

Chief Executive's Report

October 2021

Innovate Limerick shortlisted in the 'Initiative To Grow Local Industry' category in the International Makers and Shakers Film Awards 2021

Castletroy Urban Greenway officially opened

Mid West Regional Enterprise Plan completed and submitted for publication

+CityxChange Consortium Week presents findings on Tidal Turbines, Positive Energy Champions and Citizen Innovation

Work begins on new Local Area Plan for Rathkeale

More than €97,000 awarded to projects under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2021

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Economic Development and Enterprise Directorate

1. Trade & Investment

- Edwards Lifesciences, involved in the manufacture of life-saving medical devices, announced an additional 250 jobs at its Official Opening in Castletroy.
- Green Rebel Marine, who specialise in data acquisition, analytics and consultancy to support offshore renewable energy, announced 50 new jobs both in Limerick and Cork.
- Grant Thornton announced the creation of 1,000 new jobs across the country over the next three years at its seven office locations. The Limerick office should benefit from approx. 80 new jobs.
- Pamela Scott opened a new unit in Castletroy Shopping Centre, creating 10 new jobs.

Courtesy Visits took place from the Danish, Dutch, Swiss and Canadian Ambassadors to the Mayor's Office, where opportunities for collaboration and strengthening of relationships between each respective country and Limerick were discussed.

2. Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Limerick

Funding Approved

- In October, six new and existing businesses in Limerick City and County were approved funding with the potential to create up to 16 jobs locally.

LEO held Virtual Courses and Webinars during the month including:

- Start Your Own Business Courses, Workshop on Future Proofing your Business using Smart Tech Tools, Pricing a Product or Service Workshop, General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) for small businesses, various Digital

Media Workshops and Selling Online Webinars, Trading Online Voucher Seminar and a Virtual Business Advice Clinic Day.

- The Food Starter Programme commenced for early stage food companies.

Women in Business Initiatives

- The LEO National Women's Enterprise Day ran very successfully online again this year, with business owners from all over the country partaking.
- Network Ireland held the National Business Women of the Year Awards with great success for Limerick businesses including:
 - Lynda Sheehan, Rockbarton Garden Centre, won Solo Business Woman of the Year.
 - Aishling Finn, Jaguar Landrover, won the Rising Star category.
 - Ber Collins, Crystal Clear Springs, won the Established Business category.
 - Chloe Markham, Stylist, Newcastle West, was highly commended in the Creative Professional category.

Three Limerick businesses were Blas na hÉireann winners at the Annual Awards:

- Ballyhoura Farm Mulled Apple Juice (Gold / Best in County).
- Kearney's Apple Tart (Silver).
- Cotter Organic Lamb (Silver).

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3. Innovate Limerick

Digital Collaboration Centre (DCC)

There have been positive engagements and site visits with senior Microsoft and Accenture executives to collaborate on strategic projects across Healthcare, Education and Energy. The DCC Team has also visited Dogpatch labs to look at collaboration opportunities in the start-up ecosystem.

Eight companies have submitted software start-up ideas through the DCC 'Software Start-Up Mentoring' Programme which are now being evaluated and processed with industry leaders in the region.

The Mid West Regional Enterprise Plan (REP)

The new Mid-West Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024 has been submitted to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and is awaiting publication. The new Plan includes collaborative projects and initiatives across the three Mid-West counties (Clare, Limerick and Tipperary), with the region's local authorities being the major stakeholders and supporters.

Recent stakeholder consultation sessions attracted over 60 attendees from across industry, public sector and higher education sectors within the region. The sessions again highlighted the high level of collaboration and ambition that exists within the region, with a strong sense of optimism prevalent despite some key regional challenges. The following five key strategic objectives were agreed, with discrete actions developed for each:

1. **Enable innovation to make the Mid-West a leading digital region** - this objective includes actions across themes such as advanced manufacturing, future mobility, sportstech, film, data centres, healthcare and innovative education.
2. **Make the Mid-West Ireland's leading sustainability / low carbon region** - this objective includes actions across themes such as BioEconomy, renewable energy and sustainability in the built environment.
3. **Enable Enterprise Development in Regional Towns / Rural Areas** - this objective includes actions such as the development of a network of high quality eHubs, development of food hubs, a skills heat mapping exercise, and digitalisation of the tourism sector.
4. **Initiatives to support SME, Start-Ups and Microbusiness** - this objective contains actions such as industry cluster development, promotion of apprenticeships and traineeships, management and financial training, efforts to develop High Potential Start-Ups (HPSUs), etc.
5. **Support Social Enterprise and Job Creation Initiatives for areas of high unemployment** - this objective includes actions such as the development and delivery of a connected jobs strategy to address unemployment in Limerick's Blackspots and continued growth of social enterprise to achieve sustainable progress towards employment equality. This objective also includes the development of targeted approaches for individual blackspots, including a creativity hub at Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership (LEDP) near Southill.

Education, Training and Skills initiatives will be delivered to support each of the objectives, with an overall goal to continue building regional capacity by leveraging regional strengths and opportunities.

Film in Limerick

Diverse Screen Launch

Innovate Limerick, through Film in Limerick, launched a new training initiative in October to respond 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. In partnership with Gorm Media and supported by Screen Skills Ireland, the following training events took place in October as part of Diverse Screen:

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• Careers in the Production Department for Film & TV

A Webinar with Producer, Gemma O'Shaughnessy, on working in production department roles in Film and TV. Gemma, an experienced Producer, has worked on many of the biggest productions in Ireland in recent years, including the sci-fi TV series 'Foundation' filmed at Troy Studios for AppleTV+, 'Modern Love' for Amazon Studios and the BAFTA-nominated feature 'Calm with Horses,' filmed in Kilkee, Co. Clare.

• Careers in Model-Making and Prosthetics for Film & TV

A Webinar with Ciarán Cooke of Limerick's Odyssey Studios. Ciarán gave an insight into the day-to-day work of the model makers and artists behind the scenes at Odyssey Studios and their work creating props, models and prosthetic makeup for productions like The Hobbit, Alice Through the Looking Glass, Into the Badlands, as well as the Foundation TV Series filmed at Troy Studios in Limerick and currently streaming on AppleTV+.

• Careers in VFX for Film and TV

A Webinar with Paddy Lane on working in VFX for Film & TV. Paddy gave an insight into the day-to-day work within Visual Effects and the roles within this Department. He also discussed his work on film and TV shows such as the Green Knight, filmed in Tipperary, and Foundation, filmed in Limerick.

• Careers in the Animation Industry

A Webinar with Ruchi Shah of Lighthouse Studios in Kilkenny on working in the animation industry. Ruchi talked about the opportunities that exist for new entrants in Ireland's booming animation industry. She works as a Producer at Lighthouse Studios in Kilkenny and discussed her work on 2D, 3D, live action, VFX and virtual reality projects.

Passport to Production Course Launch

Innovate Limerick, through Film in Limerick, has also launched a new six-day course as part of our Diverse Screen initiative. Passport to Production is a structured course designed to equip new entrants with the tools to take up their first position as trainee crew members in the film and TV industries. The course is now open for applications for individuals who identify themselves as being from groups or communities that are under-represented in the film and TV industries.

Engine Shorts Production

Engine Shorts is Film in Limerick's short film training and production scheme. Five of the six films have now completed filming in the region in and have started their pre-production with mentor support.

Engine Docs Production

Film in Limerick's documentary film training and production scheme, in partnership with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, is now in production with the four commissioned projects.

Innovate Limerick nominated for an International Award

Innovate Limerick have been shortlisted in the 'Initiative To Grow Local Industry' category in the International Makers and Shakers Film Awards 2021. The winners will be revealed at the live awards ceremony at BAFTA Piccadilly in London.

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4. Forward Planning

- A submission was made to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on the Draft Development Plan Guidelines for Planning Authorities.
- The 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 number of Workshops with the Elected Members on the proposed Scheme and placing the Draft Scheme on public consultation.
- Work continued on reviewing the submissions made to the Draft Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 and the preparation of the Chief Executive's Report.
- Work commenced on the preparation of a new Local Area Plan for Rathkeale.

