

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick City**  
& County Council

## April 2019

THIS MONTH:

**CLEANED-UP** – Record Numbers take part in TLC5

**PRIDE** – 4 entries chosen for Pride of Place Awards

**GOING STRONG** – 120 years of local government

**TOURISM** – New Tourism strategy launched

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**Economic Development Directorate**

**1. Trade & Investment**

- Edwards Lifesciences Corporation, the global leader in patient-focused innovations for structural heart disease and critical care monitoring, announced plans to increase its investment in Limerick by more than €80 million with the construction of a new and larger medical technology plant. This takes Edwards' investment in the project to more than €160 million. Work has commenced on the construction of their new facility in Castletroy.
- Planning permission has been granted for Californian firm Nautilus to develop a revolutionary new €35 million floating data centre at Limerick Docks. The project will bring 24 permanent positions, as well as 100 roles during construction.
- Johnson and Johnson Vision Care (Ireland) announced plans to add approximately 100 new roles as part of a €100 million expansion of its manufacturing operations at its site in the National Technology Park, Plassey, Limerick. Approximately 200 additional workers are expected to be employed in the construction phase of the expansion to the company's Vision Care facility.
- FundRock, an international financial services company, has announced that it will be creating 45 jobs at its new Limerick offices in Castletroy. FundRock currently employs 20 people and envisages to grow to more than 45 over the next year and a half.
- A national accountancy apprenticeship programme is to create 20 new jobs in Limerick. The Accounting Technician Apprenticeship which is a funded, work-based learning programme, has been embraced by large accountancy firms, smaller practices as well as organisations in industry and the public sector.
- EcoOnline announced the official opening of a new 7,000 square ft office in Limerick, doubling its office space in an ongoing commitment to innovation and growth in the Irish and UK market. The office will serve as a centre of excellence and operational centre to support EcoOnline's existing and expanding high profile client base in Ireland, United Kingdom and globally. The projected growth is anticipated to increase its workforce from 34 employees to 45 over the next 18 months.

**2. Strategic & Forward Planning**

- The Draft Local Area Plan for Kilmallock was prepared and placed on public display for a period of 6 weeks from 13 April to 27 May.
- A submission was made to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht on the draft Guidance Document on Article 6 Methodological.

**3. Limerick Local Enterprise Office (LEO)**

- Grants approved totalling €82,575 for five projects with a job potential of 14 new full time jobs.
- Start Your Own Business Course, Instagram for Business, Social Media Bootcamp and Trading Online Voucher Seminar held.
- Two full day Brexit Advice Clinics held which were fully booked. One to One clinics enable clients to talk through their concerns regarding Brexit and assist the business to evaluate its exposure to the UK market and the potential for diversifying to other markets.
- A new National "Meet the Buyer on the Street at LIT" event launched in conjunction with the Irish Quality Food Awards, the Limerick Institute of Technology and the LEO network.
- LEO Limerick actively took part in the #YourCouncilDay initiative on Friday 12 April across its four social media platforms: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn
- Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur (IBYE) County Final was held in Castletroy Park on 30 April. The category winners were:
  1. Best Business Idea (Pre Trading) – Eoghan Mulcahy
  2. Best Start-Up Business (Trading 18 months or less) – Allen Wixted, No Place Like Ltd.
  3. Best Established Business (Trading for more than 18 months) – Jonathan Markham, Precision Utility Mapping.

They now proceed to the regional finals in June 2019.



## 4. Digital Strategy

- The LITe Programme was rolled out in Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and Corporate Services this month.
- The first consultation, relating to the proposed Kilmallock Local Area Plan 2019-2025, was published on the MyPoint public consultation platform. This will allow members of the public to create submissions online at any time, and track the progress of those submissions.
- Digital Strategy presented Limerick City and County Council's strategic use of Open Source Geographic Information System (GIS) to the 2019 Open Source Geospatial Ireland Symposium held in April. This innovative approach led by Digital Strategy has vastly increased the spatial analysis capacity of council staff, leading to better decision making at lower costs.
- The Head of Digital Strategy and the EU Project Manager represented Limerick at the Positive Energy Districts and Neighbourhoods Programme Workshops in Vienna. The Positive City Exchange Project, of which Limerick is a central partner, is part of a broader European Commission strategy to create 100 Positive Energy Districts in urban neighbourhoods across Europe by 2025. These workshops brought together cities implementing this strategy with academic institutions and funding bodies to share best practices with each other and to co-create solutions for healthier, greener, and more sustainable city living. It also included an educational tour, given by senior architects from the City of Vienna, of the area around Nordbahnhof, a former train depot which is being developed into high quality social housing.
- This month Limerick City and County Council has taken part in four URBACT network applications with the cities of Messina (Italy), Alba Iulia (Romania), Budapest (Hungary), and Kalisz-Ostrow (Poland). The URBACT programme is a European Territorial Cooperation programme aiming to foster sustainable integrated urban development in cities across Europe. These applications aim to bring knowledge and new ideas to Limerick in the areas of new digital infrastructure, healthier green spaces, and intergenerational education.

## 5. Innovative Limerick

Innovate Limerick, the innovation arm of Limerick City and County Council, is to create an E-Hub in Abbeyfeale following the successful purchase of the former bank building in the West Limerick town.

ENGINE E-Hub, located at Provincial House on Main Street, will become a central community space and 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 co-working space will have many benefits including a cost saving for businesses and the creation of an environment that encourages creativity, better communication and collaboration between businesses and individuals, thus increasing productivity and further sustainable employment.

The ENGINE E-Hub in Abbeyfeale will be connected to the existing network of Enterprise Centres by Innovate Limerick's Business Development Executive. The facility will be connected to ENGINE, which is located in the heart of Limerick city centre's Georgian Innovation District and ENGINE E-Hub at Rathkeale, which will be launched in June of this year.

This facility will create a pathway to sustainable employment in the town. The primary objectives of Innovate Limerick is for this space to support entrepreneurship and employment opportunities as well as re-training and up-skilling in the town of Abbeyfeale and to support a spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation at every level in the local community.

## 6. Marketing & Communications

- Riverfest Limerick 2019
  - a. National digital, print and radio marketing campaign underway following successful launch of event in House Limerick
  - b. Launch secured extensive national coverage, including page one in the *Irish Examiner* and page two *Irish Times*
  - c. Promoted Riverfest across local and national media platforms – *Limerick Leader*, *Limerick Post*, *Live95*, *Spin SouthWest*, *Classic Hits*, *Clare FM* and *Tipp FM*, including extensive traditional and digital coverage across all platforms.
  - d. Feature advert in the *Irish Times* in collaboration with Regeneron Limerick Great Limerick Run

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- e. Design and distribution of 20,000 event guides throughout Limerick City and County, North Kerry, Clare and Tipperary
- f. Marketing and Communications staff distributed event guides directly to the public at Limerick's Milk Market
- Brand Limerick Project
  - a. Further engagement with stakeholders regarding the new brand identity.
  - b. Engaged Limerick Printmakers in the creative exploration of the logomark.
  - c. Embarked upon the development of a 'brand world' for the new identity.
  - d. Evaluated tenders as part of the brand's implementation, under LOT 1 Creative and Strategic Services and LOT 2 Media Buying.
- Marketing materials supplied to:
  - a. *'Limerick Inside-Out'* – a University of Limerick International practicum for students from 30 different home universities across North America and Europe
  - b. Motorhome Club members
- Prepared and printed copies of the Limerick Economic Monitor ahead of its launch next month.
- Participated in the national social media initiative #YourCouncilDay on 12 April. The @LimerickCouncil Twitter account ranked 3rd place out of a total of 1,938 accounts.
- Commenced preparatory work on Our Council, Our Stories video campaign
- Engaged with award-winning culture, travel and lifestyle blogger Edwina Elizabeth O'Connor "The Life of Stuff", in collaboration with Limerick Strand Hotel, to raise Limerick's profile as a destination for family breaks
- Supported Tourism Officer with the development of the Purple Flag Map
- Produced seven Limerick.ie e-newsletters
- Monthly Limerick.ie Business Bulletin e-newsletter issued

**Social Media:**

- Monitor, schedule and update social media channels with creative content to utilise our engagement with the public and put Limerick in people's minds
- Posted 44 times on Limerick.ie's Facebook with total page likes now 23,239. Posts reached 122,092 users with 26,988 engagements.
- Tweeted 41 times on Limerick.ie's Twitter, @limerick\_ie, with total followers now 16,072. Our tweets earned 93,800 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).
- Posted five times on Limerick.ie's Instagram and created four Stories with total followers now 6,191.
- Tweeted 12 times on Limerick Marketing's Twitter, @limkmarketing, with total followers now 2,658. Our tweets earned 41,400 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).
- Posted 11 times on Limerick City and County Council's LinkedIn with total followers now 2,507.

