

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick City**  
& County Council

August 2020

**LIMERICK 50 DAYS OF SUMMER:** More than 84,000 entries for Competitions linked to Limerick's biggest ever Tourism Marketing Campaign

**PLAN:** Consultation on Limerick Development Plan begins

**HOMES:** Construction begins on 20 Houses in Hospital

**LACE:** TV Show sparks renewed interest in Limerick Lace

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### Economic Development Directorate

#### 1. Trade and Investment

- Regeneron Pharmaceutical Company has announced 400 new jobs at its industrial operations and product supply facility in Raheen. The expansion is as a result of a decision to prepare Regeneron's plant in New York to produce a potential new antibody-based treatment for COVID-19, REGN-COV2, thereby ramping up capacity in its Limerick facility.
- Bath Fitter, North America's leading bathroom refurbishment experts, announced the establishment of its European Business Development Centre at East Point Business Park, creating 42 new jobs.

#### 2. Strategic and Forward Planning

- The statutory preparation of the first joint Limerick City and County Development Plan commenced with the publication of a pre-draft Issues Paper and Background Papers on 14 August. As part of the public display documents, a virtual room has been created on the MyPoint portal. A social media campaign, as well as a direct mailing campaign, was run in an effort to inform the public. Comments and observations are welcomed during the public display period, which runs until 12 October.
- Strategic and Forward Planning prepared a Draft Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme for the development of road infrastructure at Mungret. The proposed Supplementary Scheme is being prepared to assist finance the delivery of a Link Road, which will connect the Local Infrastructure Housing Delivery Activation Fund Road to the R526 Regional Road. Submissions are invited on the draft scheme until 5 October.
- Two applications were made to the National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund to the value of €16,000, for a pollinator-friendly planting scheme and for a feasibility study for the environmentally friendly disposal of vegetative waste such as grass cuttings (this is a joint project with Clare County Council).

#### 3. Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

LEO continued to organise and process applications and supports during August to assist towards Business Re-Start, Continuity, Sustainability and Expansion for the Small and Micro Business Sector in Limerick.

- 31 Trading Online Vouchers (up to the value of €2,500) were processed and approved to assist Businesses with up to ten employees to trade online.
- Ten Business Mentoring Applications were approved and commenced.
- Three Grant Applications were processed and approved to the value of €89,900, with new job creation potential of 12 over three years, including a Feasibility Study Grant, a Business Expansion Grant and a Priming Grant.
- Continued 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 focused on supporting business start-ups and business re-starts, sustainability and business continuity and growth for the Owners of Small and Micro Businesses through COVID-19 in Limerick City and County:

- Start Your Own Business Course.
- Trading Online Voucher Information Webinars.
- COVID-19 Retail and Food Service Recovery Programme.
- Food Starter Programme.
- How to run Facebook Ad Campaigns.



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### 4. Innovate Limerick

- Innovate Limerick, through Film in Limerick, has launched a new Writers' Factory Screenwriting Programme for aspiring and emerging Screenwriters. The 22-week programme, designed by UK script-guru, Phil Parker, has now been especially updated for new Irish Screenwriters. Since its launch in the early 2000s, the Writers' Factory Screening Programme has launched the career of numerous TV and Film Screenwriters. The Programme, updated by Parker himself in conjunction with Film in Limerick, will run for the first time in Ireland this Autumn and is now open for enrolment.
- With Film and TV production activity restarting in the Mid-West, Film in Limerick has supported feature films, TV commercials and short films filming in the Region, providing location, production and COVID-19 safety advice and support. The first feature film to restart filming in Ireland, 'Planlos in Ireland,' a German Irish co-production, included Limerick and Mid-West workers among its crew and recently completed filming.
- Innovate Limerick, through Film in Limerick, has launched a new 'Introduction to Creative Producing Course' with partners, Screen Skills Ireland, and Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board. The six-month programme is aimed at new Producers in the Mid-West looking to professionalise their practice and develop independent production companies in the Region. Designed by Film in Limerick and Screen Skills Ireland, the programme will take place online initially, one day a week, and will be taught by Irish and international screen industry experts. Enrolment is now open through [fetchcourses.ie](https://fetchcourses.ie)

### 5. Urban Innovation

#### Living City Initiative

The Urban Innovation Department holds fortnightly advice clinics in ENGINE, Cecil Street Upper, Limerick, giving multi-disciplinary advice to property owners, potential property owners and landlords who want to avail of the tax incentive for qualifying renovation works. In attendance at the meetings clinics are the Fire Officer, Conservation Officer, Senior Architect and Town Planner.

	2020 Q2	TOTAL
<b>No. of Applications Received</b>	14	<b>33</b>
<b>Owner Occupier</b>	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Rented Residential</b>	14	<b>30</b>
<b>Mixed Residential</b>	1	<b>4</b>
<b>No. of Applications Acknowledged (Interim)</b>	0	<b>13</b>
<b>Final Cert Issued</b>	2	<b>7</b>



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### 6. Marketing and Communications

#### Marketing

- **Limerick 50 Days of Summer**
  - Continued the multimedia national tourism marketing campaign to position Limerick as a domestic holiday and leisure tourism destination and encourage people living in other regions of Ireland to staycation in Limerick this Summer.
  - Concluded competition giveaway which saw over 84,000 entries and 50 winners from 11 counties across Ireland winning 50 unique Limerick experiences.
  - Engaged top Irish Influencers to promote the campaign to their social media followers and reach wider audiences:  
Niamh Reid @exploringireland (28.2k), Sarah Hanrahan @i\_come\_undone (62.5k) and Chloe Markham @chloemarkhamstylist (13.9k).
  - Secured a feature in the Irish Independent as part of the Ireland Unlocks series.
  - Received 5,008 opt-ins to the Limerick.ie E-Newsletter during the month.
- Marketing materials supplied to EVA International Office.
- Created and issued eight Limerick.ie E-Newsletters.

#### Social Media:

- Made submissions to the Sockies (Social Media Awards) for the following campaigns: Limerick – Atlantic Edge, European Embrace; Virtual Riverfest Limerick 2020; Shop Limerick and Limerick 50 Days of Summer.
- Continued to monitor, schedule and update Social Media channels with creative content to utilise engagement with the public and put Limerick in people's minds.

- Posted 98 times on Limerick.ie's Facebook with followers now 27,665. Posts reached 406,073 users, with 116,500 engagements.
- Tweeted 83 times on Limerick.ie's Twitter, @limerick\_ie, with total followers now 18,718. Our tweets earned 195,500 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).
- Posted 11 times on Limerick.ie's Instagram and created 44 Stories, with total followers now 12,329.
- Posted nine times on Limerick City and County Council's LinkedIn, with total followers now 5,604.

#### Limerick.ie

A total of 121,947 people visited the Limerick.ie website in August.

Content Report: 64 articles, 84 events and 13 amenities were added to Limerick.ie in August.

