

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

September 2020

TRANSPORT – The new Transport Strategy for Limerick unveiled

SOCKIES - Social Media Awards - Limerick City and County Council nominated for 4 awards

BIKES – Series of events held for Bike Week 2020

CULTURE – Culture Night 2020 moves online

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Economic Development Directorate

1. Trade and Investment

- Sinead Ryan, Chartered Quantity Surveyor, has been appointed as new Project Manager for Limerick 2030 ahead of the commencement of work on the Opera Site.
- Construction has commenced on the new Lidl store in Corbally, which will create 30 permanent jobs when the store opens.

2. City Centre Revitalisation

- Work is currently ongoing on a programme to improve walkways between the main shopping areas, Milk Market to Thomas Street/Catherine Street. Todds Bow is the first of these projects which has been very well received by traders and citizens alike. It has been cleaned, painted, footpath repaired, lighting improved and signage installed. It is light, clean and now appears safer for pedestrians.
- Decorative lighting has been installed in the trees on Bedford Row and Thomas Street to create a pleasant atmosphere for outdoor diners of the restaurants located in this area.

3. Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

- **Tech Disrupt 4.0**
Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) Limerick and Clare announced the launch of Tech Disrupt 4.0, an exciting pilot project where participants can secure up to €25,000 in funding vouchers to help create and launch solutions that align with the principles of Industry 4.0.

The Tech Disrupt 4.0 pilot project aims to encourage cutting edge technology, innovation and software development in counties Limerick and Clare. Managed by the LEOs of Limerick and Clare, the project, through a competitive structure, will support individuals and businesses that develop solutions that will deliver automation and smarter decision-making tools to manufacturers

and associated industries. The project is open to individuals and businesses who are located or domiciled in counties Limerick and Clare.

After a series of online events and ideation workshops, interested parties will be encouraged to make a presentation of their proposed Industry 4.0 aligned solution. Six entries will be chosen to receive up to €25,000 of funding vouchers to help create and develop a viable business solution.

4. 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 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, were run in an effort to inform the public. Comments and observations are welcomed during the public display period, which runs until 12 October 2020.
- The Forward/Strategic Planning Section 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 2020.

5. Innovate Limerick

The Metropolitan District of Limerick, at its Meeting on Monday, 21 September 2020, approved a Part 8 Planning Application to build an extension on to ENGINE building, Cecil Street, Limerick. The extension, costing in the region of €2.7m, will be used as a Digital Collaboration Centre which will facilitate collaboration between multinational and indigenous companies in the Region.



September 2020 - Film in Limerick

- Innovate Limerick / Film in Limerick's new 'Writers' Factory' Screenwriting Programme received local media and online coverage and the 22-week course was full within 24 hours of its launch showing the huge demand for film and TV training in the Region. The course begins on 21 October and is supported by Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board. A waiting list has been set up at writersfactory.ie for those who wish to sign up and to hear about future courses.
- Innovate Limerick / Film in Limerick's new 'Introduction to Creative Producing Course' is now open for enrolment through fetchcourses.ie. The 20-week programme is supported by Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board and is aimed at new producers in the Mid-West looking to professionalise their practice and to develop independent production companies in the Region. Designed by Film in Limerick and Screen Skills Ireland, the programme will take place online initially and will be taught by Irish and international screen industry experts.

6. Urban Innovation Department

Living Georgian City – Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF)

The Living Georgian City (LGC) Programme is an historic city centre revitalisation process which tests out new models of living and new ways of engaging with citizens on the design and use of their shared spaces. It is supported by the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) 2018 and is a rolling four-year programme with an overall value of €10.5 million.

In September, the following activities were completed:

- The first draft report to develop the governance and financial structure for community-led housing (CLH) initiatives in the city centre.
- The appointment of a design team for the housing demonstration project (No. 33/34 Thomas Street and No. 58 O'Connell Street, Limerick), led by Paul Keogh Architects.

- The appointment of a Design Team for the laneway's demonstration project, led by Tobin Consulting Engineers.

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Programme - Fire Safety in Historic Buildings

This project has progressed with the collection of data in a number of buildings that will be used to inform the development of a new product.

+CityxChange – City Engage Week – Theme: Renewables

The Urban Innovation Department hosted the second City Engage Week from 14-18 September 2020 on the theme of renewable energy. The City Engage series is part of the +CityxChange project funded by the European Commission through Horizon 2020. The overall aim of the project seeks to create positive energy districts and influence citizen behaviour to meet the challenge of moving to a low carbon sustainable future.

- Urban Innovation, in collaboration with +CityXChange partners, hosted a full programme of nine online webinars and workshops over the course of the week.
- Attendees got the opportunity to explore the potential and the challenges of installing renewables and creating positive energy districts in Limerick's Georgian Quarter.
- Participants mapped solar potential in the Georgian Neighbourhood, learned about the proposed tidal turbine in the Shannon and had the chance to build their own home energy monitor. Presenters from Ireland and Europe shared their experiences of energy generation and creating energy communities.
- 195 attended and participated in events throughout the week, taking the opportunity to learn about the project and share their vision for a low carbon future for Limerick.
- The next City Engage Week will take place in Spring 2021.



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Living City Initiative (LCI) – September 2020

The Living City Initiative tax incentive has been extended to December 2022. The Urban Innovation Department holds fortnightly advice clinics in ENGINE, Upper Cecil Street, 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 clinics are the Fire Officer, Conservation Officer, Senior Architect and Town Planner.

	2020 to Date	TOTAL (since 2018)
No. of Applications Received	19	38
Owner Occupier	0	2
Rented Residential	17	33
Mixed Residential	2	6
No. of Applications Acknowledged (Interim)	9	22
Final Cert Issued	2	7

- The competition, which runs for three weeks, will culminate with two overall winners winning a €1,000 Whelan Cameras voucher (amateur) and a month-long city centre billboard display (professional).
- A dedicated campaign page was created at www.limerick.ie/photography-competition allowing entrants to submit their photographs to the competition online.

Limerick 50 Days of Summer

- Concluded eight-week multimedia national tourism marketing campaign positioning Limerick as a staycation destination.
- 38,454 users logged onto www.limerickie.ie/50days over the duration of the campaign generating 197,889 page views.
- Digital marketing earned total paid impressions of 9,210,441.
- The campaign reached an audience of over 50,000 through local, national and international press coverage.
- Secured double-page staycation feature Limerick Fairytale in the Sunday World Magazine by travel writer and broadcaster, Suzanne Kane, following her recent visit to Limerick.

7. Marketing and Communications

Marketing

Limerick Edge Embrace Photography Competition

- To celebrate the new Limerick brand, Limerick: Atlantic Edge, European Embrace unveiled earlier this year, a photography competition was launched inviting both amateur and professional photographers to capture images which best express the two essential elements at the heart of the Limerick brand: Edge and Embrace.

Christmas in Limerick

- Engaged with Tourism, Culture and Arts and Economic Development to commence work for PR and Marketing Campaign for Christmas in Limerick 2020.
- Limerick City and County Council was shortlisted as a finalist in the Sockies 2020 Social Media Awards in four categories for its marketing campaigns; Limerick – Atlantic Edge European Embrace, Virtual Riverfest Limerick 2020, Shop Limerick, and Limerick 50 Days of Summer. Winners will be announced in Autumn 2020.



