

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

October 2020

FUNDING – Towns and Villages across Limerick to benefit from funding announcements

TRAFFIC – New Traffic Management for Rathkeale

THE SHORTLIST – Council in the running for three City National Place Global Awards and 10 Excellence in Local Government Awards

CONTENTS:

Economic Development Directorate

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Trade and Investment | 2 |
| 2. Strategic and Forward Planning | 2 |
| 3. Urban Innovation | 2 |
| 4. Marketing and Communications | 3 |

Physical Development Directorate

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Travel and Transportation Strategy | 5 |
| 2. Mid West National Road Design Office | 5 |
| 3. Environment Strategy | 5 |

Community Development Directorate

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Tourism, Culture and Arts | 7 |
| 2. Property and Community Facilities | 9 |
| 3. Urban & Rural Community Development | 9 |
| 4. Libraries, Gallery and Museum | 14 |

Housing Development Directorate

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Strategic Housing Development | 17 |
| 2. Regeneration Strategy Implementation | 17 |

Service Operations Directorate

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Housing Support Services | 19 |
| 2. Planning and Environmental Services | 23 |
| 3. Veterinary Services | 23 |
| 4. Cemeteries | 24 |
| 5. Municipal District Offices | 24 |

Capital Investment Directorate

- | | |
|----------------------|----|
| 1. Design & Delivery | 26 |
|----------------------|----|

National and Regional Shared Services Directorate

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| 1. HAP Shared Services Centre | 28 |
| 2. Fire and Emergency Services | 28 |
| 3. Digital Services and EU Programmes | 30 |

Support Services Directorate

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Finance Services | 32 |
| 2. Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services | 34 |
| 3. Schedule of Meetings | 36 |
| 4. Access to Information | 37 |
| 5. Business Improvement | 37 |



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Economic Development Directorate

1. Trade and Investment

- Spar Supermarket in Croom has announced that it will be submitting plans to extend the store by 6,500 square feet, which will include an in-store bakery and a deli sit-down area. The development will create ten permanent jobs and twenty construction jobs.

2. Strategic and Forward Planning

- The closing date on the pre-draft stage of the proposed Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 was 12 October. A total of 252 submissions were received. The validity of all submissions was checked and valid submissions were placed on the public portal. Preparation of the Chief Executive's Report has commenced, which will summarise and consider submissions made.
- A Chief Executive's Report was prepared and issued to the Elected Members for consideration on the proposed 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.
- The Draft Southern Environs Local Area Plan was finalised and placed on public display. Comments and observations are welcomed during the public display period, which runs until 23 November 2020.

3. Urban Innovation

Living Georgian City – Urban Regeneration and 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 and Development Fund (URDF) 2018 and is a rolling 4-year programme with an overall value of €10.5 million. In October, the following activities were undertaken as part of the LGC initiative:

- The first meeting of the LGC Advisory Board took place. The aim of the Group is to provide strategic guidance to Limerick City and County Council regarding how the LGC Programme can meet its objectives. It is comprised of Limerick City and County Council and external individuals representing fields such as urban design and planning, architecture and land and property development.
- The inception stages of the laneway's demonstration project have commenced with the Design Team undertaking initial baseline analysis activities, as well as public engagement and communications strategy formation.
- The inception stages of the housing demonstration project took place, including brief formation, information gathering and the commissioning of survey work.

+CityxChange – Climathon

- As part of the +CityxChange project, Limerick's second annual Climathon commenced on 12 October, hosted by Project Partners, Space Engagers. Climathon is about bringing citizens together to address local challenges related to climate change and find solutions in a collaborative way.
- Climathon empowers those in the community with ideas about how to tackle climate change and make Limerick a sustainable place to live. Climathons in the past were traditionally intense two-day events. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions, this year's Climathon will be stretched out in time and run virtually, culminating on World Climathon Day.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

- Four +CityxChange Partner Cities - Trondheim, Norway, Voru, Estonia, Sestao, Spain and Pisek, Czech Republic - will join together to showcase the ideas explored during Climathon.

Living City Initiative (LCI)

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	20	39
Owner Occupier	0	2
Rented Residential	18	34
Mixed Residential	2	6
No. of Applications Acknowledged (Interim)	19	32
Final Cert Issued	2	7

4. 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.

- 376 entries were received in total. Following a shortlisting process, 14 images were selected from the amateur category and seven images were selected from the professional category to go forward for public vote on the Limerick.ie Facebook page. Winners will be announced on 2 November when public voting concludes.

Christmas in Limerick

- Continued to work with Culture and Arts, Tourism and Economic Development Directorate, ahead of Christmas in Limerick 2020 campaign launch in November
- Limerick's 'Atlantic Edge, European Embrace' brand, launched earlier this year, was announced as a finalist in three categories in the City Nation Place Annual Awards – the global forum for place branding for towns and cities around the world. Limerick was the only Irish entrant in the shortlist and was a finalist in three categories: Best Citizen Engagement, Best Use of Design and Place Brand of the Year.
- Limerick City and County Council was shortlisted for 10 Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards for 2020. The awards showcase the important work that is carried out by Local Authorities for the benefit of local communities. The shortlisted projects include: Virtual Riverfest Limerick 2020 (Festival of the Year) and Shop Limerick – a virtual local marketplace (Promoting Economic Development).
- Published the second of this year's biannual Limerick Economic Monitors. The EY-DKM October 2020 monitor shows that while the Limerick economy has, like the rest of the country, been heavily impacted by the pandemic, there are positive signs for the City, County and Region.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

- Limerick: Atlantic Edge, European Embrace brand campaign won silver in the Sockies Social Media Awards 2020 in the Branded Content category, and Limerick 50 Days of Summer campaign won bronze in the Public Body Video Campaign category.
- Continued 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.
- Created and issued six Limerick.ie e-newsletters.
- Created and issued the Quarterly Limerick.ie Business Bulletin e-newsletter.

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 48 times on Limerick.ie's Facebook, with followers now 30,184. Posts reached 209,478 users, with 67,958 engagements.
- Tweeted 35 times on Limerick.ie's Twitter, @limerick_ie, with total followers now 18,948. Our tweets earned 137,100 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).
- Posted 14 times on Limerick.ie's Instagram and created eight Stories, with total followers now 12,574.
- Posted 26 times on Limerick City and County Council's LinkedIn, with total followers now 5,904.

Limerick.ie

In October 2020, there were 135,100 unique site visits to Limerick.ie and 296,300 site views.

- * *New functionality to ensure compliance with EU privacy laws has been added to Limerick.ie. Users can now turn off Cookies, which means*

that Google Analytics will not track their visit to the site. Website statistics will now be tracked and usage reports will be provided by Fathom, an alternative system which does not collect any personal data.

Content Report: 93 articles, 80 events and 14 amenities were added to Limerick.ie in October.

The most popular pages on Limerick.ie 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/council/your-council/jobs
5. www.limerick.ie/form/business-restart-plus-application

39% of website pageviews were in the Council Section and 28% were in the Discover Section of Limerick.ie.

Communications

- Issued 21 News Releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and researched and wrote six speeches for the Office of the Mayor.
- Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter.
- Tweeted 232 times on Limerick City and County Council's Twitter account, @limerickcouncil, with total followers now 15,416. Our tweets earned 372,100 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweets).



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Physical Development Directorate

1. Travel and Transportation Strategy

A Virtual Meeting of the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee took place on 20 October. Among the items discussed were:

- Dates for 2021 Strategic Policy Committee Meetings.
- The Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS).
- Update on Sustainable Transport Projects.

2. Mid West National Road Design Office (MWRDO)

Foynes to Limerick Road (including Adare By-Pass)

The Council submitted a response to a further information request to An Bord Pleanála. The Board subsequently determined that the further information contains significant additional data in relation to the likely effects on the environment of the proposed road development.

