

# JOINT FOREWORD

BY CONN MURRAY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
AND THE MAYOR OF THE CITY AND  
COUNTY OF LIMERICK, COUNCILLOR  
JAMES COLLINS



Foreword to follow.





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## **SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE**

Urban and Rural Community Development

Tourism Development

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Culture and Arts



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# LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS



Councillor James Collins  
Mayor of the City and County of Limerick



Councillor Michael Collins  
Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick



METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK (consisting of the Local Electoral Areas of Limerick City East, Limerick City North and Limerick City West) – 21 MEMBERS

### LIMERICK CITY EAST - 8 MEMBERS



Cllr. Joe Pond  
(FF)



Cllr. Marian Hurley  
(FG)



Cllr. Elena Secas  
(FG)



Cmhlr. Séighin Ó Ceallaigh  
(SF)



Cllr. Jerry O'Dea  
(FF)



Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon  
(FF)



Cllr. Paul Keller  
(SOLIDARITY/PEOPLE BEFORE  
PROFIT)



Cllr. Michael Sheahan  
(FG)

### LIMERICK CITY NORTH - 6 MEMBERS



Cllr. John Costelloe  
(SF)



Cllr. Vivienne Crowley  
(FF)



Cllr. John Gilligan  
(NP)



Cllr. Michael Hourigan  
(FG)



Cllr. Frankie Daly  
(NP)



Cllr. Cian Prendiville  
(SOLIDARITY/PEOPLE BEFORE  
PROFIT)  
Resigned October 2018



Cllr. Mary Cahillane  
(SOLIDARITY/PEOPLE BEFORE  
PROFIT)  
Co-opted November 2018

### LIMERICK CITY WEST - 7 MEMBERS



Cllr. Daniel Butler  
(FG)



Cllr. Elenora Hogan  
(FG)



Cllr. James Collins  
(FF)



Cllr. Joe Leddin  
(LAB)



Cllr. John Loftus  
(NP)



Cllr. Seán Lynch  
(FF)



Cllr. Malachy McCreesh  
(SF)

### MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE - 6 MEMBERS



Cllr. Stephen Keary  
(FG)



Cllr. Ciara McMahon  
(SF)



Cllr. Adam Teskey  
(FG)



Cllr. Emmett O'Brien  
(NP)



Cllr. Richard O'Donoghue  
(NP)



Cllr. Kevin Sheahan  
(FF)

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CAPPAMORE-KILMALLOCK - 7 MEMBERS



Cllr. Michael Donegan  
(FF)



Cllr. Noel Gleeson  
(FF)



Cllr. Gerald Mitchell  
(FG)



Cllr. William O'Donnell  
(FG)



Cllr. Eddie Ryan  
(FF)



Cllr. Lisa Marie Sheehy  
(NP)



Cllr. Brigid Teefy  
(NP)

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST - 6 MEMBERS



Cllr. Séamus Browne  
(SF)



Cllr. Michael Collins  
(FF)



Cllr. Francis Foley  
(FF)



Cllr. Liam Galvin  
(FG)



Cllr. Jerome Scanlan  
(FG)



Cllr. John Sheahan  
(FG)



# COUNCIL MEMBERS & MEETINGS

There are 40 Members on the Council – 21 Members in the Metropolitan District of Limerick (consisting of the Local Electoral Areas of Limerick City East, Limerick City North and Limerick City West) six Members in the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale, seven Members in the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock and six Members in the Municipal District of Newcastle West.

Meetings of the Full Council are normally held on the fourth Monday of every second month, in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle. The Full Council met on 15 occasions in 2018.

## COUNCIL MEMBERS AND MEETINGS

### CORPORATE POLICY GROUP

The Corporate Policy Group (CPG) is a Committee of the Council consisting of the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick and the Chairs of each of the Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs). Membership is as follows:

- Councillor James Collins, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick
- Councillor William O'Donnell, Chairperson, Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee
- Councillor Frankie Daly, Chairperson, Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee
- Councillor Vivienne Crowley, Chairperson, Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee
- Councillor Marian Hurley, Chairperson, Community, Leisure and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee
- Councillor Jerome Scanlan Chairperson, Environment Strategic Policy Committee
- Councillor Kieran O'Hanlon, Chairperson, Cultural Strategic Policy Committee

The CPG links the work of the different SPCs, acts as a type of cabinet and provides a forum where policy positions can be agreed for submission to the full Council, which retains the decision-making authority. The CPG also monitors the performance of the Local Authority and plays a key role in preparing the budget. The CPG met on 7 occasions in 2018.

\*Position as at 31/12/2018

### COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

Title	No. of Members	No. of Meetings
Metropolitan District of Limerick	21	16
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	6	17
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	7	15
Municipal District of Newcastle West	6	18
<b>Strategic Policy Committees</b>		
Home and Social Development	21	5
Travel and Transportation	24	4
Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning	21	6
Community, Leisure and Emergency Services	22	5
Environment	20	5
Cultural	21	1
<b>Other Committees</b>		
Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	13	4
Rural Water Committee	11	2
Audit Committee	7	4
Joint Policing Committee	15	4
Local Community Development Committee	19	12
<b>LOCAL ELECTORAL AREA BRIEFINGS / WORKSHOPS</b>		
Limerick City East	8	11
Limerick City North	6	11
Limerick City West	7	11

## STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES

Each Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) comprises elected Councillors and Sectoral Representatives, working together in a more participative form of democracy, thereby providing a more effective policy focus on the functions and activities carried out by Limerick City and County Council. Each SPC is supported in its work by a Director of Service. While each SPC formulates and develops policy, the final decisions rest ultimately with the Full Council.

## HOME AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

### ELECTED MEMBERS:

Cllr. William O'Donnell	LCCC Chairperson
Cllr. Michael Donegan	LCCC
Cllr. Liam Galvin	LCCC
Cllr. Jerome Scanlan	LCCC
Cllr. Stephen Keary	LCCC
Cllr. Adam Teskey	LCCC
Cllr. John Costelloe	LCCC
Cllr. Cian Prendiville**	LCCC (Jan.-Oct. 2018)
Cllr. Paul Keller	LCCC
Cllr. Joe Leddin	LCCC
Cllr. Joe Pond	LCCC
Cllr. Francis Foley	LCCC
Cllr. Jerry O'Dea	LCCC
Cllr. Richard O'Donoghue	LCCC
Cllr. John Gilligan	LCCC
Cllr. Lisa Marie Sheehy	LCCC
Cllr. Mary Cahillane***	LCCC (From Nov. 2018)

### SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES:

#### Mr. P.J. O'Grady

Development/Construction

#### Mr. Mike McNamara

Trade Union

#### Dr. Gráinne Greehy

Business/Commercial (Jun 2018 – Aug 2018)

#### Dee Ryan

Business/Commercial (From Sept 2018)

#### Ms. Tracey McElligot

Community & Voluntary \*

#### Mr. Jimmy Prior

Community & Voluntary

\*Are nominated via Public Participation Network (PPN)

\*\* Resigned October 2018

\*\*\* Co-opted November 2018

The Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) met 5 times in 2018.

Presentations/updates were given on the following:

- National Development Plan 2018-2027 – Overview of Housing Issues
- Housing Summit - January 2018 – Overview of Key Issues
- Housing Delivery Overview 2017
- Housing Standards
- Housing Targets 2018-2021
- Urban and Village Renewal
- Buy & Renew and Repair & Lease Schemes
- Public Land Activation – Adare
- Metropolitan Areas of Choice
- The outcome of the Housing Workshop held on the 17th October 2018 to discuss the following:
  - Planned Maintenance
  - Single Differential Rent Scheme
  - Choice based letting
- Part VIII planning applications
- National Smart Ageing Housing Programme
- Presentation by Tracey Lynch on Sustainability Energy Authority of Ireland – Better Energy Communities
- The Single Differential Rent Scheme

## TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

### ELECTED MEMBERS:

Cllr. Frankie Daly	LCCC Chairperson
Cmhlr. Séighin Ó Ceallaigh	LCCC
Cllr. Elena Secas	LCCC
Cllr. Elenora Hogan	LCCC
Cllr. Michael Sheahan	LCCC
Cllr. Gerald Mitchell	LCCC
Cllr. Adam Teskey	LCCC
Cllr. Daniel Butler	LCCC
Cllr. Séamus Browne	LCCC
Cllr. John Loftus	LCCC
Cllr. Joe Pond	LCCC
Cllr. Michael Donegan	LCCC
Cllr. Seán Lynch	LCCC
Cllr. Richard O'Donoghue	LCCC
Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon	LCCC
Cllr. Emmett O'Brien	LCCC

### SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES:

#### Mr. Michael Lenihan

Agriculture/Farming

#### Mr. Brian Leddin

Environment/Conservation\*

#### Mr. Pat McCarthy

Development/Construction

#### Mr. Michael Tiernan

Business/Commercial

#### Mr. Frank McDonnell

Trade Union

**Mr. Denis McAuliffe**

Community/Voluntary\*

**Ms. Maureen Browne**

Social Inclusion\*

**Ms. Ann Gaughan**

Community/Voluntary

\*Are nominated via Public Participation Network (PPN)

**Strategic Policy Committees**

The Directorate is responsible for policy and strategy in the Transport and Environment areas and supports the Travel and Transportation SPC and the Environment SPC.

**Travel and Transportation SPC**

The Travel and Transportation SPC met on four occasions in 2018. Presentations/updates were given on the following:

- Traffic Calming for Urban Areas
- National, Regional and Local Roads Grants
- Age Friendly Limerick – Transportation
- Mobility Management Plans

Among the policies developed were the Limerick City and County Traffic Calming Policy for Urban Areas.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE AND PLANNING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE****ELECTED MEMBERS:**

Cllr. Vivienne Crowley	LCCC Chairperson
Cllr. Noel Gleeson	LCCC
Cllr. Daniel Butler	LCCC
Cllr. Elenora Hogan	LCCC
Cllr. John Sheahan	LCCC
Cllr. Liam Galvin	LCCC
Cllr. Stephen Keary	LCCC
Cllr. Séamus Browne	LCCC
Cmhlr. Séighin Ó Ceallaigh	LCCC
Cllr. Joe Leddin	LCCC
Cllr. James Collins	LCCC
Cllr. Jerry O’Dea	LCCC
Cllr. Eddie Ryan	LCCC
Cllr. Kevin Sheahan	LCCC
Cllr. Emmett O’Brien	LCCC
Cllr. John Loftus	LCCC

**SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES:****Mr. John Walsh**

Agriculture/Farming

**Ms. Tracey Lynch**

Environment/Conservation\*

**Mr. Mike Ryan**

Development/Construction

**Mr. Denis Doyle**

Business/Commercial

**Mr. David Jeffreys**

Business/Commercial

**Mr. Brian Thompson**

Community/Voluntary\*

\*Are nominated via Public Participation Network (PPN)

The Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) met six times in 2018. The main items discussed were as follows:

- Draft Tourism Development and Marketing Strategy 2017-2023
- Mid-West Action Plan for Jobs
- Update on Limerick for IT / Regional Skills
- National Planning Framework
- Innovate Limerick
- Shannon Region Conference and Sports Bureau
- Urban and Rural Regeneration and Development Fund Applications
- Presentation on Limerick Initiatives by Fáilte Ireland

**COMMUNITY, LEISURE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE****ELECTED MEMBERS:**

Cllr. Marian Hurley	LCCC Chairperson
Cllr. Vivienne Crowley	LCCC
Cllr. Michael Collins	LCCC
Cllr. Michael Hourigan	LCCC
Cllr. John Costelloe	LCCC
Cllr. William O’Donnell	LCCC
Cllr. Gerald Mitchell	LCCC
Cllr. Lisa Marie Sheehy	LCCC
Cllr. Ciara McMahon	LCCC
Cllr. Malachy McCreesh	LCCC
Cllr. Cian Prendiville	LCCC (Jan.-Oct. 2018)
Cllr. Frances Foley	LCCC
Cllr. Seán Lynch	LCCC
Cllr. Kevin Sheahan	LCCC
Cllr. Michael Sheahan	LCCC
Cllr. Brigid Teefy	LCCC
Cllr. Mary Cahillane	LCCC (From Nov. 2018)

**SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES:****Ms. Mary Vaughan-Mullane**

Agricultural/Farming

**Ms. Mary Fitzgerald**

Development/Construction

**Mr. Liam Toland**

Business/Commercial

**Ms. Marian Healy**

Community &amp; Voluntary\*

**Mr. Cillian Flynn**

Community &amp; Voluntary\*

**Ms. Donnah Vuma**

Social Inclusion\*

\*Are nominated via Public Participation Network (PPN)

The Community, Leisure and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) met five times in 2018.

The following topics were considered:

- Local Economic and Community Plan
- Migrant Integration Strategy
- National Physical Activity Plan
- Get Ireland Walking
- Play Strategy for Limerick
- Limerick Civil Defence
- Water Safety Limerick
- Draft Tobacco Free Policy
- Swimmable Limerick
- Swimming Facilities Strategy

**SUICIDE AWARENESS WORKING GROUP**

The Suicide Prevention Strategy Group is a subcommittee of the Community, Leisure and Emergency Services, and held two meetings during 2018. The following items were considered:

- Prevention of suicide and self-harm
- Connecting for Life
- Limerick Mental Health Service

**MEMBERSHIP OF SUICIDE PREVENTION STRATEGY GROUP**

Cllr. Lisa Marie Sheehy	LCCC Chairperson
Cllr. Michael Sheahan	LCCC
Cllr. Daniel Butler	LCCC
Cllr. Cian Prendiville*	LCCC (Jan. - Oct. 2018)
Cllr. John Loftus	LCCC
Cllr. Gerald Mitchell	LCCC

**Ms. Mary Vaughan-Mullane**

Agricultural/Farming

**Ms. Marian Healy**

Community &amp; Voluntary

**Mr. Cillian Flynn**

Social Inclusion

**Ms. Donnah Vuma**

Social Inclusion

\*Resigned during 2018

**ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE****ELECTED MEMBERS:**

Cllr. Jerome Scanlan	LCCC Chairperson
Cllr. Michael Hourigan	LCCC
Cllr. Frankie Daly	LCCC
Cllr. Elena Secas	LCCC
Cllr. Marian Hurley	LCCC
Cllr. Malachy McCreesh	LCCC
Cllr. Paul Keller	LCCC
Cllr. James Collins	LCCC
Cllr. Michael Collins	LCCC
Cllr. Noel Gleeson	LCCC
Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon	LCCC
Cllr. Eddie Ryan	LCCC
Cllr. John Gilligan	LCCC
Cllr. Ciara McMahan	LCCC
Cllr. John Sheahan	LCCC
Cllr. Brigid Teefy	LCCC

**SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES:****Mr. Thomas Blackburn**

Agriculture/Farming

**Mr. Eamonn English**

Agriculture/Farming

**Ms. Anneke Verling**

Environment/Conservation\*

**Mr. Mark McConnell**

Business/Commercial

**Mr. Seamus Leahy**

Business/Commercial

**Mr. David Fitzgerald**

Community/Voluntary\*

\*Are nominated via Public Participation Network (PPN)

**Environment SPC**

The Environment SPC held five meetings in 2018.

The main items discussed were as follows:

- Irish Water Eastern and Midlands Region Water Supply Project
- Team Limerick Clean-up
- Noise Action Plan
- River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021
- Eradication of Invasive Species
- Opportunities for the Re-use and Re-cycling of Waste Plastics
- Single-use Plastics Policy
- Pollinator Friendly Areas pilot

## CULTURAL STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

### ELECTED MEMBERS:

Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon	LCCC Chairperson (from August 2018)
Cmhlr. Séighin Ó Ceallaigh	LCCC (Chairperson to July 2018)
Cllr. James Collins	LCCC
Cllr. Michael Collins	LCCC
Cllr. Elenora Hogan	LCCC
Cllr. Marian Hurley	LCCC
Cllr. Stephen Keary	LCCC
Cllr. Joe Leddin	LCCC
Cllr. John Loftus	LCCC
Cllr. Seán Lynch	LCCC
Cllr. Gerald Mitchell	LCCC
Cllr. Jerry O'Dea	LCCC
Cllr. Jerome Scanlan	LCCC (Resigned July 2018)
Cllr. John Sheahan	LCCC (Appointed Nov. 2018)
Cllr. Kevin Sheahan	LCCC
Cllr. Michael Sheahan	LCCC
Cllr. Lisa Marie Sheehy	LCCC

### SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES:

#### Keith Bogue

PLAN

#### Maggie Brown

Artist

#### Gerard Keenan

Vice Chair LACE

#### Eleanor McSherry

Vice Chair LACE

#### Louise Donlon

Lime Tree Theatre (on behalf of Limerick Chamber)

The newly formed Cultural Strategic Policy Committee held six meetings in 2018 in the Council Chamber in Dooradoyle. 16th January, 5th March, 14th May, 10th July, 3rd September, 5th November.

Three workshops took place

- 29th January 2018 - to review 2017 strategic investment priorities
- 5th February 2018 - to agree 2018 strategic investment priorities
- 8th May 2018 - to review and agree criteria of the Festivals and Events Grant Scheme

The following awards were recommended to full council from the SPC

- 13 International Mobility Awards
- 13 Strategic Fund Awards
- 4 Theatre Bursaries
- 2 Short Film Bursaries
- 42 Festival and Event Awards

Recognising the role festivals play in growing international visitor numbers and in line with the new Limerick Tourism Development Strategy, the SPC has recommended the development of a Festivals and Events Strategy for Limerick.

## METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK RESERVED FUNCTIONS 2018

Approval of proposed residential development (5 units) at Sycamore Avenue, Rathbane, Limerick.

Approval of proposed residential development (7 units) at Clare Street and Lelia Street, Limerick.

Approval of Metropolitan District of Limerick GMA funding for St. Patricks Day parade.

Approval to the taking in charge of various housing estates in accordance with S.180 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2014 and S.11 of the Roads Act 1993.

Approval to the extinguishment of the Public Right of Way at Gloster's Lane, Thomondgate in accordance with Section 73 of the Roads Act 1993.

Approval of proposed residential development (13 units) at Wallers Well, Roxboro.

Adoption of Schedule of Municipal District Works 2018 for the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

Approval of Metropolitan District of Limerick GMA funding for the 2018 Riverfest Festival.

Approval of conversion of 6 vacant 1 bedroom units into 3 new 2 bedroom units at Chas Flats, Mary Street, Limerick City.

Approval of Housing Development at the Junction of Blackboy Road (Mulgrave Street) and Greenhills Road, Limerick.

Approval of allocations under the Metropolitan District of Limerick, General Municipal Allocation 2018, Community Development and Special Projects.

Adoption of the Metropolitan District of Limerick (Parking Places)(Amendment) Bye-Laws 2018, in accordance with Section 131A and Schedule 14A of the Local Government Act 2001, and in accordance with the reserved function under Section 36 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994.

Approval of Housing Development at St. Patrick's Villas, Stradbally North, Castleconnell, County Limerick.

Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Approval of the publication of the Draft City and County of Limerick (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-Laws, 2018.

Approval of allocations under the Metropolitan District of Limerick General Municipal Allocation 2018, Tourism Development Recreation and Amenity.  
Approval to extend the life of the Castleconnell Local Area Plan 2013, by a further five years, in accordance with the Chief Executive's Recommendations dated 17th September, 2018, under Section 19 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

Approval of Housing Development at Lower Carey's Road, Limerick.

Approval of Housing Development at Kileely Road, Thomondgate, Limerick.

Approval for development of a Play Area and Outdoor Gym at Verdant Place, St. Mary's Park, King's Island, Limerick.

Approval of Housing Development at Clonmacken, Condell Road, Limerick.

Approval of Housing Development at Sycamore Avenue, Rathbane, Limerick.

Approval to make the proposed Castletroy Local Area Plan 2019 - 2025 in accordance with the Draft published on the 19th May, the Chief Executive's report and subject to the amendments proposed at Adjourned Meeting and in accordance with Section 20 of the Planning and Development 2000 Act (as amended).

Approval of Housing Development at Barnakyle, Patrickswell, Co. Limerick.

Adoption of the Castletroy Local Area Plan 2019-2025.

## **MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CAPPAMORE-KILMALLOCK - RESERVED FUNCTIONS 2018**

Adoption of the Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock for the financial year ended 31st December 2019, in the total sum of €250,000 including the amendment to move the amount of €100,000 from Special Projects – LA Infrastructure to D05 Tourism Development, Recreation and Amenity, in accordance with Section 102 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended).

Approval of Allocations under the General Municipal Allocation, Development Fund, Community Initiatives Scheme and Community Facilities Grants Scheme 2018.

Approval to the deletion of property at Ballincrana, Kilmallock from the Record of Protected Structures under Sections 54 and 55 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Approval to the taking in charge of one housing estate in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2015 and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas Chathaoirleach.

Special Meeting with Chief Executive under Local Government Act 2001.

Adoption of the 2018 Schedule of Works for the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock.

Adoption of the Draft Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock (Parking Places) (Amendment) Bye-Laws 2018.

Approval to the Draft Speed Limit Bye-Laws 2018 for National and Non-National Roads.

Part 8 Approval for the proposed construction of works at Lough Gur Visitor Centre including a Solstice Park and shared roadspace in accordance with Section 179 3(a) if the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended).

Part 8 Approval for the proposed construction of 20 housing units at Glenview Drive, Hospital in accordance with Section 179 3(a) if the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended).

Decision to receive Deputations from the following:

- Kilfinane Coshlea Historical Society
- Garrienderk Community Council

Approval to the holding of Municipal Receptions for the following:

- Certain deceased persons from the District to acknowledge the contribution they made during their lifetime. The people commemorated were Harry Greensmyth, Trooper Pat Mullins, and Michael Quinlan.
- Municipal District Reception for the following in recognition of their achievements during 2018:
  - Hospital Handball Club-8 Medals at World Championships;
  - St John the Baptist School – National Post Primary Schools Camogie Title;
  - Sarah Gardiner, Oola-Bronze Medals, World Powerlifting Championships;
  - Garda John Hennessy – National Award for Bravery;
  - MacKensie McGrath-Silver Medal for Ireland in European U19 Softball Championships.

Adoption of the Minutes of previous Meeting.

Meetings of the Joint Policing Sub-Committee of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock.

## **MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST - RESERVED FUNCTIONS 2018**

Approval of Schedule of Works 2018 for the Municipal District of Newcastle West.

Approval of Allocations under the General Municipal Allocation.

Adoption of the Budgetary Plan for Municipal District of Newcastle West for the financial year ended 31st December, 2019, in the total sum of €225,000 in accordance with Section 102 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas-Cathaoirleach

Decision to receive Deputations from the following:

- Board of Management Scoil Mhuire agus Ide, Secondary School
- Tournafulla/Mountcollins Parish Committee
- Board of Management of Killoughteen National School

Approval to the taking in charge of four housing estates in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 – 2017 and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

Part 8 Approval for the construction of a Regional Athletics Hub at Cloonyscrehane, Cork Road, Newcastle West.

Part 8 Approval for Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan.

Part 8 Approval for residential units at Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.

Approve to the publication of the Draft City and County of Limerick (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-Laws, 2018.

Approval of grants under the Community Initiative Scheme.

## **MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE – RESERVED FUNCTIONS 2018**

Decision to host Municipal Receptions for Margaret O'Shaughnessy, Foynes Aviation Museum for service to West Limerick Tourism, Patrick O'Dwyer Ireland & United Kingdoms Strongest man 2018, Martina McMahon, World Handball Champion 2018, James Chawke, Junior Manx Grand Prix Champion 2018.

Adoption of the Schedule of Works for the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale 2018.

Approval of allocations under the General Municipal Allocation 2018.

Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas-Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District.

Approval to the taking in charge of the Estate at Kilfergus, Glin and Deel Manor Askeaton with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads act 1993.

Approval of applications under the Communities Facilities Grants Scheme 2018.

Approval of allocations under the Community Initiative Scheme Allocations 2018.

Adoption of the Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale for the financial year ended 31 December 2019, in the total of €225,000 in accordance with Section 102 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.

An architectural rendering of a street scene. On the left is a three-story brick building with a gabled roof and arched windows. To its right is a modern building with a brick facade and large arched openings. A semi-transparent green graphic with vertical bars is overlaid on the left side of the image. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting dusk or dawn. People are walking on the sidewalk, and a road with white markings is in the foreground.

# REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES

## REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES

### LOCAL TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Cllr. Seán Lynch  
Cllr. Michael Sheahan  
Cllr. Marian Hurley  
Cllr. Ciara McMahon

### ASSOCIATION OF IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AILG)

Cllr. Michael Hourigan  
Cllr. Vivienne Crowley  
Cllr. Richard O'Donoghue  
Cllr. John Gilligan

- Standing Policy Council of Association (AILG)
  - Cllr. Michael Hourigan
  - Cllr. Vivienne Crowley
  - Cllr. Richard O'Donoghue

### SOUTHERN AND EASTERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Cllr. Joe Leddin  
Cllr. Noel Gleeson  
Cllr. John Sheahan

### LIMERICK MARKET TRUSTEES

Cllr. James Collins (Mayor of the City and County of Limerick)  
Cllr. Daniel Butler (Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Limerick)  
Cllr. Joe Leddin  
Cllr. Malachy McCreesh  
Cllr. John Loftus  
Cllr. Vivienne Crowley  
Cllr. William O'Donnell  
Cllr. Gerald Mitchell  
Cllr. Marian Hurley  
Cllr. Michael Sheahan  
Cllr. John Costelloe  
Cllr. Adam Teskey  
Cllr. Joe Pond  
Cllr. Elenora Hogan  
Cllr. Jerry O'Dea  
Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon  
Cllr. Séan Lynch  
Cllr. John Sheahan

### LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

Cllr. Kevin Sheahan

### IRISH PUBLIC BODIES MUTUAL INSURANCES LIMITED

Cllr. William O'Donnell

### LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS' ASSOCIATION

Cllr. John Sheahan

### GOVERNING BODY OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, CORK

Cllr. Eddie Ryan completed his four year term in November 2018 and subsequently  
Cllr. Jerry O'Dea was elected on 26 November 2018

### GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK

Cllr. James Collins (Mayor of the City and County of Limerick)  
Cllr. Daniel Butler (Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Limerick)

### ADARE HERITAGE TRUST LIMITED

Cllr. James Collins (Mayor of City and County of Limerick)

### WEST LIMERICK RESOURCES LIMITED

Cllr. Michael Collins  
Cllr. Francis Foley  
Cllr. Emmett O'Brien  
Cllr. John Sheahan

### BALLYHOURA DEVELOPMENT LIMITED

Cllr. William O'Donnell  
Cllr. Michael Donegan

### PAUL PARTNERSHIP

Cllr. Seán Lynch  
Cllr. Frankie Daly  
Cllr. Michael Sheahan

### RURAL COMMUNITY CARE NETWORK (RCCN)

Cllr. Jerome Scanlan  
Cllr. Francis Foley

### HUNT MUSEUM TRUST

Cllr. Vivienne Crowley  
Cllr. William O'Donnell

### HUNT MUSEUM COMPANY

Cllr. Jerry O'Dea

### REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM WEST

Cllr. Brigid Teefy  
Cllr. Malachy McCreesh  
Cllr. Michael Hourigan  
Cllr. Jerome Scanlan  
Cllr. Michael Sheahan  
Cllr. Francis Foley  
Cllr. Michael Collins

### RAPID ACTION IMPLEMENTATION TEAM FOR RATHKEALE

Cllr. Stephen Keary

**JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE**

Cllr. Paul Keller  
 Cllr. John Gilligan  
 Cmhlr. Séighin Ó'Ceallaigh  
 Cllr. John Costelloe  
 Cllr. Frankie Daly  
 Cllr. Stephen Keary  
 Cllr. Liam Galvin  
 Cllr. Gerald Mitchell  
 Cllr. John Sheahan  
 Cllr. Seán Lynch  
 Cllr. Kevin Sheahan  
 Cllr. Jerry O'Dea  
 Cllr. Richard O'Donoghue  
 Cllr. Eddie Ryan  
 Cllr. Emmett O'Brien

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL**

Cllr. Daniel Butler (Mayor of Metropolitan District)  
 Cllr. Cian Prendiville (January-October 2018)  
 Cllr. Mary Cahallane (November 2018)  
 Cllr. Michael Sheahan  
 Cllr. Gerald Mitchell  
 Cllr. Jerry O'Dea

**LIMERICK SPORTS PARTNERSHIP**

Cllr. Joe Pond

**LIMERICK CIVIC TRUST**

Cllr. Marian Hurley

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF MOYROSS COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE CENTRE**

Cllr. Frankie Daly

**BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF ST. MUNCHIN'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED**

Cllr. Vivienne Crowley

**BOARD OF INNOVATE LIMERICK**

Cllr. Joe Pond  
 Cllr. James Collins  
 Cllr. Elenora Hogan  
 Cllr. Séamus Browne

**LIMERICK AND CLARE EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD**

Cllr. Marian Hurley  
 Cllr. Elena Secas  
 Cllr. Lisa Marie Sheehy  
 Cllr. Liam Galvin  
 Cllr. Michael Donegan  
 Cllr. Richard O'Donoghue  
 Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon

**AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Cllr. James Collins  
 Cllr. Joe Pond  
 Cllr. Jerome Scanlan

**LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)**

Cllr. Séamus Browne  
 Cllr. Eddie Ryan  
 Cllr. Jerome Scanlan (Chair)  
 Cllr. Daniel Butler

**RURAL WATER MONITORING COMMITTEE**

Cllr. Eddie Ryan  
 Cllr. Jerome Scanlan  
 Cllr. Lisa Marie Sheehy

**BELLTABLE ARTS CENTRE – SPECIAL SUB – COMMITTEE OF BOARD**

Cllr. James Collins (Mayor of the City and County of Limerick)

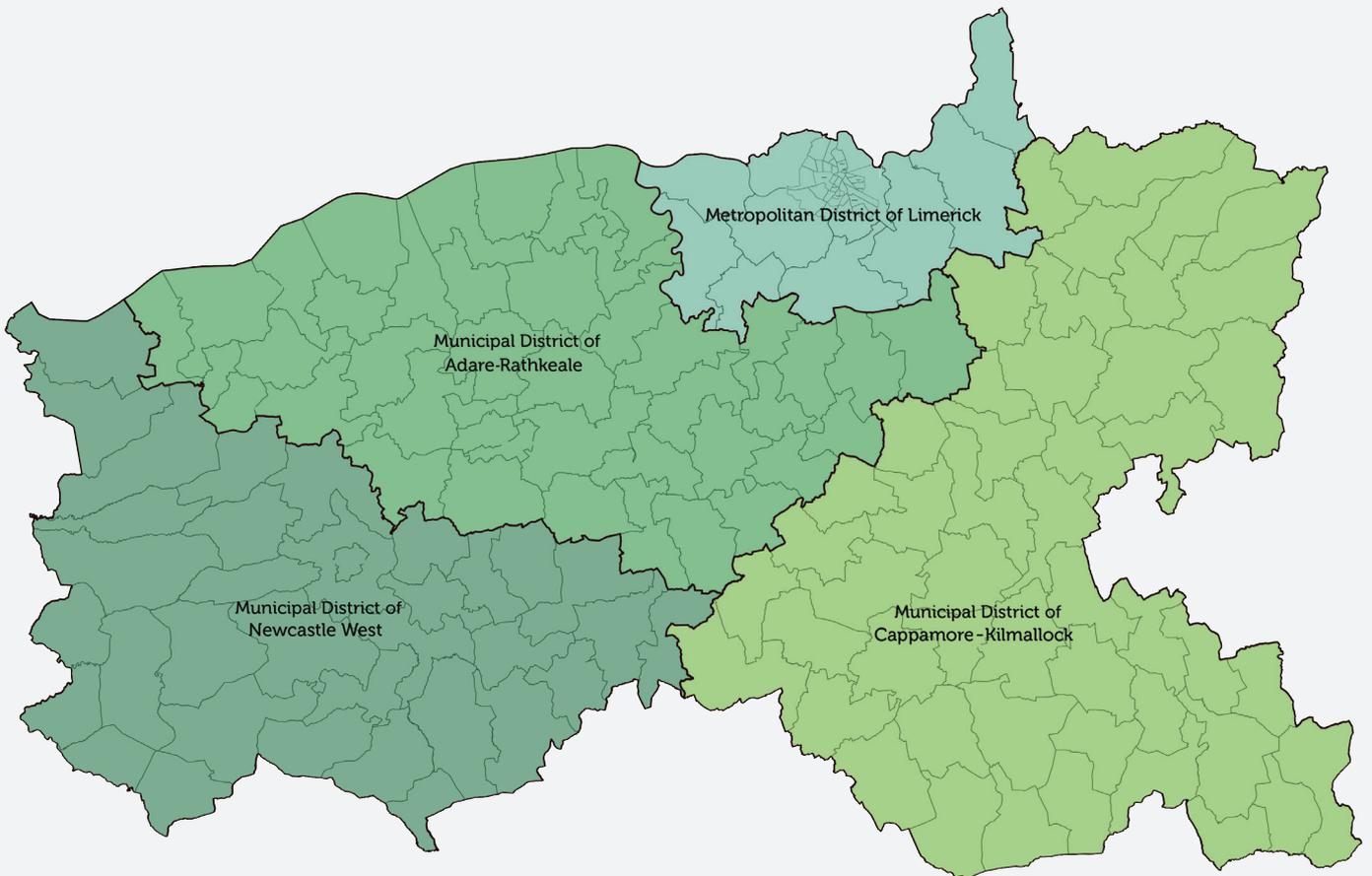
**LIMERICK FOOD STRATEGY STEERING GROUP**

Cllr. Michael Sheahan  
 Cllr. Noel Gleeson

**LIMERICK 2030 STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT DAC**

(formerly known as LCO Enterprise Development Company)  
 Cllr. James Collins  
 Cllr. Seamus Browne  
 Cllr. Joe Pond  
 Cllr. Elenora Hogan

# ELECTORAL AREAS





**EVENTS.  
HIGHLIGHTS  
AND CIVIC  
RECEPTIONS**

## EVENTS



Cllr. James Collins, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick and Limerick Captain, Declan Hannon, with the Liam McCarthy Cup at the huge reception at Colbert Station for them on their return to Limerick.



Denis Brosnan, Chairman Limerick 2030, CEB Governor Rolf Wenzel, Cllr. Stephen Keary, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Conn Murray, Chief Executive, Limerick City and County Council and Patrick Donovan TD, Minister of State at the Department of Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform in Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay for the formal signing of contracts for €85million Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) Finance for the 1.62 hectare landmark Opera Site in Limerick.

## EVENTS



Cllr. Stephen Keary, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, hosted a Mayoral Reception to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of continuing service to the communities of Limerick by the Order of Malta Ireland, Ambulance Corps - Limerick.



Pictured at the Clayton Hotel, Limerick was Childrens Grief Centre founder Sr Helen Culhane, Limerick Person of the Year, Cllr Stephen Keary, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick and Former Minister Michael Noonan who received Lifetime Achievement Award.



Cllr. Stephen Keary, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, hosted a special awards night to honour Limerick musician and composer Denis Allen. Also in picture is Mr. Christy O'Connor, Corporate Services Dept, Limerick City and County Council.



St. Patrick's Day Parade.



The legendary ringmaster of Fossett's Circus, Marion Fossett lead the 2018 spectacular Limerick St Patrick's Day Parade as the city celebrated 250 years of the Circus. Suzanne Freeman, Katie Collins, Luca Rosendahl Morrissey, Lucy Grace Griffin Grant, Marion Fossett, Yasser Mansoer, Cllr. Stephen Keary, The Mayor of Limerick City and County and Edward Fossett, aka OTTO the clown of Fossett's Circus at the launch of Limerick's St Patrick's Festival at Culture House, Limerick.



Limerick Day of Commemoration in Corporate Headquarters, Limerick City and County Council, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.



Cllr. James Collins, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, laying a wreath at Limerick Day of Commemoration.

## EVENTS



Limerick Fireworks Display - The Light and Firework Show at King Johns Castle, Limerick.



Civic Reception, hosted by Cllr. Stephen Keary, Mayor of Limerick City and County Council, was held for the Mid West School for Hearing Impaired Children in recognition of the work they carry out and the recent recognition of ISL as an official language in Ireland.



Valerie and Mick Dolan were honoured with a Mayoral Reception by Cllr. Daniel Butler, Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, in recognition of their tremendous contribution to the music and arts industry in Limerick.



Dr Pat Daly, Director and Deputy Chief Executive Limerick City and County with Cllr. James Collins, Mayor of The City and County of Limerick, with recipients at a Civic Reception in recognition of the International Sporting Achievements of Persons from Limerick in 2018 in Istabrağ Hall, Limerick City and County Council, Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.



Cllr. James Collins, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, accorded a Civic Reception for Ms. Vicky Phelan, In recognition of her positive impact on women's healthcare nationally and her bravery and leadership in highlighting issues with the Cervical Screening Programme. Also in photograph is Pat Daly, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Economic Development, Limerick City and County Council.



Joy Neville pictured with Cllr. Stephen Keary, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, at a Civic Reception for Joy held in Limerick Council Chambers in Doordayle in recognition of her commitment to the game of rugby, as a player and now referee, and for being a wonderful ambassador for Limerick.



Cllr. Daniel Butler being congratulated by Cllr. Sean Lynch, on his election as Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Limerick.



Cllr. Stephen Keary, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, hosted a Reception for Limerick athlete Neil Cusack. In 1972 Neil was the NCAA Men's Cross Country National Champion, in 1974 he was the only Irish athlete to win the Boston marathon, in 1981 Neil won the Dublin Marathon and represented Ireland in the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich, Germany and in the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal. Attending the event were Neil Cusack, Shelbourne Park and Mayor Stephen Keary, who presented Neill with a plaque.



Attending the Mayoral Reception for Historian Sharon Slater at City Hall were Cllr. Frankie Daly, Cllr. Sean Lynch, Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, Cllr. Marian Hurley and Cllr. James Collins.

## EVENTS



Cllr. Stephen Keary, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick and Mr. Conn Murray, Chief Executive, Limerick City and County Council in Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay, where The Freedom of Limerick was conferred on Retired Det Gda Ben O'Sullivan and posthumously on Det Gda Jerry McCabe in recognition of their bravery in the carrying out of their duties on behalf of the people of Limerick and Ireland. Also included in picture is Ben O'Sullivan and Ann McCabe, wife of the late Jerry McCabe.



Cllr. Daniel Butler, Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, held a reception for Patrick Halpin for his decades of service and commitment to Limerick Football. Photograph also shows FAI's Nick Harrison, Denis Hynes, Barry McGann, Jason O'Connor, Limerick City Development Officer and James Scott, North Tipperary Development Officer.



