CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

February 2020

THIS MONTH:

OPEN DOORS – Limerick Libraries welcomed young and old as part of National Library Open Day

AWARDS – LAMA and Planning awards for Council Projects

HOUSING – Progress made on several new housing developments

HONOURS – Two women receive Civic Receptions for their commitment to Limerick

CONTENTS:

Economic Development Directorate

1. Trade & Investment 2
2. Strategic & Forward Planning 2
3. Local Enterprise Office (LEO) 2
4. Innovate Limerick 3
5. Marketing & Communications 4
6. Urban Innovation 5

Physical Development Directorate

1. Mid West Road Design Office 6

Community Development Directorate

1. Tourism, Culture & Arts 7
2. Property & Community Facilities 10
3. Urban & Rural Community Development 10
4. Libraries, Gallery & Museum 13

Housing Development Directorate

1. Strategic Housing Development 16
2. Regeneration Strategy 17

Service Operations Directorate

1. Housing Support Services 18
2. Planning & Environmental Services 21
3. Veterinary Services 21

Capital Investment Directorate

1. Design & Delivery 22

National and Regional Shared Services Directorate

1. HAP SSC 23
2. Fire & Emergency Services 23
3. Digital Services 25

Support Services Directorate

1. Finance Services 26
2. Corporate Services, Governance & Customer Services 28
3. Schedule of Meetings 31
4. Access to Information 32
5. Business Improvement 32

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Luimnigh
Limerick City & County Council

Economic Development Directorate

1. Trade and Investment

- The €180 million Opera Centre site, which will completely transform Limerick city centre, has been given the go ahead following a decision by An Bord Pleanála, after an oral hearing. The development includes a 14 storey tower building at Bank Place, as well as a number of large commercial buildings joined by a public plaza. The development will also include a number of apartments.
- A major tech, biotech and aviation-recruiting event, 'Tech on the Wild Atlantic Way', was hosted by Career Zoo, supported by Limerick City and County Council. It took place in Thomond Park to connect sci-tech employers with world-class STEM talent interested in working and living in the Mid-West.
- We organised a Brand Limerick launch in the Irish Consulate, New York City on 13 February. The event was attended by members of the diplomatic, business, cultural and Limerick communities

2. Strategic and Forward Planning

- A submission was made to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government on the Draft Wind Energy Development guidelines.
- The Chief Executive's Report was issued to Elected Members on the Material Alterations to the draft Croom Local Area Plan 2020-2026. This will be considered at the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District Meeting in March.
- The Adare and Askeaton Local Area Plans were both extended.
- The inaugural meeting of the steering group for the proposed first joint City and County Development Plan was held.

3. Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

The following grants were approved:

- One Agile Research and Development, €61,910 – job potential 7.
- Four Business Expansion grants, €114,115 – job potential 19.
- Two Feasibility Study Grants, €30,000.
- Three Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters Grants approved in February.
- Productivity Voucher, 10 clients awarded funding of €22,500.
- Applications are open for the National Enterprise Awards Limerick competition to select the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) as Limerick Entrepreneur of the Year.
- A one-day 'Start Your Own Business' course took place on 4 February.
- A Food Seminar took place with Aldi on 6 February.
- The Retail Development Programme for the Newcastle West area began on 19 February.
- Google Analytics full day workshop also took place on 19 February.
- Senior Executive Officer full day workshop took place on 25 February.
- 'Pricing Your Product or Service' took place on 26 February.
- A Business Advice session for prospective clients took place on 28 February.
- Lean for Micro Programme commenced on 24 February with 15 participants.
- LEO Limerick client, Aoife Ireland, received special features in both the Independent.ie and TheJournal.ie
- We collaborated again with Bank of Ireland for the Friday Breakfast Club on 7 February with guest speaker Chris Kelly of Tracworx.
- We provided support to our partners Network Limerick's event 'Just go for it' with guest speaker Hannah Wrixon on 19 February in AIB.
- Our schedule of events for Local Enterprise Week 2020 was launched. It runs from 2-6 March.

4. Innovate Limerick

- 'Joining the Dots' connecting Innovative places event was held in the Limerick Strand Hotel on 13-14 February. The event was a huge success, connecting regions and strengthening the economic ties between the United Kingdom and Ireland. Speakers on the day included Robin Barnett, British Ambassador to Ireland, Deputy Mayor of Limerick City and County Council, Councillor Adam Teskey, Dr. Pat Daly, Chief Executive of Limerick City and County Council, Dr. Des Fitzgerald, President of University of Limerick. The focus of this event was Innovation Hubs and creating innovative spaces in town centres to drive ecosystems. The event also corresponded with a Smart Manufacturing conference. The attendees at the workshop were a select group of senior leaders from cities and academic institutions across the United Kingdom and Ireland. The purpose of the event was to establish opportunities for collaboration.

- 'Film in Limerick' invited London-based film director John Maclean, director of Sundance winning film 'Slow West' starring Michael Fassbender, to deliver a free 'Directing a First Feature Film' workshop in Limerick. 38 members of the local Limerick film community attended the event at ENGINE on Cecil Street. The monthly meet-up events run in partnership with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.

- Film in Limerick supported the BBC and RTE six-part drama 'Smother' in securing crew for its production, which is filming in Lahinch Co. Clare.

- Four Limerick-based film producers joined the 'Film in Limerick Delegation' to the European Film Market in Berlin. Selected producers were Gemma O'Shaughnessy, Ronan Cassidy, Pete Moles and Zeb Moore. The four attended one of the biggest industry events on the film calendar for five days mixing with distributors, film buyers, producers, financiers and co-production agents from all over the world. They attended events arranged with Screen Skills and the Market Traders programme.

- They also attended a private round table session with Irish producer John McDonnell. The group also represented Limerick at the Screen Ireland Reception at Berlinale. This new initiative from 'Film in Limerick' was supported by Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.

5. Marketing & Communications

Marketing

Brand Limerick

- Presentation of Limerick Brand in the Irish Consulate in New York at a launch event to invited guests.
- Met with Tourism Ireland in New York City to discuss and agree promotional opportunities for Limerick in 2020.
- Presented at the URBACT European Programme Conference to discuss the brand's development and launch process to partner cities from across the European Union.
- Ongoing promotional and advertising multi-platform campaigns to local, national and international audiences.
- Continued stakeholder engagement and internal brand communications ongoing, with the development of updated franking stamp and updated email signatures.

Limerick St. Patrick's Festival 2020

- Commenced a seven-week social media advertising campaign across Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, in addition to print media and radio advertising campaigns.
- A dedicated St. Patrick's Day Festival section was created on Limerick.ie.
- Designed and distributed 10,000 event guides throughout Limerick.
- Installed Limerick St. Patrick's Festival banners throughout Limerick City.
- Produced second Limerick Economic Monitor, which analyses and tracks Limerick's economic and fiscal status and trends across all economic sectors.
- Produced four Limerick.ie e-newsletters.
- Marketing materials provided to Limerick Literary Festival.

Social Media

- Monitored, scheduled, and updated social media channels with creative content to utilise our engagement with the public and put Limerick in people's minds.
- Posted 48 times on Limerick.ie's Facebook with followers now 26,445. Posts reached 7,405,404 users with 602,532 engagements.
- Tweeted 40 times on Limerick.ie's Twitter, @ limerick_ie, with followers now 17,792. Our tweets earned 191,200 impressions (number of times users saw our tweets).
- Posted 15 times on Limerick.ie's Instagram and created 14 Stories with followers now 10,642.
- Posted 20 times on Limerick City and County Council's LinkedIn with followers now 4,201.

