

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

May 2020

WHO Award – Limerick Comhairle receive World Health Organization Award for support of #NotAroundUs Tobacco free campaign

COVID-19 – New Services started and regular ones continue to be provided as part of Limerick's COVID-19 response

CONNECTED – New App rolled out to keep staff informed

GREENWAY - €5 million investment in Limerick's Greenway

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Economic Development Directorate

1. Trade and Investment

- Regeneron has announced that it has reached a milestone of 1,000 employees at its Industrial Operations and Product Supply facility in Raheen. It is currently recruiting 60 new positions, with construction ongoing for a new laboratory and office building. It plans to increase the number of medicines manufactured at its Limerick facility in order to ramp up production of its COVID-19 drug treatment in the US.
- Hybrid Technology Partners, a technology solutions provider based in Mungret Street, announced a partnership with Priority Software, which will create 75 new jobs over the next three years. They will provide fully integrated Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software solutions, both cloud-based and on premises. It is used across a wide range of industries from manufacturing and wholesale distribution to Biomedical and the wider healthcare industries.
- A National Accounting Technician Apprenticeship Programme will create 20 jobs in Limerick. The apprenticeship is a two-year funded work-based learning programme with Limerick College of Further Education and successful graduates will gain a QQI Level 6 Award in Accountancy.
- Aldi has unveiled plans to open a flagship store beside the Eir Exchange in Roches Street, comprising 1,250 square metres of retail space and 85 new car-parking spaces, subject to planning. The development will create 25 permanent jobs and 100 construction jobs.
- Lidl has announced that they will be submitting a planning application for a new store at the former National Rusk Factory at the junction of the Dock Road and St. Alphonsus Street.

2. Strategic and Forward Planning

- Four applications were made to the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund – Call 2, for City Centre proposals.

- A submission was made on the Draft "Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000 in Ireland," to the Local Government Management Agency.

3. Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

LEO continued to organise and process supports during May 2020 to assist towards Business Continuity and Sustainability for the Small and Micro Business Sector in Limerick.

- Business Continuity Voucher Applications closed on 15 May. These Vouchers help provide business owners with expert consultancy up to the value of €2,500 towards enabling business continuity through this period of crisis.
- A total of 699 Business Continuity Voucher Applications were received in LEO Limerick since mid-March, with 350 approved to date.
- In May, 33 Trading Online Vouchers (up to the value of €2,500) were approved to assist Businesses with up to 10 employees trade online.
- Five Microfinance Loans processed.
- Seven Virtual Mentoring Assignments approved.
- Four Business Expansion Grant Applications brought to Evaluation, resulting in 2 approvals.

The Training Programme for LEO Limerick throughout the month of May focused very much on supporting sustainability for the Owners of Small and Micro Businesses through COVID-19 in Limerick City and County



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The series of free online Training Programmes for Businesses continued into the month and included:

- Webinars such as - Instagram for Business, Trading Online Voucher information, How to Run Facebook Ad Campaigns, Search Engine Optimisation, Practical Digital Marketing Skills, How to Create Marketing Videos on a Budget and Selling Online.
- 4-week Online Social Media Bootcamp Programme.
- Six Session Start Your Own Business Online Programme held over three weeks.
- One Day Start Your Own Business Webinar
- How to Manage a Retail Business during Uncertain Economic Times – 2 Day Online Workshop.
- Financial Planning Webinar.
- H.R. and Employer Responsibilities Webinar.

The National Student Enterprise Awards took place Online for the first time ever on 27 May. Limerick Students had National success at this event, which is the largest celebration of Secondary School Entrepreneurs, with all four Limerick Finalists featured in the results as follows:

- Agrimech from Villiers Secondary School, Limerick, won the 'Most Commercial Potential' Award in the Senior Category.
- Comestibles from Coláiste Chiaráin in Croom won the 'Most Commercial Potential' Award in the Intermediate Category.
- 'EZ Tie Close' from Desmond College, Newcastle West, won the 'Special Merit' Award in the Junior Category.
- Jack Fitzgerald from Castletroy College, Limerick, won Second Place in the My Entrepreneurial Journey Competition.

4. Marketing and Communications

Marketing

Brand Limerick

- Engaged with representatives from Limerick's Third Level institutions to work towards ensuring that Limerick remains an attractive prospect for students looking to continue their education in a post-COVID-19 landscape.
- Commenced preparations for the 'unlocking' of the Tourism and Hospitality Industry in order to stimulate domestic tourism and position Limerick as a domestic holiday and leisure tourism destination.

Limerick Business Revival and Survival - Shop Limerick

- Continued Shop Limerick marketing campaign, in partnership with the LEO Limerick and Limerick Chamber, to support local businesses and increase retail activity in Limerick following the COVID-19 shutdown.
- Limerick.ie/Shop now features 213 Limerick-based stores.
- 27,581 people visited Shop Limerick in May 2020, making it the most popular page on Limerick.ie
- A free toolkit was issued to all businesses registered on Shop Limerick containing a shop window decal and links to marketing assets, including a social media profile frame and social media animation.
- Letters were delivered to 50,500 addresses across Limerick asking householders to support their local community and shop local. The letters included a Shop Limerick, Save Livelihoods graphic for children to colour in and display in their window as a thank you to all our frontline workers.



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- Key Influencers, all with strong social media profiles, have been engaged to showcase their online purchases through Shop Limerick | @celiaholmanlee; @meghannscully; @louise_cantillon and @chloemarkhamstylist

Riverfest Limerick 2020

- Limerick was centre stage during the May bank holiday weekend, as a targeted social and digital campaign brought Riverfest Limerick to international audiences.
- Hosted Virtual Riverfest Limerick through Riverfest social media channels Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.
- Virtual Events - Fashion Friday with Celia Holman Lee, BBQ Demo with Fire-Fighting Chef Paul Knapp, and Hermitage Green gig streamed live from Dolans Limerick - reached 461,871 people. There were 7,713-page views on Riverfest.ie with the virtual events reaching 79,070 video views to date.

Limerick Student City

- Developed existing Limerick Student City branding to align with and reinforce Brand Limerick.
- Commenced development of a social campaign for rollout ahead of the CAO change of mind deadline on 1 July.
- Supplied Brand Limerick merchandise for packs distributed to households as part of Limerick Community Care Connect Initiative (Limerick COVID-19 Community Response Programme).

Social Media

- Continued to monitor, schedule and update social media channels with creative content to utilise our engagement with the public and put Limerick in people's minds.

- Engaged with, and participated in, a number of national and local COVID-19 related social media campaigns, including promotion of the Limerick COVID-19 Community Helpline, #InThisTogether campaign, #LetsPlayIreland campaign, #HoldFirm campaign, #MidWestTogether campaign, the Restart Grant, and followed and shared daily updates from HSE Twitter.

- Posted 62 times on Limerick.ie's Facebook with followers now 27,799. Posts reached 494,910 users with 95,811 engagements.

- Tweeted 53 times on Limerick.ie's Twitter, @limerick_ie, with total followers now 18,318. Our tweets earned 576,200 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).

- Posted nine times on Limerick.ie's Instagram and created 20 Stories with total followers now 11,317.

- Posted 11 times on Limerick City and County Council's LinkedIn with total followers now 4,970.

