

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



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

June 2020

WELCOME – Council Offices, Libraries, Gallery and Museum re-open to the public

ELECTED - Councillor Michael Collins new Mayor of the City and County of Limerick

WINNING TOWNS – Five towns share in €1.5m rural re-development fund

PLAY AWAY – New King's Island Playground opens

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### Economic Development Directorate

#### 1. Trade and Investment

Limerick City and County Council's Guiding Limerick Through Covid-19 plan was agreed following the completion of a wide-ranging consultation process with the public and other stakeholders.

The majority of proposals outlined by the local authority will now take place during the summer months of July and August.

The proposals have been designed to encourage more people to visit Limerick city centre and help to support businesses as they navigate through the impact of Covid-19.

It will see space reallocated in the core city centre area to boost footfall thus aiding with the economic recovery. It will allow street animation and events to take place to attract more visitors into the city as part of a suite of measures being provided as Limerick starts the recovery from the impact and uncertainty of Covid-19.

Alterations were made to the original proposals followed a detailed review of the 464 submissions received during a two-week public consultation period, taking into account serious concerns by traders and employers.

Two hundred and fifty-six of the submissions were broadly in favour of the proposals; 163 raised issues among some of the proposals while the remaining 45 were neutral.

An advisory 25km/h speed limit is being introduced in the core business district.

Ongoing monitoring of the measures will take place over the two months while they are in effect.

The consultation process around this issue has been positive but there were some challenges, and Limerick City and County Council will continue to engage with city centre stakeholders as we develop Limerick city for the future.

- Irema, a manufacturing company in Kilmallock, currently producing 4m medical masks per week, to meet the global demand due to COVID-19, have created 130 additional jobs. Irema has a lot of experience of global health scares having been to the forefront of providing increased mask supply during the SARS epidemic in 2003 and the Swine Flu in 2009, among others.
- A further 10,000 PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) face masks have been donated to healthcare workers in Limerick from the Chinese community in Limerick, on behalf of the Irish Chinese Information Centre. The donations are a gesture of solidarity and friendship with Limerick, highlighting the close links established between the two regions.
- Enet opened a new €1m network operations centre at National Technology Park, Plassey. Enet has been headquartered in Limerick since 2004 and currently has over 120 employees across Limerick and Dublin offices, with 75 located in Limerick. The new centre will operate on 24/7 basis and will monitor 5,400km of fibre infrastructure including the Metropolitan Area Networks (MANS).

#### 2. Strategic and Forward Planning

Two training sessions have been held with the Elected Members of Limerick City and County Council on the Limerick Development Plan preparation process and the role and obligations of the Elected Members in the Plan-making process.

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### 3. Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

LEO continued to organise and process applications and supports during June 2020 to assist towards Business Re-Start, Continuity and Sustainability for Small and Micro Business sector in Limerick.

- In June, 52 Trading Online Vouchers (up to the value of €2,500) were processed and approved to assist Businesses with up to 10 employees to trade online.
- 26 Business Mentoring Applications processed and approved.
- Six Grant Applications processed and approved in June to the value of €92,145 with new job creation potential of 51 over three years, including four Feasibility Study Grants, one Business Expansion and one Priming Grant.
- Continue to assess and approve Business Continuity Vouchers for businesses to avail of COVID-19 Business Continuity Consulting up to the value of €2,500 with 699 Applications received.

The Training Programme for LEO Limerick throughout the month of June focused very much on supporting sustainability, re-start and business continuity for the owners of small and micro businesses through COVID-19 in Limerick City and County. These include:

- Start Your Own Business Webinars
- Trading Online Voucher Information Webinars
- Selling Online/Moving Your Business Online Webinar
- Business Continuity During and Post COVID-19' Webinar
- COVID-19 Return to Work: Key Practical Steps for Business Webinar
- Restarting a Hotel, Restaurant or Cafe' Webinar
- Webinars on: Google Analytics, Beginner and Intermediate Instagram for Business, Facebook Advertising for Business, Building a Website, How to Create Marketing Videos on a Budget, Search Engine Optimisation

LEO launched a callout for applications for the 2020/2021 Food Academy to support Limerick Food Businesses develop.

### 4. Innovate Limerick

Innovate Limerick, through Film in Limerick, held a free online webinar for budding Film Editors with guest, Adam Gough. Gough is the Editor of Spike Lee's new feature film Da 5 Bloods and last year's OSCAR winning film Roma, and the online event explored his career to date and his work with both Cuarón and Lee. The event was supported by Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.

Film in Limerick, held a second free online webinar on film funding for local Filmmakers with a focus on funding first feature films. The panellists included, Dearbhla Regan from Screen Ireland, Sarah Dillon from The WRAP Fund (Western Region Audiovisual Producers Fund) and Dearbhla Ní Churraighín from TG4. The event was moderated by local Producer, Gemma O'Shaughnessy, and was supported by Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.

Regional Film Manager at Film in Limerick, Paul C. Ryan represented Limerick as a panel member judging this year's Kildare Film Bursary (The Short Grass Short Film Commission) which awards a bursary of €12,500 to the winning Filmmakers.

He also represented Limerick at The Marché du Film online business market of the Cannes Film Festival meeting with international producers to promote Limerick and the region as a film location.

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### 5. Marketing and Communications

#### Marketing

##### Limerick Business Revival and Survival - Shop Limerick

- Concluded a five-week marketing campaign, in partnership with the Limerick Local Enterprise Office and Limerick Chamber – an Initiative to support local businesses and increase retail activity in Limerick following the COVID-19 shutdown.
- Earned 2.9 million paid impressions through digital marketing, and gained 6,500 organic engagements on social media with the public and business community.
- Limerick.ie/Shop now features 219 Limerick-based stores.

##### Limerick Student City

- Commenced a two-week long social campaign ahead of the CAO change-of-mind deadline on 01 July to ensure that Limerick remains an attractive prospect for students looking to continue their education post COVID-19.
- Earned 420,000+ paid impressions through social media advertising.

##### Summer Tourism Campaign

- Commenced preparations for an eight-week multimedia national tourism marketing campaign to position Limerick as a domestic holiday and leisure tourism destination.
- Ongoing extensive engagement with local service providers to develop a confident and original domestic tourism offering to showcase Limerick's edge and embrace to national audiences.

Riverfest Limerick 2019 shortlisted for the 'Most Effective Use of Illustration' in the Irish Content Marketing Awards 2020.

Created and issued fortnightly Limerick Events Guide e-newsletter to promote upcoming physical and virtual events.

#### 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.
- Posted 42 times on Limerick.ie's Facebook with followers now 28,231. Posts reached 120,248 users with 13,643 engagements.
- Tweeted 27 times on Limerick.ie's Twitter, @limerick\_ie, with total followers now 18,421. Our tweets earned 88,500 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).
- Posted seven times on Limerick.ie's Instagram and created nine Stories with total followers now 11,497.
- Posted nine times on Limerick City and County Council's LinkedIn with total followers now 5,211.

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### Limerick.ie

A total of 104,641 people visited the Limerick.ie website in June, a 7% decrease on the same period in 2019.

Content Report: 107 articles, 72 events and 10 amenities were added to Limerick.ie in June 2020.

The most popular pages on Limerick.ie in June were:

1. [www.limerick.ie/form/business-restart-application](http://www.limerick.ie/form/business-restart-application)
2. [www.limerick.ie](http://www.limerick.ie)
3. [www.limerick/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning application/search-planning](http://www.limerick/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning)
4. [www.limerick/council](http://www.limerick/council)
5. [www.limerick.ie/council/services/housing/social-housing/housing-assistance-payment-hap](http://www.limerick.ie/council/services/housing/social-housing/housing-assistance-payment-hap)

40% of website pageviews were in the Council section and 27% of pageviews were in the Discover section.

