

Chief Executive's Report

March 2021

Commemorations on the 100th anniversary of the murders of two Limerick Mayors

Thousands of people tune in and take part in online Limerick St. Patrick's Festival

Campaign launched to highlight domestic abuse

Council marks International Women's Day

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

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Economic Development Directorate

1. Trade and Investment

- Takumi, a precision engineering firm based in Raheen Industrial Park, announced plans to expand its business, which will create 60 new jobs over the next four years.
- Green Rebel Marine acquired majority of IDS-Monitoring, a Limerick-based marine data firm, invested €7 million in the company and announced 30 new jobs over the next two years.

2. Strategic and Forward Planning

- The Chief Executive's Report, summarising submissions received on the material alterations to the Draft Southern Environs Local Area Plan 2021, and the Chief Executive's comments and recommendations, issued to the Elected Members on 26 March for consideration at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District.
- The Forward Planning Team continued to work on preparing the Draft Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 and held a Workshop for the Elected Members on rural housing.

3. Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

- Local Enterprise Office Week ran virtually this year from 01 - 05 March with six local online events, three regional online events and ten national free online events.
- Throughout the month, LEO Limerick ran 15 online training and development programmes including: Pricing your Product/Service, LEAN for Micro and Search Engine Optimisation.
- New Frontiers Phase 02 Enterprise Ireland Programme - 14 participants took part, final panel interviews held 22 and 23 March.

- Retail Course, in conjunction with West Limerick Resources, aimed at business recovery post COVID-19, held on 22 March.
- 20 delegates from the tech and film sector attended SXSW in Austin, Texas. Austin has a Memorandum of Understanding with Limerick.
- Regional Food Starter Programme began with LEO Clare and LEO Tipperary on 23 March.
- Limerick County Final took place virtually on 16 March. The winners will represent Limerick at the National Final on 14 May.

4. Innovate Limerick

Film in Limerick

ENGINE Shorts

The ENGINE Short Film Scheme, a film training and production programme run by Innovate Limerick through Film in Limerick, held a number of training events for shortlisted teams in March.

- A two-day Screenwriting Workshop for 22 participants took place online, as well as individual one-hour Script Editing Sessions, with all 15 teams. An online match-making webinar was also held to attach local producer / director talent and saw 11 teams pitch their ideas to a total audience of 68.

Film Offices Ireland

- Film in Limerick is a founding member of 'Film Offices Ireland,' a new national forum for developing the sector - with a particular focus on the regions. The new forum is chaired by Film in Limerick's Regional Film Manager, Paul C. Ryan, and the first meeting was held in March with 14 organisations attending.

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Diverse Screen

- Innovate Limerick, through Film in Limerick, has established a working group to look at the under-representation of minorities and people of colour working in the Irish film and TV industries. The 'Diverse Screen' group held its first meeting in March and plans to engage with industry and educational stakeholders to deliver initiatives that help to increase participation and broaden the crew-base in the region.

5. Urban Innovation

+CityxChange

The Urban Innovation Department, as part of the +CityxChange project, has launched a recruitment campaign to find 20 Positive Energy Champions for Limerick. The Champions will be challenged to take positive energy actions to reduce their carbon footprint over twenty weeks and share their journey with the wider Limerick community. A step-by-step plan will be developed for each Champion, in collaboration with the experts from the +CityxChange Project Team, and they will receive energy advice and mentoring along the way. Plans will be tailored to suit each Positive Energy Champion's capacity for change.

Positive Energy Actions can include:

Reducing energy consumption by adapting energy behaviour

- Planning the most effective building energy retrofit and learning about new investment models to help pay for it.
- Exploring the change to low-carbon transport.
- Learning about new tools and processes to help make the clean energy transition in Limerick a change which can benefit everyone.

The objective of the campaign is to encourage citizens, business and organisations to make better and more

informed choices about their energy consumption. Small changes, made by many, can have local and cumulative impact and will help create a pathway to Limerick becoming a Positive Energy City by 2050.

Application open on MYPOINT until 06 April.

6. Marketing and Communications

Marketing

Vehicle Naming Competition #ReadySpreadyGo

Limerick City and County Council ran a competition through Twitter to name its five new winter maintenance vehicles. 1,096 entries were received and a shortlist of eight entries, chosen by a panel from the Marketing and Communications Team, was put forward for a public vote through Twitter polls. The winning entries were Treaty Gritty, Aboy Da Skid, Angela's Patchers, Tarry Wagon, and Patch-erine Zeta Jones. The winners each received a €100 voucher for the Limerick restaurant of their choice.

Limerick St. Patrick's Festival

Concluded a two and a half week multimedia marketing campaign for the Limerick St. Patrick's Festival, which ran from 01 to 17 March across social, digital, radio and print media.

Limerick City and County Council curated and coordinated a virtual programme of events across five days, from 13 to 17 March, to promote Limerick St. Patrick's Festival.

This year's campaign included a re-design of the Limerick St. Patrick's Festival and Limerick International Band Championship branding to reflect Limerick's brand identity – 'Limerick: Atlantic Edge, European Embrace.'

With support from Fáilte Ireland, the campaign focused on the development of engaging online content, destination greening and had a particular emphasis on embracing the Limerick diaspora.

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Brand Limerick

- Continued collaboration with Fáilte Ireland in the rollout of the Gateway City to the Wild Atlantic Way brand as part of Limerick's summer tourism campaign.
- Application to the Public Relations Institute of Ireland (PRII) Awards under the Public Sector category for the 50 Days of Summer campaign.
- Continued engagement with Limerick's Third Level Education Sector.
- Continued engagement with stakeholders of Brand Limerick via brand verticals.
- Creation of Limerick promotional video asset.

Other Marketing Activities

- Created and issued six Limerick.ie e-newsletters

Social Media:

- Continued to monitor, schedule and update social media channels with creative content to utilise engagement with the public and put Limerick in people's minds.
- Posted 53 times on Limerick.ie's Facebook with followers now 30,904. Posts reached 39,666 users with 5,140 engagements.
- Tweeted 39 times on Limerick.ie's Twitter, @Limerick_ie, with total followers now 19,572. The tweets earned 107,800 impressions (no. of times users saw tweet).
- Posted nine times on Limerick.ie's Instagram and created 31 Stories with total followers now 13,671.
- Posted 19 times on Limerick City and County Council's LinkedIn with total followers now 6,886.

Limerick.ie

During the month, there were 114,529* unique site visits to Limerick.ie, a 2% increase on the same period in 2020. (*Google Analytics)

- Content Report: 42 articles, 170 events and nine amenities were added to Limerick.ie in March.
- Continued collaboration with Irish Language Working Group to establish requirements for providing Irish translations for 'static' content on [Limerick.ie/council](https://www.limerick.ie/council)
- Continued content management of Limerick St. Patrick's Festival website. From 01 - 21 March, 7,903 users from 69 countries logged onto [Limerick.ie/stpatricksfestival](https://www.limerick.ie/stpatricksfestival)

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

1. <https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning>
2. www.limerick.ie
3. www.limerick.ie/council
4. www.limerick.ie/stpatricksfestival
5. <https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/housing/social-housing/housing-assistance-payment-hap>

Communications

- Issued 20 News Releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and wrote five speeches for the Office of the Mayor.
- Created a series of videos and infographics as Limerick City and County Council marked International Women's Day.
- Created video for Human Resources to explain and give tips about online interviews.

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- Created Newsletter for Regeneration Office.
- Discussion on promotion and communications plan for Sean Wall Personal Papers with Archives.
- Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter.
- Tweeted 203 times on Limerick City and County Council's Twitter account, @limerickcouncil, with total followers now 16,005. Our tweets earned 441,500 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).



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Physical Development Directorate

1. Environment Strategy

Reimagining Irish Rivers: Working With Nature

This very successful online conference was held on 22 and 23 March. The event was organised by Limerick City and County Council, in partnership with Mary Immaculate College, the Mague Rivers Trust, The Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) and The Rivers Trust. It was originally planned as a physical conference to be held in Limerick in September 2020 as part of Limerick's European Green Leaf City programme of events. However, because of COVID-19, it was initially deferred and later reorganised as a virtual event.

Day 1 of the conference dealt with river restoration and biodiversity, covering topics such as natural flood management, removal of barriers to fish passage and invasive species. Day 2 had more of a community focus and looked at: the work of two of Ireland's rivers trusts (the Mague and the Inishowen); bottom-up agri-environment schemes such as the BRIDE PROJECT (Biodiversity Regeneration in a Dairying Environment); community water projects and citizen science.

Over 1,000 delegates registered for the conference. 700+ attended on Day 1 and almost 600 on Day 2. Many of the delegates were from the UK.

Holding this event online had several major advantages over a physical event - it allowed a much more diverse range of speakers to be invited; reached a wider audience and had a significantly lower carbon footprint.



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Community Development Directorate

1. Tourism, Culture and Arts

TOURISM

Limerick Greenway

Progress continues on the development of the Limerick Greenway with a summer 2021 completion date. In order to complete the works by this date, the Greenway is now closed from Ardagh to Abbeyfeale. Rathkeale to Ardagh is open and Limerick City and County Council is endeavouring to have Ardagh to Newcastle West open by the end of April.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) Measure 3 Announcement

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Ms. Heather Humphreys, TD, announced on 22 March the successful projects to be funded under Measure 3 of ORIS 2020. Limerick City and County Council's application under Measure 3 to complete works to the Limerick Greenway was awarded €418,662. This funding will enable the installation of wayfinding and orientation signage, seating and ancillary infrastructure such as bicycle repair points, water points and e-chargers to enhance the amenity and overall visitor experience. It is intended that these works will be completed by Quarter 3 of 2021.

