

# Chief Executive's Report

May 2021

- Three distinct cultural walking trails celebrating Limerick's Street Art, the Women of Limerick and Limerick's architectural heritage launched
- Limerick Libraries, Limerick Museum and Limerick City Gallery of Art re-open after COVID restrictions lifted
- €15 million announced in funding for 2021 Town and Village Renewal Scheme
- +CityxChange's Positive Energy Champions begin their energy journey
- Customer Services handle 24% increase in phone calls with over 13,500 recorded during May
- €675,000 allocated to Limerick City and County Council under the National Transport Authority's Additional Outdoor Infrastructure Fund

# Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick** City  
& County Council

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## Economic Development Directorate

### 1. Trade and Investment

- Technological University status was granted to Limerick Institute of Technology and Athlone Institute of Technology, known as TUS (Technological University of the Shannon) Midlands Midwest. The designation will be a major milestone for the Mid-West and make the area more attractive to indigenous small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and foreign direct investment, by linking knowledge, research, education and innovation.

### 2. Strategic and Forward Planning

- The Forward Planning Section facilitated a number of briefing sessions with the Elected Members to assist them in considering the Draft Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, prior to its formal consideration at Meeting of Limerick City and County Council on 14 June.

### 3. Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

- Ten Grant Applications were approved in May for funding by the LEO Evaluation and Approvals Committee, coming to a total approval of €404,650. These grant applications included two Feasibility Study Grants, three Priming Grants, four Business Expansion Grants and one Agile Research and Development and Innovation Grant.
- 27 Trading Online Vouchers were completed and drawn down by Limerick businesses during the month, with 86 small businesses approved for this support to date this year.
- Two new business supports now available for LEO Clients and, in May, two businesses were approved for the IP Start Grant and two were approved for the GradStart Programme.

- LEO ran 13 Virtual Courses and Webinars during the month including - Start Your Own Business Courses, Management Development Programme, Book-keeping for Business, Financial Supports Information Webinar in conjunction with West Limerick Resources, Limerick Meet the Buyer Procurement Processes Information Webinar, Trading Online Webinar and various Digital Media Workshops.
- In the year to date, there have been 1,208 participants on the LEO Business Training Courses and 92 business owners have availed of the LEO Mentoring Programme.
- New Frontiers Phase 1 Enterprise Ireland Programme completed with 25 participants.
- National Final for Student Enterprise Programme 2020-2021 took place virtually on 14 May. Limerick was well represented by Desmond College, Newcastle West, in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior Category, and by Castletroy College, Limerick, in the Creative Business Idea Category. Desmond College won a Special Merit Award in the Senior Category for their Business called Zero Fog.
- Network Ireland Limerick Branch Business Woman of the Year Awards, supported by LEO, took place virtually with twenty-two female-led businesses competing across seven different categories for a place at the National Finals.
- Two LEO Limerick supported artisan food producers included on the Supervalu Food Academy.

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## 4. Innovate Limerick

Following a competitive tender process, Nautic Building Contractors have been awarded the contract to build the Digital Collaboration Centre extension to ENGINE, Cecil Street, Limerick. The Engine Collaboration Centre will facilitate greater collaboration between existing SMEs and the Multinational Sector throughout the Mid-West. Work commenced on the new extension on 23 May and is due to be completed by end of March 2022.

LEO Limerick and the Digital Collaboration Centre hosted a 'Meet The Buyer' event on 07 May to help SMEs expand their Business2Business customer base by becoming a preferred suppliers for Multinationals in the Region. Cook Medical and Takumi discussed their local procurement needs, the criteria to become a preferred supplier and the potential opportunities in the Region.

ENGINE Collaboration Centre launched 'Friday Tech Talks' on 14 May with the purpose of solving business problems through innovation and collaboration between SMEs and Multinationals in the Mid-West. The first talk focused on Transact Campus, the leading global 'Connected Campus Software Solutions' company, who have set up their European operations in Limerick. They discussed how they are performing data analytics in the cloud and the technology opportunities that exist for greater collaboration.

### Film in Limerick

#### ENGINE Shorts

ENGINE Shorts is a short film training and production scheme run by Innovate Limerick through Film in Limerick. The 15 shortlisted teams handed in their final script drafts in May and are now preparing for their industry pitches. Film in Limerick held 15 online development sessions with the shortlisted teams in May to support the development of the projects. A workshop on the 'Art of Pitching' was also held for all teams online. The scheme is supported by the Local Authorities in Limerick, Clare and Tipperary, as well as Creative Ireland and Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.

**ENGINE Docs** 40 applications were received for ENGINE Docs, a brand new documentary film training and production scheme run by Innovate Limerick through Film in Limerick and supported by Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board. 12 teams (24 participants) have now been shortlisted for the next stage of the programme, where they will receive training and support to develop their documentary ideas and learn to work as documentary directors and producers. ENGINE Docs is delivered in partnership with Sheffield Doc Festival in England.

#### Film Offices Ireland Forum

The new Film Offices Ireland Forum, set up and chaired by Film in Limerick, held its second national meeting online in May with 17 counties represented. A training session on 'film permits,' hosted by Film in Limerick in conjunction with Dublin Council Film Office, also took place with representation from 13 counties.

#### Munster Animation Forum

Innovate Limerick, through Film in Limerick, is a founding member of the Munster Animation Forum set up to encourage and support animation production in the province. The Forum held two meetings in May to devise a plan to develop the sector.

#### Production Support

In May, Film in Limerick worked with seven film and TV drama productions developing projects/preparing to film in the Mid-West, helping to source locations, crews and permissions. Film in Limerick also supported independent short film and broadcast productions in the Region during the month.

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## 5. Urban Innovation

The Urban Innovation Department –

- contributed to the Future of Our Cities feature in the Irish Time which was published on 20 May.
- took part in a roundtable discussion on Climate Action hosted by KPMG and Eolas Magazine.
- is hosting two Masters students from the Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, University College London, who are investigating public sector innovation.
- was invited to be part of the Mission-Orientated Innovation Network hosted by University College London.

### +CityxChange

#### Positive Energy Champions

+CityxChange's Positive Energy Champions have now begun their energy journey. For the next twenty weeks, they will critically examine their energy behaviours and make changes in their daily lives, business, clubs and organisations to reduce their carbon footprint. The campaign has been divided into three distinct themes: Understanding Energy Use, Retrofit and Invest, Low Carbon Transport and Empowering Communities. Each Champion has received training and has developed a step-by-step plan in collaboration with the +CityxChange Team. Details of all the Champions will be available on [limerick.ie](http://limerick.ie) in the coming week and their journey can be followed @smart\_limerick or at #positivelimerick #bethechange

#### Open Call 2 – Take Control of Your Energy

Six citizen-led projects were selected in March of this year to implement innovation projects in Limerick on the theme 'Take Control of Your Energy.' The Call seeks to test ideas to reduce the amount of energy used in the city, and increase the energy generated from innovative sources. The teams will demonstrate different possibilities for changing the way energy is used. During May, the teams have been working with the support of Urban Innovation

and +CityxChange partners planning and preparing their project for mobilisation next month.

#### Living Georgian City

- A draft copy of the Laneways Toolkit document was completed. This is currently being reviewed by various Departments within the Council. It will be available for the public to view and give feedback on next month.
- The completed versions of the proposals for housing projects at 33/34 Thomas Street and 58 O'Connell Street are currently underway. It is intended that these will be reviewed by the Council's Planning Department and the Metropolitan District Councillors in the coming weeks.

## 6. Marketing and Communications

### Marketing

- Brand Limerick featured on participants' tops for the Great Limerick Virtual Run 2021 taking place across the May bank holiday weekend.
- Delivered a webinar 'Practical Ways to make the most of Brand Limerick' to Limerick Chamber members.
- Provided marketing support to Fáilte Ireland ahead of the launch of their national multimedia tourism marketing campaign #KeepDiscovering.
- Participated in 'Picture My City,' a virtual photography exhibition by New Brunswick Sister Cities Association, New Jersey, USA, showcasing images from their sister cities across the world, including Limerick, Debrecen (Hungary) and Fukui and Tsuruoka (Japan). Limerick put forward a selection of images that expresses, in the eyes of its citizens, what makes Limerick such a special place to live, work and visit, while capturing the two essential elements at the heart of the Limerick brand: Edge and Embrace.
- Secured full-page Limerick advert and editorial in The Irish Times *Future of our Cities*.