### Communications

- Initiated procurement process for Strategic Communications Services Tender for Limerick City and County Council.
- Issued 28 News Releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and researched and wrote two speeches for the Office of the Mayor.
- Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter.
- Tweeted 267 times on Limerick City and County Council's Twitter account, @limerickcouncil, with total followers now 14,744. Our tweets earned 389,700 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).
- Continued 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.

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### Physical Development Directorate

#### 1. Mid-West National Road Design Office (MWNRDO)

In light of the ease of restrictions in place due to COVID-19 on access to Government offices, the Council has extended the timelines for viewing Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) documentation for the following road schemes:

- N20 O'Rourke's Cross Road Improvement Scheme Compulsory Purchase Order 2020.
- N24 Beary's Cross Road Improvement Scheme Compulsory Purchase Order 2020.

The CPO documentation may be viewed at a number of Council Offices, by appointment, from Thursday, 2 July, to Friday, 28 August, 2020.

The Council has also extended the time for the owners, lessees and occupiers of the land to object to the compulsory acquisition of the land and to extinguishment of private rights-of-way that might affect them to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála. The closing date for submission of objections to the extinguishing of the public rights-of-way to An Bord Pleanála has also been extended. The closing date for receipt of objections to An Bord Pleanala is 5.30pm on Friday, 28 August, 2020. Notices regarding the extended timelines were advertised and landowners, lessees and occupiers of the land for both schemes received individual written notification.

#### 2. Environment Strategy

Limerick City and County Council continued its European Green Leaf events online. Two additional webinars were held: Don't Mow Let it Grow, described a project in Northern Ireland to restore species diversity to road verges and parklands; Carbon Footprint Reduction – One Step at a time, gave practical tips to home owners and businesses on how to reduce their energy usage and carbon emissions.

A virtual bat walk was hosted by the Council in partnership with the Vincent Wildlife Trust. This beautiful and informative video was launched on 5 June, to coincide with European Green Week.

As it was not possible to hold the planned tours of Corbally Meadows in June, the Council also commissioned a virtual tour of the area.

All of these online resources are available on the Council's European Green Leaf Award You Tube Channel [https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=eglalimerick](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=eglalimerick)

#### Management Plan for Westfields Wetlands

Feidhlim Harty Wetland Systems Ltd, in conjunction with JBA Consulting Engineers and Scientists, have been awarded the contract to develop the Masterplan for the Westfields Wetlands, following a procurement process.

They have begun several strands of the brief including (a) developing a draft reed removal methodology; (b) ecological survey; (c) water sampling point identification and sampling; (d) drafting consultation process.

The Management Plan will take about six months to complete.

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### Local Authority Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project

A Section 85 Agreement between Limerick City and County Council and Cork County Council has been signed to facilitate the Local Authority Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project. The project will maximise energy savings, replacing existing bulbs with LED luminaires and ancillary equipment in an effective and efficient consistent manner, enabling the long term proactive management of the Public Lighting asset. The project will contribute to the Council efforts to achieve its energy and emissions reductions targets to 2030.

### Roundabouts Sponsorship Scheme

The Roundabouts Sponsorship Scheme was launched in June and expressions of interest are invited from companies to sponsor the landscaping of roundabouts around the City. Designs have been completed for eight roundabouts with funding from the Heritage Council. These designs are intended to show that visually attractive planting can also be good for biodiversity and pollinators. See link below:

<https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/environment/biodiversity-and-all-ireland-pollinator-plan/roundabout-sponsorship>



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### Community Development Directorate

## 1. Tourism, Culture & Arts

### TOURISM

#### Great Southern Greenway Limerick

Limerick City and County Council has started a €5 million investment programme on the Great Southern Greenway Limerick. 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 which includes:

#### 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.

### CULTURE AND ARTS

- **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 invited applications from professional artists who wished 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, could apply for a Bursary in multiple art forms, including Visual Arts, Circus, Dance and Literature. The closing date for applications was 3 June 2020. 17 applications were received and the Assessment Panel met on 15 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 invited applications from professional musicians who wished 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, could apply for a Bursary. The closing date for applications was 3 June 2020. Four applications were received and the Assessment Panel met on 15 June 2020.

The following Culture and Arts Grants and Bursaries have been processed, Assessment Panels have taken place:

- Grants under the Arts Act Funding.
- International Mobility Awards.
- Individual Arts Bursary Awards Scheme.
- Dolores O'Riordan Music Bursary Award.

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- **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 Creative Europe Small Cooperation Scheme, one for the Arts Council Workspace Scheme and one for the Arts Council Next Generation Scheme.

### CREATIVE IRELAND FUNDED PROJECTS

- **Cruinniú na nÓg 2020**

A national day of creativity for children and young people, Cruinniú na nÓg, took place on 13 June. Children and young people were invited to take part in a range of events and workshops delivered by Limerick Culture and Arts Office, in partnership with Fresh Film.

Cruinniú na nÓg, now in its third year, is a national Initiative that celebrates and encourages participation in culture and creativity through performance, coding, theatre, art and music workshops, readings, screenings, special events and much more. All events were free of charge, child-centred and activity-based. It was a day for lots of doing, making and creating, with this year's events taking place entirely online due to the current COVID-19 restrictions.

Limerick's Cruinniú na nÓg Cruinniu programme highlights included six screenings by Fresh Film and young people, The Best of Cruinniú 2019, Junior Focus Short Animations, Primary Focus Short Films, International Shorts Films, Secondary Focus Shorts and Premiere Screening: 'Fresh Blood,' as well as The Story of the Wind Children: A MusiTale with Thomas Johnston. There were six workshops, Paper Costumes and Props workshop with Lumen Street Theatre, Stop motion Animation Workshop with Emma Fisher, Shot for Shot Workshop with Emma Sams, Peer 'How To' Commissions by three young Film makers, Moving Portraits by the Limerick and Clare Local Creative Youth Partnership (LCYP) and Cinematic Smartphone Techniques with Lucy Dawson, many of which will remain online for the duration of the summer.

New partnerships were formed with RTÉ who broadcasted live on 13 June and through the RTE School HUB. RTE gave Limerick's Fresh Film School a fantastic showcase.

### PARTNERSHIPS

- **Arts as an Intervention to Improve Maternal and Infant Mental Health and Wellbeing**

This project secured major Healthy Ireland funding by the Limerick Children and Young Persons Services Committee and is operated through an interagency stakeholder committee of the PAUL Partnership, Limerick Children and Young Persons Services Committee, Limerick Culture and Arts Office and the University Maternity Hospital Limerick (UMHL). Limerick City and County Council contributes grant funding to the project through the Strategic Fund.

This project envisages using arts to improve the mental health and wellbeing of long-stay hospital inpatients, and thus support infant wellbeing. Specifically, qualified artist(s) will come to the ward and deliver art and music interventions to either individuals or groups of inpatients at UMHL. The project will work with the Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Service in UMHL. A Project Partner meeting took place to review and explore delivering the project in the context of COVID-19. It was agreed the project will go ahead, with changes, in consideration of COVID-19.

- **UL Hospitals Group Arts Committee**

Limerick Culture and Arts Office is working with UL Hospitals Group Arts Committee to establish common areas of interest and collaborations. Limerick Culture and Arts Office is participating in a Sub-Committee to progress the UL Hospitals Group Policies for the Arts.