Cllr. James Collins on his election as Mayor of the City and County of Limerick.



Cllr. James Collins, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, hosted a reception to honour Knockainey U14 Ladies Football Team in recognition of their All Ireland success in the U14 John West Girls Division 6 Feile Peile na nOg 2018. Photograph shows Mayor Collins handing the parchment to Marie Herbert, captain. Also in the photograph are the management team, John McNamara, Manager, Ciara Ryan, Vice Captain, Gerry Herbert, A Downes and Margaret Madden.



Cllr. Michael Collins, on his election as Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick.



Limerick's soccer star, Aaron Tier, Corbally, pictured receiving a presentation at a Mayoral Reception hosted by Cllr. James Collins, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick in recognition of his pivotal role in the Irish Cerebral Palsy soccer team securing a bronze medal in the recent European Championships. Also in the photograph are from left Aaron's grand uncle, Kevin O'Connell, his nephew Liam(7), his granduncle Andrew Tier and his brother Bobby.



Pictured at Merchants Quay in Limerick was Cllr. Stephen Keary, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick signing the book of condolence for Dolores O'Riordan R.I.P., The Cranberries.

EVENTS



Cllr. Sean Lynch, Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, accorded a Reception to St Patrick's Villas Residents Association for representing Limerick with great distinction in achieving runners up place in the Housing Estates category in the All Ireland Pride of Place competition 2017.



Cllr. James Collins, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, hosted a Mayoral Reception for Tara Madigan in recognition of her achievements in the British Transplant Games.



Cllr. Daniel Butler, Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, held a reception to honour three outstanding Limerick women-Jean Ryan and Marie Breen, in recognition of their years of voluntary service to the Samaritans and to the mental health of Limerick citizens and Lucy O'Hara, in recognition of her years of voluntary service to Limerick Suicide Watch and mental health of Limerick citizens.



Cllr. Adam Teskey, Cathaoirleach, Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale, hosted a Reception for Margaret O'Shaughnessy, Foynes Flying Boat Museum. Also included in photograph is Cllrs. Richard O'Donoghue, Kevin Sheahan, Emmett O'Brien and Stephen Keary.



Limerick Senior Hurling captain, Declan Hannon and Cllr. James Collins, Mayor of The City and County of Limerick and Limerick's Senior Hurling Manager, John Kieley pictured at a Civic Reception for the Limerick Senior Hurling Panel and Management Team in Istabaq Hall, Corporate Headquarters, Limerick City and County Council, Merchant's Quay.



Cllr. James Collins, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, hosted a Reception for Patrick Phelan, Boherbuoy Band, in recognition of his lifetime achievement of fostering and sharing a love and knowledge of music, particularly with the Boherbuoy Band and in recognition of his performance with the various bands of the Dance Hall era and the many other Limerick musical organisations. Also included in photograph is Senator Maria Byrne, Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon and Cllr. Elenora Hogan.



Cllr. James Collins, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, signing an Economic and Cultural Memorandum of Understanding between Limerick and the City of Hangzhou, in China.



A Civic Reception was accorded to the Limerick's All-Ireland winning Ladies Football Team Players' Panel and Management Team for the dedication and determination they have shown throughout the championship campaign and for the joy they brought to the people of Limerick in claiming the cup. Pictured is Cllr. James Collins, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Manager, John Ryan and captain, Cathy Mee, along with the Panel.



Cllr. Daniel Butler, Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, hosted a reception for John Hennessy, Ber Angley, Máire Keary Scanlon and Shane MacCurtain in recognition of their contribution to music in Limerick.



Cllr. James Collins hosted a Mayoral Reception for St. Michael's Rowing Club in recognition of the club's success in 2018 which culminated in a splendid victory at the National Championships, selections for Irish Crews and a club member winning gold in the World U23 Rowing Championships. Photograph includes James Harrison, Secretary, John O'Sullivan, President, Cllr. James Collins, Brian Richardson, Captain and Pat McInerney, Coach.



Cllr. Daniel Butler, Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, pictured at Mayoral Reception for Ciarán Crowe in honour of his teaching career and in particular his significant contribution to the GAA and his local community, Ms. Noreen Lynch in recognition of her teaching career and in particular her sporting legacy in Mary Immaculate College and Mr. Sean O'Callaghan in honour of his teaching career and in particular his contribution to hockey in Limerick.



Cllr. James Collins, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, at Mayoral Reception for Limerick Lions Basketball Club with Chairman, Trevor Moore and committee members, coaches and volunteers receiving their official Mayoral Scroll.



Pictured at Civic Reception in Istabraq Hall, Corporate Headquarters, Limerick City and County Council, to mark the Munster Team's victory over the New Zealand All Blacks in Thomond Park in 1978 were members of the 1978 Munster 1978, Pat Daly, Deputy Chief Executive, Limerick City and County Council, Cllr. James Collins, Mayor of Limerick City and County and Michael Keane, Vice President Munster Branch IRFU.



The logo features a dark red diagonal band crossing the page from the top-left to the bottom-right. The background is a vibrant pink. The text 'ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE' is written in white, bold, uppercase letters, positioned on the dark red band.

**ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
DIRECTORATE**



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

Limerick's remarkable transformation continued in 2018, which was a year of strong job creation and investment. More than 3,000 jobs and €516 million of investment was announced during the year. 2018 saw new company investments announced by Edwards Life Sciences, NBC, Instat, Fine Grain Property, NK Communications and Azon Recruitment Group. During the year company expansions were announced by companies including Uber, Nordic Aviation Capital, H&MV, Becton Dickenson and Company, Design Pro, Ernst and Young, Rigid Containers, Kostal and AMCS.

This brings total jobs announced to close to 15,800 since 2013, with a total of €2.2 billion of investment. During the year, Troy Studios announced plans to extend its stage space by 100,000 sq. ft. as further validation as to Limerick's attractiveness for inward investment.

The Economic Development Directorate, which is charged with the promotion and development of Limerick, won two awards at the All Ireland Community and Council Awards, for Best Connected Council (Communications and Digital Marketing) and for Best Local Authority Innovation for Attracting Inward Investment for *Limerick 2030: An Economic and Spatial Plan for Limerick*.

In 2018, Limerick City claimed no less than six titles in the European Cities of the Future Awards by FDI Intelligence, a specialist division from The Financial Times. This further highlights international recognition of the ongoing resurgence in Limerick.

It was also a year that saw Limerick City and County Council appoint global branding giants M&C Saatchi to develop Limerick's new international positioning and brand identity. In 2018, Limerick.ie reached a milestone of over 1.1 million unique users.

## LIMERICK TWENTY THIRTY

The Limerick Twenty Thirty Company, a strategic development company, was established by Limerick City and County Council to develop key strategic sites throughout Limerick, which will act as anchors for enterprise and investment development across Limerick. These sites include Gardens International Development, the Opera Site, Mungret, Cleaves Campus and Troy Studios. Key achievements in 2018 include:

- In 2018 Limerick Twenty Thirty Strategic Development DAC announced its first client for the Gardens International Office Development on Henry Street. Nordic Aviation Capital (NAC), one of the largest aircraft leasing companies in the world, will take just over 50% of the LEED Gold building. The company announced plans to expand to 350 employees over the next three years.
- The Mungret Masterplan got underway in 2018 with the development of the outline strategic masterplan and urban design strategy.
- Limerick City and County Council unveiled plans for the Opera Site development, which aims to transform the social and economic profile of the city centre and stimulate growth that will benefit not just its immediate environs but the entire region. €1.8 million was awarded to the Opera project as part of the national Urban Regeneration and Development Scheme.
- 2018 saw the formal signing of contracts for €85 million Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) finance for the Opera Site project. The €85 million CEB funding is matched by an existing commitment by the European Investment Bank (EIB) announced in 2017, bringing to €170 million the total funding secured for the project. The Opera project will have a lasting legacy on the economic and social fabric of the city, county and region.

## BACKGROUND AND HIGHLIGHTS

The Economic Development Directorate, which is charged with the promotion and development of Limerick, incorporates six key sections:

- Investment
- Innovate Limerick
- Local Enterprise Office
- Office of Marketing and Communications
- Forward/Strategic Planning
- Digital Strategy

The following are some of the highlights under each of these sections.

## 1. INVESTMENT

The Investment Unit is tasked with supporting the efforts of IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, other state agencies and the business community, in creating the environment to facilitate job creation, as well as gathering and disseminating economic data, managing the development fund and administering corporate support services. 2018 was a year of many highlights, including:

- Announcement of 3,072 jobs in total with €516.8 million of investment by companies including Edwards Lifesciences, NBC, Nordic Aviation Capital, Uber, Kostal, H&MV, Becton Dickenson and Company, STATS, Troy Studios, NK Communications, AMCS, Ernst and Young, Rigid Containers, BDO, 4site, Instat, Fine Grain Property, Electricity Exchange, Azon Recruitment Group, Shannon Foynes Port Company and Clenn Construction.
- Retail and hospitality investments and jobs announcements were made by Milanos, Boojum, Alex Findlater and Company, Freshly Chopped, MACE, Esquire Coffee, Harry Corry, Rift Coffee, Specsavers, Maxol Service Station, Green Onion Café, and a multi-million plaza at Clondrinagh Business Park.
- The Council approved the allocation of €2m to capital projects throughout the city and county. The monies were collected through development contributions attached to the granting of planning permission, primarily for commercial and housing developments. The allocated funding for the projects fell under four broad headings; Assisting Communities; Rebuilding Limerick; Quality of Life Initiatives; and Planning for the Future.
- A Limerick delegation, led by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor James Collins visited Hangzhou, China from 3rd - 5th December 2018 at the invitation of the Mayor of Hangzhou, Mr Xu Liyi. The principal reason for the visit was to sign an Economic and Cultural Memorandum of Understanding between Limerick and the City of Hangzhou which seeks to build relationships in economic activity and trade, tourism and cultural affairs between the two parties. The MoU is also designed to establish formal linkages between the third level colleges in both areas.

## 2. INNOVATE LIMERICK

Innovate Limerick aims to drive innovation and act as the delivery mechanism for the projects outlined in the Limerick 2030 Plan, the Limerick Regeneration Implementation Plans and others. Among its achievements in 2018 were:

- In January 2018 ENGINE was formally opened by Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government Eoghan Murphy T.D. ENGINE is a dedicated fixed office, co-working and training facility located in the heart of Limerick's Georgian District. There are currently 90 people working on site.
- In February, the official Nightflyers launch was held. The crew of 500 worked on a 16 week shoot which had an impact in excess of €53m for the local economy. Through their facility Film in Limerick, Innovate Limerick played a crucial role in attracting NBC's Nightflyers production to Troy Studios. Innovate Limerick continues to offer a concierge support service to NBC and other production companies and are working to promote and develop the Mid-West Region as a national centre of excellence for film.
- In March Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Heather Humphreys T.D. visited Innovate Limerick and viewed a showcase of Innovate Limerick's projects throughout the city and county, citing the unique special purpose innovation company as a blueprint, which should be replicated across the country.
- Innovate Limerick was successful in their application to Enterprise Ireland for €2.27m under the Regional Enterprise Development Fund. This will be used to develop a Digital Collaboration Centre (DCC) at 29 Cecil Street. The DCC will work with multi-national companies (MNCs), small-medium enterprises (SMEs), start-ups and third levels to facilitate the application and adoption of existing technology to solve business problems. The work of the centre will focus on business process improvement rather than new technology development. This facility, which will be created by Innovate Limerick, will accelerate collaborations between MNCs, SMEs and third levels through the management of relationships, identification of projects and by supplying a meaningful platform for engagement and collaboration.
- Innovate Limerick was successful in their application for €1m funding under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund. This funding will be used to develop ENGINE Phase three which will develop the former Royal Cinema at 30 Cecil Street as part of the Digital Collaboration Centre.
- Building upgrade works have been completed at Rathkeale Enterprise Centre, with anchor tenant Design Pro recently announcing further expansion plans. Furthermore the facility is now home to local charities the Butterfly Club and the Community Crisis Response Team.
  - Innovate Limerick was successful in the 2018 Town and Village Renewal Scheme and were approved €200,000 for the development of an E-Hub in Abbeyfeale. This facility will become a central community space which will include high speed broadband, fit out of a co-working space, meeting rooms and a training room to facilitate business start-ups and training. This facility will create a pathway to sustainable employment in the town.

### 3. LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

In 2018, the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Limerick continued to raise its profile and to promote its role as the lead agency for small business development in the City and County. The year was another successful year in providing financial support for business, supporting job creation and providing training and development for owner managers and key employees of small business in Limerick.

LEO Limerick provided financial assistance to small and micro enterprises during 2018 by way of grant aid. The three main categories of grants are Feasibility Study, Priming Grant Aid, and Business Expansion Grant Aid. LEO Limerick adopted a policy of making 30% of Priming Grants and 40% of Business Expansion Grants in refundable form in order to achieve an overall repayment of 30% of approvals.

The financial assistance paid by LEO Limerick during 2018 provided assistance for the creation of 365 additional jobs (full time and part time) in the sector bringing the total number of jobs in 300 LEO supported companies in Limerick to 1,926. The number of applications for grant aid received in 2018 was 42 with 33 applications approved. The total amount of grant aid approved by LEO Limerick in 2018 was €798,379, in respect of 33 projects.

The highlights of the year included:

- Total expenditure on Local Enterprise Office Limerick for 2018 amounted to €1,833,687.
- Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters: €18,722 approved for 12 companies.
- Trading online Vouchers to a value of €60,766 approved for 26 businesses.
- LEO partnership with the three Limerick Local Development Companies to deliver advice and training throughout the City and County.
- Partnered with Network Ireland to provide a forum for Women in Business.
- Extensive media activity in conjunction with the Communications Department, to promote enterprise creation in Limerick.
- Schools Enterprise Programme in 22 Secondary Schools in the City and County involving 1200 students.
- LEO Limerick Enterprise Awards: Entrepreneur of the Year Elaine Berkery, Eastway Remote Monitoring, represented Limerick in the National Final in Dublin.
- Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur Limerick won by Paddy Finn, Electricity Exchange who represented Limerick in the IBYE National Final in Google Headquarters in Dublin.
- Seven Start Your Own Business Courses provided to 128 individuals.
- 159 Owner managers availed of one to one mentoring with 574 mentor hours used.
- 88 training courses provided for 1,313 individuals 519 men and 794 women participants.

LEO Limerick's approach of segmenting and targeting companies by their lifecycle status has proved beneficial to ensuring growth and development of companies assisted by way of grant aid. During 2018 LEO worked intensively with companies identified to have potential and willingness for growth, internationalisation and export.

## 4. OFFICE OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Marketing and Communications Department of Limerick City and County Council is responsible for handling corporate communications and developing and promoting the Limerick brand to visitors and international investors, through dynamic ongoing campaigns across traditional and new media. Key events throughout 2018 included the co-ordination of the Greening of Limerick and PR following Limerick's win in the All Ireland Hurling Final and the huge media interest following the tragic passing of Cranberries lead singer Dolores O'Riordan. Global destination experts M&C Saatchi were appointed to create a new brand identity for Limerick and Limerick.ie reached a milestone of over 1.1 million unique users in 2018.

The Office's activity included:

### Corporate Communications and Marketing:

- PR and media management of council projects including the issuing of 224 press releases, answering hundreds of queries from local and national media and managing the Council's social media accounts.
- PR and media management for Dolores O'Riordan's Book of Condolence. A total of 15,000 signatures were collated from countries across the world and presented to the O'Riordan family.
- Appointed global creative agency M&C Saatchi to create a new brand identity and implementation plan for Limerick. As part of the new Limerick brand development, we have entered into a creative, collaborative process with Graphic design students at Limerick School of Art and Design, to finesse and craft the brand identity and highlight the exceptional talent in Limerick.
- Student marketing campaign targeted first year third level students to encourage them to explore life off campus and experience Limerick Student City. Distribution of Limerick.ie Student Maps and Guides to 10,000 freshers and international students, on-campus digital display adverts, bus stop advertising, digital campaign on social media and Snapchat student takeover.
- Designed a suite of brochures including Limerick Walk It-Run It-Love It, Limerick Festivals Guide, Limerick St. Patrick's Festival, Riverfest, October Bank Holiday Weekend and Christmas in Limerick guides.
- Integrated marketing campaign undertaken for Limerick St Patrick's Festival, Riverfest and Christmas.
- Promoted Limerick as a destination in advertising and editorial feature for international coach tour operators for Coach Tours UK magazine and profiled Limerick in Tourism Ireland Travel Guides for circulation in five key international markets – USA, Great Britain, Germany, France and Spain.
- Supplied welcome packs to public figures and delegates attending high profile events including +CityxChange consortium meetings, Wild Atlantic Way TripAdvisor Spring Campaign workshops, Fáilte Ireland's Ireland Specialist Mega Familiarisation Trip, visiting Canadian tour operators and Chinese journalists and photographers visiting Limerick on Tourism Ireland familiarisation trips.
- Launched the EY-DKM Economic Data Profiling Study of Limerick and produced new #ThisIsLimerick 16 page marketing brochure highlighting Limerick's key statistics and unique selling points.
- Other marketing and PR campaigns for the Purple Flag Weekend, Limerick Global Irish Festival Series and retained firefighters recruitment.
- Turned Limerick red for #Bordeauxbound campaign to support Munster in the European Rugby Champions Cup semi-final V Racing 92.

### All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final

- Co-ordinated "Greening of Limerick" in lead up to All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final.
- Promoted and led the media element of the Homecoming and Big Screen on behalf of Limerick City and County Council and Limerick GAA generating hugely positive PR for Limerick.

### Digital Activities:

- Limerick.ie reached a milestone of over 1.1 million unique users, an increase of 37% on the previous year.
- Engaged with Fáilte Ireland's #MyWildAtlanticWay campaign through social media.
- Social media followers continued to increase
  - Limerick.ie Facebook followers increased by 22% to 22,000 at year end
  - Limerick.ie Twitter followers increased by 13% to 15,300 at year end
  - Limerick.ie Instagram followers increased by 49% to 5,100 at year end
  - Limerick City and County Council Twitter followers increased by 19% to 11,500 at year end
  - Limerick Marketing Twitter followers increased by 26% to 2,400 at year end
  - Started managing the Limerick City and County Council LinkedIn account in May 2018 and increased followers by 79% from May to December 2018
- Rolled out a national digital marketing campaign to promote Limerick as a domestic break destination. The campaign profiled Limerick as a location for different market segments including families, women and adventure seekers.
- Issued 64 Limerick.ie e-newsletters and 12 Limerick.ie business bulletins.
- Worked with Newcastle West's Development Association and Municipal District to help promote the town as part of the Newcastle West Strategic Plan through the development of www.newcastlewest.ie, provision of marketing support and official launch.

## 5. FORWARD/STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Forward/Strategic Planning Section is responsible for the research, preparation and production of planning policy documents and planning for the sustainable development of housing, infrastructure, economic and environmental development in the City and County.

### NATIONAL POLICY DOCUMENTS

- A number of submissions were made to the Southern Regional Assembly, which influenced the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy through participation in the Mid West Technical Working Group.
- Twelve funding applications were made for strategic projects, within Limerick City and Suburbs by Limerick City and County Council under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund. Six projects were awarded to the value of €4.5 million.
- Submissions were made on the following national policy documents: Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, National Marine Planning Baseline Report, Irish Water Capital Investment Plan 2020 -2024 and the Draft Urban Development and Building Height Guidelines for Planning Authorities.

### ATLANTIC ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

- Limerick was one of the 10 Local Authorities to play a key role in the development of the Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC) in 2018. The initiative aims to connect the economic clusters and catchment areas of the AEC Region to attract investment, support job creation and improve the quality of life of the people who live there.

### LOCAL AREA PLANS

- The Castletroy Local Area Plan 2019-2025 was agreed by the Elected Members at the Metropolitan District Meeting in December.
- The Castleconnell Local Area Plan was extended for a period of five years to 2023 at the Metropolitan District meeting in September.
- Amendments to the Adare Local Area Plan 2015-2021 were adopted in December.
- A review of the Kilmallock Local Area Plan commenced, with a public meeting held in Kilmallock in December.

### CITY AND COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLANS

- Variation no. 6 to the Limerick County Development Plan 2010-2016 (as extended) which proposes to incorporate changes to Chapter 8 in relation to Transport and Infrastructure was adopted at a Special Council meeting in April.
- Advanced research and development for a new Limerick Development Plan including an assessment of open spaces/recreation areas and commenced a survey on existing industrial and enterprise lands in the city and environs. Preliminary work was also completed on the strategic review of the north side of the city.

### CLIMATE CHANGE

- Commenced Preparation of the Limerick Climate Change Adaption Plan, and was represented on the Climate Adaptation Regional Office working group.

### HERITAGE/ ECOLOGY

- Funding of €23,000 was secured under the Heritage Plan.
- Provided appropriate assessment/ecological advice on 11 projects for Area Engineers (Castleconnell road repairs, Clareville Access points, Montpelier landing points) Road (Cluggin Bridge, Barringtons Bridge), Road Design Office (Bolane, Caherconlish and Kilcornan) and Tourism (Barnagh Tunnel).
- Heritage Week 2018 took place from 16 to 28 August with seventy events taking place across Limerick City and County during the week. The theme was 'Share a Story – Make a Connection'. Community events included; music and percussion, poetry, family archives and history, historical and wildlife walks, ponding and insect safaris, craft workshops, exhibitions, lectures, kayaking tours, a food tour and tours of historical graveyards.

### CITY CENTRE SURVEY

- A land use and vacancy survey within the city centre was completed in Q1 2018.

### CITYXCHANGE

- Inputted into the successful EU Horizon 2020 application for the CityxChange project and attended the initial partners meeting in Trondheim. As part of this project Trondheim Kommune and Limerick City and County Council will develop feasible and realistic demonstration projects in climate-friendly and sustainable urban environments.

## 6. DIGITAL STRATEGY

The Digital Strategy Department leverages the advantages of digital transformation, with the department comprising the following sections:

1. Digital Customer Experience: responsible for digital service delivery to citizens and our external customers i.e. Limerick.ie, My Limerick and related websites.
2. Digital User Experience: responsible for digital service delivery to our staff, i.e. business systems, SugarCRM, Intranet etc.
3. Data, Analytics and GIS: responsible for the data infrastructure, GIS and associated data.
4. Broadband and Mobile Communications: responsible for the support and co-ordination at local level of National Broadband Plan and Mobile Phone Taskforce
5. EU Programmes: responsible for strategic coordination of EU funding

Some of the projects undertaken in 2018 include:

- In July the CityxChange proposal co-ordinated by the Digital Strategy Department was awarded €20m by the Horizon 2020 EU Research and Innovation Funding programme for Smart Cities and Communities. In collaboration with the City of Trondheim in Norway the +CityxChange (positive city exchange) smart cities project was formally signed off by the European Commission on November 1st for a period of five years. The project will see €6.5m funding for Limerick and its partners to develop solutions for positive energy districts and cities.
- Limerick Digital Strategy and Smart Limerick City Region was launched in the Strand Hotel on September 10th. The launch highlighted current examples of digital transformation in Limerick City and County and how the use of digital technologies is accelerating the Limerick 2030 transformation efforts.
- National Broadband Plan and Mobile Phone Taskforce: In 2018 the Digital Strategy department provided support and co-ordination for the deployment of high-speed broadband in many towns including Newcastle West town centre, where 3 cabinets have been upgraded by Eir in April 2018 to support high-speed broadband. The number of properties in County Limerick connected to high-speed broadband under the Eir agreement signed with the Department of Communications in 2017 has reached 7,004.
- Smart CCTV Project: With the support of the Limerick Joint Policing Committee and in close collaboration with An Garda Síochána, Smart CCTV systems have been deployed in 14 towns in County Limerick with 48 cameras connected to local CCTV hubs. New governance structures, controls and processes have been established to ensure that a balance between privacy and community safety is achieved.
- Limerick.ie: An Integrated Digital Experience Platform. The infrastructure hosting the Limerick.ie platform was successfully overhauled in order to make the website more robust and enhance its performance, while in July a security audit was run on the site. 2018 also saw the completion of the Limerick Food website, a collaboration between Limerick City and County Council and Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Limerick providing a one-stop shop for information on Limerick food, from suppliers and producers to restaurants and business supports.
- A major release of the Council's Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system was deployed in June. These updates added a lot of new features, including automatic case resolution emails where customers are automatically notified when their requests are closed or resolved. In addition to the CRM mobile app which enables our operation crews to access live data and provide live updates from the ground to our customers was upgraded.
- The technical implementation of the Council's new Sharepoint Online-based Electronic Document and Records Management System (EDRMS) was completed in December.
- In June, Digital Strategy in collaboration with Forward/Strategic Planning installed 5 new pedestrian counters at locations along O'Connell Street. The 15 minute interval data from these sensors, available through the Insight Limerick service, will further improve informed decision making and planning for Limerick City and can be provided to citizens and businesses to gain insights into trends and support strategy and policy development.
- Digital Strategy successfully completed the Limerick Enterprise Architecture (LEA) project, a multi-year collaborative effort with researchers from Dublin City University combining the strategic leadership of Limerick's Digital Strategy and the academic research expertise of the Irish software research centre, LERO. LEA has strengthened Limerick's Smart City capabilities through innovative cross-sectoral research and aims to improve effective deployment of future Smart Technology investments.
- In May works started on the development of a National Service Catalogue for Local Government. This project aims to standardise the list of services that local authorities in Ireland will offer and how those services are delivered, to ensure a consistently high standard of delivery.





**PHYSICAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
DIRECTORATE**



# PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

The Physical Development Directorate leads in the physical development of Limerick including quality transport infrastructure, environmental protection and policy, smarter travel options and accessibility to quality housing.

The Directorate is responsible for policy and strategy in these areas and supports the Travel and Transportation SPC and the Environment SPC. It is responsible for managing the Council's responsibilities under the Water Framework Directive, the Floods Directive and Environmental Noise Regulations.

This Directorate has the lead role in the prioritisation and funding of all major physical and infrastructure development projects relating to roads, flood protection and environmental related projects, and engages with government departments/agencies on these matters. It also advocates for investment in physical infrastructure in Limerick where this infrastructure is provided by other government departments or agencies.

The Directorate operates the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water for the delivery of Water Services for Limerick City and County.

The Directorate also incorporates the Mid-West Road Design Office, which is responsible for delivering major infrastructural projects including the M20 Limerick to Cork Motorway Scheme and the Foynes to Limerick City Road Project.

It is one of four Strategic Directorates of the Council, and it works closely with the Social Development Directorate, the Economic Development Directorate and the Housing Development Directorate feeding into regional and national policies and strategies.

## TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION

### SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS/ PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2018

#### LIMERICK SHANNON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORT STRATEGY

Limerick City and County Council, in partnership with The National Transport Authority and Clare County Council, commenced work to develop a new Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (MATS) for the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area. The National Planning Framework (NPF) supports ambitious growth targets to enable Limerick City to grow by at least 50% to 2040 and to enhance its significant potential to become a city of scale. To achieve these ambitious targets a Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) is currently being prepared for the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area as the appropriate vehicle to address both the city and suburbs and adjoining area that supports the core of the city. The principles underpinning the development of the MASP include the effective integration of transport planning with spatial planning policies, from regional down to local level and alignment of associated transport and infrastructure investment priorities. The MASP sets out as a priority that to the greatest extent practicable, development within the Metropolitan Area should be carried out sequentially, whereby lands, which are, or will be most accessible by walking, cycling and public transport, are prioritised.

The Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS) when completed will inform the integration of land use and transport planning within the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area and will inform investment in transport infrastructure and services over the short, medium and longer term to promote and encourage sustainable transport use.

The LSMATS will set out a series of actions and measures, covering infrastructural, operational and policy elements to be implemented in the Limerick Shannon

Metropolitan Area over the next 20 years, and will outline a framework to deliver the projects in a phased manner. The Strategy will take account of current and predicted population, the National Planning Framework objectives, national transport policies, existing plans and strategies in the region, existing transport assets and opportunities in developing the Strategy. It will consider all transportation modes including walking, cycling, buses, coaches, Bus Rapid Transit Systems (BRTS), light rail, heavy rail, taxis, car sharing and private cars in developing a comprehensive transport strategy for the Limerick Shannon area.

The LSMATS was tendered during 2018 by the National Transport Authority and Jacobs Consulting Engineers were appointed and commenced work in Q4 2018 to develop the Transport Strategy. The Strategy will be developed and refined during 2019. The development of the Strategy is being funded and overseen by the National Transport Authority (NTA).

#### **CATCHMENT FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT (CFRAM)**

Plans for Limerick City and Environs, Athea, Castleconnell and Rathkeale were approved by Council July 2018 at its plenary meeting. This has resulted in the commitment of €60 million from Government to flood relief measures in Limerick City and County under tranche 1 of the CFRAMS.

#### **LIMERICK SMARTER TRAVEL ROUTE 4 COMPLETED**

The improvement works in Ballysimon benefit the community and local employment sector connecting the Eastway Business Park and Delta Retail Park with an existing cycling network along the Groody Road and to Castletroy via the Golf Links Road.

It provides an excellent facility for people to commute to work in these areas in a more sustainable manner. In all the project was 1.1km in length and the works included; Road Widening, Footpaths and Cycle Lanes installation, Raised Entry Treatments, Public Lighting, and Toucan Crossings.

#### **ARTHUR'S QUAY**

Construction of three new four bay bus shelters at the Arthur's Quay bus terminal was completed in 2018. The bus shelters provide improved facilities, including Real Time Passenger Information for bus commuters at this busy bus terminal. The project was funded by the NTA and project managed by Limerick City and County Council.

Construction of road infrastructure at Mungret under the **Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)** commenced in 2018. Brian Conneely & Co. Ltd were

appointed to carry out the road construction works for phase 1 at Baunacloka, Mungret (250 metres) which will facilitate the development of 201 houses. Road construction works progressed in 2018 and are due for completion in March 2019. This phase will open up adjoining lands for further development. Phase 2 is currently under design by Limerick City and County Council (Approx. 2.5 Km of new Road to open up the land bank). The Council appointed a separate team of Consultants for the Master Planning of its land bank in Mungret, which will include progressing the planning to deliver 250 units of housing on these lands. The Master Planning will also look at other sites in private ownership that will benefit from the new road access. Under this Masterplan there will be capacity for the delivery of up to 2,700 homes.

#### **URBAN REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (URDF)**

The Council was successful in securing funding for two projects under the URDF. The O'Connell St. project received a grant of €905,000 as a Category A project and the World Class Waterfront project was shortlisted for funding under Category B projects.

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)

The Council was successful in securing funding in the amount of €2.724 million for upgrade works on the Great Southern Greenway in West Limerick under the RRDF. The works include resurfacing the full 38km length of the greenway to national greenways standard, and the construction of an underpass linking the greenway to the Barnagh Tunnel and viewing area.

#### **Other Projects**

Funding from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and the National Transport Authority for the progression of schemes was secured in 2018. These schemes included the Lower Golf Links Road upgrade, the Park Road Bridge upgrade and the Parnell St. upgrade.

#### **SMARTER TRAVEL**

##### **Bike Week**

Limerick Smarter Travel (LST) ran the annual BeSPOKE bike week festival this year from 9th to 17th June. Community groups, schools and workplaces participated in bicycle related events throughout the city and county.

##### **Balance Bike Initiative**

Limerick Smarter Travel carried out a Balance Bike Initiative in collaboration with the Limerick Childcare Committee and the Healthy Ireland Smart Start Programme promoting cycling amongst pre-school service providers.

**Behavioural Change**

Limerick Smarter Travel's behavioural change programme expanded this year with the introduction of three new workplace partners; Analog, Regeneron and BD. We are now working with 13 workplaces and five campuses.

**Mobility Week**

As part of European Mobility Week, Limerick Smarter Travel ran a Car Free Day on 22nd September. O'Connell Street was closed off to vehicular traffic excluding buses and the street was handed over to a host of activities and displays. The theme of the 2018 Mobility Week was multi-modality and people were encouraged to come to town using sustainable transport modes. Bus Éireann partnered with LST for the day, showcasing their new double decker bus and provided free Leap Cards to those on the street. In addition to this, Bus Éireann ran free half-hourly guided tours along the banks of the river where people got an opportunity to hear about the benefits of public transport.

## ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION

**WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE**

A new shared service, the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPro) scientific team for Limerick, Cork and Clare, was established in 2018. It is co-located with the Council's Water Framework Directive (WFD) team. The focus of the LAWPRO team is on the priority areas of action identified in the River Basin Management Plan 2017-2021. The Council WDF team supports and compliments the work of the LAWPro team.

The Council WFD team is primarily focussing its efforts outside of the priority areas of action and carried out investigative assessments in 16 water bodies to identify the significant pressures causing these water bodies to be at risk of not achieving the objectives of the WFD. In addition, the team completed 270 farm assessments and worked closely with the farming community to address problems where they were identified. The team also carried out significant engagement and awareness raising work: 240 farmers with steel slurry towers were visited and provided with information on how to operate these to minimise the risk of water pollution.

**INVASIVE SPECIES**

Development work on the Report Invasive Plants smart phone app continued, with an improved link to the national biodiversity data centre developed. 466 reports were received through the app in 2018. Signage was produced and made available to Area Offices and community groups to allow them to highlight the presence of Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed. Invasive Species eradication pilots commenced in the Newcastle West Municipal District and in Limerick City.

**ALL IRELAND POLLINATOR PLAN 2015-2020**

Three pilot sites were identified with a view to developing them as pollinator friendly areas: one on the Childers Road and two in Corbally. An ecologist was employed to study the range of existing species on these sites throughout the growing season and to advise on management of the areas so as to encourage desirable species and discourage less desirable plants.

**MAIGUE RIVERS TRUST**

The Council continued to support and facilitate the work of the Mague Rivers Trust in 2018, which is establishing itself as a significant influencer in the Mague catchment. The Trust completed a number of very worthwhile projects in 2018 including a study of in stream biodiversity, otters and crayfish, along with a number of public engagement events, that included a kayaking trip along the river, which introduced participants to the rich natural heritage of the river.

## WATER SERVICES

### PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES UNDERTAKEN IN 2018

#### TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION:

- Traffic Calming Policy completed
- Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy commenced
- Newcastle West Transport Study commenced
- Electric Vehicle Parking Bye-Laws adopted

#### ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION:

The Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 was completed in 2018. Noise is second only to air pollution in terms of its impact on public health and the WHO estimates that 1.6 million healthy life years are lost each year due to noise pollution related illnesses. This plan represents a significant step forward in terms of protecting the public from the adverse effects of road noise, in that it contains strong policy statements and strategies in relation to new residential development near major roads. It also contains clear commitments in terms of identifying solutions in existing areas where residents are exposed to excessive noise levels from roads.

Irish Water was established in 2013 as Ireland's new national water utility and is responsible for providing and developing water services throughout Ireland. The statutory responsibility for operation of water and wastewater infrastructure and delivering water and wastewater services transferred to Irish Water on enactment of the Water Services Act 2013. Limerick City and County Council completed Service Level Agreements (S.L.A.) with Irish Water. The S.L.A. defines the relationship between the Council and Irish Water and is effective from January 2014. Irish Water is accountable to two regulatory bodies – The Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU), which is the economic regulator for the water industry, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which is the environmental regulator. Limerick City and County Council is still responsible for the rural water programme and the activity in this area is outlined below.

### RURAL WATER PROGRAMME 2018

Limerick City and County Council made capital grants to a value of €297,000 available towards the upgrade of existing Group Water Schemes. Some examples of projects are as follows:

#### KILFINNY

Due to high levels of Unaccounted For Water (UFW), Kilfinny GWS is dependent on three sources to service their scheme. The addressing of UFW allows the scheme to eliminate the existing Neville's Cross and Lynch Quarry sources, which, based on a report commissioned by the HSE are in areas of extreme groundwater vulnerability and should be taken out of service, if feasible.

The overall cost associated with the UFW works is €570,000. In 2018 payments of €72,000 were made and works are ongoing

#### BALLYBRICKEN

Ballybricken GWS experiences high Unaccounted For Water (UFW) in its 25km pipe network. The G.W.S. undertakes an average of 30 repairs on the scheme annually.

The scheme replaced existing bulk meters and installed new bulk meters to accommodate district metering and assist in determining high leakage districts for mains rehabilitation works.

The total estimated cost for these works is €79,000. In 2018 the Council processed payments of €28,000 and works are continuing.

**WEST LIMERICK GWS (FORMERLY KILLEEDY)**

West Limerick GWS has issues with UFW due to the age of the pipes on the network. In 2017 repairs works and collar replacement (Phase 1), were completed, consisting of over 2.4km and in 2018 phase 2 of these works (1km) was carried out. This G.W.S. scheme received payments of €80,300 in 2018.

**SUBSIDY TOWARDS THE OPERATIONAL COSTS OF GROUP WATER SCHEMES**

The operational subsidy grant provides assistance to group water schemes supplying water for domestic use. Group water schemes are entitled to claim an annual and advance subsidy each year. The Council processed subsidy payments to 40 Group Water Schemes in respect of their operational costs in 2018 at a total cost of €1,269,413.

**PRIVATE WELL GRANTS**

Limerick City and County Council processed 90 individual grants at a total cost of €165,890 in 2018. The purpose of the grant is to help householders provide good quality, potable drinking water for their homes.

**GRANTS PAYABLE UNDER THE DOMESTIC LEAD REMEDIATION (FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE) REGULATIONS 2016**

The scheme is available to assist owners of premises connected to a domestic water supply with the costs of replacing lead piping or related fittings located within the internal distribution system of the premises, as defined in the Water Services Act 2007. The applicant must occupy the premises concerned as his or her principal private residence. The Council processed five grants in 2018 at a total cost of €16,188.

**MID-WEST ROADS DESIGN OFFICE****1. FOYNES TO LIMERICK ROAD SCHEME (INCLUDING ADARE BYPASS)**

Limerick City and County Council in consultation with Transport Infrastructure Ireland worked to progress the 34km Foynes to Limerick Road Scheme (including Adare Bypass).

The May 2018 Design Update drawings showed the proposed mainline, side road realignments and junction designs as well as whether the road was in cut or on fill. In addition, proposed access arrangements, proposed land-take lines, watercourse diversions and the location of drainage ponds etc. were also shown.

The Final Scheme Update in November 2018 related to the selection of the heavy goods vehicle rest area, alterations to access routes, drainage etc. Further meetings were being held with impacted landowners and interested parties.

Work in relation to the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and the Compulsory Purchase / Protected Road / Motorway Order documentation was progressed in advance of submitting this scheme to An Bord Pleanála in 2019.