European Projects

CAPITEN - Atlantic Cluster for Technological and Economic Innovation in the Nautical Sector

As part of the CAPITEN Project, Limerick City and County Council has procured the services of Emagine Media to develop an innovative Virtual Reality Experience to bring to life, for visitors and residents alike, the numerous activities that are now available on the River Shannon at the heart of Limerick City. This project, which is due to be completed in May, will enhance the Tourism Department's assets for marketing and promoting river visitor experiences in

Limerick and encourage engagement with this unique amenity in the heart of the city.

MMIAH - Military Maritime and Industrial Atlantic Heritage

The MMIAH project is part of the Interreg Atlantic Area European Regional Development Fund programme. The project has nine city partners from Ireland (Limerick and Cork), the UK (Plymouth and Liverpool), France (La Rochelle and Caen), Spain (Cadiz and Ferrol) and Portugal (Ilhavo). The project is focused on the recovery and rehabilitation of abandoned military, maritime or industrial heritage sites located on the western coast of the Atlantic Area for tourism and the benefit of local communities.

The pilot intervention by Limerick City and County Council in the MMIAH Project is a programme of restoration and consolidation works at the former Canal Manager's Offices at Lock Quay in Limerick City. These historic 18th century canal buildings, located at the terminus of the Inland Navigation System, formed an important trading link between Limerick City and Dublin. The consolidation works are being undertaken by Jada Construction, with the restoration being overseen by Architectural Conservation Professionals.

To complement the restoration of the canal buildings, and to highlight the industrial and maritime heritage of the site, an Open Call has been made for the installation of a heritage-themed mural at Lock Quay. Numerous submissions have been received, and the successful artist will be appointed by an Evaluation Panel in the coming weeks.

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CULTURE AND ARTS

OPEN CALLS

Grants under the Arts Act Open Call

On 26 March, Limerick Culture and Arts Office announced the Open Call seeking applications from individual artists or organisations under the “Grants under the Arts Act” Scheme. Limerick City and County Council offers grant-funding to amateur, community or voluntary groups, or organisations, and individual arts practitioners, which, in the opinion of the Local Authority, will stimulate public interest in the arts, promote the knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts or assist in improving the standards of the arts. In the 2003 Arts Act, the arts are defined as painting, sculpture, architecture, music, film, drama, dance, literature, design in industry and the fine arts and applied arts generally. The awards can be used for the professional development of artists and the arts, and increasing access and participation in the arts. The closing date for applications to the Scheme is 4pm on 28 April.

PLATFORM 31 Artist Bursary Scheme

PLATFORM 31 is a nationwide Artist Development Scheme by the 31 Local Authority Arts Offices, in collaboration with the Arts Council. 31 artists, representing every Local Authority in Ireland, have been announced as the recipients of the inaugural PLATFORM 31, a bursary for artists to develop their practice and test new ideas of collaboration, research, audience development, place-based arts and sharing their work. The recipient of the Limerick bursary is Liam McCarthy, a writer and drama facilitator.

STRATEGIC FUND

The Strategic Fund for the 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 March, five letters of support were issued; one to the Heritage Council's Community Grant Scheme and four to the Rethink Ireland - Ignite Midwest Fund.

CREATIVE IRELAND FUNDED PROJECTS

Creative Ireland Made in Limerick Grant 2021

On 18 March, Limerick Culture and Arts Office announced the Open Call for Limerick-based creative practitioners, organisations and communities of place and interest to submit applications for Made in Limerick Grants 2021. These grants are offered as part of Limerick Creative Ireland Programme to deliver activities taking place in 2021. The closing date for applications to the scheme is 4pm on 21 April.

Creative Ireland Creativity in Older Age Scheme

Limerick Culture and Arts Office coordinated and managed two submissions, Musicians on Call and a Dance Project, to this Creative Ireland Scheme. Both applications were successful and secured a total of €38,297.

Musicians on Call is a project where professionally trained musicians from Kids Classics work in healthcare settings to connect music-making opportunities to residents and healthcare staff in Nursing Homes and Community Hospitals. Twelve visits to two Nursing Homes in Limerick (offering Live and Virtual visit options) and a set of taster sessions in Clare and North Tipperary, offered services to an additional seven settings.

Dance Limerick is a support and resource organisation for dance in the Limerick region. Dance Limerick will bring together four artists associated with Limerick to develop two new short dance works for presentation at residential care homes. This project will engage with a minimum of ten residential care homes in Limerick. It will create two 15–20-minute dance duets for presentation to both residents and carers. Dance Limerick has recently approved a new Equality and Inclusion Policy and the project enables Dance Limerick to expand its civic role within the county and to bring dance outside of its own premises, while providing residents of care homes with a high-quality live experience of dance and social interaction with artists.

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ARTS COUNCIL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT PROGRAMME

Partnerships

County Limerick Youth Theatre

The County Limerick Youth Theatre CLG Board has announced three new members. Throughout March, weekly online workshops were held which included themes such as poetry, improvisation and monologue, and music and film appreciation. Much of the workshops have been focused on holding space for the young artists and discussing how they are coping with the difficulties of lockdown. At a time when they cannot be together and when there has been so much uncertainty about state exams and the easing of restrictions, the mental health of the young people is top priority. Members took part in online workshops for the national campaign #SqueezelnARead that catered for different age groups, and they also got involved with the inaugural #IHeartYouthTheatre Day on 04 March.

Sliabh Luachra Music Trail

The Sliabh Luachra Music Trail featured on RTE's Crendon's Atlas of Ireland this month on the television, and in the national press. Eoin O'Sullivan, Musician in Residence, worked with RTE in June and July 2020. The piece started at the Striolán bridge where the three Sliabh Luachra counties of Limerick, Kerry and Cork meet and highlighted that there is a new vibrant generation passing on the Sliabh Luachra traditions. On 20 March, a new video was released as part of the Sliabh Luachra Series available at sliabhluchra.ie. There was also a launch of a debut release by Maura O'Connor - a young musician from Abbeyfeale.

Partnerships

Healthy Ireland Fund/ Sláintecare Community Resilience Fund, "Switching Off and Being Creative," Creative Music and Art Programme for patients of University Maternity Hospital Limerick

Limerick Culture and Arts Office worked closely with partners, PAUL Partnership CLG, throughout March to

ensure delivery of the programme. Interagency Project stakeholders are Limerick Children and Young People's Services Committee and University Maternity Hospital Limerick. The two qualified facilitators continued to deliver the Creative Music and Art Programme to mothers and their families through a series of workshops, virtual sessions and individual and group sessions, to improve wellbeing of mothers and infants as an early intervention to support mothers and contribute to positive infant mental health. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, these sessions continued to be delivered online in March.

ENGINE Short Film Scheme

Innovate Limerick has announced the 15 shortlisted film projects as part of the ENGINE Short Film Scheme. This new ambitious short film development and production scheme for emerging talent in the Region is run by Innovate Limerick through Film in Limerick, and is a partnership between the Local Authorities in Tipperary, Limerick and Clare. Seven projects from Limerick, four from Tipperary and four from Clare were shortlisted. Each team will now go through a supported development process in the coming months with training and support from Film in Limerick. Following the development stage, the 15 shortlisted teams will pitch to an industry panel and up to six projects will receive funding of €12,500 each to make a short film.

EUROPEAN PROJECTS

TRAINART 4th Training Hotspot in Limerick "Striving for Viability in Cultural and Creative Industries (CCIs) - Towards Sustainable Working Models"

TRAINART is a European project to which Limerick City and County Council is an associate partner. TRAINART aims at strengthening the competitiveness of the European Performing Arts Sector and shaping new skills for cultural operators interested in developing innovative business models in the Cultural and Creative Industries.

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Organised by Social Impact Ireland, in collaboration with the Limerick Culture and Arts Office, TRAINART's fourth training hotspot is an online training event hosted live from Limerick for three days, which started on 30 March. The delivery of 'Striving for Viability in CCI's - Towards Sustainable Working Models' shares and applies basic principles that can assist those operating in the field of performing arts with driving towards developing sustainable working models. Four Limerick creative practitioners will participate in the training with creative practitioners from around Europe. A total of eight Irish creative practitioners will present on the programme.

Festivals and Events

Virtual St. Patrick's Festival 2021

The Culture and Arts Office, in partnership with Fáilte Ireland, grant-aided 16 cultural and community organisations to assist them in providing online content for the virtual festival and partaking in the Destination Greening Initiative.

Destination Greening presented a slideshow of a selection of Limerick buildings that had "gone green" as part of the Limerick City and County Council/Fáilte Ireland initiative. The Culture and Arts Office worked with community organisations around the city and county in an effort to light up as many buildings as possible. More than 40 buildings got involved, including King John's Castle, St. Mary's Cathedral, Hunt Museum, Askeaton Friary, Desmond Castle in Newcastle West, Foynes Flying Boat and Maritime Museum, Friars' Gate Theatre in Kilmallock, Glin Castle, along with the Council's offices in Merchant's Quay, Dooradoyle, Rathkeale, Newcastle West and Kilmallock.

Thousands of people from 44 different countries around the world tuned in and took part in a full programme of events, which was scheduled online at [Limerick.ie/StPatricksFestival](https://limerick.ie/StPatricksFestival) beginning on 13 March and culminating in the headline event, Wild Atlantic Edge – Music, Conversations and Songs from Limerick City, on St. Patrick's Day. Working in partnership with Dolans, this was a virtual musical celebration with performances from Sharon Shannon, Hermitage Green, MuRli, Emma Langford and a host of other guests.

