

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

February 2019

THIS MONTH:

NO. 1 – Limerick City and County Council named Council of the Year at the LAMA Awards

ROLLOUT – We're Breastfeeding Friendly Limerick to be rolled out nationally

CELEBRATE – Major exhibition of 100 years of women in politics and public life opens

FESTIVAL – Limerick St. Patrick's Festival 2019 launched

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Service Operations Directorate

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2. Fire & Emergency Services

Support Services Directorate

1. Finance Services
2. Corporate Services, Governance & Customer Services
3. Access to Information
4. Business Improvement

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Economic Development Directorate

1. Trade & Investment

- Limerick based Civil Engineering Company Roadbridge announced 100 new jobs in connection with two construction projects
- Holmes O'Malley Sexton Solicitors announced an additional 12 employees for their Limerick Office

2. Strategic & Forward Planning

- A public meeting was held in Croom on 19 February to mark the commencement of the review and the preparation of a new Local Area Plan for Croom
- City Centre land use and vacancy survey was completed
- A submission was made to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht on the Implementation of the Peat Strategy

3. Limerick Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

- Local Enterprise Office Limerick in partnership with Network Limerick organised a very successful Women in Business event 'Invest in Your Brand, Live Your Brand'
- New monthly 'Business Breakfast Club.' launched, in conjunction with Bank of Ireland, to take place on the first Friday of each month in Workbench 125 O'Connell Street
- Business Advice Clinics held in Kilmallock and Newcastle West Area Offices.
- Limerick Chowder Championships 2019, sponsored by LEO and open to professional Chef's was held in Limerick Institute of Technology and Thomas Sparling of 'The Rustic Catering Co.' Broadford was overall winner on the day
- Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur competition open for applications from entrepreneurs aged 18 – 35
- School visits continued across the county for our Student Enterprise Programme 2018-2019
- Lean for Micro Programme ended with 12 companies completing the programme

4. Digital Strategy

- Digital Strategy coordinated the rollout of a large upgrade to the Limerick.ie platform
- Digital Strategy worked with Version1 to upgrade the Council's installation of iHouse
- In the EU Programmes space, Digital Strategy assisted Limerick City Build apply for a Social Enterprise Development Fund grant, while an application was also developed in collaboration with University of Limerick for the Horizon 2020 Go Green Cities project

5. Marketing & Communications

Marketing

- Limerick Walk It - Run It - Love It campaign
 - a. Secured editorial feature in Woman's Way Magazine (circulation of 21,321)
 - b. Continued social media campaign promoting #ActiveLimerick videos
- Launched Limerick St. Patrick's Festival 2019
 - a. Seven week digital, print and radio PR and marketing campaign ongoing
 - b. Dedicated St. Patrick's Festival section created on Limerick.ie
 - c. Design and distribution of 20,000 Limerick St. Patrick's Festival Event Guides across Limerick city and county
 - d. St. Patrick's Festival banners installed throughout Limerick City
- Launched Limerick Festivals Guide 2019
 - a. Design and distribution of 5,000 Festival Guides promoting over 120 festivals and big gigs taking place throughout Limerick city and county
 - b. Dedicated Festival section created on Limerick.ie
 - c. Social media roll-out
- Created and promoted videos through social media for the 100 Years of Women in Politics and Public Life 1918 - 2018 pop-up museum
- Marketing materials supplied to:
 - a. Teenage participants on Place EE workshop (Platforms for Ageing Community Engagement

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- Exchange & Enterprise) held by the Urban and Rural Community Development Department
- b. Trade and Investment for client company
- c. Participants at Limerick Literary Festival 2019
- Produced four Limerick.ie e-newsletters
- Monthly Limerick.ie Business Bulletin e-newsletter issued and published on social media and LinkedIn
- Began first stage of competitive procedure for creative services and media buying services for Brand Limerick project

Social Media

- Posted 33 times on Limerick.ie's Facebook with total page likes now 22,523. Posts reached 308,601 users with 27,788 engagements
- Tweeted 24 times on Limerick.ie's Twitter, @limerick_ie, with total followers now 15,688. Our tweets earned 102,100 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet)
- Posted 10 times on Limerick.ie's Instagram and created six Stories, with total followers now 5,616
- Tweeted 12 times on Limerick Marketing's Twitter, @limkmarketing, with total followers now 2,568. Our tweets earned 23,900 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet)
- Posted seven times on Limerick City and County Council's LinkedIn with total followers now 2,039

Limerick.ie

- A total of 118,533 people visited the Limerick.ie website in February 2019 – a 40% increase on the same period in 2018
- Content Report: 208 events, 85 articles and 11 amenities added to Limerick.ie website in February 2019
- The most popular pages on Limerick.ie in February 2019 were:
 1. www.limerick.ie
 2. www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning
 3. www.limerick.ie/council
 4. www.limerick.ie/discover/whats-on/browse

5. www.limerick.ie/council/services/housing/social-housing/housing-assistance-payment-hap
- 44% of website pageviews were in Discover section and 30% of pageviews were in the Council section

Communications

- Limerick City and County Council scooped the top prize after being named as Council of the Year at the annual All-Ireland Community and Council (LAMA) Awards. The awards highlight the best of work that is being carried out by a local authority in conjunction with groups and organisations as well as volunteers in our communities and recognise the important contribution they make to our lives. The work being carried out as part of the projects is very important and have a significant impact in their respective local communities. Other Limerick winners on the night were the Urban Co-op, which was the winner of the Best Business Working with the Community category while We're Breastfeeding Friendly Limerick got a silver award in the Best Community Health Initiative category
- Issued 17 news releases from the Marketing and Communications Department
- PR Support given to Limerick Person of the Year 2018; Limerick Tattoo Convention; Regeneration Great Limerick Run; National Rollout of We're Breastfeeding Friendly Campaign
- Researched and wrote 17 speeches for the Office of the Mayor
- Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter
- Tweeted 123 times on Limerick City and County Council's Twitter account, @limerickcouncil, with total fans now 11,813. Our tweets earned 192,700 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet)



Physical Development Directorate

1. Environment Strategy

All Ireland Pollinator Plan

In February, Limerick City and County Council signed up to become a partner in the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. In signing up to the plan, the Council has agreed:

- To carry out one pollinator-friendly action in the first year of signing up and plan to carry out at least two more within the following five years.
- To update the national Pollinator Plan Team on the positive pollinator actions planned, implemented or maintained each year, to help us promote the Council's work in this area.
- To support the ethos of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and consider the Plan in policies, plans, and management decisions where relevant.