The most popular pages on Limerick.ie were:

1. [www.limerick.ie/50-days-summer/enter-competition](http://www.limerick.ie/50-days-summer/enter-competition)
2. [www.limerick.ie/50days](http://www.limerick.ie/50days)
3. [www.limerick.ie](http://www.limerick.ie)
4. [www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning](http://www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning)
5. [www.limerick.ie/form/business-restart-plus-application](http://www.limerick.ie/form/business-restart-plus-application)

27% of website pageviews were in the Council Section, 30% were in the Discover Section, while 18% of pageviews were in the new Limerick 50 Days of Summer Section.



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### Communications

- Procurement process for Strategic Communications Services Tender for Limerick City and County Council is at the review stage, with new provider expected to be appointed in September.
- Issued 21 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 216 times on Limerick City and County Council's Twitter account, @limerickcouncil, with total followers now 15,175. Tweets earned 471,300 impressions (no. of times users saw tweet).





## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

### Physical Development Directorate

## 1. Environment Strategy

### Westfields Wetland Management Plan - Progress Update

#### 1. Bulrush Cover/Management in the Eastern Wetland

To date there has been consultation with a number of residents and other interested parties and a greater picture has been built on how to progress this topic.

#### 2. Flora and Fauna

Habitat survey and mapping is complete and the baseline ecological assessment is currently underway.

#### 3. Non-Native Invasive Species

The Non-Native Invasive Species Mapping is complete and the Gap Analysis for the Non-Native Invasive Species Management Plan is ongoing.

#### 4. Analysis of Water Quality

To date, three sets of analyses have been completed.

#### 5. Water Levels

The project is currently exploring the ecological and hydrological impacts of a possible water level increase.

#### 6. Stakeholders' Engagement

There has been consultation with residents, visitors, Public Bodies and Conservation Bodies. This is an ongoing process that will continue for the remainder of the project.

A survey which will inform elements of the project is live on Mypoint until 30 October 2020.

Two European Green Leaf Webinars were hosted during the month. River Life and The Urban Co-Op – A Model for a Sustainable Future. Both were well attended. #EGLA2020Limerick

<https://www.limerick.ie/european-green-leaf-city/about/event-guide>



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### Community Development Directorate

## 1. Tourism, Culture & Arts

### TOURISM

#### Creative Animations

21 applications have been received and 14 funded under the Creative Animations Scheme to support the actions under the Guiding Limerick Through COVID-19 Plan. These animations include an outdoor art exhibition on the railings of the People's Park, outdoor yoga classes, music performances by local marching bands and groups, a craft and hot food market in the Potato Market and street performances. While these activities were underway during August, some have had to be temporarily postponed following the announcements of further National Government restrictions on 18 August which remained in place for the remainder of the month.

#### Limerick Tourism Taskforce

The Limerick Tourism Taskforce met weekly during the month. In order to support the sector, the Taskforce compiled a document collating important information on supports for tourism and hospitality businesses and circulated it to members of the Sector. This is now being followed with calls to providers to impart advice and assistance where possible. The Taskforce has also been working with Fáilte Ireland to provide display materials to dress the windows of the Limerick Tourism Office. A Tourism Visitor Information Point will be established at the Hunt Museum.

### CULTURE AND ARTS - OPEN CALLS

**The Artists' Apartments, 1-2 John's Square, Limerick, and Artists' Studios, James Street, Limerick** support the Limerick Cultural Strategy Aim and Objective 1: 'To grow Limerick's cultural capacity by retaining and attracting creative practitioners to live and work in Limerick.'

#### The Artists' Apartments - 1-2 John's Square, Limerick

Limerick City and County Council's Artists' Apartments recognise cultural practitioners, across all art forms, by providing subsidised residential apartments in John's Square, Limerick. The Artists' Apartments create conditions for affordable living spaces for individual Artists and attract and keep Artists living and working in Limerick City, by encouraging living and working within the urban context. The Apartments provide subsidised living spaces in recognition that Artists and many individuals working in the Arts are on modest income levels. The closing date for applications was 5pm on Wednesday, 12 August. Twenty applications were submitted and are being processed.

#### The Artists' Studios - James Street, Limerick

Limerick City and County Council Artists' Studios recognise the need for visual Artists for working spaces in Limerick. The Artists' Studios, James Street, Limerick, is an affordable space for individuals to produce work and allows Artists to continue to live and work in Limerick, by encouraging working within the urban context. There is one studio in James Street currently available. The closing date for applications was 5pm on Wednesday, 12 August. Two applications were submitted and are being processed.

#### Museum of Mythological Water Beasts: River Residencies

Limerick Culture and Arts Office and Ormston House, in partnership with Cavan Arts Office, Clare Arts Office and Tipperary Arts Office announced the River Residencies under the Arts Council of Ireland's 'An Invitation to Collaboration Scheme.' Applications are being sought from Artists who would like to meet and work with rural communities along the River Shannon in Ireland during the Spring and Summer of 2021. The Limerick River Residency will work with communities in the heritage town of Glin on the south shore of the Shannon Estuary. The residencies will be divided into two parts: two weeks dedicated to community engagement and research during Spring 2021, and two weeks dedicated to co-production and delivery during Summer 2021.



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This Call for Submissions is open to Artists working in all Art forms. One Artist, or artist-led collective, will be hosted in each rural location in Cavan, Clare, Limerick and Tipperary. The River Residencies are part of the Museum of Mythological Water Beasts (2017–), an artistic project about, along and on the River Shannon. The Call opened on Friday, 14 August, and the deadline for submissions is 12 Noon on Monday, 21 September.

### CREATIVE IRELAND FUNDED PROJECTS

#### Belltable: Connect 10, Stage 2 Bursary

Limerick Culture and Arts Office, in partnership with the Belltable, identified an opening and need for support to Artists during the COVID-19 crisis through the provision of these bursaries. The recipient of the fund will be one of the ten successful applicants of Stage 1 of the Award. The Call opened on 17 July, with a deadline of 27 July.

Applications were received for Stage 2, Creative Ireland: Made in Limerick Belltable: Connect Research and Development Bursary of €2,500. The Assessment Panel met on 5 August, and the successful applicants were - Liam O'Brien, who was awarded a bursary of €2,500, for the Seven Deadly Sins, and in recognition of the high standard of the application; and Emma Fisher, who was awarded a bursary of €1,250, for The Other Limb.

Belltable:Connect is supported by The Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon, Limerick Culture and Arts Office, Limerick City and County Council and Mary Immaculate College. The Research and Development Bursary is supported by Creative Ireland and Limerick City and County Council through a Creative Ireland: Made in Limerick Grant 2020.

#### Emerging Limerick Filmmakers (ELF) Open Call

Emerging Limerick Filmmakers (ELF) is a new home for young Filmmakers in Limerick. Applications are now open for Emerging Limerick Filmmakers, aged 13 to 18 years. These close on September 20. <https://www.emerginglimerickfilmmakers.com/>. Based in Castletroy, ELF empowers its members with the

opportunity to grow and develop as Storytellers. Film is magical. It can change the way people see the world, change the way people think. Now, more than ever, we need brave voices able to shape the stories that help us see with fresh eyes. For the first programme, ELF is undertaking four months of weekly meetings every Thursday evening.