**2. M20 CORK/LIMERICK SCHEME**

Limerick City and County Council, in partnership with Cork County Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland is developing the N/M20 Cork to Limerick Road Improvement Scheme. This scheme has been highlighted in Project Ireland 2040, National Development Plan as a major national infrastructural project to provide enhanced regional accessibility. The scheme will ultimately connect the cities of Limerick, Cork and Galway with high quality transport corridors. Limerick City and County Council, as the Lead Authority, is procuring technical advisors to progress the planning, appraisal and design for the N/M20 Cork to Limerick Road Improvement Scheme. The appointed technical advisors will be based in the project office, adjoining the Mid West National Road Design Office in Lissanalta House, Dooradoyle. The project office was developed in the former motor tax office following a refurbishment works contract in 2018.

The National Development Plan provides an estimated cost of €900 million for the project.

**3. N21 ABBEYFEALE BY PASS AND N21 NEWCASTLE WEST BYPASS**

Limerick City & County Council in consultation with Transport Infrastructure Ireland is working to progress bypasses of the towns of Abbeyfeale and Newcastle West on the N21 National Primary Road.

In 2018, the project appraisal plans for both schemes

were prepared by the Mid West National Road Design Office and the plans were subsequently assessed and deemed compliant with the relevant standards by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

Contract documents for the procurement of technical consultancy services to deliver Transport Infrastructure Ireland Phases 1 to 4 (inclusive) were prepared by the Mid West National Roads Design Office in 2018.

## 4. IMPROVEMENT/RE-ALIGNMENT WORKS

### N20 O'ROURKE'S CROSS

A new roundabout controlled junction is to be constructed necessitating alterations to the present junction layout and the construction of new N20 approaches to the junction and the alteration of the existing R518 approaches to the junction.

### N24 BEARY'S CROSS

A new roundabout controlled junction is to be constructed at Beary's Cross. This shall necessitate the construction of a new section of Regional Road R513 approach to the junction and the alteration of the existing N24 approaches to the junction.

Both O'Rourke's Cross and Beary's Cross Schemes were advanced in 2018 in preparation for the compulsory purchase statutory procedure (CPO) stage in 2019. To this effect, ground investigation and additional topographic studies were undertaken to ensure that the most recent site information is available for the CPO stage.

## 5. PAVEMENT WORKS

### N69 LEAHYS PAVEMENT OVERLAY

The N69 Leahys Pavement Improvement Project is located on the N69 national secondary road. The project extends from the townland of Leahys, circa 3km west of the village of Foynes and continues westwards through the townland of Ballynash, before terminating east of Mounttrenchard. The project is located in a rural area and is subject to a 100kph speed limit. The project involved the rehabilitation of approx. 1.5km of pavement. The objective of this project is to improve the existing pavement in terms of load carrying capacity, skid resistance and drivability.

The works, which were undertaken by P&D Lydon Plant Hire Ltd, commenced on site in February 2018 and were substantially complete by early May 2018.

### N21 ADARE WESTERN APPROACH (CAR PARK AND ATTENUATION TANK)

The N21 Adare Western Approach Scheme is located on the western outskirts of Adare Village on the national primary road extending between the junction with the

L1422 Blackabbey Road to the junction with the R519 Ballygarry Road. The scheme is approximately 1.3km in length. The scheme includes for the provision of two additional elements that are important for the school and local businesses, these being the school drop-off area and the car park.

The contract to construct the car park and attenuation tank was awarded to Cóir Infrastructure Ltd. in October 2018 and works commenced on site shortly thereafter. The works should be substantially complete by late February 2019.

### N20 BALLYPHILIP TO HOWARDSTOWN NORTH PAVEMENT IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

The N20 Ballymacrory to Howardstown North Pavement Improvement Scheme is located on the N20 national primary road to the south of Croorn village. The scheme extends approximately 6.2km from Ahnid Cross to just south of Hynes Cross.

The scheme was designed in early 2018 and a contract for pavement and ancillary works either side of Banogue was awarded to Clare Civil Engineering Ltd. in late 2018. Work commenced on site in early January 2019 and should be substantially completed by late March 2019.

### N21 TEMPLEGLANTINE PAVEMENT STRENGTHENING SCHEME

The N21 Templeglantine Pavement Strengthening Scheme, consisting mainly of pavement strengthening works, is located on the N21 national primary road in Templeglantine village.

The contract was awarded to Roadstone Ltd. in September 2018 and works commenced on site in January 2019. The works should be substantially complete by late February 2019.

## 6. ROAD SAFETY

The MWNDRDO continues to undertake road safety audits on behalf of local authorities in the region. A road safety audit is undertaken to identify potential safety issues within a scheme design or construction as they could affect road users.

In addition, the MWNDRDO undertakes review of locations in the region identified by TII as having a high rate of collisions. The completion of this work helps to identify safety improvement schemes to be designed and implemented.

### M20 Junction 1 & M7 Junction 28 Safety Scheme.

Safety concerns have been raised in relation to vehicles queuing on the M20 on the northbound approach to junction 1 and on the M7 on the eastbound approach to junction 28.

The Mid West National Road Design Office procured engineering consultants to assess the approaches and to make recommendations on any safety measures, which may be required to advise drivers of potential queuing at the junction. The final report is nearing completion.

### 7. External Accreditation/Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

The MWNRDO is ISO 9001 accredited with NSAI and is certified to the new 2015 Standard. The MWNRDO is also a CPD Accredited Office with Engineers Ireland.

#### Freedom of Information Requests:

The Directorate responded to 13 Freedom of Information requests in 2018.

Some of the Main Road Funding Allocations in 2018

### TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IRELAND

Scheme	Allocation
Limerick to Cork	€1,500,000
Foynes Limerick	€1,000,000
N21 Abbeyfeale Relief Road	€25,000
N21 Newcastle West Relief Road	€25,000
N24 Cahir to Limerick Junction	€25,000
N20 Ballyphilip to Howardstown North & N20 Ballymacrory	€2,000,000
Adare West Approach Pavement Strengthening	€600,000
N21 Abbeyfeale to Mount Mahon Pavement Strengthening	€ 100,000
N21 Templeglantine Pavement Strengthening	€ 345,000

### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, TOURISM AND SPORT

Scheme	Allocation
Restoration Improvement	€8,189,000
Restoration Maintenance	€1,409,500
Supplementary Restoration Maintenance	€641,000
Discretionary Grant	€2,937,000
Bridge Rehabilitation	€427,144
Specific Improvement Grants	€287,000
Supplementary Maintenance Grant	€604,016
Strategic Regional and Local Grants	
Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road	€4,050,000
Safety Improvement Works	€304,500
Speed Limits	€171,356
Drainage Works	€428,000

### NATIONAL TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

Schemes Funded	Allocation
Parnell Street and Davis Street Upgrade	€50,000
Catherine Street/Roches Street Upgrade	€89,339
Dublin Road Bus Priority	€48,782
Parnell Street to Wickham Street	€845,000
Grove Island Roundabout Study	€50,000
O'Connell Street Revitalisation	€1,000,000
Raheen Roundabout to Quinn's Cross	€80,000
Castletroy Urban Greenway	€60,000

### OFFICE OF PUBLIC WORKS

Schemes Funded	Allocation
Foynes Flood Alleviation Scheme	€841,937
King's Island Flood Alleviation Scheme	€1,481,869

### DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, PLANNING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Schemes Funded	Allocation
Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund at Mungret	€652,329



**SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
DIRECTORATE**



# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

The Council continued in its commitment to improve the quality of life for the people and communities of Limerick throughout 2018. This Directorate is one of four strategic directorates in the Council and leads on strategic investment and supports for social, cultural and community programmes. The Council views the people and communities of Limerick as being its greatest asset and supports these through various programmes ranging from community, social, cultural and arts, leisure, libraries and tourism. The value of place and place making is supported throughout the Directorate at a strategic level and throughout all our programmes and specifically urban and village renewal, burial grounds, library services and environmental awareness including Tidy Towns. The services are delivered by the Directorate under four departments:

- Urban and Rural Community Development
- Tourism Development
- Libraries, Galleries and Museum
- Culture and Arts

The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) is the guiding policy and further policies are developed by both the Community, Leisure & Emergency Services and Culture Strategic Policy Committees. The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) plays a key role in the oversight of community and social development programmes in Limerick.

## URBAN AND RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Urban and Rural Community Development Department (URCD) is responsible for the operation of the structures of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the Public Participation Network (PPN). Under the auspices of the Local Community Development Committee, the Department is responsible for the preparation and monitoring of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP), the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) and the Rural Development Strategy including the EU LEADER Programme and other urban and rural community and renewal programmes. One of the guiding principles of the Department is to support citizens and communities throughout Limerick through various supports, funding streams and programmes in a coordinated manner and which reflect the needs of local communities and groups. The Strategic Policy Committees, Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and the Local Community Development Committee are central in the development of specific policies and position papers, which are key to informing the strategic direction of the Department.

## STATUTORY COMMITTEES LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

The LCDC held twelve (12) meetings during the year and was very active in the performance of its functions. The LCDC oversaw and made decisions, when required, in relation to the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), EU LEADER Programme and various grants schemes. In addition to the above programmes, the LCDC approved projects under the Community Enhancement Scheme, Healthy Ireland and developed position papers under various headings. The reallocation of budgets within the themes of the LEADER Programme was also completed in response to the needs of the community sector. Subgroup

meetings also took place in relation to SICAP evaluation, monitoring and planning, LEADER operational matters, Healthy Limerick and evaluation of applications for various grant schemes.

#### Membership of the LCDC is:

Cllr Jerome Scanlan	Limerick City and County Council (Chairperson)
Cllr Daniel Butler	Limerick City and County Council (Vice Chairperson)
Cllr Séamus Browne	Limerick City and County Council
Cllr Eddie Ryan	Limerick City and County Council
Gordon Daly	Limerick City and County Council
Pádraig Casey	Ballyhoura Development Company
Anne Kavanagh	PAUL Partnership
Shay Riordan	West Limerick Resources
Zara O'Driscoll	Public Participation Network
Susan O'Neill	Public Participation Network
Trish Forde Brennan	Public Participation Network
Tony Lynch	Public Participation Network
Liz Price	Public Participation Network
George O'Callaghan	Limerick & Clare Education and Training Board
Jim Lynch	Dept. of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
Tony Quilty	Health Service Executive
Aidan Gleeson	Irish Farmers' Association
Fiona O'Grady	Limerick Youth Service
Vacant	Limerick Chamber of Commerce

#### LOCAL TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (LTACC)

The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee met 4 times during 2018. The committee membership includes Elected Members, members of the traveller community and officials. It considers accommodation and related supports for Travellers. In 2018, the Committee considered various proposals regarding the provision of Traveller Accommodation, fire safety measures in Traveller Specific Accommodation and discussed future proposals in anticipation of the development of a new Traveller Accommodation Programme for the period 2019-2023.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The engagement of communities is critical in the delivery of services by the department and this engagement was achieved in 2018 through improved communication structures via Elected Members. Community groups, partner organisations such as the three Local Development Companies, media outlets, including social media and the Public Participation Network. The community engagement process resulted in the department engaging with numerous communities and individuals across Limerick and providing them with supports under various programmes and grant schemes throughout the year.

## KEY PROGRAMMES/FUNDING STREAMS

### SOCIAL INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY ACTIVATION PROGRAMME (SICAP)

The LCDC oversaw the delivery of the SICAP programme, (€2.2 million per annum) and approved payments to the three Local Development Companies contracted to deliver the programme in Limerick.

The programme supports the delivery of social inclusion actions under two goals:

**Goal One:** Supporting communities and local community groups

**Goal Two:** Supporting individuals in or at risk of social exclusion to identify and take steps to improve quality of life and wellbeing and access lifelong learning opportunities.

### EU LEADER PROGRAMME (2014-2020)

The delivery of the EU LEADER Programme (€9.276 million) advanced in 2018 and applications from various Community and specific interest groups continued to be sought following a series of public information and consultation events. By the end of 2018, following project assessment by two Independent Evaluation Committees, the LCDC approved 81 projects to the value of €6.974 million, which represent 72% of the LEADER Programme budget for Limerick. In addition to the above, €60,000 was allocated to two Food Initiative Projects and two Co-operation Projects. A number of LEADER Programme funded projects commenced in 2018 and some of these were completed during the year.

### LOCAL AUTHORITY RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

A commitment by the Elected Members to invest €2.3 million in rural development was dispersed during the year and some projects funded include the Great Southern Greenway, Askeaton Public Realm, Patrickswell Village Renewal and the Stone Mansion Project in Kilmallock. This commitment by the Elected Members also assisted the leveraging of additional funding from other funding streams for these projects, which will add to rural development in Limerick.

### RURAL REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (RRDF)

The Social Development Directorate coordinated the preparation of funding applications to the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF), the funding framework for large-scale projects in rural development to be supported under the National Planning Framework, Ireland 2040. In collaboration with Ballyhoura Development, West Limerick Resources and other statutory and community groups, sixteen applications were submitted from Limerick to the RRDF in September 2018. The first round of project approvals announced by the Department of Rural and Community Development was in November 2018. This included three Limerick Projects with a combined value of €7.167 million: The projects approved for funding are the Great Southern Greenway Limerick led by Limerick City and County Council; Murroe-Boher Multi-purpose Community Centre and The Local Hub Glenbrohane, which was led by Ballyhoura Development. In this first announcement of successful projects, Limerick was awarded the largest amount of grant funding of all counties in the state.

### OUTDOOR RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURAL SCHEME (ORIS) €722,718

The Department secured €722,718 for the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructural Scheme (ORIS) in 2018, which supports the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure and providing necessary maintenance, enhancement or promotion of existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in rural areas. The following five projects were approved funding;

- Upgrade of the Marina at Bleach Lough
- Upgrade of the Askeaton Slí na Sláinte Route
- Development of Environmental Park at Kantoher Ponds
- Development of the Lough Gur Heritage Trail
- Completion of Ballyhoura Mountain Bike Trails

### COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME (CEP)

In 2018 the team secured €542,457 to assist communities and groups in areas of deprivation to enhance their own communities under the Community Enhancement Scheme. One hundred and eighty six (186) groups, including Men's Sheds were assisted under this scheme. This scheme assisted the groups to complete capital works up to a maximum of €20,000 to enhance their own areas.



CEP Funding for Le Chéile Men's Shed gardening project

### CLÁR SCHEME

In 2018, a total of €343,540 was secured for the Clár Scheme in Limerick. This scheme targets investment in designated rural areas with significant depopulation for small capital projects. Thirteen projects benefitted from approved funding in 2018, which include ten primary schools Bulgaden, Kilbehenny, Knockadea, Doon Girls, Meenkilly, Athea, Mountcollins, Raheenagh, Ashford and St. Fergus' School in Glin. Three Community Councils, Oola, Kilfinane and Kileedy were also allocated funding under the Clár Scheme.

### SCHOOL MEALS SCHEME

The School Meals Programme provides regular nutritious food to children attending DEIS schools. A total of €124,000 was provided for the scheme and Limerick City and County Council in collaboration with the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection assisted 14 DEIS primary schools under the scheme in 2018.

## COMHAIRLE NA NÓG

The 30 members of Limerick Comhairle na nÓg met throughout the year and worked collaboratively with various stakeholders on the theme of cyber education. Comhairle members worked with a film and video production company to produce videos covering cyber bullying, safety when social networking, catfishing and lifestyle. At the 2018 AGM Comhairle members chose the theme of Homelessness for 2019. Limerick City and County Council, Tusla and the HSE will support the members to formulate the actions for the theme. The Limerick Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee met 4 times during 2018 and it is anticipated that the positive links made between the Comhairle, Age Friendly Limerick and Healthy Limerick will continue to strengthen in 2019.

## LIFELONG LEARNING LIMERICK

The Learning Limerick Steering Group is a partnership forum that brings together sectoral networks and partnerships and is committed to creating a culture of learning in Limerick. It is made up of statutory, local development, business, community, and voluntary sector partners that all play a role in Learning in Limerick. The aim of Learning Limerick is to promote the value of learning in Limerick, across all stages of the life cycle, to share information that enhances members and partners' organisational learning, and to support the range of sectoral networks and groups in their efforts to engage communities in positive learning experiences. Learning Limericks Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022 ensures that local people will be equipped with the competencies, skills and attitudes needed for the 21st century, with learning being central to quality of life, where people can expect to live longer, healthier and more productive lives.

## CEMETERIES

In 2018, the Council continued to support communities through the provision of grants and other supports for over 260 cemeteries in Limerick. In addition to community cemeteries, the Council manages and maintains a number of Council owned cemeteries. During the year, there were over 1,000 internments in Limerick.

The Annual Burial Grounds Awards Ceremony took place on 21 November 2018.

Twenty prizes were awarded on the night, however there were two overall winners in two separate categories as follows;

1. The Ancient Category was awarded to Anhid Burial Ground
2. The Modern Category was awarded to Caherelly Burial Ground.



*Annual Burial Grounds Awards: Anhid Burial Ground Committee receiving their award*

## INTEGRATION INITIATIVES

The Limerick Integration Working Group (IWG) has been at the forefront in promoting the integration of migrant communities in Limerick. In 2018 a new integration plan, "Belonging 2018-2022" was formally adopted by the Council and was launched by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor James Collins, Uachtaráin na h-Eireann, Michael D. Higgins, and Ms. Donnah Vuma. The IWG is an example of how cooperation between the local authority, state bodies, community and voluntary agencies can be effective and lead to improved outcomes for all people local and migrant, who live in Limerick. The aim of the plan and work of the IWG is to support the development of a dynamic and diverse Limerick that ensures all can fully participate in the social, cultural and economic life of Limerick.



*Launch of Limerick's Migrant Integration Strategy on 28 September 2018 at Thomond Park, Limerick. Photo Credit: Keith Wiseman Photography*

Limerick City and County Council is a member of the Council of Europe’s Intercultural Cities programme and continued in its commitment to support our new communities in 2018 with a focus on diversity advantage.

A week-long festival celebrating the fusion of African cultures that have merged into and become part of Limerick today was organised by members of the African community, with support from the Integration Working Group partners in May 2018. As part of the festival six family friendly, free of charge events took place in a variety of locations.

**PRIDE OF PLACE**

The Pride of Place competition acknowledges the work carried out every day by communities all over the island of Ireland. Communities demonstrate their partnership with their local council and show that all sectors of their community are included in the activities and projects they undertake. The Children’s Grief Centre, Limerick Civic Trust and the Kilmeedy Development Group represented Limerick at the final Awards Night held in Cork and the three projects were highly commended for their work. The Children’s Grief Centre came first in their category and Kilmeedy Community Development Group were runners up in their category.



The Children’s Grief Centre Pride of Place Winner 2018

**HEALTHY LIMERICK**

2018 was a year of significant learning and further progression for Healthy Limerick. Limerick Local Community Development Committee were successful in their application for €75,000 under Healthy Ireland funding to provide a range of initiatives progressing priorities identified in the LECP and Healthy Ireland. In 2018 fourteen actions promoting physical activity across Limerick, the expansion of the Social and Health

Education Programme in the county area and the launch and roll-out of the ‘We’re Breastfeeding Friendly Limerick’ project were completed. The development of a local action plan to support Tobacco Free Ireland, the progression of Social Farming, the rollout of the Adventure Walk App and ongoing support for Parkrun in Limerick were also key actions during the year. Support was provided to the Limerick Children and Young Peoples Services Committee to implement the five actions promoting the health and wellbeing of Limerick’s younger citizens. Twenty-five groups across Limerick received small grants to promote health and wellbeing in local communities.



Exhibition night in Kilmallock library for the Kilmallock Women’s Craft Project in December 2018



Launch of We’re Breastfeeding Friendly Limerick in September 2018

## AGE FRIENDLY

Limerick City and County Council continues to support the Age Friendly Limerick Programme, first established in 2013 and continue to be the representative voice of older people in Limerick. They are engaged at inter-agency level regarding the implementation of the Limerick Age Friendly Strategy 2015-2020.

Some of the key projects in 2018 were the design of a portal on the Age Friendly Ireland website, HAPAI – Train the Trainer, Junior Achievement Ireland, and the Acorn Tablet pilot programme. Members of the Older Peoples Executive hosted a stand at a number of events including the Over 55s exhibition (a two-day event) and the launch of Positive Ageing Week. Limerick OPC members also worked collaboratively with members of Clare Older Peoples Council, conducting a walkability study of Shannon Airport that led to work currently being completed on a submission to the World Health Organisation regarding Age Friendly Airports.

Limerick Age Friendly participated in various events including Housing with Supports for Older People, National Smart Ageing Housing Programme, National Stakeholder Forum, Physical Activity & Older People, Affinity Symposium and Dementia Community Champions. National Convention of Older Peoples Councils of Ireland and the Age Friendly Ireland Recognition Awards. Age Friendly Limerick is also engaged in a European Research programme PLACE – EE. The programme is tasked with reducing levels of social isolation in rural areas through intergenerational engagement and the use of IT. A highlight of the year was the inclusion of two developments nominated by Age Friendly Limerick in a publication from the Housing Agency. Colivet Court, a 36-apartment development and the Carebright residential facility for people living with dementia, were both identified as models of best practice in housing for older people in the publication "Thinking Ahead – Independent and Supported Housing Models for an Ageing Population".

## SPORTING AND LEISURE FACILITIES AND PROGRAMMES

The Council manages three publicly owned sports and leisure facilities in Limerick and the provision of such facilities is viewed as an integral part of our service delivery. The facilities provided are Grove Island Pool and Leisure Centre, Askeaton Pool and Leisure Centre and Rathbane Golf Course. These facilities provide important recreation and leisure services across the city and county for the residents of Limerick.

## LIMERICK SPORTS PARTNERSHIP (LSP)

The three key functions of the LSP are to **Inform**, **Educate** and **Enable** individuals and communities to engage in physical activities. In 2018 over 21,000 participants engaged in programmes, events and education initiatives throughout the year. Programmes delivered by LSP in 2018 included securing over €1 million euro in funding from multiple sources and the recruitment of 427 participants at 4 Hub sites in Caherdavin, Croom, Newcastle West and Cloughaun for the Move for Life Research programme. This programme was run in partnership with HSE, UL, NUIG and Clare LSP and secured €420,000 in funding to explore Physical Activity matters in older people over an 18-month period. Women on Wheels, Sports hall Athletics Programme, Great Limerick Run Schools training, UL Sport Kids Run for Fun and Men on the Move programmes saw 9,400 people participating. In addition, two sports ability days were undertaken, with 600 disabled people participating, and the VIP Programme (Volunteer Inspired Participation) saw 36 TY students from 15 different schools attending. LSP delivered six Mental Health First Aid courses to 120 youth workers, facilitators, teachers and care staff in 2018. A Community Walk App was developed at 12 sites across Limerick with over 100 virtual walks available to explore and the Adventure Walk App was developed as a Legacy of the Beat the Street Programme.

Limerick now has four Park runs in Newcastle West, UL, Mungret and a junior parkrun in Shelbourne Park and they continue to attract 300+ runners and walkers every Saturday.



Launch of the newly developed Adventure Walk app for Limerick. Tom Morrissey Limerick Senior Hurling Team, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor James Collins, Phelim Macken Sports Coordinator, Limerick Sports Partnership



Launch of the newly developed Adventure Walk app for Limerick Maria Bridgeman HSE, Majella O'Brien Tourism, Limerick City and County Council, Kathleen Kennedy Limerick Sports Partnership, Tom Morrissey Limerick Senior Hurler, Eadaoin Loughman Limerick Sports Partnership and Seamus O'Connor Urban and Rural Community Development, Limerick City and County Council

### COMMUNITY PLAYGROUNDS

The Council continued to support community playgrounds in the city and county in 2018. There are 16 community playgrounds participating in the Scheme of Assistance. They are located in Ballingarry, Broadford, Bruff, Croom, Caherconlish, Doon, Dooradoyle, Foynes, Galbally, Glin, Hospital, Kilfinane, Murroe, Pallasgreen, Pallaskenry and Rathkeale. The development of new community playgrounds has also been supported under the EU LEADER programme.

### ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Promoting community involvement in the improvement and enhancement of the local environment is a primary objective of Limerick City and County Council. This community spirit comes to the fore in events such as the TLC Campaign, National Spring Clean and the Limerick Going for Gold Environmental Improvement Grant & Competition.

### NATIONAL TIDY TOWNS

Fifty-Seven communities from across Limerick participated in National Tidy Towns 2018, with winners coming from a number of communities across the city & county. The following communities were successful in their categories.

- Silver - Adare
- Bronze – Ardpartick , Castleconnell, Galbally , Newcastle West, Limerick City Centre
- Garrenderrik – Endeavour Award

### WASTE PREVENTION

A range of activities and events, under the heading of Waste Prevention were undertaken by groups throughout the city and county in 2018 that included Limerick Going for Gold Reuse Award, Our Lady of Lourdes Food Waste Prevention Course and St. Michaels Rowing Club, Limerick Baby Market, Kings Island Conscious Cup Campaign and Anti-Graffiti Initiative under Shannon Bridge.



Anti-Graffiti initiative under Shannon Bridge - Pictured at the unveiling of the Mural under the Shannon Bridge beside St. Michael's Rowing Club at O'Callaghan Strand was Mary Conroy. (Pic: Alan Place)

### LIMERICK GOING FOR GOLD GRAND FINAL

For the first time, two groups shared success as Athea and Kiltteely were named co-winners of the Going for Gold 2018 overall award. Prizes in the competition were granted under ten separate categories such as Limerick in Bloom, Residential Areas, Tidy Towns Incentive, Re-use Award and Biodiversity.



*Double the celebrations at the Limerick Going for Gold grand final as Athea and Kiltteely were jointly named as overall winners of the Limerick Going for Gold competition for 2018*

### TEAM LIMERICK CLEAN UP TLC4

18,500 volunteers from 571 groups in Limerick city and county registered to take part in TLC 4. In 2018 year 98 tonnes of litter was collected.

### HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION SUBSIDY SCHEME

Limerick City and County Council continued to provide a waiver scheme during 2018 as part of its commitment to support waste management. This scheme is provided for persons who meet the criteria as approved by the Elected Members of the Council. During the year 2,780 households benefitted from the scheme throughout the city and county.

### GREEN SCHOOLS

More than 70 teachers from schools across Limerick participated in the Limerick City and County Council Annual Green School Seminar. An Anti-Dog Litter Awareness campaign was also undertaken in 2018 and Environmental Awareness Stands were hosted at the Limerick, Cappamore and Newcastle West Shows.

### FAIRTRADE

An art competition to celebrate Limerick's 13th birthday as a Fairtrade City was held. The overall winners of the competition were students from Laurel Hill Secondary School, and Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh, Roxborough.

## DERELICTION, VACANCIES AND REUSE.

The Urban and Rural Community Development Department as part of its' commitment to support communities and place making was proactive in 2018 responding to issues relating to dereliction, vacant sites and properties. The key objective is to bring these properties back into re-use through engagement with their owner to enhance the local area for the betterment of the local community and economy. Advice and support on various incentive schemes including Living City Initiative, Town & Village Renewal Scheme and the preparation of public realm plans in conjunction with local communities was also undertaken in 2018.

## DERELICT SITES

- 622 derelict site inspections were carried out in 2018
- 133 Statutory Notices were issued under the Derelict Sites Act in 2018
- 24 Properties entered onto the Derelict Sites Register in 2018
- 7 properties were Compulsory Acquired under the Derelict Sites Act 1990

Before



Catherine Street - Works from the Derelict Sites Inspection Team

After



Before



The Square, Newcastle West - Works from the Derelict Sites Inspection Team

After



## VACANT SITES

Thirteen sites were added to Limerick City and County Council's Vacant Sites Register. Three appeals to An Bord Pleanála, one successful appealed, where one appeal was successful, one appeal was unsuccessful and the Council is awaiting a decision on the other appeal.

## VACANT HOMES

As part of the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness there is a new focus from central government on the reuse of existing vacant housing stock for private or social housing. A Vacant Homes Action Plan has been submitted to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and a Vacant Homes Officer was appointed in September 2018. The objective of the plan is to establish an accurate picture of vacancy in the city and county and to assist property owners to reactivate their properties for housing. Limerick City and County Council is taking an area-based and collaborative approach to addressing vacancy and dereliction of private housing in towns and villages in Limerick. The primary focus of programmes is currently on areas of high housing demand, but with a secondary focus on town and village renewal and improving public realm in the city and county.

Limerick City and County Council participated in a Vacancy Pilot Survey throughout the city and county in 2018. There was approximately 1,100 properties surveyed in July 2018 to ascertain true levels of Vacancy.

## TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME

Limerick City and County Council were successful in securing funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development for nine projects in 2018. A total of €963,918 was secured from the Department and with community contributions, this provided for an overall investment of over €1.2 million.

## PUBLIC REALM

Limerick City and County Council are working with Dromcollogher Community Council to prepare a Public Realm plan for the town. A public consultation event was held in May 2018 and Council staff also met with the transition year students at Hazelwood College to find out what the younger generation felt were the key issues within the town. Following on from this a number of key 'themes' emerged that the Council will focus on in the development of the plan.



*Limerick City and County Council staff with local community members at a Public Consultation event for Dromcollogher Public Realm Plan*

## TOWN THRESHOLD



*UL Architecture students present design proposals for northern entrance to Kilmallock to local community group at a Town Engage event in Kilmallock Girls School*

The Town Engage project aims to improve the entrances to towns and villages in Limerick. A design team was appointed who worked with architecture students from UL to look at all the main entrances to Kilmallock. It was decided to focus on the northern entrance of the town and a number of community events were held during 2018 to consult with local resident and community groups. A design consisting of three structures was proposed that when aligned would form a silhouette of the missing north gate. The design was presented to the local community at a town engage event in October 2018. The structures are being manufactured by the Kilmallock Men's Shed together with Limerick Fab Lab and will be installed on a temporary basis to test the impact in relation to:

- Reduced road speeds when entering town;
- Local reaction;
- Community engagement.

If successful then there is an opportunity for the structures to be re-instated as a permanent feature.

#### **SBIR (SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH)**

SBIR (Small Business Innovation Research) is a mechanism, which enables public sector bodies to connect with innovative ideas and technology businesses, to provide innovative solutions for specific public sector challenges and needs.

Limerick City and County Council are working in partnership with Enterprise Ireland who have established a dedicated fund to co-support innovative and competitive challenges. The first SBIR was based around Fire Safety and Accessibility of Historic Buildings and was launched in October 2018. The contracts were awarded with two companies each receiving €12,500 to develop their concepts as part of the initial phase.

## **SERVICE INDICATORS**

The most recent service indicators for Comhairle na nÓg and Public Participation Network (PPN) outline the following information:

### **COMHAIRLE NA NÓG**

- Percentage of local schools involved in the Local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme: 66.7%
- Total number of secondary schools in the LA area at 31/12/2017: 29
- No. of second level schools in the LA area from which representatives attended the Comhairle na nÓg AGM: 16

### **PPN**

- No. of organisations in the County Register at 31/12/17 and proportion who opted in to the Social Inclusion College: see note below\*
- No. of organisations in the County Register for the local authority area: see note below\*
- No. of organisations that registered for the first time in 2017: see note below\*
- No. of organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College: see note below\*

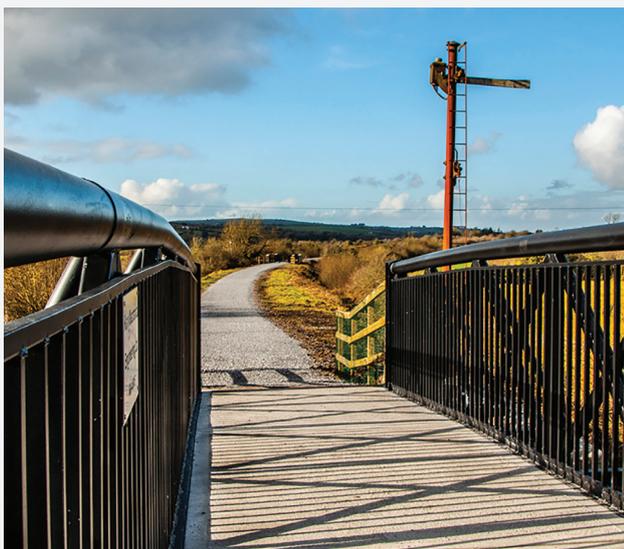
\* Limerick City and County Council and the PPN Secretariat had difficulties to address in relation to the recruitment process for a PPN Co-Ordinator and also Governance issues within the PPN. This matter was referred to the Internal Audit Committee and a Working Group was established to assist the PPN Secretariat to implement the recommendations of the Audit report. As a result of the ongoing issues the service indicators data for 2018 is not available to the Council.

## TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

The Tourism Department is responsible for developing and delivering on a Tourism Development Strategy for Limerick with particular focus on increasing visitors and revenue to Limerick; developing tourist experiences in the city and county; maximising Limerick's position on the Wild Atlantic Way Region; and working with key stakeholders to enhance tourism experiences and offering in Limerick.



*Old Station House on the Great Southern Greenway*



*New Bridge on the Great Southern Greenway*



*Barnagh Tunnel on the Great Southern Greenway*

### Key achievements in 2018 include:

- Attendance at Holiday World Exhibition in Dublin. Tourism businesses from across the city and county attended this trade show to highlight Limerick's tourism offering. It was a great opportunity for the businesses to network.
- Tourism promotional material produced for Trade Show in Hohenlohe.
- Greenway Town Loops were developed and launched, in order to promote the Greenway towns. Maps have been produced for the three towns on the Greenway – Rathkeale, Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale; showing areas of interest in each town. A Family Fun day was held in July 2018 in Abbeyfeale, with support from Limerick Sports Partnership. The town loop maps were launched at this event.
- Limerick City retained the Purple Flag status for 2018, which recognises the city as a well-managed place that provides a vibrant mix of dining, entertainment and culture while promoting the safety and well-being of visitors and local residents. A co-ordinated approach between Limerick City and County Council, Limerick Chamber and An Garda Síochána helped secure the award for Limerick. The Purple Flag weekend took place from the 19-21 October 2018.
- Limerick City and County Council secured funding to incorporate the Barnagh Tunnel into the Great Southern Greenway. The inclusion of the tunnel will result in a truly iconic visitor experience. Barnagh Tunnel will become the jewel in the crown of the Great Southern Greenway. Funding of €2.7million has been secured from the Rural Regeneration Development Fund to improve surface along the 39kms route.

- Work commenced on producing videos of walking routes in the county. Funding was secured from the Outdoor Recreation Fund and locations were agreed in partnership with the Local Development Companies.
- The Glin Public Realm and Tourism Plan was finalised in consultation with community stakeholders and officially launched by Councillor John Sheahan, Cathaoirleach of Newcastle West Municipal District on 28 July 2018. This plan seeks to revitalise the public realm of the wide Georgian main street and approaches to the village on the N69, and also sets out specific actions to strengthen the visitor appeal of the village, building on its long and rich history, architectural heritage and location on the southern shores of the Shannon Estuary. A grant was awarded under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, to develop an interpretative space at Glin Library to tell the various stories of Glin and orient the visitor around the village.



*King's Castle, Kilmallock*



*Stone Circle at Lough Gur*

## LIBRARY, GALLERY AND MUSEUM

The **Library Service** manages an extensive branch library network in Limerick city and county. It provides access to a comprehensive library lending collection in all formats both physical and digital. It provides information and support on reading and literacy, lifelong learning, health and healthy living, business and job seekers support.

In addition, the library offers a targeted service to children and schools; public internet access; meeting room spaces; mobile library service; local and family history and an extensive programme of cultural and community events, exhibitions and activities.

The **Limerick Museum**, which recently re-located to the former Franciscan Friary, Limerick has one of the largest local authority museum collections in the country. It aims to collect, preserve and display the material heritage of Limerick city and county.

The **Limerick Gallery of Art** situated in Pery Square, Limerick is a dedicated space for the visual arts in Limerick serving the city, county and wider Mid-west region. It has a permanent collection of over 900 art works representing many of Ireland's major artists. It hosts approximately eight contemporary exhibitions annually. In addition, the Gallery has an extensive public engagement programme including concerts, lectures and readings.

## LIBRARY SERVICE

### Service Indicators 2018

• Items issued:	564,638
• Registered Readers:	26,767
• Recorded Visits:	620,945
• Internet and Wi-Fi Sessions:	94,730
• Events, Activities and Exhibitions	1,725

### Cultural, Community and Historical Events:

- The Granary Library was delighted to host an illustrated lecture by Sinead McCoole entitled *The Centenary of Women in Irish Politics* in May. Sinead is an author, historian, broadcaster, script writer, historical and picture researcher and exhibition curator and is well known for her fascinating books on Irish history including *Easter Widows*, *Hazel: A Life of Lady Lavery* and *No Ordinary Women: Activists in the Revolutionary Years 1900-1923*.



*Sinead McCoole speaking to an enthralled audience about *The Centenary of Women in Irish Politics* at a special lecture in the Granary Library 29 May, 2018*

## HOHENLOE TRADE SHOW



- 2018 marked 100 years since Irish women were first given the right to vote. In commemoration of this important date in the Decade of Centenaries, Newcastle West Library hosted a special lecture on the life of Hanna Sheehy Skeffington, one of the most prominent campaigners for Irish women's suffrage. The talk was delivered by Dr. Micheline Sheehy Skeffington, Hanna's granddaughter. The event brought Hanna's ideas and role vividly to life and was enjoyed by a capacity audience in the library.



*Tadhg O'Maolcatha, Sheila O'Regan, Micheline Sheehy Skeffington and Mary Kelly at Newcastle West Library on 25 May, 2018 for Dr. Sheehy Skeffington's lecture on her grandmother Hanna Sheehy Skeffington to mark 100 years of Irish women's suffrage*

- International Women's Day on 8 March was celebrated in Newcastle West Library with the able assistance of writers Mary Coll and Helena Close. Also performing for the occasion were the all-women Inbhear Community Choir and singer Fiona Collins.
- Bliain na Gaeilge was celebrated in our Library branches throughout 2018. Highlights included an exhibition at Newcastle West Library titled *Athbheochan 1893-2018 Revival*. Newcastle West also hosted a screening of the film *An Leabhar*, followed by a discussion on contemporary Irish Film with Dr. Sorcha de Brún. Dr. de Brún also visited the Granary Library in November with a workshop titled *Cuir snas uirthi* for those with a cúpla focal wishing to learn more. Dooradoyle Library made time for *Léigh & Pléigh*, an interactive session for families with children's author Siobhain Grogan, demonstrating the pleasure of reading through Irish and discussing the joys and challenges of raising a family as Gaeilge.

Agus i Leabharlann na Gráinsí, le Musaem Luimnigh mar chuid de Cheiliúradh Bhliain na Gaeilge 2018 thug an Dr. Breandán Ó Cróinín, Roinn na Gaeilge, Coláiste Mhuire gan Smál, leacht poiblí dar teideal *Oidhreacht Philí na Máighe*.

