

Chief Executive's Report

June 2021

- Councillor Daniel Butler elected Mayor of the City and County of Limerick
- Draft Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 placed on public display
- A multi-media domestic tourism marketing campaign, 'Double Your Summer,' launched to position Limerick as a leading tourism destination for value, welcome and excitement
- Part 8 planning application lodged for the development of the 'Limerick Outdoor Dining Experience Project.'
- The Shannon Estuary Way Destination Development Programme officially launched
- New five-year Development Plan 'People, Place, Platform' launched by Limerick Libraries.

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Economic Development Directorate

1. Trade and Investment

- Kirby Group Engineering announced a €2m investment to upgrade its headquarters in Raheen, creating 300 new jobs. 100 of these positions will be part of the Apprenticeship Scheme and Graduate Programme.
- The Outdoor Seating and Accessories for Tourism and Hospitality Business Scheme was expanded on 14 June to include “wet pubs.”
 - 67 applications have been approved with a total value of €206,146.
 - Commenced a street-by-street, town-by-town, canvassing campaign of businesses to participate in the scheme.
- An application for funding under the Local Authority Weatherproofing and Outdoor Dining Infrastructure Scheme has been lodged with Fáilte Ireland to develop year-round outdoor dining on Bedford Row and Lower Thomas Street. The Part 8 Planning process for the development has also commenced.

2. Strategic and Forward Planning

- A number of briefing meetings were held with the Elected Members throughout the month of June in advance of their consideration of the first consolidated Draft Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028. At a Special Council Meeting, which was held over a number of dates in June, the Elected Members considered the Draft Development Plan and, following the making of a number of amendments, deemed it to be the Draft Development Plan.
- In accordance with Section 12 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the Draft Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 has been placed on public display from 26 June, 2021. The plan is a blueprint for physical, economic and social development

that will shape the future growth of Limerick for the period 2022-2028 and beyond and statutory bodies, members of the public and various stakeholders are now invited to make submissions on the Draft Plan.

3. Innovate Limerick

Film in Limerick

Film in Limerick Delegation to Sheffield Documentary Festival

Film in Limerick led a virtual Mid West delegation of documentary producers and directors to the 2021 Sheffield International Documentary Festival. Delegates took part in a bespoke session for local Mid West filmmakers, as well as attending ten days of screenings, talks and industry events.

ENGINE Shorts

The final pitch event was held for the short film training and production scheme run by Innovate Limerick through Film in Limerick. Over two days, the 15 teams pitched their projects to our industry panel. The panel included local Limerick actor, Ruth Negga, Element Pictures Producer, Juliette Bonass, and writer/actor, Clare Dunne. Six films were recommended by the panel for funding awards of €12,500 each, including three projects from Limerick teams.

Production Support

In June, Film in Limerick provided support to productions filming in the region, including ‘Hidden Assets,’ an Irish/ Belgian TV series co-production, which filmed on location in Limerick city centre and Shannon over two weeks and ‘Smother,’ Season 2, filming for 12 weeks in Lahinch. Film in Limerick also engaged with productions planning future filming in the region, as well as independent short film and broadcast productions.

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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 a meeting in June to discuss existing and future training resources needed in the region.

4. Urban Innovation

+CityxChange, Positive Energy Champions

June saw the Positive Energy Champions really build momentum with their plans to change the way they use energy. Each Champion has now submitted their first diary entry using the Council's consultation platform, MyPoint, where they can 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 has been taken this month, for example:

- Cathie Chappell has been investigating the availability of car charging in Limerick city centre - in particular, what are the charging options for property owners who live in terraced properties without driveways.
- Anne Cronin has contacted schools in the city and sought volunteers to take part in her Low Carbon Transport Project. She will use the +CityxChange mapping app, developed by project partners, Space Engagers, to map safe cycle and walking routes to these schools. She hopes to reduce carbon emissions by increasing the rates of cycling and walking to schools across the city.
- Mark Manning of Smart Systems Limited has been working closely with IES, another +CityxChange partner. He has gathered energy data about his Georgian property. This data will be fed into modelling software, which will enable decision-making on how to maximise energy efficiency in the building and explore the installation of renewables.

- Jennifer Tierney has been preparing for the collection of her new e-car. This has involved getting an e-charger installed at her home and applying for an SEAI (Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland) grant.
- Details of all the Champions can be found at limerick.ie/cityxchange.

5. Marketing and Communications

Marketing

Double Your Summer

- Launched a multi-media domestic tourism marketing campaign, 'Double Your Summer,' to position Limerick as a leading tourism destination for value, welcome and excitement.
- Building on the success of last year's '50 Days of Summer' campaign, local service providers were engaged with and a confident and original tourism offering with a range of incentives and reasons for visitors to come to Limerick was developed.
- A dedicated campaign hub www.limerick.ie/double-your-summer was created to showcase local stakeholder accommodation, dining and retail offers and promotions.
- Secured collaboration with top Irish influencers, including Trisha Lewis and Celia Holman Lee, to promote four prize experiences through social media.
- Devised limited edition offers that will give priority access to potential visitors, via a redeemable code, to high value, exclusive stakeholder offers when the visitor signs up to the limerick.ie mailing list.
- The campaign is promoted 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.

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Other Marketing Activities

- Coordinated the content for a Sunday Business Post special supplement for Limerick, which was warmly welcomed by many stakeholders and the IDA.
- Developed and launched the 'Shaped by Limerick' outdoor photography exhibition at the Opera Site on Rutland and Patrick Street. The exhibition celebrates individuals who exemplify Limerick's edge and embrace.
- Collaborated with Fáilte Ireland in the successful launch of the 'Limerick, a Wild Atlantic Way Gateway City' designation.
- Continued engagement with Brand Limerick vertical ambassadors.
- Shop Limerick advert placed in Shop Local – Support Local, Limerick Post feature, to support and promote local businesses. [Limerick.ie/Shop](https://www.limerick.ie/Shop) virtual marketplace now features 300 local traders making it easier than ever to shop local, support local.
- Shop Limerick advert placed in Limerick Chamber Magazine.
- Collated report detailing the marketing and PR support provided by the Marketing and Communications Department throughout Limerick City's European Green Leaf designation in 2020.
- Profiled Limerick.ie, Limerick Greenway and the Limerick Street Art Trail on Glance Promotions Visitor Scan Panels due for countrywide rollout from Summer 2021.
- Created and issued four Limerick.ie e-newsletters.
- Posted 43 times on Limerick.ie's Facebook with followers now 31,578. Posts reached 209,659 users with 16,627 engagements and 588,124 impressions.
- Tweeted 60 times on Limerick.ie's Twitter, @Limerick_ie, with total followers now 19,787. Our tweets earned 312,300 impressions (number of times users saw our tweet).
- Posted 22 times on Limerick.ie's Instagram and created 12 Stories with total followers now 14,766.
- Posted 22 times on Limerick City and County Council's LinkedIn with total followers now 7,575.

Limerick.ie

In June, there were 150,000* unique site visits to Limerick.ie. (*Fathom Analytics)

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

1. www.limerick.ie
2. www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning
3. www.limerick.ie/council
4. www.limerick.ie/limerick-greenway
5. www.limerick.ie/council/your-council/jobs

A new website for Limerick Greenway was published in June, as well as dedicated webpages for the promotion of outdoor dining and outdoor drink locations, Limerick Development Plan, +CityxChange Positive Energy Champions, 'Shaped by Limerick' Exhibition, 50 Things to Do in Limerick and Limerick Wild Atlantic Way Gateway City.

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.