**Limerick.ie**

- A total of 150,679 people visited the Limerick.ie website in April 2019 – a 44 % increase on the same period in 2018.
- Content Report: 154 events, 21 articles and 85 amenities added to Limerick.ie website in April 2019.
- Dedicated new webpages created for Easter in Limerick, Riverfest Limerick, Pride of Place, Bealtaine Festival, Georgian Limerick Neighbourhood, Limerick Smarter Travel, Local Elections and HearSay International Audio Arts Festival.
- The most popular pages on Limerick.ie in April 2019 were:
  1. [www.limerick.ie](http://www.limerick.ie)
  2. [www.limerick.ie/riverfest](http://www.limerick.ie/riverfest)
  3. [www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning](http://www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning)
  4. [www.limerick.ie/council](http://www.limerick.ie/council)
  5. [www.limerick.ie/discover/whats-on/browse](http://www.limerick.ie/discover/whats-on/browse)

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- 40 % of website pageviews were in Discover section and 30 % of pageviews were in the Council section

### Communications

- Issued 20 news releases from the Marketing and Communications Department
- Researched and wrote 20 speeches for the Office of the Mayor
- Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter
- Produced and distributed the quarterly Council Connect staff magazine
- Tweeted 234 times on Limerick City and County Council's Twitter account, @limerickcouncil, with total fans now 12,238. Our tweets earned 359,700 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).
- Produced a photo montage of the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor James Collins for the Mayor's Ball
- Laura Ryan MC'd the launch of the Limerick Tourism Development Strategy Action Plan 2019-2023. Produced media book documenting the media coverage received following the launch.



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- The tendering and selection process for the design of the Castleconnell Flood Relief Scheme is well advanced and continues to progress.
- The tendering and selection process for the design of the Athea Flood Relief Scheme has commenced.

**2. Environment****Capital Works**

- **Draft Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024**

At its Meeting held on 29 April, the Full Council approved the publication of the Draft Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 and the undertaking of a public consultation process. The Draft Strategy will mainstream climate adaptation into the Council's plans, policies and operations and the finalised strategy must be adopted no later than 30 September 2019.

- **Draft Litter Management Plan 2019-2022**

At its Meeting held on 29 April, the Full Council approved the publication of the Draft Litter Management Plan 2019-2024 and a public consultation will commence shortly.

- **European Green Leaf Award Nomination**

Limerick is one of three European Cities that have been shortlisted for the European Green Leaf Award 2020 which is an annual award presented by the European Commission in conjunction with the European Green Capital Award. The European Green Leaf Award is a competition aimed at cities and towns across Europe, with populations between 20,000 and 100,000 inhabitants. The Green Leaf Award seeks to recognise the commitment of cities to better environmental outcomes, with a particular accent on efforts that generate green growth and new jobs. This year's final will be held on 19 June 2019 in Oslo, Norway.

The objectives of the European Green Leaf Award are:

- To recognise cities that demonstrate a good environmental record and commitment to generating green growth
  - To encourage cities to actively develop citizens' environmental awareness and involvement
- To identify cities able to act as a 'green ambassador' and to encourage other cities to progress towards better sustainability outcomes

**3. Water Services****Capital Works**

- Watermain rehabilitation works progressing in Ballingaddy.
- 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, Culture & Arts****Limerick Tourism Development Strategy 2019 – 2023**

The Limerick Tourism Development Strategy 2019 – 2023 was launched by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor James Collins on Tuesday 16 April. The Tourism Development Strategy, has identified Limerick's unique position on the west coast of Ireland, and as a gateway to the Wild Atlantic Way, as central to developing the sector. The new strategy to develop tourism across Limerick city and county envisages that the total number of visitors to Limerick will reach 1.1 million per annum, generating more than €360 million in revenue and creating 1,500 new jobs by 2023.

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The Limerick Tourism Development Strategy aims to strengthen the tourism sector in Limerick, capture key opportunities to grow the sector and highlight priority action areas to unlock the significant benefits that a thriving tourism industry can bring.

It aligns with the Limerick 2030 Economic and Spatial Plan for Limerick, which has earmarked tourism as one of the key sectors for future growth and addresses the need for a joined up tourism strategy for Limerick and a more coordinated approach to the development of the sector.

The framework for tourism is based around four key drivers, which are broad in scope to appeal to the key audiences. The key drivers also provide a solid foundation in terms of the attributes and assets of the destination on which to build – Into the Blue (Waterways); Energy Unleashed (Activities); Vibrant History (History and Heritage), and Alive and Kicking (Arts and Culture, including Festivals and Events) in an urban and a rural environment.

### Cultural Strategic Policy Committee

The Cultural SPC met on 9 April 2019. At the meeting, the following recommendations were presented for consideration:

- Recommendations for the Limerick Theatre Bursaries Award Scheme 2019
- Recommendations for the Grants under the Arts Act Scheme
- To note the Made in Limerick Creative Ireland allocations for Strand 1 and 2
- The Open Call guidelines for the Festivals and Events Grants Scheme 2019/2020
- The DRAFT brief for the Festivals and Events Strategy

The members of the SPC agreed to forward recommendations for the Limerick Theatre Bursaries Award Scheme and the Grants under the Arts Act Scheme to full council for approval.

### Arts Council ARR (Arts-activity report)

As part of the Framework Agreement 2018-2025 between Limerick City and County Council and the Arts Council, the Tourism Development, Culture and Arts Department uploaded the relevant documentation to the Arts Council on line portal on 12 April. Documents included the arts activity report and Child Protection Quality Assurance Self Audit.

### Creative Ireland

The Assessment Panel met on Tuesday 2 April to assess and make decisions on Strand 1 and Strand 2 of the open call - Made in Limerick Grants Scheme. These were noted at the Cultural SPC and letters issued to all applicants on 12 April 2019. A total of €30,000 was allocated.

Limerick City and County Council signed a Service Level Agreement with the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht as part of the delivery of the Limerick Culture and Creativity Strategy. The SLA sets out the terms of the strategic partnership including general funding requirements between the parties as well as the shared expectation that the investment will add value to creative and cultural activities in Limerick as well as influencing the creative economy, health and wellbeing of Limerick citizen's year on year.

### Irish Aerial Creation Centre Youth Performance Group and Irish Chamber Orchestra Youth Orchestra

The Irish Aerial Creation Centre Youth Performance Group was founded at the start of 2019 with funding from Creative Ireland. Through weekly creative classes, monthly workshops with professional artists, and a month of intensive weekends young people have been introduced to the skills and creativity of aerial dance. On Saturday 28 April, a collaborative performance between the also recently formed Irish Chamber Orchestra Youth Orchestra took place at the Irish Aerial Creation Centre. These projects support the ambitions of the Creative Youth Plan published by Creative Ireland and the strategic priority of Limerick City and County Council to support Future Creators: Children and Young People.

### Open Calls

#### Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts Scheme 2019

Two letters of support were issued in April. This scheme supports applications to national and international funding bodies to help leverage funding by offering 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.

