

Chief Executive's Report

July 2021

Limerick Greenway opens to the public. Amenity will be a huge boost for the economy as well as the health of people in Limerick

#YourCouncilDay showcased the range of services provided to the people of Limerick by the local authority sector

Double Your Summer Tourism Campaign has significant impact on the tourism and hospitality sector in Limerick

Funding granted to support year-round outdoor hospitality

Changes made to Council's Organisational Structure to better adapt to challenges ahead and serve the people of Limerick

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Limerick City
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Economic Development and Enterprise Directorate

1. Trade & Investment

- Outdoor Seating and Accessories for Tourism and Hospitality Business Scheme:
 - 83 applications have been approved and €162,050 paid out in grants.
 - A street-by-street, town-by-town canvassing campaign of businesses to participate in the scheme is ongoing.
- Received €750,000 funding from Fáilte Ireland under the Local Authority Weatherproofing and Outdoor Dining Infrastructure Scheme to develop year-round outdoor dining on Bedford Row and Lower Thomas Street, Limerick. The Part 8 planning process for the development is under consideration.
- Two new retail outlets in Limerick City – Shoe Shop in Patrick Street and Sushi Bar in High Street.

2. Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Limerick

- 11 Trading Online Vouchers were completed and drawn down by Limerick businesses during the month, with 100 small businesses approved for this support to date this year.
- One Technical Assistant Grant for Micro Exporters was approved.
- LEO held eight Virtual Courses and Webinars during the month, including:

Start Your Own Business; Preparing your Business for Customs; Returning to Work Obligations for Employers; various Digital Media workshops and a new Lean for Micro Programme commenced. A Virtual Business Advice Clinic Day was held and LEO Limerick hosted a

Supply Chain Webinar in association with the German Irish Chamber.

- In the year to date, there have been 1,508 participants on the LEO business training courses and 116 business owners have availed of the LEO Mentoring Programme.
- #LookforLocal LEO campaign was launched nationally and is currently featuring in the local press and on Live95 and social media. The social media campaign is being supported by Marketing & Communications.

3. Innovate Limerick

- The Digital Collaboration Centre hosted its latest Tech Talk on 23 July where Jeff McCann from Dell Technologies provided a comprehensive overview on how Dell is enabling business transformation by delivering technical solutions through a strong partner ecosystem.
- Building works on the new Digital Collaboration Centre continue at pace, foundations have been poured and steel frame is due.
- ENGINE Hubs initiative received a great boost this week with the announcement by Minister Humphries that hubs in Limerick will receive a total of €230,000 in direct capital grant aid to facilitate remote working.

Film in Limerick

ENGINE Shorts

- Film in Limerick's short film training and production scheme, ENGINE Shorts, announced the six commissioned projects in July. Three films have been commissioned to film in Limerick, two in Tipperary and one in Clare. Press coverage for the announcement included: Limerick Post, Limerick Leader, Nenagh

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Guardian, Tipperary Star, Clare Echo, Irish Film and Television Network, as well as interviews on Spin South West and Tipp FM news.

- Director Mentoring Sessions

Peter Mackie Burns has joined the programme as the directing mentor to support the commissioned directors. Peter is the director of 'Rialto' (2019), written by Mark O'Halloran and 'Daphne' (2017). His films have screened at over 200 festivals internationally including Berlin, Venice and SXSW and his short film 'Milk' starring Oscar winner, Brenda Fricker, won the best short film at the Berlin Film Festival. In July, Peter held six 1-2-1 sessions with the commissioned ENGINE Shorts directors to discuss their approach to telling the stories. A second 1-2-1 session with each director is scheduled.

- Producer Mentoring Sessions

Juliette Bonass has joined the programme as the producing mentor to support the commissioned producers. Juliette is a producer at Element Pictures in Dublin. She has produced 'Rosie' (2018), written by Roddy Doyle and 'A Date for Mad Mary' (2016). She was also a panellist for the ENGINE Short industry pitch. In July, Juliette held six 1-2-1 sessions with commissioned ENGINE Shorts producers to discuss their approach to producing the films. A second 1-2-1 session with each producer is also scheduled.

Munster Animation Forum

- The Forum held two meetings in July to discuss existing and future training requirements for animation production in the province. 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.

ENGINE Docs

- Film in Limerick's documentary film training and production scheme continued its training programme in July, holding five full-day workshops and three lunchtime masterclass sessions (online) for shortlisted teams including:

- A Group Session with Patrick Hurley, Head of Industry at Sheffield Doc Fest, and Sophie Duncan, Talent Development Producer at Doc Fest, to discuss the development of the team's projects.
- A Masterclass with Martin DiCicco. Martin is a New York based Emmy-nominated director and cinematographer whose features include 'All That Passes By Through a Window That Doesn't Open' (2017) and 'Here There Is No Earth' (2018).
- A Workshop on Researching Documentary Ideas with Lizzie Gillett. Lizzie is the head of development at Passion Pictures, which is best known for the Academy Award winning 'Searching for Sugar Man' and 'One Day in September.' She is the producer of the climate change blockbuster, 'The Age of Stupid,' and is currently producing a feature documentary about Jackie Collins called 'Ladyboss.'
- A Masterclass with Daniel Hegarty on Starting a Documentary Production Company. Daniel is the Head of Production at Marmalade Films, a Dublin-based documentary production company. His credits include feature 'True True Blues' (2018) and 'Waterlilies' (2014).
- A Workshop on Interview Technique with Timothy George Kelly. Timothy is a documentary director based in London. His latest feature 'Brexitannia' was screened at festivals and broadcast in over 70 countries.
- A Masterclass with producer, Caitlin Mae Burke. New York based Caitlin is an award-winning producer of independent films and non-fiction television and the recipient of an Emmy award, a member of DOC NYC's "40 Under 40," and a 2018 Berlinale Talents alumna.
- A second Group Session with Patrick Hurley, Head of Industry at Sheffield Doc Fest, and Sophie Duncan, Talent Development Producer at Doc Fest, to discuss the development of the team's projects.

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- A Workshop on Visual storytelling and Shooting Tips with Kim Longinotto. One of the foremost documentary filmmakers working today, Kim is renowned internationally for her compellingly human portraits and her sensitive and compassionate treatment of difficult topics. She has produced over 20 features and her films have won BAFTAs, a Peabody Award and the prestigious Prix Art et Essai at the Cannes Film Festival.
- On 22 July, Digital Services received confirmation that an application submitted by the Broadband Officer under the Connected Hubs Call 2021 for funding for 13 of Limerick's Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) was successful. The €82K of funding received from the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) will be used to provide much needed audio-visual facilities to the BCPs by the end of 2021, as well as an access control system at each site to secure the equipment. This will enable members of the local community to broadcast local community events from the BCPs, as well as attend virtual training classes, workshops, and webinars by the DRCD and others. The facilities will also be of great benefit to those using the facilities for remote working.

4. Forward Planning

- The Public consultation on the Draft Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 continued throughout the month with a dedicated team available to meet members of the public at a number of consultation events across the city and county. Public consultation will continue until 06 September 2021.
- An online Webinar was hosted on 15 July where presentations were given on the purpose and content of the Draft Plan.

5. Digital Services

Digital Services

- On 13 July, the Broadband Officer in Digital Services attended a WiFi4EU workshop held by the EU Commission where WiFi4EU project deadlines across the different EU municipalities were discussed, as well as the steps required to be completed before a WiFi4EU project can be declared completed in a municipality in order for full funding to be redeemed. Installation of Limerick's WiFi4EU network subsequently commenced on 22 July, with 9 of 40 access points now live across Newcastle West, Abbeyfeale and Foynes. Installations will continue in other parts of the county in the coming months to deliver the WiFi4EU network before the November deadline.