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- Riverfest Limerick 2019 was awarded bronze in the Public Event category at Eventex Awards 2021 - the 11th Global Awards for Events and Experience Marketing.
- Limerick 50 Days of Summer campaign shortlisted for 2021 Public Relations Institute of Ireland (PRII) Awards for Excellence in PR.
- Created and issued four 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 45 times on Limerick.ie's Facebook, with followers now 31,478. Posts reached 230,655 users, with 13,095 engagements and 420,339 impressions.
- Tweeted 55 times on Limerick.ie's Twitter, @Limerick\_ie, with total followers now 19,787. Our tweets earned 221,100 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).
- Posted 12 times on Limerick.ie's Instagram and created two Stories with total followers now 14,345.
- Posted 28 times on Limerick City and County Council's LinkedIn, with total followers now 7,419.

## Limerick.ie

In May, there were 111,617\* unique site visits to Limerick.ie, a 3% decrease on the same period in 2020. (\*Google Analytics)

- Content Report: 122 articles, 136 events and six amenities were added to Limerick.ie in May.

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

1. [www.limerick.ie](http://www.limerick.ie)
2. [www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning](http://www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning)
3. [www.limerick.ie/council](http://www.limerick.ie/council)

4. [www.limerick.ie/council/your-council/jobs](http://www.limerick.ie/council/your-council/jobs)
5. [www.limerick.ie/council/services/housing/social-housing/housing-assistance-payment-hap](http://www.limerick.ie/council/services/housing/social-housing/housing-assistance-payment-hap)

## Communications

- Issued 26 news releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and wrote seven speeches for the Office of the Mayor.
- Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter.
- Tweeted 233 times on Limerick City and County Council's Twitter account, @limerickcouncil, with total followers now 16,190. Our tweets earned 389,300 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).



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## Physical Development Directorate

### 1. Travel and Transportation Strategy

#### National Transport Authority Additional Outdoor Infrastructure Fund

An amount of €675,000 is being allocated to Limerick City and County Council under the National Transport Authority's Additional Outdoor Infrastructure Fund. Funding is broken down as follows:

- Temporary road/street closures and permanent hydraulic bollard installation - €300,000.
- High quality resilient material street furniture seating and ancillaries at locations across the city and county (approx. €50,000 Metropolitan District and €25,000 Municipal Districts) - €75,000.
- City centre and county parklet construction - €300,000.

#### Fáilte Ireland Local Authority Weatherproofing and Outdoor Dining Infrastructure Scheme

An application for funding under the Fáilte Ireland Local Authority Weatherproofing and Outdoor Dining Infrastructure Scheme was submitted before the closing date on 31 May. The application is seeking funding for permanent and weatherproofed outdoor dining infrastructure to enhance the Bedford Row/Lower Thomas Street area.

#### Fáilte Ireland Urban Animation Scheme

In conjunction with Design and Delivery, The Physical Development Directorate is also processing an application for the Fáilte Ireland Urban Animation Scheme. This scheme aims to fund public realm artistic features in central city locations for the successful local authorities following submissions for shortlisting. Limerick City and County Council is applying for this Scheme to fund a piece of iconic artwork on the junction of Lower Thomas Street and O'Connell Street.

### 2. Mid West National Road Design Office

#### N24 Beary's Cross Road Improvement Scheme Compulsory Purchase Order 2020

An Bord Pleanála confirmed the N24 Beary's Cross Road Improvement Scheme Compulsory Purchase Order 2020 on 10 May. The Order authorises Limerick City and County Council to acquire compulsorily the land and to extinguish the public and private rights-of-way necessary for the purposes of providing road improvements comprising the following through the townlands of Cloghnadromin, Sandylane and Tobermalug in the County of Limerick:

- A new roundabout-controlled junction, alteration to the present junction layout, the construction of a new Regional Road R513 approach to the junction and the alteration of the existing N24 approaches to the junction.
- Road and drainage impact attenuation.
- Fencing.
- Landscaping.
- Public lighting.
- Accommodation works.
- Associated site works.

The Mid West National Road Design Office will arrange acquisition of the land and detailed design for the scheme to progress the road improvements at this location.

### 3. Environment Strategy

Work on the development of Limerick's Blue Green Infrastructure Strategy (BGI) progressed significantly in May. The stage 1 report, which outlined the agreed methodology and programme for the work, was completed. Three online stakeholder consultation workshops were held on 26, 27 and 28 May. These covered the following topics:

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## Workshop 1 – Landscape; Tourism, Culture and the Economy

Participants asked to consider the issues, opportunities and current projects which relate to the following subjects:

- Landscape character of the area (e.g. landform, largescale planting, pattern of built development).
- Opportunities and projects relating to urban greening, for example green walls and roofs, street trees.
- Identification of locally valued areas of GBI provision.
- How GBI could complement the historic assets and heritage features within Limerick City and Environs.
- Economic benefits of GBI improvements and how GBI can support key tourist destinations within Limerick to enhance the experience for visitors.

## Workshop 2 – Accessibility and Connectivity; People, Health and Wellbeing

Participants asked to consider the issues, opportunities and current projects which relate to the following subjects:

- Current opportunities for active travel (walking, cycling etc.) within Limerick City and Environs and how this could be enhanced through GBI.
- How GBI can complement public transport and the road network.
- How amenity green space is used by communities and how GBI can enhance this asset.
- Potential deficiency of open space provision.
- The extent of food growing within Limerick and where this could be enhanced.
- Current patterns in the health and wellbeing of the population in Limerick City and Environs, and

- Consideration of how GBI can provide health and wellbeing benefits (e.g. tree planting to reduce air quality, increased physical activity).

## Workshop 3 – Biodiversity and Blue Infrastructure

Participants asked to consider the issues, opportunities and current projects affecting GBI which relate to the following subjects:

- How GBI can solve local conservation priorities within Limerick City and Environs.
- An overview of the designated sites, such as Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within the study area and how these link to GBI.
- How GBI can further link and enhance habitat networks within the study area, for example through strategic hedgerow improvements and tree planting.
- An overview of the water environment and how these contribute to GBI.
- Locations of specific flood risk and areas where there is opportunity for further water storage, and
- Current projects or opportunities to introduce Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) within the study area.

A wide range of internal and external stakeholders attended and there was excellent engagement using tools such as the Miro virtual white board.

The Stage 2 report, which will make recommendations on land zoning and BGI-related policies, is due at the end of June.



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## Community Development Directorate

### 1. Tourism, Culture and Arts

#### TOURISM

##### Lough Gur Virtual Launch

On 24 May, the Minister for the Office of Public Works (OPW), Mr. Patrick O' Donovan, T.D., launched the new Lough Gur online tours with Local Authority Archaeologist, Sarah McCutcheon, from Limerick City and County Council.

This virtual launch marks the official release of a sweeping interactive 360 degree tour and a spectacular introduction to the Lough Gur tour that brings to you never-before-seen drone footage of monumental sites of international significance and describes what is on offer from Lough Gur, and how moving online offers a way to explore Lough Gur before visiting in person.

##### Greenway Mural

Limerick City and County Council sought proposals for a railway-themed mural for the Limerick Greenway N21 underpass at Barnagh. Proposals were evaluated by an Assessment Panel remotely on 28 May, assessing all proposals under published criteria. The Panel recommended Limerick Artist, Steve O'Donnell's proposal, and works will commence in June 2021.

#### CULTURE AND ARTS

##### OPEN CALLS

##### Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2021/22

Limerick City and County Council, since 2017, has made new direct investment, through this competitive grant scheme, of €1,131,000 in the Festivals and Events sector. This investment has provided the stimulus to elevate Limerick's Festival and Events offer and has contributed to Limerick's reputation as an exciting and dynamic place. Building on this, Limerick City and County Council

is providing further strategic investment in Festivals and Events in 2021, through competitive Open Call, to the sum of €211,000. This year's fund includes a €6,000 contribution, in partnership with Fáilte Ireland's Regional Festivals and Participative Events. Limerick Culture and Arts Office's Open Call, seeking applications from individual artists or organisations under the Festivals and Events Grant Scheme, opened on 20 May and will close on 23 June at 4pm.

##### Grants under the Arts Act Funding Call Out

This annual scheme offers grant funding to amateur, community or voluntary groups, or organisations, and individual arts practitioners who stimulate public interest in the arts, promote the knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts or assist in improving the standards of the arts. The closing date for applications was 4pm on 28 April, 2021.

Thirty-six applications were received with a total ask of €32,223.93. All Grants under the Arts Act applications are considered by an Assessment Panel, appointed by Limerick Culture and Arts Office, Limerick City and County Council. The Assessment Panel met remotely on 12 May, and assessed all applications using the published criteria. The Panel recommended the allocation of funding to 27 successful applicants, totalling €20,000. The Assessment Panel's recommendations were approved at the Meeting of the Full Council on 24 May. All applicants have been issued with the result of their application.