In 2019, the Council intends to continue with the development of wildflower meadows at three locations (Corbally Meadows, College Park, Childers' Road) which commenced in 2018.

It also intends to delay grass cutting at two small urban parks until April so that the dandelions can flower and provide important early food for bees. Signage will be erected at these sites and feedback from the public will be invited via Twitter. The parks in question are the Curragower Park and Arthur's Quay. While small in themselves, these areas are very visible and will, it is hoped, raise awareness of this simple measure, which anybody can implement in their own garden.

2. Water Services

Capital Works

- Watermain rehabilitation works progressing in Islanduane, Quin Street and Ennis Road.
- Works progressing on upgrade to Athea wastewater treatment plant.
- Works progressing on upgrade to electrical panels in Castletroy wastewater treatment plant.
- Limerick City Sewer Rehab works progressing on Catherine Street (liner), Thomas Street and O'Connell Street as per programme.

Social Development Directorate

1. Tourism Development

Work is ongoing on the Great Southern Greenway Limerick, Noel O Regan and Sons Contractors have been appointed and are currently working on the Barnagh Tunnel section of Greenway, when completed a new tunnel under the N21 will link two sections of the old Railway line, the work will incorporate the old Barnagh railway Tunnel back into the Great Southern Greenway, adding a new dimension to the route. Work is expected to be completed by Summer 2019.

2. Urban & Rural Community Development

Domestic Waste Refuse Waiver Scheme

Bin Waivers:

Issued:	1,078
Refused:	0

Cemeteries

No. of Burials in City Cemeteries	39
Mount St. Lawrence	20
Mount St. Oliver	9
Castlemungret	8
Kilmurry	2

Age Friendly Programme Thematic Programmes

Place-EE & Acorn Tablet

February was a very busy month for the Place EE project. A total of five workshops took place in the Newcastle West Area Office with 60 participants who had registered for the project. Topics such as age characteristics, opportunities and challenges faced by older people, older people and technology and the use of technology in everyday life were topics for discussion. The first intergenerational workshops took place as the older participants were paired with the younger Transition Year students from Desmond College. The TY students shared their IT skills in return for insight into local culture and heritage from the

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older participants. The aim is to create an opportunity for older and younger people to meet and learn from each other and to bridge the divide between the generations.

All of the older participants (30) who have formally registered for Place EE now have email addresses and internet access due to the provision of an Acorn smart tablet and sim card for internet access. Participants have been learning how to use email and calendar sharing within the group and have begun learning how to use various applications. They have also learned how to utilise a web browser. This is significant, as one third of the participants had never used the internet at all prior to the workshops. The majority of the other participants were not confident in utilising IT and now they are displaying increased levels of confidence.

Healthy Limerick

Work is continuing on the local action plan aligned to international best practice to support Tobacco Free Ireland. This action is voluntary and partners who have volunteered to become involved are working together across various sectors in Limerick to de-normalise smoking and protect children from second-hand smoke.

Following attendance at the staff workshop on the draft Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy, Healthy Limerick was involved in the drafting of a submission being made by Limerick City and County Council.

On receipt of a Healthy Limerick small grant, Patrickswell Community Council held a number of events fostering social connectedness in the community. Prizes were presented to the winners of the "Stay well in 2019" competition for the pupils of Patrickswell National School. A "Get to meet your neighbour gathering" was also held, as well as a facilitated relaxation hour for older members of the community. A healthy eating workshop was also organised for members of the local parent and toddler group.

Students from two secondary schools used funding from Healthy Ireland to lead out on separate initiatives. Students in Gaelcoláiste Luimnigh held a clean-up and gardening day in Nicholas Street and students from Laurel Hill Coláiste in collaboration with residents of St. Paul's Nursing Home produced and launched a publication, "Harmonies of History", a book of stories, memory and song.

The We're Breastfeeding Friendly concept, with all the associated resources including a branding and set-up guidelines document, were formally handed over to Healthy Ireland/Department of Health by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick on behalf of Limerick City and County Council.

We're Breastfeeding Friendly Limerick won a silver award at the All-Ireland Community and Council Awards 2019 in the Best Community Health Initiative category.

Derelict Sites and Vacant Homes/Properties

	Vacant Homes
13	• Inspections carried out
18	• No of properties identified through surveying
5	• No of properties identified through VacantHomes.ie
5	• No of owners identified
5	• No of properties put forward for Buy & Renew
63	Inspections carried out
87	Inspections carried out on Derelict Sites
7	UVRD information notices posted
14	Statutory Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act
8	Cases closed through engagement
3	Properties entered onto the Derelict Sites Register
3	Properties put forward for Buy & Renew
3	Properties put forward for C.P.O. under Housing Act or Derelict Sites Act

Limerick Community Development Committee

The Limerick Community Development Committee (LCDC) meeting was held on 12 February and were updated on the SICAP End of Year process and Annual Plans for 2019. In 2018, the SICAP budget was €2.185 million across three areas in Limerick: Limerick Urban Area, Limerick West Rural and Limerick East Rural.

In 2018, 169 local community groups were supported to improve capacity, engage in community planning and other activities:

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- 1,368 individuals received one-to-one support to promote social inclusion.
- 1,934 disadvantaged children and young people were supported to participate in activities such as after schools services, sport and recreation.
- 891 parents supported to engage in activities and services such as family support and social and recreational activities.

Pobal have carried out a high-level review to ensure compliance with the Programme requirements and this feedback was given to the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee.