### PARTNERSHIPS

#### County Limerick Youth Theatre

Shane Hickey O'Mara has been appointed as Artistic Director of the County Limerick Youth Theatre. Limerick Culture and Arts Office facilitated the Board of Directors of the County Limerick Youth Theatre to recruit for the role of Artistic Director.

### CULTURE AND PLACE MAKING

#### Limerick Culture Night 2020 Call Out

Culture Night 2020 will take place this year on 18 September, and, due to COVID, will mostly be online-based, with some limited physical events where possible, within Government Guidelines. Limerick Culture and Arts Office did a public Call-Out for participants and is planning to host approximately 20 events, mostly digitally, but also with three to four physical events. The Council is currently working to support and facilitate organisers and will shortly begin rolling out promotion around the event. Full details will shortly be available on [www.culturenight.ie](http://www.culturenight.ie) and [www.limerick.ie](http://www.limerick.ie)

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT****2. Property & Community Facilities****DERELICTION AND VACANCY**

<b>DERELICT SITES - AUGUST</b>	
Inspections carried out	30
Statutory Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act	14
Cases closed through engagement	0
Properties entered onto the Derelict Sites Register	3
Properties put forward for Compulsory Acquisition	10

**BIN WAIVERS**

Bin Waivers Issued:	4
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**ALL HOUSE PURCHASES - AUGUST STATUS**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Balance c/fwd</b>	<b>Adjustments</b>	<b>New Negotiations</b>	<b>Sale Closed</b>	<b>Balance b/fwd</b>
Regeneration	0	1	0	0	1
Part V	8	0	20	0	28
SHIP	2	0	5	0	7
Buy and Renew	7	0	1	0	8
Derelict / Vacant	0	0	14	1	13

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT****3. Urban and Rural Community Development****Rural Development Investment Programme 2020****Town and Village Renewal Scheme**

The new Accelerated Measure under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020 will support projects that aid the economic and social recovery of towns and villages in response to COVID-19. Furthermore, additional funding announced by Minister Heather Humphries, as part of the

Government's July Stimulus Package, has allowed for more applications under both the Accelerated Measure and the Main Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020.

Under Round 1 of the Accelerated Measure, Limerick received €110,700 of funding for the following Town and Villages:

Town/Village	Project Description	Funding Received
Adare	Refurbishment of the Countess of Dunraven Fountain and creation of new pedestrianised area with seating around the fountain	€40,000
Bruff	Resurfacing of footpath network in Grove Public Park, as well as provision of an access for all entrances to replace the existing steps	€20,700
Kilmallock	Improved accessibility to Priory Walk, seating in the adjoining Pocket Park and creation of an amenity area, including seating, planters and games	€25,000
Pallasgreen	Sensory garden, walking track and recreational area with universal access for all ages and abilities to gather and integrate	€25,000

**CLÁR**

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. Ten applications were submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development under the 2020 Scheme across Measures 1 and 2 by the closing date 28 August 2020.

**Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)**

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, which provides funding for the development of new and existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in rural areas, closed for Expressions of Interest under Measure 1 Small Scale Repair/Promotion and Marketing (grant up to €20,000), on 10 July 2020.

Those Expressions of Interest are now being reviewed for eligibility under the ORIS 2020 Scheme and a maximum of seven proposals can be selected to progress to full application to be submitted to the Department by the end of September.

Projects under Measures 2 and 3 for Medium and Large-Scale Repair/ Upgrades and New Trail/ Amenity Developments have been identified and applications are being developed. These applications will be submitted to the Department at the end of November 2020.



## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

### Local Sports Partnership (LSP)/Sports Programmes

- The LSP has secured €60,000 in Grant Funding to deliver Physical Activity Interventions under the funding streams from, Social Intervention, Mid-West Regional Drug and Alcohol Forum, Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board Capital Grants and Bike Week 2020.
- Targeted interventions will be developed over the coming months to promote physical activity, enhance educational opportunities for those from disadvantaged communities and utilise local infrastructure.
- The LSP has launched a Sports Clubs' COVID Grant Programme where Clubs can apply for funding to the value of €1,500 to account for COVID-related expenditure.
- Key programmes have commenced around Walking and Cycling, with good participation across all communities.
- The LSP is also delivering several Physical Activity Interventions for the Intercultural communities in Knockalisheen, Gerald Griffin House, Hanratty's and Le Chéile.
- The LSP continues to explore engagement opportunities with key target groups, either face-to-face or virtual.
- Safeguarding 1 courses can now be delivered online and a number of courses will be delivered via Zoom in the coming weeks.

Following the spread of COVID-19, the LSP Team is creating Online Videos and Resources to look after the Physical and Mental Health of individuals and communities across Limerick. The following Link will direct people interested to these resources which are gathered on Active Limerick Hub <https://limericksports.ie/active-hub/>

### Pride of Place 2020

- The four groups nominated for IPB Pride of Place Awards 2020 completed a virtual judging call, week of 24 August.

The groups nominated were judged in the following categories:

- Bedford Row Family Project – Community Wellbeing Initiative.
- Monaleen Park Residents' Association – Urban Neighbourhood / Village under 3,000.
- Rathkeale Pre-Social Cohesion Project – Population 1,000-2,000.
- Vale View Residents' Association – Housing Estates.

### Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

- Mid-Year Financial and Monitoring Reports were completed by Limerick City and County Council SICAP staff and Pobal.
- Financial and Monitoring Reports to be presented to the Local Community Development Committee for approval on 1 September.

### Age Friendly

- Staff attended the PLACE EE monthly International Partners' virtual meeting.
- "Limerick Community Care Connect" is growing in strength. This Initiative has seen 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, An Garda Síochána advice sheets, posters on garden birds, fridge magnets and chocolate. To date, more than 3,000 packs have been distributed.



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- Age Friendly Limerick has launched "Remembering Yesterday, Living Today." Throughout our lives, from when we were children, right up to today, particular stories, events and memories hold a special place in our hearts. But many of us are not passing those stories on to our children and grandchildren.

As a society, we often only see the person in the present and know very little about the person in terms of their life lived. "Remembering Yesterday, Living Today," encourages the older person to reflect on their life and to tell the story through the completion of the book. This journey of reflection will act as a record for future generations, of that life lived, our parents, siblings, family history. Copies of this book are available from the Age friendly team at [agefriendly@limerick.ie](mailto:agefriendly@limerick.ie)

- Staff attended the NOPAG (Northside Older People's Advisory Group) monthly meeting online.
- Staff attended planning meetings in respect of the final showcase events for PLACE EE.
- Staff attended Learning Limerick Steering Group meetings in preparation for the Lifelong Learning Festival 2020, to be held September 30 – October 4.