Limerick.ie

- A total of 147,106 people visited the Limerick.ie website in February 2020, 24% increase on the same period in 2019.
- Content Report: 69 articles and 235 events were added to Limerick.ie in February.
- The most popular pages on Limerick.ie in February were:
  1. www.limerick.ie/discover
  2. www.limerick.ie
  3. www.limerick.ie/council/your-council/jobs
  4. www.limerick.ie/

6. Urban Innovation Department

Living Georgian City (LGC) – A Strategy for Compact Growth Winner at the Irish Planning Institute (IPI) 2020 Planning Awards

- Limerick City and County Council's Living Georgian City (LGC) – A Strategy for Compact Growth was declared the overall winner at the Irish Planning Institute (IPI) 2020 Planning Awards on 27 February. This is a collaborative project of the Urban Innovation Department and Housing Development Directorate.
- The theme of this year's awards was 'Celebrating Excellence and Innovation in Irish Planning'. As well as being the overall winner, LGC – A Strategy for Compact Growth was:
  - Declared winner of the Management and Delivery category.
  - Commended in the Participation and Engagement Category.
  - Shortlisted in the Planning and Economic category.
- The LGC programme involves making positive, innovative and transformational change to Newtown Pery, the heart of Limerick City's Georgian architectural heritage, which has suffered from high levels of vacancy, under-investment and speculative land banking. The LGC programme focuses on targeted interventions and underutilised stock, to increase the level of residential use in the city, showcase the transition to a low carbon and resilient city, deliver compact growth, strengthen the economy through innovation and enhance the existing public amenity and heritage. The LGC programme focussed on three key pillars:
  - Pillar 1- Investment Model/Governance Feasibility.
  - Pillar 2- Demonstration and Capital Works.
  - Pillar 3 - Citizen Solutions.
- The LGC is a collaborative project of the Urban Innovation Department and Housing Development Department in the Council.

Living City Initiative (LCI)

- The Living City Initiative (LCI) tax incentive has been extended to December 2022. The Urban Innovation Department holds fortnightly advice clinics in ENGINE, Cecil Street Upper, giving multi-disciplinary advice to property owners, potential property owners and landlords who want to avail of the tax incentive for qualifying renovation works. In attendance at the clinics are the Fire Officer, Conservation Officer, Senior Architect and Town Planner.

	No. of Applications Received	Final Certs Issued	One-Stop shop meetings
b/f from 2019	19	6	n/a
Feb	0	0	1
Year to Date	0	0	1
Total	19	6	1

Physical Development Directorate

1. Mid West Road Design Office (MWNRDO)

N20 O'Rourke's Cross Road Improvement Scheme Compulsory Purchase Order 2020

On 18 February, Limerick City and County Council made the compulsory purchase order to acquire land and extinguish rights of way necessary to develop the N20 O'Rourke's Cross Road Improvement Scheme.

The proposed scheme is comprised of the construction of a new roundabout-controlled junction at O'Rourke's Cross, the junction of the N20 with the R518. It includes alteration to the present junction layout, the construction of new N20 approaches to the junction, alteration of the existing R518 approaches to the junction, a new combined cycleway/footway, relocation of the bus stops, road and drainage impact attenuation, fencing, landscaping, public lighting, accommodation works and associated site works.

Notice of the compulsory purchase order has been published in the Irish Independent on 27 February and the Limerick Leader on 29 February. Documents are available for inspection at various Council offices including Kilmallock Area Office. A copy of the order and the deposit map referred to in it may also be inspected online at http://mypoint limerick.ie

16 landholders are directly impacted by the proposed scheme and they have been issued with statutory notices. Limerick City and County Council will continue discussions with all impacted landholders and householders.

Landowners, lessees and occupiers can make objections to the compulsory acquisition of land and extinguishment of private rights of way that affect them to An Bord Pleanála. Any objections to the extinguishment of public rights of way can also be made to An Bord Pleanála. The closing date for receipt of objections to An Bord Pleanála is 24 April.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Luimnigh
Limerick City & County Council

Community Development Directorate

1. Tourism, Culture & Arts

TOURISM

- Limerick City and County Council hosted travel writer Pól O'Conghaile on a familiarisation trip to Limerick for inclusion in National Geographic UK publication
- Limerick City and County Council staff attended Fáilte Ireland marketing training in Galway and Killarney.
- Limerick City and County Council sponsored a 'Tourism Space' event in Thomond Park. It was attended by 180 delegates from around the country.
- Limerick City and County Council tourism staff met with a group of tour guides from Approved Tourist Guides in Ireland.

CULTURE AND ARTS

- **LAMA Awards 2020 Gold The Bingo Wings Project**

  The Bingo Wings Project was awarded a LAMA Awards 2020 Gold, Best Arts/Culture (Including Festivals and Events), in the All Ireland Community and Council Awards. The award was presented by IPB Insurance and LAMA. The Bingo Wings Project is an Arts Council funded invitation to Collaboration. Limerick City and County Council was the lead partner on this The Bingo Wings Project, a large collaborative intergeneration project exploring the theme of Bingo, with artistic lead Fidget Feet and partners Kerry County Council and Donegal County Council.

Open Calls

- **Grants under the Arts Act Funding Call Out**

  This year's Grants under the Arts Act will be by online submission. Applications for this funding stream opened on 19 February. The Grants under the Arts Act scheme supports projects that stimulate public interest in the arts, promote the knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts or assist in improving the standards of the arts. This funding is available to amateur, community or voluntary groups, or organisations, and individual arts practitioners.

- **Strategic Fund**

  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. Two letters of support were provided for the Arts Council Young Ensembles Scheme and two for the Arts Council Arts Grant.

- **Memorare, An Exhibition by Mary Nagle**

  Memorare, by Mary Nagle, opened on 19 Feb at LIT Limerick School of Art and Design Gallery. This work was supported by the Individual Arts Bursaries Award. Mary Nagle's small sculptures and assemblages evoke memory and imagined ritual and commemorates the women who passed through the gates of the Convent of the Good Shepard, Limerick's Magdalene Laundry. The exhibition ran from 17-28 February.

PARTNERSHIPS

- **Helium Arts**

  Helium Arts Children's Creative Health Programme continues in University Hospital Limerick Paediatric Outpatient Clinics, giving children, young people and their families the opportunity to try out different age-appropriate creative activities while they wait to see the doctor. Lead Artist Chelsea Cavanan attended the outpatient clinic at University Hospital Limerick and engaged children through creative activities. The Limerick Programme is taking place in partnership with University Hospital Limerick and Limerick City and County Council.

PROGRAMME

Young People, Children and Education

- **Integrated Dance**

  Limerick Culture and Arts Office, in conjunction with dance facilitator Mary Hartney, continues to provide Limerick City and County Council's Integrated Dance Project. The third Quarter of the 2019 - 2020 programme continues with transition year students from Copsewood College, Pallaskenry and Scoil Mhuire and Íde, Newcastle West. A new course started at the Desmond Complex on 24 February, with five children and three Transition year students.

- **County Limerick Youth Theatre**

  The County Limerick Youth Theatre weekly workshops for the DynaLyts (2nd-6th class) and CoLYTS (secondary school students) continue at the HoneyFitz Theatre, Lough Gur under the guidance of facilitators Francis Healy and Aine Brennen.

- **Limerick Youth Choir**

  The Limerick Youth Choir, with Aoide Voices and the Limerick Chamber Choir participated in the opening concert for the Limerick Choral Festival on 28 February in St. Joseph's Church on O'Connell Street.

FESTIVALS

- **What Next Festival**

  What Next took place from the 6-8 February, bringing together dance makers, performers and audiences in a celebration of discovery and possibility. The festival is an important platform for new talent and creativity both home grown and international. Nine festival artists and their collaborators work together to connect with local audiences and provide a social space of interaction and creative exchange.

