

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

November 2020

EXCELLENCE – Council wins two Excellence in Local Government Awards

LIMERICK DEVELOPMENT PLAN – Chief Executive Report on pre-draft consultation published

HOMES – new homes allocated to tenants as Wallers Well development completed

WALKING – Council team tops the charts of nationwide Walktober competition

CONTENTS:

Economic Development Directorate

1. Trade and Investment	2
2. Strategic and Forward Planning	2
3. Limerick Local Enterprise Office	2
4. Innovate Limerick	2
5. Urban Innovation	3
6. Marketing and Communications	5

Physical Development Directorate

1. Travel and Transportation Strategy	7
2. Mid-West National Road Design Office	7
3. Environment Strategy	7

Community Development Directorate

1. Tourism, Culture and Arts	9
2. Property and Community Facilities	12
3. Urban & Rural Community Development	13
4. Libraries, Gallery and Museum	17

Housing Development Directorate

1. Strategic Housing Development	19
2. Regeneration Strategy Implementation	20

Service Operations Directorate

1. Housing Support Services	23
2. Planning & Environmental Services	27
3. Veterinary Services	27
4. Cemeteries	27
5. Municipal District Offices	28

Capital Investment Directorate

1. Design & Delivery	29
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National and Regional Shared Services Directorate

1. HAP SSC	31
2. Fire and Emergency Services	31
3. Digital Services & EU Programmes	33

Support Services Directorate

1. Finance Services	34
2. Corporate Services, Governance & Customer Services	36
3. Schedule of Meetings	38
4. Access to Information	39
5. Business Improvement	39



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Economic Development Directorate

1. Trade and Investment

- Limerick Institute of Technology (LIT) and the Athlone Institute of Technology (AIT) have formally submitted proposals to become a Technical University. Once approved, the new third-level institution, with 15,000 students and 1,200 staff, will be operational within a year and the combined impact of the two institutions on the Irish economy will be close to €420m.
- Transact Campus Inc., a leading integrated payment and credential software solution company, has announced the establishment of a next generation digital campus in ENGINE, Upper Cecil Street, Limerick, creating 110 new jobs over the coming years.
- Application for planning permission is to be lodged by Pat McDonagh for a Motorway Service Plaza on the Dock Road. The €10m investment development will include a retail unit, fuel court, food court and deli and will create 100 construction jobs and 90 retail jobs when completed.
- The following coffee shops/restaurants opened in Limerick city centre recently:
 - **Fika** - Coffee Shop, Catherine Street.
 - **Habit** - Coffee Shops, O'Connell Street and Catherine Street.
 - **Angel Cakes** - Thomas Street.
 - **Doh Pizza** - O'Connell Street.

Wickham Way - a covered market in Wickham Street, with room for 15 traders, is preparing to open in early December, with offerings of arts, crafts, Christmas trees, music, coffee and much more.

2. Strategic and Forward Planning

- The Chief Executive's Report on the Pre-Draft Consultation on the proposed Limerick Development Plan 2020-2028 was prepared and issued to the Elected Members on 20 November. The Members, following consideration of this report, may issue directions at the January 2021 Full Council Meeting to the Chief Executive regarding the preparation of the draft Limerick Development Plan.
- The public consultation period for the Draft Southern Environs Local Area Plan closed on 23 November and the Team commenced the preparation of the Chief Executive's Report, which will summarise and consider submissions made.

3. Limerick Local Enterprise Office

Limerick Local Enterprise Office (LEO) moved to ENGINE in Upper Cecil Street, Limerick, which is fast becoming an innovative heartland, with Innovate Limerick, Film in Limerick, the Mid-West Action Plan for Jobs, Transact, WP Engine, regional tech and regional skills teams all based there.

The move from Patrick Street, Limerick, will enable the provision of a dynamic and highly responsive assistance to entrepreneurs in established and emerging sectors.

4. Innovate Limerick

Happen is a network of co-working spaces in the Mid-West Region that was launched in Limerick on Monday, 23 November. The network, facilitated by Innovate Limerick and the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) in Limerick, Clare and Tipperary, comprises both public and private co-working spaces across these three counties, as well as in North Kerry.



Happen will connect new and existing hubs across the Region to facilitate working in a changed environment and create a community for remote workers in the Mid-West.

The creation of the network was prompted by the impact that COVID-19 has had on how and where people work and the demand for a more collaborative form of remote working. It will create a community for isolated workers in the Region. Happen also aims to reduce commuting time in the Mid-West by facilitating remote working for those whose main office is based in other urban areas, for example Dublin.

The overall aim of Happen is to create a better work-life balance for workers and enable them to do so under a common umbrella. Being part of a Happen co-working space gives users and tenants access to an online community portal, exclusive workshops and events being organised by Happen, and the ability to share business news via the network's newsletter and website.

Each hub within the Happen network will provide modern co-work spaces for freelancers, start-ups and remote workers alike, and enable tenants and users of each individual space to connect and collaborate with each other through their membership of the network, be that through the use of a hot desk, a fixed desk or a private office within the specific hub. Working from a Happen space is simple; all that is required to avail of a desk or office is to book via a centralised online booking system.

Co-working spaces within the Happen network include ENGINE Limerick, the Yard Workspace, Newcastle West, and HQ Tralee and Listowel, with new hubs being added in Counties Clare and Tipperary in the coming weeks.

To find out more about Happen or to book a co-working space, simply log onto happenspace.ie.

Happen can also be found on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter @happenmidwest.

Film in Limerick

- Film in Limerick's 'Writers' Factory: Introduction to Screenwriting' programme continues with twenty participants taking part in a 22-week online programme designed by script guru, Phil Parker, and Film in Limerick, and funded by Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.
- Film in Limerick has developed a new Mid-West short film training and production scheme along with Limerick City and County Council, Clare County Council, Tipperary County Council and Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board. A structured training and production programme for new talent in the region will roll out in the coming months and see the production of six new funded short films in the Mid-West.

5. Urban Innovation

Living Georgian City Programme

The following activities took place during the month of November on the Living Georgian City Programme:

- The first step of the public engagement process for the Laneways Demonstration Project was launched. This consists of a "Listening" phase, comprising a MyPoint survey which will remain open until 14 December, and an on-line Workshop which will take place on 10 December.
- Survey work and remedial works commenced for the Housing Demonstration Projects at 58, O'Connell Street and 33/34, Thomas Street, Limerick.
- The architects for the Housing Demonstration Projects commenced option analysis work, looking at a range of possible design approaches and housing governance models.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

+CityxChange - Climathon

Climathon is a worldwide event, which takes place in cities across the globe. It brings local people together to crowdsource ideas to help make their city more sustainable.

Last year, Limerick ran its first Climathon event in the ENGINE Building on World Climathon Day. This year, because we could not host an in-person event, Limerick Climathon 2020 went fully virtual. Teams of local people worked to generate ideas to help Limerick tackle the challenges of climate change. The groups started their journey on 3 October and final presentations were made in a public meeting on 13 November.

Two projects made it to the end of the process; one focused on Citizen Collected Data and the potential for citizens to collect data that would influence decision-making in their community, and the other focused on the concept of Safe Schools Zones.

The standard of the projects presented was excellent and the Urban Innovation Department will now work with the citizen groups to explore progressing their ideas on Climate Action. A big thank you to all those who took part and to +CityxChange partners, Space Engagers, for facilitating and guiding the teams through the process.

Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards

WINNER - Living Georgian City

Urban Innovation has been awarded a Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award in the category 'Enhancing the Urban Environment.' The Living Georgian City (LGC) programme aims to reactivate the Georgian core of Limerick City in an environmentally and physically sustainable way. The Georgian District is a key piece of national architectural and cultural heritage, but has suffered from high levels of vacancy and under-investment in recent years. The objective of the programme is to bring positive, innovative and transformational change to Newtown Pery, the heart of Limerick City's outstanding Georgian architectural heritage.

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.

