

Chief Executive's Report

November 2021

The Staff App, Council Connect, wins Excellence in Local Government Award in the Local Authority Innovation category

The Dan Buoy and Tetra Project aims to save lives and improve the outcomes of water-based incidents and will improve recovery/rescue time for those needing assistance in the river

Re-ignite Breakfast Seminar provides support and networking opportunities for local businesses

The preferred options for the N21 Road Schemes for Abbeyfeale and Newcastle West are announced

The City Library re-opens in Barrow House

Multi-million euro Social Intervention Fund now accepting applications for 2022

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Contents

Economic Development and Enterprise Directorate

1. Trade and Investment	3
2. Local Enterprise Office Limerick	3
3. Innovate Limerick	4
4. Forward Planning	6
5. Digital Services	6

Housing Directorate

1. Housing Support Services	21
2. Local Authority Housing Construction & Maintenance	25
3. Strategy & Non Local Authority Housing Construction	27
4. Municipal District Offices	28

Transportation and Mobility Directorate

1. Active Travel	9
2. Mid West National Road Design Office	9

Planning, Environment and Place-Making Directorate

1. Place-Making and Public Realm	31
2. Planning Development	31
3. Environment, Recreation & Climate Change	32
4. Urban Innovation	32
5. Veterinary Services	32

Community, Tourism and Culture Directorate

1. Urban & Rural Community Development	11
2. Tourism	13
3. Arts Office	13
4. Property & Community Facilities	15
5. Libraries, Gallery & Museum	15

National and Regional Shared Services Centre Directorate

1. Housing Assistance Payment SSC	33
2. Fire & Emergency	33

Regeneration Directorate

1. Regeneration	20
-----------------	----

Support Services Directorate

1. Finance	35
2. Business Improvement	37
3. Corporate, Governance & Customer Services	37
4. Marketing & Communications	43

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Economic Development and Enterprise Directorate

1. Trade & Investment

- Filtertek, an ITW Medical Company based in Newcastle West, announced plans to invest €2m in an innovative National Development Plan programme.
- Kirkland Investments have commenced construction of an €80m office and residential block (officially named 1BQ) at Bishop's Quay, Limerick, which will create 150 jobs during construction and, once completed, will have the capacity to accommodate 600 workers, with 34 luxury apartments.
- A private healthcare company, Nua Healthcare Services, announced plans to recruit 50 additional staff in Limerick to assist in the rollout of their services to the community.
- Aldi have unveiled plans to build two new stores in Limerick:
 - €11.5m store in Dooradoyle, creating 30 permanent jobs and 50 jobs during construction.
 - €7m outlet in Moyross, creating 30 permanent jobs and 50 jobs during construction.
- A new Food Retail Outlet and an expansion of a second Outlet are proposed for the Limerick One Shopping Centre, Childers Road, Limerick.
- On 26 November, Limerick City and County Council hosted a visit from the French Minister for Foreign Trade and Economic Attractiveness, Mr. Franck Riester, and the French Ambassador to Ireland, Mr. Vincent Guerend, along with colleagues from Shannon Foynes Port Company, the Shannon Group and elected representatives. The group discussed economic ties between France and the Mid-West, the restoration of direct flights to France and the opportunity for the Shannon Estuary to become a source of renewable energy for European energy markets.

Outdoor Seating and Accessories Grant

During the month of November, €89,740.99 was paid to 30 applicants under the scheme. The total paid out to date is €356,639.18 to 107 applicants.

2. Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Limerick

Funding Approved

- Three small businesses were approved for the LEO Trading Online Voucher this month

LEO held Virtual Courses and Webinars during the month including:

- A Management and Business Development Programme for Women in Business commenced.
- The Re-Ignite Breakfast Seminar, hosted by Sean Gallagher, was successfully run with a combination of physical and virtual attendees.
- Start Your Own Business Courses, Finance for non-Financial Managers, Prepare Your Business for Customs, The Circular Economy Lunch and Learn Webinar, various Social and Digital Media Workshops, Trading Online Voucher Seminar and a Virtual Business Advice Clinic Day were held throughout the month.

There were 198 participants on the LEO Business Training Courses and 14 business owners availed of the LEO Mentoring Programme in November.

Other News

- LEO Limerick-supported company, Killeely Dromkeen Innovation (Trading as KDI Recycling), has been chosen as a national Lean Business Case Study by Enterprise Ireland.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

- The National Student Enterprise Programme 2021/2022 was launched at Desmond College, Newcastle West, with Limerick Hurler, Sean Finn, as Programme Ambassador.
- The LEO-Supported LINC Engineering Network of companies from Limerick and North Cork showcased their companies at the Manufacturing and Supply Chain Expo at the RDS.
- ENGINE Hubs Public Relations and Social Media awareness campaign has commenced throughout the Region.
- Engine Hubs, through Innovate Limerick, organised a meeting of over 20 Hub Owners/Managers and interested parties throughout Clare, Limerick, Kerry and Tipperary to network and get updates as to current Enterprise Space information.

3. Innovate Limerick

ENGINE Hubs

- ENGINE Hubs is developed and managed by Innovate Limerick. ENGINE Hubs is a connected network of private and public Enterprise Spaces throughout Limerick, Clare, Tipperary and North Kerry.
- The aim of ENGINE Hubs is to develop a supported, collaborative enterprise ecosystem throughout Mid-West Ireland by working closely with Local Enterprise Offices in Limerick, Clare, Tipperary and Kerry, along with invested partners throughout the Mid-West region.
- 15 Enterprise Centres are members of the ENGINE Hubs network. They are:
- Engine Hubs, through Innovate Limerick, worked with Enterprise Spaces in Kantoher, Broadford, Bruree and Rathkeale to enable onboarding and marketing of hubs through Connected Hubs platform, developed by the Western Development Commission.
- Also successfully managed Innovate Limerick Group of five Enterprise Centres to work together to share funding of €230,000 to modify and upgrade Enterprise Spaces.
- WorkBase Abbeyfeale Enterprise Centre construction fit-out in progress. Innovate Limerick is actively looking for tenants and is currently engaged in discussion with three interested parties.