### Public Participation Network (PPN)

- Membership of the PPN now stands at 124. The membership can be broken down by Municipal District:
  - Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale: 8
  - Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock: 21
  - Municipal District of Newcastle West: 11
  - Metropolitan District of Limerick: 84
- The first-ever online elections for community representatives to sit on Limerick City and County Council Committees concluded in August with six new representatives elected and further elections are scheduled to occur before the end of September.

- Two briefing webinars for PPN members on the new Limerick Development Plan were run in partnership with the Strategic and Forward Planning Team of Limerick City and County Council.
- PPN staff participated in training to better manage the Limerick PPN website. Additional to the website, Limerick PPN has a consistent and active presence on social media (Twitter and Facebook) and regularly updates and liaises with the membership via phone, email and text.
- The PPN staff and Secretariat finalised a range of supports for elected PPN representatives which are outlined in a new two-page information sheet (available on the website) on Limerick PPN Linkage Groups.

### Limerick COVID 19 Community Response

- The COVID-19 Community Call Response Freephone number 1 800 832 005 and email address [covidsupport@limerick.ie](mailto:covidsupport@limerick.ie) continue to receive daily requests for support from members of our communities.
- The Community Response Team continues to engage with its partners across the City and County to ensure that anyone requesting support is connected with an appropriate volunteer to see the request through to completion.



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### 4. Libraries, Gallery and Museum

#### LIBRARIES

- The "Summer Stars Programme," which promotes reading for children, continued online and in five Library branches: Watch House Cross, Dooradoyle, Adare, Kilmallock and Newcastle West during August. This year's Summer Stars offered four elements with access to browse and borrow from five branches, e-books and e-audio books from BorrowBox, a National Story Competition and online Storytime sessions and fun quizzes, delivered via Facebook and Twitter.
- Limerick Library staff created and posted 20 short storytelling videos on Facebook throughout the month. These featured a Teddy Bears Picnic, chapter-a-day readings from Farm Boy by Michael Morpurgo, and child-friendly craft workshops. Granary Library Staff created fun book quizzes online.
- Watch House Cross, Dooradoyle, Adare, Kilmallock and Newcastle West branches continued to respond to phone calls and emails to provide individually selected bags of books and DVDs, carefully chosen by Library staff for easy pickup. This "Contact and Collect" service, in conjunction with the browsing and return option, has been welcomed by Library members across the City and County.
- Also, online requests, with deliveries to participating Libraries all over the country, have resumed. Check out the Library catalogue at: <https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/community-and-leisure/libraries/search-library-catalogue> and your order will be made available at a branch of your choice.
- For borrowers who do not have, or cannot remember, their PIN (Personal Identification Number) check out: <https://librariesireland.freshdesk.com/support/solutions/articles/19000012731-how-do-i-login-to-my-library-account-> or contact your local branch.
- Free digital magazines, newspapers, books and learning courses are available with a library card.

- Library memberships have been extended and while some Library services remain disrupted due to Coronavirus (COVID-19), it is not necessary to visit the local Library to join before being able to use online services - see <https://lgma.iii.com/selfreg> and <https://www.librariesireland.ie/elibrary>

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

- Due to COVID-19, the planned Exhibitions for this period had to be postponed until 2021.
- A selection of works from the Permanent Collection opened to the public on 4 August. This Exhibition, Limerick Connections, focuses on the work of Artists associated with Limerick since the 1970s right up to the present. It is hoped that the citizens of Limerick and visitors to the City will have the opportunity to enjoy the breadth of work by some of Ireland's finest and best-known artists, as well as younger emerging artists.
- The East Gallery Exhibition comprises works that were included in the First Exhibition of the Permanent Collection in 1937, together with works acquired between that date and the opening of the East Gallery in 1948. Visitors to the Gallery have received this Exhibition with enthusiasm and interest. Works by Jack B. Yeats, Paul and Grace Henry, Mary Swanzy and Sean Keating are included in the selection of works. The two Exhibitions from the Permanent Collection feature over 120 artists and 130 artworks.
- Sinead McKillican, a 2020 Fine Art graduate from LIT Limerick School of Art and Design, was given an opportunity to exhibit her degree show in the 'HUB' space from 4 - 23 August.
- LCGA participated in the Heritage Week 2020 from 15 – 23 August, with a display of the archival materials, the exhibition catalogue from 1948, the Arts Advisory Committee minute book, accession register, press clipping from 1948, and photographs from the opening in 1948.



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- A series of three live concerts were held in August, an Initiative of the Shinnors Scholar, Brendan Egan. COVID-19 Guidelines were adhered to with attendance limited to ten persons (including the musicians). One of the concerts was held specifically in conjunction with Embracing Diversity, nurturing Inclusion Project (EDNIP), a Mary Immaculate College Initiative.
- LCGA will host a number of events in conjunction with Scairt na hÓige from Thursday, 27 August – Sunday, 30 August, including an Exhibition of Photographs by members of the Rathkeale Traveller Community and a Hip Hop Workshop on Friday, 28 August.
- Research continues for the 2021 programme, which was significantly altered due to COVID-19.
- LCGA continues to adhere to all COVID-19 safety protocols to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for visitors to the Gallery.
- Total visitors to date for August - 4,460.
- On 21 August, the RTE programme Nationwide featured Limerick Lace, which included extended coverage of Limerick Museum and its collection of Limerick Lace. It also included interviews with Dr. Matthew Potter, Curator of the Museum, and Dr. Gabriela Avram, Chair of the Friends of Lace Group. The programme resulted in considerable positive social media commentary and requests to purchase lace starter-kits.
- The Museum also collaborated very successfully with the Limerick City and County Council Marketing and Communications Department as part of the Limerick 50 Days of Summer campaign.

### LIMERICK MUSEUM

- Limerick Museum had a full programme of activities for Heritage Week (15-23 August). Three online events were added to the Museum website: a Limerick Lace Showcase and Oral History Premiere; a Digital Tour of Limerick Museum, conducted by Dr. Matthew Potter, Curator; and a Documentary on Limerick's Military History and Heritage. Also, as part of Heritage Week, Limerick Museum collaborated with the Hunt Museum, St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick Civic Trust and King John's Castle in the creation of a Medieval Limerick Map and Heritage Trail.





## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

### Housing Development Directorate

## 1. Strategic Housing Development

### 1. BUILD, BUY AND LEASE

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

As at 31 August 2020	Complete	In Progress
Build	11	135
Buy	18	12
Lease	34	104
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>251</b>

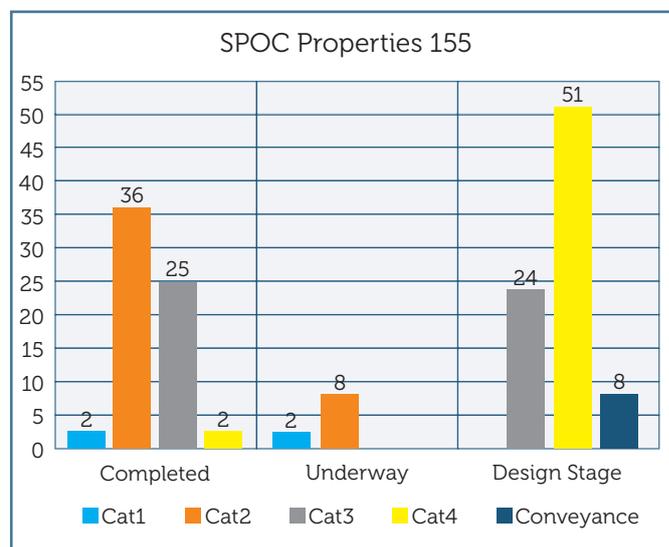
### 2. SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT (SPOC)

The fast-tracking of refurbishment works has continued with 158 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:

SPOC	Completed	Underway	Design Stage	TOTAL
Cat1	2	2	0	4
Cat2	36	8	0	44
Cat3	25	0	24	49
Cat4	2	0	51	53
Conveyance	0	0	8	8
	<b>65</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>158</b>





## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

### 2. Regeneration Strategy Implementation

#### Regeneration Strategy Implementation Plan – Limerick City

##### Minister's Visit

Regeneration welcomed a visit from Minister of State for Heritage, Mr. Malcolm Noonan, T.D., and Mr. Brian Leddin T.D., to the Thomond Weir 'Eel Weir' building. This mid-20th Century building, and the adjacent Weir, were constructed by the ESB in the 1930s to monitor salmon movement through the River Shannon and to study the impact of Ardnacrusha Power Station on salmon stocks. Minister Noonan was presented with a book of detailed drawings from the 1930s and a series of photographs taken to record the building in its current condition.

##### Financial

Revised Financial and Procurement processes have been established to align with all relevant Limerick City and County Council and National Policies. This will be captured in a new Employee's Handbook for all team members in Housing Development Directorate for full implementation in early September 2020.

##### Claims

A further €495,423 has been successfully recouped from the Department in the month of August, bringing the total to €6,781,199 for 2020 so far.

##### Social Intervention Fund

The Social Intervention Fund (SIF) is a Grant Scheme for local social, economic and community development projects under the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan (LRFIP). The Social Intervention Fund targets regeneration areas in the City, local communities designated as disadvantaged and people at risk of social exclusion.

Projects must be clearly linked to the objectives set out under the Social Pillar of the LRFIP - <http://www.limerick.ie/council/limerick-regeneration-framework-implementation-plan>

The SIF 2020 received approval from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in August of €3.28 million to fund 141 projects.

##### Moyross Residents' Forum

Moyross Residents' Forum is delighted to promote in Moyross the Limerick City Community Development Third Level Bursaries, supported by the Office of Regeneration. These supports are vital to help students with registration fees, books and materials to continue with their studies.

Moyross Residents' Forum continues to deliver food parcels to families in Moyross.

Moyross Residents' Forum continues to support residents:

- to ensure essential maintenance is reported and followed up.
- Daily phone calls to residents for check-in and social media.
- Liaise with Irish Water and Airtricity to follow up on issues raised by residents.
- 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, and following all HSE Guidelines.
- Moyross Residents' Forum, as a member of Moyross Regeneration Committee and the Regeneration Consultative Forum, is working to ensure all lines of communication remain open and the programme for regeneration can continue to be delivered to enhance the lives of residents and continue to create vibrant and sustainable communities.



## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

### Southill Hub

- Provided Summer Camps for young people with day trips to outdoor activity centres.
- Provided small group outdoor social "get togethers" for young people at the Community Centre.
- Community Bingo returned to the Community Centre (though only for one night before Guidelines changed).
- Delivered Tusla support packs to families.
- Provided meals to families in the local community.

### Our Lady of Lourdes (OLOL)

**Crèche:** Crèche number increased to about 90 as expected. Work on external areas completed to add an outside play area for kids. Recruitment for Crèche Manager ongoing, position likely to be filled in September.

**Seniors:** Seniors cocooning receiving weekly phone calls, and daily phone calls to Meals on Wheels clients. Care and repair service continues and is very busy getting referrals from Public Health Nurses, Occupational Therapists, and Milford Day Care Centre for patients returning home.

**Youth:** Summer provision - The West End Youth Centre and STEPS School Completion Programme rolled out a Summer programme. They involved local artists, Limerick Sports Partnership, along with staff offering art, sports and fun activities; also engaged with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board and the creative youths' coordinator who offered taster art sessions to the young people.

The West End also engaged members of the centre in small outings of activities within Limerick City.

**Building refurbishments.** The centre has undergone some refurbishments and also put measures in place to meet government guidelines, as well as Department of Child and Family Youth Affairs in relation to COVID-19.

**New Opportunities:** The Centre will roll out a Youth Arts Initiative from August to December. This will allow the young people of Our Lady of Lourdes community the opportunity to experience some art in different forms and new experiences.

**Estate Management:** Road sweeping and litter pick continues and the Estate Management Worker supports residents by phone, email and in person by appointment.

**Meals On Wheels:** Meals on Wheels - 2,197 delivered to OLOL and surrounding areas – staff wearing Personal Protective Equipment and working in teams to avoid risk of infection.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT****Service Operations Directorate****1. Housing Support Services**• **Waiting List**

Housing Waiting List	2,654
----------------------	-------

• **Allocations**

	No. of Units AUGUST 2020	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	2	12
Newcastle West	7	43
Metropolitan District	16	168
Cappamore – Kilmallock	3	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>248</b>

• **Allocation Refusals**

	No. of Units AUGUST 2020	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	1
Newcastle West	1	20
Metropolitan District	2	24
Cappamore – Kilmallock	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>47</b>

• **Traveller Housing Welfare**

No. of Units offered AUGUST 2020	Year to Date
3	25

\*these figures are included in Allocations figures

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

2,380 of active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	37
No. of Amendments	136
No. of Cessations	30



## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

### HOME IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

August 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	€11,880.00	2	€6,007.50	1	€3,562.98	1	€0.00	0
Newcastle West	€0.00	0	€0.00	0	€7,600.00	1	€0.00	0
Metropolitan	€25,860.00	6	€45,312.36	4	€51,043.44	12	€0.00	0
Cappamore - Kilmallock	€24,249.80	5	€16,427.50	2	€33,325.00	5	€0.00	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>€61,989.80</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>€67,747.36</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>€95,531.42</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>€0.00</b>	<b>0</b>
Total Monies issued in August 2020 = €225,268.58								
Total Grants issued in August 2020 = 39								