5. Digital Services

- On 07 October the RESCUPOLL proposal was submitted to Horizon Europe. This project, led by UCD, aims to establish a system for indepth understanding and close monitoring of diffuse small particulate matter pollution in urban water runoff. If successful, it will use the Limerick Citizen Innovation Lab to inform the people of Limerick about how they can reduce particulate pollution in rivers and streams.
- On 08 October, two submissions were made to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform for consideration for inclusion to the EU's Technical Support Instrument. These projects were the Atlantic Green Basin Project, and a Revolving Fund for Historic Building Renovation.
- On 18 October, the EU Programme Manager presented Limerick's project results to date at the +CityxChange online Consortium Meeting.
- On 18 October, Limerick hosted a separate Workshop as part of the +CityxChange Consortium Week, to present the findings on Tidal Turbines, Positive Energy Champions, and Citizen Innovation to follower cities in the project.
- On 25 and 26 October, Digital Services attended the 6th FindYourGreatness Transnational Meeting as part of this Urbact III Project. At this meeting, a presentation was made on progress on the "smart" elements of Limerick's branding, as well as its Small Scale Action Plans.



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Transportation and Mobility Directorate

1. Travel & Transportation Strategy

Dockless Bike Hire Scheme

On 19 October, a presentation was made to the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee in regard to a potential Dockless Bike Hire Scheme in Limerick City and Environs. The presentation examined other dockless (stationless) bike hire schemes currently in Ireland, the opportunities and challenges posed by such schemes and a proposed way forward for a possible Dockless Bike Hire Scheme in Limerick City and Environs – commencing with the drafting of bye-laws and associated public consultation on the bye-laws. The ultimate intention is to award a licence to a bike share scheme operator once the bye-laws are adopted.

Walktober 2021

Walktober is a Team Step Challenge and took place between 04 and 31 October. This year, 19 teams, comprising 88 members of staff from Limerick City and County Council, took part in the challenge.

2. Active Travel

- **Castletroy Urban Greenway** – The Castletroy Urban Greenway was officially opened on 08 October, marking the culmination of a nine-month construction phase.
- **Childers Road** – Work began on a two-way cycleway between Roxboro Roundabout and Kilmallock Roundabout. Lines delineating the cycleway were painted on the carriageway and the installation of kerb segregation will follow.
- **R926 Dooradoyle Road Cycle Lane Scheme Phase 1** – Road markings at junctions were added as part of an upgrade of cycle lanes between the Ballykeeffe Roundabout and the Crescent Shopping Centre access road.
- **Milford Road, Castletroy** – Kerb segregation added to existing cycle lane on the northbound carriageway of Milford Road.
- **Various Locations** – Footpath improvement works continuing at various locations across the Municipal Districts of Newcastle West, Adare-Rathkeale and Cappamore-Kilmallock.

Active Travel (Marketing and Communications)

- Tweeted seven times from the Limerick Council Twitter account @LimerickCouncil with total followers now 16,600. All Active Travel tweets include the hashtag #ActiveTravel #ActiveTravelLimerick – most popular tweet was a video showcasing the route of the Castletroy Urban Greenway ahead of its official opening. It had total impressions of 3,800 and 1,053 views over the course of one week.
- Published one Press Release relating to the official opening of the Castletroy Urban Greenway. It resulted in media coverage in both print and broadcast media.
- Three members of the Active Travel team delivered a presentation to a group of Civil Engineering students at the University of Limerick.

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Community, Tourism and Culture Directorate

1. Urban & Rural Community Development

Limerick Local Community Development Committee

- The October meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was held on 06 October, 2021. This meeting was a blended meeting, which was held in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle, with some members joining virtually.
- The Local Action Group (LAG) approved funding of €102,350.32 under the LEADER Programme 2014-2022.

Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee

- The Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee met on 04 October and considered the Autism Working Group Discussion Paper. The members discussed notice of motions on the provision of a cricket ground in the Metropolitan area and options for delivering a community centre in the Garryowen area. The members also received updates on the Culture Sub-Committee and the audit of Community Facilities.

Funding Streams

- On 22 October, the Department of Rural and Community Development announced funding approvals under Measure 1 of the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2021. Limerick City and County Council received funding for five projects, totalling €97,100 in grant funding, for the following projects:
 - **Adare Riverbank Walk Nature Trail** – Development of new Nature Trail along existing riverside walk to include new information/nature signs, seating, planting and path and fence repair (€17,100).

- **Universal Access Provision to Kilmallock Riverside Walk** – Closing off existing steps and creation of universal access pathway and the creation of two shrubbery beds (€20,000).
- **Marketing and Promotion of Trails** – Marketing and promotion of three newly developed rural Limerick walking, cycling and running trails.
- **Darragh Hills and Castlegale Loop Walk Upgrades** – Upgrade of trail surface and installation of sections of boardwalk (€20,000).
- **Darby's Bed Trail Development** – Enhancement of Darby's Bed Loop Walk to include signage, benches and distance markers.

Ballyhoura Development and West Limerick Resources were also successful in receiving further funding of approx. €38,768 for upgrade works at Mullaghereirk Walking Trails (€18,768.24) and Promotion of Outdoor Recreation activities in Ballyhoura Region (€20,000). Announcements under Measure 2: Medium Scale Repair/Upgrade and New Trail/Amenity Development and the new Project Development Measure: Development Costs for Strategic Large Scale Projects are still pending.

- **Streetscape Enhancement Measure 2021** – Measure to support activities within Towns and Villages such as painting (including murals), signage replacement, shopfront improvement, lighting, and canopies. In October, approximately 80 applications were approved for funding under the Town and Village Renewal Streetscape Enhancement Measure 2021 across the towns of Newcastle West, Abbeyfeale, Kilmallock, Rathkeale, Askeaton and Bruff.

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Environmental Awareness

- Launch of cigarette butt ballot box ashtray.
- Launch of Mission Possible Social Media Video Competition for Tidy Towns.
- National Reuse Month, 3 Rs Event (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle), in Collaboration with Kilmallock Tidy Towns.

Limerick Public Participation Network (PPN)

- Limerick PPN Secretariat met once this month and continues to successfully deliver on its key functions.
- Four PPN Linkage Group meeting took place this month: Community, Leisure and Culture; Urban and Rural Community Development and Social Inclusion; Travel and Transportation; Home and Social Development. Details of the Linkage Groups are on the Limerick PPN website.
- At the Travel and Transportation Linkage Group meeting, a presentation was delivered to its members on Local Link Limerick.
- Presentations were also delivered by Linkage Group members to the Urban and Rural Community Development and Social Inclusion Linkage Group with a presentation on the Mid-West Migrant Community Network and The Haven Hub.
- An online Training Workshop on Group Facilitation Skills was delivered to PPN members by Social Justice Ireland.
- Elections opened to fill vacant seats on the PPN Secretariat, the Joint Policing Committee, the Local Community Development Committee, the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee and the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee.
- Membership of the PPN continues to grow and now stands at 161 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.

AGE FRIENDLY

Online Meetings/Webinars attended

- Age friendly Ireland Broadband.
- Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO)/Age Friendly Ireland Networking day.

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

From 27 to 30 October, representatives from UNESCO Learning Cities and further experts from around the world came together for the Fifth International Conference on Learning Cities (ICLC), hosted by the UNESCO Learning City of Yeonsu, Republic of Korea. Limerick participants engaged online. On 29 October, the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler, spoke at the online event on "Approaches for inclusive education in learning for Health," including a presentation on the work of the Limerick Lifelong Learning and Healthy Limerick.

Limerick Comhairle na nÓg attended the European Youth Event (EYE2021), which took place from 08 to 09 October and brought together 10,000 young people online and in Strasbourg, to shape and share their ideas for the future of Europe. EYE2021 was the culmination of the European Parliament's youth consultation process for the Conference on the Future of Europe. Started in May 2021, in collaboration with pan-European youth organisations, young people's ideas on the future of Europe were collected on youthideas.eu. The top 20 most impactful proposals were consolidated into a Youth ideas report, presented to the Members of the Conference and fed into the political debate.

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Online Meetings/Webinars attended

- Comhairle na nÓg, Local Authority Cluster Meeting.

Breathe and Stretch Classes in The People's Park, Limerick

The classes continued each Tuesday throughout October with an average attendance of 25 people at each session as part of Healthy Limerick's Community Engagement Action. While proving very successful, they have also attracted a wide range of attendees from all parts of Limerick of all ages and of varying abilities.

Launch of Celebration of Learning Event - Integration Food Project in collaboration with School of Allied Health at the University of Limerick - 18 October

The food partnership has collaborated with the School of Allied Health at the University of Limerick and four migrant communities with a presence in Limerick to gain an understanding of specific food cultures present in Limerick.

MSc. students in Human Nutrition and Dietetics will research the diets of Nigerian, Bangladeshi, Polish and Palestinian communities looking at how food is prepared, served, and how diet is preserved here in Ireland and in the country of origin.

