

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



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& Contae **Luimnígh**
Limerick City
& County Council

December 2019

THIS MONTH:

WHO ACCREDITED – World Health Organisation recognises Limerick among leaders in AgeFriendly Programmes

ROADS – An Bord Pleanála approval sought for Foynes to Limerick Road

MUSINGS – Collaborative arts project with Limerick Museum, Limerick City Gallery of Art and Hunt Museum underway

LACE – Historic Limerick Lace featured on RTE TV

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Economic Development Directorate



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1. Trade and Investment

- Ishka Spring Water in Ballyneety announced an investment of €12m in two new production facilities to supply new export markets in the US and China.
- Pallas Foods in Newcastle West announced a €2.5m investment, which will involve a complete modernisation of the facility that employs upwards of 300 people.
- BHP in Thomondgate opened a new laboratory providing measuring, testing and analysing services to numerous industries across Ireland and the UK.
- The Irish Centre for Business Excellence (ICBE) which supports the exchange of best practice knowledge in Ireland relocated to Park House, Arthur's Quay.
- Johnson & Johnson EMEA Software Development Company moved into new offices in the National Technological Park, Castletroy.

2. Innovate Limerick

- The British Ambassador to Ireland visited ENGINE as part of a walk-about tour of key development sites in Limerick as part of the ongoing joining the dots initiative between Limerick, Cork, British Embassy and several cities in UK.

Film in Limerick Monthly Filmmakers Meet-Ups

A new Monthly Filmmakers Meet-Up was launched at Engine on 10 December. Each Meet-Up will include a key speaker from the industry, with the first event featuring script and pitch guru, Brian McGill who will deliver a workshop on 'The Art of Pitching'. The event will bring together local filmmakers and aspiring filmmakers to network and learn new skills. Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board support this new initiative from Film in Limerick.

3. Marketing & Communications

Marketing

Brand Limerick

- Extensive staff engagement has been undertaken to ensure awareness and understanding of the initiative being undertaken. A series of briefings across all area offices, Dooradoyle and Merchant's Quay concluded in December. Senior Management Team, Senior Forum and the Staff Liaison Network were also provided with a formal briefing on the project and key messaging around the brand.
- Elected Members of Limerick City and County Council have been updated and briefed on the project as it has progressed.
- Brand Ambassador Structure, featuring key individuals across core pillars (Education, Tourism, Business, Media, Community and Culture) progressed, to harness Limerick's enthusiasm and energy to give the brand more depth, richness and credibility and rich multi-layered community engagement.
- Brand Hero Structure engaged, involving some familiar and not so familiar Limerick based individuals who are strong ambassadors for their particular sectors within Limerick City and County.
- Branded merchandise orders placed to deliver reach and further promote the Limerick brand.
- Finalising production on all key executions across radio, film and static pieces.

Christmas in Limerick Marketing Campaign

- Concluded eight week print, radio, social and digital PR and marketing campaign across Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Google Ads and programmatic advertising in addition to print media and radio advertising campaign
- Provided live social media coverage of New Year's Eve Fireworks across Christmas in Limerick and Limerick.ie channels
- Focus on free festive parking initiatives in Limerick which included print advertisements in partnership with Limerick Chamber, the creation of a dedicated section on Limerick.ie, radio advertising, press releases and social media promotion

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- Secured double page spread in the Irish Independent's Limerick Christmas Racing supplement, highlighting Limerick City's festive shopping, parking and dining offering, with a reach of 90,000 people.
- Engaged with blogger Grace Rattigan @frillyflossy during her New Year's family break to Limerick. Limerick.ie featured on her Instagram stories with a potential audience reach of 11,600.
- Attended the launch of Tourism Ireland's Marketing Plans in Dublin
- Produced eight Limerick.ie e-newsletters
- Monthly Limerick.ie Business Bulletin e-newsletter issued
- Produced feature advert for Dolans 25th Anniversary supplement, Limerick Leader
- Marketing materials provided to:
- St. Mary's National School Choir

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 59 times on Limerick.ie's Facebook with followers now 25,511. Posts reached 55,232 users with 10,366 engagements.
- Tweeted 36 times on Limerick.ie's Twitter, limerick_ie, with total followers now 17,073. Our tweets earned 91,500 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).
- Posted 12 times on Limerick.ie's Instagram and created 15 Stories with total followers now 9,336.
- Tweeted two times on Limerick Marketing's Twitter, @limkmarketing, with total followers now 2,818. Our tweets earned 8,200 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).
- Posted 15 times on Limerick City and County Council's LinkedIn with total followers now 3,521.

Limerick.ie

A total of 119,081 people visited the Limerick.ie website in December.

Content Report: 67 articles and 205 events were added to Limerick.ie website in December 2019.

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

- www.limerick.ie
- www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application-search-planning
- www.limerick.ie/christmas/whats-on/festive-treats-new-years-eve-fireworks
- www.limerick.ie/council/services/housing/social-housing/housing-assistance-payment-hap
- www.limerick.ie/council

36% of website pageviews were in Discover section and 24% of pageviews were in the Council section.

Communications

- Issued 14 news releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and researched and wrote six speeches for the Office of the Mayor
- Denis Tierney, Communications Officer, MC'd the launch of the Limerick Mayor Implementation Advisory Group held at Istabraq Hall, Merchant's Quay. Keynote speakers included Tim O'Connor, Chair, John Paul Phelan, Minister of State for Local Government and Electoral Reform and Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheahan.
- Marketing & Communications worked with An Garda Síochána as part of the Garda Commissioner's visit to Limerick for the Joint Policing Committee meeting.
- Produced and distributed the Winter 2019 edition of the Council Connect magazine
- Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter
- Tweeted 101 times on Limerick City and County Council's Twitter account, @limerickcouncil, with total followers now 13,540. Our tweets earned 175,500 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).

