

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick City
& County Council**

November 2019

THIS MONTH:

AWARDS – Council Projects win several awards

SHOWCASE – Limerick projects showcased in Europe

WAY FORWARD – Not Around Us plan adopted by other Councils

LAUNCH – Two major festivals for 2020 launched

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Economic Development Directorate

1. Trade and Investment

- University of Limerick announced the creation of 330 new jobs at the launch of their Strategic Plan UL@50 at the planned new City Campus in the former Dunnes Stores site at Sarsfield Bridge. There will be an emphasis on postgraduate and international students in the new development, bringing an additional annual spend of circa €30m to the city and region.
- VHI announced 20 new jobs by opening a new clinic in Limerick by end of 2020. It plans to bring a range of healthcare and wellbeing services to customers in the Mid-West region.
- Laya Healthcare announced a major multi-million euro plan to create a nationwide network of Health and Wellbeing Clinics in Ireland, with a new Clinic to open in Limerick in summer 2020, creating 15 new jobs.

2. Strategic and Forward Planning

Chief Executive's Report issued to Elected Members of the Municipal District of Adare – Rathkeale on the draft Croom Local Area Plan 2020 -2026, which will be considered at the December Adare - Rathkeale Municipal Meeting.

3. Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

- LEO supported Bank of Ireland with their November Friday Breakfast Club on 8 November in the Workbench with guest speaker Stephen Cuneen of Treaty City Brewery
- LEO supported 'Hook & Ladder', Sarsfield Street, Limerick City who took home a Top Five Store and Restaurant Award and Coffee House of the Year 2020 at the Retail Excellence Awards on 9 November in Killarney.
- Our last Trading on Line Voucher Seminar for 2019 took place on 21 November in the Castletroy Park Hotel with over 30 attendees.
- We supported and attended Network Ireland Limerick's November event 'A Narrative for Future Limerick' on 22 November in the Treaty City Brewery on Nicholas Street.
- We ran a Customs Export and Import Procedures Workshop on 26 November in the Castletroy Park Hotel for those who may be affected by Brexit.

- Due to high demand, we ran a new 1-Day Start Your Own Business programme on 30 November in the Castletroy Park Hotel.
- LEO continues to promote all activities and programmes via our newsletter and four social media platforms: Facebook; Twitter; LinkedIn; Instagram.

4. Innovate Limerick

- Innovate advertised the following positions:
 - Digital Collaboration Centre Manager and
 - Regional E-Hub Co-ordinator.

The appointment of a Design Team for extension to ENGINE was also advertised.

- Film in Limerick Delegation to the European Film Market in Berlin February 2020

Film in Limerick has invited applications from local producers to join a Film in Limerick Delegation to the European Film Market in Berlin in February 2020. Successful applicants will receive a bursary that covers their costs of attending and receive training to progress their careers. The European Film Market which runs alongside the Berlin Film Festival is one of the biggest industry events on the film calendar attracting distributors, film buyers, producers, financiers and co-production agents from all over the world. This new initiative from Film in Limerick is supported by Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.

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- Intensive programme of internal communications on Brand Limerick commenced. Approximately 700 staff outside of Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle targeted and briefed on the brand during the month of November.
- Brand Ambassador Structure designed and Vertical Chairs per sector (Tourism, Business, Education, Community, Media and Culture) appointed. The Brand Ambassador Structure will allow the integration of the brand to the Limerick experience and build in long term sustainability. It will also allow for more cost-effective and authentic reach, whilst giving the brand more depth, richness and credibility.
- Production of static and video executions across core target sectors advancing well.
- Media Buying Plan finalised, to commence in January 2020.
- Ongoing engagement regarding the reskin of Limerick.ie in line with Brand Limerick aesthetic.
- Presentation given to key stakeholders at a Fáilte Ireland industry discussion on the development of Limerick as a tourism destination. Attendees included Paul Kelly, CEO Fáilte Ireland, Miriam Kennedy, Head of the Wild Atlantic Way Fáilte Ireland and T.D. Patrick O'Donovan, Minister of State Dept. of Finance and Dept. of Public Expenditure and Reform.

Halloween in Limerick Marketing Campaign

- Completed marketing campaign for Halloween in Limerick 2019
- Social media campaign gained a total of 371,529 impressions and 14,876 video views

Christmas in Limerick Marketing Campaign

- Commenced an eight week social media and digital advertising campaign across Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Google Ads and programmatic advertising in addition to print media and radio advertising campaign.
- Officially launched Christmas in Limerick 2019 at Light Up Limerick on 17 November with a turn out of 17,600 people
- Provided live social media coverage of Light Up Limerick across Christmas in Limerick, Limerick.ie, and Limerick Council channels
- Dedicated Christmas section created on Limerick.ie
- Distribution of 20,000 Christmas in Limerick Event Guides to venues and businesses across Limerick including direct marketing at Limerick Milk Market and UL Student Life Christmas Market
- Issued three Christmas in Limerick e-newsletters: Light Up Limerick; Christmas Event Guide; Toots Christmas Train
- Produced eight Limerick.ie e-newsletters
- Monthly Limerick.ie Business Bulletin e-newsletter issued

Marketing materials provided to students from Our Lady Queen of Peace School, Janesboro

Welcome to Limerick packs supplied to:

- Delegates attending a European Project meeting hosted by Limerick City and County Council's Tourism Office
- Paul Kelly, CEO, Fáilte Ireland

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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 62 times on Limerick.ie's Facebook with followers now 25,334. Posts reached 109,483 users with 19,625 engagements.
- Tweeted 43 times on Limerick.ie's Twitter, @limerick_ie, with total followers now 16,983. Our tweets earned 87,700 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).
- Posted seven times on Limerick.ie's Instagram and created 15 Stories with total followers now 9,113.
- Tweeted two times on Limerick Marketing's Twitter, @limkmarketing, with total followers now 2,800. Our tweets earned 8,000 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).
- Posted eight times on Limerick City and County Council's LinkedIn with total followers now 3,344.

Limerick.ie

A total of 126,139 people visited the Limerick.ie website in November 2019.

Content Report: 91 articles, 210 events and two amenities were added to Limerick.ie website in November 2019.

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

1. www.limerick.ie
2. www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning
3. www.limerick.ie/council/your-council/jobs
4. www.limerick.ie/council
5. www.limerick.ie/discover/whats-on/browse

34% of website page views were in Discover section and 29% of page views were in the Council section.

Communications

- Issued 20 news releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and researched and wrote 19 speeches for the Office of the Mayor
- Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter
- Tweeted 114 times on Limerick City and County Council's Twitter account, @limerickcouncil, with total followers now 13,443. Our tweets earned 172,300 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).
- Posted seven times on Limerick City and County Council's LinkedIn with total followers now 3,003.

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Physical Development Directorate

1. Travel & Transportation Strategy

Walktober Step Challenge 2019

The 2019 Walktober Step Challenge, which took place in October, is an annual initiative run by the National Transport Authority (NTA), aimed at encouraging people to walk more and to support and facilitate long-term physical activity.

Limerick City and County Council had 118 staff members in 24 teams participating. This represented a 34% increase on the number of our staff who entered the competition last year.

There were two overall winners at the end of the competition. The 'Chasing Pavements 2.0' team, made up of our traffic wardens, were our best non-desk based team, while the 'Forward Walkers' team were our best performing desk based team. The 'Chasing Pavements 2.0' team also placed 7th on the national Walktober leader board, which was a fantastic accomplishment.

2. Environment Strategy

ISO 50001 Energy Management Standard:

Stage 1 of the ISO 50001 Audit process for Limerick City and County Council was completed on 8 November. The standard has international recognition and is considered the benchmark standard worldwide for Energy Management. The standard requires organisations to continually improve energy performance, including energy efficiency, energy use and consumption; define their energy policy and document an energy planning process; review energy use, consumption and efficiency at defined intervals; document the methodology and criteria used to develop the Energy Review considering facilities, equipment, systems or processes; establish an energy baseline and identify EnPIs (Energy Performance Indicators) appropriate for monitoring and measuring its energy performance; establish, implement and maintain documented Energy Objectives and Targets.

The Stage 2 Audit is scheduled for early December 2019. Securing the standard will assist the Council in working towards achieving the public sector energy efficiency and emissions targets for 2020 and 2030.