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Communications

- Issued 29 News Releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and wrote eight speeches for the Office of the Mayor.
- Communications devised and implemented a special June Bank Holiday weekend COVID-19 Awareness Campaign, following an unscheduled meeting with Government and the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, over growing concerns about COVID numbers in Limerick.
- Devised and implemented the Think Before You Park campaign following a request by Physical Development. Created social media and assets, including video and a radio advertisement to run over the two weeks of the campaign.
- Supported the opening of the Limerick Development Plan public consultation phase with social media and traditional media assets, all aimed at increasing public awareness of the plan and getting more people to submit their suggestions.
- Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter.
- Tweeted 202 times on Limerick City and County Council's Twitter account, @limerickcouncil, with total followers now 16,314. Our tweets earned 408,800 impressions (number of times users saw our tweet).



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Physical Development Directorate

1. Travel and Transportation Strategy

Limerick Outdoor Dining Experience Project - Part 8

A Part 8 planning application was lodged during June for the development of the 'Limerick Outdoor Dining Experience Project.' The scheme will include upgrades to the public realm setting, new sheltered dining areas and street furniture at Bedford Row and Thomas Street, Limerick City. The proposed works will include:

- (i) 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.
- (ii) Additional lighting, planting, street furniture, water bottle refill stations, smart solar compacting bins.
- (iii) All necessary service, utility and ancillary site works.

Safe Routes to School Programme

Eight Limerick schools have been selected for the first round of the 'Safe Routes to School Programme.' The Safe Routes to School Programme aims to create safer walking and cycling routes within communities, alleviate congestion at the school gates and increase the number of students who walk or cycle to school by providing walking and cycling facilities.

The programme is funded by the Department of Transport through the National Transport Authority (NTA) and is supported by the Department of Education. An Taisce's Green-Schools is co-ordinating the programme. Funding will be made available to the Local Authority which will play a key part in delivering the infrastructure along access routes and at the school gate.

National Bike Week 2021

An application for grant-funding for National Bike Week 2021 was submitted to the National Transport Authority (NTA) during June.

2. Mid West National Road Design Office

N24 Cahir to Limerick Junction Road Scheme

The N24 Cahir to Limerick Junction Road Scheme spans between the M8 motorway, north of Cahir in Co. Tipperary, and extends into County Limerick at Oola. The scheme is presently at Phase 2 Option Selection stage. The alternatives and options were presented to the Elected Representatives on 25 June and was online due to COVID-19 restrictions. The alternatives and options, as presented, were subsequently put on public display for a six-week period from 25 June.

Feedback is invited from the public in relation to the alternatives and options. The scheme website contains a virtual consultation room and interactive web map displaying the route options and alternatives www.n24cahirlimerick.ie Feedback and submissions received through the public consultation process will be considered by the project team as part of the option selection process.

N20 Banogue Traffic Calming Scheme

The N20 Banogue Traffic Calming Scheme was completed in June and is open to traffic. The scheme provides for the following:

- Gateway signage and narrower carriageway lanes bounded by kerbing, footpaths and landscaping.
- Traffic calming signage on the approach to Banogue Cross.

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- A controlled pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of Dillon's Maxol Service Station.
- Surface water drainage.
- Public lighting.
- Signage, road markings.
- Accommodation works and associated site works.

3. Environment Strategy

The wildflower meadow on the Loughmore Roundabout is progressing well. This area was sown with a pollinator-friendly, native Irish Wildflower mix with funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the National Biodiversity Action Plan.



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Community Development Directorate

1. Tourism, Culture and Arts

TOURISM

Limerick Greenway

Extensive resurfacing and upgrading works for the Limerick Greenway were completed in June. Ahead of the opening of the Greenway to the public, Limerick City and County Council's Tourism Development Department has worked with Springboard Communications and colleagues in Marketing and Communications to support the marketing and promotion of 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 the planning of radio, TV, print media and online advertising. A new website hosted by Limerick.ie is being prepared and video content and photography undertaken. The Limerick Greenway Brochure has been produced and printed for circulation to hospitality businesses and tourism points around the county. Full Media Packs will be made available for promoting the Limerick Greenway to local hospitality businesses.
- New signage has been installed on 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.
- Following an Open Call to artists for submissions, a Greenway Mural was painted by local artist, Steve O'Donnell, on the Greenway N21 underpass close to the Barnagh Stationhouse. This mural pays homage in a family-friendly and colourful way to the Greenway railway heritage.
- 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, commenced its stakeholder engagement in June. This programme will run for 18 months and aims to support local businesses to become 'Greenway ready' when developing and promoting their businesses.

Shannon Estuary Way Destination Development Programme

The Shannon Estuary Way Destination Development Programme was officially launched on the June Bank Holiday Monday. The launch was marked by the sailing of the Ilan Boat down the Estuary making stops at traditional trade points between counties Limerick and Clare. A collaboration between Limerick City and County Council and Clare County Council and the local development companies, 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.

CULTURE AND ARTS

OPEN CALLS

Limerick Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2021/22

It was decided to extend the deadline for the Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2021/2022. The new closing date for applications is now 07 July, 2021. This extension is due to the release of the Arts Council and Fáilte Ireland COVID-19 Guidelines for the Safe Presentation of Festivals and Live Events in line with the Government's COVID-19 Plan, Resilience and Recovery 2021.

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

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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.

Gradam Filíochta i gCuimhne ar Mhícheál Ó hAirtnéide 2021 / Michael Hartnett Annual Poetry Award 2021

Limerick City and County Council's Culture and Arts Office issued a call-out for submissions for this year's Michael Hartnett Poetry Award, which is presented each year as part of the Éigse Michael Hartnett Literary and Arts Festival in Newcastle West, Co Limerick. This year, the award is for collections of poems in Irish.

The Michael Hartnett Poetry Award is jointly funded by Limerick City and County Council and the Arts Council and the prize is worth €4,000. Publishers are invited to make submissions. The award will be made to the winning poet on the basis of a second or subsequent book of poetry, published in the last three years. The closing date for applications is 25 June, 2021.

Drama League of Ireland Summer School Bursary 2021

Limerick Culture and Arts Office, Limerick City and County Council, is offering one bursary to attend the Drama League of Ireland Summer School 2021 at the University of Limerick. The purpose of this bursary is to support professional development. This bursary will cover €400 towards tuition fees (lectures, workshops etc.).

The usual wide range of courses is being offered, catering to all levels of experience in acting, directing, and technical production. The closing date for applications was 28 June, 2021.

Words Ireland National Mentoring Programme 2021

Limerick Culture and Arts Office is again supporting the Words Ireland National Mentoring Programme this year. Words Ireland is a grouping of seven literature organisations who have worked together collaboratively since 2015 to provide coordinated professional

development and resource services to the literature sector. The selected writers will gain invaluable mentoring from professional and experienced writer-mentors over a number of months. Closing date for applications is 22 July, 2021.

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 June, seven letters of support were issued - two to the Creative Ireland Climate Action Fund, one to Culture Ireland, one to Music Network, and three in support of Arts Council Bursary applications: one Dance, one Literature and one Young People, Children and Education.

CREATIVE IRELAND FUNDED PROJECTS

Cruinniú na nÓg 2021

A national day of creativity for children and young people, Cruinniú na nÓg, took place on 12 June. Children and young people were invited to take part in a range of events and workshops delivered by Limerick Culture and Arts Office, in partnership with Fresh Film. Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, there was a mixture of live and online activities for all ages with digital content available through Limerick.ie. Workshops will remain available to view on Limerick.ie for the duration of the summer. This year's Cruinniú na nÓg saw partnerships with Limerick Youth Service, Fóroige, Dóchas Mid-West, Emerging Limerick Filmmakers and Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.

This Is Art - Limerick

This is Art is an exciting new, young people's art competition organised by RTÉ and the Creative Ireland Programme and was held in conjunction with this year's Cruinniú na nÓg 2021. A selection of work was chosen and is displayed on the railings of Limerick's iconic Potato Market in the heart of the city from the beginning of June.