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Physical Development Directorate



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1. Environment Strategy

ISO 50001 Energy Management Standard:

Limerick City and County Council has now passed the Stage 2 Audit for accreditation to the ISO50001 and is now certified to that standard. This will assist the Council in working towards achieving the public sector energy efficiency and emissions targets for 2020 and 2030. 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:

- 1) Continually improve energy performance, including energy efficiency, energy use and consumption
- 2) Define their energy policy and document an energy planning process
- 3) Review energy use, consumption and efficiency at defined intervals
- 4) Document the methodology and criteria used to develop the Energy Review considering facilities, equipment, systems or processes
- 5) Establish an energy baseline and identify EnPIs (Energy Performance Indicators) appropriate for monitoring and measuring its energy performance
- 6) Establish, implement and maintain documented Energy Objectives and Targets

2. Mid West Road Design Office

Foyne to Limerick Road (including Adare Bypass)

Limerick City and County Council has applied to An Bord Pleanála for approval of the Foyne to Limerick Road (including Adare Bypass) project.

The proposed project will cost in the region of €450M, is 35Km in length, and will connect the Core Port of Foyne to the Motorway network near Limerick.

The road is comprised of the construction of approximately 15.6Km of dual carriageway from Foyne to Rathkeale (with approximately 1.9km of single carriageway road between Ballyclogh and Askeaton) along with the construction of approximately 17.5Km of motorway to connect Rathkeale to the existing Motorway network at Attyflin (N21/N20/M20 junction).

Documents are available for inspection in various offices and libraries throughout the area and objections to the Motorway Scheme (Rathkeale to Attyflin)/Protected Road Scheme (Foyne to Rathkeale)/Service Area Scheme (Foyne) and submissions or observations in relation to the Environmental Impact Assessment Report/Natura Impact Statement can be made directly to An Bord Pleanala before 5:30pm on Friday 14 February 2020.

Full details are available on the project website: www.foyneslimerick.ie

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Community Development Directorate

1. Tourism, Culture & Arts

Tourism

- Staff from the Tourism Department attended the first in a series of training workshops held by Fáilte Ireland for Wild Atlantic Way counties.
- Successful in Tourism Destination Towns funding application. This funding will be used to develop a Wayfinding, Orientation and Place making strategy for Limerick City and its environs.

Culture & Arts

Bursary Awards Ceremony

In recognising that Limerick has outstanding artistic and creative talent, a reception held by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheahan, took place on 10 December. These bursaries, designed by Culture and Arts Department team and approved by the elected members, ensure that Creative people continue to live and work in Limerick and ensure that Limerick's reputation as a place of innovative creativity and culture continues.

The Recipients were:

The Dolores O'Riordan Music Bursary Award

1. Emma Langford, Musician

Made in Limerick: Creative Ireland Award

1. Kathleen Turner, Musician
2. Cian O'Connor, Film/Documentary Director

Individual Arts Bursaries

1. Fiona Linnane, Composer
2. Gavin Hogg, Visual Artist
3. Mary Nunan, Dancer
4. Helena Close, Writer
5. Mary Nagle, Visual Artist
6. Ciara Barker, Visual Artist



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Short Film Bursaries

1. Grace Quilligan
2. Shane Serrano

Festival and Events Strategy Inception Meeting

The inception meeting with appointed consultants to deliver a Festival and Events Strategy for Limerick took place on 13 December. The appointed consultants are a partnership between Festivals and Events International (FEI) and Nordicity. The purpose of the strategy is to define a vision and ambition required for the sustainable development of the Festival and Events sector in Limerick, which is underpinned by clear and identifiable targets. A preliminary timetable was agreed at the meeting.

Christmas in Limerick and New Year's Eve Fireworks

Christmas in Limerick was launched with a programme of hundreds of events across Limerick City and County. This year's celebrations saw the return of Toots the Train to Limerick with the extension of the route along O'Connell Street, Howley's Quay, into Limerick's Medieval Quarter, along Clancy Strand to Sarsfield Street and the Urban Garden. This new route created a festive tour of Limerick's key natural and built heritage locations.

Additional animation of the Urban Garden as a Christmas Hub was provided in partnership with Matthew Stephens Jewellers and cross department support within Limerick City and County Council, including Service Operations, Planning and Development, Parks, Physical Development and Marketing and Communications.

The Christmas in Limerick festivities culminated on 31 December, with a New Year's Eve Fireworks Display at the family friendly time of 7pm delivered by Grooveyard Event Management Company on behalf of Limerick City and County Council. An estimated crowd of 25,000 people lined the viewing areas of Clancy Strand, Sarsfield Bridge as well as Arthur's Quay Park and The Hunt Museum Garden. Very positive feedback has been received for this event.

Sliabh Luachra 2020 Calendar

2,000 calendars promoting the Sliabh Luachra Trail have been circulated to the 16 library branches in

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Limerick. The calendars are an initiative of the Sliabh Luachra Project, a collaborative project between Limerick City and County Council's Culture and Arts Office and Cork and Kerry County Arts Offices to promote and support the Sliabh Luachra Music tradition and the festivals which annually promote the tradition.

Helium Arts – Digital Tools Workshop for Teens

Our partnership with Helium Arts, the national children's arts and health charity, continued with a digital tools workshop for teens with long-term health conditions at Fab Lab in Limerick on 14 December. This taster workshop introduced teens to 3D printing, laser cutting and CNC routing as well as many examples from artists, technologists, students and professionals working in FabLab.

County Limerick Youth Theatre

The County Limerick Youth Theatre took to the stage in the Honeyfitz Theatre in Lough Gur from 6-7 December, to showcase their talents in 'The X-Factory' by Tom Swift, a play that was an entertaining evening of music, dance, and comedy.

'The X-Factory' is a play with a universal theme, a light-hearted modern-day look at the timeless Cinderella, rags to riches story. It is a story that has lent itself to retelling countless times, engaging audiences across the world since originating in China over a thousand years ago.

In this version, we met Kylie, a young girl who, like so many, dreams of becoming a TV talent show star and escaping humdrum family life. When she meets the mysterious reality TV host Kidd Young Jr, offering fame and fortune, Kylie thinks her dream has come true. With Kidd's help, Kylie assumes the alter-ego "Cindy" and before you know it, she's part of the X-Factory celebrity-making machine. However, things get strange when Kidd forces Kylie to take part in "Get This Celebrity Out of Here", a reality show where stars live with ordinary families, only this time it is her own! Torn between fame and family - who will be the winner?