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- **Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2020-2021**

Limerick City and County Council's annual Festivals and Events Grant Scheme closed on 24 June. 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. Over 50 applications were received and the evaluation process will be undertaken throughout July.

- **Culture and Place Making**

As part of the Guiding Limerick Through COVID-19 Mobility Plan, Limerick Tourism, Culture and Arts Department has been working with our colleagues and stakeholders to explore creative ways to animate Limerick as the restrictions are eased. Working in partnership with local creative and community groups, and supporting local businesses in line with the National COVID-19 Guidelines, we will facilitate a staggered escalation of Animation to Activity.

- **Limerick City and County Council Creative Animation Grant Scheme**

We want to encourage our communities to use urban public spaces safely and support family-friendly activities this summer. In support of this, a special fund opened on June 25 calling for Expressions of Interest from local groups, companies, creatives and communities who would like to host activities to support the Guiding Limerick Through COVID-19 plan and animate new and existing pedestrianised locations in Limerick. Applicants indicate dates and location for proposed activities.

We are inviting Expressions of Interest from local community groups, companies, creatives and producers for Limerick City and County Animations and Activities. Proposals should provide family-friendly experiences in our open air public spaces and urban areas. Limerick City and County Council is committed to the fair and equitable remuneration of artists, performers and creative producers in Limerick.

In line with these commitments, a fund has been allocated to specifically support costs associated with performer, facilitator, artist and event / production fees. This is a limited fund. Applications will be assessed on a first-come, first-served basis. Therefore, Limerick City and County Council will not be in a position to fund all applications received. The Scheme will remain open until the fund has been allocated. Once the fund is allocated, the Scheme will be closed with notice of this published on Limerick.ie.

COVID-19 and Supporting Recovery in Limerick Grants will be awarded to proposals that clearly demonstrate compliance with National COVID-19 Guidelines, and Guiding Limerick Through COVID-19.

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## 2. Property & Community Facilities

### DERELICTION AND VACANCY

DERELICT SITES - June:	
Inspections carried out	95
Statutory Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act	68
Cases closed through engagement	2
Properties entered onto the Derelict Sites Register	10
Properties put forward for Compulsory Acquisition	13

### BIN WAIVERS

Bin Waivers Issued:	10
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### RATHBANE GOLF CLUB

- Rathbane had been working towards "All Star" accreditation for the golf course over the past number of months. In June, Rathbane Golf Course received confirmation that they were awarded two.
  - All-Ireland All-Star Public Golf Course 2020/21 accreditation
  - Current Manager, Colm McCarthy, has also received Lifestyle Leader Golf Management accreditation.

### COMMUNITY PLAYGROUNDS

- All of the 19 Community Playgrounds reopened this month in accordance with COVID-19 Guidelines received. Signage was provided and installed by Limerick City and County Council ahead of re-opening.

ALL HOUSE PURCHASES - June STATUS				
Category	Balance c/fwd	New Negotiations	Sale Closed	Balance b/fwd
Regeneration	0	0	0	0
Part V	12	0	4	8
SHIP	2	0	0	2
Buy and Renew	10	0	1	9
Derelict / Vacant	0	0	0	0

## 3. Urban and Rural Community Development

### LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP/SPORTS PROGRAMMES

- The Local Sports Partnership delivered a weeklong programme of Fitness classes via Zoom for Men as part of the National Men's Health week, with 65 men participating.
- 55 Women cyclists completed 10,000km over the month of June as part of our Women on Wheels programme.
- We have started to engage with our target groups in face-to-face sessions - walking programmes, summer camps and cycling Initiatives.
- The Boxing Clever Programme, which supports individuals on a path to recovery from addiction, has commenced programme No. 3 focusing on fitness and predevelopment work for the Educational components.

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- Limerick Local Sports Partnership was successful in securing €145,000 under the UBU programme, formerly the YPFSF programme. This will facilitate our continued engagement with key target groups.
- Following the COVID-19 pandemic, the Local Sports Partnership 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 Link below which will direct you to these resources which are gathered on Active Limerick Hub.  
<https://www.limericksports.ie/index.php/covid-19>

### HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- The assessment process of 47 applications for the Community Mental Health Fund Small Grants Initiative concluded with recommendations prepared for presentation to the Local Community Development Committee.
- A meeting of Limerick City and County Council staff was held to progress the preparation of a draft play and recreation policy for Limerick City and County Council. This follows research and consultation processes undertaken in partnership with Limerick Children and Young People's Services Committee between 2017 and 2019.
- Limerick Comhairle na nÓg was presented with its World Health Organisation Award for its role in the development of the "Not Around Us" initiative.
- Upon request from Pobal, a case study on the "Not Around Us" Initiative was submitted for inclusion in the online Healthy Ireland Knowledge Centre.
- Limerick City and County Council was represented at two national Healthy Cities and Counties Network Meetings. The themes of the Meetings were Positive Aging and the new National Mental Health Policy, A Shared Vision.

### AGE FRIENDLY

- Age Friendly Programme Manager attended a number of online meetings/seminars, including National Age Friendly Senior Team Meeting, National Network of Older Peoples Councils Meeting, Age Friendly Housing Specialists Meeting and Acorn Tablet Pilot Programme Irish Dementia Working Group Webinar.

- Staff attended Age Friendly Communications Training Webinar and PLACE EE international Partners' Meeting online.
- Staff held three meetings with the Chair of Limerick Older Peoples Executive.
- Age Friendly Limerick made a donation of 5,000 face masks to Milford Care facility, followed by a donation of 500 face masks to each of 25 private Nursing Homes across Limerick City and County. The activity was covered by Virgin Media News and the Age Friendly Programme Manager was interviewed as part of that piece.
- Supported by the Age Friendly Programme Manager, Mary Cronin, Chairperson of Limerick Older Peoples Executive, and National Chair of Older Peoples Councils of Ireland, joined older people across the world for the 2020 World Health Organisation #Walkthetalk webinar. Mary contributed to the event, with a 30-second video clip about the importance of staying active in later life. Mary's piece was tweeted by Age Friendly Limerick and to date has had 62,800 views on Twitter.
- Mary Cronin also contributed with a video interview to the HSE-hosted Webinar on Safeguarding with HSE National Safeguarding Office.
- During COVID 19, Age Friendly Limerick launched a series of Initiatives. The first was "Reaching Out, Staying Connected." This is a peer-to-peer friendly call service, where older people, who stated they were feeling lonely or isolated, received regular phone calls from another older person. This was not set up as a support service, but a friendly chat service. Callers are making regular contact with almost 50 older people across the county.
- "Limerick Community Care Connect" was the second Initiative launched. This Initiative saw the Age Friendly team prepare and distribute Information packs to adults and activity packs for children. The information packs consisted of a range of information leaflets, song lyrics, book marks, information on the Age Friendly Programme, Garda Síochána advice sheets, posters on garden birds, fridge magnets and chocolate. To date, 550 information packs and 1,150 children's activity booklets have been distributed.

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- Age Friendly Limerick successfully sourced a mobile phone and it was donated to a 93 year-old man in rural County Limerick who needed an updated phone.

### LIMERICK COVID RESPONSE CALL CENTRE

- Two meetings of the COVID-19 Community Response Forum were held on 4 and 25 June.
- Updates on the work of the COVID-19 Community Response were issued to Councillors and Forum members.