The Culture and Arts Office worked with the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, UL Global and the University Concert Hall to present the Virtual St. Patrick's Day Fling! featuring Grammy Award winner, Rhiannon Giddens, along with faculty and students from the Academy and the Irish Aerial Creation Centre, UL.

The Culture and Arts Office supported local creatives by programming online content, especially for the virtual St. Patrick's Festival. Viewers were able to watch in wonder as high above the sky at King John's Castle, Fidget Feet Aerial Dance Theatre performed their new show, Abduction from on High – St. Patrick in the Sky. The next generation of Limerick musicians showcased their talents thanks to Music Generation Limerick City: Live, and the Irish Chamber Orchestra's Sláinte String Along, while Lumen Street Theatre and the Hunt Museum kept the young people entertained with arts and crafts workshops, all centred on Saint Patrick.

The history of Limerick's St. Patrick's Day Parade was explored by Dr. Matthew Potter, Curator of Limerick Museum, in Tuning into History, while the Best of Limerick St. Patrick's Festival highlighted fantastic sights and sounds that have entertained and enthralled spectators along Limerick's O'Connell Street down through the years.

As many would normally return to Ireland for St. Patrick's Day, this was not possible this year so 'A Limerick Toast from Abroad' brought many messages from people with connections to Limerick right into people's homes. Limerick also linked up with its twinned and sister cities, as well as some of its International Band Championships participants, who sent well wishes to Limerick for St. Patrick's Day.

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2. Property and Community Facilities

DERELICTION AND VACANCY

Dereliction and Vacancy	
Inspections carried out	125
Property and Community Facilities Department Notices issued	5
Statutory Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act	104
Cases closed through engagement	49
Properties entered onto the Derelict Sites Register	9
Properties put forward for Compulsory Acquisition (Section 15 Notices)	1
Properties Compulsorily Acquired (Section 17 Notices)	2

BIN WAIVERS

Bin Waivers Approved	88
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3. Urban and Rural Community Development

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

- The March meeting of the LCDC was held on 02 March. This meeting was held online due to the restrictions imposed because of COVID-19 pandemic. The Local Action Group (LAG) approved funding of €16,699.72 under the LEADER Programme 2014-2020.

Funding Streams

- CLÁR 2021 Launched - The Department of Rural and Community Development has announced a new round of CLÁR funding for 2021. CLÁR provides funding for small infrastructural projects in rural areas that have suffered significant levels of population decline. The Measures being funded under the 2021 CLÁR Programme, which are delivered through Limerick City and County Council, are:

- Measure 1:** Support for Schools/Community Safety Measures.
- Measure 2:** Outdoor Community Recreation Facilities.
- Measure 3(a):** Community Wellbeing Measure - Community Gardens and Allotments.

Applications can be submitted from Schools/Community Groups and Local Development Companies in respect of Measures 1 and 2, and from Community Groups and Local Development Companies in respect of Measure 3(a), for projects within the designated CLÁR areas. The CLÁR 2021 Scheme Outline, Project Applications, Map of Limerick CLÁR areas, as well as the list of Limerick District Electoral Divisions (DEDs), are available on www.Limerick.ie. The closing date for receipt of completed project applications with supporting documentation is 4pm on 16 April.

- Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2020 - The remaining approvals under the ORIS 2020 were announced. Under Measures 2 and 3 of the Scheme, funding is provided for medium/large-scale upgrade works and new trail or amenity developments. Limerick was successful in securing funding of €198,000 under Measure 2 for Clare Glens - trail widening, wheelchair accessible trail, pedestrian bridge replacement, carpark refurbishment and signage provision, and €418,662 under Measure 3 for the Limerick Greenway - provision of signage, amenity areas and Greenway furniture to promote, engage and narrate this countryside recreation amenity.

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Limerick Public Participation Network (PPN)

- Limerick PPN Secretariat met once in March and continues to successfully deliver on its key functions. Three new Secretariat members were elected.
- The Memorandum of Understanding between Limerick PPN and Limerick City and County Council was signed. It is available on the Limerick PPN website.
- PPN Linkage Group meetings this month: Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment.
- Elections took place to fill vacant seats on the Joint Policing Committee, on three Strategic Policy Committees and on the URBACT Health and Greenspace project local group. Six of the seven vacant seats were filled. URBACT is a European Exchange and Learning Programme that promotes integrated sustainable urban development. It enables cities to work together to develop solutions to major urban challenges. Limerick City and County Council is a partner in an EU-funded project called URBACT Health and Greenspace. The project covers Limerick City and will focus on residential greenspace and parks in the city.
- Induction sessions for new PPN representatives and new Secretariat members also took place.
- Limerick held a Climate Conversation on the new Climate Action Plan. This was led by the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Linkage Group. Garryowen Residents' Association and Ballybricken 46th Scout Group were the moderators and were supported by Limerick City and County Council staff from the Physical Development Directorate.
- Limerick PPN staff presented at a national meeting for PPN staff, Secretariats, and Department of Community and Rural Development staff, on the innovative use of Salesforce Chatter in Limerick to enable PPN Linkage Group communications.

- Membership of the PPN now stands at 145. The membership registration form is on the Limerick PPN website and eligible groups in Limerick can register at any time.

Environmental Awareness

- Over 470 volunteers attended the Tidy Towns Application Webinar presented by Mr. John Carney, Higher Executive Officer, National Tidy Towns Unit. John advised groups on how the National Tidy Towns competition would proceed for 2021.
- 190 plus volunteers attended the Tidy Towns and the Sustainability Development Goals presented by Sinead McDonnell, Environment Awareness Officer, and Mr. John Carney, Higher Executive Officer, National Tidy Towns Unit.
- To celebrate National Tree Week, a virtual audience made up of more than 70 Tidy Towns volunteers, tree lovers and the general public were treated to an inspirational Webinar "The Beauty of Trees" presented by Mary Keenan, National Tidy Towns Adjudicator and Tree Hugger.
- Adverts encouraging dog owners to be responsible and pick up after their dogs continue to run on Live 95.

Limerick Sports Partnership

- Education Courses continue to grow in demand for March. Courses include Mental Health First Aid, Safeguarding, Physical Literacy, Autism in Sport, Disability Awareness and Coaching Children.
- Online Programmes for key Target Groups continue on a weekly basis with over 700 people engaging in programmes for men, women, children, individuals with a disability, older adults and those from disadvantaged communities.
- Key programmes targeting women and teenage girls were hosted on International Women's Day and resulted in 185 engaging in follow-up programmes.

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- The COVID Small Grants for Clubs were finalised, with over €91,000 allocated across 78 Sports Clubs.
- For more information on programmes and activities, visit www.limericksports.ie

THEMATIC PROGRAMMES

AGE FRIENDLY

Hospice Foundation Fundraiser: Age Friendly Limerick, in collaboration with colleagues in An Garda Síochána and the Irish Hospice Foundation, launched a fundraising campaign. When COVID-19 raised its ugly head in 2020, Mary Cronin, Chair of Limerick Older People's Executive, wanted to contribute. Dealing with bereavement during COVID restrictions is something that we have all had to come to terms with over the past year and Mary was concerned that particularly older people were not able to attend funerals, pay their respects to friends, neighbours and loved ones, and that they were not able to grieve in the normal way. Through the award-winning "Putting Your House In Order" initiative last year, Mary was aware of the Hospice Foundation's work and the new bereavement support line they had established and she wanted to do something to help. She came up with the idea of a fundraising campaign for the Irish Hospice Foundation as their fundraising activities had been seriously curtailed due to COVID restrictions. Mary says, "I was at home like lots of other people and wanted to do something to contribute. I decided I could do what I do best as my contribution, and that is running. I would ask everyone who knows me from the world of athletics, the Age Friendly family across the country, and even those further afield, to please take a few minutes to donate whatever you can to this wonderful organisation."

During the last weekend in April, Mary, now aged 76, will run 10km to raise much-needed funds for the Hospice Foundation and the fantastic work they do. She is already training for this event, running more than 55km in the last week alone. We are asking everyone to reach into your hearts and pockets to support this amazing woman as she does what she loves. There is a fundraising page already

set up <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/marys10k> and people can donate via text donate - simply **Text IHF to 50300 to donate €4.**

March Gift Pack - "Minding Your Mind." Gift and Information packs were distributed to 1,000 older people across Limerick in Mid-March. The focus of this mailing was on things that we can all do to improve our mood and "Mind our Mind." Taking a little time out each day to let our brains rest is very important and will help to keep us focused on the positives in our lives. In our pack was some information on looking after your mental health containing tips and advice to assist those still shielding from COVID. There was also a small and discreet card that would fit in a wallet or purse. It can be kept close to hand if a loved one is struggling and needs help and support.

The pack also contained a book, "Hold Firm in Lockdown," written by Bob Gilbert, a retiree from Cavan. Bob's book is a collection of his thoughts, musings, dreams and observations, experienced during lockdown. Recipients of the pack were encouraged to make time each day to take a break and rest, have a read of Bob's book, make a cup of tea or coffee using the sachets and the KitKat in the pack and allow their thoughts to wander, with Bob's writings. It has been a very tough year, and with the stretch in the evenings, people are longing for the freedom to meet up for a chat, share a meal together and just rebuild those relationships with loved ones who they have been kept away from for so long. People were encouraged to Hold Firm, for just a little longer, "it won't be long now."