The further information response, together with the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Natura Impact Statement, have been placed on public display and can be viewed by appointment from 22 October to 2 December, 2020. Submissions or observations in relation to the further information response may be made in writing to An Bord Pleanála during this period. The Further Information Response can be viewed on line at www.foyneslimerick.ie or a number of listed Council offices by appointment.

3. Environment Strategy

A Virtual Meeting of the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee took place on 13 October. Among the items discussed were:

- Dates for 2021 Strategic Policy Committee Meetings.

- Update on the preparation of a Management Plan for Westfields Wetlands.
- Update was given on the Grass Cutting Programme 2020.
- Update on the Review of the Use of Herbicides by Limerick City and County Council.

Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems

Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS), and other nature-based solutions, offer the potential to deliver multiple benefits in terms of reduced costs, increased biodiversity and reduced flood risk. Limerick City and County Council has had a policy objective of promoting SuDS in both the City and County for several years.

To help in translating this policy into practice, training was provided to Council technical staff by McCloy Consulting, a company specialising in SuDS design and implementation. The training, which was delivered over four days, gave an overview of SuDS and provided staff with the tools to evaluate SuDS proposals. It is hoped that this will provide a basis for further upskilling within the organisation and lead to an increased use of SuDS and other green infrastructure in Limerick.

European Green Leaf

The series of online events celebrating Limerick year as European Green Leaf City continued in October with two Webinars:

"Looking for a Quiet Life?" explored the adverse impacts of noise on health and wellbeing and the need for tranquil spaces in urban areas to provide respite from the hustle and bustle of City life. It described the concept of "Quiet Areas" protected in law and introduced the Hush City App which allows citizen scientists to contribute to the identification of these quiet areas. This Webinar was presented by Dr. Simon Jennings, Limerick City and County Council, and Dr. Antonella Radicchi, Technical University of Berlin, Inventor and Principal Investigator of Hush City.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Slow Fashion/Capsule Wardrobe Workshop: The capsule wardrobe and slow fashion Webinar was held in conjunction with The Rediscovery Centre. This Webinar promised to assist all fashionistas in gaining an insight into fashion habits and how to empower changes to our fashion habits that will help the environment. The Webinar was presented by The Rediscovery Centre <http://www.rediscoverycentre.ie/>

Wildflower Meadow and Community Garden

Funding has been secured, through Healthy Ireland, to develop a wildflower meadow and community garden within Portland Park (Baggot Estate), Limerick. Earth works and sowing of the wildflower meadow seed were completed in mid-October. Unfortunately, stakeholder workshops on the design for the community garden itself had to be delayed because of COVID- 19 restrictions.



**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT****Community Development Directorate****1. Tourism, Culture and Arts****TOURISM****CAPITEN - Atlantic Cluster for Technological and Economic Innovation in the Nautical Sector**

As part of the CAPITEN Project, a Consultant has been appointed for the creation of a Virtual Reality Experience to highlight to locals and visitors alike the numerous activities that are now available on the River Shannon at the heart of Limerick City.

This will raise the awareness of water-based activities in Limerick through innovative virtual reality simulations, showcasing the unique setting of Limerick and the significance of its relationship with the River Shannon.

MMIAH (Military Maritime and Industrial Atlantic Heritage)

On 8 October, Limerick City and County Council attended a virtual meeting of the international partners of the MMIAH project. This is an innovative proposal between project partners to hold a virtual Press and Familiarisation 'trip' using live-stream technology, and a virtual event tour guide was considered and is currently being further developed.

A series of heritage-themed itineraries, relating to marine tourism, has been developed as part of the MMIAH project. Called the 'Atlantic Adventures Collection,' this will provide unique tourism experiences along the Atlantic Coast and includes Limerick amongst destinations in France, Spain, Portugal, Great Britain and Ireland.

Limerick Tourism Taskforce

The Limerick Tourism Taskforce met during October, along with the Tourism Department, Limerick City and County Council, and Fáilte Ireland, to continue to provide tourism supports in response to COVID-19 and provide industry insight and guidance on the delivery of the Tourism Strategy and Action Plan.

CULTURE AND ARTS - OPEN CALLS**Limerick Theatre Bursaries Autumn 2020**

Limerick Culture and Arts Office announced an Open Call for the Limerick Theatre Bursaries Awards Scheme, in partnership with the Lime Tree Theatre/Belltable. This provides an enhanced support to the sector as a response to COVID-19. There are three Limerick Theatre Bursaries available, up to a maximum value of €5,000 each. The closing date for applications is 9am on 2 November 2020.

Tyrone Guthrie Bursary 2020

Three bursaries have been awarded following an Open Call to the Tyrone Guthrie Bursary 2020. Six applications were received and assessed by an external panel.

Limerick's Residential Artists' Apartments Scheme

There were 20 applicants to the Open Call for Limerick's Residential Artists' Apartments, 1-2 John's Square, for which six apartments were available. The Panel met to assess the applications on 9 October and all applicants were notified of the Panel's decisions on 15 October. Six successful applicants were invited to accept their offer from across disciplines including Music, Literature, Dance and Visual Art.

Limerick's Artists' Studios Scheme

There were three applications submitted in response to the Open Call to avail of the single studio available in the James Street studio complex. The Panel met to assess the applications on 9 October and all applicants were notified of the outcome of this process on 15 October. One artist was offered the use of the Studio.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

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 October, ten letters of support were issued, seven to Arts Council Strategic Award, one to Arts Council Open Call, one to Culture Ireland and one to the Capacity Building Support Scheme.

Samhain: Limerick's Halloween Festival

Samhain 2020, which is supported by a Limerick City and County Council Festivals and Events grant, and partnered with Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture, was delivered online through Limerick.ie for all to enjoy. This included storytelling and workshops, which ran from 29 to 31 October. Samhain is run by Lumen Street Theatre Company and celebrates Irish culture with a focus on Limerick heritage and traditions surrounding Halloween. Community involvement and public participation are at its core. Samhain also celebrates and showcases the medieval quarter of Limerick City.

CREATIVE IRELAND FUNDED PROJECTS

Friars Gate Theatre, Kilmallock - Exhibitions 'Writing our Reflections'

Friars Gate Theatre, Kilmallock, has a strong education ethos and is dedicated to giving all members of the community a forum for expression. This series of workshops encouraged an intergenerational conversation which was shared with the community. Twelve successful creative workshops were held over a six-week period over zoom. The series was developed and led by Sheila Quealey.

The guided 'Reflection Writing' course explored how to share thoughts, observations, insights and opinions through the medium of creative writing. Using poetry, podcasts, novels and songs to ignite the imagination, the groups participated in facilitated discussions of these works and reflected and responded together on their meaning. At the end of the series, they compared and explored reflections and shared the outcomes.

Kilfinane Collage Project with Veronica Santorum

The collage project street exhibition opened from 3-12 October, preceded by a series of one-hour free workshops which were held from 1-3 October. The exhibition was also available online from 24 to 31 October. This project nurtured creative collaboration in Kilfinane, Co. Limerick, during COVID-19. Socially distanced workshops and online resources facilitated community members to create collages using natural materials for a street art and online exhibition. This project supported people to make art together during COVID-19, helped Kilfinane to continue to develop its sense of place and identity as a 'mountain village' close to nature, and enhanced Kilfinane's streetscape.

Villiers School Limerick presents Festival in a Van

Villiers School presented Festival in a Van with musicians, David Hope and Susan O'Neill, on 27 October. The Festival in a Van had two destinations, Knockalisheen Direct Provision Centre and Villiers School.

CULTURE AND PLACE MAKING

Castleconnell Autumn Concert Series 2020

The Castleconnell Autumn Concert Series 2020 is delivered in partnership with Limerick City and County Council, Culture and Arts Office and Love Castleconnell and has financial support from the Arts Council in programming the series, and Creative Ireland in making the concert series recording possible. The 2020 concert programme is being delivered through pre-recorded online concerts in response to the COVID-19 crisis. The series is presented by RTÉ Lyric FM's Liz Nolan. The first concert with Kevin Jansson was also broadcast on RTÉ Lyric FM's 'Full Score' programme on 21 October.