The LCDC is generally satisfied with the overall performance of the Local Development Companies in the delivery of the programme in 2018. All three companies exceeded the targets set for the two Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) - Support to Local Community Groups and the number of individuals supported on a one-to-one caseload basis. The SICAP Sub Committee of the LCDC met with West Limerick Resources, Ballyhoura and Paul Partnership in February to review in full the programme so as to allow final approval of 2019 Annual Plans and 2018 Annual Performance at the next LCDC meeting.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2018

Funding agreements were received from the Department of Rural and Community Development for the four schemes which the Minister announced on the 20th November 2018. All four projects are underway and include:

- **Kantoher Environmental Park Development**
€69,944
The Kantoher Environmental Park Development will provide for the development of the Camas Ponds with the objectives of developing a multi-functional local amenity, promoting local tourism, preserving local flora and fauna, raising awareness and educating with regard to the local environment as well as providing a space for community activities and events.
- **Askeaton – Slí na Sláinte**
€118,480
The 3.8km Askeaton Slí na Sláinte walking route around Askeaton town includes a section of approx. 1.1km along the N69 which has deteriorated and become difficult for pedestrians to use. The upgrade of this section of the walkway, so that it

can be easily maintained and the installation of drainage, will allow this busy walkway to be reinstated so that it can be enjoyed to its full potential by all who use it in the local community as well as by visitors to the area.

- **Lough Gur Heritage Trail**
€123,600

The Lough Gur Heritage Trail project will provide for the development of managed walking and cycling routes and increased visitor numbers to Lough Gur. It is also envisaged that the provision of a walkway around the lake will facilitate cyclists, walkers, great escapers, children while also linking four key heritage site groupings. In addition, it will improve the economic, social and environmental impact of visitors to the area.

- **Ballyhoura Mountain Bike Trails Completion**
€406,710

The overall objective of the Ballyhoura Mountain Bike Trails completion project is to realise the objectives of the master plan, to improve and build on Ballyhoura's reputation as Ireland's premier mountain biking destination and provide for increased flexibility in the trail network. It is envisaged that the project will improve the Ballyhoura's effectiveness as a year round mountain biking destination increasing visitor numbers and greater tourism expenditure in the region.

Limerick Comhairle na nÓg

The first meeting in 2019 of the Limerick Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee took place in February. The 2019 Limerick Comhairle has a membership of 30 - 17 of these newly appointed from the recent AGM. Limerick Comhairle has chosen the theme of Homelessness for this year and plan on linking in with key agencies involved such as the Limerick Homeless Action team, Limerick City & County Council to explore the topic further.

Launch of anti dog litter advert in cinema and social media.

A new campaign urging dog owners to clean up after their dogs has premiered in cinemas across Limerick. 'Dog Pooh!' is a catchy anti-dog fouling animation composed and created by Annette McNelis and adapted by Limerick City and County Council for this campaign.

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Going for Gold Review

Limerick City and County Council hosted three facilitated sessions with groups involved in Limerick Going for Gold. These community engagement sessions gained feedback from those actively involved in Limerick Going for Gold and will form part of the initiatives overall

Statutory Meetings

Limerick Community Development Committee meeting was held on 12 February, 2019

3. Culture & Arts

Cultural Strategic Policy Committee

The Cultural Strategic Policy Committee met on 12 February. At the meeting, the following recommendations were presented for consideration:

- The strategic investment recommendations from the recently held Workshop in the delivery of the Limerick Cultural Strategy for 2019
- Recommendations for the International Mobility Award Scheme 2019, Round 1
- The guidelines for the Limerick Theatre Bursaries Award Scheme
- The guidelines for the Strategic Fund Award Scheme

The members of the SPC agreed to forward all of the above to full council for approval.

Presentations were made by Director/Curator of Limerick City Gallery of Art and the Curator of Limerick Museum.

Open Calls announced in February

Grants Under the Arts Act 2019

The Grants Under the Arts Act scheme offers grant funding to projects that stimulate public interest in the arts, promote the knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts or assist in improving the standards of the arts. The closing date for applications was 5.00pm Thursday 28 February 2019. Sixty-six applications were received and are currently being processed.

Two information sessions were provided for prospective applicants:

- 18 February – Merchant's Quay, 14 attended
- 20 February – Newcastle West, 12 attended
- 17 individual sessions provided, attended by 22 people

Limerick Theatre Bursaries 2019

The Limerick Theatre Bursaries were advertised on 13 February. Limerick City and County Council is inviting applications for theatre bursaries covering research and development of new work and for the production capability to bring work to the next level of development.

- Limerick Theatre Research and Development Bursaries of €2,500 each (2 Awards Available)
- Limerick Theatre Production & Presentation Bursaries of €5,000 (2 Awards Available)

Closing date for applications: No later than 5pm, Wednesday 13 March 2019

Centre Cultural Irlandais Bursary

Following an open call for a month long residency in Paris, nine applications were received, evaluation is in progress by Centre Cultural Irlandais.

Limerick Artist in Schools Programme 2019-2020

An open call invitation has been issued to Limerick Festivals for Expressions of Interest to deliver, in partnership with Limerick City and County Council, the Limerick Artist in Schools Programme 2019-2020. Deadline for Expressions of Interest is Wednesday 13 March 2019, 5pm

Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts Scheme 2019

In line with its continued support for creatives in Limerick, Limerick City and County Council announced the 2019 Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts Scheme. The scheme is to support applications

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to leverage funding from national and international funding bodies and to offer a percentage of any funding awarded in the event of a successful application. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis while there is an available budget. Four letters of support were issued in February.

February Festivals Supported by Limerick City and County Council

What Next Dance Festival 9 – 10 February

'What Next' is a new Limerick based Dance Festival now in its second year. The programme aims to encourage audiences to discover dance through performances from new and exciting dance artists. World renowned Irish dance artist and choreographer Fearghus Ó Conchúir was this year's Creative Exchange Curator and facilitator and worked with artists performing at the festival providing creative capacity building opportunity to local and visiting artists at Dance Limerick.

Limerick Literary Festival 22 – 24 February

Limerick Literary Festival held annually in honour of Kate O'Brien took place across multiple venues in Limerick. This year's programme saw the festival's ambition reach new heights with visiting authors including Lara Marlowe, Louise O'Neill, Emilie Pine and Richard Ford amongst others. A special live broadcast of RTE Radio 1's Arena took place from the Hunt Museum. Other highlights included Liz Nugent in conversation with Bill Whelan and Desert Island Books presented by David Park and Nadia Whiston Battersby. The festival is supported by Limerick City and County Council through the Limerick City and County Council Festivals and Events Grant Scheme.