- Limerick Table Quiz – created and posted four Limerick themed quizzes to Limerick.ie Instagram to encourage public engagement during COVID-19. Topics included the Great Outdoors, Limerick Libraries and Literature, The Hunt Museum, and Famous Limerick Faces.

Limerick.ie

A total of 115,259 people visited the Limerick.ie website in May 2020, a 26% decrease on the same period in 2019.

Online form created to allow businesses to apply for the Business Restart Grant through Limerick.ie. The form had 736 submissions in May.

Content Report: 65 articles, 74 events and 77 amenities were added to Limerick.ie in May 2020.

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The most popular pages on Limerick.ie in May 2020 were:

1. www.limerick.ie/shop
2. www.limerick.ie/form/business-restart-application
3. www.limerick.ie
4. www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning
5. www.limerick.ie/council

16% of Website pageviews were in Discover Section and 30% of pageviews were in the Council Section.

Communications

- Issued 27 News Releases from the Marketing and Communications Department.
- Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter.
- Tweeted 176 times on Limerick City and County Council's Twitter account, @limerickcouncil, with total followers now 14,608. Our tweets earned 446,300 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).
- Commenced preparations for participation in #YourCouncilDay on 1 July – the national social media Initiative promoting the services provided by local authorities, with a focus on innovation during COVID-19.

5. Urban Innovation

- **Irish Green Building Council Conference 'Regeneration: Recreating Liveable Zero Carbon Cities'**

On 15 May, Rosie Webb, Head of Urban Innovation, represented Limerick City and County Council and the +CityxChange Horizon 2020 Project at the Irish Green Building Council online Conference 'Regeneration: Recreating Liveable Zero Carbon Cities.' She presented an overview of the Council's efforts to develop a net positive energy district in Limerick's historic City Centre core. The Conference focused specifically on the role of regeneration in creating healthy, climate resilient, carbon positive places. This event marks the beginning of explorations to align the +CityxChange project with the IGBC H2020 project 'Build Upon 2" which supports local authorities in developing and implementing ambitious renovation strategies and to commit to a highly efficient and decarbonised building stock by 2050.

- **Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) Bid**

The Urban Innovation Department co-ordinated and prepared one of the applications for Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) that was submitted on 28 May. The Living Limerick City Centre Proposal is an integrated Urban Regeneration Programme that addresses housing, employment, and place-making that are underpinned by wide public engagement and trialing of potential solutions to support the objective of creating a living, viable and vibrant City Centre.



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6. Innovate Limerick

- The first online Prosper Limerick held on 7 May was a great success. The online event was hosted by Mairead Holland, Digital Collaboration Manager of Innovate Limerick, and in conjunction with The Guinness Enterprise Centre.

Three Companies pitched on the day - Sean Brady, Co-founder of Limerick-based Team Assist, Leah Morgan, Happen Operations Manager (a network of Mid West Co-Work Spaces which will allow you to work from an e-hub in Limerick and across the Mid West), and Joe Brooks inspired us and really got the conversation going about the new Limerick initiative, Lean on Me.
- The Tender for the E-Hub Upgrade Works at The Old Bank Building, Abbeyfeale, has now been received by the architects and the tender will be awarded in the coming weeks.
- Innovate Limerick, through Film in Limerick, held the following online events:
 - a Webinar for local Filmmakers on funding Short Films and First Feature Films. The panellists included: Andrew Byrne, Virgin Media Television; David Crean, RTE; Philip Cooper, Broadcast Authority of Ireland; and Pippa Little, Limerick City and County Council. The event was moderated by local Film Producer, Gemma O'Shaughnesy, and supported by the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.
 - a free online event for local budding Film Editors delivered by local experienced Editor, Simon McGuire. The event titled 'To cut a long story short' explored Simon's process and the craft of editing, as well as the tools he uses to create stories. The session also focused on work opportunities for Editors in Ireland and further training possibilities available. The event was supported by the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.
 - a free online event on Sound in Film, with award-winning Sound Designer, Rui Silva. The event looked at the core concepts behind both technical and creative approaches to sound for film. The event was supported by the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.
 - a free online Masterclass with OSCAR nominated and Emmy-award winning Director, Guy Davidi, on directing Documentary Films. Davidi presented a case study on his award-winning feature '5 Broken Cameras,' sharing his journey and insights in developing and filming documentary stories and giving tips on how to develop a career in Documentary Filmmaking. The event was supported by the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT****Physical Development Directorate****1. Travel and Transportation Strategy****Tenders for the development of a Management Plan for the Westfields Wetlands**

The deadline for receipt of tenders for this Request for Tenders was 19 May 2020. Two tenders were received by the deadline, and they are currently being evaluated. It is hoped to appoint a consultant in June.

2. Environment Strategy

- Limerick City and County Council hosted its first European Green Leaf Webinar on 28 May called "Gardening for Biodiversity" presented by Juanita Brown of the National Biodiversity Data Centre. This Webinar has been uploaded to the newly created EGLA Limerick YouTube channel and further Webinars have been scheduled for the remainder of the year.
- Launched "What's The Buzz," an exciting e-learning module on how to identify, record and monitor common Irish Bumblebees. The course was developed by Liz Gabbett, in collaboration with the National Biodiversity Data Centre, and supported by Limerick City and County Council through its European Green Leaf Award Programme.
- 'Removal of Giant Hogweed from the River Loobagh' project saw isolated plants dug out, pre-flowering heads removed and roots dug out.
- The Mague Rivers Trust has appointed a Project Officer with funding received from the Irish Rivers Trust Resilience Pilot Project. The Resilience Pilot Project provided funding to only two Rivers Trusts Organisations, one of which was the Mague Rivers Trust, to employ a Project Officer for a period of three years.





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Community Development Directorate

1. Tourism, Culture & Arts

TOURISM

Major €5 million Investment for Great Southern Greenway Limerick

Limerick City and County Council has announced that a €5 million investment programme on the Great Southern Greenway is to begin in June. The multi-million contract has been awarded to Roadbridge for a total upgrade of the surface of the Greenway. On completion, the entire 40km route from Rathkeale to the Kerry Border near Abbeyfeale will be a three-metre wide macadam surface. The route along the old Great Southern rail line connects the three market towns of Rathkeale, Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale and is one of the hidden tourist gems in the west. This development will bring the route to the highest standards and on par with many of the most popular Greenways in the country, including the award-winning Greenway in Waterford.

The project is being funded by Limerick City and County Council (€3.4m) and the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (€1.6m). The work will be completed by June 2021. An extension to the Greenway from the Limerick/Kerry border near Abbeyfeale to Listowel is expected to be finished by Kerry County Council in the same time period, while a workplan on an extension eastwards from Rathkeale to Limerick is also being developed. In addition to the €5 million investment, a number of other significant advancements are being made. These include:

- **Railway Heritage Property acquisitions completed**

Limerick City and County Council has purchased the old Ardagh and Barnagh Station Houses as part of conservation and promotion plans for the railway heritage associated with the Greenway. Work to stabilise and secure the preservation of these two historic structures will be undertaken this year.