Limerick Youth Dance Company

In December, Limerick Youth Dance Company teamed up with 2nd Hand Drills, a tribal street percussion group of musicians based in Limerick, to make a live music and dance piece full of wild energy, intrigue and playful mischief on the streets of Limerick. Funded by a Made in Limerick Creative Ireland Award, in association with Dance Limerick, indoor and outdoor performances took place on 5 December. The video is available on YouTube - <https://youtu.be/cocsl7onJw0>

International Mobility Awards for 2020

The next round of the International Mobility Awards was announced on 20 December. These awards are designed to support creatives in Limerick with the opportunity to pursue professional opportunities, through either touring and presenting work or developing collaborative projects internationally. The closing date for applications for Round 1 is 17 January 2020.

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2. Urban & Rural Community Development

Derelict Sites and Vacant Homes/Properties

Dereliction - December

DERELICT SITES:	
• Inspections carried out	17
• Statutory Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act	11
• Cases closed through engagement	2
• Properties entered onto the Derelict Sites Register	1
• Properties put forward for Compulsory Acquisition	5

Leader Programme

At the December Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) meeting held on 3 December, the Local Action Group (LAG) approved funding of €234,510.87 under the LEADER Programme 2014-2020.

Town & Village Renewel Scheme 2019

The Town and Village Renewal Scheme is an initiative under the Action Plan for Rural Development and the Government's Project Ireland 2040 Programme for Rural Regeneration.

Projects include public realm enhancements, the re-purposing of community buildings and other measures aimed at making small rural towns and villages more attractive and sustainable places in which to live and work. Limerick has been granted total funding of €585,101 by the Department of Rural and Community Development for six projects under the 2019 Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

The following Towns and Villages have been awarded grant funding for projects that will be undertaken in 2020/2021.

Town / Village	Project Description	Funding Received
Askeaton	Create a pedestrian friendly town centre in the centre of Askeaton	€200,000
Ballingarry	Public Realm improvement in the village	€79,604
Broadford	Refurbish the Parish Hall to develop a Community Centre in the village	€99,911
Dromcollogher	Create a village Heritage Trail and carry out improvements to the Town Park	€86,398
Kilteely	Develop a Community Wildlife area in the village	€48,309
Murroe Boher	Complete the second phase of multi-access walkway at Murroe Town park and install public lighting along the new section of track	€70,879

Thematic Programmes

Health and Wellbeing

- The "Not Around Us" campaign has been steadily progressing and it now has a dedicated web page on Limerick.ie.
- Dr. Robert Van de Graaf, Addiction and Lifestyle Medicine Specialist in the Netherlands, has proposed a twinning between Limerick and Groningen with regard to promoting tobacco free environment(s) for children and young people. Dr. Van de Graaf has already spoken about this with strategic partners in Groningen. He has done significant work in this area and is very interested in what has been happening in Limerick (the Limerick vision graphic for Not Around Us is informed by his work). In September, Dr. Van de Graaf presented at a meeting of HSE representatives on LCDC's nationally.

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- The Health Service Executive has provided funding to Limerick City and County Council for a series of videos that bring to life the two characters in the Not Around Us signage. The finalised versions will be available for use in locations such as cinemas, health centre/GP waiting rooms, on social media etc. The animations to be kept generic include the QUIT logo and reference Tobacco Free Ireland. Each to have an optional feature to make them location or language relevant.

Age Friendly

- A member of the Thematic Programmes team attended a Northside Older Peoples Advocacy Group (NOPAG) meeting in the Moyross Community Centre and advised the group that a schedule of workshops for older people will take place in Q1 of 2020. These workshops will take place in each municipal district and will provide useful information to older citizens on "Putting Your House in Order," and Be Informed, Feel Safe, Stay Safe."
- Age Friendly Limerick, along with all 30 other local authority led Age friendly Programmes across the country, have been officially conferred with the title of the "First Age Friendly Country in the World," by the World Health Organisation (WHO). Creating a great place in which to grow old is the aim of the WHO inspired movement to cater for an ageing population, with Ireland being acknowledged as an international example of best practice, in rolling out the programme. The Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar and Alana Officer of the World Health Organisation attended a special event at Slane Castle, where they presented each of the 31 Programmes with a charter, in recognition of this achievement.

Ireland has now became the first country in the world to have full membership across all administrative areas to this significant WHO initiative. The Age Friendly Programme is a key strategy to enable people of all

ages to actively participate in their community, helping people to stay healthy and active as they age, and providing appropriate support to those who can no longer look after themselves.

Internationally the world's population is ageing, and the WHO programme is a response to this demographic trend. Ireland's population has been getting steadily older since the 1980s. The 65+ age group increased by 19% between 2011 and 2016. This trend will continue, so it is crucial now to plan and prepare for the needs of greater numbers of older people in our communities.

- The PLACE EE (Platforms for Ageing Communities- Exchange and Enterprise) community engagement officer has now uploaded all the cultural archive material from Limerick (36 projects) onto an online platform which is shared with organisations from Sweden, Northern Ireland and Iceland.

Integration

Limerick City and County Council, as a partner on the Integration Working Group, is funding the rollout of a peer mentoring educational training programme to enable Transition Year students to deliver workshops within their own school on racism and cultural difference. Diverse and non-diverse schools will be targeted, with two students from each participating school being trained to deliver workshops to their peers and to 1st and 2nd year students. The programme content will inform, challenge and create empathy and understanding on the difficulties that migrants/asylum seekers face in their everyday life.

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Education

- Limerick City and County Council hosted a full steering group in the Council Chamber in Merchant's Quay. Representatives from Limerick Youth Service, the Limerick Childcare Committee, West Limerick Resources, Ballyhoura Development, the Limerick Clare Education and Training Board attended.
- The Limerick Youth Officer from Limerick Youth Service and a representative from the thematic programmes unit attended the quarterly Comhairle na nÓg networking meeting hosted by Cork County Council.

