

# Chief Executive's Report

September 2021

More than 100 Limerick businesses benefiting from €300,000 in grants for Outdoor Scheme for Tourism and Hospitality sector as planning permission to develop outdoor dining infrastructure is granted

285 submissions received during public consultation phase of the Limerick Development Plan

Organisations, community and sporting groups hold events to mark National Bike Week

Culture Night Limerick once again showcases the wonderful range and depth of the culture and arts offering across Limerick

Limerick Reads – What's the Story, is a new campaign by Limerick Libraries to get people to read and appreciate great Limerick writers

Government approval sought for building of 95 new homes in Moyross and Southill

New Dog Park opens in Mungret

Solar allotments installed in O'Brien Park in a pilot scheme looking at the possibility of extending the growing season

Limerick's Olympians and Paralympian are honoured for their outstanding achievements

# Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**  
**Limerick** City  
& County Council

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## Economic Development and Enterprise Directorate

### 1. Trade & Investment

- Legato Health Technologies announced the opening of a research and development hub at its base in the National Technological Park in Plassey, creating 60 new jobs over the next six months.
- US Firm, Superpedestrian, announced plans to open a technical hub base in Limerick, making and selling pedestrian-friendly e-scooters, which will create 100 jobs over the next two years.
- Modulacc, previously trading as Castlecabin, announced the creation of 25 new jobs after opening a second manufacturing site for its energy-efficient modular buildings.
- McDonalds Restaurant in Castletroy has received planning permission to expand the restaurant, including a new dual-lane drive-thru, which will create 25 new jobs.

### Outdoor Dining and Weatherproofing Scheme

- The Outdoor Seating and Accessories for Hospitality and Tourism Scheme has processed approximately €300k in grants supporting over 100 businesses across the city and county. The closing date for new applications has been extended to 08 October, 2021.
- Part 8 planning approval was granted for the Outdoor Dining/ Weatherproofing Project in Bedford Row/Lower Thomas Street, Limerick.

### 2. Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Limerick

LEO held the following virtual courses and webinars:

- Start Your Own Business Course, a Food Start-Up Webinar, First Steps to Exporting Workshops, various Digital Media workshops, Trading Online Voucher Seminar and Virtual Business Advice Clinic day.
- The LINC Engineering Network comprises Engineering companies in East/West Limerick and North Cork areas and have launched their new Website: <https://www.lincnetwork.ie/>

LINC, supported by LEOs Limerick and Cork North, has commenced a focused 10-week Leadership and Management Development Programme with 15 member companies participating.

- 11 companies are undertaking work with Strategic Financial experts under the LEO Client Stimulus Scheme.
- 108 small businesses approved for the Trading Online Voucher to date this year.
- Six applications received for the Green For Micro Programme.
- In the year to date, there have been 1,841 participants on the LEO Business Training Courses and 129 business owners have availed of the LEO Mentoring Programme.
- Seven Limerick producers reached the Blas na hÉireann finals supported by LEO Limerick.
- #LookforLocal campaign included projection onto King John's Castle and six local businesses supported in promotion with the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick and I Love Limerick.

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## 3. Innovate Limerick

### Film in Limerick

#### ENGINE Shorts

ENGINE Shorts is Film in Limerick's short film training and production scheme. Three of the six films completed filming in the region in September and have started their pre-production.

#### ENGINE Docs

Film in Limerick's documentary film training and production scheme, in partnership with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, concluded its initial training programme in September. Twelve teams pitched their projects that they have been developing to an industry panel. Four teams were selected to go to the next stage of the programme and each awarded production funding of €10,000 to produce a short documentary film. The pitch panel consisted of Katie Metcalfe, Film Programmer at Sundance Film Festival, Derren Lawford, Creative Director, Woodcut Media and Proinsias Ní Ghraíne - Commissioning Editor, TG4.

#### Diverse Screen Launch

Innovate Limerick, through Film in Limerick, have collaborated with Gorm Media to launch a new diversity initiative to attract new workers to the film and TV industry. Supported by Screen Skills Ireland, the initiative responds to the under-representation of people from culturally and ethnically diverse communities working in Irish filmmaking, and the barriers faced by such individuals as they try to launch and progress their careers. The initiative starts with a series of introductory webinars on working in the industry.

#### Troy Studios

After two years of hard work at Troy Studios by over 500 crew members, with 170 sets, 13 different types of space-craft, six different planets and hundreds of carpenters, metalworkers, painters and plasterers, the 'Foundation' TV

series premiered on the AppleTV+ platform in September. Season 2 is now filming at the studios.

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 group appointed a consultant in September to carry out a feasibility study on developing the sector in Munster, with the report due to be delivered by the end of the year.

## 4. Forward Planning

- The public consultation on the Draft Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 closed on 06 September. The Forward Planning Team commenced work on considering and summarising the 285 submissions received during the public consultation period.
- The Forward Planning Team commenced the review of the Development Contribution Scheme 2017-2021 and the preparation of a new Development Contribution Scheme, which will run from 2022 - 2026. This included facilitating a Workshop with the Elected Members on the proposed Scheme.

## 5. Digital Services

- The LITE (Limerick Information Transformation E-Project) Programme has completed its rollout this month. Roughly 1,000 staff have moved over to SharePoint in the past four years. There have been 44 Site Collections, and 1,000 Service Sites built, along with 10,000 Document Libraries. This equates to over 11TB of data migrated. In all, Digital Services staff have completed over 3,620 hours (500 days) work on the project.
- On 30 September, a new piece of software was installed that will allow Limerick City and County Council to do continuous maintenance monitoring of our Hinterland towns CCTV infrastructure. This is an important step in evolving our CCTV ecosystem, ensuring we can conduct maintenance, as issues arise, in a timely manner.

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- Limerick City and County Council made available €50,000 to support the ongoing efforts of Future Mobility Campus Ireland, which will go towards the further build-out of its campus and the testing of autonomous vehicles, including drone delivery tests. These efforts will go towards solving decarbonisation problems we face for issues like last mile delivery.

## EU Programmes

- On 07 September, the “Knowledge Bridge” application was submitted. Led by the Chamber of Engineers in Investment Design from Bulgaria, Limerick Institute of Technology and Limerick City and County Council, will form the Irish Pilot of this Erasmus+ project if successful. Knowledge Bridge aims to create new educational content to address skills gaps in the field of Building Information Monitoring (BIM).

- On 21 September, the INTEgreat project was approved by the European Commission. This €1.6m, 36-month project, is a transnational action on asylum, migration and integration, and led by the Ballafon Società Cooperativa Sociale in Italy. The Limerick Pilot, led by Doras Luimní with the support of Limerick City and County Council, brings an additional €263,000 to the city and county. The collaboration aims to build a stronger integration strategy and ecosystem for migrants and asylum seekers (women, men, families, LGBTQ+) in Europe.



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## Transportation and Mobility Directorate

### 1. Travel & Transportation Strategy

#### Limerick Outdoor Dining Experience Project – Part 8

The Part 8 planning application for the development of the Limerick Outdoor Dining Experience project was approved by Members of the Metropolitan District at their monthly meeting in September. 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. Procurement is now ongoing to deliver the project.

#### R445 (Dublin Road)/R506 (Cappamore Road) Junction Improvement Works - Part 8

A Part 8 planning application was lodged during September for the R445 (Dublin Road)/R506 (Cappamore Road) Junction Improvement Works.

The proposed works will include the construction of new footpaths, new cycle lanes, new junction slip lanes, new controlled pedestrian crossings, new public lighting scheme, new surface water drainage system, improved road markings, new traffic signal control, signage and carriageway resurfacing. The location of the works is in the townlands of Garraunykee and Woodstown at the Cappamore Road junction with the R445, Limerick.

#### Bike Week 2021

National Bike Week took place from 12-18 September.

- Community groups, schools and workplaces had the opportunity to apply for funding support to run bicycle-related events throughout the city and county. Events included free bicycle repair workshops, organised cycles, and safety promotions.
- Bike Week kicked off on 12 September with a Family Cycle along the Limerick Greenway. Families started their cycles from Rathkeale, Newcastle West and

Abbeyfeale. A bike mechanic was in attendance at Rathkeale Greenway carpark to provide free bike checks and repairs ahead of the cycle.

- A 'Cycle Safety and Bike Theft Prevention' event took place in Limerick City on 17 September in conjunction with An Garda Síochána. Gardaí from Henry Street Station were on hand on the day to provide information.
- Bike Clinics were held around Limerick on 18 September. Bike Mechanics were in attendance at various locations, including The People's Park, Mungret Park, Castletroy Neighbourhood Park and O'Brien Park. Bike Mechanics provided free bike checks and repairs.
- A 'Bling your Bike' colouring competition for children was held during Bike Week in conjunction with Limerick libraries.
- A photo competition was held on social media. People were invited to use the #LimerickBikeWeek hashtag and upload a photo out cycling in Limerick during Bike Week.
- A number of workplaces in Limerick, including St. John's Hospital, got involved in Bike Week by holding cycling promotions.
- Schools from around Limerick city and county took part in Bike Week. A variety of events and promotions with staff and students were held, including cycle to school days, bike parades, cycle skills sessions, bling your bike competitions.

