

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City  
& County Council

## AUGUST 2019

THIS MONTH:

**SHORTLISTED** – Council shortlisted for 12 Excellence in Local Government awards

**NEW LOOK** – O'Connell Street Rejuvenation Project unveiled

**GOODBYE** – Council bids farewell to Chief Executive

**GIANT PEST** – Funding received to eradicate giant hogweed

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### Economic Development Directorate



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### 1. Trade & Investment

- 20 new jobs announced for James Whelan Victuallers in the Food Hall in Jetland Shopping Centre, Ennis Road.

### 2. Strategic and Forward Planning

- Submission made to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, on the consultation draft Marine Planning Policy Statement.
- Following consideration of the Kilmallock Draft Local Area Plan at the Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal meeting, material alterations were placed on public display for a period of four weeks.
- The draft Croom Local Area Plan was prepared and placed on public display for a period of six weeks.

### 3. Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

- Four Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters Grants approved in August.
- LEO Limerick sponsored the Limerick Food Experience at this year's Limerick Show on Sunday 25 August – over 15 food producers from Limerick City and County were in attendance.
- Trading Online Voucher Seminar on 29 August at the Castletroy Park Hotel.
- Continued promotion of all activities associated with LEO Limerick with emphasis on our Brexit supports.
- Launch of the LEO Limerick Student Enterprise Programme for 2019/2020 by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheahan.

### 4. Digital Strategy

- The procurement process to deliver an enterprise-standard Customer Relationship Management (CRM) for the Council closed on 21 August, with five responses received. The tender evaluation is scheduled for early September, with contract due to be awarded in early October.

### EU Projects:

- The monthly +CityxChange WP4 Meeting took place in Engine on 7 August. At this meeting there was a strong focus on Sustainable Investment Strategies, with an excellent presentation by Vincenzo Cimini an Energy Efficiency Engineer with the Officinae Verdi Group.
- On 22 August, Limerick City and County Council, in cooperation with Cork Institute of Technology, submitted a H2020 application called UrbanGuard. If successful, UrbanGuard will bring companies such as Fujitsu, Dell EMC, and Unparalleled Innovation together with the cities of Limerick, Tempere (Finland), Valencia (Spain), and São Paulo (Brazil), to trial innovative pilot projects to create safe public spaces. In Limerick our pilot will focus on safety and security in our city centre laneways.
- On 25 August, the Maritime, Military and Industrial Atlantic Heritage (MMIAH) and CAPITEN Projects (Interreg Atlantic Area Programme) teamed up with the Tourism Department to represent the Council at the Limerick Show. It was a lively event with many questions from the public about walking, biking and running trails around Limerick City and County.

### 5. Innovate Limerick

- Innovate Limerick has appointed Kenneally Murphy and Associates following their tender application to oversee the design and build of the Engine E-Hub in Abbeyfeale.

### 6. Marketing & Communications

#### Marketing

##### • Brand Limerick

- Continued engagement across core invest, visit, live and learn audiences to brief key stakeholders on the development and direction of the new Limerick brand.
- The campaign creative platform has been selected as the vehicle that can deliver cut-through and maximum impact.
- Matrix of assets produced for the campaign across our various scenarios and key messages.

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- Website stylesheets produced to reskin Limerick.ie to reflect the new brand identity.
- **Limerick Student City Marketing Campaign.**
  - Developed and produced digital interactive Limerick Student City Map and Top Insta Spots Guide for Limerick's third level students 2019/2020.
  - Provided marketing materials to third level colleges for distribution to their incoming international students.
  - Developed Limerick.ie branded merchandise for distribution on campuses during Fresher's week.
  - Collaborated with University of Limerick Instagram to do a Limerick Street Art takeover.
- Application submitted on behalf of Limerick to the FDI magazine Cities & Regions of the Future Award 2020/2021.
- Engaged with both Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland to determine how Limerick can better leverage their national and international programmes and propositions; namely, Gateway to the Wild Atlantic Way and Taste the Island.
- Ran targeted social media ads promoting Limerick as a destination following Limerick contestant Greg O'Shea's Love Island win.
- Engaged with food blogger Gina Daly, The Daly Dish on her recent visit to Limerick. Limerick.ie featured on her Insta Stories with a potential reach of 62,700 followers.
- Feature advert placed in Limerick Show 2019 catalogue.
- Limerick St. Patrick's Festival 2019 shortlisted for Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards in the Festival of the Year category.
- Marketing materials supplied to:
  - Touroperator GALLIA, a Belgian niche tour operator specialising in hotel and sailing holidays throughout Europe.
  - Summer Stars Reading Programme Awards Ceremony 2019.
  - Tourism Trade Stand, Limerick Show 2019.
- Produced four 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 12 times on Limerick.ie's Facebook with total followers now 24,740. Posts reached 37,539 users with 12,965 engagements.
- Tweeted 10 times on Limerick.ie's Twitter, @limerick\_ie, with total followers now 16,548. Our tweets earned 64,800 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).
- Posted four times on Limerick.ie's Instagram and created 15 Stories with total followers now 7,315.
- Tweeted two times on Limerick Marketing's Twitter, @limkmarketing, with total followers now 2,736. Our tweets earned 6,100 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).
- Posted two times on Limerick City and County Council's LinkedIn with total followers now 2,902.

### Limerick.ie

- Newcastlewest.ie shortlisted for Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards in the Outstanding initiative through the Municipal Districts category.

A total of 122,925 people visited the Limerick.ie website in August 2019.

Content Report: 62 articles, 254 events and 12 amenities were added to Limerick.ie website in August 2019.

Dedicated webpages created for Learning in Limerick, Community Environment Action Fund, Culture Night, Pigtown Culture and Food Series, Polish Arts Festival, Bualadh Bos, Dreams fest.