	November	2020 to Date	TOTAL (since 2018)
No. of Applications Received	2	20	39
Owner Occupier	0	0	2
Rented Residential	2	18	34
Mixed Residential	0	2	6
No. of Applications Acknowledged (Interim)	0	19	32
Final Cert Issued	0	2	7



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

6. Marketing and Communications

Marketing

Christmas in Limerick

- A six-week multi-media marketing campaign got underway to promote Christmas in Limerick featuring festive highlights, COVID-friendly events and gift ideas to support Limerick stores and businesses.
- Dedicated Christmas section created on Limerick.ie
- Re-development of Christmas in Limerick branding to reflect the city and county's brand identity – Limerick: Atlantic Edge, European Embrace.
- Distribution of a Christmas in Limerick message from the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Collins, and Dr. Pat Daly, Chief Executive, Limerick City and County Council, to 50,500 addresses across Limerick asking householders to support local businesses this Christmas through Shop Limerick
- Engaged a number of prominent local influencers to promote the campaign

Limerick Edge Embrace Photography Competition

- The overall competition winners were announced following a public vote on the Limerick.ie Facebook page. Photographer, Tony Clancy, won the professional category securing a month long billboard display in Limerick City centre, while Natalia Sobiecka secured the most votes in the amateur category winning a €1,000 voucher for Whelan Cameras. More than 10,000 votes in total were cast.
- The winning image in the professional category was installed on a billboard on Mulgrave Street, Limerick, for two weeks and will shortly be posted on another prominent billboard on the Dock Road, Limerick.

- The social media marketing campaign for the competition reached 321,581 with 59,964 engagements
- Created and issued eight Limerick.ie e-newsletters, including a weekly Christmas themed version

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 54 times on Limerick.ie's Facebook with followers now 30,367. Posts reached 73,405 users with 16,345 engagements.
- Tweeted 65 times on Limerick.ie's Twitter, @limerick_ie, with total followers now 19,066. Our tweets earned 184,000 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).
- Posted 17 times on Limerick.ie's Instagram and created 15 Stories with total followers now 12,712.
- Posted 24 times on Limerick City and County Council's LinkedIn with total followers now 6,105.



Limerick.ie

In November, there were 127,500 unique site visits to Limerick.ie and 270,400 site views.

- New functionality to ensure compliancy 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. Going forward, website statistics will be tracked and usage reports will be provided by Fathom, an alternative system which does not collect any personal data.

Content Report: 101 articles, 141 events and 49 amenities were added to Limerick.ie in November.

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/christmas
5. www.limerick.ie/council/your-council/jobs

Communications

- Issued 23 News Releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and researched and wrote nine speeches for the Office of the Mayor.
- Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter.
- Created a short awareness campaign focusing on the ten shortlisted projects in the Excellence in Local Government Awards.
- Tweeted 289 times on Limerick City and County Council's Twitter account, @limerickcouncil, with total followers now 15,543. Our tweets earned 404,500 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweets).





CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Physical Development Directorate

1. Travel and Transportation Strategy

Walktober is a Team Step Challenge and took place between 5 October and 1 November. This year over 870 teams took part, (4,347 participants) from around Ireland. Twelve teams from Limerick City and County Council took part in the challenge. A team from Limerick City and County Council came in first place and won the overall national competition. The winning team is comprised of three of our Traffic Wardens. This is great recognition for Limerick and for the promotion of active travel.

2. Mid West National Road Design Office

N/M20 Cork to Limerick Project

Limerick City and County Council is the lead authority to develop the N/M20 Cork to Limerick project which is currently at Option Selection stage. The Option Selection process has considered and assessed a range of feasible options within the study area. A number of road-based and rail-based options have been shortlisted to proceed further in the Option Selection process, along with an active travel strategy (walking and cycling).

As part of this process, the road and rail-based options were put on public display in November and the Council is seeking feedback from the public on the shortlisted options and active travel strategy developed for the project. Due to COVID-19, Limerick City and County Council was unable to hold a public consultation event in person within the study area. Instead, an online public consultation platform has been developed on the project website www.corklimerick.ie which went live in November. This online public consultation experience provides a virtual consultation room to allow the public and other stakeholders to view and interact with the consultation information and maps and to provide feedback on the options and active travel strategy

using an online feedback form. The Council is also facilitating telephone meetings as part of the consultation process.

3. Environment Strategy

Roundabout Landscaping

The first of Limerick City and County Council's pollinator-friendly roundabouts was landscaped in November with the aid of funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the National Biodiversity Action Plan. The Loughmore Roundabout, which is located on the Patrickswell Road in Raheen, has been sown with a native woodland wildflower mix to complement the existing Ash trees. The wildflowers will be surrounded with a clover meadow and pollinator spring bulbs to provide a succession of food for pollinators throughout the year. Watch this space next Spring.

European Green Leaf Pollinator-Friendly Garden

As part of Limerick European Green Leaf City programme of events, a pollinator-friendly garden has been planted beside the public entrance to the Council's Headquarters in Merchant's Quay. This project hopes to demonstrate that a garden can be both beautiful and also a haven for wildlife. The aim is to provide an attractive display all year round and also food for pollinators throughout the seasons. The plants here have been carefully selected from the lists in the All Ireland Pollinator Plan (www.pollinators.ie). The garden was originally to be planted in March 2020, but was delayed because of COVID-19.



European Green Leaf Webinars

The European Green Leaf series of environmental webinars continued with "Let's Talk about Climate Action" on 10 November. This exciting event was presented by seasoned climate activist, Gavin Harte, from Education for Sustainable Development. Gavin gave an overview of the terminology and science involved in climate change. There was an emphasis on why all sectors of the community need to work together to help alleviate the effects of climate change.

This was followed on 17 November by a webinar on Green Procurement. Green procurement aims to stimulate the provision of more resource-efficient, less polluting goods, services and works. This event, aimed at Local Authorities and other public bodies, was organised in conjunction with the Rediscovery Centre, the National Centre for the Circular Economy.

Woodland Creation on Public Lands

The Physical Development Directorate has gone to tender for forestry services to plant two sites with native woodland under the scheme. The first is a 0.9 ha area in the Demesne, Newcastle West, and the second is a 1.8 ha site by the riverside in Kilmallock. The primary purpose of this scheme is climate action as the woodlands will help biodiversity and sequester carbon. The woodland will also provide a valuable public amenity once established.





CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Community Development Directorate

1. Tourism, Culture and Arts

TOURISM

Great Southern Greenway

As part of Limerick City and County Council's €5million upgrading works to the Great Southern Greenway Limerick, the Council is undertaking an extensive programme of resurfacing works and a number of sections of the Greenway have been temporarily closed to facilitate these works.

On Friday, 27 November, the Rathkeale Irish Palatine Heritage Centre to the River Deel Bridge (CH0-800m and link to Slí na Sláinte) section reopened for local community use. In addition to this announcement, updated timelines were confirmed for the following sections:

Location	Closing Date	
	From	To
Rathkeale - Ardagh Station House	Closed	16/12/2020
Ardagh Station House - Newcastle West	Closed	28/12/2020
Newcastle West - Barnagh	Closed	05/03/2021
Barnagh - Barnagh Tunnel	Closed	19/03/2021
Barnagh Tunnel Section	Closed	19/03/2021
Barnagh - Templeglantine	Closed	13/04/2021
Templeglantine - Abbeyfeale and Kilmorna	Open	

Capiten EU Project

Limerick City and County Council attended the virtual Capiten EU Project Meetings, which took place the week of 30 November, bringing together the partners from across Europe to update progress on each of the key elements of this European Partnership Project on Marine Tourism.

CAPITEN Project: (Atlantic Cluster for Technological and Economic Innovation in the Nautical Sector) is a European collaborative project that brings together sixteen partners from Scotland, Ireland, France, Portugal and Spain.

Supported by the INTERREG Atlantic Area Regional Development Programme, it aims to promote the tourism economy, promote a sustainable approach in the nautical industry and create jobs in the various sectors of the industry. <https://capiten.eu>



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Munster Vales Strategy Launch

Munster Vales launched their new Strategic Development Plan 2020-2025 on 19 November at a virtual event and panel discussion.

This cross-county tourism initiative brings together key stakeholders with an ambitious vision for the region to be 'a coherent, differentiated and collaborative destination, offering a diverse range of outdoor recreational activities, and living and built cultural heritage; a combination that brings significant socio-economic benefits to the people of the area, and compelling and memorable experiences for visitors.'

Keynote Speakers on the day were Elaina Fitzgerald Kane, IHF President, Tourism Recovery Taskforce and Hotelier; and Brian O'Flynn, Head of Ireland's Ancient East.

Limerick Tourism Strategy recognises the Munster Vales as an important platform for promotion for the Ballyhoura region that seeks to explore additional trekking routes connecting Ballyhoura with other mountain trails.

Wild Atlantic Way Gateway Plans Conference for Limerick and Killarney

On 16 November, members of the Tourism Team attended the Wild Atlantic Way Gateway Plans Conference for Limerick and Killarney hosted by Fáilte Ireland. As part of the development of Killarney and Limerick Gateway Plans – Destination and Visitor Experience Development Plans, the virtual conference/webinar featured a number of international speakers sharing examples of best practice from overseas destinations in Slovenia, USA and the UK.