- The Granary, Dooradoyle, Newcastle West, Watch House Cross, Kilmallock and Adare library branches hosted a series of Digital Skills training classes in partnership with Ballyhoura Development CLG. These classes are for beginners and new users and aim to give people the confidence, motivation and skills to take their first steps online on their own smartphone, tablet or laptop.
- On 18 August Limerick Libraries attended the Cappamore Show to showcase and promote the wide variety of free services provided by libraries across the city and county. All those who visited the Library trade stand on the day availed of information and demonstrations on everything the Library has to offer from books, children's activities, online resources and much, much more.
- The Granary Evening Lecture series proved a continuing success during 2018 with a varied and fascinating programme of talks, including Dr. Tomas Mac Conmara's lecture entitled *Days of Hunger: The Hunger Strike of 1917*, *The Pride and Prejudices of Michael Hogan*, a new perspective of Thomond's famous bard by historian Christopher Power and *A Guide to Tracing Your Limerick Ancestors* by genealogist John Grenham.



*John Grenham, author of Tracing your Irish Ancestors, presenting his illustrated lecture on Tracing Your Limerick Ancestors at the Granary Library, 15 May, 2018*

#### Literary Events:

- Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Stephen Keary at Newcastle West Library officially launched *Éigse Michael Hartnett 2018* on 12 April. Michael Hartnett's son Niall Hartnett gave the keynote address, which took its title, *The Possibility we have Overlooked is the Future*, from words poet Michael Hartnett wrote in a letter in 1998, the year before he died. Joint winners of the Michael Hartnett Poetry Award for 2018, Mary O'Malley and Macdara Woods, were also honoured at the ceremony.
- To celebrate Poetry Month in Limerick, the Granary Branch, in association with Limerick Writers' Centre, hosted the following events: "Come Gather 'Round People" – the Poetry of Bob Dylan with Gerry Hanberry on 5 April, "Bringing out the Romantic in You: Shelley, Keats and Wordsworth with Dr. John McDonagh on 12 April and "Poetry and Politics" with Eoin Devereux and Kevin Higgins on 19 April.



Poetry and Politics discussion with Eoin Devereux and Kevin Higgins at the Granary Library, 19 April, 2018 as part of April is Poetry Month in Limerick

- The Breaking Rapids by Joe Coleman was launched in the Granary on Culture Night, on 21 September. Limerick author Joe Coleman follows his bestselling House Full (History of Cinemas) and Falling Gradient (A history of Limerick railways) with this lavishly illustrated collection, full of local legends and heroes, saints and scholars, trials and tribulations, and tales of the normal and paranormal.
- Also launching at the Granary was At Last: Limerick's Long Wait is Over by Ciarán Crowe and Joe Lyons. Special guest was Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Cllr. Michael Collins. Limerick Senior Hurling trainer John Kiely was delighted to launch this very fine volume marking Limerick's first All-Ireland hurling title in 45 years.



The Granary Library had a large crowd in attendance for the launch of the book At Last: Limerick's Long Wait is Over by Joe Lyons and Ciarán Crowe

### Children's Events:

- **Spring into Storytime** is a celebration of families reading together and an integral part of Limerick Libraries' Right to Read programme. Throughout the month of April Limerick's branch libraries ran a series of story time sessions that introduced scores of happy children and their accompanying grown-ups to the joy of sharing stories.
- The first annual **Cruinniú na nÓg**, an initiative of the Creative Ireland Programme to celebrate youthful creativity, was marked on 23 June with a special screening of the classic silent movie Safety Last followed by fun activities for children in Newcastle West, Kilmallock, Adare, Dooradoyle, Watch House Cross and The Granary libraries.
- Renowned traditional storyteller Niall de Búrca visited libraries in Newcastle West, Watch House Cross, The Granary and Dooradoyle during 2018. De Búrca transfixed his audiences, as the magic in his voice transported the audiences to the past and places of legend, creating a memorable experience for the invited local schools.



Niall de Búrca performing to an enthralled audience at Watch House Cross Library

- The annual **Summer Stars** reading challenge had its most successful year yet in 2018 with over 2,600 children taking part. Best-selling author Róisín Meaney officially launched Summer Stars in Dooradoyle Library on 19 June. Róisín spoke passionately about the joy of getting lost in a good book to a rapt audience from St. Paul's National School.



Author Róisín Meaney launches the annual Summer Stars Reading challenge with students from St. Paul's National School at Dooradoyle Library, June 19th, 2018



Pupils from Scoil Mháthair Dé meeting the BFG on his visit to Dooradoyle Library during Children's Book Festival, October 2018

- **Children's Book Festival** in October is a very important time in the Library calendar and 2018 saw a packed programme of events with book-themed entertainments and activities throughout the month. Highlights included:
  - Authors Judi Curtin, Helena Close, Michael Smith and Gillian Perdue entertained hundreds of children across the city and county as part the festival
  - Michael Moylan of History Live brought his unique and lively recreation of historic events to the Newcastle West and Adare branches, while Rosie from Animal Magic introduced Dooradoyle Library readers to lizards, chinchillas, a meerkat, an owl and a snake
  - The Hunt Museum brought treasures to The Granary and Dooradoyle branches looking at The Bronze Age and Viking Ireland
  - Arran Towers of Cork Circus performed the story of "The BFG" by Roald Dahl with the aid of a suitably giant chair in Dooradoyle
  - Dooradoyle Library hosted Anne Marie McCarthy for a Chill Out Charlie session. This positive living programme helps children relax their minds through positive thinking and awareness of their feelings and emotions. An after-school group from Starting Small, Standing Tall attended
  - Pebble painting with Carol and performances from Pignut Productions Children's Theatre Company proved a huge success in Adare Library



Author Michael Smith presents the story of Arctic explorer Tom Crean at the Granary Library during Children's Book Festival, October 2018

- **Science Week** was celebrated in libraries across the city and county with new and innovative workshops focusing on STEM and STEAM subjects.
  - On 8 November, students from Kilmallock and Ardpatrick National Schools visited Kilmallock Library for a fantastic session of Lego and Stop-Go Animation. Ninety senior primary students became directors, writers and moviemakers. The students created stories, enacted with Lego characters, became cinematographers and put together mini movies exploring Stop-Go Animation techniques using Lego, Props and Digital Tablets under the expert guidance from the folk at Designer Minds.
  - Adare Library facilitated a workshop exploring the use of green screen technology to create remarkable special effects. Children were able to insert themselves into scenes from books featuring their heroes such as Messi, Bale, Harry Potter and Horrid Henry under the guidance of the Makermeet team.

- On 13 November, the Granary Library had a STEM information stand and a question and answer session with physicist, Richard Nolan.



Students from Kilmallock National School visited Kilmallock Library for a fantastic session of Lego and Stop-Go Animation for Science Week 2018

- December was **Family Time at the Library** month with a range of events and activities encouraging families to visit and enjoy story time, arts and crafts and reading. Newcastle West library had a special visit from Mrs. Claus and The Granary combined a story session from author, Róisín Meaney with a spectacular magic show for all ages. Dooradoyle library hosted Rosie from "Animal Magic" with her menagerie of exotic animals to mark this special week for families in libraries.
- Abbeyfeale Library kicked off the Christmas season with a visit from first class, Scoil Mháthair Dé Abbeyfeale, who decorated the library Christmas tree with decorations they made during a craft session in the Library. The girls also sang and played Christmas songs for their audience (parents and younger siblings). A great way to start the Christmas season in the Library.



Pupils from first class, Scoil Mháthair Dé, Abbeyfeale decorating the Library Christmas tree

#### Exhibitions:

- Newcastle West Library hosted a stunning exhibition of works by the artists group Inis. Featuring a colourful collection of thirty-five paintings, in a wide range of media including, oils, acrylics, watercolour, pen and ink, pastels and graphite, the exhibition ran for the month of February.
- The Granary Library was delighted to host the launch of Limerick School of Art and Design: Third Year Ceramic Exhibition entitled Clayworks in March. The exhibition was on display on the main library floor from the 12th to 16th of March.
- Dooradoyle Library had a busy year of exhibitions in 2018. Highlights of this packed calendar included A Long Time Coming by Tarah Scott in June, an exhibition of Irish wildlife artwork by artist Marian Sheehan in August, A Moment in Time by Bríd Quinlan in November and Panorama, an exhibition by Jean Ryan Hakizimana for the month of December.
- Kilmallock Library hosted Cruinniú 2018, the annual group exhibition during the months of July, August and September. This exhibition included paintings, sculpture, craft and fabric work, and ceramics.
- The Granary also hosted the Irish Wildlife Exhibition of Natural History in April. The Irish Quaternary Association (IQUA) invited the public to come along to the Granary Branch to their exhibition of extinct and contemporary Irish mammals recreating prehistoric landscapes with animal models, paintings and 3D maps including the mammoth, brown bear, giant Irish deer and arctic fox.
- To mark the centenary of the end of World War 1, Watch House Cross Library and Kilmallock Library hosted a fascinating exhibition from the National Library of Ireland exploring the Irish experience of the First World War.



Jim Martin presenting some items from the Irish Wildlife Exhibition of Natural History at the Granary Library, April 2018

**Music Events:**

- In its popular music series, The Granary Library presented a number of live music performances in 2018. On 07 March, Academos String Orchestra directed by Katherine Hunka, gave a wonderful lunchtime performance of classical and folk music. Limerick singer-songwriter Eamonn Hehir played on 13 April. Accompanied by James Hanley on keyboards, John Steele on electric guitar and Jenny McMahon, Eamonn showcased his 30 year song-writing career to an enthusiastic audience of music lovers. Other musical highlights included a concert from Adam Agee and John Sousa, two of Colorado’s most sought-after traditional Irish musicians, who gave a wonderful performance to a very appreciative audience and a rousing gig from rock band Sons of Southern Ulster who performed songs from their debut album Foundry Folk Songs, a reflection on growing up in Cavan in the 1980s.



Students from Kilmallock National School visited Kilmallock Library to view the informative World War 1 exhibition on loan from the National Library, November 2018

- From 27-29 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 Rock Record Round Table at the Granary continued to be a musical highlight and featured entertaining interviews with renowned music enthusiasts coupled with selections from their eclectic record collections. Guests in 2018 included University of Limerick professor Eoin Deveraux and noted historian Tony Browne.



Singer-songwriter Eamonn Hehir performing at the Granary Library, April 2018



*Sons of Southern Ulster performing songs from their debut album Foundry Folk Songs at the Granary Library, June 2018*

#### Healthy Ireland at Your Library Programme:

- The Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme includes a special book collection, online health resources and talks, discussions and workshops with a focus on physical and mental health and wellbeing. In 2018, a wide and varied programme of events took place across the entire library branch network. Events included:
  - A Meditation Workshop for children at the Granary Library on the 16 March
  - Nourish Nutrition: Creating Wellness from Within, a talk on healthy eating, and a special Mindfulness and Meditation morning hosted by Newcastle West Library
  - A talk entitled Anxiety and Connecting with Teenagers at Abbeyfeale Library
  - An information talk from John McElhinney of Mental Health Ireland at Kilmallock Library in April. The 'Mind your Mental' Health Information session was full of useful tips to help us take care of ourselves in our day-to-day lives.
- One of the major highlights of the programme was the joint launch in April of the **Read Your Mind** initiative at the Granary Library and Kilmallock Library by Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Stephen Keary.
  - **Read Your Mind** is a collaboration with Jigsaw Limerick aimed at supporting our local community in how we think about, respond to and support our young people with their mental health.
  - Self-help books are now recognised as a vital source of support for people experiencing mental health difficulties. **Read Your Mind** brings together an invaluable collection of 108 books on mental health that are available free to young people, their parents, and friends at libraries across Limerick city and county.
  - The **Read Your Mind** catalogue is available to help people find the right book for them covering topics including anger, anxiety, autism, bullying, creativity, low mood, mindfulness, parenting and families, social media, and much more.
  - The catalogue may be viewed online and copies are available through Jigsaw Limerick, and in the Granary, Dooradoyle, Kilmallock, Newcastle West and Watch House Cross Libraries.



Pictured at the launch of the Read Your Mind catalogue at the Granary Library were Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh's Sarah Hall, Alannah Mitchell and Asha Golden with Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor. Stephen Keary



Limerick City and County Library launch Jigsaw Catalogue, Read Your Mind at Kilmallock Library

Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA) continued to make a pivotal contribution to the cultural life of Limerick city and county. Through a dynamic programme of exhibitions and related events, it continued to engage with its extant audience and reach out to new audiences. LCGA also plays an important part in the cultural offer of the city with many tourists availing of free admission and access seven days a week.

LCGA presented seven contemporary exhibitions of which four were specifically curated for LCGA. In addition, five exhibitions were curated from LCGA Permanent Collection, giving its audiences a varied selection of works from the Collections of LCGA. LCGA hosted over 18 events in a variety of disciplines including music, dance and literature.

LCGA produced three publications to accompany its contemporary exhibitions, Bernadette Cotter, Gabhann Dunne and Anita Groener. LCGA continued to build links with international organisations such as the Hayward Gallery, London and was the main exhibition venue for EVA International 2018.

LCGA continues to explore the development of a Public Engagement Programme (PEP) in association with a range of partners specifically, Limerick Museum and The Hunt Museum. The PEP provides an important point of access to the Gallery and the exhibitions including the Permanent Collections. The range of workshops, tours and distinctive once off events provide an important context for the diverse range of exhibitions for visitors, children and families.



Installation view of Gabhann Dunne's, *Crossing the Salt*, 99 paintings in the South Gallery, July 2018



Bernadette Cotter, performance at LCGA January 2018  
Installation image of works from the Permanent Collection, July- August 2018



Installation image of works from the Permanent Collection, July- August 2018

LCGA was the recipient of some significant donations from artists and collectors including Janet Mullarney, Nick Miller and Maurice Foley (donation), Tony Rogers (bequest), amongst others. These donations are the most significant way in which LCGA can augment the Permanent Collection, which is a core element of LCGA's Permanent Collections.

LCGA continued to collaborate and work with other Limerick and national cultural institutions and groups including Hunt Museum, LSAD, EVA International, OPW, IMMA, Highlanes Gallery, Light Moves, Limerick, Askeaton Contemporary Art, Limerick Art Society, RTE, and Bealtaine (Age and Opportunity).

LCGA continued to promote Limerick with a heightened national profile by touring Elizabeth Magill's exhibition, *HEADLAND*, to Dublin, Belfast and Walsall (UK) in 2018. This exhibition also received significant national and international media coverage.

LCGA welcomed circa just over 89,000 visitors in 2018.



Lee Bull Art Installation as exhibited at EVA International 2018

In 2018, Limerick Museum had 23,159 visitors, the highest number of visitors in its 111-year history, an increase of 240% since 2016.

During the year, twelve temporary exhibitions were held in the Museum:

1. John McCarthy Circus Exhibition of Limerick related circus memorabilia
2. Samuel Walsh art exhibition
3. Righteous Among the Nations, it shows how many ordinary Poles rescued Jews from the Nazi terror during the Second World War
4. Limerick's Medieval Castles and Tower Houses
5. Doubt and Belief, art exhibition by Maurice Quillinan
6. Tans, art exhibition by Mick O'Dea
7. Amazing Lace an exhibition of lace and lace patterns
8. Dimensions, art exhibition by Cindy Fogarty
9. Limerick's 130 Years of All-Ireland Success
10. Limerick to Hollywood
11. 45 for Valour art exhibition by Trish Taylor-Thompson
12. Pictures at an Exhibition art exhibition.

Successful collaborations were continued with our partners including the Hunt Museum, Ormston House, St Mary's Cathedral, the University of Limerick, Mary Immaculate College, and Friends of Lace.

Several events were organised for Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival, Heritage Week and Culture Night. A very successful pop-up museum was held in Patrickswell. Limerick Museum, in collaboration with Friends of Lace held an Amazing Lace symposium in the Absolute Hotel which included a pop-up exhibition exhibition of lace. Dr. Matthew Potter's Limerick Military Tradition (1691-1922) A Brief Introduction dealing with aspects of Limerick's interesting military past was launched on 1 November.

The Museum's permanent collection was enhanced by a steady stream of donations, bringing the total number of objects to over 61,000.



45 for Valour art exhibition by Trish Taylor-Thompson marking the centenary of the First World War's ending



Limerick Museum and the Friends of Lace organized the Amazing Lace symposium in the Absolute Hotel



Righteous Among the Nations exhibition, a partnership between Limerick Museum and the Polish community in Limerick

The Culture and Arts Department is funded by Limerick City and County Council, the Arts Council of Ireland/An

## CULTURE AND ARTS DEPARTMENT

Comhairle Ealaíon (the national agency for developing, promoting and funding the arts in Ireland) and the Department of the Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht under the Creative Ireland initiative.

The adopted Limerick Cultural Strategy Framework 2016-2030 for Limerick sets out a clear vision and ambition that allows for the strategic planning and commitment to the continuous development of culture and arts in Limerick through dialogue with key stakeholders and influencers, at local and national level, artists, creative practitioners, communities and key cultural organisations. The Culture and Arts Department is also responsible for the growing the ambition and quality of the 5 Civic Festivals,

- (i) St. Patrick's Day
- (ii) International Band Championship
- (iii) Riverfest
- (iv) Culture Night
- (v) Christmas in Limerick.

The eight objectives of the Limerick Cultural Strategy will ensure that the set of values, principles and strategic priorities that demonstrably increase the level of public engagement, celebration, innovation and investment in cultural infrastructure in Limerick are delivered collaboratively for the benefit of all citizens.

*President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins visits Ilén Project at Limerick Docks. Photo Credit: Deirdre Power*



### CREATIVE IRELAND

Creative Ireland is an all-government five-year initiative, from 2017 to 2022, which places culture and creativity at the centre of public policy. Local Authorities are tasked with the development and delivery of the Programme on a local level and for that purpose, each Local Authority was asked to establish a cross-departmental Culture Team. Our Limerick Culture Team consists of representatives of the COuncil Departments that are linked to the provision of creative services or use creative tools as a means of activating and engaging citizens.



*Local Authorities launch their five year Cultural Creativity Strategies. An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, Josepha Madigan, Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Eoghan Murphy, Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Tania Banotti, Director of Creative Ireland*

In 2018, the second year of the Programme, the Culture Team at Limerick City and County Council delivered the following:

1. Developed Limerick Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018 – 2022 that sets out the six strategic priorities for Limerick. The plan was launched on 12 September 2018 by An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar TD; Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Josepha Madigan TD; and Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Eoghan Murphy TD.

Limerick Culture and Creativity strategy's six strategic priorities are:

- (i) Future Creators: Children and Young People;
- (ii) Creative Minds: Nurturing and supporting artists and other creators;
- (iii) Creative Springboard: Fostering cultural and creative innovation;
- (iv) People, Places, Networks: Enhancing our local cultural and creative infrastructure;
- (v) Creative Screens: A focus on film and coding;
- (vi) Creative Citizens: People creating and accessing culture on their doorstep.

2. Delivered Cruinniú na nÓg – the new national day of culture and creativity for children and young people. This was the first year of this national initiative and Limerick adopted a strategic approach to delivering the event. Working in partnership with Fresh Film Festival, Limerick Youth Service, Limerick Library Services and The Hunt Museum, a series of events were developed and delivered focussing on the collaborative and cross-disciplinary area of film under the title 'The Road to Troy';

- Delivered 15 events in one day across the Metropolitan and all Municipal Districts;
- Attracted an audience of 1,100;
- Engaged 20 volunteers;
- Facilitated a production of two short stop-motion animations made by children and young people;
- Produced a report with recommendations.



*Movies in the Garden at the Hunt Museum, part of Cruinniú na nÓg, a new national day of creativity for children and young people took place on 23 June 2018*

3. Supported local creatives and organisations (including internal LCCC Departments) to deliver projects in line with the Limerick Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018 – 2022. In 2018, there was an incentive to support projects and events related to Bliain na Gaeilge, European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 and Decade of Centenaries Commemorations.

In total, we supported the delivery of 43 local projects, which in addition to the 15 events delivered as part of Cruinniú na nÓg, brings a total of 58 events and projects delivered locally as part of the Creative Ireland Programme.



*Limerick Young Film Convention, part of Cruinniú na nÓg, a national day of creativity for children and young people that took place on 23 June 2018*



*Limerick Young Film Convention, part of Cruinniú na nÓg, a national day of creativity for children and young people that took place on 23 June 2018*

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



Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Josepha Madigan, launched 'The Estuary' a short film by Carl Dixon and Colm Walsh about the Shannon Fishermen, which was produced by the Limerick Archives and Limerick Arts Office, as part of the Creative Ireland programme



Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Josepha Madigan, launched 'The Estuary' a short film by Carl Dixon and Colm Walsh about the Shannon Fishermen, which was produced by the Limerick Archives and Limerick Arts Office, as part of the Creative Ireland programme

5. Creative Youth Partnership - Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board are one of three Education and Training Boards chosen by Creative Ireland to establish a Local Creative Youth Partnership. The partnership will facilitate information sharing and collaboration between local creative and cultural initiatives and providers with a focus on children and young people including youth work service providers, childcare settings and schools to bring about better use of existing resources, practices and initiatives in the Limerick and Clare area. The announcement

will help further advance Limerick City and County Council's commitment to the strategic priority of Future Creators : Children and Young People, in the Limerick Culture and Creativity plan published as part of Creative Ireland.

## FUNDING AND OPEN CALLS

### Bursaries and Grants

Funding opportunities were streamlined through a series of Open Calls, designed to support individuals, creative practitioners and groups organising and engaging in cultural and arts activities that endeavour to deliver the key aims and objectives of the Limerick Cultural Strategy.

- Grants Under the Arts Act Funding 2018 - There were 37 applications for funding, of which 32 were successful, with a total allocation of €20,000
- Limerick Theatre Bursaries 2018 - There were 7 applications for funding, of which 4 were successful, with a total allocation of €15,000
- Limerick Short Film Bursaries 2018 - There were 19 applications, of which 2 were successful, with a total allocation of €16,000
- Limerick School of Spectacle Participants 2018 - Open call for practitioners to attend a week long training school - European Outdoor Arts Academy
- Limerick International Mobility Award Scheme 2018 - There were two open calls, 13 grants awarded, with a total allocation of €7,000
- Limerick Creative Ireland - Made in Limerick Grants 2018 - There were 19 submissions, 11 grants were awarded with a total allocation of €30,000
- Limerick Festivals and Events Funding Scheme 2018 - There were 60 applications for funding, of which 42 were successful, with a total allocation of €270,000
- Individual Arts Bursaries Awards Scheme 2018 - There were 16 applications for funding, of which 6 were successful, with a total allocation of €20,000
- Strategic Fund - There were 41 letters of support offering 10% of the award issued. To date 12 were successful leveraging €177,000 from The Arts Council alone. A further 26 letters of reference demonstrating support were issued.

### CONTINUED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE CULTURE AND ARTS SECTOR

A series of opportunities for continued professional development of creative practitioners under seven different bursaries was announced. These bursaries contribute to growing Limerick's Cultural capacity by supporting focused sectoral training, upskilling and investment for creative's at different stages in their careers.

- Blas International Summer School Bursary
- Meitheal Summer School Bursary
- Irish Youth Choir Bursary
- Drama League of Ireland Summer School Bursary
- Residency at Culturel Irlandais (Paris)
- Tyrone Guthrie Centre Regional Bursary

An open call to recognised cultural practitioners to apply for the use of two of Limerick's subsidised James Street Artist Studios was announced. The James Street Artist Studios create conditions for affordable studio spaces for individual artists, attract, and keep artists living and working in Limerick. Two Studios were awarded in February 2018.

### Other opportunities for professional artistic development offered included:

- Emerging Writer Mentoring Opportunity - In partnership with Words Ireland, a Mentoring Opportunity for an emerging writer living in Limerick was offered. This mentoring opportunity allows an emerging writer to receive mentoring from a professional writer. Poet Breda Spaight is the successful recipient of the Award for 2018-2019 with mentor Poet Jo Slade.
- Sliabh Luchra Call Out - In May, applications were invited from professional Irish traditional musicians for the position of Sliabh Luachra Musician In Residence. The Residency is part of the Sliabh Luachra Music Trail, a collaborative strategic development project funded by the Arts Council of Ireland's Invitation to Collaborate Award. The project brings together the Arts Offices of Cork County Council, Kerry County Council, Limerick City and County Council and the Irish Traditional Music Archive in association with the Arts Council. The residency will be located in the Sliabh Luachra region, which includes parts of counties Cork, Kerry and Limerick.
- Stony Thursday Poetry Book Call Out - The Stony Thursday Book is one of the longest-running literary journals in Ireland. Nessa O'Mahony edited this latest edition and 1,800 poems were submitted for consideration with entries from Limerick to New Delhi and as far as Australia. The launch took place on 2 October at the Granary Library and was officially launched by Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Cllr. Joe Pond.
- Michael Hartnett Annual Poetry Award 2018 Call Out - Gradam Bliantúil Filíochta i gCuimhne ar Mhicheál Ó hAirtnéide 2018. Over 70 publishers were invited to respond to the open call. There were two award recipients.
- The Autonomy Project - Open calls for city and county-based dancers with contemporary and/or hip-hop experience aged between 14 and 20 along with an open call for papers for the Art and Autonomy Conference.



Launch of the *Stony Thursday Poetry Book*, edited by Nessa O'Mahony, at the Granary Library. *Stony Thursday Poetry Book* is one of the longest-running literary journals in Ireland and celebrated its 42nd edition in 2018

## FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

An open call to support the implementation of the Limerick Cultural Strategy – A Framework 2016 – 2030 was issued in May 2018, for festivals, events and cultural heritage events taking place from 1 October, 2018 to the 30 September 2019. The newly formed Cultural SPC along with Limerick Culture and Arts Department recommended in 2018 to strategically invest €270,000 in the sector.

Two information clinics were held, in Limerick City and Newcastle West. There were two funding strands.

1. Delivery and Programming of Small and Community focused Festivals/Events
2. Delivery and Programming of Medium and Large Scale Festivals/Events

There were 60 applications in total and 42 were successful.

## CIVIC FESTIVALS – DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY

### St. Patricks Festival and the International Band Championship

In 2018 the St. Patrick's Day Festival was officially launched by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick Cllr. Stephen Keary in Culture House on the 27th February, announcing Limerick's celebrations of 250 years of Circus with legendary ringmaster Marion Fossett as Grand Marshall. Fidget Feet took to the skies on the day of the parade joined by Lumen, Luxe and Macnas as audiences of the city celebrated all things circus.

The International Band Championships welcomed 21 bands to Limerick, 50% of which were visiting from overseas. Despite snow on the day, the event went ahead and generated over 959 bed nights in Limerick from the visiting bands.

Partnerships for the St. Patrick's Festival in 2018 included working with Fossett's Circus, the Panoramic Wheel and Limerick Museum. In scaling up the event, Limerick City and County Council worked in partnership with Limerick School of Art and Design and Shannon Heritage investing in local artists to develop the technology and skills of graphic video projection as creative programming for the future. The outcome was a spectacular fireworks display and video installation by local artists on King John's Castle. The finale included a moving tribute to Dolores O'Riordan.

It is estimated that the three day festival attracted 80,000 people into Limerick.

## RIVERFEST

Riverfest took place from the 4 - 7 May with audiences breaking the 100,000 threshold up 18% on 2017. As part of the capacity building measures put in place a second audience evaluation was carried out to gather statistical information on audience demographics to allow for a comparative analysis. The survey showed that 19% of attendees were overseas or domestic visitors to Limerick and alone are worth a conservative estimate of half a million euro to the local economy.

New measures for the festival included:

- The relaunch of the BBQ competition as a charitable community event
- Partnership with the LEO, Limerick Food Strategy and the Hunt Museum to deliver 'A Taste of Limerick' at Riverfest
- The welcoming of the Irish Naval Ship L.E. Eithne to Limerick for Riverfest
- Expansion of water programme to include wider selection of local water based organisations and clubs including Swimmable Limerick
- Addition of a second Zip Wire free to the public to meet demand recorded in 2017

The festival was shortlisted for the second consecutive year by the Chamber Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards for Best Festival.

## CULTURE NIGHT / OÍCHE CHULTÚIR

Culture Night 2018 took place on 21 September, and a wide range of artists, cultural organisations, institutions and community groups were involved in delivering an exceptional programme of events. Limerick's Culture Night happens because many people share a vision and enthusiasm for enjoying, celebrating and promoting creativity and culture. An open call for registration of Limerick Culture Night Events issued in July to cultural organisations, communities and individuals to be part of this year's exciting programme across the city and county. A record number of volunteers were recruited under the Cultural Civic Engagement Programme in 2018. This programme seeks to actively target at risk groups of exclusion, new Irish and those living in regeneration areas as part of a programme of inclusion encouraging citizens to actively participate in the cultural life of Limerick through the Culture and Arts Department annual festivals programme. Limerick City and County Council was awarded €16,000 by Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht towards Limerick Culture Night, an uplift in annual funding of €1,000.

The following numbers illustrate that enthusiasm in terms of audience, locations and events;

Total Audience: 21,600

Total Number of locations: 84 (CITY – 67 locations: COUNTY - 17 locations)

Total no. of events : 99



*Culture Night events at Henry Street Garda Station were hugely popular, as people were given tours of the station*



*Culture Night at King John's Castle with a demonstration of horseback archery by Zoltan Gere, an expert in ancient martial arts*



*The Pigtown Parade on Culture Night with Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor James Collins*

## CHRISTMAS IN LIMERICK

1. **Light Up Limerick** took place on 18 November launching six weeks of celebrations for Christmas in Limerick. The event attracted a record 18,000 people onto O'Connell Street, an increase of 50% on 2017.
  - The stage programme saw performers from Corpus Christi School Choir Moyross, Lime Tree Theatre Christmas Panto Alice in Wonderland and legendary Panto Dame Myles Breen entertain the thousands.
  - Special guests Vicky Phelan and her family pressed the big red button with the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor James Collins Lighting Up the City for Christmas with a spectacular pyrotechnics display.
2. **Musical Treats on Bedford Row** – The centre of Limerick's vibrant shopping district was despite, severe weather, filled with festive cheer by local Limerick artists including carol singers, bands and choirs, who entertained Christmas shoppers and passers-by from the quirky caravan stage from 12-6pm. Lorcan Murray kept spirits high while free workshops in festive crafts offered finger warming activities.
3. **Toots the Train** – For the first time Limerick enjoyed the festive toots of its very own Christmas Train on the streets of Limerick City. A collaboration with Limerick Chamber. Toots ran for three days over four weekends bringing festive cheer to thousands of passengers as they soaked up the Christmas atmosphere in Limerick.
4. **Winter Busking** – To celebrate Christmas in Limerick, musicians and bands were invited from all disciplines to take part in a Winter Busking Competition – a festival of live street music, on Upper William Street from 12-4pm on 8 December. Prizes were awarded for most engaging, entertaining and creative artists, with prizes including a full recording, mix and mastering session. The winners were selected by a panel made up of Godknows Jonas (Rusangano Family), Darragh Griffin (Hermitage Green) and Boris Hunka (Music

Generation). This event was held in partnership with Limerick City and County Council, Music Generation Limerick City and the traders of Upper William Street.

## CULTURAL CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Funded through the Social Intervention Fund, LCCC Culture and Arts Department established the Limerick Cultural Civic Engagement Programme (LCCEP) in 2018. This is a legacy of the 2014 and 2020 volunteer programmes. The programme provides opportunities for engagement within the delivery structures of five civic events in Limerick and targets groups at risk of exclusion to broaden and deepen cultural civic engagement and work to improve diversity of representation at cultural civic festivals/events in Limerick.

Examples of the programmes impact in 2018 include:

- 924 hours of volunteer engagement were recorded as part of the civic festivals.
- Regular and repeat volunteers include participants from Southhill Community Drama Group, Southhill Men's Shed, Northside Misfits Community Drama Group Ballnanty, Municipal Technical Institute (Limerick Red Tech) Literacy Service, Direct Provision Knocklisheen, Adapt Service Road to Recovery Program.
- 68 local community groups took part in the St. Patrick's Day parade.
- 99 volunteers supported a programme of over 82 free events including Tait House Southhill's production of Blithe Spirit.



Limerick's culture and arts volunteers. A record number of volunteers were recruited under the Cultural Civic Engagement Programme in 2018

### FESTIVALS AND EVENTS PROFESSIONAL TRAINING COURSE 2018 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO)

In 2017 following a competitive open call for festivals and events to make applications for funding to Limerick City and County Council, the assessment panel made a recommendation that a portion of Festivals and Events funding be ring fenced to design and deliver a bespoke programme of training and mentoring to 16 festivals who had applied to the scheme. This training was offered to applicants of the grant scheme as either: a condition of funding; or an alternative reward to direct financial assistance.

Subsequently the bespoke training programme was designed in collaboration with Limerick Enterprise Office and took place from the 15 May - 26 June 2018. 15 of those given places participated in the six week schedule attending workshops one night a week. The curriculum focused on governance, strategic planning, development of business and marketing plans, skills in application writing and methods of evaluation. In addition, each festival received two individual mentoring sessions.

At completion of the six weeks 64% of the 15 festivals reported changes and improvements to governance and 35% commenced developing a strategic plan for their festival, while overall there was a marked improvement in securing of funding with a collective increase of €20,700 in 2018 from 2017.

### SUCCESSFUL FUNDING AWARDED TO LIMERICK CULTURE AND ARTS DEPARTMENT

Limerick Culture and Arts Department secured €73,000 for The Bingo Wings Project from The Arts Council funding scheme An Invitation to Collaborate, with Kerry Arts Office, Donegal Arts Office and Fidget Feet. The Bingo Wings Project is a participatory circus project exploring inter-generational topics with a focus on social inclusion, cultural participation and wellbeing. A number of themes will be explored through artist residencies and multi-disciplinary immersive theatre performances with the project evaluation findings presented at a symposium at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance in the University of Limerick. The final theatrical presentation will be in the Lime Tree Theatre in September 2019. This progressed aim and Objective 3 of the Limerick Cultural Strategy - to support and grow innovative and creative collectives in Limerick.



Bingo Wings Project Launch, supported by The Arts Council under the Invitation to Collaborate Scheme, Limerick Culture and Arts Department partnership with Kerry Arts Office, Donegal Arts Office and Fidget Feet

Limerick Culture and Arts Department secured €10,000 in total from Fáilte Ireland from the Regional Festivals and Participatory Events Scheme for Riverfest and the International Marching Band Championships, securing the maximum of €5,000 each.

Limerick Culture and Arts Department secured additional funding from Creative Ireland for six Limerick projects of €26,000.

### THE ARTS COUNCIL – FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

The Arts Council / CCMA agreement, A Framework for Collaboration (2016 – 2025) 3 year work plan (2016 – 2018) is a commitment to allow Local Authorities and The Arts Council to enter into a process of developing an Individual Framework Agreement.. Limerick City and County Council have signed an agreement highlighting the shared strategic priorities for arts development in Limerick City and County over the period of this agreement; setting out a vision and goals for what we can achieve together.

The four-shared strategic actions are;

1. Supporting Artists and Cultural Organisations
2. Rural Arts and Excellence
3. Young People, Children and Education
4. Festivals and Events

### CULTURE AND ARTS DEPARTMENT PROGRAMME

The continued delivery of the Culture and Arts Department programme in conjunction with Arts Council objectives included;

#### YOUNG PEOPLE, CHILDREN AND EDUCATION

The Autonomy Project (funded through the Arts Council's Invitation to Collaboration scheme) was lead by dance artist Lisa McLoughlin. This project progressed Limerick Culture and Arts Department's Youth Arts Strategy, by developing and strengthening partnerships between four youth groups partners, Limerick Youth Theatre, Dance Limerick, Music Generation Limerick City and GOSHH (Gender, Orientation, Sexual Health, HIV) and the Irish World Academy, University of Limerick. Professional artists were commissioned as well as original youth performances and presented to audiences in two venues in Limerick for five days from 2-7 April, exploring our autonomy in society.



*The Autonomy Project, 'Hello, I'm...' at Dance Limerick. Choreographed and Facilitated by Rachel Sheil, Danced and Co-created by: Skye, Zoe, Ben and Jenny. Funded by the Arts Council and Limerick City and County Council*



*The Autonomy Project, 'The Body Autonomous' Choreography by Lisa McLoughlin, Danced and co-created by Isabella Oberländer, Sound by Jared Nadin, Costume by LSAD BA Fashion and Textiles. Performed at the Sailor's Home, O'Curry Street*

The programme at The Sailors Home included multi-genre installation performances. Original works by six leading artists: Visual Artist, Seamus Nolan (F\*\*k IMMA), Performance, Artist Fergus Byrne (Future Histories), Performing Artist, Deirdre Murphy (Capitalism the Musical), sound installation by Siobhan Kavanagh and Adam Gibney (Doom Opera and Synthesiser 7:(un) Certain), Dance Artist Lisa McLoughlin (Anima). The programme at Dance Limerick included performance film, dance and music showcasing the original works created by our youth group partners: Limerick Youth Theatre, Dance Limerick, Music Generation Limerick City and GOSHH along with two professional performances, Goblom (Ella Clarke and Caitríona Ní Mhurchú) and Contemporary Circus Maleta Company.

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

#### ARTISTS IN SCHOOLS – 2018

In 2018 we completed delivery of the new, revised Artists in Schools pilot programme. The programme is designed to support Objective 6 of Limerick Cultural Strategy 2016-2030 through a series of workshops delivered by professional creative practitioners in a primary school setting. The aims are to enhance and diversify creative education providing an opportunity for primary school students to actively engage in contemporary cultural production, and to grow local festivals' capacity to deliver education programmes.

### In all, three schools took part in the programme in County Limerick

Schools	Dates	District	No of workshops	No of pupils	Festival/Creative Practitioners
Mahoonagh National School	January/ February 2018	Newcastle West	4	25	EVA International: Jennie Guy (Art School), Maeve Mulrennan
Scoil Íde Naofa, Raheenagh National School	January/ February 2018	Newcastle West	4	40	EVA International: Jennie Guy (Art School), Clare Breen
Ahalin National School	January/ February 2018	Newcastle West	4	29	EVA International: Jennie Guy (Art School), Orlaith Treacy
<b>Total: 3 schools</b>			<b>Total: 12 workshops</b>	<b>Total: 94 pupils</b>	<b>Total: 1 festival, 3 creative practitioners</b>

To ensure geographic balance, three schools from each Municipal District are selected on rolling basis to participate in the programme. Artists delivered four workshops in each school. On completion of the pilot programme an evaluation report was commissioned and delivered by an independent researcher.