- **Farm Crossings including Coolybrown resolved**
With the agreement of CIE and landowners, the Council will, in the interests of health and safety, construct an 800m diversion of the Greenway around a working farmyard at Coolybrown, Ardagh. No further route diversions are planned along the Greenway. The Council has commenced design work on the small number of cattle underpasses necessary to facilitate other farm crossings along the route.
- **Extensions to the Greenway**
In tandem with this contract, the Council continues to plan for an extended Limerick Greenway and cycle routes. Funding has been sought for a feasibility/options report on extending the Greenway from Rathkeale to Adare, while preliminary designs on identifying a Greenway extension from UL to Montpelier are advancing. Cycle routes off the Greenway to Askeaton, Foynes and Glin will also be developed in the near future. In addition, a contract has been awarded for the supply of signage for the section of the Eurovelo 1 cycle route from Rathkeale to Adare and into the City to connect with Co. Clare. This will be completed by Summer 2020.
- **Marketing and Promotion Plan**
An ambitious Marketing and Promotion Strategy for the Greenway will be devised and implemented over the next 12 months.
- **Business/Community Engagement**
In order to maximise the benefits arising from an enhanced and extended Greenway, engagement with businesses and communities along the route and surrounding areas will be accelerated. Plans for enhanced town trails in Rathkeale, Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale will also be developed.



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OPEN CALLS

- **Individual Arts Bursary Awards Scheme 2020**

Limerick City and County Council announced an Open Call in April for the Individual Arts Bursary Awards Scheme. Limerick City and County Council invites applications from professional artists who wish to be considered for a Bursary of up to €4,000 for the development of work/professional skills. Artists based in Limerick City and County Council's administrative area, or operating substantially within Limerick City and County, can apply for a Bursary in multiple art forms, including Visual Arts, Circus, Dance and Literature. The closing date for applications is 5pm on Wednesday 3 June 2020.

- **Dolores O'Riordan Music Bursary Award 2020**

Limerick City and County Council announced an Open Call in April for applications to the Dolores O'Riordan Music Bursary. Limerick City and County Council invites applications from professional musicians who wish to be considered for a Bursary of up to €4,000 for the development of work/professional skills. Artists based in Limerick City and County Council's administrative area, or operating substantially within Limerick City and County, can apply for a Bursary. The closing date for applications is 5pm on Wednesday 3 June 2020.

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

The annual scheme offers grant funding to amateur, community or voluntary groups, or organisations, and individual arts practitioners who stimulate public interest in the arts, promote the knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts or assist in improving the standards of the arts. The closing date for applications was 5pm, Wednesday, 15 April 2020. Fifty-two applications were received. The Assessment Panel met remotely on Tuesday 12 May and assessed all applications.

- **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. In May, two letters of support were issued, for a Creative Europe application and for an Arts Council Next Generation Artists Award.

CREATIVE IRELAND FUNDED PROJECTS

- **Theatre Research and Development Bursary in partnership with the Belltable: Connect 10**

The first stage of the Award is funded through the Belltable's principal funder, the Arts Council, and its partners. This consists of 10 Bursaries of €1,000 each, awarded to local theatre artists to explore new ideas for about five days throughout the month of May at the Belltable, with COVID-19 social distancing guidelines in place.

A second stage of the Belltable: Connect 10 Award will be funded by Creative Ireland and Limerick City and County Council through the Creative Ireland: Made in Limerick Grant 2020. One Bursary of €2,500 for Research and Development will be available for successful Belltable: Connect 10 applicants to apply for. This will be a competitive process, to offer an opportunity to develop work conceptualised during the current Belltable: Connect 10 Bursaries.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT****PARTNERSHIPS**

- **Helium Arts Creative Health Hub**

Helium Arts is keeping creativity and connection alive for children and young people with long-term health conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the beginning of April, Helium's team of artists have been delivering a series of home-based creative activities, downloadable step-by-step instructions, short video demonstrations and live streaming to PenPal collaborations and virtual workshopping. 52 children (aged 6-17 years) are currently taking part in a six-week remote programme "Distance Creates," connecting participants with their own creativity and with peers across the country through collaborative art-making using digital technology and the postal service. 13 children registered on the Distance Creates Programme are resident in Limerick.

- **The Museum of Mythological Water Beasts (#3)**

Limerick Culture and Arts Office secured €75,000 for The Museum of Mythological Water Beasts (#3) Project from The Arts Council funding scheme, An Invitation to Collaborate, with Cavan Arts Office, Clare Arts Office, Tipperary Arts Office and artistic lead, Ormston House. This project delivers a Residency Programme in 2020-2021 in four counties along the River Shannon, connects artists and community groups to create new collaborative artworks and publishes the evaluation results and "Reflections" on residency models, collaborative process and curatorial mapping. A Project Partner meeting took place to review and explore delivering the project in the context of COVID-19.

- **The Bingo Wings Project**

Limerick Culture and Arts Office is the lead partner on this Arts Council funded Invitation to Collaboration, 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. A Project Partner review and completion meeting took place and final reports were submitted to the Arts Council.

EU PROJECTS

- **School of Participation**

School of Participation is a Creative Europe Project that will provide capacity building opportunities for creative practitioners to give them the confidence to work in participatory practice. Limerick is an associate partner. This project is a follow-on project from the 2019 School of Spectacle, and will provide opportunities for Limerick-based creatives to participate in learning schools in Graz, Coventry and Kaunas. Artists will be invited to apply for the opportunity through Open Calls. A Project Partners' meeting took place remotely and Schools will be rescheduled due to COVID-19.

- **Trainart**

TRAINART is a Creative Europe Project designed to implement a capacity building programme for cultural operators to develop new skills and new business models in two specific performing arts sectors: (i) New management models for cultural spaces; and (ii) Live performances/artistic interventions in non-conventional frameworks. TRAINART will organise a blended training programme for cultural operators consisting of 60 online training hours and of 60 onsite training hours through several Training Hotspots to be organised across Europe. A Project Partners' meeting took place remotely. The Limerick Training Hotspot has been rescheduled from May 2020 to Spring 2021 due to COVID-19. Limerick is an associate partner, and four Limerick-based practitioners will have the opportunity to participate in the Training Hotspot in Limerick and MOOC.



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VIRTUAL RIVERFEST

- Not even a global pandemic could stop Riverfest 2020 going ahead - albeit virtually. Limerick Tourism, Culture and Arts Department worked with our colleagues in Marketing and Communications to programme a feast of entertainment over the May Bank Holiday featuring live music, food, and fashion.

The highlight of the programme was a live-streamed performance by Limerick Band, Hermitage Green, at Dolans Warehouse on Saturday night. The performance received an overwhelming response with 79,070 views and over 48,000 engagements. Lead singer, Barry Murphy, thanked all those who tuned in before sending "a massive shout out to Limerick Council and Riverfest organisers who made this possible. Thank you so much for asking us, it's an absolute pleasure."

Other highlights included: a virtual barbecue cook-off in aid of Cliona's Foundation; Limerick's Firefighting Chef; Paul Knapp, also cooked up a storm with some sizzling barbecue recipes for the long weekend, and Celia Holman Lee supported local Limerick retailers with a virtual fashion segment reminding onlookers that they can still purchase from their favourite stores online.