### EDUCATION

- Limerick Childcare Committee Staff attended an online meeting of the Limerick Childcare Committee.
- Learning Limerick Steering Group meeting - Staff attended an online meeting of the Learning Limerick Steering Group.
- EU Projects meeting - Staff attended an online meeting of the EU Projects team.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

- Two PPN Secretariat meetings were held to progress PPN strategic and operational priorities.
- The Memorandum of Understanding between the PPN and Limerick City and County Council was agreed.
- The names of ten PPN representatives to take seats on three of the Strategic Policy Committees were brought for ratification to Limerick City and County Council at its June meeting.
- The nominations and elections processes opened this month to have elected PPN representatives take up the vacant social inclusion, community and environment pillar seats on five Strategic Policy Committees, the Joint Policing Committee and the Limerick Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).
- Details of three public consultations at local, county and national level were circulated to PPN members and posted on social media.
- Communications with the 111 PPN members continued via social media, phone and email.

### RURAL DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2020

The Department of Rural and Community Development launched a €30 million package of co-ordinated and complementary supports as part of its Rural Development Investment Programme funded under Project Ireland 2040. These were announced in June and include the following:

- This year's Town and Village Renewal Scheme will support projects that aid the economic and social recovery of towns and villages in response to COVID-19 under the new Accelerated Measure, which will provide funding of up to €25,000 per project (eight projects max.) and up to €40,000 for higher impact projects (two projects max.).

The main Town and Village Renewal Scheme will continue to support public realm activities and the enhancement of town centre amenities. Funding of between €20,000 and €100,000 is available, with potential for up to €200,000 for an exceptional project. A maximum of six proposals can be selected for progression to full application stage. The closing date for receipt of Expressions of Interest was 26 June 2020.

- CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) is a targeted investment programme for rural areas that aims to provide funding for small infrastructural projects in rural areas that have suffered the greatest levels of population decline. The Measures for submission by Local Authorities under the 2020 CLÁR programme are:

Measure 1: Support for Schools/Community Safety Measures (expanded in 2020).

Measure 2: Community Recreation Areas (new in 2020).

The closing date for receipt of project application forms is 10 July 2020.

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



- The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) provides funding for the development of new and existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in rural areas, such as cycle ways, walking trails, blue ways and improved access to leisure or recreational facilities, under three separate measures.

**Measure 1:** provides funding for Small Scale Repair/Promotion and Marketing (grant up to €20,000). The closing date for receipt of expressions of interest for Measure 1 is 10 July 2020.

**Measures 2 and 3:** Relates to Medium and Large-Scale Repair or Upgrades and new Trail/Amenity developments for consideration by Limerick City and County Council as well as by State Agencies in respect of Measure 3.

### LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The June meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was held on 5 June. 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 €133,141.73 under the LEADER Programme 2014-2020.

### COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME (CEP)

The 2020 Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) was launched on 22 June. The Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) provides funding to community groups across Ireland to enhance facilities in disadvantaged areas. The CEP is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development (the Department) and administered by the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) in each Local Authority area. Limerick City and County Council has been allocated €70,118 under the 2020 CEP Scheme.

The CEP was launched for the first time in 2018, and was repeated in 2019. It provides grants to community groups to improve facilities in their area. In 2019, over 2,000 projects across the country were funded, all of them targeted at enhancing facilities in

disadvantaged communities. While the CEP will be run in the same manner as previous years, there will be flexibility to use funding on COVID-19 related capital expenditure, where this is a priority. Discretion will rest with the LCDC in each area. Guidelines and application forms for the 2020 CEP will be made available shortly.

### RURAL REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (RRDF)

The Community Development Directorate coordinated the preparation of three funding applications to the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF), Second Call, in April 2020. A fourth application was submitted by Ballyhoura Development in cooperation with the Council.

The RRDF is the funding framework for large-scale projects in rural development supported under the **National Planning Framework, Ireland 2040**. This round of applications was for projects under Category Two – these are projects requiring further development in order to have them “construction ready.”

Limerick City and County Council was amongst the successful applicants announced by the Department of Rural and Community Development in June 2020 where €13 million in funding was allocated to 24 projects across the country.

Limerick City and County was awarded €1.5 million, to kick-start a project for the Re-use and Development of Derelict and Vacant Properties across specific rural villages and towns in rural Limerick. The focus is on villages and towns that are badly impacted by dereliction, building on the work already in process by Council’s Vacancy and Dereliction Team. The project involves an innovative financing mechanism to bring derelict properties back into use, with an emphasis on re-use for affordable housing, in the core of towns and villages in rural Limerick.

In this announcement of successful projects, Limerick was awarded the largest amount of grant funding of all counties in the state.

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



### 4. Libraries, Gallery and Museum

#### LIBRARIES

- A "Contact and Collect Service" began in four Limerick Libraries: Watch House Cross, Dooradoyle, Kilmallock and Newcastle West on June 10. This was the library response to Phase 2 of the National Roadmap for reopening society and business. Staff dealt with a large number of emails and phone calls from members of the public with their wish list of books for collection and general questions about library services during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Members of the public expressed great delight to be able to collect a curated selection of items from their wish list at participating branches. The Library Service is very grateful to the COVID-19 Community Response Team who assisted us in delivering books to cocooners.
- As a response to Phase 3, Limerick City and County Library service was very happy to welcome back members of the public to a number of libraries from 30 June. A service to allow the public to access the library for browsing commenced at the following five branches: Dooradoyle, Watch House Cross, Kilmallock, Newcastle West and Adare. This allowed Library members to enter any of these libraries and browse library collections, select stock and check stock items out on self-service machines. It is also possible to return stock. The libraries listed above are open from 10-1 and 2-4 pm Tuesday to Friday until further notice.
- Access to study facilities, internet, Wi-Fi, newspapers and magazines, community rooms, exhibition spaces and public toilets will be returned later.
- While many library branches are temporarily closed, a wide range of free Online Services can still be accessed from the comfort of your home. These services include free online newspapers, magazines, eBooks, eAudiobooks, online classes and language courses. If you are not currently a member, you can register online at:  
<https://www.librariesireland.ie/join-your-library>

- Limerick City and County Library's presence on social media continued with story sessions and craft activities for children recorded by library staff. During the month of June, libraries posted nine online story readings and two craft sessions viewed 4,232 times.
- An online Book Club recommended The Wife by Meg Wolitzer for its June choice.
- The Decade of Centenaries presentations continued online, commemorating the centenary of the Connaught Rangers Mutiny, links to discussions on the most recent research are shared and members of the public may contact the library via Facebook messenger or email with their questions or for assistance with research.

#### LIMERICK CITY GALLERY OF ART (LCGA)

- Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA) opened its doors to the public on 29 June. We have selected a show featuring work from the inaugural exhibition of the Permanent Collection in 1937 and have also included work that was acquired between 1937 and 1948 when the East Gallery, a purpose-built space at the back of the then Limerick City Library, was opened.
- The exhibition includes works by some of the most important Artists of the time, including Jack B. Yeats, Paul and Grace Henry, Mary Swanzy and John Lavery. In addition, there are many fine paintings, including one of Daniel O' Connell.
- Work for children continues with an online programme for families and young children.
- The Gallery also increased its social media presence and recorded a welcome video for sharing on various channels in advance of the opening on 29 June.

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnígh**

Limerick City  
& County Council

### LIMERICK MUSEUM

- Limerick Museum reopened to the public on 29 June following the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions.
- Limerick Museum added to its collection an iconic Limerick lace shawl belonging to Kitty Kiernan (1892-1945), fiancée of Irish revolutionary, Michael Collins.
- Limerick has worked with Sporting Limerick to create three more short films on aspects of Limerick's sporting history, which are now available on YouTube. They are History of Thomond Park; History of the Gaelic Grounds; and Limerick's Golf Clubs.



# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



## Housing Development Directorate

### 1. Strategic Housing Development

#### 1. BUILD, BUY AND LEASE

The following table shows progress to 30 June 2020 in the above Social Housing delivery streams:

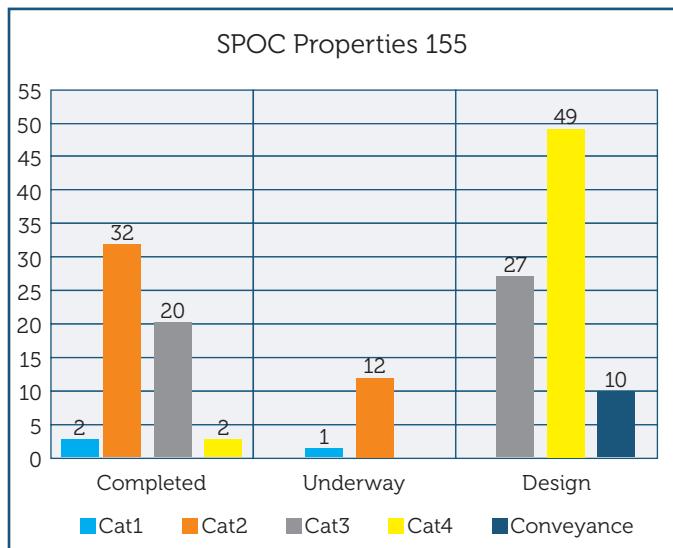
As at 30 June 2020	Complete	In Progress	Overall Projected and Delivered
Build	8	81	89
Buy	17	12	29
Lease	26	117	143
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>261</b>

#### 2. SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT (SPOC)

The fast-tracking of refurbishment works has continued with 155 houses currently in the programme under four different categories of works:

- Category 1 – Light refurbishment
- Category 2 – Minor refurbishment e.g. kitchen/bathroom/heating upgrades
- Category 3 – Deep retrofit e.g. wall insulation, windows, M&E
- Category 4 – Derelict i.e. structural works – reroofing, complete retrofit

The different stages as detailed in the following graph and table:



	Completed	Underway	Design	TOTAL
Cat1	2	1	0	3
Cat2	32	12	0	44
Cat3	20	0	27	47
Cat4	2	0	49	51
Conveyance	0	0	10	10
	<b>56</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>155</b>

#### 3. SERVICED SITES FUND

Further progression in June 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 (along the Condell Road).

- Limerick City and County Council has procured Engineers, Punch Consulting, to carry out a flood risk assessment on two sites at Clonmacken and Curragower. This work has now been completed (end June).
- Site/scrub clearance by Shannonvale Landscaping was completed at the end of June. This will now 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.
- Topographical and GPR surveys by Control surveys are now complete on the sites (end June).
- We will now progress to the next stage and begin the procurement process to appoint a Design Team to each site to progress to Part 8 Planning. The Tender process will begin in July 2020 and be completed by end of August 2020.

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



## 2. Regeneration Strategy Implementation

### Regeneration Strategy Implementation Plan

#### Social Intervention Fund

- The assessment of applications under the Social Intervention Fund was carried out remotely by an independent panel, and the recommendations coming from that assessment have been issued to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for approval. The Social Intervention Fund has a grant budget of €3million for social regeneration projects, and €1million for economic regeneration projects. This funding is provided by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government under the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan.

#### King's Island Playground

- King's Island Playground is continuing on site, with an anticipated completion date in July 2020. The design and layout of the playground was carried out through extensive consultation between Sarah Newell, Housing Development, Geraldine Quinlivan and Samantha Roche who were both Community Representatives. The project was delivered through the planning process and the construction by Kieran O'Gorman, Design and Delivery Services. The playground, which cost just over €315,000, was funded through the Regeneration Programme and responds directly to the requirements of the children and young people of King's Island.

#### Our Lady of Lourdes (OLOL) Community Services Group

- Meals on wheels - 1800+ delivered to OLOL and surrounding areas – staff wearing PPE and working in teams to avoid risk of infection.
- Crèche – building prepared for reopening on June 29. OLOL children and their parents supported during the COVID-19 shutdown with activities and social media videos, telephone support etc.
- Seniors – Activity packs distributed to seniors cocooning, morning call and care-and-repair service continues.

- Youth – summer camps operating for local youth, but with reduced numbers and observing social distance.
- Estate Management - Road sweeping and litter pick continues and Estate Management Worker supports residents by phone, email and in person by appointment

#### Southill Hub

- Put in place requirements, safety equipment etc. and completed induction for Reopening of services.
- Reopened the community café on a takeaway basis.
- Continued to prepare and deliver 70 meals per day to vulnerable families in conjunction with the local school.
- Reopened our youth work services; working with young people in small groups and on a one-to-one basis.
- Continued to deliver support packs to vulnerable families in conjunction with Tusla.
- Facilitated meetings of community groups as our sports hall allows for social distancing.

#### Moyross Residents' Forum

- 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.
- Support residents to ensure essential maintenance is reported and followed up.
- As a representative on Moyross Adult Education, working with the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, working on ways to ensure Adult Education will continue to enhance the lives of residents in these challenging times.

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



- Informed residents in Cliona Park that respective construction works were scheduled to start during the week commencing 29 June. These works are expected to extend for the period of 12 months.
- Informed residents in Dalgaish Park that archaeological test trench instigation works were scheduled to be carried out on the green in Dalgaish Park during the week commencing 29 June. These investigations will inform the preparation of tender documentation for the main development.
- Moyross Residents' Forum, as a member of Moyross Regeneration Committee, and the Regeneration Consultative Forum, working to ensure all lines of communication remain open and we can continue to deliver the programme for regeneration to enhance the lives of residents and continue to create vibrant and sustainable communities.

### St Mary's Aid

- Meals on Wheels service delivered to 550 per week. This is aided by the Limerick Red Cross so that our deliveries can be maintained.
- SICAP service operational by telephone and e-mail.
- Food Bank Service has increased to 40 people and we are helped by the Red Cross for delivery purposes twice a month.
- Our bee-keeping project has returned and was attended by 14 people in groups of four outdoors.
- We have managed to get a number of bicycles repaired and sold as part of our Bike Recycle Project.
- We have partnered with Musgraves Ltd to submit a renovation project for the Windows in the Community Café to SEAI for which we have now received approval.
- The Board has decided not to reopen the Community Café at the moment and this decision will be reviewed at the end of July.

### AnnCare/Assisted Living Solutions

- Despite the ongoing restrictions with COVID-19 and lockdown, we continue to be active whilst all the time adhering to social distancing rules.
- Following on from last month's report, we are delighted to inform you that we went ahead with the installation of the AnnCare system for an elderly member of the Moyross Community.
- As Tracey McElligott (Moyross Residents' Association) can attest, it has been received very well and has been very enlightening/beneficial for both the individual and her carers. The system has given insights into the daily routine of the individual which gives peace of mind to carers.
- e.g. it is not unusual for the individual to spend time in the front or back garden at this time of year or to open the back door between 10.30pm and 11pm (presumably to let cats in or out)
- We understand that the individual concerned is very happy with the system and, as it is unintrusive, has forgotten it is there and is happy to continue to assist us in proving that the 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.