- **Limerick Literary Festival Launch**

  Now in its 36th year, the festival took place from 21-23 February in venues across Limerick. Programme highlights included a performance by the Irish National Opera, panel discussions with John Kelly of RTE, the return of Desert Island Books and a reading by Roddy Doyle. Limerick City and County Council supports this festival through the Limerick festival and events grant scheme 2019/2020.

- **The Limerick Spring**

  The Limerick Spring, a festival of politics and ideas returned in 2020. It took place from 27-29 February. This year's theme, Home is where the heart is, promotes discussion and debate in imaginative and creative contexts delving into issues around Climate Change, the housing crisis and the role of activism in today's society. The Limerick Spring supported by the festivals and events Grant Scheme 2019/20, aims to shine a spotlight on projects, ideas and citizens that are leading the way and offering a glimpse of what is possible.

- **Festivals and Events Strategy Development**

  The development of a strategy for festivals and events in Limerick is underway and this month an extensive stakeholder engagement process was undertaken with key members of the tourism, hospitality, venue, business and culture sector in Limerick. This included a World café event held at Dance Limerick on 18 February attended by over 30 stakeholders who spent a morning discussing their ambitions for the sector in Limerick.

- **Ireland's St.Patrick's Celebrations Partnership with Fáilte Ireland**

  Limerick has been selected as a Tier 1 partner with Fáilte Ireland to promote Ireland's St. Patrick's Celebrations. As part of this partnership Tourism Ireland is working with Limerick City and County Council to develop United States television packages and live broadcasting during this year's festival. A site visit took place on 16 February to review potential locations and agree logistics for this exciting addition to this year festival. This three-year agreement with Fáilte Ireland aims to position Ireland as the only place to be in the world for St. Patrick's Day, addressing strategic visitor growth, regionality and seasonality objectives.

CREATIVE IRELAND FUNDED PROJECTS

- **Creative Youth-Forum Sharing**

  At the heart of the Creative Ireland programme is collaboration, and the importance of this principle was demonstrated on 29 February with the Creative Youth Forum Sharing event at the Irish Aerial Creation Centre. Arising from Creative Days for Future Creators, this is the first public platform displaying the work undertaken on those Creative Days between three youth groups, Irish Aerial Creation Centre performance group, the Irish Chamber Orchestra Youth Orchestra and the Limerick Youth Dance Company, all in receipt of funding from the Creative Ireland Programme. This sharing event will see young people working on Aerial (Trapeze, Spirals, Cocoons), Music and Dance, exploring the art forms and responding to each other. Sight, sound, movement and rhythm are in synergy.

- **Local Creative Youth Partnership**

  A Day in the Life of Rathkeale is an exhibition of photographs taken by young girls from Rathkeale Youth Space. It ran from 26-28 February in the Rathkeale Arts Centre, Rathkeale Area Office.

2. Property & Community Facilities

DERELICTION AND VACANCY

Derelict Sites:	
Inspections carried out	64
Statutory Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act	20
Cases closed through engagement	6
Properties entered onto the Derelict Sites Register	6
Properties put forward for Compulsory Acquisition	5

Vacant Homes:	
Vacant Properties identified	5
Inspections carried out	5
Cases closed through engagement	2
CPO Housing Act 1966 commenced	0
CPO Housing Act 1966 Confirmed	2

BIN WAIVERS

Waivers Issued	80

ACQUISITIONS AND DISPOSAL STATISTICS

House Purchases: c/fwd at Sale Agreed but awaiting conclusion	15
House Purchases: Sale Agreed February	1
House Purchases: Concluded	4

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Irish owned Aura Holohan Group were officially ranked number 22 in the 'Great Places To Work 'Top 30 Best Workplaces' - The working partnership between Aura, Grove Island and Limerick City and County Council has been a key driver in achieving the centre's success to date which has been in operation since 2013.

3. Urban & Rural Community Development

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- The Healthy Limerick Steering Group met this month and prepared the new small grants initiative under the Department of Health's Community Mental Health Fund 2020-2021.
- The Social Determinants of Health conference took place and was a great success.
- Progress continued on the 'Not Around Us' initiative with a number of video animations completed for social media use in Limerick and in other counties rolling out the initiative this year. Limerick Comhairle na nÓg was nominated for a World Health Organisation award for their active participation in the development of 'Not Around Us' in support of Tobacco Free Ireland.

AGE FRIENDLY

Limerick Age Friendly Programme in collaboration with The Irish Hospice Foundation and PLACE-EE, hosted a series of events over this month called "Putting Your House in Order". Information sessions were hosted in each of the municipal districts and gave advice on a range of topics under four main headings:

Care Preferences

- Advance Healthcare Directive, Designated Healthcare Representative, Life Sustaining Treatments, CPR etc.

Legal

- Enduring Power of Attorney, Making a will etc

Financial

- Bank Accounts, Insurance, Life Assurance, Credit Cards, Tax Affairs, Pensions etc.

When I Die

- Organ/Body Donation, Post Mortem, Funeral and Burial Arrangements etc.

The sessions were delivered in two parts. The first part covered wills, enduring power of attorney, and other legal issues, and was delivered by a solicitor. The second part of the event was delivered by a Public Engagement Officer from the Irish Hospice Foundation. She focused on the other three headings, Care Preferences, Financial and When I Die, and guided attendees through filling out the "Think Ahead" booklet, published by the Irish Hospice Foundation. There were five workshops in total in various locations throughout the city and county. The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Sheahan, opened the proceedings in Limerick City and Adare. The workshops were extremely well attended, with a total of 386 people attending. Due to full capacity attendance at the series of workshops, a further 600 copies of the "Think Ahead" book were distributed to members of the public that were unable to attend the sessions.

INTEGRATION

- The Mid-West Sikh Community, in collaboration with Limerick City and County Council and Mary Immaculate College, will host a number of events to commemorate the life of Limerick native Max Arthur MacAuliffe. A photoshoot with the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councilor Michael Sheahan, took place in the library in Dooradoyle on 25 February. Dr. Jasbir Puri and Mr. Gurmukh Singh Bimbra donated books on Sikhism to the library service. Staff from Urban and Rural Community Development were joined by members of the Sikh Community, Regional Inter-Faith Forum and Mary Immaculate College for the donation of books and photoshoot. The promotional material will be utilised for a press release and media campaign to promote Sikh events taking place on 11-13 March.

EDUCATION

- Five members of Limerick's Older Peoples Executive took part in the first training session for Junior Achievement Ireland (JAI). This is the first pilot in the country whereby older citizens will take part in the programme. JAI encourages young people to remain in education and helps them develop the skills they need to succeed in a changing world. Junior Achievement (JA) programmes help to create a culture of enterprise within the education system and to help young people prepare for the world of work, giving them skills in communications and preparing for interviews. Financial literacy programmes enable students to explore how to manage, protect and make the most of future salaries. JAI also brings science and maths skills to thousands of young students nationwide as volunteers work to deliver exciting programmes and events. Programmes begin at primary school level, teaching children how they can impact the world around them as individuals, workers and consumers and continues through to secondary school, right up to age 18, preparing students for their future careers. All JA programmes are taught by volunteers recruited from supporting organisations who are fully trained before they commence their programme.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK

- A Public Participation Network (PPN) Plenary members meeting took place. A representative to sit on the Advisory Group on the Directly Elected Mayor was elected and the Limerick PPN constitution was adopted.
- Elections for PPN representatives to sit on three Strategy Policy Committees (SPC's) were opened.
- 80 Tidy Towns participated in the Council's annual seminar where they were treated to an overview of the European Green Leaf Programme and a presentation from Tidy Towns Adjudicator Mary Keenan who gave valuable information on the "dos and don'ts" to help groups gain marks in Tidy Towns Competition.
- Cillian Flynn of GOSHH was elected to represent the PPN on the Implementary Advisory Group on the establishment of the Directly Elected Mayor with executive functions for Limerick.