A number of inclusive cycle events were also held throughout the week with various groups from around Limerick.

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## 2. Active Travel

- Castletroy Urban Greenway – The final section of the Castletroy Urban Greenway was completed. The new western link connects cyclists and pedestrians with the Castletroy Town Centre.
- Groody Road – A new cycle lane along the Groody Road was completed. It involved the reallocation of road space for sustainable travel with the addition of separator kerbs.
- R926 Dooradoyle Road – Upgraded cycle lanes and footpaths were completed along the Dooradoyle Road between the Ballykeefe Roundabout and the Crescent Shopping Centre access road (playground access road).
- Footpath refurbishments are continuing in Mayorstone, Ballynally and Thomondgate, Limerick.
- Annacotty Village – work underway on Annacotty Village footpath.
- Glin Village – footpath improvement works continuing between Glin National School and the GAA grounds.
- Croom Village – works continuing on footpath improvement works on Caherass Road.
- Caherconlish – works continuing on the construction of new footpaths and replacement/widening of existing footpaths.
- Rathkeale – works continuing on footpath improvement works at New Line.
- Ballingarry Village – works continuing on improving pedestrian connectivity to the graveyard and park.
- Kilmallock – works continuing on construction of new footpath.
- Kilfinane – works continuing on construction of new footpaths and replacement/widening of existing footpaths.

- Askeaton – pedestrian improvement works complete on eastern approach to the town and swimming pool paths.

### Active Travel (Communications)

- Tweeted six times from the Limerick Council Twitter account @LimerickCouncil with total followers now 16,600. All Active Travel tweets include the hashtag #ActiveTravel #ActiveTravelLimerick – the most popular tweet was an update on the Castletroy Urban Greenway that had 117 likes.
- Local press featured an article about the appointment of Active Travel's new Communications Officer.

## 3. Roads, Traffic & Cleansing

The Roads, Traffic and Cleansing Department continues to facilitate lane closures and install buildouts for hospitality businesses in Limerick as part of the ongoing plans to reopen Limerick following COVID restrictions. To date, the Roads Section has facilitated 10 lane/road closures and 20 timber buildouts to facilitate outdoor hospitality. Further buildout applications are now undergoing suitability assessment.

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## Community, Tourism and Culture Directorate

### 1. Urban & Rural Community Development

#### Limerick Local Community Development Committee

- The September meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was held on 07 September. This meeting was held virtually due to the restrictions imposed as a result of COVID -19.
- The Local Action Group (LAG) approved funding of €200,000 under the Transitional LEADER Programme.
- The LCDC approved funding of €168,000 under the Community Enhancement Programme 2021. The purpose of this scheme is to assist groups/organisations with grants towards projects or equipment enhancing facilities (similar to previous years) and one-off grants towards costs associated with reopening of a facility or the sustainability of the facility. The key theme of the programme is supporting groups as they re-open their facilities that have been closed due to COVID-19.
- The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) Mid-Year Review and Annual Engagement with Pobal was completed and feedback from this meeting will be considered by the LCDC members at the next Meeting. The focus of Mid-Programme Review was on New Communities with particular focus on those living in Direct Provision, Mental Health (including youth), Long-Term Unemployed, Travellers, Roma and older people in isolation.

#### CLÁR Programme 2021

- Measure 3 approvals for CLÁR Programme 2021 were announced on 08 September. Limerick received approval for €50,000 in grant funding for the Tournafulla Sustainable Living Community's Community Garden project. This project proposes to transform an

area of wasteland in the centre of Tournafulla Village into a vibrant community garden. The aim of the project is to increase local biodiversity through careful planting and to create a sustainable greenspace for all age groups in the community to use and enjoy.

#### Autism Friendly Working Group Meeting

- A meeting of the Autism Working Group sub-committee took place and a draft report on recommendations in terms of Limerick becoming an Autism-friendly location has been finalised. The report is on the agenda for the next Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee meeting for consideration by members.

#### Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme 2021

- The Department of Rural and Community Development has approved €39,883.29 in funding for Limerick under the Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme 2021.
- The Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme 2021 will provide funding towards small-scale capital costs. Only social enterprises, as defined in the national social enterprise policy, may apply under this scheme. All applicants will be checked and verified to ensure they meet the definition. Applicants who do not meet the definition will not be considered.
- Capital costs incurred by social enterprises for the purchase of equipment or the carrying out of repairs or refurbishments of existing facilities can be funded. The Scheme does not provide funding for operating or administrative costs. Closing date for receipt of completed application forms is 12 noon on 08 October, 2021.

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## Environmental Awareness

- The Green Club Programme is a partnership between the GAA, Ladies Gaelic Football Association (LGFA) and Camogie Association and local authorities across Ireland and is structured around five key areas; Waste, Water, Biodiversity, Energy and Travel and Transportation. St. Patrick's GAA Club Limerick is one of several GAA clubs that have been chosen nationally to participate in the pilot phase of the programme. The Limerick club's focus is waste.
- A 'Reopen with Reuse' webinar marks the lead into Ireland's National Reuse month and the Conscious Cup Campaign encourages businesses and customers alike to take one simple climate action, embrace using reusable cups.

## Limerick Public Participation Network (PPN)

- Two PPN Linkage Group meetings took place this month: Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment and Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning.
- A webinar entitled 'Local Authority Budgets and Making Pre-Budget Submissions' was delivered to PPN members and potential members by Social Justice Ireland.
- Re-registration of all PPN member groups who registered with Limerick PPN in 2019 and 2020 has commenced. In accordance with good governance, as membership and contact information changes overtime, there is a requirement for all PPNS to re-register groups every two years to ensure the accuracy of membership records.
- Membership of the PPN continues to grow and now stands at 158 members across Limerick city and county. The membership registration form is on the Limerick PPN website and eligible groups in Limerick can register at any time.
- Limerick PPN continued to have an active social media presence on Twitter and Facebook.

## AGE FRIENDLY

### Online Meetings/Webinars attended:

- In-person monthly meeting with the Older Persons Council (OPC).
- Age Friendly Ireland National Network of Programme Managers.
- National Network OPC Chairs Meeting was held.

### 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 continue to be updated weekly in the Age Friendly section and uploaded onto the national hub.

## EDUCATION

Premier of "Outside is Inside Now" – a collaboration between the Irish Aerial Creation Centre, Irish Chamber Youth Orchestra and Limrockers Crú. This film mixes classical music, hip-hop dancing and aerial dance. The film was filmed and edited with original music by Jym Daly from Fidget Feet.

EU Projects Meeting looking at links between Healthy Limerick Projects, Education and the new Healthy Communities role within the Council.

### Online Meetings / Webinars attended

- Limerick Learning Steering Group Meeting.
- Webinar on Sustainable Intercultural Cities Including migrants and diversity in circular, green and inclusive economic models.
- Attendance at Premier of "Outside is Inside Now."
- EU Projects Meeting.

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## INTEGRATION

Annie Asgard is an English Language Support Teacher in Claddagh National School in Galway City. She is a native Farsi speaker as she was born in Iran. She also works in the area of asylum seeking and refugee education as an activist and an advocate for parents. She taught in a refugee camp in northern France.

Annie agreed to give a short input to staff from EDNIP schools (Embracing Diversity, Nurturing Integration, Learning for Life Project) along with any Programme Management Committee (PMC) members who wished to attend, on the needs of the Afghan community in Ireland and offer insights into Afghan culture, as well as speaking about children who have experienced trauma as a result of migration and their lives in refugee camps. This Webinar was held on 27 September.

### Online Meetings/Webinars attended

- EDNIP Project Management Committee Meeting x2
- EDNIP – Support for Afghan Families webinar

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Due to the success of “Breathe and Stretch in the Park” classes, Healthy Limerick, as part of our Community Engagement initiative, will be running further classes starting on 28 September.

### Online Meetings/Webinars attended:

- Social Media Online Training for Healthy Limerick Account.
- Healthy Cities and Counties Coordinators' Networking – Q&A Session.
- Identify your Strengths to improve your Health and Wellbeing.
- Limerick Food Partnership Steering Group Meeting.
- Healthy Cities and Counties Coordinators' Meeting.
- Meeting on the One Million Stars project x 2.

## 2. Tourism

### Limerick Greenway

Marketing and Promotion Campaign continued on social media platforms and billboards, with ongoing content creations being rolled out throughout September.

A number of toilet facilities and benches have now been installed along the Greenway with stainless steel picnic benches and disabled benches delivered and awaiting installation.

Many organisations have utilised the Greenway for fundraisers over the month of September, including National Bike Week, a family Funday in Rathkeale, raising vital funds for the Butterfly Club, 'The Greenway goes Blue' charity cycle in aid of Little Blue Heroes.