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 in October. 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 was 9am on Monday, 2 November. The Assessment Panel met on Monday, 9 November. Ten applications were received with a total ask of €50,000. The Panel recommended the allocation of funding to three successful applicants, totalling €15,000, and this has been submitted to Council for approval.

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 November, fifteen letters of support were issued - three Arts Council Professional Development, five Arts Council Festivals Investment Scheme, one Arts Council Capacity Building Support Scheme, one Arts Council Co-Funding Award, one Erasmus Plus and four other funding bodies.

CREATIVE IRELAND FUNDED PROJECTS

Commemorative Mural in celebration of St. John's Brass and Reed Band Limerick

St. John's Brass and Reed Band has been an intrinsic part of the ceremonial history of Limerick for over 150 years. To recognise and celebrate the band's contribution and representation of Limerick City, Draw Out, the Limerick-based Urban Art initiative, aims to honour the collective with the expertise



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

of Dublin-based artists, Decoy and Without Matter, who have delivered a striking mural commemorating the history of the band. The mural is based on an old photograph from 1958 of Jimmy McCormack, current President, and Kevin Greaney, former band member. This is the latest of a group of murals produced by Draw Out in Limerick.

The Women of Limerick Mobile Phone App, Ormston House

Ormston House collaborated with a local historian and a local software developer to co-create a free mobile app, working with award-winning historian and National Heritage Hero, Sharon Slater, and Creative Industry expert, Dr. Alan Dormer. This maps the history of women in Limerick City. The user-friendly interface inspires programmed events and projects, as well as self-directed walks with images, text and audio clips geo-tagged throughout the city. This is a new resource for artists, community partners and visitors to Limerick City.

For the launch in November, they created 25 points on the map of Limerick City honouring 25 women throughout the history of the city: from Órlaith ingen Cennéig to Frances Condell. Each point includes an image (drawing or photograph), a short text and an audio-recorded story. There will be three updates over 12 months after the launch to create new points/walking routes on the map.

Musicians on Call with Gráinne Hope

The 'Musicians On Call' Concert Series aimed to enable creativity at the heart of the healthcare community in Limerick through a COVID-19 considered set of performance this Autumn. They were able to connect into the Community Nursing Homes in the city and county to deliver concerts to residents from outdoors. They also recorded some musical postcard greetings to send to the settings to follow on from the visits.

Improvised Comedy Troupe Workshops with Tracy Aspel

Tracy Aspel ran a group of virtual improvisation workshops with adults who are service users at the Daughters of Charity, Dominic Street, Limerick.

Northside Youth Space Art Collaboration

Facilitated by Artist, Enda Griffin, and grounded in socially engaged art, this work about voice and democracy was about hearing the voice of the young person. Placed in the context of the move towards an art that is accessible and engaging to all, it has strived for high standards of working with young people. The various forms of visual arts it incorporated included photography and fine art painting. Based in the community, it interacted with both the young people directly involved and the wider public. Through public visual art and dialogue, it aimed to promote and challenge people's perceptions about what art can be, leaving them with new ideas, questions and knowledge about the usefulness of art and who has a right to access it. Through art placed directly in lit windows of people's homes, it gave direct access to the world of fine art painting.

Anna's Anchor, Interactive Music Walk

This interactive musical event displayed a body of work that was produced to act as a companion piece for the Three Bridges Walk in Limerick City. The nine songs were timed to guide listeners around the walk while providing a story told through the eyes of the band. Listeners received a private stream link at the time of their booking and took the self-guided musical tour, listening to the new Anna's Anchor album, months ahead of its intended release. 80 people took part in this exclusive listening event. There was media exposure from The Limerick Post and Limerick's Live 95, and the event was fully booked within hours.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

PARTNERSHIPS

Castleconnell Autumn Concert Series 2020 Online: Eamonn Mulhall and Niall Kinsella

Limerick Culture and Arts Office, Limerick City and County Council, in partnership with Love Castleconnell, presented the Castleconnell Autumn Concert Series 2020 Online. The Castleconnell Autumn Concert Series is presented by RTÉ Lyric FM's Liz Nolan and is supported by the Arts Council in programming the series, and Creative Ireland in making the concert series recording possible. The latest online concert went live on Tuesday, 10 November, on Limerick.ie and featured Irish tenor, Eamonn Mulhall, and pianist, Niall Kinsella. In the beautiful surroundings of All Saints Church in Castleconnell, they played Schubert Die schöne Müllerin, Op. 25, D795. The concert was nationally broadcast by RTÉ Lyric FM on 11 November on the Full Score.

Enable Ireland and Mary Hartney, Integrated Dance at the Belltable Theatre

Mary Hartney, Integrated Dance Facilitator, worked closely with Enable Ireland, Castleconnell, to ensure that their service users could safely access activities which led to their very own production on stage of the Belltable, behind closed doors. The first Lockdown had been particularly isolating for the service users, who were delighted to partake in these confidence-building and engaging exercises. Using a different format, as they could not use Transition Year students as usual this year, professional dancers worked with the group of four service users. They took part in five workshops leading up to their show. The production was featured in the Limerick Leader on Saturday, 28 November. They have been recorded and will be ready to view online next month.

CULTURE AND PLACE MAKING

Christmas in Limerick

The Christmas in Limerick season officially began on 15 November with the Christmas lights in Limerick city centre being turned on. The traditional switching

on ceremony was unable to take place, but through the sprinkling of some festive magic, courageous Limerick teenager, Amy Mulcahy, flicked a switch in her home turning on her Christmas tree lights which, in turn, magically led to all the Limerick city centre lights shining brightly.

This year, there is an enhanced Christmas lights display in Limerick city centre. New festive LED lights have been erected on Denmark Street, Catherine Street from Roches Street to Thomas Street, Arthur's Quay Park and on the boardwalk, while additional lighting has been installed on Cruises Street. The parklets on O'Connell Street and Catherine Street are also being decorated, to create an upbeat Christmas atmosphere in Limerick city centre.

2. Property & Community Facilities

DERELICTION AND VACANCY

DERELICT SITES - NOVEMBER	
Inspections carried out	248
Statutory Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act	53
Cases closed through engagement	3
Properties entered onto the Derelict Sites Register	19
Properties put forward for Compulsory Acquisition	19

BIN WAIVERS

Bin Waivers Issued:	3
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CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

3. Urban and Rural Community Development

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

- The November Local Community Development Committee meeting was held virtually on 3 November. The Local Action Group (LAG) approved funding of €542,878.58 under the LEADER Programme 2014-2020.

CLÁR PROGRAMME

- CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) is a targeted investment programme for rural areas that aims to provide funding for small infrastructural projects in rural areas that have suffered the greatest levels of population decline. The Measures for submission by Local Authorities under the 2020 CLÁR programme are support for Schools/Community Safety Measures and support for Community Recreation Areas (new in 2020).
- The successful projects under Measures 1 and 2 of the CLÁR Scheme 2020 are as follows:

CLÁR AREA APPLICANT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	FUNDING GRANTED
Glenroe Community National School (Measure 1)	Footpath, road markings, child safety and digital speed signs.	€48,000
Gerard Griffins GAA (Measure 1)	Carpark resurfacing, safety signs, COVID sanitation works	€35,100
Ballylanders Development Association (Measure 2)	Amenity garden, water fountain, public toilets, covered seating area, picnic benches, covered BBQ area at Village Park	€50,000

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

- The first virtual annual Limerick City and County Council Green Schools' Seminar for Teachers was held in conjunction with An Taisce.
- #EGLA2020Limerick Webinar Let's talk About Climate Action, with seasoned environmental campaigner, Gavin Harte.
- #EGLA2020Limerick Webinar on Green Procurement. Speakers included representatives from the Office of Government Procurement, The National Academy for the Circular Economy, Darragh Lynch Architects, The National Waste Collection Permit Office/Rediscovery Centre, Community Reuse Network Ireland, Department of Environment, Climate and Communications and the Local Government Operational Procurement Centre.
- Limerick City's 15th Fairtrade Birthday was celebrated with a socially distanced photo-call, media release and a Zoom celebratory gathering with the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Collins, Fairtrade Ireland, Limerick's Fairtrade Committee and students from Our Lady of Lourdes National School.
- Waste Awareness Week was held as a social media collaboration with the mywaste.ie, the Southern Region Waste Management Office, Environment Awareness and the Council's Communications Team.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

LIMERICK PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

- A number of events took place in November that included induction sessions for new PPN representatives on Council Committees, a Webinar on Local Authority and PPN structures, an online briefing on the new URBACT Health and Greenspaces project and an online briefing on the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty.
- Nominations and elections process opened for two seats on the URBACT Health and Greenspaces Local Group hosted by Limerick City and County Council.
- Three Linkage Group meetings were held: 1. Community, Leisure and Culture, 2. Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment and 3. Travel and Transportation. The meetings of two of these Linkage Groups included an induction session on PPN communications and Linkage Group structures and a presentation with questions from Limerick City and County Council staff.
- One Secretariat meeting took place and Limerick PPN was represented at the launch of the new national PPN Handbook and 2019 Annual Report by the Department of Rural and Community Development.
- PPN Resource Worker attended two national PPN Resource Workers' Network meetings.