- European Green Leaf Let's Talk about Climate Action Workshop took place with participants from Tidy Towns, Volunteer, 3rd Level colleges and local business community. Participants were given an overview of the science involved in the climate change, explanation of the terminology used along with the need to work together across all sectors to find solutions. There was also a workshop element where the participants worked together in groups to determine possible measures for both climate action and mitigation
- Over 500 people, including 100 trainee teachers from Mary Immaculate College, received a guided tour of the European Green Leaf "Think About Consumption" Exhibition in Istabraq. The Environment Awareness Officer was a speaker at the "Future Living" Sustainable Conference in Limerick Institute of Technology.
- Limerick City and County Council welcomed a new waste prevention initiative to Limerick in February. The 2GoCup is Ireland's first deposit and return scheme for hot beverage cups. This scheme is being used in Limerick City and County Council's Nourish Canteen, Merchant's Quay and another MasterChef premises in Mary Immaculate College along with Abbey River Coffee and the Green Onion Café, Rutland Street.
- Engagement with over 100 citizens over three evening events on waste and litter prevention and biodiversity (Thomond Flower Club, ICA Abbeyfeale and Mulkear Grow It Yourself Club, Cappamore).
- The Department of Rural and Community Development awarded €30,000 funding for Limerick, under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2019 – Measure 2, to Glin Heritage Walking Trail for trail repairs and enhancement works.

LIMERICK SPORTS PARTNERSHIP (LSP)

- Limerick Sports Partnership secured €30,000 from the Health Services Executive (HSE) to deliver Physical Activity and Well-being Initiatives for the following target groups:
  - Older Adults Aquatics Programmes
  - Traveller Health Programmes
  - Men on the move Programmes
  - Women on Wheels Programmes
  - Physical Literacy programmes for youths
- LSP were successful in securing €25,000 to hire an ASPIRE Graduate for 11 months to gain hands on experience in a Sports Development Role. The graduate will focus on developing education and well-being programmes for direct provision residents.
- The LSP sports development officers continue to develop programmes, events and educational opportunities for key target groups including marginalised communities, schools, communities, Older Adult groups, walking groups and general populations across the county.

  See www.limericksports.ie for more information.

4. Libraries, Gallery & Museum

LIBRARIES

- The National Library Open Day was held on 29 February. This is a new initiative where libraries in Limerick and around the country invited people to take a closer look at what your local library has to offer in 2020. In addition to a range of family-friendly events, library staff were on hand to demonstrate how your library membership allows you to borrow from 12 million items; choose from more box set options than Netflix, get eBooks, audiobooks, eMagazines and eNewspapers free and straight to your device, or try free online learning and language classes. Even if a busy lifestyle leaves little time to get to the library, you can still avail of a wide range of services from home.
- Writer Gabriel Fitzmaurice visited Abbeyfeale and Newcastle West Libraries and popular children's author Gillian Perdue appeared at Dooradoyle and Kilmallock branches. Dooradoyle offered fun throughout the day with a "Mystery Maze" and a book hunt. Adare Library filled the day with "Story-time for Tots" and entertainment for all ages with magician "Myster Magic". Staff were on hand all day to remind regular users and inform newcomers of the range of services available through your library card. Watch House Cross also offered Autism friendly hours with tea and coffee served throughout the day. The aim of the day is to remind people that libraries are valuable open community spaces with lots going on for everyone of all ages and interests. A major social media campaign designed by the Libraries Development Unit of the Local Government Management Agency, has generated lots of interest in the country's network of vibrant innovative libraries across television radio and online. So, if it has been a while since you've been in your local library, or even if you're a regular user, you might be surprised at what you can find there.
- As part of Limerick Libraries autism friendly initiative, a series of sensory story sessions with Simone Schuemmelfeder took place in Adare and Newcastle West "Relaxed Events" is the term used for these very special interactions. Schools have responded very positively by bringing small groups to each library knowing that the environment and the activity will be appropriate to a child on the autism spectrum. In addition, Watch House Cross hosted Cork Circus as part of this programme.
- Bookseed is a baby book-gifting initiative, funded by the JP McManus Benevolent Fund and the Social Innovation Fund Ireland, delivered across six areas in Limerick City and County. Children's Books Ireland led this project in partnership with the Health Service Executive, Limerick City and County Library Service and Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. Bookseed gives the gift of a book three times in a baby's first year of life. Parents, guardians and carers are encouraged and supported to share books with their child from a very early stage and to foster in them a lifelong love of reading. Events to support this project were held in Dooradoyle and Newcastle West Libraries featuring a reading from author Mary Murphy, a monster doodle and refreshments for all. 'Bookseed babies', many of whom had recently celebrated their first birthday, were invited to attend to collect their third book and enjoy a fun filled visit to the library. Representatives from CBI, Social Innovation Fund Ireland, and Mary Immaculate College were in attendance.
- Dooradoyle Library had a busy month with two art exhibitions. "Life Algorithms", an exhibition by Georgie Vargemezi, was officially opened by Councillor Sharon Benson and Inis Artists on 19 February.
- For those who like films, like books and like talking about films and books, the Granary and Dooradoyle book clubs combined to attend a film and read a book this month. Their choices were the film 'Stan & Ollie' and the book "He" by John Connolly.
- On 15 February, the Irish ME Trust (Myalgic Encephalomyelitis) held a public talk in Dooradoyle Library. The Irish ME Trust was set up in 1989 to provide information and a counselling service to those affected with ME. It also aims to create an awareness in the general public and the medical profession as to the plight of ME sufferers in Ireland. There were five different speakers during the afternoon.
- The Hungarian Language School returned on 1 February. 20 children attended.
- "Gaeilge le Chéile" continued on Saturdays. This is an opportunity for those interested in speaking Irish, young and old, to come and have a chat with other Gaeilgeoirí. It is run in conjunction with Conradh na Gaeilge.

- The Age Action computer course continued on Tuesdays throughout the month providing one-to-one tuition for the older age group on their own devices - laptops, tablets or mobile phones. Use of the library's public pc service is available to those who do not have a device.
- The Digital Skills course run by Ballyhoura Development CLG recommenced on 11 February. This is a course for beginners where they can either bring their own device or use the device provided.
- There were several class visits from St. Paul's National School, Dooradoyle, Red Hill School, Patrickswell and Catherine McAuley School during February. The students from St. Vincent's School, Lisnagry also visited the library with their partners from the Transition Year programme in Crescent College. Meditation classes continued on 6 and 20 February.
- In Newcastle West Library, an exhibition by Keith O'Rahilly, entitled "Artistic Endeavour" – Group Exhibition was on display for the month of February. This was a group show compiled by secondary school art teacher, Keith O'Rahilly blending works from Coláiste Íde and Iosef, in one space to acknowledge successes in recent art competitions such as, 2018 Book of Kells Art Competition, awarded by Trinity College Dublin, Young Zurich Portrait Competition and the Texaco Art Competition.
- The Knitting Club continues to meet weekly and over 20 classes visited from local primary schools.
- In Watch House Cross (WHC), the Saturday morning Autism Friendly hours continued to grow in usage with an average of five families availing of the service. These sessions started on the first Saturday in January with one family and now this has grown to five. On 7 February, Eric Clarke from Virgin Media News filmed in the library, and chatted to Pam Byrne about the Sensory Room and the Autism Friendly Programme and the piece aired on the 8 o'clock News on 8 February. The Sensory room had 182 bookings during the month of February. On 27 February, the library hosted a 'relaxed performance' with Aran Towers of Tallest Smallest Theatre. 25 adults attended this from both the Brothers of Charity and Rehab Services who enjoyed traditional Indian puppets, stories and magic, refreshment were served. The interactive style of Aran's performance allowed the adults to try working the string puppets, have a go at drumming and making a turban.
- In collaboration with Limerick City Community Development Project (CDP), WHC Library is hosting a ten-week course called "Digital photography using your smart phone' from 25 February.
- The Granary and Abbeyfeale Libraries held Healthy Ireland talks "Five ways to Wellbeing" during the month. The Granary, as part of the University of the Third Age events welcomed environmentalist John Breen on 12 February on the topic of "Gardening for Wildlife". Story time sessions and book clubs for adults and children continued throughout the month.