Bike Week also had a great itinerary on the Greenway, events were run in a number of locations along the Greenway giving the opportunity for many groups, from parent and toddler groups to active retirement groups, to try cycling, many for the first time. All events were well supported.

The Tourism Department continues to work with colleagues in West Limerick Resources and counterparts in Kerry to support a Destination Development Programme to support local SMEs, businesses and community groups to engage with this new tourism amenity and maximise the return on investment in the communities along the route.

The Tourism Space has recommended workshops with community groups and businesses to support the Shannon Estuary Way Destination Development Programme.

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## 3. Arts Office

### Strategic Policy Committee Sub-Committee on the Impact of COVID-19 on the Arts and Culture Sector

The second meeting of the Limerick City and County Council Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee, Sub-Committee on the impact of COVID-19 on the Arts and Culture Sector, was held virtually on 28 September.

The purpose of the Sub-Committee is to advise and support the Strategic Policy Committee in how it addresses its remit, to inform future policy and strategy to address the recovery of the Arts and Culture Sector in Limerick.

The Sub-Committee is responsible for making strategy recommendations for quality delivery development and sustainability, in line with the Committee's aims and objectives.

## OPEN CALLS

### Individual Arts Bursary Awards Scheme 2021

Limerick City and County Council announced an Open Call for the Individual Arts Bursary Awards Scheme inviting applications from professional artists who wished to be considered for a Bursary of up to €4,000 for the development of work/professional skills. Artists based in Limerick City and County Council's administrative area, or operating substantially within Limerick City and County, could apply for a bursary in multiple art forms, including Visual Arts, Circus, Dance and Literature. Seventeen applications were received and the Assessment Panel met on 14 September. The Panel recommended the allocation of funding to eight successful applicants totalling €20,000, and this was approved at a Meeting of the Full Council on 27 September. All applicants have now been notified.

### Dolores O'Riordan Music Bursary Award 2021

Limerick City and County Council announced an Open Call for applications for the Dolores O'Riordan Music Bursary inviting applications from professional musicians who

wished to be considered for a Bursary of up to €4,000 for the development of work/professional skills. Artists based in Limerick City and County Council's administrative area, or operating substantially within Limerick City and County, could apply for a Bursary. Six applications were received and the Assessment Panel met on 14 September. The Panel recommended the allocation of funding to one successful applicant totalling €4,000, and this was approved at a Meeting of the Full Council on 27 September. All applicants have been notified.

### 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 September, one letter of support was issued in support of the CREATE – Artist in the Community Award. Eleven letters of support were issued in support of Arts Council applications; five to the Strategic award, five to the Agility Award and one to the second round of the Open Call Award.

### Festival and Events Grant Scheme 2021

Following the announcement by Limerick City and County Council of an Open Call for the Festival and Events Grant Scheme 2021, 40 applications were received. Following a meeting, the Assessment Panel recommended the allocation of funding to twenty-eight successful applicants totalling €211,000. This was approved at a Meeting of the Full Council on 27 September. All applicants have now been notified.

## CREATIVE IRELAND FUNDED PROJECTS

### Irish Aerial Creation Centre (IACC)

On Culture Night - 17 September - Limerick's Future Creators launched their film 'Inside Is Outside Now' at the IACC. This film is a collaboration between the Irish Aerial Creation Centre Youth Performance Group (IACCYPG), the Irish Chamber Orchestra Youth Orchestra (ICOYO), and the

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Límrökers Crú and showcases the collaborative work of the collective with an original storyline and choreography.

## Polish Arts Festival (PAF)

The Polish Arts Festival presents exhibitions, concerts, film screenings, podcasts, audio stories for children and workshops themed "Looking Up and Looking Out" which ran from 16 to 19 September in The Hunt Museum, Lime Tree Theatre I Beltable and online. PAF is now in its fourteenth year and is a community organisation that aims to introduce, integrate and promote Polish arts and Polish artists through collaboration with Limerick artists and venues with these events coinciding with Culture Night 2021.

## Ballyorgan-Glenroe Landart

Throughout September, Veronica Santorum, artist and environmentalist, has been facilitating workshops with all age groups to create their community land art project, Oisín of Na Fianna. Some workshops for the project have been held by the Keale River, where the sculpture is situated, connecting the woodland and river to the sculpture through information sessions and walking tours. Other workshops have been held in the community centre focused on the ethos of the overall project.

## Creativity in Older Age - Musicians on Call

Musicians on Call completed their two planned visits delivering live music to patients and staff, on 06 and 20 September, to St. Ita's Hospital, Newcastle West, and St. Camillus' Hospital, Limerick. A trial virtual visit to St. Camillus' Hospital was held on 28 September to learn from and establish the skills or supports needed by the settings/ musicians for virtual visits. This will enable activities to continue should there ever be restricted access in the future.

## ARTS COUNCIL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT PROGRAMME

### PARTNERSHIPS

#### Visual Artists Ireland Professional Development with Arts Offices of Limerick, Clare, Tipperary

The three Arts Offices of Limerick, Clare and Tipperary are working in partnership to bring a shared suite of Visual Artists Ireland training to artists. This year's topics include Festivals, Child Protection, Creative Proposal Writing and Percent Applications and Delivery. Due to COVID-19, this is delivered primarily online, or through blended learning which is outlined in an eighteen-month programme. The first Visual Artist Café took place in September, introducing Arts in Midwest Region on 22 September. The Arts Officers of each Local Authority presented the work of the Arts Offices.

### County Limerick Youth Theatre

County Limerick Youth Theatre's theatre-film collaboration with Limerick Youth Theatre and Emerging Young Filmmakers, ELF, Méadú, was edited throughout September before being screened online as part of Culture Night 2021 on 17 September. An in-person screening at The Honey Fitz Theatre on 22 September coincided with their first workshop back in the space.

In September, the County Limerick Youth Theatre was successful in its National Theatre Connections 2022 application. The ten National Theatre Connections 2022 plays were sent and two were chosen. An application also went in to perform at Positive Stories for Negative Times, an international project spearheaded by the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh, which two groups will take part in over the next four months. Five new members joined County Limerick Youth Theatre in September as well as a B.A. Contemporary & Applied Theatre student from Mary Immaculate College.

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## Integrated Dance

Integrated dance classes have continued in the garden of Brothers of Charity, Newcastle West, throughout September. Mary Hartney has also been choreographing a dance for film with five service users and three professional dancers. Filming took place in the garden on 28 September. This will be the first of a number of films. Mary has also started choreographing classes that will produce a film with Enable Ireland, Castleconnell, with three professional dancers and four service users.

## PLACE MAKING FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

### Culture Night 2021

Culture Night Limerick returned on 17 September. Limerick City and County Council Arts Office was delighted to be able to present an eclectic programme of events, taking place both live and digitally, to showcase the wealth of culture that Limerick has to offer. At the centre of the programme were two live outdoor hubs of activity, the Hunt Museum and Milk Market.

The Hunt Museum played host to a Children's Speaker Corner 'If I were Mayor of Limerick,' a showcase of Limerick design, fashion and millinery in association with the Holman Lee Agency, a discussion and music event in association with Gorm Media entitled Beyond Blackness exploring the contemporary Black experience in Ireland.

The Milk Market hosted the Limerick Food Group who will launch their Pigtown Culture and Food Series with a display of their Giant Pig and recently commissioned family pig floats. They will also host a Mask Making Demonstration for kids and families. There was live music from the Downtown Dixieland Band, a display and talk by the Limerick Beekeepers' Association and close-up magic by Illusionist, Steve Spade.

At King John's Castle, there was a very special live music event featuring the best of Limerick's Hip Hop Scene. Enda Gallery headlined and was joined by Citrus Fresh, 40 Hurtz and Post Punk Podge. The event was produced in

association with King John's Castle, the SIONNA Festival and 'Give Us The Night' especially for Culture Night.

The University Concert Hall hosted a live event, in celebration of the recent renovation of their Compton Organ, with world-renowned organist, Richard Hill, accompanying a screening of Charlie Chaplin's silent movie 'The Pawnshop.'

OpenHouse Limerick hosted a guided walking tour of the city's Medieval Quarter. There was a walking tour in association with 'Clean Coasts' and the 'Think Before You Flush' campaign titled 'Sanitation in the City,' discussing the history of Sanitation and raising awareness of the impact of what is flushed on inland and coastal waters.

Across the city and county, a number of Self-Guided Tours took place - available for the public to engage with in the run up to, and the days after, Culture Night. There were two very special interactions with youth groups in Newcastle West, Kilmallock and Kilfinane, supported by the JP McManus Benevolent Fund. They included the recently installed Street Art Tour in Newcastle West, installed by the local Foróige Group celebrating the history of the town and its people and installed on sites provided by the ESB. In Kilmallock and Kilfinane, local young people worked with Street Art Company LUMEN Street Theatre, designing and installing drain art across the two towns. Other self-guided trails included the Limerick Street Art Trail, The Women of Limerick App Guided Trail and the Shannon River Treasure Trail.