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

1. [www.limerick.ie](http://www.limerick.ie)
2. Planning Enquiries
3. What's on Pages
4. Council Services (general)
5. Council Jobs

45% of website pageviews were in Discover section and 26% of pageviews were in the Council section.

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### Communications

- Supported Chief Executive's Office with preparations for the Chief Executive's Presentation, marking the resignation of Conn Murray from his role as Chief Executive on 14 August 2019.
- Issued 11 news releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and researched and wrote 11 speeches for the Office of the Mayor
- Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter.
- Tweeted 104 times on Limerick City and County Council's Twitter account, @limerickcouncil, with total fans now 12,961. Our tweets earned 167,300 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).



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## Physical Development Directorate

### 1. Travel & Transportation Strategy

#### Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM)

- The Council has received tenders for the topographical survey for the Castleconnell CFRAM scheme.

### 2. Environment Strategy

#### National Biodiversity Action Plan Funding

- Limerick City and County Council secured three-years funding under the National Biodiversity Action Plan to eradicate Giant Hogweed from the River Loobagh catchment.

#### Notice Action Plan Monitoring

- As part of the Noise Action Plan 2018-2023, noise monitoring has begun in one of our noise hot spots.

### 3. Water Services

#### Capital Works

- Watermain rehabilitation works progressing in Ballingaddy and Carrig, Clarina
- Works progressing on upgrade to Athea Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Works progressing on upgrade to electrical panels in Castletroy Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Limerick Sewer Rehab works progressing on William Street and O'Connell Street, as per programme

### 4. Mid-West Road Design Office

#### Fleet Management Strategy

The Council has recently adopted a Fleet Management Strategy, and has procured and is in the process of procuring a number of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles or battery electric vehicles as part of a fleet replacement programme. The conversion of our public fleet towards Low Emission Vehicles is in accordance with the Government's Climate Action Plan 2019.

In addition, the N/M20 Cork to Limerick Technical Advisors have provided three battery electric vehicles for use by the N/M20 Project Team. The Project Vehicles will be based at the N/M20 Project Office in Lissanalta House where electric vehicle charging units were installed as part of the development of the N/M20 Project Office.

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### Community Development Directorate

## 1. Tourism Development, Culture & Arts

### Tourism

- Limerick City and County Council was represented at the launch of the Limerick Show on 6 August 2019 and promoted tourism in Limerick at Limerick Show on 25 August 2019.
- Four tenders were received in August for consultants for the West Limerick Tourism Gateway / Fullers Folly project which has received funding under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. These are currently being assessed.

### Programming

#### Castleconnell Concerts

The first in the 2019 series of Castleconnell Autumn Concerts, presented by RTÉ lyric fm's Liz Nolan, brought one of Britain's foremost pianists, Leon McCawley (Tuesday 27 August) to Limerick. A programme of Haydn, Schubert, Schumann, Brahms, Chopin and Hans Gál were performed. Following the concert Leon McCawley stayed to meet the audience and sign CDs. This concert had the greatest number of on-line bookings of any previous concert in the series, because of a digital marketing campaign.

#### Artist in Schools

The following schools have been offered places on our artist in schools programme that works to develop opportunities for engagement for young people through involvement in culture. The Artists in Schools Programme aims to achieve this by placing professional creative practitioners from Limerick festivals in a primary school setting to enhance and diversify pupil's creative education and is supported by the Arts Council of Ireland.

#### Ilen Project (Adare-Rathkeale)

Banogue NS – Croom, Kildimo NS, St. Anne's NS – Rathkeale

#### Hospital Arts Festival in Partnership with Fidget Feet (Cappamore-Kilmallock)

Knockainey NS – Hospital, Doon CBS, Hospital NS, Herbertstown NS

#### HearSay International Audio Arts Festival (Cappamore-Kilmallock)

Bilboa NS – Cappamore, Bulgaden NS – Kilmallock, Garrydoolis NS – Pallasgreen

#### UL Hospitals Arts Committee

UL Hospitals recognises that art, in its various guises, plays a significant role in enriching the lives of service users and staff. The UL Hospitals Arts Committee is working to help turn the hospital environment into a stimulating space and provide access to contemporary arts and design. On 22 August the UL Hospital Arts Committee viewed a selection of nearly fifty items from the Limerick Culture and Arts Office permanent collection, for a new exhibition at UL Hospitals in Autumn/Winter 2019.

#### Eigse Michael Hartnett : Impact measurement training

Quality Matters, a research and evaluation charity, has been engaged by the Arts Council to work on a social impact measurement project. Eigse Michael Hartnett and members of the Culture and Arts team took part in a four hour training session in Adare on the 28 August to look at a simple and meaningful way of gathering data on the social impact of the festival.

#### Belltable Programme Launch

The official launch of the Autumn/Winter 2019 season programme for the Belltable and the Lime Tree Theatre took place on Monday, 26 August. A busy season lies ahead including the continuation of the IFI@Belltable, an OpenHouse Limerick event and an incredible line up of theatre including a full programme of events for Limerick's only arts festival dedicated to children - Bualadh Bos.

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### Bingo Wings

The final rehearsals with Fidget Feet Aerial Dance Theatre take place at the end of August for Bingo Wings, an exciting new show featuring circus, aerial dance and theatre at the Lime Tree Theatre, 13-14 September. The promotional campaign around this, with flyers and digital marketing began and it was a feature item in the official launch of the Autumn/Winter 2019 season programme for the Belltable and the Lime Tree Theatre. Limerick City and County Council secured the funding for this. It is an Arts Council Invitation to Collaboration project in partnership with Kerry County Council and Donegal County Council.