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS GRANT SCHEME 2020-2021

- Limerick City and County Council announced this month the opening of the annual Festivals and Events Grant Scheme. This investment, introduced in 2017, has provided the stimulus to elevate Limerick's Festival and Events offer and has contributed to Limerick's burgeoning reputation as an exciting and dynamic place. The Festivals and Events Sector is also one of the hardest hit by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Therefore, Limerick City and County Council is providing further strategic investment in Festivals and Events in 2020 to the sum of €245,000. This investment by the Council is crucial to providing some certainty for the future so that organisers can start to plan for recovery and rebuild confidence in the sector. The competitive grant scheme offers the opportunity

for funding under three Strands, for Festivals and Events taking place from **1 October 2020** and **30 September 2021**.

The three strands of funding are:

- S1: Delivery and Programming of Small and Community focused Festivals and Events.
- S2: Delivery and Programming of Medium and Large-Scale Festivals and Events.
- S3: Festival Development and Sustainability.

LIMERICK ARTISTS IN SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

- The Limerick Artists in Schools Programme, which is facilitated by AKIlen, is underway in three National Schools in County Limerick. The facilitators have been working with teachers to devise creative solutions and online content so that the programme may continue. As part of this Initiative, each school was contacted in May and provided with an Ilen boat craft-making toolkit, along with a link to the website and further materials. The toolkit is available to all here: <http://www.ilen.ie/boat-craft-competition/>. Hearsay International Audio Festival are also scheduled to take part in the programme later this year and are currently exploring solutions to ensure the programme can take place.

DOLANS LIVE AT THE DRIVE-IN

- Dolans, in association with Limerick City and County Council, have announced that Limerick is to be the first in Ireland to host a series of Drive-In concerts in Limerick this summer. Taking place from 24 July, ticket-holders will watch acts such as Gavin James perform live on stage, with audio fed into their cars via an FM radio frequency. This innovative event, supported under the Festivals Innovation Fund for special purpose events, has been devised as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is one of a number of cultural activations currently being developed to support economic recovery in Limerick in the coming months.



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2. Property & Community Facilities

BIN WAIVERS

Bin Waivers Issued:	10
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RATHBANE GOLF CLUB

- Rathbane Golf Club reopened on 18 May in accordance with Government Guidelines. Rathbane Golf Club is a municipal golf course owned by Limerick City and County Council. The Golf Course is managed by Mack Trading.

Since the reopening of Rathbane Golf Club on 18 May, over 250 new members have joined. This is a significant increase in membership for the Club.

ALL HOUSE PURCHASES - May STATUS				
Category	Balance c/fwd	New Negotiations	Sale Closed	Balance b/fwd
Regeneration	0	0	0	0
Part V	8	4	0	12
SHIP	1	2	0	3
Buy and Renew	12	0	1	11
Derelict / Vacant	0	0	0	0

- In relation to COVID-19 – Property Services has licensed and supported part of the Cleeves Site to the HSE for use as an isolation unit during the pandemic crisis.

3. Urban and Rural Community Development

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

- In May, the funding call for the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, Town and Village Renewal Scheme and CLÁR Programmes was announced. These funding streams will continue the Rural Development Investment Programme, which is funded under Project Ireland 2040, and each scheme will play its role in the social and economic recovery of rural communities over the coming months, following the COVID-19 outbreak. Details in relation to the application process, together with various scheme criteria and all related documentation, will be issued in more detail shortly.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

- Local radio advertising campaign urging people to only use licensed operators to remove their rubbish. Social media promotion of the 'Man with a Van' animation short which reminds us all to only use an operator with a waste collection permit when disposing of waste. The permit number must be shown clearly on the side of their vehicle.
- Facilitated the EcoUnesco "What's So Hot About Climate Change" Virtual Workshop for Comhairle na nÓg as part of Limerick's European Green Leaf City Year.

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

- The May Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) meeting was held on 19 May. This meeting was held virtually via Microsoft Teams due to the restrictions imposed as a result of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. The Local Action Group (LAG) approved funding of €156,084.50 under the LEADER Programme 2014-2020.



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COVID-19 EMERGENCY FUND

- Limerick City and County Council has allocated funding of €88,883 for groups and organisations directly involved in the Community Call Response in Limerick. Over 60 groups received funding for a range of services being provided such as meals on wheels, services for migrants, children, the elderly, services for victims of domestic abuse, travellers and health and wellbeing projects. The funding allocated acknowledges all the hard work that community organisations across Limerick continue to carry out during the COVID-19 pandemic and their contribution towards supporting the people of Limerick.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- Healthy Ireland and Pobal advised that Healthy Ireland funded LCDC programmes of work should be reviewed in light of the Government Roadmap and the likelihood of ongoing physical distancing measures into 2021. This review is currently being undertaken with the different partners in Limerick.
- Limerick City and County Council was represented at two virtual National Healthy Cities and Counties Network Meetings. The theme of the first meeting was around the LCDC's Healthy Ireland funded programmes of work in light of the ongoing public health crisis. The second Meeting was on the built environment and, in particular, the opportunities to re-orient public spaces to improve and protect health.
- Ongoing support for the Not Around Us Initiative – which was developed as part of Limerick LCDC's 2018-2019 programme of work funded by Healthy Ireland – continued this month. #NotAroundUs is a new Initiative to promote an environment where it is easier for those who smoke to quit and stay quit and to help de-normalise smoking for the next generation. #NotAroundUs is run in partnership with a range of organisations, including Limerick City and County Council and the HSE. Not-for-profit Organisations, Early Years Services and Schools can apply free signage for their outdoor spaces. The signage and resources are all downloadable from the dedicated page on limerick.ie. Following a nomination from the

national HSE Tobacco Free Ireland team to the World Health Organisation, and a supporting letter from Limerick City and County Council, Limerick Comhairle na nÓg won an international award for their key role in #NotAroundUs.

AGE FRIENDLY

- A peer-to-peer chat service called "Reaching Out, Staying Connected" has been launched. Individuals who are cocooning receive a regular phone call from an older person, also cocooning. They phone for a chat and to help pass the time. This Initiative was set up in response to requests for such a service from older people who reached out to the COVID-19 Community Response Call Centre.
- "Limerick Community Care Connect" is an Initiative aimed at reaching out to those who are staying at home, feeling a little cut off and wanting to hear about positive things going on around them. Information packs for older citizens and activity packs for families with younger children have been posted out to households across the City and County. The information pack consists of various materials, including exercise tips, ten years of Age-Friendly Ireland, factsheets on birds, bees and plants, as well as other goodies. The family packs include activity booklets called 'Lockdown with Limerick Artists' and have been created by the Hunt Museum and Contact Studio Artists. In the first three days since its launch, 180 packs have been distributed.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

LIMERICK COVID RESPONSE CALL CENTRE

- During the period 25 March to 26 May, the Call Centre received 2,255 calls. All 2,255 calls have been closed, following successful completion of the requests received. There were 841 follow-up calls made to check in with people who requested a service. The following is a breakdown of all calls, by service type, received by volunteers at the Call Centre:
 - Collection and Delivery of Services: 613
 - Social Isolation Service: 86
 - Meal Service: 35
 - Garda Síochána Service: 119
 - Other Health Services: 72
 - Other Requests: 1,330 (Information and signposting to services)

INTEGRATION

- Africa Day is celebrated each year on 25 May. Usually at this time, in Limerick, we would be hosting a series of events for people from more than 50 African nations who have made Limerick their home. COVID-19 has meant the cancellation of all our Africa Day celebrations this year. To celebrate the day, the Department of Foreign Affairs hosted an online Africa Day celebration. They encouraged Local Authorities across the country to submit items to be run on social media on Africa Day. Limerick submitted a video clip from David Idioh, a regular contributor to Africa Day celebrations in Limerick over the years. David's song, Bonse Aba, comes from the original Bemba (Chimemba) language which is spoken primarily in Zambia. You can view Limerick's contribution to Africa Day 2020 by clicking [HERE](https://vimeo.com/423568318) <https://vimeo.com/423568318>.