#### Festival and Events Grants Scheme 2019/2020

On 23 April, Limerick City and County Council announced an open call for funding for

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Limerick based festivals and events. This grant scheme provides support for the delivery of objective two of the Limerick Cultural Strategy i.e.

- To grow the physical and human resources, infrastructure and support for staging large scale interventions, performances, festivals and productions.

This competitive open call, offers the opportunity for funding under two strands for Festivals/Events taking place from 1 October 2019 and 30 September 2020:

- Strand 1 - Small and Community Festivals / Events
- Strand 2 - Medium to Large Festivals / Events

The closing date for applications is 4pm Friday 31 May 2019. The Tourism Development, Culture and Arts Department, working with both internal and external expertise, have developed a pilot online application process. This is to bring efficiencies around managing and processing and reporting on grants and also to ensure ease of applying for users. Individuals, festival and organisations can register online on: <https://limerickarts.submit.com/>

### Grants Under the Arts Act

Sixty-six applications were received with a total ask of €60,676.89. The total fund for 2019 is €20,000. The Assessment Panel met on Wednesday 13 March 2019.

### Programme

#### The County Limerick Youth Theatre

Workshops continued throughout the month for all groups, including Leader project workshops for Theatre in Education and Expressing Employability. Over Easter a two day camp took place with extra rehearsals for the upcoming performances in May as part of The Rescue, a week long centenary commemorations will take place from Sunday 12 to Sunday 19 May 2019 in Knocklong.

#### Launch of Riverfest

The official launch of Riverfest by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor James Collins took place on Tuesday 9 April. The programme this year includes a wide range of new partnerships to deliver activities over the four days of the Festival. Exciting new additions include: the inaugural Riverfest Coarse Fishing Competition, run by the Limerick and District Anglers Association; Water is Life in partnership with Local Authority Waters Programme; Music at Riverfest in partnership with Opera Workshop, to include a new opera production inspired by the Limerick Docks, the

sea, the sailors and those who await in hope on shore at The Sailors Home. The presence of Fidget Feet who will perform works of beauty, mystery and spectacular aerial charm over the weekend of the festival is testament to Limerick's commitment to supporting Creatives in Limerick in programming festivals.

#### Integrated Dance

Integrated Dance workshops took place in Newcastle West with the Brothers of Charity and Transition Year students from Scoil Mhuire agus Íde, Newcastle West on the 4 and 11 April. The aim of this project is to introduce participants to dance as an art form whilst facilitating active and productive engagement in dance activities amongst disabled and non-disabled participants.

#### Belltable

The sub-committee review meeting took place on 3 April. Val Balance, Arts Council Head of Venues attended. At the meeting, the replacement of sectoral representation on the sub-committee was agreed. Of note, is the success of the IFI@Belltable film programme, the only venue outside Dublin showing IFI films, which has seen increased attendance due to a re-negotiated partnership with the IFI with the Belltable programme more focused on newer film releases.

### Partnerships

#### University Hospital Limerick Arts Committee

UHL Arts Committee confirmed a list of works to borrow from the Arts Council national collection. Artist Paul Bokslag, Helium Arts, Creative Health Hub Limerick made a presentation on the new programme in Paediatric Outpatients at UHL.

#### Helium Arts

Helium Arts Creative Health Hub Limerick's first Advisory Committee group meeting took place to review the Terms of Reference, aims, and objectives of the group, and to receive a presentation on the programme by Helene Hugel, CEO Helium Arts.

As part of the Limerick Creative Health Hub activities, community-based workshops will run from March-December in Limerick. The workshops will take place in wheelchair-accessible community and arts venues, over 2-3 hours, with the support of medical professionals.

Children will experience free facilitated creative arts workshops once a week for 4-6. Then they will be signposted to arts workshops/activities taking place in their locality, or have the opportunity to take part

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in a monthly Open Studio. To date a number of the Community workshops have been held in St. Gabriel's School. The Creative Health Hub Limerick is taking place in partnership with University Hospital Limerick and Limerick City and County Council.

### Bingo Wings

The three partner Local Authorities, Limerick, Donegal and Kerry and Fidget Feet discussed existing recent reports on their Cultural projects and a joint approach to evaluation for the project, allowing for the gathering of comparative data across the local authorities.

### Hosting of Culture Night Regional Meeting

Limerick City and County Council hosted the annual regional Culture Night briefing on Friday 12 April with the Cultural Unit of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. In attendance was the national Culture Night co-ordinator, and regional Arts Officers (Clare, Cork, Tipperary, Waterford). The purpose of the briefing was to discuss the preparations and funding for Culture Night 2019 on Friday 20 September. The closing date for Culture Night funding applications to the Department of Culture is Wednesday 8 May and Limerick Tourism Development, Culture and Arts Department will again submit a funding request to support the initiative in Limerick, to be match funded by Limerick City and County Council.

### Hosting of regional focus group of Arts Officers: Invitation to Collaboration scheme

On behalf of the Arts Council, Limerick City and County Council hosted a focus group with local authority partners in receipt of funding from the Arts Council scheme, Invitation to Collaboration, for an in-depth conversation around impacts and outcomes of this investment scheme by The Arts Council.

### International

Ormston House presented a solo exhibition by Joy Gerrard at SUPERMARKET 2019 in Stockholm from 4 to 7 April. Joy Gerrard was selected through the new Ormston House Membership Scheme for artists. SUPERMARKET is an international artist-run art fair that provides a showcase of artists' initiatives from all over the world with the aim to display their unique projects and ideas, to create opportunities for new networks on the Swedish and international art scene, and to share

the passion and vitality that are present in this sphere of the art world.

### Centre Culturel Irlandais Bursary

Limerick City and County Council supported an open call for a month long residency for a Limerick artist, in the Centre Culturel Irlandais (CCI) in Paris. Artists, writers and musicians carry out their own research and participate in CCI's cultural programme during their month-long stay. The combination of living and working in historic and atmospheric surroundings, in one of the most culturally diverse cities in the world, is of undeniable benefit to each artist in residence as well as an important means of channelling a wealth of artistic influence towards Ireland and its creative community. The successful Limerick recipient, following evaluation, is musician Mawuli Boevi (Murli) a member of the Rusangano Family.

### Festivals in April that received funding support from Limerick City and County Council

#### Limerick Fringe

From the 3 - 6 April, Limerick Fringe, now in its third year, a vibrant, multi-genre performance based festival hosted in Limerick, took place in non-traditional spaces bringing an explosion of creativity to streets, clubs and cultural venues. The festival is a not for profit organisation, run by a group of volunteers, that looks to support artists and producers to promote new, vibrant and daring arts to a wider audience. Many shows sold out and Free Fringe and Family Fringe provided opportunities for young and old to experience unique theatre shows.

#### HearSay

The mission of HearSay is to create a home that celebrates and inspires creative audio all around the world. For four days and nights from the 4 - 7 of April, Kilfinane was taken over by the world's finest audio makers. These are the words of Mike Williams, a documentary maker and podcast creator at ABC, after attending the 2019 festival:

*The home of creative audio – the place that inspires and celebrates the best audio from around the world – is in a small Irish mountain village called Kilfinane. The four-day celebration is a truly international event. Producers from every corner*

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*of the globe made the pilgrimage to a space that is becoming legendary for making friends, dreaming up collaborations and getting inspired. The magic and charm of Hearsay is palpable. Indeed, the festival has started using the hashtag #audioheaven. HearSay Festival is the Coachella of creative audio!*

## Bread not Profits

Gúna Nua Theatre Company's new production Bread not Profits took place from 17 to 27 April at Cleeves. This very special production, written by Mike Finn, Directed by Terry O'Donovan with Music by David Blake, marks the 100 year anniversary of the Limerick Soviet. The production was site-specific set in the historically important Cleeve's Condensed Milk Factory in Limerick City. With a cast of 11 professional performers, three musicians and a further community ensemble of 15 the production was sold out and will be remembered as a highlight of the theatre calendar in Limerick. Bread not Profits was generously supported by The Arts Council, Limerick City and County Council, The Lime Tree Theatre, University of Limerick and Troy Studios.