URBACT project

Limerick City and County Council is a partner in an exciting EU project called "Health and Greenspace", funded through the EU URBACT programme. This project, if successful, will develop an action plan for greenspaces in Limerick City and Suburbs which will aim to maximise the health benefits for local communities by providing spaces that nurture physical and mental wellbeing, promote social interaction and encourage physical activity and healthier lifestyles.

Limerick is one of nine partner cities from all around Europe. The project is being led by a team from Budapest.

The team from Budapest visited Limerick on 13-14 November to meet with council staff, elected members and representatives of stakeholder groups to gain a better understanding of Limerick and its needs in relation to green space. The project will ultimately produce an Integrated Health Responsive Action Plan for Greenspace in the city and suburbs.

3. Water Services

Works on the installation of a new production borehole at Kilcolman (Rathkeale Water Supply source), to replace the trial borehole that was brought into service last year, began this month.

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Community Development Directorate

1. Tourism, Culture & Arts

Tourism

- Staff from the Tourism Development Department attended World Travel Market in London, promoting Medieval Quarter and greater Limerick area
- Hosted EU Atlantic Area Project - CAPITEN partner meeting – welcomed 28 delegates from across Europe
- Tourism Development Staff attended the Irish Association of Adventure Tourism (IAAT) conference in Charleville
- Published tender documentation for Wayfinding, Orientation and Place making strategy for Limerick City

Culture & Arts

Assessment Panels for Short Film, Dolores O'Riordan Music Bursary, Individual Arts Bursaries

Individual Artist Bursaries

- 17 applications were received
- A total ask of €59,836.03
- Assessment Panel met on 11 November
- The panel recommended the allocation of funding to six successful applicants totalling €20,000
- Following the approval of the recommendations at the meeting of Limerick City and County Council Meeting on 25 November, all applicants have been contacted.

Individual Artist Bursaries

- Ten applications were received
- A total ask of €31,900
- The Assessment Panel met on 11 November
- The panel recommended the allocation of funding to one successful application totalling €4,000
- Following the approval of the recommendations at the meeting of Limerick City and County Council Meeting on 25 November, all applicants have been contacted. The successful applicant was Emma Langford (Singer-Song Writer). The bursary will provide funding to cover ongoing production for her second album, due for release in 2020.

Limerick Short Film Bursaries:

Total Fund Available = €16,000

- 16 applications, covering a number of genres, were received;
- All applications were circulated to the Assessment Panel, who assessed, and agreed a shortlist of eight applications on 7 November;
- One application was deemed ineligible at this stage;
- The Assessment Panel met on 13 November and eight short film teams were assessed on pitch and interview;
- The panel recommended the allocation of funding to two successful applicants totalling €16,000.
- Following the approval of the recommendations at the meeting of Limerick City and County Council Meeting on 25 November, all applicants have been contacted.

Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts Scheme 2019

Two letters of support were provided for the Arts Council Festival Investment Scheme.

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.

VAI Café at Ormston House – Professional Development Opportunities for Artists

On 7 November Visual Artists Ireland presented another Visual Artists Café in Ormston House and launched a new 'VAN | Chats' series of talks. The Café consisted of Show and Tell presentations from local artists and a VAI help-desk for one-on-one information sessions. This initiative is offered in partnership with the Culture and Arts Department of Limerick and the Arts Offices of Clare and Tipperary and brings together artists from across Limerick, Clare and Tipperary.

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A call out for online submissions to the 43rd edition of Stony Thursday was issued on 04 October and closed on 23 October. Over 150 local, national and international poets made submissions of up to six poems each. This is the first year that we have offered an online submissions process. The Editor, Martin Dyar is currently reviewing the works received and we envisage publication in the first quarter of 2020.

Invitation to Collaboration**(Museum of Mythological Water Beasts #3)**

Limerick Culture and Art Department made an application for funding to the Art Council's Invitation to Collaboration Scheme, with a deadline of 07 November. The award is open to local authorities to apply for projects or initiatives that they identify as being of strategic significance to arts development locally, regionally and nationally.

Bingo Wings Seminar and Project Celebration

The Bingo Wings Symposium and Celebratory event in the Irish World Academy, Tower Theatre, University of Limerick, opened by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheahan and a panel discussion chaired by Dr Kathleen Turner. This took place on 21 November.

Panellists included: Chantal McCormack, Artistic Director, Fidget Feet Aerial Dance Theatre - Background of Project, Sheila Deegan, Culture and Arts Officer, Limerick City and County Council - Partner Perspective, Traolach O'Fionnain, Arts Officer, Donegal County Council - Partner Perspective, Jennifer de Brún, Ethnochoreologist and Project Evaluator, The Bingo Wings Project - Project Evaluation, Lisa McLoughlin, Community Facilitator, Limerick - Residency Perspective, Maire Dee, Aerialist and Performer, The Bingo Wings Show - Development of show and performer Perspective.

The aim of The Bingo Wings Project was to bring the generations together in the same environment where by they can try out circus, dance, theatre, singing, telling stories, playing bingo, having cups of tea. The Bingo Wings Project links local communities in Limerick, Kerry and Donegal to professional circus theatre show Bingo Wings, with the aim to bring younger and older people together through circus and bingo, to promote ageing well and health and wellbeing. The project was funded by the Arts Council's Invitation to Collaboration Scheme, led by Limerick City and County Council Culture and Arts Department, with both Arts Offices of Kerry County Council and Donegal County Council as partners, along with lead creative partners Fidget Feet Aerial Dance Theatre.

Limerick City and County Council submitted The Bingo Wings Project to the All-Ireland Community and Council Awards for 2020.

**Festivals Funded by
Limerick City and County Council****Light Up Limerick**

Garda estimates of just over 17,000 people, most of them families, turned out on Limerick's O'Connell Street on 17 November for the traditional turning on of the city's Christmas Lights, which officially launches the festive season in Limerick.

Special guest of honour, Rose of Tralee Dr. Sinéad Flanagan joined Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheahan at the Light Up Limerick ceremony, as well as special guests Santa Claus and the North Pole Elves.

The crowds were entertained from 4.30pm by street performers and special guests including Limerick Youth Choir and Zion Vocal Ensemble along with panto characters from Limerick Panto Society's Beauty and the Beast at the Lime Tree Theatre, and The Specsavers Limerick Panto Aladdin at the University Concert Hall, in the build up to the main event – the turning on of the lights.

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Those gathered were also treated to a fireworks display and a snow machine ensured the most traditional of Christmas weathers enveloped the many children present who sang Christmas songs and enjoyed the turning on of the spectacular display of LED Christmas lights across the city centre. Earlier in the day, the Liveable Limerick group hosted their Charity Xmas Dash, during which O'Connell Street was taken over by Santa Clauses as they took part in a variety of races including the Mr and Mrs Claus's three legged race, a celebrity dash, wheelchair dash and sack race. All proceeds went to Novas and the Peter McVerry Trust.

Launch of Limerick Electronic Arts Festival

The launch of LEAF festival took place in St. Mary's Cathedral on 15 November. LEAF is a festival set in the backdrop of Limerick City that celebrates all the intricacies and pillars of the electronic arts genre and will take place in March 2020. The electronic arts are as wide an offering as the technology of the time allows. It includes – electronic music, electronic visual art, installations, video mapping, gaming, streaming, virtual reality, animation and artificial intelligence. In essence any medium or practice that utilises technology and electronics to create art.

Launch of Munster Fleadh

For the first time in 13 years, the Munster Fleadh will return to Newcastle West, Limerick's county town, in a move that will see up to 1,000 descend on the area. The festival was officially launched in the Longcourt House Hotel on 27 November, with the event itself set to take place from July 13-19 2020.

Programming

County Limerick Youth Theatre

The County Limerick Youth Theatre workshops for the DynaLyts (2nd-6th class) and CoLYTS (secondary school students) took place on 5, 12, 19, 26 November at the HoneyFitz Theatre, Lough Gur.

Limerick Youth Choir

The Limerick Youth Choir performed at Light up Limerick on November 17.

Castleconnell Concert Series

Introduced by Liz Nolan, RTÉ Lyric FM, the Castleconnell Autumn Concert Series is a Limerick Culture and Arts Department initiative in collaboration with the Castleconnell Concert Committee, and co-funded by the Arts Council, as a part of delivering a shared strategic action of Rural Arts and Excellence. The final concert on 26 November, Music Network presents, a world-class tenor and guitar duo, Ben Johnson (tenor) and Sean Shibe (guitar) performed a fascinating love-themed programme that connects music, poetry and people across centuries. Beginning with the 16th century love songs of Dowland, Rosseter and Morley, the programme stretches on to the grand, yearning Romanticism of Schubert and Beethoven, to Walton's 20th century masterpiece Anon in Love, and as far as Lawra, a new Music Network commission from Brian Bolger receiving its premiere performances on this tour.