AGE FRIENDLY

WINNER - Age Friendly Limerick Roadshow - 'Putting your House in Order'

On November 26, the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government National Awards announcements took place online.

Age Friendly Limerick's very successful Roadshow "Putting Your House in Order" had been shortlisted for a national award under the Age Friendly Initiative category and was announced as the national Winner, coming out on top against excellent projects from five other Local Authorities across the country.

"Putting Your House in Order" was a collaboration with The Irish Hospice Foundation and saw Limerick City and County Council's Age Friendly Programme host a series of events earlier in the year. Information sessions were hosted in each of the Municipal Districts and advice was given on a range of topics under four main headings:

- **Care Preferences:** Advance Healthcare Directive, Designated Healthcare Representative, Life Sustaining Treatments, CPR etc.
- **Legal:** Enduring Power of Attorney, Making a Will etc.
- **Financial:** Bank Accounts, Insurance, Life Assurance, Credit Cards, Tax Affairs, Pensions etc.
- **When I Die:** Organ/Body Donation, Post Mortem, Funeral and Burial Arrangements etc.

The sessions were delivered in two parts, the first part covered wills, enduring power of attorney and other legal issues and was delivered by a Solicitor. The second part of the event was delivered by a Public Engagement Officer from the Irish Hospice Foundation (IHF) who focused on Care Preferences, Financial Planning and "what I want to happen when I die."

- Other Age Friendly Programme Initiatives such as 'Reaching Out, Staying Connected' and 'Remembering Yesterday, Living Today' are continuing. We are receiving regular requests for copies of the 'Remembering Yesterday, Living Today' book to be sent to members of the public.
- The Age Friendly Limerick Programme, in collaboration with the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Collins, dispatched gift packs to older and vulnerable people across Limerick to mark the beginning of the Christmas season. The gift pack contained an Advent calendar (complete with chocolate treats), an Age Friendly calendar for 2021 and a letter of acknowledgement, support and Christmas wishes from the Mayor. 1,000 gift packs were distributed by mail, with a further 1,000 delivered to Nursing Homes and Direct Provision Centres across the city and county.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

- Maynooth University and the Age Friendly Programme, at regional and national level, held an initial meeting to explore the development of a strategic partnership. Senior staff from the Departments of Engagement and Innovation, Psychology, Design Innovation, Science and Technology, Applied Social Studies, Social Policy, the All-Ireland Research Observatory (AIRO), Office of Engagement and Innovation, and the International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD) joined the Senior Team from Age Friendly Ireland and representatives from Government Departments of Housing and Health at a co-creation workshop. This is the first of a number of meetings from which sub-groups will be established to focus on the areas of Health and Housing for older people.
- Re-MIND, a Northern Periphery and Arctic (NPA) funded research project, is continuing. Ulster University, the lead partner, is currently undertaking a rapid literature review. This will be followed by the collation of strategic plans and policy documents from national and regional public health departments, followed by interviews with key stakeholder groups in each country and the compilation of a report on the findings, to be presented to the NPA.
- In late October, the Government launched the "Keep Well" campaign. Set out under five themes, Local Authorities are tasked with implementing initiatives under three of the five themes. Funding for the implementation of these initiatives is being managed through Pobal and projects are to be undertaken between December 2020 and March 2021. Limerick City and County Council has established a working group and is currently preparing a submission with regard to initiatives to be rolled out across Limerick city and county.
- Dr. Niall Connolly, a Researcher with Maynooth University, interviewed the COVID Community Response Co-Ordinator. Dr. Connolly is conducting research on how cities responded to the COVID pandemic, and was interested in Limerick which had been part of a World Health Organisation campaign, showcasing best practice examples of cities across the World who were leaders and innovators in the way they responded to COVID.

Online Meetings/Webinars attended

- ✓ The monthly Northside Older People's Advisory Group meeting.
- ✓ National Network of Age Friendly Programme Managers' meeting.
- ✓ Age Friendly Housing Specialists' National meeting.
- ✓ National Age Friendly Senior Team meeting.
- ✓ EU Projects Team meeting.
- ✓ Age Friendly Regional Programme Managers' meeting.

LIMERICK COVID 19 COMMUNITY RESPONSE

- The COVID-19 Community Response Freephone number 1 800 832 005 and email address covidsupport@limerick.ie has been in operation continuously since March 2020. In early July, the service relocated from GAA Headquarters to the Customer Services Department of Limerick City and County Council. The number of calls being received daily since July is averaging just five calls per day, with no increase in calls when the most recent Level 5 restrictions were announced. This is mainly due to the relationships that have built up at local level between those requiring support and the local support structures put in place last March.

Online Meetings/Webinars attended

- ✓ Re-Mind International Partners' meeting.
- ✓ COVID Community Response Forum.
- ✓ COVID Keep Well webinar.
- ✓ National COVID Co-Ordinators' meeting.
- ✓ Keep Well Limerick Working Group x 2 meetings.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

EDUCATION

- The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Collins, formally opened the annual AGM of Limerick Comhairle na n-Óg on 27 November. In light of COVID restrictions, this year's event was conducted online with almost 70 students from secondary schools across Limerick attending. A Comhairle committee was also elected at the AGM. This committee will be responsible for leading out on the topics chosen by the attendees to be worked on for the coming year. The committee is also the consultative forum that works with the Steering Group member organisations to progress the topics chosen. The Thematic Programmes Team of the Community Development Directorate chairs the Steering Group.

Online Meetings/Webinars attended

- ✓ Learning Limerick Steering Group.
- ✓ UNESCO Learning Cities webinar "The challenge of community-based participatory research and learning cities."
- ✓ Limerick Comhairle na n-Óg AGM.

INTEGRATION

Online Meetings/Webinars attended

- ✓ Migrant Integration Working Group meeting.
- ✓ EDNIP (Embracing Diversity, Nurturing Integration Programme).

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Online Meetings/Webinars attended

- ✓ Move4Life Steering Group

LIMERICK SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

- Limerick Sports Partnership has secured €110,000 in COVID Small Club and Community Grants for 97 organisations across Limerick City and County.
- An additional €35,000 has been secured to support clubs around Coach Education, programmes for key target groups greatly impacted by COVID Lockdowns, and supports for organisations catering for young people from disadvantaged communities.
- Limerick Sports Partnership is participating in the National Keep well Initiative with a fund of €10,000 to partner with Limerick City and County Council in this scheme.
- Successful walking challenges and online classes continue to have high participation numbers.
- 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 is a Link 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.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