January to August 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	€76,852.24	15	€149,067.86	13	€71,665.53	20	€0.00	0
Newcastle West	€51,282.29	11	€41,132.45	7	€181,832.25	43	€5,448.00	1
Metropolitan	€155,313.54	32	€204,452.18	27	€155,946.56	45	€174,351.29	19
Cappamore - Kilmallock	€60,299.80	13	€103,479.30	11	€110,447.38	22	€24,306.63	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>€343,747.87</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>€498,131.79</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>€519,891.72</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>€204,105.92</b>	<b>22</b>
Total Monies issued January to August 2020 = €1,565,877.30								
Total Grants issued January to August 2020 = 281								

### RENT COLLECTION

Rent Collection Limerick City & County Council					
Opening Balance at 01/01/2020	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing balance 31/08/2020	% Collection
€4,599,470	€11,136,204	€15,735,674	€10,812,389	€4,923,285	69%



**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

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

Individuals – 31 August, 2020		
Location	Description	No.
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	30
St. Patrick's Hostel	Higher threshold accommodation for single males	46
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	16
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	6
Temporary Emergency Provision TEP 1 (Edenvilla)	Low threshold, night by night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	14
TEP 2 (Phoenix Lodge)	Low threshold, night by night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	16
<b>Total</b>		<b>128</b>

Families			
Location	Description	No. Adults	No. Children
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	7
		Families - 6	
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	35	38
		Families - 24	
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Families self-isolated. Service users from St. Pat's utilising the building	8	0
		Families - 0	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Adults</b>	<b>Children</b>
		<b>49</b>	<b>45</b>
		<b>Families - 30</b>	

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT****TENANT PURCHASE/ GROUND RENT / DEED OF DISCHARGE / CONSENT TO SALE / COTTAGE PURCHASE ANNUITY DETAILS:-**

Tenant Purchase	
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. Received	2
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. Approved	2
Ground Rent	
Ground Rent Applications: No. Received	5
Deed of Discharge	
Deed of Discharge Applications: No. Received	3
Consent to Sale	
Consent to Sale Applications: No. Received	1
Cottage Purchase Annuity	
No. of Cottage Purchase Annuity Applications	1



## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

### 2. Planning & Environmental Services

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

- 159 complaints were received in August.
- 343 inspections were undertaken during the month.
- The Department issued five Statutory Notices.
- Five Directions were served by the Department.
- Ten Warning Letters were issued in August.
- 18 litter fines were issued during the period.
- Legal proceedings were initiated in two cases.

#### Economic Development and Planning

##### Planning Applications

A total of 94 new planning applications were received as follows:

Part 8	1
Domestic Developments	50
Agricultural Developments	18
Commercial Developments/Change of Use	8
Sporting/Community and Educational Developments	5
Other Developments	12

The current applications include proposals for:

- Part 8 for the signalisation of the Plassey Road/ Plassey Park Road and Plassey Park Road/ University Road junctions, including dedicated pedestrian/cycle crossing facilities and the addition of bus lanes at Plassey Park Road and Plassey Road, Castletroy.

- Construction of a four-storey, 96 single-bed, acute inpatient ward block extension, to be located above the existing Emergency Department, at University Hospital Limerick, St. Nessian's Road, Dooradoyle.

### 3. Veterinary Services

- Four stray or wandering equines were impounded.
- The Dog Control Unit dealt with 19 dogs.
- Five food samples were submitted during August for analysis under the National Residues and Microbiological Sampling Programme.

### 4. Cemeteries

Number of Burials in City Cemeteries.

Mount St. Lawrence	14
Mount St. Oliver	17
Castlemungret	3
Kilmurry	0



## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

### 5. Municipal District Offices

#### Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

##### Croom

- **Croom Traffic Management Project**

Extensive consultation has been held with Community and Business Interests in relation to the Croom Traffic Management Plan. The main points raised by these interests are:

1. Additional Parking in Town Centre Area required due to removal of parking at one side of the street. *The Municipal District is currently surveying the areas adjacent to the old bank building and adjacent to the post office to design additional parking in these areas. An application will also be made to fund these from the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.*
2. 2-Hour parking required in the Town Centre Area *The Municipal District is currently drafting bye-laws for this.*
3. Disabled Parking Spaces required. *The final design will include Disabled Parking Spaces at at least the recommended rate of 1 in 20.*

- **Croom Distributor Road**

Works are progressing on the Croom Distributor Road.

##### Adare

- **Walkway Dunraven to the River Maigue**

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) approved funding of €96,000 to create a safe footpath from the Dunraven to the River Maigue. The first section of this, outside the Dunraven Hotel, is now complete. The Municipal District has now agreed a modification to the design of the lower section of footpath. This will include a kerbed footpath and drainage. The TII has agreed to this change and an increase in this funding to €130,000. These works are now complete.

- **Pope's Quay**

Solicitors for Limerick City and County Council are currently in negotiations with the Dunraven Estate to secure ownership of the lands required for this development.

##### Rathkeale

- **Traffic Management**

Road Markings in Rathkeale were surveyed last year. Changes to these roadmarkings to facilitate smooth movement of traffic are currently being worked on.

Discussions were held with the Physical Development Directorate earlier this year in relation to the required Inner Relief Road through the Mart Site. Proposals in relation to this have now been sent to the Department of Transport.

- **Footpath Links**

An application has been made to the Town and Village Renewal Scheme to fund the refurbishment of the Riverside Walkway.

- **Rathkeale Library Pedestrian Crossing**

This pedestrian crossing is now largely complete, awaiting resurfacing to area before final opening.

- **Ballywilliam Road and Footpath Scheme**

Works are progressing on drainage in this area. Kerbing, footpaths and road resurfacing will follow through the Summer months.

- **Footpath Link Library to Tadhg O'Connors**

Works on this are likely to proceed in the Autumn.



## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

### Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

- The Pilot Home Improvement Scheme for Tenants of Social Housing, with a budget of €100,000 for Local Authority tenants residing in the Municipal District, saw a significant number of applications being received before the deadline of 31 July. These applications are currently being processed and decisions on same will issue to all applicants in mid-September.
- The construction of 20 social housing units at Glenview Drive, Hospital, commenced on site in early August, with Griffin Brothers Contracting Limited as the main Contractor on site.
- The Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock received an allocation of €516,954 for 2020 from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for housing adaptation grants processed within the Municipal District. These grants make a huge difference in offering people a choice to continue living independently in their own home. The money is 80% funded by the Exchequer, and the remaining 20% funding from the Local Authorities' own resources.
- The 2020 Roadworks Programme for the Municipal District, having been somewhat delayed due to COVID-19, continues throughout the Municipal District with the intention of fully completing it before the end of 2020.

### Municipal District of Newcastle West

- The 2020 Roadworks Programme for the District, which was delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions, is now 95% complete, with Local Improvement Schemes still progressing.
- During the month of August, 1,203 transactions were processed by the Newcastle West Motor Tax Section.



## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

### Capital Investment Directorate

## 1. Design & Delivery

### Finance

- Recoupments submitted for Housing Projects to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in August - €2,243,161.
- Recoupments issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in August - €1,462,748.