Integrated Dance

The Integrated Dance programme, with Dance artist Mary Hartney, continues at the West Limerick Children's Services. 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.

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Projects

Helium Arts

The Outpatient Programme continued at Paediatric Outpatients, with Chelsea Cavanan as Creative Associate in Limerick. The focus is on developing the volunteer aspect of the programme.

Research Presentation

Limerick Culture and Arts Office presented "The UL Hospitals Arts Committee Exhibition Project 2019" at the launch of the Irish Medical Humanities today network, at the National Library of Ireland on 8 November, sharing this work with a national audience.



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2. Urban & Rural Community Development

Derelict Sites and Vacant Homes/Properties

DERELICT SITES:	
• Inspections carried out	48
• Statutory Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act	19
• Cases closed through engagement	7
• Properties entered onto the Derelict Sites Register	7
• Properties put forward for Compulsory Acquisition	8

VACANT SITES:	
• Vacant Properties identified	12
• No. of inspections carried out	10
• Cases closed through engagement	2
• CPO Housing Act 1966 commenced	2
• Properties Vested to Limerick City and County Council	2

Leader Programme

The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) received an additional €500,000 for the LEADER Programme in Limerick. This additional allocation made by the Department of Rural and Community Development was on the basis that the Limerick LCDC is one of the top five performing LEADER Local Action Groups in the country.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2019

Under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2019, Limerick City and County Council in collaboration with Ballyhoura Development and West Limerick Resources was awarded €97,772 by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD). This was for projects under Measure 1. This grant funding will support five countryside walkways / trails in rural Limerick.

- Anglesboro Trail Head Hub
- Killeedy Ecopark
- Slieveragh Mountain
- Molanna River Walk, Ballyorgan
- Griston Bog Walkway, Ballylanders

Pride of Place

- Abbeyfeale was announced as the runner up in the 2000-5000 Population Category at the IPB Pride of Place Awards held in Kilkenny on 30 November 2019.
- Abbeyfeale Community Council were one of the community organisations including Newtown Cottage Association, Clarina; St. Mary's Men's Shed, Nicholas Street; St. Michael's Day Care Centre, Cappamore from Limerick who were finalist at the Pride of Place Awards.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP):

- The SICAP Annual Planning Progress for 2020 is underway.
- The deadline for submission of draft plans by the Local Development Companies was on 22 November.
- The plans will now be reviewed by the LCDC - SICAP Sub Committee.

Thematic Programmes

Health and Wellbeing

- Limerick's Not Around Us initiative in support of Tobacco Free Ireland was the only Irish case study on intersectoral collaboration at the first national networking event for Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs). The presentation on the initiative followed presentations from three international experts.
- Agreement was reached with the national HSE office for Tobacco Free Ireland for the Limerick partners to formally hand over the Not Around Us brand and concept for national use. Already Galway City is rolling out Not Around Us and other counties have expressed interest.
- The Healthy Limerick Steering Group, a subcommittee of the Limerick Local Community Development Committee, met this month and identified its 2020 priorities.
- Staff of the Thematic Programmes team has held a number of meetings with representatives of various suicide prevention interest groups across the city and county, following representations recently made to Limerick City and County Council.

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- In 2017, the Houses of the Oireachtas approached the Department of Children and Youth Affairs to consider Dáil na nÓg 2019 taking place in the Houses of the Oireachtas as part of the celebration of 100 years of the Dáil Éireann. The Department was delighted to accept the invitation and have young delegates seated in the Dáil chamber, a visual representation of the Government listening to children and young people on issues of importance to them. Dáil na nÓg 2019 took place on Saturday 23 November in Leinster House and was viewed by all as an extraordinary opportunity for young people to have a say on what is important to them. It was attended by three members of the Limerick Comhairle na n-Óg committee and the Coordinator of the Comhairle na n-Óg Limerick Programme.

Age Friendly

- Following discussion and agreement at national level, it was agreed that the Age Friendly Ireland Shared Service would pilot a number of regional Programme Manager roles, covering Ireland North, West, Midlands, North East, Dublin and the South East. Limerick City and County Council will host the role for the West and the current Age Friendly Programme Manager for Limerick City and County Council will be covering the West area, providing support to the following Age Friendly Programmes:

- Limerick City and County Council
- Cork City Council
- Cork County Council
- Kerry County Council
- Clare County Council
- Galway City Council
- Galway County Council

The Regional Programme Manager will be working 2.5 days per week to provide regional support to the counties in the West area, and will be a link between the national shared service and local Age Friendly County programmes. This regional work will include regional networking opportunities, training, and communication, as well as advice and support to individual county programmes, attending County Age Friendly Alliance meetings on occasion to give a national update and provide a link with the policy context. This work will

greatly support and strengthen the Age Friendly Programme in Ireland.

- Age Friendly Limerick was shortlisted in two separate categories for the 2019 National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards. In the Age Friendly Housing category, Colivet Court was nominated and received a certificate in acknowledgement of being a national example of best practice in housing designed to enhance the lives of older people, narrowly missing out on winning the overall national award. In the Age Friendly Communications category, the Acorn Tablet Trial was shortlisted to the final three and went on to win the overall national award. With funding received from the Department of Rural and Community Development, the Acorn Tablet was piloted in early 2019 in three separate Local Authority areas across the Country (Limerick, Meath and Fingal). The tablet is designed for use by older people who have had little or no previous exposure to IT. The pilot in Limerick ran for 12 weeks and supported 30 older people to build their confidence around the use of IT through intergenerational engagement. It also allowed the older people to build relationships with local secondary school students who worked on a one to one basis with the older people taking part in the pilot.
- 22 November, saw a six-week IT skills training programme for older people draw to a close. Facilitated by the Age Friendly Limerick Programme and based in the Adult Education Centre in Newcastle West, two classes per week saw 20 older people trained in the use of IT. All participants were presented with a certificate on completion of the course, and there is currently a list of over 40 older people waiting on a place, should the course be run again in 2020.

Integration

- On 22 November, the Thematic Programmes team hosted a meeting of the Migrant Integration Strategy sub-group tasked with implementing theme 4 of "Belonging to Limerick," Cultural Awareness and Anti-Racism. The group consists of staff of Limerick City and County Council, An Garda Síochána, Doras and Limerick Youth Service and its focus is to advance Cultural awareness and Anti-Racism through schools education programmes, advertising campaigns and training

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programmes for front-line staff. The group finalised a proposal in respect of the delivery of a training programme for secondary school students on Anti-racism. In addition, it was confirmed that all 600 front-line Gardaí in the Limerick Division would receive updated anti-racism training over the coming months.

Education

- Following the visit to Columbia in October of Councillor Sarah Kiely, deputising for the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick and staff of the Community Development Directorate, and their attendance at the Global Network of Learning Cities Conference in Medellin, an invitation to visit Limerick City and County Council was received from the Embassy of Colombia to Ireland on behalf of Ambassador Patricia Cortez. A delegation from Limerick met with Ambassador Cortez on her visit to Corporate Headquarters on 25 November.
- On 21 November, staff of the Thematic Programmes team attended a meeting of EDNIP (Embracing Diversity, Nurturing Integration, Learning for Life Programme). This programme provides a range of supports, delivered through National Schools, for parents and children from new communities, who do not speak English as their first language. The programme will continue to run until the end of the 2019/2020 school year when funding for the programme, will cease.

Public Participation Network (PPN)

- The newly elected Public Participation Network Secretariat met twice this month. The Secretariat is responsible for managing the PPN on behalf of its membership.
- Significant progress was made on a draft constitution for Public Participation Network.
- The formal nominations process opened for Public Participation Network members to nominate people for election to Strategic Policy Committees.
- The PPN's hundredth member was registered this month. Registration for membership of the PPN remains open. All volunteer-led not-for-profits in Limerick are invited and encouraged to join this revitalised PPN.
- Following correspondence from Minister John Paul Phelan, the Secretariat agreed to identify the most appropriate processes to select a PPN representative to sit the Implementation Advisory Group for the Directly Elected Mayor and ensure the PPN representative remains answerable to the PPN membership.

- Thanks to help from the Digital Services team of Limerick City and County Council, the Limerick PPN website has been updated. The limerickppn.ie website is the go-to place for all information related to the PPN. It includes the online membership registration form.
- A new staff member started this month and is providing fulltime clerical support to the PPN.