3. Libraries, Gallery & Museum

Library Services

- Watch House Cross was delighted to welcome both Councillor Michael Sheahan, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, and Gordon Daly, Director of Community Development to see the new sensory room and to congratulate staff on winning the Chambers Ireland "Excellence in Local Government Award".
- December places the focus of activities in libraries on families as part of the national Right to Read campaign. Family Time at your Library activities engage family members in the enjoyment of reading and sharing stories. The whole family are introduced to collections of children's books, e-books and e-audio books. The Granary Library held a special reading of the book Polar Express, followed by a screening of the movie on 7 December and readings from Sarah Moore Fitzgerald on 18 December. Watch house Cross "Family Time at your Library" was held on 14 December. Children and parents enjoyed seasonal stories and songs and designed their own Christmas cards. Family morning was celebrated in Newcastle West with some storytelling by Limerick author, Roisin Meaney. The young audience were spellbound with her Christmas stories and accompanying illustrations. Santa and Mrs Claus greeted and met with children throughout the morning in a lovely grotto on loan to the Library

from the Newcastle West Business Association. Christmas crafts and face painting also took place. Dooradoyle invited Rosie's Animal Magic show, which included live animals such as a meerkat, an owl, a hare, and a snake. Families were given lots of information about the animals and encouraged to touch and look closely at these amazing creatures.

- Decorating Christmas trees, opportunities to meet Santa, Christmas card competitions and lots of festive cheer abounded in all main branches throughout the month.
- Autism friendly events took place in Watch House Cross and Kilmallock with 'Sensory Storytime' from Simone Schuemmelfeder from StoryGate. Sensory stories tell a story using words and sensory stimuli like touch and smell in order to allow individuals with special needs to enjoy a storytelling session.
- The Castles of Limerick photographic exhibition continued at Kilmallock Library. On 4 December, Art students from LCETB's Kilmallock Campus joined Joseph Lennon for a Question and Answer session on the castles followed by sketching of the photographs, 112 students attended. Also in Kilmallock on 12 December, the Councillors of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock presented the families of those involved in the Rescue of Sean Hogan at Knocklong Station 1919 during the War of Independence, with commemorative plaques.
- In Newcastle West and Watch House Cross, Michael Moylan from History Live Ireland, entertained school groups with workshops using stories, props and costumes from 1916, World War 1, and the Plantations, to bring history alive for a very engaged audience. Stories from the past came to life and captivated, terrified and amazed the students.
- An exhibition of crochet work "Timeless Squares" by the Crafty Corner Group was opened on 12 December in Newcastle West Library. Representing life and the passing of time and the fact that craftwork is dateless, this group under the guidance of the Education and Training Board, provides an opportunity for seniors and retired people to get involved in activities outside the home, as part of the library's age-friendly services.

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- On 3 December, in Dooradoyle Library, the Health Service Executive's Training Services Limerick (Dooradoyle Centre) opened its annual exhibition "In Harmony". The exhibition included paintings of different birds, but all on a blue background, photographs of flowers and plants and some excellent examples of papier-mâché and woodwork. On 7 December, Dooradoyle Library hosted its first Hungarian Language School. This is aimed at children of primary school age whose families are of Hungarian origin. As Hungarian is not a language on the school curriculum, this session provides an opportunity for children to come and learn the language in a fun way with singing and crafts. 21 children attended the first visit. The adult book clubs met on 5 December, the morning group read "A gentleman in Moscow" by Amor Towles, while the evening group were reading "A thousand roads home" by Carmel Harrington. The Children's Book Club met on 19 December. The Age Action computer course and the Digital Skills course continued until 10 December. Class Visits from St. Paul's National School and Redhill School continued during December. Meditation classes continued on the first and third Thursdays of the month.
- On 4 December, The Granary hosted the launch of the Con Hurley book, 'Shadows on My Shoulder', a warm family memoir and stirring account of overcoming addiction. The Rock Record Club presenter, Joseph Lennon, decided on a theme of Songs of Politics and Protest. The University of the Third Age group hosted a talk on 11 December when a big crowd enjoyed a presentation by poet, Jo Slade.
- On 11 December, the RTE programme Nationwide had a feature on Limerick lace, which included extended coverage of Limerick Museum and its collection of Limerick lace. It also included interviews with Dr. Matthew Potter, Curator of the Museum and Dr. Gabriela Avram, chair of the Friends of Lace Group.

Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- The Gallery opened four new exhibitions Charles Harper, Retrospective; State of Print (SOP) a joint project with Limerick Printmakers, Cork Printmakers, and Dundee Printmakers; series of prints from the Hollander Workshop, New York which have been donated to the Permanent Collection by Jim Sheehy and Plane 7 by Niamh Schmidtke, recipient of the LCGA Graduate Award 2019.
- Over 230 people attended the opening of the exhibitions.
- 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.
- 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.
- Work continues in preparation for the 2020 exhibition programme including Elliptical Affinities and As Kingfishers Catch Fire.
- LCGA received continuing funding for 2020 from the Arts Council, which was in line with most other strategically funded visual arts organisations.
- All the relevant documentation has been submitted to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, which should allow us to draw down the grant in respect of the Fire Safety upgrade work completed in 2019.

Limerick Museum

- Bookings for The Three Muses: exploring art and identity, a joint schools programme led by The Hunt Museum, Limerick Museum and Limerick City Gallery of Art continued throughout the month.

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Housing Development Directorate

1. Housing Strategy Implementation

- The Housing Development Department undertook a workshop on 6 December with the Elected Members of the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District Area on a proposed affordable scheme of priority for affordable sites in Adare. A further workshop will take place in early 2020 for the Adare sites.
- The Housing Development Department gave a housing update to Elected Members of the Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District Area on 12 December. A further update will take place in Quarter 1 of 2020 on sites to be brought forward for social housing in the district.
- A notice of The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 was advertised in December in all local newspapers and is on public display in Customer Services, Corporate Headquarters and Dooradoyle and in all area offices.