- On 23 July, Digital Services submitted an application under the Digital Innovation Programme 2021 being coordinated by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) for funding for a pilot system that will leverage cutting-edge automated intelligence and machine learning technologies to deliver a realtime pothole identification and detection system. If successful, this will be the first system of its kind delivered by a local authority in Ireland, and will provide insights that will both enable the system to be scaled up to the county level, as well as suggest other areas where the same technology may be used effectively.

EU Programmes

- On 01 July, the Second Periodic review of +CityxChange project took place with the European Commission. The EU Programme Manager presented the work done over the past 18 months in Limerick and answered any questions on it posed by the Project Officers and External Experts. The Commission is happy with progress to date but cognisant of the challenges being faced over the next 12 months of implementation.

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- On 09 July, the EU Programme Manager met with Philip `Cheasty and Bob Flynn from Enterprise Ireland in relation to upcoming calls in Horizon Europe, in particular under Cluster 5 (Climate, Energy, and Mobility).
- On 14 July, the EU Programme Manager met with the Cities4PEDs Project to discuss +CityxChange. Cities4PEDs is a joint initiative between the cities of Brussels, Vienna and Stockholm to initiate and steer in-depth exchange and capacity building, fed with first-hand experiences of Positive Energy District development.



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Transportation and Mobility Directorate

1. Travel & Transportation Strategy

The National Transport Authority has approved a total of €100,000 in funding for five new bus shelters throughout Limerick City and County.

Fáilte Ireland has approved funding of €750,000 for Limerick City and County Council as part of the Weatherproofing and Outdoor Dining Infrastructure Scheme. The funding will be used to enhance the Bedford Row/Lower Thomas Street area with permanent weatherproofed outdoor dining infrastructure. A Part 8 planning application has been lodged for the development of this 'Limerick Outdoor Dining Experience Project.'

The proposed works will include:

- The installation of covered pergola structures with retractable roofs and toughened glass screens along Bedford Row and Thomas Street to create sheltered outdoor areas for dining.
- Additional lighting, planting, street furniture, water bottle refill stations, smart solar compacting bins.
- All necessary service, utility and ancillary site works.

2. Active Travel

Castletroy Urban Greenway

80% of the Castletroy Urban Greenway opened to the public on 22 July. The new Greenway provides connectivity between Castletroy College and Gaelscoil Chaladh an Treoigh. The main north-south spine is approximately 820m long. There is also an eastern link providing connectivity to the residential area of Walker's Road. The final phase of the project, a western link to Castletroy Town Centre, will open in the coming weeks.

3. Roads, Traffic & Cleansing

Supporting the Re-opening of Limerick

The Roads, Traffic and Cleansing Department continues to facilitate lane closures and install timber buildouts for hospitality businesses in Limerick as part of the effort to re-open Limerick for an 'Outdoor Summer.' To date, the Roads Section has facilitated nine lane/road closures as outlined below and 20 timber buildouts to facilitate outdoor hospitality:

- Upper Denmark Street.
- Local Road Glentworth Mews.
- Local Road Theatre Lane.
- Part of Lower Thomas Street.
- Market Alley Lane.
- Part of Howley's Quay.
- Back Lane.
- Post Office Lane.
- Local lane off Shannon Street.

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Community, Tourism and Culture Directorate

1. Urban & Rural Community Development

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

The monthly meeting of the LCDC was held on 20 July and two projects were approved for funding under the EU LEADER Programme:

Garryspillane GAA Club	Apollo Lighting Limited
Walkway Upgrade	Film and Television Lighting Services and Training
€7,462.50	€165,000.00

SOCIAL INCLUSION COMMUNITY ACTIVATION PROGRAMME (SICAP)

The Mid-Year Review of the Limerick SICAP Programme, delivered in Limerick Urban by the PAUL Partnership, in Limerick West Rural by West Limerick Resources and in Limerick East Rural by Ballyhoura Development, was completed. This showed that programme achievements are satisfactory based on targets set in the 2021 Annual Plan and taking into account the difficult conditions that prevailed during 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions. The Review also confirmed that all financial and budgetary parameters comply with rules of the programme. The Mid-Year Review for each of the three Limerick SICAP areas was approved by the Local Community Development Committee at its meeting on 20 July following detailed review by the SICAP Sub-Committee. In addition, Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development, Mr. Joe O'Brien, TD, confirmed that the SICAP programme contract will be extended by one year, and will now run up to end of December 2023. The SICAP annual budget for Limerick, across the three areas, is €2.25 million.

AGE FRIENDLY

There was a Joint Ministerial launch of the Age Friendly Homes Programme on 13 July by Ms. Mary Butler, TD, Minister of State at the Department of Health with responsibility for Mental Health and Older People, and Mr. Peter Burke, TD, Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with responsibility for Local Government and Planning.

EU Projects Meeting held on 16 July – Final Claim approved and submitted for PLACE EE.

Online Meetings/Webinars attended

- National Age Friendly Programme Managers' meeting.
- Age Friendly Induction Training.

Limerick COVID-19 Supports

- A meeting of the COVID Forum was held on 22 July.

The Keep Well/Community Call data hub is now publicly accessible at <https://keep-well-campaign-geohive.hub.arcgis.com/> showing the data for all local authorities around the country.

Figures for Limerick continue to be updated weekly in the Age friendly section and uploaded onto the national Hub.

INTEGRATION

Funding for National Play Day was secured and events and activities were held in July for 118 children living in direct provision. The activities included arts and crafts, sports activities and trips.

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HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Healthy Limerick welcomed Minister of State with responsibility for Public Health, Wellbeing and National Drugs Strategy, Mr. Frank Feighan, TD.

The Minister met with members of the Steering Group of Limerick Food Partnership and discussed its current work and plans for addressing food poverty and also providing healthy food to those in need. The Limerick Food Partnership is also rolling out healthy cooking classes to help raise awareness of the benefits of healthy food and cooking.

Healthy Limerick participated in #YourCouncilDay on 01 July providing regular updates throughout the day on Healthy Limerick funded projects.

Wellbeing classes in the People's Park under the Keep Well initiative are continuing each Tuesday and are proving very successful, attracting all age groups and abilities to stretch and move in the outdoors.

2. Tourism

Limerick Greenway

The Limerick Greenway, the newly renovated 40 km scenic off-road walking and cycling route, connecting the three market towns of Rathkeale, Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale, opened on 01 July. Earmarked to be transformative for the region, this €10 million visionary project is the biggest outdoor tourism amenity project ever undertaken in Limerick by Limerick City and County Council.

- Limerick Greenway extensive resurfacing and upgrading works for the Limerick Greenway have been completed and a 37 km stretch from Rathkeale to Abbeyfeale opened on 01 July. The remaining 3 km stretch to the Kerry border will open later in 2021.
- Limerick City and County Council is continuing to work with Springboard Communications and colleagues in

Marketing and Communications to market and promote this high-quality new tourism attraction. As part of these activities, an extensive marketing and promotion campaign has been developed to inform visitors of Ireland's newest Greenway. This included radio, TV, print media and online advertising. A new website hosted by Limerick.ie also launched on the 01 July, with downloadable material such as logos, videos and photography for local businesses to use. In the first week, there were 140,000 views of the new Greenway video online. Over 10,000 brochures have also been distributed throughout the county.