• Online Meetings/Webinars attended

- ✓ National Network of Age Friendly Programme Managers.
- ✓ Age Friendly Housing Specialists Monthly Meeting.
- ✓ National Age Friendly Senior Team Meetings x 2.
- ✓ Age Friendly Regional Programme Managers' Meeting x 2.
- ✓ International Webinar Series Planning Meeting.
- ✓ International Town Hall Meeting with Canadian Older People and Canadian Centre for Ageing and Brain Health Innovation.
- ✓ National Network of Older People's Councils.

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- ✓ Launch of Health Service Executive Annual Plan.
- ✓ International Green Paper on Ageing Webinar.
- ✓ Global Campaign to combat Ageism Report Launch.
- ✓ Support Meeting with Age Friendly Norway.
- ✓ Age Friendly Limerick Fundraising Initiative with Irish Hospice Foundation.

LIMERICK COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESPONSE

It is now just one year since the first Limerick COVID-19 Community Response Steering Group was held on 19 March, 2020. The aim was to explore the establishment of a sustainable, monitored and managed solution to providing supports to vulnerable people during COVID-19. The Steering Group is chaired by Limerick City and County Council, and attended by An Garda Síochána, Health Service Executive, GAA, along with other local agencies and groups. The first meeting agreed the creation of a Steering Group, operational level structure and volunteering registration structure. And so, Limerick COVID-19 Community Response was formed. One year on, the Forum has almost 40 member organisations, representing hundreds of groups from across both city and county. The Forum has overseen the management of the Community Response that has seen 3,300 requests from vulnerable people dealt with in a caring and compassionate way. It has overseen the rollout of numerous initiatives such as Limerick Community Care Connect, Reaching Out, Staying Connected and Shortening the Winter. Thousands of people shielding from COVID have received regular gift packs, each carrying a message, and a letter of support and acknowledgement of the sacrifice older people have made for the past year.

The Community Response Call Service, launched in March 2020, will continue to operate from 8am to 8pm daily, and people can reach out for assistance by calling the Community Response Freephone number 1 800 832 005 and email address covidsupport@limerick.ie and supports will continue to be provided to those staying at home and shielding from the virus while waiting for their vaccination appointments.

• Online Meetings/Webinars attended

- ✓ Limerick COVID-19 Community Response Forum Meeting.
- ✓ Re-Mind International Partners' Meeting.
- ✓ National COVID Co-Ordinators' Meetings x 2.
- ✓ Keep Well Limerick Working Group.
- ✓ Webinar – Will the COVID-19 pandemic help us rethink loneliness and social isolation.

EDUCATION

The Chair of Limerick Comhairle na n-Óg Steering Group presented to the young members of Limerick Comhairle na n-Óg on the Global Fast Track Cities Initiative. The initiative, originally launched by the City of Paris, supports the eradication of HIV/AIDS-related illness by the end of the decade. Limerick signed the Paris Agreement in June 2019 and committed to supporting this international campaign. To date, more than 300 cities around the world have committed their support to the initiative whose main aims are to see the frontloading of investment in research and the stepping up of the pace of service delivery: The strengthening and leverage of existing HIV programming for greater impact: The scaling up of HIV services, particularly testing and treatment.

• Online Meetings/Webinars attended

- ✓ Learning Limerick Steering Group.
- ✓ Comhairle na nÓg Local Authorities Cluster Meeting.

INTEGRATION

• Online Meetings/Webinars attended

- ✓ Migrant Integration Sub-Group Meetings.
- ✓ “Getting Right to Work” launch of Doras Luimní report.
- ✓ Limerick Migrant Integration Working Group.
- ✓ Limerick Stands Against Racism Initiative.
- ✓ EDNIP (Embracing Diversity, Nurturing Integration Programme).
- ✓ Community Integration Fund Meeting.

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HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Limerick City and County Council has joined with the University of Limerick, The Hunt Museum, Mental Health Ireland and Adapt Domestic Abuse Services to roll out the One Million Stars to end Violence Project, the launch of which took place on 15 March.

The project was first established by Maryann Talia Pau, a Samoan-Australian artist, in response to the rape and murder of an Irish woman in Melbourne. In Samoan culture, the star is a symbol of light, hope and solidarity. The project used star weaving to rebuild trust within Melbourne communities, condemning violence and showing solidarity towards those who experience it, particularly domestic violence.

The arrival of COVID-19, and the dramatic rise in domestic abuse, saw the launch of the #StillHere public awareness campaign to highlight supports for those experiencing domestic abuse. Through Operation Faoiseamh, An Garda Síochána is reaching out to victims of domestic abuse with the aim of keeping those who may be at risk, safe within our communities.

Through working together to weave and display our stars, we will show solidarity towards women experiencing domestic violence and highlight the supports they can access through ADAPT Domestic Abuse Services.

A flyer that explains the project and gives information on how people can become involved has already been circulated to thousands of homes across Limerick. Materials to make the stars is being provided free of charge, and there are step-by-step instructions provided, along with an explanatory YouTube video to watch. Star weaving Jams are being hosted online, and groups are encouraged to organise their own Star Weaving Jams, socially distanced of course. Our hope for Limerick is to have 10,000 stars made by December. An installation displaying the stars will be held at the Hunt Museum to coincide with the 16 Days of Action Against Domestic Violence annual national campaign.

• Online Meetings/Webinars attended

- ✓ Fast Track Cities Global Initiative.
- ✓ How to set up a Dementia Café Workshop.
- ✓ One Million Stars Domestic Abuse Project x 3.
- ✓ Launch of One Million Stars Project.
- ✓ Health and Wellbeing Resources for Older People.
- ✓ Healthy Cities and Counties Co-Ordinators' Meeting.

4. Libraries, Gallery and Museum

Libraries

- The "Curfew Murders" featured in the Decade of Centenaries commemoration this month. The night of 6/7 March 1921 was, in the words of Historian, Thomas Toomey, 'one of the most tragic in the tortured history of Limerick city and county during the period 1919-1921.' Between 11.30pm and 1.30am, three men – the Mayor of Limerick, George Clancy, his immediate predecessor, Michael O'Callaghan, and an IRA Volunteer named Joseph O'Donoghue – were brutally shot dead at their homes. Although blamed by British officialdom on radical elements of the local IRA, these shootings were the work of Crown Forces and were widely recognised as such at the time. Dubbed the 'Curfew Murders,' they sent shockwaves through the city and country and made headlines around the world, and they remain the central event in Limerick's social memory of the War of Independence today. This exhibition tells their story:

<https://www.limerick.ie/council/whats-on/festivals/limerick-city-and-county-council-decade-centenaries>

Limerick Library staff member, Dr. Sean Gannon, chaired a panel discussion with Historians: Thomas Toomey, author of *The War of Independence in Limerick, 1912-1921*, Dr. John O'Callaghan, Lecturer in History at St. Angela's College, Sligo (NUI Galway), Dr. Sinéad McCool, Historian, Commemorations Unit, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts Gaeltacht, Sports and Media, and Dr. Brian Hughes, Lecturer in History at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. A recording of this is available on YouTube.

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- Newcastle West marked International Women's Day on 08 March with a trip down memory lane. Photographs from past celebrations in the library featured in the Weekly Observer to celebrate this significant day and the milestones in the fight for equal rights.
- Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, Seachtain na Gaeilge and St. Patrick's Day activities went online. Library staff created craft workshops and readings for families to enjoy at home through social media. "Lá Álainn Dainín" by Futa Fata, Tadhg Mac Dhonnagáin, was read by Sarah from Adare Library and "Mo Theachín Gan Chuma Gan Chaoi," by Julia Donaldson, was read by Ciara from Dooradoyle branch. Also, "Macán" by Oriane Lallemand and Eleonore Thuillier, was read online by Helena from Newcastle West Library. Local Author and Poet, Micheál MacDomhnaill, in conjunction with Newcastle West Library, completed an online presentation of poems relating to the locality, including poems that referred to St. Ita's Hospital, previously known as the Workhouse, and poems on the Famine Graveyard. Micheál was the winner of RTE's Francis MacManus Short Story Award in 2013. He has numerous poetry and short stories published in Nua Aois, An Cloigean is a Luach, The Stony Thursday Book, Dal gCais, and Lá.
- To promote World Book Day on 04 March, Limerick Library's Facebook followers were offered a selection of fun quizzes and word searches with a special storytime session to mark the day.
- For the AONTAS Adult Learners' Festival, Deirdre from Dooradoyle Library demonstrated the craft of paper folding and book folding which over 430 people viewed.
- Limerick Libraries are delighted to be involved in the new Grow It Yourself (GIY) Grow It Forward campaign to encourage more people to grow food at home and share the results with neighbours and friends. As part of the Government's Keep Well programme, this campaign is designed to help the nation eat well by inspiring and supporting people to grow some of their own food at home while connecting with friends and family. Each food growing pack includes seeds for beetroot, carrots, salad leaves, peas and tomatoes; a guide to help grow them and a postcard and gift tags to help share them. Those who sign up will also receive regular e-mails with growing support, video clips and ideas for how to 'grow it forward' by passing on seeds, seedlings or produce in accordance with social distancing guidelines. Libraries are supporting this with free online gardening books and magazines. Packs can be claimed from <https://giy.ie/campaigns/grow-it-forward/> or from your local library.
- Limerick Library services continued to build outreach programmes to Direct Provision Limerick and Men's Sheds Ireland.
- Two groups of children in Direct Provision Limerick were treated to a creative mindfulness workshop with Sonia Millar as part of the "Healthy Ireland at Your Library" programme. The workshops introduced creative relaxation techniques and breathing exercises to help children learn tools to calm their minds, ease anxiety and promote self-compassion. The children used jars with water and glitter to represent thoughts and memories swirling in the mind and then practised breathing techniques while the glitter settled in the jar.
- Limerick Libraries collaborated with Mental Health Ireland to deliver a Healthy Ireland at Your Library event to members of the local Men's Sheds. Recent research has shown that members of the Men's Sheds have suffered increased levels of social isolation due to lack of contact with others during the COVID-19 pandemic. The workshop "5 Ways to Wellbeing in Tough Times" provided access to key tools to improving mental health and reducing stress during the lockdown period. The event was received very well and a lot of positive feedback was received from the participants.
- With the help of the Limerick.ie web content team, a new dedicated Healthy Ireland at Your Library webpage is now live. It includes links to all relevant information about the programme including book stock, online resources etc. A series of videos "Tips

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for coping with COVID and other Stressful Situations,” by Dr. Daniel Flynn, Health Service Executive, is now available on the page.