2. Regeneration Strategy Implementation

- Watch House Cross Community Library in Moyross Regeneration won an award for their newly opened sensory room, which was funded by Regeneration Social Intervention Fund. The Library won Best Library Service in Ireland for their Autism programme and it is a very well deserved award!
- A group of residents from Tipperary visited Moyross on 9 December to view the Moyross Community Hub, Moyross Youth Academy and to see how Moyross Residents Forum engage with the Community and the Local Authority, all of which are funded by the Regeneration Social Intervention Fund. This was very successful morning of sharing knowledge and experience. This was arranged with Tess Collins, Community Liaison Officer, Tipperary County Council.
- Each year the annual wreath laying ceremony in conjunction with Limerick Regeneration takes place at the shrine in Castle Park, which was erected in memory of all deceased children in



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Moyross, following a ceremony in the Corpus Christi Church. This is a very special event in the calendar of community. On 9 December, the Children from the Corpus Christi Primary School joined the residents in a beautiful ceremony of prayers, singing and lighting candles before laying the wreath at the shrine. This is a very moving and emotional ceremony for families where all children are remembered.

- The annual Christmas Community Celebration was held this year in Moyross Community Enterprise Hub in conjunction with Limerick Regeneration on 12 December. This celebration brings the whole community together. Families, friends and neighbours were joined by the children from Corpus Christi Primary School in singing Christmas Carols. Tea, coffee and mince pies were served in the hall. The children were delighted that Santa took time from his busy schedule to drop by and say hello!
- Moyross Adult Education Group (which is funded by Regeneration Social Intervention Fund) classes have finished this week for the term January to December 2019. The classes ranged from Sewing, Cookery, Woodcraft, Circuit Training, Crafts, Family Baking, Yoga, Skincare, Drama and woodwork to name but a few. Presently, we have over 130 adult learners in Moyross. Adult Education is not just about learning a new skill; it is confidence building, engaging in the community, and social aspect that have huge benefits for health and wellbeing.
- Southill Hub in partnership with Limerick Regeneration: Santa's Grotto took place and over 50 children came with their family to visit Santa in the Southill Hub grotto. Start right Limerick very kindly sponsored books so that Santa could give the gift of reading to the children and students from the University of Limerick's CWELL programme which is funded by Regeneration Social Intervention Fund helped with the Reindeer station in the Community Garden.
- Christmas dinners served at the Hill Café in the Centre were very successful with the local community and the young people attending youth club here enjoyed Christmas outings to see festive movies, Christmas shopping and bowling trips.

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Service Operations Directorate

1. Housing Support Services

• Waiting List

Housing Waiting List	2,750
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• Allocations

	No. of Units December 2019	Year to Date
Metropolitan District	31	185
Newcastle West	7	34
Adare – Rathkeale	1	17
Cappamore – Kilmallock	0	28
Total	39	264

• Traveller Housing Welfare

No. of Units offered December 2019	Year to Date
4*	34*

* these figures are included in Allocations figures

1 Traveller Clinic held in December – 10 Clients seen.

• Housing Assistance Payments Limerick

2,308 Total number of active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	60
No. of Amendments	91
No. of Cessations	29

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 – 31 December 2019		
Location	Description	No.
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	30
St. Patrick's Hostel	Higher threshold accommodation for single males	47
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	19
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	4
Temporary Emergency Provision TEP 1 (Edenvilla)	Low threshold, night by night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	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	4	9	
		Families - 4		
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	58	72	
		Families - 46		
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	13	17	
		Families - 10		
Totals		Adults	Children	
		75	98	
		Families - 60		

HOME IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

December 2019	MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HAG (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	No.
Rathkeale	€10,800.00	2	€48,461.87	3	€0.00	0
Newcastle West	€21,600.00	4	€4,590.00	1	€27,550.00	5
Metropolitan	€4,650.00	1	€73,908.35	6	€10,250.00	4
Kilmallock	€5,400.00	1	€6,402.75	1	€33,575.73	6
Total	€42,450.00	8	€133,362.97	11	€71,375.73	15
Total Monies issued in December 2019 = €247,188.70						
Total Grants issued in December 2019 = 34						

JANUARY TO December 2019	MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HAG (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	No.
Kilmallock	€90,768.95	19	€202,886.80	23	€215,936.00	39
Metropolitan	€343,602.48	82	€860,548.15	84	€473,843.85	126
Newcastle West	€184,253.82	38	€188,128.54	22	€310,347.97	66
Rathkeale	€88,036.95	18	€136,998.82	9	€69,374.20	19
Total	€706,662.20	157	€1,388,562.31	138	€1,069,502.02	250
Total Monies issued January to December 2019 = €3,164,726.53						
Total Grants issued January to December 2019 = 545						

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2. Planning & Environmental Services

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

- 131 complaints were received in December.
- 277 inspections were undertaken during the month.
- The Department issued nine Statutory Notices.
- Seven Directions were served by the Department.
- 40 Warning Letters were issued in December.
- 11 Fines were issued during the period.
- Legal proceedings were initiated in five cases.

Planning

Planning Applications

A total of 106 new planning applications were received as follows:

Housing Developments	2
Domestic Developments	62
Agricultural Developments	4
Commercial Developments/Change of Use	10
Sporting/Community & Educational Developments	4
Other Developments	24

The current applications include proposals for:

- Construction of 87 residential units at Newtown, Castletroy
- Construction of 32 residential units at Liscreagh, Murroe
- Construction of a new post primary school at Clare Street, Limerick
- Construction of a five storey applied science and information technology building at the Limerick Institute of Technology, Moylish Campus

3. Veterinary Services

- Eight stray or wandering equines were impounded.
- The Dog Control Unit dealt with 29 dogs.
- 12 Food samples were submitted 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	14
Mount St. Oliver	16
Castlemungret	10
Kilmurry	3

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Capital Investment Directorate

1. Design & Delivery

Finance

- Recoupments submitted for Housing Schemes in December - €3,069,711
- Recoupments paid by Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) in December - €1,124,508
- Total recouped in 2019 - €12,750,075.

Part 8

- Part 8 submitted for Castletroy Urban Greenway
- Part 8 submitted for Park Road Bridge
- Part 8 submitted for Landscaping Fill Area
- The elected representatives voted to grant Part 8 for the construction of three new homes on Greenhill Road, Limerick.
- The elected representatives voted to grant Part 8 for the construction of 12 new homes at Station Close, Knocklong.