## 2. Urban & Rural Community Development

### Domestic Waste Refuse Waiver Scheme

#### Bin Waivers:

Issued:	124
Refused:	9

#### Cemeteries

Mount St. Lawrence	13
Mount St. Oliver	12
Castlemungret	12
Kilmurry	4

## Thematic Programmes

### Health and Wellbeing

- The interagency working groups held review meetings of We're Breastfeeding Friendly Limerick

and the expansion of the Social and Health Education Programme (SHEP) to County Limerick, with both Healthy Ireland-funded projects confirming that they have met all their objectives to date.

- Three other Healthy Ireland-funded projects have already reached or are nearing completion. They are Social Farming led by West Limerick Resources, support for Parkrun in Limerick led by Limerick Local Sports Partnership and the Adventure Walk App in 12 parks and amenities across Limerick led by Limerick Local Sports Partnership.
- Limerick Sanctuary Runners used a small grant through the Healthy Ireland funding to support 13 people living in Direct Provision to participate in running in a group setting. 13 Direct Provision residents are meeting in UL to train with other local runners and preparation is well underway for a group to participate in the Regeneron Great Limerick Run.
- Limerick Cycling Campaign has prepared and piloted a survey to carry out with parents and pupils of two city schools to learn about their travel habits and potentially inform future policy and practice. This work is funded by Healthy Ireland.
- Two meetings to explore the possibility of establishing a food partnership for Limerick City and County have been held. A key issue in relation to food poverty, raised by local stakeholder agencies, is that food preparation/cookery skills in communities/families in Limerick are being lost and people need support to regain these skills.
- Healthy Limerick assisted in the submission of an application on behalf of Limerick City and County Council for the Health and Greenspace project under the URBACT Programme.
- The report from the consultation process with children, young people and their families to inform a draft play and recreation policy for Limerick City and County Council was completed.

### Age Friendly Programme

- Experts from Cliff-run media held the final Acorn Tablet IT skills workshop in Newcastle West was attended by 30 participants. The aim was to provide final assistance and to have the participants complete an online evaluation and satisfaction survey. This brings the hugely successful pilot to

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a close. Maynooth University is now collating the research data gathered and a report on the trial will issue later this year.

- Limerick was represented at a National Age Friendly Programme Managers meeting in Dublin.
- Age Friendly Ireland received formal confirmation from the World Health Organisation that Ireland has been conferred with the title of First Age Friendly Country in the world. A formal ceremony to celebrate this milestone will be held later this year.
- The final Place EE inter-generational workshop took place in the Longcourt Hotel, Newcastle West, on Wednesday 3 April. There were 60 participants in attendance (30 older citizens and 30 Transition Year students). A number of the individual pairings presented their projects which related to a cultural/heritage interest. A videographer was on site to capture the stories, songs, dance and interviews. This information is currently being collated and edited and will be uploaded to a cultural archive (online platform) to demonstrate the diverse and rich culture from Ireland, Northern Ireland and Sweden. To end the final workshop certificates of appreciation were presented to all 60 participants. The group will be brought together for a Showcase event to be held in September.
- Members of the Older Peoples Council Executive met in April to discuss the National Convention of Older Peoples Councils taking place this year in Donegal in May.
- The OPC Executive was also invited to attend a meeting hosted by Minister Michael Ring, where the Chairperson of the Executive was afforded the opportunity to advise the Minister of the positive impact his Departments funding of the Acorn Tablets had made to the participants of the pilot in Limerick.
- Age Friendly Limerick and the OPC Executive were represented at the launch of the Waterford Older People's Council.
- Age Friendly Limerick was represented at the national meeting of Age Friendly Programme Managers
- Age Friendly Limerick was represented at the Presentation of Work undertaken by the first cohort of UL foreign students to take part in the UL Practicum. UL Practicum – Limerick Inside Out is a joint initiative between Age Friendly Limerick

on behalf of Limerick City and County Council and the University of Limerick. The AHSS International Practicum provides an introduction to three areas of partnership collaboration between staff in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and the city. Sponsored by a joint University/ Council initiative to develop the city, we invite our international visitors to come and take a close-up look at our city, to share understanding of Limericks challenges and opportunities. Students are invited to spend a semester on the Practicum and join in the UL/Age Friendly Programmes efforts to grow Limerick as a new kind of student destination. Modules are designed to provide students with practical experience, generic skills development (such as applied research work, team work, problem-solving and project work) and opportunities to apply the disciplinary knowledge that they have learned to real-world projects, making Limerick a fun place to experience Ireland's past, present and future in an authentic and immersive student experience.

### Integration

- A presentation on the life and work of local Templeglantine man Max Arthur Macauliffe was made to the members of the Community, Leisure and Emergency Services SPC. The members were advised about plans for the hosting of a number of events to celebrate the life and contribution of Max Arthur Macauliffe to Sikh culture and religion.
- Funding received from the Department of Foreign Affairs for the hosting of Africa Day events 2019 to be held from 16 to 26 May inclusive. This year's allocation is more than 100% greater than funding received in 2018.
- Limerick City and County Council was represented at the 'Every Child Is Your Child' Charity Fundraising event. ECIYC is now in its third year of establishing on-going funding and resources to support asylum-seeking parents and children living in the Irish Direct Provision system. In 2018, through sponsorship from Limerick City and County Council and others, ECIYC supported 67 school students who are residents of Direct Provision, through purchasing stationary, uniforms, second-hand/new books, and paying school costs such as book rental and locker fees. ECIYC also co-hosted a summer camp for child residents of

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick City & County Council**

the Knockalisheen Direct Provision centre at the Moyross Youth Academy Centre. They also held a "backpack drive" for the donation of back-to-school items, including shirts, trousers, skirts, socks, backpacks and stationery items, which were then distributed to approximately 600 children living in 12 Direct Provision centres around the country. Donations from the Mitzvah Day Collection at the Dublin Jewish Progressive Congregation to families were also distributed in 14 Direct Provision centres across the country, along with donations from a toiletry drive initiative to families in the Knockalisheen Direct Provision centre, Hanratty Hotel Direct Provision centre and the King's Hotel Direct Provision Centre (Co. Clare).

**Education**

Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival 2019, hosted events in a variety of locations throughout Limerick City and County. The theme of this year's festival was "Bridging the Gap," and focused on bridging the gap between all communities in Limerick through learning. Bridging the Gap, links young and old, rural and urban, returning to learning and welcoming new communities, and runs alongside the festival's annual tagline of 'Communities, Connecting, Learning'. The theme also symbolises the '3 Bridges' walking route in Limerick.

The Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival made an inspirational ninth return to the city and county in April with over 200 free events and activities taking place for the enjoyment and learning of all. There was something to entertain and involve people of all ages, interests and backgrounds during the week long festival.

This year's festival took place from Monday 8 to Sunday 14 April.

Events this year included:

- Three Billy Goats Gruff with Limerick Childcare Committee across the Limerick Library Network
- Irish Union Workhouses – The Impact on Irish People with Merriman Research in King John's Castle
- Spanish and Latin Dancing in the University of Limerick
- Seo É Mise - This is Me with Northside Family Resource Centre in Ballynanty

An All-Ireland Seminar for the Festival took place on Wednesday 10 April in King John's Castle, where delegates from the Learning City-Regions of Cork, Dublin, Belfast and Derry Strabane attended and participated with the focus on Green and Healthy Learning, Digital Inclusion, Intergenerational Learning and Employability/ Entrepreneurship.

