational Developments - 3
- Other Developments – 8

The current applications include proposals for:

- Part 8 for proposed traffic calming measures at Kilcornan.
- Construction of a solar farm at Raheen and Newtown, Garryspillane.
- Construction of a solar farm at Deelish & Mullagh, Shanagolden.



3. Veterinary Services

- 13 stray or wandering horses were impounded.
- The Dog Control Unit dealt with 33 dogs.
- Two food samples were submitted during January 2019 for analysis under the National Residues and Microbiological Sampling Programme.
- The Dog Licence Awareness Campaign continued to be implemented by the Dog Wardens.

2 Property Services

Acquisitions and Disposals statistics:

- Site of 46 acres put on the market, for sale, in Pallaskenry, County Limerick.
- Statistics:

House purchases concluded:	3
House purchases sale agreed:	2
House Purchases at bidding stage:	5
Section 183 Disposal notices:	7

Capital Investment Directorate

1. Design & Delivery

Housing Capital

- Gough Place, Rosbrien Road
Part VIII was granted by the elected representatives at the Metropolitan Meeting for the construction of 17 new homes at Rosbrien Road, Limerick City.
- St Mary's Park Infills
All houses in this development have finished on site, which will bring 19 new homes into this Regeneration Area.
- Thermal Upgrades
Contract 108A in Moyross finished on site, providing a Thermal Upgrade to 51 homes.

Contract 117 in Moyross finished on site, providing a Thermal Upgrade to 26 homes.

Contract 119 in Moyross finished on site, providing a Thermal Upgrade to 47 homes.

Infrastructure

- Parnell Street Phase Two Improvement Works
The contract for Parnell Street Phase Two Improvement Works has commenced on site, which will bring improved public realm and new cycle lanes to this busy street, in addition to providing additional car parking, landscaping and access routes to Russell Park.
- Golf Links Road
Preparation of Part VIII documentation for this project is underway with planning submission anticipated Q1 2019.

Corporate Building Programme

- New Offices finalised to accommodate the Limerick to Cork Motorway design team. This team will now be based in the old motor tax offices, Lissanalta House.
- Work on the implementation of a new CCTV motion based security monitoring system has commenced on the Cleeves and Opera sites.

Facilities Team

- The canteen in Merchant's Quay has now closed. The team is busy preparing for the arrival of Nourish Café to Merchant's Quay.
- Numerous civic events have been supported and welcomed into our Corporate Buildings.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



National & Regional Shared Services Directorate

1. Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Shared Services Centre

HAP Shared Services

- There were 44,380 active HAP tenancies nationally at the end of January, 2019.
- The weekly tenant debit was over €2 million.
- The HAP Landlord payment run was over €34 million.

2. Fire & Emergency Services

Statistics

	Fire Related Calls	Non Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call outs 1/01/19 – 31/01/19	60	50	110
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	66	73	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	28	27	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	6	0	

	Received / Assigned	Validated	Invalidated / Refused	Granted	Completed
Fire Certificate Applications January 2019	213	191	31	189	
Disability Access Cert Applications January 2019	150	143	12	156	
Licensing Applications January 2019	175	175	0		
Commencement Notice January 2019	439	439	55		
Completion Certificate January 2019	235	233	1		
Planning Referrals	266	256			2
Sugar CRM Cases January 2019					3

Civil Defence attendance at Events for month of January 2019

- Indoor Rowing Championships at UL.
- Certificate Presentation Night.
- Operation Transformation Lough Gur.

Fire & Emergency Training Events for month of January 2019

- 9 fire fighters completed a Swiftwater First Responder Refresher.
- 6 fire fighters completed a Powerboat Operator Initial Course.
- 38 fire fighters completed a BA Refreshers – Retained.
- 36 Fire fighters completed a Powerboat Operator Refresher Course.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Major Emergency Management Events for month of January 2019

- Room 202 Merchant's Quay has been fitted out as the new Crisis Management Team room.