EDUCATION

- A virtual Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee meeting took place on 18 May. The Limerick Comhairlí have had three online meetings since the lockdown began in March and 22 of the group have participated in an online wellness day. The Comhairlí have also been notified that they won a Gold Medal from the World Health Organisation for their participation in the 'Not Around Us Campaign' and will be presented with the Medal at

an online ceremony taking place on 2 June.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

- One PPN Secretariat meeting took place this month. Between this meeting and ongoing communications within the Secretariat and with Limerick City and County Council, the 2019 annual report and financial report were signed off and submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development. The annual report for publication on the PPN website was drafted and the draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and the PPN was significantly progressed.
- Limerick PPN was well represented in the on-line Webinar, "Building Resilient Communities: The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a Roadmap to Recovery Post-COVID." This Workshop, organised by the Irish Environmental Network and with representation from two Government Departments, highlighted the significant role of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in current and future national and local policy.

LIMERICK SPORTS PARTNERSHIP (LSP)

- Limerick Sports Partnership, in partnership with the HSE and Clare and Tipperary Sports Partnerships, is delivering a Lunchtime Exercise and "Check-In" Session on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Sessions are promoted via the HSE App and Ezine to over 3,500 staff across the Mid-West.
- Sessions accommodate staff to take a break, engage in Physical Activity and reconnect with other staff across the HSE.
- The LSP Women on Wheels Programme set a challenge to cycle the distance of the Wild Atlantic Way, 2,600km, over a weekend. 75 women signed up and cycled 3,500km while staying within the 5km radius.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

- New Fitness Programmes (FOC) for Men and Women are being delivered via Zoom Platforms with all programmes filling up quickly.
- The LSP has provided large quantities of Physical Activity Equipment to CYPSC and Tusla to provide families with resources to participate in physical activity.
- The LSP has taken a number of pages in all Limerick Leader editions over a two-week period to provide readers with fitness routines.
- Following the spread of COVID-19, the LSP team is creating Online Videos and Resources to look after the Physical and Mental Health of our individuals and communities across Limerick. Please see the following Link which will direct you to these resources which are gathered on Active Limerick Hub
<https://www.limericksports.ie/index.php/covid-19>
- cocooning older citizens as part of our Limerick Community Care Connect Initiative and produced a leaflet describing all the library services available to those confined to home.
- While our Local Studies buildings are closed, the library has been using social media and contact lists to promote its YouTube channel which features talks, library concerts and documentaries. The library has created a rich online resource of local studies material, including, books, journals, local studies files, genealogy resources, etc. available at <http://www.limerickcity.ie/library/localstudies/>
- Spring Into Storytime is a national Initiative celebrating the importance of families reading together and sharing stories. In a new Initiative, children's story time sessions are now available online thanks to co-operation between local library services and Irish publishers. Story and craft sessions are currently available to view at Limerick Libraries' Facebook page <https://www.librariesireland.ie/services/right-to-read/spring-into-storytime/digital-storytimes>

4. Libraries, Gallery and Museum

LIBRARIES

- Library branches remained closed for the month of May due to COVID-19 restrictions. Use of online resources increased again this month with many new memberships created from home. Access to a suite of free online newspapers, magazines, e-books, e-audio books, language learning and training courses is a remarkable resource to enjoy with library membership. Designated staff are available to help any member of the public to access these services. New library membership is available without leaving your home. Existing loans and membership have been extended for all library members. <https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/community-and-leisure/libraries/library-e-services>
- Watch House Cross library staff are offering support for family history research through their Facebook page. They are also hosting a digital book club. <https://www.facebook.com/WHCCCommunityLibrary/>
- While closed to the public, LCGA is working with Three Muses Project to create online children's activity packs and create an improved online presence for the Gallery.
- The Library Service was delighted to be involved in the Council's Initiative to offer care packages for

LIMERICK CITY GALLERY OF ART (LCGA)



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

LIMERICK MUSEUM

- Limerick Museum has continued to make its material available online and its recent offers range from short films on Medieval Limerick to one on the Maigue Poets, and from Georgian Limerick to Limerick Lace. The attraction of such projects is demonstrated by Limerick Soviet online exhibition which has been viewed by 20,000 people since it appeared on 18 May.
- Limerick Museum has worked with Sporting Limerick to create five short films on aspects of Limerick's sporting history which are now available on YouTube. They are: The Gerry Pigott GAA Collection in the Museum; William Lamb Stokes and Limerick's Rugby History; The Evolution of Sports Stadia and the GAA; Limerick Olympians Past and Present; and The Histories of Limerick Lace and Limerick Lawn Tennis.



**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT****Housing Development Directorate****1. Strategic Housing Development****1. Build, Buy and Lease**

The following table shows progress to 31 May 2020 in the above Social Housing delivery streams:

As at 31 May 2020	Complete	In Progress	Overall Projected and Delivered
Build	4	102	106
Buy	4	15	19
Lease	23	125	148
TOTAL	31	242	273

2. Serviced Sites Fund

Further progression in May to deliver Affordable Homes in Limerick under the Serviced Sites Fund (SSF) Initiative - monies granted from Government to Limerick City and County Council to carry out enabling/infrastructure works on designated sites in return for affordable housing.

We have approval in principle to progress SSF on five sites in the Metropolitan District:

1. Guinness Site (near Hyde Road/Colbert Station).
2. Toppins Land (near Roxboro).
3. Sonny's Corner (King's Island).
4. Curragower (Clancy's Strand).
5. Clonmacken Lands.

Limerick City and County Council has procured Engineers, Punch Consulting, to carry out a flood risk assessment on two sites at Clonmacken and Curragower. Tenders for site/scrub clearance contractors are underway with works to take place in June. This will enable Limerick City and County Council to see the full extent of the sites for full topographical surveys and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) surveys to check for buried services/ utilities.

3. Age Friendly Ireland National Network of Age Friendly Housing Specialists

Sarah Newell of the Housing Development Directorate attended the Age Friendly Ireland National Network of Age Friendly Housing Specialists Meeting via Zoom on 6 May.