- New access, discovery and orientation signage has been installed all along the Limerick Greenway. This includes accompanying town loops to engage visitors with the local heritage, culture and history of the area as they travel along the Greenway. Lots of businesses and, in particular, the four local hotels along the Greenway have already seen an increase in numbers and enquiries, with many providing bespoke Greenway packages to visitors.
- Local artist, Steve O'Donnell, has painted a number of murals on buildings and the N21 underpass along the Limerick Greenway.
- Sheehan's Hotels re-opened the Platform 22 Café, a new playground, pitch 'n putt, dog kennels, picnic area and extensive car parking at the Greenway Hub, Barnagh, site of the former Barnagh Gardens, which closed 26 years ago. Another local business owner opened Locomotion bike hire and shop at the site. In little over four weeks, the café alone has welcomed over 15,000 customers and plans are already in place to expand the business offering. This Hub, with services, accesses directly onto the Greenway before the newly renovated Barnagh Tunnel and Barnagh Station House and has proven an excellent base for walkers and cyclists.
- The Tourism Hub, the appointed consultants for the delivery of the Greenway Destination Development Programme, in partnership with Kerry County Council and local development companies, has commenced its stakeholder engagement. This programme will run for

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18 months and aims to support local businesses to become 'Greenway ready' when developing and promoting their businesses.

Shannon Estuary Way

The Tourism Hub continues to work with local businesses, start-ups and communities on the Shannon Estuary Way Destination Development Programme. This programme aims to support local businesses to leverage the designation of this route and its tourism attractions to support increased and sustainable visitor numbers to the region, making the Shannon Estuary Way a distinct destination in itself.

3. Arts Office

OPEN CALLS

Individual Arts Bursary Awards Scheme 2021

The Individual Arts Bursary Awards Scheme 2021 opened for applications on 16 July and will close on 25 August. Limerick City and County Council invites applications from professional artists who wish to be considered for a Bursary of up to €4,000 for the development of work/professional skills. Artists based in the Council's administrative area, or operating substantially within Limerick City and County, can apply for a bursary in multiple art forms, including Visual Arts, Circus, Dance and Literature.

This scheme is in line with the Limerick Cultural Strategy Aim and Objective 1: To grow Limerick's cultural capacity by retaining and attracting creative practitioners to live and work in Limerick –

- Support and develop the creativity of individual artists in Limerick through recognising the need to support the making and development of creative work, as well as its presentation and exhibition.
- Encourage the highest standards of creativity and excellence in all aspects of cultural activities.

Dolores O'Riordan Music Bursary Award 2021

The Dolores O'Riordan Music Bursary Award 2021 opened for applications on 16 July and will close on 25 August. Dolores O'Riordan, singer, songwriter and lead vocalist with The Cranberries, was one of Ireland's most enduringly popular artists. This music bursary is an award to honour her memory and to support a Limerick professional musician to develop their career.

Limerick City and County Council invites applications from professional musicians who wish to be considered for a Bursary of up to €4,000 for the development of work/professional skills. Artists based in the Council's administrative area, or operating substantially within Limerick City and County, can apply for a Bursary.

This scheme is in line with the Limerick Cultural Strategy Aim and Objective 1.

Strategic Fund

The Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts Scheme supports applications to national and international funding bodies to help leverage funding, by offering general letters of support, benefit in kind, or a percentage of any funding awarded in the event of a successful application. In July, eight letters of support were issued - two to the Arts Council Workspace Scheme, three to the Arts Council Agility Award and three to the Arts Council Festival Investment Scheme.

Drama League Ireland Summer School 2021 Bursaries

In July, Limerick Arts Office awarded two bursaries for participants - Liam McCarthy and Liam Nelligan - to attend the Drama League of Ireland Summer School 2021 at the University of Limerick. The 55th Annual Summer School runs for a week, commencing on 31 July. This bursary will cover a week's tuition, (lectures, workshop etc.), offering the usual wide range of courses, catering for all levels of experience in acting and directing, as well as a class in Set Design. The school did not go ahead in 2020 due to COVID-19.

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CREATIVE IRELAND FUNDED PROJECTS

Climate Action Fund

On 29 July, The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, in collaboration with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, announced the 14 successful recipients of the €2 million Creative Climate Action Fund. This Creative Ireland initiative supports creative, cultural and artistic projects that build awareness around climate change and empowers citizens to make meaningful behavioural changes.

Limerick will receive funding for the Limerick Decarbonisation Project. The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and Limerick City and County Council intend to support a collaboration between communities in Limerick and the arts, culture and creative sectors, in partnership with University of Limerick's Fab Lab, Colaborativa and Space Engagers to enable community-led open innovation in Limerick's decarbonisation mission.

Five community groups, identified through an expression of interest shared via the Limerick Public Participation Network, will be invited to first examine decarbonisation and Limerick's Decarbonisation Plan, identify an aspect of decarbonisation that matters to them and then work with a creative partner to explore and enable behaviour change towards decarbonisation in their day-to-day lives and activities.

Community groups will be paired with an arts or creative industries partner who is selected through an open call process. It is anticipated that there will be five outputs from the collaborations in a range of creative mediums and skills.

The collaborations will support learning and doing together, and will use Limerick's Citizen Innovation Lab as a collaboration platform to create impact through empowering communities in decarbonising Limerick by 2050, with citizen creativity placed at the core of the process contributing to a positive cycle of collaboration

and enabling a just transition for all. Projects will take place between September 2021 and end 2022.

Creativity in Older Age - Musicians on Call

Musicians on Call is delivered in collaboration with, and led by, Limerick Arts Office, Age Friendly Limerick and Healthy Limerick, in partnership with Clare and Tipperary County Councils.

These sessions, with professionally trained musicians performing for residents and staff, were delivered in two Limerick health settings on 12 and 26 July – St. Ita's Community Nursing Unit, Newcastle West, and St. Camillus' Hospital, Limerick. They also had their first visit to the two North Tipperary Health settings on 13 July.

Limerick Pride Festival

Limerick Pride aims to encourage the empowerment and participation of the LGBT+ community and allies through a number of virtual events. These events will be shown on our social platforms. We will be working in collaboration with many different people, groups, and organisations, both locally and nationally.

This year's virtual festival took place from 05-11 July. Through open communication and active collaboration with a wealth of artists, organisations, and community groups, we have compiled a diverse selection of events to showcase the amazing creativity our local and national artists possess.

Ireland's first-ever swim parade to open Limerick Pride week had many organisations involved with TDs attending, and also the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler. Highlights included a virtual parade, swim parade and movie night. There was also a clear focus on LGBT+ workshops and awareness such as LGBTQIA+ Explained workshop hosted by ShoutOut and Trans talk in conversation with Noah Halpin, Cearbhall Turraoin, and Sarah R. Phillips, who is the CEO of TENDI. There was also equality for LGBT Families panel discussion hosted by the CEO of Equality for Children, to name but a few of the events during Limerick Pride Festival 2021.

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ARTS COUNCIL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT PROGRAMME

PARTNERSHIPS

County Limerick Youth Theatre

In the first week of July, the final weekly rehearsal in preparation for the summer collaborative production, Méadú took place. On 18 July, work began on the theatre-film for Méadú with rehearsals on improvisation and devising continuing throughout the month.

On 13 July, work began with another summer production. They prepared by sharing their ideas, interests, and honing in on what they want their theatre-film to be about, with rehearsals in the following days outside in the yard of Herbertstown Community Centre, and they started writing their script. These theatre productions will be eventually turned into a film coinciding with two groups working at the same time in Limerick Youth Theatre.

On 17 July, 17 members of County Limerick Youth Theatre went to the Belltable Theatre and Honest Arts' production of Waiting for Poirot in the People's Park, Limerick City, while it is in the preview stage. The young artists loved it, for a few of them it was the first time they had ever seen a professional production and they recognised a few of the artists involved who had delivered workshops to them when working online earlier in the year.