##### Creative Ireland: Made in Limerick 2021

The Creative Ireland: Made in Limerick grant is for Limerick-based creative practitioners, organisations and communities of place and interest. These grants are offered as part of Limerick Creative Ireland Programme to deliver activities taking place in 2021. The Open Call for Limerick-based creative practitioners, organisations and communities of place and interest to submit applications for Made in Limerick Grants 2021, closed for applications

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on 21 April. There were 40 applications to the scheme. These applications are being processed.

## 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 May, ten letters of support were issued, one to the Creative Ireland Climate Action fund and nine in support of Arts Council applications - three to Capacity Building, one to Next Generation and five to the Arts Grant Fund.

## CREATIVE IRELAND FUNDED PROJECTS

### Creativity in Older Age - Musicians on Call

Musicians on Call is a project where professionally trained musicians work in healthcare settings, in an appropriate and sensitive manner, to connect music-making opportunities to residents and healthcare staff in Nursing Homes and Community Hospitals. This project is delivered in collaboration with, and led by, Limerick Culture and Arts Office, Age Friendly Limerick and Healthy Limerick, in partnership with Clare County Council and Tipperary County Council.

The first visit to one of the Limerick settings was on 14 May and the second visit to two Limerick settings was on 24 May. An Open Call for opportunities for artists to take part in the programme closed on 17 May. This project promotes health and wellbeing by improving quality of life through a series of high-quality live music performances to those living in healthcare settings in Limerick, Clare and Tipperary.

### Cruinniú na nÓg 2021

Cruinniú na nÓg, the national day of creativity for children and young people, was launched in May and will take place on 12 June. Children and young people are invited to take part in a range of free events and workshops delivered by Limerick Culture and Arts Office, in partnership with Fresh Film. This year's programme is in four strands: Workshops,

Young Producers, Production Crews and Screenings, with all 14 Limerick events successfully uploaded to the Creative Ireland online portal by the deadline of 21 May. These events are now listed on both the Creative Ireland Programme website and [Limerick.ie](http://Limerick.ie).

### Creative Ireland Creative Youth Conference 2021

On 13 May, staff attended the Creative Youth Conference 2021 "Creativity - the connection to the future, now" where new creative projects to support young people were announced. The conference was opened by An Taoiseach, Mr. Micheál Martin, T.D., online from Dublin Castle.

## ARTS COUNCIL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT PROGRAMME

### PARTNERSHIPS

#### County Limerick Youth Theatre

In May, the County Limerick Youth Theatre groups worked on Shakespeare, Mental Health and Myths and Legends. Some of the older groups also worked on monologues in conjunction with Tusla and some recordings of these may be used in workshops with vulnerable children who are working with Tusla. In the final week of May, the County Limerick Youth Theatre returned to in-person, outdoor workshops at Herbertstown Community Hall, while keeping to Government COVID-19 Guidelines.

#### Limerick Youth Choir

Members of Limerick Youth Choir have been taking part in Limerick Sings virtual choir video for which they were rehearsing throughout May. On 29 May, 11 members of the choir participated in a workshop with members of Chamber Choir Ireland. This was online and through the University Concert Hall, UCH.

#### Artists in Schools Programme

The Artists in Schools Programme, in partnership with Music Generation Limerick City, works to develop opportunities for engagement with young people through

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involvement in culture. The programme, running in 12 schools in the Newcastle West area, is now in its third and final term. The programme is delivered via interactive livestreams, with classes responding to calls to action within the broadcasts. Throughout May, since schools have returned, the programme moved to the fully collaborative stage, with individual classes sending musical content in to be part of a massive musical patchwork piece. The programme has received praise at local, regional and national level for its innovation and creativity. Music Generation Director, Rosaleen Molloy, said it was “leading the way for showing new ways of providing meaningful artistic engagement in schools.”

## Sliabh Luachra Musician in Residence

Fleadh by the Feale is traditionally held over the May bank holiday weekend. As it could not take place in the traditional way this year, Sliabh Luachra Musician in Residence, Eoin O’Sullivan, filmed and edited performances, which were shown over the weekend on both the Fleadh by the Feale’s Facebook page and the Sliabh Luachra YouTube channel. World Fiddle Day Scartaglin went out on 22 May and featured, among other things, a two-hour concert and footage highlighting some of the Sliabh Luachra Trail talents.

## EUROPEAN PROJECTS

### Libertalia - ‘Born by the River’ Bottle Lab, Liverpool

Collective Moves Libertalia performances re-tell the forgotten stories of our cities’ European pirates, the ‘Guardians of Liberty,’ who used collaboration and self-governance to found free Libertalia states. The Bottle Lab 3 began on 24 May with sharing of their lab explorations streamed for Collective Move Partners and ‘Born by the River’ musicians and creative team on 26 May. In this Lab, they have designed each scene of ‘Born by the River.’ Each scene used either dance, physical theatre and/or puppetry. This will be performed to the music, alongside narration on 3 July. One Limerick arts practitioner is participating.

## PLACE MAKING FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

### May Bank Holiday Weekend

With the COVID-19 restrictions still in force, it was not possible to have the traditional Riverfest weekend. Instead, Limerick City and County Council, in partnership with Draw Out – Urban Exhibitionists, Ormston House and Open House Limerick, created three distinct cultural trails that can be enjoyed right throughout the summer, in a safe manner in accordance with COVID-19 restrictions. These trails celebrate Limerick’s Street Art, the Women of Limerick and Limerick’s architectural heritage, while taking the participant on an open air walking tour around the City Centre and along the River Shannon.

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## 2. Property and Community Facilities

### DERELICTION AND VACANCY

Dereliction, Vacancy and Reuse Team	
Inspections carried out	116
Property and Community Facilities Department Notices issued	13
Statutory Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act	28
Cases closed through engagement	25
Properties entered onto the Derelict Sites Register	9
Properties put forward for Compulsory Acquisition (Section 15 Notices)	0
Properties Compulsorily Acquired (Section 17 Notices)	0

### BIN WAIVERS

<b>Bin Waivers Approved</b>	10
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An Bord Pleanála has granted consent to Limerick City and County Council to compulsorily acquire the unfinished residential developments at Nos. 1 to 33 at Ballywilliam Close, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick, through the Derelict Sites Act, 1990 (as amended).

## 3. Urban and Rural Community Development

### Local Sports Partnership (LSP)

- The LSP continues to deliver Education courses and Physical Activity initiatives in the online space. 358 women registered for the Women on the Move Fitness Class.
- Under the Go for Life banner and Age and Opportunity, a Limerick LSP older Adult team is participating in an online competition. A selection of target games are played online against another team.
- The Limerick team will play matches every Thursday over a six-week period.
- Fifty-two applications were received for the role of Community Sports Development Officer (CSDO) position as advertised by the LSP. The new CSDO will start employment with the LSP on 08 June.
- Thirty Transition Year VIP Students graduated from the LSP after completing the entire Leadership Programme in the online space for 2020-2021.
- The LSP Board of Directors has approved three of the five principles to ensure the LSP is Governance Code for Sport. The aim is to be fully compliant in September 2021.
- For more information on programmes and activities visit [www.limericksports.ie](http://www.limericksports.ie)

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## Funding Streams

### CLÁR

12 applications were submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development under CLÁR 2021.

### Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2021

The ORIS Scheme was launched with a €14 million fund to support outdoor adventure activities.

### Town and Village Renewal

Announcement of €15 million in funding for the 2021 Town and Village Renewal.

### Local Community Development Committee

The May meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was held on 04 May.

€149,302.34 under the Transitional LEADER Programme - this was the first tranche of funding approved under the Transitional LEADER Programme funding.

### Limerick Autism Working Group

A virtual meeting of the Limerick Autism Working Group took place on 31 May. The agenda included an update on the group's membership, a presentation from ASD Ireland and plans for the next steps on producing a proposal report on the vision of creating an autism-friendly city and county.

### Limerick Public Participation Network (PPN)

- Limerick PPN Secretariat met once this month and continues to successfully deliver on its key functions.
- The 2020 PPN Annual Report Online has been completed and submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development.

- Membership of the PPN now stands at 150. The membership registration form is on the Limerick PPN website and eligible groups in Limerick can register at any time.
- Limerick PPN continued to have an active social media presence on its regularly updated website and on Twitter and Facebook.