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- Submissions made for the City Nation Place Awards under the following categories: Best Citizen Engagement, Best Use of Design, Place Brand of the Year.
- Collaborated with Cook Medical Limerick Women's Mini Marathon 2020 to feature Limerick: Atlantic Edge, European Embrace branding on participants' tops and race bibs.
- Commenced creative design process to introduce feature banners in Limerick City Centre to showcase Limerick: Atlantic Edge, European Embrace brand in a high impact media spot.
- Marketing materials supplied to newly-opened Tourist Information Hub in Rathkeale.
- Marketing support provided to Pigtown Culture and Food Series 2020.
- Created and issued eight Limerick.ie e-newsletters.

Social Media

- 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 73 times on Limerick.ie's Facebook with followers now 27,824. Posts reached 58,854 users with 9,293 engagements.
- Tweeted 57 times on Limerick.ie's Twitter, @Limerick.ie, with total followers now 18,809. Our tweets earned 162,800 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).
- Posted 12 times on Limerick.ie's Instagram and created ten stories with total followers now 12,450.
- Posted 20 times on Limerick City and County Council's LinkedIn with total followers now 5,762.

Limerick.ie

A total of 111,981 people visited the Limerick.ie website in September 2020, an 8% decrease in users on the same period in 2019.

Content Report: 74 articles, 277 events and 18 amenities were added to Limerick.ie in September 2020.

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

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

36% of website page views were in the Council section and 34% were in the Discover Section of Limerick.ie.

Communications

- Teneo Strategy Ireland Ltd. were assessed as the winners for the contract to provide Strategic Communications Services to Limerick City and County Council for an initial two-year period. The standstill period ends at the beginning of October, after which contracts will be signed.
- Issued 23 news releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and researched and wrote ten speeches for the Office of the Mayor.
- Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter.
- Tweeted 238 times on Limerick City and County Council's Twitter account, @limerickcouncil, with total followers now 15,299. Our tweets earned 362,600 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweets).



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Physical Development Directorate

1. Travel and Transportation Strategy

The Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy was launched on 2 September 2020. The National Transport Authority document was prepared in conjunction with Limerick City and County Council, Clare County Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland. The strategy aims to deliver a high quality, accessible, integrated and more sustainable transport network that supports the role of the Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area as the major growth engine of the Mid-West Region, an internationally competitive European city region and main international entry to the Atlantic Corridor.

The strategy was placed on public display on 2 September 2020 and will remain open until 30 October 2020.

A meeting of the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) was held on 14 September to brief all 40 Elected Members and the Sectoral representatives of the SPC.

2. Environment Strategy

The European Green Leaf programme of webinars continued in September with "Let's Go Bats," a fascinating presentation by the Vincent Wildlife Trust on the lesser horseshoe bat. The presentation highlighted the importance of Limerick for the survival of this endangered species. This webinar attracted a large audience from as far afield as India (which is also home to the species).

Staff training on invasive species was held in Westfields Wetlands, as was an information day for the public on the biodiversity of the wetlands.

In celebration of Bike Week, the European Green Leaf Programme sponsored an exhibition of vintage bicycles, including a beautifully restored Penny Farthing, from the High Nellie Company in Pallasgreen. The exhibition was held in the Bank of Ireland's Work Bench on O'Connell Street.

3. Water Services

The replacement of the 300mm asbestos water main on St. Nessian's Road, Dooradoyle, with a 350mm HDPE water main was commenced by Irish Water contractors on 14 September 2020. This work is projected to finish on 18 December 2020. Approx. 1000m of water main between the Crescent Roundabout and Ballycummin Road, Limerick, will be replaced.



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Community Development Directorate

1. Tourism, Culture & Arts

CULTURE AND ARTS - OPEN CALLS

Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2020/21

Total Fund Available €245,000. The assessment panel met on Friday, 4 September. Fifty-five applications were received at a total ask of €709,387. The panel recommended the allocation of funding to 42 successful applicants totalling €245,000. These were approved at the September Meeting of Limerick City and County Council.

Tyrone Guthrie Bursaries

The Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig is a residential workplace for artist of all disciplines. In September, Limerick City and County Council announced an Open Call for three Bursaries for the Tyrone Guthrie Centre. The deadline for applications for three one-week bursaries was Wednesday, September 30. Six applications were received.

Strategic Fund

The Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts Scheme supports applications to national and international funding bodies to help leverage funding by offering a percentage of any funding awarded, in the event of a successful application. In September, eight letters of support were issued, six to Arts Council Projects Awards and two to the Arts Council Commissions Award.

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, are delivering the River Residencies under the Arts Council's "An Invitation to Collaboration" scheme. Applications were 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.

This call for submissions was 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, an artistic project about, along and on the River Shannon which began in 2017. The call opened on Friday 14 August and the deadline for submissions was 12 Noon on Monday 21 September. 296 submissions were received and are being processed.

CREATIVE IRELAND FUNDED PROJECTS

Emerging Limerick Filmmakers (ELF) Open Call

Emerging Limerick Filmmakers (ELF) is a new home for young filmmakers in Limerick. Applications closed for Emerging Limerick Filmmakers, aged 13 to 18 years on September 20. Based in Castletroy, ELF empowers its members with the opportunity to grow and develop as storytellers. For the first programme, ELF is undertaking four months of weekly meetings every Thursday evening.

Focus Ireland Graffiti Art Project

Focus Ireland offered their clients an opportunity to participate in a Graffiti Art project 'Vision for Hope and Change' as part of a social and creative intervention. They designed the back of an apartment building with street art, displaying messages of hope and change for the future.

The Preparation for Education, Training and Employment (PETE) project is a preventative service offering those affected by marginalisation access to mainstream education or employment.

St. Gabriel's Centre 'Sing Me To The Sea'

Sing Me To The Sea is an immersive multi-sensory water adventure for children with profound and severe disabilities. Children who participate have wide ranging diagnoses and special needs e.g. Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Learning Disabilities, Epilepsy and other genetic syndromes or neurological conditions. The programme was developed specifically with these children in mind by Ireland-based theatre director Anna Newell and composer David Goodall in collaboration with professional Healthcare specialists.



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Sing Me To The Sea is a magical experience for these children. The artists are in the pool with the children and they provide a sensory interaction with each child demonstrating a high level of specialist expertise and skills.

From 21 to 25 September, this water-based artistic programme ran in St. Gabriel's hydrotherapy pool for children with the most complex disabilities and high medical needs.

Digital Skills Workshop

Commenced on 21 September, this new and unique seven-week programme is running in association with Limerick Culture and Arts Office and Creative Ireland and is facilitated by visual artist and folklorist Michael Fortune. (folklore.ie).

Aimed at Art Practitioners, Heritage Experts and Community Facilitators in Limerick City and County, this course has been offered for free through Creative Ireland funding.

CULTURE AND PLACE MAKING

Submission of Annual Arts Council Application

A Framework Agreement Report Form was submitted to the Arts Council in September. This form outlines the potential four shared strategic actions Limerick City and County Council and the Arts Council are working to deliver:

- Strategic Action One: Supporting Artists and Key Strategic Organisations
- Strategic Action Two: Rural Arts and Excellence
- Strategic Action Three: Young People, Children and Education
- Strategic Action Four: Festivals and Events

Limerick Culture Night 2020

Limerick Culture Night went digital for 2020 with a wide range of events for the public to see and interact with online. It took place mostly online this year due to COVID-19, with digital events kicking off from 3pm until late on Friday 18 September. Artists and cultural organisations in Limerick presented 30+ events and activities to showcase what they do all year round!