<https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/community-and-leisure/community-development/healthy-limerick/healthy-ireland-your>

- Dooradoyle Library Book Club had their monthly meeting online on 18 March where they discussed ‘Love You Dead’ by Peter James. This month’s read is ‘City of Friends’ by Joanna Trollope, which is available on the BorrowBox app in both E-book and E-audiobook format.
- Newcastle West Library, in collaboration with Coláiste Íde agus Iosef in Abbeyfeale, presented a virtual exhibition of students’ artwork. In the work, there is an emphasis on portraiture, still life and mixed media. Some assignments were thematic, for example, a view through a window that captures an individual student’s perspective of the lockdown. Students also studied online galleries ranging from the Centre Pompidou in Paris to Kilkenny’s Butler Gallery. Newcastle West Library would like to thank the Principal, Mr. Murphy, and Art Teacher, Keith O’Rahilly, for supporting this endeavour with Newcastle West Library.
- Throughout the month, library staff participated in online training to become Digital Ambassadors for seniors as part of Age Friendly Limerick.

Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA) received an increase of 20% in its Arts Council Strategic Funding toward exhibitions and outreach programme for 2021, to €136,800. This is the first increase in funding since 2017 and the accompanying text noted some significant achievements and future developments, which the Arts Council has welcomed.
- The current exhibitions, At Home on the Farm, by Mary Burke, and Parr’s Ireland: 40 Years of Photography, have received extensive media coverage since being launched virtually on 26 February. Most of the coverage was focused on At Home on the Farm and included

feature articles in the Irish Times, Limerick Leader, Farmers’ Journal and Sunday Independent. In addition, there were also interviews on RTE’s Countryfile and Lyric FM.

- In addition to the exhibition, a number of online events have been produced, including a special event on International Women’s Day for 08 March and a series of poetry readings. The first event – an “in conversation” with the Artist, and Manchán Magan and Niamh NicGhabhann, was very well “attended.”
- Parr’s Ireland: 40 Years of Photography, has also received significant support from the Martin Parr Foundation, as LCGA is the first venue in this very significant exhibition, which subsequently tours to Dublin and Roscommon later in 2021.
- The final exhibition, Cows are mostly Silent, comprises a selection of works from LCGA’s Permanent Collection responding to At Home on the Farm, curated by Adam Stoneman. This exhibition also features recent acquisitions to the Permanent Collection.
- The ongoing development of our webpage has resulted in a very high number of online engagements with 1,584 to date. LCGA also continues to develop its social media links to the community. This online presence required significant resources but is essential to maintain a visibility and promote exhibitions through this medium, while the Gallery is closed to the public during the continued COVID-19 restrictions. The majority of the online visitors came directly through the Gallery Pages link; the other two top referrals were through Visual Artists Ireland and Limerick.ie.
- Further information on any of the Exhibitions and Engagement Programme can be accessed on: www.limerickgallerypages.com
- There have been some minor changes to the proposed 2021 exhibition programme by LCGA due to the COVID-19 pandemic and this has required negotiating alternatives with artists and the Arts Council.

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- Work continues on the development of the new web site for LCGA with colleagues in the Council Digital Services Department, with funding received from the Arts Council (€20,000). Initial research on the re-branding of LCGA has commenced and it is planned to launch in September 2021.
- LCGA staff continue to work from the building in accordance with instructions received in December, while adhering to Limerick City and County Council guidelines and advice.
- Interviews were held on 19 March for the Three Muses Coordinator Programme in collaboration with the Hunt Museum and Limerick City Museum and it is hoped to fill this position shortly.

Limerick Museum

- Limerick Museum collaborated with the Arts and Culture Department and the Communications and Marketing Department to produce a short film on the history of Limerick St. Patrick's Festival, all the way back to 1903. It featured images from the Museum's collection and was narrated by Dr. Matthew Potter, Curator of Limerick Museum.
- Limerick Museum collaborated with the Piano Academy of Ireland in running a Limerick poem competition as part of its eleventh National Piano Festival, held in St. Patrick's Week.
- Significant progress was made in the audit of the Museum's collection at its new storage facility.



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Housing Development Directorate

1. Strategic Housing Development

1. BUILD, BUY AND LEASE

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

As at 31 March (01.01.21 – 31.03.21)	Complete	In Progress	Overall Complete and In Progress
Build	11	378	389
Buy	1	20	21
Lease	19	118	137
TOTAL	31	516	547

2. SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT (SPOC)

Nine houses were returned in March to be inspected and categorised under four categories:

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.

House Returns March - Categorisation	
Cat 1	1
Cat 2	4
Cat 3	1
Cat 4	0
To be inspected	3
TOTAL	9

House Returns March - Municipal District	
Adare-Rathkeale	0
Cappamore-Kilmallock	1
Newcastle West	1
Metropolitan Area	7
TOTAL	9

Current Working Programme		
	Completed in March	In Progress
Design and Delivery		89
Operations & Maintenance	6	53
Single Point of Contact		7
Regeneration Team		5
Team to be assigned		7
TOTAL	6	161

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2. Regeneration Strategy Implementation

Regeneration Strategy Implementation Plan – Limerick City

Southill Hub

- Youth Work continues, both online and by socially distanced outdoor home visits. Youth Workers are now also back providing one-to-one support to young people, as well as small group work within Youth Work guidelines.
- Youth Workers deliver activity packs to club members each week.
- Staff are delivering food packs to community members in conjunction with the Simon Community.
- Community providers are working from the building in line with their own organisations' policies.
- The café remains open to the community for takeaway.

Our Lady of Lourdes Community Services Group

Office of the CEO

- Centre opening hours limited to 9am to 1pm by appointment due to COVID-19.
- All administrative staff working mornings in Centre and afternoons at home.
- Crèche now open to full capacity.
- Main café remains closed while meals-on-wheels continues to offer full service to older people.
- Youth services operating remotely and online.

Environmental

- Environmental cleaners are working out in the community five mornings a week.
- Some concerns and queries from residents are brought to the Community Consultative Forum to keep their voices heard.
- Environmental Manager continues to maintain contact with several residents and pass on their repair and maintenance issues or queries to the Council.
- Environmental Manager links in with several sections of the Council on a daily basis on various matters that concern the welfare and wellbeing of members of the community.
- Environmental Manager keeping in touch with various residents throughout the community by phone, and is trying to keep residents on various committees such as the Residents' Forum, the Regeneration Committee and the Community Consultative Forum engaged in meetings. However, this remains a challenge as some are not comfortable with social media platforms.

Older people

- Keeping in touch by phone.
- Purchased and packed 40 St. Patrick's Day packages, delivered in the community by An Garda Síochána.
- More packs organised for Easter, delivered again by An Garda Síochána.
- Organised a drive-by Easter Bonnet competition on Holy Thursday, in conjunction with Southill Dining and Older Persons' Coordinator. Older people were asked to stand at their doors with their bonnets on so that a picture could be taken from a distance, with three prizes for the best bonnets. A bit of fun and something to be involved in during these strange times.

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Care and Repair

- Care and Repair receive about 15 calls per month with five being acted upon and others referred to more suitable services.
- Very busy with calls from Public Health and Occupational Health Nurses looking for handrails and extra bannisters to be put into clients' homes before being discharged from hospital and nursing homes.
- A new volunteer is coming on board soon and the Garda vetting process is currently underway.

Limerick Island Community Partners

- The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) Office is open to callers, provided they have made an appointment.
- Community Café is still closed.
- Meals-on-Wheels – ongoing and increasing.

- 19, Nicholas Street, Limerick – complete apart from electrical fittings.
- King's Island Playground - cleaned and picked three times a week.
- Attended Regeneration meeting.
- Held two online meetings with local residents to brief them about the options for a new community centre.
- Anti-social behaviour has increased in Nicholas Street; all the plants were stolen.
- Dog Fouling reduced due to availability of bags in Dog Station.
- Food bank parcels delivered twice a month - quantity increasing.
- Board meeting held.
- Plan for renovation and maintenance of the Grotto in St. Mary's Park established.



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Service Operations Directorate

1. Housing Support Services

- **Waiting List**

Housing Waiting List	3,386
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- **Allocations**

	No. of Units March 2021	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	2	2
Newcastle West	1	7
Metropolitan District	21	47
Cappamore-Kilmallock	1	8
Total	25	64

- **Allocations Refusals**

	No. of Units March 2021	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	0
Newcastle West	0	1
Metropolitan District	2	3
Cappamore-Kilmallock	0	1
Total	2	5

- **Traveller Housing Welfare**

No. of Units offered March 2021	1
Year to Date	4

* these figures are included in allocations figures

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

2,488 of active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	13
No. of Amendments	249
No. of Cessations	29

- **Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)**

There are currently 1,289 RAS tenancies (797 private and 492 Approved Housing Bodies) being sustained by the RAS Unit.