Approvals sought/obtained

Stage 3 approval received for the construction of five homes on Kileely Road.

Buy & Renew and SHIP Refurbishment programme

Inspections Carried out	10
Refurbishment works Commenced in December	2
Refurbishment works Ongoing	6
Refurbishment works completed in December	0

Home Improvement Schemes

Inspections & Recommendations for Home Improvement Schemes – December 2019

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-Inspection	Final Inspection	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	1	5	0	3	9
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	2	3	4	7	16
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	3	0	1	4
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	3	11	4	11	29

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2. Property Services

Corporate Buildings

- Office remodelling completed regarding desk realignment for Digital Services in Merchant's Quay and Customer Services in Dooradoyle
- Office remodelling plans are in design stage for Housing Support Services in Merchant's Quay
- Maintenance works continue to the Service Risers in Dooradoyle Corporate Building
- Plans progressing for the upgrade of the Audio Visual systems in Dooradoyle Council Chamber
- Design proposals for Signage outside the Newcastle West Area Office have been completed – we are waiting for feedback on same

Facilities Team:

- Council Chamber Merchant's Quay hosted Mayoral Receptions for the Patrickswell Senior Hurling Team, Sporting Limerick Rounders' Club and Sean Bullman
- Works have now been completed to the Car Parking area to the rear of Merchant's Quay – including improved lighting, improved CCTV coverage and audio delivery abilities. This provides a safer environment for staff entering and exiting the parking area.
- Following a recent e-tender - Grosvenor Cleaning Services commenced on site at 22 locations across the Limerick City and County Council building portfolio including Fire Stations, Libraries, Area Offices and Corporate Buildings on 2 December.

Acquisitions and Disposals statistics December:

House purchases: carried forward at Sale Agreed but awaiting conclusion	23
House purchases: Sale Agreed December	2
House purchases: Concluded	14



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National and Regional Shared Services Directorate

1. Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Shared Services Centre

- There were 52,529 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAPSSC at the end of December.
- A weekly average of 327 HAP tenancies have been set-up during 2019.
- The December landlord payment run was over €43 million.
- The weekly tenant debit at the end of December was over €2.5 million.
- The HAPSSC Debt Management Unit issued 2,583 differential rent arrears letters to HAP recipients in December.
- The HAPSSC Debt Management Unit collected a total of €120m in differential rent from January to December.
- The HAP Tenant rent collection rate at the end of December was 98%.

2. Fire & Emergency Services Statistics

	No. of Fire Related Calls	No. of Non Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call outs 01/01/19 – 31/12/19	863	630	1,493
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	64%	61%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	27%	31%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	9%	8%	

	No. received / assigned	No. Validated	No. invalidated / refused	No. granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications Jan-Dec 2019	184	163	24	159	
Disability Access Cert Applications Jan-Dec 2019	145	132	16	129	
Licensing Applications Jan-Dec 2019	162	162	0		
Commencement Notice Jan-Dec 2019	603	538	61	538	600
Completion Certificate Jan-Dec 2019	220	212	6	212	218
Planning Referrals Jan-Dec 2019	262				255
Sugar CRM Cases Jan-Dec 2019	30				46

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Fire & Emergency Training Events for month of December

- Pump Operator courses were delivered in four of the retained fire stations.
- 19 members of the fire services were refreshed in their Emergency First Responder Skills.
- Two fire fighters completed a two-week course to become operators in the fire services high reach appliance.
- Five people from the fire service and MRCC completed a refresher course in their role as Peer Supporters.

Civil Defence attendance at Events for month of December

- New Recruits Course
- Memorial and Certificate presentation night
- Doon Christmas Fair

Munster Regional Control Centre (MRCC)

	No. of calls mobilised to an emergency incident by MRCC	Other Calls	Average Call Processing Time	Total no. of calls in December
No. of call outs 01/01/2019 – 31/12/2019	12,725	12,138	1 minute 15 seconds	24,863

Water Safety

No. of lifebuoy replacements	Total 2019 Jan-Nov	Dec 2019	Total 2019
Metropolitan Area	16	0	16
Municipal Area	11	1	12

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3. Digital Services

- The Limerick Joint Policing Committee has approved the CCTV Policy developed by the CCTV Projects Board. This policy details how the Council working closely with An Garda Síochána uses CCTV for safer communities in Limerick.
- On 4 December the Monthly WP4 meeting of +CityxChange was visited by Pádraig Flattery and Heather Pandich from the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU). The CRU is interested in how Directive EU2019/944 (common rules for the internal market for electricity) can be implemented into Irish legislation. Through the regulatory sandbox being co-designed through +CityxChange, Limerick could be an example for the CRU to bring the directive into implementation.
- On Monday 16 December, the European Commission informed the GoGreen Routes Consortium, led by University of Limerick (UL), that the project application has been successful. This €11m project aims at improving wellbeing through green infrastructural development in urban areas. This four-year Horizon 2020 project brings in an extra €530,000 to aid in the creation of routes to foster mental health and well-being by optimising human-nature interactions for the people of Limerick.



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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 31/12/2019	% Collection
€3,822,761	€15,848,840	€19,671,601	€15,072,131	€4,599,470	76.6%

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 31st December 2019*	11,723,152	56,020,728**	1,267,558	2,535,542	63,940,780	53,697,118	10,243,662	1,930,518	87%

** The Date for Making the 2019 Rate was 1st February 2019

* subject to finalisation of year end accounts for 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 31st December 2019*	486,661	1,447,919		1,934,580	1,704,822	229,758	88%