Culture Night is always great fun and offers the perfect opportunity for us as a region to showcase the wealth of culture that Limerick has to offer. This year was no different, despite safety restrictions and adherence to national guidelines. At the centre of the programme were two new and exciting digital commissions.

Fidget Feet, in association with King John's Castle, filmed across the city for their digital aerial film project 'Limerick: Undreamed.' Theirs is the story of finding oneself or finding that there is more to oneself than first imagined. It takes as its premise that a city and its people are not separate, that one shapes the other to the extent that it would be hard to say where the people of the city end and the city begins.

EVA International also created a new digital work for Culture Night, a three-part spoken word performance, to camera, by MuRli, God Knows, and Hazy Haze, featuring accompanying dance performance by Salma Ataya and bass by Danny Lanham. Directed by Stephen Hall (Hallway Media) and performed at each of EVA's key venues (Limerick City Gallery of Art, Hunt Museum, The Sailor's Home). The performance was released on Culture Night to officially launch the 39th EVA International Edition. Other events on the night included:

- Digital tour of Limerick Museum
- Screening and workshop for young filmmakers from Fresh Film
- Live music from Emma Langford as she launches her new Album Sowing Acorns
- Digital Exhibition from South and Proud in association with The Gaff from Tait House
- Behind the scenes look at St. John's Brass and Reed Band
- Online workshop on how to track your home energy usage from +City Xchange
- Dance Limerick presented a live performance of Bloodlines by John Scott at their space in John's Square, Limerick. Seating was strictly limited and tickets were booked through Dance Limerick.



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The County Limerick Youth Theatre

Programmed workshops began in adherence to COVID-19 restrictions.

The Integrated Dance Programme

The Integrated Dance Programme is delivered by Mary Hartney. Workshops were suspended in March due to COVID-19. Due to COVID-19, Transition Years cannot participate in the programme and the focus is on providing Dance to Service users, with professional dancers. Workshops began with Brothers of Charity in Newcastle West and Enable Ireland, Castleconnell.

Artists in Schools

In response to COVID-19, the Artists in Schools Programme for 2020/21 has been re-modelled, working in partnership with Music Generation Limerick City, who have developed an innovative LiveStream Model, in response to COVID-19. This is a once-off approach to deliver a high quality programme to children in schools, when the traditional model of artists in schools is not feasible. This programme has been offered to all 26 National Schools in the Newcastle West Municipal District, to engage children and young people in rural county Limerick.

The Sliabh Luachra Residency

This was initiated through the Invitation to Collaboration Scheme, led by Cork County Arts Office and in partnership with Kerry County Arts Office. The purpose of the project is to promote the musical heritage of Sliabh Luachra, build capacity among local organisations for artistic growth, developing supporting partnerships and sustain and develop local social and cultural networks, preserve and make available musical artefacts and support cultural and creative tourism to the region. Musician, Eoin O'Sullivan, has been appointed Musician in Residence for 2020/2021.

Professional Development-Music Network Music Capital Scheme 2020

The Music Capital Scheme is a fund to provide support for the purchase of instruments and related items. In association with the Music Capital Scheme, Music Network, in partnership with Limerick Culture and Arts Office, hosted a seminar for Limerick based non-professional performing groups on 17 September.

The seminar featured three expert speakers on the topics of governance (Sheila Cahill), strategic and artistic planning (Liz Doherty), and creating recordings (Mairéad O'Reilly). For 2020, high quality Music Capital Scheme applications from non-professional performing groups in Leitrim, Limerick and Monaghan will be prioritised for funding support. In addition, funding has been allocated for the delivery of special supports to music groups in these counties.



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DERELICT SITES - SEPTEMBER	
Inspections carried out	167
Statutory Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act	79
Cases closed through engagement	9
Properties entered onto the Derelict Sites Register	36
Properties put forward for Compulsory Acquisition	0

BIN WAIVERS

Bin Waivers Issued:	1
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ALL HOUSE PURCHASES - SEPTEMBER STATUS					
Category	Balance c/fwd	Adjustments	New Negotiations	Sale Closed	Balance b/fwd
Regeneration	1	0	0	1	0
Part V	28	0	3	4	27
SHIP	7	0	3	0	10
Buy and Renew	8	0	1	0	9
Derelict / Vacant	13	0	2	1	14



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3. Urban and Rural Community Development

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

- At the September Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) meeting held on 1 September 2020, the Local Action Group (LAG) approved funding of €155,741.90 under the LEADER Programme 2014-2020.
- Under the Community Enhancement Programme 2020, the LCDC approved funding of €73,674.00. This funding was targeted at Tidy Towns with a focus on biodiversity, access to outdoor and green space, enhancement to develop outdoor space/amenities and other adaptations that may be needed as a result of COVID-19.

Community Group	Community Enhancement Programme Project Details	Location	LCDC Approval Amount
Abbeyfeale Community Council	Erect bat boxes, outdoor, benches, Covid-19 related materials	Abbeyfeale	€3,450.00
Ashford/Raheenagh Tidy Villages	Purchase extra seating to facilitate social distancing outdoors	Ashford	€900.00
Athea Tidy Towns Committee	Install outdoor public water bottle refill station-Contactless water fountain	Athea	€4,000.00
Ballyhahill Development Association	Purchase welcome signs on the 3 approach roads to the village	Ballyhahill	€4,647.06
Boher Community Development Association	Groundworks in clearing scrub and preparing and laying of walkway	Boher	€2,000.00
Broadford Community Development CLG	Install public lighting and CCTV security camera in new car park	Broadford	€2,500.00
Bruff Tidy Towns	Phased development of outdoor seats	Bruff	€2,000.00
St Patricks Villas Residents Association	Phased development of outdoor seats	Castleconnell	€500.00
Colmanswell Community Graveyard	Lawnmower, Replace decking and handrails	Colmanswell	€1,000.00
Colmanswell Community Council	Dishwasher, hanging baskets, adaptations due to Covid-19	Colmanswell	€2,000.00
Coonagh Sports & Social Club	Installation of seating, provide dog waste bins, insect hotel & noticeboard	Coonagh	€3,206.34
Croom Community Development Association	Play equipment and signage	Croom	€1,000.00
Hillview Grove Residents Association	Purchase of plants, seeds lawnmower, signage	Doon	€1,000.00

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Community Group (cont.)	Community Enhancement Programme Project Details	Location	LDCD Approval Amount
Limerick Celtics Basketball Club	Basketballs and sports equipment	Moyross	€1,000.00
Dooradoyle Raheen Men's Shed	Paved area in front of shed and a picnic bench	Dooradoyle	€1,000.00
Drombanna Housing & Senior Citizens Centre	Outdoor exercise equipment	Drombanna	€1,500.00
Garryowen Residents Association	Planting of flowers, shrubbery and painting	Garryowen	€1,000.00
Garryspillane GAA Club	Installation of litter bins	Garryspillane	€885.60
Glenroe Tidy Town	Drainage on sides of road and landscaping	Glenroe	€2,500.00
Gouldavoher Residents Association	Landscaping equipment and replace sign	Gouldavoher	€2,304.00
Herbertstown & District Men's Shed Association	Create outdoor amenity space and biodiverse green	Herbertstown	€2,000.00
Vale View Residents Group	Purchase two outdoor seats for social distancing	Kilfinane	€1,000.00
Kilmallock Tidy Towns	Complete family tree planting in memory of loved ones	Kilmallock	€2,500.00
Focus Ireland Limerick	Enhance outdoor area, flower boxes, outdoor pot plants hanging baskets, bird boxes	Limerick	€600.00
Hope for People with Autism CLG t/a Dochas	Exterior Signage for premises	Limerick	€1,000.00
St Pauls Scout Group 32nd	Hand sanitizers, Cleaning Equipment due to Covid-19	Limerick	€1,000.00
St Mary's Men's Shed	Garden needs upgrading and to provide wheelchair access	Limerick	€4,000.00
Learning Hub	Create one-way flow in line with Covid-19 updating 6 internal doors	Limerick	€5,000.00
Lough Gur Development Co-operative Society Ltd	Improve appearance of St Patrickswell	Lough Gur	€2,000.00
Liosan Court Enviro Group	Polytunnel	Newcastle West	€1,500.00