The students are aiming to understand how healthy eating habits of other cultures can be applied to our own food culture, as well as exploring common nutrition-related health problems documented as prevalent among each migrant community.

Students were also tasked with exploring what is required to make the Healthy Food Made Easy (HFME) programme more inclusive of other cultures.

Online Meetings/Webinars attended

- "Musicians on Call Project" session held at St. Camillus'

Hospital, Limerick, in association with Creative Ireland and Healthy Limerick.

- Launch of Sláintecare Healthy Communities Webinar of which Limerick is one of the Pilot areas chosen.
- Healthy Cities and Counties Coordinators' Meeting and discussions around extension of current round of funding and Round Four.
- UNESCO Learning Cities - Korea.
- Three 'One Million Stars' Project Meetings.

2. Tourism

Limerick Greenway Marketing and Promotion

A number of Familiarisation Trips were organised in October to raise national awareness of this new tourism attraction. These journalists enjoyed tailored itineraries, staying in local hotels and visiting local hospitality and tourist attractions along the route. Journalists who participated in these trips include:

- Pól Ó Conghaile of the Irish Independent and contributor to the Pat Kenny Radio Show.
- Yvonne Gordon, on behalf of Frommer's Travel Guide.
- Esther McCarthy, Irish Examiner.
- Rohan Smyth, The Star Newspaper.
- Gary Fogarty, RTE online.

Limerick Kerry Greenway Destination Development

Registration is now open for the Limerick Kerry Greenway Destination Development Programme. This programme is the result of a partnership between Limerick City and County Council, Kerry County Council, West Limerick Resources and North, East and West Kerry Development (NEWKD), supported by Fáilte Ireland, funded by the LEADER programme and facilitated by the appointed Consultants, Tourism Space. The programme is open to

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any business or community group that wants to learn more about tourism and how to maximise the Greenway opportunity.

Registration for the programme is via www.thetourismspace.com/greenway

A Greenway Champions' Programme is also now available for registration at the same address.

Shannon Estuary Way

Limerick City and County Council Tourism Department, in partnership with Clare County Council and West Limerick Resources, has been working on the Shannon Estuary Way Destination Development Programme funded by the LEADER programme and facilitated by the appointed consultants, Tourism Space. This programme hosted a networking event in Bunratty Castle in October, bringing together key stakeholders including Fáilte Ireland and local businesses and community groups to consider the next steps in the development of this destination brand. The guest speaker on the night was Pól Ó Conghaile, Travel Writer with the Irish Independent.

3. Arts Office

Sub-Committee on the impact of COVID-19 on the Arts Sector

The third meeting of the Sub-Committee on the impact of COVID-19 on the Arts Sector took place online on 12 October. The Arts Council, Sinead O'Reilly (Head of Local, Place and Public Art), Toby Dennett (Manager Strategic Development) and Karl Wallace (Head of Festivals) provided a presentation, with an overview of EY economic impact research, of EY research on artists' impacts and of Arts Council supports into Limerick in 2020/2021.

OPEN CALLS

Limerick Theatre Bursaries 2021

Limerick Arts Office announced an Open Call for the Limerick Theatre Bursaries Awards Scheme, in partnership with the Lime Tree Theatre|Belltable. This provides an enhanced support to the sector at a time when the sector is slowly reopening within current COVID-19 restrictions. There are at least six Limerick Theatre Bursaries available, up to a maximum value of €5,000 each, with a budget of €15,000 from both Limerick Arts Office and the Lime Tree Theatre | Belltable available in this grant scheme totalling €30,000. The closing date for applications was 20 October, 2021. Eighteen applications were submitted and are being processed.

Limerick's Residential Artist Apartments Scheme

Following Limerick City and County Council announcing an Open Call for the Artists' Residential Apartments Scheme, an Assessment Panel assessed the applications received. Two apartments have been awarded and, following the issue of licences, both artists moved in during October.

CREATIVE IRELAND FUNDED PROJECTS

Climate Action Fund - Decarbonising Together

Limerick City and County Council signed the Service Level Agreement with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in October for €118,889 for the Decarbonising Together project. This project will see five Limerick community groups identify an aspect of decarbonisation that matters to them and then work with a creative partner to explore and enable behavioural change in their daily lives.

Ormston House - Women of Limerick

Women of Limerick is an evolving research project led by Sharon Slater, Historian-in-Residence at Ormston House, to remember and celebrate women from Limerick's history. This mobile phone app to remember and celebrate women from Limerick's history is a map that navigates participants through the streets of Limerick to view important locations in the history of the 30 women's stories. Women of Limerick acknowledges women's contributions to fields such as the arts, education, health and politics, locally,

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nationally and internationally. It has written these women into history and on 20 October received the County Award at the National Heritage Awards, which recognises the most successful project in each local authority across Ireland.

Ballyorgan-Glenroe Landart - Launch Event

Veronica Santorum, artist and environmentalist, worked throughout October facilitating workshops and activities with all age groups to create their community land art project, Oisín of Na Fianna. The project was officially launched as a community event by the Glenroe and Ballyorgan Community Council with music, storytelling, and a walk to unveil the land art sculpture on 10 October. The project has attracted great interest and appeared in the 13th October addition of The Farmers' Journal.

Creativity in Older Age - Musicians on Call - Launch Event

Musicians on Call is a project where professionally trained musicians work in healthcare settings, in an appropriate and sensitive manner, to connect music-making opportunities to residents and healthcare staff in Nursing Homes and Community Hospitals. This project is delivered in collaboration with, and led by, the Arts Office, Age Friendly Limerick and Healthy Limerick, in partnership with Clare County Council and Tipperary County Council. A launch event for the project was held in St. Camillus' Hospital in Limerick on 18 October.

Friars' Gate Theatre - Social Conversations

A public showcase sharing social conversations was held on 20 October at Friars' Gate Theatre, Kilmallock. This project engaged two groups of people, a group of older people in the community and a group of Transition Year students. The groups took part in a series of themed conversations that aimed to lift the lid on the "grey ceiling" and provide a public voice for the older generation who are becoming more and more socially isolated because of the rapid developments in technology as the go-to medium of communication.

Emerging Limerick Filmmakers (ELF)

This project supports the ambitions of the Creative Youth Plan published by Creative Ireland. The Emerging Limerick Filmmakers, ELF, started as a pilot project for a Youth Film Collective based in Castletroy. This project assembled a group of 10-14, engaged young filmmakers (13-18) and delivered a programme of masterclasses and project development culminating in the productions and screenings. ELF ran a new recruitment campaign in October and have added a new age bracket for those aged 18-22. They are currently running weekly evening sessions with a short film produced each term.

Silent Sea

The collective Silent Sea with artists, Chelsea Canavan and Deirdre Power, is working in partnership with the Limerick Narwhals and local communities of interest to explore the co-creation of a project that visually communicates the ecological data collected upon the River Shannon. 'Signals from a River' flags have been installed on Nicolas Street in Limerick in October. These flags portray a socially engaged practice and co-creation of the designs with community members.

ARTS COUNCIL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT PROGRAMME

Submission of Annual Arts Council Application 2022

A Framework Agreement Report Form was submitted to the Arts Council in October. This form outlines the four shared strategic actions Limerick City and County Council and the Arts Council are working on to deliver:

- Strategic Action One: Supporting Artists and Key Strategic Organisations.
- Strategic Action Two: Rural Arts and Excellence.
- Strategic Action Three: Young People, Children and Education.
- Strategic Action Four: Festivals and Events.

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Words Ireland National Mentoring Programme 2021

Limerick Arts Office, in partnership with Words Ireland, offered an opportunity to a Limerick writer for a structured mentoring programme. After a national Open Call, two successful Limerick mentees, Pat O'Connor and Will Keohane, were announced on 08 October.

PARTNERSHIPS

County Limerick Youth Theatre

In October, the County Limerick Youth Theatre had three professional artists come to The Honey Fitz Theatre, Patrickswell, to deliver workshops to the young artists. Actors, Eleanor O'Brien and Johanna O'Brien, delivered three Workshops on mindful performance and physicality and Theatre Maker, Ann Blake, delivered three Improvisation Workshops to the young artists. There are now eight new members. The Junior Group now has 13 members, the intermediate group has 13 members, and the senior ensemble has 15 members, totalling 41 members.