## AGE FRIENDLY

- The New Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme commenced in May with the issuing of surveys to over 1,000 people, aged 65 plus across the three Municipal Districts and the Metropolitan District to gain a perspective on the needs of this age group.
- The Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme is a new initiative. It aims to enable older people to continue living in their homes or in a home more suited to their needs (rightsizing), live with a sense of independence and autonomy, be and feel part of their community, and support the avoidance of early or premature admission to long term residential care. Over the next two years, it is anticipated that 4,500 older people will benefit from the support of this programme. The Department of Health, Sláintecare and Age Friendly Ireland (Meath County Council) are rolling out this new joint programme across ten Local Authority areas - Westmeath County Council, Dublin City Council, Cork County Council, Galway County Council, Galway City Council, Fingal County Council, Limerick City and County Council, Longford County Council, South Dublin County Council and Tipperary County Council.
- A meeting was held with the outgoing Chair of the Older People's Executive and the Vice-Chair to update them on Age Friendly developments.

**Online Meetings/Webinars attended** - Healthy age friendly induction event.

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## EDUCATION

On 10 May, the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Collins, launched the Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival.

### Online Meetings/Webinars attended

- Learning Limerick Steering Group meeting.
- Learning Limerick launch.
- Induction Briefing Comhairle na n-Óg.
- Comhairle na n-Óg meeting.

## INTEGRATION

Africa Day was celebrated on 25 May. Doras Luimní made their submission for funding, which was forwarded to the Department of Foreign Affairs and approved with funding then released to support events.

### Online Meetings/Webinars attended

- EDNIP (Embracing Diversity, Nurturing Integration Programme) meeting.
- Community Integration Fund meeting.

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Limerick is one of the cities to pilot the “Sport Ireland Active Cities Programme.” 31 May was “International No Tobacco Day” and details of Limerick’s “Not Around Us Campaign” were shared on social media, including links and contacts to keep the initiative current and open for all to get involved in.

The Healthy Ireland Funded Programmes continue to be supported by Healthy Limerick.

### Online Meetings/Webinars attended

- One Million Stars Domestic Abuse Project took place on three occasions in May.
- Community Resilience Fund training for progress reporting and financial reporting.

- Webinar by National Co-ordinator of Healthy Ireland on Social Farming Ireland.
- Workshop by TAFISA (Association for international Sport for All).

## 4. Libraries, Gallery and Museum

### Libraries

- Limerick Libraries re-opened this month for lending services, welcoming borrowers back in branch from 11 May for browsing and borrowing. A ‘contact and collect’ service is also available for those not able to come in, with library staff providing a wish list for collection at the library. An enhanced range of online services remains available with borrowers continuing to access eBooks, eAudiobooks, newspapers, magazines and educational courses.
- Limerick Libraries are delighted to be participating in the national ‘First 5 Little Library Book Bag’ initiative, which was launched, by Ministers O’Gorman and Humphreys on 08 May. This project aims to support the development of little libraries in early learning and care settings, and encourages a love of books and reading amongst the youngest children. During the month, over 180 local ELCs (Early Learning and Care settings) and registered childminders were contacted by the library and invited to attend their local branch to collect their book bag, which contains five story books for children (four English titles and one Irish title, and five Irish titles for naionraí) and various learning resources. Also included is a library registration card to encourage membership and use of the library service among early learning and care services and among young children and their families, thus developing a consistent link between ELCs and their local library. Little Library Book bags will also be available in all library branches for families to borrow, and for facilitating storytimes.

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- The theme of this year's Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival is 'New Futures, New Adventures in Learning,' and Limerick Libraries hosted a number of virtual events for the public. Central Library treated families to a bilingual Irish/English storytime with Joanne who read Na Tri Mhuichin/Three Little Pigs, and encouraged all those watching on the Library YouTube channel to join in with some rhymes. An online careers seminar in association with Work Matters at the Library was held on 26 May. Titled 'Desire, Vision, Action! - Planning for Career Change, Managing Career Change by Design,' and facilitated by Jennifer Smith, this seminar discussed strengthening three key areas in order to navigate career change with more confidence. Local Author, Siobhan MacDonald, was interviewed by Marie from Kilmallock Library, and she read a short extract from her latest novel 'Guilty,' a psychological suspense thriller set in Ireland. Siobhan's interview can be seen on our YouTube channel from 27 May. Newcastle West collaborated with local Artist, Keith O'Rahilly, to produce a two-part video introductory course to painting still life entitled 'Painting for Pleasure and Recreation.' Available to watch on the library YouTube channel for the duration of the festival, this course was also made available to the residents of Killeline Care Centre in Newcastle West, where the residents were able to delve into their creative talents to create their own still life masterpieces. Dooradoyle Library also provided original online content for the festival, with staff member, and independent Art Historian, Dr. Deirdre Kelly, delivering two online presentations in which she spoke on the artists known as the 'The Irish Impressionists.'
- This month's Healthy Ireland at Your Library events focused on mindfulness, meal planning and art therapy. Children in St. Anne's National School, Rathkeale, were treated to a mindfulness session with Sonia Miller of Bear fruit Mindfulness. The boys from St. Joseph's, also in Rathkeale, took part in an online yoga class, and 6th class enjoyed a special programme of mindfulness designed to help them to navigate the sometimes stressful transition to secondary school. Central Library ran a free family meal planning seminar on 28 May with Consultant Dietician, Gillian McConnell, the first in their series of virtual talks and workshops. The residents of Embury Close Sheltered Housing in Adare enjoyed an Eco Art Therapy session with Helena Gleeson. Many of the residents have been cocooning and unable to venture outdoors in recent times, so were delighted with this video presentation with its mindful approach to nature, and an appreciation of our surroundings.
- The Age Friendly Libraries Digital Ambassadors' Programme is a partnership between the Local Government Management Agency Libraries Development Unit and Age Friendly Ireland, and aims to support older people in accessing online library resources. Library staff in a number of branches have volunteered to become ambassadors, and have participated in training to support them in providing tutoring sessions to older people in Limerick city and county. Through these tutoring sessions, older people will be empowered to avail of the extensive range of online library services. It is hoped that, in time, the participants themselves will have the confidence to become mentors to their own peers. Flyers promoting the Digital Ambassadors' Programme are being included in this month's care packages being distributed by Urban and Rural Community Development.
- As part of the Decade of Centenaries, Limerick Libraries have digitised all local papers for 1921. They are the most recent resources available on our website and include the Limerick Chronicle, Limerick Leader, Weekly Observer (Newcastle West), Tipperaryman and Limerick Recorder.
- Following on from the success of the Baby Sign story time that took place in April as part of the Spring Into Story time programme of events, Limerick Libraries is hosting a free four-week term of baby sign classes with Claire Glynn of Clever Little Handies. Suitable for parents with babies from newborn up, the classes take place online, starting on 11 May. Nursery rhymes, songs and poems using ISL (Irish Sign Language) will be covered giving the babies a vocabulary to use when they are not yet using words, whilst also providing an online environment for parents where they can form connections with other parents in their area.

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- Dooradoyle Library Book Club held its monthly meeting online on 08 May where 'City of Friends,' by Joanna Trollope, was discussed. This month's read is 'Below the Big Blue Sky,' by Anna McPartlin, which is available to borrow on the Borrowbox app in both eBook and eAudiobook format.
- Staff training is ongoing with branch staff availing of SharePoint training. A series of classes on video production, from beginners to intermediate, has garnered great interest from those staff members who regularly create online content, including storytimes, for posting on the library social media channels.

## Limerick Museum

On 10 May, Limerick Museum opened to the public and welcomed visitors back for the first time this year as it had been closed due to COVID-19 public health measures.

On 26 May, as part of Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival and in collaboration with the Friends of Lace, Limerick Museum held a virtual event called Zooming into Limerick Lace. It consisted of an overview of Limerick Lace, including a brief history by Dr. Matthew Potter, Curator of Limerick Museum; guide to online resources available (website, Facebook page, information on lace making classes in Limerick); and information on latest acquisitions by Limerick Museum.

Significant progress continued to be made on the audit of the Museum's collection at its new storage facility.

## Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

Limerick City Gallery of Art re-opened on 10 May and has welcomed 1,123 visitors to date. At Home on the Farm, an Exhibition by Mary Burke featuring five Co. Limerick farms, was extended to 27 June, along with Cows are mostly Silent – a selection of work from the Permanent Collection.

Skin Deep, by Mary Ruth Walsh, opened on 14 May. This is a touring exhibition organised by Wexford Arts Centre and had previously been shown in The Highlanes Gallery, Drogheda.

LCGA continues to work with the Arts Council and Artists on the forthcoming exhibitions and outreach programme for 2021/22. Currently, LCGA is working with Light Moves Dance Festival for a proposed residency in 2022 and with The GAFF on a community-led project involving different community groups who do not use the gallery to its full potential.

LCGA will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the National Collection of Contemporary Drawing (NCCD) with an exhibition curated by Samuel Walsh, a founding member of the Limerick Contemporary Art Society in the early 1980's. The NCCD is unique to LCGA and a valuable resource.