During March, there were 11 new tenancies created and 15 existing contracts renewed.

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Home Improvement Schemes

March 2021	MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HAGS (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	No.	DPG	No.
Adare-Rathkeale	€16,295.00	3	€13,220.47	2	€6,115.00	2	€0.00	0
Newcastle West	€0.00	0	€2,500.00	1	€6,362.62	0	€0.00	0
Metropolitan	€50,382.00	10	€102,274.55	11	€21,545.00	5	€0.00	0
Cappamore-Kilmallock	€12,545.00	3	€5,750.00	1	€8,870.00	2	€0.00	0
Total	€79,222.00	16	€123,745.02	15	€42,892.62	9	€0.00	0
Total Monies issued in March 2021 = €245,859.64								
Total Grants issued in March 2021 = 40								

January to December 2021	MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HAGS (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	No.	DPG	No.
Adare-Rathkeale	€44,031.34	8	€17,563.02	4	€71,011.65	16	€0.00	0
Newcastle West	€33,000.00	6	€48,523.44	8	€46,440.08	13	€0.00	0
Metropolitan	€78,875.00	12	€172,148.83	19	€75,408.50	23	€0.00	0
Cappamore-Kilmallock	€61,832.54	12	€80,500.37	9	€65,633.95	12	€0.00	0
Total	€217,738.88	38	€318,735.66	40	€258,494.18	64	€0.00	0
Total Monies issued January to December 2021 = €794,968.72								
Total Grants issued January to December 2021 = 142								

Rent Collection

Rent Collection Limerick City & County Council					
Opening Balance at 01/01/2021	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing balance 31/03/2021	% Collection
€5,040,713	€4,225,777	€9,266,490	€4,140,182	€5,126,308	45%

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Limerick Homeless Action Team – Pathway Accommodation and Support System (PASS) Data

Individuals – 09/03/2021		
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	15
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	6
Clare Street Emergency Pods	Adults without children accommodated in low threshold emergency accommodation	10
Temporary Emergency Provision TEP 1 (Edenvilla)	Low threshold, night by night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	14
Temporary Emergency Provision TEP 2 (Phoenix Lodge)	Low threshold, night by night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	15
Total		135

Families			
Location	Description	No. Adults	No. Children
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	6
		Families - 6	
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	5	13
		Families - 3	
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	12	10
		Families - 12	
Totals		Adults	Children
		23	29
		Families - 21	

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Tenant Purchase/ Ground Rent / Deed of Discharge / Consent to Sale / Cottage Purchase Annuity Details:-

Tenant Purchase	
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. Received	5
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. Approved	0
Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans	
Loan Applications: No. Received	6
Loan Applications: No. Approved	6
Deed of Discharge	
Deed of Discharge Applications: No. Received	19
Consent to Sale	
Consent to Sale Applications: No. Received	3
Cottage Purchase Annuity	
Cottage Purchase Annuity: No. Applications	2
Ground Rent	
Ground Rent Applications: No. Received	4

Freedom of Information, Data Requests and Ombudsman

Freedom of Information Requested submitted	4
Ombudsman Query Cases	3

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2. Planning and Environmental Services

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

- 226 complaints were received in March.
- 504 inspections were undertaken during the month.
- The Department issued five Statutory Notices.
- 12 Directions were served by the Department.
- 103 Warning Letters were issued in March.
- 23 litter fines were issued during the period.

Economic Development and Planning

Planning Applications

A total of 146 new planning applications were received as follows:

Part 8	1
Housing Developments	3
Domestic Developments	94
Agricultural Developments	14
Commercial Developments/Change of Use	7
Sporting/Community and Educational Developments	9
Other Developments	18

The current applications include proposals for:

- Construction of a residential development comprising 62 residential units - comprising 14 semi-detached houses, ten terrace houses, four duplex units, and two five-storey apartment blocks over basement comprised of 34 apartments - at Newtown, Castletroy.

- Construction of 21 dwellings at Rathmale, Mungret.
- Demolition of existing detached dwellings and permission to construct 12 dwellings at Castlemungret, Mungret.

3. Veterinary Services

- 22 stray or wandering equines were impounded.
- The dog control unit dealt with five dogs.
- 14 food samples were submitted during the month for analysis under the National Residues and Microbiological Sampling Programme.

4. Cemeteries

Number of Burials in City Cemeteries

Mount St. Lawrence	20
Mount St. Oliver	7
Castlemungret	10
Kilmurry	3

Chief Executive's Report



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Limerick City
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5. Municipal District Offices

Metropolitan District of Limerick

Metropolitan District Meetings

The Online Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick was deferred from 15 March due to ICT issues and took place instead on 19 March. In addition, Online Operational Area Briefings for Elected Members also took place during the month.

Upgrade Works to Community/Recreational areas delivered across the Metropolitan District

- A new footpath has been provided around the perimeter of Vartry Field in Raheen providing a much-needed amenity for the local community.
- An extension of 410 metres of new footpaths has been provided to the existing footpath network in Caherdavin Green, resulting in a mini-park being provided for the Caherdavin community.
- The existing paths in Baggott Estate and Ted Russell Park have received a new tarmacadam surface, allowing for easier access and increased usage of the amenities by all, including the elderly and parents with buggies.
- The Red Path in Corbally has been resurfaced from the Mill Road junction to Corbally Baths. An access ramp for wheelchairs has also been provided at the footbridge adjacent to Corbally Baths.
- Preparatory works are underway in the Nursery in Corbally for the "Bridges in Bloom" project and the provision of flower tiers in the City will be distributed for the June Bank Holiday weekend.
- New sections of flower planting have been provided in Arthur's Quay Park.
- A new pollinator-friendly shrubbery has been provided in the People's Park.

- A herbaceous border and new shrubberies have been provided in Shelbourne Park.
- As part of National Tree Week, the Parks Department planted 470 trees, 150 in the Boro Field, 100 in Castletroy Park, 100 in The Demesne, Newcastle West, and the remaining number in Mayorstone Quarry; Coolraine Heights, Old Cratloe Road; Ted Russell Park; O'Brien Park; Aherlow Close, Caherdavin; Aspen Gardens; Highfield, Ennis Road; Sarsfield Park, Ennis Road; People's Park; Bourke Avenue, Lower Edward Street; Foynes; Rostrevor Close, Caherdavin; Abbeyfeale Park; Dromroe, Rhebogue and Faha View, Patrickswell.

Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

Croom

- **Croom Traffic Management Project**

The works on the Main Street, High Street Junction, along with Main Street Pedestrian Crossing, are now complete. An application for funding of the Main Street carpark under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme was successful and works will commence there in the coming weeks. The Roundabout at the Garda Station is now complete

Rathkeale

- **Traffic Management**

Drawings have been prepared for proposed extensions to lining for traffic management purposes along the Main Street.

- **Rathkeale Inner Relief Road**

An application was made to the Department of Transport for funding to develop the proposed Inner Relief Road through the old Mart Site in the town. This application was not successful at this time.

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- **Active Travel and Town and Village Renewal Scheme Footpath Links**

Works have commenced on footpath links on the Riverside Walkway and from the Library to Coláiste na Trócaire on the Ballingarry Road. Active Travel funds will also be used to complete the Slí na Sláinte route along the Castlematrix Road

Adare

- **Footpath Works along the N20**

Options to complete the footpath from Manor Fields to Murphy's Cross are currently being explored.

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 in the town. Initial meetings have been held with this Consultant.

Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock, and the Quarterly Joint Policing Committee Meeting, were held online on 18 March. The Schedule of Municipal District Works was presented to the Elected Members at the Monthly Meeting.

All General Municipal Allocation Community Grant nominations have now been submitted by the Elected Members.

Access to the public office and library continues to be closed due to the restrictions, but services to the public continued via phone, post and email.

Essential repairs to houses were undertaken by the Housing Maintenance Team and Roads Maintenance Team.

- 102 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.

- 102 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

Six Private House grants were paid out in March and, to date, 28 Pilot House Refurbishment Grant applicants have completed the works.

Municipal District of Newcastle West

- On 03 March, at the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West, the Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2021 was adopted by the Elected Members.

The Schedule outlines the basis of the amount of funding provided for maintenance and repair in the annual budget in respect of each relevant service division e.g. housing, roads, amenities, street cleaning, drainage work, burial grounds maintenance and parks, playgrounds and environmental projects.

- Projects have also commenced under the Roads Programme of Works 2021. The first road reconstruction projects began with the reconstruction of 600m at Ballybehy North and 1,000m at Kilconlea, Abbeyfeale. The Roads Programme of Works will continue during 2021 with a total of €8.1m to be spent on various road projects within the Municipal District of Newcastle West.

- The Municipal District of Newcastle West has been allocated the sum of €741,297.75 to progress and approve applications from private households under the Housing Grants Scheme 2021. Works such as those for persons with disabilities, as well as infrastructural works on houses, including the replacement of roofs, windows and doors, form part of the scheme.

- During the month of March, a total of 1,211 Motor Tax applications were processed by the Newcastle West Motor Tax Section.

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Capital Investment Directorate

1. Design and Delivery

Project Approvals

- The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has recently approved housing schemes at Ardagh, Kilfinane and Ballylanders. The approved schemes range in size from eight to ten homes. A four-home scheme in Mountcollins also received approval.

Part 8

- Part 8 consultation currently open for an extension to Askeaton Swimming Pool.

Projects at Tender Stage

- Tenders have been received for a 12-house scheme at Station Close, Knocklong.