Limerick Artist in Schools Programme 2021/2022

Limerick Arts Office announced an Open Call in October to Limerick festivals to submit Expressions of Interest to participate in the delivery of Limerick's Artist in Schools Programme 2021/2022. The Artists in Schools Programme is part of the annual programming for young people, children and education, particularly in rural areas. The Artists in Schools Programme is funded by The Arts Council and Limerick City and County Council. This resumes the approach to collaborating with Festivals, as organisations with a capacity to bring a broader art form base to the schools programme experience. From findings and discussions with festivals, it was found that youth reach and outreach programming in festivals in Limerick was low. This partnership programme is identified as an opportunity to support festivals to develop models of youth engagement.

PLACE MAKING FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Éigse – Michael Hartnett Literary and Arts Festival 2021

01 and 02 October saw the Éigse Michael Hartnett Literary and Arts Festival in full swing in various locations around Newcastle West. There was a broad programme including New Voices: Readings from two emerging poets, Rafael Mendes, Natasha Remoundou, as well as school visits and workshops with poet and spoken word performer, Colm Keegan. An evening event dedicated to the memory of the late Sheila O'Regan (Committee member) took place with poets Moya Cannon and Seán Lysaght on stage, along with String Quartet, Capriccio. One of the country's best loved broadcasters, John Creedon, took listeners on a journey through the townlands and byways of Ireland in a reading from his book, That Place We Call Home. The return of the Michael Hartnett Memorial Lecture had a special guest speaker, Dan Mulhall, the Irish ambassador to Washington. The final day showcased a mix of music and spoken word at a free event in the grounds of Desmond Hall. Many of them were free and some events were streamed.

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4. Property & Community Facilities

DERELICTION AND VACANCY

Dereliction, Vacancy and Reuse Team - October	
Inspections carried out	162
Property and Community Facilities Department Notices issued	9
Statutory Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act	43
Cases closed through engagement	22
Properties entered onto the Derelict Sites Register	6
Properties put forward for Compulsory Acquisition (Section 15 Notices)	21
Properties Compulsorily Acquired (Section 17 Notices)	0

BIN WAIVERS

Bin Waivers Approved	1
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5. Libraries, Gallery & Museum

Library

- October is Children's Book Festival time. This annual event helps spread the enjoyment of books and reading among children and families, authors and illustrators, teachers and librarians all over Ireland. This year, Limerick Libraries hosted 16 online events for primary school children in 38 schools throughout the city and county. Over 1,800 pupils were told about life as an author from Roisin Meaney and Michael Smith; they took part in interactive writing workshops with E. R. Murray and Helena Close; they were entertained with nature's stories and craft activities by Arran Towers, while Simone and her puppet 'Vinny the Vulture' from Storygate helped them get into the Halloween spirit with some spooky tales. A series of online science workshops facilitated by Nutty Scientists was offered to families, and 50 budding young scientists took part on 30 October rounding off Children's Book Festival celebrations. Library staff continue to provide creative solutions to running lively events programmes within COVID-19 Guidelines. Branches invited local schools to participate in the online sessions and organised competitions and displays in-house.
- As part of Children's Book Festival, junior library members were able to participate in the fun science online workshops – Ooey Gooey Science on 30 October. Kits containing all required materials were made available in library branches for collection before the online live workshops, allowing families who registered to enjoy these workshops from home.
- TTRS (Touch-Type, Read and Spell) is a highly accessible, multi-sensory course that teaches touch-typing, reading and spelling, at the same time. It benefits students who experience spelling, reading or writing difficulties, adults who want to learn typing and/or require help with their literacy skills, and students learning English as a second language. Limerick Libraries already offer these licences to schools, and are now offering free access to these licences to borrowers. Abbeyfeale, Adare, Dooradoyle, Kilmallock, Newcastle West and Watch

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House Cross branches provide guidance and support for this service.

- October is also Dyslexia Awareness Month, and Limerick Libraries did its part to raise awareness, both in branch, and on social media. Book displays on the topic for both adults and children were created in a number of branches, whilst also drawing attention to those publishers who use dyslexia-friendly fonts in their books. Our social media focused on the BorrowBox app, free to all library members, whose special font makes text more readable for dyslexic readers thus allowing “ultimate accessibility.”
- Dooradoyle Library ran a number of competitions for this year’s Book Festival for children, including a colouring competition, ‘Name the Book Character’ and a Word Puzzle for the older children. As the library was unable to host in-person art and craft activities to celebrate Halloween this year, a total of 140 art and craft packs were distributed to younger borrowers. All of the craft packs included materials to make a witch, a cat, and a pumpkin and samples of the crafts were on display in the branch.
- Dooradoyle Library’s online Book Club returned after the summer break, meeting on 28 October. This month, members discussed ‘The Hare with Amber Eyes’ by Edmund de Waal.
- Newcastle West Library organised a spooky story competition for Halloween. The Library provided the first line of the story and then asked the children to finish the story themselves. There were two categories 5-8yrs and 9-12 yrs., with prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each age group. Judged by Shirley O’Regan, local poet and radio presenter, the prize also included the opportunity of reading their story on local radio.
- Many branches created eye-catching and informative displays to celebrate Maths Week, 16-24 October, and Space Week, 4-10 October, showcasing relevant books and online resources available from Limerick Libraries.

Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- “Songs and the Soil,” Mark Garry, “Resonant Landscape,” Natalia Beylis, Pdraig Cunningham and Sharon Phelan, Exhibitions continue. The third iteration of EVA International is currently at LCGA with a powerful installation from the Derry Video and Film Collective.
- Carl Doran, invited to become first artist in residence at Test Space, commenced the residency on 11 October for an eight-week period. During his time here, Carl will interact with the exhibition programme; he will also run a series of workshops in conjunction with Bedford Row Family Project, which will assist in the development of LCGA’s Equality Inclusion and Diversity (EID).
- An Open Call for a virtual artist residency resulted in 48 applications from national and international artists. After a short-listing process, three applicants were called for interview. The interview panel comprised Adam Stoneman, Researcher, IMMA; Sara Dowling, Test Space, Coordinator; and Úna McCarthy, Director/ Curator, LCGA. The successful applicant is Rajinder Singh who is based in London and whose practice is based on choreography. This is funded under the Arts Council’s Strategic Funding of the Artistic Programme at LCGA.
- An Exhibition, Mental Health of Youth (MY) STORY is a community-university partnership between researchers in the Department of Psychology, University of Limerick, and Be Well, Limerick Youth Service. Currently on view in The Hub, LCGA. The exhibition marked Mental Health Week, with 15 participants from Limerick Youth Services.
- LCGA has joined forces with University of the Third Age (U3A) to accommodate regular meetings. It is envisaged that U3A will become actively involved in the development of our EID policy with a particular focus on older people and the arts.
- Work continues on future Exhibitions programme, including Aiden Barry, European Investment Bank Collection, and Tom Fitzgerald retrospective in 2022.

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- Work has commenced on the research required for the digitisation of the Permanent Collection.
- In addition to LCGA's programme, it also facilitated these two events:
 - TG4 Finné documentary on Roy Galvin, who was Ireland's first homegrown male professional ballet dancer. He was also the first person to bring dance to Limerick City Gallery of Art, with his 1984 company "Pas de Deux."
 - Recording of project "Fabulous Females on the Fringe: Music by French Baroque Composer, Élisabeth Claude Jacquet de la Guerre," filmed without an audience as an educational concert for broadcast in collaboration with the Limerick Educate Together Secondary School. French Baroque, featuring Yonit Lea Kosovske, Harpsichord; Aisling Kenny, Soprano; Debbie Diamond, Baroque Violin; Sarah Groser, Viola da Gamba.
- Significant progress continued to be made on the audit of Limerick Museum's collection at its new storage facility.
- Limerick Museum facilitated the visit of an important visitor to Limerick City, Mrs. Isla Baring (née Tait), from Australia, a cousin of Sir Peter Tait (1828-90), Mayor of Limerick (1866-68) and founder of Limerick Clothing Factory. Isla Baring's family, the Australian Tait's, once controlled the largest chain of theatres in the world and, in 1992, she received the Australian Order of Merit for services to the arts in both Australia and Britain. Before she came to the city, Limerick Museum provided her with contact details enabling her to meet the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler, and to visit Southill House, Peter Tait's former residence, where she met Historian, Sharon Slater, and got a full tour of the house and gardens. She also met Dr. Matthew Potter, Curator of the Museum, who presented her with a copy of his book on the Mayors of Limerick. Isla Baring was delighted to see how the Tait name is cherished and commemorated in Limerick City.