A publication is being prepared for the Summer exhibition, 'Common Threads' by Limerick Artist, Maighread Tobin. This will be Maighread's first solo exhibition at LCGA and marks a significant change in her practice. A publication will be produced for the accompanying exhibition, 'The Loneliness of being German,' featuring Artists, Thomas Brezing and Vera Klute.

Research and preparatory work is ongoing for the upcoming 75th anniversary of the opening of the extension to the Carnegie Library as a home for the Permanent Collection. This is a significant opportunity for Limerick City and County Council to celebrate this important contribution to the cultural offer in Limerick. Research has commenced on plans to digitise the Collection.

LCGA has worked with the Hunt Museum for its forthcoming summer exhibition 'Wild Atlantic Way's' providing 11 artworks from the Permanent Collection for the exhibition.

Brendan Egan, the current Shinnors Scholar, will focus over the next month on developing a Family Programme for the Summer June - August. Brendan has applied to transfer to a PhD and will receive confirmation of this next month.

Work continues on the development of the new webpage for LCGA with capacity funding (€20,000) received from the Arts Council. LCGA is working with colleagues from



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ICT and the Communications Department to develop the hardware and content for this.

LCGA became a volunteer member in the Limerick City and County Council +CityxChange programme for 'Positive Energy Champions' and will take part in the 20-week research programme.

Research on the re-branding of LCGA has continued and is planned to launch later this year

Work has commenced on the transition from 'I' drive to the new archive system LITe.

LCGA staff continue to participate in online training for Limerick City and County Council procurement procedures, cyber security and Equality Human Rights and Diversity (EHRD)



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## Housing Development Directorate

### 1. Strategic Housing Development

#### 1. BUILD, BUY AND LEASE

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

As at 31 May (01.01.21 - 31.05.21)	Build	Buy	Lease	Total
Complete	16	4	40	60
In Progress	286	19	89	394
Overall Complete and In Progress	302	23	129	454
'Housing for All' 2021 Delivery Target	441	10	84	535

The above table sets out the units of accommodation complete and in progress in 2021 under the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's 'Housing for All' Buy, Build, Lease delivery programme.

All units 'In Progress' are estimated for 2021 delivery. Units expected to be delivered in 2022 and 2023 are not included.

All units 'Complete' have been delivered between the periods of 01.01.2021 - 31.05.2021.

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

Fifteen houses were returned in May 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 May - Categorisation	
Cat 1	0
Cat 2	0
Cat 3	2
Cat 4	0
To be inspected	13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>

House Returns May - Municipal District	
Adare-Rathkeale	1
Cappamore-Kilmallock	0
Newcastle West	3
Metropolitan Area	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>

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Current Working Programme		
	Completed in May	In Progress
Design and Delivery	0	14
Operations & Maintenance	6	62
Single Point of Contact	0	92
Regeneration Team	1	9
Team to be assigned	N/A	13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>190</b>



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## Service Operations Directorate

### 1. Housing Support Services

#### • Waiting List

Housing Waiting List	2,334
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#### • Allocations

	No. of Units May 2021	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	2	5
Newcastle West	0	9
Metropolitan District	16	83
Cappamore-Kilmallock	6	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>113</b>

#### • Allocations Refusals

	No. of Units May 2021	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	1
Newcastle West	0	1
Metropolitan District	3	6
Cappamore-Kilmallock	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>

#### • Traveller Housing Welfare

No. of Units offered May 2021	1
Year to Date	7

\* these figures are included in allocations figures

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

2,522 of active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	38
No. of Amendments	365
No. of Cessations	34

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## Home Improvement Schemes

May 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	€0.00	0	€0.00	0	€18,882.50	4	€0.00	0
Newcastle West	€0.00	0	€6,996.59	2	€51,337.50	11	€0.00	0
Metropolitan	€26,092.50	5	€27,264.99	5	€24,110.00	8	€181.60	1
Cappamore-Kilmallock	€0.00	0	€0.00	0	€0.00	0	€0.00	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>€26,092.50</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>€34,261.58</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>€94,330.00</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>€181.60</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total Monies issued in May 2021 = €154,865.68</b>								
<b>Total Grants issued in May 2021 = 36</b>								

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	€57,331.34	11	€46,497.02	6	€116,754.15	27	€0.00	0
Newcastle West	€44,500.00	8	€66,487.53	12	€117,506.38	28	€0.00	0
Metropolitan	€122,357.50	20	€251,865.82	30	€124,560.50	36	€181.60	1
Cappamore-Kilmallock	€78,917.54	15	€80,500.37	9	€67,533.95	13	€0.00	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>€303,106.38</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>€445,350.74</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>€426,354.98</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>€181.60</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total Monies issued January to December 2021 = €1,174,993.70</b>								
<b>Total Grants issued January to December 2021 = 216</b>								

## Rent Collection

Rent Collection Limerick City and County Council					
Opening Balance at 01/01/2021	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing balance 31/05/2021	% Collection
€5,040,713	€7,220,764	€12,261,477	€7,008,616	€5,252,861	57%

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## INCREMENTAL PURCHASE SCHEME

Limerick City and County Council is piloting a new scheme which will allow people to buy new starter homes at a discounted price. The two locations where the scheme is being piloted are housing developments in Main Street, Pallaskenry, and the Old Cratloe Road/Redgate Road, Limerick.

For the Main Street, Pallaskenry scheme, eight out of 16 homes being constructed are available and prices will start from €106,000 - €162,000 (depending on income band and house type) for a three-bedroom semi-detached home. For the Old Cratloe Road/Redgate Road scheme, seven out of 14 homes are available and prices will start from €115,000 - €174,000 (depending on income band) for a three-bedroom semi-detached home.

There are two types of household that can be considered for inclusion in the incremental purchase scheme:

- Households that have been assessed by Limerick City and County Council as being eligible for and in need of social housing support.

- Households who are already in receipt of social housing support by Limerick City and County Council, i.e. existing Local Authority or Approved Housing Body tenants and households accommodated under RAS (Rental Accommodation Scheme), HAP (Housing Assistance Payment) Scheme and Long Term Social Housing Leasing Scheme.

A new build home can be purchased at 40 - 60% discount, depending on income band.

The closing date for applications is 30 July, 2021, and interested eligible households can contact Customer Services on (061) 55600 or email [starternewhomepurchase@limerick.ie](mailto:starternewhomepurchase@limerick.ie) for further information.

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

Individuals – 02/05/2021		
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	14
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	2
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
<b>Total</b>		<b>130</b>

Families			
Location	Description	No. Adults	No. Children
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	7
		Families - 6	
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	1	1
		Families - 1	
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	10	10
		Families - 9	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Adults</b>	<b>Children</b>
		<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
		<b>Families - 16</b>	

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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	7
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. Approved	1
Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans	
Loan Applications: No. Received	4
Loan Applications: No. Approved	4
Deed of Discharge	
Deed of Discharge Applications: No. Received	24
Consent to Sale	
Consent to Sale Applications: No. Received	8
Cottage Purchase Annuity	
Cottage Purchase Annuity: No. Applications	2
Ground Rent	
Ground Rent Applications: No. Received	3

## Freedom of Information, Data Requests and Ombudsman

Freedom of Information Requested submitted	4
Ombudsman Query Cases	4
Data Access Requests	4



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## 2. Planning and Environmental Services

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

- 205 complaints were received in May.
- A total of 490 inspections were undertaken during the month.
- The Department issued 24 Statutory Notices.
- Six Directions were served by the Department.
- 62 Warning Letters were issued in May.
- A total of 16 fines were issued during the period.

### Economic Development and Planning

#### Planning Applications

A total of 159 new planning applications were received as follows:

Part 8	3
Housing Developments	2
Domestic Developments	116
Agricultural Developments	14
Commercial Developments/Change of Use	15
Sporting/Community and Educational Developments	3
Other Developments	6

The current applications include proposals for:

- Part 8 for an off-road shared pedestrian/cycle facility of varying width, junctions to be altered as per the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS), a new surface water drainage system, new public lighting scheme, grounding of overhead services and removal of existing ESB poles on existing footpaths and all associated site works at Mill Road, Corbally.

- Part 8 for the construction of 18 dwellings at Cluain Dara, Broadford.
- Part 8 for the demolition of Ballysimon Bridge (Protected Structure) and the construction of a new bridge over the River Groody, provision of flood defence walls, road widening and upgrade of the Golf Links and Old Ballysimon Road at Ballysimon, Ballysimon (Staunton) and Garryglass.
- Construction of 68 dwellings at Saint Ita's Road, Abbeyfeale.
- Construction of 51 dwellings at Skagh, Croom.
- Construction of a new stepped two-storey school building (approx. 5,516 sq. metres) comprising: 32 no. classrooms, special needs unit, general purpose room, library, resource rooms, staff room and all ancillary accommodation at Monaleen Road, Castletroy.