### Helium Arts

The Summer Camp for children with long-term medical conditions, aged 8-12 in the Limerick City Gallery of Art, the mornings of 6-8 August were fully booked. They toured the Robert Ryan exhibition on the first morning of the camp. This was the catalyst for the activities for the week. The children were immersed in the work during the tour and without prompting began to interpret and discuss the work in groups. There was both an appreciation for the techniques used and a fascination with the creatures present in each painting. One of the activities the children engaged in after the tour was building their own creatures using the white air clay. Helium Arts presented the midyear findings of the Creative Health Programme to the University Hospital Limerick Medical Staff on 30 August.

### County Limerick Youth Theatre

County Limerick Youth Theatre/ Lampróig Theatre held a Drama Summer Camp in the HoneyFitz Theatre Lough Gur, from the 12-16 August. Run by drama and music facilitator Steven Tynan, this summer camp comprised a series of interactive workshops culminating in a final show of work in the HoneyFitz Theatre on 16 August.

### Festivals and Events supported by Limerick City and County Council F&E Grant Scheme

#### John McCarthy's Circus Bar Exhibition

Featured on Nationwide the John McCarthy Circus Bar Exhibition opened in Cappamore on the 10 and 11 August with circus performances from Circus Girbola. For more than a century, the McCarthys of Cappamore have had an intimate link with travelling circuses, the distinctive culture and traditions of the 'Big Top' in Limerick and the cultural heritage of the families and individuals who brought spectacle to rural Ireland over the past 251 years since the inception of the 'Circus ring'. This unique archive provides a cultural resource which not only enhances our knowledge of the history and development of circus but also our understanding of rural Limerick and the impact that these travelling artists had on local communities. To date, four books have been published based on materials in this archive.

#### Pigtown Series Launch

The Pigtown Culture Food Series was launched at Crokers Farm Ballyneety. To launch this year's festival, Pigtown organisers, Limerick Food Group, collaborated with New Leaf Urban Farmers to bring a pop-up 'Feed on the Farm' event led by chef Keith Pigott of new Adare restaurant 'Oak and Apple'. The Pigtown Food series is inspired by the history of Limerick's famous bacon industry, providing a rich programme of themed food and cultural events taking place in various venues in Limerick city and county. Announcing the return of the series from 20 September the series opens with the unique Pigtown parade at this year's Limerick Culture Night.

#### Cappamore Show

Cappamore Agricultural Show, one of Ireland's leading One Day Shows took place on the 17 August at the Ballyvoreen Showgrounds. Founded in 1954 the show has run continually since, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of rural life in Limerick to audiences of over 4,000 people. Cappamore Show is distinctive in its incorporation of both displays and competitions in areas such as cookery, crafts, agricultural and horticultural produce and other areas that draw on the traditional skills, arts and crafts of the region. The show was awarded funding in July for their 2020 event, this funding will be allocated towards the purchasing of a Ticket and Audience Management IT System to support ticket sales online and allow for evaluation of audiences.

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### Strategic Developments

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

The following letters of support for the Strategic Fund were provided;

- One letter of support was provided for an application to the LEADER fund
- Two letters of support were provided for the Arts Council Strategic Fund
- Two letters of support were provided for the Arts Council Theatre Project Award
- Two letters of support were provided for the Arts Council Dance Project Award
- One letter of support was provided for the Arts Council Visual Arts Project Award

The Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts 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.

### Festival and Events Strategy

The closing date for tenders for the formulation of a Festival and Events Strategy for Limerick was in August. Three tenders were received.

### Excellence in Local Government Awards

The Excellence in Local Government Awards showcase best practice in local government and recognise the skills, hard work, innovation and enthusiasm within local government that can often go unrecognised. Limerick City and County Council are shortlisted for awards, under the categories, Festival of the Year and Sustaining the Arts.

### Open Calls

#### Tyrone Guthrie Centre Regional Bursary Scheme

Limerick City and County Council, announced an open call in August, to recognise cultural practitioners across all art forms, born or residing in Limerick city and county, to apply for a bursary to undertake a one-week residency at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig in Co. Monaghan. This bursary covers all board and lodging expenses for one week. Closing date 18 September 2019.

## 2. Urban & Rural Community Development

### Domestic Waste Refuse Waiver Scheme

#### Bin Waivers:

Issued:	18
Refused:	1

### Cemeteries

Mount St. Lawrence	13
Mount St. Oliver	12
Castlemungret	11
Kilmurry	0

### Thematic Programmes

#### Health and Wellbeing

- Progress continued on the preparation of the programme of work funded by Round 3 Healthy Ireland funding. All the proposals are leveraging further funding or resources, bringing a range of partners together and targeting those in most need.
- We're Breastfeeding Friendly has been shortlisted for an Excellence in Local Government Award under the category Health & Wellbeing, the results of which will be known in November 2019

#### Age Friendly Programme

- Limerick City and County Council, Fingal County Council and Meath County Council are shortlisted for the Acorn Project under the Excellence in Local Government Awards, under the category *Age Friendly Initiative*, the results of which will be known in November 2019.
- Colivet Court, Housing Development for Older People, has been shortlisted for a National Age Friendly Recognition Award, in the Age Friendly Housing category, the results of which will be known in November 2019.
- Acorn – The Age Friendly Tablet Trial has also been shortlisted for a National Age Friendly Recognition Award, in the Communication category, the results of which will be known in November 2019.

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- Limerick City and County Council staff along with members of the Older Peoples Executive attended training for Older Peoples Councils, delivered by Dr. Emer Coveney, National Programme Manager, Age Friendly Ireland.

### Integration

Limerick City and County Council staff attended a meeting regarding the implementation of Limerick's third migrant integration strategy.

### Limerick Public Participation Network (LPPN)

Limerick City and County Council is supporting Limerick PPN in its efforts to revitalise its activities. The PPN Secretariat met twice during the month to progress immediate priorities for the PPN, in particular supporting the processes that allow for PPN representatives to sit on various Council committees. The membership registration process reopened, and so far 65 registrations have been received. Groups can register under one of three pillars (community, social inclusion or environment) and should indicate which municipal district they are based in/represent.