Limerick Museum

- The Wild Atlantic Way Exhibition, which had included paintings lent by Limerick Museum, concluded in the Hunt Museum.



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Regeneration Directorate

1. Regeneration

New Capital Housing Projects

- Contract awarded to Martins Construction Limited for the construction of the 18-unit Cliona Park Phase 3 development in Moyross.

Thermal Upgrade Programme

- Stage 3 application (pre-tender estimate) lodged with Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for Thermal Upgrade Contract 123 (53 units in Southill).



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Housing Directorate

1. Housing Support Services

• Waiting List

Housing Waiting List	2,347
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• Allocations

	No. of Units October 2021	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	2	15
Newcastle West	1	19
Metropolitan District	12	181
Cappamore-Kilmallock	5	34
Total	20	249

• Allocations Refusals

	No. of Units October 2021	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	5
Newcastle West	0	1
Metropolitan District	0	9
Cappamore-Kilmallock	0	3
Total	0	18

• Approved Housing Body Allocations 2021 (year to date)

Total Nominations	242
Successful Nominations	141
Nominations Pending	56
Unsuccessful Nominations	45

• Traveller Housing Welfare

No. of Units offered October 2021	1
Year to Date	16

* these figures are included in allocations figures

• Housing Assistance Payments Limerick (HAP)

2,463 of active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	35
No. of Amendments	204
No. of Cessations	28

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Home Improvement Schemes

October 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	€5,750.00	1	€49,102.09	4	€14,295.00	5	€0.00	0
Newcastle West	€0.00	0	€30,812.50	6	€53,939.55	13	€0.00	0
Metropolitan	€23,045.75	5	€57,990.10	6	€67,246.00	18	€112,356.77	4
Cappamore-Kilmallock	€1,800.00	1	€10,445.00	2	€19,934.24	4	€7,661.25	1
Total	€30,595.75	7	€148,349.69	18	€155,414.79	40	€120,018.02	5
Total Monies issued in October 2021 = €454,378.25								
Total Grants issued in October 2021 = 70								

January to October 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	€96,333.34	20	€168,937.36	22	€171,959.15	40	€0.00	0
Newcastle West	€103,000.00	19	€138,724.58	23	€275,285.23	64	€0.00	0
Metropolitan	€301,651.22	57	€462,686.72	63	€362,760.23	102	€250,444.64	7
Cappamore-Kilmallock	€175,422.11	33	€98,226.87	13	€136,808.19	28	€7,661.25	1
Total	€676,406.67	129	€868,575.53	121	€946,812.80	234	€258,105.89	8
Total Monies issued January to October 2021 = €2,749,900.89								
Total Grants issued January to October 2021 = 492								

Rent Collection

Rent Collection Limerick City and County Council					
Opening Balance at 01/01/2021	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing balance 31.10.2021	% Collection
€5,040,713	€14,341,722	€19,382,435	€14,075,200	€5,307,235	73%

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

Individuals – October 2021		
Location	Description	Beds Used
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	32
St. Patrick's Hostel	Higher threshold accommodation for single males	39
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	12
St. Joseph Street	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	5
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	9
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	16
Total		128

Families				
Location	Description	Beds Used		
		Adults	Children	Families
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	8	6
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	11	11	7
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	10	14	9
Totals		Adults	Children	Families
		27	33	22

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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	0
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. Approved	0
Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans	
Loan Applications: No. Received	6
Loan Applications: No. Approved	0
Deed of Discharge	
Deed of Discharge Applications: No. Received	22
Consent to Sale	
Consent to Sale Applications: No. Received	4
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	1
Ombudsman Query Cases	5

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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

- 4 Inglewood Villas, Thomondgate, Limerick, a three-bed property that has been refurbished and now allocated.
- Gough Place Housing Project, Rosbrien Road, Limerick - All piling and foundation works are complete. 60% of

the blockwork has been completed to wall plate level. The roof structure has now commenced. The works to the pitch surface have also been completed, with perimeter fencing underway. On completion of the fencing, the pitch will be handed over to Our Lady of Lourdes.

Approvals Sought/Obtained

Stage 4 approval received from the Department for seven units at Clare Street, Limerick.

• Home Improvement Schemes

Inspections and Recommendations for Home Improvement Schemes / Disability Adaptations - October

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-Inspection	Final Inspection	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	4	0	4	8
HAGS (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	1	11	0	8	20
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	25	0	16	41
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	1	40	0	28	69

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3. Strategy & Non Local Authority Housing Construction

The Team is dedicated to delivering:

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

1. Build, Buy and Lease

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

As at 31 October (01.01.21 - 31.10.21)	Build	Buy	Lease	Total
Complete	112	20	66	198
In Progress	123	19	44	186
Overall Complete and In Progress	235	39	110	384
"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 01.01.2021 - 31.10.2021.

2. Current Operational Programme

Eleven properties were returned in October 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 October - Categorisation	
Cat 1	1
Cat 2	0
Cat 3	0
Cat 4	3
To be inspected	7
TOTAL	11

House Returns October - Municipal District	
Adare-Rathkeale	4
Cappamore-Kilmallock	0
Newcastle West	0
Metropolitan Area	7
TOTAL	11

Works in seven properties were completed in October by the Local Authority Maintenance Team, one by Local Authority Construction Team and one by Regeneration Team.

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Current Working Programme		
	Completed in October	In Progress
Local Authority Construction Team	1	80
Local Authority Maintenance Team	7	58
Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process	0	25
Regeneration Team	1	11
Team to be assigned	N/A	28
TOTAL	9	202

4. Municipal District Offices

Metropolitan District of Limerick

• October Monthly Meeting

The October Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick took place on 18 October and amongst the Agenda items, the Elected Members considered and approved a proposed Part 8 application in relation to:

- The proposed construction of a new Boundary Wall at Mount Saint Oliver Cemetery, Kilmallock Road, Limerick.

In addition, the Elected Members also considered and adopted the Draft Budgetary Plan 2022 - General Municipal Allocation for the Metropolitan District of Limerick, at this Meeting, as part of the overall Budget process for Limerick City and County Council.

• Adjourned Special Meeting on Regeneration

This Adjourned Meeting took place on 18 October to further discuss the Regeneration Programme in Limerick City.

- **Operational Area Briefings** also were held for the Elected Members in early October.

Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

- The monthly meeting of the District took place on 12 October in the Rathkeale House Hotel, Rathkeale.
- Essential repairs to social houses and public roads were undertaken by the Housing Maintenance and Roads Maintenance Teams:
 - 84 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
 - 80 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.
- Active Travel Works were carried out at Carrigeen and Rathkeale.
- Footpath Works are ongoing in Adare and are completed at Foynes.
- Drainage Works were completed at Kiltteery, Drominard and Dromard.

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- Drainage Works and Road Improvements carried out in Ballysteen.
- N21 Ice Station Upgrade works completed.
- Three Community Involvement Schemes were completed at Rathreagh, Carrigeen and Ballymackeamore.
- Three Local Improvement Schemes were completed at Dunaman, Glenogra and Enniscouche.
- Two Community Involvement Schemes were completed at Ballymaceamore and Cowpark.

Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

- The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock was held in Deebert House Hotel, Kilmallock, on 21 October.
- The Quarterly Meeting of the Joint Policing Sub-Committee of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock was held in Deebert House Hotel, Kilmallock, on 21 October also.
- Essential repairs to houses were undertaken by the Housing Maintenance Team and Roads Maintenance Team:
 - **104** cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
 - **70** cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

Road Works Programme 2021

- Six Local improvement Schemes were undertaken in the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock.
- A Community Involvement Scheme was undertaken in Dromsally.
- Climate Change Adaptation measures were undertaken at Seanacloon, Cappamore.

Municipal District of Newcastle West

- The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West took place on 06 October.
- The Draft Budgetary Plan General Municipal Allocation (GMA) for the Municipal District of Newcastle West 2022 was held on 20 October. The draft plan was adopted by the Members. The sum of €270,000 has been agreed for the GMA allocation for 2022 for projects under Roads, Tourism, Community Initiatives and Special Projects.
- Four grant applications were approved under the Private Housing Grant Schemes during the month. The total value of approvals was €34,796.60
- Payments of €53,939.55 were made to thirteen applicants who completed works under the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.
- Payments of €30,812.50 were made to six applicants who completed works under the Housing Adaptation for People with a Disability Scheme.
- The Newcastle West District Roads Programme of Works 2021 is 99% complete with all large-scale resurfacing, reconstruction and overlay works finalised.
- During the month, a total of 873 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

- **Dock Road Improvement Scheme** – Upgrade of Atlas Avenue and Courtbrack Avenue Junctions. Limerick City and County Council has notified An Bord Pleanála of a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) as part of this scheme. If confirmed, the Order will authorise the Local Authority to permanently acquire compulsorily the land and to extinguish the private rights-of-way described in the CPO documents for the purposes of providing road improvements comprising:

- Widening of the Dock Road/Atlas Avenue junction layout.
- Synchronised Traffic Lights.
- Improved cycle way/footway facilities.
- Public lighting .
- Accommodation works.
- Associated site works.