Éigse Michael Hartnett Literary and Arts Festival 2020

The Éigse Michael Hartnett Literary and Arts Festival 2020 took place in Newcastle West and online at the beginning of October. It went live online at 7pm on 1 October with performances and



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

readings streamed throughout 2 and 3 October. Videos of this year's festival offering remain available online to watch on www.eigsemichaelhartnett.ie.

These include online readings and conversations from internationally renowned writers, Colum McCann and Donal Ryan, an exciting new fusion of Irish and gypsy music called Celtic Hotclub, performance poetry, readings, storytelling, and an online poetry trail. The presentation of the Michael Hartnett Poetry Award 2020 went to poet, Eva Bourke. Limerick writer, Helena Close, read from her young adult novel, *The Gone Book*, and West Limerick violinist, Anne Phelan, and guitarist, Eamonn Moran, performed. Local singer/ songwriter, Trevor Sexton, and performance artist, Michéal Rowsome, also performed outside on the grounds of the Desmond Hall as part of the Festival in a Van mobile outdoor venue.

2. Property & Community Facilities

DERELICTION AND VACANCY

Derelict Sites – October	
Inspections carried out	141
Statutory Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act	56
Cases closed through engagement	0
Properties entered onto the Derelict Sites Register	3
Properties put forward for Compulsory Acquisition	37
Bin Waivers Issued:	4

3. Urban and Rural Community Development

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

- The October Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) meeting was held on 6 October online. The Local Action Group (LAG) approved funding of €311,353.61 under the LEADER Programme 2014-2020.

LIMERICK PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

- Membership of the PPN now stands at 131. The membership registration form is on the PPN website and eligible groups in Limerick can register at any time.

Three Limerick PPN Linkage Group meetings took place:

- Urban and Rural Community Development and Social Inclusion (aligned with Local Community Development Committee): Meeting included induction session on PPN communications and Linkage Group structures and a presentation with questions from the Local Community Development Committee Chief Officer.
- Travel and Transportation: Group met twice. The first meeting included induction session on PPN communications and Linkage Group structures and a presentation with questions from Senior Executive Officer of the Physical Development Directorate.
- Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning: Meeting included induction session on PPN communications and Linkage Group structures and a presentation with questions from Senior Executive Officer of the Economic Development Directorate.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

- The fourth round of elections this year for vacant PPN seats on Limerick City and County Council Committees concluded. The names of six PPN representatives for three Committees with PPN representation will go forward for ratification by Limerick City and County Council.
- Induction training on PPN processes delivered to PPN representatives on two Strategic Policy Committees.
- Interactive online information sessions on PPN and Council structures made to:
 1. Members of the Community Participation Network (resulted in a nomination from the Disability Sector for a seat on a Strategic Policy Committee).
 2. Members of Limerick Suicide Watch (resulted in a nomination from this Group to the Joint Policing Committee).
- One PPN Secretariat meeting took place. The Secretariat oversees the running of the PPN on behalf of its membership.
- Limerick PPN continued to have an active social media presence on its regularly-updated website and on Twitter and Facebook.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

- Limerick City and County Council hosted a wonderful Webinar on Limerick's Lesser Horseshoe Bats, by leading bat expert, Dr. Kate McAney, of the Vincent Wildlife Trust.

October is National Reuse Month

- Limerick City and County Council, in partnership with the Rediscovery Centre, (National Academy for the Circular Economy), hosted two Workshops which also formed part of the Limerick European Green Leaf 2020 Webinar Series:
 1. Slow Fashion and Capsule Wardrobe Webinar. Arran Murphy, Rediscover Fashion's

Programme Manager, gave tips on being a conscious consumer and creating your own capsule wardrobe without limiting your options for looking good. This was a fantastic opportunity to gain an insight into fashion habits and how to empower changes that will help the environment, save money and improve your wardrobe.

2. Top Tips for Upcycling #EGLA2020Limerick Webinar. Information to assist people with various projects to channel their inner creativity to upcycle their 'stuff'.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT****RURAL DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT PROGRAMME
2020****Town and Village Renewal Scheme – Accelerated
Measure – Round 3 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 the final round of approvals under the Accelerated Measure - Round 3, Limerick received €112,460 of funding for the following Town and Villages:

Town/Village	Project Description	Funding Received
Rathkeale	Widening and surfacing of existing Riverside Walkway	€39,960
Castleconnell	Provision of double arched roof covering over a section of outdoor space and requisite furnishings at the rear of Shannon House community building	€25,000
Dromcollogher	Develop a Meditation Garden with Labyrinth, surrounded by sensory and wildflower clumps with seating, lighting and a water feature	€25,000
Kilmeedy	Resurfacing of the Boreen Lane to improve access to the Old Creamery and Duck Pond	€22,500

AGE FRIENDLY

- Age Friendly Limerick's very successful roadshow "Putting Your House In Order" has been shortlisted for a Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award 2020, in the Age Friendly Initiative category.
- Age Friendly Limerick's PLACE-EE project has also been shortlisted for a Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award 2020, in the Initiative through the Municipal Districts category.
- "Limerick Community Care Connect" continues to grow. This initiative has seen the Age Friendly Team prepare and distribute Information packs to adults and activity packs for children. To date, more than 3,500 packs have been distributed, and plans are underway to prepare new packs to be distributed over the coming winter months.
- "Reaching Out, Staying Connected," our peer-to-peer friendly call service, has been operating since the Community Response launched in March of this year. An older person who is feeling isolated, lonely, or simply in need of a chat, can phone the Freephone number, where their details will be taken and passed on to a volunteer who will make regular phone calls to that person, to check in on them and have a chat to pass the time.
- The Age Friendly Programme is continuing to send out copies of the recently launched book, "Remembering Yesterday, Living Today." 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 by parents, grandparents, bringing family history to life. Copies of this book are available from the Age Friendly Team at agefriendly@limerick.ie



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

- Following three years working closely with residents of the greater Newcastle West area on the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme funded PLACE-EE project, two major events were held to mark the completion of the project - a launch of the PLACE-EE international cultural archive took place, followed a week later by a final showcase event. Both events were held online, with large numbers from all four participating countries joining the event online. A series of three videos were produced which inform on the work undertaken and can be accessed at the following link: <https://vimeo.com/396896310/396896310>
- Staff of the Age Friendly Programme have attended a range of online meetings and webinar events including:
 - The monthly Northside Older People's Advisory Group meeting
 - National Network of Age Friendly Programme Managers
 - Age Friendly Housing Specialists' National meeting
 - National Age Friendly Senior Team meeting
 - Two Moons Webinar on the rights of older people, hosted by The Gaiety Theatre
 - EU Projects Team 2 meetings
 - Age Friendly Regional Programme Managers' meeting
 - Social Prescribing in Ireland: Building the Evidence Base
 - PLACE-EE Monthly International Partners' meeting
 - Networking Day with National Forum of NGOs (Non-Governmental Organisations)
 - International meeting of the Homes4Life Group
 - Age Friendly Media Training
 - Interview with Finnish Department of Housing and Environment

LIMERICK COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESPONSE

- The Covid-19 Community Response Freephone number 1 800 832 005 and email address covidsupport@limerick.ie has continued to receive daily requests for support from members of our communities.
- The Community Response Team continues to engage with our partners across the City and County to ensure that anyone who requests support is connected with an appropriate volunteers to see their request through to completion.
- Due to the success of Limerick City and County Council's Community Response to COVID-19, the Thematic Programmes Team of the Community Development Directorate has been invited to join a team of educational, public service and public health agencies across Northern Europe on a project called Re-MIND.