### Derelict Sites and Vacant Homes/Properties

Derelict Sites	
Inspections carried out	60
URCD information notices posted	6
Statutory Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act	20
Cases closed through engagement	4
Properties entered onto the Derelict Sites Register	2
Properties put forward for Buy & Renew	0
Properties put forward for Compulsory Acquisition Derelict Sites Act	0

The Derelict and Vacancy Initiative was shortlisted in the Excellence in Local Government Awards 2019 under the category *Enhancing the Urban Environment*.

### Environmental Awareness

#### Limerick Going for Gold Competition for 2019

Thirty Limerick Going for Gold Tidy Towns Category Groups participated in live interviews with Live 95 along with weekly feature in the Limerick Leader.

#### Refill.ie campaign in Limerick

Seventy Limerick City businesses are participating in the Refill.ie initiative with more expected to join. The aim of Refill.ie is to prevent the use of single use drinking water plastic bottles. It encourages the public to refill their reusable bottle for free from commercial locations.

#### Excellence in Local Government Awards 2019

The Reuse not "Single Use" project was shortlisted in the Excellence in Local Government Awards 2019 under the category Sustainable Environment.

#### Limerick Sports Partnership (LSP)

- The LSP hosted an Inclusion Sports Camp for teenagers at Mary Immaculate College. 20 participants attended the camp over the 3 days and participated in a Multi Sports programme. This camp was supported by youth leaders from the VIP Programme.
- 36 Transition year Sports Leaders graduated from the year long VIP Programme at the Castletroy Park Hotel. Dr. Una May, Director of Participation and Ethics with Sport Ireland and Dr. Giles Warrington, Director of Physical Education and Sports Science presented the participants with their portfolio of National Governing bodies of sport certificates. These Leaders also delivered over 3,600 hours of volunteering at club school and community level.
- The Women on Wheels Cycling Programme has commenced its 8 week programmes at Rathkeale Greenway and UL. See [www.limericksports.ie](http://www.limericksports.ie) for more details.
- The LSP Sports Development Officers continue to develop programmes for key target groups, Men & Women 30-65years, marginalised communities, Older Adult groups, walking groups and general populations across the county. See [www.limericksports.ie](http://www.limericksports.ie) for more information.

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### 3. Libraries, Gallery & Museum

#### Library Services

- 3,290 children joined the National Summer Stars Reading Adventure in Limerick Libraries this year. As part of the 'Right to Read' literacy initiative this programme encouraged children and their families to read, visit the library and participate in fun events centred around the exciting adventures that open up to readers everywhere. Encouragement to become a lifelong reader is a gift to any child, as they will continue to learn and develop with each turn of the page. Reading picture books, novels, adventure stories e-books, e-audio, comics and graphic novels all qualified to allow each child to claim rewards, concluding with certificates and gold medals. Gabriel Fitzmaurice was on hand in Newcastle West and Adare to officiate at award ceremonies and other branches celebrated with clowns, parties and family friendly entertainment.
- The monthly Short Story Book Club in The Granary Library continued throughout the summer with other regular activities including story session in French with Celina and further stories for children given by library staff members. The very popular weekly meditation session also continued through August. This has been running for almost two years and attracts a crowd of 30 or so every week.
- Other continuing weekly activities that happened in August were the English conversation classes, the meetings of the COPPD support group and the Friday gathering of the Nitter Natters knitting for charity group.
- Watch House Cross Library were delighted to be joined for Story Time on 8 August, by Suzanne Reilly, Oral Language Coordinator with the Little Voices Programme in Limerick. The children engaged with Suzanne as she read, *'If you give a mouse a cookie'* by Laura Joffe Numeroff, a large bag of props ensured that all the children got involved. Interactive story telling is a fun way to help little people learn to talk.
- "Babbling Babies", from ABC Startright in Moyross, held an event in the library on 15 August. Babies and parents enjoyed music with community musician Julie Tiernan. Children and parents experienced different kinds of sound and rhythm, singing songs and nursery rhymes. This was followed by story-time with Ciara, with everybody joining in with *'We're going on a bear hunt.'*
- Thirty children with their teachers from Thomond Primary School DEIS Camp spent a morning in Watch House Cross library on 21 August. Children visited the library for a space themed story time and craft session, remembering the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing. The children created their own picture complete with spaceman, rocket and the moon.
- Newcastle West and Adare Libraries held "Care of your pet" workshops on 8 and 16 August. Domhnall from Dogs Trust, spoke to children and their parents on caring for a dog or puppy. For families who do not own a dog the aim is to help children build their confidence around dogs and educate them on how to approach and say hello to a dog who is with their owner, what do to if they are frightened by a dog, and how to behave around dogs so that they can stay safe.
- An exhibition of "The First Dáil" was on display in Newcastle West throughout the month and The Knitting Club continued to meet throughout the summer, enjoying the companionship and sharing a love of craftwork.
- Two projects from the Library Service have been shortlisted for the Excellence in Local Government Awards, under the categories *Best Library Service* and *Commemorations and Centenaries*

#### Limerick Museum

- Forsaken on Calvary*, an exhibition of photographs by Kieran Kelly opened in Limerick Museum on 1 August and continued for the entire month.
- Amazing Lace*, an exhibition of historic and contemporary Limerick lace along with examples of other Irish laces, opened in St Mary's Cathedral on 13 August and continued until 25 August.
- The Florence Vere O'Brien Lace Collection, which was recently officially handed over by Florence's granddaughter Veronica Rowe to Limerick Museum is currently on display in the Hunt Museum.
- Limerick Museum held a number of events for Heritage Week including the *Amazing Lace* exhibition, a guided tour of Mount Saint Lawrence Cemetery on 20 August and two tours of Limerick Museum on 22 August.