### THE COUNTY LIMERICK YOUTH THEATRE

Limerick Culture and Arts Department is working with the County Limerick Youth Theatre to develop a vision and a mission for the sustainable development of County Limerick Youth Theatre to support the growth achieved over the past number of years. The County Limerick Youth Theatre was successful in EU LEADER funding applications for two projects, Expressing Employability and Theatre in Education. Mentoring support associated with new organisational structures and governance has been identified and provided. The youth theatre's application to the Charity Regulator was approved which represents a significant milestone for the organisation. Performances included - CoLYTS, It Only Ever Happens In the Movies, DynaLyts: the Acme Thunderer, LittleLyts: Jack and the Beanstalk, Leading Lyts show of work: Trapped by Fear (all May), When did you last see your Granny (July), Walk into the dusk (October) and the Pantomime Sleeping Beauty (December).

### LIMERICK YOUTH CHOIR

The nationally renowned Limerick Youth Choir, which performs contemporary and classical music, is made up of young people between the ages of 17 and 28. Choir membership is through audition and is drawn from students at schools and third level colleges of education in the city and county. It is a mixed voice choir for Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass. The members performed in June with world-renowned composer and conductor, Eric Whitacre, as part of the University Concert Hall's "Limerick Sings" choral festival and in November at the Focus Ireland Thanksgiving Choral Concert.

### ARTS IN HEALTH

#### Integrated Dance

Limerick Culture and Arts Department is working with Mary Hartney to deliver the Integrated Dance Programme as part of our Arts in Health Programme. For the 2017-2018 programme, there has been an increased number of students participating from 230 to 310 and the culmination of this year's work was hosted by Castletroy College on 16 April. A group from Desmond College and Brothers of Charity Newcastle West performed to standing ovation at the Brothers of Charity National Advocacy Conference in October. Following expressions of interest for the programme in 2019 from West Limerick Children's Services (Newcastle West), plans are being developed to include five service users between the ages of 10-14 and five non-disabled companions engaging in the integrated dance programme to be delivered in February 2019 as a pilot initiative.

### Helium

Limerick Culture and Arts Department is working in a brokering role with Helium Arts on their deliverability of a new Creative Health Hub in Limerick to provide access to the arts for children and young people with long-term conditions by introducing stakeholders. The **Helium Arts** Limerick Creative Health Hub (CHH) will support the mental health and social-inclusion of children living with long-term medical conditions, decreasing isolation and increasing wellbeing through an arts programme in the community connected to Mid-Western Regional Hospital Outpatients, in an arts-on-prescription style of delivery.

### University of Limerick Hospitals Group Arts Committee

Limerick Culture and Arts Department are working with UL Hospitals Group Arts Committee, to establish common areas of interest and collaborations. In 2018 Limerick Culture and Arts Department brokered a meeting between the Arts Council of Ireland and the UL Hospitals Arts Committee in relation to a potential major loan of works to the hospitals from the Arts Council Collection and the Culture and Arts Department collection.

### Rural Arts and Excellence

All Saints Church in Castleconnell was once again the venue for the **Castleconnell Autumn Concert Series**. The aim in presenting these concerts was to give the people of Limerick the opportunity to enjoy live classical music, performed by highly skilled Irish and international musicians at a wonderful venue that is both intimate and local. We were delighted to continue with Liz Nolan of RTE LyricFM as a collaborator on the programme and as the presenter of the series. Performers were Gavan Ring (Baritone) and Santa Ignace (Piano), Victoria Massey (Mezzo Soprano) and Pádhraic Ó Cuinneagáin (Piano) and in partnership with Music Network the Amatis Piano Trio and Hugh Tinney's 60th Birthday Tour of Ireland in partnership with Classicallinks.

### ÉIGSE MICHAEL HARTNETT

A strategic partnership with the Literary and Arts Festival Éigse Michael Hartnett has been developed as part of our capacity building programme for festivals and events. As a result, we have in partnership, prepared an MOU prioritising clear reporting of outcomes and annual review. The Éigse Festival took place from 6 - 8 of April in Newcastle West and had a rich and varied schedule of events including authors Mike McCormack, Declan Kiberd, Robyn Roland and musician Emma Langford. This year we were joined in our celebrations by Michael's family, Rosemary, Niall and Lara. The programme of events is designed to enthuse, stimulate, inspire, and perhaps occasionally bemuse. It celebrates the literary legacy of Michael Hartnett, the poet and man. Hosted throughout the town of Newcastle West, in the library, schools, hospital and pubs, the breadth of the programme creates an ambience of warmth and conviviality that lends itself to lively gatherings, easy conversation and spirited debate.

As part of the programme of events the organisers included an interesting food element in recognition of the burgeoning food industry in the town and also as a celebration of the town's rich agricultural hinterland. Michael Hartnett was an aspiring gastronome in his own way and he had a great love of food and cooking. The event titled 'Pulled Pork and Poetry' featured a cookery demonstration by Tom Flavin, Executive Chef at the Strand Hotel in Limerick with apt readings from Michael Hartnett's poetry by Edward O'Dwyer.



Amatis Piano Trio performed as part of the Castleconnell Autumn Concert Series at All Saints Church in Castleconnell, in partnership with Music Network

The judges for this year's Michael Hartnett Poetry Prize 2018 were poets James Harpur and Jo Slade. This is the seventeenth year of this annual award, jointly funded by Limerick City and County Council and The Arts Council to the value of €4,000. The formal presentation of the Michael Hartnett Annual Poetry Award took place on the opening night of the Éigse Michael Hartnett Literary and Arts Festival, Newcastle West on 12 April. This year's winners were;

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

## EUROPEAN OUTDOOR ACADEMY - SCHOOL OF SPECTACLE

### Limerick School of Spectacle 2018 and Parade

"My greatest moment at Limerick School wasn't only one. The happiness of the people after the parade. Everybody was so happy and confident in the end. We parted as friends; we didn't want to part and return to our everyday lives. We wanted this to continue".  
Creative Practitioner

Limerick School 2018 was the second school to take place in Limerick, and the final school of the programme partnership between five European Capitals of Culture and candidate cities. It took place 11th-18th March 2018, focused on parading. The school was led by Limerick City and County Council and coordinated by Fidget Feet and Walk the Plank (UK). This school developed Limerick's capacity to deliver high quality large-scale urban parade, using Walk the Plank's model of co-creation between artist makers and community. It also helped to raise the profile of Limerick as a cultural city locally and nationally.

The first half of the School delivered skills in parade production, participatory practice and working with communities, aerial dance, mass movement for parade including flag choreography, stilt walking, puppet making and puppeteering, costume for parade, masks and head dresses. Creative practitioners also had the opportunity to share their practice with their peers. The second half of the school saw the creative practitioners working in teams to develop a discrete parade section, for Limerick's St. Patrick's Day Parade. Having Limerick School 2018 participate in this major annual city parade had multifaceted effects, offered the creative practitioners an opportunity to work in a real-life situation, and experience the responsibility, while feeling the satisfaction and empowerment a successful completion brings. The last day gave space to creative practitioners to reflect on their learning, de-brief the parade, goal set and receive certificates.

Growing a culture of sustainable outdoor arts activity in the partner cities; engaging new audiences; and strengthening European creative practitioners' skills and networks, School of Spectacle was the first European Outdoor Arts Academy programme to work deep within communities to generate a different set of relationships between communities and artists. The final report was published in December. The project was nominated for the All Ireland Community and Council Awards.

### Reports Published in 2018

- Evaluation Report for the Professional Development Programme for Festival and Events Organisers in Limerick
- Evaluation of the Artist in Schools Programme in Limerick 2017/2018
- European Outdoor Arts Academy : School of Spectacle Project Report: The democratisation of outdoor arts expertise October 2016 – March 2018
- The project was nominated for the All Ireland Community and Council Awards.



**HOUSING  
DEVELOPMENT  
DIRECTORATE**



# HOUSING DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

The Housing Development Directorate was formed in 2018 to provide the strategic lead on the selection and funding of housing projects under the Rebuilding Ireland programme and specifically to fast-track the supply of housing to address homelessness. The Limerick Regeneration Programme is operated from within this Directorate. The Housing Development Directorate supports the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) in formulating policy and strategy. The team, and the stakeholders with whom they work, are committed to improving the quality of life for our people and our communities, whether long established or newly created.

## REBUILDING IRELAND – ACTION PLAN FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

'Rebuilding Ireland - Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness' 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 from 2018-2021 is 1365 homes - it is our intention to exceed this target working in conjunction with the various Approved Housing Bodies who are based in Limerick and those who operate throughout the country. The delivery of additional homes in Limerick is focused on three key actions- our Buy, Build and Lease programme.

Our 2018 actions resulted in the following number of homes delivered;

BUILD	169
BUY	57
LEASE	60

### NEW-BUILD ACTIVITY

From 2018 to 2021 Limerick City and County Council will deliver 915 newly-built homes. 610 homes will be delivered directly by Limerick City and County Council. 305 homes will be delivered by the Approved Housing Body sector. Performance to reach the Limerick City and County Council target of 610 units are on track with:

- 309 units approved by the DHPLG and underway.
- A further 335 units have been identified for short-term activation, identified in the city and county. A number of capital appraisal submissions (19 no.) will be issued to the DHPLG in Q1 2019 to reach the 610 target. Once formally submitted a 59 week programme will follow to site start stage (Q1 2020) with substantial completion targeted for 2021.
- An overall anticipated delivery of Limerick City and County Council direct build by 2021 is 644 homes.

## HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

During 2018 Department of Housing, Planning and local Government (DHPLG) approved in principle the following housing projects:

- |                                     |          |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| - Knockalisheen, Ballynanty         | 6 units  |
| - Convent Street, King's Island     | 2 units  |
| - Site 3, Patrickswell              | 28 units |
| - Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale       | 9 units  |
| - Michael Street and Mungret Street | 9 units  |

## HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness continued to present a challenge both nationally and locally during 2018. In Limerick, we experienced an unprecedented increase in family homeless presentations. We responded by providing both temporary transitional accommodation in family hubs and a general housing mix that include Local Authority, RAS and HAP homes. Ten demountable-type accommodation for single occupants in St Patrick's Hostel, Clare Street, Limerick City, were completed in 2018 and have provided valuable transitional accommodation for single homeless persons.

Huge efforts were made in the area of Homeless prevention whether working with families in the sustainment of their tenancy or our Place finder service where we worked with families and individuals to find alternative accommodation where their home was being sold by their landlord. A new Housing First tender saw the delivery of this service in conjunction with an Approved Housing Body. Supply of houses is a key issue in terms of ensuring this policy works effectively – getting people into homes and supporting them to keep that home over the long-term is what Housing First is all about.

## PUBLIC LAND ACTIVATION PROGRAMME 2018

In addition to the targeted provision of social housing units by 2021 under the Rebuilding Ireland programme, another objective for Limerick is the expanded provision of new and affordable homes. The Housing Development Directorate is setting out an ambitious agenda for increasing the supply of new private homes and particularly new affordable homes for starter families and key-workers on suitable sites in its ownership in the city. A dedicated Public Land Activation Programme was established in early 2017 under the Directorate to pilot a number of viable and developable sites for mixed-tenure development in Limerick. Limerick City and County Council have prioritised, in the first instance, developing sites of significant scale that have the potential to yield the greatest number of homes in the short to medium-term.

## ADARE SITE

During 2018, Limerick City and County Council marketed a site in Adare (10ha) with a view to delivering mixed use and mixed-tenure housing. A significant number of expressions of interest were received and a preferred bidder selected. Contracts for sale contain buy back conditions to prevent land hoarding and specific performance criteria to ensure timely implementation. The Adare site was successfully sold in Q4 2018 by the elected members of Limerick City and County Council.

## 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 master planning team led by Allies and Morrison.

Allies and Morrison, an architecture and master planning practice based in London and Dublin, is working with a team of Irish consultants and will now embark on the holistic master planning 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 as well as understanding the existing physical and policy constraints. The objective of the masterplan is to make the most of the existing assets of the place and introduce uses which improve safety and overlooking so that the local community can enjoy it.

A roundtable public workshop was held in November 2018 where feedback was recorded and used to inform the development of the proposed masterplan which will be developed at further community engagement events in 2019. The team are currently exploring a wide range of options for new recreation uses, nature conservation, homes, employment and community infrastructure. Of particular interest to the Housing Development Directorate is the provision of affordable housing at Toppin's Field in accordance with its current zoning and the tenure diversification strategy adopted as part of the LRFIP/City Development Plan.

### 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 DHPLG on the prioritization 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 DHPLG in Q4 2018 demonstrating the requirement for affordable housing in the City and key settlements in the County. Given increases in rental and house price inflation and affordability issues Limerick City and County Council expect to be included in the next announcement on affordable housing due in Q1 2019.

The Exchequer provision under the fund totals €75 million over the four years to 2021. When local authority co-funding is included, an overall minimum investment of €100 million will be available under the fund to offset the costs of providing both on-site and off-site enabling infrastructure for sites in order for them to be brought into use for affordable housing.

### APPROVED HOUSING BODIES

Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs), also called housing associations or voluntary housing associations, are independent, not-for-profit organisations. They provide affordable rented housing for people who cannot afford to pay private sector rents or buy their own homes. They are also funded to provide homes for particular groups, such as the elderly or homeless people. AHBs include housing co-operatives, which are housing organisations controlled by their members/tenants who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions.

### CAREBRIGHT COMMUNITY , BRUFF, LIMERICK

Carebright Community is Ireland's first purpose-built community for people living with dementia, located in Bruff Co Limerick, which opened in March 2018. The centre is based on the Dutch model "De Hodgeway" in Holland. Carebright undertook extensive research in the construction, development and fit out of the bungalows so that they provided the best quality and design for their client's needs.

Limerick City and County Council work closely with the Approved Housing Body, "Carebright" to provide housing to clients with dementia. Each bungalow in Bruff contains six housing units comprising of a living room, bedroom and private garden.

The Community Hub, which is attached to the centre has a Café which is open to the Public and has greatly benefited the local community.



Carebright Community Hub, Bruff Co Limerick

### CUAN MHUIRE, BRUREE

The construction of six homes at Cuan Mhuire, Bruree, was completed in July 2018. Cuan Mhuire is Ireland's largest voluntary provider of Addiction Treatment Services and Residential Rehabilitation and its main objective is the rehabilitation of persons suffering from alcohol, drug and gambling addictions. Similar to the Carebright project in Bruree, this development marks a diversification in housing provision in Limerick to meet specific needs. Cuan Mhuire provides a lived experience of Home, Family and Belonging, providing an 'open door' policy 365-days-a-year service. In addition to specific treatment programmes, Cuan Mhuire has the capacity to vary the length of stay to meet the specific needs of individual residents.



*Cuan Mhuire, Bruree, Limerick*

### SPEAKERS CORNER, HYDE ROAD, LIMERICK

In 2018, Limerick City and County Council provided support and funding to Mid-West Simon Community to refurbish Speakers Corner, Hyde Road, Limerick. The premises which was vacant for an extended period was in need of extensive refurbishment.

The project, which was funded under the Capital Assistance Scheme, has provided four new independent living homes with supports provided by Mid-West Simon to its clients on an ongoing basis.

Limerick City and County Council are in the process of sourcing a new piece of public art to use on the gable wall of Speakers Corner. The works are being funded under the Percentage for Art Government Initiative Scheme.



*Speakers Corner, Hyde Road, Limerick*

### RESEARCH AND POLICY FORMATION

A number of submissions were made by the Housing Development Directorate to central Government in relation to policy matters including:

- Economic Assessment of Lands for Affordable Housing
- Urban Development and Building Heights – Guidelines for Planning Authorities
- Design Standards for New Apartments - Guidelines for Planning Authorities
- DHPLG Housing Summit
- Irish Water Investment Plan 2010 to 2024: Consultation Paper on Proposed Methodology

In addition, the Housing Development Directorate are progressing policy statements for:

1. A Planned Preventative Maintenance Programme
2. A Single Differential Rent Scheme
3. A Choice based letting Pilot
4. Streamlining Areas of Choice in the Limerick Metropolitan Area

A number of roundtable discussions and SPC briefings were undertaken in Q4 2018 with a target implementation date for the four policies above during 2019.

### RAPID BUILD

Limerick City and County Council recognises the DHPLG's objective to utilise the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) Rapid Delivery Framework wherever suitable and possible, as this approach brings benefits in terms of reduced design and procurement requirements and shorter construction periods. There may also be merit at this time to expand and renew the panel for architect led consultancy services and rapid build contractors currently available on the current OGP panel. Replenishing the panels will ensure access of opportunity for new operators, promote competition and therefore reduce price escalation in the market generally. Limerick City and County Council would welcome the inclusion of multi-units

(apartment schemes, duplex schemes) under the Rapid Delivery Framework to maximise the delivery of units on urban brownfield sites and to align to the new density thresholds proposed under the Draft Ministerial Guidelines for Apartments (>45 units per hectare) and the requirement to activate brownfield sites in urban centres as part of the Draft National Planning Framework.

Two sites have been identified and are progressing as suitable for Rapid Delivery Housing schemes in Limerick City and County Council. These sites include Patrickswell and Old Christians, Rathbane which has the capacity to deliver 55 units.

### VACANT HOMES

Buy & Renew and Repair & Lease Schemes

Two schemes, launched under Rebuilding Ireland, namely the 'Buy and Renew' Scheme and the 'Repair and Lease' Scheme, are targeted at returning vacant housing units to use. In the short time since their introduction we have seen both schemes generating wider benefits in addition to meeting accommodation requirements. We have actively promoted their implementation and will continue to do so in 2019.

## VOIDS

A spend of €1.4m was approved by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to carry out works on 70 vacant/void housing stock. Twenty-five units were completed in 2018, with works planned and underway on all of the remaining properties.

The Table Below outlines the position on 31 December 2018:

Area	Approved	Complete	On Site	Works Scheduled (Tender Work Complete)	Tender Stage	Pre-Tender (specifications / Asbestos Testing)
Adare Rathkeale	14	2	2	2	3	3
NCW	11	4	3	0	1	3
Cappamore	12	10	1	0	0	1
Kilmallock						
Metro	33	14	2	0	0	10 – asbestos, 7 Spec'd
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>24</b>

## TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION

Approval for the refurbishment of Clondrinagh Halting site, Ennis Road was received from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government on 28 August 2018. This is a further phase of improvement works following an earlier project carried out in 2017.

The statutory five year Traveller Accommodation Plan for 2019 - 2023 is currently being prepared. Limerick City and County Council 2014 -2018 Traveller Accommodation Plan has exceeded the targets set out. Provision is made in the 2019 budget for Traveller Services, which include providing supports to Traveller families moving into housing. A Traveller clinic is held in Merchants Quay every week to help address the accommodation needs of the Travelling Community in County Limerick allowing us to work more closely with families to secure accommodation.

In 2018 Total Traveller funding nationally is €12m

2018 Allocation to Limerick City and County Council was €858,739 across eight projects.

Applications for additional funding have been submitted and will be known during 2019.

### Limerick City And County Council Traveller Accommodation Programme 2013-2018

95 Families allocated accommodation

9 families transferred

15 families refused accommodation

	2017	2018
Offers of Housing	12	24
Offers of Traveller Specific accommodation	15	3
Refusals	7	4
Transfers	3	5

## REGENERATION STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

### SOCIAL INTERVENTION FUND

The Social Intervention Fund (SIF) continued to support social and economic projects developed and implemented by local community and voluntary organizations and key statutory agencies. In 2018, the total amount approved was €3,889,433. Approved projects are broken down into the following themes:

Education & Learning	43
Health & Well-being	25
Ageing Well	6
Employability and Work	13
Families and Youth at Risk	22
Community	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>

The assessment of the SIF in 2018 was informed by the findings of the review of the LRFIP 2012-2015, published in 2016, the on-going monitoring of projects supported under the SIF and the evidence of needs drawing on analysis of 2016 Census data.

#### In terms of issues with the 2018 SIF:

The allocation of small grants to grass-roots community organisations including sports clubs has been maintained. While involving relatively small amounts of funding, these projects come directly from the local level (volunteer-led) and are highly appreciated and visible in local regeneration communities.

A core group of projects supporting youth and families with complex needs are supported year-on-year. These are important in connecting communities to mainstream services and promoting social inclusion. Grants to schools and other services for education and learning have been maintained.

The evidence indicates that additional support into programmes delivered in schools or out-of-school services (after school programmes, summer camps, therapeutic services offered to children in schools) is contributing to the achievement of better educational outcomes for children in regeneration areas. These outcomes include better educational attainment, improved school attendance and improved retention in second level education.

In relation to employability and work projects, skills training and access to employment for regeneration area residents has a stronger profile in the 2017 and 2018 SIF. There are also stronger links across all the key partners in the design and delivery arrangements for such projects. The main partners and funders here are LCETB in relation to further education and training, DEASP programmes (CE, Tús), the PAUL Partnership/ Local Employment Service and, in some case, a voluntary sector/community partner. A strong link/fit with DEASP and the LCETB is particularly important in order to promote the sustainability of these initiatives.

### PHYSICAL REGENERATION

Refurbishment works were carried out to 90 properties.

### GALVONE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Limerick City and County Council, in cooperation with other partners, has been working to attract investment and new sources of employment to regeneration areas. In 2018, Limerick City and County Council put forward (1) Fulflex Building (2) Advanced Heating (3) Provisional Flooring (4) Boxing Club for 'Expressions of Interest' in relation to sale of units, to attract further investment into Galvone.

The above actions are contributing to following objectives as set out in the Limerick Regeneration Implementation Plan:

1. Developing a stronger engagement platform to promote economic activity in the target areas, between all stakeholder groups and local resources.
2. Attracting inward investment into areas of Regeneration
3. Creating of employment opportunities in Regeneration process for local residents and within new enterprise established in the area.
4. Developing long term engagement with the private sector to develop a sustainable level of economic activity in areas of regeneration

### HOSPITALITY EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTRE (HETC) – 178 Trainees from the HETC have gained employment.

## SYMPOSIA, CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOPS

### TRAINING CENTRE DEVELOPMENTS

The opening of the Moyross Training Facility (MTF) is an integrated service approach targeting unemployed residents of the area with a view to providing them with the skills and confidence to secure employment. The model is based on accessing two units (Units 6 and 7 in private ownership) to create a new dedicated training base in The Bays within Moyross. These units provide a specific trades based training approach focused on equipping clients with industry specific skills currently being sought in sectors such as construction and specialist manufacturing.

The location of the training unit within the Bays enables clients to access the broader range of supports and facilities within the Bays Training Centre and create an holistic approach to the delivery of the 'hard' and 'soft' skills content of the overall programme.

Each client who progresses through the training programme is provided with a pathway to employment through the establishment of relationships with the private sector. Consultation with the private sector identifies the key skills required to fill existing skills gaps. Graduates of this programme are offered jobs with the industry partners to fill those immediate skills gaps. Further training and education options will emerge from developing these key partnerships

Success in accessing such jobs by unemployed residents of regeneration areas will have significant positive impact on reducing deprivation in these communities and raise income levels for generations to come.

### NICHOLAS STREET

Work on Nicholas Street continued in 2018. 24 Nicholas Street has an area of 140m<sup>2</sup> across two storeys, while 25 Nicholas Street has an area of 130m<sup>2</sup> across two storeys. These units will not be extended or enlarged outside the existing building footprints.

A process to bring the building to 'shell and core' commenced in August 2016. The works were completed in Q2 of 2018, with handover to the proposed occupant on completion as a 'shell-and-core' unit.

### MINISTERIAL VISITS

On 29 January 2018, Minister Eoghan Murphy launched the Lord Edward Street Housing Development providing 81 homes, the largest new build social housing project in the country at the time. During this visit, the Minister was given a tour of the site. The Minister was presented with a copy of "A Stitch in Time: A History of Limerick Clothing Factory", by Maura Stapleton. Maura, who worked in the Tait Clothing Factory from 1938, is its oldest surviving employee. The launch included a performance from the Boherbuoy Band, who have connections with the factory having played at the centenary of the Tait Clothing Factory in 1953.

In April, Mr. Damien English TD, Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) officially opened the new housing development in Churchfield Southill – Phase 1, providing 41 homes. The Minister also visited recently completed properties delivered under the 'Buy and Renew' programme at Shelbourne Terrace and Treaty Terrace, Thomondgate.

### IRISH PLANNING INSTITUTE'S AUTUMN CONFERENCE

A presentation on 'Design Quality through Development Codes' was delivered by Sarah Newell at this year's Autumn Planning Conference entitled 'Planning for Regeneration' organised by the Irish Planning Institute, held in the Gibson Hotel on 5 October 2018. The conference looked at key issues in the successful regeneration of Irish cities, towns and villages, drawing together many case studies and experiences to stimulate debate and facilitate the sharing of best practice and ideas.

### THE IRISH COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL HOUSING (ICSH) REGIONAL MEETING

The Irish Council for Social Housing (ICSH) Regional Meeting for the Mid-West was held in the Clayton Hotel, Limerick City on 1 May 2018, and was attended by Limerick City and County Council staff. The ICSH regional meetings are a key event for members to facilitate discussion on current issues and offer an opportunity to raise any issue of relevance, as well as receiving key updates in relation to areas of compliance, housing management and development.

### THE HOUSING PRACTITIONERS' CONFERENCE 2018

The Housing Practitioners' Conference 2018, that was held at the Royal Marine Hotel, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin from 17 – 18 May 2018, was attended by Limerick City and County Council staff. The conference featured presentations given by the Housing Agency, the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (DHPLG) and other local authorities, and included various workshops and showcases of exemplar case studies.

### HOUSING POLICY WORKSHOP

The Housing Development Directorate held a roundtable workshop on 17 October, 2018 with invitations issued to the Home and Social Development SPC and the Members of Limerick City and County Council. The workshop was very well-attended with presentations given on four key themes:

1. A Planned Preventative Maintenance Programme
2. A Single Differential Rent Scheme
3. A Choice based letting Pilot
4. Streamlining Areas of Choice in the Limerick Metropolitan Area

The responses from the roundtable discussions were recorded in a feedback report and there were a number of excellent suggestions for further consideration in 2019, where further workshops will be undertaken on the detail of the policies before formal implementation.

### JOINT COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, PLANNING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

On 6 December 2018, Limerick City and County Council were invited to attend the Joint Committee on Housing, Planning and Local Government meeting at Leinster House, Kildare Street, Dublin. In a presentation entitled 'Funding and Delivery of Public Housing under Rebuilding Ireland', Limerick City and County Council's Chief Executive, Conn Murray, accompanied by Director of Housing Development, Aoife Duke and Senior Architect, Seamus Hanrahan outlined the progress being made by Limerick City and County Council as it manages the provision of housing.

### EOLAS HOUSING CONFERENCE

Director of Housing Development, Aoife Duke, delivered a presentation to 200 delegates attending the Eolas Housing Magazine conference in November 2018. The conference, which focuses on 'Progress to date' was attended by all the major stakeholders in the housing and building industry. In addition to various presentations the conference included a panel discussion on the challenges around housing delivery in Ireland at present.





**SERVICE  
OPERATIONS  
DIRECTORATE**



# SERVICES OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE

## HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES

### LEGAL

#### Consent to Sale 2018

No. of consent applications received	55
No. of consents granted	21
No. of consents awaiting further information from solicitors/purchasers	12

#### Deeds of Discharge/Release 2018

No. of applications received	131
No. of discharges/releases issued	117
No. of discharges/releases awaiting further information	14

#### Cottage Purchase Annuities 2018

No. of annuities received	29
No. of annuities issued	25
No. awaiting further information	6

#### Ground Rents 2018 for previously owned Council Properties only \*\*

No. of Ground Rents received	29
No. of Ground Rents issued	15
No. of Ground Rents awaiting further information	11
No. of Ground Rents in progress	8 ***

\*\* Please note that Housing Support Services deal with Ground Rent applications only for previously owned Council Properties bought under Tenant Purchase Scheme. Ground Rent for privately owned properties are dealt with in Property Services.

\*\*\* This figures includes Ground Rent application that are currently being noted at Area Meetings, Section 183 Notices prepared for Full Council Meetings or Draft Transfer Orders sent to solicitors for their client's signature\*\*

## LOANS

### REBUILDING IRELAND HOME LOAN:

A Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan is a new Government backed mortgage for first time buyers. It is available nationwide from all local authorities from 1st February 2018. As a first time buyer you can apply for a Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan to purchase a new or second-hand property, or to build your own home. You can borrow up to 90% of the market value of the property. Maximum market values of the property that can be purchased or self-built for Limerick is €250,000.

No. of loans received	154
No of loans approved	49
No. of loans drawdown	1
Value of loans drawdown	€135,000

No of Variable Annuity Loans issued in 2018	11
Shared Ownership Restructuring Loans	5
Value of annuity loans	€985,261

### 2016 TENANT (INCREMENTAL) PURCHASE SCHEME

From 1 January 2016, existing tenants of Limerick City and County Council have an opportunity to purchase their own homes through an Incremental Purchase Scheme introduced under Part 3 of Housing (Miscellaneous) Provisions Act 2014.

No of Applications received in 2018	52
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## PRIVATE RENTED INSPECTIONS UNIT

Housing Authorities are responsible, through inspection, for determining whether a property meets the standards for rental accommodations and, where the property does not, to ensure compliance through the user of Improvement and Prohibition notices and legal proceedings.

The minimum standards are provided for in Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2017, which came into effect on 1 July 2017.

Under current legislation, the landlord is legally required to provide tenants with a property that provides a safe and healthy environment and is responsible for the maintenance and repair of dwelling and equipment provided in it, subject to normal wear and tear.

The tenant must exercise due care when using the dwelling and the equipment in it, must report promptly to the landlord and is responsible for the repair of damage (accidental or deliberate) above normal wear and tear.

Number of properties inspected in 2018	1,035
Total number of inspections 2018	1,228
Improvement Notices Issued	31
Prohibition Notices Issued	0

## HOME IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMMES

There are three different types of home improvement grants. This year 461 households benefited from receipt of a total of €2.9m, as per the following table:

District	Amount 2018	No. of Grants
Rathkeale	€254,324.83	49
Newcastle West	€589,113.49	100
Kilmallock	€507,928.38	71
Metropolitan	€1,568,990.14	241
<b>Total</b>	<b>€2,920,356.84</b>	<b>461</b>

The details of the grants are as follows:

### HOME ADAPTATION GRANT

This grant assists in the carrying out of works that are necessary for the purpose of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability. The types of works allowable include the provision of access ramps, downstairs toilets facilities, stair-lifts, accessible showers, adaptations to facilitate wheelchair access and extensions.

## MOBILITY AID GRANTS

This grant is available to cover a basic suite of works to address mobility problems, the works aided are grab-rails, access ramps, level-access showers and stair-lifts.

## HOUSING AID FOR OLDER GRANTS

This grant is available to assist older people living in poor housing conditions to have necessary repair or improvements carried out, the types of works aided include re-roofing, re-wiring, replacement of windows and doors and the provision of central heating (where none exists)

## DISABLED PERSONS GRANTS

This year 53 households received disabled persons grants totalling €504,000 to support independent living for people with disabilities, please see table below:

District	Amount 2017	No. of Grants
Rathkeale	€87,277.20	5
Newcastle West	€106,182.99	14
Kilmallock	€333,098.67	44
Metropolitan	€127,443.50	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>€654,002.36</b>	<b>81</b>

All of the above schemes are subject to qualifying criteria.

## RAS AND HAP UNIT

### RENTAL ACCOMMODATION SCHEME (RAS)

Limerick City and County Council has operated the RAS Scheme which is a three way contract between a Landlord, the Tenant(s) and Limerick City and County Council. The Rental Accommodation Scheme enables the Council to provide secure accommodation, which is affordable and meets Private Rented Dwellings Standards. At the end of 2018, there were 1,119 RAS Tenancies, 102 of these having been set up during the year.

The Council guarantees to pay an agreed monthly rent to a landlord on behalf of the tenant, with the tenant then making weekly payments to the Council, calculated on their income. Limerick City and County Council provide substantial supports to its RAS tenants, and landlords, through a team of dedicated Liaison Officers.

### HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS (HAP)

Since its introduction in 2014, the HAP Scheme has grown to become a major provider of Social Housing throughout Limerick. At the end of 2018 there were in excess of 2,150 HAP tenancies in the county and city. As with RAS, the Scheme ensures a provision of affordable

and good quality accommodation to those people who have been assessed as being in need of Social Housing Supports.

HAP Limerick are responsible for validating applications and the setting up and management of tenancies, as well as ensuring the rent paid by HAP tenants is correctly assessed based on their incomes. Staff within the unit provided a highly supported environment to both landlords and tenants, in addressing their questions and dealing with issues as they arise.

In 2018, Limerick City and County Council also introduced a HAP Placefinder Service, to work with families or individuals who have become Homeless and have been assessed by the Homeless Action Team as needing this support.

### ESTATE MANAGEMENT UNIT

The Estate Management Unit is comprised of three main strands: (i) Estate Support (ii) Individual Tenant Support and (iii) Tenancy Enforcement/Anti-Social Behaviour

#### Estate Supports

- The main aim of this programme is the provision of supports with a view to improving quality of life and developing community spirit within Council estates. To this end, the Unit works closely with existing residents' associations and encourages the formation of new such groups, supporting the implementation of key actions identified by them to improve their estates. The support provided varied from assistance in provision of minor infrastructural works such as fencing, walls, signage etc. to softer measures such as committee skills training, contributing towards clean-up days, events for children etc.

- The new housing development off Lord Edward Street, on the former Tait factory site, was completed and occupied in the early months of the year. A total of 79 new households were formed and the Estate Management Unit engaged extensively with the occupants throughout the year to assist in trying to create a community spirit and pride. This support extended to facilitating the formation of a representative committee for the residents.
- Two meetings of the Estate Residents Representative Forum were held during the year. The main purpose of the Forum is to provide a platform where representatives from each residents' association can meet with each other and with Council officials with a view to sharing information and experiences in a spirit of partnership. Guest speakers with expertise in a variety of areas are also invited to speak.



A meeting was held on 15 June 2018 in the new Lord Edward Street Community Centre with a view to setting up a Residents Association. The meeting was facilitated by Donal Fitzgibbon in conjunction with the Estate Management Unit and all residents of Tait Place, Tait Mews and Tait Court.



Community event held in St. Patrick's Villas, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick on 7 September 2018. In attendance was Donal Fitzgibbon, Community Facilitator, Aoife O'Brien Slater and Arthur Murphy Estate Management Liaison Officers, Limerick City and County Council, Frank Ryan and Con Carroll and other residents of St. Patrick's Villas Residents Association together with Cllr. Joe Pond

### (i) Individual Tenant Support

- The Unit provides a service, supported by the Housing Welfare Officer, of intensive support for tenants who may be identified as vulnerable or in need of such help for any other reason. In addition, there is monitoring of individual tenancies that may require particular attention to prevent problems occurring.
- Pre-Tenancy training is provided for all newly-appointed tenants. Among other things, the terms of the Letting Agreements which are signed are clearly explained so that the obligations of both the tenants and, indeed, the Council are clearly understood. The number of such training meetings conducted in 2018 was 280

### (ii) Tenancy Enforcement/Anti-Social Behaviour

- The Unit deals with in excess of 400 complaints each year, with approximately half of these relating to anti-social behaviour. The Council's policy is to respond to these issues quickly and firmly and it works in close co-operation with An Garda Síochána where necessary.
- Two additional excluding order applications were made to the District Court, resulting in one individual being barred from entering a particular halting site for a period of three years. Limerick City and County Council is one of the most proactive local authorities in the country in the use of this powerful legislative tool. In the period 2012-2018, a total of 26 such orders were secured.
- The Unit engaged very proactively with An Garda Síochána in utilising powers under Section 20 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1997 to eject illegal occupiers of Council houses engaged in anti-social behaviour.
- The Unit carries out formal Garda checks on prospective new tenants. 882 such formal reviews were undertaken during the year.



A gardening competition took place in Cappamore Estates in August 2018. Judges Aoife O'Brien Slater and Aine Frawley of Estate Management Unit awarded prizes for Best Garden, Best Concrete Area and Best Bungalow. Photographed are some of the entrants.

## HOUSING ASSESSMENTS AND ALLOCATIONS

1. The number of offers of accommodation made in 2018 is **326**
2. The number of new tenancies created in 2018 is **284**
3. The number of refusals of accommodation is **42**
4. The total number of CRM cases assigned to the Allocations Team is **1,758**
5. The total number of CRM cases assigned to the Assessments Team is **656**
6. The total number of CRM cases closed by both teams Allocations **1,646** and Assessments **611** respectively.

## TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION

Funding approval was received from the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government for Capital Works for Traveller Accommodation sites in Limerick City under the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 (TAP 2014-2018).

1. Clondrinagh Group Housing Scheme and Halting Site
2. Clonlong Group Housing Scheme and Halting Site, Southill
3. Toppins Field Halting Site, Southill
4. Kilmurry View, Castletroy Group Housing Scheme and Halting Site
5. Longpavement Halting Site

Limerick City and County Council exceeded its targets under the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 – 2018. Over one hundred offers of accommodation were accepted by members of the Travelling Community Limerick City and County Council are currently looking at the new Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 –2023. This process will take place with full consultation with members of the Travelling Community.

Limerick City and County Council provided 42 Traveller Clinics in Merchant's Quay in 2018, 427 families attended these clinics.

The number of CRM cases assigned to the Housing Welfare and Traveller Accommodation team is 585 of which 55 remain open.

## LIMERICK HOMELESS ACTION TEAM

In partnership with the Health Service Executive and Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, the Local Authority will endeavour to provide a multidisciplinary approach to those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The Homeless Action Team was developed as a direct result of actions arising from the Government's National Homeless Strategy. As part of Limerick City and County Councils Housing and Social Policy Department, the team is focused on ensuring that all services to homeless persons are co-ordinated in an integrated way. Limerick City and County Council, the HSE Western Area and DEASP jointly staff the Homeless Action Team, and this allows a wide range of supports to be put in place, not only giving people a roof over their heads but also providing elements of Health Care essential to the needs of homeless persons via a multi-disciplinary team.

On presentation to the Homeless Action Team, clients are fully assessed to ensure that all of their economic, health and accommodation needs are identified, and supports put in place to meet these needs.

In 2018, the following developments were made in relation to supporting those at risk of or experiencing homelessness in the Limerick region:

### HOUSING FIRST

€540,000 funding was allocated to Limerick City and County Council by Genio (a philanthropic organisation) for the development of a Housing First initiative targeting clients who have experienced long term homelessness, and are currently experiencing mental health and/or addiction issues. This action is being supported to provide permanent, stable and supported housing to our long-term homeless individuals and thus reduce the reliance on emergency accommodation over time by putting a Housing First service in place to target those individuals who are six months and longer in emergency accommodation.

Housing First targets all individuals with any level of support needs, that are homeless, to be accommodated in suitable type of housing, and the support team could be visiting/on-site, for any length of time.