## 3. Veterinary Services

- 11 stray or wandering equines were impounded.
- The Dog Control Unit processed one dog during the month.
- Nine 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	15
Mount St. Oliver	18
Castlemungret	13
Kilmurry	2

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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 took place on 17 May. In addition, Briefings on certain issues relevant to the Metropolitan District, as well as Online Operational Area Meetings for Elected Members, also took place during the month.

#### Upgrade Works across the Metropolitan District in May

- **Footpath Construction/Refurbishment**

New footpaths were constructed in Coonagh and refurbishment of footpaths has been completed in Janesboro and Clarina. Refurbishment of footpaths is continuing in Mayorstone, Dooradoyle, Thomondgate and Ballynanty.

- **Steamboat Quay Works**

Shared surface resurfacing and deck replacement has been completed at Steamboat Quay, with additional footpaths, footpath refurbishment and pedestrian crossing to follow.

#### Build-Outs

Build-outs have been completed in Thomas Street and Catherine Street areas and will continue over the next couple of weeks as part of the gradual re-opening up of the economy, post COVID-19.

- **Shelbourne Road to Coonagh**

Design works are continuing on the Shelbourne Road to Coonagh Bus Lane, footpath and cycle-lanes. This is expected to be advertised under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act next month.

- **Ros Mór Estate**

Tenders have been issued for design works on the proposed roundabout/bus turn-around at Ros Mór on the Old Cork Road.

- **Monument**

The O'Callaghan/Clancy Strand Monument has been refurbished recently.

### Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

#### RATHKEALE

Active Travel and Town and Village Renewal Scheme Footpath works links substantially completed on footpath links on the Riverside Walkway which will, in turn, link to the Greenway.

Footpath works complete from the Library to White's Garage on the Ballingarry Road. Active Travel Funding under this scheme will also be used to complete the Slí na Sláinte route along the Castlematrix Road.

#### ASKEATON

Askeaton Riverside Looped Walk and the Proposed River Walk extension to the Slí na Sláinte walking loop will all connect to the existing footpaths on the Quay. These works will be progressed under the Active Travel Funding Scheme.

#### CROOM

The Croom Distributor Road is now open for access to the Coláiste Chiarán School. Works are continuing on the link to the Hospital Road. A temporary safe walking route has been placed along the old N20 from the Distributor Road to the village.

Funding has been secured under Active Travel for a permanent footpath link. Survey works in advance of this project now completed.

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## Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock was held online on 20 May.

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

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

- 143 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team in May.
- 99 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team in May.

### Road Works Programme 2021

Road re-construction works completed on seven local roads and three regional roads.

Surface dressing works completed on three regional roads and six local roads.

A total of three Community Involvement Schemes completed on the L85021 Castlefarm, L15321 Sunville Lower and the L85291 Ballyfauskeen.

CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) funded works comprising footpath works and signage at Glenroe National School.

Drainage works completed on the R513 Knockatanna, Caherconlish, and the 1536 Effin.

Footpath works completed under the Cappamore-Kilmallock General Municipal Allocation at Effin National School.

## Municipal District of Newcastle West

- The Online Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West took place on 05 May.
- In accordance with Section 11, Roads Act, 1993, Limerick City and County Council advertised its intention to consider the making of a Declaration that Lot's Road, Templeglantine East, be a public road, by way of Notification on Council website, together with advertisements in the Limerick Leader and Weekly Observer. The public consultation period was from 18 March to 19 April, both days inclusive. The period for submissions extended until 30 April. No submissions were received and at the May Meeting of the District, Councillors declared making Lot's Road a public road and it has been added to the Schedule of Public Roads within the County.
- The Newcastle West District Roads Programme of Works 2021 continued during May with surface dressing works at Kantoher, Ballykenny, Ballintubber South and Killeedy. Road overlay works were also completed at Churchtown Road, Newcastle West.
- 38 grant applications were approved under the Private Housing Grant Schemes during the month of May. The total value of approvals was €202,342.17. Also, payments of €51,337.50 were made to 11 applicants who completed works under the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.
- Under Active Travel, pedestrian improvement works to the value of €300,000 are being carried out in Glin. These works include the upgrade of existing footpaths and the construction of a new footpath.
- Due to restrictions, the Newcastle West Motor Tax Office is closed to the public but applications are being received by post. During the month of May, a total of 401 applications were processed by the Office.

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## Capital Investment Directorate

### 1. Design and Delivery

#### Part 8

- Part 8 lodged for an active travel scheme on Mill Road Corbally on 07 May. This scheme will significantly enhance this street for pedestrian and cyclists.
- Part 8 lodged for Broadford Housing on a site adjacent to the village centre – provision of 18 no. residential units, consisting of, seven no. one-bed units, one no. four-bed units, eight no. two-bed units, two no. three-bed units. The application was lodged on 10 May.
- Part 8 planning for Golf Links Road Upgrade was lodged on 31 May. The proposed development comprises demolition of Ballysimon Bridge over the River Groody and construction of a new bridge. The scheme involves road widening and upgrade of 350 metres of roadway on Golf Links Road L1116, 300 metres of roadway along Old Ballysimon Road L1171 and construction of flood defence walls along the River Groody, including a weir wall upstream of the new bridge.

#### Project Updates:

##### King's Island Flood Relief Scheme

An Bord Pleanála granted planning permission for the scheme on 24 May, subject to twelve conditions. Further archaeological trial excavations are underway at Merchant's Quay.

##### Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Scheme

The Working Group comprising Councillors, Abbeyfeale Business Community and Abbeyfeale Community Council approved the new traffic management scheme layout at meeting on 05 May.

##### Askeaton Pool and Leisure Centre - Flood Protection Works

The Chief Executive's Report on Part 8 Planning for the Flood Protection Works to the Plant Rooms at the Askeaton Pool and Leisure Centre was approved at the May Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale. The work proposed consists of the construction of platforms within the existing plant rooms in order to raise plant above flood levels. Replacement of plant items with new energy efficient plant and provision for future renewable energy options is being included in the detail design currently underway.

##### Park Road Bridge

Consent of the Commissioners of Public Works under Section 50 of the Arterial Drainage Act, 1945, was given to the proposed bridge on 28 May.

##### Housing Scheme Knocklong

Stage 4 approval received for a 12-unit housing scheme from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

##### Serviced Sites Fund - Sonny's Corner/St. Anne's Court, King's Island

Demolition work is underway at this key corner site at the junction of Athlunkard Street and Island Road. The existing ten single-storey bungalows have been demolished and archaeological investigative trenching has now commenced.

The trenches will help establish the exact location of the city wall, which is believed to traverse the site. The results of the survey will inform the urban realm strategy for the site, which is one of five sites in Limerick city funded under the Serviced Sites Fund (SSF). The plot will be redeveloped under this programme to provide social and affordable housing and a feasibility study is underway to determine the number of units possible.

# Chief Executive's Report



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**Limerick** City  
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## • Home Improvement Schemes

Inspections and Recommendations for Home Improvement Schemes – May

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-Inspection	Final Inspection	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	7	0	6	13
HAGS (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	1	6	1	8	16
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	22	0	9	31
<b>Total Inspections by Inspection Type</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Total Inspections Year to Date</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>271</b>

## • Finance

- Applications for funding totaling €2,204,872 issued to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage during May.
- The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage paid €531,033.

# Chief Executive's Report



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**Limerick City & County Council**

## National and Regional Shared Services Directorate

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

- There were 61,852 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAP SSC at the end of May.
- A weekly average of 297 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2021.
- The May landlord payment run was €54.2 million.
- The weekly tenant debit at the end of May was €3 million.
- The Debt Management Unit of the HAP SSC collected a total of €63 million in differential rent to end of May.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of May was 95%.
- The Debt Management Unit issued 3,022 HAP debt reminder letters in May.
- The Debt Management Unit issued 3,525 HAP COVID-19 temporary reminder letters in May.

### 2. Fire and Emergency Services

#### Statistics

	No. of Fire Related Calls	No. of Non Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call-outs 01/05/2021 – 31/05/2021	67	41	108
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	62%	60%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	30%	34%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	8%	6%	

	No. Received / Assigned	No. Validated	No. Invalidated / Refused	No. Granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications May	9	8	1	9	
Disability Access Cert Applications May	5	5	0	8	
Licensing Applications May	1	1	0		
Commencement Notice May	56	51	2	51	53
Completion Certificate May	30	27	0	27	2
Planning Referrals May	19				13
Sugar CRM Cases May	0				1

# Chief Executive's Report



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## Fire and Emergency Training Events

During the month, the following training was delivered:

- All the Retained Fire Service attended various two-day Breathing Apparatus Refresher training courses which were ran in both Rathkeale and Ardagh.
- There were six two-day Swift Water Rescue Training courses delivered in Limerick City for all Swift Water Rescue Technicians.
- A three-week QQI accredited Initial Fire Fighter Skills course was run in Limerick Racecourse for 17 new recruits to the retained fire service. These students came from all over the country, including Louth, Westmeath, Clare, Kerry, Galway and Limerick.