* subject to finalisation of year end accounts for 2019

Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No of days in overdraft 0



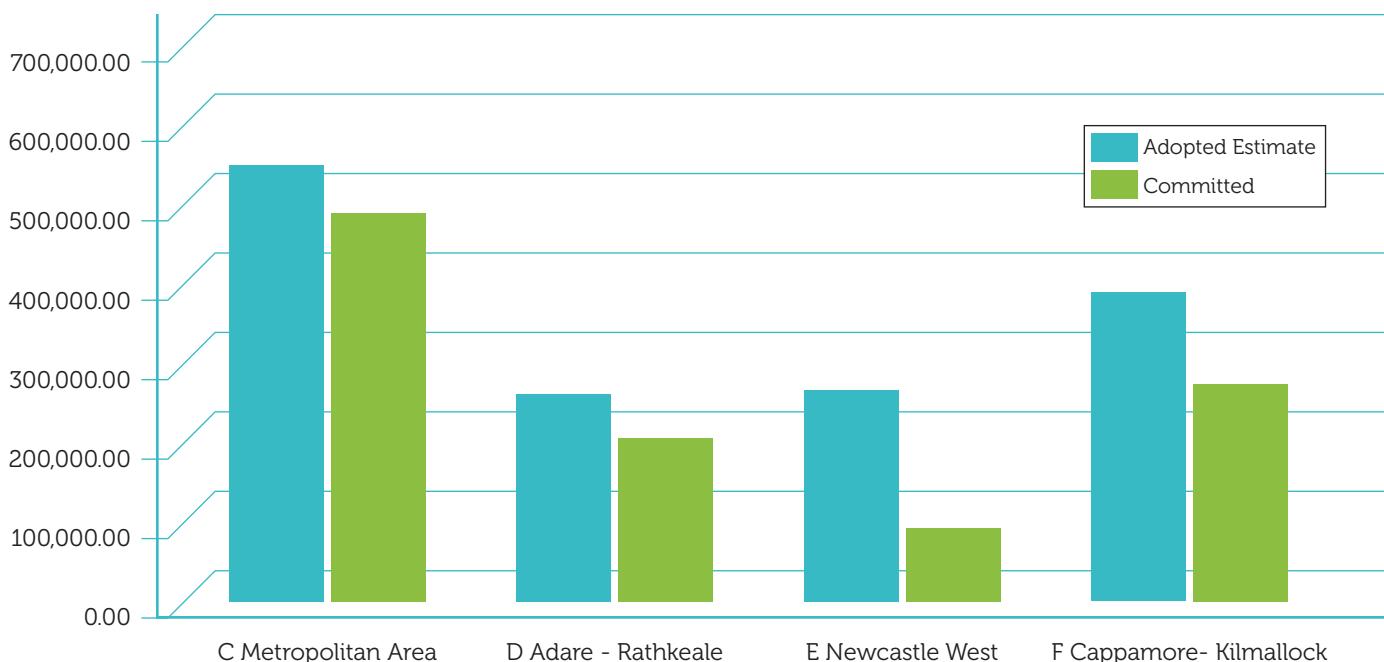
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General Municipal Allocation 2019 Adopted Estimate €1.203 Million

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

("Final" figures: subject to finalisation of year end accounts for 2019)



Municip (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate (€)	Value Committed (€)
C Metropolitan Area	503,000.00	447,180
D Adare - Rathkeale	225,000.00	171,116
E Newcastle West	225,000.00	59,359
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	250,000.00	228,042



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2. Corporate Services, Governance & Customer Services

Corporate Services

Christmas Prayer Service

A Christmas Prayer Service for staff and councillors was held in Istabraq Hall, Merchant's Quay, on 20 December at 12 noon. Staff and councillors participated in the service and choir.

Christmas Lunches

Christmas lunches were provided for all staff and councillors as a thank you for the hard work, commitment and dedication over the last year.

Mayoral Receptions were held for the following:

- Sean Bullman, in recognition of Sean's achievement in winning 21 Irish National Titles in the Sport of Bodybuilding and the first professional Irish Bodybuilder
- James McCarthy, Maurice Noonan and Gary O'Halloran, in recognition of being selected by the GAA to take part in an International Floorball Competition as part of the Irish Wheelchair Hurling Team
- PJ O'Grady, in gratitude and recognition of his tremendous contribution to the Community of Patrickswell for over 50 years
- Patrickswell Senior Hurling Team, in recognition of their outstanding achievement of winning the Club's 20th Limerick Senior Hurling Championship and to Patrickswell GAA Club on moving to the top of the Limerick Senior Hurling Roll of Honour
- Parks Department, Limerick City and County Council in recognition of the contribution of the staff of the Parks Department, both past and present, for enhancing the urban environment
- Sporting Limerick Mixed Minor Rounders' Team, in recognition of the team's achievement in winning the GAA All-Ireland Final 2019

The Mayor hosted the following in Corporate Headquarters in December:

- St. Mary's Children's Choir
- Courtesy visit of Estonian Ambassador and First Secretary
- Courtesy visit of Polish Ambassador

The Office of the Mayor co-ordinated and arranged for the Mayor to attend the following functions events during month of December:

- Choirs for Christmas Celebration Concert, Celebration of RTÉ Lyric FM's 20 years in Limerick, University Concert Hall
- Photo shoot to launch Limerick Santa Cycle 2019
- Presentation of prizes, Limerick Fairtrade Young at Heart Christmas Card Competition, Activity Room, Granary Library
- Bank of Ireland National Enterprise Town Awards.
- Official Opening of Enable Ireland new garden centre and gift shop, 5-6 Honan Quay, Limerick
- SuperValu Tidy Towns, presentation of the South East Regional Awards 2019
- Christmas Charity Concert with Phil Coulter at Saint Mary's Cathedral
- Photoshoot for unveiling Green Leaf Plaque, Merchant's Quay
- UL Hospitals Group, Launch of the Health Science Academy and the official opening of the Clinical Education and Research Centre (CERC) Building at the University Hospital Limerick with Minister Simon Harris TD, Minister for Health
- Visit to Southill Afterschool's Club
- Presentation evening acknowledging recently awarded Arts Bursary, Merchant's Quay
- Launch Sleep Out for Redemptorist Christmas Hamper Appeal at O'Connell Street/Thomas Street
- The Curraghmore Singers, An Advent Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight at St. Mary's Cathedral
- Milford Care Centre, Light up a Memory Tree, lighting ceremony of remembrance, Grounds of Milford Care Centre

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- Civic Carol Service (formerly Carols for the City) at St. Mary's Cathedral
- World Health Organisation (WHO), Launch Ceremony of the Age Friendly Ireland Shared Service with An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar at Slane Castle
- Visit PALLS (Probation and Linkage in Limerick Scheme) Education and training centre for people involved with Probation Service & the criminal justice system, PALLS Ltd., Unit 2, Docklands Business Park, Dock Road
- Remembrance Prayer for Rose Hanrahan at New Road, Thomondgate
- Conferring of an Honorary Degree by University of Limerick on Mr. Garrett Fitzgerald
- Opening Night of the 2019 Specsavers Limerick Panto Aladdin at University Concert Hall
- Photoshoot at Autism Sensory Space, Watch House Cross Library, Moyross, who won the Best Library Service Category in the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards
- Christmas Prayer Service in Istabraq Hall, Merchant's Quay
- New Year's Eve Celebration

Travel Abroad

20th Anniversary of City Sisters Relationship in New Brunswick, New Jersey from 4-8 December.