**Derelict Sites and Vacant Homes/Properties**

Derelict Sites	
Number of inspections carried out	69
UVRD information notices posted	8
Statutory Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act	6
Cases closed through engagement	12
Properties entered onto the Derelict Sites Register	1
Number of properties put forward for Buy & Renew	4

Vacant Homes	
Number of properties identified through VacantHomes.ie	2
Number of properties identified through surveying	6
Number of inspections carried out (including re-inspection)	7
Number of owners identified	2
Number of properties put forward for Buy & Renew	2

**Limerick Local Community Development Committee**

- The April Meeting of the LCDC took place on Tuesday, 2 April.
- The Chief Officer notified the Members that the LCDC Annual Report has been produced and this went to the March Meeting of Limerick City and County Council for noting.
- Funding of €297,352.76 was approved by the LCDC in respect of LEADER projects at this meeting.
- A number of applications have been received in respect of The Big Hello! National Community Weekend which is being held between 4 and 6

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick City**  
& County Council

May 2019. Limerick LCDC was allocated €10,000 in funding by the Department of Rural and Community Development for this initiative. The proposed theme is 'Picnic in the Park' and it is envisaged that the full allocation will be spent by Limerick LCDC.

- The Community Enhancement Programme for 2019 was advertised in April. The Community Enhancement Programme was launched for the first time in 2018 and provided in excess of €540,000 of funding for 186 projects across Limerick City and County. The CEP was the result of the first significant exercise in the streamlining of schemes and programmes carried out by the Department of Rural and Community Development. It combined two existing schemes so that funding is now provided to improve facilities in a manner that is more flexible and responsive at a local level.
- Limerick has been allocated initial funding of €152,942 under the Community Enhancement Programme 2019, which is to be distributed under two measures and will have regard for and target Small Scale Renewable Energy Efficiency Type Projects and Burial Grounds. The measures are as follows:
  - Measure 1:** At least 30% of the funding will be allocated to small scale capital grants of €1,000 or less
  - Measure 2:** The balance of the funding will be allocated to capital grants in excess of €1,000 up to €10,000
- Closing date for applications, 12 noon on Thursday 30 May 2019.

### Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee took place on Monday, 15 April 2019.

### Environmental Awareness

Team Limerick Clean Up - TLC5 took place on Friday, 19 April.

- 21,000 volunteers participated in Team Limerick Clean Up (TLC5)
- The event involved public Health and Safety Talks

involving volunteers and statutory agencies.

541 groups from business, sporting, tidy towns, residents associations along with 105 schools both primary and secondary participated.

- There were 285 litter collection points and 91 tonnes of rubbish collected which equates to 1.3 kg per volunteer in 2019 compared with 5.2kg in 2018.
- 470 groups participated in the tea and coffee gatherings.
- Over 11,000 volunteers attend gatherings to celebrate their clean-up.

### CLÁR Funding 2019

The CLÁR 2019 Scheme closed on 16 April. 20 applications were received in total, 10 under measure one, 8 under measure two and 2 under measure three(c). The 15 priority projects across measures one and two will be identified and submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development, along with measure three applications, for their evaluation. The Department of Rural and Community Development is due to have completed its assessment with decisions and contracts being issued by end of June.

### Pride of Place

- The following entries have been selected to represent Limerick in the Irish Public Bodies (IPB) 2019 Pride of Place Competition:
  1. St. Michael's Day Care Centre, Cappamore, Co Limerick: Age Friendly.
  2. Abbeyfeale Community Council and Abbeyfeale Town park: Population 2,500-5,000
  3. Newtown Park Cottage Association: Community Tourism.
  4. St. Mary's Men Shed: Community Wellbeing.

### Social Inclusion Capital Activation Programme (SICAP)

- Limerick LCDC uploaded management reports to eCohesion, being the first such reporting completed of the SICAP 2018-2022 programme.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh****Limerick City**  
& County Council**Limerick Sports Partnership**

- Limerick Sports Partnership hosted its Annual "Looking after your Physical and Mental Health" seminar in Thomond Park. 600 post primary children attended presentations delivered by our TY VIP students. This was an excellent initiative as it was a "Peer to Peer" format where young people were the presenters. The event was supported by Resolve Counselling, Jigsaw, Mid-West Regional Drugs and Alcohol Forum, Limerick Mental Health with Special guests, Olympian Fiona Doyle and DJ Meghann Scully.
- The recruitment for the 2019-2020 VIP programme for Transition Year pupils saw 260 young people applying, 230 were interviewed and 35 were selected from 15 post Primary schools. This programme has grown from strength to strength every year.
- The LSP "Sports Talk" programme was shortlisted for the Federation of IRISH Sport Awards. This programme combines physical activity and facilitated group sessions around looking after your mental health. A key initiative in promoting, "a healthy mind and healthy body".
- The LSP has secured sponsorship from KBC Bank to assist with the delivery of programmes across the corporate sector.
- The LSP Sports Development officers continue to develop programmes for key target groups, Men – 30 to 65, Women – 30 to 65, marginalised communities, walking groups and general populations across the county. See [www.limericksports.ie](http://www.limericksports.ie) for more information

**3. Libraries, Gallery & Museum****Library Services**

- The 9th Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival was celebrated in libraries throughout the county. This year's festival theme "Bridging the Gap" added to the festival's overall motto of Communities, Connecting, Learning. The Tale of the Three Billy Goats Gruff was used to great effect to show parents how to help young children to express themselves through play. Limerick Childcare Committee supported the events. This fun activity was enjoyed in Watch House Cross, Newcastle West and Kilmallock between 8 and 14 April. Also in Newcastle West Library, members of the Gortboy Training Centre attended an Art Therapy session on 11 April. Class visits continued with local artist Sahaja presenting a workshop for 5th class boys from Courtenay National School on recycling metal to create pieces of sculpture. Dooradoyle Library hosted "The Kitchen Crafters" in a workshop on sewing, crafting, embroidery, and printing. The programme continued with talks on Digital Skills and Parenting, with Alice Riddler and Laura Sheehan. Members of the public enjoyed paper folding and landscape painting classes. Large numbers attended workshops by Lana O'Farrell on "An Introduction to Holistic Wellness" Storytime/ Scéalta ó Ghlúin go Glúin was offered by Adare Library with visiting storyteller Peg bridging the gap between children parents/guardians and grandparents. On Thursday 11 April Living History Specialist, Trevor McCarthy led a group on a walk along the newly opened Western section of Kilmallock Town Wall. This event, which had over 30 attendees, was held in support of Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival.
- The month of April every year sees Ireland's public libraries run Spring into Storytime events inviting children, parents, carers and family members to join in the experience and fun of exciting tales. Events attracted all ages to story and craft sessions in Rathkeale, Roxboro, Abbeyfeale, Cappamore, Watch House Cross, Dooradoyle, The Granary, and Newcastle West Libraries. This initiative is part of Right to Read, a national programme to promote literacy and reading development for Irish people of all ages and backgrounds. Children, teachers, parents, guardians and grandparents enjoyed listening to tales from around the world, Greek and Roman myths, Revolting Rhymes from Roald Dahl, and in Newcastle West, magician and storyteller Tommy Moloney charmed his audience with magic tricks and readings from the fantastic book "The Day the Crayons Quit!"
- Limerick City and County Library was delighted to attend the official launch of BookSeed, a book-gifting project for babies run by Children's Books Ireland and made possible by the JP McManus Benevolent Fund on Thursday, 25 April at the Barrack View primary healthcare centre. Dr Sindy Joyce, a PhD graduate from the University of Limerick officially launched the programme. From the travelling community and a human rights

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



defender Dr. Joyce spoke powerfully about the importance of reading and education for all in society and gave her full support to the BookSeed initiative. Health centres will partner with their local library to assist in delivering the full project, which involves giving the gift of a book three times in a baby's first year of life. Phase 1 of BookSeed began in March 2019 and will continue until October 2021.