- **Newcastle West Athletics Hub** – Construction of a new eight-lane Athletics track and ancillary facilities is progressing on site.

- **Park Road Bridge** – Detailed design is underway 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.

Mount Saint Oliver Boundary Wall – Part 8 planning consent was received for the construction of a boundary wall and landscaping works at Mount Saint Oliver Cemetery, Kilmallock Road, Limerick, at the Meeting of the Metropolitan District in October. This project will now proceed to Detailed Design.

Newcastle West Parklets – Three parklets were completed in the Square in Newcastle West in October. This was a collaborative project between the Place-Making and Public Realm Department and the Newcastle West District Office.

2. Planning Development

Planning Applications

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

Part 8	1
Housing Developments	4
Domestic Developments	93
Agricultural Developments	9
Commercial Developments/Change of Use	11
Sporting/Community and Educational Developments	0
Other Developments	8

The current applications include proposals for:

- Part 8 for development to include change of use of the derelict Goods Shed (which is a protected structure) to a new building for the Limerick Greenway Hub consisting of bike hire, coffee dock and toilets, provision of an enhanced public realm area and link to the Greenway south and east of the Goods Shed. The upgrade of the existing public parking area to include installation of public lighting, provision of electric bike and car charging points and all ancillary site works at Old Railway Goods Shed Building, Rathkeale.
- Permission for the construction of 98 no. residential units, (26 dwellings and two no. five- storey apartment blocks over basement, comprising 72 no. apartments and basement parking), bin and bike stores at Newtown, Castletroy, Limerick.

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- Permission for the construction of a three-storey 91 no. bed nursing home with area of 4,717 sq. metres and 24 no. unit single-storey independent living units, 77 no. vehicular parking spaces and 20 no. cycle parking spaces, new vehicular, cycle and pedestrian access is via a new distributor road from St. Senan's Terrace at Skagh, Croom.

3. Environment, Recreation & Climate Change

Cemeteries

Number of Burials in City Cemeteries

Mount St. Lawrence	16
Mount St. Oliver	11
Castlemungret	18
Kilmurry	2
Castleconnell	2

Waste Regulation and Enforcement

- 251 complaints were received in October.
- A total of 21 inspections were undertaken during the month.
- The Department issued two Statutory Notices.
- One Direction was served by the Department.
- A total of ten fines were issued during the period.
- Legal proceedings were initiated in five cases.

4. Urban Innovation

+CityxChange

Open Innovation Call 2

Work on the 'Greening The Grid' Solar Allotment in O'Brien Park, Clare Street, Limerick, continued. Full installation of the solar panels, which will maintain soil temperature, is almost complete and the first crops have been planted. An engagement event is now being planned as part of the +CityxChange City Engage Week 4 so that the public can understand this innovative project.

Positive Energy Champions Campaign

The Positive Energy Champions' Campaign also continued. Energy Champion, Una Breathnach, conducted an online mapping event, supported by +CityxChange partner, SpaceEngagers, focused on the Bike sharing scheme and its potential across the city. There was a significant amount of public engagement in the event and data has now been shared with the Travel and Transport Section.

Creative Climate Fund - Decarbonising Together

Early engagement on Decarbonising Together commenced with a presentation of the project to the Public Participation Network (PPN) Secretariat. Decarbonising Together is a collaboration between communities in Limerick and the arts, culture and creative sectors supported by Limerick City and County Council, University of Limerick's Fab Lab and +CityxChange partners, Colaborativa and Space Engagers.

The project is conceived as a framework to enable community-led open innovation in Limerick's decarbonisation mission. Five community groups, identified through an expression of interest shared via the Limerick PPN Network, will be invited to first examine decarbonisation and Limerick's Decarbonisation Plan, identify an aspect of decarbonisation that matters to them and then work with a creative partner to explore and enable behavioural change towards decarbonisation in

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their day-to-day lives and activities. Community groups will be paired with an arts or creative industries partner who is selected through an Open Call process.

It is anticipated that there will be five outputs from the collaborations in a range of creative mediums and skills. The collaborations will support learning and doing together, and will use Limerick's Citizen Innovation Lab as a collaboration platform to create impact through empowering communities in decarbonising Limerick by 2050, with citizen creativity placed at the core of the process contributing to a positive cycle of collaboration and enabling a just transition for all. A community Open Call will follow.

+CityxChange Consortium Meeting

Also, the +CityxChange Consortium Meeting was held online from 18 to 20 October during which the Limerick Team presented updates on the project, including the development of the Citizen Innovation Lab and the programme for the City Engage Week.

5. Veterinary Services

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



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National and Regional Shared Services Centre Directorate

1. Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Shared Services Centre

- There were 62,235 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAPS SSC at the end of October.
- A weekly average of 270 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2021.
- The October landlord payment run was €56.2 million.
- The weekly tenant charge at the end of October was €3.1 million.
- The Debt Management Unit of the HAP SSC collected a total of €129.3 million in differential rent to end of October.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of October was 99%.
- The Debt Management Unit issued 5,260 HAP debt reminder letters in October.

2. Fire and Emergency

Statistics

	No. of Fire Related Calls	No. of Non Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call-outs 01/10/2021 – 21/10/2021	29	31	60
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	86%	70%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	9%	22%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	5%	8%	

	No. Received / Assigned	No. Validated	No. Invalidated / Refused	No. Granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications October	12	8	2	4	
Disability Access Cert Applications October	6	6	1	6	
Licensing Applications October	7	7	1		
Commencement Notice October	53	49	3	49	43
Completion Certificate October	10	8	1	8	19
Planning Referrals October	21				13
Sugar CRM Cases October	4				2

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Fire and Emergency Training Events

During the month, the following training courses took place:

- 16 fire fighters received a two-day refresher course in the use of the Bronto Aerial Appliance.
- Six fire fighters are currently being trained as Swiftwater Rescue Technician Instructors. This will increase the ability to deliver frequent realistic river rescue training.
- One fire fighter attended a five-day Compartment Fire Behaviour course in Mayo.
- A number of retained fire stations have refreshed their crews in Manual Handling training.
- The retained fire stations received training sessions in Suicide Awareness.

Civil Defence attendance at Events

The following activity took place:

- HSE Vaccination Centre, Limerick Racecourse – 2 days.
- Launch of Mental Health Week (medical and boat cover) – 1 day.
- Certificate and Long Service Medal Awards Presentation – 1 day.
- “3 for 3 Breast Cancer Awareness Walk” – 1 day.
- Patient Transfer – Limerick residence to Mater Hospital, Dublin, and return x 2 – 2 days.
- Patient Transfer – Limerick residence to Cork University Hospital and return – 1 day.

Irish Blood Transfusion Service Blood Donor Clinics

- Longcourt House Hotel, Newcastle West – 3 days.
- St. John's Pavillion, Mulgrave Street, Limerick – 1 day.
- Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick – 1 day.