This service will aim to free up spaces in emergency hostels. This will allow those that are currently in private emergency accommodation long term to be key worked more effectively and avail of the free spaces created.

The Housing First Service will support a 'minimum' of 30 cases over a three year period. This project seeks to provide tenancies in scatter-site (no more than 20% of the units of any building), self-contained independent housing units for each participant, with the services of Intensive Case Management providing visiting support to the person in their home.

This initiative was uploaded onto E-Tenders in September 2018 and four submissions were received. Following assessment of the tenders, the tender submitted by Focus Ireland was agreed to be the successful tender, and awarded the contract for three years from January 2019-December 2021.

### HAP PLACEFINDER

A part time HAP Homeless Placefinder position was filled in 2018, which is to be fulltime in 2019 and integrated into the Homeless Action Team. This role will support clients experiencing homelessness to source properties in the private rental market which can be supported through HAP.

### FAMILY HUBS

The Childers Road Family Initiative and Dublin Road Family Initiative have been operational throughout 2018 catering for 30 and 10 families respectively. In total, 74 families (52 in CRFI and 22 in DRFI) have accessed the service, and of these 35 families (23 from CRFI and 12 from DRFI) have moved into independent living in 2018.

### TENANCY SUSTAINMENT

14 new clients accessed support through the Peter McVerry Trust in Limerick in 2018, with the service engaging with 21 new clients in 2017. In total Sophia Housing tenancy support workers are engaging with 64 tenants including clients referred through Regeneration, Homeless Action Team, LCCC and outreach clients.

## OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES

### ROADWORKS PROGRAMME 2018

Almost €30 million was expended on non-capital road works in 2018.

2018 was uniquely challenging due to the early snow event (Emma and the Beast) followed by a hot dry summer.

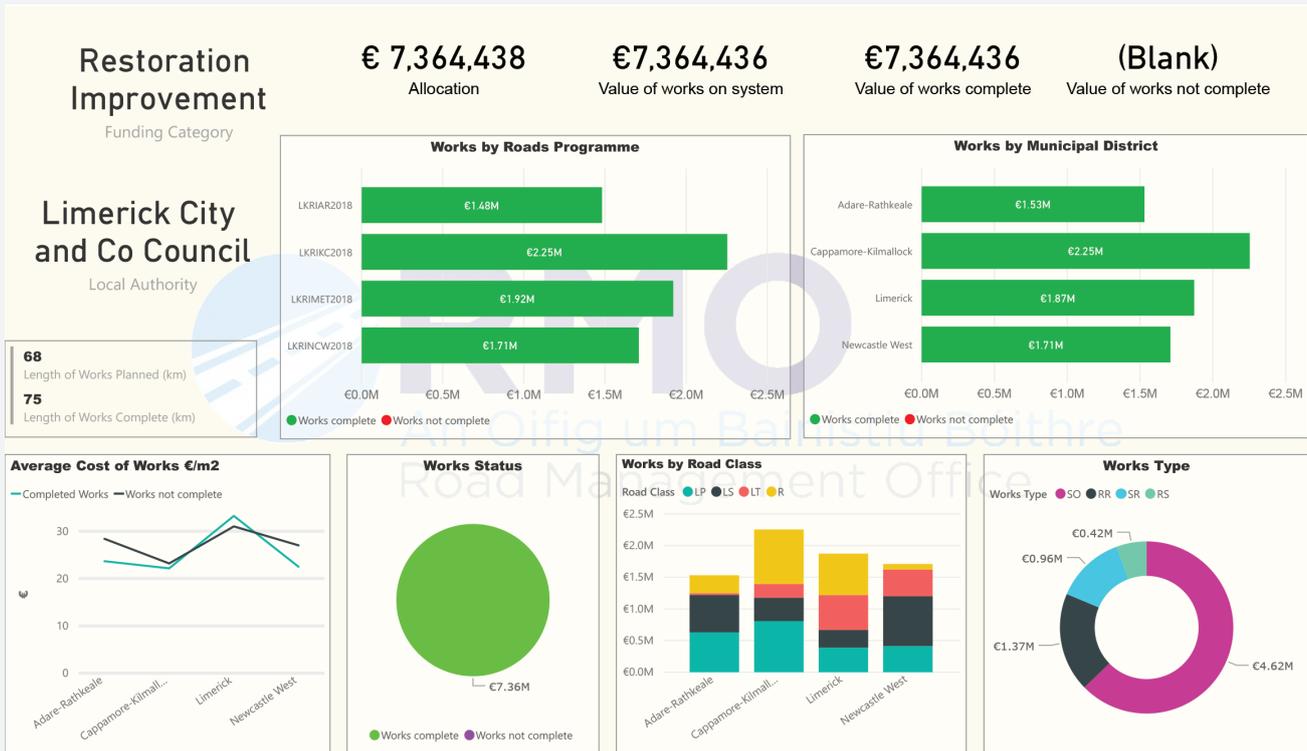
Great credit goes to the operational staff for meeting these challenges head on and keeping our main arteries maintained.

In addition to the programmed maintenance, outlined Operation & Maintenance (Roads) tasks include the following:

- Public Liability Claims
- Speed Limit Review
- Planning Reports
- Road Opening Licencing
- Road Closures processing
- Abnormal Load permits
- Traffic Management & Regulation

The following is a summary of the Primary expenditure categories on Operation and Maintenance elements of the 2018 programme.

Primary Expenditure Category	Million
Restoration Improvement	€7.3
Repairs following Severe Weather (Additional Funding)	€0.6
Restoration Maintenance	€2.0
Community Involvement Scheme(CIS)	€0.2
Local Improvement Scheme (LIS)-Rounds 1 &2	€0.7
Public Lighting	€2.5
Special Drainage Grant	€0.8
General Maintenance (Road repairs, drainage etc.)	€6.5
Bridge Rehabilitation (Rebuilding)	€0.4
Low Cost Safety	€0.3
General Maintenance – National Roads	€0.4
Winter Maintenance (Salting etc.)	€0.6
Footpath Repairs & Upgrades	€1.0



Non-National Roads Programme 2018

**NON-NATIONAL ROADS PROGRAMME 2018**

**RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT (LOCAL AND REGIONAL ROADS)**

Typically, the single most significant annual expenditure category is Restoration Improvement.

These are works required to strengthen and reseal public roads.

There are a variety of methods used including

- Crushed Stone Overlays (Where the existing structure is weak)
- Recycled Stone Overlays (Using the existing stone to reshape the road)
- Macadam Overlays (Structural Improvements typically to trunk roads)

In 2018, €7.36ml was expended on 107 no. Restoration Improvement schemes throughout the County improving 75km of roads.

**SEVERE WEATHER RELATED ADDITIONAL FUNDING (LOCAL AND REGIONAL ROADS)**

Limerick’s road infrastructure was damaged as a result of a number of severe weather events in 2018.

Storm Emma and the Beast from the East impacted in Spring and the summer drought also affected roads.

Cold weather typically impacts road structures through water and ice damage to the structure. Dry weather typically impacts bog roads (contraction) and road surfaces (bitumen softening).

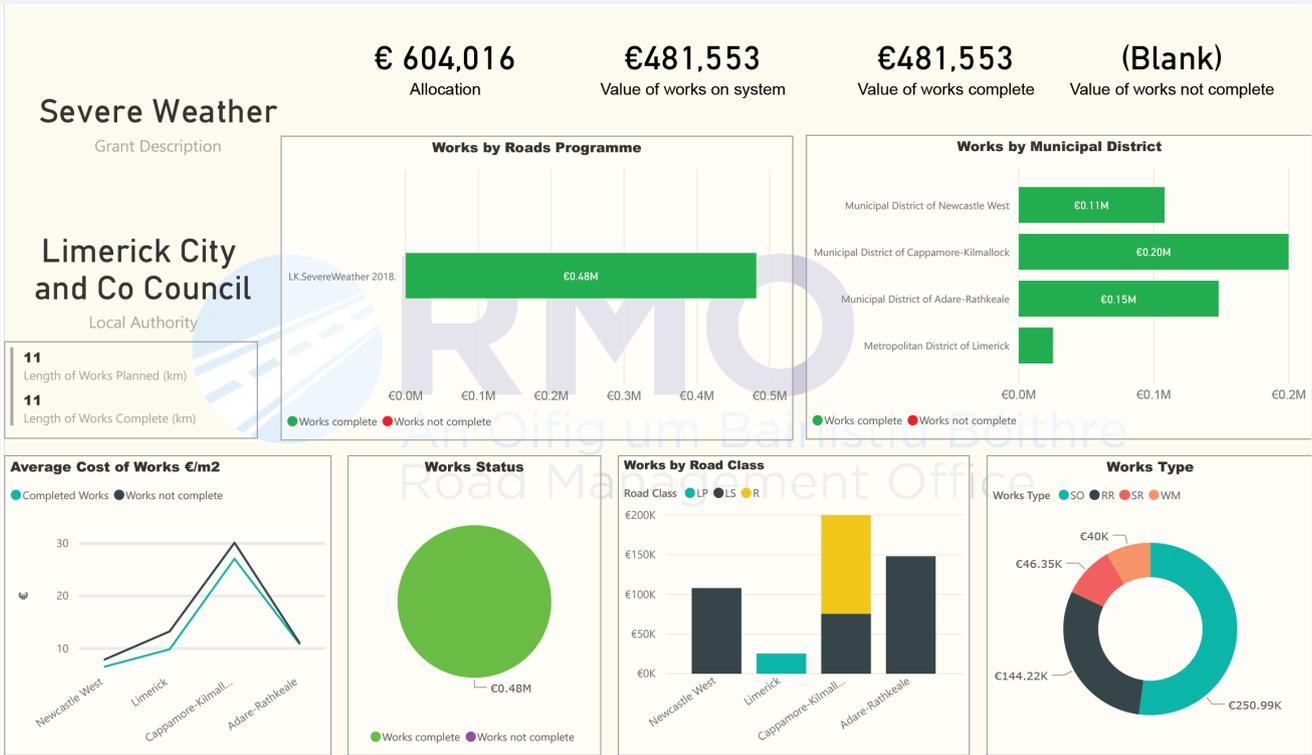
€604,000 was approved towards addressing the impact of the response and damage, all of which has now been expended repairing 11km of roads.

**RESTORATION MAINTENANCE (LOCAL AND REGIONAL ROADS)**

Typically known as Surface Dressing these works are used to extend the life of a road, protect the road structure from ingress of moisture and provide a durable wearing course for traffic.

These schemes offer best value and longevity when the road drainage and roadside hedges/trees are well maintained. The role and responsibility of Landowners in this regard is critical and their co-operation is greatly appreciated.

In 2018, €2.03ml was expended on 76 No. Restoration Maintenance Schemes improving 89km of roads.



Severe Weather related additional Funding (Local and Regional Roads)



Restoration Maintenance (Local and Regional Roads)



*New Footbridge opened in Kilmallock.*



*New Footbridge opened in Kilmallock.*



New Footbridge opened in Kilmallock.



Great Southern Greenway



Caption



Thomond Bridge, Limerick City

## HOUSING MAINTENANCE

2018 continued on the progress of the previous year in the Housing Maintenance section, regarding the transition towards a new operational structure and rollout of the SUGAR CRM system for reactive maintenance, in conjunction with the Customer Services Section and the Business Improvement Unit. Throughout the year, 15,000 maintenance queries were administered by the unit. €5m was spent maintaining 5,200 units across the city and county. The section remains one of the most challenging areas of the council in terms of matching the required quality services with the expectations of our tenants.

The unit was also successful in applying for €1.4m in void funding from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, which will result in 70 long term vacant housing units being returned for allocation and occupation. These units are delivered via a combination of direct labour, council staff and external contractors to ensure the units are available as soon as possible. Work also continued in conjunction with the Housing Development Directorate on the initial scoping proposal for a proactive planned maintenance programme, with the desired effect of minimising reactive maintenance requests.

## PARKS AND LANDSCAPING

Limerick City and County Council Parks and Landscaping team carried out an extensive grass cutting programme in 2018, cutting approximately 250 hectares of grass between March and October.

Flowers and bedding plants were cultivated in our nursery to ensure that our roundabouts, bridges, hanging baskets and public spaces were looking at their best at all times. Tree pruning and landscaping works were carried out between November and April.

The Parks and Landscaping Department also provided advice and support to Tidy Towns, Going for Gold Groups and school groups, and worked closely with the Planning Department to facilitate events in our public parks. Shelbourne Park received new adult exercise equipment.



People's Park, Limerick.



People's Park, Limerick.

## RECYCLING CENTRES AND BOTTLEBANKS

There are approximately 64 bottle bank locations throughout Limerick City and County that are managed by the Operations and Maintenance Services Department.

There are four recycling centres, located in Newcastle West, Kilmallock, Mungret and Park Road, Limerick. The recycling centre in Mungret also operates a green waste yard for the intake of green waste and generation of compost. Special waste collection days are also held including hazardous waste disposal and a confidential shredding day.

## STREET CLEANING

The street cleaning crews continue to provide a 365-day service to ensure that the streets are swept and litter is removed. The street cleaning crews provide extensive assistance to Limerick Going for Gold and Tidy Towns, while also providing additional services for events such as Rugby and GAA matches, The Great Limerick Run and St Patrick's weekend.

## CEMETERIES

The Cemeteries Maintenance team is responsible for the maintenance of over 250 cemeteries throughout Limerick City and County. Maintenance works were carried out at Abbeyfeale, Ardagh, Kilfergus Glin, Templeglantine West, Calvary, Newcastle West, Dromcollogher, Kildimo, Ballingarry Church of Ireland, Kilmoylan Shanagolden, Feenagh, Clonshire, Castletroy, Caherconlish, Killeely, Ballyneety, Murroe, Castleconnell, Pallasgreen and Doon.

The Council also developed new sections of burial grounds at Athea and Calvary, Newcastle West. The Council provided assistance to a number of community groups to locate new burial grounds.

Limerick Civic Trust continue to provide invaluable assistance to the Council in the on-going maintenance of a number of cemeteries in the Metropolitan Area.

## PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

Planning and Environmental Services Department has now been operational for nearly three years. It deals with all consents, licences, permits, inspections and enforcement relating to planning and environmental matters.

### PLANNING

Development Management  
Development Contributions  
Architectural Conservation  
Enforcement  
Taking in Charge Service Indicators  
Planning Key Performances Indicators

### ENVIRONMENT

Waste  
Litter  
Air Noise and Water  
Discharging Licensing  
Septic tank inspections  
Dangerous structures

## SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY 2018

### PLANNING

#### Development Management

There has been a continuous increase in terms of planning activity over this year, from pre-planning meetings, planning applications received and general enquiries from the public.

A significant increase in terms of major planning applications with some which are listed below are also noted this year:

17/1165 – Permission granted to University of Limerick for a three storey over partial basement Student Centre, GIA 3530M2, providing a foyer space, auditorium (200 seat) meeting rooms offices a shop and café, along with site clearance and new landscape, paving, external works including an enclosed bicycle stand at University of Limerick, Sreelane, Plassey Park Road, Limerick.

17/1170 – Permission granted to Regeneron Ireland U.C. for a 10 year permission for a single storey manufacturing extension sized 12,707 square meters gross and 14.4 meters high. The manufacturing facility is located to the rear of the existing manufacturing building (to the south east) and consists of the following functions: 1. A multipurpose manufacturing area sized 6,705 square meters, 2. A plant room area sized 1,680 square meters, 3. A waste handling facility sized 626 square meters, 4. Miscellaneous mezzanines housing plant and equipment within the buildings sized 3,696 square meters, 5. The proposed development includes a revised dock area, revisions to underground services, external items of plant and equipment, roof mounted plant and equipment, 2 no. boiler stacks 20 meters high,

external equipment and modular storage for industrial materials on site, pipebridges and modifications to existing elevations, 6. New site works include a permanent car park for 150 cars located to the south west of the existing car park, landscaping, lighting and ancillary items. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report accompanies this application at Ballycummin, Raheen Business Park, Raheen, Co. Limerick.

18/200 – Permission granted to Datcha Construction Limited for a residential development comprising of 48 no. residential units, Creche, provision of first phase of link road between the Clarina Road and the Lisheen Park (School Road) with site entrance off this new road and all ancillary site development works. Ancillary site development works include a new connection to the public water main, foul and surface water drainage, access roads, footpaths, vehicle parking, landscaping, boundary treatments and site development works above and below ground at Ballyanrahan East, Patrickswell, Co. Limerick.

18/346 – Permission granted to Dicerus Ventures Ltd for a residential development comprising 49 no. residential units, (5 no. detached houses, 38 no. semi-detached houses, 6 no. terrace houses), new entrance onto the existing R526 road and all ancillary site development works. Ancillary site development works include a new connection to the public water main, foul and surface water drainage, access roads, footpaths, vehicle parking, landscaping, boundary treatments and site development works above and below ground at Barnakyle, Patrickswell, Co. Limerick.

18/434 – Permission granted to A & G Thomond Builders Ltd for 99 no. residential units at Bloodmill Road, Singland, Co. Limerick to include: (i) 1 no. 4 bed detached unit; (ii) 52 no. 3 bed semi-detached units; (iii) 2 no. 3 bed terrace units; (iv) 15 no. 2 bed terrace units with option for a third bedroom; (v) 28 no. 2 bed apartment units, 1 no 3 bedroom apartment unit; and (vi) all associated site works including site entrance; foul water pumping station; on site attenuation tanks; and landscaping at Bloodmill Road, Singland, Co. Limerick.

18/627 – Permission granted to Health Service Executive for a four storey plus rooftop plantroom extension to the existing hospital to provide a 60 bed ward block along with minor adjustments to the adjacent hospital buildings and associated site works and services. The development also includes 20 public car parking spaces and associated boundary screening at University Hospital Limerick Campus, St. Nessian's Road, Dooradoyle, Co. Limerick.

18/1020 - Permission granted to Edwards Lifesciences Ireland Ltd for a ten year planning permission is

being sought for: (1) a single storey multi-purpose manufacturing, assembly and warehouse and utility functions and a two storey administration area sized 17,774 sq.m. and 12.5m high including 5 no. boiler stacks 19.5m high and docks and both roof mounted and yard based items of plant and equipment. (2) a fire fighting water storage tank a single storey sprinkler pump house sized 32 sq.m. and 5m high, a single storey electrical substation sized 50 sq. m. and 6m high, a single storey drum store sized 68 sq.m and 6m high and a single storey security building 20 sq.m. and 5m high. (3) Site works include a bicycle shelter for 180 bicycles, e-car parking stations, landscaped carparking for 500 cars, perimeter and local fencing, signage, landscaping, landscaped berms and general site works including 2 no. vehicular entrances off Plassey Park Road and a pedestrian entrance beside adjacent bus stop. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) accompany this application at Rivers, Plassey Park Road, National Technology Park, Castletroy, Co. Limerick.

In total, €46,000 in grant aid was received from the Department under this measure in 2018, an increase of some 20% over and above the initial allocation.

## ENFORCEMENT

Complaints Received	430
Dismissed	210
Resolved	8
Warning Letters Issued	189
Enforcement Notices Issued	105
Prosecutions Initiated	14
Injunctions	1
Convictions	3

## DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Monies received in 2018 in accordance with Development Contribution Schemes	€3,479,000
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## ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION

During the course of this year, €108,000 was awarded by Limerick City and County Council under the provisions of the Built Heritage Investment Scheme operated by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

A total of 21 projects were assisted. Grants ranged from between €2,500 to €10. Over €218,500 of private funds were committed to these projects.

The Structures at Risk Fund supported two projects in the county. Initially €35,000 was allocated to these by the Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht. One was promoted by a private individual, on structural repairs on the roofing structure of the tower house at Castle Garde (Cappamore) and followed this up by reinstating the lath and plaster linings and finishes to the top floor chamber. The grant awarded came to €24,000.

The second project assisted was at the mediaeval church ruins at Castletown Conyers, where the east end of the structure has been in perilous state for decades. A total of €40,000 was committed to this project by Limerick City and County Council this year, and a grant of €22,000 paid.

## TAKING IN CHARGE SERVICE INDICATORS 2018

A.	The number of residential estates for which the planning permission has expired, in respect of which formal written requests for taking in charge (from residents or developers), were on hands at the beginning of the year	54
B	Number of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question	16
C	Number of dwellings in respect of column B	730
D	Number of estates in column A not completed to the satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission	9
E	Number of estates in Column D in respect of which enforcement action was taken in the year in question and/or the bond was called in	1
F	Number of estates in Column D in respect of which works were undertaken by the authority to bring the estate to taking in charge standard	6

## PLANNING KEY PERFORMANCES INDICATORS

### PLANNING P2 AND P3

A.	Number of planning decisions subject of appeal to An Bord Pleanála determined by board in 2018	59
B	% of the determinations which confirmed (with or without variations) the decision made by the LA	85%
	Number of determinations confirming the LA's decision with or without variation	50
A	Number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the LA during 2018 that were investigated	430
B	Number of cases that were closed during 2018	431
C	% cases at B dismissed re Section 15(2) or closed because statute barred or exempted development	49%
D	% of cases at B that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	1%
E	% cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	50%
F	Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2018	1048
	Number of cases at B that were dismissed under Section 152(2) Planning and Development Act 2000	210
	Number of cases at B that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	8
	Number of cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	213

## ENVIRONMENT

The Environmental Services cover a broad range of responsibilities relating to over 100 pieces of Environmental law in three main areas namely Infrastructure, Regulation and Enforcement. The general categories in these areas are Waste, Litter, Water, Air, Noise and Public Health but also includes Dangerous Structures. This department also carries out work under a Service Level Agreement with Irish Water relating to discharges to Sewer. Principal activity relates to environmental complaints, granting relevant environmental permissions and carrying out inspections and monitoring of granted permissions and statutory obligations.

## WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE

The Infrastructure managed by this department includes two licensed Landfills, which are currently closed but require environmental after care, one located at Long Pavement and the other at Gortadroma. The Landfill Gas at Gortadroma was used to Generate 5,607,428 KWh giving a net income of €287,682. In addition, there are 26 Historic Landfills (closed former landfills that were operated by the Council before licensing existed).

## WASTE REGULATION

Waste facilities and waste collectors in Limerick are governed by the Waste Management Act and associated Regulations. Some authorisations are granted by other bodies but enforced by LCCC or have predetermined statutory obligations. All need to be monitored to check their compliance with their statutory obligations. The Table below summarises routine waste inspections carried out:

Abandoned Cars	78
Air Pollution Act	32
Backyard Burning	74
Battery Regs.	10
Commercial Food Waste	11
CnD	172
ELV's Regs.	50
Hazardous Waste	33
Household Surveys	409
Litter Regs.	2,298
Noise Issues	39
Packaging Regulations	19
Plastic Bag Levy	4
Presentation of Waste Byelaws	154
Public Health	32
Waste Electrical/Electronic	9
Waste Collection Permits	52
Waste Facility Permits	94
Tyres	73
Water Pollution	97

## LITTER MANAGEMENT

The Council's Litter Management team continued to tackle the problems of littering, fly posting and illegal dumping during 2018 by enforcing the provisions of the Litter Pollution Acts, Waste Management Acts. The Council also enforces the Limerick County Council (Storage, Presentation and Segregation for the purpose of and in the course of the Collection of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-Laws 2011 and the Limerick City Council Bye Laws for the "Presentation and Collection of Household Waste and Commercial Waste".

A combination of awareness/enforcement measures are consistently utilised to stem the trend of illegal waste disposal activity in the City and County.

448 on-the-spot fines were issued for litter/presentation of waste offences.

The total amount of income from spot fines was in excess of €22,455.

59 cases were referred for legal proceedings under the Litter Pollution/Waste Management Acts.

A total of 495 "other" enforcements including Warnings, Notices, Directions were also issued during the year.

Household Waste Disposal surveys were issued to properties in urban/rural areas in order to ascertain that households had proper refuse collection arrangements in place.

Clean-up works were undertaken at 15 heavily littered sites in the city and county under the 2018 Anti-Dumping Initiative Scheme administered by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.

Signs were erected at some locations and temporary C.C.T.V. units were also installed, where feasible.

The Litter team includes five (no) Inspectors who carry out litter/illegal dumping patrols throughout the City and County.

## AIR NOISE AND WATER TEAM

The Air Noise and Water team is responsible for the implementation of Local Government environmental legislation aimed at protecting and improving water quality and air quality and preventing or alleviating noise and other nuisance.

## WATER QUALITY

Specific areas of activity related to water quality in 2018 included implementing the programmes of measures under the Water Framework Directive (WFD), particularly in relation to agriculture, unsewered industries and septic tanks.

## DISCHARGE LICENSING

The Council is responsible for licensing discharges of trade and sewage effluent to waters from unsewered industries. There are currently 32 such licences in place which cover a range of facilities including hotels, nursing homes, quarries and industrial premises. All of these licences have been screened to ensure that the conditions attached to them are compatible with the achievement of our water quality obligations.

## SEPTIC TANK INSPECTIONS

The national programme of septic tank inspections continued in 2018 as follows.

Total septic tanks inspection	Compliant	Non compliant	Registered	Un registered
53	30	23	44	9

## AIR QUALITY

Significant efforts continued in 2018 to raise awareness of the Solid Fuels Regulations and the ban on marketing, selling, distributing or burning smoky fuels within the restricted area. Awareness campaigns were run using posters and social media.

## NOISE

These related to a range of issues including noisy neighbours, traffic noise, wind farms and other commercial activities.

## DANGEROUS STRUCTURES

The Council has an obligation to protect the Public and or Occupiers under the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act. This is achieved through inspections and enforcement notices.

### 2018 Summary - Dangerous Structures

Open cases	10
Closed cases	7
Cases investigated but not deemed dangerous	15
Total cases investigated	32

## SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY 2018

Complaints Investigated	Investigated in Reporting Year
Litter	3092
Waste	560
Water/Wastewater	95
Air/Odour	83
Noise	106
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3936</b>

Inspection Activities	Completed End of Year
Waste /Litter Inspections	3836
Water/Wastewater Inspections	134
Air/Noise Inspections	80
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4050</b>



## VETERINARY SERVICES

### FOOD SAFETY

Veterinary Services delivered official veterinary controls in 17 approved meat-processing premises during the year. This service is provided under a contract arrangement with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland. The premises supervised included six abattoirs and 11 small meat-manufacturing premises located in Limerick City and County.

At the abattoirs, all animals intended for slaughter for human consumption were inspected by a veterinary inspector before and after slaughter, as required under Food Safety legislation. Total animals inspected in 2018 were as follows:

- Cattle: 10,582
- Sheep: 11,835
- Pigs: 152
- Goats: 0

65 samples were taken and sent for analysis under the National Residue Control Programme and the National Microbiological Control Programme during 2018.

### CONTROL OF DOGS

Veterinary Services received 473 complaints re stray/out of control dogs in 2018. Dog wardens dealt with 293 stray and unwanted dogs during the year, of which 12% were reclaimed.

Re-homing rates continue to improve and Veterinary Services promotes the re-homing of dogs when possible. A key resource in this regard is the Limerick Dog Shelter Facebook page, which is managed by the Kennel Assistant in the Dog Shelter, and aids efficient contact with the community. 235 dogs were re-homed in 2018. Since its inception in 2015, the page has received over 12,000 likes. Veterinary Services promotes the micro-chipping of dogs in line with the relevant regulations enacted in 2015.

Veterinary Services Dog Wardens carry out pre-planned dog licence inspections of locations within the functional area of the Council on an ongoing basis. There were 35 Dog Breeding Establishments on the Limerick City and County Council Register of Dog Breeding Establishments at the end of 2018. Veterinary staff carry out regular planned inspections of dog breeding establishment based on a risk assessment of each premises.

### CONTROL OF HORSES

Veterinary Services dealt with 237 cases/complaints with respect to stray horses in 2018. 206 stray /wandering horses were seized and impounded, of which only eight were reclaimed by their owners and a further 10 horses were re-homed.



**CAPITAL  
INVESTMENT  
DIRECTORATE**



# CAPITAL INVESTMENT DIRECTORATE

The Capital Investment Directorate is a new Directorate established in 2018 encompassing two departments: Design and Delivery Services and Property Services. The new Directorate is focused on the delivery of new infrastructure for Limerick including housing and the effective management of the Council's existing property portfolio.

## DESIGN AND DELIVERY

Design and Delivery is a department within the Capital Investment Directorate. It is a corporate department that provides a service across the organisation in the delivery of the following project types:

- Infrastructure contracts such as transportation schemes, public realm works and flood protection schemes
- New-build housing schemes
- Thermal Upgrades to existing houses in Regeneration areas
- Refurbishment of existing houses or recently purchased houses under the Buy and Renew scheme
- Traveller Accommodation refurbishment and extensions
- Disability Persons Grant Improvement works to private and Local Authority houses
- Archaeology Services advice, planning and legislative compliance
- Corporate Procurement compliance monitoring and advice

The Directorate consists of a multi-disciplinary team of architects, engineers, technicians, building inspectors, archaeologist and administrative staff who work in conjunction with the Strategic Directorates in terms of essential project delivery.

Following refurbishment carried out by our colleagues in Property Services, Design and Delivery relocated to the newly refurbished former District Court offices in the Autumn of 2018.

**KEY PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2018 :**

Churchfield Housing Project – 42 new houses consisting of a mix of 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedroomed units in Southill under the Regeneration program. €13million

Parnell Street, Davis Street and Wickham Street Upgrade and Improvement works. €850,000

Patrickswell Village Renewal- Public Realm works

Kilmallock West Walkway – Archaeology and public realm works

Key Nicholas Street completions-Treaty City Brewery and Fireplace site

Coonagh Knockalisheen Distributor Road Advanced Works Phase - First of a two phase development of key strategic infrastructure that will connect Moyross into the greater city

Hassett Villas - three derelict houses refurbished

Buy and Renew - seven houses purchased and refurbishment works completed

Mungret College re-roofing



Coonagh Knockalisheen Distributor Road Phase 1 Under Construction



Coonagh Knockalisheen Distributor Road Phase 1 Complete



Churchfield Housing Development



Aerial Photograph of Churchfield Housing Development - 42 houses completed in 2018

The following table sets out the current Design and Delivery projects and their status at the end of 2018.

Project Name	Project Type	No. Of Units
<b>HOUSING PROJECTS</b>		
<b>Preliminary Design</b> Deerpark, Adare Toppins Field New Crescent, Childers Road	Housing Traveller Accommodation Traveller Accommodation	30 2 no. Group Houses 14 no. Group Houses Site reorganisation
<b>Pre-Planning</b> Orchard Site, Kings Island Limerick Dalgaish Park Montpelier	Housing Housing Housing	26 25 12
<b>Part 8</b> Clare Street Kilmurry View, Dublin Road  Clonlong Halting Site Clondrinagh	Housing Traveller Accommodation  Traveller Accommodation Traveller Accommodation	6 3 Extensions 1 no. refurbishment 2 no. Group Houses 3 no. Extensions
<b>Pre-tender</b> Clonmacken Glenview Drive, Hospital Gough Place, Rosbrien Road Churchfield, Phase 2 Cosgrave Park Palm Close Cliona Park Phase 3 45-46 Cliona Park Kileely Road Lower Carey's Road Old Christian Site, Rathbane Sheep Street	Housing Housing Housing Housing Housing Housing Housing Housing Housing Housing Housing Housing	43 20 17 38 30 27 18 2 5 11 43 8
<b>Tender</b> Mulgrave Street St Patricks Villas, Castleconnell Barnakyle, Patrickswell Waller's Well Phase 2	Housing Housing Housing Housing	15 4 24 13
<b>Construction Underway</b> Lisheen Park, Patrickswell Rathbane Road Sycamore Avenue Kilmurry Court, Garryowen CHAS, Mary Street 1-12 Bourke Avenue St. Mary's Park Infill Schmes Thermal Upgrade Programme	Housing Housing Housing Housing Housing Housing Housing Housing Refurbishment	16 2 5 7 3 12 19 783 Completed 386 On Site 290 In Preparation

Project Name	Project Type	No. Of Units
<b>Complete</b> Hassett Villas, Thomondgate Churchfield, Phase 1, Limerick city	Housing Housing	3 42
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS</b>		
<b>Feasibility</b> Raheen bicycle lanes		
<b>Pre-planning</b> King's Island Flood Relief (Main Scheme)	Flood Protection	
<b>Preliminary Design</b> Metropolitan Depot North Castletroy Urban Greenway Grove Island Improvement Scheme Golf Links Road	New Building Cycle Footpath Improvement works Road Improvement	
<b>Design</b> O'Connell Street Dublin Road Kilmurry Roundabout Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Croom Distributor Road	Urban Renewal Sustainable Transport Urban Renewal New Road Construction	
<b>Construction Underway</b> LIHAF Mungret Parnell Street/Wickham Street Lynch's Corner, Caherconlish	New Road Construction Urban Renewal Village Renewal	
<b>Completed</b> Patrickswell Village Renewal Catherine St/Roches St Parnell Street/Davis Street Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road Phase 1	Village Renewal Urban Renewal Urban Renewal New Road Construction	

## PROPERTY SERVICES

The Property Services Department covers three specific areas:

- Property Management
- Facilities Management
- Corporate Buildings Upgrade

**PROPERTY MANAGEMENT** provides a key support to other directorates for the acquisition, disposal, leasing and licencing of all council properties. During 2018 this team acquired 67 Properties under the SHIP, Buy and Renew, Part V and Regeneration programmes, with a further 80 acquisitions in progress.

Other significant acquisitions that were processed by the Property Team during 2018 included:

- 2-3 Mallow Street to be occupied by the Peter McVerry Trust
- Teagasc Land in Dooradoyle
- Guinness Site, Careys Road - purchase of freehold title complete.

The department is also responsible for all disposals (including freehold and leasehold property interests) under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended). 14 Section 183s were presented to Council during 2018.

In addition, the Property Services team manages the Cleeves and Opera sites. During October, the Cleeves site hosted a Halloween event which proved very successful. Due to the level of deterioration on site, works are being undertaken to ensure the continued safety of the site.

The Salesian School, purchased in 2017 is now home to an Educate Together secondary school on a temporary basis while their new school is being developed.

Expressions of Interest were sought for the following properties during the year:

- Five properties at Galvone Industrial Estate
- Former Red Cross Building on Cecil Street
- 29/30 Lord Edward Street

**FACILITIES MANAGEMENT** manages, maintains and protects the corporate building portfolio. Challenges are increasing in this area, due to the age profile of some of the buildings combined with new legislation and standards for office accommodation and energy efficiency.

**CORPORATE BUILDINGS** section customises and refurbishes the office space within the Corporate Building Structure. In addition, supervisory works are undertaken over building projects in other council owned properties eg current building safety upgrade works to the Art Gallery in Pery Square.

During 2018 the old District Court office, adjacent to Merchants Quay, was redeveloped and is now the offices of the Design & Delivery department. The area was transformed following the redesign of the area.

A largescale refurbishment of the old Motor Tax office in Lissanalta House was managed during 2018. This newly refurbished area is to accommodate the new N/M20 Cork to Limerick Project team who are due to move in to the building in early 2019.

Istabraq Hall continues as an impressive centre for both Civic and Cultural events. During 2018 many high profile events were catered for in the area, including Civic Receptions for the Men's Limerick Senior Hurling Management and Panel, the Limerick Ladies Football Management and Panel, Sporting Achievements at International Level for Limerick Athletes, 1978 Munster rugby Team to name but a few. In addition, the area has showcased exhibitions for local artists and groups since its impressive refurbishment.

Insert Photo Reception for Limerick Senior Hurling Team, Istabraq Hall



Refurbished offices – Former District Court, MQ



Reception for Limerick Senior Hurling Team, Istabraq Hall



**SUPPORT  
SERVICES  
DIRECTORATE**



# SUPPORT SERVICES DIRECTORATE

## FINANCE SERVICES

to be supplied



## CORPORATE SERVICES

Corporate Services Department provides a wide range of support services to Mayor, Councillors, staff and management of Limerick City and County Council. In this regard, the primary role or function of Corporate Services is Meetings Administration for Meetings of Limerick City and County Council, Metropolitan District Meetings, Municipal District Meetings, Joint Policing Meetings and Local Electoral Area Briefings. The department also deals with Register of Electors, Higher Education Grants, Freedom of Information, Office of Ombudsman, support services for Mayor, Twinning/Sister City Relationships, Civic and Mayoral Receptions, Corporate Plan, Irish Language Scheme, Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and a wide variety of ancillary services relating to Council business.

### JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

Four Joint Policing Committee Meetings were held in 2018 including the first Public Joint Policing Committee Meeting held in December. The Joint Policing Committee is made up of the following :

- 15 Elected Representatives;
- 4 Sectoral Interests;
- 4 Oireachtas Members;
- 4 Garda Nominations;

The following matters were discussed:

- Presentation from the Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB) on CAB links with An Garda Síochána;
- Annual Work Programme for 2018;
- Updates from Chief Superintendent;
- Presentation from Chief Superintendent on the New Proposed Community Policing Model;
- Presentation from Sectoral Interest, Mr. William Priestley, on the social issues behind drugs;
- Notices of Motion and Questions from Members of the Committee;
- Presentation on Crime Statistics;
- Presentation from Crime Prevention Officer, Limerick City and County, on Crime Prevention for Autumn 2018;
- Presentation from Inspector in relation to Control of Horses;
- Presentation from Muintir na Tire;
- Presentation on Road Safety and address from Guest Speaker, Mr. Fearghal Cagney;
- Update from Head of Digital Strategy, Limerick City and County Council, on CCTV;

### METROPOLITAN JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

Three Metropolitan Joint Policing Committee Meetings were held in 2018. The Metropolitan Joint Policing Committee is made up of the following :

- 21 Elected Members of The Metropolitan District of Limerick;
- 1 Sectoral Interest;
- 2 Garda Nominations;

A Presentation was given by An Garda Síochána at the November meeting on the operation of the Text Alert Scheme across Limerick.

### LOCAL ELECTORAL AREA BRIEFINGS

Local Electoral Area Briefings are held on the first Tuesday of every month except August, East commencing at 9.00 a.m., North at 10.30 a.m. and West at 11.30 a.m.

A total of 33 Briefings were held in 2018.

### MAYOR'S CHARITY BALL

The Mayor's Charity Ball was held in The Dunraven Arms Hotel, Adare on Friday, 27th April, 2018. The Ball is now recognised as the premier civic and social event in Limerick's calendar and the funds raised are disbursed to deserving local charitable organisations each year. The following were the beneficiaries from the 2018 Mayors Ball :

- The Butterfly Club, Rathkeale
- Alzheimer's Society of Ireland – Adare Day Care Centre
- Limerick School for the Deaf
- Down Syndrome Limerick

### REGISTER OF ELECTORS 2018/2019

The Register of Electors is updated and produced annually and comprises a list of all persons over the age of 18 years resident in Limerick City and County who are entitled to vote in Elections to the Dáil, the European Parliament, Presidential, Local Elections and Referendums. The publication date for the Live Register of Electors is 1st February and the Register comes into effect on the 15th February each year.