Fairtrade Birthday Celebration for Limerick City

- Over 150 pupils and their families and teachers attended Limerick's 14th Fairtrade Anniversary celebration in Istabraq Hall. The Overall Winner was Amy Mucko, John the Baptist Community School, Hospital, Amy's Christmas card will now be reproduced and available to purchase at a number of local businesses, shops and cafes that have supported the Fairtrade initiative throughout the past 12 months. Erika McCarthy, Milford National School, Castletroy won the Junior Section with Ella Roche, Scoil Na Tríonóide Naofa, Doon and Milana Bokane, Laurel Hill Secondary School FCJ Limerick leading the Senior Section.

Limerick Sports Partnership (LSP)

- The LSP Women on Wheels Road Captains crew won the National Federation of Sport Award for Volunteers. These women were previous participants on the beginner-cycling programme and they now lead the sessions supporting new participants.
- The Move for Life Research programme won a European award at a recent international conference for Promoting Physical Activity for participants over 50 years.
- 95 sports Clubs applied for the Sports Development grants with 21 being successful in securing part of the €11,000. The scheme focused on the minority sports based on the National Sports Policy
- 49 Sports Clubs shared in €1.6 Million from the National Sports Capital Programme
- The LSP sports Development officers continue to develop programmes for key target groups, Men and Women 30-65years, marginalised communities, Older Adult groups, walking groups and general populations across the county. See www.limericksports.ie for more information

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTComhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh****Limerick City**
& County Council**3. Libraries, Gallery & Museum****Library Services**

- Congratulation to Watch House Cross Library. Chambers Ireland have announced the winner of the Best Library Service Award – the winner is Limerick City and County Council for their project 'Watch House Cross Community Library Autism Friendly Resource!' This announcement was made on 28-11-2019.
- Watch House Cross's new Sensory Room had 162 sessions in November. On 11 November, Fiona Ferris from AsIAM, Ireland's national charity for the autism community held a staff training session as a step in the city and county wide roll out of the library's new autism friendly libraries project.
- A 'Relaxed Performance' of The BFG by Roald Dahl with Tallest Smallest Circus was held in Watch House Cross on 23 November. A 'Relaxed Performance' is specifically designed to welcome those with autism spectrum disorder. Eight families, with 25 in total enjoying the performance.
- The National Library travelling exhibition - Revolutionary Lives, featuring the lives of six diverse individuals, united by the common cause of Irish Independence (Laurence Ginnell, Thomas Johnson, Michael O'Flanagan, Lily Murnin, Kathleen O'Brennan and Máire Comerford) was on display from 6-20 November.
- The Solihull Parenting Programme which started on 13 November will run in the library over 10 weeks. Staff from The Child and Family Centre, from St. Camillus Hospital, facilitated this programme. Knockalisheen Parent and Toddler Group visited Watch House Cross on 13 November, the parents were shown around the library and a story time was held. Watch House Cross had an information stand at the Sportsability Day hosted by Limerick Sports Partnership on 15 November in The UL Arena, promoting the library's autism resources. Library staff also attended Moyross Community Hub on 19 November as part of Limerick Mental Health Awareness Group Information morning to promote the Healthy Ireland collection, Jigsaw collection and autism friendly resources. "Seo Seorcas" a workshop and performance as Gaeilge, was attended by 4th and 5th classes from Gaelscoil Sáirséail on 20 November, the children got first-hand experience of juggling and spinning plates under the direction of Stephen McGinley. Moyross Threads, a local craft group, displayed their craft work in the library on 21 and 22 November. A raffle was held with proceeds going to the Share a Dream Foundation. Weekly Baby Yoga classes commenced.
- Seventy events and activities took place in the Granary Library in the month of November, two thirds of which were for adults and one third for children.
- 'Mapping Experiences of Pathological Demand Avoidance' was the title of a seminar held in The Granary Library on 5 November led by Dr. Neil Kenny of Dublin City University. Of particular appeal to those with an interest in autism, this was a much-appreciated event for families and teachers. On 15 November, volume 54 of the Old Limerick Journal was launched by Cathaoirleach of Limerick Metropolitan District, Councillor, James Collins. Councillor Collins praised the OLJ committee for their efforts in preserving and recording the history of Limerick City and County. On 19 November Angus Mitchell gave a fascinating lecture titled 'The Lost Library of Bulmer Hobson'. This talk, about a significant but largely forgotten figure in the history of Ireland's independence struggle, was received with much interest and appreciation by the audience of about 30. Earlier on the same day the local studies librarian visited the Probus group that meets at the South Court Hotel and presented a tour of Limerick Library's local studies website. The group were amazed at the amount of material available through the website and was very appreciative of the presentation. In music, the library presented the last of its shows in the Granary Music Library Free Concert Series for 2019.
- On 21 November Stephen Heffernan, Maria, Lucia, and Patrick Heffernan played an 'In The Round' concert where each performed pieces in turn. Stephen's beautiful piano melodies, Maria and Lucia's amazing violin arrangements, and Patrick's wonderful songs, sung to bouzouki accompaniment, went down a storm with an enraptured audience. It was a marvellous conclusion to a very successful series for 2019. On 15 November, the Rock Record Club special guest was the poet, Oran Ryan, who presented a fabulously varied programme of music (from Bach and Wagner to hip-hop and rap!)

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& Contae **Luimnigh****Limerick City**
& County Council

- A unique combination of fun, science and reading was available courtesy of Nuttyscientist.com at Adare and Newcastle West branches this month. This concept is a part STEM learning and sees access to books and reading and a core element of the programme. Fun was had with science experiments for invited school classes. This was sponsored by the Arts Office Creative Ireland Programme.
- In Newcastle West Library November started with an exhibition from Inis Artists, their work covers a wide variety of styles and themes, bringing a creative mix to the paintings. Artists from the group gave a workshop on acrylics and pastels on 15 November; this was part of age-friendly events in the branch. This was a lovely opportunity for retired people to avail of the free class and learn some new techniques or experience painting for the first time! In addition, as part of the age-action programme, the Branch is facilitating Digital Skill classes on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 11am to 1pm. These free classes cover topics such as internet, email and social media. The classes are run by Mobile IT, Bruff, under the Ballyhoura CLG project. As there is a strong emphasis on Irish language and culture in this area, the library continued to provide events as Gaeilge, linking in with the Gaelscoil, Gaelcholáiste and Desmond College.
- On 6 November, Micheál MacDomhnaill, local poet and author gave a talk/workshop on the writers and the local history of Newcastle West and surrounding areas. This was sponsored by Foras na Gaeilge, 90 students attended the three sessions. Throughout the month, the local secondary schools, Scoil Mhuire agus Íde and Desmond College frequented the library as they are completing their History research and project work and regular class visits from the Primary schools and the knitting club continued every Friday morning.
- 7 November was animation day at Kilmallock Library. The talented people from Designer Minds came to Kilmallock Library to give workshops to over 90 students from Ardpark National School and Scoil Mocheallóg. Combining Lego, story telling, animation and technology this was the perfect learning opportunity to inspire all future moviemakers. Sixth class students from Scoil Mocheallóg attended for a talk with author Padraig Kenny on Wednesday 6 November. Padraig, an award winning writer of the young adult books Tin and Mog, had students very much engaged in

learning about the world of a professional writer, finding out about agents and publishers and each step along the way to bringing a book to life.

- Joseph Lennon is a historian and photographer who has researched the history, architecture and heritage of Limerick's medieval castles and Tower Houses. On 8 November, Joseph launched the photographic exhibition at Kilmallock library with a presentation on the history and heritage of the castles. The talk was very well attended and the exhibition will run to 7 December. A new class of eight people commenced digital skills class on 19 November. Over four weeks the group will learn how to use smart phones and laptops, use email, browse internet and use eBooks and audiobooks. Digital Skills classes are held in at Kilmallock library in association with Ballyhoura Development. People can learn using their own devices or a device provided in class.