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Community Group (cont.)	Community Enhancement Programme Project Details	Location	LDCD Approval Amount
Granville Rangers	Painting, update fencing, signage	Old Singland Road	€1,000.00
Patrickswell Tidy Towns	Purchase of lawnmower	Patrickswell	€1,000.00
Rathkeale Community Council	Purchase of bee houses and hotels	Rathkeale	€700.00
Richmond Rugby	Purchase of new goal posts	Rhebogue	€3,705.00
St. Patricks Men's Shed	Develop access to outdoor and green space	Rhebogue	€3,500.00
Sarsfield Park Residents Association	Purchase garden tools	Rosbrien	€850.00
Southill Dining Club	Purchase tables for the seniors- to aid with social distancing	Southill	€1,000.00
Southill Family Resource Centre	Develop local allotment space into educational biodiversity project	Southill	€1,850.00
Strand Community Development	To assist local community broadband access	Strand	€1,706.00
		Total	€73,674.00

RURAL DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2020**Town and Village Renewal Scheme – Accelerated Measure – Round Two Approvals**

The Accelerated Measure under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020 supports projects that aid the economic and social recovery of towns and villages in response to COVID-19. Under Round Two of the Accelerated Measure, Limerick received €127,800 of funding for the following Town and Villages:

Town/Village	Project Description	Funding Received
Abbeyfeale	Resurfacing and upgrading of walkways in Abbeyfeale Town Park	€40,000.00
Pallaskenry	Clearing of overgrown forest track to east of Pallaskenry Village to facilitate 2.5km loop walk from the village centre	€37,800.00



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Town/Village (cont.)	Project Description	Funding Received
Athea	Village enhancement works with painting and upgrading of shopfronts and buildings and renovations to footbridge	€25,000.00
Ballysteen	Provision of safe external space, footpaths and carpark area to provide greater accessibility to the newly renovated community Carnegie building	€25,000.00

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

- One PPN Secretariat meeting took place in September.
- Membership of the PPN now stands at 127. The membership registration form is on the PPN website and eligible groups in Limerick can register at any time.
- Webinar held on the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) and induction training on PPN processes delivered to elected PPN representatives on the Local Community Development Committee and four SPCs
- Fifteen PPN nominees across seven Committees were ratified by Limerick City and County Council at the September Council Meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

- #EGLA2020Limerick Webinar Let's Go Bats. There was an excellent attendance at the #EGLA2020Limerick Webinar Let's Go Bats - Limerick's Lesser Horseshoe Bats presented by leading bat expert Dr. Kate McAney of the Vincent Wildlife Trust and hosted by Limerick City and County Council as part of its European Green leaf city events for 2020 <https://www.limerick.ie/european-green-leaf-city/about/event-guide>.
- Make Way Day public awareness event for Clare and Limerick.
- Participation and brief presentation on dog litter for the Make Way Day hosted by the Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI).

LIMERICK SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

- Limerick Sports Partnership secured €281,005 under the Dormant Accounts allocation for 2020. It was the highest funded Local Sports Partnership (LSP) of the 29 LSPs nationally. The funding breakdown is as follows:
 - €175,000 Active Cities Initiative 50/50 Current Capital
 - €40,000 Garryowen Community Sports Hub
 - €35,112 Athlunkard Urban Outdoor Adventure
 - €11,893 Inclusion programmes including a Cycling Club
 - €19,000 Youth Leadership and Sports Volunteer Education supports
- The Active Cities Initiative will include partnerships with Limerick City and County Council and UL to expand on UL GoGreenEX and Health and Greenspace project and the Go Green Routes.
- Limerick Sports Partnership delivered a variety of programmes and education courses both remotely and face-to-face during September for Bike Week, European Week of Sport, National Fitness Day and Get Ireland Walking Day.
- The amenities across Limerick City and County were utilised promoting the variety of opportunities available.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

- Limerick Sports Partnership continues to deliver education courses online for club coaches, including Safeguarding 1, Autism in Sport, Disability Awareness and Physical Literacy.
- Following the spread of COVID-19, the Limerick Sports Partnership 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 to these resources which are gathered on Active Limerick Hub <https://limericksports.ie/active-hub/>

4. Libraries, Gallery and Museum

LIBRARIES

- Abbeyfeale, Adare, Cappamore, Dooradoyle, Foynes, Glin, Kilmallock, Newcastle West, Roxboro, and Watch House Cross library branches have all resumed full-time opening hours this month.
- Remote printing and in-house photocopying are also now available in seven main branches through the SurfBox Print and Go system. Print any item from your phone or tablet with email or App. Email your document to the appropriate library branch address, or share your document with the PrinterOn Mobile App. You can find the nearest printer by keyword or location search. Alternatively, browse the PrintSpots Directory to upload your document. Check your email, or the Print History in the PrinterOn App, for a Release Code. To retrieve your document at the Print Station, enter the six-digit Release Code and make payment when prompted. Find details of participating branches at www.printcopyandgo.com or contact your local library.
- The "Contact and Collect" service has been popular with library members across the city and county. The national request service is extremely busy with books ordered from any part of the country available for collection at a branch of your choice. Library members have been welcome to visit branches to browse and return loans as local branches move to longer opening times. 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 your library card.
- Library memberships have been extended and while some library services remain disrupted due to COVID-19, you do not need to visit your local library to join before being able to use online services - see <https://lgma.iii.com/selfreg> and <https://www.librariesireland.ie/elibrary>
- New Storytime sessions for little ones continue on Facebook with a selection of easy craft workshops designed and recorded by library staff. COVID-19 restrictions have meant that the usual gatherings of toddlers and parents, families, students and social groups are not possible. Therefore, branch staff have developed social media skills in recording and broadcasting videos and podcasts to maintain the very valuable connections with the community.

LIMERICK MUSEUM

- For Culture Night (18 September), Limerick Museum broadcast two virtual events on Twitter and Facebook. These were a digital tour of the Museum conducted by Dr. Matthew Potter, Curator, and a documentary on the history of King John's Castle in collaboration with Shannon Heritage and George Lee of Limerick Enterprise Development Partners (LEDP). Approximately 2,000 people viewed these events.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

- Limerick Museum also participated in the Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival, which had the theme of 'Celebrating and Building Learning Communities.' The Museum provided two virtual events. On 29 September, Dr. Matthew Potter gave a lecture on the Museum's history from 1907 to the present day and on 30 September, a virtual tour of the Museum was delivered.
- The opening of the 39th edition of EVA International took place on 18 September to coincide with Culture Night.
- LCGA has commenced a project with LIT Limerick School of Art and Design (LSAD) on a project that will connect the People's Park and the Gallery, titled Park Life. It will run, on a weekly basis, throughout EVA International.