### Part VIII

- Part VIII Planning lodged for the Plassey Park Junction Improvement Scheme.
- Public Notification under Section 38 Traffic Calming Measures advertised for the Corbally Road Roundabout Pedestrian Crossings Scheme.

### Tenders

- Tender Assessment for Contractors completed for the Limerick Urban Centre Revitalisation – O'Connell St (LUCROC) Phase 1.
- Integrated Design Team appointed for the Living Georgian Quarter.
- Tender assessment has taken place for Engineering Consultants for the University of Limerick to National Technology Park Cycling Infrastructure.
- Tender assessment has taken place for Engineering Consultants for the Arthur's Quay Park to Condell Road Cycling Infrastructure and Wickham Street to Clare Street Cycling Infrastructure.
- Tender assessment has taken place for Engineering Consultants for the Fr. Russell Road Cycling Infrastructure.
- Tender assessment completed for Contractors on Castletroy Urban Greenway.

### Project Updates:

- **Coonagh Knockalisheen Road:** A Contractor has been appointed to carry out site preparatory works, including site clearance, fencing, drainage and earthworks, so that a site at Ballygrennan will be available for the main Contractor as an area for the reuse of uncontaminated inert soil and stone material excavated as part of Coonagh Knockalisheen Distributor Road project as landscape fill.
- **Metropolitan Depot:** A topographical survey of the site has been carried out and a ground investigation Contractor has been appointed to undertake investigations to assist with the preliminary design.
- **King's Island Flood Relief Scheme:** As part of the King's Island Flood Relief Scheme, archaeological test trenching is nearing completion. The purpose of the work is to identify underground archaeology in order to finalise the design of the permanent flood defence works in a manner that mitigates any interference with underground archaeology. The medieval bridge to the Mill, found during the building of the Merchant's Quay Offices, was re-exposed and two arches of the 18th century brewery build on the same site were documented. The testing has revealed a great deal of information about the medieval harbour and its subsequent development. The gate from the City to the harbour was located at the junction with Bridge Street and one of the outer harbour walls (mapped from 1590) may have been located.

A ground investigation contract is underway around King's Island to better determine ground conditions in order to carry out the detailed design of embankments and flood defence walls.

- **Mungret Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund:** An archaeologist has been appointed to carry out an archaeological assessment of Stage 2 road which extends over a distance of 1,700 metres from Mungret Gate housing development to the new primary schools. A Civil Contractor has been appointed to assist the archaeologist in the excavation of test trenches along the route of the road.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT****Projects Completed**

- **Mungret College** – Ground floor refurbished and handed over to Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board. Remaining two floors to be handed over by Christmas.

**Buy and Renew and SHIP Refurbishment Programme**

Inspections Carried out in August	Refurbishment Works Commenced in August	Refurbishment Works Ongoing	Refurbishment Works Completed in August
4	0	7	1

**Home Improvement Schemes**

Inspections & Recommendations for Home Improvement Schemes – August 2020 - (mix of onsite and remote inspections)

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-Inspection	Final Inspection	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	2	0	4	6
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	5	0	8	13
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	30	0	9	39
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	37	0	21	58



## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

### National and Regional Shared Services Directorate

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

- There were 57,588 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAPSSC, at the end of August.
- A weekly average of 297 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2020.
- The August landlord payment run was €48.8 million.
- The weekly tenant debit at the end of August was over €2.8 million.
- The HAPSSC Debt Management Unit collected a total of €91.1 million in differential rent to end of August.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of August was 96%.

#### 2. Fire and Emergency Services

##### Statistics

	No. of Fire Related Calls	No. of Non Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call-outs 01/08/2020 – 31/08/2020	78	85	163
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	79%	49%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	19%	46%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	2%	5%	

	No. Received / Assigned	No. Validated	No. Invalidated / Refused	No. Granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications August	16	13	0	5	
Disability Access Cert Applications August	12	10	0	5	
Licensing Applications August	73	73	0		
Commencement Notice August	38	33	4	33	37
Completion Certificate August	11	9	0	9	9
Planning Referrals August	19				9
Sugar CRM Cases August	4				1

Types of 'Valid' Commencement Notices Received	Commencement Notice with Documentation	Commencement Notice without Documentation	Opt-Out Commencement Notice	7-Day Notice
August	5	6	19	3

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT****Fire and Emergency Training Events**

- One new Fire Fighter recruited in Cappamore Fire Station. He is attending a three-week Breathing Apparatus Initial Wearers' Course in Bray.
- Preparations have been ongoing for the resumption of training within the Fire Service from the start of September.

**Civil Defence attendance at Events**

- Transport to the Gaelic Grounds of one person for COVID-19 testing.
- Assisted Clare Civil Defence with the collection of a patient from Ennis, transported to University Hospital Limerick for pre-op COVID-19 testing, and returned the patient home.
- Irish Blood Transfusion Service Blood Clinics in Newcastle West which were run over five days.

**Water Safety**

Number of lifebuoy replacements	Total Jan – July	August	Total 2020
Metropolitan Area	5	0	5
Municipal Area	11	0	11

**Munster Regional Control Centre (MRCC)**

	No. of Calls mobilised to an emergency incident by MRCC	Other Calls	Average Call Processing Time	Total No. of Calls in August
No. of Call-Outs 01/08/2020 – 31/08/2020	1,174	1,026	1 minute, 21 seconds	2,200



## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

### 3. Digital Services and EU Programmes

#### Digital Services

- The Broadband Officer, under the National Broadband Plan, arranged for a Broadband Connection Point (BCP) in Caherline Community Centre to be connected to the Internet with a high-speed connection of 150Mbps. This is the very first BCP in Co. Limerick with a connection that is 10 times faster than the average connectivity available in the area.
- A public procurement process was run by Digital Services and ICT on eTenders in August to identify a supplier to rollout a network of 40 outdoor public Wi-Fi access points throughout the City and County as part of the WiFi4EU Initiative, for which Limerick City and County Council has received funding from the EU and the Department of Rural and Community Development. A supplier will be appointed in September, who Digital Services and ICT will then engage with to coordinate the rollout at the relevant locations throughout the rest of the year.

#### EU Programmes

- On 26 September, the H2020 +CityxChange General Assembly agreed to invite GoCar to join the project in Limerick. GoCar will work with Limerick City and County Council to deploy nine shared electric vehicles at key hub locations around the City. GoCar will investigate how their electric vehicles can be integrated into the concept of Mobility as a Service, while also looking at how these cars can act as energy storage components for the wider grid, to help prepare Limerick for a future where electric cars are the norm.