Digitally, the County Limerick Youth Theatre, Limerick Youth Theatre and Emerging Limerick Filmmakers launched their co-funded MEADÚ project of four short films online on the evening. A Human Geography project explored the lives of those living on Jesuit Lane in a podcast available to download or listen to on Limerick City Community Radio. Sliabh Luachra live streamed an evening of music and song with artists from Limerick, Kerry and Cork.

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## Poetry Town - Adare

Running a poetry festival from 10 - 18 September, Adare became one of 20 Poetry Towns across the island of Ireland. This Poetry Ireland initiative is run in partnership with the Local Authority Arts Offices. Edward O'Dwyer was appointed as Limerick's Poet Laureate and he penned a poem honouring Adare, which was revealed at a special event that was streamed on 18 September. The week had many events for the local community, including a Yoga/Poetry fusion class, Poems on a Pew and several workshops for aspiring poets. The week was kicked off by a special event, Poetry in the Park: a Stroll through Adare Town Park with established Poets reciting their work from stationed umbrellas. Poets included Adare Poet Laureate, Ed O'Dwyer, John Liddy and Kieran Beville, Jessica Brown, Mike MacDomhnaill, Gabriel Fitzmaurice and a few surprises.

## Éigse - Michael Hartnett Literary and Arts Festival 2021

Celebrating the work of Michael Hartnett, this three-day festival, a partnership between Limerick City and County Council and the Éigse Michael Hartnett Committee, commenced in Newcastle West on 30 September, with guests including Patricia Scanlan and John Creedon. To kick off the festival, Kerry-based poet, Ceaití Ní Bheildiúin, was presented with the Michael Hartnett Poetry Award for her collection in Irish, Agallamh Sa Cheo, Cnoc Bhréanainn (Coiscéim, 2019). This festival is jointly funded by Limerick City and County Council and the Arts Council.

## St. Patrick's Festival Development Plan

As one of six destinations around the country selected by Fáilte Ireland for support, work has been continuing this month on Limerick's three-year development plan for the St. Patrick's Festival. Staff have attended mentoring sessions and workshops hosted by Fáilte Ireland, and the new plan has been submitted.

## 4. Property & Community Facilities

### DERELICTION AND VACANCY

Dereliction, Vacancy and Reuse Team - September	
Inspections carried out	194
Property and Community Facilities Department Notices issued	29
Statutory Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act	57
Cases closed through engagement	12
Properties entered onto the Derelict Sites Register	13
Properties put forward for Compulsory Acquisition (Section 15 Notices)	0
Properties Compulsorily Acquired (Section 17 Notices)	34

### BIN WAIVERS

Bin Waivers Approved	4
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## 5. Libraries, Gallery & Museum

### Library

- “Limerick Reads - What’s the Story? “ is the title of a new original campaign by Limerick Libraries to connect individuals in the community through an appreciation of great Limerick writers. There is something for everyone in the selection designed to spark meaningful conversations through a network of voluntary “ambassadors” in the community. All of Limerick can get involved by reading any of the six chosen titles and sharing them with friends and family. Over a hundred ambassadors have been given a set of books to be shared, gifted and re-gifted widely across our communities. The aim is to get people reading, talking and connecting about Limerick Reads. Anyone can join the conversation on social media using #LimerickReads. The books selected are: Kevin Barry, That Old Country Music; Helena Close, The Gone Book; Judi Curtin, Lily Steps Up; Padraig Kenny, The Monsters of Rookhaven; Roisin Meaney, The Restaurant; and Donal Ryan, Strange Flowers. The participating authors have recorded videos and recommendations that can be viewed on [Limerick.ie](http://Limerick.ie).

- From 20 September, access to an extended range of services resumed in all library branches as part of the phased lifting of COVID-19 restrictions. Public access to PCs, reader/study spaces and newspapers resumed.
- Summer Stars concluded with participants collecting certificates in all branches. This year, almost 1,800 certificates of achievement were presented to children who registered for the programme in their local branches and online. Dooradoyle Library ran a Short Story Competition and received some very impressive entries with prizes for the best five. Copies of the winning entries were displayed in the library.
- The Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme continued with four online yoga sessions for Our Lady Queen of Peace school organised by Roxboro Library. The children focused on gentle stretching movements as part of the session. Limerick Libraries are delighted to be part of the ‘Free To Be Me – The Diversity,

Representation and Inclusion’ project, launched by Children’s Books Ireland and KPMG on 23 September. All libraries have free copies of the reading guide, which has been carefully curated with the aim that every child can see themselves reflected in a book, as well as learning about the lives of others whose experiences differ from their own.

- The recently established Limerick Library’s Twitter account has achieved, to date, 146 followers, 11,376 profile visits and almost 50,000 impressions. Limerick Libraries Instagram account continues to grow with thousands of views of new videos promoting “Limerick Reads,” literary information, book stock, e-services and more. Limerick Libraries updates can be found on Instagram: @limericklibraries Twitter: @limklibraries and on Facebook.
- Limerick Bike Week was organised by the Transportation and Mobility Directorate and began on 12 September. One of this year’s events was a colouring competition for children and the library branches agreed to be the collection and drop-off points for the entries. Newcastle West Library created a colourful display featuring posters, books on cycling, competition forms.
- Limerick Libraries have continued to offer TTRS (Touch-type Read and Spell) free-of-charge to schools and individuals. TTRS is a multisensory, structured, online typing course, which assists students to learn at their own pace. In addition to developing typing skills, TTRS is designed to benefit students of all ages, in particular those who experience spelling, reading or writing difficulties.
- Primary school class visits have resumed in branches.

### Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- The three exhibitions, which formed the basis of the summer programme, closed on 12 September. They were hugely successful with 16,920 visitors to the three exhibitions: The Loneliness of Being German, by Vera Klute and Thomas Brezing; Common Thread, by

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Maighread Tobin; and a selection of drawings from the National Collection of Contemporary Drawings celebrating 30 years, curated by Samuel Walsh.

- Work commenced on the installation of a new exhibition, Songs and the Soil, by Mark Garry, on 15 September and opened to the public on 24 September. The exhibition, which was commissioned by the MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) in Belfast, includes a new work, An Lucht Siúil (The Walking People) performed in Shelta and English.
- As part of Mark Garry's Songs and the Soil Exhibition, Mark has invited Natalia Beylis, Padraig Cunningham and Sharon Phelan to make artistic responses to the broader research themes of his exhibition, which looks at the relationship between landscape and sound/song. This space, that Mark Garry has entitled 'A Resonant Landscape,' has become a distinct exhibition where these three artists have created new artworks that overtly and obliquely engage with the land and its associative, visual, sonic and poetic resonant potential.
- The third phase of EVA International opened on 24 September and LCGA is one of the participating venues for this iteration of the exhibition. Planning continues for the next exhibition and a solo exhibition by Aideen Barry.
- The pilot phase of the Virtual Test Space Residency programme held an Open Call and received 48 applications by the closing date of 13 September from national and international artists. Six applications were short-listed to go forward to the final selection panel on 28 September. This project is supported by the Arts Council. The pilot version of the Test Space Residency comprises two artists: the virtual residency, outlined above, and an invited artist based in Limerick who will work and engage with the gallery programme and host a series of workshops with Bedford Row Resource Centre. This is in line with LCGA's Strategic Plan to make LCGA a model of a civic space for the 21st century.

- LCGA hosted the launch by the Limerick Writers' Centre, on 05 September, of a new collection of poetry by Limerick poet, John Liddy.
- LCGA facilitated a private viewing of a selection from the Michael O'Connor Poster Collection by First Year Students of LIT Limerick School of Art & Design.
- The University of the Third Age (U3A) held its first "in person" meeting in LCGA and it is planned to work closely with this organisation in line with our Strategic Plan (2020-2025).
- LCGA worked with the Hunt Museum for its summer exhibition 'A Wild Atlantic Way,' providing eleven artworks from the Permanent Collection for the Exhibition.

## Limerick Museum

- Limerick Museum received a significant donation of Limerick Lace from Dr. Vanda Morton, a relative of Veronica Rowe, whose collection of Limerick Lace is on long-term loan to the Museum.
- The Wild Atlantic Way Exhibition continued in the Hunt Museum throughout September and included paintings on loan from Limerick Museum.
- Significant progress continued to be made on the audit of Limerick Museum's collection at its new storage facility.



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## Regeneration Directorate

### 1. Regeneration

- Moyross: Dalgaish Park/Cosgrave Park (57-unit residential development) - Stage 4 application submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage seeking approval to award the contract.
- O'Malley Park: Churchfield Phase 2 (38-unit residential development) - Stage 4 approval received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage authorising award of the contract.
- Thermal Upgrade Contract 125 (St. Mary's Park) - Stage 3 application submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage seeking approval to tender the contract.