LIMERICK CITY GALLERY OF ART (LCGA)

- The Limerick Connections exhibition closed on 6 September after a seven-week run. The exhibition celebrated the work of 67 artists who are included in the Permanent Collection with associations with Limerick. It was a resounding success with over 5,000 visitors seeing the exhibition.
- Since re-opening, we have used the Permanent Collection extensively including the above works and paintings that were included in the First Exhibition in 1938 and works from two limited editions, again featuring Limerick artists.
- LCGA worked with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board to host an exhibition of young people from Rathkeale and also a hip-hop workshop.
- LCGA worked with LIT LSAD to develop a project based on the Michael O'Connor poster exhibition.
- LCGA hosted a meeting with University of the Third Age.
- Interviews have taken place through September to recruit Gallery Assistants through the Community Employment Scheme.
- Building maintenance work was carried out on the exterior of the building.





CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

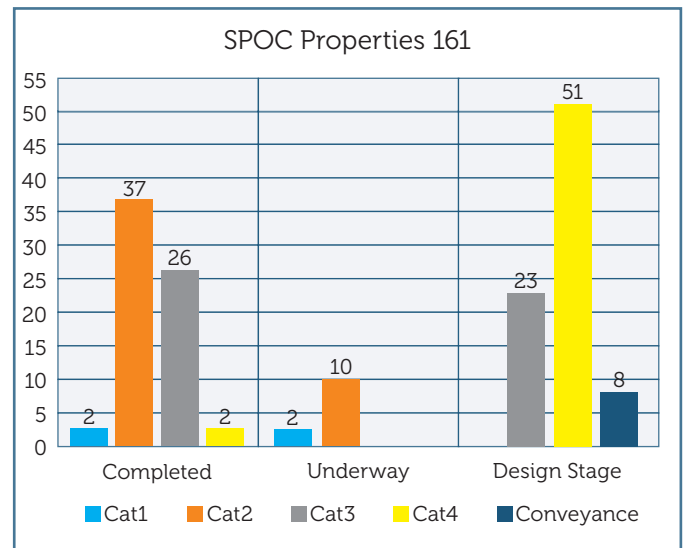
Housing Development Directorate

1. Strategic Housing Development

1. BUILD, BUY AND LEASE

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

As at 30 September 2020	Complete	In Progress
Build	11	118
Buy	19	12
Lease	38	101
TOTAL	68	231



2. SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT (SPOC)

The fast-tracking of refurbishment works has continued with 161 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 (mechanical and electrical)
- 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		4
Cat2	37	10		47
Cat3	26		23	49
Cat4	2		51	53
Conveyance			8	8
	67	12	82	161

3. HOUSING WORKSHOPS

On 2 September, the Housing Development Directorate held a virtual Housing Workshop with Councillors and the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee members, over two sessions, to go through proposals for three schemes:

- Adare Pilot for Affordable Sites.
- Private Downsizing Scheme.
- Turnkey – Delivering Mixed Tenure Developments.

Afterwards, feedback from members was collated using a MyPoint survey. The feedback was vital in delivering these schemes and was then brought to the September Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee meeting for endorsement.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

2. Regeneration Strategy Implementation

Limerick Island Community Partners

- Company Board Meeting held.
- Delivery of 1,500 meals-on-wheels to the community and beyond.
- New windows installed in the King's Island Community Centre as part of an energy upgrade.
- Installation of new "Dog Station" in the Alms Houses in order to address a dog fouling issue.
- Outline plans for the renovation of 19 Nicholas Street, Limerick, are commencing.
- Agreed the supply of 15 recycled bicycles with Limerick Institute of Technology for use by its students.
- Bingo has returned to King's Island Community Centre, along with Dance Classes for younger people.
- Limerick Youth Centre has agreed terms for the rental of the Community Hall for use as a social centre and cinema.
- Met with Treaty Suicide Watch regarding rental of space in the Community Centre.
- Delivered 42 food parcels twice during the month on behalf of Mid-West Simon.

Our Lady of Lourdes (OLOL)

Community Crèche

- Recruitment of crèche manager has concluded.
- Currently operating with 70 children, recruitment of children ongoing to bring to full capacity.
- Crèche operating a COVID-19 pod strategy.

Community Youth Club

- Full staff.
- Operating per programme plan.
- First quarter of funding reporting complete.
- Returns submitted on time.
- Full COVID-19 protocols in place.

Adult Education

- Day and evening classes restarted.
- 50% class capacity to facilitate social distancing.
- Full COVID-19 protocols in place.

Community Seniors' Club

- Regular phone calls to seniors in community ongoing throughout pandemic.
- Care packages distributed to seniors in September.
- Distributed carbon monoxide alarms and face masks.

Community Men's Shed

- Meetings restarted on 29 September.
- Full COVID-19 protocols in place.

Community Care and Repair

- Approximately ten emergency calls received in past month.

Community Meals-on-Wheels

- 1,476 meals-on-wheels delivered in September.

Community Café

- Café repaint and decorate completed.
- New tables.
- Full COVID-19 protocols in place.
- Preparations for reopening underway.

Estate Management

- Team down to four of seven-part time staff.
- Unsuccessful recruitment of litter pickers through Community Employment and other programmes is an ongoing challenge.
- Full-time paid positions difficult to recruit due to low rate per hour.

Southill Hub

- Youth Groups are back and running weekly. Working with on average 100 children per week.
- Community Bingo has returned to the Centre, under the new Level 2 guidelines.
- Centre participated in the Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival with an online workshop "Blooming All Winter."
- Community service providers have returned to service provision from the building (including Southill Afterschool service).
- Community Café is open and serving the community throughout the day.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

- South and Proud Festival held in conjunction with The Gaff and Tait House. One gardening workshop for children, two dance workshops for children and one dance workshop for adults held.
- Working with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board - exploring the use of outdoors space for work with young people. Consultation with young people held.
- Received funding to work with the West End Youth Group (OLOL) to provide an LGBTI+ project, planning started this month.
- As a representative on Moyross Adult Education, working with the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board on ways to ensure Adult Education will continue to enhance the lives of residents in these challenging times and following all HSE guidelines.
- Ensuring essential maintenance is reported and followed up.
- Daily phone calls to residents for check-in and social media.
- Liaising with Irish Water and Airtricity to follow up on faults reported by residents.
- 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 that the programme for regeneration can continue to be delivered to enhance the lives of residents and continue to create vibrant and sustainable communities.
- As a member of the Limerick Public Participation Network (PPN), the Forum's Development Worker, Tracy McElligott, was nominated and selected to represent the Limerick PPN on the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee.