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North Atlantic Fiddle Convention (NAFCo) 2021

The North Atlantic Fiddle Convention (NAFCo) 2021 was produced as a virtual event from 23 to 27 June from the University of Limerick. Funded through the Creative Ireland Programme, these events were delivered in partnership between Limerick Culture and Arts Office and The Irish World Academy, University of Limerick. The Convention is a cultural exchange and meeting place for artists, academics, and enthusiasts. Highlights of this year's event included Grammy Award winner, Riannon Giddens, and renowned English folk group, The Unthanks. Acclaimed group, The Provenance, led by Frankie Gavin, also featured, as well as artists and musicians including Paddy Glackin (Ireland), Sven Ahlbäck (Sweden), John Carty (Ireland), and many more.

Creativity in Older Age - Musicians on Call

Musicians on Call 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.

Now in its second month, the Musicians on Call project, where professionally trained musicians work in healthcare settings, made visits to two Limerick settings on 14 June. Music and song were shared with 24 residents and 10 staff in the first setting and 26 residents and 18 staff in the second. They all enjoyed the singing and a staff member joined in on a number of the songs, which was particularly enjoyable for the residents. On 28 June, there was a second visit for these two Limerick venues.

Interviews for music-making opportunities were also held in June with two successful candidates chosen for regional places on the project who will work alongside Kids Classics Regional Musicians, David Hope and Susan O'Neill.

ARTS COUNCIL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT PROGRAMME

PARTNERSHIPS

County Limerick Youth Theatre

In the first week in June, the County Limerick Youth Theatre continued to do in-person, outside workshops on script work and interpretation at Herbertstown Community Hall with two groups. These groups analysed and performed scenes from Grimm Tales by Philip Pullman. During this time, a third group prepared for their collaborative summer project with Limerick Youth Theatre and Emerging Limerick Filmmakers by participating in a workshop on devising, working on stimuli and co-creation. They also began devising their own work in small groups as a practice run for the devised summer production, Méadú.

In the second week in June, groups took part in a number of workshops collaborating on the concept of devising and their ideas were primarily inspired by fairy tales, the work of Roald Dahl, and ghost stories. The groups were also introduced to the concept of site-specific and site-responsive theatre and they adapted their devised ideas to different spaces outside Herbertstown Community Hall.

In the final two weeks of June, groups continued to develop their ideas and performed them for each other, as well as preparations for their summer project for which they have secured the Arts Council funding.

Limerick Youth Choir

In the second week of June, members of the Limerick Youth Choir were involved in recording at the University Concert Hall making a video for 'Limerick Sings' International Choral Festival 2021, which was delivered through virtual platforms from 11-13 June.

On June 26, eleven members of the Limerick Youth Choir participated in a workshop with members of Chamber Choir Ireland. This was facilitated online through the University Concert Hall and was a great opportunity for them.

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Artists in Schools Programme

The Artists in Schools Programme finished its third and final term in June and delivered to 12 schools in the Newcastle West area. The programme was successfully reimaged to run through interactive livestreams, with classes responding to calls to action within the broadcasts during the lockdown period of January to April. Content was recorded and edited by the musicians in their homes and studios and broadcast directly into children's homes as part of their online schoolwork. Throughout June, the programme was delivered through full collaboration and individual classes were sent musical content, which has become part of a huge musical patchwork piece.

2. Property and Community Facilities

DERELICTION AND VACANCY

Dereliction, Vacancy and Reuse Team	
Inspections carried out	46
Property and Community Facilities Department Notices issued	2
Statutory Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act	32
Cases closed through engagement	7
Properties entered onto the Derelict Sites Register	6
Properties put forward for Compulsory Acquisition (Section 15 Notices)	2
Properties Compulsorily Acquired (Section 17 Notices)	18

BIN WAIVERS

Bin Waivers Approved	9
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3. Urban and Rural Community Development

Environmental Awareness

- Presentation on European Green Leaf multi-stakeholder Swift Conservation to the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee.
- First non-virtual Green Schools' assessment in the front garden of An Mhodscoil, O'Connell Avenue, Limerick.
- Presentation to Adare Tidy Towns Committee on the Sustainability Goals and Tidy Towns.

Team Limerick Clean-Up (TLC) Biodiversity Campaign

- TLC launched another wildlife photography competition again this year. The theme is "Lovely Limerick - The Great Outdoors," images that showcase the wonderful wildlife in Limerick City and County.
- TLC are asking people to submit photographs and videos under specific category headings so that the wide biodiversity of plants, animals and wildlife habitats are noticed, appreciated and recorded in glorious technicolour.

Local Community Development Committee

- The June meeting of the Local Community Development Committee was held online on 01 June.
- The Local Action Group (LAG) approved funding of €199,753.15 under the Transitional LEADER Programme.

Limerick Autism Friendly Working Group

- A virtual meeting of the Limerick Autism Working Group took place on 24 June. The agenda included a presentation from Limerick Fire Service and plans for the next steps in terms of the proposed plans.

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Limerick Public Participation Network (PPN)

- Limerick PPN Secretariat met once in June and four PPN Linkage Group meetings took place during the month.
 - Travel and Transportation.
 - Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning; Home and Social Development.
 - Urban and Rural Community Development.
 - Social Inclusion.

Details of the Linkage Groups are on the Limerick PPN website

- To mark World Environment Day on 05 June, two free online workshops were delivered to PPN members and potential members on UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- A webinar on Social Analysis was delivered to PPN members.

Membership of the PPN continues to grow and now stands at 152.

Local Sports Partnership (LSP)

- Limerick LSP secured €365,160 in 2021 Dormant Account Funding supporting Sport, Physical Activity and Education.
- This Funding is broken down as follows:

Active Cities Phase 2 Funds	€140,000
Moyross Community Sports Hub Phase 1 funds	€63,680
Garryowen Community Sports Hub Phase 3 funds	€33,680
Innovation Project (Education/Physical Activity & Addictions)	€87,643
Inclusion Equipment for Climbing Wall	€17,157

TY VIP Leadership Programme	€15,000
Sports Leadership	€8,000

- The LSP has started delivering Physical Activity Programmes in person across the City and County. Programmes include:
 - Cycling (Greenway and UL).
 - Park Life Physical Activity for 55+ - Clare Street Park.
 - Physical Activity for Migrants - People's Park.
 - Physical Activity for Traveller Men - University of Limerick.
 - Activator Pole Walking, Croom and Mungret Parks and the Greenway in Rathkeale.
 - Community Sports Camps for Disadvantaged Youths.
- The LSP allocated €20,000 to Youth Organisations supporting disadvantaged youths to engage in Physical Activity in the coming months.
- For more information on programmes and activities visit www.limericksports.ie

AGE FRIENDLY

The fourth and final care packages were distributed in early June - the theme being Cook well, Eat well.

The Chair of the Older Persons Council, Mary Cronin, stepped down and is now replaced by Pat Begley, who had been the Vice-Chairperson. The first meeting of the Older Persons Council since the first lockdown under COVID-19 was held in person in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle, on 29 June. A new Vice-Chairperson was appointed, Paddy Hyland.

A presentation on the new Home Coordinator role was given at the meeting.

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The Age friendly Business Recognition Programme was launched by Mr. Damien English, TD, Minister of State, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

Vodafone became the first age-friendly Telecommunications store in Ireland.

Age friendlyhomes.ie website was launched by Mr. Peter Burke, TD, Minister of State, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and Ms. Mary Butler, TD, Minister of State, Department of Health.

Online Meetings/Webinars attended

- Healthy Age Friendly Homes programme.
- Launch of age Friendly Business programme.
- Launch of Age Friendly website.

Limerick COVID-19 Community Response

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 are updated weekly in the Age Friendly section, which then are uploaded onto the national Hub.

Online Meetings/Webinars attended

- Learning Cities Initiative Workshop.
- Integration Working Group.
- Belonging to Limerick 2018-2022.