4. Libraries, Gallery and Museum

LIBRARIES

- Children's Book Festival extended into November this year. As school groups were unable to visit libraries due to COVID-19, a number of online events were provided with primary and secondary schools in the city and county. Authors who facilitated these workshops in November included Judi Curtin, Helena Close, Alan Nolan, Sarah Moore Fitzgerald and Louise O'Neill. Live and recorded readings and workshops were scheduled and offered to a range of primary and secondary schools across the city and county. Teachers welcomed these writers into their classrooms hosted by library staff on Zoom. Children were able to ask questions and interact with these inspiring authors and, while missing an outing to the library, the valuable link between children and their local library was maintained.
- Dooradoyle Library staff member, Deirdre Kelly, posted two Arts and Crafts videos online for children during the schools mid-term break; these have been viewed over 2,500 view times on Facebook.
- Library staff in Dooradoyle have been liaising with local community and active retirement groups and have distributed booklets from Limerick Age Friendly Programme called 'Remembering Yesterday, Living Today,' and 'Keeping Active as We Age' booklets from Limerick Sports Partnership.
- The Dooradoyle Library book clubs have moved online. Their first virtual read is 'The Christmas Train' by David Baldacci, which is available on the Borrowbox App, in both E-book and E-audiobook formats.
- Newcastle West Library created online activities to celebrate Children's Book Festival, Science Week and Rhyme-Time, as well as the usual online storytelling videos. Staff also designed displays to promote library services; the most recent one "Elf Isolating" was posted on the Council Twitter page and was featured on Live 95. The very captivating elf is looking forward to the re-opening of the branch.
- For all primary school children, Limerick Libraries advertised a short story competition with great prizes. Closing date for entry was 27 November.
- Videos by a number of authors and performers are available on the Limerick Libraries YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaWu6yFKpa-UQH15HPxmV2Q/>
- The library service collaborated with Mary Immaculate College for Limerick Festival of Science, which took place from 8 to 15 November. This involved posting videos on social media of library staff reading storybooks that had been recommended by the Department of STEM Education at Mary Immaculate College. They have also donated copies of these two books for our branches. The chosen books were, The Most Magnificent Thing by Ashley Spires, and Ada Twist Scientist by Andre Beatty, and Watch house Cross shared a space-themed video, with some rhymes and cool moves for pre-school children to enjoy.
- World Nursery Rhyme Week 2020 took place from 16 to 20 November. Research has shown that singing and repeating nursery rhymes plays a huge part in language and vocabulary development. When children act out the nursery rhyme stories they hear, they learn to imagine, be creative, and express themselves. Staff from Kilmallock, Newcastle West, Dooradoyle and Watch House Cross participated with nursery rhymes for each day throughout the week; this content was also shared via limerick.ie Twitter.
- The Midnight Library by Matt Haig was the recommended read for the Watch House Cross book clubs during November, with readers invited to comment via Facebook.
- The Decade of Centenaries celebration continued with the creation of a digital exhibition, 'The Spanish Influenza in Limerick, 1918-1919'. Comprising text, and images including photographs, documents, cartoons, together with press reports and advertisements from the time, it detailed the experience of the pandemic in Limerick city and county. In addition, Seán Gannon wrote and presented a paper for Limerick



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Museum's 'Limerick 1920' online symposium titled "'The Iron then entered his soul.'" Constable Thomas Huckerby and the dynamics of police violence in revolutionary Limerick."

LIMERICK MUSEUM

- An online exhibition on the Limerick Local Elections of 1920, organised by Limerick Museum and the Limerick Library Service, has been shared on social media channels. It is part of the Limerick City and County Council Decade of Centenaries Programme and is funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the Regional Museums' Scheme. The Local Elections of 1920 were among the most important in Irish history for three reasons: firstly, they were the first to use proportional representation (PR); secondly, they were the last to be held throughout the Island of Ireland and, thirdly, they resulted in Sinn Féin and their Labour allies taking control of the Local Authority system outside the future Northern Ireland.
- In Limerick, the 1920 Local Elections resulted in the election of the first female Councillor, Emily Crowe (1867-1941) who sat on Limerick City Council from 1920 to 1925. Her role as a pioneer in female involvement in local politics is highlighted for the first time in this exhibition.
- Dr Matthew Potter, Curator of Limerick Museum, gave a paper entitled 'Lough Gur as Represented in Limerick Museum' at 'Lough Gur Virtual Experience Webinar' held on 16 November. It formed part of a new collaboration between the Museum and Lough Gur Heritage Centre which began a few months ago.

LIMERICK CITY GALLERY OF ART (LCGA)

- Throughout November, the Team worked on developing a web presence as a permanent legacy for the exhibition, As Kingfishers Catch Fire - Animals and Imagination. This went live on 26 November.
- Work continued with a forthcoming exhibition, At Home on the Farm, a series of new works by artist, Mary Burke, featuring five farms in Co Limerick.
- An extensive public engagement programme will accompany the exhibition. The programme will be developed in the context of potential COVID-19 restrictions which means that most of the programme will be delivered virtually.
- An application was submitted to the Arts Council under the Capacity Building Scheme to address the website and other improvements to enhance online capacity.
- Planning on the Learning Programme and Three Muses Project continues to develop.
- Discussions continue to take place with EVA International about the safe de-installation of the exhibition.
- LCGA recognises the importance of the Permanent Collection as a significant resource and plans continue to extend its visibility through a number of exhibitions once the Gallery re-opens to the public, subject to direction from the government.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT****Housing Development Directorate****1. Strategic Housing Development****National Leasing Forum**

Staff from Housing Development attended an online National Leasing Forum hosted by the Housing Agency on 26 November.

1. BUILD, BUY AND LEASE

The following Table shows progress to 30 November in the above Social Housing delivery streams:

As at 30 November 2020	Complete	In Progress	Overall Complete and In Progress
Build	21	92	113
Buy	24	4	28
Lease	40	53	93
TOTAL	85	149	234

2. SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT (SPOC)

The fast-tracking of refurbishment works has continued, with 164 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 table:

SPOC	Completed in November	Completed	Underway	Design Stage	TOTAL
Cat1	0	2	3		5
Cat2	0	37	11		48
Cat3	0	26		26	52
Cat4	0	2		43	45
Conveyance				14	14
	0	67	14	83	164



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

2. Regeneration Strategy Implementation

Regeneration Strategy Implementation Plan – Limerick City

Moyross Residents' Forum

During the month of November, Moyross Residents' Forum Development Worker, Tracy McElligott, continued to support residents in our community:

- Moyross Residents' Forum liaised immediately with the elderly residents in the 21 apartment and the families in the 13 homes in Cliona Park once the decision was taken by the Local Authority to shut down the central heating and hot water for emergency maintenance. We liaised between the residents and the Local Authority engineer during the shutdown to ensure the residents were kept fully informed of progress of works and assisted with the distribution of alternative source of heating while works were in progress. We were delighted to inform the residents on Friday morning, 20 November, that the works were completed and the system was fully operational again.
- Moyross Residents' Forum has been liaising with the elderly residents in the Cliona Park Apartments and the Local Authority to ensure the lift, which was out of order since May, was repaired as this lift services three floors. We are delighted to see work commence on this on Thursday, 26 November.
- We encourage and assist residents to report essential maintenance on the Council's CRM (Customer Relationship Management) system and follow up on repairs.
- Moyross Residents' Forum Development Worker, Tracy McElligott, provides daily phone calls and social media to residents for check-in and support.
- We liaise with Irish Water and Airtricity to follow up on faults reported to Moyross Residents' Forum 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 so we can continue to deliver the programme for regeneration to enhance the lives of residents and continue to create vibrant and sustainable communities. We continue to meet on Zoom to progress developments. The Coonagh / Knockalisheen Road is a vital piece of infrastructure for the Northside of the city and the community of Moyross. This is a priority and we are working vigorously to ensure this project is delivered. Moyross Residents' Forum welcomes the appointment of Tom Millane, the new Development Worker, to the Limerick Regeneration Consultative Forum.
- Moyross Residents' Forum facilitates NOPAG (Northside Older Persons' Advisory Group). NOPAG is a forum for community and statutory groups working on the Northside of the city who provide support and services for older people. Collectively working together, our aim is to share information, improve services, identify gaps and lobby on behalf of older residents. We continued to meet in November by Zoom. Through our network in November, we distributed the 'Keeping Active as we Age' booklet for the Limerick Sports Partnership to the elderly in our communities.

Southill Hub

- Youth Work continues with smaller groups under the Youth Work guidelines.
- Community Café continues to remain open for takeaway.
- Community services such as Southill Afterschools continue to work from the Centre.
- Services remain available such as printing and advice.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Our Lady of Lourdes

Community Crèche

- Crèche is currently operating near capacity and the recruitment of children is ongoing to bring numbers to full capacity.
- Crèche is operating a COVID-19 pod strategy.

Community Youth Club

- Fully staffed.
- Operating in accordance with programme plan.
- Financial returns were submitted on time.
- Full COVID-19 protocols are in place.

Adult Education

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

Community Seniors' Club

- Staying in touch by phone weekly.
- Delivered battery-operated candles for the month of the Holy Souls to the ladies, donated by the Nuns in Bethany, which the ladies were extremely grateful for.
- Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School first class students wrote beautiful letters to the ladies in the club. These were posted to their homes and they were so happy to receive them.
- The Community Christmas dinner cannot take place this year so it was decided to deliver dinners on Tuesday, 8 December, to homes. The Community Garda will be helping with deliveries.
- There is an air of sadness amongst the ladies since Bernie McNamara from the club passed away in

October. Flowers and a mass card were sent on behalf of the club.

Community Men's Shed

- Meetings taking place each week.
- Full COVID-19 protocols in place.

Community Care and Repair

- Approximately ten emergency calls are received per week, with two to three installations taking place.
- Age Action COVID-19 protocols are being observed.