The purpose of the monthly meeting is to share policy and progress specific tasks relating to Age Friendly Ireland Initiative. Programme for 2020 includes:

- Liaising with Age Friendly Programme Manager of Limerick City and County Council – Anne Rizzo.
- Attending local Age Friendly Alliance meetings to share updates.
- Reviewing all the Age Friendly resources and materials provided by Age Friendly Ireland in the context of plan and policy making in Limerick City and County Council.
- Reviewing their own local authority right-sizing policies and liaising with Councillors – significant work underway to deliver a new right-sizing grant and implement a private downsizing scheme.
- Disseminating relevant information to wider network in Limerick City and County Council.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

2. Regeneration Strategy Implementation

Regeneration Strategy Implementation Plan

Southill Hub:

During May, Southill Hub found numerous ways to help their community during the COVID-19 crisis:

- supported people over the phone to fill out Social Welfare forms and printing etc., as requested.
- worked with the local school to support vulnerable families by providing meals to 80 people.
- provided socially distanced transport for vulnerable community members when required.
- provided youth work clubs through online platforms, one-to-one support and online content for young people.
- developed and distributed activity packs to young people in youth club.
- worked with Tusla to distribute packs to families.
- provision of a "virtual" Community Centre service through their Facebook page.
- Developed a phased reopen plan, in line with Government guidelines, and working towards fulfilling the Return to Work Safely Protocol.

AnnCare/Assisted Living Solutions (ALS)

Despite the unusual times we find ourselves in with COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown, ALS has still managed to be active while all the time adhering to social distancing rules.

This month, working with Tracey McElligott (Moyross Residents' Association), they have demonstrated their new AnnCare system and will soon have a system installed for an elderly member of the Moyross Community. Tracey McElligott was instrumental in getting the individual to participate and work with ALS to trial the AnnCare system in the community. The individual will assist ALS in proving that the AnnCare system works and is a viable alternative to residential care or as part of a home care package to keep vulnerable individuals within their own community.

AnnCare are delighted to install this system at no cost in the belief that they have a revolutionary product/company that they can grow out of the Regeneration area even to a National Platform.

Moyross Residents' Association:

- Moyross Residents' Forum continues to support the residents of Moyross to ensure communication of all contact details of services providers and support services, including the community response team, mental health supports and fun interactive activities for the family to do at home.
- Daily phone calls to residents for check-in and social media.
- Delivery of Food Parcels to families supported by the Mid-West Simon.
- Delivery of groceries and prescriptions.
- Supported residents to ensure essential maintenance is reported and followed up.
- Worked with AnnCare to identify residents to trial a new viable alternative system to help keep vulnerable individuals within their own community.
- As a representative on Moyross Adult Education, working with the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, to ensure Adult Education will continue to enhance the lives of residents in these challenging times.
- Liaised with the Environment Team to promote Team Limerick Clean-Up Biodiversity Competition.
- Liaised with the Sustainable Officers and the team in the Regeneration Office to ensure all lines of communication remain open and can continue to deliver the programme for regeneration.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Service Operations Directorate

1. Housing Support Services

- **Waiting List**

Housing Waiting List	2,675
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- **Allocations**

	No. of Units MAY 2020	Year to Date
Metropolitan District	18	120
Newcastle West	4	23
Adare – Rathkeale	1	7
Cappamore – Kilmallock	3	12
Total	26	162

- **Allocation Refusals**

	No. of Units MAY 2020	Year to Date
Metropolitan District	7	19
Newcastle West	5	13
Adare – Rathkeale	1	1
Cappamore – Kilmallock	0	0
Total	13	33

- **Traveller Housing Welfare**

No. of Units offered MAY 2020	Year to Date
5	19

*these figures are included in Allocations figures

- **Housing Assistance Payments Limerick (HAP)**

2,361 of active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	26
No. of Amendments	109
No. of Cessations	39



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

HOME IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

May 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	€5,400.00	1	€0.00	0	€5,606.90	1	€0.00	0
Newcastle West	€0.00	0	€6,621.50	1	€22,562.20	4	€0.00	0
Metropolitan	€12,240.00	3	€44,187.15	5	€6,780.00	2	€227.00	2
Kilmallock	€0.00	0	€16,100.00	2	€8,000.00	1	€0.00	0
Total	€17,640.00	4	€66,908.65	8	€42,949.10	8	€227.00	2
Total Monies issued in May 2020 = €127,724.75								
Total Grants issued in May 2020 = 22								

January to May 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	€32,198.24	6	€108,243.96	10	€51,362.35	13	€0.00	0
Newcastle West	€42,685.29	10	€18,306.50	4	€105,646.99	29	€5,448.00	1
Metropolitan	€106,767.54	21	€110,701.67	15	€66,598.22	22	€162,767.47	15
Kilmallock	€34,250.00	7	€87,051.80	9	€61,717.13	15	€24,306.63	2
Total	€215,901.07	44	€324,303.93	38	€285,324.69	79	€192,522.10	18
Total Monies issued January to May 2020 = €1,018,051.79								
Total Grants issued January to May 2020 = 179								

RENT COLLECTION

Rent Collection Limerick City & County Council					
Opening Balance @ 01/01/2020	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing balance 31/05/2020	% Collection
€4,599,470	€6,627,402	€11,266,872	€6,606,962	€4,659,910	59%



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

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

Individuals – 19 May 2020		
Location	Description	No.
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	29
St. Patrick's Hostel	Higher threshold accommodation for single males	39
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	15
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	2
Temporary Emergency Provision TEP 1 (Edenvilla)	Low threshold, night by night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	16
TEP 2 (Phoenix Lodge)	Low threshold, night by night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	15
Total		116

Families			
Location	Description	No. Adults	No. Children
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	5	5
		Families - 5	
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	47	52
		Families - 47	
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	8	0
		Families - 8	
Totals		Adults	Children
		60	57
		Families - 60	



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

2. Planning & Environmental Services

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

- 206 complaints were received in May.
- 381 inspections were undertaken during the month.
- The Department issued seven Statutory Notices.
- Eight Directions were served by the Department.
- 23 Warning Letters were issued in May.
- 11 litter fines were issued during the period.
- One Fixed Penalty Notice was issued.
- Legal proceedings were initiated in three cases.

Economic Development and Planning

Planning Applications

A total of 80 new planning applications were received as follows:

Domestic Developments	61
Agricultural Developments	4
Commercial Developments/Change of Use	6
Sporting/Community and Educational Developments	4
Other Developments	5

- Permission for the construction of a discount foodstore with a gross retail floor area of 2,434 sqm at ground floor level, all within a part three, part four storey building of 8,748 sqm, including 154 no. car parking spaces in 3 no. levels of multi-storey car parking at Eir carpark, Roches Street, Limerick.

3. Veterinary Services

- 4 stray or wandering equines were impounded.
- The Dog Control Unit dealt with 4 dogs.
- 10 food samples were submitted during May 2020 for analysis under the National Residues and Microbiological Sampling Programme.

4. Cemeteries

Number of Burials in City Cemeteries.

Mount St. Lawrence	15
Mount St. Oliver	11
Castlemungret	16
Kilmurry	3
St. Nessian's, Mungret	1



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Capital Investment Directorate

1. Design & Delivery

Finance

- Recoupments submitted for Housing Schemes in May - €732,311.
- Recoupments paid by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in May - €1,201,526.

Tenders

- Tender advertised for an Integrated Design Team for the Living Georgian City Laneways Demonstration Project.
- Tender advertised for refurbishment work on the Canal Harbour Building, Lock Quay. This is an Interreg Project funded by Europe of the Atlantic Area.

- Tender awarded to Roadbridge for the upgrade of the Great Southern/ Limerick Greenway. This Greenway will be approximately 40km in length from Rathkeale to the Kerry Border.
- Tender awarded to Punch Consultants to review and mitigate flooding at Askeaton Swimming Pool.