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## Housing Directorate

### 1. Housing Support Services

- Waiting List

Housing Waiting List	2,326
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- Allocations

	No. of Units September 2021	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	4	13
Newcastle West	4	18
Metropolitan District	14	169
Cappamore-Kilmallock	5	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>229</b>

- Approved Housing Body Allocations 2021 (year to date)

Total Nominations	232
Successful Nominations	137
Nominations Pending	55
Unsuccessful Nominations	40

- Traveller Housing Welfare

No. of Units offered September 2021	2
Year to Date	15

\* these figures are included in allocations figures

- Housing Assistance Payments Limerick (HAP)

2,453 of active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	26
No. of Amendments	461
No. of Cessations	36

- Allocations Refusals

	No. of Units September 2021	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	5
Newcastle West	0	1
Metropolitan District	1	9
Cappamore-Kilmallock	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>

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## Home Improvement Schemes

September 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	€1,211.00	1	€33,280.39	7	€0.00	0	€0.00	0
Newcastle West	€22,250.00	4	€24,599.45	3	€17,570.00	5	€0.00	0
Metropolitan	€45,550.66	8	€19,902.50	2	€48,657.50	16	€52,566.62	7
Cappamore-Kilmallock	€5,700.00	1	€0.00	0	€0.00	0	€0.00	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>€74,711.66</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>€77,782.34</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>€66,227.50</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>€52,566.62</b>	<b>7</b>
Total Monies issued in September 2021 = €271,288.12								
Total Grants issued in September 2021 = 54								

January to September 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	€90,583.34	19	€119,835.27	18	€157,664.15	35	€0.00	0
Newcastle West	€103,000.00	19	€107,912.08	17	€221,345.68	51	€0.00	0
Metropolitan	€278,605.47	52	€404,696.62	57	€295,514.23	84	€138,087.87	10
Cappamore-Kilmallock	€173,622.11	32	€87,781.87	11	€116,873.95	24	€0.00	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>€645,810.92</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>€720,225.84</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>€791,398.01</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>€138,087.87</b>	<b>10</b>
Total Monies issued January to September 2021 = €2,295,522.64								
Total Grants issued January to September 2021 = 429								

## Rent Collection

Rent Collection Limerick City and County Council					
Opening Balance at 01/01/2021	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing balance 30.09.2021	% Collection
€5,040,713	€12,965,527	€18,006,240	€12,690,740	€5,315,500	70%

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

Individuals - September 2021		
Location	Description	Beds Used
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	32
St. Patrick's Hostel	Higher threshold accommodation for single males	43
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	11
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	2
Clare Street Emergency Pods	Adults without children accommodated in low threshold emergency accommodation	10
Temporary Emergency Provision TEP 1 (Edenvilla)	Low threshold, night by night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	13
Temporary Emergency Provision TEP 2 (Phoenix Lodge)	Low threshold, night by night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	14
<b>Total</b>		<b>125</b>

Families				
Location	Description	Beds Used		
		Adults	Children	Families
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	8	6
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	4	2	2
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	10	14	9
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Adults</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>Families</b>
		20	24	17

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

Tenant Purchase	
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. Received	7
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. Approved	0
Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans	
Loan Applications: No. Received	3
Loan Applications: No. Approved	0
Deed of Discharge	
Deed of Discharge Applications: No. Received	23
Consent to Sale	
Consent to Sale Applications: No. Received	5
Cottage Purchase Annuity	
No. of Cottage Purchase Annuity Applications	1
Ground Rent	
No. of Ground Rent Applications	2

## Freedom of Information, Data Requests and Ombudsman

Freedom of Information Requested submitted	9
Ombudsman Query Cases	3

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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

#### Serviced Sites Fund (SSF)

As part of "Housing for All," the Affordable Housing Fund (AHF) has now replaced the Serviced Sites Fund to assist the delivery of affordable homes for purchase or rent by Local Authorities going forward.

It was established as a result of a Programme for Government commitment to 'extend the Serviced Sites

Fund.' Existing approved SSF funding is still available and Limerick City and County Council's Affordable Housing Team is reviewing the five SSF sites across the city to ascertain if the schemes would benefit from transferring to AHF. A number of feasibility schemes are underway and are being tested for viability with varying levels of subsidy and with various tenure models.

### Approvals Sought/Obtained

Capital Appraisal has been submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for 19 apartments on Ballycummin Road - this is a two to four-storey development.

#### • Home Improvement Schemes

Inspections and Recommendations for Home Improvement Schemes – September

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-Inspection	Final Inspection	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	11	1	8	20
HAGS (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	1	8	0	8	17
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	27	0	20	47
<b>Total Inspections by Inspection Type</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>Total Inspections Year to Date</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>567</b>

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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 30 September in the above Social Housing delivery streams:

As at 30 September (01.01.21 – 30.09.21)	Build	Buy	Lease	Total
Complete	110	18	66	<b>194</b>
In Progress	155	22	51	<b>228</b>
Overall Complete and In Progress	265	40	117	<b>422</b>
“Housing for All” 2021 Delivery Target	441	10	84	<b>535</b>

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 01.01.2021 – 30.09.2021.

## 2. Current Operational Programme

Twelve properties were returned in September 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 September - Categorisation	
Cat 1	0
Cat 2	0
Cat 3	0
Cat 4	0
To be inspected	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>

House Returns September - Municipal District	
Adare-Rathkeale	0
Cappamore-Kilmallock	1
Newcastle West	0
Metropolitan Area	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>

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Current Working Programme		
	Completed in September	In Progress
Local Authority Construction Team	0	78
Local Authority Maintenance Team	4	55
Approved Housing Body stock transfer in progress	0	25
Regeneration Team	0	10
Team to be assigned	N/A	32
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>200</b>

## 4. Municipal District Offices

### Metropolitan District of Limerick

#### Metropolitan District Meetings

The Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick took place on 20 September and amongst the agenda items, the Elected Members considered and approved proposed Part 8 applications in relation to:

- The proposed Upgrade of Golf Links Road, Limerick;
- The proposed Mill Road, Corbally, Active Travel Scheme Improvement Works;
- The proposed Limerick City Outdoor Dining Experience Project at Thomas Street and Bedford Row, Limerick.

In addition, Operational Area Briefings were given to the Elected Members.

#### Dog Park Pilot in Mungret Park

A Dog Park has opened in Mungret Park in front of Mungret College. It is being piloted for a six-month period. The purpose of the pilot is to seek feedback from the public on the facility, which would inform any future dog parks in Limerick, and will be reviewed after a six-month period.

#### Upgrade Works across the Metropolitan District

Footpath rehabilitation works took place in Castleconnell Village at a cost of €8,000, and the works were carried out by Limerick City and County Council.

Footpath rehabilitation works were also completed in Rathbane, at a cost of €24,000, and the works were carried out by Maramba Contractors.

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## Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

- The monthly Meeting of the Municipal District took place on 14 September in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Dooradoyle.
- Essential repairs to social houses and public roads were undertaken by the Housing Maintenance and Roads Maintenance Teams:
  - 68 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
  - 74 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.
- Overlay works were carried out during September on the L1142, Poulatoon, the L1478, Croom to Caherass Road and the R521 Grouse Lodge, Ardagh.
- Three Community Involvement Schemes were completed at Rathreagh, Carrigeen and Ballymackeamore.
- Three Local Improvement Schemes were completed at Ballydoole, Finnog and Morenane.
- One Low Cost Safety Improvement Scheme was completed at Kilcolman.

## Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

- The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock was held in Deeber House Hotel, Kilmallock, on 16 September.
- Essential repairs to houses were undertaken by the Housing Maintenance and Roads Maintenance Teams:
  - 121 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
  - 88 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

## Road Works Programme 2021

- Drainage Scheme Works were undertaken at the L8010 Ballybrien.
- Office of Public Works Minor Flood Mitigation Works were undertaken at Howardstown, Bosnetstown and Ballinatona.
- Community Involvement Scheme was undertaken at L85661 Ballinvana.
- Climate Change Works were undertaken on L8537 and L8539 Knockcommone, Kilbehenny.
- Community Involvement Scheme works were undertaken on L50607 Dromsally.
- General Municipal Allocation footpath works undertaken in Doon.
- Drainage Scheme, Moore Street, undertaken in Cappamore.

## Municipal District of Newcastle West

- The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West took place on 15 September.
- Seventeen grant applications were approved under the Private Housing Grant Schemes. The total value of approvals was €84,551.83.
 

Payments of €17,570 were made to five applicants who completed works under the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.

Payments of €24,599.45 were made to three applicants who completed works under the Housing Adaptation for People with a Disability Scheme.

Payments of €22,250 were made to four applicants who completed works under the Mobility Aid Scheme.