The indirect consequences of COVID-19 on the mental health of the general population are expected to be considerable. Anxiety, depression, alcohol misuse and suicidality are likely to increase in the general population, with grief, loneliness and isolation playing a role in all of these. Children and older people may be particularly at risk. Such impacts will be amplified for already vulnerable groups who rely on other people and organisations for care and support. The voluntary and community sectors have been devastated by the loss of finances and staff, and the dismantling of infrastructure.

Most Governments will have moved quickly to anticipate the wide range of mental health impacts and to identify potentially mitigating solutions. Thus, while COVID-19 response committees and working groups have been established across the NPA (Northern Periphery and Arctic area) and other regions, collecting information and formulating plans, little is known about their content and the strategic priorities therein.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

The public health initiatives across the NPA, evidence of good practice and respective monitoring systems will be systematically identified and collected by Re-MIND. Some will be generic; others will be tailored to local needs and/or will have innovative aspects that can be applied elsewhere. There will be considerable benefits for countries and regions in sharing these strategic plans across the NPA

The thematic areas are interrelated, requiring interdisciplinary solutions and input from academia, health and technology. Re-MIND will undertake (1) a rapid literature review (2) collate strategic plans and policy documents from national and regional public health departments; (3) network with and interview key stakeholder groups and experts across the NPA; and (4) compile a report on the findings. Throughout this process, we will build up contacts through the NPA COVID-19 response group and work with the 'umbrella team.'

Online Meetings/Webinars attended

- Re-MIND International Partners - two meetings
- COVID Community Response Forum - two meetings

EDUCATION

- The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Collins, delivered a speech on behalf of Limerick, as a UNESCO International Learning City, to the UNESCO Learning City Clermont Ferrand Symposium. The title of the event was "From the Neighbourhood to the Learning City: Resilience and Territorial Dynamics." The recording of the Mayor's speech can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/8voTLa9-qc4>
- Learning Limerick has also been invited to contribute a Case Study for Adult Learning and Health and Wellbeing as part of current research project being conducted by the Northern Ireland Impact Forum for Adult Learning, in partnership with Belfast Learning City. The Case Study will profile the Learning Ambassadors, Learning Neighbourhoods Projects etc.

Online Meetings/Webinars attended

- Irish Network of Learning Cities Webinar.
- Learning Limerick Steering Group.
- Global Network of Learning Cities International Cluster Meeting – Entrepreneurship.
- Global Network of Learning Cities International Cluster Meeting – Educational Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.

INTEGRATION

- Limerick City and County Council's recent Max Arthur McAuliffe commemoration has been shortlisted for a Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award 2020, in the Commemorations and Centenaries category.
- Limerick City and County Council has submitted a funding application on behalf of the Limerick Migrant Integration Working Group to the National Integration Fund. The National Integration Fund supports both public and private bodies in the delivery of programmes which will increase mutual understanding between local communities and immigrants, combat racism and xenophobia, undertake research on inter-culturalism and/or integration and provide additional supports to the migrant community.
- Limerick City and County Council has been notified of a successful application in respect of the Community Integration Fund. The Council made the application on behalf of a PhD student in the International Academy of Dance at the University of Limerick. This project aims to bring African migrants together by sharing knowledge and interacting with other (non-African) individuals in the Limerick area. Events include Arts education, music and dance workshop/performances, targeting academic and non-academic audiences who are interested to learn cultural values from the African community in Ireland.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

• Online Meetings/Webinars attended

- EDNIP (Embracing Diversity, Nurturing Integration Programme) – two meetings.
- Limerick Migrant Integration Working Group.
- World Network of Intercultural Cities Webinar on 'Preventing the potential discriminatory effects of the use of Artificial Intelligence in Local Services.'

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Online Meetings/Webinars attended

- Connecting for Life Regional Meeting.
- Social Prescribing in Ireland: Building the Evidence Base.
- Physical Activity and the Pandemic Webinar, hosted by the Irish Institute of Public Health.

LIMERICK SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

- Limerick Sports Partnership has developed and delivered 7,000 Booklets 'A Guide to Physical Activity, Healthy Eating and looking after Mental Health,' to Older Adults across Limerick.
- All Organisations and Networks were utilised to get booklets to those in need - Age Friendly Limerick, Rural Link, Leader companies, community organisations - all supporting the initiative.
- Limerick Sports Partnership has also developed resources for people with a disability and young people to enable them to engage in physical activity during Level 5 restrictions.
- Limerick Sports Partnership has weekly online classes via zoom to cater for those who have access to the virtual sessions.
- Limerick Sports Partnership continues to deliver education courses online for the 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/>
- For more information, email info@limericksports.ie or Phone 061-333600.

4. Libraries, Gallery and Museum

LIBRARIES

- Children's Book Festival takes place each year in October. The purpose of the festival is to help spread the enjoyment of books and reading among children and families, authors and illustrators, teachers and librarians all over Ireland. The schedule of events is designed to:
 - Encourage children to enjoy the experience of reading and support their reading development.
 - Provide activities and events in collaboration with writers/illustrators/storytellers.
 - Promote children's books and stories.
 - Increase engagement with families and schools to attract new audiences.
- This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the festival has gone online. Library staff invited a number of writers and storytellers to create talks and workshops for Limerick Libraries, which were played to invited school groups in their own classrooms. Authors, Sarah Moore Fitzgerald, and Pdraig Kenny, facilitated online workshops with Primary School children in Adare, Ballyhahill, Cappamore and Dooradoyle. Children's Book Festival packs containing reading guides, stickers and bookmarks were sent to the classes that took part.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

- Also this year, as part of an innovative new approach, videos by the well-known children's author, Tom Palmer, expert in Sensory Storytelling, Simone Schuemmelfeder, and writer Gabriel Fitzmaurice, were posted for all to enjoy on Limerick Libraries YouTube link <https://www.youtube.com/user/LimerickLibrary>. Teachers and parents were encouraged to show these videos at home and in the classroom.
- Watch House Cross, Kilmallock, Adare, Dooradoyle, Abbeyfeale and Newcastle West branches were open to the public for the first week of October for browsing, returning books and printing. From 7 - 22 October, due to Level 3 COVID-19 restrictions, libraries operated a call-and-collect service where patrons were able to phone or email for specific requests, or simply ask a staff member to do a general selection of books, DVDs, and CDs on their behalf.
- On moving to Level 5 restrictions, the call-and-collect service ceased but staff are continuing to assist patrons with phone and email queries and helping many borrowers in the use of online resources such as Borrow Box, Press Reader etc. In all main branches, staff have been maintaining contact with schools, teachers and parents to emphasise the importance of reading for fun and learning.
- Limerick Library's School Service delivered books to primary and secondary schools in Corbally, Castletroy and Roxboro in Limerick, and to Effin in Co. Limerick.
- Watch House Cross staff member, Dr. Séan Gannon, facilitated an online workshop titled, "An Introduction to the Military Service Pensions Collection."
- Free digital magazines, newspapers, books and learning courses are available with a library card - <https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/community-and-leisure/libraries/library-e-services>

LIMERICK MUSEUM

- As part of Limerick City and County Council's Decade of Centenaries programme, the first part of a two-part online 1920 in Limerick: A Centenary Symposium, was uploaded on the Museum platforms on 27 October. It examined the important events that occurred in both Limerick and Ireland during the year 1920, and among the speakers were John O'Callaghan, Sharon Slater and Pádraig Óg Ó Ruairc. The second half will go live in November.
- An online exhibition of paintings by Dr. Julie Brazil was uploaded on the Museum platforms on 28 October.