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 November
No. of call outs 01/01/19 – 31/01/19	1040	896	1.18	1936

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Support Services Directorate

1. Finance Services

Rent Collection

Opening Balance @ 01/01/2019	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing balance 01/01/2019	% Collection
€3,822,761	€1,229,417	€5,052,178	€1,305,871	€3,746,307	26%

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 January 2019	11,723,917	56,167,542	**	-	-	67,891,459	581,849	67,309,610	2,608,790	1%

**The date for making the 2019 rate was 1st February 2019.

* Subject to finalisation of year end accounts for 2019.

Debtors Loans	Opening Balance 1 Jan €	Accruals €	Writes offs/ Waivers €	To Collect €	Receipts €	Arrears €	% Collection
As at 31st January 2019	485,696	-	-	485,696	139,706	345,990	29%

* Subject to finalisation of year end accounts for 2019.

Recourse to Overdraft Facility

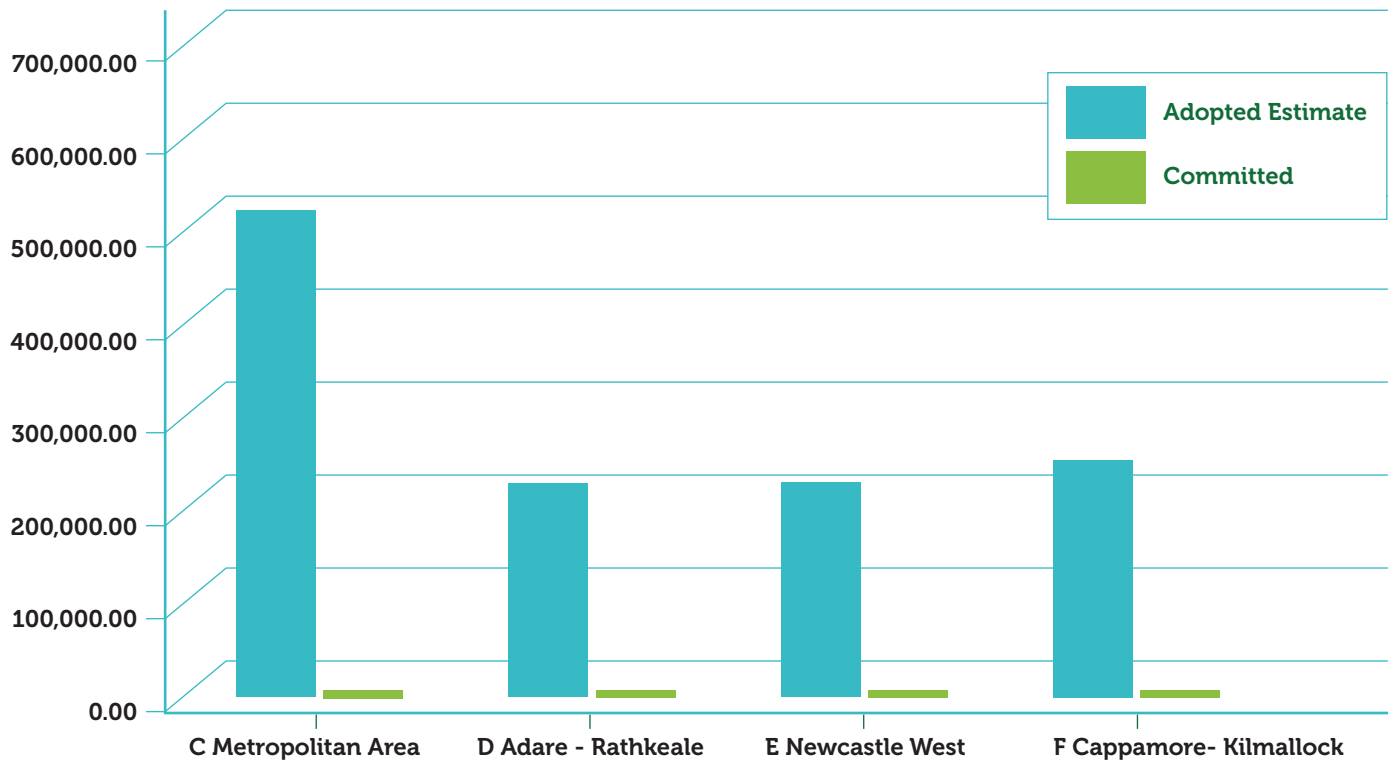
No of days in overdraft 0



General Municipal Allocation 2019

Adopted Estimate €1.203 Million

Graph outlining adopted budget and draft committed expenditure up to 31st January 2019.



Municipal (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate	Value Committed
C Metropolitan Area	503,000.00	0
D Adare - Rathkeale	225,000.00	0
E Newcastle West	225,000.00	0
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	250,000.00	0

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



2. Corporate Services, Governance & Customer Services

Register of Electors

Work has begun on the publication of the 2019/2020 Live Register of Electors, which will be published on the 1 February next. A total of 21 new Polling Stations were set up in accordance with the Polling Scheme for the Local Elections which will take place in May 2019.

Health and Safety Training

During the month of January, the Health and Safety Training Unit arranged the following courses :

Name of Course	Total Number of Staff Trained
Fire Warden	25
Confined Spaces Medium Risk	6
Safe use of Pesticides	10
Safe Pass	3
Total Staff trained in Month of January	44

Customer Services