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- The Newcastle West District Roads Programme of Works 2021 continued with works completed on the following:
  - General Municipal Allocation works at Gortboy Lane, Newcastle West.
  - Surface Dressing at the Devon Cross, Templeglantine.
  - Road Overlay Works at (i) R515 Pike Road, Dromcollogher and (ii) R515 Church Road, Dromcollogher.
  - Local Improvement Scheme 2021- Eight schemes were completed under Phase 1.
- A total of 825 Motor Tax applications were processed by the Newcastle West Motor Tax Section.



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## Planning, Environment and Place-Making Directorate

### 1. Place-Making and Public Realm

#### Project Updates

- Park Road Bridge - Approval has been received from An Bord Pleanála for a proposed new bridge between South Canal Bank and Lower Park Road, which will improve the pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle crossing facilities of the canal. Geotechnical Investigation and detailed design will now proceed.
- Newcastle West Athletics Hub - Construction of a new eight-lane athletics track and ancillary facilities is progressing on site.
- Adare Public Realm Plan - Consultants are appointed and have commenced work on the preparation of a Public Realm Plan for Adare. Initial stakeholder consultation has taken place to inform the baseline analysis. The preparation of a public realm plan for this heritage village will inform development in the short, medium and long term.
- Tenders were received for the construction of the second phase of the Mungret Link Street and are currently being assessed.
- Fáilte Ireland Urban Animation Scheme 2021 - The Urban Animation Capital Investment Scheme is a new pilot Capital Grants Scheme for Local Authorities. The objective of the scheme is to invest in the sustainable development of public realm and urban animation projects that have the potential to transform and reimagine urban centres. Limerick City and County Council's submission for an urban animation project on O'Connell Street was successful with funding of over €500,000 committed to the project.

### 2. Planning Development

#### Planning Applications

A total of 126 new planning applications were received as follows:

<b>Part 8</b>	1
<b>Housing Developments</b>	1
<b>Domestic Developments</b>	89
<b>Agricultural Developments</b>	6
<b>Commercial Developments/Change of Use</b>	13
<b>Sporting/Community and Educational Developments</b>	3
<b>Other Developments</b>	13

The current applications include proposals for:

- Part 8 for junction improvement works on the R445 (Dublin Road)/R506 (Cappamore Road). The proposed works will include the construction of new footpaths, new cycle lanes, new junction slip lanes, new controlled pedestrian crossings, new public lighting scheme, new surface water drainage system, improved road markings, new traffic signal control, signage and carriageway resurfacing at Garraunykee and Woodstown.

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## 3. Environment, Recreation & Climate Change

### Cemeteries

Number of Burials in City Cemeteries

Mount St. Lawrence	14
Mount St. Oliver	29
Castlemungret	9
Kilmurry	0

### Waste Regulation and Enforcement

- 304 complaints were received in September.
- A total of 391 inspections were undertaken during the month.
- The Department issued five Statutory Notices.
- One Direction was served by the Department.
- 40 Warning Letters were issued.
- A total of 11 fines were issued during the period.
- Legal proceedings were initiated in three cases.

## 4. Urban Innovation

### +CityxChange

#### Citizen Innovation Lab

The Citizen Innovation Lab is a collaboration between Limerick City and County Council and the University of Limerick. Urban Innovation, in coordination with Digital Services, is working closely with the University of Limerick (UL) to deliver and open the space.

The Citizen Innovation Lab will initially be established through the +CityxChange Horizon 2020 project and located at the UL City Campus Building on Sarsfield Street (formerly Dunnes Stores), Limerick. The Citizen Innovation Lab also refers to the collaborative operation of the spaces - The Innovation Hub, Citizen Observatory and Fab Lab Limerick.

#### Positive Energy Champions Campaign

The Positive Energy Champions continue to take action on their energy use and look for innovative ways for Limerick's citizens to engage with Ireland's clean energy transition.

In September, +CityxChange partners, IES (Integrated Energy Solutions) and staff from the Urban Innovation Department, met with Champions in the 'Understanding Energy, Retrofit and Invest' strand of the project. These Champions are owners and managers of buildings in the Georgian Neighborhood; they have been supplying energy data about their buildings to IES. IES will now build an integrated energy model for the building owners, which will help them understand better how their building uses energy on a day-to-day basis. They will also run scenarios, which can enable the owners to take evidence-based decisions around retrofitting and renewable interventions.

# Chief Executive's Report



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## Open Call 2 Take Control of Your Energy

Projects funded under the +CityxChange Open Innovation Call for small-scale energy projects are progressing. Solar allotments have now been installed in O'Brien Park in Clare Street, Limerick. The allotments were planted in September with a variety of crops and solar panels will now be connected which will regulate the temperature and, it is hoped, extend the growing season into the winter. Two control units have also been planted so that growing data can be compared over time.

## 5. Veterinary Services

- 14 stray or wandering equines were impounded.
- The Dog Control Unit processed 13 dogs during the month.
- Four food samples were submitted for analysis under the National Residues and Microbiological Sampling Programme.



# Chief Executive's Report



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## National and Regional Shared Services Centre Directorate

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

- There were 62,309 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAP SSC at the end of September.
- A weekly average of 275 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2021.
- The September landlord payment run was €55.8 million.
- The weekly tenant charge at the end of September was €3.1 million.
- The Debt Management Unit of the HAP SSC collected a total of €116.1 million in differential rent to end of September.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of September was 98%.
- The Debt Management process restarted on 20 September with 14,149 HAP debt reminder letters issued.

### 2. Fire and Emergency

#### Statistics

	No. of Fire Related Calls	No. of Non Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call-outs outs 01/09/2021 – 30/09/2021	66	48	114
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	70%	61%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	26%	26%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	4%	13%	

	No. Received / Assigned	No. Validated	No. Invalidated / Refused	No. Granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications September	14	14	0	9	
Disability Access Cert Applications September	7	7	0	3	
Licensing Applications September	19	19	0		
Commencement Notice September	67	56	7	56	63
Completion Certificate September	9	9	0	9	9
Planning Referrals September	20				9
Sugar CRM Cases September	3				2

# Chief Executive's Report



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## Fire and Emergency Training Events

During the month, the following training courses took place:

- 16 fire fighters received a three-day refresher course in Emergency Chainsaw Operating.
- Seven fire fighters attended a Health and Safety Representative courses run by Human Resources.
- Ten fire officers attended a one-day course in Nenagh run by Rescue Organisation Ireland. This course dealt with the safety aspects for the Fire Service in dealing with electric and hybrid cars.
- The retained fire stations received training in the use of DeWalt battery tools and new SDS drills.
- The Fire Service was involved in a table top exercise to test the HSE, Gardaí and Fire Service response to a Hazardous Material incident in the Limerick Tunnel.
- A Swiftwater Rescue Technician course commenced for four fire fighters in Limerick City.
- One fire fighter attended a five-day Compartment Fire Behaviour course in Sligo.
- Two fire fighters attended a Managing Fire Service Incidents Module 2 course.
- Four fire fighters attended the first QQI accredited hazardous materials course to be held in Ireland. This course was delivered in Nenagh with Ken Crowley instructing on the course.
- A number of retained fire stations have refreshed their crews in Manual Handling training.

## Civil Defence attendance at Events

The following activity took place:

- Patient transfer, Limerick to Cork and return – one day.
- Off-shore boat survival course, Cork – one day.
- Fuchsia Appeal Launch, Limerick – half day.
- Missing Person's search, Abbeyfeale – 2½ days.
- Return to weekly training on Tuesday evenings – two evenings.
- Preparation for launch of Mental Health Week – event held on the water and around the Clayton Hotel, Limerick.

## Irish Blood Transfusion Service Blood Donor Clinics

- Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick – one day.
- St. Munchin's College, Limerick – one day.
- South Court Hotel, Limerick – one day.
- Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick – one day.