Launch of St. Patrick's Festival

At a launch held in St. Mary's Cathedral on 26 of February, Dr. Norah Patten, who is in the running to be Ireland's first astronaut, was unveiled as the Grand Marshal for Limerick's St. Patrick's Day Parade. The theme of this year's parade is One Giant Leap, marking the 50th anniversary of Neil Armstrong's landing on the moon. It also reflects the massive and dynamic revitalisation of Limerick over the past number of years.

Continuing the strategic development of the programme, this year's Festival has been extended to three days to ensure that a weekend offering is provided for locals and tourists alike. Programme highlights include the Panoramic Wheel in Arthur's Quay Park, a Fireworks Extravaganza, The St. Patrick's Day Parade, the international Band Championship and a special art installation The Museum of the Moon will be open free to visitors in St. Mary's Cathedral.

Fáilte Ireland

Ireland's St. Patrick's Festivals is a new initiative from Fáilte Ireland, which seeks to position Ireland as the only place to be in the world for St. Patrick's Day celebrations, addressing visitor growth, regionality and seasonality objectives. A meeting took place to confirm that Limerick is part of the initiative and that will be working on a three year development plan in partnership with Fáilte Ireland, in order to position our event overseas.

Limerick Printmakers at 20

2019 marks 20 years since the formation of Limerick Printmakers (LP), a printmaking studio and creative space that has in the intervening years become an integral part of the cultural landscape of the mid-west with over 60 active studio members. The recently launched exhibition at the Hunt Museum is a declaration of intent by the studio of its commitment to continuing to facilitate and support the creativity of a diverse group of talented artists, printmakers and photographers in the Midwest of Ireland and beyond.

The studio now delivers a diverse remit designed to promote and champion printmaking as an art form through education, artist residencies, exhibitions, graduate awards, printmaking and multidisciplinary projects, national and international collaborations, along with a vibrant community engagement programme.

Tourism Marketing Students – panel discussion

Students undertaking an interdisciplinary MA in Tourism were brought together in a live setting on 5 February to meet with staff from Marketing, Tourism and Culture Departments in Limerick City and County

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Council for their marketing module - Strategic Marketing for Tourism. A discussion on strategic planning, setting goals and metrics and devising implementation plans. The aim of the discussion was to gain a deeper understanding of the complex nature of the 'college student' market for Limerick. This target market are challenging in that they are not easily categorised as either citizen or visitor, as they are both temporary citizen and visitor.

Eva International

EVA International announced Better Words, a new educational initiative which seeks to empower children's access and understanding of contemporary art through creative language. EVA is partnering with five primary schools across the Limerick region to deliver an innovative programme which will include the production of a children's glossary of new contemporary art terms, developed by school children through a series of guided workshops and artistic encounters at leading artists' studios, museums and galleries across Ireland.

The selected schools are: Corpus Christi Primary School (Limerick City); Knockainey National School (Hospital); Limerick School Project (Limerick City); Our Lady Queen of Peace (Limerick City); and St. Senan's National School (Foynes). Pupils from each of these schools will take part in a five week programme of workshops, taking place between March and May 2019.

Merve Elveren will curate the Guest Programme of the 39th EVA International, 2020 and was in Limerick in February, for an initial research visit.

Culture and Arts Department Programming Activity

Launch of the new VAI Resource Centre in Ormston House

This is a collaboration between Visual Artists Ireland, Ormston House and the Culture and Arts Offices of Limerick, Clare and Tipperary to support the professional development of artists in the region. The morning session saw presentations by the Local Authority Arts Officers for each county, to give insights into current work and the sharing of information on opportunities for artists. Presentations from 10 artists were made giving those gathered a lot to think about

as they outlined their practices and also areas of interest that they are currently exploring. The morning event saw an audience of around 30 participants, which swelled in the afternoon to include students from Limerick School of Art and Design who joined us for further presentations and discussion.

Creative Ireland

The team has commenced planning for Cruinniú na nÓg 2019, the day of culture and creativity for children and young people will take place on 15 June 2019 and will be delivered through cross-organisational collaboration with partners from youth and culture & arts sectors.

Film Bursary – update from successful awardee

Made Image Films were awarded a Film Bursary in 2018 to make a short film title 'Told You So'. The crew filmed in Limerick in January and February. Joe Mullins from Kilfinane, produced and starred in the leading role. The film is now in early post production with picture edit and music tests currently in train. The company worked with local crew and artists including Fergal Lawlor of The Cranberries, Nigel Mercier of Limerick School of Acting and Ken Coleman Digital Art and Photography.

County Limerick Youth Theatre

The following workshops were conducted by County Limerick Youth Theatre throughout February:

- Bulgaden National School for 22 x 3rd-6th class students
- Hospital National School for 90 x 4th-6th class students
- Galbally National School for 44 x 4th-6th class students
- Expressing Employability workshops
- Workshops with 10 Irish Wheelchair Association participants
- Little Lyt workshop (13 participants)
- DynaLyt workshops (20 participants)
- CoLYT workshops (29 participants)

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The University Hospital Limerick Arts Committee

The UHL Hospital Arts Committee has received a long list of items to borrow from the Arts Council, a new selection of works, including works from Limerick City and County Council is planned for the future.

Limerick City and County Council Artists' Studio Complexes

The annual review of Artists' Studios Complexes, James Street, Limerick and Cappamore, County Limerick took place. Because of this review, new webpages on Limerick.ie were created to promote the individual artists' work and the studio complexes.

Belltable

Sub-committee review meeting took place to receive a presentation on the programme for the year. This programme highlights include the ongoing partnership with the Irish Film Institute for the next season of films. The family Saturday initiative, which programmes work for children every two weeks is proving very popular.