In 2017, there were 2 Dáil Constituencies in Limerick. The constituencies and number of Dáil Seats in each were as follows:

- Limerick City                      4 Seats
- Limerick County                    3 Seats

There were 137,471 Presidential Electors and 143,431 Local Government Electors on the Live 2018/2019 Register of Electors which was published on the 1st February 2018 and the Local Government Electorate is broken down as follows between the 6 Local Electoral Areas:-

Adare-Rathkeale	22,881
Cappamore-Kilmallock	27,472
Limerick City East	28,618
Limerick City North	21,443
Limerick City West	21,396
Newcastle West	21,621

Members of the public can check if they are registered correctly on the Electoral Register online by visiting: [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie) . If their details are incorrect or they are not registered, they can apply for an application form by e-mailing: [registerofelectors@limerick.ie](mailto:registerofelectors@limerick.ie)

Two Supplementary Registers of Electors were published during 2018 for published for the 2 Referendums

- 6,427 electors were added to the Supplementary Register.
- 4,999 Deletions made on the Draft Register of Electors

## FREEDOM OF LIMERICK

Limerick City and County Council, at a meeting held on 13th June, 2018, resolved that the Honorary Freedom of Limerick be 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. The Freedom of Limerick Ceremony took place on 28th June, 2018 at 6.00 p.m. in Istabraq Hall, Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay followed by a Reception in the Gardens of Corporate Headquarters.

## CIVIC RECEPTIONS

A number of Civic Receptions were approved by the Council and held throughout the year. The following people were accorded a Civic Reception to acknowledge their outstanding achievements;

Mr. Denis Allen - in recognition of his total commitment for decades to music in Limerick and to especially mark his major contribution in providing Limerick's enduring anthem 'Limerick You're a Lady'.

The Mid West School For The Deaf -in recognition of the School's contribution to the establishment of Irish Sign Language as an official national language.

Ms. Joy Neville - in recognition of her total commitment for decades to the game of rugby, as a past International Player and now International Referee, and for being a wonderful ambassador for Limerick.

Ms. Vicky Phelan - in recognition of her positive impact on women's healthcare nationally and her bravery and leadership in highlighting issues with the Cervical Screening Programme.

The Limerick Senior Hurling Panel and Management Team in recognition of their achievement in winning the 2018 All Ireland Senior Hurling Championship.

The Limerick Ladies Football Senior Panel and Management Team in recognition of their achievement in winning the 2018 All Ireland Junior Football Championship.

Keith Earls and C. J. Stander who were present at Reception and Conor Murray, Sean Cronin and Chris Farrell who were not present at Reception, for their achievements in the Grand Slam and winning the 6 Nations Rugby Tournament for Ireland 2018.

1978 Munster Rugby Team – to mark their 40th Anniversary of the Munster Team's victory over the New Zealand All Blacks in Thomond Park.

Patrick O'Dwyer – for his achievements in winning the Title of Ireland's Strongest Man in 2016, 2017 and 2018 and the Title of the UK's Strongest Man in 2018.

Patrickswell Powerlifting Club for their success at the 2018 World Championships in Hungary.

Aaron Tier for his achievement in winning a bronze medal in the IFCPF European Championship – Irish Cerebral Palsy side.

Pdraig Quish, Hospital Handball Club, Martina McMahon, Broadford Handball Club, Thomas Donegan, Galbally Handball Club and Paul Hedderman, Kieran Burke, Paul Herr and Paddy Donovan, Hospital Handball Club for their achievements at the World Handball Championships in Minnesota USA.

Ciara Neville on winning a silver medal in the 4 X 100m relay at the World U20 Championships in 2018.

Tara Madigan for winning 3 Gold Medals at the British Transplant Games 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Trevor Lynch for raising awareness of organ donation through his performance and achievements at the British Transplant Games in Birmingham 2018.

John Loftus for his success with Transplant Team Ireland at World, European and British Transplant Games over the last 11 years.

Thomas Barr for winning a bronze medal in the 400m hurdles at the European Athletics Championships in Berlin in 2018.

Roisin Upton for being part of the first ever Irish team to win a silver medal at the World Cup Hockey Final in London in 2018.

## HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS

Limerick City and County Council administered the Higher Education Grants Scheme for Renewals only for the 2018/2019 academic year. All new Higher Education Grant applications and applications for students who changed course were processed by the single awarding authority Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI).

Limerick City and County Council processed two applications. Total expenditure amounted to €11,290 and this included an amount of €4,050.00 that was paid out as Special Rate of Maintenance Grants. A total of two students were awarded the Special Rate of Maintenance Grant in 2018/2019.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY TRAINING UNIT

The Health and Safety training function was formally transferred from Human Resources to Corporate Services in July 2017. Corporate Services has a dedicated training team, which is responsible for drafting and implementing a comprehensive training programme.

Training requirements are based on the needs identified through the Performance Management Development System (PMDS), prioritisation was given to Health and Safety Training required for specific roles. In order to ensure effectiveness and value for money, training was mainly delivered using in-house and external trainers and at the Regional Training Centre, Roscrea.

- The following list outlines health and safety training provided to staff during 2018:

Course Name	Total
Abrasive Wheels	53
Biological Agents training	10
Chainsaw Training	4
Confined Spaces- Medium	19
Confined Spaces- High	4
Drivers CPC Module 1	10
Drivers CPC Module 2	5
Drivers CPC Module 3	5
Drivers CPC Module 4	86
Drivers CPC Module 5	3
CSCS Telescopic Handler	16
CSCS SLG	2
Conflict Management training	41
Evacuation Chair	10
SAFE Pass	260
Fire Warden	56
IOSH Managing Safely Refresher	1
Management of Serious Incidents	30
Manual Handling	302
MEWP	6
First Aid Response	42
Water Safety	62
Winter Service Operators training	50

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS

It is the policy of Limerick City and County Council to give members of the public access to information held by the Authority in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2014. Further information and application forms are available on the Council's website <https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/your-council/freedom-of-information>

Limerick City and County Council received 223 Freedom of Information requests in 2018. This was an increase of 13% from the previous year.

### Decisions:

Requests received from:

Granted	82
Part Granted	88
Refused	48
Withdrawn	02
Transferred	03
Live cases at 31 December 2018	31

### Requests received from:

Business	20
Client	22
Journalists	85
Oireachtas	07
Staff	02
Other	87

## OMBUDSMAN REQUESTS

The Office of the Ombudsman was established under the Ombudsman Act 1980. The role of the Office is to investigate complaints about administrative actions, delays or inactions adversely affecting persons or bodies in their dealings with state bodies including Local Authorities.

In 2018 Limerick City and County Council dealt with 29 complaints that were made to the Ombudsman in relation to decisions/actions taken by the Council.

## ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Limerick City and County Council comply with Access to Information on the Environment Regulations 2007 to 2014 whereby, subject to certain exceptions, information relating to the Environment must be made available on request. In 2018 Limerick City and County Council received 6 requests which was a 25% decrease from 2017.

## TWINNING

An official delegation from Limerick, led by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Stephen Keary travelled to Hohenlohekreis, Germany, in May, 2018 as a result of an invitation received from The Landrat of Hohenlohekreis, Dr. Matthias Neth.

The purpose of the visit was to strengthen the economic, social and cultural links between Hohenlohekreis and Limerick. The visit also provided the opportunity for Limerick City and County Council to attend and participate in the Hohenlohekreis Trade Show in Oringen.

During the visit a presentation was given to the Party Leaders of Hohenlohekreis District Council on the Tourism Strategy for Limerick City and County Council. Dr Matthias gave a presentation on the structure of the County Council in Hohenlohekreis and also explained the economic and tourism drivers within the region.

The delegation received a guided tour and presentation on the Trade Fair in Ohringen where high quality trade products were on display. Limerick City and County Council operated a Limerick stand for 3 days and received many requests for information about Limerick from the German trade visitors. This was a very good marketing opportunity for Limerick and reinforced the significance of the twinning arrangement.

The executive also used the opportunity to travel the network of greenways around the town and update their knowledge in relation to surfacing, signage and visitor experience that can be transferred to the Great Southern Greenway Limerick and other greenways.

A football group consisting of 25 students between the ages of 16 and 18 years of age and two supervisors from Hohenlohekreis travelled to Limerick on 29th March until Sunday, 1st April, 18. A Mayoral Reception was held for the group in Limerick City and County Council Corporate Headquarters on the day they arrived. Two football matches at Aisling Annacotty were arranged for the group on 30th March followed by a Reception by the Mayor of the Metropolitan District at the Kilmurry Lodge Hotel. The group were taken on a tour of the local tourist sights in Limerick and Clare before their departure on 1st April 2018. Important student links were made during this visit.

## SISTER CITIES

Limerick has a Sister Cities Relationship with Spokane, Washington State, USA.

Foremost amongst the objectives of the relationship is to foster and encourage bonds of friendship and understanding between the two cities and to bring events of Irish culture to Spokane. There have been many exchanges, visits and links developed between the cities since the initial agreement was signed in 1990.

An official delegation from Spokane visited Limerick from 9-11 June, 2018. Such Delegation consisted of Mr. Ben Stuggart, President, Spokane Council and his wife Anne, Mr. Jack Geraghty and Ms. Kerry Lynch, Limerick Spokane Sister Cities Association. An official dinner, hosted by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Steven Keary took place on the evening the delegation arrived. Former Mayor of Limerick Kathleen Leddin and officials of Limerick City and County Council attended same. During their visit, a number of meetings were held, one of which took place in University of Limerick, where the delegation were given a briefing on the University. A presentation by the Deputy Chief Executive was made to the President of Spokane Council prior to their departure on 11 June, 2018.

A group from Limerick's Sister City, Santa Clara, California, visited Limerick from 18-24 November, 2018. The group consisted of students from Wilcox High School and Santa Clara High School and their chaperones.

While the group were in Limerick, the students had a school exchange with Thomond Community College, building on the existing relationships that have been built up between the schools.

The group also paid an official visit to The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor James Collins and also visited a number of historical sites in Limerick City and County.

## NATIONAL DAY OF COMMEMORATION

The Council hosted a Day of Commemoration Ceremony on Sunday, 8 July 2018 to honour all Irish men and women who died in past wars or on service with the United Nations. This was the eighth year in which the ceremony was held at Merchant's Quay and more than 400 people were in attendance. The 12th Infantry Battalion, Sarsfield Barracks performed the Guard of Honour and rendered honours when the National Flag was hoisted to full mast. Representatives of the Catholic Church, Church of Ireland, the United Presbyterian and Methodist Churches, the Jewish Community and Islamic Community conducted the multi faith commemoration, at which the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor James Collins presided.

The music for the event was very moving and was provided by Limerick based Choir "The Curraghgower Singers" under the direction of Choir Master, Mr. Timothy Schinnick. There was over 80 members of the Choir in attendance at the ceremony. Some of their songs included "River in Judea" and "Homeward Bound" which were very appropriate for the occasion. The Council also had Uilleann Piper Ryan Behnke and Drummer, Sadhbh Ryan, all adding to making the event even more special.



*National Day of Commemoration*

## ARCHIVES

In May 2018 Limerick Archives created an Oral History Archive of the Shannon Fishermen and a short film celebrating Limerick's long fishing tradition and unique relationship with the river Shannon from Doonass down to Scatterry Island. This included the Strand fishermen, Coonagh and Newtown fishermen fishing from Barrington's pier near the former Cleeves) to Scatterry Island. The Newtown fishermen living in Newtown Clarina also fished seasonally and during the winter a large proportion of them were reed cutters. The Askeaton fishermen fished further into the estuary and often fished herring and cultivated seaweed

Ardnacrusha disrupted this way of life when the Scheme altered the flow of the river while in 2006 the EU conservation policy saw major changes as the government bought the licences from the majority of the fishermen and it became illegal to use a net on the river.

The oral history archive and the short film on the Shannon Fishermen are available on Limerick.ie. The project was funded by Creative Ireland and supported by Limerick Arts Office and Mary Immaculate College and was officially launched by Minister Josepha Madigan.



*Minister of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Josepha Madigan and Mayor of Limerick City and County Council Stephen Keary at the launch of Shannon Fishermen Archive Film May 2018*

## CUSTOMER SERVICES

In 2018, over 38,000 customers interacted at our counters in Dooradoyle and Merchants Quay to access the detailed services provided by the Council. Throughout 2018, 35,445 requests were logged on our Customer Relationship Management System. This was an increase of 21% on the previous year. Over 6,000 representations were received from elected representatives, representing an increase of 39% on the previous year.

The 'My Limerick' online self service platform on the limerick.ie website also had continued success in 2018 with 60% of Councillors now using the platform to log or monitor their Representations. Customer Services staff continue to provide training, support and guidance on the My Limerick platform to all our Councillors.

Our Call Centre offering a single contact number for the Council handled over 141,000 calls. This is on average 643 calls a day and the average response time being 20 seconds for calls to be answered. The call centre remained open during another red weather alert when Storm Emma and the Beast from the East hit Limerick with freezing temperatures and snowfall causing disruption throughout the city and county. Throughout the storm and the closure of the Council offices, the Customer Services call centre remained open and available to our citizens to support their requests. The call centre extended the main telephone number until 1pm on Saturday 3rd March. Customer Services worked closely with the Major Emergency Team to ensure essential services continued throughout Limerick. 168 cases were logged during Storm Emma on our Customer Relationship Management system. 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 the winter. Customer Services were represented at this ceremony in recognition of the provision of a helpline for the Council during these storms. In April Customer Services were also represented at a function hosted by An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar in Dublin Castle to acknowledge the Public Sector staff involved in the response to Storms Ophelia and Emma.

Customer Services participated in National Twitter Day 2018. This day showcases on social media the work of local authorities in serving their citizens and Customer Services were part of this initiative once again this year in Limerick.

Customer Services continued to expand the number of services it provided in 2018 with the integration of Housing Maintenance calls. This in line with the principles under "Putting People First" along which we aim to have services delivered to the customer at the closes point of contact. Customer Services staff can

now view a full history of housing maintenance case and are able to provide the customer with the most up to date information. In April, Customer Services invited Operations and Maintenance Staff to the Woodlands House Hotel to discuss Freedom of Information, My Limerick, use of the Mobile CRM App and Customer Services in general. The discussion aimed to inform staff what was new in Customer Services and how it effects them and how Customer Services can support them in the carrying out of their duties. It also provided the opportunity to give feedback to Customer Services and share ideas on business improvements. Approximately 30 Engineers, Supervisors and support staff attended.

In May, Customer Services supported Corporate Services in filtering phone calls and verifying application forms for inclusion on the register of electors. Customer services were able to confirm if the customer was on the register, advise of their polling station and facilitating the supply and receipt of the relevant forms. It was the largest supplement to the Register at the time due to the Referendum on repealing the Eight Amendment on 25 May 2018, however the Presidential Election in October saw the biggest supplement to the Register with a total of 6,427 voters.

In June, 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. In September, Customer Services managed the centralisation of incoming post for the organisation. All post is now received in Dooradoyle, opened, and sorted by Customer Services staff. All monies received are recorded and receipted daily.

In October Customer Services was the first Local Authority Customer Services office to become Breastfeeding Friendly by signing up to the Limerick City and County led "We're Breastfeeding Friendly" initiative. The end of the year saw Customer Services supporting the Urban and Rural Community Development Department with the application process for over 3,000 applications for the Refuse Waiver Scheme.

In 2018, Customer Services processed 985 Residential Parking Permits. During November and December Customer Services continued to work closely with Digital Strategy and Business Improvement Unit regarding the processing of the Residential Parking Permits. Principals of service design are being applied which will ultimately result in a more efficient process for the customer.

2018 also saw Motor Tax and the Cash Office, Dooradoyle, become part of the Customer Services Team. These services coming under the umbrella of the Customer Services Department have strengthened the commitments we have to serving our customers in as efficient a way as possible delivering a more coordinated approach to service delivery.



*Triona Daly, Customer Services Manager, at the Mayoral Reception held in June to recognise the front line staff of the Council involved in the continued provision of services during the severe weather events of the winter.  
L to R: Cllrs Gerard Mitchell, Elena Secas and Séighin O'Ceallaigh, Mayor Stephen Keary, Caroline Curley, Director of Services, Triona Daly, Customer Services Manager, Cllr Malachy McCreesh, Liz Creamer, Corporate Services.*



*Maria Croke represents Customer Services at a function hosted by An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar in Dublin Castle to acknowledge the Public Sector staff involved in the response to Storms Ophelia and Emma.  
L to R: Back Row; John Sheahan, Gerard O'Connor, Elaine Cosgrove, Padraig Vallylly. Front Row; Sean O'Malley, Declan Flanagan, Maria Croke, James O'Rourke.*



Leanne O'Brien, Customer Services, at the launching of Limerick City and County Council and Healthy Ireland's Breastfeeding Friendly Initiative.



Brid Duggan and Gillian McNamara, Customer Services on Local Authority 'Twitter Day'.



Operations and Maintenance Staff in the Woodlands Hotel for Customer Services Information Session held in April.



Operations & Maintenance crews clearing and de-icing footpaths in Bruff during Storm Emma/Beast from the East.



Storm Emma/Beast from the East leaves its mark in County Limerick.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

Key Limerick City and County Council Health and Safety activities for 2018 include:

- Completion of the annual work programme.
- Over 1077 employees received health and safety training related to their work
- To measure our health and safety performance 500 inspections were carried out across all activities
- Replacement of Parent Safety Statement and multiple Ancillary Safety Statements with one Safety Management System manual.

## BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DEPARTMENT

The Business Improvement Department are a small dynamic team who drive and support the Business Improvement approach in Limerick City and County Council. There are up to 25 projects ongoing within the organisation at any one time that use our 'Define, Measure, Analyse, Improve, Control' approach. The Business Improvement Department provides several services including providing support to staff who have recognized an opportunity for improvement. We guide them through the approach, help them to gather data to make informed decisions, look for opportunities and outcomes and use tools like process mapping and cause and effect diagrams to tell the story of their improvement.

'Project 18' is a key business improvement project due to live in March 2019. It will serve to embed a Project Management Framework into LCCC and provide a system (Cora) that will monitor all Capital and Revenue projects across the organisation. Time, Scope and Money will be tracked across all projects ensuring the adequate allocation of resources and a tracked response to any changes that may arise. The system will also ensure that all our projects are connected back to our corporate aims to guarantee we are delivering on the promises we have made to our citizens. Upskilling and engagement with staff on Project Management will continue to take place to ensure the approach gets traction in the organisation. To date 85 staff have been trained and 2019 will focus on providing in house tailored training to more staff in the appropriate areas.

The Business Improvement Department also facilitate the 'Staff Liaison Network' a two way communication platform for staff to discuss potential business improvements within their area. 2018 saw seven network meetings held which provided opportunities for staff to have their say on potential improvements, talk with colleagues about opportunities for change in their departments and provide feedback on draft projects.

Engagement with the public is a key part of the delivery of Local Government services. With this in mind 2018 saw the Business Improvement Department provide training to key members of staff on 'Service Design' which examines how we engage with our citizens in the design and delivery of our services. The Business Improvement Department will continue to work with all departments to explore all possible engagement platforms to provide not only insight into what our citizens require but also to serve as a measure of our effectiveness. Parking Permits is our first joint Service Design Project where we will work with Customer Services and our citizens to map the journey our customers take when applying for a parking permit. We will aim to standardise the process across Limerick City and County Council and work with our Digital Strategy team to provide our citizens with the option of digital access to the service.

As the Business Improvement Department evolves, more emphasis is placed on evidence and measurement to ensure decisions are well informed. Data is gathered on each project on the 'as is' position before we embark on any improvement to ensure we have a baseline to assess the impact of any improvement. We are also working with 'Insight Limerick' to seek key performance indicators to measure the impact improvements within Limerick City and County Council are having on the public.

Having a dedicated Business Improvement team shows Limerick City and County council's absolute commitment to the provision of responsive, efficient and innovative services and we will continue to strive to deliver the highest possible quality of service to our citizens.

## CORPORATE PLAN

The Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019 was adopted on 23 March, 2015.

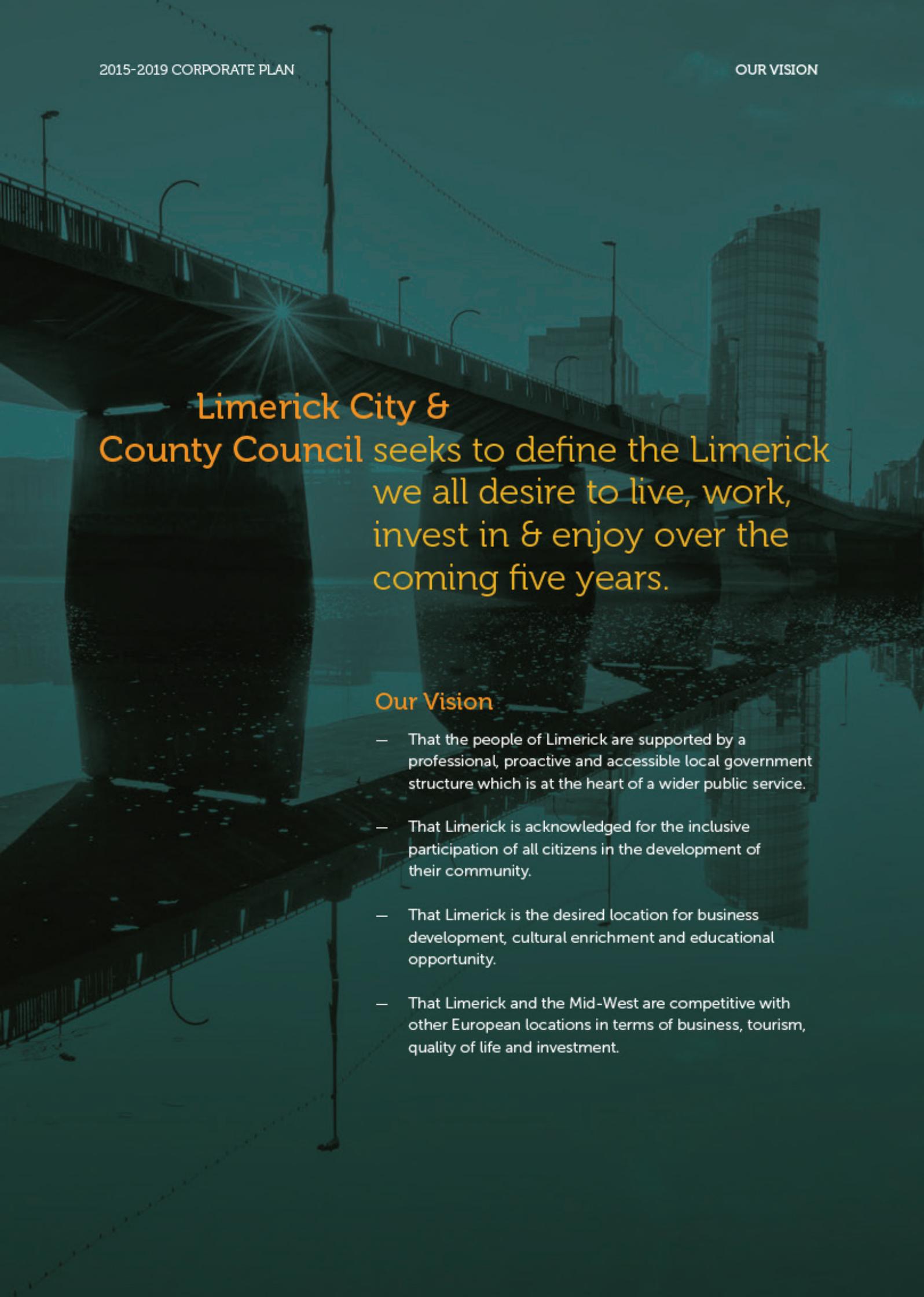
### OUR STRATEGY

#### We will:

- Empower the people of Limerick to participate in the development of their community, both rural and urban.
- Create a pro-business environment for sustainable economic development and job creation.
- Create a new model of local governance and service delivery based on excellence in council leadership.

#### Our Aims:

- Build a city and county council that is recognised as ambitious for the people of Limerick
- Actively engage with our communities.
- Work with our colleagues across the public sector and our partners in the private sector to deliver on a shared commitment to Limerick as set out in the Charter for Limerick.
- Build our economy and create opportunity in Limerick.
- Be efficient, effective and committed to providing services that will underpin an innovative Limerick.
- Invest in Limerick's infrastructure and protect its natural and built environment and unique heritage.
- Promote a socially integrated, healthy and safe Limerick.



Limerick City & County Council seeks to define the Limerick we all desire to live, work, invest in & enjoy over the coming five years.

### Our Vision

- That the people of Limerick are supported by a professional, proactive and accessible local government structure which is at the heart of a wider public service.
- That Limerick is acknowledged for the inclusive participation of all citizens in the development of their community.
- That Limerick is the desired location for business development, cultural enrichment and educational opportunity.
- That Limerick and the Mid-West are competitive with other European locations in terms of business, tourism, quality of life and investment.

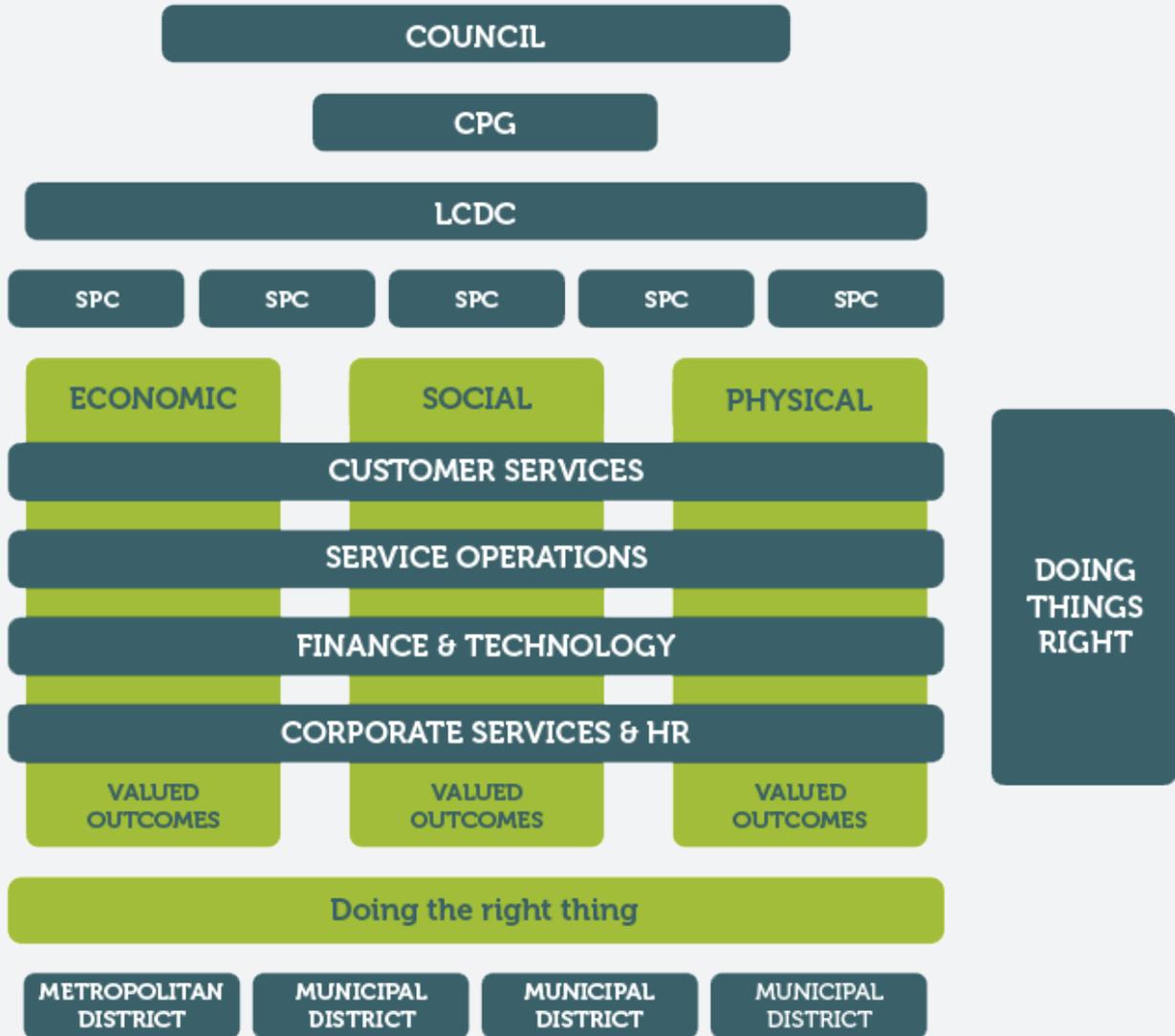


# Our Values

Democratic  
Ethical  
Respectful  
Impartial  
Accountable  
Transparent  
Participative  
Open  
Innovative  
Efficient  
Trust  
Effective  
Flexible  
Ambitious  
Equality  
Fair  
Accessible

## OUR STRUCTURE

We will do the right thing by doing things right.





## HUMAN RESOURCES



During 2018 the Human Resource Department continued to provide a range of supports to our most important resource – our staff. The supports we provide to staff come in many forms, whether it is our Learning and Development programme, our Family Friendly policies or fostering productive relationships with our unions.

### LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

- The Learning and Development Unit manages learning and development and further education requests received from our staff through their Personal Development Plan. The following opportunities were provided to our staff in 2018. (Excludes all Health & Safety Training)
  - Essential Training/Corporate/Roscrea/Other - 99 courses held with 1,492 participants.
  - Further Education – 16 staff approved for funding.
- Staff Welfare/wellbeing initiatives – 24 events held with 482 attendees.
  - Mindfulness.
  - QPR
  - Dealing with Bereavement
  - Staff Welfare Talk – work/life balance
  - Talk on physical & emotional wellbeing
- Retirement Planning – 2 seminars held (2 x 2 days). Our retirement planning programmes were attended and provided important and useful information to our staff who wish to plan ahead in a bid to ease that transition.
- 68 Eye-sight Vouchers issued.
- 3 Tax Saver Scheme applications processed.

- 39 Cycle to Work Scheme applications processed.
- 3 Workplace Partnership Meetings held.

### WORK/LIFE BALANCE MEASURES

A range of work/life balance measures were available to Council employees during 2018. These included Parental Leave, Carer's Leave, Work-Sharing, Shorter Working Year and the option of availing of a Career Break. 265 employees availed of the various schemes/leave.

### MYPAY SHARED SERVICES CENTRE

During 2018 the Council's superannuation function transferred to MyPay – the local authority payroll and superannuation shared services centre, which is based in Laois County Council. The Council's payroll function transferred to MyPay during 2015.

### ACCESS OFFICERS

The Council has two Access Officers in place who are actively engaged in helping customers with disabilities to access the Council's services, buildings, and information. During 2018 an Access forum was set up with the local disability groups and quarterly meetings were held. Some of the key initiatives undertaken during 2018 included a Work placement programme in conjunction with Employability Limerick and participation in the national Make Way Day on 4 September, 2018.

## RECRUITMENT

Throughout 2018, Recruitment continued to be a consistently busy and productive function, with over 60 competitions being held. Significant recruitment processes included Technician Grade 1, Executive Technician, Executive Planner and Library Assistant. Competitions were also put in train for Clerical Officer and Staff Officer, to be completed in 2019.

The Recruitment Section is playing a key role in the development of Limerick City and County Council's Workforce Planning process, ensuring that the Council is well placed to provide for the business needs of the organisation and the service needs of our citizens.

Our Recruitment Schedule, published at regular intervals, sets out our recruitment plan for the weeks and months ahead. For those preparing applications, Interview Preparation Videos and our Interview Preparation Booklet is freely available to everyone, on our Learning and Development Platform at <http://training.limerick.ie/>

Information regarding KPI's to be input here  
from Antoinette Kennedy

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICT)

The ICT Section of Limerick City and County Council continued to support sections in achieving their objectives throughout 2018. In addition to the operational activities such as, monitoring security, maintaining infrastructure and systems, and providing user and desktop support throughout 2018, several major projects were undertaken.

Some of these projects undertaken during 2018 were :-

### CYBER SECURITY

Cyber security describes the discipline dedicated to protecting that information and the systems used to process or store that information. The security refers to the body of technologies, processes, and practices designed to protect networks, devices, programs, and data from attack, damage, or unauthorized access. ICT has taken a number of actions to mitigate the risk associated with Cyber Security and continue to monitor, keep up-to-date with emerging risks, and implement preventative measures. These included :-

- **Replacement of Firewalls in Merchants Quay**

Two new Firewalls were installed in an Active\Passive configuration to ensure 24/7 protection. Some of the benefits of this next-generation firewalls include :-

- Application-based policy enforcement (App-ID).
- Threat prevention services that protect the network from viruses, worms, spyware, and other malicious traffic.
- URL Filtering.
- Traffic visibility-Extensive reports, logs, and notification mechanisms provide detailed visibility into network application traffic and security events.
- GlobalProtect - The GlobalProtect™ software provides security for client systems, such as laptops that are used in the field, by allowing easy and secure login from anywhere in the world.

- **New Security Software**

A tender for new security software to replace existing Anti-Virus software was completed during Q4-2018, with rollout commencing during December. This new security software assists with GDPR compliance and provides additional functionality, some of which include :-

- Auto Encryption of predefined Personally Identifiable Information (PII) when saved to removable storage and Cloud (Including SharePoint online).
- Malware, Spyware, Ransomware, and Zero Day Exploit protection.
- Device and Full Disk Encryption.
- Access control Lists, Whitelisting and Blacklisting.
- Web Filtering.
- Data Loss Prevention.
- Behavioral, Signature and Code scanning.
- Local Port and Device Control.

In addition to Technical measures continuous user education is essential to protect the Councils' Systems and Data. ICT continuously kept users informed of potential threats.

### WIDE AREA NETWORK UPGRADE

This project involved the replacement of old data links to Council offices on the Wide Area Network. Some of these offices previously had very slow data links, some with speeds as low as 256k.

Procurement for upgrade of the Wide Area Network which was completed during 2017. Rollout commenced late 2017 and continued into 2018.

- Includes all sites not in Fibre Project.
- 38 Sites Throughout City & County.
- Improved bandwidth to Offices.
- Facilitates rollout of New systems more Council Offices, including the New VoIP Telephone System.

### UNIFIED COMMUNICATIONS VOIP TELEPHONE SYSTEM

This project implemented a "State of the Art" Unified Telephone\Communication system during 2017 to support the business of Limerick City & County Council into the future. It provides new features, to increase business efficiency, and boost staff productivity, while maximising ongoing cost reduction.

During 2018 a number of enhancements were implemented in the Customer Services call centre :-

- **2Ring Directory Lookup for Finesse**

- Finesse, a Single Contact Centre which improves Customer Experience was implemented in Customer Services, HAP Shared Services Centre and ICT during 2017.
- 2Ring is an Add-on for Finesse and was implemented in Customer Services during 2018.
- 2Ring enhances Directory Lookup, which allow Customer Services agents search more easily for the appropriate staff member when transferring calls from Customer Services to the Back Office.
- This ensures the Customer does not experience any unnecessary delays.

- **Wallboards**

Wallboards, that display Real-Time information on the status of call queues, were installed in Customer Services Merchants Quay and Dooradoyle during 2018. These Wallboards give all Customer Services Agents a view of the status of call queues, which can be used to temporarily assign additional resources if queues are busy.

- **Reporting**

Ring-Master Call Reporting was implemented during 2018, this enables Customer Services, and back office line managers better manage resources assigned, and provides useful data to improve business performance, as the data provided will ensure more informed and smarter business decisions.

## LIMERICK.IE FREE PUBLIC WI-FI

Limerick City and County launched 'Limerick.ie Free Public Wi-Fi' during 2018.

### Wi-Fi Access Points have been installed at the following locations.

- Three Access Points along Bishop's Quay\Howley's Quay, and One Access Point at the junction of Henry Street & Bedford Row.

These provide coverage in the following locations

- Both sides of the River Shannon between Shannon Bridge and Sarsfield Bridge.
  - Henry Street from junction with Mallow Street to Arthur's Quay Park.
  - Thomas Street from O'Connell Street junction to Catherine Street junction.
  - Sarsfield Street.
- Access Points at the Art Gallery, Pery Square and Parks Department Building, Peoples Park.
- These provide coverage in the following locations
- Pery Square.
  - Areas within Peoples Park (Trees make full coverage of the area difficult).
- Access Point Outside Colbert Station.
- These provide coverage in the following locations
- Plaza Outside Colbert Station.
  - Parnell Street.
- Access Point outside the Tourist Office, Arthurs Quay.
- These provide coverage in the following locations
- Arthur's Quay Park.
  - Honan's Quay.
  - Francis Street.
- Access Point at the Junction of Cruises Street & O'Connell Street.
- These provide coverage in the following locations
- Cruises Street.
  - Patrick Street.
  - O'Connell Street from junction with Patrick Street to junction with Thomas Street.
- Limerick.ie Free Public Wi-Fi is also available in the Museum, Henry Street.



Access Point located at Howley's Quay

## WIFI4EU APPLICATION

Limerick City and County Council made four successful applications for funding under the WiFi4EU initiative, securing four vouchers. Each of these Vouchers is worth €15,000, and this, together with matching co-funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development will allow for an investment of €30,000 in the Metropolitan District, and €30,000 in each of the three Municipal Districts.

Digital Strategy and ICT will be work together to extend Limerick.ie Free Public Wi-Fi to other locations in the Metropolitan District of Limerick City and Towns in each of the three Municipal Districts during 2019.

## MICROSOFT OFFICE PRODUCTIVITY SUITE 2016

A tender process for the purchase of 950 Microsoft Office 2016 User Licences was completed during Q3-2017. A project plan for the implementation of MS Office 2016 was prepared with rollout commencing during Q4-2017. Rollout continued during Q1-2018 with all users being upgraded by the end of February.

Rollout included 'Getting Started' training for users, which introduced users to the main features of the suite. Once individual users were trained the new version was installed on their desktop. Rollout included replacing Outlook Web Access (OWA) with the Microsoft Outlook Client for accessing email.

Microsoft Office 2016 integrates with the presence feature in the new VoIP Telephone System.

## FIBRE PROJECTS

The ICT section extended the Council Fibre Network during 2018, adding the former District Court building and the CCTV Monitoring Centre at Moyross Community Enterprise Centre. This fibre was used to route CCTV images from Smart CCTV project installations to the Monitoring Centre. The fibre facilitates the monitoring of all Council owned CCTV cameras in Limerick to be monitored at a single central location.