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- The Gallery has enjoyed very strong visitor numbers of 3,130 for the month of August partly because of the popularity of local artists Robert Ryan and Fiona O' Dwyer but also the attraction of the Mary Swanzy, Voyages exhibition.
- The artist, Robert Ryan, held an "in conversation" with writer and broadcaster, Manchán Magan with an audience of 67 in attendance.
- Fiona O' Dwyer led a tour of her exhibition; I went up the mountain...with writer, Michaele Cutaya on Saturday 17 August.
- The curator of Mary Swanzy's exhibition, VOYAGES, Sean Kissane gave an illuminating talk of the work and place of Swanzy in the canon of Irish art.
- Helium Arts, an organisation that runs workshops for children with long-term illnesses ran three workshops in the Gallery using the three exhibitions as their source of inspiration.
- Installation of Marieke Neudecker, Sediment, commenced on Wednesday 28 August. This is the first major solo exhibition of Neudecker's work in an Irish cultural institution. The exhibition will open on 5 September.
- LCGA in partnership with Limerick Museum and The Hunt Museum have appointed a Public Engagement Co-ordinator. This position is for a one-year period and is jointly funded by Limerick City and County Council and The Hunt Museum. LCGA will apply for programme funding. The successful candidate will start work on 9 September.



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### Housing Development Directorate

## 1. Housing Strategy Implementation

### Voids

- The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government approved 2019 Voids funding in August 2019. All 64 properties submitted for funding by Limerick City and County Council have been approved to the value of €1.4m.

### Serviced Sites Fund

The Department have issued 'Approval in Principle' for five sites in Limerick City as part of the second Serviced Site Fund call for proposals.

The Serviced Site Fund is designed to allow a Local Authority to complete enabling infrastructure to allow the delivery of affordable homes.

Funding of over €20m has been committed from an overall National Allocation of €84m.

In Limerick the projects announced will provide infrastructure that has the potential to support the development of over 420 affordable homes and 74 social housing homes as part of mixed tenure developments including private homes.

The five sites are as follows :

- Toppins Field
- Guinness Lands
- Clonmacken Lands
- Sonny's Corner
- Curragower Lands

## 2. Regeneration Strategy Implementation

- Extern Fun Cup 'sporting Limerick'

Extern is a voluntary organisation funded through Regeneration Social Intervention Fund. They provide services to young people and their families across the island of Ireland. From their Moyross base in Watch House Cross, they provide support to over 100 young people and their families every year.

The Extern Fun Cup took place in Belfast, and as expected, it was a huge success. Extern welcomed teams from as far afield as Naas, Dublin, Derry and Limerick to Girdwood Hub in North Belfast, where the Limerick SYI/Janus team were crowned 2019 Fun Cup champions after a thrilling day of matches.

The Limerick team made up of boys and girls from across Limerick city were a credit to their families and their city acting as ambassadors. They travelled around Belfast with local staff to develop their knowledge of a city and its culture not previously experienced and participated in the football, eventually emerging as winners.

The friendships and experiences will remain with the young people longer than the silver ware as champions.

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## Service Operations Directorate

## 1. Housing Support Services

## Waiting List

Housing Waiting List	2,562
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## Allocations

	Number of Units August 2019	Year to Date
Metropolitan District	12	95
Newcastle West	5	21
Adare - Rathkeale	0	11
Cappamore - Kilmallock	2	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>151</b>

## Traveller Housing Welfare

No. of Units offered August 2019	4*
Year to Date	21*

\* these figures are included in Allocations figures

One Traveller Clinic held in August – 11 Clients seen.

## Housing Assistance Payments Limerick

<b>2,293 – Total number of active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained</b>	
No. of HAP tenancies set up this month.	57
No. of Amendments.	17
No. of Cessations.	11

The HAP Department continues to hold validation clinics every Tuesday from 10 o'clock to 11 o'clock.

## Choice Based Letting

The pilot went live on the Council's website on Friday 29 March last. There were two properties advertised under CBL. The closing date for expression of interest for both properties had passed. **There were no properties advertised under CBL in August 2019.**

The Communications team will update the website so all applicants can see that the property is allocated.

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

## Individuals – 30 August 2019

Location	Description	No.
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	30
St. Patrick's Hostel	Higher threshold accommodation for single males	45
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	17
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	3
Temporary Emergency Provision TEP 1 (Edenvilla)	Low threshold, night by night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	15
TEP 2 (Phoenix Lodge)	Low threshold, night by night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>119</b>

## Families - 30 August 2019

Location	Description	Beds Used		
		Adults	Children	Families
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	4	10	4
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	40	55	32
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	15	12	9
<b>Totals</b>		<b>59</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>45</b>

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



## Home Improvement Schemes

AUGUST 2019	MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HAG (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	No.
Rathkeale	€4,950.00	1	€0.00	0	€22,610.00	6
Newcastle West	€5,400.00	1	€0.00	0	€25,171.70	6
Metropolitan	€42,490.00	9	€108,750.27	11	€54,543.12	15
Kilmallock	€0.00	0	€9,803.25	1	€5,275.25	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>€52,840.00</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>€118,553.52</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>€107,600.07</b>	<b>29</b>

Total Monies issued in August 2019 = €278,993.59

Total Grants issued in August 2019 = 52

JANUARY TO AUGUST 2019	MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HAG (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	No.
Kilmallock	€53,258.82	12	€68,234.98	11	€97,114.42	19
Metropolitan	€246,233.88	58	€479,028.54	50	€304,688.25	76
Newcastle West	€125,585.82	25	€154,597.47	16	€197,628.29	43
Rathkeale	€23,787.71	6	€69,822.70	4	€55,099.20	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>€448,866.23</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>€771,686.69</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>€654,530.16</b>	<b>154</b>

Total Monies issued January to August 2019 = €1,875,083.08

Total Grants issued January to August 2019 = 336

## 2. Planning & Environmental Services

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

- 266 complaints were received in August.
- 365 inspections were undertaken during the month.
- The Department issued 11 Statutory Notices.
- 16 Directions were served by the Department.
- 39 Warning Letters were issued in August.
- 21 Fines were issued during the period.
- Legal proceedings were initiated in 12 cases.
- Clean up / improvement works were undertaken on a number of public sites in the City and County under the 2019 Anti-Dumping Initiative funded by the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment.