4. Libraries, Gallery and Museum

Library

- "People, Place, Platform" is the title of the five-year development plan produced by Limerick Libraries. The ambition of the plan is to offer access to everyone to knowledge, ideas and information, in centres where people can reflect, connect and learn. Sixty priority actions are identified focusing on the societal impact of

the public library service. The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Michael Collins, launched the report with City and County Librarian, Damien Brady. This report shows the detailed strategy which has been drawn up to ensure the sustainable development of Limerick's Public Library Service up to 2025.

- Workshops on climate change have brought attention to the Library Department's historic and ongoing approach to conservation and sustainability. A public library is, by its very nature, an environmentally-friendly service. All the library stock receives multiple uses by the public and the library computers, spaces and stock are a shared public resource. This represents an environmentally-friendly use of resources. At the end of the lifecycle of book stock, every opportunity is sought to donate withdrawn stock to schools, nursing homes, prisons, direct provision centres etc. This year, following a request from the Mayor, 3,500 withdrawn books were donated to a very worthy initiative in Malawi, which was organised in partnership with Mary Immaculate College and the University of Limerick.
- On 28 June, a Bronze Plaque, commemorating the Curfew Murders, was unveiled at The War of Independence Memorial in Limerick. The Bronze Wreath, designed by Jim Lavery and Eithne Ring, represents the murdered former Mayors and Cathaoirleach, and was commissioned as part of the Decade of Centenaries commemorations. This addition to the memorial, which was initially erected in 2007, commemorates four men who died in the fight for freedom in 1921.
- Also as part of the Decade of Centenaries programme of events, author Carmel Uí Cheallaigh facilitated an online talk with schools from Galbally, Ballylanders, Knocklong and Glenbrohane. She spoke on Kevin Barry and the 'Forgotten Ten' which included Edmond Foley and Patrick Maher who hailed from the Galbally and Knocklong area. We were delighted that a great grandnephew of Patrick Maher, who is a pupil in Glenbrohane NS, joined us on the day.

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- Summer Stars is the public library national summer reading programme for children that runs for Limerick Libraries from 26 June. All children throughout the country are invited to join the adventure and to enjoy the fun and pleasure of reading and writing over the summer. Summer Stars is non-competitive and every child who reads even one book/eBook is regarded as having completed the programme – and it is all completely free. Library branches have been in contact with schools and families to offer this amazing encouragement to keep children engaged in reading throughout the summer months. Library members can also browse, read and listen to the Summer Stars collection of eBooks and audiobooks on the BorrowBox app.
- Bookseed, the baby book gifting initiative run by Children's Books Ireland and supported by the JP McManus Benevolent Fund and Rethink Ireland, was re-launched this month. The Library Service would like to remind families with small babies that they could once again collect their free books from selected Limerick Library branches (Abbeyfeale, Adare, Dooradoyle, Kilmallock, Newcastle West, and Watch House Cross). A programme of free Bookseed events for families was also announced. Beginning with a virtual visit to the Book Doctor for families on 12 June, and continuing with an online Storytime with bestselling Irish author-illustrator, Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick, on 17 June, these events were very well attended and enjoyed by all.
- The last of the four-week term of online baby sign classes facilitated by Claire Glynn of Clever Little Handies, took place on 01 June. Over the term, 15 families and their little ones joined in with nursery rhymes, songs and poems with ISL (Irish Sign Language) that pertain to day-to-day life with a baby.
- The Healthy Ireland at your Library programme continued with a wide variety of interesting events that reached different sections of the community. St. Nicholas National School in Adare participated in an online yoga session with Joanne O'Callaghan. The Central Library hosted two online events for the public showcasing excellent nutritional advice from registered dietician, Gillian McConnell, and an "Introduction to Mindfulness" session with Louise Shanagher. Louise also hosted 59 children from Scoil Mocheallóg in Kilmallock for a creative mindfulness session. Scoil Mocheallóg's 4th class children also enjoyed an online yoga session with Joanne O'Callaghan, with 49 children participating in the event. Newcastle West Library created a fabulous display of Healthy Ireland at Your Library titles on a range of health issues and fitness.
- An online art workshop was arranged by Newcastle West Library for Killoughteen National School. Nineteen students took part in the class with Limerick Artist, Jean Ryan Hakizimana. Jean guided the students through a full hour workshop, creating a fabulous moon setting painting on canvasses.
- On 19 June, Dooradoyle Library hosted a "Grow It Forward Share Table." Participants in the programme returned to Dooradoyle Library to share some of the young plants which they had grown. Tomato plants, beetroot and salad leaves were shared along with some summer bedding plants to brighten up the garden.
- Dooradoyle Library was delighted to be involved in the rollout of the 'Little Library Book Bags' initiative. Funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Inclusion and Youth, the idea behind the project is to develop and build on the relationships between ELC (Early Learning and Care) services and libraries, and to promote early language and literacy development. Book bags are being made available to all ELC services and registered childminders via their local library branch, and all those in Limerick city and county have been notified. During the month of June, most of the 80 centres whose collection point was Dooradoyle Library, had collected the bags. Library promotional materials had been added to the bags by library staff.

Limerick Museum

- Limerick Museum has commenced a new collaboration with Limerick 2030 under which the Museum will assist Limerick 2030 projects such as the Opera Site, Gardens International and the Living Georgian Housing Project by providing information and images on their respective

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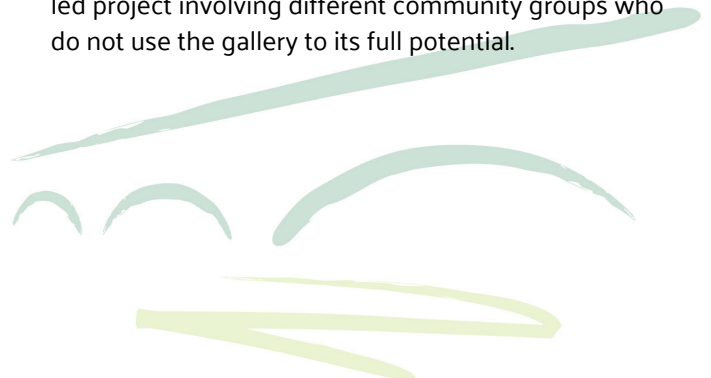
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histories for use on information panels and other aspects of the various projects.

- 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 has welcomed 3,415 visitors to date.
- At Home on the Farm, an exhibition by Mary Burke featuring five Co. Limerick farms, closed on 27 June, along with Cows are Mostly Silent – a selection of work from the Permanent Collection.
- Skin Deep, by Mary Ruth Walsh, is now open, a touring exhibition organised by Wexford Arts Centre.
- 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.
- Limerick artist, Maighread Tobin, has produced a publication for the summer exhibition, Common Threads. This will be Maighread's first solo exhibition at LCGA and marks a significant change in her practice. A publication has been produced for the accompanying exhibition, The Loneliness of being German, featuring artists, Thomas Brezing and Vera Klute.
- Research and preparatory work for the upcoming 75th anniversary of the opening of the extension to the Carnegie Library as a home for the Permanent Collection has commenced. 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 Ways' providing 11 artworks from the Permanent Collection for the exhibition.
- Work continues on the development of the new website for LCGA with capacity funding (€20,000) received from the Arts Council. LCGA is working with colleagues from ICT and the Communications Department to develop the hardware and content for this. Research on the re-branding of LCGA has continued and is planned to launch later this year.
- LCGA became a volunteer member in the Limerick City and County Council's +CityxChange programme for 'Positive Energy Champions' and will take part in the 20-week research programme.
- Work has commenced on the transition from 'I' drive to the new archive system LITe. However, the proportion of time and detail required to ensure the efficient and safe transfer of documents was not factored in our Team Plan for 2021.
- 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) in conjunction with the Arts Council.
- 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.



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Housing Development Directorate

1. Strategic Housing Development

1. BUILD, BUY AND LEASE

The following table shows progress to 30 June in the above Social Housing delivery streams:

As at 30 June (01.01.21 – 30.06.21)	Build	Buy	Lease	Total
Complete	57	4	48	109
In Progress	227	22	81	330
Overall Complete and In Progress	284	26	129	439
'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 - 30.06.2021.

2. SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT (SPOC)

Eleven properties were returned in June 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 June - Categorisation	
Cat 1	0
Cat 2	5
Cat 3	1
Cat 4	0
To be inspected	5
TOTAL	11

House Returns June - Municipal District	
Adare-Rathkeale	1
Cappamore-Kilmallock	5
Newcastle West	0
Metropolitan Area	5
TOTAL	11

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Works in ten properties were completed in June – one by the Design and Delivery Team, seven by the Operations and Maintenance Team and two by the Regeneration Team. These properties are now ready for allocation.

Current Working Programme		
	Completed in June	In Progress
Design and Delivery	1	13
Operations & Maintenance	7	66
Single Point of Contact	0	94
Regeneration Team	2	9
Team to be assigned	N/A	9
TOTAL	10	191



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Service Operations Directorate

1. Housing Support Services

• Waiting List

Housing Waiting List	2,316
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• Allocations

	No. of Units June 2021	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	1	6
Newcastle West	2	11
Metropolitan District	12	95
Cappamore-Kilmallock	3	19
Total	18	131

• Allocations Refusals

	No. of Units June 2021	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	1	2
Newcastle West	0	1
Metropolitan District	0	6
Cappamore-Kilmallock	1	2
Total	2	11

• Approved Housing Body Allocations 2021 (year to date)

Total Nominations	160
Successful Nominations	128
Nominations Pending	4
Unsuccessful Nominations	28

• Traveller Housing Welfare

No. of Units offered June 2021	0
Year to Date	7

* these figures are included in allocations figures

• Housing Assistance Payments Limerick (HAP)

2,501 of active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	17
No. of Amendments	248
No. of Cessations	48

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Home Improvement Schemes

June 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	€8,526.00	2	€4,867.10	1	€15,160.00	3	€0.00	0
Newcastle West	€0.00	0	€0.00	0	€13,912.50	4	€0.00	0
Metropolitan	€30,045.00	6	€48,751.00	8	€11,900.00	3	€187.28	1
Cappamore-Kilmallock	€53,188.50	9	€0.00	0	€24,666.05	5	€0.00	0
Total	€91,759.50	17	€53,618.10	9	€65,638.55	15	€187.28	1
Total Monies issued in June 2021 = €211,203.43								
Total Grants issued in June 2021 = 42								

January to June 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	€65,857.34	13	€51,364.12	7	€131,914.15	30	€0.00	0
Newcastle West	€44,500.00	8	€66,487.53	12	€145,331.38	36	€0.00	0
Metropolitan	€152,402.50	26	€300,616.82	38	€136,460.50	39	€368.88	2
Cappamore-Kilmallock	€132,106.04	24	€80,500.37	9	€92,200.00	18	€0.00	0
Total	€394,865.88	71	€498,968.84	66	€505,906.03	123	€368.88	2
Total Monies issued January to June 2021 = €1,400,109.63								
Total Grants issued January to June 2021 = 262								

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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 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 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 30/06/2021	% Collection
€5,040,713	€8,568,574	€13,609,287	€8,332,512	€5,276,775	61%

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

Individuals – 01.06.2021		
Location	Description	No.
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	29
St. Patrick's Hostel	Higher threshold accommodation for single males	44
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	15
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	4
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	16
Total		132

Families			
Location	Description	No. Adults	No. Children
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	7
		Families - 6	
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	6	10
		Families - 5	
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	10	14
		Families - 9	
Totals		Adults	Children
		22	31
		Families - 20	

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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	1
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. Approved	1
Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans	
Loan Applications: No. Received	13
Loan Applications: No. Approved	4
Deed of Discharge	
Deed of Discharge Applications: No. Received	20
Consent to Sale	
Consent to Sale Applications: No. Received	2
Cottage Purchase Annuity	
Cottage Purchase Annuity: No. Applications	0
Ground Rent	
Ground Rent Applications: No. Received	1

Freedom of Information, Data Requests and Ombudsman

Freedom of Information Requested submitted	3
Ombudsman Query Cases	5
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)

- 180 complaints were received in June.
- A total of 521 inspections were undertaken during the month.
- The Department issued six Statutory Notices.
- Four Directions were served by the Department.
- 31 Warning Letters were issued in June.
- A total of 22 fines were issued during the period.
- Legal proceedings were initiated in two cases.

Economic Development and Planning

Planning Applications

A total of 136 new planning applications were received as follows:

Part 8	1
Housing Developments	6
Domestic Developments	92
Agricultural Developments	12
Commercial Developments/Change of Use	10
Sporting/Community and Educational Developments	6
Other Developments	9

The current applications include proposals for:

- Part 8 for the development of the 'Limerick City Outdoor Dining Experience Project.' The scheme will include upgrades to the public realm setting, new sheltered dining areas and street furniture. The proposed works

will include the installation of covered pergola structures with retractable roofs and toughened glass screens to create sheltered outdoor areas for dining at Bedford Row and Thomas Street, Limerick.

- Construction of a residential development comprising 89 no. residential units comprising (9 no. detached houses, 36 no. semi-detached houses, 20 no. terraced houses, 24 no. duplex units) at Newtown, Castletroy.
- 16 no. serviced sites for 16 no. two-storey detached dwellings and planning permission for the construction of the site layout and all ancillary infrastructural works including entrance, roads, footpaths, landscaping, connection to public services, and all ancillary site works at Cloon and Commons, Castleconnell.

3. Veterinary Services

- Five stray or wandering equines were impounded.
- The Dog Control Unit processed nine dogs during the month.
- Eight 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	16
Mount St. Oliver	17
Castlemungret	8
Kilmurry	2

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5. Municipal District Offices

Metropolitan District of Limerick

Metropolitan District Meetings

The Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick took place on 21 June in the Council Chamber in Dooradoyle. This was followed by the Annual Meeting, which saw the election of Councillor Catherine Slattery as Cathaoirleach, and Councillor Kieran O'Hanlon as Leas-Chathaoirleach, for the Metropolitan District.

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

Upgrade Works across the Metropolitan District

• Outdoor Dining – Build-Outs

The last number of weeks has seen the opening up of Limerick City Centre, with the installation of build-outs, along with some road closures, which have been very supportive of the outdoor dining experience.

Build-outs have been completed at the following locations:

Crew Brewing Co., Cornstore, Ma Hogan's, Rose Café, Commercial Bar, Sextons, Charlie St. George, Hook and Ladder, Timmy Martins, Deli Café.

Works are also ongoing on build-outs in the following locations:

So Delicious, Tracey's, Grove Deli, Jerry O'Dea's, The Mall Bar, Molly Malone's, Alex Findlater & Co., Charlie Malone's.

• Active Travel

Works continue on Active Travel projects including:

- Footpath refurbishments in Mayorstone, Dooradoyle, Ballynanty and Thomondgate;

- New footpaths are being provided in Coonagh;
- The cycle lane separator kerbs are being installed on the Groody Road;
- Extensive refurbishment works have been carried out in Steamboat Quay, with additional works planned including improved pedestrian links and river railings;
- The Condell Road is at detailed design phase, with a Section 38 currently advertised.

• Road Maintenance/Drainage Works

Funding has been received from the Climate Change Fund to carry out drainage improvements to the Kilmallock Roundabout and to carry out flood mitigation works on the Mall Road in Castleconnell;

275m of footpath rehabilitation works completed at Milford Grange, costing €40,000, and completed by Tallybrooke Construction;

Surface Dressing Works on local roads in Metropolitan East area including - Boherlode, Rathurd, Mountshannon, Knocksentry, Killonan, Ballysheedy, at a cost of €184,000, and carried out by Limerick City and County Council.

Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

The monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale took place on 29 June, followed by the Annual Meeting. At the Annual Meeting, Councillor Kevin Sheahan was elected Cathaoirleach of the District and Councillor Bridie Collins was elected Leas-Chathaoirleach. These meetings were the first physical meetings of 2021 and were convened in the Rathkeale House Hotel, Rathkeale.

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

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

- **40** cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team in June.
- **63** cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team in June.

FOYNES

Marine Cove Culvert

Following the presentation of the Part 8 Planning Report to the Elected Members of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale, wayleaves to be served on landowners and a detailed design is being finalised prior to Tender stage.

Community Consultation discussions have been held with the local Community Council in relation to requirements/aspirations for the village - these include improvements to footpaths, additional pedestrian crossings, improvements to the viewing area, amongst other issues. The Community Council plan to do some landscape improvements to the viewing area and Limerick City and County Council Parks Department has carried out improvements to the Recycling Area.

Funding secured and works underway for upgrade works to footpaths on N69 route near Dernish Avenue.

Special Speed Limits - Jake's Law

A presentation in relation to the introduction of special speed limits in Housing Estates (Jake's Law) was given to the Elected Members at the June Municipal District Meeting in relation to housing estates at Meadowlea Ballyhahill, Asgard Cove, Loughill and Orchard Avenue, Rathkeale.

Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

The June Meeting of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock took place as a physical meeting in Deebert House, Kilmallock, followed by the Annual Meeting, on 17

June, with Councillor Martin Ryan elected as Cathaoirleach of the District and Councillor Michael Donegan elected as Leas-Chathaoirleach.

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

Access to the Public Library has now been restored.

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

- **70** cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team in June.
- **60** cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team in June.

Road Works Programme 2021

Road Restoration improvement works were carried out on six regional roads and two local roads in the District during the month and included locations at Ballyfookeen, Bruff, Doon, Galbally, Cappamore and Caherconlish.

Road Restoration Maintenance works were carried out on five regional roads and five local roads also during the month and included roads at Kilbreedy, Glenroe and Kildromin.

Drainage works were completed on the L5037 Cooga, Upper Doon, and the L8518 Knocklong School.

Special Speed Limits - Jake's Law

A presentation in relation to the introduction of special speed limits in Housing Estates (Jake's Law) was given to the Elected Members at the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District in relation to housing estates at Aileann Estate, Bruree, Ash Hill Manor Estate, Kilmallock, Belleview, Estate, Kilmallock and "The Block," Oola.

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Municipal District of Newcastle West

- The Online Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West took place on 02 June.
 - Councillor Liam Galvin was elected Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Newcastle West at the District AGM which took place on 30 June.
- Councillor John Sheahan was elected Leas-Chathaoirleach.
- The Newcastle West District Roads Programme of Works 2021 continued during June with surface dressing works at the R522 Feohanagh to Dromcollogher, R515 Broadford to Ashford and R520 Bruff Line.
 - The Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan is ongoing and the next steps in the process include meeting with Transport Infrastructure Ireland with regard to funding and progressing the Plan to Tender and Construction stage.
 - 43 grant applications were approved under the Private Housing Grant Schemes during the month. The total value of approvals was €247,492.98.
- Also payments of €13,912.50 were made to four applicants who completed works under the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.
- Under Active Travel, the upgrade of pathways, walkways and the surfacing of car parks took place at The Demesne, Newcastle West. The Demesne is a mature parkland of over 100 acres within Newcastle West town.



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Capital Investment Directorate

1. Design and Delivery

Project Updates

Newcastle West Regional Athletics Hub

The sod was turned on the new €3 million Regional Athletics Hub on 04 June. The Contract was also signed with Sole Sports and Leisure who have commenced construction works.

New Housing Development, Knocklong

Letter of acceptance has been issued to Jada Projects for the construction of 12 new housing units in Knocklong. Works are expected to start on site within six weeks.

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

Limerick City and County Council is currently working at a site at St. Anne's Court at the junction of Island Road and Athlunkard Street. This site is one of the areas earmarked for affordable housing in the city.

Part of the medieval city of Limerick was located in this area, most significantly the city defences, as the city wall survives above ground beyond the site boundaries. Limerick City and County Council carried out advanced archaeological testing to pinpoint the location of the city walls and establish below ground remains. The testing exposed the city wall throughout and it survives at or just below ground level. The location of the wall will now be used to inform the design process and there is tremendous potential for any future development to highlight and re-establish the line of the wall and the location of the gate in the public realm.

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- Home Improvement Schemes

Inspections and Recommendations for Home Improvement Schemes - June

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-Inspection	Final Inspection	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	8	0	10	18
HAGS (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	2	12	0	9	23
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	20	0	6	26
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	2	40	0	25	67
Total Inspections Year to Date	4	226	0	106	338

Finance

Applications for funding totaling €2,859,742 issued to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage during June.



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National and Regional Shared Services Directorate

1. Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Shared Services Centre

- There were 62,118 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAP SSC at the end of June.
- A weekly average of 294 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2021.
- The June landlord payment run was €53.9 million.
- The weekly tenant debit at the end of June was €3 million.
- The Debt Management Unit of the HAP SSC collected a total of €75 million in differential rent to end of June.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of June was 93%.
- The Debt Management Unit issued 3,210 HAP debt reminder letters in June.
- The Debt Management Unit issued 3,678 HAP COVID-19 temporary reminder letters in June.

2. Fire and Emergency Services

Statistics

	No. of Fire Related Calls	No. of Non Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call-outs 01/06/2021 – 30/06/2021	58	38	96
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	75%	62%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	21%	35%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	4%	3%	

	No. Received / Assigned	No. Validated	No. Invalidated / Refused	No. Granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications June	11	11	0	14	
Disability Access Cert Applications June	11	11	0	9	
Licensing Applications June	3	3	0		
Commencement Notice June	59	50	7	50	57
Completion Certificate June	8	7	0	7	7
Planning Referrals June	30				18
Sugar CRM Cases June	6				4

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Fire and Emergency Training Events

During the month, the following training was delivered:

- Six staff are being trained as Instructors in the operation of the Aerial Ladder Platform Appliance.
- All 72 retained Fire Service staff are receiving refresher training in Cardiac First Responder.
- Ongoing on-station training is continuing in all Fire Stations.

Civil Defence attendance at Events

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

- IBTS Blood Donor Clinics – Coláiste Ióseaf, Kilmallock – two days.

- IBTS Blood Donor Clinic – St. Munchin's College, Corbally – one day.
- Patient Transfer, Limerick residence to Mater Hospital, Dublin – one day.
- Mass Vaccination Centre – 24 days.

Major Emergency Management

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

Water Safety

Number of lifebuoy replacements	Total January - May	June	Total 2021
Metropolitan Area	2	1	3
Municipal Area	4	0	4

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 June
No. of Call-Outs 01/06/2021 – 30/06/2021	875	954	1 min. 18 seconds	1,829

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3. Digital Services and EU Programmes

Digital Services

- On 10 June, staff from the Digital Services Department attended a Digital Inclusion webinar, where feedback from research into the topic of digital exclusion that has been commissioned by Limerick City and County Council from a UK company called Tavistock, was presented. Feedback from breakout room discussion on the topics of “Getting Connected: Access to Broadband and Devices,” “Willing and Able: Building Skills and Motivation,” and “Setting up Services: Making sure no one is left behind,” has been fed back to the research company to further inform their findings with ideas on what can be done to address the issues the research has identified.
- On 17 June, the Broadband Officer in Digital Services submitted an application to the Connected Hubs 2021 funding call on behalf of thirteen Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) located in rural locations throughout the county. These BCPs are sites in towns where a quality commercial broadband service is not readily available, and where a 150Mbps broadband connection has been arranged under the rollout National Broadband Plan for the local community to make use of until the rollout of fibre reaches those areas. If successful, the application will deliver a suite of audio visual technology to each of the BCPs that will allow them to make full use of their broadband connection, both for local community activities as well as to avail of work programmes being rolled out through the BCP network by the Department of Rural and Community Development under the themes of Arts and Culture, Remote Working, Digital Upskilling and eHealth.
- The Head of Digital Services, Alan Dooley, spoke at the CIO (Chief Information Officers) Summit on 24 June with a case study entitled “Embracing the edge, how Limerick is leading using Data and Innovation.”