LIMERICK CITY GALLERY OF ART (LCGA)

- LCGA is the main exhibition venue for EVA International, Ireland's only biennial, which closed to the public on 7 October in accordance with Government guidelines.
- All LCGA staff members continue to work on site and behind closed doors.
- All other service providers (G4, Grosvenor etc.) to LCGA have been informed of the closure to the public until further notice.
- The annual application to the Arts Council for Strategic Funding for LCGA's exhibitions and events Programme for 2021 was submitted on 22 October.
- A decision to cancel the forthcoming exhibition, As Kingfishers Catch Fire, due to logistical issues and the uncertainty about when LCGA could re-open to the public, was taken in discussion with the participating artists, curator and the Arts Council.
- Planning on our Learning Programme and Three Muses Project continues to develop.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

- Discussions continue to take place with EVA International about when the current EVA exhibition at LCGA can be safely de-installed and removed.
- Research and planning is ongoing to make further applications to support LCGA's future exhibitions, including *At Home on the Farm* by Mary Burke, a series of paintings looking at five farms in County Limerick.
- LCGA recognises the importance of the Permanent Collection as a significant resource and plans continue to extend its visibility through a number of exhibitions in December and January if it is open to the public.
- Throughout this period of Lockdown, LCGA continues to maintain the building and care for its collections.





CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

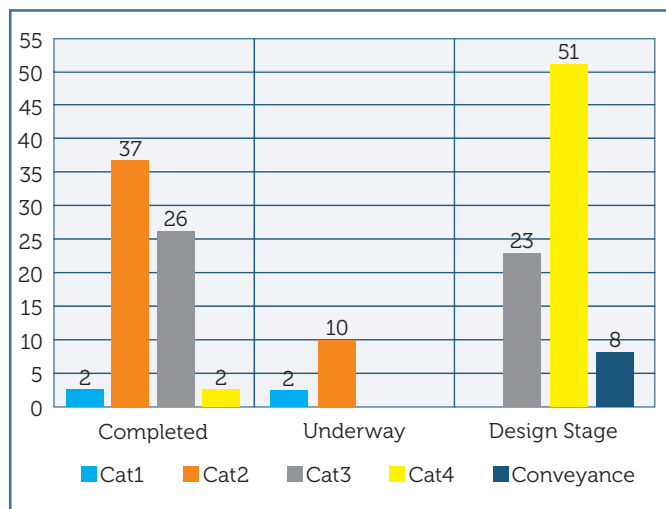
Housing Development Directorate

1. Strategic Housing Development

1. BUILD, BUY AND LEASE

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

As at 31 October 2020	Complete	In Progress	Total
Build	14	139	153
Buy	20	8	28
Lease	38	79	117
TOTAL	72	226	298



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
TOTAL	67	12	82	161

2. Regeneration Strategy Implementation

Regeneration Strategy Implementation Plan – Limerick City

The Social Intervention Fund (SIF)

The Regeneration Programme continues to support community-based organisations to facilitate projects designed to deliver social and economic objectives across the four Regeneration Areas. This year, 115 organisations applied for SIF funding seeking support for 213 individual projects. With COVID-19 restrictions, organisations were given an opportunity to amend their applications to suit the changing circumstances, e.g. providing services on-line. Assessed by an independent panel and approved by the Department of Housing, total grant funding amounted to €3,287,521. The appeals process will see an increase in the overall sum awarded, with final notifications to issue to organisations in early November.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Financial

Stage 1 Capital Appraisal for refurbishment of Southill Junior School has been submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for funding support.

Limerick Island Community Partners

- Company Board Meeting held in individual pods and by e-mail.
- Delivery of 1,600 meals-on-wheels to the community and beyond.
- Energy upgrade completed in King's Island Community Centre Community Café.
- "Dog Station" in the Alms Houses operating with free dog poo bags. Some vandalism but it is being contained.
- The renovation of No. 19 Nicholas Street, Limerick, has started.
- Bike Recycling Day held in Limerick Institute of Technology.
- Secured a Bike Mechanic through Tús (Community Work Placement Initiative).
- Delivered 42 food parcels twice during the month on behalf of Mid-West Simon.
- Met with Paul Partnership to seek advice on developing a Strategic Plan for the Company.
- Registered with Volunteer Limerick to seek additional individuals to help the Operation.
- Due to COVID-19 Regulations, Bingo and Dance Classes are closed until the end of Lockdown.
- Agreed an environmental upgrade plan for The Grotto, The Alms Houses, The Community Centre and the Allotments. Planned to start in October but now delayed until the end of Lockdown.
- Beekeeping Project met once in October, practising social distancing.
- Community Bus being used to aid Limerick Youth Services to deliver students to their projects.

Southill Hub

- Youth Work continues with smaller groups under the Youth Work Guidelines.
- Instead of the annual Trick or Treat stop, 30 members of the Under 12s groups received Halloween activity packs, delivered to their homes.
- Community Café continues to remain open for takeaway.
- Community services, such as Southill Afterschool, continue to work from the Centre.
- Services remain available, such as printing, advice etc.

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

Housing Waiting List	2,551
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• **Allocations**

	No. of Units October 2020	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	2	14
Newcastle West	1	49
Metropolitan District	15	202
Cappamore – Kilmallock	3	28
Total	21	293

• **Allocation Refusals**

	No. of Units October 2020	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	1
Newcastle West	1	24
Metropolitan District	0	29
Cappamore – Kilmallock	1	5
Total	2	59

• **Traveller Housing Welfare**

No. of Units offered October 2020	Year to Date
4	33

*these figures are included in Allocations figures

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

2,422 of active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	29
No. of Amendments	191
No. of Cessations	28

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

October 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	€1,577.13	1	€30,000.00	1	€8,478.04	2	€0.00	0
Newcastle West	€19,000.00	4	€0.00	0	€36,416.00	9	€0.00	0
Metropolitan	€28,750.00	6	€35,465.17	3	€55,402.72	11	€72,977.73	10
Cappamore - Kilmallock	€11,250.00	2	€30,000.00	1	€3,600.00	2	€0.00	0
Total	€60,577.13	13	€95,465.17	5	€103,896.76	24	€72,977.73	10
Total Monies issued in October 2020 = €332,916.79								
Total Grants issued in October 2020 = 52								

January to October 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	€88,594.37	18	€181,327.91	15	€118,861.87	32	€0.00	0
Newcastle West	€83,582.29	17	€54,348.31	8	€266,953.25	62	€5,448.00	1
Metropolitan	€184,063.54	38	€239,917.35	30	€211,349.28	56	€313,884.28	37
Cappamore - Kilmallock	€89,899.80	19	€148,479.30	13	€116,612.38	25	€24,306.63	2
Total	€446,140.00	92	€624,072.87	66	€713,776.78	175	€343,638.91	40
Total Monies issued January to October 2020 = €2,127,628.56								
Total Grants issued January to October 2020 = 373								

RENT COLLECTION

Rent Collection Limerick City & County Council					
Opening Balance at 01/01/2020	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing balance 31.10.2020	% Collection
€4,599,470	€13,760,198	€18,359,668	€13,444,670	€4,914,998	73%



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

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

Individuals – 21.10.2020		
Location	Description	No.
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	30
St. Patrick's Hostel	Higher threshold accommodation for single males	45
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	13
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	5
Temporary Emergency Provision TEP 1 (Edenvilla)	Low threshold, night by night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	15
TEP 2 (Phoenix Lodge)	Low threshold, night by night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	14
Total		122

Families			
Location	Description	No. Adults	No. Children
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	8
		Families - 6	
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	23	30
		Families - 15	
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Families self-isolated. Service users from St. Pat's utilising the building	9	7
		Families - 7	
Totals		Adults	Children
		38	45
		Families - 28	

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

Total Grants received for October	60
Total Grants approved for October	29
Total cost of approved grants for October	€184,420.00
Tenant Purchase	
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. received	4
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. approved	2
Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans	
Loan Applications: No. received	4
Loan Applications: No. approved	0
Ground Rent	
Ground Rent Applications: No. received	3
Deed of Discharge	
Deed of Discharge Applications: No. received	13
Consent to Sale	
Consent to Sale Applications: No. received	7
Cottage Purchase Annuity	
No. of Cottage Purchase Annuity Applications	1





CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

2. Planning and Environmental Services

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

- 127 complaints were received in October.
- 408 inspections were undertaken during the month.
- The Department issued eight Statutory Notices.
- Three Directions were served by the Department.
- Five Warning Letters were issued in October.
- 66 litter fines were issued during the period.
- Legal proceedings were initiated in one case.