4. Libraries, Gallery & Museum

Library Services

- Dooradoyle Library officially opened an art exhibition by Jacqueline Hargraves on 8 February. Children's story time sessions continued on Saturdays and Age Action Ireland provided one-to-one computer training for adults. Ballyhoura Development Digital Skills computer courses ran once a week throughout the month with Pranik Healing classes from Colom Scanlon on Thursdays.
- "Splash of Colour" was the appropriate title of February's art exhibition in Newcastle West. It featured 5D Artwork by local artist Alexandra Liston. Mahoonagh and Ardagh National Schools visited the branch and enjoyed storytelling, crafts and quizzes as an introduction to the library. Artist, Jean Ryan Hakizimana helped the children from The Speech and Language Unit of Courtenay Boys National School to paint a fabulous spring themed collage for their school on 14 February in the branch. A public information session for Grants under the Arts Act Grant Scheme was held on Wednesday 20 February. This was delivered by Pippa Little from the Culture and Arts Department. On 19 February Limerick Homeless Action Team held a training session.
- Watch House Cross Library hosted a baby reflexology programme with ABC Start Right during the month of February. Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board commenced an eight-week course "Confidence Building for Adults". Limerick City Community Development Project ran courses on digital photography and using a smart phone. As part of the National Right to Read Strategy, staff from the Limerick Library Service partnered with ABC Start Right to celebrate World Book Day in the Crescent Shopping Centre on 27 February, engaging with a large group of parents and toddlers in the central concourse of the Crescent Shopping Centre.
- On Wednesday 20 February the Granary Library hosted the launch Councillor Vivienne Crowley, of the online edition of the North Munster Antiquarian Journal. Limerick Libraries, in collaboration with the Thomond Archaeological and Historical Society, has made the entire back catalogue of this prestigious journal freely available via the limerick.ie website. The launch was attended by about 50 people and was a very enjoyable occasion.
- On Friday 22 February the Granary Library hosted a poetry reading with Jo Slade and Ciaran O'Driscoll, as the first event of the Limerick Literary Festival in honour of Kate O'Brien. Jo Slade read from her previous poetry collections and from her latest, "Cycles & Lost Monkeys" which will be published in March. Ciaran O'Driscoll read from his most recent publication, 'The Speaking Trees'. The authors were quite tickled at the idea that extra chairs had to be brought out to accommodate the attendance of about 40!
- Activities for children included the regular storytimes with Roisín Meaney and library staff, a visit to the library by St. Mary's pre-school and the monthly junior book club.
- Some of the other activities were the weekly meetings of the COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) Support Group, meetings of Limerick Seniors Forum, the Gramophone Circle and meetings of University of the third Age.



Limerick Museum

- Limerick Museum received 1,778 visitors in February 2019.
- Limerick Museum and the Hunt Museum collaborated on Life in the Bronze Age an exhibition of images by Ingrid Hess, Assistant Professor of Graphic Design at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. As part of the exhibition, a number of workshops for school groups were held in both museums.
- A major exhibition Women in Politics and Public Life, 1918-2018 opened in Istabraq Hall, Merchant's Quay on 18 February. Hosted by the Libraries, Gallery and Museum Department as part of the Decade of Centenaries; it is a pop-up museum from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht curated by Limerick historian and author Sinéad McCool. This free to access exhibition features previously unseen material to give a fresh and exciting insight into the experience of women in public life over the past century.
- The exhibitions Limerick's 130 Years of All-Ireland Success continued throughout the whole of February.
- Friends of Limerick Lace Group held meetings in the Museum on 14 and 28 February.

Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- Ongoing exhibit of Siobhan McDonald's Crystalline: Hidden Monuments, which officially opened on 31 January. The exhibition in LCGA is a Creative Ireland commission to address the late prehistory (Bronze Age) linear earthworks in Ireland called the Black Pig's Dyke. In this new project, titled Hidden Monuments, McDonald presents a series of artistic enquiries to remind us of the Cairns, standing stones and Megalithic structures that foreshadow our architectural histories.
- Louise Bourgeois exhibition finished 17 February and was returned to the Hayward Gallery, London.
- Anita Groener's, The Past is a Foreign Country, exhibition received an Arts Council Touring and Dissemination Award managed by LCGA and opened at The Dock, Carrick-on-Shannon on 19 January. It will tour to 'The Lab' in Dublin and 'Uilinn' in Skibbereen, Co. Cork in 2019.
- LCGA's visitor attendance for February 2019 was 5521

- Artists discussion by Aideen Barry with LSAD students 13 February
- LCGA Weekend workshops recommenced for five weeks on 16 February
- LCGA's loan of two works by Mary Swanzy from the Permanent Collection to a major retrospective exhibition of her work, being toured by IMMA touring to the Crawford Art Gallery, Cork in March 2019. This exhibition will tour to LCGA in the summer of 2019.
- LCGA continues to negotiate the use of the HUB with local groups for workshops and events.
- Dance Limerick Launch 7 February, of What Next: Opening Reception and Panel Discussion.
- Honor Heffernan, The Whistling Girl performance on 14 February, part of the nationwide tour by the artist.
- LCGA facilitated a round table discussion with artists and curators from Limerick, Cork and Galway on Saturday 23 February, organised by Fiona Woods.
- Limerick Art Society held their first workshop for 2019, featuring a demonstration by Stephanie Deady.
- Ongoing plans for LCGA's exhibition programme for 2019 and 2020 including discussions with artists and galleries continue.
- Ongoing plans for LCGA Museum Standards application to the Heritage Council for full accreditation.



Housing Development Directorate

1. Housing Strategy Implementation

Housing Delivery

Following strong delivery in 2018, Limerick City and County Council continues to provide social housing through the following programmes with twenty-two housing units being delivered to the end of February 2019:

- Construction – nine units
- Acquisitions – six units
- Leasing – seven units

There are a number of different schemes through which social housing units are delivered including the following:

- Buy and Renew
- Part V Planning Agreement
- Long Term Lease
- Repair and Lease
- Mortgage to Rent

Limerick City and County Council also works closely with Approved Housing Bodies/ Voluntary Housing Sector in supporting both the acquisition and construction of social housing to meet the objectives of Rebuilding Ireland through the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) and the Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF).

Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) (Draft)

- The Housing Development Directorate prepared a submission to the Economic Development Directorate on the draft RSES. Support for additional housing requirement for social housing demand (Rebuilding Ireland targets) is welcomed. This additional headroom allowance should be flexible in line with the changing demands of social housing demand profiles in Limerick City and County.
- Stronger emphasis required on the role of Limerick Regeneration and the relationship between housing and employment provision generally at a regional level.