EUROPEAN PROJECTS

Libertalia Performance of 'Born by the River'

On 04 July, the much-anticipated performance of 'Born by the River' was played to a small audience in the UK with live streaming of the 13-scene play. Many of the artists, one of whom was from Limerick, co-created remotely on film, with a big screen to integrate their film into the performance. The scenes for Born by the River were designed in the exploration Labs and the costumes and props were also part of the process. Each scene used either dance, physical theatre and/or puppetry and was performed to the music, alongside narration.

This final play from Libertalia was made up of a collaborative collection of work, labs and performances of artists and performers from around Europe and gathered by artistic collective Collective Moves in the UK. The aim was to 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.

4. Property & Community Facilities

DERELICTION AND VACANCY

Dereliction, Vacancy and Reuse Team - July	
Inspections carried out	97
Property and Community Facilities Department Notices issued	12
Statutory Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act	3
Cases closed through engagement	15
Properties entered onto the Derelict Sites Register	0
Properties put forward for Compulsory Acquisition (Section 15 Notices)	0
Properties Compulsorily Acquired (Section 17 Notices)	0

BIN WAIVERS

Bin Waivers Approved	3
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5. Libraries, Gallery & Museum

Library

- Summer Stars, the national reading programme, is proving extremely popular again this year with children registering in all library branches. To date, over 1,500 of young borrowers have signed up and are borrowing books in a wide network of branches and online via the BorrowBox app. Library staff throughout the city and county are welcoming new and existing readers to browse and borrow and avail of the great recommendations and reading supports in place.
- On 07 July, as part of Limerick Libraries Summer Stars online programme of supporting events, Dawn from Dogs Trust Ireland spoke to families about their work, and answered all their questions about dog safety. On 09 July, the first in a series of free, online, family-friendly drawing workshops went live. Well known RTE children's presenter, Tina Mation, showed all those watching how to draw a dragon. Families are encouraged to call into their local library to collect their free drawing sheets that can be used to draw along with Tina. The first three videos have garnered hundreds of views to date, and are still available to watch on social media channels.
- To mark #YourCouncilDay, Newcastle West Library promoted an image of its "Summer Stars Reading Programme for Children" branch display. Scoil Iósaf and Courtenay School Summer Camps dropped into the branch for a tour of the library, signed up for the Summer Reading Challenge and enjoyed a lively story time session. The library facilitated six visits during the month. Rathkeale Library also hosted school Summer Camp visits and 29 children went home with a library goody bag to encourage reading over the summer.
- UEFA Euro 2020 was celebrated in Watch House Cross Library with a special display of books about the teams, game skills and famous players participating. The summer Olympics in Tokyo have also been the subject of promotions in many branches. Sports books can be a great resource to encourage the reluctant

reader. Dooradoyle Library created a sports themed display where children can read all about their favourite athletes and learn about the different sporting events that make up the Olympic Games. 206 countries are taking part in this year's Olympics and their flags are displayed around the library.

- Dooradoyle Library hosted a number of visits from teachers and students who are taking part in the July Provision Programme. July Provision is a scheme provided by the Department of Education, which funds an extended school year for autistic schoolchildren and/or those with a profound general learning disability. This enables students in those schools with special educational needs to learn at a pace more suitable to their needs.

Limerick Museum

- The Limerick Greenway was opened to the public on 01 July. Limerick Museum collaborated on this project by providing both research and images for use on information panels, brochures and other aspects of the Limerick Greenway.
- The official opening of the Wild Geese Museum in old St. Munchin's Church on King's Island took place on 09 July. Limerick Museum was delighted to collaborate with Limerick Civic Trust and the Consular Agency of France in Limerick to turn the old St. Munchin's Church into Limerick's Wild Geese Museum, a permanent exhibition space dedicated to the city's Wild Geese heritage. Limerick Museum contributed all of the objects and exhibition cases, while the exhibition space was provided by the Civic Trust.
- Limerick Museum continued its well-established and fruitful partnership with the Hunt Museum by lending paintings for display in the Wild Atlantic Way Exhibition, which was curated by Naomi O'Nolan and opened in the Hunt Museum on 09 July.

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Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- Three exhibitions opened on 08 July - The Loneliness of Being German, featuring Vera Klute and Thomas Brezing - two German artists who have been resident in Ireland for over 20 years; Common Thread, by Mairhead Tobin, her first solo exhibition in LCGA; and a selection from the National Collection of Contemporary Drawing (NCCD) curated by Samuel Walsh. LCGA published two catalogues to accompany these exhibitions. There is a wealth of work on view for local residents and visitors and to date we have welcomed 1,981 people to the Gallery.
- The scheduled Summer Camp activities will this year be available online due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Equality Human Rights and Diversity (EHRD) training continues for staff at the Gallery in line with Arts Council policy and priority as part of their strategic plan, Making Great Art Work.
- Sectoral meetings with the visual arts sector nationally are taking place to address issues around Public Engagement.
- Planning continues for the next exhibitions: Songs of the Soil by Mark Garry, and a solo exhibition by Aideen Barry.
- Work continues on an open call for the new “virtual” artist in residence, which will be aligned to an in-house artist who will work from the Gallery as a pilot project. This is in line with LCGA’s strategic plan to make LCGA a model of a civic space for the 21st century.
- Work has commenced on the annual strategic funding application to the Arts Council and a further Capacity Building application for additional support for the Artist in Residence programme.
- LCGA has worked with the Hunt Museum for its summer exhibition ‘A Wild Atlantic Way’ providing 11 artworks from the Permanent Collection for the exhibition.



Chief Executive's Report



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Limerick City
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Regeneration Directorate

1. Regeneration

- Stage 4 application (tender report) submitted to the Department in respect of Cliona Park Phase 3 (18 new residential units in Moyross).
- Stage 4 application (tender report) submitted to the Department in respect of Churchfield Phase 2 (38 new residential units in Southill).
- Contract awarded for thermal upgrade of 20 units in St Mary's Park (Contract no. 122).

Implementation Plan (LRFIP). The Social Intervention Fund targets Regeneration areas in the city, local communities designated as disadvantaged and people at risk of social exclusion. Projects must be clearly linked to the objectives set out under the social pillar of the LRFIP.

The SIF 2021 received approval from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in August of €3.36 million to fund 137 projects.

Social Intervention Fund

The Social Intervention Fund (SIF) is a grant scheme for local social, economic and community development projects under the Limerick Regeneration Framework



Chief Executive's Report



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Housing Directorate

1. Housing Support Services

• Waiting List

Housing Waiting List	2,319
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• Allocations

	No. of Units July 2021	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	3	9
Newcastle West	2	13
Metropolitan District	51	146
Cappamore-Kilmallock	2	21
Total	58	189

• Allocations Refusals

	No. of Units July 2021	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	2	4
Newcastle West	0	1
Metropolitan District	1	7
Cappamore-Kilmallock	0	2
Total	3	14

• Approved Housing Body Allocations 2021 (year to date)

Total Nominations	173
Successful Nominations	131
Nominations Pending	7
Unsuccessful Nominations	35

• Traveller Housing Welfare

No. of Units offered July 2021	3
Year to Date	10

* these figures are included in allocations figures

• Housing Assistance Payments Limerick (HAP)

2,479 of active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	22
No. of Amendments	213
No. of Cessations	47

Chief Executive's Report



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Home Improvement Schemes

July 2021	MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HAGS (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	No.	DPG (Disabled Person's Grant)	No.
Adare-Rathkeale	€11,500.00	2	€6,147.93	1	€13,250.00	3	€0.00	0
Newcastle West	€23,000.00	4	€15,635.10	1	€29,900.00	5	€0.00	0
Metropolitan	€40,099.00	8	€80,578.13	8	€47,517.50	13	€50,438.61	1
Cappamore-Kilmallock	€7,750.00	2	€0.00	0	€10,180.00	3	€0.00	0
Total	€82,349.00	16	€102,361.16	10	€100,847.50	24	€50,438.61	1
Total Monies issued in July 2021 = €335,996.27								
Total Grants issued in July 2021 = 51								

January to July 2021	MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HAGS (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	No.	HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	No.	DPG (Disabled Person's Grant)	No.
Adare-Rathkeale	€77,357.34	15	€57,512.05	8	€145,164.15	33	€0.00	0
Newcastle West	€67,500.00	12	€82,122.63	13	€175,231.38	41	€0.00	0
Metropolitan	€192,501.50	34	€316,251.92	46	€183,978.00	52	€50,807.49	3
Cappamore-Kilmallock	€139,856.04	26	€80,500.37	9	€102,380.00	21	€0.00	0
Total	€477,214.88	87	€536,386.97	76	€606,753.53	147	€50,807.49	3
Total Monies issued January to July 2021 = €1,671,162.87								
Total Grants issued January to July 2021 = 313								

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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 sixteen 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 fourteen 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 that are already in receipt of social housing support by Limerick City and County Council, ie 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 for further information.