Health and Safety Training

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

Name of Course	Total No. of Staff Trained
Chainsaw Training	4
Drivers CPC 1	2
Manual Handling	23
Safe pass	3
Total	32

Register of Electors

A Claim Court was held on 4 December in Limerick City and County Council's Headquarters, Merchant's Quay and was presided over by Patrick Wallace, County Registrar.

A total of 167 Claims were submitted for decision by him, for addition and deletion to the Draft Register of Electors 2020/2021.

Launch of the Implementation Advisory Group for Directly Elected Mayor

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheahan, and the Minister of State for Local Government and Electoral Reform, John Paul Phelan TD, on 2 December, 2019 launched the Advisory Group to advise on the establishment of a directly elected Mayor for Limerick.

The Implementation Advisory Group will build on the Policy Document voted on in the Plebiscite and advise the Minister on how best to establish and shape the role of directly elected Mayor in Limerick. The Group will examine the potential of the role into the future, and also the implications for the delivery of services and resourcing for Limerick City and County Council. It will consider the governance relationships between the new Mayor, the Council and the Executive and what possible extra functions the Mayor could take on. The Group will report to the Minister on these matters by summer 2020.

The Implementation Advisory Group is chaired by Mr Tim O'Connor and the following have been nominated to the Group;

- Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheahan
- Councillor John Sheahan, Limerick City and County Council
- Councillor Michael Collins, Limerick City and County Council
- Councillor Elena Secas, Limerick City and County Council

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- Councillor Brian Leddin, Limerick City and County Council
- Dr Pat Daly, Chief Executive, Limerick City and County Council
- Ms Caroline Curley, Director of Services, Limerick City and County Council
- Ms Dee Ryan, Chief Executive, Limerick Chamber
- Dr Diarmuid Scully, Centre for European Studies, University of Limerick
- Mr Jack Scanlan, Student President, University of Limerick
- A representative of Limerick Public Participation Network
- Mr Barry Quinlan, Assistant Secretary, Local Government Division, Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
- Mr Diarmuid O'Leary, Local Government Division, Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government

Customer Services

Throughout the month, 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.

There were 152 cases logged this month through the MyLimerick platform, 127 of which were logged by local representatives.

Customer Services processed 46 Residential Parking Permits throughout December.

Customer Services also continued to support the Housing Maintenance Department by logging 94% of cases for the Metropolitan area throughout the month of December, as well as logging 53 cases for housing maintenance in the area offices and taking 931 calls for Housing Maintenance throughout the month.

Customer Services received 8,844 calls via our call centre throughout the month, handling 45% of calls at first point of contact.

This works out at approximately 491 calls per day.

In December, there were 472 cases logged on behalf of elected representatives by Customer Services.

Overall, on the SugarCRM (Customer Relationship Management) System, 2,320 cases were logged throughout December.

The majority of cases logged were for the following services:

Operations and Maintenance	1,614 (68% being housing maintenance)
Housing Support Services	217
Planning and Environmental Services	138
Veterinary	56
Design and Delivery	39
Customer Services	38

The total number of callers to our counters at Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle was 3,380.

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3. Schedule of Meetings for December 2019

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
First Meeting of Implementation Advisory Group for Directly Elected Mayor with Executive Functions	02.12.2019	Merchant's Quay
Operational Briefings		
Limerick City West	03.12.2019	Merchant's Quay
Limerick City North	03.12.2019	Merchant's Quay
Limerick City East	03.12.2019	Merchant's Quay
Local Community Development Committee	03.12.2019	Merchant's Quay
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale		
Monthly Meeting	10.12.2019	Rathkeale
Newcastle West		
Monthly Meeting	11.12.2019	Newcastle West
Cappamore-Kilmallock		
Monthly Meeting	12.12.2019	Kilmallock
Special Meeting	20.12.2019	Kilmallock
Joint Policing Sub-Committee	12.12.2019	Merchant's Quay
Audit Committee	13.12.2019	Merchant's Quay
Metropolitan District of Limerick		
Monthly Meeting	16.12.2019	Merchant's Quay
Strategic Policy Committee Meetings		
Travel and transportation	03.12.2019	Merchant's Quay
Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning	09.12.2019	Merchant's Quay
Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment	02.12.2019	Dooradoyle
Implementation Advisory Group on the Establishment of a Directly Elected Mayor with Executive Functions for Limerick	19.12.2019	Merchant's Quay

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4. Access to Information

	December	2019 (January to December)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	18	223
FOI Internal Appeals	0	10
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	4
Total Ombudsman Requests	3	33
Total AIE Requests	1	16

5. Business Improvement

The first Public Service Innovation Week kicked off on 9 December with our Chief Executive Dr. Pat Daly signing the Declaration on Public Service Innovation showing our commitment as an organisation to innovation. Business Improvement used the opportunity to showcase different innovations, which were fuelling the strong innovation culture in Limerick City and County Council. From Cora, our cloud based project management system to the Watch House Cross Library 'Autism Friendly' programme, innovative programmes were highlighted and opportunities were given to staff to answer general knowledge questions around innovation. Ten staff members in Limerick City and County Council also took part in the Innovation Capacity Building workshops run through the Public Service innovation network and staff were encouraged to submit innovative ideas with prizes given for the most transformative submissions.