- Several members of the Customer Services team attended a training workshop on the topic of Age Friendly Housing and Public Realm. This workshop was aimed at informing relevant staff members and elected representatives on how the regulations and guidance to housing and the built environment affect older people. This was an important workshop for Customer Services staff as they continue to support the frontline services provision of the Council.
- Customer Services received 14,803 calls via our call centre throughout the month, handling 41% of calls at first point of contact.
- This works out at approximately 645 calls per day.
- As well as logging 1,108 housing maintenance

cases for the North Operational Division, Customer Services also logged 21 cases for housing maintenance in both the West and South Operational Divisions.

- In January, there were 616 cases logged on behalf of elected representatives by Customer Services.
- Overall, on the SugarCRM (Customer Relationship Management) System, 3,293 cases were logged throughout January, 60% of these being logged by Customer Services in both our Merchants Quay and Dooradoyle offices.
- The majority of cases logged were for the following services:
 - Operations and Maintenance: 2,411 – (61% of these being housing maintenance)
 - Housing Support Services: 306
 - Planning and Environmental Services: 251
 - Customer Services: 50
 - Veterinary: 52
 - Design & Delivery: 81
- The total number of callers to our counters at Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle was 2,727.

3. Access to Information

	January	2019 (January to December)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	17	17
FOI Internal Appeals	-	-
Information Commissioner Appeals	2	2
Total Ombudsman Requests	2	2
Total AIE Requests	-	-

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Schedule of Meetings

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Full Council Meeting of Limerick City and County Council	28.1.2019	Dooradoyle
Municipal District of: Adare-Rathkeale – Monthly Meeting	08.1.2019	Rathkeale
Special Meeting – Update Progress Reports on Adare Bypass and Croom Link Road. To discuss junctions on the N20	30.1.2019	Rathkeale
Newcastle West – Monthly Meeting	9.1.2019	Newcastle West
Cappamore-Kilmallock – Monthly Meeting	7.1.2019	Kilmallock
Local Community Development Committee	15.1.2019	Merchant's Quay
Corporate Policy Group	21.01.2019	Merchant's Quay
Metropolitan District of Limerick Monthly Meeting	21.01.2019	Merchant's Quay
Party Leaders Meeting	28.01.2019	Dooradoyle
Protocol Committee	28.1.2019	Dooradoyle