### Economic Development & Planning Planning Applications

A total of 105 new planning applications were received as follows:

Housing Developments	1
Domestic Developments	72
Agricultural Developments	7
Commercial Developments/Change of Use	10
Sporting/Community & Educational Developments	5
Other Developments	10

The current applications include proposals for:

- Construction of 41 dwellings at Cloon and Commons, Castleconnell.
- Construction of a five storey apartment block comprising 34 apartments at St. Anne's, Dublin Road.
- Construction of a solar farm at Knockbrack, Abbeyfeale.
- Construction of a guest activity building at Adare Manor Hotel & Golf Resort, Adare.

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



### 3. Veterinary Services

- A total of 11 stray or wandering equines were impounded.
- The Dog Control Unit dealt with 16 dogs.
- A total of 25 food samples were submitted during August 2019 for analysis under the National Residues and Microbiological Sampling Programme.
- A targeted dog licence compliance campaign continues to be operated.

### Capital Investment Directorate

#### 1. Design and Delivery

##### Finance

- Recoupments submitted in August for Housing Schemes: €734,238.

##### Approvals sought/obtained

- Stage 2 approval received from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) for 27 units at Dalgaish Park, Moyross.
- Stage 3 approval received from DHPLG for 14 units at Ballysimon Road and Greenhills Road, Limerick.
- Stage 4 approval received from DHPLG for Kilmurry View Bays Refurbishment.
- Stage 4 approval received from DHPLG for District Play King for St. Mary's Park, Kings Island

##### Part VIII

- The Station Close, Knocklong housing development project (12 units) submitted for Part VIII.

##### Contracts Awarded

- Glenman Corporation Ltd appointed for the construction on 43 units at Clonmacken.

### 2. Property Services

- Evaluation of tenders closed for the office fit-out Upper Ground Floor, The Granary has now been completed and a report prepared for Management Team
- Refurbishment works completed to Istabraq Hall, the Exhibition area and the reception area in Merchant's Quay. The old security structure has been removed from reception. The works have been well received and have led to an improved experience on entry to our Merchant's Quay building.

#### Acquisitions and Disposals statistics:

Statistics	
House purchases concluded	2
House purchases sale agreed	3
House Purchases at bidding stage	5

##### Facilities Team

- Evaluations of submissions for the new council wide cleaning contract continue. It is hoped to achieve completion by late September. This tender was run in conjunction with the Office of Government Procurement (OGP). This extended tender has been run to ensure compliance with the Value for Money Report No. 30 Corporate Estate Management and Maintenance in Local Authorities.
- August saw the hosting of Conn Murray's retirement event. The council played host to the many staff and invited guests who attended to pay tribute to our outgoing Chief Executive. The event was a great success and Merchant's Quay looked resplendent on the day.

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT


**National & Regional  
Shared Services Directorate**
**1. Housing Assistance Payments  
(HAP) Shared Services Centre**

- There were 49,794 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAPSSC at the end of August.
- A weekly average of 333 HAP tenancies have been set-up during 2019.
- The August landlord payment run was over €40 million.
- The weekly tenant debit at the end of August, 2019 was €2.4 million.

- HAPSSC operations handled approximately 6,000 calls in August.
- The HAP SSC Debt Management Unit issued 5,231 differential rent arrears letters to HAP recipients in August 2019.
- The HAPSSC Debt Management Unit collected a total of €75.7m in differential rent from January to August 2019.
- The HAP Tenant rent collection rate at the end of August 2019 was 98%.

**2. Fire & Emergency Services**
**Statistics**

	Fire Related Calls	Non Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call outs 01/08/19 – 31/08/19	43	50	93
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	65%	63%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	31%	26%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	4%	11%	

	Received / Assigned	Validated	Invalidated / Refused	Granted	Completed
Fire Certificate Applications August 2019	11	7	3	14	
Disability Access Cert Applications August 2019	7	4	2	9	
Licensing Applications August 2019	72	72	0		
Commencement Notice August 2019	54	47	6	47	
Completion Certificate August 2019	24	20	0	20	
Planning Referrals August 2019	19				18
Sugar CRM Cases August 2019	16				1

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



### Civil Defence attendance at Events for month of August

- River Search for missing person – Recovery made
- Rape Crisis Centre Charity Paddle
- Cappamore Show
- St. Michaels Masters Regatta

### 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 August
No. of call outs 01/08/19 – 31/08/19	924	1170	1:15 minutes	2094

### Water Safety

No. of lifebuoy replacements	Total 2019 Jan - August	August 2019	Total 2019
Metropolitan Area	14	0	14
Municipal Area	10	0	10

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



## Support Services Directorate

## 1. Finance Services

## Rent Collection

Opening Balance @ 01/01/2019	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing balance 31/08/2019	% Collection
€3,822,761	€10,322,059	€14,144,820	€10,046,581	€4,098,239	71%

## 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 31 August 2019	11,723,152	56,166,755**	324,582	881,227	66,684,098	42,635,016	24,049,082	2,777,577	67%

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

Limerick City and County Council has objected to an appeal decision by the Valuation Tribunal and has engaged a junior counsel and an expert valuer to progress the Council's case. This is required to mitigate the loss of income to the Council.