Limerick Museum

- The Three Muses: exploring art and identity, a joint schools programme led by The Hunt Museum, Limerick Museum and Limerick City Gallery of Art was launched in the Hunt Museum on 21 November by Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheahan. It is a programme of activities and workshops for primary school pupils to engage with modern and contemporary visual art from the collections of three Limerick museums. The Three Muses will open for school bookings from 21 November for spring and summer terms 2020.
- As part of the Three Muses programme, Limerick Museum hosted pupils from CBS Sexton Street Primary School for a very successful workshop facilitated by Adam Stoneman, Public Engagement Co-Ordinator of the Three Muses.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- The Gallery enjoyed very strong visitor numbers for the month of November in response to the exhibition, *Sediment*, by Mariele Neudecker. Total visitor figures for the exhibition (5 September – 17 November) were 13,322
- Ariane Koek and Mariele Neudecker gave a very informed talk on her practice. Koek is the founder of the arts programme at CERN and Neudecker is an associate artist of CERN. Audiences came from all over the country including a group from GMIT
- Mariele Neudecker was invited to lecture in LSAD on 6 November.
- Brendan Egan, the newly appointed Shinnors Scholar, has been making contact with a number of Primary Schools in the area and has already led a number of workshops.
- Preparations continue for the next series of exhibitions including Charles Harper: *A Retrospective*; *State of Print* – a group exhibition of print-makers; and LSAD Graduate Award recipient, Niamh Schmidtke. The exhibitions open on 28 November
- LCGA continues to host the HELIUM monthly workshops for sick children, running until December 2019
- LCGA hosted the start of the Limerick Art Society, winter workshops running until December 2019
- Work continues with the Strategic Plan for LCGA with consultant, Caoimhín Corrigan of M.CO consultants.
- Adam Stoneman, Public Engagement Co-ordinator of the Three Muses project led a workshop in LCGA on 15 November
- LCGA in partnership with The Hunt Museum and Limerick Museum will completed the MOU between the three organisations for the Three Muses pilot project.
- The Mayor of Limerick City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheahan launched the Three Muses pilot project on 21 November with a special performance by Sing Out with Strings.
- LCGA worked with Jenny Roche, Irish World Academy of Dance, to present five performances of her collaborative dance piece, *Expanded Fields*, on 23-24 November. Audience figures for the five performance totalled 162.
- Delphine Munro of the European Investment Bank (EIB) did a site visit to the LCGA on 12 November in preparation for the forthcoming exhibition, *Belonging* in April 2020. *Belonging* will be a citywide celebration of Limerick's extensive historical and contemporary ties with Europe.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Housing Development Directorate

1. Housing Strategy Implementation

- The Housing Development Department prepared a draft Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase arrangements, which formed the basis of a workshop on 20 November where all Councillors were invited to attend to discuss the kilometre distances that form part of the priority process. Immediately after the workshop, a special Strategic Policy Committee meeting was called where the km distances were endorsed and agreed. The Draft Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements was subsequently approved at the Full Council Meeting on 25 November.
- The Housing Development Department attended a meeting convened by the Home Building Finance Ireland (HBFI) on 26 November. The HBFI was established in December 2018 to lend money to small and medium sized builders and developers for commercially viable residential developments, particularly those situated outside the State's major urban centres. The HBFI is an alternative to the main pillar banks and can offer preferential rates. HBFI has been provided with access to €750 million of funding from the Irish Strategic Investment fund, with which it is expected to facilitate the delivery of 7,500 units over the next five years. The Housing Development Department are particularly interested in matching the HBFI with small and medium sized builders and developers throughout Limerick involved in the Council's turnkey programme.
- The Housing Development Department had a kick off meeting with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) on 29 November in Dublin on rolling out the five sites that gained 'approval in principle' in August for just under 25 million in enabling infrastructure to deliver affordable housing. The five sites include Council-owned lands at the Guinness site (lower Carey's Road) Toppin's Field, the Curragower, Sonny's Corner (Athlunkard Street) and Clonmacken.

2. Regeneration Strategy Implementation

Moyross:

- Moyross Residents Forum hosted a visit from Fethard Area Residents Network on 11 November. A joint project between the Forum and Tess Collins Community, Liaison Officer, Tipperary County Council. The group came to visit the Moyross Community Hub and Moyross Youth Academy and met with residents in Moyross. There was lots of sharing of knowledge, experiences and learnings from the visit.
- Moyross Residents' Forum was delighted to be a partner in the Intergenerational project which brought young children and older residents from around the city together on 28 November for a fun family event with music, games, magic and to launch a video made during the intergenerational events held in three communities including Moyross before the summer. This project was funded by Community Foundation of Ireland.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



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& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
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Moyross Training Facility:

- The training facility was commended at the recent Excellence in Local Government Awards 2019. (see attached pic) The announcement of the Bank of Ireland National Enterprise Awards will take place in Kilkenny this week. The Bank of Ireland supported competition received 107 entries with judges spending over 230 hours listening to and observing over 80 towns, villages and urban areas across Ireland.
- The premises refurbishment is finished with all internal snagging completed. Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB) staff have been appointed to the project with the first of three information sessions scheduled for next week. In conjunction with the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP) and LCETB a number of young people are being targeted with a view to running short courses over a number of weeks in preparation for employment. Modules such as safe pass, manual handling and work related topics are being included in this phase. A second, longer programme will run for people not yet ready to take up employment with an emphasis on work placements in preparation for employment is due to commence in the New Year.
- This is part of the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan's Social and Economic pillars, the provision of a training facility to meet the needs of a large youth population on the North side of the city which was identified as a priority. This is in order to address the recently released deprivation indices along with the stark youth unemployment figures for the area. This was highlighted and reinforced yet again recently with the release of The Trinity National Deprivation Index for Health and Health Services Research 2016.
- The Bays Training Centre Moyross has also been shortlisted for European Innovation in Politics Award. Over 400 entries were received, before a jury of 1,000 citizens from all of Europe created shortlist.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTComhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh****Limerick** City
& County Council**Service Operations Directorate****1. Housing Support Services**• **Waiting List**

Housing Waiting List	2,707
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• **Allocations**

	No. of Units November 2019	Year to Date
Metropolitan District	25	154
Newcastle West	2	27
Adare – Rathkeale	2	16
Cappamore – Kilmallock	2	28
Total	31	225

• **Traveller Housing Welfare**

No. of Units offered November 2019	Year to Date
2*	31*

* these figures are included in Allocations figures
2 Traveller Clinics held in November – 18 Clients seen.

• **Housing Assistance Payments Limerick**

2,313 Total number of active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	46
No. of Amendments	31
No. of Cessations	14

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

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

Individuals – 30 November 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	20
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	5
Temporary Emergency Provision TEP 1 (Edenvilla)	Low threshold, night by night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	13
TEP 2 (Phoenix Lodge)	Low threshold, night by night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	15
Total		128

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Families			
Location	Description	No. Adults	No. Children
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	12
		Families - 6	
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	62	80
		Families - 49	
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	13	15
		Families - 10	
Totals		Adults	Children
		81	107
		Families - 65	

HOME IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

November 2019	MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HAG (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	No.
Rathkeale	€26,049.24	5	€0.00	0	€3,825.00	1
Newcastle West	€20,948.00	5	€7,838.55	2	€31,350.81	6
Metro	€21,708.78	5	€110,493.12	10	€74,620.00	18
Kilmallock	€27,000.00	5	€6,473.50	1	39,146.02	6
Total	€95,706.02	20	€124,805.17	13	€148,941.83	31
Total Monies issued in NOVEMBER 2019 = €369,453.02						
Total Grants issued in NOVEMBER 2019 = 64						

JANUARY TO November 2019	MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HAG (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	No.
Kilmallock	€85,368.95	18	€196,484.05	22	€182,360.27	33
Metropolitan	€338,952.48	81	€786,639.80	78	€463,593.85	122
Newcastle West	€162,653.82	34	€183,538.54	21	€282,797.97	61
Rathkeale	€77,236.95	16	€88,536.95	6	€69,374.20	19
Total	€664,212.20	149	€1,255,199.34	127	€998,126.29	235
Total Monies issued January to November 2019 = €2,917,537.83						
Total Grants issued January to November 2019 = 511						

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& Contae **Luimnigh****Limerick** City
& County Council**2. Planning & Environmental Services****Environmental Services (Litter, Waste Enforcement, Air, Noise, Water/Waste Water and Public Health).**

- 172 complaints were received in November 2019.
- 514 inspections were undertaken during the month.
- The Department issued 10 Statutory Notices.
- The Department served 13 Directions.
- 15 Warning Letters were issued in November 2019.
- 117 Fines were issued during the period.
- Legal proceedings were initiated in six 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 and Environment.