Economic Development and Planning

Planning Applications

A total of 131 new planning applications were received as follows:

Part 8	4
Housing Developments	4
Domestic Developments	99
Agricultural Developments	4
Commercial Developments/Change of Use	6
Sporting/Community and Educational Developments	7
Other Developments	7

The current applications include proposals for:

- Part 8 for the refurbishment of Ardagh and Barnagh Station Houses (which are protected structures) and a change of use to commercial, community and tourism use at Ardagh Station House, Kilreash, Ardagh, and Barnagh Station House, Ballymurragh East, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.

- Part 8 for the construction of a car park comprising 50 car parking spaces for the Great Southern Greenway at Station Road, Newcastle West.
 - Part 8 for upgrading the junctions of Atlas Avenue and Courtbrack Avenue with the Dock Road, Limerick. The proposed development will consist of the upgrade of traffic signals and public lighting at both junctions, including synchronisation of signals to improve the efficiency of the two junctions, dedicated cycle facilities will be provided on the Dock Road and pedestrian facilities will be improved. Crossings for cyclists and pedestrians will be incorporated into the signalisation of each junction at Atlas Avenue and Courtbrack Avenue, Dock Road.
 - Construction of 62 No. dwelling units at Brú na Guadán, Castletroy, Limerick.
 - Construction of 96 No. residential units, crèche and community building at Skehacreggaun, Mungret (Site 1).
 - Construction of 96 No. residential units, crèche and community building at Skehacreggaun, Mungret (Site 2).
- ### 3. Veterinary Services
- Seven stray or wandering equines were impounded.
 - The Dog Control Unit dealt with three dogs.
 - 11 food samples were submitted during October for analysis under the National Residues and Microbiological Sampling Programme.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

4. Cemeteries

Number of Burials in City Cemeteries

Mount St. Lawrence	23
Mount St. Oliver	16
Castlemungret	6
Kilmurry	2

5. Municipal District Offices

Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

Foynes

- **Foynes Yacht Club**

Works commenced on 17 August. This was a Design and Build contract. The Contractor gave an additional price for the rock armouring. This was considered good value and was approved by the Office of Public Works. Consequently, the entire spit of land is now protected. These works are now substantially complete, with fencing and final topsoiling to be completed.

Adare

- **Walkway - Dunraven to the River Mague, Adare**

Transport Infrastructure Ireland approved funding of €96,000 to create a safe footpath from the Dunraven to the River Mague. 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. Transport Infrastructure Ireland has agreed to this change and an increase in this funding to €130,000. These works are now complete.

Rathkeale

- **Rathkeale Traffic Management**

A meeting was held with An Garda Síochána in relation to required traffic management changes for Rathkeale. The following changes are proposed:

1. Introduction of a one-way street on Pound Lane, in the direction away from Main Street.
2. Reversal of direction on the one-way street between Bank Place and the Square.
3. Additional double yellow lines at the upper end of Bank Place, Loading Bay at the Plumbing Supplies Shop.
4. Removal of single yellow lines throughout the town and replacement with double yellow lines or marked parking spaces where space permits.
5. Introduction of double yellow lines on both sides of Lower Main Street between the junctions of New Road and New Line Road.

It was also agreed to close the Pepperd's Lane / Main Street Junction to traffic from 16 November 2020 to 15 January 2021.

Discussions were also 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 Rathkeale Library Pedestrian Crossing. This pedestrian crossing is now complete

Ballingarry

- Road and footpath reconstruction works from Rylanes to the Grotto are now complete. New footpaths have been installed at the Church. This area is also scheduled for resurfacing in the coming weeks.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Askeaton

- **Askeaton Town Centre Town and Village Renewal Project**

A Consultant has been appointed to conduct a Public Realm Study in Askeaton. The results from this study will determine the Town Centre Improvement works. A Briefing Document for the appointment of Consultants to design and construct the undergrounding of services in prominent areas of the town, as well as enhancing public lighting, is currently being drafted.

- **Askeaton Riverside Walk**

An application will be made this year under ORIS (Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme) to fund the River Walk extension to the Slí na Sláinte.

Fedamore

- A meeting was held with representatives of Fedamore Village in relation to a request for traffic calming in the village. This is currently being considered under the Low Cost Safety Scheme.

Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

- Work continues on the Pilot Home Improvement Scheme for tenants of social housing. The deadline for completion of these works by contractors, and grants claimed by tenants, will be extended beyond the original stated deadline due to delays associated with current COVID-19 restrictions.
- The construction of 20 social housing units at Glenview Drive, Hospital, continues with Griffin Brothers Contracting Limited as the main contractor on site.
- Despite the move to Level 5 restrictions this month, the 2020 Roadworks Programme for the Municipal District continues across the District with the intention of fully completing it before the end of 2020.

Municipal District of Newcastle West

- At the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West held on 4 October, the Members adopted the Newcastle West (Parking Places) (Amendment) Bye-Laws, 2020.
- Also at the October District Meeting, the Members approved allocations under the Community Initiative Scheme 2020.
- The Draft Budgetary Meeting 2021 for the Newcastle West Municipal District took place on 21 October. The Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Newcastle West for the financial year ending 31 December, 2021, in the sum of €270,000, and including the amendment to move the amount of €100,000 from Special Projects – LA Infrastructure, and the amount of €45,000 – Special Projects LPT, to D05 Tourism Development, Recreation and Amenity, in accordance with Section 102 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, was adopted by the Members.
- Resurfacing works on the recently taken-in-charge, Nash's Lane, Newcastle West, have commenced.
- Works have commenced on the upgrade and installation of footpaths at Churchtown, Newcastle West, and Dromcollogher, Co. Limerick, which are being funded under the Government's Stimulus Package Active Travel Category.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Capital Investment Directorate

1. Design & Delivery

Part 8

- Part 8 application submitted for the upgrading of Atlas Avenue and Courtbrack Avenue junctions on the Dock Road, Limerick.

Approvals Sought/Obtained

- Stage 3 Approval received for Knocklong, Co. Limerick (12 social housing units).

Tenders

- MRG Consulting Engineers appointed on the Fr. Russell Road, Limerick, Cycle Lane Scheme.
- Appointment of Topographical and GPR Survey, Tree Survey and Drone Survey contracts on the Parkway to University of Limerick Bus Corridor.
- MHL Consultants appointed on the Parnell-Wickham-Clare Street, Limerick, Cycleway.
- Ryan Hanley appointed as Consultants on the UL to National Technology Park Cycleway, Limerick.
- MHL Consultants appointed on the Clare Street to Condell Road, Limerick, Cycleway (Phase 1).

Project Updates:

- Coonagh-Knockalisheen Distributor Road, Limerick – Topsoil stripping and archaeological monitoring in progress at Ballygrennan Landscape Fill Area.
- King's Island Flood Relief Scheme, Limerick – Response to further information submitted to An Bord Pleanála.
- Mungret Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) Delivery Stage 2 – Archaeological Test Trenching underway.
- Metropolitan Depot - Ground Investigation contract underway.

Projects Completed:

- Bus Shelter Installation complete on Corbally Road, Limerick, at Shannon Drive.

Finance

- Recoupments submitted for Housing Projects to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) in October - €2,215,981.
- Recoupments issued by the DHLGH in October - €1,484,880.
- To date in 2020, Design and Delivery has applied to the DHLGH for €17,727,793, and €15,822,422 has been paid.