Debtors Loans	Opening Balance 1 Jan €	Accruals €	Writes offs/ Waivers €	To Collect €	Receipts €	Arrears €	% Collection
As at 31 August 2019	486,661	752,453	-11	1,239,125	1,109,444	129,681	90%

## Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No. of days in overdraft 0

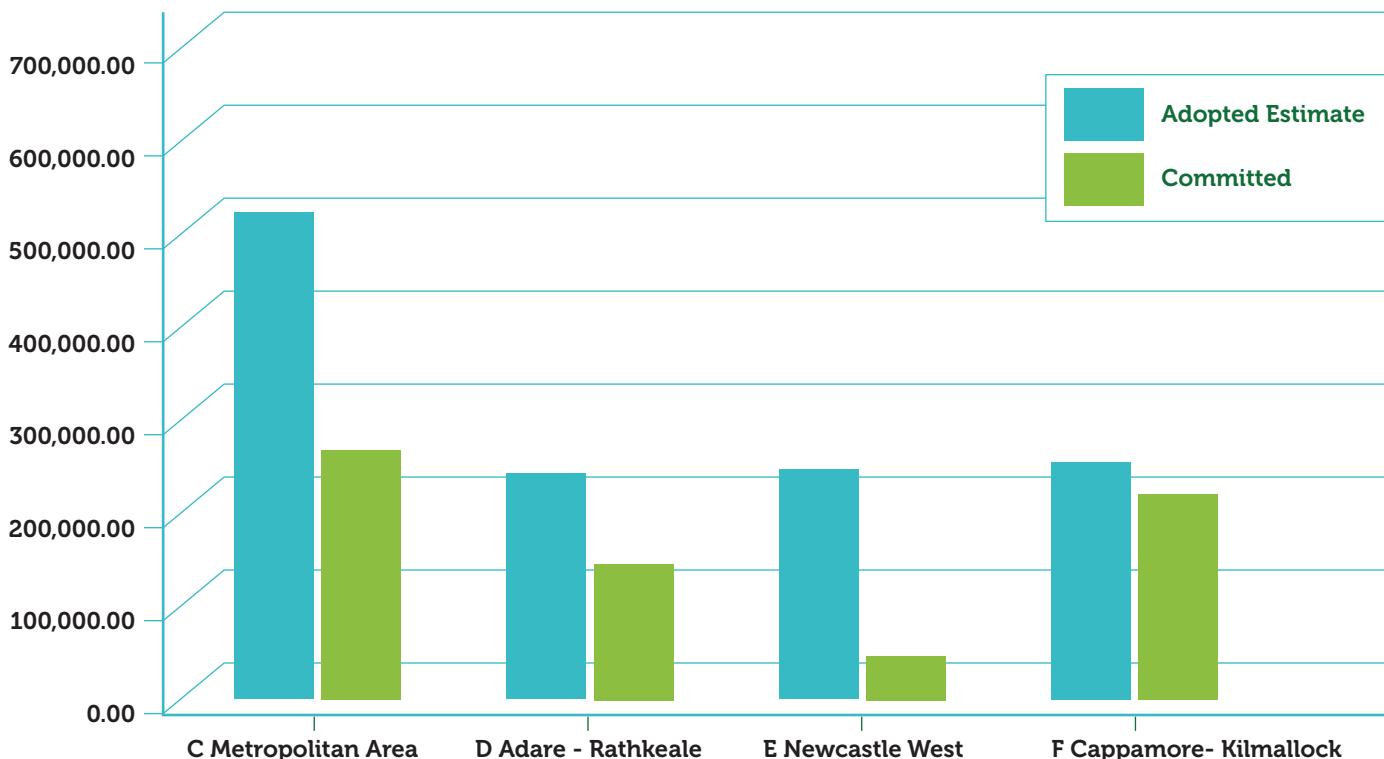
## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



## General Municipal Allocation 2019

Adopted Estimate €1.203 Million

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



Municipal (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate	Value Committed
C Metropolitan Area	503,000.00	261,144
D Adare - Rathkeale	225,000.00	122,284
E Newcastle West	225,000.00	32,946
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	250,000.00	206,310

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae Luimnígh

Limerick City  
& County Council

## 2. Corporate Services, Governance & Customer Services

### Draft SPC Scheme 2019-2024

A revised Draft SPC Scheme has been drafted for consideration by Council.

This scheme was put on public consultation and submissions were received. A report on the submissions will be presented to members in September.

### Draft Corporate Plan 2019-2024

Work has commenced on the Draft Corporate Plan 2019-2024 which has been led by the Corporate Services and Business Improvement Departments. A schedule for consultation has been compiled. As per section 134(1) of the Local Government Act 2001, within the specified period (6 months from the date of the 2019 annual meeting), every local authority shall prepare a statement of strategy for the local authority.

### Corporate Services

A function was held on Wednesday, 14 August to mark the departure of former Chief Executive, Conn Murray, who stepped down from his seven year role.

Several hundred gathered in Istabraq Hall to recognise his contribution to Limerick and celebrate his 40 years in local government. The event was organised by the Chief Executive's office and supported by Corporate Services and the Marketing team.

Paying tribute to the outgoing Mr Murray, Mayor of Limerick City and County, Councillor Michael Sheahan said he would be recognised as among the key architects of the incredible economic renaissance that Limerick has undergone over the past five years or more. "When he came back here seven years ago, he was met with a city and county that was getting back on its feet and divided from an administrative perspective. In the interim, he has not so much overseen, but led the amalgamation of the local authorities, and with it the biggest single change-management programme in local government history.

"Simultaneously, he put in place the building blocks for an unprecedented economic upturn that has transformed the city's economic, social and cultural

profile. For our citizens and those who come here afresh to live and work in the Mid-West, it is in no small part because of the visionary leadership Conn Murray gave this city and county at a critical time in its history," Mayor Sheahan said.