# Chief Executive's Report



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## Water Safety

Number of lifebuoy replacements	Total January - August	September	Total 2021
Metropolitan Area	7	1	8
Municipal Area	9	0	9

## 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 September
No. of Call-Outs 01/09/2021 - 30/09/2021	873	1,341	1 min. 20 seconds	2,214



# Chief Executive's Report



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## Support Services Directorate

### 1. Finance

#### Commercial Rates and Loans

##### Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2021	
As at 30th September 2021	
Opening Balance - 01 Jan €	10,696,120 * 10,696,120 * 10,696,120 *
Accruals €	60,000,496 ** 60,000,496 ** 60,000,496 **
Vacant Property Adjustment €	460,277 460,277 460,277
Write Offs / Waivers €	15,334,285 15,334,285 15,334,285
Total for Collection €	54,902,054 54,902,054 54,902,054
Amount Collected €	38,305,640 38,305,640 38,305,640
Arrears €	16,596,414 16,596,414 16,596,414
Specific Doubtful Arrears €	3,187,659 3,187,659 3,187,659
% Collected	74% 74% 74%

Debtors Loans	
As at 30th September 2021*	
Opening Balance - 01 Jan €	357,981 * 357,981 * 357,981 *
Accruals €	1,214,801 ^ 1,214,801 ^ 1,214,801 ^
Write Offs / Waivers €	46 46 46
To Collect €	1,572,736 1,572,736 1,572,736
Receipts €	1,368,187 1,368,187 1,368,187
Arrears €	204,549 204,549 204,549
% Collected	87% 87% 87%

\* subject to audit of year end accounts for 2020

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

\* subject to audit of year end accounts for 2020

#### Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No. of days in overdraft 0

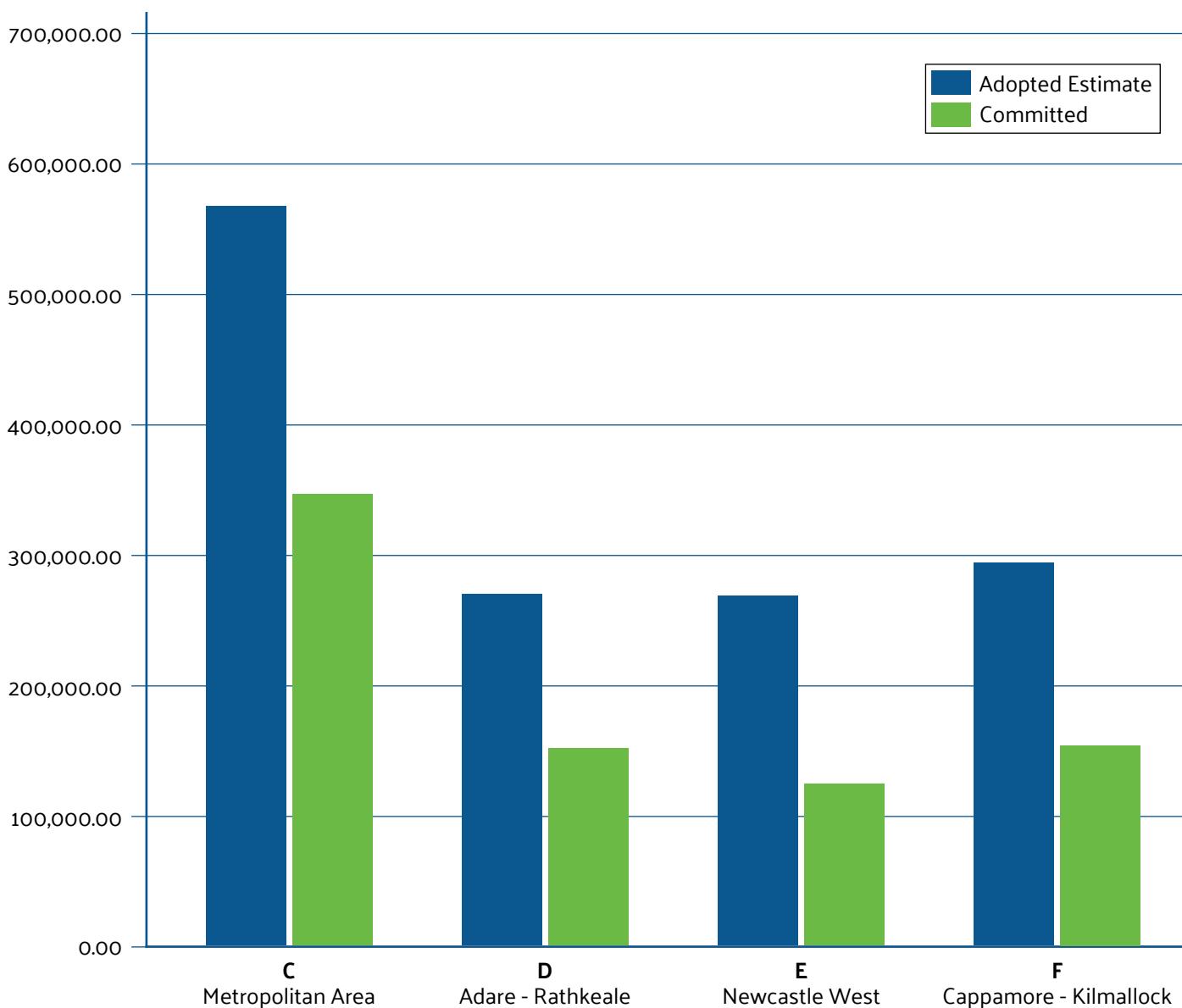
# Chief Executive's Report



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## General Municipal Allocation 2021 Adopted Estimate €1.403 Million

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



### Municip (Code) + (Text)

- C** Metropolitan Area
- D** Adare - Rathkeale
- E** Newcastle West
- F** Cappamore - Kilmallock

### Value Adopted Estimate (€)

- 568,000.00
- 270,000.00
- 270,000.00
- 295,000.00

### Value Committed (€)

- 344,598
- 150,587
- 102,654
- 154,327

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## 2. Business Improvement

- Active Travel Projects now live on Cora PPM (Portfolio Project Management).
- Business Improvement worked with Travel and Transportation Strategy Department on its Junction Improvement Works Part 8 on MyPoint.
- Users can now search by either “Employee Name” or “Department” on the Staff App.
- A total of 885 users are now live on the Employee App.
- Staff Liaison Network took place on 21 September.

## 3. Corporate, Governance and Customer Services

### Office of the Mayor

#### Mayoral Receptions were held for the following:

- Limerick's Olympians and Paralympian - Ben and Megan Fletcher, Carolyn Hayes, Sarah Lavin, Róisín Ní Ríain, Greg O'Shea and Róisín Upton, - in recognition of their outstanding achievements representing Ireland at the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020. (Ben and Megan Fletcher did not attend reception).
- Anna Moore, in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the development and success of Women's Boxing in Limerick and Ireland.

#### The Mayor hosted the following in Corporate Headquarters:

- Courtesy visit of Norwegian Ambassador to Ireland.
- Visit of Virginia Teehan, CEO, Heritage Council.
- Courtesy Visit of the Canadian Ambassador to Ireland.

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

- Radio interview with LiR Media.TV.
- Commemorative Tree Planting Ceremony to mark 25 years of Cook Ireland in Limerick.  
**Venue:** Cook Ireland Campus, O'Halloran Road, National Technology Park, Limerick.
- National Learning Network, Ceremony on Award of 4th Amber Flag by Pieta House for promoting positive Mental Health in the Limerick Centre.  
**Venue:** National Learning Network, Raheen Business Park, Limerick.
- Photoshoot for Launch of Culture Night.  
**Venue:** Hunt Museum Garden, Limerick.
- Charity Island Swim, a 3.8km swim around King's Island. Swim in aid of St. Gabriel's Hydro Pool.  
**Venue:** Garden of Hunt Museum, Limerick.
- Visit of Minister Darragh O'Brien, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage.  
**Venue:** Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Participation, by delivering an Address, at the 8th Hangzhou International Sister City Mayors' Conference, on the Conference Theme - City Internationalisation and Development.
- Visit of Minister Damien English, Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail.  
**Venue:** ENGINE, Upper Cecil Street, Limerick.
- Promotional Interview for the Ryder Cup 2027.  
**Venue:** Adare Manor, Adare, Co. Limerick.
- Witness completion of project undertaken by the Ilen Marine School, a traditional sand mandala representing the ancient walled town of Limerick which was skilfully put together, then ritually destroyed on completion as part of a local legacy project celebrating Limerick's medieval marine heritage.

# Chief Executive's Report



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- Recorded Graduation congratulations to the graduates of Limerick College of Further Education.
- Video promotion for Learning Limerick, 'Celebration of Learning Day' as part of the Irish Network of Learning Cities. This network is a joint initiative with four other cities across Ireland, - Cork, Belfast, Dublin and Derry Strabane, to promote learning across the cities, the city regions and the island of Ireland.  
**Venue:** Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Photoshoot for FREE NOW, a taxi e-hailing app., expanding the ECO booking option to Limerick via their app.  
**Venue:** Treaty Stone, Limerick.
- The Land Development Agency, Launch of the Draft Colbert Quarter Spatial Framework.  
**Venue:** The Savoy Hotel, Henry Street, Limerick.
- Video Launch for Limerick Mental Health Week.  
**Venue:** Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Official Opening of 14th Polish Arts Festival "Looking Up and Looking Out."  
**Venue:** Hunt Museum Gardens, Limerick.
- Pigtown Festival 2021 which launched 'The 061 Dinner' (0 Imports, 6 Restaurants, 1 Goal). The 3-course dinner was served in six different restaurants at the same time, serving an exclusive Limerick-produced menu.
- Official Launch of Fuchsia Appeal on behalf of Organisation of National Ex-Service Personnel (O.N.E.).  
**Venue:** Bedford Row, Limerick.
- Culture Night, Children's Speakers' Corner - If I Were Mayor of Limerick, encouraging young citizens to voice their opinions and ideas.  
**Venue:** Courtyard of the Hunt Museum, Limerick.
- Launch of the Garryowen Music Hub. Garryowen Comhaltas Group and St John's Brass & Reed Band gave an outdoor live performance for Culture Night.  
**Venue:** 2, Garryowen Road, Limerick.