**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 August 2020	9,759,506	59,733,742**	104,855	360,306	69,028,087	31,000,544	38,027,543	3,716,117	47%

\*\* 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 31st August 2020	447,129	883,759*	13,665	1,317,223	1,337,809	20,586	102%

\* Accruals not up to date to end of August 2020

**Recourse to Overdraft Facility**

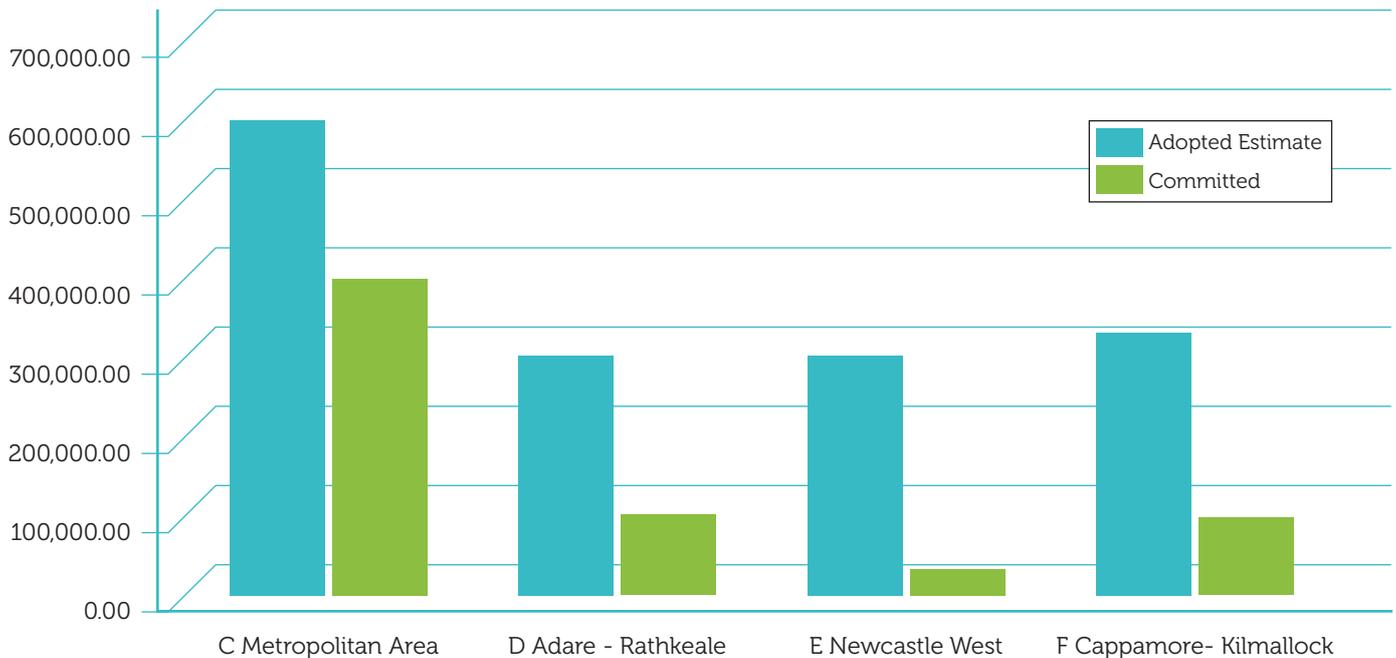
No of days in overdraft      **0**



## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

### General Municipal Allocation 2020 Adopted Estimate €1.403 Million

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



Municip (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate (€)	Value Committed (€)
C Metropolitan Area	568,000.00	300,618
D Adare - Rathkeale	270,000.00	78,389
E Newcastle West	270,000.00	0
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	295,000.00	84,424



## 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:

- Farewell Event for Eugene Phelan, Editor, Limerick Leader, on his retirement from the Newspaper after 45 years of service.  
Venue: Limerick Leader Office, 54, Glentworth Street, Limerick.
- Launch of the Virtual Cook Medical Women's Mini-Marathon.  
Venue: Limerick Strand Hotel.
- Photocall to highlight new Exhibition 'Limerick Connections,' an Exhibition of Works by Artists associated with Limerick from the 1970s to the present day.  
Venue: Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA), Carnegie Building, Pery Square, Limerick.

#### 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.

Over 1,700 entries have been processed to date and the Register will be updated continuously.

#### Health and Safety Training

The Health and Safety Training Unit continues to organise training courses for staff.

- **Safe Pass Training:** is being provided to staff whose training has expired, or is due to expire, and those who do not hold Safe Pass. A total of nine staff have been trained during the month of August.
- **Manual Handling:** Courses have commenced and a total number of 18 staff members have been trained during the month.
- **CPC Training:** Training has taken place and a total number of 26 staff members have been trained during the month.
- **First-Aid Response and First-Aid Refresher:** A total number of two staff members have been trained during the month.
- **Asbestos Training:** A total number of 14 staff members have been trained during the month.
- **COVID-19 Induction:** Toolbox Talks have taken place for outdoor staff over the past month and attendance has been recorded. A total of 321 outdoor staff members have been trained to date.



## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

### Customer Services

August saw unprecedented weather events with two major storms, Ellen and Francis.

Storm Ellen hit on 20 August and resulted in a high number of calls to the Call Centre, with 757 in total presented. This was closely followed by Storm Francis on 25 August. Again, on this occasion, Customer Services supported the Council by taking requests for service at the first point of contact, with queries ranging from fallen trees and branches, housing maintenance issues to surface water issues.

Customer Services also supported the organisation regarding requests from the public on the Council's Mobility Plan and also supported colleagues in Finance around Phase 2 of the Business Restart Grant.

The following figures highlight the activity within the Contact Centre throughout August:

- Customer Services Call Centre dealt with 11,308 calls, an average of 566 per day. Almost 650 calls were received on a number of days throughout the month, with the highest daily figure reaching 757. Of these calls, 56% were handled at first point of contact.
- 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 3,156 cases created. 692 of these cases were logged on behalf of Public Representatives, with a 52% closure rate on same.
- A total of 1,949 emails were processed through the Customer Services mailbox.
- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued, with a total of 368 cases being logged, 93% 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 844 cases logged for Housing Maintenance in the Limerick Metropolitan District, 747 (89%) 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 91 new Residential Parking Permits being processed throughout the month.
- With the reopening of public counters, in both Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle, there was a combined footfall of 1,586 customers throughout the month.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT****3. Schedule of Meetings for August**

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Implementation Advisory Group on the Establishment of a Directly Elected Mayor with Executive Functions for Limerick	20.08.2020	Virtual

**4. Access to Information**

	August	2020 (January - August)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	14	107
FOI Internal Appeals	0	3
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	0
Re-Use of Public Information	1	1
Total Ombudsman Requests	0	19
Total AIE Requests	1	5

**5. Business Improvement**

- **Citizen Engagement:** The Westfields Wetlands Survey went live on the Limerick City and County Council online engagement portal MyPoint, receiving more than 70 citizen responses in the first five days.
- **Staff Engagement:** 645 staff are now live on the Employee App.
- **Project and Project Management:** 220 Capital Projects are now live on the Cora cloud-based Project Management System.
- **Innovation:** A Cross-Directorate Team has been established to examine the digitisation of all internal staff forms. The COVID-19 – Return to Work Form will be the first form to have a digital workflow enabled through SharePoint.