Thanking family, colleagues and friends, Mr Murray described his seven years in Limerick as 'the most rewarding' on a personal and professional level.

Mayoral Receptions were held for the following:

- Siobhan Brady, in recognition of her achievements as an internationally renowned harpist which includes her record for the Highest Harp Concert, which was performed in the Himalayas on 6 September 2018.
- Eoin Corby, in recognition of him breaking long standing Irish Junior records for 50m, 100m and 200m breaststroke while representing Ireland in Finals at the European and World Junior Championships in 2019.
- Sarah Lavin, in recognition of her achievement in placing 4th in the 100m Hurdles at the World University Games in Napoli in 2019 and in placing 2nd in the 100m Hurdles at the European Junior Championships in Rieti in 2013.
- Sophie Meredith, in recognition of her top 10 finish in the Long Jump at the World Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina in October 2018.
- 'Learning for Lives Ghana', in recognition of the work done by Learning for Lives Ghana, a collaborative team of volunteers from UL Hospitals Group and the University of Limerick. The team has delivered crucial life saving skills training in general pre-hospital emergency care to 240 Community-based healthcare workers in the Upper West Region of Ghana and specialist instruction in sepsis, hand hygiene, physiotherapy, nutrition and neonatal care.

The Mayor hosted the following in Corporate Headquarters in August 2019:

- Group of US Students from Western Michigan University in conjunction with Mary Immaculate College on 2 August.
- Group of Brazilian teachers who are studying in Mary Immaculate College on 9 August.

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae LuimníghLimerick City  
& County Council

- Launch of Student Enterprise Programme for Secondary Schools on 30 August.

The Mayor attended the following functions during month of August, 2019:

- Opening of Photographic Exhibition in City Museum.
- Official Launch of Limerick Show 2019 at AIB Offices, O'Connell Street.
- Official Opening of John McCarthy Circus Exhibition in Cappamore Community Centre.
- Launch of Pigtown 2019 at 'Feed on the Farm – A Zero Food Miles Feast' at Crokers Farm, Ballyneety.
- Official Opening of Limerick Museum's Amazing Lace Exhibition in St. Mary's Cathedral.
- Official Function marking departure of Chief Executive, Mr. Conn Murray.
- Officially started the Veteran Car Club Rally at Radisson Blue Hotel.
- Photographic event at guided Adare Village and Desmond Castle Tour.
- Limerick Writers' Centre Inauguration of heritage plaque honouring Maigue poet, Sean Ó Tuama, in Market Trustees House, Mungret Street.
- Launch of National Community Games at UL Arena.
- Local Refill.ie Initiative in Thomas Street.
- Meeting with Chinese Ambassador HE Xiangdong in Dublin.
- Limerick Show at Racecourse, Patrickswell.
- Conferring Ceremonies at University of Limerick.
- Open Day at McMahon Builders Providers, Dock Road.
- Limerick Rose of Tralee Homecoming for 2019 Rose of Tralee at Woodlands House Hotel, Adare.

## Health and Safety Training

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

Name of Course	Total Number of Staff Trained
CSCS Signing Lighting & Guarding at Roadworks	7
Drivers CPC's – Various Modules	18
Fire Warden Training	20
MEWP	6
Manual Handling	23
Lawnmower & Strimmer Safety	16
Safe Pass	6
<b>Total Staff Trained during the Month of August</b>	<b>96</b>

## Customer Services

Customer Services continued to aid and train local representatives on the use of the MyLimerick platform, as well as staff on the SugarCRM systems.

August saw a total of 172 cases logged through MyLimerick, 166 of which were logged by local representatives.

Customer Services also continued to support the Housing Maintenance Department by logging 74% of cases throughout the month of August, as well as logging 40 cases for housing maintenance in the area offices.

Customer Services received 10,369 via our call centre throughout the month, handling 43% of calls at first point of contact.

This works out at approximately 472 calls per day.

There were 604 cases logged on behalf of elected representatives by Customer Services.

Overall, on the SugarCRM System, 2,758 cases were logged throughout August, 70% of these being logged by Customer Services in both our Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle offices.

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



The majority of cases logged were for the following services:

Operations and Maintenance (57% being housing maintenance)	1,907
Housing Support Services	313
Planning and Environmental Services	279
Design & Delivery	55
Veterinary	62
Customer Services	36

The total number of callers to our counters at Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle was 3,429.

### 3. Access to Information

	August	2019 (January to August)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	20	134
FOI Internal Appeals	4	8
Information Commissioner Appeals	1	4
Total Ombudsman Requests	1	19
Total AIE Requests	4	13

### 4. Business Improvement

- Business Improvement coordinated the submission of Limerick City and County Council's entries to the Local Government Awards. Out of the fifteen entries, we were delighted that twelve have been shortlisted. This was the highest number from any Local Authority. The Awards Night will be held on 28 November in Dublin. Best of luck to all our entries.
- Business Improvement worked with Design and Delivery to use "MyPoint" to accept online submissions for the O'Connell Street Revitalisation Project (Part VIII). MyPoint is the Council's new online citizen engagement platform, created by Digital Strategy, where the public can contribute to consultations and surveys via electronic devices.
- Our new in-house one-day Project Management course commenced in May and continues to run successfully. The course is designed to support staff who are involved with projects. This one-day workshop aims to promote awareness of the "Project Management" mind-set and also focuses on specific topics:
  - Fundamental aspects of Project Management
  - Project initiation and planning techniques
  - Managing risks
  - Controlling implementation of project plans
  - Predictive versus Adaptive Project Management lifecycles/approaches

Employees can express their interest in our Project Management courses through their Personal Development Plan (PDP)