- To mark World Autism Day on 2 April Watch House Cross Library developed a resource pack for parents and teachers to facilitate library visits for children on the autism spectrum. A workshop was held in the PC Room on Wednesday 10 April, titled 'Family History and the Decade of Centenaries'. Participants were guided through the online genealogical sources available for tracing ancestors involved in the significant events of the period, such as the First World War and The War of Independence. The library is holding an exhibition to mark the centenary of 'The Limerick Soviet', The General Strike April 1919. Sixth class from Thomond Primary School were invited to a presentation on the Soviet and to view the exhibition which included a Pathé News recording of checkpoints on Sarsfield Bridge. The exhibition will be on display in the library until 31 May. The NALA Student day was held in the Strand Hotel in Limerick on Saturday 13 April and Patricia Cusack, Executive Librarian at Watch House Cross Library presented a talk about the role of the public library service in supporting students returning to education. A Sahaji Yoga class has met twice during April, with twelve people attending the sessions in the library.
- On Tuesday 16 April, Kilmallock Library hosted an information talk from artist Mary Burke as part of the 'At Home on the Farm' project. Mary issued a call for volunteers to allow her to make paintings of their home and farm with the intent of creating a body of work to form the focus of an exhibition of paintings in Limerick City Gallery of Art. There was a wonderful turnout to the information talk and many volunteers came forward to take part in the project.
- Dooradoyle Library held two Easter Art and Craft sessions with Easter Egg Hunt involving over 160 children. Age Action continued the computer classes every Tuesday morning with one to one tuition, while the Digital Skills (Bring Your Own Device) classes held in conjunction with Ballyhoura Development CLG continued on Tuesday afternoons. The Ageing Well programme continued on Friday mornings. The Adult Book Clubs met on

Thursday 25 April with both groups reading Edna O'Brien's The Country Girls. Meditation continued on the first and third Thursdays of the month. The Pre-school story-time continued on Wednesday mornings.

### Limerick Museum

- Limerick Museum received 2,014 visitors in April 2019.
- The Return of the Palatine: Home away Home, a contemporary art exhibition by renowned German artist Ralph Gelbert opened in the Museum on 5 April and will continue until 30 April.
- The Limerick Soviet 1919-2019, a Limerick Museum Exhibition in partnership with the Granary Library and Limerick Council of Trade Unions opened in Istabraq Hall, Merchant's Quay on 15 April. Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor James Collins officially opened it. The exhibition was co-curated by William O'Neill and Matthew Potter and will continue until 31 May.
- As part of Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival, Limerick Museum participated in a number of events with various partners. Dr Matthew Potter, Curator gave lectures on 'Limerick's Industrial History' at From Bacon to Digital Skills/The Internet of Things a seminar held in ENGINE, Cecil Street, Limerick on 8 April; on 'The History of Limerick Museum' in the Granary Library on 9 April; and on '190 Years of Limerick Lace' in the Granary Library on 12 April. A tour of Limerick Museum was held on 10 April.
- Friends of Limerick Lace Group held a meeting in the Museum on 23 April.

### Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- Commenced essential upgrade works to LCGA in April 2019.
- LCGA's visitor attendance for April 2019 was over 1,850.
- 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 officially opened at the Crawford Art Gallery, Cork 14 March 2019. This exhibition will tour to LCGA in the summer of 2019.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT****Housing Development Directorate****1. Housing Strategy Implementation****Choice Based Letting Pilot**

- Limerick City and County Council commenced a Choice Based Letting Scheme on 29 March on a pilot basis in the Newcastle West District.
- Over 400 Expressions of Interest received for the first pilot property at Maiden Street, Newcastle West.
- The applicant household selected will be assessed in accordance with the Council's policy. The estimated time for this process will be five weeks.
- The allocation of Maiden Street property anticipated in June.
- The next property will be advertised in mid-May 2019.

**Adare-Rathkeale District: Focused workshop on pipeline sites for social housing**

- 'Bringing Back Homes – Manual for the reuse of existing buildings' – Policy launch
- Representatives from Housing Development Directorate attended the launch of 'Bringing Back Homes – Manual for the reuse of existing buildings'

in Athlone by the Minister of State for Housing and Urban Development, Damien English, T.D on the 10 April, 2019. Limerick City and County Council is committed to bringing vacant and partially vacant properties back into use, particularly to rejuvenate smaller town and village streets in the County.

**Serviced Sites Fund Workshop**

- Representatives from Housing Development Directorate attended a Workshop in Dublin on the 17 April. The workshop was targeted at a select number of local authorities who are eligible to submit projects under the 2nd funding call which issued under Circular APH 02/2019.
- The Housing Development Directorate is actively preparing bids for the deadline of 17 May 2019 for enabling infrastructure funding required to secure the building of affordable homes, to buy on public lands in the City and County.





**Service Operations Directorate**

**1. Housing Support Services**

**Waiting List**

Housing Waiting List	2,589
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**Allocations**

	Number of Units April 2019	Year to Date
Metropolitan District	8	36
Newcastle West	1	3
Adare - Rathkeale	4	5
Cappamore - Kilmallock	1	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>51</b>

**Housing Assistance Payments Limerick**

Total number of active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained	
No. of HAP tenancies set up this month.	43
No. of Amendments.	137
No. of Cessations.	18

The HAP Department continue to hold clinics every Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 o'clock to 11 o'clock.

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

Individuals – 25 April 2019		
Location	Description	No.
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	30
St. Patrick's Hostel	Higher threshold accommodation for single males	47
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	13
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	4
Temporary Emergency Provision TEP 1 (Edenvilla)	Low threshold, night by night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	20
TEP 2 (Phoenix Lodge)	Low threshold, night by night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	10
<b>Total</b>		<b>124</b>

**Families – 25 April 2019**

Location	Description	No. Adults	No. Children
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	10
		Families - 6	
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	48	65
		Families - 32	
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	13	11
		Families - 8	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>67</b>	<b>86</b>
		<b>Families - 46</b>	



## Home Improvement Schemes

APRIL 2019	MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HAG (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	No.
Rathkeale	€2,095.00	1	€0.00	0	€8,360.00	3
Newcastle West	€9,811.01	2	€26,744.40	2	€20,085.00	2
Metropolitan	€49,264.03	12	€108,694.55	9	€51,192.50	9
Kilmallock	€0.00	0	€0.00	0	€8,000.00	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>€61,170.04</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>€135,438.95</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>€87,637.50</b>	<b>15</b>

Total Monies issued in April 2019 = €284,246.49

Total Grants issued in April 2019 = 41

JANUARY TO APRIL 2019	MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HAG (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	No.
Kilmallock	€16,095.00	5	€35,698.23	3	€55,839.17	11
Metropolitan	€129,936.86	31	€166,662.00	18	€124,456.08	28
Newcastle West	€52,511.01	10	€86,513.92	9	€56,649.09	14
Rathkeale	€8,680.00	3	€43,627.60	2	€26,549.20	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>€207,222.87</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>€332,501.75</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>€263,493.54</b>	<b>61</b>

Total Monies issued January to April 2019 = €803,218.16

Total Grants issued January to April 2019 = 137

## 2. Planning & Environmental Services

### Environmental Services (Litter, Waste Enforcement, Air, Noise, Water/Waste Water and Public Health).

- 313 complaints were received in April 2019.
- 355 inspections were undertaken during the month.
- 33 Warning Letters were issued during April 2019.
- Nine Directions were served during the month.
- 15 Statutory Notices were issued by the Department.
- 28 Litter Fines were issued during the period.
- Two Presentation of Waste Fines were issued during April 2019.
- Legal proceedings were initiated in 12 Cases

### Economic Development & Planning Planning Applications

A total of 102 new planning applications were received as follows:

Part 8	1
Domestic Developments	67
Agricultural Developments	11
Commercial Developments/Change of Use	10
Sporting/Community & Educational Developments	3
Other Developments	10

The current applications include proposals for:

- Part 8 for the construction of a Greenway (cycling and walking) consisting of a new 3.5m wide cycleway alongside a new 2.5m wide footpath, enclosed by 1m grass verges providing connectivity between Castletroy College and Castletroy Gaelscoil at Newtown and Newcastle, Castletroy.
- Construction of a two storey split level visitors centre, consisting of a retail space, visitor's information point and café at Ballyhoura Trails, Glenosheen, Ardpatrick.