Buy and Renew and SHIP Refurbishment Programme

Inspections Carried out in October	Refurbishment Works Commenced in October	Refurbishment Works Ongoing	Refurbishment Works Completed in October
1	0	5	1

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT****Home Improvement Schemes**

Inspections and Recommendations for Home Improvement Schemes – October 2020

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-Inspection	Final Inspection	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	1	7	0	7	15
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	1	10	0	5	16
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	10	0	11	21
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	2	27	0	23	52



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

National and Regional Shared Services Directorate

1. Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Shared Services Centre

- There were 58,654 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAPSSC, at the end of October.
- A weekly average of 303 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2020.
- The October landlord payment run was over €50 million.
- The weekly tenant debit at the end of October was almost €2.9 million.
- The HAPSSC Debt Management Unit collected a total of €116 million in differential rent to end of October.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of October was 97%.
- The Debt Management Unit restarted the Debt Process on 8 October and issued 9,530 Reminder Letters to active HAP Tenants in arrears.

2. Fire and Emergency Services

Statistics

	No. of Fire Related Calls	No. of Non Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call-outs 01/10/2020 – 31/10/2020	59	41	100
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	72%	50%	
% 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	0%	9%	

	No. Received / Assigned	No. Validated	No. Invalidated / Refused	No. Granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications October	6	5	1	13	
Disability Access Cert Applications October	5	5	0	11	
Licensing Applications October	7	7	0		
Commencement Notice October	58	55	1	55	56
Completion Certificate October	25	22	0	22	22
Planning Referrals October	10				8
Sugar CRM Cases October	3				1

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT****Major Emergency Management**

- Major Emergency Management Committee Meeting held on 8 October.
- Major Emergency Plans and Sub-Plans currently being updated.

Fire and Emergency Training Events

- Two Fire Fighters completed their Peer Support training.
- Two Fire Fighters completed Emergency Services Driving Standards training.
- 43 Fire Fighters successfully completed essential Compartment Fire Behaviour Refresher Training.
- One Fire Fighter attended an Initial Breathing Apparatus Wearers' Course.

Civil Defence Attendance at Events

- Irish Blood Transfusion Service Blood Clinic, Woodlands House Hotel, Adare - 1 day
- Irish Blood Transfusion Service Blood Clinic, Doon Community Centre - 2 days
- Patient Transfer (Limerick to Westmeath and return) - 1 day
- Patient Transfer (Ennis Residence to Nenagh General and Return) - 1 day
- Irish Blood Transfusion Service Blood Clinic, Greenhills Hotel, Limerick - 2 days
- Patient Transfer (Limerick to Westmeath and return) - 1 day
- Irish Blood Transfusion Service Blood Clinic, Coláiste Ióseaf Community College, Kilmallock - 3 days

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 October
No. of Call-Outs 01/10/2020 – 31/10/2020	793	867	1 min 20 secs	1,660

Water Safety

Number of lifebuoy replacements	Total January - September	October 2020	Total 2020
Metropolitan Area	8	4	12
Municipal Area	11	5	16



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

3. Digital Services and EU Programmes

Digital Services

- In the week ending 2 October, Digital Services attended a number of events that were part of the Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival 2020. On 1 October, the Head of Digital Services took part in a panel discussion on the topic of Digital Inclusion, speaking specifically on how service providers and policy-makers can ensure services remain accessible for all.
- On 6 October, Digital Services signed a contract with Irish-owned Sord Data Systems Limited for the implementation of its new WiFi4EU network across Limerick City and County under the EU's WiFi4EU initiative. Part-funded by the EU and the Department of Rural and Community Development, this initiative aims to promote free access to Wi-Fi connectivity for citizens in public spaces, and will deliver 40 new outdoor free public Wi-Fi access points for Limerick at locations in the City Centre, as well as 14 towns and villages across the County. Installations will commence in November and be completed in January 2021.
- On 20 October, Digital Services attended the fourth Annual Conference of the All-Ireland Smart Cities Forum. The theme of this year's Conference was "Building a Responsive and Resilient City in Post Crisis," with topics of Reimagining the City, Transforming Tourism and Disrupting Mobility.
- The LITe Programme was rolling out to the following Departments in October: Dangerous Places and Structures, Planning Development, Regeneration and the Homeless Action Team.
- Also in October, a new GDPR-compliant cookie policy was added to Limerick.ie to make it compliant with recommendations from the Data Protection Commission. This policy explains to site visitors how and why cookies are being used on the website. They must give their consent for the use of any non-essential cookies, but are still allowed to access content even if they do not allow the use of certain cookies, and can withdraw their consent (switch off previously activated cookies) at any stage from any page on the site.

EU Programmes

- On 5 October, Limerick City and County Council, along with the City of Versailles, organised the first GoGreen Routes Cultivating City Cluster Meeting. This cluster brings together the city partners in this Horizon 2020 to swap best practices on incorporating Nature-Based Solutions into our urban environments.
- On 6 October, the EU Projects Team attended a European Territorial Cooperation Network Webinar organised by the Southern Regional Assembly.
- On 13 October, Limerick co-organised a Workshop with the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission at the European Week of Regions and Cities on "How to implement and monitor the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?"
- On 15 October, the EU Programme Manager gave a presentation on the Digital Leaders' Network as an example of best practice to the COHES3ION Virtual Study Visit. COHES3ION is an Interreg Europe Project which aims to integrate a regional and sub-regional element into Smart Specialisation Strategies.
- From 19 to 22 October, the EU Projects Team attended the Virtual 3rd Consortium Meeting of the Horizon 2020 +CityxChange project and presented the progress of the Positive Energy Bock in Limerick.
- On 21 October, Limerick Co-Organised a Workshop with the Irish Regions European Office at the European Week of Regions and Cities on "Green Cities by Co-Design," and was represented by the Chief Executive.
- On 23 October, members of the Environment and EU Projects Teams took part in the first GoGreen Routes Consortium Meeting.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

- On 27 October, the EU Programme Manager attended an online brokerage event: "European Green Deal: Social Sciences and Humanities in EU Green Deal Call," to seek out potential new projects for the City and County.
- On 28 October, staff from EU Projects, Urban Innovation, and Planning attended online training organised by the European Commission, specifically for Cities and Regions, to learn about the European Handbook for SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) Voluntary Local Review.



**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 October 2020	9,759,506	59,737,950 **	163,462	15,285,217	54,048,777	33,741,435	20,307,342	3,356,287	67%

** 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 October 2020	447,129	1,332,373 *	13,665	1,765,837	1,526,625	239,212	86%