Moyross Residents' Forum

During the month of September, Moyross Residents' Forum continues to support residents in the community:

- Delivering food parcels to vulnerable families in Moyross.
- Promoting in Moyross the Limerick City Community Development 3rd Level Bursaries supported by the Office of Regeneration. These supports are vital to helping students with registration fees, books and materials to continue with their studies. During the month of September, 18 students in Moyross applied through Moyross Residents' Forum for these bursaries.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Service Operations Directorate

1. Housing Support Services

• Waiting List

Housing Waiting List	2,641
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• Allocations

	No. of Units SEPTEMBER 2020	Year to Date
Metropolitan District	19	187
Newcastle West	5	48
Adare-Rathkeale	0	12
Cappamore – Kilmallock	0	25
Total	24	272

• Allocation Refusals

	No. of Units SEPTEMBER 2020	Year to Date
Metropolitan District	5	29
Newcastle West	3	23
Adare-Rathkeale	0	1
Cappamore – Kilmallock	2	4
Total	10	57

• Traveller Housing Welfare

No. of Units offered SEPTEMBER 2020	Year to Date
4	29

*these figures are included in Allocations figures

• Housing Assistance Payments Limerick (HAP)

2,414 of active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	41
No. of Amendments	180
No. of Cessations	35



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

HOME IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

September 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	€10,165.00	2	€2,260.05	1	€38,718.50	10	€0.00	0
Newcastle West	€13,300.00	3	€13,215.86	1	€48,705.00	10	€0.00	0
Metropolitan	€20,288.00	5	€34,853.12	5	€12,853.50	4	€66,555.26	8
Cappamore - Kilmallock	€18,350.00	4	€15,000.00	1	€2,565.00	1	€0.00	0
Total	€62,103.00	14	€65,329.03	8	€102,842.00	25	€66,555.26	8
Total Monies issued in September 2020 = €296,829.29								
Total Grants issued in September 2020 = 55								

January to September 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	€87,017.24	17	€151,327.91	14	€110,383.83	30	€0.00	0
Newcastle West	€64,582.29	13	€54,348.31	8	€230,537.25	53	€5,448.00	1
Metropolitan	€155,313.54	32	€204,452.18	27	€155,946.56	45	€240,906.55	27
Cappamore - Kilmallock	€78,649.80	17	€118,479.30	12	€113,012.38	23	€24,306.63	2
Total	€385,562.87	79	€528,607.70	61	€609,880.02	151	€270,661.18	30
Total Monies issued January to September 2020 = €1,794,711.77								
Total Grants issued January to September 2020 = 321								

RENT COLLECTION

Rent Collection Limerick City & County Council					
Opening Balance at 01/01/2020	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing balance 30/09/2020	% Collection
€4,599,470	€12,446,327	€17,045,797	€12,104,465	€4,941,332	71%



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

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

Individuals – 27 September 2020		
Location	Description	No.
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	30
St. Patrick's Hostel	Higher threshold accommodation for single males	39
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	14
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	14
TEP 2 (Phoenix Lodge)	Low threshold, night by night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	16
Total		118

Families			
Location	Description	No. Adults	No. Children
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	5	6
		Families - 5	
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	26	30
		Families - 17	
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Families self-isolated. Service users from St. Pat's utilising the building	6	5
		Families - 6	
Totals		Adults	Children
		37	41
		Families - 28	



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

TENANT PURCHASE/ GROUND RENT / DEED OF DISCHARGE / CONSENT TO SALE / COTTAGE PURCHASE ANNUITY DETAILS:-

Total Grants received for September 2020	42
Total Grants approved for September 2020	14
Total cost of approved grants for September 2020	€67,994.63
Tenant Purchase	
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. Received	3
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. Approved	1
Ground Rent	
Ground Rent Applications: No. Received	3
Deed of Discharge	
Deed of Discharge Applications: No. Received	22
Consent to Sale	
Consent to Sale Applications: No. Received	4
Cottage Purchase Annuity	
No. of Cottage Purchase Annuity Applications	3





CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

2. Planning & Environmental Services

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

- 183 complaints were received in September.
- 356 inspections were undertaken during the month.
- The Department issued three Statutory Notices.
- Five Directions were served by the Department.
- 28 Warning Letters were issued in September.
- Ten litter fines were issued during the period.
- Legal proceedings were initiated in three cases.

Economic Development and Planning

Planning Applications

A total of 109 new planning applications were received as follows:

Housing Developments	3
Domestic Developments	76
Agricultural Developments	14
Commercial Developments/Change of Use	3
Sporting/Community and Educational Developments	4
Other Developments	9

The current applications include proposals for:

- Construction of 28 No. dwellings at Sexton Street North, Limerick City.
- Construction of a six-storey above-basement apartment block development comprising 29 no. apartments and 2 no. co-living units consisting of 15 no. bedrooms at St. Nessian's Road, Dooradoyle.
- Construction of a solar farm at Laghtane East, Lisnagry.

3. Veterinary Services

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

4. Cemeteries

Number of Burials in City Cemeteries.

Mount St. Lawrence	11
Mount St. Oliver	15
Castlemungret	15
Kilmurry	3



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

5. Municipal District Offices

Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

Rathkeale

- **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 from Library to Tadhg O'Connor Hardware.**

Works on this are likely to commence in the Autumn.

Ballingarry

- **The Mall Town and Village Renewal Project**

The flood study on the Ballingarry stream has been received. Final design on this area is now progressing.

- **Localised River Wall failure opposite Playground**

These works are complete.

- **Road and Footpath Reconstruction Rylanes to the Grotto**

Footpath work is completed in Rylanes. New kerbing has been installed to the church. Pavement repairs in advance of overlay now underway.

- **Footpath Link to Playground**

An application has been made under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme to connect the playground to the town centre.

Shanagolden

- **Shanagolden Junction Improvement Works**

Final design has now been completed. An additional €80,000 has been secured for this project (from Active Travel) to include for footpath links on the Foynes Road and to the Community Centre.

Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

- The processing of applications under the Pilot Home Improvement Scheme for Tenants of Social Housing was completed during the month. In total, 53 tenants from across the Municipal District were approved grants to do various refurbishments on their Council properties, entailing an overall budget of €100,000 for the Municipal District. It is expected that these works will be completed by contractors, and grants claimed by tenants, before the end of 2020.
- The construction of 20 social housing units at Glenview Drive, Hospital, continues with Griffin Brothers Contracting Ltd. as the main contractor on site.
- The 2020 Roadworks Programme for the Municipal District continues across 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 complete with Local Improvement Schemes projects almost 90% completed.
- The Newcastle West District Office has sent over 400 reminders to landowners/occupiers during the month of September to cut back hedges where necessary. Under the Roads Act 1993, landowners and occupiers of land are obliged to take all reasonable care to ensure that trees, hedges, ditches and other vegetation growing on their land are not, or could not, become a danger to people using or working on a public road. As such, the onus is on landowners/occupiers to keep their hedges cut. The Wildlife Act, 1976, prohibits hedge cutting between 1 March - 31 August but landowners/occupiers can cut hedges from 1 September to 28 February.
- The District received funding of €726,954 for Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability in Private Homes.
- A total of €420,000 was allocated under a number of different measures as part of the Government's Stimulus Package with confirmation of the amount of funding received confirmed. The sum of €250,000 was allocated towards footpaths in Churchtown, Newcastle West, and €60,000 towards footpaths in Dromcollogher as part of the Active Travel allocation. Under the Climate Action allocation, €60,000 was allocated towards drainage design works at The Hill, Abbeyfeale, and the Grove, Abbeyfeale. The design of proposed cycle lanes at Lacey's Cross on the N21 to the junction with St. Ita's and onwards towards Churchtown, Newcastle West, is also included in the funding received.
- During the month of September, 887 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 (DHLGH) in September - €2,140,992.
- Recoupments issued by the DHLGH in August - €2,136,301.
- To date in 2020, Design and Delivery has applied to the DHLGH for €15,511,812 and €14,337,542 has been paid.

Tenders

- Tender assessment completed for Thermal Upgrade Contract 122.
- Tenders sought for the construction of 18 residential units at Cliona Park Phase Three and eight residential units at Sheep Street/Athlunkard Street, Limerick.
- Tenders sought for the construction of 57 residential units at Dalgaish Park and Cosgrave Park, Moyross, Limerick.