EU Programmes

- On 04 June, the EU Programmes Team hosted a meeting of the Limerick European Expo. This meeting continued planning for the European Expo 2022 and the events leading up to and around the European Investment Bank contemporary art exhibition to take place.
- On 10 and 11 June, the EU Programmes Team attended the Find Your Greatness Online Transnational Meeting hosted by the Estonian town of Võru. This meeting was about swapping best practices in relation to “Community Spirit Building,” how to encourage and involve citizens in the work of improving and promoting cities.
- On 14 June, the second +CityxChange National Advisory Team meeting was held online. These meetings are designed to solicit advice and feedback from the National Heritage Council, South Dublin County Council, the Department of Local Government and Housing, All Ireland Smart Cities Forum, and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, on how the project can better align with the broader national picture.
- Digital Services attended the Urbact Summer University, which was held online again this year. This event is designed to teach the most up-to-date methodologies for running successful URBACT projects.
- On 17 June, the Municipality of Milan submitted an Erasmus+ application in which Limerick City and County Council, in cooperation with the Limerick Sports Partnership, plan to work with Milan (IT), Bilbao (ES), and Budapest (HU) to explore the idea of sport as an educational tool for better urban social inclusion.
- On 25 June, the +CityxChange “Reporting Period 2” report was submitted. This report describes the work which has taken place across the whole +CityxChange project between December 2019 and April 2021, and will be followed by a presentation to the European Commission.

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- On 25 June, members of the +CityxChange project met with members of the Limerick Twenty Thirty Opera project to discuss synergies between our activities.
- On 28 June, members of the Limerick Urbact Local Group attended and presented the Limerick marketing plan at a final Find Your Greatness session on Marketing.



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Support Services Directorate

1. Finance Services

Commercial Rates and Loans

Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2021	
As at 30 June 2021	
Opening Balance - 1 Jan €	10,696,120 *
Accruals €	59,999,309 **
Vacant Property Adjustment €	343,274
Write Offs / Waivers €	10,027,028
Total for Collection €	60,325,127
Amount Collected €	27,141,852
Arrears €	33,183,275
Specific Doubtful Arrears €	3,688,477
% Collected	48%

Debtors Loans	
As at 30 June 2021*	
Opening Balance - 1 Jan €	357,981 *
Accruals €	756,841 ^
Write Offs / Waivers €	-
To Collect €	1,114,822
Receipts €	894,550
Arrears €	220,272
% Collected	80%

* subject to audit of year end accounts for 2020

^ Accruals not updated for loans for June 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

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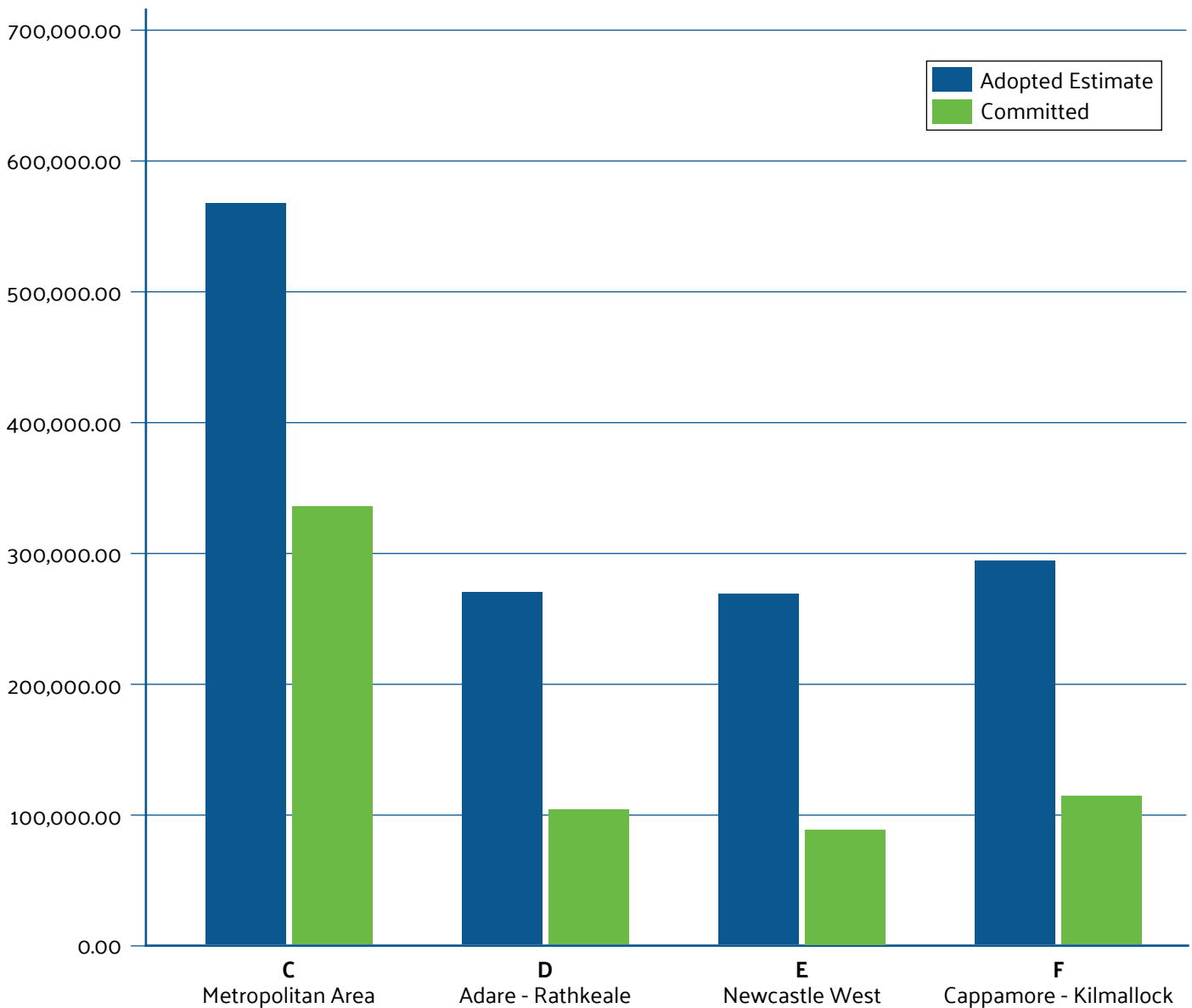


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General Municipal Allocation 2021 Adopted Estimate €1.403 Million

Graph outlining adopted budget and draft committed expenditure up to 30 June 2021



Municip (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate (€)	Value Committed (€)
C Metropolitan Area	568,000.00	338,208
D Adare - Rathkeale	270,000.00	104,479
E Newcastle West	270,000.00	89,187
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	295,000.00	115,347

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2. Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services

Corporate Services

Election of Mayor

Councillor Daniel Butler was elected Mayor of the City and County of Limerick at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 30th June, 2021.

Councillor Tom Ruddle was elected Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick.