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



## Service Operations Directorate

### 1. Housing Support Services

- Waiting List

Housing Waiting List	2,679
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- Allocations

	No. of Units June 2020	Year to Date
Metropolitan District	15	135
Newcastle West	8	31
Adare – Rathkeale	1	8
Cappamore – Kilmallock	6	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>192</b>

- Traveller Housing Welfare

No. of Units offered June 2020	Year to Date
1	20

\*these figures are included in Allocations figures

- Housing Assistance Payments Limerick (HAP)

2,365 of active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	33
No. of Amendments	152
No. of Cessations	56

- Allocation Refusals

	No. of Units June 2020	Year to Date
Metropolitan District	2	21
Newcastle West	5	18
Adare – Rathkeale	0	1
Cappamore – Kilmallock	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>42</b>

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT****HOME IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES**

June 2020	MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HAG (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	No.	DPG	No.
Adare - Rathkeale	€21,694.00	4	€33,976.40	2	€1,520.00	1	€0.00	0
Newcastle West	€3,740.00	1	€0.00	0	€17,799.85	3	€0.00	0
Metropolitan	€12,045.00	3	€4,787.50	2	€27,475.00	8	€580.00	1
Cappamore - Kilmallock	€1,800.00	1	€0.00	0	€15,405.25	2	€0.00	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>€39,279.00</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>€38,763.90</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>€62,200.10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>€580.00</b>	<b>1</b>
Total Monies issued in June 2020 = €140,823.00								
Total Grants issued in June 2020 = 28								

January to June 2020	MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HAG (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	No.	DPG	No.
Adare - Rathkeale	€53,892.24	10	€142,220.36	12	€52,882.35	14	€0.00	0
Newcastle West	€51,282.29	11	€18,306.50	4	€123,446.84	32	€5,448.00	1
Metropolitan	€118,812.54	24	€115,486.17	17	€94,073.22	30	€163,347.47	16
Cappamore - Kilmallock	€36,050.00	8	€87,051.80	9	€77,122.38	17	€24,306.63	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>€260,037.07</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>€363,064.83</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>€347,524.79</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>€193,102.10</b>	<b>19</b>
Total Monies issued January to June 2020 = €1,163,728.79								
Total Grants issued January to June 2020 = 207								

**RENT COLLECTION**

Rent Collection Limerick City & County Council					
Opening Balance @ 01/01/2020	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing balance 30/06/2020	% Collection
€4,599,470	€8,239,663	€12,839,133	€7,960,420	€4,878,713	62%

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT****LIMERICK HOMELESS ACTION TEAM – PATHWAY ACCOMMODATION AND SUPPORT SYSTEM (PASS) DATA**

Individuals – 29 June 2020		
Location	Description	No.
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	30
St. Patrick's Hostel	Higher threshold accommodation for single males	47
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	10
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	5
Temporary Emergency Provision TEP 1 (Edenvilla)	Low threshold, night by night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	15
TEP 2 (Phoenix Lodge)	Low threshold, night by night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	14
<b>Total</b>		<b>121</b>

Families				
Location	Description	No. Adults	No. Children	
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	5	6	
		Families - 5		
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	41	48	
		Families - 32		
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub Families self-isolated. Service users from St. Pat's utilising the building.			
Totals		Adults	Children	
		46	54	
		Families - 37		

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



### TENANT PURCHASE/ REBUILDING IRELAND HOME LOAN/ GROUND RENT/ DEED OF DISCHARGE / CONSENT TO SALE/ COTTAGE PURCHASE ANNUITY DETAILS:

Tenant Purchase	
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. received	4
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. approved	0
Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan	
Loan Applications: No. received	1
Loan Applications: No. approved	4
Ground Rent	
Ground Rent Applications: No. received	2
Deed of Discharge	
Deed of Discharge Applications: No. received	7
Consent to Sale	
Consent to Sale Applications: No. Received	2
Cottage Purchase Annuity	
No. of Cottage Purchase Annuity Applications	2

- Seven litter fines were issued during the period.
- One Fixed Penalty Notice was issued.
- Legal proceedings were initiated in four cases.

### Economic Development and Planning

#### Planning Applications

A total of 110 new planning applications were received as follows:

Part 8	2
Housing Developments	1
Domestic Developments	69
Agricultural Developments	16
Commercial Developments/Change of Use	6
Sporting/Community and Educational Developments	11
Other Developments	5

The current applications include proposals for:

- Construction of a Licensed Discount Foodstore (2,715.9 sqm Gross Floor Area) and the change of use of an existing single-storey office building (Protected Structure) to café/coffee shop at Dock Road and Saint Alphonsus Street, Limerick.
- Part 8 for the construction of an extension to existing ENGINE Building to consist of the provision of 1,254 sqm of digital collaboration space at Upper Cecil Street, Limerick.
- Construction of 14 No. dwelling houses at Skagh, Croom, Co. Limerick.

## 2. Planning & Environmental Services

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

- 252 complaints were received in June.
- 431 inspections were undertaken during the month.
- The Department issued 13 Statutory Notices.
- Five Directions were served by the Department.
- 23 Warning Letters were issued in June.

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



### 3. Veterinary Services

- Seven stray or wandering equines were impounded.
- The Dog Control Unit dealt with two dogs.
- 15 food samples were submitted during June for analysis under the National Residues and Microbiological Sampling Programme.

### 4. Cemeteries

Number of Burials in City Cemeteries.

Mount St. Lawrence	8
Mount St. Oliver	12
Castlemungret	18
Kilmurry	0
St. Nessan's, Mungret	0





# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

## Capital Investment Directorate

### 1. Design & Delivery

#### Finance

- Recoupments submitted for Housing Schemes in June: €2,648,635.
- Recoupments paid by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in June: €669,541.

#### Part VIII

- Part VIII application submitted for the Castletroy Playground Extension.

#### Tenders

- Tenders received for Consultants for Living Georgian City Laneways Project.
- MRG Consultants appointed on the Dooradoyle Cycleway Project.

- Lynmar appointed as Contractors on the Mungret College Refurbishment Works.

#### Construction

- Works on the King's Island District Playground were completed and the playground is now open for use.
- Roadbridge Ltd have commenced works on the Great Southern Greenway Limerick – Rathkeale to Abbeyfeale.
- Works have commenced on the construction of two social housing units in Clonlong Halting Site.
- Works have commenced on the construction of five social housing units at Kileely Road.

#### Buy and Renew and SHIP Refurbishment programme

Inspections Carried out in June	Refurbishment works Commenced in June	Refurbishment works Ongoing	Refurbishment works Completed in June
2	0	8	0

#### Home Improvement Schemes

Inspections & Recommendations for Home Improvement Schemes – June 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	6	0	3	9
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	7	3	4	11
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	0	0	9	9
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	13	0	16	29



## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

### National and Regional Shared Services Directorate

#### 1. Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Shared Services Centre

- There were 56,477 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAPSSC at the end of June.
- A weekly average of 297 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2020.
- The June landlord payment run was over €48 million.
- The weekly tenant debit at the end of June was over €2.7 million.
- The HAPSSC Debt Management Unit collected a total of €67 million in differential rent to end of June.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of June 2020 was 96%.
- The DMU sent 6,589 reminder letters regarding HAP rent arrears in June 2020.

#### 2. Fire and Emergency Services

##### Statistics

	No. of Fire Related Calls	No. of Non Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call-outs 01/06/20 – 30/06/20	74	49	123
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	67%	53%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	27%	40%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	6%	7%	

	No. Received / Assigned	No. Validated	No. Invalidated / Refused	No. Granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications June	5	5	12	6	
Disability Access Cert Applications June	6	6	3	2	
Licensing Applications June	1	1	0		
Commencement Notice June	56	49	7	49	56
Completion Certificate June	16	12	0	12	12
Planning Referrals June	27				8
Sugar CRM Cases June	1				4

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



### Fire and Emergency Training Events

Off-station training is currently not being delivered due to the summer period. On-station training and weekly training nights are now proceeding as normal, with the addition of all COVID-19 safety precautions.