LIMERICK CITY GALLERY OF ART (LCGA)

- A new exhibition, Elliptical Affinities, opened on 6 February with over 150 people in attendance. The show originated in Highlanes Gallery Drogheda, and it is curated by Dr. Fionna Barber and Aoife Ruane.
- State of Print (SOP), a joint project with Limerick Printmakers, Cork Printmakers, and Dundee Printmakers continues.
- Continued exhibit of the prints from the Hollander Workshop, New York that were donated to the Permanent Collection by Jim Sheehy, have been extended until the end of March.
- Two workshops were held in LCGA as part of the 'Three Muses' and both teachers and pupils were very engaged in the process. The focus of these workshops is on the Permanent Collection of LCGA.
- Brendan Egan, Shinnors Scholar, continues to leaded workshops with primary school pupils from the neighbourhood including St. Michaels, Limerick Project and The Model. The focus of these workshops is on the contemporary exhibition programme.
- LCGA continued to host the Limerick Art Society, workshops.
- Helium Arts held a midterm workshop aimed at children with long-term illnesses.

- LCGA continues with preparations for the 2020 contemporary exhibition programme, As Kingfishers Catch Fire: animals and Imagination opening in April; Thomas Brezing and Vera Klute (joint show) and Maighread Tobin in the summer, European Investment Bank Exhibitions and EVA International 2020.
- Loan of artwork Mushroom Book, by John Cage, Lois Long and Alexander H. Smyth from LCGA's Permanent Collection for exhibit at Somerset House Gallery, London, United Kingdom. The work is due to be returned in May 2020.
- Loan of recently acquired artwork by Niamh Schmidtke to GOMA, Gallery of Modern Art, Waterford.

LIMERICK MUSEUM

- "I am not Worthy", an exhibition by award-winning Irish artist Bernadette Doolan, opened in Limerick Museum and continued for the entire month. It featured works that capture the child within each adult and explored childhood sentiment.
- As part of the 'Three Muses' programme, a joint schools programme led by The Hunt Museum, Limerick Museum and Limerick City Gallery of Art, Limerick Museum hosted three very successful workshops facilitated by Adam Stoneman, Public Engagement Co-Ordinator of the 'Three Muses'.
- The Museum welcomed pupils from Scoil Mháthair Dé Primary School on 6 February, St Vincent's Special School on 10 February and Bohermore National School on 28 February.

Housing Development Directorate

1. Strategic Housing Development

- Housing Staff attended a Leasing forum that was organised by the Housing Agency on 18 February. This session covered:
  - Part V Leasing and Long-Term Leasing
  - Compliance
  - Surveys – List of Works
  - HAP to Lease Properties
  - Populating Agreements
- A Housing and Disability Strategy Committee meeting was held on 19 February. This involves collaboration from over 10 service providers and Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) in Limerick City and County.
- The key objective of the Housing and Disability Strategy Committee is to facilitate a uniformity of approach in implementing housing policies for people with a disability at local level.
- Key work programme items for 2020 include:
  - Disability Census – Collate a list of locations in the city and county where service provider clients wish to live and match pipeline supply of Limerick City and County Council at the earliest stage to locations and clients, allowing for specific design requirements – e.g. community dwellings.
  - Policy – Develop and provide guidance on issues relating to housing for people with a disability, document and share good practice. Fingal County Council's 10 points for a Lifetime Adaptable Home issued to the group as a useful reference. Opportunity for group input into additional points for specific disability types to create Limerick's version for distribution.

Single Point of Contact (SPOC)

- New process for a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) in Limerick City and County Council was launched. This is to deal with all refurbishments.
- Category of Works include:
  - Category 1 – less than 4 weeks; Internal works and surfaces.
  - Category 2 – less than 8 weeks; Minor refurbishment e.g. kitchen/bathroom/heating upgrades.
  - Category 3 – less than 20 weeks; Deep retrofit e.g. wall insulation, windows, mechanical and engineering.
- Advantages anticipated include:
  - Definitive timelines.
  - Standardisation of specification, finishes, and design.
  - Cost certainty.
  - Improved transparency and accountability.

New Process

1. Notification to SPOC
2. Inspection and Categorisation
3. Allocations team review of need
4. Construction Process
5. Final sign off and keys

Irish Planning Institute (IPI) National Planning Awards

- Limerick City and County Council was named as the overall winner at the National Irish Planning Institute (IPI) Planning Awards for 'LGC – A Strategy for Compact Growth'. This strategy was delivered collaboratively by both the Economic Development Directorate and the Housing Development Directorate. LGC was also the winner under the Management and Delivery category as well as being highly commended in the Participation and Engagement category.

The Home and Social Development Strategic

Committee meeting was held on the 24 February. The key issues discussed at this meeting were:

- Homeless Policy
- SPOC
- Newly proposed Housing Newsletter

2. Regeneration Strategy Implementation

IMPLEMENTATION

Southill Hub

- Running "Eco Friendly Garden" workshops in the Community Garden.
- Young people participated in Aerial Dance workshops in conjunction with Creative Youth Partnership.
- Ran a storytelling programme for young people in conjunction with Narrative 4 and Learning Hub Limerick.
- Hoolie in the Hub (Country and Western night) fundraiser by community members for 'Share a Dream' was held and supported by the Southill Hub. It was well attended and over €1,300 was raised.
- Community education classes running (Decoupage, Fitness to Music).

The Bays Training Centre Moyross

- The work of the Employment and Training programme through Limerick City and County Council was recognised recently at the All-Ireland Community and Council Awards 2020 receiving two silver awards, one for 'Best Education/Training Initiative' and the second for 'Best Community Based Initiative'.
- Currently on week seven of a twelve week programme with 13 out of the initial 16 participants still engaged. The practical elements of the course have commenced after Safepass and Manual Handling modules were delivered on site.
- There is now a second instructor on board three days a week delivering a QQI accredited woodwork module. The group have a number of concreting projects done and commenced a blockwork module this week with a brickwork module to follow.

St Mary's AID

- St Mary's AID is progressing the merge of the Meals Delivery Service and the Community Café catering kitchens at present into the Kings Island Community Centre as part of its ongoing effort to strengthen the long-term sustainability of these projects. Two internal job vacancies for the catering project have been filled, Head Chef and Sous Chef. We are delighted to congratulate Deirdre Barry in being offered the role of Head Chef and she will be supported by Robert Malec who has been offered the role of Sous Chef.
- The King's Island Community Centre is now advertising for hire to community groups, organisations, agencies, and corporate.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Luimnigh
Limerick City & County Council

Service Operations Directorate

1. Housing Support Services

• Waiting List

Housing Waiting List	2,818

• Allocations

	No. of Units February	Year to Date
Metropolitan District	14	57
Newcastle West	5	11
Adare – Rathkeale	0	0
Cappamore – Kilmallock	1	5
Total	**20**	**73**

• Allocation Refusals

	No. of Units February	Year to Date
Metropolitan District	2	7
Newcastle West	1	3
Adare – Rathkeale	0	0
Cappamore – Kilmallock	0	0
Total	**3**	**10**

• Traveller Housing Welfare

No. of Units offered February	Year to Date
1*	3*

*these figures are included in Allocations figures
Two Traveller Clinics held – 35 Clients seen.