Rent Collection

Rent Collection Limerick City and County Council					
Opening Balance at 01/01/2021	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing balance 31/07/2021	% Collection
€5,040,713	€10,240,997	€15,281,710	€9,814,503	€5,467,207	64%

Chief Executive's Report



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

Individuals – July 2021		
Location	Description	Beds Used
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	6
Clare Street Emergency Pods	Adults without children accommodated in low threshold emergency accommodation	11
Temporary Emergency Provision TEP 1 (Edenvilla)	Low threshold, night by night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	12
Temporary Emergency Provision TEP 2 (Phoenix Lodge)	Low threshold, night by night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	16
Total		134

Families				
Location	Description	Beds Used		
		Adults	Children	Families
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	7	6
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	2	2	2
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	9	13	8
Totals		Adults	Children	Families
		17	22	16

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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	2
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. Approved	2
Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans	
Loan Applications: No. Received	5
Loan Applications: No. Approved	0
Deed of Discharge	
Deed of Discharge Applications: No. Received	12
Consent to Sale	
Consent to Sale Applications: No. Received	4
Cottage Purchase Annuity	
No. of Cottage Purchase Annuity Applications	3
Ground Rent	
No. of Ground Rent Applications	2

Freedom of Information, Data Requests and Ombudsman

Freedom of Information Requested submitted	4
Ombudsman Query Cases	3
Data Access Requests	4

Chief Executive's Report



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2. Local Authority Housing Construction & Maintenance

The Team is dedicated to delivering:

- Build programme on Council-owned lands.
- Council stock refurbishment.
- Council stock maintenance

Project Updates

- **Housing Scheme at Old Christians, Rathbane**
43-unit development at the Old Christians Site in Rathbane complete.
- **Clonlong Halting Site**
Construction of two dwelling houses complete at Clonlong Halting Site.

• Home Improvement Schemes

Inspections and Recommendations for Home Improvement Schemes – July

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-Inspection	Final Inspection	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	10	0	7	17
HAGS (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	7	0	9	16
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	13	0	19	32
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	30	0	35	65
Total Inspections Year to Date	6	256	0	141	403

Approvals Sought/Obtained

- Stage 3 approval submitted to the Department for Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.
- Stage 4 approval submitted to the Department for Clare Street, Limerick.

Finance

Applications for funding totalling €2,413,057 issued to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage during July.

Chief Executive's Report



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3. Strategy & Non Local Authority Housing Construction

The Team is dedicated to delivering:

- Formulation of Housing Strategies and Policies.
- Build programme with Approved Housing Bodies and Private Developers.
- Acquisition Programme.
- Lease Programme.

1. Build, Buy and Lease

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

As at 31 July (01.01.21 - 31.07.21)	Build	Buy	Lease	Total
Complete	65	12	57	134
In Progress	188	23	72	283
Overall Complete and In Progress	253	35	129	417
'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 January and July 2021.

2. Current Operational Programme

Five properties were returned in July 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 July - Categorisation	
Cat 1	1
Cat 2	2
Cat 3	1
Cat 4	0
To be inspected	1
TOTAL	5

House Returns July - Municipal District	
Adare-Rathkeale	1
Cappamore-Kilmallock	0
Newcastle West	2
Metropolitan Area	2
TOTAL	5

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Works in ten properties were completed in July – one by the Local Authority Construction Team, eight by the Local Authority Maintenance Team and one by the Regeneration Team. These properties are now ready for allocation.

Current Working Programme		
	Completed in July	In Progress
Local Authority Construction Team	1	73
Local Authority Maintenance Team	8	65
Approved Housing Body stock transfer in progress	0	25
Regeneration Team	1	9
Team to be assigned	N/A	16
TOTAL	10	188

4. Municipal District Offices

Metropolitan District of Limerick

Metropolitan District Meetings

The Online Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick took place on 19 July. 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.

Outdoor Dining Summer 2021

In support of the hospitality sector in the city centre, picnic tables were installed across the city in areas including Harvey's Quay Boardwalk, Lower Thomas Street, Arthur's Quay, the People's Park, Robert Byrne Park and Curragower Park.

Economic and Public Realm Revitalisation Project

120 flower hanging baskets were installed in the city centre streets. This project is in addition to the annual

Bridges in Bloom Project which includes the installation of flower tiers and hanging baskets across the city centre.

People's Park

The Lime Tree Theatre staged 'Waiting for Poirot' play in the People's Park. The two-week long nightly site-responsive production was a great success with all involved. The Parks Department installed Festoon Lighting in preparation of the event and this lighting will now remain in place and adds a colourful atmosphere to the park at dusk.

Castletroy Park

The walkways in Castletroy Park were overlaid with black top with surface water drainage installed. Furthermore, a 200m long gravel stabilisation running track has been installed in the park for all users.

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Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

The monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale took place on 06 July in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle.

Access to the public office and library continues to be closed due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, services to the public continue via appointment, phone, post and email.

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

- **41** cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
- **35** cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

Road Works Programme

- A macadam overlay was carried out on the R523 Rathkeale Lower Main Street to Church Street.
- Surface dressing works were carried out on the following roads:
 - L1210 Ballygrennan to Lees Cross.
 - L1207 Kilfinny to Neville's Cross.
 - R518 Mullins Cross to Dromard.
 - L6010 Shanpallas.
 - L8034 Tuogh East to Shauntraud.
 - L6005 Ballyengland.
 - L1236 Ballycullen Junction to Newbridge.
 - R521 Grouse Lodge to Kate Dalys.
- Drainage Works were carried out on the L6113 Knocknabooly West.

Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock was held in Kilmallock on 15 July.

Access to the public office continues to be closed due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, services to the public continue via appointment, phone, post and email.

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

- **42** cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
- **53** cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

Road Works Programme 2021

- Surface dressing works carried out in the District included roads at:
 - L5040 Shandangan Brokile.
 - L5020 Puckane, Meentula.
 - L5067 Dromkeen Church towards Nicker.
 - L5065 Kileagh, Ballybrood.
 - L1153 Mountsion, Dromkeen.
 - L5088/L5145 Dunvullen.
- Road improvement works were carried out at fourteen locations, including the R512, R513 and R516, and a total of nine local roads.
- One CLÁR Scheme was completed at Glenroe.
- Office of Public Work Minor Flood Mitigation Works completed at Gotoon, Hospital.
- A total of six Local Improvement Schemes were completed.
- Outdoor Recreation and Infrastructure Scheme completed at Lough Gur.