- Fidget Feet Aerial Dance Theatre, Film Launch of Creative Ireland Project: Limerick's Future Creators.  
**Venue:** Irish Aerial Creation Centre, Gillogue Office Park, Corbally.
- Promotion of social media video competition for Tidy Towns, Mission Possible for #Limerick Tidy Towns Groups, challenging groups with the mission of creating a 90 second or less video of their "PLACE."
- Union Rugby Championship, Munster v Sharks.  
**Venue:** Thomond Park, Limerick.
- Limerick Jazz Festival  
**Venue:** Dolan's Warehouse, Limerick.
- Féile Luimnigh's 75th Anniversary Gala Concert.  
**Venue:** St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick.
- Visit to Edward Lifesciences.  
**Venue:** National Technology Park, Plassey, Limerick.
- Launch of Éigse Michael Hartnett Literary and Arts Festival.  
**Venue:** Longcourt House Hotel, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.

## European Green Capital Award 2023 and European Green Leaf Award 2022

The Mayor travelled to Lahti, Finland, from 8-11 September to attend the European Green Capital 2023 and European Green Leaf 2022 Awards Ceremony.

# Chief Executive's Report



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## Register of Electors

- The Register of Electors Team continues to work on a data cleansing project prior to migration to a new Register of Electors system.
- 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.

Total number of deletions	303
Total number of additions	17
Total number of amendments	16
Total number of deletion letters issued to electors	113

## Health and Safety Training

The following Health and Safety training courses took place during the month:

Course Name	Number of Staff Trained
Safe Pass Training	9
Health and Safety Rep. Training	12
Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) Signing, Lighting and Guarding Information Update	12
Manual Handling	155

## Schedule of Meetings for September

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Full Council	27.09.2021	Dooradoyle and Online
<b>Operational Briefings</b>		
Limerick City East	07.09.2021	Virtual
Limerick City North	07.09.2021	Virtual
Limerick City West	08.09.2021	Virtual
<b>Joint Policing Committee</b>	03.09.2021	Virtual
<b>Metropolitan District of Limerick</b>		
Special Meeting	17.09.2021	Dooradoyle and Online
Monthly Meeting	20.09.2021	Dooradoyle and Online

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Name of Meeting	Date	Location
<b>Municipal District of</b>  <b>Newcastle West</b> Monthly Meeting	15.09.2021	Newcastle West
<b>Adare-Rathkeale</b> Monthly Meeting	14.09.2021	Dooradoyle
<b>Cappamore-Kilmallock</b> Special Meeting Monthly Meeting	02.09.2021 16.09.2021	Dooradoyle Kilmallock
<b>Local Community Development Committee</b>	07.09.2021	Virtual
<b>Party Leaders' Meeting</b>	23.09.2021	Dooradoyle and Online
<b>Corporate Policy Group</b>	06.09.2021 20.09.2021	Virtual Virtual
<b>Autism Friendly Working Group</b>	06.09.2021 20.09.2021	Virtual Virtual
<b>Protocol Committee Meeting</b>	23.09.2021	Dooradoyle and Online
<b>Audit Committee Meeting</b>	24.09.2021	Merchant's Quay

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## Access to Information

	September	2021 (January to September)
Total Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests	19	191
FOI Internal Appeals	1	9
Information Commissioner Appeals	1	2
Total Ombudsman Requests	5	36
Total Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) Requests	7	12

## Customer Services

Upon reopening, Customer Services aided 1,898 customers at Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle offices. To ensure the ongoing safety and protection of both staff and customers, Customer Services staff completed refresher courses on both Manual Handling and Violence and Aggression training throughout the month, thus enabling staff to care for customers in the most efficient and effective manner.

Customer Services worked closely with colleagues in the Business Improvement Unit and Digital Strategy to provide a smooth and easy implementation of the new organisational structure on the Sugar CRM (Customer Relationship Management) systems. Customer Services staff also liaised with the Housing Support Services Department on the creation and rollout of the new housing application form.

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

- Customer Services Call Centre dealt with 12,682 calls. This represents an average of 576 per day, with the number of calls exceeding 650 on several occasions. 55% of these calls were handled at first point of contact.
- Customer Services Case Management Team continued working with key service areas of the Council in

supporting the closure and update of representations from Elected Members.

- 3,016 cases were created, with 722 of these logged on behalf of Public Representatives. 2,513 cases were closed, with 586 of these being cases logged by Public Representatives.
- A total of 3,209 emails were processed through the Customer Services email platform.
- 413 calls were received through the Voxpro out-of-hours services.
- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued, with a total of 295 being logged, 271 of which were submitted by Public Representatives.
- Customer Services continued to support the Housing Maintenance Department in creating service requests and keeping citizens up to date on progress made. Customer Services logged 94% of cases for Housing Maintenance in the Metropolitan District.
- Customer Services continued to provide other frontline services to the public, such as the processing of Residential Parking Permits, with 119 Residential

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Parking Permits applied for.

## 4. Marketing & Communications

### Marketing

- Created fresh, new photographic content featuring an under 30s demographic, to increase our promotional image bank and showcase Limerick businesses reopening throughout the city.
- Continued engagement with Brand Limerick ambassadors via the Brand Ambassadors' Network.
- Continued engagement with the Adare Business community in the development of Brand Adare.
- Engaged with Trade and Investment Unit in the identification and preparation of marketing assets to attract increased investment to Limerick and in advance of upcoming UK Roadshows/trade missions.
- Commenced engagement with Smart Limerick in the development of a marketing and communications strategy for an upcoming Autumn showcase of Innovation.
- Progress ongoing in the development of a collaborative Limerick Student City video asset with Limerick's Tertiary Education Sector (UL, MIC, LIT, Griffith College Limerick and LCFE) to promote Limerick as a location of choice for potential students.
- Commenced development of Limerick Student City social and digital marketing collateral ahead of students' return to third level campuses.
- Attended Tourism Ireland and Fáilte Ireland industry updates.
- Produced end of campaign report for Double Your Summer, a multimedia domestic tourism marketing campaign positioning Limerick as an exciting, value-packed holiday and leisure tourism destination.

Topline results from the eight-week campaign include:

- 7,584,631 impressions.
- 5,426,884 earned media reach/opportunity to see.
- 37,731 engagements.
- 34,997 total website pageviews.
- Engaged with Tourism Department and Arts Office to plan the PR and marketing campaign for Christmas in Limerick 2021.
- Engaged with **Denise Smith**, Sunday World Fashion and Beauty Editor, during her recent visit to Limerick as part of Fáilte Ireland's #KeepDiscovering campaign.
- Photographic services provided for the launch of Limerick Jazz Festival 2021 which secured national exposure with photography featuring on the front page of the Irish Examiner and as Image of the Day on The Irish Times.
- Marketing support provided towards the Newcastle West Street Fashion Festival in association with the Holman Lee Agency.
- Shop Limerick published in Limerick Chamber Magazine to support and promote local businesses. [Limerick.ie/Shop](http://Limerick.ie/Shop) virtual marketplace now features 318 local traders making it easier than ever to shop local, support local.
- Created and issued six Limerick.ie e-newsletters.
- Created and issued the quarterly Limerick Business Bulletin

### Social Media

- Continued to monitor, schedule and update social media channels with creative content to utilise our engagement with the public and put Limerick in people's minds.
- Posted 33 times on Limerick.ie's [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/Limerick.ie) with followers now 32,104. Posts reached 40,322 users with 133,838 engagements and 133,838 impressions.

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- Tweeted 43 times on Limerick.ie's [Twitter](#), @Limerick\_ie, with total followers now 20,196. Our tweets earned 94,400 impressions (number of times users saw our tweet).
- Posted 11 times on Limerick.ie's [Instagram](#) and created 14 Stories with total followers now 19,663.
- Posted 11 times on Limerick City and County Council's [LinkedIn](#) with total followers now 7,875.

## Limerick.ie

In September 2021, there were 161,672\* unique site visits to Limerick.ie. (\*Fathom Analytics)

The most popular pages on Limerick.ie in September 2021 were:

1. [Limerick.ie](#)
2. [Limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning](#)
3. [Limerick.ie/council](#)
4. [Limerick.ie/discover/whats-on/festivals/culture-night-2021](#)
5. [Limerick.ie/council/services/housing/social-housing/housing-assistance-payment-hap](#)

Content Report: 103 articles, 291 events and 5 amenities were added to Limerick.ie in September.

## Communications

- Issued 23 news releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and wrote nine speeches for the Office of the Mayor.
- Updated the design of the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter to accommodate staff submissions and make the layout more dynamic. Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter.
- Tweeted 156 times on Limerick City and County Council's [Twitter](#) account, @limerickcouncil, with total followers now 16,659. Our tweets earned 199,100 impressions (number of times users saw our tweet).