• Housing Assistance Payments Limerick (HAP)

2,320 of active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

HAP tenancies set up this month	36
Amendments	148
Cessations	45

HOME IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

February 2020	MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HAG (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	No.	DPG	No.
Rathkeale	€15,998.24	3	€34,750.00	2	€9,861.00	3	0.00	0
Newcastle West	€10,800.00	2	€0.00	0	€40,225.00	10	0.00	0
Metropolitan	€39,030.45	8	€14,655.52	3	€11,000.00	7	€32,154.27	1*
Kilmallock	€0.00	0	€0.00	0	€0.00	0	€8,800.01	1
Total	€65,828.69	13	€49,405.52	5	€61,086.90	20	€40,954.28	2
Total Monies issued in February 2020 = €217,275.39								
Total Grants issued in February 2020 = 40								

* Part payment for extension works

January to February 2020	MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HAG (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	No.	DPG	No.
Rathkeale	€26,798.24	5	€47,872.04	4	€32,572.95	8	0.00	0
Newcastle West	€30,742.59	6	€7,290.00	2	€45,813.38	13	0.00	0
Metropolitan	€46,007.54	9	€35,160.77	5	€12,211.50	8	€32,516.47	3
Kilmallock	€16,200.00	3	€15,000.00	1	€21,861.63	6	€8,800.00	1
Total	€119,748.07	23	€105,322.81	12	€112,459.46	35	€41,316.48	4
Total Monies issued in February 2020 = €378,846.82								
Total Grants issued in February 2020 = 75								

LIMERICK HOMELESS ACTION TEAM – PATHWAY ACCOMMODATION AND SUPPORT SYSTEM (PASS) DATA

Individuals – 28 February 2020		
Location	Description	No.
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	30
St. Patrick's Hostel	Higher threshold accommodation for single males	44
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	24
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	6
Temporary Emergency Provision TEP 1 (Edenvilla)	Low threshold, night by night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	11
TEP 2 (Phoenix Lodge)	Low threshold, night by night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	16
Total		**131**

Families			
Location	Description	No. Adults	No. Children
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	5	9
		Families - 5	
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	54	71
		Families - 45	
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	13	16
		Families - 10	
Totals		Adults	Children
		72	96
		Families - 60	

2. Planning & Environmental Services

A total of 99 new planning applications were received as follows:

Domestic Developments	59
Agricultural Developments	11
Commercial Developments/Change of Use	10
Sporting/Community & Educational Developments	6
Other Developments	13

The current applications include proposals for:

- Permission for the construction of a new two storey nursing home building consisting of 82 bedrooms at Baunacloka, Mungret.
- Permission for the construction of six new storage warehouses located in two separate buildings at Craggs, Barrigone, Askeaton.

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

- 345 complaints were received in February 2020.
- 356 inspections were undertaken during the month.
- The Department issued 13 Statutory Notices.
- The Department served 13 Directions.
- 36 Warning Letters were issued in February.
- 30 litter fines were issued during the period.
- Two Fixed Penalty Notices were issued (€500 per fine).

Planning Applications

Legal proceedings were initiated in eight cases.

3. Veterinary Services

- 22 stray or wandering equines were impounded.
- The Dog Control Unit dealt with 21 dogs.
- 19 food samples were submitted during February for analysis under the National Residues and Microbiological Sampling Programme.
- A targeted dog licence compliance campaign continues to be operated.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Luimnigh
Limerick City & County Council

Capital Investment Directorate

1. Design & Delivery

Finance

- Recoupments submitted for Housing schemes in February - €2,529,441
- Recoupments paid in February - €359,374

Part 8

- Part 8 approved for Ballygrennan landscape Fill Area.
- Part 8 approved for 39 social and affordable sites development comprising 39 units at Deerpark, Adare.

Approvals sought/obtained

- Stage 1 approval for Pallaskenry (16 units).

Tenders

- Contract awarded for construction of 20 houses at Glenview, Hospital.
- Contract awarded for construction of 43 homes at Old Christians Site, Rathbane.
- Contract awarded for construction of two homes at Cliona Park, Moyross.

Construction

- Contractor onsite at Kings Island Playground

Home Improvement Schemes

Inspections & Recommendations for Home Improvement Schemes – February 2020

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-Inspection	Final Inspection	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	1	2	6	9
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	5	1	5	3	14
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	17	0	8	25
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	5	19	7	17	48

Buy and Renew and SHIP Refurbishment programme

Inspections Carried out	Refurbishment works Commenced	Refurbishment works Ongoing	Refurbishment works Completed
1	2	10	0

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

National and Regional Shared Services Directorate

1. Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Shared Services Centre

- There were 53,570 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAPSSC at the end of February.
- A weekly average of 291 HAP tenancies have been set-up during 2020.
- The February landlord payment run was over €44.5 million.
- The weekly tenant debit at the end of February was over €2.6 million.
- The HAP SSC Debt Management Unit issued 4,942 differential rent arrears letters to HAP recipients in February.
- The HAPSSC Debt Management Unit collected a total of €22 million in differential rent to end of February.
- The HAP Tenant rent collection rate at the end of February was 98%.

2. Fire & Emergency Services Statistics

	Fire Related Calls	Non Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call outs 01/02/20 – 29/02/20	51	68	119
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	68%	59%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	29%	36%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	3%	5%	

	Received / Assigned	Validated	Invalidated / Refused	Granted	Completed
Fire Certificate Applications	10	10	0	7	
Disability Access Cert Applications	10	9	0	8	
Licensing Applications	7	7	0		
Commencement Notice	52	42	5	42	49
Completion Certificate	20	15			15
Planning Referrals	13				7
Sugar CRM Cases	4				2
Building Control Management System (BCMS) On-Line Queries	19				

Fire & Emergency Training Events

- Nine fire fighters received Compartment Fire Behaviour Training in Hackettstown, Co. Carlow.
- Block Training commenced in Limerick City Fire Station on 24 February. This will be the first of five weeks of training. The disciplines being covered in this training are:
  - Working at Heights
  - Compartment Fire Behaviour Training
  - Use of Lifts for the Fire Service
  - Methods of Entry
- Two new fire fighter recruits who will be stationed in Cappamore Fire Station, began their three-week Firefighting
- Skills Course in Nenagh Fire Station on 24 February
- Three fire fighters were trained to the Emergency Services Driving Standard (ESDS)
- 12 transition year students from around Limerick, are undergoing a one-week course for fire service awareness in Rathkeale Fire Station.
- Two officers attended a Hydra – Incident Command Course in Clonmel Fire Station.
- Fire Fighters participated in the DIY SOS Big Build Limerick which was run over 12 days.

Civil Defence attendance at Events

- DIY SOS Big Build Limerick which was run over 12 days.
- On call for flooding.

Water Safety

Number of lifebuoy replacements	January	February	Total 2020
Metropolitan District	1	0	1
Municipal Area	1	0	1

Munster Regional Control Centre (MRCC)

	Calls mobilised to an emergency incident by MRCC	Other Calls	Average Call Processing Time	Total calls in February
No. of call outs 01/02/2020 – 29/02/2020	726	1,072	1 minute 17 seconds	1,798

3. Digital Services

- On 27 February, Digital Services attended a planning workshop on Advanced Manufacturing in Urban Settings, held at the Innovation Value Institute in Maynooth University. Advanced urban manufacturing can be viewed as the intersection between smart cities and data driven manufacturing. By leveraging digital technologies, regions (and urban settings) can support economic growth, leading transformation to a more sustainable growth model.
- The LITe Programme was rolled out to the Design and Delivery department in February. The LITe team is currently working on moving Physical Strategy and Environmental Strategy over to Sharepoint Online this month.