Newcastle West Municipal District: Focused workshop on pipeline sites for social housing

- A positive workshop was held with elected members of the Newcastle West Municipal District outlining analysis of Limerick City and County Council owned sites that can facilitate small-scale elderly/downsizing housing schemes given the profile of demand in the area

Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee

- A meeting was held on 25 February 2019 where key policies for drafting and implementation were tabled:
- 'Granny Flat' Policy - Discussion on preparing a paper to outline options for private dwellings at present, what current Government schemes require adjustment (Housing Adaptation Grants, Works in Lieu of Housing etc.) to allow for the sustainable creation of a new dwelling within existing privately owned dwelling plots. For example, a house privately owned by a parent and occupied by a family member who is accepted as being in need of local authority housing. The creation of a single storey 1 bedroom extension would result in the applicant being housed in the altered dwelling and their name removed from the housing list.
- Update on Choice Based Letting: Roll out confirmed for the end of March 2019 with a pilot in the Newcastle West Municipal District.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Service Operations Directorate

1. Housing Support Services

Waiting List

Housing Waiting List	2,943
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Allocations

	Metropolitan District	Newcastle West	Adare – Rathkeale	Cappamore – Kilmallock	Total
Number of Units February 2019	10	0	0	2	12
Year to Date	17	1	1	4	23

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

Individuals – 28 February 2019		
Location	Description	No.
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	31
St. Patrick's Hostel	Higher threshold accommodation for single males	47
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	23
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	10
Temporary Emergency Provision TEP 1 (Edenvilla)	Low threshold, night by night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	20
TEP 2 (Phoenix Lodge)	Low threshold, night by night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	9
Total		140

Families - 31 January 2019			
Location	Description	No. Adults	No. Children
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	11
		Families - 6	
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	49	93
		Families - 34	
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	15	17
		Families - 10	
Totals		70	121
		Families - 50	



Home Improvement Schemes

FEBRUARY 2018	MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HAG (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	No.
Kilmallock	€10,695.00	2	€0.00	0	€4,500.00	1
Metropolitan	€19,774.17	5	€25,620.32	3	€22,550.00	4
Newcastle West	€16,100.00	3	€24,913.91	3	€18,120.00	5
Rathkeale	€0.00	0	€9,450.00	1	€7,116.45	1
	€46,569.17	10	€59,984.23	7	€52,286.45	11

Total Monies issued in February 2019 = €158,839.85

Total Grants issued in February 2019 = 28

JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 2018	MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HAG (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	No.
Kilmallock	€21,345.00	4	€14,448.23	2	€23,795.17	5
Metropolitan	€22,269.17	6	€33,260.32	4	€25,922.50	5
Newcastle West	€19,774.17	5	€59,769.52	7	€32,739.09	8
Rathkeale	€0.00	0	€24,516.08	2	€12,911.45	4
	€63,388.34	15	€131,994.15	15	€95,368.21	22

Total Monies issued January to February 2019 = €290,750.70

Total Grants issued January to February 2019 = 52

Housing Assistance Payments Limerick	
Total number of active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.	
No. of HAP tenancies set up this month.	40
No. of Amendments.	179
No. of Cessations.	16

2. Planning & Environmental Services

Litter/Waste Enforcement

- 257 complaints were received in February 2019
- 363 Inspections were undertaken in February 2019
- 26 Warning letters were issued during February 2019
- Eight Directions were served during the month
- Nine Statutory Notices were issued by the Department
- 23 Litter Fines were issued during the period
- One Fixed Payment Notice was served in the month of February
- Legal proceedings were initiated in nine cases

Air Noise and Water Pollution

- 29 complaints were received in February
- One Notice was served under Section 23 of the Water Pollution Acts
- One Notice was served under Section 110 of the Public Health (Ireland) Act 1878
- One Notice was served under Section 107 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992
- One Notice was served under Section 12 of the Water Pollution Acts
- One Certificate of Compliance was issued under the European Union (Paints, Varnishes, Vehicle Refinishing Products And Activities) Regulations, 2012
- One Certificate of Compliance was issued under the European Union (Installations And Activities Using Organic Solvents) Regulations, 2012 And 2014
- Legal proceedings were issued in one case under the Water Pollution Acts

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



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& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Planning Applications.

A total of 88 new planning applications were received as follows:

Housing Developments	1
Domestic Developments	63
Agricultural Developments	10
Commercial Developments/Change of Use	7
Sporting/Community & Educational Developments	4
Other Developments	3

The current applications include proposals for:

- Construction of eight residential units at Rathnaneane, Newcastle West
- Change of use from a three-storey convent building to accommodate 20 no. assisted living apartments at the Sisters of Mercy Convent, Main Street, Doon

3. Veterinary Services

- 22 stray or wandering horses were impounded
- The Dog Control Unit dealt with 15 dogs
- Ten food samples were submitted during February 2019 for analysis under the National Residues and Microbiological Sampling Programme
- The Dog Licence Awareness Campaign continued to be implemented by the Dog Wardens.

Capital Investment Directorate

1. Design & Delivery

Traveller Accommodation Programme

Kilmurry View Halting Site received Emergency Planning to progress works on this site.

These works comprise three extensions to existing day units and refurbishment of an existing community centre to living accommodations..