Project Updates:

- **Canal Harbour Building, Lock Quay**

Construction work commenced on 15 March on the Canal Harbour Building located on a point between the Park Canal and Abbey River. The purpose of the project, carried out in conjunction with Waterways Ireland, is to consolidate the existing structure which has fallen into disrepair. This building, built c.1770, is an architecturally important canal structure. The current work will improve the viability of repurposing this structure.

- **Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road**

- ▶ The formal contract signing between Limerick City and County Council and Roadbridge, for the €29 million main Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road contract, took place on 05 March. Work on the main contract commenced on site on 22 March. The contract duration is 33 months.

- ▶ Two other related contracts are ongoing on site in Moyross. One involves bulk excavation and archaeological investigation at Ballygrennan and will complete in April. The second is an advance works contract to construct a new access road at Hartigan Villas, Moyross, and the installation of new Eir and Gas Networks Ireland services to the existing Enterprise Centre on Knockalisheen Road.

- **O'Connell Street Revitalisation Project**

Following a review of critical transport infrastructure projects, the €9.1m O'Connell Street revitalisation project was approved to proceed to construction. Following preparatory surveys, construction on site will commence at the start of April.

- **Limerick Greenway**

The Limerick Greenway project is continuing apace with the section from Ardagh to Newcastle West completed at the end of March. The Greenway is now complete from Rathkeale to Newcastle West. Work is continuing from Newcastle West to the Kerry Border and is due to be completed for the summer season.

- **Lower Carey's Road Housing Scheme (11 Homes)**

Residents moved into their new homes on Lower Carey's Road in March. This scheme repurposes a well-located vacant infill site consolidating this area of the city and building on recent successful projects in the vicinity, such as the reconstruction of the Hyde Road Flats, the refurbishment of Speaker's Corner and the construction of an infill scheme at Waller's Well Phase 2.

- **COVID-19 Restrictions**

Work on a number of sites is currently suspended due to restrictions on construction as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. These sites include housing projects at Clonmacken (43 units), Mulgrave Street (17 units), Gough Place (17 units) and Hospital (20 units).

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- Home Improvement Schemes

Inspections and Recommendations for Home Improvement Schemes – March

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-Inspection	Final Inspection	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	10	0	5	15
HAGS (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	7	0	14	21
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	7	0	13	20
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	24	0	32	56
Total Inspections Year to Date	0	107	0	48	155

- Finance

Applications for funding totaling €2,226,087.13 issued to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage during March.



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National and Regional Shared Services Directorate

1. Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Shared Services Centre

- There were 61,175 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAP SSC at the end of March.
- A weekly average of 306 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2021.
- The March landlord payment run was €53.2 million.
- The weekly tenant debit at the end of March was €3 million.
- The Debt Management Unit of the HAP SSC collected a total of €36.7 million in differential rent to end of March.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of March was 94%.
- The Debt Management Unit issued 3,231 HAP debt reminder letters in February.
- The Debt Management Unit issued 2,856 HAP COVID-19 temporary reminder letters in March.

2. Fire and Emergency Services

Statistics

	No. of Fire Related Calls	No. of Non Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call-outs 01/03/2021 – 31/03/2021	57	31	88
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	62%	62%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	36%	21%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	2%	17%	

	No. Received / Assigned	No. Validated	No. Invalidated / Refused	No. Granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications March	5	4	0	11	
Disability Access Cert Applications March	4	4	0	7	
Licensing Applications March	5	5	0		
Commencement Notice March	54	54	0	54	54
Completion Certificate March	11	11	0	11	11
Planning Referrals March	28				7
Sugar CRM Cases March	9				4

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Fire and Emergency Training Events

During the month of March, the following training was delivered:

- 49 firefighters completed Abrasive Wheels Refresher training.
- 49 firefighters completed Manual Handling Refresher training.
- 49 firefighters completed Cardiac First Responder Refresher training.
- 49 firefighters completed Emergency First Responder (Theory) Refresher training.

In line with other Fire Authorities across the country, retained fire stations returned to the weekly training programme.

Civil Defence attendance at Events

Patient transfers for appointments, and Irish Blood Transfusion Service Blood Donor Clinics, took place as follows:

Patient Transfers

- Farranshone residence to University Hospital Limerick return - 2 days.
- Corbally residence to Grove Island Health Centre return - 1 day.
- Limerick residence to Mater Hospital, Dublin, return - 1 day.
- Residence in Castletroy to Dooradoyle Health Centre return - 1 day.
- Ennis to St. Mary's Hospital Cork assisting Clare Civil Defence - 1 day.

Irish Blood Transfusion Service - Blood Donor Clinics

- Longcourt House Hotel, Newcastle West - 4 days.
- Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick - 2 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 March
No. of Call-Outs 01/03/2021 - 31/03/2021	1,942	912	1:18	2,854

Water Safety

Number of lifebuoy replacements	Total January - February	March	Total 2021
Metropolitan Area	1	0	1
Municipal Area	0	4	4

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3. Digital Services and EU Programmes

Digital Services

Residential Parking Permits

Digital Services played an integral role in the launch of a new residential parking permit validation system. The Council's Sugar Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system now integrates with ParkMagic, sharing details of all valid and non-valid residential parking permits.

Residential Parking Permit (RPP) discs no longer need to be posted to customers nor displayed on a customer's windscreen. Traffic wardens now scan vehicle registration numbers to determine whether or not that vehicle holds a valid residential parking permit. A Traffic Warden's handheld device will display information such as vehicle registration number, permit expiry date and permitted parking streets for that vehicle.

EU Programmes

- On 05 March, the +CityxChange Energy Team met with Arup to discuss the Cleaves Riverside Quarter - Energy Strategy Review, to explore opportunities and learnings arising from +CityxChange which may be applicable to the Cleaves project.
- On 12 March, the EU Projects Team hosted the 12th European Expo Meeting. The European Expo is a series of events associated with the European Investment Bank Contemporary Art Exhibition which was due to be in Limerick last year but has been delayed to 2022 because of COVID. In the meantime, Limerick City and County Council is helping to keep the network going.
- On 19 March, the EU Programme Manager met with ERTICO, a public-private partnership of 120 companies and organisations representing the traffic and transport industry. They have launched an ambitious initiative called City Moonshot, which is a global series of interviews with 300 cities worldwide with the goal of understanding their needs and requirements for transport and mobility.
- Also on 19 March, the +CityxChange Positive Energy Champions Campaign was launched. This has led to 2,400 visits to the website to learn more about Positive Energy Blocks and creating a sustainable city.
- There have been three URBACT Local Group meetings this month as part of FindYourGreatness to define stakeholders, to develop personas, and to carry out a competitor analysis from a smart cities' perspective.
- On 24 March, the EU Programme Manager attended an online webinar "How to Prepare a Successful Proposal in Horizon Europe," run by the European Commission.
- On 26 March, the EU Programme Manager spoke with the Irish College, Leuven, on potential future collaborations.
- On 31 March, the +CityxChange Co-ordinators met with the UP-STAIRS Project. This Horizon 2020 project is focused on UP-lifting Communities: Structuring collective Action for Sustainable local Transition and Identifying Regulatory Solutions for adopting frontier technologies and disruptive business models.



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Support Services Directorate

1. Finance Services

Commercial Rates and Loans

Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2021	Opening Balance 1 Jan €	Accruals €	Vacant Property Adjustment €	Writes Offs / Waivers €	Total for Collection €	Amount Collected €	Arrears €	Specific Doubtful Arrears €	% Collected
As at 31 March 2021	10,696,120*	59,995,748**	122,662	150,782	70,418,424	9,722,397	60,696,027	4,040,883	15%

** The Date for Making the 2021 Rate was 02 February 2021

* subject to audit of year end accounts for 2020

Debtors Loans	Opening Balance 1 Jan €	Accruals €	Writes Offs / Waivers €	To Collect €	Receipts €	Arrears €	% Collected
As at 31st March 2021*	357,981*	150,549^	-	508,530	616,515	107,985	121%