EU Programmes

- From 6-7 February we hosted the URBACT "Find Your Greatness" Phase 1 final meeting here in Limerick. Representatives came from the cities of Alba Iulia (Romania), Võru (Estonia), Wroclaw (Poland), Candelaria (Spain), Budafok (Hungary), Perugia (Italy), and Bragança (Portugal) as well as our Lead Expert Janez Sirse, and Nuala Morgan the Head of Capitalisation and Communication at URBACT. Over the two days, we worked together on our Phase 2 application. We also managed to learn all about that great Limerick innovation: the Irish Coffee, courtesy of the Foynes Flying Boat & Maritime Museum. At the dinner on 6 February, we were joined by a surprise guest Leo Varakkar.
- On 17 February, Limerick City and County Council hosted a meeting between the University of Limerick and some Irish stakeholders in preparation for GoGreen Routes. The H2020 project is due to kick off in June this year, until then there is an intense phase of preparation.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Luimnigh
Limerick City & County Council

Support Services Directorate

1. Finance Services Rent Collection

Rent Collection Limerick City and County Council

Opening Balance @ 01/01/2020	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing balance 29/02/2019	% Collection
€4,599,470	€2,484,514	€7,083,984	€2,645,293	€4,438,691	37%

Commercial Rates and Loans

Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2020	Opening Balance 1 Jan €	Accruals €	Vacant Property Adjustment €	Writes offs / Waivers €	Total for Collection €	Amount Collected €	Arrears €	Specific Doubtful Arrears €	% Collected
As at 29th February 2020*	9,758,166*	59,748,946**	45,209	123,288	69,338,615	4,206,871	65,131,744	2,629,913	6%

** The Date for Making the 2020 Rate was 3rd February 2020

* subject to finalisation of year end accounts for 2019

Debtors Loans	Opening Balance 1 Jan €	Accruals €	Writes offs / Waivers €	To Collect €	Receipts €	Arrears €	% Collected
As at 29th February 2020*	433,858	147,764	13	581,609	304,885	276,724	52%

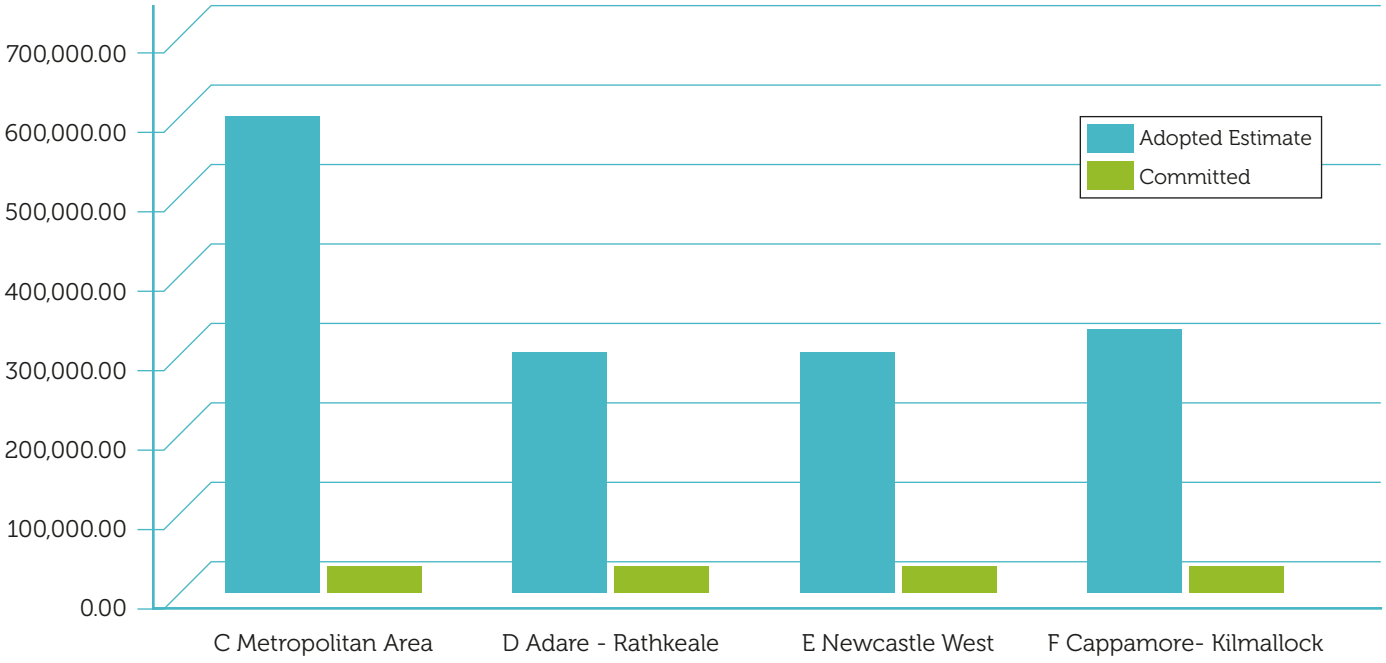
* subject to finalisation of year end accounts for 2019

Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No of days in overdraft 0

General Municipal Allocation 2020 Adopted Estimate €1.403 Million

Graph outlining adopted budget and draft committed expenditure up to 29th February 2020



Municip (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate (€)	Value Committed (€)
C Metropolitian Area	568,000.00	0
D Adare - Rathkeale	270,000.00	0
E Newcastle West	270,000.00	0
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	295,000.00	0

2. Corporate Services, Governance & Customer Services

Corporate Services

Special Meeting of Limerick City and County Council

A Special Meeting of Limerick City and County Council was held on 25 February to fill two casual vacancies on the Council arising from the election of Councillor's Brian Leddin (GP) and Richard O'Donoghue (NP) to Dáil Éireann at the 2020 General Election.

Councillor Saša Novak Uí Chonchúir (GP) arising from Brian Leddin's election and Councillor John O'Donoghue (NP) was co-opted to the Council to fill the casual vacancy arising from the election of his brother, Richard O'Donoghue.

Joint Policing Committee

A Meeting of the Joint Policing Committee was held in the Council Chamber, Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay, on 21 February. The following are the matters/presentations dealt with at the meeting:

- Update on Crime data.
- Presentation on Limerick Policing Plan 2020.
- Presentation by Detective Garda Declan O'Halloran, Divisional Drugs Unit.
- Presentation by Grace Sheahan, Garda Staff, on the Role of The Community Policing Co-Ordinator.
- Presentation by Mr. Seamus Hayes, Housing Services Officer, on Community Sustainment/ Estate Management.
- Update on new Community policing minibus.

Civic Reception

A Civic Reception was held in Istabraq Hall, Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay, on 28 February for the following:

- Sr. Phyllis Donnellon in recognition of her many years of commitment as a Little Company of Mary Sister in caring for the sick and their families and her ongoing support in providing person-focused care throughout the Mid-West.
- Celia Holman Lee for her contribution to the Irish Fashion Industry for over five decades, as the founder of Ireland's longest running modelling agency based in her beloved Limerick and to especially mark her major achievement as one of Ireland's top fashion icon.

Mayoral Receptions

Mayoral Receptions were held for the following:

- Celebrate the publication of new Limerick Hurling book '20/20 Vision – Hurling and Limerick.
- Jerry Cronin, in gratitude and recognition of his tremendous achievements and contribution to the development of soccer in Newcastle West over many years.
- Geiptine Singers, in recognition of their achievement in bringing beautiful singing to local, national and international venues, concerts and churches.
- Michael Mulcair, in appreciation of his commitment to the sporting fabric of Askeaton over many decades, being a founder member of Askeaton AFC in 1953 and Askeaton Swimming Club in 1959.