Community Meals-on-Wheels

- 1,496 meals-on-wheels delivered in the past month.

Community Café

- Café remains closed until the New Year.
- Full COVID-19 protocols are in place.

Community Employment

- Community Employment Supervisor is in place.
- 2019/2020 financial audit was completed.
- Recruitment of Community Employment participants is active.

Estate Management

- Team up to five, of seven part-time staff.
- 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.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

- Keeping in contact with various members of Limerick City and County Council and attending meetings - one such meeting which has been convened, and is to be a regular meeting, is with the Tenancy Sustainment Unit.
- Maintaining contacts with some members of the community over the phone and one-to-one meetings on request. There is particular interest from members of the community on the new build to the rear of the centre with people expressing an interest for a transfer to live there.

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.
- "Dog Station" in the Alms Houses operating with free Dog Poo bags – 1,500 have been given out free with a noticeable reduction in dog poo in the area.
- Planted the beds in the Alms Houses which were vandalised and replanted.

- The renovation of No. 19 Nicholas Street, Limerick, has involved replacement of all the windows in this building.
- Bike Recycling Day held in the College of Art.
- Delivered 42 food parcels twice during the month on behalf of Mid-West Simon.
- A Strategic Plan is being developed for the Company.
- Due to COVID-19 regulations, Bingo and Dance Classes have been closed until the end of Lockdown.
- Agreed an environmental upgrade plan for The Grotto, The Alms Houses, The Community Centre and the Allotments.
- Community Bus is being used to aid Limerick Youth Services to deliver students to their projects.
- A joint enterprise has started with Limerick Youth Service to develop a programme for training youth bike mechanics.
- SICAP (Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme) meetings held on line to set out targets for next year.



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

Housing Waiting List	2,269
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• **Allocations**

	No. of Units November 2020	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	1	15
Newcastle West	5	54
Metropolitan District	13	215
Cappamore – Kilmallock	5	33
Total	24	317

• **Allocation Refusals**

	No. of Units November 2020	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	1
Newcastle West	1	25
Metropolitan District	2	31
Cappamore – Kilmallock	0	5
Total	3	62

• **Traveller Housing Welfare**

No. of Units offered November 2020	Year to Date
3	36

*these figures are included in Allocations figures

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

2,439 of active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	25
No. of Amendments	247
No. of Cessations	25

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

November 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	€29,000.00	5	€25,196.15	2	€8,478.04	2	€48,782.25	8
Newcastle West	€6,000.00	1	€30,939.14	3	€13,985.00	3	€0.00	0
Metropolitan	€16,530.00	3	€85,841.75	9	€48,869.20	13	€3,319.88	2
Cappamore - Kilmallock	€11,500.00	2	€4,190.00	2	€28,907.58	5	€39,208.57	7
Total	€63,030.00	11	€146,167.04	16	€100,239.82	23	€91,310.70	17
Total Monies issued in November 2020 = €400,747,56								
Total Grants issued in November 2020 = 67								

January to November 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	€117,594.37	23	€206,524.06	17	€127,339.91	34	€48,782.25	8
Newcastle West	€89,582.29	18	€85,287.45	11	€280,938.25	65	€5,448.00	1
Metropolitan	€200,593.54	41	€325,759.10	39	€260,218.48	69	€317,204.16	39
Cappamore - Kilmallock	€101,399.80	21	€152,669.30	15	€145,519.96	30	€63,515.20	9
Total	€509,170.00	103	€770,239.91	82	€814,016.60	198	€434,949.61	57
Total Monies issued January to November 2020 = €2,528,376.12								
Total Grants issued January to November 2020 = 440								

RENT COLLECTION

Rent Collection Limerick City & County Council					
Opening Balance at 01/01/2020	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing balance 30.11.2020	% Collection
€4,599,470	€15,414, 847	€20,014,317	€14,840,172	€5,174,145	74%



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

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

Individuals – 23.11.2020		
Location	Description	No.
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	31
St. Patrick's Hostel	Higher threshold accommodation for single males	44
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	13
TEP 2 (Phoenix Lodge)	Low threshold, night by night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	15
Total		121

Families			
Location	Description	No. Adults	No. Children
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	4	10
		Families - 4	
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	17	22
		Families - 13	
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	7	7
		Families - 7	
Totals		Adults	Children
		28	39
		Families - 24	

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

Tenant Purchase	
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. Received	1
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. Approved	0
Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans	
Loan Applications: No. Received	6
Loan Applications: No. Approved	0
Ground Rent	
Ground Rent Applications: No. Received	8
Deed of Discharge	
Deed of Discharge Applications: No. Received	16
Consent to Sale	
Consent to Sale Applications: No. Received	1
Cottage Purchase Annuity	
No. of Cottage Purchase Annuity Applications	3

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, DATA REQUESTS AND OMBUDSMAN

Data Access Reports	2
Freedom of Information	3
Ombudsman	2



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

2. Planning & Environmental Services

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

- 162 complaints were received in November.
- 405 inspections were undertaken during the month.
- The Department issued five Statutory Notices.
- 14 Directions were served by the Department.
- 23 Warning Letters were issued in November.
- 14 litter fines were issued during the period.
- Legal proceedings were initiated in two cases.

Economic Development and Planning

Planning Applications

A total of 88 new planning applications were received as follows:

Housing Developments	3
Domestic Developments	64
Agricultural Developments	6
Commercial Developments/Change of Use	6
Sporting/Community and Educational Developments	2
Other Developments	7

The current applications include proposals for:

- Construction of 68 dwellings at Graigue, Rathkeale Road, Adare.
- Construction of 66 dwellings at Mungret Gate, Baunacloka, Mungret.
- Construction of a new Advanced Building Solution consisting of office and light industrial/production spaces at IDA Raheen Business Park, Raheen, Limerick.

3. Veterinary Services

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

4. Cemeteries

Number of Burials in City Cemeteries.

Mount St. Lawrence	15
Mount St. Oliver	16
Castlemungret	15
Kilmurry	1



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

5. Municipal District Offices

Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

- **Fedamore Traffic Calming**

An application has been made for a Low-Cost Safety Scheme in Fedamore. This incorporates raised tables and driver feedback signs.

- **Banogue Traffic Calming Scheme**

The Mid West National Road Design Office has received Transport Infrastructure Ireland approval for the preferred tenderer and is currently in the process of awarding the contract.

- **Church Road, Croom**

A Speed Survey is to be carried out on this road in the coming weeks and, should the survey prove a warrant, traffic calming designs will be considered.

- **Croom Traffic Management Project**

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

1. Additional Parking in Town Centre Area required due to removal of parking at one side of the street.

The Municipal District is currently surveying the areas adjacent to the old bank building and adjacent to the Post Office to design additional parking in these areas. An application has made to fund these from the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

2. 2-Hour parking required in the Town Centre Area

Bye-Laws have been drafted for this and will be advertised shortly. The adoption of these Bye-Laws is a Reserved Function of the District Members.

3. Disabled Parking Spaces required.

The final design includes Disabled Parking Spaces at the recommended rate of 1 in 20.

Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

A review of the Schedule of Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District Works was presented to the Elected Members at the most recent Monthly Meeting of the District outlining an estimated investment of over €9m to the District in 2020, including significant investment in completing and progressing Capital Projects, some in conjunction with Ballyhoura Development, including Clare Glens, East Wall Walkway, West Wall Walkway, Lough Gur and the Murroe Field Project.

This presentation included an update on GMA funded works in the region which were approved for two years at the start of 2020, with 15 projects allocated to 2020, seven across 2020/2021, and 14 allocated to 2021.

The deadline for completion of works under the Pilot Home Improvement Scheme has been extended. To date, 47 applicants have been approved and 12 have completed works.

Municipal District of Newcastle West

- At the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West held on 4 November, the Members allocated funding from the Special Projects General Municipal Allocation to local groups, including Templeglantine Community Council, Feohanagh Castlemahon GAA, and the Abbeyfeale Townpark Committee.
- Due to Level 5 COVID- 19 restrictions, public counters at the Newcastle West District Office were closed but staff continued to provide essential services. Members of the public continued to engage with the Office through telephones, email and post.
- Works are completed on the upgrade and installation of footpaths at Churchtown, Newcastle West, and Dromcollogher, which were funded under the Government's July Stimulus Package.
- Road upgrade works under the Local Improvement Scheme have also been completed during November.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Capital Investment Directorate

1. Design & Delivery

Part 8

- Plassey Road Junction Improvement works approved at November Metropolitan District meeting.