Part 8

- Part 8 approved for Castletroy Park Playground Extension.

Project Updates:

- Commencement of bus shelter installation works on Corbally Road, Limerick, at Shannon Drive.

Buy and Renew and SHIP Refurbishment Programme

Inspections Carried out in September	Refurbishment Works Commenced in September	Refurbishment Works Ongoing	Refurbishment Works Completed in September
0	1	6	2

Home Improvement Schemes

Inspections & Recommendations for Home Improvement Schemes – September 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	7	0	5	12
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	1	20	0	5	26
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	15	0	6	21
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	1	42	0	16	59

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT****National and Regional
Shared Services Directorate****1. Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Shared Services Centre**

- There were 58,073 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAPSSC at the end of September, 2020.
- A weekly average of 299 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2020.
- The September landlord payment run was over €49 million.
- The weekly tenant debit at the end of September 2020 was over €2.8 million.
- The HAPSSC Debt Management Unit collected a total of €104 million in differential rent to end of September 2020.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of September 2020 was 96%.
- The DMU issued 7,485 COVID-19 Reminder Letters to active HAP Tenants in September 2020.

2. Fire and Emergency Services**Statistics**

	No. of Fire Related Calls	No. of Non Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call-outs 01/09/2020 – 30/09/2020	59	39	98
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	67%	52%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	28%	41%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	5%	7%	

	No. Received / Assigned	No. Validated	No. Invalidated / Refused	No. Granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications September	6	9	2	12	
Disability Access Cert Applications September	6	9	2	9	
Licensing Applications September	15	15	0		
Commencement Notice September	57	51	5	51	56
Completion Certificate September	16	14	1	14	15
Planning Referrals September	17				9
Sugar CRM Cases September	3				5



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Fire and Emergency Training Events for month of September

- 12 fire fighters completed Emergency First Responder Refresher Training in Rathkeale Fire Station.
- 32 fire fighters completed Working at Heights Refresher Training in Cappamore Fire Station.
- Limerick Fire and Rescue Service, in conjunction with the HSE and An Garda Siochana, took part in a multi-agency training exercises within Limerick Tunnel to test the Tunnel's Emergency Plan.

Civil Defence attendance at Events for month of September

- Irish Blood Transfusion Service, Longcourt House Hotel, Newcastle West – five days.
- Multiple Patient Transfer – from patient's home in Raheen, Limerick, to St. Francis' Private Hospital, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, and return.
- Irish Blood Transfusion Service, Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick - three days.
- Irish Blood Transfusion Service, Caherconlish Community Centre - one day.
- Irish Blood Transfusion Service, South Court Hotel, Limerick - three days.
- Irish Blood Transfusion Service, Woodlands Hotel, Adare - one day.

Water Safety

Number of lifebuoy replacements	Total Jan – Aug	September	Total 2020
Metropolitan Area	5	3	8
Municipal Area	11	5	16

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 September
No. of Call-Outs 01/09/2020 – 30/09/2020	826	1,498	1 minute, 21 seconds	2,324



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

3. Digital Services and EU Programmes

Digital Services

- Digital Services attended a virtual meeting of the All Ireland Smart Cities Forum. In addition to its recurring agenda items, the focus of this meeting was a presentation on United Nations - United for Smart and Sustainable Cities Key Performance Indicators (U4SSC KPIs), as part of a collaboration on supporting local authorities in Norway, Ireland and EU to achieve the UN SDGs.
- Digital Services and ICT successfully concluded a procurement process to identify a supplier to design and implement a network of 40 additional public WiFi access points across Limerick City and County before the end of 2020, under the EU's WiFi4EU initiative. This deployment of additional public Wi-Fi services will be important both to attract tourists, investors and a talented workforce, as well as to minimise digital exclusion and complement the public services already provided in those locations.
- Corina Hanrahan presented the Urbact III Project Find Your Greatness at the Digital Leaders' Network on 4 September. The Urbact Local Group on this project will work closely with the Digital Leaders' Network to formulate the next brand strategy for Smart Limerick. This was followed up at an online Project Steering meeting with International partners on 16 September.
- Corina Hanrahan and Anne Goggin (Limerick City and County Council), and Helen Fitzgerald (Paul Partnership) took part in the online Urbact University to learn techniques for engagement and co-creation activities with local stakeholders.
- On Wednesday, 30 September, Terry Connolly and Rory Corbett (Economic Development) took part in a site visit to CONFIRM, Science Foundation Ireland's research centre in Smart Manufacturing based in University Limerick, with the aim of finding synergies between the Centre and the Council in relation to Advanced Urban Manufacturing.

EU Programmes

- Three Horizon 2020 Proposals were submitted in which Limerick City and County Council is partnering. They are:
 - SEEDING: Sustainable Energy Examined and Demonstrated, Inspiring New Governance, led by Trinity College Dublin.
 - TENURE: Next Generation of Public Energy Governance, as part of the call supporting public authorities in driving the energy transition, led by University College Dublin.
 - SARGON: Smart management of retrofit for energy efficient multi-resources buildings, in cooperation with LightSource Labs (University of Limerick) and led by The Engineering Group Italy.

**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 September 2020	9,759,506	59,731,007 **	163,462	15,283,826	54,043,225	32,955,463	21,087,762	3,410,817	65%

** 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 September 2020	447,129	1,034,441 *	13,665	1,467,905	1,507,821	-39,916	103%

* Accruals not up to date to end of September 2020

Recourse to Overdraft Facility

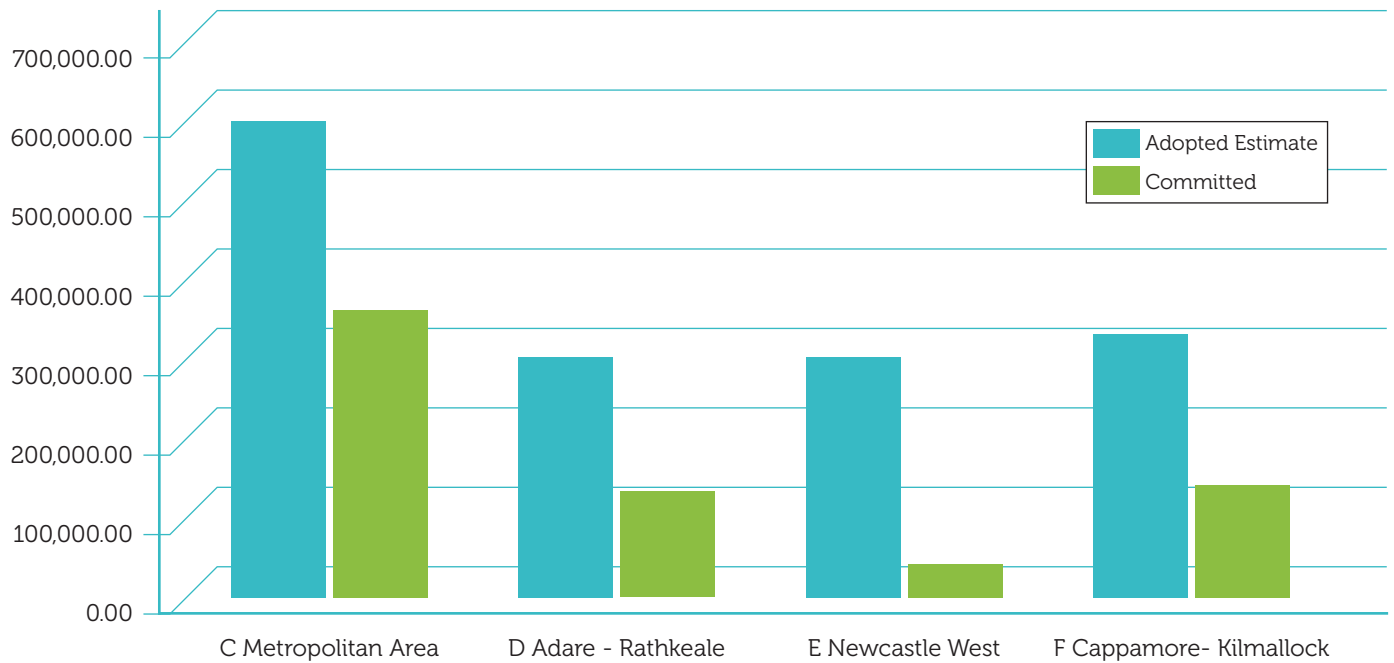
No of days in overdraft **1** (due to administrative error by Bank not returning Deposit on time)