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Municipal District of Newcastle West

- The July Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West took place on 14 July.
- At the Monthly Meeting, the Councillors approved the introduction of 30kph speed limits for estates at Rathroan, Athea, and Ellis Wood, Abbeyfeale.
- Grants under the Community Initiative Scheme to the value of €20,000 were also approved at the Meeting. The following were awarded funding: Abbeyfeale District Search & Rescue, Abbeyfeale Community Leisure/Townpark, Glórach Theatre, West Limerick Tourism and West Limerick Community Radio.
- The Newcastle West District Roads Programme of Works 2021 continued, with the Programme over 85% completed at the end of July.
- The Draft Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 commenced public consultation and a public consultation event was organised at the Newcastle West District Office on 08 July. Attendance was by appointment in order to adhere to COVID-19 public health guidelines.



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Planning, Environment and Place-Making Directorate

1. Planning Development

Planning Applications

A total of 138 new planning applications were received as follows:

Part 8	1
Housing Developments	0
Domestic Developments	104
Agricultural Developments	12
Commercial Developments/Change of Use	7
Sporting/Community and Educational Developments	2
Other Developments	12

The current applications include proposals for:

Part 8 for the construction of new boundary wall, remedial works to either side of proposed new boundary wall, soft landscaping including planting and trees and all associated site works at Mount Saint Oliver Cemetery, Kilmallock Road, Limerick.

2. Environment, Recreation & Climate Change

Cemeteries

Number of Burials in City Cemeteries

Mount St. Lawrence	14
Mount St. Oliver	19
Castlemungret	5
Kilmurry	1

Waste Regulation and Enforcement

- 130 complaints were received in July.
- A total of 449 inspections were undertaken during the month.
- The Department issued 66 Statutory Notices.
- Four Directions were served by the Department.
- 25 Warning Letters were issued in July
- A total of five fines were issued during the period.
- Legal proceedings were initiated in two cases.

3. Urban Innovation

+CityxChange, Positive Energy Champions

July saw the Positive Energy Champions really build momentum with their plans to change the way they use energy. The Champions have now submitted their second diary entry using the Council's consultation platform MyPoint, where they describe their experiences and upload pictures and videos on a secure platform that the Team can then share. There has been a lot of enthusiasm for the campaign and a wide variety of actions have been taken this month, for example:

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Aoife McKeon sought volunteers to take part in her Empowering Communities Project. She will use the +CityxChange mapping app, developed by project partners Space Engagers. Aoife will be focusing her project on the King's Island area and the data generated by the ideas of the people who live, work and enjoy this area of great history, surrounded by the Shannon and Abbey Rivers. Areas for potential renewable and energy efficiency projects will be identified.

Grainne McInerney who is looking to harness the heat generated from the coffee shop kitchen on the ground floor of her building to heat the apartment above, has installed heat sensors, provided by the +CityxChange Team, into her building. Project Partners IES are monitoring the sensors. High temperatures shown as expected in Coffee Shop kitchen. Grainne has discussed heat exchange options with several engineers, an alternative way of extracting heat may be required.

Andrew O'Connell of St. Michael's Rowing Club - who have installed Solar Panels on the clubhouse to decarbonise their launches - has worked closely with Limerick Fly Club this month to gain access to Weather Station information. Solar Irradiance meter delivery and set-up were successful and day-to-day energy production was successful from the solar panels on the roof of St. Michael's Rowing Club due to very sunny days recently.

Details of all the Champions can be viewed at www.limerick.ie/cityxchange/positive-energy-champions-2021
More updates from the Positive Energy Champions next month!

+CityxChange, Innovation Lab

Construction works commenced on project of Innovation Hub in the former Dunnes Stores Building at Sarsfield Street in the city centre as part of UL City Centre Campus. This project is developed in collaboration with the University of Limerick and a consortium of Consulting Partners. The Innovation Lab is part of +CityxChange project and will accommodate Citizens' Observatory, Engagement Hub and FAB Lab where citizens can participate and observe planning and place-making required to achieve sustainable development for Limerick and the region. It will demonstrate Limerick's commitment to a community-led, inclusive, democratic, evidence-based, technical and structured approach to the clean energy transition. The Innovation Lab is expected to be completed and opened in October.

4. Veterinary Services

- Four stray or wandering equines were impounded.
- The Dog Control Unit processed five dogs during the month.



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National and Regional Shared Services Centre Directorate

1. Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Shared Services Centre

- There were 62,198 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAP SSC at the end of July.
- A weekly average of 291 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2021.
- The July landlord payment run was €55.3 million.
- The weekly tenant debit at the end of July was €3.1 million.
- The Debt Management Unit of the HAP SSC collected a total of €88.8 million in differential rent to end of July.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of July was 98%.
- The Debt Management Unit issued 4,837 HAP debt reminder letters in July.
- The Debt Management Unit issued 3,963 HAP COVID-19 temporary reminder letters in July.

2. Fire and Emergency

Statistics

	No. of Fire Related Calls	No. of Non Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call-outs 01/07/2021 – 31/07/2021	58	57	115
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	64%	62%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	24%	27%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	12%	11%	

	No. Received / Assigned	No. Validated	No. Invalidated / Refused	No. Granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications July	9	9	0	10	
Disability Access Cert Applications July	5	5	0	9	
Licensing Applications July	8	8	0		
Commencement Notice July	51	48	1	48	49
Completion Certificate July	14	14	0	14	14
Planning Referrals July	12				9
Sugar CRM Cases July	1				5

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Fire and Emergency Training Events

During the month, there were no off-station training courses held. All on-station training continued in all stations throughout this period.

Civil Defence attendance at Events

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

Vaccination Centre - daily

Patient Transfer – Limerick Residence to Croom Hospital and return – 1 day

Irish Blood Transfusion Service Blood Donor Clinics

- Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick - 1 day
- St. John's Pavillion, Limerick - 1 day
- Greenhills Hotel, Limerick - 2 days
- Caherconlish Centre - 1 day
- South Court Hotel, Limerick - 1 day

Water Safety

Number of lifebuoy replacements	Total January - June	July	Total 2021
Metropolitan Area	3	4	7
Municipal Area	4	4	8

Munster Regional Communications Centre (MRCC)

	No. of Calls mobilised to an emergency incident by MRCC	Other Calls	Average Call Processing Time	Total No. of Calls in June
No. of Call-Outs 01/07/2021 - 31/07/2021	985	1,000	1 min. 17 seconds	1,985



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Support Services Directorate

1. Finance

Commercial Rates and Loans

Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2021	
As at 31 July 2021	
Opening Balance - 01 Jan €	10,696,120 *
Accruals €	59,999,309 **
Vacant Property Adjustment €	362,275
Write Offs / Waivers €	14,886,043
Total for Collection €	55,447,111
Amount Collected €	33,408,150
Arrears €	22,038,961
Specific Doubtful Arrears €	3,506,668
% Collected	64%

Debtors Loans	
As at 31 July 2021*	
Opening Balance - 01 Jan €	357,981 *
Accruals €	910,737 ^
Write Offs / Waivers €	46
To Collect €	1,268,672
Receipts €	1,108,561
Arrears €	160,111
% Collected	87%

* subject to audit of year end accounts for 2020

^ Accruals not updated for loans for July 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