Tenders

- Calls for expressions of interest from contractors seeking to participate in the following capital works tender competitions were advertised:
 - Dalgaish Park / Cosgrave Park (57 units)
 - Churchfield, Phase 2 (38 units)
 - Sheep Street (8 units)
 - Cliona Park, Phase 3 (18 units)
 - Orchard Site (27 units)
- Letter of Acceptance Issued and signed by Shareridge for Limerick Urban Centre Revitalisation of O'Connell Street Phase 1.

Project Updates:

- Construction works commenced on 17 social housing units at Gough Place, Rosbrien, Limerick.
- Works commenced on the installation of a bus shelter on Ballysimon Road, Limerick, opposite Greenhill Road, under the Bus Shelter Enabling Works 2020.
- Great Southern Greenway - 850 metres re-opened to the public.

Projects Completed

- Refurbishment works completed at Mungret College. Mungret Community College (Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board) is now using the building as a secondary school.
- Construction of 13 units at Wallers Well completed and the homes have been allocated to tenants.

Finance

- Recoupments submitted for Housing Projects to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) in November - €3,357,863.
- Recoupments issued by the DHLGH in November - €1,179,22.

Buy and Renew and SHIP Refurbishment Programme

Inspections Carried out in November	0
Refurbishment Works Commenced in November	2
Refurbishment Works Ongoing	4
Refurbishment Works Completed in November	2

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

Inspections & Recommendations for Home Improvement Schemes – November 2020

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-Inspection	Final Inspection	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	10	0	2	12
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	2	6	0	5	13
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	14	0	15	29
TOTAL INSPECTIONS BY INSPECTION TYPE	2	30	0	22	54

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

- There were 59,522 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAPSSC at the end of November.
- A weekly average of 310 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2020.
- The November landlord payment run was €50.8 million.
- The weekly tenant debit at the end of November was €2.9 million.
- The HAPSSC Debt Management Unit collected a total of €130 million in differential rent to end November.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of November was 98%.
- The Debt Management Unit restarted the Debt Process on 8 October and issued 10,890 HAP debt reminder letters in November.

2. Fire and Emergency Services

Statistics

	No. of Fire Related Calls	No. of Non Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call-outs 01/11/2020 – 30/11/2020	74	35	109
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	70%	59%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	22%	30%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	8%	11%	

	No. Received / Assigned	No. Validated	No. Invalidated / Refused	No. Granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications November	13	10	0	9	
Disability Access Cert Applications November	6	6	0	9	
Licensing Applications November	3	3	0		
Commencement Notice November	36	34	1	34	35
Completion Certificate November	40	37	0	37	37
Planning Referrals November	22				15
Sugar CRM Cases November	3				2



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Major Emergency Management Events

- Online Goulding Fertiliser External Emergency Plan Tabletop Exercise held on 25 November.

Fire and Emergency Training Events

- 45 firefighters completed a two-day Compartment Fire Behaviour Training course.
- 23 firefighters completed a one-day Working at Heights course.
- 24 firefighters completed a two-day Swiftwater First Responder Training course.

Civil Defence attendance at Events

- Irish Blood Transfusion Service Blood Clinics at Devon Inn, Templeglantine - 2 days.
- Flu Vaccine Clinic at Civil Defence HQ, Docklands Business Park, Limerick – 1 day.

- Irish Blood Transfusion Service Blood Clinic at South Court Hotel, Limerick – 1 day.
- Patient Transfer from Limerick residence to St. Francis Private Hospital in Mullingar, Co. Westmeath – 2 days.
- Irish Blood Transfusion Service Blood Clinic at Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick – 2 days.
- Irish Blood Transfusion Service Blood Clinic at St. John's Pavillion, Mulgrave Street, Limerick – 1 day.
- Patient Transfer from Limerick residence to Mater Hospital in Dublin – 1 day.
- Irish Blood Transfusion Service Blood Clinic at Longcourt House Hotel, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick – 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 November
No. of Call-Outs 01/11/2020 – 30/11/2020	705	605	1 minute, 19 seconds	1,310

Water Safety

Number of lifebuoy replacements	Total January - October	November	Total 2020
Metropolitan Area	12	0	12
Municipal Area	16	4	20



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

3. Digital Services and EU Programmes

Digital Services

- On 11 November, Digital Services attended the latest meeting of the All-Ireland Smart Cities Forum, where approval was received from Forum members to appoint a particular consultant to develop a strategy for the Forum.
- On 24 November, the 11th meeting of the Limerick Digital Leaders' Network took place online. The Head of Digital Services presented on the Smart Limerick roadmap and progress made to date; the Head of Marketing & Communications presented on Limerick's brand strategies, while a representative from the Digital Inclusion Working Group within the network presented an update on research conducted on the topic of digital inclusion.
- Twelve more Broadband Connection Points were approved in November through the Digital Services Department support of the National Broadband Plan. Broadband Connection Points are rural areas where high-speed broadband will not be available in the short-term under the National Broadband rollout schedule, but where a high-speed broadband connection will be made available for public use at a local gathering point, such as a community centre or GAA club as an interim solution. These installations fall under the Digital Infrastructure programme of the Smart Limerick roadmap. This brings the total number of approved points to 14, with a number of additional applications yet to be assessed.
- Digital Services installed a new Smartmicro Radar at the Riverpoint roundabout on Shannon Bridge in November. This radar has already begun to capture useful data on vehicular, cyclist and pedestrian usage of the bridge, and is another example of work commissioned under the Digital Infrastructure programme of the Smart Limerick roadmap that will allow the Council to make factual, data-driven and informed decisions.
- The LITe SharePoint Project was rolled out to Allocations, Assessments and Welfare Teams in November. The entire Housing Support Services Department is now live on SharePoint
- Automatic SMS verification of My Limerick customers was implemented on Limerick.ie. This allows customers sign up to My Limerick, and get verified automatically via SMS code, removing the need for Customer Services Department to contact/verify them during office hours. Verified My Limerick customers have access to online services.

EU Programmes

On 9 November, we hosted the Second GoGreen Routes City Cluster Meeting online. At this meeting, we received updates from the cities of Munich, Umeå, and Tbilisi on their initial plans for green routes in their cities.

- On 13 November, as part of the +CityxChange project, the second Limerick Climathon took place online, hosted by Space Engagers. A Climathon is an idea development event where local citizens work together to co-create climate change solutions for their cities.
- On 13 November, the Limerick City and County Council EU Projects Team met with the LIT EU Projects Team to update each other on the status of new and ongoing projects. This is part of our work on creating a booklet of key projects taking place in the city and county.
- On 30 November, the EU Programme Manager presented Limerick City and County Council's approach to EU Projects at the Southern Regional Assembly/ Irish Regions European Office Meeting with Local Authorities in Southern Region.

**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 November 2020	9,759,506	59,733,784 **	221,252	25,544,005	43,728,033	35,769,996	7,958,037	2,661,914	87%

** 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 November 2020	447,129	1,332,265 *	13,665	1,765,729	1,711,515	54,214	97%