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- Construction of a new three storey Primary Care Centre medical facility at Station Road, Gortboy, Newcastle West.

## 3. Veterinary Services

- Eight stray or wandering equines were impounded.
- The Dog Control Unit dealt with 18 dogs.
- Two food samples were submitted during April 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 and Delivery

- Completion of the construction of two houses on Rathbane Road was reached.
- Construction of 13 houses at Waller's Well Phase Two commenced with contract signing taking place.
- Part VIII for Castletroy Urban Greenway advertised. This infrastructure project will enhance pedestrian and cycling connectivity to Castletroy College.
- Cora PPM Project Management System - Design and Delivery has commenced operationally live engagement with this Project Management tool during User Acceptance Testing phase. Project Managers will continue to utilise and update this platform.
- The Buy and Renew programme is progressing with the appointment of two multidisciplinary design teams, three packages issued to tender (five houses in total) and Contractor appointed for one package (two houses in total)
- The formal launch of the St Mary's Parish Men's Shed took place, which saw a vacant property on Nicholas Street returned to good use. The addition of the Men's Shed brings life and activity to Nicholas Street, and is a step closer to realising the potential of this area.

## 2. Property Services

Acquisitions and Disposals statistics:

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

### Corporate Building Programme

- Remedial Building Works have commenced in City Gallery of Art in Pery Square
- Design team appointed for upgrade of section of Granary offices

### Facilities Team

- Official Launch in Istabraq Hall of the National Exhibition - Limerick Soviet Centenary Exhibition
- Mayoral Reception supported for the Limerick Celtic Basketball Club – Globasket Champions 2019
- Facilities team supported the registration of Nomination of Candidates for Local Elections – Saturday 27 April
- Tender for Cleaning Contract for Corporate Buildings, Area Offices and other locations has now been lodged with OGP
- Facilities Team supported the Staff Service awards nights held in Istabraq Hall over 3 consecutive nights in April.

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



## National & Regional Shared Services Directorate

### 1. Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Shared Services Centre

- There were 46,656 active HAP tenancies nationally managed by the HAPSSC at the end of April 2019.
- 1,276 HAP tenancies were set up by the HAPSSC in April 2019.
- Year to date the HAPSSC has set up on average 340 HAP tenancies every week.
- The total HAPSSC Landlord payment for April 2019 was €37.9 million.

- The total HAPSSC Tenant rent charge for April 2019 was €9.2 million.
- The HAP Tenant rent collection rate at the end of April 2019 was 98%.
- The HAP SSC Debt Management Unit issued 3,838 differential rent arrears letters to HAP recipients in April 2019.
- The HAPSSC Debt Management Unit collected a total of €35.9m in differential rent from January to April 2019.

### 2. Fire & Emergency Services

#### Statistics

	Fire Related Calls	Non Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call outs 01/04/19 – 30/04/19	109	95	204
% of calls where on scene in < 10 minutes from time of call	51%	53%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 minutes from time of call	29%	35%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	20%	12%	

	Received / Assigned	Validated	Invalidated / Refused	Granted	Completed
Fire Certificate Applications April 2019	18	16	2	11	
Disability Access Cert Applications April 2019	12	11	1	14	
Licensing Applications April 2019	7	7	0		
Commencement Notice April 2019	63	58	5	0	
Completion Certificate April 2019	19	13	0	0	
Planning Referrals	16				8
Sugar CRM Cases April 2019	8				7

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



### Civil Defence attendance at Events for month of April 2019

- Tractor, Truck, Car and Bike Run for Sountrade AFCE
- Team Limerick Clean Up
- Search for missing person – Murroe
- Cycle against suicide

### Fire & Emergency Training Events for month of April 2019

- The new City recruits completed their training in the UK Fire Service Training College and are now in Limerick completing a number of further elements of training prior to going on the run in June
- A three day Compartment Fire Behaviour Training Course was ran for eight new recruits in Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo
- A number of Abrasive Wheels courses were held
- A Cardiac First Responder's course was held in Cappamore Fire Station

- Two Breathing Apparatus Refresher courses were ran in Bray, Co. Wicklow
- Two High Rise firefighting courses were ran in Limerick City
- Two Manual/Casualty handling courses were ran in Limerick City
- One Breathing Apparatus induction training day was ran for new recruits
- A four-day Hazardous Materials Course was ran in Kilmallock Fire Station
- A safety statement talk was delivered to all staff over a number of sessions
- A serious incident awareness talk was delivered to all over a number of sessions
- An induction training day was delivered to newly appointed officers
- An Emergency Service Driving Course was delivered to four students in Limerick City
- An Emergency First Responder Course was delivered to 11 staff
- Swift Water Rescue Instructors travelled to Wales to undergo mandatory refresher training

### 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 April
No. of call outs 01/04/2019 – 30/04/2019	1,268	1,600	1:12	2,868

### Water Safety

No. of lifebuoy replacements	April 2019	Total 2019 Jan - date
Metropolitan Area	1	5
Municipal Area	2	7

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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 30/04/2019	% Collection
€3,822,761	€5,146,562	€8,969,323	€4,897,396	€4,071,927	55%

#### 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 30th April 2019*	11,723,152	56,166,755**	171,543	426,757	67,291,607	19,103,088	48,188,519	3,298,981	30%

\*\*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 30th April 2019*	486,661	373,152	-	859,813	554,823	303,990	65%

#### Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No of days in overdraft 0

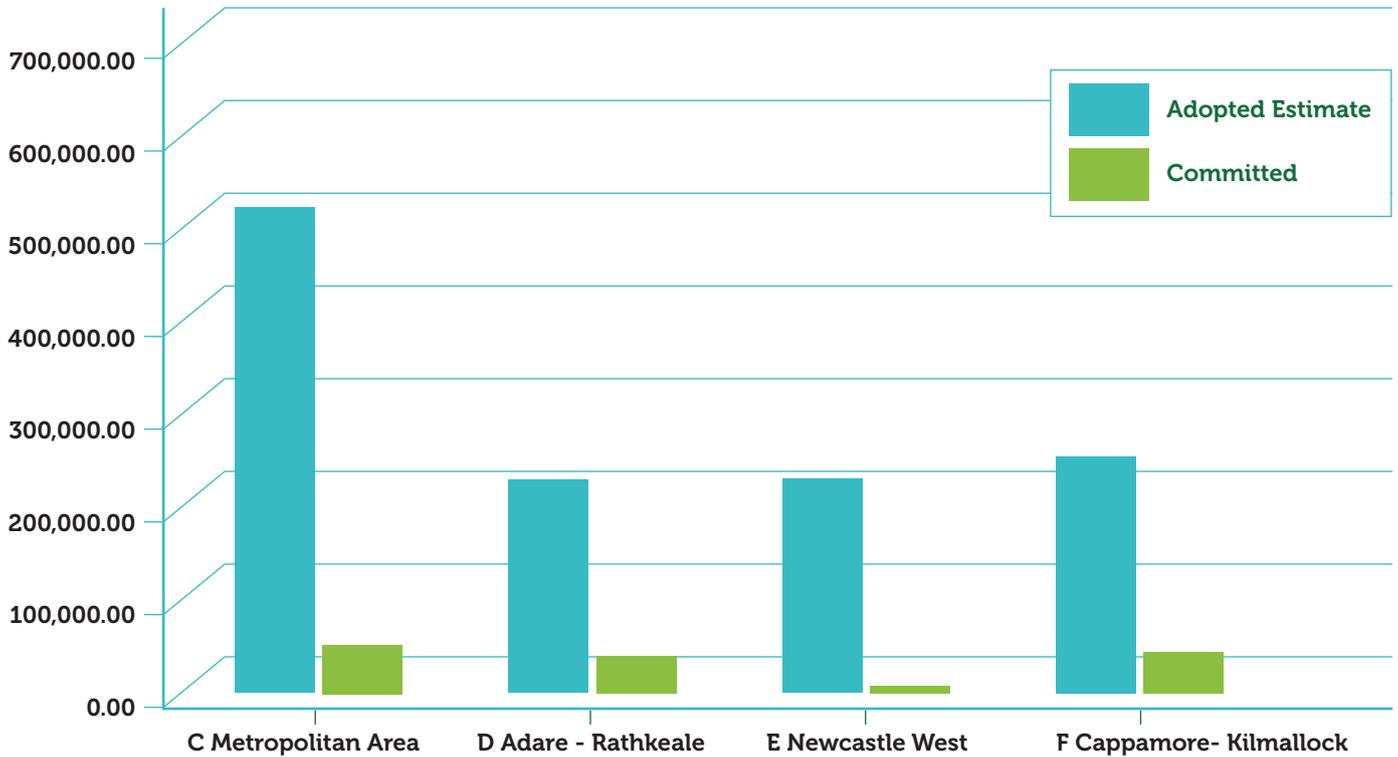
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**