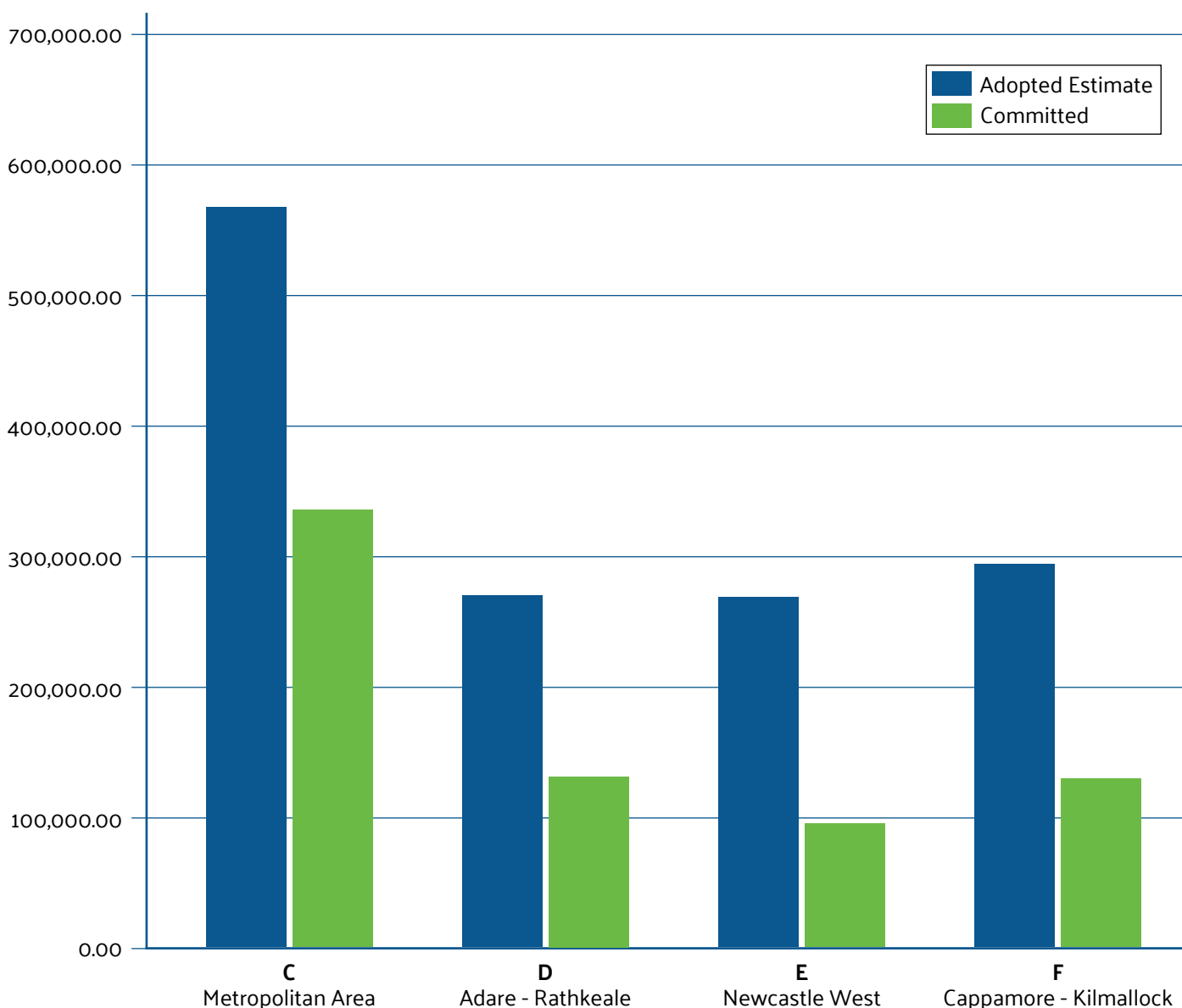


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Limerick City & County Council

General Municipal Allocation 2021 Adopted Estimate €1.403 Million

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



Municip (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate (€)	Value Committed (€)
C Metropolitan Area	568,000.00	338,684
D Adare - Rathkeale	270,000.00	131,887
E Newcastle West	270,000.00	97,503
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	295,000.00	131,218

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2. Business Improvement

- As a result of the Organisational Restructuring on 01 July, Business Improvement was heavily involved in system updates and validation.
- Business Improvement engaged with Transportation & Mobility to launch the Condell Road Section 38 consultation on MyPoint.
- A total of 880 users are now live on the Employee App.
- Two staff photo competitions were launched on the Employee App. The objectives are (i) to promote increased app usage and (ii) to showcase the Limerick Greenway and Limerick branding.

3. Corporate, Governance and Customer Services

Office of the Mayor

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

- Jobs Announcement for Kirby Group Engineering. Venue: Kirby Group Engineering, Limerick Headquarters, Raheen Business Park, Raheen, Limerick.
- Celebration of Limerick Pride Festival 2021 with Rainbow River Swim Parade from St. Michael's Rowing Club.
- Official Opening of the Wild Geese Museum at former St. Munchin's Church in King's Island. The museum is dedicated to the history of the Wild Geese in Europe and is the result of a collaboration between Limerick Museum, Limerick Civic Trust and the Consular Agency of France in Limerick.
- Courtesy Visit of His Excellency, Mr. Vincent Guérend, Ambassador of France, to Ireland at Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay.
- Invitation from Ambassador Vincent Guérend, on the occasion of his visit to Limerick, to a Reception in the Garden of the People's Museum, No. 2, Pery Square, Limerick, followed by dinner at No. 1, Pery Square.
- Unveiling of plaque, as part of the Limerick Bastille Day Wild Geese Festival, in honour of the women of Limerick who fought so bravely to defend the city during the siege of 1690. Venue: The railings of St. John's Church on St. John's Square, Limerick.
- Limerick's National Day of Commemoration Ceremony. Venue: Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Launch of the Limerick Irish Algerian Friendship Group. The Group has been established to promote the intercultural integration of the Algerian PhD students who arrived in January 2021 in University of Limerick. Venue: Limerick Milk Market.
- Limerick Bastille Day Wild Geese Festival commemorating the Flight of the Wild Geese and celebrating the longstanding friendship between Ireland and France. Venue: King John's Castle, Limerick.
- Board Meeting of Limerick Mental Health Association to outline its plans and present new Strategic Plan and Limerick Mental Health Week. Venue: Hunt Museum, Limerick.
- Meeting with Minister of State with responsibility for Public Health, Wellbeing and National Drugs Strategy, Mr. Frank Feighan, TD, and Limerick Food Partnership, to highlight the work of the group across Limerick and raise awareness of local healthy food initiatives. The Limerick Food Partnership is a collaboration between community, voluntary and statutory organisations involved in food-related initiatives. Venue: Redemptorist Church, Limerick.
- Address on Webinar on the Draft Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028.

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- Lime Tree Theatre, First Friends Evening Performance, Waiting for Poirot.
Venue: The People's Park, Limerick
- Outdoor Reception on the occasion of the Belgian National Day and to acknowledge the completion of the term of office of the Ambassador of Belgium, Mr. Pierre-Emmanuel De Bauw, and his wife, Mrs. Joëlle De Bauw.
Venue: In the gardens of 44-46 Ailesbury Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.
- Caherdavin Residents' Association, Opening of a Memory Garden for the community and presentation of Scroll to longtime volunteer, John Lardner.
Venue: Caherdavin Community Centre, Caherdavin, Limerick.
- FAI Cup, Treaty United FC v Dundalk FC.
Venue: The Markets Field, Limerick.

Sarsfield Homecoming Project

The Mayor travelled to Belgium from 19-21 July to attend a presentation in Huy of the 'Sarsfield Homecoming Project' by the Honorary Consul of France, to Huy City Council; he also visited the site where Patrick Sarsfield was presumably buried in Huy and he toured the battlefield in Landen where Patrick Sarsfield was fatally wounded.

Register of Electors

- Staff from the Register of Electors Team attended a meeting of the Electoral Registration Modernisation Group during July. An update was given on the process for the new Rolling Register with a specific focus on how anonymous registration will be managed.
- The Register of Electors Team continues to work on a data-cleansing project prior to migration to a new Register of Electors system. During the month:
 - 15 letters were received and information has been updated on the I Reg system.
 - Total number of deletions carried out during the month was 50.