### Civil Defence Attendance at Events

- Collection of Local Authority PPE from Naas.
- Stock count of Local Authority PPE.
- Collection of Local Authority PPE from Kildare and transported to Limerick.
- Irish Blood Transfusion Service – Greenhills Hotel, Limerick.
- Paediatric transfer from UHL to residence.
- State funeral of Detective Garda Colm Horkan at Henry Street Garda Station, Limerick.
- Irish Blood Transfusion Service – South Court Hotel, Limerick.

### Water Safety

Number of lifebuoy replacements	Total Jan – May	June	Total 2020
Metropolitan District	4	1	5
Municipal Area	11	0	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 June
No. of Call-Outs 01/06/2020 – 30/06/2020	1,061	838	1 minute, 21 seconds	1,899

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



### 3. Digital Services and EU Programmes

#### Digital Services

- An Enterprise Architecture proposal developed by Digital Services for the integration of the National Service Catalogue in Local Authorities was approved by the Architecture and Standards Group of the Local Government Management Agency in June.
- iReg was upgraded to version 4.0. and training provided to Corporate Services staff.
- Digital Services took part in an audit of nominated Council ICT systems, performed by Deloitte. This audit highlighted the need to periodically review user access in Council systems, something which Digital Services will review in tandem with ICT in the coming month.
- A number of new features were released to the My Limerick portal on Limerick.ie. These features, largely requested by Councillors, will enable more data to be displayed, improve the accuracy and reliability of this data, and enhance the overall search capabilities. In addition, more meaningful email notifications and status updates will now be issued to Councillors. All of these changes should greatly improve the user experience on My Limerick of Councillors and citizens alike.
- The LITE programme has begun rolling out to the Housing Support Services Department in June. This rollout will continue throughout July also.
- Digital Services delivered a new enterprise mapping system, giving staff access to a greater range of data and more powerful GIS analysis tools, all from their browser. This advance builds upon the strategic investments the Council has made in Open Source GIS to date, which will prove rewarding as budgets come under strain due to COVID.

#### EU Programmes

- On 9 June, Dr. Mihai Bilaucă and Terry Connolly attended an online meeting on "EU Funding for Small and Medium Sized Cities in the Next Programming Period." This meeting was organised by the State Chancellery of Thuringia and featured speakers from several funding bodies.
- From 16 to 18 June, the EU Projects Team attended the online Kick-off meetings for Phase 2 of both the FindYourGreatness and Health&Greenspace Urbact III.



# 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 30th June 2020	9,759,506	59,733,740**	104,855	360,306	69,028,085	22,684,253	46,343,832	3,736,616	35%

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

Debtors Loans	Opening Balance 1 Jan €	Accruals €	Writes offs / Waivers €	To Collect €	Receipts €	Arrears €	% Collected
As at 30th June 2020	447,129	745,436	13,676	1,178,889	931,684	247,205	79%

#### Recourse to Overdraft Facility

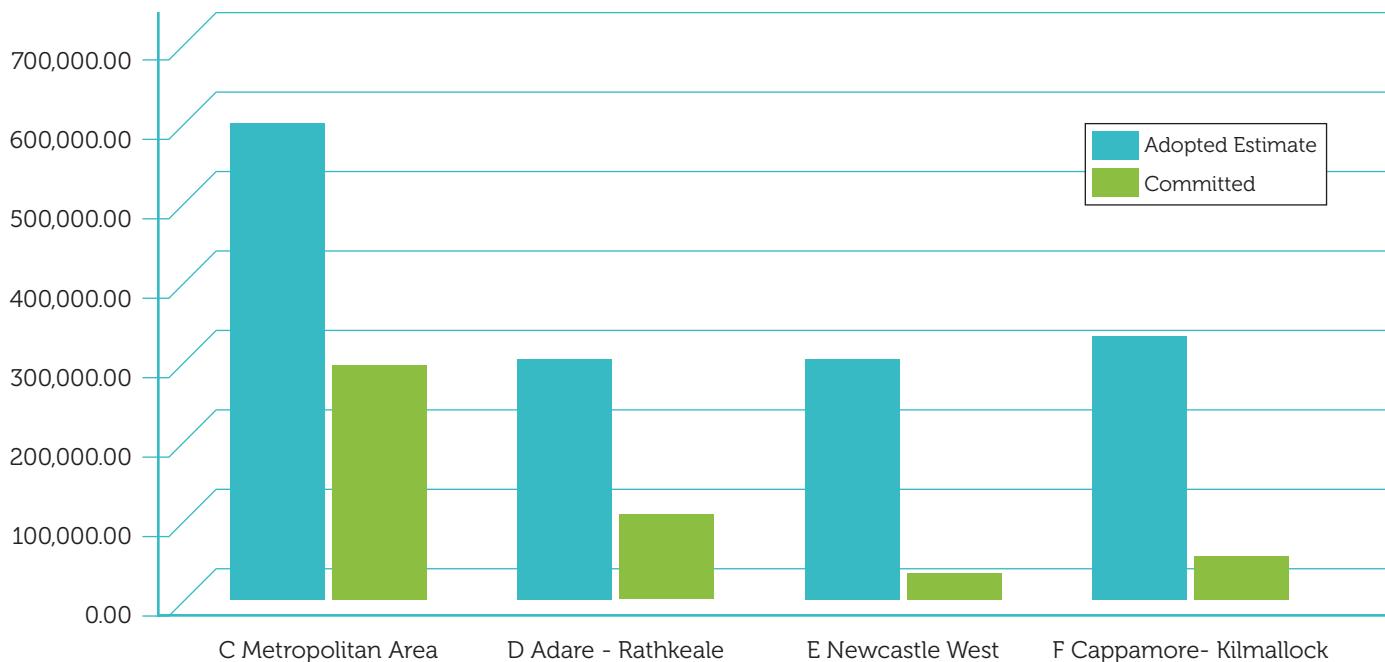
No of days in overdraft 0

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



## General Municipal Allocation 2020 Adopted Estimate €1.403 Million

Graph outlining adopted budget and draft committed expenditure up to 30th June 2020



Municip (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate (€)	Value Committed (€)
C Metropolitan Area	568,000.00	269,886
D Adare - Rathkeale	270,000.00	77,960
E Newcastle West	270,000.00	0
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	295,000.00	7,367

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



## 2. Corporate Services, Governance & Customer Services

### Corporate Services

#### Election of Mayor and Cathaoirligh

Councillor Michael Collins was elected Mayor of the City and County of Limerick at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 30th June 2020.

Councillor Abul Kalam Azad Talukder was elected Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick.