## Civil Defence attendance at Events

Patient transfers for appointments, Vaccination Centres and the Irish Blood Transfusion Service (IBTS) Blood Donor Clinics took place as follows:

- Vaccination Centre at the Radisson – daily since 23 April.

- Patient Transfer for Clinic – Newcastle West to Edward Street Clinic and return to Newcastle West residence.
- Patient Transfer - Limerick residence to Bon Secours Hospital, Tralee, and return to Limerick residence.
- Patient Transfer – Limerick residence to Mater Hospital, Dublin, and return to Limerick residence x 2.
- Irish Blood Transfusion Service – Blood Donor Clinics
  - Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick – two days.
  - Community Centre, Doon – one day.
  - Greenhills Hotel, Limerick - two days.
  - Woodlands House Hotel, Adare – one day.
  - Devon Inn, Templeglantine – two days.
  - Southcourt Hotel, Limerick – two days.
  - Coláiste Ióseaf, Kilmallock – one day.

## Major Emergency Management

Limerick City and County Council is regularly attending Major Emergency Management Inter-Agency Co-ordination online meetings regarding COVID-19.

## 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 May
No. of Call-Outs 01/05/2021 – 31/05/2021	876	852	1 min. 18seconds	1,728

## Water Safety

Number of lifebuoy replacements	Total January - April	May	Total 2021
Metropolitan Area	2	0	2
Municipal Area	4	0	4

# Chief Executive's Report



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## 3. Digital Services and EU Programmes

### Digital Services

- On 05 May, the Broadband Officer in Digital Services attended a webinar where a guidance document was presented on the recommended process of engagement for National Broadband Ireland when applying to local authorities for licensing of overground telecommunications infrastructure (i.e. poles and associated cabling) on public roads. Speakers at the event were Paddy Mahon, Chief Executive of Longford County Council, Stephen Flynn from the Roads Management Office, T.J. Malone, Chief Executive of National Broadband Ireland, and Eamon Ryan, Minister for Transport, Environment, Climate and Communications.
- On 10 May, the Broadband Officer in Digital Services attended a webinar by the Department of Rural and Community Development discussing Arts and Culture Programmes being rolled out by the Department as part of the National Broadband Plan's Broadband Connection Point (BCP) initiative. These programmes are the first step in helping BCPs to make the best possible use of the broadband connections that are being installed in their communities, and will be followed in the coming months by further programmes under the themes of Remote Working, Digital Upskilling and eHealth.
- The LITe Programme (Limerick Information Transformation eProgramme) was rolled out to the following departments in May: Urban and Rural Development, Fire and Emergency, Water Services and Heritage.

### EU Programmes

- On 10 May, Corina Hanrahan hosted a workshop on "Editorial Calendar and Human Resources Resourcing" between Alba Iulia and Limerick as part of the Find Your Greatness project. This workshop looked at how we organise content, and how to create a calendar in line with our Find Your Greatness roadmap, as well as scheduling content to have the most impact and an even flow of information to build a relationship with the people of our respective cities.
- On 13 May, there was a joint Urbact Local Group meeting between Limerick and Wroclaw. This meeting was to share how the Find Your Greatness project is progressing, and to look at similarities from a digital and a relationship building perspective.
- On 18 May, the EU Projects Office, along with the Go Green Routes project, met with the Dutch Cycling Embassy for preliminary discussions on how learnings from the Netherlands can be incorporated into cycling plans for Limerick City and for Limerick County towns.
- On 20 May, the EU Programme Manager attended events related to funding in the next Programming Period to learn what is coming up. These were: "Looking Ahead to Creative Europe 2021-2027," and the North West Europe Interreg Networking Event, "A Greener North-West Europe."
- On 27 May, there was a joint +CityxChange meeting between eMobility partners in Trondheim and Limerick to compare the progress in both cities and to swap ideas on solutions to common challenges in both cities.





# Chief Executive's Report



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## Support Services Directorate

### 1. Finance Services

#### Commercial Rates and Loans

##### Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2021	
As at 31 May 2021	
Opening Balance - 1 Jan €	10,696,120 *
Accruals €	59,995,749 **
Vacant Property Adjustment €	321,542
Write Offs / Waivers €	9,750,085
Total for Collection €	60,620,242
Amount Collected €	22,911,627
Arrears €	37,708,615
Specific Doubtful Arrears €	3,792,412
% Collected	40%

Debtors Loans	
As at 31 May 2021*	
Opening Balance - 1 Jan €	357,981 *
Accruals €	450,407 ^
Write Offs / Waivers €	-
To Collect €	808,388
Receipts €	750,208
Arrears €	58,180
% Collected	93%

\* subject to audit of year end accounts for 2020

^ Accruals not updated for loans for April and May 2021

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

\* subject to audit of year end accounts for 2020

#### Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No. of days in overdraft 0

# Chief Executive's Report

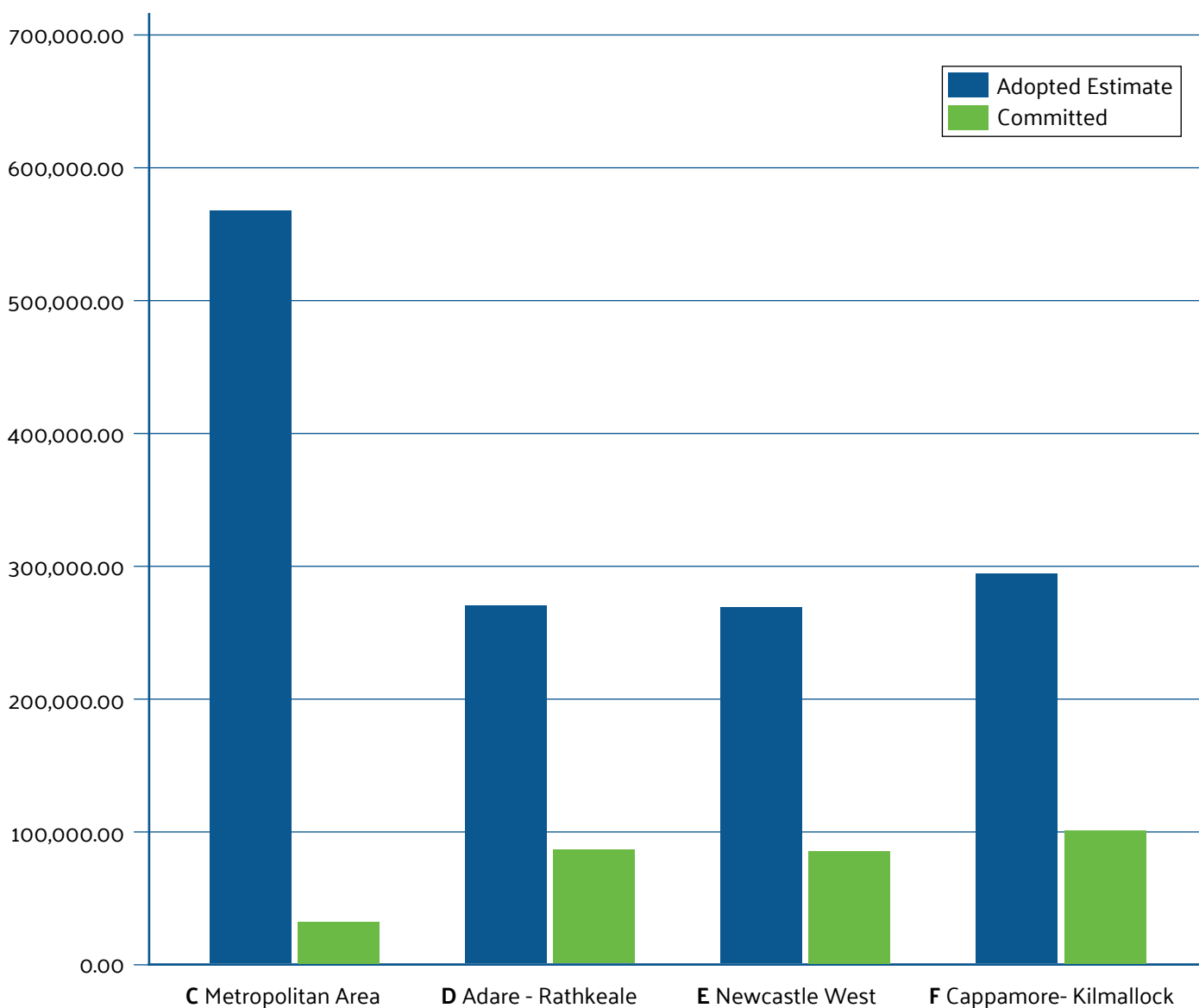


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## General Municipal Allocation 2021 Adopted Estimate €1.403 Million