Construction

- Refurbishment Works have commenced on Mungret College.

Buy and Renew and SHIP Refurbishment programme

Inspections Carried out in May	Refurbishment works Commenced in May	Refurbishment works Ongoing	Refurbishment works Completed in May
0	0	8	0

Home Improvement Schemes

Inspections & Recommendations for Home Improvement Schemes – May 2020 - (remotely done by email / phone / post with photos and forms)

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-Inspection	Final Inspection	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	3	0	1	4
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	3	0	2	5
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	0	0	1	1
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	6	0	4	10



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

National and Regional Shared Services Directorate

1. Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Shared Services Centre

- There were 55,884 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAPSSC at the end of May.
- A weekly average of 297 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2020.
- The May landlord payment run was over €46.7 million.
- The weekly tenant debit at the end of May was over €2.7 million.
- The HAPSSC Debt Management Unit collected a total of €57.6 million in differential rent to end of May 2020.
- The HAP Tenant rent collection rate at the end of May 2020 was 95%.

2. Fire and Emergency Services

Statistics

	No. of Fire Related Calls	No. of Non Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call-outs 01/05/20 – 31/05/20	93	24	117
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	62%	81%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	20%	14%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	18%	5%	

	No. Received / Assigned	No. Validated	No. Invalidated / Refused	No. Granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications May	10	10	0	7	
Disability Access Cert Applications May	10	9	0	8	
Licensing Applications May	7	7	0		
Commencement Notice May	52	42	5	42	49
Completion Certificate May	20	15			15
Planning Referrals May	13				7
Sugar CRM Cases May	4				2



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Fire and Emergency Training Events

On-Station training has resumed again following a review of practices and introducing safety measures where appropriate. This training resumed on 18 May.

Civil Defence Attendance at Events for Months of March, April and May 2020

March

- Irish Blood Transfusion Service, Greenhills Hotel, Limerick – 4 days.
- Irish Blood Transfusion Service, Longfort House Hotel, Newcastle West – 4 days.
- Transfer of HSE Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) from Limerick to Tipperary Nursing Home.
- Donning and Doffing Training for 25 Volunteers.
- Transportation of 11 COVID positive/suspected positive persons between Limerick locations.

April

- Medication drop from local pharmacy to cocooning couple.
- Irish Blood Transfusion Service, Greenhills Hotel, Limerick – 4 days.
- HSE staff transportation.
- Transportation of OAP to and from testing centre in the Gaelic Grounds, Limerick.
- Transportation of HSE PPE from Limerick locations to Nursing Homes in Pallasgreen and Thurles.

- HSE staff transportation.
- Transportation of suspected COVID positive person for testing.
- Irish Blood Transfusion Service, Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick – 4 days.

May

- HSE staff transports – 4 mornings.
- Irish Blood Transfusion Service, Greenhills Hotel, Limerick – 5, 6 and 7 May.
- HSE Staff Transfer – 7 May.
- Transportation of HSE PPE to two nursing homes in Pallasgreen and Thurles – 10 May.
- Irish Blood Transfusion Service, Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick – 11, 12, 13 and 14 May.
- HSE Staff transportation – 12 May.
- Irish Blood Transfusion Service, Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick – 18, 19, 20 and 21 May.
- Participation in Appreciation Drive for Frontline Services - 18 May.
- Transfer from residence to testing station and back to residence – 19 May.
- Patient Transfer – 19 May.
- Patient Transfer – 21 May.
- Transfer from residence to UHL Oncology Department and back to residence – 22 May.
- HSE Staff Transfers – 28, 29, 30 and 31 May.

Water Safety

Number of lifebuoy replacements	Total Jan – April	May	Total 2020
Metropolitan District	3	1	4
Municipal Area	10	1	11

Munster Regional Control Centre (MRCC)

	No. Calls mobilised to an emergency incident by MRCC	Other Calls	Average Call Processing Time	Total No. calls in May
No. of Call-Outs 01/05/2020 – 31/05/2020	1,048	842	1 minute, 24 seconds	1,890



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

3. Digital Services and EU Programmes

Digital Services

- A new and vastly improved public planning search for limerick.ie was completed this month and will be deployed at the start of June. Searching for planning applications is now easier, faster, and works across all modern browsers and on mobile, which will greatly improve the user experience of Limerick City and County Council online services. Costs for this service improvement were minimised by building upon Limerick City and County Council's existing Open Source technology stack of Linux, GeoServer, and PostGIS, providing excellent value for public funds. The new Planning Search can be found at <http://maps.limerick.ie/planningenquiry>.
- As part of the Digital Retail Support project, Digital Services asked eCommerce suppliers that have registered for the project to host webinars this month for businesses interested in trading online, to showcase the particular services they offer. Ten webinars were hosted by six different eCommerce suppliers, with a total of 44 attendees from Limerick's business community.
- The LITe Programme rollout continued this month with the completed migration of content for the Marketing & Communications Department. Next will be the build of the document structure for Housing Support Services, with rollout on a phased basis throughout June and July.
- On 20 May, Digital Services attended a meeting of the All Ireland Smart Cities Forum. On the agenda were planning for the Forum's annual conference in October, as well as feedback on the work programme of the Forum for the year so far under the topics of ethics, engagement, standards, open data, mobility, and process and value.

EU Programmes

- On Monday, 11 May, the EU Projects Manager gave a presentation on how Limerick is developing its Positive Energy Block in the City Centre, as part of the +CityxChange project. This meeting was attended by the partner cities in the project: Trondheim, Voru, Sestao, Pisek, Alba Iulia, and Smoylan.
- The EU Projects Manager held online meetings with Ormston House, University of Limerick, Urbact Ireland, and other partners to further explore potential funding opportunities for Limerick City and County.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT****Support Services Directorate****1. Finance Services****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 31st May 2020	9,759,506	59,733,740**	93,999	266,512	69,132,735	20,081,383	49,051,352	3,855,548	31%

** 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 31st May 2020	447,129	597,192	13,676	1,030,645	779,507	251,138	76%