The Council now has 21 sites in its Fibre Network :-

- Merchant's Quay to Dooradoyle.
- Lissanalta House
- The Granary.
- Patrick Street.
- Fire Station Mulgrave Street
- Art Gallery, Pery Square.
- Park Road Depot.
- Roads Depot, Park Road.
- Parks Department, Edward Street.
- Southside CCTV Recording Ctr in LEDP.
- Innovate Limerick in LEDP.
- South-Side Regeneration Office.
- Roxboro Library.
- Rathbane Housing Depot.
- New Museum, Henry Street.
- Dooradoyle Library.
- North-Side Regeneration Office.
- Watchhouse Cross Library.
- Culture House, Pery Square.
- Moyross Community Enterprise Centre.
- District Court, Merchants Quay.

## VSPHERE UPGRADE (VIRTUAL DESKTOP)

The ICT Upgraded its VMware Virtual Server Environment to vSphere Version 6.5 during 2018. This involved the migration of over 60 servers to the new version. vSphere 6.5, which is one of the most feature rich releases of vSphere in quite some time.

vCenter Server Appliance now has features that are exclusive such as:

- Migration.
- Improved Appliance Management.
- VMware Update Manager.
- Native High Availability.
- Built-in Backup\Restore.

## DIRECTORATE REALIGNMENT

As a result of the Directorate realignment announced June 2018, and the occupation of the District Court by Design and Delivery, ICT moved over 150 staff to new locations during Q3 and Q4-2018. These moves are outlined as follows :-

- Urban and Village Renewal - From Patrick Street 4th Floor To Patrick Street 3rd Floor (interim move)
- Southern Region Waste Management Office - From Lissanalta To Patrick Street 4th Floor
- General Finance & Accounts Payable - From Dooradoyle to The Granary
- Design & Delivery - From Merchant's Quay 1st Floor to District Court Building
- Operations & Maintenance - From Dooradoyle 2nd Floor To Dooradoyle Ground and Lower Ground Floors
- All of the realigned Social Development Directorate - From Patrick Street, Culture House and Merchant's Quay 2nd Floor To Merchant's Quay 1st Floor.

## ICT SERVICE DESK

The ICT Service Desk dealt with over 11,000 Tickets logged during 2018. The Service Desk endeavours to respond to and resolve service requests in a timely and courteous manner. In addition to providing support to users the ICT Helpdesk team also carry out other tasks as set out :-

- Create knowledge base articles for user empowerment.
- Liaise with ICT\Digital Strategy teams to resolve issues & prevent future issues.
- Keep users fully informed of changes/issues.
- Develop and enforce policies and procedures around the provision of services and hardware.
- Office and equipment organisation and maintenance.
- ICT Project support.



## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CAPPAMORE-KILMALLOCK

During 2018, the total amount invested in delivery of direct local services in the Cappamore / Kilmallock Municipal District was estimated at almost €8.1m covering services in the Municipal District such as Roads, Housing, Library, Fire, Recreation Spaces, and Cemeteries.

There has been significant investment in completing and progressing Capital Projects, some in conjunction with Ballyhoura Development. Funding streams approved included:

• Town & Village Renewal	€100,000
• CLAR Programme	€173,200
• Limerick Rural Development Programme	€462,000
• LEADER Rural Development Programme	€1,500,000
• Rural Regeneration Development Fund	€4,442,820
• Outdoor Recreation Fund	€406,710
• Community Enhancement Scheme	€176,000
• Healthy Limerick City and County Council	€31,292
• SICAP	€422,350
• Historic Towns Initiative	€175,000

### SERVICE OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE - ROADS

With 35% of total roads in the County, the Cappamore-Kilmallock District has the largest concentration of roads across the District, comprising of 1063KM of Local Roads and 211km of Regional Roads, 1274KM of roads in total.

Expenditure on maintenance and improvement works on roads in 2018 was financed by way of Government grants and the Council's own resources.

Road expenditure programmes during 2018 included:

- Road Restoration Improvements: 38 projects completed at a cost of €2,723,329;
- Road Surface Dressing: 24 projects at a cost of €523,583;
- Local Improvement: 9 projects at a cost of €240,924;
- Low Cost Safety improvement works: 3 projects at a cost of €94,500;
- General Municipal Allocation 2018: 12 projects completed at a cost of €274,000;
- Bridge Repair Works for 10 bridges at a cost of €31,000
- Other road related works included Winter Maintenance, Safety Barrier & Safety Bollard Works, Junction Improvements, and White Lining.

### SERVICE OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE -HOUSING

The housing crew in the Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District maintained 745 Social houses at a cost of €551,386 for ordinary maintenance and pre-letting repair works.

Housing Maintenance dealt with 988 service requests.

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

During 2018, 64 private house grants to the value of €429,742 were approved and paid to qualifying applicants under the Housing Adaptation, Mobility Aid and Housing Aid for Older People Grant's schemes.

### MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS

2018 marked the return of the Meetings Administrator function to the Municipal District, having previously been managed centrally from Corporate Services. The Cappamore -Kilmallock Municipal District held 15 meetings, along with several workshops during 2018.

#### Municipal District Civic Receptions were held on two occasions:

- On 20 November 2018, the Elected Members of the Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District honoured certain deceased persons from the District to acknowledge the contribution they made during their lifetime. The people commemorated were Harry Greensmyth, Trooper Pat Mullins, and Michael Quinlan.
- On 21 November 2018, the Elected Members of the Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District held a Municipal District Reception for the following in recognition of their sporting achievements during 2018:
  - Hospital Handball Club-8 Medals at World Championships;
  - St John the Baptist School – National Post Primary Schools Camogie Title;
  - Sarah Gardiner, Oola-Bronze Medals, World Powerlifting Championships;
  - Garda John Hennessy – National Award for Bravery;
  - MacKensie McGrath-Silver Medal for Ireland in European U19 Softball Championships.

During 2018, 697 representations for the District from Elected Representatives were logged on the Councils Customer Services Portal, Sugar CRM. 41% of these representations referred to roads maintenance issues, 35% related to housing support services, while 24% related to various other issues arising within the District.

### HISTORIC TOWNS INITIATIVE

In 2018, Limerick City and County Council applied for, and was successful in, the Historic Towns Initiative Grant Scheme, which is administered by the Heritage Council with funding from the Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht.

The funding was for heritage-led regeneration and the project consisted of extensive consolidation works to the West Wall of Kilmallock. Works had been carried to the West Wall from 2008, funded by the Irish Walled Towns Network, but circa 244m of wall remained to be completed.

As well as completing the consolidation of the wall, an amenity space was created on the exterior of the wall and works were carried out to Blossom Gate on Emmet Street. There is now a public walkway leading from the carpark at SuperValu for approximately 535m through a 3½-acre park to Scoil Mocheallóg at the Glenfield Rd.

In 2018 works, funded partially by the Town & Village Scheme, were commenced to install a pathway beside the riverbank on the east side of the town of Kilmallock.

### VENICE BIENNALE

In 2018, Kilmallock featured in the Venice Biennale. The theme of the Architectural Biennale was Free Space and Grafton Architects, Dublin, curated the exhibition.

Sixty-five nations are represented at the Biennale from May-November 2018 and which usually attracts up to 250,000 visitors. The Irish Pavillion was entitled Free Market, taking the theme of the market places of small towns, to represent the problems and the potential of the market place and public realm in small towns.

Kilmallock was chosen as one of the towns and Limerick City & County Council was one of four Local Authorities that supported the Irish entry. Cllr Michael Donegan represented Kilmallock at the opening.

### REDZ FUNDING

In 2016, Limerick City and County Council had received REDZ funding from the Dept. of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs to construct a walkway along the outside of the wall. The work to the walkway was completed in 2018.

### KILMALLOCK FOOTBRIDGE

In October 2018, the pedestrian footbridge was opened in Kilmallock. The footbridge is a key component of an ambitious plan undertaken by Limerick City and County Council to provide a series of linked walks in and around Kilmallock.

The new pedestrian bridge is located downstream of the existing road bridge on the R512 Limerick /Bruff road and provides a dedicated crossing point for pedestrians over the River Loobagh at the entrance to Kilmallock and as a link from the town to the recently developed Riverside Walk. The bridge is 28 metres in length with a two-metre wide hardwood timber deck and the cost of the project was €247,000, which has been financed on an equal basis by Hinterland Funding and Limerick City and Council Development funding.

### WEST WALL WALKWAY

October 2018 also marked the official opening of the West Wall Walkway in Kilmallock. The original circuit of Kilmallock town's defences was 1700m, and of this, about 1200m remains standing. The West Wall Walkway has now opened up 516.5m of the line of the western defences of which 474.5 is standing wall. The walkway is set to become a new thoroughfare of Kilmallock, providing off-road access to the new Primary School. The pathway will also provide a wonderful amenity to the town improving physical fitness and a sense of well-being as the surrounding area (3 ½ acres in total) will be left in a semi-natural state.

### THRESHOLD PROJECT, KILMALLOCK

2018 also saw work commence on the Threshold Project in Kilmallock. This project entails Limerick City & County Council engaging with Architecture students from the University of Limerick in preparing a design project focussed on the northern entrance to Kilmallock (around the new footbridge), looking at how this threshold approach to Kilmallock could be improved.

The project will include the installation of temporary roads realignments, footpaths and landscape features as well as three temporary Towers- a storytelling tower, a planted tower and a sheltered seat. The installation will be constructed through a collaborative effort with the Men's Shed, the Fab Lab Limerick and local community members.

As part of the installation, it is also intended to measure how the new design of the area achieves certain defined goals such as the speed of traffic, the number of pedestrians, the noise and air quality, and the attractiveness of the entry to the town.

### LOUGH GUR SOLSTICE PARK

Lough Gur is home to Ireland's largest and oldest stone circle dating back on 5,500 years along with over 1,000 archaeological site within a 5KM radius. During 2018, Part 8 approval was sanctioned by the Elected Members for the proposed construction of a Solstice Park adjacent to the Lough Gur Heritage Centre. The Park will provide an environmentally sensitive playground for children and an area dedicated to rest and relaxation for visitors and community groups. The Lough Gur "Solstice Park" would focus on providing a clear outdoor interpretation of this great and ancient site through the development of this new amenity.



Cappamore-Kilmallock Installation Of Kilmallock Footbridge



Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal Reception to Commemorate Certain Deceased Persons



Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal Reception to Recognise Garda John Hennessy's National Bravery Awards



Cappamore-Kilmallock Summer Reading Stars, Kilmallock Library

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE

### SERVICE OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE (WEST)

#### OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE - ROADS

Expenditure on maintenance and improvement works on roads in 2018 was financed by way of Government grants and the Council's own resources.

Road expenditure programmes during 2018 included:

- Road Surface Dressing to 17kms of roadway at a cost of €400,695
- Road Reconstruction Works to 13kms of roadway to the value of €1.59 million.
- Drainage Improvement Works at L1208 Kilmacow - €20,000, L1239 at Ballyneety, €50,000, Low Cost Safety Improvement Works at R521 Jobbers Cross - €25,000, L1219 Kilcoole - €40,000.
- Drainage Improvement Works at
- Winter Maintenance of the N21 & N69 (TII funded)
- Winter Maintenance of the Regional Roads (DTTAS funded).

#### GMA & DEVELOPMENT FUND PROJECTS

- General Municipal Allocation from the Travel and Transport Budget to the Value of €105,000 included upgrading of paving works and footpaths at Kildimo, Shanagolden and Croom. respectively.
- Development fund Projects to the value of €70,000 provided for footpath upgrades at Croagh & Rathkeale, Croom.
- Church Car Park resurfacing at Kilpeacon.

#### CAPITAL WORKS

Funding in the sum of €25,000 was allocated for the installation of a pedestrian crossing in Pallaskenry.

#### FISHERY HARBOUR & COASTAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Works totaling €150,000 were completed under this programme and included for structural repairs and pointing works at Ringmoylan Pier together with surfacing and safety works at Ballysteen Pier.

#### JUNIOR SCHOOL WARDEN SCHEME

The Junior School Wardens of St Joseph's Boys National School Rathkeale continued to provide safe crossing facilities for their classmates during 2018. Following the installation of a new controlled pedestrian crossing in Ballylanders the junior warden scheme ceased operation after seventeen years.

The scheme which has been in operation in the County since 1975 owes its continued success to the huge commitment and dedication of the pupils, parents, teachers and the Gardai.



Junior School Wardens Rathkeale Boys National School 2018



Lifesaver Project South Court Hotel Raheen November 2018

#### LIFESAVER PROJECT

The successful Lifesaver Project initiative, which is led by An Garda Síochána and supported by the Limerick Ambulance Service, the H.S.E., Limerick City & County Council Fire Service and the Road Safety Departments of Limerick City & County Council continued during 2018 with presentations over two days in the Southcourt Hotel Raheen.

This programme continues to attract large numbers of students from second & third level institutions in both City & County and has been integrated as part of the transition year programme. Participation in the programme continues steadily with attendance figures in the region of 1500 during 2018. Lifesaver Project is a very honest account of the reality of Road Safety in Ireland today with students participating in the programme receiving poignant, focused information and advice on the dangers and consequences of road traffic collisions.



Ringmoylan Pier

### CYCLING SAFETY TRAINING

Cycle Right the new national cyclist road safety training programme designed to give cyclists the knowledge and skills to move safely through the road system continued its training programme with primary school nationally during 2018. The course is delivered over three stages as part of the school curriculum with participants gaining skills and knowledge on a phased basis which prepares the individual to cycle in increasingly complex road scenarios. Seventeen City and County Primary Schools participated in this programme during 2018 with 622 students receiving training.

This programme is subvented by Limerick City & County Council.

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEMES

3 no. projects to the value of €120,975 at Croagh, Adare, Rathkeale.

### LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

4 no schemes completed to the value of €151,218 completed at Askeaton, Ballyhahill, Pallaskenry, Rathkeale.



Traffic Calming Rathkeale

### HOUSING

The Adare Rathkeale Housing Department carried out maintenance and improvement works to its stock of housing units as well as maintenance works to Council Burial Grounds, residential caravan sites and libraries in the Municipal District during 2018.

Housing Aid Grants such as the Housing Adaptation Grant for People with Disabilities, the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme and the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme. An allocation of €310,000 was received from the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government during 2018 with a total of 46 applicants receiving grant aid under these various schemes.

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST

### SERVICE OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE - WEST OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE - ROADS

Expenditure on maintenance and improvement works on roads in 2018 was financed by way of Government grants and the Council's own resources.

Road expenditure programmes during 2018 included:

- Road surface dressing of 25km of roadway to the value of €470,000
- Road reconstruction works to the value of €1,869,000.
- Road overlay at Bishops Street, Newcastle West, Glin Village and Dromcollogher Village
- Bridge rehabilitation works in Athea, Abbeyfeale and Castlemahon.
- Low cost safety improvement works at junctions in Feohanagh €20,000
- Footpath upgrade works at Beechwood, Kilcolman Drive, The Square, Newcastle West, Abbeyfeale, Athea, Glin.
- Major Drainage improvements at Broadford Village and at Athea R523.
- Winter Maintenance
- General road maintenance
- Local Improvement Scheme and Community Improvement Scheme upgrade schemes

### SERVICES OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE - WEST OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE - HOUSING MAINTENANCE

The Housing Maintenance crew for the Newcastle West Municipal District is also part of the Newcastle West office.

Routine maintenance issues with houses forms part of the works of the Maintenance crew. In 2018 there were over 2,000 service requests which were attended to by the Newcastle West Housing Maintenance crew.

### DISTRICT PROJECTS

- **Regional Athletics Hub Newcastle West**  
Limerick City and County Council purchased 9.44 acres in Cloonyschrehane, Newcastle West for the development of a 400m, 8 lane athletics track with associated field sports. Part VIII planning approval was received during 2018 and a tender process for the construction of the facility has been completed.
- **Glin Public Realm Plan**  
A Public Realm Plan for Glin was prepared and the official launch took place in July 2018. Strategies within the plan are currently being progressed
- **Fullers Folly**  
Limerick City and County Council purchased part of Fullers Folly in 2017 and infrastructural upgrade works took place during 2018. It is proposed as a potential tourism hub for the town and the surrounding area.

- **CLAR Projects**

Under the CLAR programme there was safety measures carried out Athea, Mountcollins, Raheenagh, Ashford, Meenkilly and Glin National Schools.

The works included the installation of child safety signage, digital speed safety signs, road markings and access footpaths. The development of a community playground was also progressed in conjunction with Killeedy Development Association.

- **Abbeyfeale Town**

There was town improvements works carried out in Abbeyfeale with the building of planters on the town approaches signage, surfacing within the town park, erection of safety bollards and the cleaning and painting of lamp poles. There was also the erecting of heritage plaques, tourist interpretative board and map of the town in the square.

- **Newcastle West-Vision 2023**

This strategic plan is providing a blue print for the future development of Newcastle West with a focus on priority initiatives that once implemented will achieve the overall vision for Newcastle West. The progression of strategies contained within the plan is continuing in conjunction with the Newcastle West Development Association. A new website for the town was launched in December 2018.

### SERVICES OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE - BALLINGRANE BITUMEN DEPOT & MACHINERY YARD

The Bitumen Depot at Ballingrane and the Machinery yard based in Newcastle West continues to play a central role in the Road Works Programme. All bitumen used in the county is distributed through the central depot at Ballingrane and the Council fleet of vehicles is maintained by the Machinery Yard. Upgrading of the fleet vehicles continued during 2018.

### SERVICES OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE - COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

#### Housing Grants Scheme Newcastle West Municipal District

In 2018, twenty nine applications under the Housing Adaptation Grants for People with a Disability were approved at a cost of €307,564.41

Thirty two applications under the Mobility Aids Housing Grants were approved at a cost of €148,841.03  
Forty six applications under the Housing Aid for Older People were approved at a cost of €208,439.12

Also three Council properties within the district had works completed on them for persons with a disability at a cost of €57,563.54.



Feenagh Kilmeeedy Scór Group pictured at the Newcastle West Municipal District Reception held in June 2018

### SUPPORT SERVICES DIRECTORATE - CORPORATE SERVICES

The Newcastle West Municipal District held 16 meetings and held one Municipal District Reception during 2018. The Municipal reception was held in June to acknowledge the success of Feenagh Kilmeeedy Scór Team in winning the All Ireland Senior Scór Leiriú Final.

### SUPPORT SERVICES DIRECTORATE - MOTOR TAXATION

The Motor Taxation Section in Newcastle West had a total of 21,635 routine transactions during 2018.

### CUSTOMER SERVICES DIRECTORATE – CUSTOMER SERVICES

The roll out of the customer services initiative with the introduction of the Sugar CRM system continues to be expanded upon. All calls with regard to housing maintenance, housing grants, roads maintenance and general environmental queries are logged on this system by the Newcastle West District office.

### REGIONAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE - WATER SERVICES

Irish Water has been established as the organisation with overall responsibility for water and waste water matters throughout Ireland. The water crew at Newcastle West acts as an agent for this organisation and on their behalf operates and maintains a large number of water schemes throughout West Limerick.



**REGIONAL  
SERVICES  
DIRECTORATE**



# REGIONAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

## FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Limerick City and County Council as Fire Authority operates and manages the Fire and Emergency Services in Limerick. Limerick Fire and Rescue Service has responsibility to protect the life and property of circa 200,000 people living in circa 70,000 houses and circa 18,000 commercial premises. Civil Defence is also part of the Fire and Emergency Services Department. This is a volunteer based organisation which supports the frontline emergency services as well as assisting at community events.

The Fire and Emergency Services Department has six broad areas of activity that are mutually supportive in the delivery of an integrated service to the public.

- A) Fire and Rescue Service
- B) Fire Prevention and Building Control
- C) Major Emergency Management
- D) Munster Regional Communications Centre
- E) Civil Defence
- F) Water Safety

### A) FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

The function of the Fire and Rescue Service is to make provision for the prompt extinguishing of fires in buildings and other places in its functional area and for the protection and rescue of persons and property from injury by fire and other emergency incidents. In this regard it maintains a fire brigade and provides fire stations, vehicles and equipment.

Six new whole time fire fighter recruits were employed in Limerick Fire and Emergency Services based at Mulgrave Street during 2018. Seven new retained fire fighters were employed between Newcastle West, Abbeyfeale and Kilmallock fire stations.

Limerick Fire and Rescue Service successfully attended 1641 incidents from January to December, 2018.

ISO9001:2008 Quality Standard Certification and OHSAS 18001:2007 Health & Safety Certification was awarded in 2018 for the Fire and Rescue Service.

The following training took place in 2018:-

- SRT Refresher Training
- Bronto Instructor Training
- Wholetime Recruits Training
- Heavy RTC Instructor Training
- EFR Refresher Training
- HazMat Awareness and CPC Training
- BA Training
- HGV RTC Training
- Aircraft Training
- Fire Service Council – Pump Operator Training
- ESDS Training
- BAI Training
- HYDRA Training in Clonmel
- Sub Officer Course Training in Sligo
- CFBT Training in Mayo
- NDFEM Road Traffic Collision Training
- TETRA Roll Out Training
- NDFEM Hazardous Materials Course Training in Midleton
- Abrasive Wheels Training for City Recruits
- NDFEM Ship and Ports Training
- Chainsaw Training
- Swiftwater Rescue Training
- CISM Training

### LONG SERVICE AWARDS

The following staff received Long Service Awards from Minister Eoghan Murphy in November 2018

- Four Sub Station Officers awarded a 20 year Long Service Award
- Three Fire Fighters awarded a 20 year Long Service Award
- One Brigade Mechanic awarded a 20 year Long Service Award
- One Station Officer awarded a 20 year Long Service Award
- Three Munster Regional Communication Centre (MRCC) staff awarded a 20 year Long Service Award

SERVICE INDICATORS	WHOLETIME	RETAINED
Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire	1 min 22 secs	
Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire		5mins 25 secs
Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other emergency incidents	1 min 19 secs	
Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other emergency incidents		5 mins 13 secs
<b>Percentage of Attendances at Scenes</b>		
Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	87.15%	20.83%
Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	11.53%	48.87%
Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes.	1.32%	30.30%
% of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	84.35%	29.24%
% of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	14.29%	51.89%
% of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	1.36%	18.87%
Total number of incidents in respect of fire	607	264
Number of incidents in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	529	55
Number of incidents in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	70	129
Number of incidents in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	8	80
Total number of incidents in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire)	294	212
Number of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	248	62
Number of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	42	110
Number of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	4	40

## B) FIRE PREVENTION & BUILDING CONTROL

The function of the Fire Prevention and Building Control Department is to ensure the safety, health and welfare of people who occupy or use buildings, through ensuring the reduction of fire risk, proper means of escape, the access for people with disabilities and the conservation of fuel and energy.

To deliver these functions, the work of this department includes assessing Fire Safety Certificate applications and Disability Access Certificates, inspection of commercial buildings and apartment complexes, investigating complaints and giving Community Fire Safety talks.

### FIRE SAFETY CERTIFICATES

#### 2018 Statistics

Total number of fire safety certificate applications received	213
Total number of fire safety certificate applications Granted	189
Total number of applications deemed invalid	31

Buildings inspected as a % of new buildings notified to the local authority	13.2%
Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority	619
Number of new buildings notified to the local authority that were inspected	82

### DISABILITY ACCESS CERTIFICATES

#### 2018 Statistics

Total No. of valid Disability Access Certificates received	150
Total No. of Disability Access Certificates Granted	156
Total No. of Disability Access Certificates invalidated	12

#### Planning Referrals

Total number of Planning Referrals processed 2018	263
Total number of Valid Commencement Notices received (includes CNs, Short CNs, Opt-out CNs and 7-day Notices)	439

#### Civil Defence

Total Expenditure costs for Civil Defence in 2018	€292,612
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## C) MAJOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The functions of the Major Emergency Management section are to implement the provisions of the 2006 Framework for Major Emergency Management in Limerick City and County Council, to review and oversee Limerick City and County Council's Major Emergency Plan and to continually enhance Limerick City and County Council's capacity to respond to a major emergency.

Limerick City and County Council became Chair of both the Regional Working Group and Regional Steering Group in 2018. There was five meetings of both Groups during 2018 and numerous meetings of Regional Working Sub groups.

The following work and plans was carried out/ developed:

- Regional Risk Assessment
- Appraisals for 2016 and 2017
- Regional Training and Exercise Programme
- Inter-Agency Limerick Tunnel Emergency Plan
- Inter-Agency Media Communication Plan
- Inter-Agency Protocol for Attendance at Motorway Incidents
- Mass Fatality Plan for Category 1 and 11
- Voluntary Emergency Services Plan

## D) MUNSTER REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE

The Munster Regional Communications System (MRCC) is located on the same site as Mulgrave Street Fire Station. The MRCC is a centralised 24-hour service providing rapid response and mobilisation to 999/112 emergency fire calls. Limerick City and County Council is the contracting Authority for this system and provides the service on behalf of the seven member Fire Authorities in Munster (Clare County Council, Cork City Council, Cork County Council, Kerry County Council, Limerick City and County Council, Tipperary County Council and Waterford City and County Council). There were a total of 28,817 calls handled during the year and mobilisation to 13,220 incidents. There were additionally significant spate conditions managed by MRCC staff, including during Storm Emma and the heat wave during the June/early July period.

The CTri project (National Mobilisation and Communication System) continued in 2018 and there were significant milestones including the changeover of mobilisation end equipment in the 69 fire stations in Munster and the installation of the Tetra digital radio communications system.

## E) CIVIL DEFENCE

Limerick Civil Defence provides emergency relief and support, when called upon by the Principal response Agencies (Limerick City and County Council, An Garda Síochána and the Health Service Executive) as well as assisting at community based events.

Basic training for volunteers consists of Cardiac First Responder, First Aid Responder, Communications, Manual Handling, Fire Awareness, Footdrill, Map reading, GPS, Basic Search and Rescue, Child Protection Courses, Water Awareness, Life-Jacket Competency and Equipment Familiarisation.

Volunteers also specialise in different areas such as Emergency First Response, Emergency Medical Technician, Instructional Methods, Flooding Awareness, Pump Operation, VHF Marine Radio, Kayaking - Level 2 and 3, power boating - Level 2 and Level 3 and Floodwater First Responder.. Our in-house instructors also receive training in many and varied disciplines including Manual Handling, Patient Moving Handling, Cardiac First Responder, First Aid Responder and Emergency First Responder Instructors, CISM (Critical Incident Stress Management), Instructional Methods, Search Manager, Child Protection, Floodwater and Swift First Responder, Drone and Sonar training etc. This year 15 of our members completed severe weather driving training and six of those members received Lantra awards for driving.

Limerick Civil Defence had an extremely busy year in 2018 with 78 events (both locally and nationally) totaling 3,500 man hours. This does not include training carried out in 2018. In March, the Beast from the East and Storm Emma visited Ireland and in May we had our heatwave. The Country dealt with two very different National Red warnings and Limerick Civil Defence played its part. In August, Limerick Civil Defence provided medical cover at the Papal visit in Dublin, which was the second biggest event ever to be held in Ireland, the first being the Papal visit in 1979. Civil Defence also covered other annual events such as St. Patrick's Day Festival, Riverfest, Great Limerick Run, Foynes Air Show, U21 Homecoming and Milford Fair to name but a few.

## F) WATER SAFETY

2018 had exceptionally good weather during the summer months when outdoor bathing took place at Glin and Kiltteery Piers. Lifeguards were employed by Limerick City and County Council for the June bank holiday weekend and from July to the start of September.

Assistance was provided by our lifeguards to ensure the safety of the annual cross-river swim from Clare to Glin Pier and the annual Glin Triathlon took place in September where our Lifeguards provided safety cover to ensure the event went smoothly.

Replacement of lifebuoys took place as required at all known hazards in Limerick with the assistance of the Public Participation Network and local voluntary groups.

Limerick City and County Council were awarded a Community & Social Responsibility Award in recognition of its support of Irish Water Safety's community work, charitable activities and commitment to drowning prevention initiatives and the reduction of aquatic related injuries.

## SOUTHERN REGION WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2015-2021

The Southern Waste Region comprises 10 local authorities: Carlow, Clare, Cork City, Cork County, Limerick City and County, Kerry, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Waterford City and County and Wexford. The Southern Waste Region is one of three waste regions in the country. The other Waste Regions are the Eastern Midlands (EMR) and the Connaught Ulster (CUR) Waste Regions.

Limerick City and County Council and Tipperary County Council are the lead authorities for the Southern Waste Region. They are responsible for the co-ordination, implementation and monitoring of the Southern Region Waste Management Plan 2015 – 2021 (the Plan). The Plan is the framework for the prevention and management of wastes in a safe and sustainable manner.

Limerick City and County Council hosts the Southern Region Waste Management Office (SRWMO), which is based in Patrick Street and is a section of Limerick's National and Regional Directorate. The SRWMO's 2nd Annual Report is now available. It details the progress made on the eight major objectives of the plan:-

### A. Waste related environmental policy

The SRWMO is involved in ongoing discussions with relevant bodies to ensure waste authorisations reflect the plan targets.

A standard template is under development nationally to ensure consistency in term of issuing waste authorisations.

### B. Prioritising Waste Prevention

The Southern Region was involved in a number of waste prevention initiatives in 2018 including Smart Store Cooking, which involved workshops, in-store promotions and a mini-cooking series.

The SRWMO supported the Conscious Cup reusable cup campaign.

### C. Transitioning towards a circular economy

Reuse Month Initiative took place in October 2018 and aimed to promote reuse, repair and upcycling across the Region.

The resource efficiency awareness message is spread across the Region through the promotion of programmes such as EcoMerit e.g. Arthurs Quay shopping centre was certified this year.

The SRWMO is involved in local business networks e.g. Supply Network Shannon meetings in Annacotty.

An information stand was available at company events e.g. Wyeth and at exhibitions such as Taking Care of Business.

### D. Co-ordination and engagement with relevant stakeholders.

The Southern Region Waste Co-ordinator is a member of the National Co-ordination Committee for Waste Management Planning.

The Southern Region networks with the other planning regions, Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities, industry stakeholders and Producer Responsibility Initiatives.

### E. The promotion of sustainable waste management treatment

Deficits in waste capacity existed in 2018 for processing both Municipal and Construction and Demolition Waste. Export options were used in both cases to close the gap in processing capacity and the regions continue to monitor the situation on a quarterly basis and are promoting more sustainable options going forward.

### F. Co-operation with the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities

The SRWMO is working closely with the Southern WERLA to ensure implementation of the relevant enforcement policy actions of the Plan and to achieve consistency across the Region.

### G. Applying relevant environmental and planning legislation

The Southern Region's high risk historic unauthorised landfills are still being investigated and remediated through funding received from the DCCAE and delivery of this programme will take a number of years.

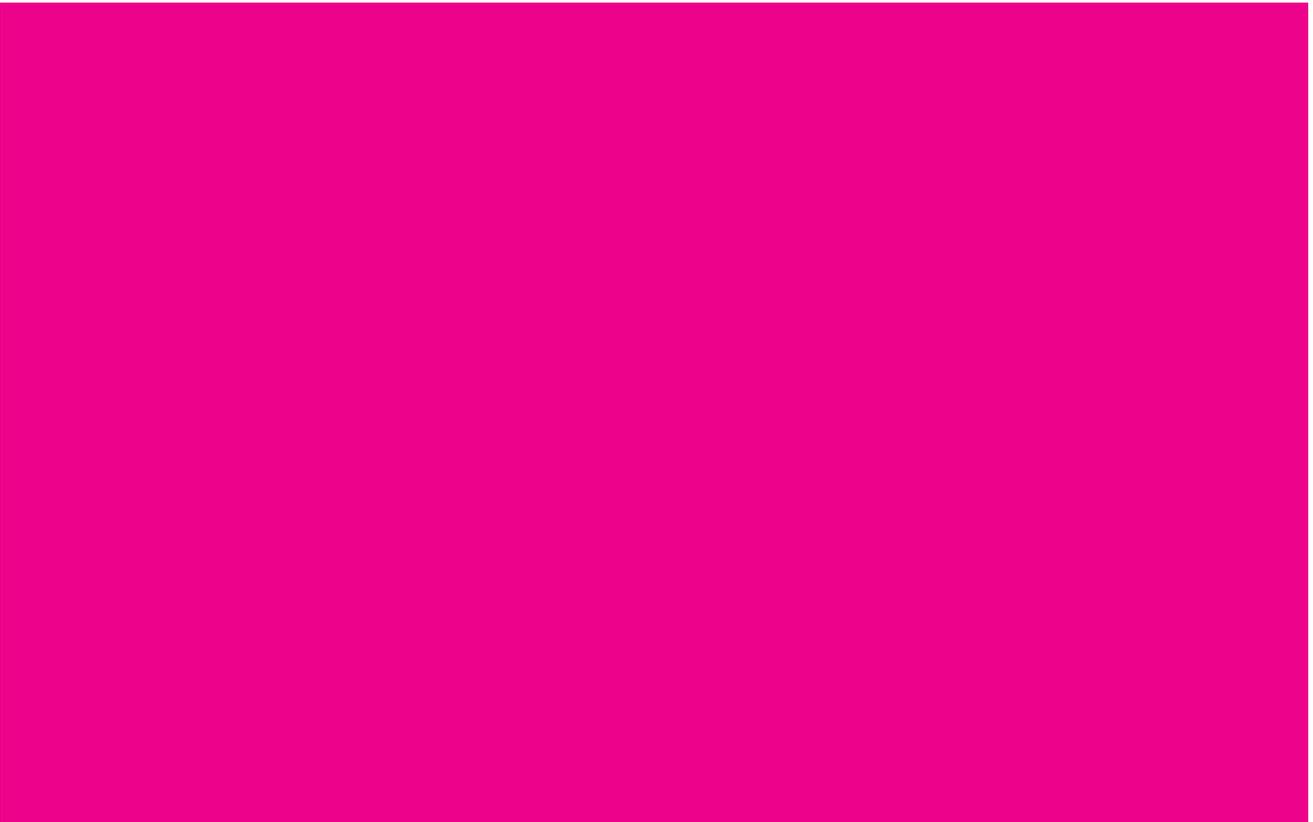
### H. The establishment of policy measures for other waste streams not subject to EU or national waste management performance targets.

Free hazardous waste collections days were held across three local authorities in the Southern Region in 2018 funded by DCCAE and a report has been prepared which indicates waste paint is an increasingly difficult waste stream for households.

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## NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS

The SRWMO participates in the National Awareness Campaign and in 2018 this has resulted in launch of new agreed recycling list for Ireland and a new National Website [www.mywaste.ie](http://www.mywaste.ie) which is the new platform for Irish citizens to learn more about their waste and their impact.



Limerick City and County Council - Annual Report 2018 Energy Cost & Consumption 2018		(Energy data for 2018)
Cost Item - Euro		€uro
<b>2018 Total Energy Spend</b>		<b>€3,793,142</b>
<b>2018 Electricity - Total Annual Spend</b>		<b>€2,827,899</b>
2018 Electricity - Annual Spend on Water Services		€19,048
2018 Electricity - Annual Spend on Public Lighting		€2,054,507
2018 Electricity - Other than Water & Public Lighting		€754,344
<b>2018 Road Fuels (diesel / petrol / biofuel) - Total Annual Spend</b>		<b>€727,255</b>
<b>2018 Heating Fuels (Gas/ oil/ biomass etc) - Total Annual Spend</b>		<b>€237,911</b>
<b>2018 Misc. other fossil fuels (sml lpg etc) - Total Annual Spend</b>		<b>€78</b>
Consumption Item - MWh		MWh
<b>Total Energy MWh</b>		<b>27,851.70</b>
2018 Electricity - Grid MWh*		17,940.95
2018 Fossil Fuels MWh		9,827.23
2018 Renewable Energy MWh		83.52
*Grid Electricity has 30.1% Renewable's (SEAI report) = 5,400.23 GWh		
Limerick City & County Council - Annual Report - Energy Savings Report		
Actions Undertaken in 2018		
In 2018 Limerick City & County Council undertook a range of initiatives to improve our energy performance, including:		
	<b>Item</b>	<b>MWh of savings</b>
1	Public Lighting	125
2	Transport Energy	0.8
3	Building Fabric & Services Upgrades	197
	<b>Total 2018</b>	<b><u>322</u></b>
Actions Planned in 2019		
In 2019 Limerick City & County Council intends to undertake a range of initiatives to improve our energy performance, including:		
	<b>Item</b>	<b>MWh of savings</b>
1	Public Lighting	750
2	Transport Energy	1
3	Building Fabric & Services Upgrades	200
	<b>Total 2019</b>	<b><u>951</u></b>

## HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS (HAP) SHARED SERVICES CENTRE

The Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) is the principal platform for underpinning the provision of housing support under Rebuilding Ireland: Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness. The programme is the largest non-capital financial support package for housing in Ireland. HAP is expected, under the national policy framework: Re-Building Ireland, to set up 84,000 tenancies by 2021 out of a total target of 131,000 additional tenancies across the State. The Council was awarded the national contract in 2016 to deliver the shared service following a full business case appraisal of the bid submitted. Total annual expenditure on HAP is expected to be in the order of €960 million by 2021. The HAPSSC forms part of the National and Regional Shared Services Directorate within Limerick City and County Council and is supported by council services including Human Resources, Information Technology, Finance and other support services of the Council. The role of the HAPSSC is to manage delivery of the project for the duration of Rebuilding Ireland and any subsequent or succeeding national housing policy involving HAP or replacement programme.

Any household that qualifies for social housing support qualifies for HAP. Rent Supplement recipients who qualify for social housing support will be transferred to HAP on a phased basis. The HAP Shared Service Centre carries out a range of financial transactions on behalf of each local authority under HAP, the principal ones being:

- Set-up and commencement of HAP tenancies
- Payment of monthly landlord rent
- Tax clearance checking
- Collection of tenant differential rent debit for all tenancies on behalf of the local government sector
- Management of the HAP scheme debt collection process
- Monitoring, reviewing and maintenance of HAP tenancies
- Recoupment from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government

By 2021, it is estimated that the HAP SSC will be handling 84,000 active tenancies on behalf of all local authorities throughout the country. There were 43,443 active HAP tenancies managed by the Shared Service Centre at 31 December 2018. In 2018 a total of 17,926 HAP tenancies were set up by the HAP SSC. This was 5% above target, which was set at 17,000 (Rebuilding Ireland) for 2018. At the end of 2018 the weekly tenant debit was €2.1 million and the monthly landlord payment was €34 million. HAP SSC is continually working on improving customer service provided by the shared services centre. In this regard, the HAPSSC has completed stage 1 and stage 2 audits under the ISO standard in 2018. The HAP Shared Services centre is to be recommended for ISO 9000:2015 certification.