- Total number of additions was 36.
- Total number of amendments was 10.
- Total number of deletion letters issued to electors during the month was 163.
- 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.

Health and Safety Training

The following Health and Safety training courses took place:

Course Name	Number of Staff Trained
IOSH (Safety Health and Environment)	10
First Aid Response Refresher	5
Safe Pass Training	17
Safe Use of Pesticides City and Guilds	1
Confined Spaces Medium Risk	2

Corporate Buildings Facilities Management

- Merchant's Quay Corporate Headquarters building was specially lit with colours to highlight Fragile X Syndrome, World Drowning Day, Limerick Hurling and Lions matches.
- In-house staff training commenced in use of new meeting facilities installed in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle
- COVID preventative measures are being maintained by the Facilities Management Team to keep staff working in the offices safe.

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- Patrick Street and The Granary Offices have been closed to facilitate The Opera Development.
- Finance, Agresso Support, Accounts Payable, Non-Principal Private Residences (NPPR), Property Services and Facilities Management teams are now on Floor 3, Barrow House (Former Instore Shop) at the corner of Michael Street and Ellen Street.
- The Library is now on the Ground and First Floor of Barrow House and is preparing to open to the public at date to be announced.
- Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Shared Services Centre has decanted to Carlton House, Henry Street.

Schedule of Meetings for July

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Full Council	05.07.2021	Limerick Institute of Technology
Operational Briefings		
Limerick City East	06.07.2021	Virtual
Limerick City North	06.07.2021	Virtual
Limerick City West	07.07.2021	Virtual
Local Community Development Committee	20.07.2021	Virtual
Municipal District of		
Newcastle West Monthly Meeting	14.07.2021	Newcastle West
Adare-Rathkeale Monthly Meeting	06.07.2021	Dooradoyle
Cappamore-Kilmallock Monthly Meeting Joint Policing Sub-Committee Meeting	15.07.2021 15.07.2021	Kilmallock Kilmallock
Metropolitan District of Limerick		
Monthly Meeting	19.07.2021	Virtual

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Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Party Leaders' Meeting	02.07.2021	Virtual
Protocol Committee Meeting	02.07.2021	Virtual
Strategic Policy Committee Meetings		
Community, Leisure and Culture	08.07.2021	Virtual
Travel and Transportation	09.07.2021	Virtual

Access to Information

	July	2021 (January to July)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	19	157
FOI Internal Appeals	3	8
Information Commissioner Appeals	1	1
Total Ombudsman Requests	4	29
Total Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) Requests	1	4

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Customer Services

July saw the introduction of a new organisational structure for Limerick City and County Council and Customer Services have been working in collaboration with Human Resources, Business Improvement and Digital Services to update Sugar CRM to reflect the new structure for management of customer and Public Representative cases.

Throughout the month, the Council buildings remained closed, in compliance with the COVID- 19 Government Guidelines. The Customer Services Team continued to support customers at first point of contact by answering customer queries via telephone, email, MyLimerick and social media. Case creation, payments processing, posting application forms on request, and generally facilitating applications for Council services continued without disruption.

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

- Customer Services Call Centre dealt with 13,229 calls. This represents an average of 601 per day, with the number of calls exceeding 650 on several occasions. 58% 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.
- 2,573 cases were created, with 595 of these logged on behalf of Public Representatives.
- 2,518 were closed, with 606 of these being cases logged by Public Representatives.
- A total of 3,080 emails were processed through the Customer Services email platform.
- 545 calls were received through the Voxpro out-of-hours services.

- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued, with a total of 333 cases being logged, 302 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. Customer Services logged 83% of cases for Housing Maintenance.
- Customer Services continued to provide other frontline services to the general public, such as the processing of Residential Parking Permits. 103 new Residential Parking Permits were processed, with 61 issued.

4. Marketing & Communications

Marketing

Double Your Summer

- Continued multimedia domestic tourism marketing campaign to position Limerick as an exciting, value-packed holiday and leisure tourism destination of choice and to encourage people living in other regions of Ireland to staycation in Limerick this summer.
- Successfully ran three out of four Double Your Summer competition giveaways to win unique Limerick prize package experiences.
- Engaged top Irish influencers to promote the competitions and reach wider audiences: Trisha Lewis (206K Instagram followers), Caroline Hassett (99.5k Instagram followers) and Meghann Scully (11.7k Instagram followers).
- Continued engagement with local stakeholders and operators via our dedicated campaign hub www.limerick.ie/double-your-summer showcasing a wide range of accommodation, dining and retail offers and promotions.

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- Successfully delivered a limited edition offer programme, which gave priority access to potential visitors via a redeemable code to high value stakeholder offers via limerick.ie newsletter subscriptions.
- Ongoing campaign promotion across Limerick.ie's social media channels, via paid and organic social media advertising: limerick.ie newsletters; digital display; SEM and a national radio campaign including Newstalk, Red FM, Spin FM, Q102 amongst others.

Other Marketing Activities

- Provided Economic Development & Enterprise with Brand Limerick merchandise for a Club Limerick Dublin networking event.
- Provided marketing assets to Global Eco Tourism event in Turkey for international tour operators and travel agents.
- Collaborated with Virgin Media One to produce an outside broadcast for Ireland AM on Limerick featuring Limerick City, Rathkeale, Newcastle West and Limerick Greenway.
- Commenced filming with Peninsula TV for Limerick special for broadcast in USA.
- Secured double page feature in Mary Immaculate College's digital student handbook to promote Limerick Student City to incoming third level students.
- Ongoing engagement with Limerick's Higher Education Institutions in the production of a collaborative promotional asset for Limerick as a top class student city.
- Draft Investment Promotion Strategy for Limerick prepared to attract increased Foreign Direct Investment to Limerick.
- Continued engagement with Brand Limerick verticals.
- Created and issued seven 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 27 times on Limerick.ie's Facebook with followers now 31,747. Posts reached 488,943 users with 39,541 engagements and 1,819,358 impressions.
- Tweeted 36 times on Limerick.ie's Twitter, @Limerick_ie, with total followers now 19,973. Our tweets earned 272,000 impressions (number of times users saw our tweet).
- Posted 10 times on Limerick.ie's Instagram and created 20 Stories with total followers now 18,564.
- Posted 14 times on Limerick City and County Council's LinkedIn with total followers now 7,734.

Limerick.ie

In July, there were 193,500* unique site visits to Limerick.ie. (*Fathom Analytics).

The most popular pages on Limerick.ie were:

1. [Limerick.ie/greenway](https://www.limerick.ie/greenway)
2. [Limerick.ie](https://www.limerick.ie)
3. [Limerick.ie/greenway/sections](https://www.limerick.ie/greenway/sections)
4. [Limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning](https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning)
5. [Limerick.ie/double-your-summer](https://www.limerick.ie/double-your-summer)

Content Report: 57 articles, 94 events and four amenities were added to Limerick.ie in July.

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Communications

- Created, produced and circulated a Safe Workplace video as continued guidance for staff members working through COVID-19.
- Participated in #YourCouncilDay on 01 July - the national social media initiative promoting the services provided by local authorities. Limerick City and County Council's Twitter account ranked 3rd place out of a total of 1,552 contributors on the day for engagement and a Limerick.ie tweet earned the title of top tweet for engagement.
- Devised, created and posted the social media assets for the Phase 2 Public Consultation period for the Limerick Development Plan.
- Issued 14 news releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and wrote nine speeches for the Office of the Mayor.
- Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter.
- Tweeted 220 times on Limerick City and County Council's Twitter account, @limerickcouncil, with total followers now 16,413. Our tweets earned 431,600 impressions (number of times users saw our tweet).