Planning**Planning Applications**

A total of 103 new planning applications were received as follows:

Housing Developments	1
Domestic Developments	65
Agricultural Developments	8
Commercial Developments/Change of Use	11
Sporting/Community & Educational Developments	6
Other Developments	12

The current applications include proposals for:

- Construction of 10 no. dwelling houses, access roadway, foul and surface water sewers and all ancillary site works at Rathnaneane, Newcastle West.

3. Veterinary Services

- 10 stray or wandering equines were impounded.
- The Dog Control Unit dealt with 30 dogs.
- 19 food samples were submitted during November 2019 for analysis under the National Residues and Microbiological Sampling Programme.
- A targeted dog licence compliance campaign continues to be operated.

4 Cemeteries

Number of Burials in City Cemeteries.

Mount St. Lawrence	16
Mount St. Oliver	18
Castlemungret	8
Kilmurry	3

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& Contae **Luimnigh****Limerick City**
& County Council**Capital Investment Directorate****1. Design & Delivery****Irish Building and Design Awards**

- Recoupments submitted to the Department of award for Heritage/Conservation/Cultural – Project of the Year in a very tough category that included Pálás Cinema, Galway, Mullingar Courthouse and Blarney Castle Renovation.
- Maria Donoghue's project, Nicholas Street Regeneration, received the top award for Tourism and Hospitality Project of the Year. Other nominees in this category included Center Parcs, Co. Longford and Powerscourt Distillery Visitor Centre.

Finance

- Recoupments submitted for Housing Schemes in November - €1,958,498

Part 8

- Part 8 application submitted for Mungret Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) – Delivery Stage 2.

Approvals sought/obtained

- Stage 4 approval received from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) for 13 units at Ballysimon Road and Greenhills Road, Limerick
- Stage 4 approval received from DHPLG for 11 units on Lower Carey's Road.
- Stage 2 submission issued to DHPLG for Deerpark, Adare (30 units).

Buy & Renew and SHIP Refurbishment programme

Inspections Carried out	11
Refurbishment works Commenced in November	0
Refurbishment works Ongoing	6
Refurbishment works completed in November	4

Home Improvement Schemes

Inspections & Recommendations for Home Improvement Schemes – November 2019

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-Inspection	Final Inspection	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	2	0	3	5
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	1	3	5	8	17
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	6	0	13	19
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	1	11	5	24	41

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& Contae **Luimnigh****Limerick** City
& County Council**2. Property Services****Corporate Buildings**

- Office remodelling - desk realignment – Digital Services in Merchant's Quay and Customer Service in Dooradoyle
- Maintenance works continue to the Service Risers in Dooradoyle corporate building
- Plans are underway for the upgrade of the Audio systems in Dooradoyle Council Chamber
- Design proposals for Signage outside the Newcastle West Area offices have been completed – we are currently waiting for feedback on same

Acquisitions and Disposals statistics:

House purchases: carried forward at Sale Agreed but awaiting conclusion	15
House purchases: Sale Agreed November	8
House purchases: Concluded	3

Facilities Team:

- Istabraq Hall is currently hosting an Art Exhibition – "Under African Skies" by Tomas O'Maoldomhnaigh – the Exhibition continues until 6 December.
- Council Chamber Merchant's Quay hosted a mayoral visit from Our Lady Queen of Peace School, Janesboro
- Works are ongoing in the rear car park of Merchant's Quay to ensure staff safety during the darker evenings.
- New tender for Cleaning contract for 22 Limerick City and County Council Corporate Buildings (6 city based corporate buildings, Area offices, Libraries, MRCC and Fire Stations) was awarded in November. The new contractor is Grosvenor Cleaning Services who will commence on site 02 December.



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& Contae **Luimnigh****Limerick** City
& County Council**National and Regional
Shared Services Directorate****1. Housing Assistance Payments
(HAP) Shared Services Centre**

- There were 51,756 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAPSSC at the end of November.
- A weekly average of 331 HAP tenancies have been set-up during 2019
- The November landlord payment run was over €42 million
- The weekly tenant debit at the end of November, was over €2.5 million
- The HAP SSC Debt Management Unit issued 4,101 differential rent arrears letters to HAP recipients in November.
- The HAPSSC Debt Management Unit collected a total of €108m in differential rent from January to November
- The HAP Tenant rent collection rate at the end of November was 98%.

2. Fire & Emergency Services Statistics

	No. of Fire Related Calls	No. of Non Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call outs 01/11/19 – 31/11/19	71	44	115
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	68%	58%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	25%	37%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	7%	5%	

	No. received / assigned	No. Validated	No. invalidated / refused	No. granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications November 2019	13	11	4	9	
Disability Access Cert Applications November 2019	13	10	2	7	
Licensing Applications November 2019	6	6	0		
Commencement Notice November 2019	41	36	5	36	41
Completion Certificate November 2019	20	18	0	18	18
Planning Referrals November 2019	14				11
Sugar CRM Cases November 2019	5				2

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& Contae **Luimnigh****Limerick** City
& County Council**Fire & Emergency Training Events for month of November**

- 4 Fire Fighters completed an Emergency Services Driving Standards course
- 80 personnel completed a Cardiac First Responder Course
- 2 Fire Fighters completed an Initial Breathing Apparatus Wearers course
- 5 officers attended building control training course

Major Emergency Management Events for month of November

- Atlantic Fuels Table Top exercise held on 22 November to test the External Emergency Plan under the Seveso III Regulations.
- MEM Committee meeting held to review the Major Emergency Plan and Sub Plans.
- Meeting held with Mid-West Voluntary Emergency Services.
- Limerick City and County Council chaired its final Regional Working Group and Steering Group meetings and handed the chair over to An Garda Síochána.

Civil Defence attendance at Events for month of November

- Civil Defence Officers Association Training and Education Seminar
- Guest Speaker – Sergeant Shane Davern, Henry Street
- Limerick Fire and Rescue Service Deceased Members Mass

	No. of calls mobilised to an emergency incident by MRCC	Other Calls	Average Call Processing Time	Total no. of calls in November
No. of call outs 01/11/2019 – 30/11/2019	971	614	1 minute 16 seconds	1,585

- Avian Flu Workshop – Mallow
- Indoor Rowing Championships
- National Radiation Exercise
- Order of Malta Deceased Members Mass

Munster Regional Control Centre (MRCC)**Water Safety**

No. of lifebuoy replacements	Jan-Oct	Nov 2019	Total 2019
Metropolitan Area	16	0	16
Municipal Area	11	0	11

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& Contae **Luimnigh****Limerick City**
& County Council**3. Digital Services**

- The Head of Digital Strategy and EU Programmes attended together with the Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Adam Teskey the Smart City Expo World Congress 2019 in Barcelona, Spain from 19-21 November 2019. This is world's largest smart cities event attracting over 21,000 visitors and representatives from over 700 cities and 146 countries. We have been requested to represent Limerick and attend the +CityxChange project stand organised by the European Commission for Smart Cities and Communities. A number of meetings took place with the officials and city co-ordinators from the other 16 EU Lighthouse Smart Cities projects. Dr. Mihai Bilauca presented on 20 November the Limerick +CityxChange project at the EU Commission's panel on "The Journey: from Nearly Zero Energy Neighbourhood to Positive Energy Districts". On 21 November, Dr. Bilauca gave a presentation on Limerick's Digital Strategy at the Open and Agile Smart Cities (OASC) forum stand. OASC is a non-profit, international smart city network that connects +140 smart cities globally organised in national networks from 27 countries and regions. Limerick is a member of OASC since 2015. The attendance and presentations given at the Smart City World Congress in Barcelona has raised Limerick's reputation as a smart city in EU and strengthen the relationship with Trondheim, our partner city in Norway, and other Nordic countries.
- The process to procure a new enterprise-standard Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system for the Council was concluded without the awarding of a contract. Five tender responses were received but after evaluation, all were deemed unsuitable, either for failing to meet the required technical specifications or for being too expensive. A new procurement process will be attempted in Q1 2020 using the Competitive Dialog approach.
- Work on the LITe Programme continues to migrate the HR department onto Sharepoint Online.