2 Property Services

Acquisitions and Disposals statistics:

Statistics	
House purchases concluded:	6
House purchases sale agreed:	7
House Purchases at bidding stage:	4
S183 Disposal notices:	2

Corporate Building Programme

Remedial works continue in the Limerick City Gallery of Art, Pery Square

Facilities Team

- Nourish Café has now opened in Merchant's Quay providing a new and improved service to staff and members of the public.
- Istabraq Hall is currently hosting a National Exhibition - Women in Politics and Public Life 1918-2018.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



National & Regional Shared Services Directorate

1. Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Shared Services Centre

HAP Shared Services

- There were 45,187 active HAP tenancies nationally at the end of February, 2019
- The weekly tenant debit was over €2.1 million
- The HAP Landlord payment run was over €35 million

2. Fire & Emergency Services

Statistics

	Fire Related Calls	Non Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call outs 01/02/19 – 28/02/19	60	44	104
% of calls where on scene in < 10 minutes from time of call	59	70	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 minutes from time of call	39	24	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	2	6	

	Received / Assigned	Validated	Invalidated / Refused	Granted	Completed
Fire Certificate Applications February 2019	12	13	3	13	
Disability Access Cert Applications February 2019	10	10	2	7	
Licensing Applications February 2019	3	3		3	
Commencement Notice February 2019	48	45	3	45	
Completion Certificate February 2019	15	13	1	13	
Planning Referrals	14				10
Sugar CRM Cases February 2019	7				1

Civil Defence attendance at Events for month of February 2019

- Milford Hospice 10k - University of Limerick
- Irish Kayaking Intervarsities - University of Limerick
- Irish Kayaking Intervarsities - Curragower
- Step into Spring - Lough Gur

Fire & Emergency Training Events for month of February 2019

- **Major Emergency Management Events for month of February 2019**
- Five Whole-time Fire Fighting Recruits began a 15 week training programme prior to commencing their careers with Limerick Fire & Rescue Service in June. The training began with an initial week of induction training in Limerick, before travelling

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



to the UK Fire Service College to complete seven weeks of Initial Recruit Training covering disciplines such as basic firemanship, Breathing Apparatus Training and RTC training. Once they return from the UK they will complete their training in Limerick in a number of specialist disciplines.

- Twenty-seven fire fighters completed Powerboat refresher training. The training was successful.
- Eighteen fire fighters completed their two day Breathing Apparatus Wearers Refresher training in Clonmel. This completed the training of all Limerick retained fire fighters in Breathing Apparatus refreshers.

Munster Regional Control Centre (MRCC)

	No of Calls mobilised to an emergency incident by MRCC	Other Calls	Average call processing time (secs)	Total No. of calls in November
No. of call outs 01/02/2019-28/02/2019	838	1,268	1:12	2106

Water Safety

No. of lifebuoy replacements	Feb 2019	Total 2019 Jan - Dec
Metropolitan Area	3	3
Municipal Area	2	2

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



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Limerick City
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Support Services Directorate

1. Finance Services

Rent Collection

Opening Balance @ 01/01/2019	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing balance 28/02/2019	% Collection
€3,822,761	€2,407,233	€6,229,994	€2,453,860	€3,776,134	39%

Commercial Rates and Loans

Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2019	Opening Balance 1 Jan €	Accruals €	Vacant Property Adjustment €	Writes offs/ Waivers €	Total for Collection €	Amount Collected €	Arrears €	Specific Doubtful Arrears €	% Collected
As at 28th February 2019*	11,723,152*	56,167,383**	58,658	50,528	67,781,349	4,927,861	62,853,488	3,619,688	8%

* Subject to finalisation of year end accounts for 2018.

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

Debtors Loans	Opening Balance 1 Jan €	Accruals €	Writes offs/ Waivers €	To Collect €	Receipts €	Arrears €	% Collection
As at 28th February 2019*	485,696	- ***	-	260,545	260,545	225,151	54%

* Subject to finalisation of year end accounts for 2019.

***Accruals for 2019 not updated to date

Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No of days in overdraft 0

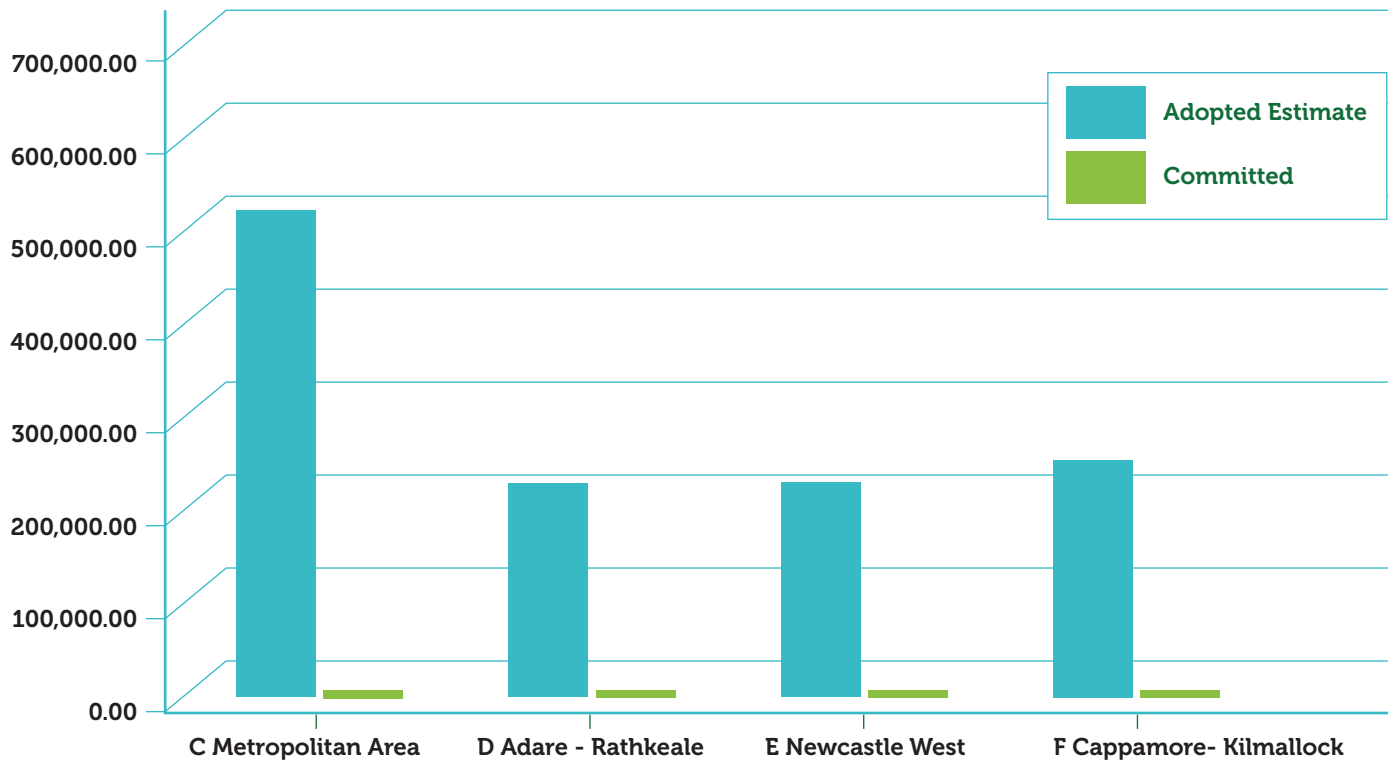
CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



General Municipal Allocation 2019

Adopted Estimate €1.203 Million

Graph outlining adopted budget and draft committed expenditure up to 28th February 2019.