* Accruals not up to date to end of October 2020

Recourse to Overdraft Facility

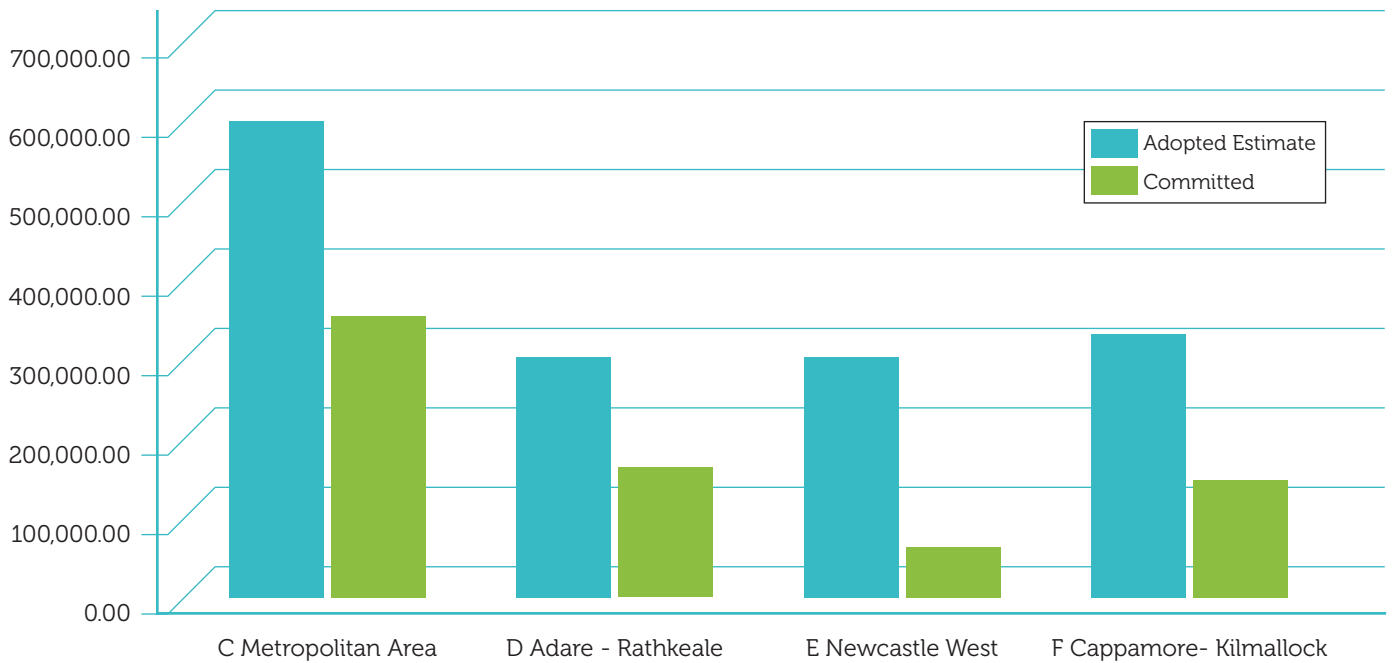
No of days in overdraft **1** (due to administrative error by Bank not returning Deposit on time)



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

General Municipal Allocation 2020 Adopted Estimate €1.403 Million

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



Municip (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate (€)	Value Committed (€)
C Metropolitan Area	568,000.00	315,618
D Adare - Rathkeale	270,000.00	126,448
E Newcastle West	270,000.00	22,187
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	295,000.00	109,889



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

2. Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services

Corporate Services

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

- Opening of Éigse Michael Hartnett Literary and Arts Festival.
Venue: Longcourt House Hotel, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.
- Presentation of Cheques to the Charities following Virtual Cook Medical Women's Mini Marathon.
Venue: Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Virtual attendance at launch of Limerick Mental Health Week 2020.
- Delivered an address to the UNESCO Learning City Clermont Ferrand (France) Symposium 'From the Neighbourhood to the Learning City: Resilience and Territorial Dynamics in the Face of Crisis.'
- Book Launch for Local Writer, Pat McLoughlin's Debut Novel, 'The Canary in the Mine.'
Venue: The Desmond Castle, The Square, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.
- Launch of Facility Development Plan 2020-2025 for Crecora Manister GAA Club and Crecora Camogie Club.
Venue: Crecora Manister GAA pitch.
- Virtual attendance at launch of Novas Annual Report.

Register of Electors

The Register of Electors Team in Corporate Services completed the preparation of the Draft Register 2021/2022 to be published on 1 November.

Information to update the Register is sourced from the following:

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

We have processed all applications and are completing the process of generating the Draft Register.

Advertisements have been placed in local Newspapers advising people to check the Register at www.checktheregister.ie to see if they are on the Draft Register, or if they will be 18 before February 2021. Claims to be submitted by 25 November to Register of Electors Section. Application forms have also been distributed via An Post to all those on the 2020/2021 Postal Voters' Lists for renewal.

Health and Safety Training

Health and Safety Training 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 Safe Pass. A total of 15 staff have been trained during the month of October.
- **Manual Handling:** Courses have commenced and a total of 17 staff were trained during the month.
- **CPC Training:** has taken place and a total of 26 staff have been trained during October.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

- **First-Aid Response and First-Aid Refresher:** During the month, a total of 20 staff have been trained.
- **COVID-19 Induction – Toolbox Talks** A further 3 staff, both indoor and outdoor, were trained during October.
- **Forklift Training:** During the month, a total of 12 staff have been trained.
- **Winter Service Operators:** A total of 12 staff have been trained during October.

Customer Services

October has seen the introduction of COVID-19 Level 5 restrictions. Although this has resulted in Corporate Buildings at Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle closing to the public, Customer Services continue to support customers at the first point of contact. This is achieved through various communication channels, phone, email, MyLimerick and Twitter, where Customer Services continues to answer customer queries, process payments and facilitate applications for Council services.

The Customer Services Account Managers continued throughout the month to support the Elected Members in terms of accessing Council services and improving response times and ensuring quality of responses on Members' representations.

The following figures highlight the activity within the contact centre throughout October:

- Customer Services Call Centre dealt with 12,259 calls. This represents an average of 584 per day, with the number of calls exceeding 700 on a several occasions. 53% of these calls 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 2,921 cases created, with 762 of these logged on behalf of Public Representatives, as well as the closure of 3,724 cases, 875 of which were logged by Public Representatives.
- 2,201 emails were processed through the Customer Services mailbox.
- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued, with a total of 317 cases being logged, 293 of which were logged by Public Representatives.
- Customer Services also continued advising tenants making housing maintenance requests of the current procedures during the pandemic. 962 cases were logged for Housing Maintenance in the Limerick Metropolitan District, 879 (91%) 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. A total of 88 new Residential Parking Permits were processed throughout the month.
- The public counters in both Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle saw a combined footfall of 2,520.
- The Customer Services Team attended further 'Refresher Training Sessions.' The staff also attended Disability Awareness Training to ensure that the Customer Services Team continues to provide the highest quality service to the customers of Limerick City and County Council.

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

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Joint Policing Sub-Committee	02.10.2020	Dooradoyle
Operational Briefings		
Limerick City East	06.10.2020	Virtual
Limerick City North	06.10.2020	Virtual
Limerick City West	06.10.2020	Virtual
Municipal District of:		
Newcastle West Monthly Meeting	07.10.2020	Newcastle West
Meeting to consider the Draft Budgetary Plan 2021	21.10.2020	Newcastle West
Adare-Rathkeale Monthly Meeting	13.10.2020	Dooradoyle
Meeting to consider the Draft Budgetary Plan 2021	21.10.2020	Dooradoyle
Cappamore-Kilmallock Special Meeting – Part 8 Planning Application for a Fire Service Training Centre at Kilmallock Business Park	01.10.2020	Kilmallock
Monthly Meeting	15.10.2020	Kilmallock
Meeting to consider the Draft Budgetary Plan 2021	15.10.2020	Kilmallock
Corporate Policy Group	12.10.2020	Dooradoyle
Implementation Advisory Group on the Establishment of a Directly Elected Mayor for Limerick	15.10.2020	Virtual
Metropolitan District of Limerick Monthly Meeting	19.10.2020	Dooradoyle
Strategic Policy Committee Meetings		
Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment	13.10.2020	Virtual
Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning	14.10.2020	Virtual
Travel and Transportation	20.10.2020	Virtual
Home and Social Development	22.10.2020	Virtual

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

	October	2020 (January to October)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	13	135
FOI Internal Appeals	0	3
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	1
Re-Use of Public Information	0	1
Total Ombudsman Requests	3	24
Total AIE Requests	0	7

5. Business Improvement

- 760 staff are now live on the employee app.
- The employee app was utilised to run a series of Staff Competitions to promote Public Service Innovation Week.
- The "Ardagh and Barnagh Station House Part 8 consultation" was uploaded to MyPoint on behalf of the Planning and Environmental Services Department.
- The Westfields Wetlands Survey closed on MyPoint, with an excellent response of 218 submissions from engaged citizens.
- The "Working from Home" survey on MyPoint produced 411 submissions from Limerick City and County Council's employees. The aggregated content is currently under review by Management.
- The Sharepoint User survey on MyPoint was completed by 91 employees. Business Improvement will work with the LITe team to assess the feedback and discuss actions.