EU Projects

- On 11 and 12 November, as part of the Urbact III project FindYourGreatness, we were visited by International expert and consultant Janez Sirse. Janez met with many different stakeholders in Limerick to discuss the branding needs of the city, and what Limerick people think the identity and "Greatness" of Limerick is. Discussions were held with representatives from Arts and Culture, design, business, students, as well as in depth discussions with internal council teams in Communications and Digital Services. The final meeting of Phase 1 of this project will take place in Limerick next February with the aim of submitting a Phase 2 proposal for further funding.
- On 14 November a second meeting was held with the Commissioner for the Regulation of Utilities as part of the +CityxChange project. Part of this project involves the creation of a "regulatory sandbox" where new technologies that can help us reduce our carbon dependency can be trialled in an efficient and safe way. A representative of the CRU will attend the next working meeting here in Limerick on four of December.
- On 27 November, Limerick City and County Council, in association with The Hunt Museum, submitted an application to Creative Europe. This project will capitalise on European Expo 2020 and the Limerick City of Culture bid by developing a framework for cities to demonstrate a legacy to the European Year of Culture Heritage 2018, to raise awareness of common history and values, and to reinforce a sense of belonging to a common European space. The other cities partnering on this project are Cluj (Romania) and Leeuwarden (The Netherlands). It is supported by other recent European City of Culture (ECOC) winners, the EIB, and CultureNext, a network of cities planning to bid for future ECOC awards.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTComhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh****Limerick** City
& County Council**Support Services Directorate****1. Finance Services Rent Collection****Rent Collection Limerick City and County Council**

Opening Balance @ 01/01/2019	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing balance 30/11/2019	% Collection
€3,822,761	€14,336,947	€18,159,708	€13,899,834	€4,259,874	76.5%

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 November 2019	11,723,152	56,020,692**	853,477	2,060,456	64,829,911	51,327,911	13,502,376	2,172,422	82%

** 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 €	% Collected
As at 30th November 2019	486,661	1,305,308		1,791,969	1,533,112	258,857	86%

Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No of days in overdraft **0**

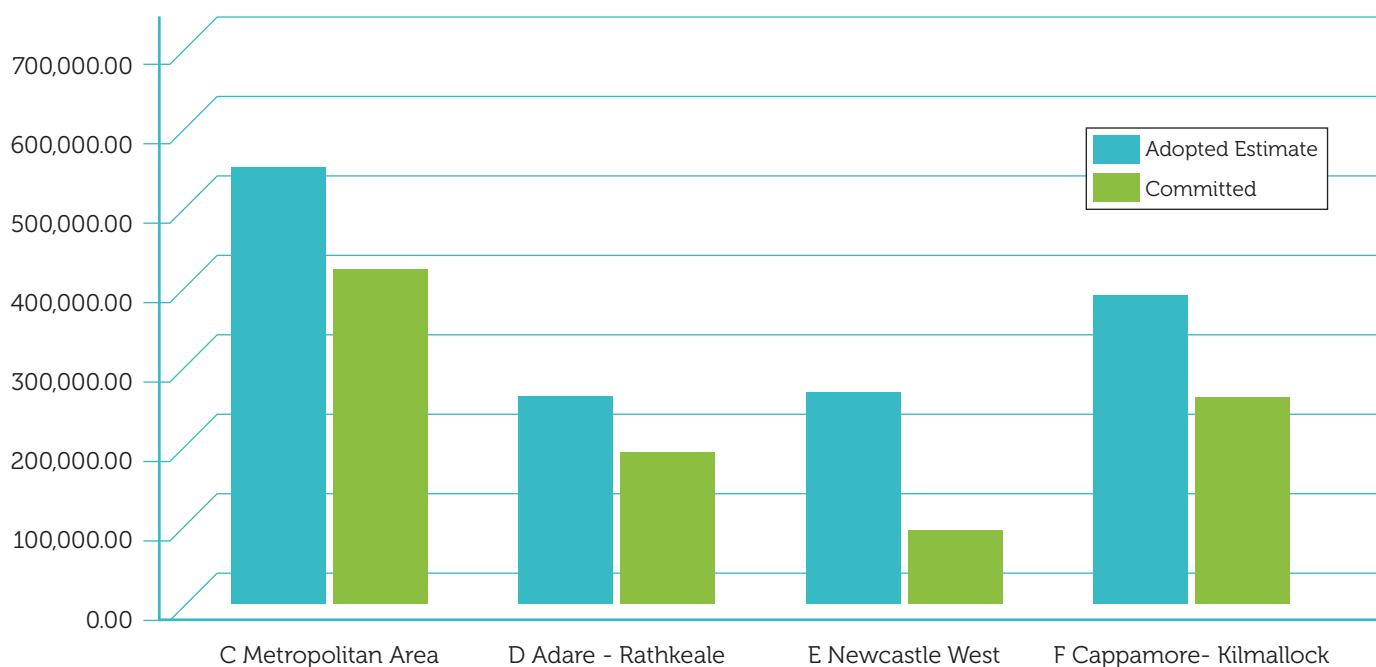


CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh****Limerick** City
& County Council

General Municipal Allocation 2019 Adopted Estimate €1.203 Million

Graph outlining adopted budget and draft committed expenditure up to 30th November 2019



Municip (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate (€)	Value Committed (€)
C Metropolitan Area	503,000.00	394,434
D Adare - Rathkeale	225,000.00	168,176
E Newcastle West	225,000.00	55,625
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	250,000.00	214,026

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTComhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh****Limerick** City
& County Council**2. Corporate Services, Governance
& Customer Services****Corporate Services****Corporate Plan 2019-2024**

The preparation of a Corporate Plan is a requirement under Section 134 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended by the Local Government Reform Act, 2014.

An extensive consultation process was undertaken with Councillors, staff and key strategic stakeholders. A public consultation process was undertaken through "My Point", Limerick City and County Council's new online consultation portal and submissions were received and considered.

The Draft Corporate Plan was completed and presented to the elected members at the November Full Council Meeting. The plan incorporates the mission, vision and values of the Council. It also sets out the strategic framework within which Limerick City and County Council will operate within the next five years.

The Mayor hosted the following in Corporate Headquarters:

- Courtesy visit of US Ambassador to Ireland
- Courtesy visit of Colombian Ambassador to Ireland
- Delegation from North America accompanied by Rt. Revd. Kenneth Kearon, Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe
- Our Lady Queen of Peace School, Janesboro, in recognition of their success as Gaelic Football Champions 2019

The Office of the Mayor co-ordinated and arranged for the Mayor, or his Deputy, to attend the following functions/events during the month of November 2019:

- Photoshoot, Regeneron Volunteer Day 'Day for Doing Good', Focus Ireland Building, Parnell Street
- Launch of UL@50 Strategic Plan 2019-2024, UL City Campus (former Dunnes Building), Sarsfield Bridge
- Presentation of Tusla Award of 'Investing in Children' to Limerick Prison and The Bedford Row Family Project, Prison Chapel, Limerick Prison
- Irish Foster Care Association Annual Conference, met with Catherine Bond, Chief Executive Officer and some foster carers from the area
- Limerick Over 40's Soccer Tournament, Annual Mass and presentation of cheques to five nominated charities, Janesboro FC Pavilion, Janesboro, Limerick
- Royal British Legion Remembrance Service, laying of poppy crosses followed by Commemoration Service, King's Island Cemetery and St. Mary's Cathedral
- Press Launch for The Cecilian Musical Society 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang'
- Launch of Specsavers Limerick Panto 'Aladdin'
- Launch of the Aer Lingus Shannon Summer 2020 Schedule, Viewing Gallery, Shannon Airport
- Limerick Dementia Club, 1st year Birthday Celebration, Our Lady of Lourdes Community Cafe, Childers Road, Rosbrien
- Launch of 'Better Words', Project from EVA International.
- Presentation of the Tipperary International Peace Award to the former President of Ireland, Mrs. Mary Robinson.
- PAUL Partnership, launch of guide 'Guide to Setting up and Running a Community Café'.
- Visit to Knockainey National School, school participated in the 'Better Words' Project from EVA International