The following were elected Cathaoirligh of the Metropolitan and Municipal Districts:

- Councillor Sarah Kiely : Metropolitan District of Limerick
- Councillor John Egan : Cappamore-Kilmallock
- Councillor Adam Teskey : Adare-Rathkeale
- Councillor Francis Foley : Newcastle West

#### Mayoral Receptions were held for the following:

- Jack O'Sullivan, in honour of his valued contributions to Parish, Sporting and School Life in Monaleen Community.
- Dave Mahedy, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to sports and recreation in University of Limerick and Limerick, both as a mentor and a leader for over 35 years.
- Pat Kearney, in recognition of his commitment to the development and growth of business and residential projects and the constant support of many worthy charities in Limerick City and County over 50 years.
- Dr. Angela Collins O'Mahony, Founder of Collins Steeplejacks in 1968, making her Ireland's only female steeplejack and founder of other companies for which she was awarded Businesswoman of the Year, Bowmaker Award for Irish Industry and was conferred with an Honorary Doctorate for her commitment to serving the needs of rural Ireland in terms of employment, manufacture, tourism and services.
- Noel O'Dwyer, in recognition of his Irish International hockey career from 1951-1963. His tally of 42 international caps for Ireland set a new record at the time.
- Marie Bartlett, in recognition of her International hockey career between 1969-1982.
- Lillian Moran Sullivan, in recognition of her involvement in Irish Ladies Hockey, past National President and past National Chairperson of the Alzheimer Society of Ireland.
- Marie Crawford, in recognition of her International hockey career 1979-1984.
- Billy Ahern, in appreciation for his decades of voluntary work in the promotion, preservation and fostering of Gaelic culture and especially for his devotion to the great work of the GAA in Abbeyfeale, Limerick County Board and Munster Council GAA.
- Tom Madigan, in recognition of being one of the Founders of Limerick Ladies Gaelic Football and in recognition of his tremendous contribution to Shanagolden Community Council and St. Senans G.A.A. Club.
- John Quane, in recognition of his contribution to both Club and County Football as a player and coach over a number of years.
- Eamonn Cregan, in recognition of his many sporting achievements and contribution to the Gaelic Athletic Association as a player, coach/manager and mentor over many decades and also to his association with Mary Immaculate College during which he was in collaboration with the late Noreen Lynch.

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



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

- Contract signing for Great Southern Greenway, Limerick.
- Photoshoot of Mayor examining Limerick Lace shawl belonging to Kitty Kiernan (1892-1945), fiancée of Irish revolutionary Michael Collins, which has been acquired by Limerick Museum.
- Attendance at one minute's silence, followed by prayers, in memory of the late Detective Garda Colm Horkan, RIP, outside Henry Street Garda Station, Limerick.
- Presentation of copy of pictorial history from the Geiptine Singers, the Askeaton Coral Group, as they approach their 50th birthday, in Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Photoshoot to mark re-opening of Limerick Museum.

### Register of Electors

The Register of Electors Team in Corporate Services is preparing for the Draft Register 2021/2022 which will be published in November 2020.

Information to update the Register is sourced from the following:

- New Applications submitted through An Post or via email.
- Change of Address Applications.
- Forms received from other Local Authorities for addition and deletion.
- Information submitted by An Post and the County Registrar following General Election.

We have processed over 1,500 entries and will continue to update the Register.

### Health and Safety Training

The Health and Safety Training Unit has now commenced rolling out some training courses and some more are in the pipeline.

- Safe Pass Training has commenced and staff who urgently require training are being facilitated. The maximum number that can be taken at a public course is 10. We will continue to make contact with Line Managers over the next few months to identify those who are urgent until the backlog has been cleared.
- Manual Handling: Courses have commenced and staff whose courses were deferred in April are being trained.
- Roscrea Regional Training Centre has tendered for Asbestos Handling / Awareness and we are in the process of compiling numbers of those who have requests submitted and arranging training.
- COVID-19 Induction – Toolbox Talks have taken place for outdoor staff over the past few weeks and attendance has been recorded.

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



### Customer Services

The end of June saw the phased reopening of the public counters throughout all of our offices. Customer Services worked in conjunction with the Facilities and Health and Safety Departments to ensure this process was carried out seamlessly and safely for both our customers and staff alike. This included some of our Customer Services Advisors, in both Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle, acting as liaisons and guides at the doorways of our offices for all citizens entering the buildings. While adapting to these new ways of working, Customer Services continued their frontline duties, to all, through our various points of contact. The following figures highlight the activity within the contact centre throughout June:

- Customer Services Call Centre dealt with 13,739 calls, an average of 655 per day. Almost 800 calls were received on a number of days throughout the month and did exceed this figure on occasion. 56% of these calls were handled at first point of contact.
- Customer Services dealt with 2,377 calls in relation to Motor Tax compared with 704 in February, showing a threefold increase in demand for this service from pre-COVID-19 times.
- Customer Services Cases Management Team continued working with key service areas of the Council in supporting closure and update of representations from Elected Members.
- The Cases Management Team saw 2,852 cases created with 697 of these logged on behalf of Public Representatives, as well as the closure of 2,517 cases, 694 of these being cases logged by Public Representatives.
- A total of 2,156 emails processed through the Customer Services mailbox.
- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued and increased, with a total of 341 cases being logged, 319 of which were logged by Public Representatives.
- Customer Services also continued advising tenants making housing maintenance requests of the current procedures during the pandemic. There was a total of 668 cases logged for Housing Maintenance in the Limerick Metropolitan District, 643 (93%) 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 137 new Residential Parking Permits being processed.



## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

### 3. Schedule of Meetings for June

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
<b>Full Council</b>		
Special Meeting (Quorum Only) to agree the venue for Annual Meeting and agree a date and venue for the Ordinary Meeting.	10.06.2020	Dooradoyle
Ordinary Meeting	26.06.2020	Patrickswell
Special Meeting to pass a Vote of Sympathy on the death of Mayor Michael Sheahan's brother, Francis, RIP.	30.06.2020	Patrickswell
Annual Meeting	30.06.2020	Patrickswell
<b>Operational Briefings</b>		
Limerick City East	02.06.2020	Virtual
Limerick City West	02.06.2020	Virtual
Limerick City North	02.06.2020	Virtual
<b>Metropolitan District of Limerick</b>		
Monthly Meeting	15.06.2020	Dooradoyle
Annual Meeting	15.06.2020	Dooradoyle
<b>Corporate Policy Group</b>	19.06.2020	Virtual
Meeting of Implementation Advisory Group on the Establishment of a Directly Elected Mayor with Executive Functions for Limerick	16.06.2020 29.06.2020	Virtual Virtual
<b>Strategic Policy Committee Meetings</b>		
Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning	08.06.2020	Virtual
Travel and Transportation	11.06.2020	Virtual
Home and Social Development	22.06.2020	Virtual
<b>Municipal District of</b>		
<u>Adare-Rathkeale</u>		
Monthly Meeting	09.06.2020	Rathkeale
Annual Meeting	09.06.2020	Rathkeale
<u>Newcastle West</u>		
Monthly Meeting	10.06.2020	Newcastle West
Annual Meeting	10.06.2020	Newcastle West
<u>Cappamore-Kilmallock</u>		
Monthly Meeting	23.06.2020	Kilmallock
Annual Meeting	23.06.2020	Kilmallock
Party Leaders' Meeting	25.06.2020	Patrickswell

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



### 4. Access to Information

	June	2020 (Jan - June)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	9	74
FOI Internal Appeals	1	3
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	0
Total Ombudsman Requests	1	19
Total AIE Requests	4	4

### 5. Business Improvement

- June saw the work of the Business Improvement Department highlighted by the internationally recognised Bloomberg Philanthropies. Details around the new staff App were highlighted in the Bloomberg Newsletter 'Spark' which is sent to thousands of international recipients.
- Business Improvement chaired the National Service Improvement network remotely through Microsoft teams. 17 Local authorities took part and used the opportunity to discuss their experience of working through COVID and to share ideas.
- Training was provided by the Business Improvement Team with several members of staff in My Point, our online citizen engagement portal and Cora, our project management system. Training was carried out remotely.
- 604 staff are now live on the Staff App.