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

General Municipal Allocation 2020 Adopted Estimate €1.403 Million

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



Municip (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate (€)	Value Committed (€)
C Metropolitan Area	568,000.00	320,072
D Adare - Rathkeale	270,000.00	98,037
E Newcastle West	270,000.00	629
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	295,000.00	104,283



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

2. Corporate Services, Governance & Customer Services

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

- Culture Night Promotion Photocall.
Venue: King John's Castle, Limerick.
- Photoshoot highlighting initiative between Limerick City and County Council, in partnership with An Garda Síochána, on the delivery of a new 15-seater community bus that will serve all sections of the community across the Limerick Garda Division.
Venue: Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay
- Contract signing for 20 residential units at Glenview Drive, Hospital, Co. Limerick.
Venue: Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay.
- Launch of Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival.
Venue: Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay.
- Photoshoot to promote announcement that five enterprise hubs across Limerick have received funding to support their reopening in compliance with public health guidelines. Funding provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development through the Western Development Commission as part of the Atlantic Economic Corridor Enterprise Hub Network Project.
Venue: ENGINE, Upper Cecil Street, Limerick.
- Welcome Address on webinar for the proposed Limerick Development Plan 2022 –2028.
- Official opening of Rathkeale Welcome Centre with a Fáilte Ireland Tourist Point.
Venue: Rathkeale Community Centre, The Square, Main Street, Rathkeale.
- Photoshoot to promote 'Make Way Day' to raise awareness for people with disabilities and their needs in public spaces. (attended by the Deputy Mayor)
Venue: LEDP Roxboro Road, Limerick.
- University of Limerick Postgraduate Students' Union Tree Planting Event.
Venue: Mayorstone Quarry, Limerick.
- Virtual attendance at launch of 1920 Local Elections Centenary Exhibition.
- Virtual attendance at Launch of book 'Flavours of Limerick' - collection of memories and recipes gathered from Limerick Community Education Groups

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 the General Election.

Over 1,800 entries have been processed to date and the Register will continue to be updated.

Advertisements have been placed in local newspapers advising those entitled to Postal Votes i.e. those unable to attend Polling Stations due to Physical Illness or Disability, Occupation or Students and those resident in Nursing Homes, to apply to be included in the Postal Listings 2021/2022 before 25 November, 2020.

Application forms have also been distributed via An Post to all those on the 2020/2021 Postal Lists.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

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 have a Safe Pass. A total of five staff members have been trained during the month of September.
- **Manual Handling:** Courses have commenced and a total number of 15 staff members have been trained during the month of September.
- **CPC Training:** Has taken place and a total number of eight staff members have been trained during the month of September.
- **First Aid Response and First Aid Refresher:** A total number of six staff members have been trained during month of September.
- **COVID-19 Induction – Toolbox Talks:** A further 21 staff members, both indoor and outdoor, have been trained during September.
- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued and increased, with a total of 348 cases being logged in September, 329 of which were logged by Public Representatives.
- Customer Services also continued advising tenants making housing maintenance requests of the current procedures during the pandemic. A total of 1,173 cases were logged for Housing Maintenance, 862 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 94 new Residential Parking Permits processed.
- The public counters in both Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle saw a combined footfall of 2,460.
- The Customer Services Team also attended 'Refresher Training' sessions. The training covered a variety of topics, ensuring that the Customer Services Team is up to date on Standard Operating Procedures for the various services under its remit.
- Customer Services also assisted the Housing Support Services Team as part of the Social Housing Assessments (SSHA) 2020, taking calls and updating the iHouse system as appropriate.

Customer Services

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 September:

- Customer Services Call Centre dealt with 12,674 calls, an average of 576 per day. 52% of these calls were handled at the 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.
- 3,202 cases were created, with 903 of these logged on behalf of Public Representatives, as well as the closure of 3,104 cases, 863 of these being cases logged by Public Representatives.
- A total of 2,187 emails were processed through the Customer Services mailbox.

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

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Full Council Meeting of Limerick City and County Council	28.09.2020	Patrickswell
Audit Committee	04.09.2020	Merchant's Quay
Operational Briefings Limerick City East Limerick City North Limerick City West	08.09.2020 08.09.2020 08.09.2020	Merchant's Quay Merchant's Quay Merchant's Quay
Municipal District of: Newcastle West Monthly Meeting Adjourned Meeting Adare-Rathkeale Monthly Meeting Cappamore-Kilmallock Monthly Meeting	02.09.2020 09.09.2020 08.09.2020 17.09.2020	Newcastle West Newcastle West Dooradoyle Kilmallock
Joint Policing Sub-Committee Meeting for Elected Members of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	17.09.2020	Kilmallock
Metropolitan District of Limerick Special Meeting to consider and discuss the Strategic Housing Development Application to An Bord Pleanála at Newcastle, Castletroy Monthly Meeting	04.09.2020 21.09.2020	Dooradoyle Dooradoyle
Corporate Policy Group	21.09.2020	Dooradoyle
Implementation Advisory Group on the Establishment of a Directly Elected Mayor for Limerick	03.09.2020 15.09.2020	Virtual Virtual
Party Leaders' Meeting	28.09.2020	Patrickswell



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Name of Meeting (cont.)	Date	Location
Protocol Committee Meeting	28.09.2020	Patrickswell
Strategic Policy Committee Meetings		
Community, Leisure and Culture	07.09.2020	Dooradoyle
Travel and Transportation	14.09.2020	Virtual
Home and Social Development	22.09.2020	Virtual

4. Access to Information

	September	2020 (January to September)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	15	122
FOI Internal Appeals	0	3
Information Commissioner Appeals	1	1
Re-Use of Public Information	0	1
Total Ombudsman Requests	2	21
Total AIE Requests	2	7

5. Business Improvement

- The Business Improvement Department launched two staff surveys in September. My Point, our online engagement platform, was used to gather staff feedback around Home Working, which will be used to inform any future developments in the area. Staff were also asked to provide feedback on their experience of SharePoint to date.
- Over 700 staff are now live on the employee app Council Connect
- Additional functionality has been added to the staff app to allow staff to acknowledge they have read a document.
- The Business Improvement Department, in collaboration with the HR and ICT Departments, brought the COVID-19 Return to Work form digital in September. This form can now be completed through a digital approval workflow eliminating the need for any paper form.
- The Staff Liaison Network took place in September where staff representing Departments from across the Council discussed working through COVID.