**General Municipal Allocation 2019**

**Adopted Estimate €1.203 Million**

Graph outlining adopted budget and draft committed expenditure up to 30 April 2019.



<b>Municipal (Code) + (Text)</b>	<b>Value Adopted Estimate</b>	<b>Value Committed</b>
C Metropolitan Area	503,000.00	36,830
D Adare - Rathkeale	225,000.00	17,141
E Newcastle West	225,000.00	0
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	250,000.00	30,637

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



## 2. Corporate Services, Governance & Customer Services

### Corporate Services Council Meeting

The final meeting of the full Council for this current term took place on 29 April in the Council Chamber in Dooradoyle. Members received a presentation from Chief Executive, Conn Murray in relation to the Corporate Plan Review 2014-2019, highlighting the achievements of Limerick City and County Council.

### Receptions

Mayoral Receptions were held for the following:

- Limerick Powerlifting Club, in recognition of their achievements on all international platforms, both European and World Championships; Joanne Connolly, in recognition of making history, winning the overall championship at the Olympia Pro Invitational Powerlifting in Las Vegas 2018; Tommy Dillon, in recognition of his lifetime contribution and achievements in Powerlifting both as a competitor, coach and mentor for over 50 years.
- Limerick Celtics Basketball, in recognition of their achievements during the year.

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

- Sr. Helen Culhane, in recognition of her work in the field of mental health and her contribution to Limerick society; Dr. Jennifer McMahon, in recognition of her work in mental health, community development and music in Limerick; Emma Langford, in recognition of her work as a musician, mental health advocate and her promotion of Limerick.

### Health and Safety Training

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

Name of Course	Total Number of Staff Trained
Sharps Removal & Biological Hazards Training	29
Safe Pass	9
Abrasive Wheels	5
First Aid Response	16
Manual handling	25

Drivers CPC Module 2	2
Drivers CPC Module 5	13
Chemical Safety Awareness	18
<b>Total Staff Trained in Month of April</b>	<b>117</b>

### Register of Electors

In preparation for the up-coming European Parliament Elections, Local Elections, Referendum and Plebiscite taking place in May, work was on-going in the Preparation of the Supplement to the Register of Electors. The closing date for receipt of applications for Entry to the Supplement to the Postal Voters list was Sunday 28 April 2019. A total of 118 applications were received and processed.

### Customer Services

- April saw Customer Services continue to aid the facilitation of the new Choice Based Letting (CBL) Scheme pilot in Newcastle West by handling queries in relation to same at first point of contact.
- April 12 saw the launch of the 4th #Your Council Day initiative. The Customer Services Team supported Marketing and Communications by providing videos and photographs of team members during the course of the day. Photographs of council staff working in rural areas were also provided by staff living in the various localities.
- Support for Team Limerick Cleanup (TLC5) was provided in the lead up to the event by the Customer Services Team. Liaising with the TLC5 Team, Customer Services staff were able to provide information on the event registration, distribution of supplies and post event requests i.e. items not collected. TLC5 proved to be another great success.
- During the month of April Customer Service Team members received training on the iReg Voter Registration System in preparation for the upcoming elections. This enables the team to handle queries over the telephone or in person at the public counters, thereby providing ongoing support to the Franchise Dept., Corporate Services.
- Customer Services received 11,587 calls via our call centre throughout the month, **handling 41% of calls at first point of contact**. This works out at approximately 640 calls **per day**.

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- As well as logging 78% of housing maintenance cases for the North Operational Division, Customer Services also logged 22 cases for housing maintenance in both the West and South Operational Divisions.
- In April, there were 915 cases logged on behalf of elected representatives by Customer Services.
- Overall, on the SugarCRM (Customer Relationship Management) System, 3,091 cases were logged throughout April, 58% of these being logged by Customer Services in both our Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle offices.
- The majority of cases logged were for the following services;
  - Operations and Maintenance: 2,216 – (58% being housing maintenance)
  - Housing Support Services: 368
  - Planning and Environmental Services: 208
  - Customer Services: 65
  - Design and Delivery: 70
  - Veterinary: 31
- The total number of callers to our counters at Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle was 3,220.
- Operations and Maintenance: 2,157 – (60% being housing maintenance)
- Housing Support Services: 415
- Planning and Environmental Services: 200
- Customer Services: 84
- Design and Delivery: 72
- Veterinary: 35

The total number of callers to our counters at Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle was 2,832.

**3. Access to Information**

	April	2019 (January to date)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	22	73
FOI Internal Appeals	1	2
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	2
Total Ombudsman Requests	7	11
Total AIE Requests	-	2

**4. Business Improvement**

To mark the 120th anniversary of the Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898, the Chief Executive wished to recognise employees with more than 5 years of dedicated service in the provision of Local Authority Services.

The Business Improvement Department formed a committee made up of members of the Staff Liaison Network and other members of staff to identify suitable ways to acknowledge employee contributions.

After careful consideration, the committee decided that a series of "Awards Nights" should be held to honour employees. This suggestion was endorsed and supported by our Chief Executive.

Over the course of three months, the committee worked diligently to organise a memorable event, e.g.

- Procuring the awards,
- Writing to employees,
- Tracking RSVPs,
- Preparing scrolls,
- Arranging the hospitality,
- Fitting out ground floor Merchants Quay.

Three awards nights were held in Istabraq Hall between Tuesday 2 April and Thursday 4 April 2019.

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor James Collins and Chief Executive Conn Murray were keynote speakers on the night with Deputy Chief Executive, Dr. Pat Daly the Master of Ceremonies.

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick City**  
& County Council

## Schedule of Meetings

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
<b>Full Council</b> Meeting of Limerick City and County Council	29.04.2019	Dooradoyle
Audit Committee	02.04.2019	Merchant's Quay
<b>Operational Briefings</b> Limerick City East Limerick City North Limerick City West	02.04.2019 02.04.2019 02.04.2019	Merchant's Quay Merchant's Quay Merchant's Quay
Local Community Development Committee	02.04.2019	Merchant's Quay
<b>Municipal District of:</b> Newcastle West – Monthly Meeting Adare-Rathkeale – Monthly Meeting – Special Meeting Cappamore-Kilmallock – Monthly Meeting	03.04.2019 09.04.2019 12.04.2019 11.04.2019	Newcastle West Rathkeale Rathkeale Caherguillamore
<b>Joint Policing Sub Committee Meeting</b> Municipal District of Cappamore- Kilmallock	11.04.2019	Caherguillamore
<b>Metropolitan District of Limerick</b> Monthly Meeting	15.04.2019	Merchant's Quay
Corporate Policy Group	24.04.2019	Merchant's Quay
Party Leaders' Meeting	29.04.2019	Dooradoyle