* subject to audit of year end accounts for 2020

^ Accruals not updated for loans for February and March 2021

Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No. of days in overdraft 0

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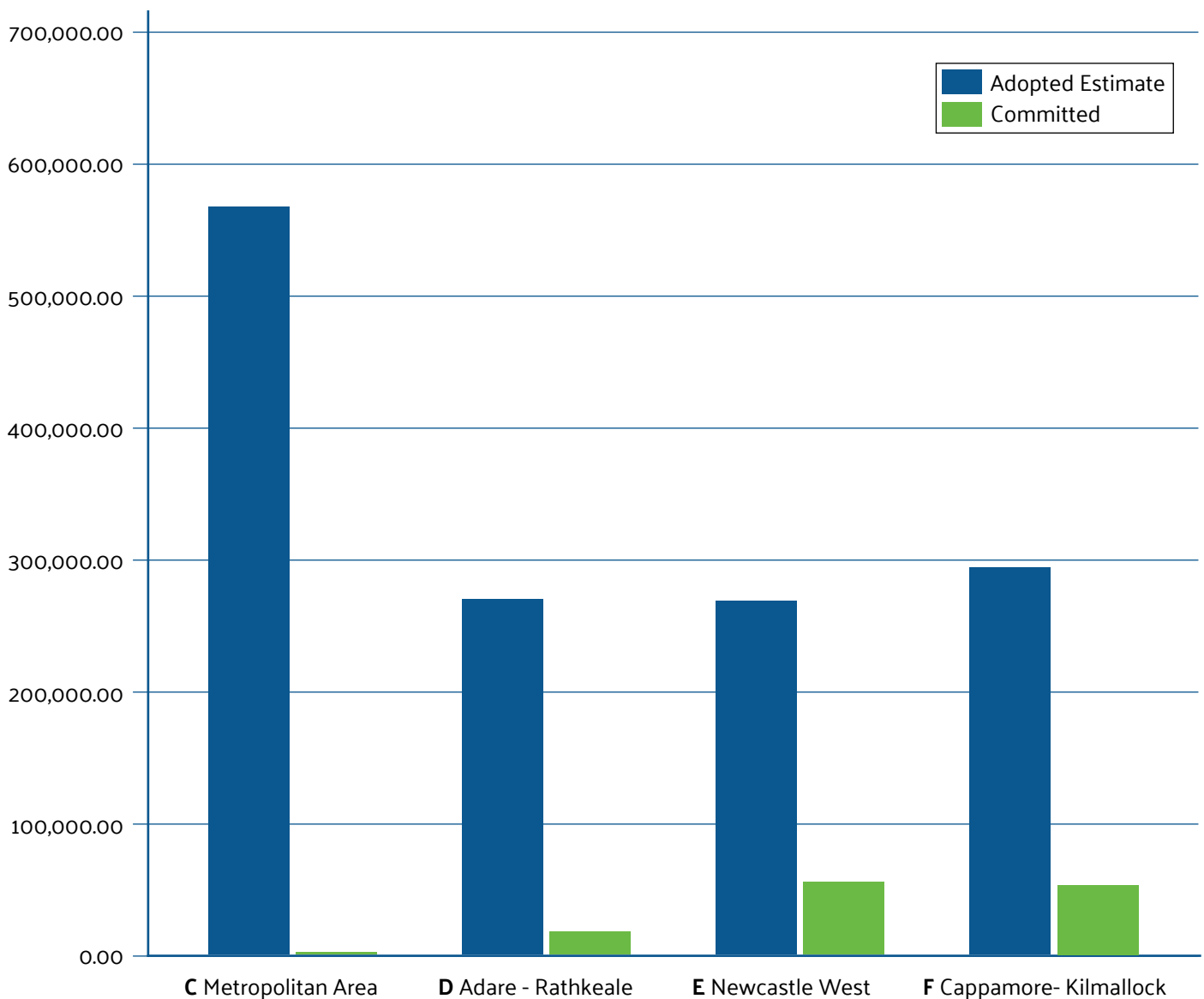


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General Municipal Allocation 2021 Adopted Estimate €1.403 Million

Graph outlining adopted budget and draft committed expenditure up to 31 March 2021



Municip (Code) + (Text)

Value Adopted Estimate (€)

Value Committed (€)

C Metropolitan Area

568,000.00

1,225

D Adare - Rathkeale

270,000.00

18,823

E Newcastle West

270,000.00

54,642

F Cappamore - Kilmallock

295,000.00

51,155

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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:

- Contract Signing for Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road.
Venue: Council Chamber, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Virtual launch of Limerick GAA 100 Years - 1921/2021, An Evening of History, an online history seminar organised by Limerick GAA, in partnership with Limerick City and County Council, remembering the events of 07 March, 1921, when the sitting Mayor of Limerick, George Clancy, his immediate predecessor, Michael O'Callaghan, and volunteer, Joseph O'Donoghue, were murdered by Crown Forces.
- Virtual launch of The Limerick Curfew Murders of 1921, an online exhibition organised by Limerick Library Service as part of the Limerick City and County Council Decade of Centenaries Programme.
- Virtual Awards Ceremony for Limerick County Final of the Student Enterprise Programme.
- Video Message for Thomond Community College Multicultural Day.

Register of Electors

- The Check the Register Portal (www.checktheregister.ie) has been updated with the Live Register for 2021/2022.
- Staff from The Register of Electors Team attended a webinar briefing, presented by the Electoral Register Modernisation Project Team, outlining the next steps being implemented regarding the Modernisation of the Electoral Registration Process. They also attended a meeting of the Workability and Data Group which is working closely with the Modernisation Project Team.

The Team provided Management in Corporate Services and Governance with an updated report in relation to work to be carried out prior to migration of data to a new system. Work is ongoing in preparation for data cleansing project to be undertaken prior to migration.

- Staff from the Register of Electors Team continue to process emails and forms being submitted in relation to queries and changes to the Register of Electors.

Health and Safety Training

- Safe Pass Training/CSCS/QSCS: Circular 5/2021 from SOLAS detailing extension of Suspension of Safe Pass, CSCS and QSCS Course: The suspension of Safe Pass, CSCS and QSCS remains in place until after 05 April with the exemption of limited resumptions of safe pass training for new workers on critical projects.
- Implementation of Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual and Temporary Traffic Management: The Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) has notified Health and Safety Training of the extension of the deadline of the Implementation of Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual and Temporary Traffic Management to 31 May. No Training is taking place due to Government advice and Level 5 COVID-19 restrictions.
- Health and Safety Annual Briefings have commenced and Toolbox talks are taking place for outdoor workers. The Health and Safety Training Unit is recording attendance for these briefings.
- The Health and Safety Training Unit has suspended all Health and Safety training courses, based on Government advice due to Level 5 COVID-19 restrictions, until further notice.

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Customer Services

March saw the Maintenance of the Open Spaces Grant once again being offered to residential groups throughout Limerick City and County. Customer Services aided the Urban and Rural Community Development Department, not only by facilitating the sending and receiving of application forms, but also by fielding all calls and queries for the Grant Scheme.

After its cancellation last year, it was announced in March that Team Limerick Clean-Up 6 (TLC6) would be going ahead this year whilst COVID-19 restrictions were in place under the message 'Different but Doable.' Customer Services handled all calls and queries in relation to TLC6 on behalf of the Urban and Rural Community Development Department, directing callers to the registration site, as well as advising customers of the new rules for the clean-up this year.

Customer Services also worked closely with the Digital Strategy Department, as well as the Traffic Department, to facilitate 'paperless permits' for the residential parking permits. Applicants no longer need to show the physical permit as Traffic Wardens can now confirm a valid resident parking permit simply by checking a vehicle registration number. This change came into effect on 25 March.

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

- Customer Services Call Centre dealt with 14,574 calls, including 2,289 calls in relation to Motor Tax. This represents an average of 662 per day, with the number of calls exceeding 750 on several occasions. 57% of these calls were handled at first point of contact.
- Customer Services Case Management Team continued working with key service areas of the Council in supporting the closure and update of representations from Elected Members.
- 3,733 cases were created, with 887 of these logged on behalf of Public Representatives. 3,418 cases were closed, with 797 of these being cases logged by Public Representatives.
- 3,396 emails were processed through the Customer Services email platform.
- Customer Services staff processed a total of 607 requests received through the Voxpro out-of-hours services.
- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued, with a total of 389 cases being logged, 234 of which were submitted by Public Representatives.
- Customer Services continued to support the Housing Maintenance Department in creating the service requests and keeping citizens up to date on progress made. Throughout the month, 940 cases were logged for Housing Maintenance.
- Customer Services continued to provide other frontline services to the general public, such as the processing of Residential Parking Permits. 36 new Residential Parking Permits were processed throughout the month.

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3. Schedule of Meetings for March

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Meetings of Full Council		
Special Meeting to discuss the concerns of employees working in the Limerick Leader Newspaper	08.03.2021	Virtual
Bi-Monthly Meeting	22.03.2021	Virtual
Special Meeting to discuss the proposed closure of Bank of Ireland Branches in Limerick	26.03.2021	Virtual
Operational Briefings		
Limerick City East	01.03.2021	Virtual
Limerick City North	01.03.2021	Virtual
Limerick City West	02.03.2021	Virtual
Local Community Development Committee	02.03.2021	Virtual
Joint Policing Committee	05.03.2021	Virtual
Municipal District of:		
<u>Newcastle West</u>		
Monthly Meeting	03.03.2021	Virtual
Joint Policing Committee	03.03.2021	Virtual
<u>Adare-Rathkeale</u>		
Monthly Meeting	09.03.2021	Virtual
Special Meeting to discuss the proposed Social Housing Development in Pallaskenry	23.03.2021	Virtual
<u>Cappamore-Kilmallock</u>		
Monthly Meeting	18.03.2021	Virtual
Joint Policing Committee	18.03.2021	Virtual
Corporate Policy Group Meeting	15.03.2021	Virtual
Metropolitan District of Limerick		
Monthly Meeting	19.03.2021	Virtual

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Name of Meeting (cont.)	Date	Location
Party Leaders' Meeting	22.03.2021	Virtual
Protocol Committee Meeting	22.03.2021	Virtual
Strategic Policy Committee Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning	29.03.2021	Virtual

4. Access to Information

	March	2021 (January to March)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	32	73
FOI Internal Appeals	1	2
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	0
Total Ombudsman Requests	4	14
Total AIE Requests	1	1

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5. Business Improvement

- The Business Improvement Department worked with the +CityxChange programme to roll out the “Positive Energy Champions Open Call” on MyPoint.
- Five colleagues received training from the Business Improvement Department on the Cora Project Management System.
- A suite of Cora training videos has been recorded and uploaded to the Staff Portal.
- A total of 872 users are now live on the employee app, an increase of two on last month's figures.
- Business Improvement conducted an App feedback survey through the staff app 'Council Connect.' The results will be used to inform the continuous improvement of the app.
- The Business Improvement Department has been leading the Residential Parking Permits project with Digital Services, Customer Services, District Offices, and the Operations and Traffic Management Department. The aim is to improve the overall customer experience for the citizens of Limerick. Changes have been made to the application form and process to make the experience more user-friendly and the issuing of Residential Parking permits has now gone Paperless. Traffic Wardens can now confirm a valid resident parking permit is in place by checking a vehicle registration number. Residents will no longer be required to display a paper permit.