The Mayor hosted the following in Corporate Headquarters:

- Courtesy visit of Norwegian Ambassador.

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

- Limerick Boat Club, Sesquicentennial Celebration Dinner Dance, Celebrating 150 Years (1870-2020).
- Charity Limerick Business Breakfast, Supporting Peter McVerry Trust, in association with Pat McDonagh and Michael O'Dwyer.
- Nicholas Street Painting Project in King John's Castle.
- Welcome Address to a group of European Union Project Partners for URBACT project 'Find Your Greatness'.
- 'Putting Your House in Order' hosted by Age Friendly Limerick.

- Open Public Meeting at Annual Convention for Alcoholics Anonymous.
- Annual Dinner of Insurance Institute of Limerick.
- Visit to Askeaton Youth Club.
- Annual Tidy Towns Seminar.
- 'Joining the Dots' workshop and plenary event. 'Joining the Dots', a British Embassy led programme focused on promoting and generating economic links and opportunities between the United Kingdom and Ireland.
- Local Authority Members Association (LAMA) Awards in Dublin.
- Saint Mary's Cathedral Community Awards Service.
- School Visit to Askeaton Junior and Senior National School.
- Launch of Munster Roadshow for the Social Enterprise Development Fund in Istabraq Hall.
- Limerick Literary Festival, in honour of Kate O'Brien. Talk by Kathy Rose O'Brien at The Captains Room, Hunt Museum.
- Lunch at Mary Immaculate College to welcome visiting United States Guidance Counsellors exploring study abroad destinations and to showcase the College.
- Photo Call with staff from Aura, Grove Island Leisure Centre, Corbally Road, Limerick - 'Top Places to Work' in Ireland ranking.
- Limerick Person of the Year Gala Awards Lunch.
- Reception to celebrate the Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, Oakfield, 23, Brighton Road, Foxrock, Dublin 18.
- Irish Planning Awards Gala Dinner, 'LGC - A Strategy for Compact Growth' has been shortlisted in three categories: Participation and Engagement, Planning and Economic Development and Management and Delivery, Westin Hotel, College. Green, Westmoreland Street, Dublin 2
- Visit to St. Nicholas' National School, Adare, Co. Limerick for Prize-Giving Day.
- Reception and exhibition opening of 'Material World' by Moss Gaynor at Bourn Vincent Gallery, Foundation Building, University of Limerick.
- Book Launch 'Against the Odds', a history of the foundation of the Salesian Sisters in Ireland, Conradh na Gaeilge (Halla Ide), 18, Thomas Street, Limerick.

Travel Abroad

- Brand Limerick Event in New York on 13 February.

Health and Safety Training

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

Name of Course	Total No. of Staff Trained
Chainsaw Refresher Training	4
Chainsaw New Entrants	4
Drivers CPC	11
Manual Handling	29
Safe pass	10
First Aid Refresher	16
Total	**74**

Register of Electors

- A General Election was held on 8 February. Corporate Services Staff provided a telephone helpline to the Polling Stations and to members of the public on Polling day.
- Corporate Services published the Live Register of electors 2020/2021 on 15 February.
- A total of 150,468 people are now on the Live Register.

Registration Event

Limerick City and County Council hosted a registration event in Corporate Headquarters in Merchant's Quay in conjunction with An Garda Síochána to make it easier for people to get on the Supplementary Register and register to vote in the General Election. In excess of 300 applications were proposed at this event and feedback from the public was extremely positive.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Customer Services

- Customer Services staff aided the Digital Services Department with a "SugarCRM Mobile app Workshop", with users involving the update of the SugarCRM (Customer Relationship Management) mobile app and a refresher course of the app usage. The mobile app aids users, who are primarily out of the office, to view, edit, update and resolve their open cases on SugarCRM, streamlining their workload and ensuring that cases are dealt with in a more efficient manner.
- Further improvements were carried out on the 'My Limerick' platform allowing enhanced searching and filtering of cases on the system. Further systems were also put in place with the Elected Members to allow easier access to Limerick City and County Councils Call Centre.
- In February, there were 268 cases logged through the 'My Limerick' platform. Public representatives logged 249 of these cases.
- Customer Services processed 68 Residential Parking Permits throughout February.
- Customer Services also continued to support the Housing Maintenance Department by logging 75% of cases for the Metropolitan area throughout the month of February, as well as logging 72 cases for housing maintenance in the area offices and taking 1,185 phone calls for Housing Maintenance throughout the month.
- Customer Services received 12,279 phone calls via our call centre throughout the month, handling almost 50% calls at first point of contact.
- We received approximately 614 calls per day.
- In February, there were 700 cases logged on behalf of elected representatives by Customer Services.
- 3,169 cases were logged on the SugarCRM system throughout February.
- The majority of cases logged were for the following services;
    - Operations and Maintenance: – 2,420 (56% being housing maintenance)
    - Housing Support Services: 276
    - Planning and Environmental Services: 198
    - Veterinary: 60
    - Customer Services: 45
    - Design & Delivery: 34
- The total number of callers to our counters at Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle was 2,665.

3. Schedule of Meetings for February

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Full Council		
Special Meeting - Casual vacancies on Council and Other Bodies	25.02.2020	Dooradoyle
Joint Policing Sub-Committee		
Municipal District of Newcastle West	05.02.2020	Newcastle West
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	20.02.2020	Kilmallock
Municipal District of		
Newcastle West Monthly Meeting	05.02.2020	Newcastle West
Adare-Rathkeale Monthly Meeting	11.02.2020	Rathkeale
Cappamore-Kilmallock Monthly Meeting	20.02.2020	Kilmallock
Metropolitan District of Limerick Monthly Meeting	17.02.2020	Merchant's Quay
Operational Briefings		
Limerick City East	11.02.2020	Merchant's Quay
Limerick City North	11.02.2020	Merchant's Quay
Limerick City West	11.02.2020	Merchant's Quay
Strategic Policy Committee Meetings		
Community, Leisure and Culture	03.02.2020	Merchant's Quay
Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment	11.02.2020	Dooradoyle
Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning	17.02.2020	Merchant's Quay
Travel and Transportation	18.02.2020	Merchant's Quay
Home and Social Development	24.02.2020	Dooradoyle
Inaugural Steering Group Meeting of the Proposed Limerick City and County Development Plan 2022-2028	17.02.2020	Merchant's Quay
Implementation Advisory Group on the Establishment of a Directly Elected Mayor with Executive Functions for Limerick	19.02.2020	Merchant's Quay
Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS) – presentation and discussion	21.02.2020	Merchant's Quay
Joint Policing Committee	21.02.2020	Merchant's Quay

4. Access to Information

	February	Total 2020
Total Freedom of Information Requests	18	32
FOI Internal Appeals	1	1
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	0
Total Ombudsman Requests	5	8
Total AIE Requests	0	0

5. Business Improvement

- Business Improvement launched a public survey on MyPoint at the request of Digital Services and CityxChange. The survey was designed to seek innovative plans to transform Limerick's Georgian laneways.
- MyPoint was used to publish a notice on behalf of the Mid West National Road Design Office and An Bord Pleanála. The notice pertained to the compulsory purchase of land for the N20 O'Rourke's Cross Road Improvement Scheme.
- Business Improvement chaired the National Local Government Service Improvement Network which was hosted by Director of Service, Liam Bergin in Roscommon County Council. The network provides the opportunity for Local Government staff to share improvements within their Local Authority. Core V28 pilot, managers' orders system, meeting room systems and Procref/ Contracts Database, and lease tracking were among the topics presented at the meeting. An Alfresco site is now live to share information and learnings among the members.