Recourse to Overdraft Facility

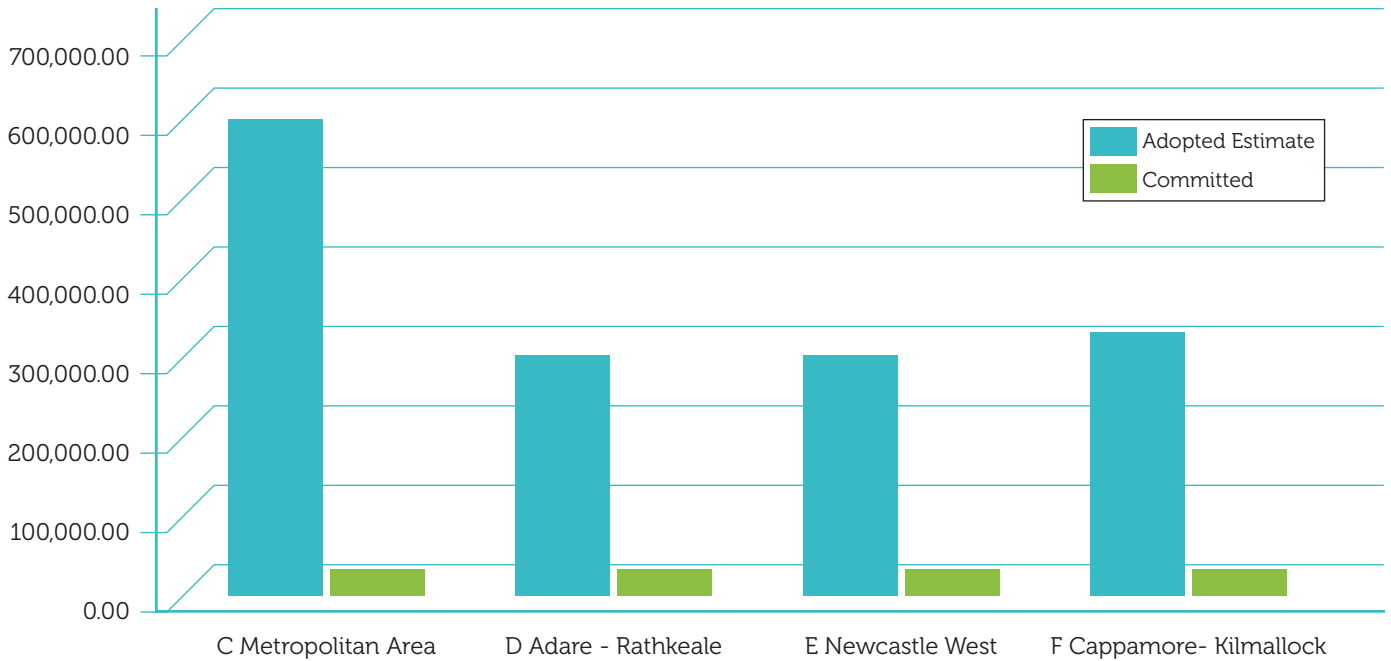
No of days in overdraft **0**



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

General Municipal Allocation 2020 Adopted Estimate €1.403 Million

Graph outlining adopted budget and draft committed expenditure up to 31st May 2020



Municip (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate (€)	Value Committed (€)
C Metropolitan 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



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

2. Corporate Services, Governance & Customer Services

Corporate Services

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

- Accepted the delivery of PPE face masks from the City of Hangzhou in China and the Irish Chinese Information Centre.
- Opened an online Book of Condolence in memory of those who lost their lives to COVID-19.
- Photocall in relation to the arrival of new fleet vehicles at Merchant's Quay.
- Presentation to Limerick Comhairle na nÓg for their success in this year's World No Tobacco Day Award for 2020 by the World Health Organisation, where they won a Gold Medal for their role in the Not Around Us Campaign at Merchant's Quay.

Council Meetings

Remote meetings continued with the Elected Members in May with a number of Corporate Policy Group Meetings and also online Operational Briefings with the Members of the Metropolitan District. Municipal Districts also continued to meet online with the relevant Elected Members.

Register of Electors

The Register of Electors team in Corporate Services continue to update the Electoral Register 2020/2021. We will continue to prepare for the upcoming Draft Register 2021/2022 which will be published in November 2020.

Information to update comes from the following sources:

- Applications received via Post and email.
- Information submitted from An Post following the General Election.
- Queries generated following the General Election.
- Applications from other Local Authorities.

We will continue to accept new applications or change of address through the Post system or via email: Registerofelectors@limerick.ie

Health and Safety Training

The Health and Safety Training Team is currently exploring all options for the safe delivery of training to staff members during the current challenging circumstances, as well as for the upcoming months of 2020 and beyond – in what will be the 'new normal.' The Team is liaising with colleagues in the Health and Safety Team, as well as the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA), in this regard. The following specific information relates to some key Health and Safety Training courses

- Holders of Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) First Aid Responder certification, whose certification has recently or is about to lapse, will have the validity of their certification extended until the end of the current COVID-19 public health restrictions are announced by the Government. The PHECC has confirmed this by e-mail to the LGMA.
- The training deadline for both the Basic and Advanced Trench Reinstatement training (as part of the Guidelines on the Managing Openings in Public Roads [2017]) has been extended until Friday 2 October 2020 (from 1 May 2020) - see Circular RW 12 of 2019.
- SLG: Road Traffic Signage Manual and Chapter 8: The deadline of 1 June 2020 contained in RST 02/2019 and RST 03/2019, by which the transition period under which roadworks can be carried out under the old Road Traffic Signage Manual and Chapter 8, is extended to 1 December 2020. This will also apply to the deadlines set out in Circular RW 12 of 2019 regarding the completion of the revised roadworkers' training courses.
- In relation to Safe Pass cards held by staff, following expiry of same during the current period, they will still be considered valid for staff to carry out their duties as required until such time as they can be facilitated to attend refresher training in order to renew their cards.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Customer Services

The Customer Services Department of Limerick City and County Council remains at the forefront of service delivery for the Council. We continued serving our customers throughout the month of May as their first point of contact, answering queries, facilitating applications and dealing with payment processing. The following figures highlight the activity within the Contact Centre throughout May:

- In May, Customer Services Call Centre dealt with 567 calls, per day, handling 57% of same at first point of contact.
- Customer Services Cases Management Team continued working interdepartmentally with other staff members, as well as with Local Representatives.
- The Cases Management Team saw 2,460 cases created in May, with 616 of these logged on behalf of Public Representatives, as well as the closure of 2704 cases, 722 of these being cases logged by Public Representatives.
- May saw a total of 2085 emails processed through our Customer Services mailbox.
- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued, with a total of 264 cases being logged in May, 234 of which were logged by Public Representatives.
- Customer Services also continued advising tenants making housing maintenance requests of the current procedures during the pandemic. Throughout May, there was a total of 595 cases logged for Housing Maintenance in the Limerick Metropolitan area, 510 of which were logged by Customer Services.
- Customer Services continued to provide other frontline services to the general public, such as the processing of Residential Parking Permits. There was a total of 30 new Residential Parking Permits being processed throughout May.

3. Schedule of Meetings for May

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Operational Briefings		
Limerick City East	05.05.2020	Virtual
Limerick City West	05.05.2020	Virtual
Limerick City North	05.05.2020	Virtual
Corporate Policy Group		
Meeting	06.05.2020	Virtual
Meeting	18.05.2020	Virtual
Meeting	25.05.2020	Virtual
Local Community Development Committee Meeting	19.05.2020	Virtual

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT****4. Access to Information**

	May	2020 (January - May)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	10	65
FOI Internal Appeals	0	2
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	0
Total Ombudsman Requests	2	18
Total AIE Requests	0	0

5. Business Improvement

- 662 services now live on the Service Catalogue which is built into our CRM system providing key data on service requests.
- Online Consultation launched on our online engagement portal, MyPoint, asking our citizens for their submissions on the potential use of CCTV at Mount Saint Lawrence Cemetery.
- Digital budget adjustment approvals processed through our cloud-based project management system, Cora, providing a digital record of financial transactions on our Capital projects aligned with project progression.
- 578 users now live on our 'Council Connect' employee App with Recruitment notifications, up-to-date Health and Safety information, HR Policy information and Employee Wellbeing notifications provided in real time.