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Limerick City & County Council

Water Safety

Number of lifebuoy replacements	Total January - September	October	Total 2021
Metropolitan Area	8	0	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 October
No. of Call-Outs 01/10/2021 - 21/10/2021	578	486	1 min. 22 seconds	1,064



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Support Services Directorate

1. Finance

Commercial Rates and Loans

Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2021	
As at 31st October 2021	
Opening Balance - 01 Jan €	10,696,120 *
Accruals €	60,000,268 **
Vacant Property Adjustment €	774,753
Write Offs / Waivers €	15,595,272
Total for Collection €	54,326,363
Amount Collected €	39,743,630
Arrears €	14,582,733
Specific Doubtful Arrears €	2,943,804
% Collected	77%

Debtors Loans	
As at 31st October 2021*	
Opening Balance - 01 Jan €	357,981 *
Accruals €	1,371,760
Write Offs €	46
To Collect €	1,729,695
Receipts €	1,532,767
Arrears €	196,928
% Collected	89%

* 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

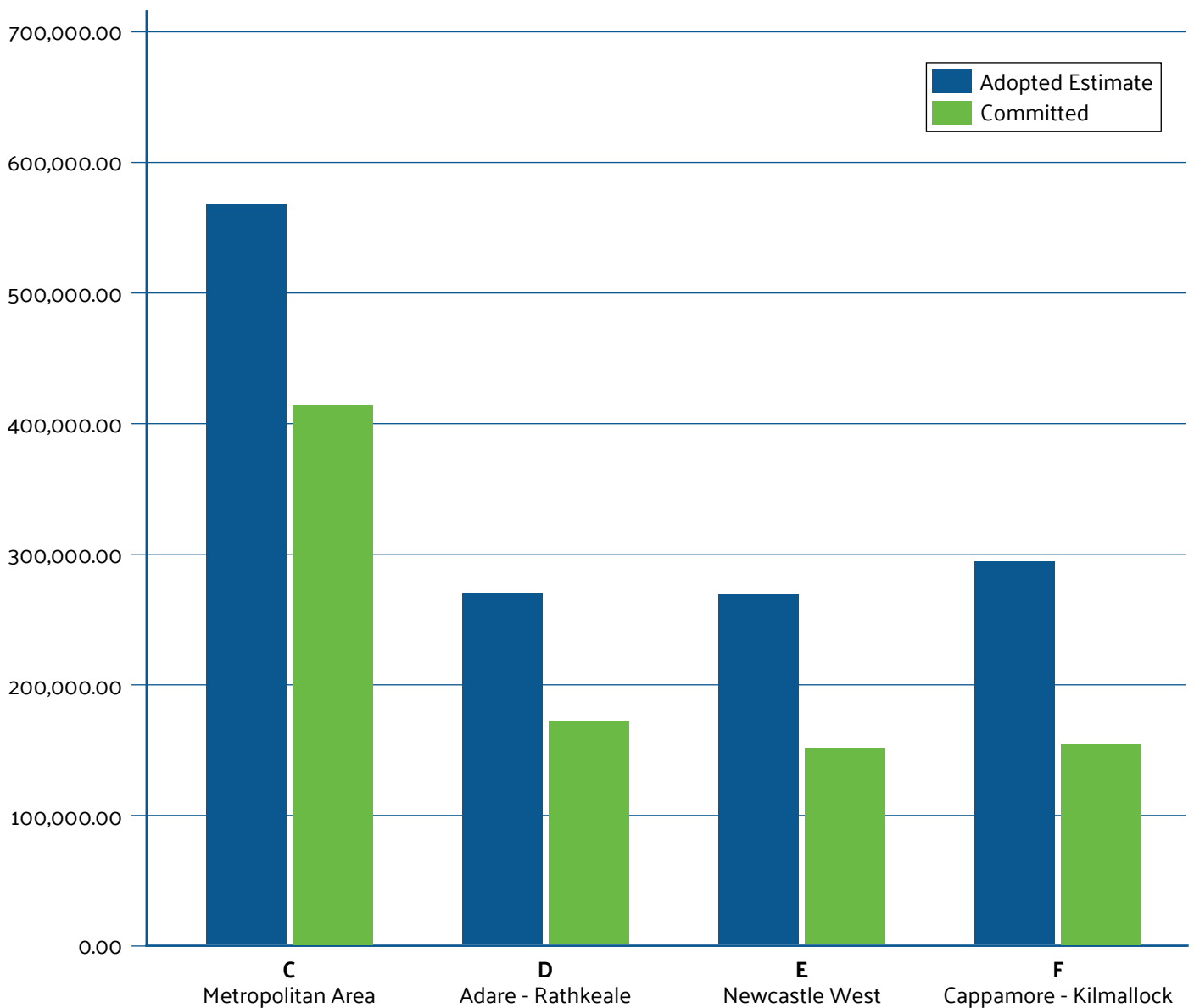


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General Municipal Allocation 2021 Adopted Estimate €1.403 Million

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



Municip (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate (€)	Value Committed (€)
C Metropolitan Area	568,000.00	416,782
D Adare - Rathkeale	270,000.00	170,934
E Newcastle West	270,000.00	150,589
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	295,000.00	151,382

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2. Business Improvement

- Business Improvement launched the online Recruitment Business Case form which saw the paper form moved to a digital approval workflow.
- The Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF) projects are now live on Cora PPM (Portfolio Project Management).
- A total of 886 users are now live on the Employee App.
- Business Improvement worked with a variety of Departments to place their citizen engagements on MyPoint:
 - Tourism Department – Part 8 Consultation for the Limerick Greenway Hub in Rathkeale.
 - Roads, Traffic and Cleansing Department - Public Consultation for Taking-In-Charge of a Road in Patrickswell.
 - Environment, Recreation, and Climate Change Department – Green Space Public Survey.
 - Environment, Recreation, and Climate Change Department – Castletroy Greenway Workshop Public Survey.

3. Corporate, Governance and Customer Services

Office of the Mayor

The Mayor hosted the following in Corporate Headquarters:

- Courtesy Visit of the Swiss Ambassador to Ireland.
- Courtesy Visit of the Deputy Ambassador of The Netherlands.
- Courtesy Visit of the Danish Ambassador to Ireland.
- Courtesy Visit of Isla Baring, Grand-Niece of Sir Peter Tait.

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

- Planting of an Oak Memorial Tree in remembrance of all those who lost their lives or who were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
Venue: The People's Park, Pery Square, Limerick.
- Anti-Cigarette Butt Litter Initiative.
Venue: Bedford Row, Limerick.
- Photoshoot for initiative for Science Foundation Ireland 'Creating Our Future Roadshow.' Creating Our Future is asking people to submit their ideas about what researchers in Ireland should explore to create a better future.
Venue: Arthur's Quay, Limerick.
- Photoshoot with Group from Limerick Comhairle na nÓg travelling to Strasbourg for European Youth Event.
Venue: North Side Youth Space, Ballynanty Road, Limerick.
- Union Rugby Championship Munster v Stormers.
Venue: Thomond Park, Limerick.
- Presentation of Prizes to the Limerick winners of the Blás na hÉireann Awards 2021.
Venue: Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, Co. Limerick.
- EU Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy Europe – Online attendance at 2021 European Covenant of Mayors Ceremony - "Towards a Fairer, Climate-Neutral Europe for All," supporting the renewed ambition of the Initiative towards 2050 and commit, engage, act and network together to secure a better future for their citizens!
- Photocall to launch the Opening of the Art Exhibition 'All Creatures Great and Small.'
Venue: Red Door Gallery, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.
- Official Opening of Castletroy Urban Greenway.
Venue: Castletroy Urban Greenway, Limerick.

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- Photocall for the Launch of Ballyhoura Walking Festival.
Venue: Ballyhoura Development Offices, Main Street, Kilfinane, Co. Limerick.
- Online participation at Interactive Mayoral Roundtable - 2nd Collingwood World Summit 2021: Habitat in Towns, THEME: Regional and Global Connectivity, TOPIC: Town Leaders' Global Network for the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the scale of towns and small cities.
- Official Launch of Limerick Mental Health Week and commemorating the 294 Limerick people who lost their lives to COVID-19.
Venue: On board the Ilen, the last of Ireland's traditional wooden sailing ships - sailing from Shannon Estuary to Limerick City at the Clayton Hotel. The Ilen was illuminated in green and flanked by boats from Civil Defence.
- Launch of Book by Sportsfile Limerick Back 2 Back All-Ireland Senior Hurling Champions 2020-2021.
Venue: Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Launch of MYSTORY (Mental Health of Youth Story) Photovoice Exhibition for Limerick Mental Health Week.
Venue: Limerick City Gallery of Art, Carnegie Building, Pery Square, Limerick.
- Presentation of Cheques to Charities following Cook Medical Women's Mini Marathon.
Venue: Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Limerick Civil Defence Certificate Presentation Night for COVID-19 Team.
Venue: Civil Defence Headquarters, Unit 6e, Docklands Business Park, Dock Road, Limerick.
- Launch of new Limerick Gift Card for Limerick Chamber in support of Limerick Retail, Hospitality and consumer facing business community.
Venue: Howley's Quay, Limerick.
- FAI League of Ireland - Treaty United Football Club v Athlone Town Football Club.
Venue: Markets Field, Garryowen, Limerick.
- Union Rugby Championship - Munster v Connacht.
Venue: Thomond Park, Limerick.
- Music Session for 'Musicians on Call Project,' a project where professionally trained musicians from Kids Classics work in Healthcare settings, to connect music-making opportunities to residents and healthcare staff in Nursing Homes and Community Hospitals.
Venue: St. Camillus' Hospital, Limerick.
- Mary Immaculate College PhD Conferring Ceremony 2021.
Venue: Lime Tree Theatre, Limerick.
- Launch of Novas 2020 Annual Report.
Venue: The Savoy Hotel, Limerick.
- Official Opening of St. Gabriel's Children's Respite House.
Venue: St. Gabriel's Children's Respite House, Moneteen, Mungret, Co. Limerick.
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to officially mark the Opening of Edwards Lifesciences new manufacturing facility in Limerick.
Venue: The National Technology Park, Castletroy, Limerick.
- Official Launch of Phase 2 for Dairy Processing Technology Centre (DPTC).
Venue: Analog Devices Building, University of Limerick, Limerick.
- Launch of History Book of Bruff, Grange and Meanus.
Venue: Fitzgerald Heritage Centre, Bruff, Co. Limerick.
- Mungret Regional Football Club 50th Anniversary Celebration.
Venue: Main Pitch, Rathmale, Mungret, Co. Limerick.
- Limerick County GAA Board, Bon Secours Hospital, Limerick County Senior Hurling Championship Final and honouring the 1921 and 1996 Teams, 100 and 25 Year Anniversary Celebrations.
Venue: The TUS Gaelic Grounds, Ennis Road, Limerick.