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

- Online meeting with British Ambassador, Paul Johnston, Chief Executive of Limerick City and County Council and members of the Limerick Economic Forum. The purpose of the meeting was to make introductions, gain an overview of the Council and Forum's priorities, and identify potential areas for future engagement.
- Reopening of revamped Lidl Store in Castletroy.
- Plaque unveiling to commemorate the execution of Captain Thomas Keane at 69 Wolfe Tone Street, Limerick and Wreath Laying ceremony at Sarsfield Barracks, Limerick, in memory of Captain Thomas Keane.
- Sod turning on €3 million Regional Athletics Hub in Newcastle West followed by Contract Signing.
- Online meeting with Minister for Health, Mr. Stephen Donnelly, TD, which was attended by Dr. Tony Holohan, Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Ronan Glynn, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, and Dr. Mai Mannix, Director of Public Health, HSE Mid-West, along with other public representatives. The meeting discussed the steep rise in positive COVID-19 rates over the past few weeks in Limerick.
- Online Opening Address of UL Summer School for Algerian PhD Students, titled 'Ireland Past and Present.'
- Joined the Ilan on her kingship voyage to Galway where a cargo box with symbolic Limerick content was presented to Galway's Deputy Mayor, Councillor Colette Connolly.
- Courtesy visit by members of Limerick GAA to Council's Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay. The Liam MacCarthy Cup, along with the six other Cups that Limerick GAA won in 2020, were brought to Limerick City and County Council by the captains of the Limerick senior and minor hurling and senior football teams.
- Photoshoot at Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA), Pery Square, Limerick. LCGA commissioned an exhibition 'At Home on the Farm' by Painter, Mary Burke, featuring five Limerick farms and the paintings reflect the working life of farmers in County Limerick. The photoshoot included the five farmers who participated and the Artist, Mary Burke.
- Launch of the Multi-Use Games Area in the Demesne, Newcastle West.
- Presentation of framed Scrolls to representatives of the UL Hospitals Group, The National Ambulance Service – Mid West, The Department of Public Health – Mid West, HSE Mid West Community Healthcare in recognition and appreciation of the outstanding dedication, care and support provided by the staff to the many people who availed of its services, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Mayor embarked on a round Limerick trip to GAA clubs across the city and county to present Scrolls to Limerick GAA Clubs in recognition and acknowledgement of the trojan and important work they have done in communities throughout the pandemic.

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- Unveiled a Bronze Wreath to commemorate four men who died in the fight for freedom in Limerick in 1921. The sitting Mayor of Limerick, George Clancy, and his immediate predecessor, Michael O'Callaghan, Councillor Sean Wall, Cathaoirleach of Limerick County Council, and Volunteer, Joseph O'Donoghue, a native of Ballinacargy, County Westmeath, were murdered by Crown forces - the Curfew Murders of 1921. Remembrance as part of Decade of Centenaries Commemorations.

Venue: War of Independence Memorial at the corner of Ennis Road and O'Callaghan Strand, Limerick.

- Raising of Rainbow flag for Limerick Pride 2021. Venue: Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Virtual Launch of the North Atlantic Fiddle Convention. The North Atlantic Fiddle Convention is a cultural exchange and meeting place for artists, academics, and enthusiasts. Organised by The Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, University of Limerick, in partnership with Limerick City and County Council and Creative Ireland.
- Visit and tree planting ceremony at Gaelscoil Ó Doghair, Caisleán Nua Thiar.
- Virtual Opening Address for Climate Action Training for senior staff and Elected Members 'Championing Leadership, Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme.'
- Official Opening of Crecora Manister GAA Community Walking Track. Venue: Crecora Manister GAA pitch.
- Launch of the Limerick Wild Atlantic Way Gateway City Strategy. Venue: King John's Castle, Limerick.
- Video promotion for Limerick Development Plan Online Consultation Room.
- Official Opening of Lough Gur Solstice Park Playground and unveiling of Sun Dial Sculpture.

Venue: Lough Gur, Co. Limerick.

- Meeting with Minister Burke TD, Minister of State for Planning and Local Government, and key stakeholders, regarding Directly Elected Mayor for Limerick.
- Live performance of Molique and Piazzolla with Irish Chamber Orchestra, as part of the Government's pilot programme of live events taking place countrywide. Venue: University Concert Hall Limerick.
- Official Opening of Hunt Museum, new Museum in a Garden. Venue: Hunt Museum Garden, Limerick.
- Unveiling of memorial in honour of the late Frank Glasgow, former Mayor of Limerick. Glasgow Park, Limerick.

Register of Electors

- Staff from Register of Electors Team attended a workshop on the Modernisation of the Electoral Registration process on 29 June. An update was given in relation to progress of the Electoral Reform Bill and the modernisation of the Electoral Register, and the next steps in relation to legislation were outlined. It is hoped that legislation would be passed by year-end.
- 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, a further 163 letters were received and information has been updated on the I Reg system. The total number of deletions carried out during the month was 503, the total number of additions was 59 and the total number of amendments was 46.
- 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.

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Health and Safety Training

- Health and Safety Annual Briefings Toolbox Talks: total number trained to date is 162.
- Confined Spaces Medium Risk Training took place during the month and a total of four staff were trained.

Customer Services

Throughout June, Customer Services staff continued to support customers at first point of contact by answering customer queries, processing payments, posting application forms on request, and generally facilitating applications for Council services whilst working both remotely and in the office, while Council buildings remain closed. This is achieved through various communication channels, phone, email, MyLimerick and Twitter.

Other frontline services continued to be provided, such as the processing of Residential Parking Permits. There were 101 new Residential Parking Permits processed during the month, with 66 issued.

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

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

- Customer Services Call Centre dealt with 13,521 calls. This represents an average of 644 per day, with the number of calls exceeding 700 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.
- 2,867 cases were created, with 663 of these logged on behalf of Public Representatives. 2,804 cases were closed, with 689 of these being cases logged by Public Representatives.
- A total of 3,044 emails were processed through the Customer Services email platform.
- 464 calls were received through the Voxpro out-of-hours services.

The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued, with a total of 373 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. Throughout the month, Customer Services logged 88% of cases for Housing Maintenance.

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3. Schedule of Meetings for June

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Full Council		
Special Meeting to consider the Draft Development Plan 2022-2028	14.06.2021	Limerick Institute of Technology
Adjourned Special Meeting to consider the Draft Development Plan 2022-2028	16.06.2021	Limerick Institute of Technology
Adjourned Special Meeting to consider the Draft Development Plan 2022-2028	17.06.2021	Virtual
Annual Meeting	30.06.2021	Limerick Institute of Technology
Operational Briefings		
Limerick City East	01.06.2021	Virtual
Limerick City North	01.06.2021	Virtual
Limerick City West	02.06.2021	Virtual
Local Community Development Committee	01.06.2021	Virtual
Joint Policing Committee	04.06.2021	Virtual
Strategic Policy Committee Meetings		
Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment	08.06.2021	Virtual
Home and Social Development	16.06.2021	Virtual
Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning	21.06.2021	Virtual
Party Leaders' Meeting	11.06.2021	Virtual
	15.06.2021	Virtual

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Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Municipal District of Newcastle West Monthly Meeting Annual Meeting Adjourned Annual Meeting Adare-Rathkeale Monthly Meeting Annual Meeting Cappamore-Kilmallock Monthly Meeting Annual Meeting	 02.06.2021 23.06.2021 30.06.2021 29.06.2021 29.06.2021 17.06.2021 17.06.2021	 Virtual Newcastle West Newcastle West Rathkeale Rathkeale Kilmallock Kilmallock
Audit Committee Meeting	18.06.2021	Virtual
Metropolitan District of Limerick Monthly Meeting Annual Meeting	 21.06.2021 21.06.2021	 Dooradoyle Dooradoyle
Limerick Autism Working Group	24.06.2021	Virtual
Corporate Policy Group	28.06.2021	Virtual

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4. Access to Information

	June	2021 (January to June)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	21	138
FOI Internal Appeals	1	5
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	0
Total Ombudsman Requests	4	25
Total AIE Requests	0	3

5. Business Improvement

- MyPoint survey training was provided to eight colleagues in June.
- A total of 879 users are now live on the Employee App.
- The Staff Liaison Network meeting took place in June with presentations given on the Business Improvement Department, Cyber Security, the Development Plan. Work was also carried out with the network on updating the terms of reference and rules of engagement for the Staff Liaison Network.