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& County Council

- Official Opening of new school extension at Colaiste Iosaef Community College, Kilmallock
- Family Carers Ireland, presentation of the Limerick Carer of the Year Award
- Match at Young Munster Grounds - Young Munster .V. Garryowen
- Presentation of JP McManus Scholarship Awards
- Opening Night of Bottom Dog Theatre Company production 'A Wilde Fan' at Belltable
- Royal British Legion, Annual Remembrance Sunday Service, lay wreath at War Memorial, Pery Square followed by Mass at St. Joseph's Church, O'Connell Avenue.
- Limerick Shannon Rotary Club, luncheon in aid of the Children's Grief Project
- Invitation from The Ambassador of the Republic of Poland, Reception on the occasion of Poland's National Day of Independence, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, 6, Kildare Street, Dublin 2
- Irish Hotel Federation Shannon Branch Midwest Tourism Ball
- Launch of CD for Unity Gospel Choir 'Love Shine a Light'
- Visit the Ilen Project Workshop at Fablab, Patrick Street.
- Launch of University of Limerick Equality and Human Rights Strategy by Senator Maria Byrne, followed by a panel discussion on Equality in Higher Education as a stepping stone to Human Rights, Glucksman Library, UL
- Official Opening of Dochas Midwest Autism Support, Multi-Sensory Room in honour of previous board member and treasurer, Mary Sims, Dochas Midwest Autism Centre, 14, Parnell Street, Limerick
- Library Association of Ireland (LAI) Public Libraries Conference and Gala Dinner
- 90th Anniversary of the Establishment of Irish-German Diplomatic Relations, International Colloquium: On the Role of Bilateral Diplomatic Relations, UL Glucksman Library.
- Launch of the 2019 edition of the Old Limerick Journal, City Library (Granary) Michael Street
- Limerick Chamber President's Dinner and Regional Business Awards 2019
- An Evening with Don Mescall and Friends, University Concert Hall
- Turning on Christmas Lights
- Limerick City and County Badminton Association, International Invitational Badminton Tournament, UL Sports Arena
- Limerick Fairtrade Birthday Celebration, Limerick's 14th birthday as a Fairtrade City and presentation of prizes to students, Istabraq Hall, Merchant's Quay
- Awards Ceremony at Mary Immaculate College
- Reception to celebrate the Launch of Adare Manor new book 'Adare Manor: The Renaissance of an Irish Country House'
- Burial Grounds Awards.
- 10th Birthday Celebration, Southill Community Bingo, Southill Hub
- Launch of Joint School Engagement Programme, joint venture between The Hunt Museum, Limerick Museum, Limerick City Gallery of Art, The Captain's Room, The Hunt Museum
- Opening of Bingo Wings Symposium, Irish World Academy, University of Limerick
- Presentation of Limerick Garda Youth Awards 2019
- Annual Mass for the deceased Members of Limerick City Fire Brigade and Munster Regional Communications Centre, St. John's Cathedral.
- Joint Concert with The Boherbuoy Brass and Reed Band and St. Patrick's Brass Band, Galway, St. Mary's Cathedral
- Book Launch for Shannon Rowing Club celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Limerick Regatta, Shannon Rowing Club
- 2019 All Ireland Scholarship Awards Ceremony, University Concert Hall.
- Official Office Opening of IDA client company FundRock, Suite 5, Block 1, International Science Centre, National Technology Park, Castletroy
- Pay It Forward, presentation of Kindness Flags to Schools, Castletroy College

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- Graduation Ceremony for Griffith College Limerick, Thomond Suite, Thomond Park Stadium
- Visit to Limerick School Project, O'Connell Avenue
- Thanksgiving Lunch for US Students at Mary Immaculate College
- Southill Family Resource Centre Annual QQI Awards, presentation of certificates, Southill Hub, O'Malley Park, Southill
- Annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards
- Scott Medal Appreciation Evening, Celebrate and honour members of An Garda Síochána from Limerick Division awarded Scott Medals, Henry Street, Garda Station
- Limerick Thomond Rotary Club, Launch of Rotary Remembrance Tree at junction of O'Connell Street and Bedford Row
- Limerick Cricket, national schools blitz, cup and medal presentation ceremony, Educate Together School, Fernbank
- Annual Pride of Place Awards

Travel Abroad

9th Edition of the Smart City Expo World Congress in Barcelona from 19-21 November was attended by Councillor Adam Teskey, Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick.

Health and Safety Training

During the month of November, the Health & Safety Training Unit arrange the following courses:

Name of Course	Total No. of Staff Trained
Banksman	19
Confined Spaces – Low Risk	13
Chainsaw Training	4
Drivers CPC – Various Modules	8
Manual Handling	24
Safe pass	5
First Aid Refresher Training	15
Powerboat Training	3
Winter Service Operators	14
Total	105

Register of Electors

The 2020 /2021, Draft Register of Electors was published on 1 November and placed on display in all Limerick City and County Council's Offices, Garda Stations, Libraries, Post Offices and made available online at www.checktheregister.ie. Advertisements were placed in Local Newspapers asking Electors to check their details on the Draft Register and revert to the Register of Electors Team with corrections by 25 November. Advertisements were also placed in Local Papers advising electors of the date and time of the Claims Court. Compilation of the listing of claims for the Claims Court took place from 1 November-25 November.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTComhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh****Limerick** City
& County Council**Customer Services**

Throughout November, the Customer Services Account Managers continued their roles working with our colleagues and with our Councillors to ensure requests are answered appropriately and in a timely fashion.

In November, there was 223 cases logged through the MyLimerick platform, 204 of which were logged by local representatives.

Customer Services processed 74 Residential Parking Permits throughout November.

Customer Services also continued to support Housing Maintenance by logging 75% of cases throughout the month of November, as well as logging 53 cases for housing maintenance in the area offices and taking 1,280 calls for Housing Maintenance throughout the month.

Customer Services received 12,612 calls via our call centre throughout the month, handling 42% of calls at first point of contact.

This works out at approximately 600 calls per day. In November, there were 642 cases logged on behalf of elected representatives by Customer Services. Overall, on the SugarCRM (Customer Relationship Management) System, 3,100 cases were logged throughout November. 67% 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:

	2,416 (57% being housing maintenance)
Housing Support Services	274
Planning and Environmental Services	183
Veterinary	63
Design and Delivery	42
Customer Services	28

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTComhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh****Limerick City**
& County Council**3. Schedule of Meetings for November**

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Full Council		
Statutory Budget Meeting	15.11.2019	Dooradoyle
Special Meeting in relation to RTÉ's decision to close its Limerick studio and move Lyric FM to Dublin	15.11.2019	Dooradoyle
Meeting of Limerick City and County Council	25.11.2019	Dooradoyle
Municipal District of		
Newcastle West - Monthly Meeting	06.11.2019	Newcastle West
Adare-Rathkeale - Monthly Meeting	12.11.2019	Rathkeale
Cappamore-Kilmallock - Monthly Meeting	21.11.2019	Kilmallock
Metropolitan District of Limerick		
Monthly Meeting	18.11.2019	Merchant's Quay
Special Meeting to discuss Planning Permission granted to Irish Cement at their Plant in Mungret	28.11.2019	Merchant's Quay
Operational Briefings		
Limerick City West	05.11.2019	Merchant's Quay
Limerick City North	05.11.2019	Merchant's Quay
Limerick City East	05.11.2019	Merchant's Quay
Local Community Development Committee	05.11.2019	Merchant's Quay
Corporate Policy Group	11.11.2019	Dooradoyle
Corporate Policy Group	18.11.2019	Merchant's Quay
Party Leaders	11.11.2019	Dooradoyle
Party Leaders	25.11.2019	Dooradoyle
Joint Policing Sub-Committee		
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	12.11.2019	Rathkeale
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	21.11.2019	Kilmallock
Strategic Policy Committee Meetings		
Community Leisure and Culture	14.11.2019	Merchant's Quay
Special Meeting Home and Social Development	20.11.2019	Merchant's Quay
Protocol Committee	25.11.2019	Merchant's Quay

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTComhairle Cathrach
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& County Council**4. Access to Information**

	November	2019 (January to November)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	33	205
FOI Internal Appeals	1	10
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	4
Total Ombudsman Requests	1	31
Total AIE Requests	0	15

5. Business Improvement

Encouraging our staff and citizens to be ambitious and creative is part of our mission as a local authority and as a county. However, with over 600 staff with limited or no access to email, how do we make sure we can communicate with and hear from the staff who are on the ground providing services to the citizens of Limerick?

In November, Business Improvement and Marketing & Communications arranged a series of chats to talk with and hear from our staff. From Foynes Fire Station to Newcastle West the talks were arranged in locations and at times that ensured everyone had the opportunity to attend. We met a range of staff including the Firefighters who save lives every day, the people who make sure Limerick look its best and the school wardens who keep our children safe. We spoke about how we can communicate and everyone got involved in giving feedback on the current channels of communication and gave some great suggestions on how we can innovate to improve. Staff were also briefed on the Employee Assistance Programme, the role of the Sports and Social club and the new brand for Limerick due to launch in January 2020.

One of the outcomes from the talks will be the creation of a second Staff Liaison network ran by Business Improvement specifically for those staff who do not work at a desk or within Core hours.