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- Online participation at 'Fifth International Conference on Learning Cities (ICLC) hosted by UNESCO Learning city of Yeonsu, Republic of Korea, 'From emergency to resilience: Building healthy and resilient cities through learning.' Mayors' Forum, approaches for inclusive education in learning for health.
- Award Ceremony for Shelbourne AFC, awarded the FAI Clubmark, quality qualification in club management, safety standards and coaching.
Venue: McGettigans, Limerick City Hotel, Limerick.
- Presentation of Medals to Mungret Tag Rugby Team.
Venue: Council Chamber, Dooradoyle.
- Hurling Display, on the occasion of the visit of President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, and President of Germany, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, to the University of Limerick.
Venue: The Pavilion, North Campus, University of Limerick, Limerick.
- Service to mark the Retirement of The Right Reverend Dr. Kenneth Kearon as Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe.
Venue: St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick.

Register of Electors

- The Register of Electors Team continue to work on a data cleansing project prior to migration to a new Register of Electors system.
- Staff from the Register of Electors Team attended a Webinar giving an update on progress on the Electoral Reform Bill and the new Electoral Register system.
- Staff in the Register of Electors Team continue to update the Draft Register 2022/2023 for publication.

During October, the Register was updated as follows:

Total number of deletions	100
Total number of additions	13
Total number of modifications	21

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	14
Health and Safety Rep. Training	1
Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) Signing, Lighting and Guarding Information Update	23
Manual Handling	161
First Aid Response	4
First Aid Response Refresher	11
Driver Certificate of Professional Competency	5

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Schedule of Meetings for October

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Operational Briefings Limerick City East Limerick City North Limerick City West	05.10.2021 05.10.2021 06.10.2021	Online Online Online
Local Community Development Committee	06.10.2021	Dooradoyle
Municipal District of Newcastle West Monthly Meeting Meeting on Draft Budgetary Plan 2022 Joint Policing Sub-Committee Meeting Adare-Rathkeale Monthly Meeting Cappamore-Kilmallock Monthly Meeting Joint Policing Sub-Committee Meeting	06.10.2021 20.10.2021 20.10.2021 12.10.2021 21.10.2021 21.10.2021	Newcastle West Newcastle West Newcastle West Rathkeale Kilmallock Kilmallock
Metropolitan District of Limerick Monthly Meeting Adjourned Special Meeting to discuss Regeneration Programme	18.10.2021 18.10.2021	Dooradoyle and Online Dooradoyle and Online
Strategic Policy Committee Meetings Community, Leisure and Culture Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning	04.10.2021 05.10.2021 11.10.2021	Dooradoyle Online Dooradoyle and Online

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Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Strategic Policy Committee Meetings (cont.)		
Travel and Transportation	19.10.2021	Dooradoyle and Online
Home and Social Development	20.10.2021	Dooradoyle and Online

Access to Information

	October	2021 (January to October)
Total Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests	15	206
FOI Internal Appeals	1	10
Information Commissioner Appeals	1	3
Total Ombudsman Requests	5	41
Total Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) Requests	1	13

Customer Services

In October, Customer Services welcomed 2,108 visitors to its public counters.

Customer Services staff manage the post procedures for the Metropolitan area of the organisation, processing and distributing mail received daily. Throughout the month, Customer Services staff processed 156 registered letters, 147 cheques via mail and 140 Planning registered letters and cheques. This is a fraction of the overall post that is processed as not all mail is recorded.

Housing Assessments issued over 900 letters under the Summary of Social Housing Assessments Scheme. Customer Services supported the scheme by fielding general phone queries and managing the large volume of post generated as a result.

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

- Customer Services Call Centre dealt with 11,456 calls. This represents an average of 573 per day, with the number of calls exceeding 600 on several occasions. 54% of these calls were handled at first point of contact.

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- 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.
- 2,693 cases were created, with 625 of these logged on behalf of Public Representatives. 2,386 cases were closed, with 506 of these being cases logged by Public Representatives.
- A total of 3,014 emails were processed through the Customer Services email platform.
- 454 calls were received through the Voxpro out-of-hours services.
- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued, with a total of 264 being logged, 232 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 80% of cases for Housing Maintenance in the Metropolitan Area.
- Customer Services continued to provide other frontline services to the public, such as the processing of Residential Parking Permits. 58 Residential Parking Permits were applied for, with 36 issued.
- do in Limerick and encourage them to experience life off campus.
- Progress ongoing in the development of a collaborative Limerick Student City video asset with Limerick's Tertiary Education Sector (University of Limerick, Mary Immaculate College, Griffith College Limerick and Limerick College of Further Education) to promote Limerick as a location of choice for potential students.
- Continued engagement with Brand Ambassador network.
- Work ongoing in the refresh and upgrade of content and assets to attract increased investment to Limerick.
- Continued collaboration with colleagues in Smart Limerick on the forthcoming Limerick Innovation Showcase.
- Produced a digital Limerick Student City map highlighting a range of off-campus activities on offer to Limerick's Third Level student population.
- Coordinated itineraries for Frommer's Travel Guide copywriters on their recent visit to Limerick.
- Work ongoing with Christmas in Limerick campaign strategy and video concepts.
- Created and issued five Limerick.ie e-newsletters.

4. Marketing & Communications

Marketing

- Supported the publication of Back 2 Back, a photographic memoir chronicling Limerick's All-Ireland hurling success in 2020 and 2021, produced by Ireland's leading sports photography agency, Sportsfile.
- Co-ordinated and implemented a two-week digital marketing campaign to create awareness amongst current third level students about all there is to see and
- do in Limerick and encourage them to experience life off campus.
- Continued to monitor, schedule and update social media channels with creative content to utilise engagement with the public and put Limerick in people's minds.
- Posted 65 times on Limerick.ie's **Facebook** with followers now 31,850. Posts Reached 118,337 users, with 6,462 engagements and 438,118 impressions.
- Tweeted 69 times on Limerick.ie's **Twitter**, @Limerick_ie, with total followers now 20,309. Our tweets earned 97,000 impressions (number of times users saw our tweet).

Social Media

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- Posted nine times on Limerick.ie's [Instagram](#) and created eight Stories, with total followers now 19,741.
- Posted eight times on Limerick City and County Council's [LinkedIn](#), with total followers now 7,928.

Limerick.ie

In October, there were 176,500* unique site visits to Limerick.ie, a 31% increase on the same period in 2020. (*Fathom Analytics).

The most popular pages on Limerick.ie in 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/browse](#)
5. [Limerick.ie/council/your-council/jobs](#)

Content Report: 100 articles, 220 events and 37 amenities were added to Limerick.ie in October.

Communications

- Supported Active Travel with the official launch of the Castletroy Urban Greenway.
- Launched and managed a three-week public communications print and digital media campaign for the O'Connell Street Revitalisation project on behalf of the Place-Making and Public Realm Department.
- Issued 23 news releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and wrote nine speeches for the Office of the Mayor.
- Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter.
- Supported Tourism with planning the official launch of the Limerick Greenway.
- Tweeted 150 times on Limerick City and County Council's Twitter account, @limerickcouncil, with total followers now 16,771. Our tweets earned 299,200 impressions (number of times users saw our tweet).