* Accruals not up to date to end of November 2020

Recourse to Overdraft Facility

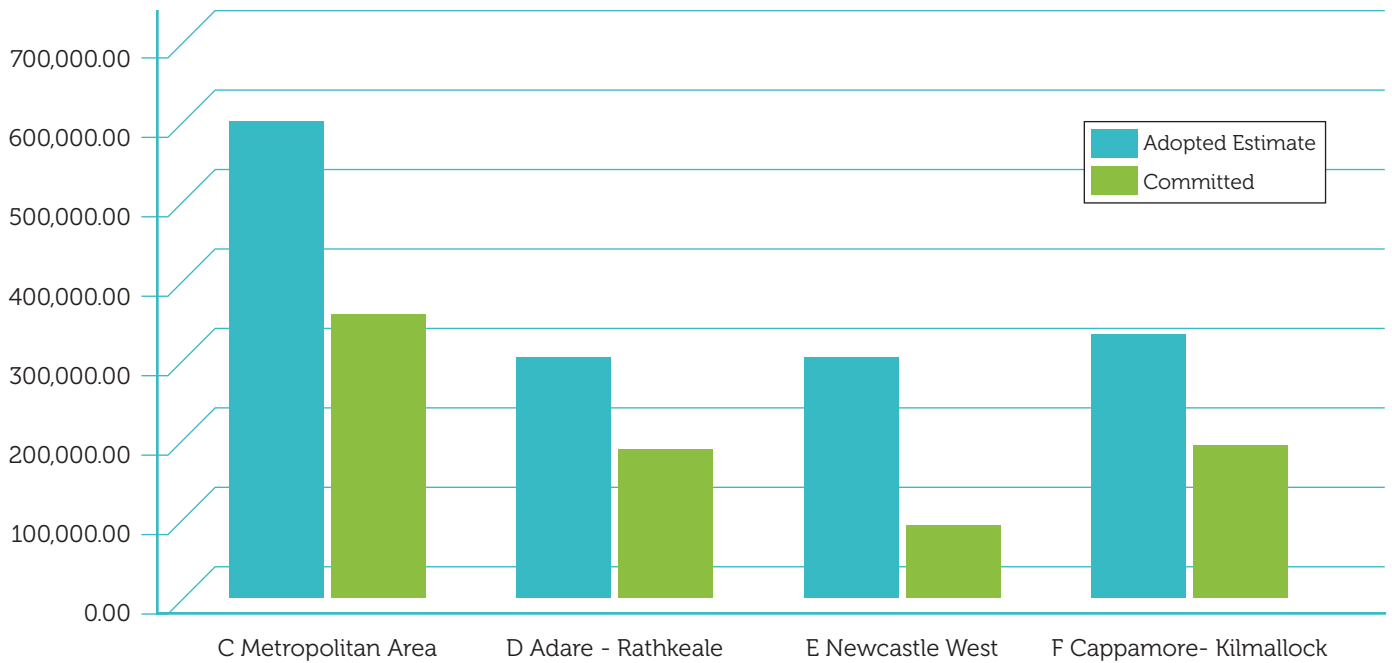
No of days in overdraft this year **1** (due to administrative error by Bank not returning Deposit on time)



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

General Municipal Allocation 2020 Adopted Estimate €1.403 Million

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



Municip (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate (€)	Value Committed (€)
C Metropolitan Area	568,000.00	319,318
D Adare - Rathkeale	270,000.00	149,819
E Newcastle West	270,000.00	51,331
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	295,000.00	153,297



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

- Photoshoot at Announcement of Project Team, by Limerick Twenty Thirty DAC, to develop the Cleaves Riverside Quarter Site. Venue: Cleaves Site.
- Photoshoot to publicise the Local Enterprise Office move from Patrick Street to new offices at ENGINE, Upper Cecil Street, Limerick.
- Hayes Christmas Lights Display in Shanagolden, in aid of Milford Hospice, Limerick, and the Children's Ark Unit, University Hospital Limerick. Venue: Shanagolden, Co. Limerick.
- Participation, by delivering an Address, at Webinar for the UNESCO (Learning Cities) Cluster Meeting on Educational Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, hosted by the City of Goyang, in the Republic of Korea.
- Participated at Online Meeting with the Limerick Fairtrade Committee to celebrate Limerick's 15th Birthday as Fairtrade City.
- Virtual attendance at Official Opening of 13th Polish Arts Festival.
- Virtual attendance at Limerick Comhairle na nÓg AGM.

Register of Electors

The Register of Electors Team in Corporate Services has completed the Draft Register 2021/2022 and it was published on 1 November.

Copies of the Draft Register have been circulated to Councillors, TDs, Senators, MEPs, Post Offices, Libraries, Health Centres, District Offices and other relevant public bodies.

Adverts informing the public of the closing date of 25 November for submission of claims to the Draft Register, have been placed in the Limerick Leader,

Limerick Post, Vale Star and The Observer. Posters have been circulated with the Draft Register for display in Post Offices and Libraries.

www.checktheregister.ie has been updated with the Draft Register 2021/2022.

A PR campaign, in conjunction with Marketing and Communications, was organised encouraging people to 'Check the Register' and to contact the Council with any additions or updates. It also informed the public about the deadline. The campaign used traditional print and broadcast channels along with social media.

A press release was issued to all local and regional media, and information about the deadline and how to apply was carried in the Limerick Leader (City, County and West Editions), Limerick Post, Vale Star, The Avondhu and Weekly Observer.

A staff member from Corporate Services was on The Exchange with Monica Sheehy on West Limerick 102FM reinforcing the message of the campaign and the importance of "Check the Register."

Assets supplied by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage were used as part of a social media campaign focusing on different audiences.

Videos including If you are turning 18, moved home, new to Ireland or returning home from abroad, were shared on the Council official Twitter page.

The press release was also published on Limerick.ie and the information tweeted.

A Public Notice was published on Limerick.ie

Nursing Homes have been contacted advising them of the closing date of 25 November for receipt of Postal and Special Voters.

We are currently processing claims that have been received for submission to December Claim Court. In the region of 300 applications have been received through post and email and staff continue to engage with the public via telephone and email in relation to their applications.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Health and Safety Training

The Health and Safety Training Unit continues to organise essential Training Courses for staff.

- Safe Pass Training: Safe Pass was provided to staff whose training has expired, or is due to expire, and those who do not have Safe Pass. A total of two staff have been trained during the month of November.
- Winter Service Operators – A total number of 14 staff have been trained during the month - both new entrants and refresher.
- Overhead Gantry and Crane – A total number of five staff have been trained during the month.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions at Level 5, the following arranged courses were postponed.

- First Aid Refresher - 3 and 4 November.
- SLG Update Chapter Eight – 5 and 6 November, 19 and 20 November and 26 and 27 November.
- CPC Module 1 – 3 November.
- CPC Module 2 – 17 November.
- Confined Spaces Medium Risk – 17 and 18 November and 19 and 20 November.

Customer Services

Throughout November, Customer Services continued to support customers at the first point of contact, as Level 5 restrictions were still in place. This was achieved through various communication channels, phone, email, MyLimerick and Twitter, where Customer Services continued to answer customer queries, process payments and verify applications for Council services.

Customer Services also worked with Digital Strategy to develop a system to streamline the authorisation of new MyLimerick accounts. MyLimerick is an online portal for members of the public and Elected Representatives to access Council services. This auto-verification, done through SMS, means the public can now create and gain access to their MyLimerick accounts on the same day, making it an easier and more appealing process.

Customer Services also carried out training on the Council's Sugar Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system for new, moving and existing staff.

Customer Services staff worked one-on-one with assignees to reduce their number of open Public Representative CRM cases, improve response times and ensure quality of responses.

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

- Customer Services Call Centre dealt with 13,470 calls. This represents an average of 641 per day, with the number of calls exceeding 700 on a several occasions. 55% 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.
- 3,362 cases were created, with 851 of these logged on behalf of Public Representatives, as well as the closure of 3,212 cases, 840 of these being cases logged by Public Representatives.
- 2,533 emails were processed through the Customer Services mailbox.
- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued, with a total of 370 cases being logged, 335 of which were logged by Public Representatives.
- Customer Services also continued advising tenants making housing maintenance requests of the current procedures during the pandemic. 1,059 cases logged for Housing Maintenance in the Limerick Metropolitan District, 957 (90%) 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.

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

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Local Community Development Committee	03.11.2020	Virtual
Operational Briefings		
Limerick City East	03.11.2020 30.11.2020	Virtual Virtual
Limerick City North	03.11.2020 30.11.2020	Virtual Virtual
Limerick City West	03.11.2020	Virtual
Municipal District of:		
Newcastle West Monthly Meeting	04.11.2020	Newcastle West
Adare-Rathkeale Monthly Meeting	10.11.2020	Dooradoyle
Cappamore-Kilmallock Monthly Meeting	19.11.2020	Kilmallock
Corporate Policy Group	06.11.2020 16.11.2020 26.11.2020	Virtual Dooradoyle Dooradoyle
Metropolitan District of Limerick		
Monthly Meeting	16.11.2020	Dooradoyle
Strategic Policy Committee Meetings		
Community, Leisure and Culture	09.11.2020	Virtual
Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning – Special Meeting to consider the 'Supporting Limerick's SMEs through Challenging Times and Change' Report	18.11.2020	Virtual
Budget Meeting	27.11.2020	Patrickswell

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

	November	2020 (January to November)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	16	151
FOI Internal Appeals	0	3
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	1
Re-Use of Public Information	0	1
Total Ombudsman Requests	6	30
Total AIE Requests	0	7
Information Commissioner Appeals	1	1

5. Business Improvement

- Citizen Engagement: Business Improvement used MyPoint to roll out a "Limerick Laneways" survey on behalf of the Urban Innovation Department's "Living Georgian City Programme."
- Staff Engagement: 801 Staff are now live on the employee app.
- Project and Programme Management: 222 Capital projects are now live on the Cora cloud-based Project Management System.
- Innovation: We delivered two MyPoint information Webinars to Public Participation Network members and Council employees. The feedback was extremely positive.