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

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& Contae **Luimnigh****Limerick City**
& County Council**2. Corporate Services, Governance & Customer Services****Corporate Services
Receptions**

Mayoral Receptions were held for the following:

- Dave Connolly and Joe O'Sullivan in recognition of receiving a John Sherlock Award from the F.A.I. for their effort and contribution to soccer in Limerick.
- Turlough McNamara in recognition of receiving The Public Relations Officer P.R.O. of the Year from the F.A.I. for his overall contribution in promoting soccer at all levels in Limerick.
- Paddy Brennan in recognition of his total commitment for decades to Limerick Music and his tireless efforts to promote it through his videos, documentaries and printed publications that has entertained, not only locals, but thousands of others throughout the world.

Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Limerick Receptions were held for the following:

- Fionn Delee Scanlan, Alan McGrath and Jimmy Crowe in recognition of their kindness and selflessness, examples to all young Limerick citizens.
- Cliona's Foundation in recognition of their incredible work with families.

Health and Safety Training

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

Name of Course	Total Number of Staff Trained
Signing Lighting and Guarding	1
Safe Pass	12
Telescopic Handler	12
First Aid Response	16
Confined Spaces Medium Risk	2
Total Staff Trained in Month of February	43

Register of Electors

The 2019/2020 Live Register of Electors was published on 1 February 2019. There are currently 140,498

Presidential Electors and 146,992 Local Government electors on the Live Register. The Local Government electors is broken down as follows:

Adare-Rathkeale	23,256
Cappamore-Kilmallock	27,827
Limerick City East	25,696
Limerick City North	25,918
Limerick City West	22,422
Newcastle West	21,873

Copies of the Live Register of Electors are now available for inspection in all Limerick City and County Council's Offices, Garda Stations, Libraries and Post Offices. In preparation for the European Elections, a total of 2,659 EP1 forms were distributed to Potential European Voters.

Customer Services

- Customer Services continued to work closely with Councillors and elected representatives on the use of My Limerick platform. 150 cases were logged in February using My Limerick
- Customer Services received 12,639 calls via our call centre throughout the month, handling 43% of calls at first point of contact
- This works out at approximately 632 calls per day
- As well as logging 94% of housing maintenance cases for the North Operational Division, Customer Services also logged 55 cases for housing maintenance in both the West and South Operational Divisions
- There were 600 cases logged on behalf of elected representatives by Customer Services
- Overall, on the SugarCRM (Customer Relationship Management) System, 2,900 cases were logged throughout the month, 60% of these being logged by Customer Services in both our Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle office
- The majority of cases logged were for the following services:
 - Operations and Maintenance: 2,155 – (61% of these being housing maintenance)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



- Housing Support Services: 291
- Planning and Environmental Services: 163
- Design & Delivery: 66
- Customer Services: 40
- Urban & Village Renewal: 39
- The total number of callers to our counters at Merchants Quay and Dooradoyle was 2,867.

3. Access to Information

	February	2019 (January to December)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	18	35
FOI Internal Appeals	-	-
Information Commissioner Appeals	-	2
Total Ombudsman Requests	1	3
Total AIE Requests	-	-

Progress to date:

- Currently there are 260 housing and physical projects captured on CoraPPM system. Further details around these projects are currently being updated regarding tasks, milestones, risks and issues
- Development of financial integration between Agresso and Cora PPM is due to be finalised by the end March. The Job code setup workflow has been developed within CoraPPM and is currently being tested by the Finance Team
- Project Managers within the Capital Investment Directorate will commence formal user review of Cora PPM mid-March
- Business case tracking and business case approval workflows have been incorporated into Cora PPM and will be ready for formal user review by mid-March
- Go Live date is end-March

A one-day project management awareness course which is accredited through University of Limerick will be delivered internally to staff by BID. Training will commence in April

4. Business Improvement

Project18 Overview

The Business Improvement Department is collaborating with the Capital Investment, Support Services, Housing, Physical, Economic and Social Development Directorates to ensure the effective management and quality control of projects within the organisation. A project tracking system (CoraPPM) was procured late last year to allow for the effective management of projects within the organisation. The main benefits of such a system will allow:

- Compliance with the Public Spending Code
- Rapid project status reporting
- Management of risks and issues throughout the project lifecycle
- Management of change control on projects
- Financial integration with Agresso

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**Schedule of Meetings**

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Full Council Special Meeting to agree a submission on the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy	25.02.2019	Dooradoyle
Operational Briefings Limerick City East Limerick City North Limerick City West	05.02.2019 05.02.2019 05.02.2019	Merchant's Quay Merchant's Quay Merchant's Quay
Municipal District of: Newcastle West – Monthly Meeting Adare-Rathkeale – Monthly Meeting Cappamore-Kilmallock – Monthly Meeting	06.2.2019 12.2.2019 28.1.2019	Newcastle West Rathkeale Galbally
Local Community Development Committee	12.2.2019	Merchant's Quay
Joint Policing Sub Committee Meeting Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	14.02.2019 28.02.2019	Newcastle West Galbally
Strategic Policy Committee Meetings Travel and Transportation Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Cultural Community Leisure and Emergency Services Environment Home and Social Development	11.02.2019 11.02.2019 12.02.2019 18.02.2019 25.02.2019 25.02.2019	Merchant's Quay Merchant's Quay Dooradoyle Merchant's Quay Dooradoyle Dooradoyle