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



Municip (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate (€)	Value Committed (€)
C Metropolitan Area	568,000.00	30,908
D Adare - Rathkeale	270,000.00	84,753
E Newcastle West	270,000.00	83,169
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	295,000.00	100,783

# Chief Executive's Report



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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:

- Virtual Launch of the Sean Wall Family Archive Exhibition.
- Launch for Lifelong Learning Festival.  
Venue: Courtyard, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Launch of Ten Year Civil Service Renewal Strategy.  
Venue: Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Presentation to Students of Desmond College, Newcastle West, and Scoil Mhuire agus Ide, Newcastle West, winners of Limerick Final of the Student Enterprise Awards 2021, supported by Local Enterprise Office Limerick.
- Official Opening of the new Biodiversity Garden at Ahane National School and Cut a recycled environmentally-friendly Ribbon made by the pupils.  
Venue: Ahane National School, Laught, Lisnagry, Co. Limerick.
- University College Cork Commemoration Ceremony to mark the centenary of execution of 13 Irish Republican Army Volunteers executed at Victoria Barracks (now Collins Barracks) in Cork.  
Venue: Republican Memorial, College Road entrance to UCC.
- Viewing of Ilen boat launch for its Shannon cargo voyage with cask of Thomond Gate Limerick Whiskey.  
Venue: Steamboat Quay, Limerick.
- Photoshoot for Launch of Lidl investment plan for the Limerick/Mid-West area.  
Venue: Clayton Hotel, Steamboat Quay, Limerick.
- Sod turning to officially announce the commencement of work on major new social housing project in the Moyross and Southill areas of Limerick City by Peter McVerry Trust, the National Housing and Homeless Charity.
- Virtual launch of CWELL Community Wellness Book 'Wellbeing Way' - book filled with poems, artwork, suggested activities etc. developed by CWELL students at UL.
- Photoshoot to announce commencement of new Collaboration Centre at ENGINE, following a competitive tender process. Nautic Building Contractors have been awarded the contract to build the Digital Collaboration Centre extension to ENGINE. The Engine Collaboration Centre will facilitate greater collaboration between existing SMEs and the Multinational sector throughout the Mid-West.  
Venue: Engine, Cecil Street, Limerick.
- Presentation of cheques to representatives of the 12 nominated local charities following the virtual Great Limerick Run which took place over the May bank holiday weekend, with over €92,000 raised.
- Sod turning at announcement that US Life Sciences firm Ortec Inc. has begun construction of its European Headquarters in Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.
- Presentation to Rathbane Golf Course, awarded All-Ireland All-Star Public Golf Course 2021.  
Venue: Rathbane Golf Course, Limerick.
- Launch of the Limerick Wild Atlantic Way Gateway City Strategy.  
Venue: King John's Castle, Limerick.

### Register of Electors

- Staff from Register of Electors Team attended a meeting of the Workability and Data Group on 18 May. An update was given on developments arising from the Project Board Meeting on 06 May, and Steering Group Meeting, in relation to Policy, Development of National Database and Implementation of rolling register.

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- The Register of Electors Team has commenced work on a data cleansing project prior to migration to a new Register of Electors system. During the month, 1,803 letters were issued to electors who appeared to be duplicated on the Register; and in excess of 800 letters were returned by electors notifying the Council of correct address and eircode, or of change of address.
- Staff in the Register of Electors Team continue to process application forms and emails which have been submitted in relation to the Register of Electors.
- Staff in the Register of Electors Team processed 162 deletions, 15 additions and 39 amendments during the month.

## Health and Safety Training

- Health and Safety Annual Briefings Toolbox Talks were held in May. Total number of staff trained was 84.
- Safe Pass Training took place during the month and one staff member was trained.
- Manual Handling Training also took place and one staff member was trained.
- **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 December, 2021.

- **First Aid Re-Certification**

The Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council, at its meeting on 21 January, 2021, has further advised that if a First Aid Responder's certification has expired between March 2020 and July 31, 2021, a Responder may complete the refresher course to maintain certification. A new responder course will need to be completed for any Pre Hospital Emergency Care responder certification that has lapsed after 31 July 2021 date.

The Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council website confirms that it is not in a position to extend the expiry date on existing First Aid Response certificates, which certifies a minimum level of competence in First Aid Response. The Regulatory requirements to hold First Aid Response certification does not originate from Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council, it comes from the requirements of Health and Safety Authority, Tusla and other institutions.

The Health and Safety Authority continues to advise on its website that it will continue to recognise first aid responders' existing First Aid Response certification during the COVID-19 pandemic while it waits to be recertified. Those first aiders can continue to administer first aid in the workplace.

- **Driver Certificate of Professional Competence**

The Road Safety Authority is advising on its website [www.rsa.ie](http://www.rsa.ie) that, due to the continued COVID-19 situation, with effect from 06 March, 2021, Driver Certificate of Professional Competence cards will be further extended by EU Regulation. This means that Driver Certificate of Professional Competence cards that expired, or will expire, between 01 September, 2020, and 30 June, 2021, will be extended by ten months. In addition, Driver Certificate of Professional Competence cards that expired during the initial period 01 February, 2020, and 31 August, 2020 (which were extended for seven months), and will fall to expire again during the period 01 September, 2020, and 31 March, 2021, will be extended again for six months or until 01 July, 2021, whichever is the latest.

## Customer Services

The last twelve months have seen an increase in email and telephone queries received by Customer Services in comparison to the same period last year. In May, Customer Services handled 13,523 phone calls, compared with 10,929 in May 2020, an increase of 24%. During the month, 3,168 emails were processed, compared with 2,085 in the same month last year, an increase of 52%.

May saw the Housing Administration Team introduce their new Starter New Home Purchase Scheme. This

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scheme allows first-time buyers the opportunity to buy newly constructed homes at a discounted price relative to their construction value under the Incremental Purchase Scheme. Customer Services aided the Housing Administration Team with this new scheme by fielding all general queries in relation to same.

The summer months are a busy time for grass cutting, and Customer Services continued to aid our colleagues in the Parks Department by fielding all queries relating to the extensive grass-cutting programme and its schedule for 2021.

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

- Customer Services call centre dealt with 13,523 calls. This represents an average of 676 per day, with the number of calls exceeding 800 on several occasions. 55% 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.
- 2,976 cases were created, with 845 of these logged on behalf of Public Representatives. 2,681 cases were closed, with 758 of these being cases logged by Public Representatives.
- A total of 3,168 emails were processed through the Customer Services email platform.
- 451 requests were received through the Voxpro out-of-hours services.
- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued, with a total of 469 cases being logged, 379 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. 94% of 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. There were 82 new Residential Parking Permits processed, with 56 issued.



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## 3. Schedule of Meetings for May

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
<b>Meetings of Full Council</b>		
Bi-Monthly Meeting	24.05.2021	Virtual
Special Meeting in relation to the closure of the Aer Lingus Cabin Crew Base at Shannon Airport	24.05.2021	Virtual
<b>Operational Briefings</b>		
Limerick City East	04.05.2021	Virtual
Limerick City North	04.05.2021	Virtual
Limerick City West	05.05.2021	Virtual
Local Community Development Committee	04.05.2021	Virtual
<b>Municipal District of:</b>		
<u>Newcastle West</u> Monthly Meeting	05.05.2021	Virtual
<u>Adare-Rathkeale</u> Monthly Meeting	11.05.2021	Virtual
<u>Cappamore-Kilmallock</u> Monthly Meeting	20.05.2021	Virtual
Corporate Policy Group	17.05.2021	Virtual
<b>Metropolitan District of Limerick</b> Monthly Meeting	17.05.2021	Virtual
Party Leaders' Meeting	24.05.2021	Virtual
Autism Working Group	31.05.2021	Virtual

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## 4. Access to Information

	May	2021 (January to May)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	25	117
FOI Internal Appeals	1	4
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	0
Total Ombudsman Requests	4	21
Total AIE Requests	1	3

## 5. Business Improvement

- MyPoint Consultation training was provided to eleven colleagues in May.
- A total of 882 users are now live on the Employee App – an increase of seven users on last month's figures.
- A reconciliation was performed between work mobile phone numbers per Corporate Services versus Active Directory.