ENGINE, Limerick City; **ENGINE Collaboration Centre**, Limerick City; **The Yard**, Newcastle West; **LEDP**, Roxboro; **WorkBase**, Abbeyfeale; **Croom Community Enterprise Centre**, Croom; **The Development Centre**, Kilfinane; **ACM Community Centre**, Castleconnell; **Bruree Innovation Food Units**, Bruree; **Broadford Enterprise Centre**, Broadford; **Kantoher Enterprise Centre**, Kantoher; **The Boat Club**, Limerick City; **Tipp Digital Hub**, Tipperary; **HQ Tralee**, Kerry; **HQ Listowel**, Kerry.

- Example of current clients in ENGINE Hub Enterprise Spaces are Transact Campus Ltd., WP Engine, Shopify, Virgin Media, The Butterfly Club, University of Limerick, AIB, Troy Packaging, Paul Partnership and many more.
- ENGINE hubs website is live - www.enginehubs.ie

ENGINE Collaboration Centre

- Innovate Limerick ENGINE Collaboration Centre attended and presented at the Electronomous Future Mobility Campus Ireland launch in Shannon. This brought together innovative companies working within connected and autonomy solutions and provided a great platform for Innovate Limerick to position itself with industry and meet with customers and partners globally.
- The Collaboration Centre delivered a Tech Talk focusing on University of Limerick's Immersive Software Engineering programme that provides an innovative approach to delivering computer science education in partnership with leading global technology companies.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

The Mid West Regional Enterprise Plan (REP)

A number of Mid-West projects were successful in securing feasibility funding under the recent Regional Enterprise Transition Scheme. Delivered for the Government through Enterprise Ireland, the purpose of the funding is to support detailed evaluation of early-stage opportunities for new impactful regional enterprise development projects.

Out of 18 awards nationally, the Mid-West secured five awards and is collaborating on one more, showing the extensive work underway in the region to develop new enterprise opportunities.

Amongst the Mid-West success is a Feasibility Study for Limerick Film Industry Infrastructure, to assess the feasibility of the creation of a multi-functional Creative Industries Centre of Scale at Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership (LEDP), comprising Ireland's first virtual production studio and appropriate space to facilitate and encourage indigenous SME sub-suppliers to the Film Industry in a Regeneration area.

The other successful projects from the Mid-West are:

- Study to investigate the development and growth of the supply chain for the existing onshore wind industry and transitioning it into the emerging offshore wind generation sector, Mid-West Region, in collaboration with West and North-West Regions.
- Phase 1.5 of Stable Lane Digital Hub, Tipperary.
- Ballymaley Enterprise and Innovation Centre, Clare.
- Clonmel co-working and Digital Hub, Tipperary.
- Installation of 1.5 tonne food ingredient dryer at Irish Bio Economy Campus, Tipperary.

Additionally, two projects from the Mid-West were successful in the previously announced Regional Enterprise Transition Scheme (extension scheme for existing projects). The successful projects were:

- Social Impact Ireland, based in the University of Limerick, who offer a range of business development and support services to social enterprises, and
- Future Mobility Campus Ireland, based in Shannon, who are developing and testing technologies to support advanced aerial and land mobility solutions.

Film in Limerick

Diverse Screen Launch

Innovate Limerick, through Film in Limerick, continued the Diverse Screen series of webinars on careers in the film and TV industries with three events taking place in November. Diverse Screen is a new training initiative that responds to the under-representation of people from culturally and ethnically diverse communities working in the Irish screen sector. It is run in partnership with Gorm Media and supported by Screen Skills Ireland.

Careers in the Editing Department in Film and TV

A webinar took place with Video Editor, Jenny Russell, on working as a film and TV editor. Jenny discussed the role of the editor and the opportunities for emerging talent to access training and work in the booming screen industries.

Careers in the Locations Department in Film and TV

A webinar took place with location scout / location manager, Stan Nangle, on working in the Locations Department in film and TV. Stan's recent work includes 'The Young Offenders' TV series, Ridley Scott's 'The Last Duel,' and TV series 'Holding,' based on Graham Norton's novel.

Careers in the Assistant Director Department in Film and TV

A webinar took place with 2nd Assistant Director, Nicola Jackson. Nicola, an experienced 2nd Assistant Director, has worked on films such as 'The Green Knight' and 'The Last Duel,' both of which filmed in the region, and most recently she was 2nd Assistant Director on the new Disney movie

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

'Disenchanted.' Nicola discussed the role of the Assistant Director on set and the opportunities for new entrants to find work in this exciting department.

Hidden Assets TV Series - Behind the Scenes Film

Innovate Limerick, through Film in Limerick, produced and released a short film with EPIK Media that goes behind the scenes on the filming of 'Hidden Assets' in Limerick and Clare. The film features some of the main cast, including Angeline Ball and Cathy Belton talking about their experience of filming in the region and the supports available for visiting productions.

Writers' Factory: Introduction to Screenwriting

Innovate Limerick, through Film in Limerick, and Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, have launched a second 22-week Introduction to Screenwriting course with 20 budding film and television writers from the Mid-West taking part. This hugely popular programme is designed by legendary script guru, Phil Parker, and led by award-winning screenwriter and director, Eleanor Yule, known for her feature film 'Blinded' and her television documentaries with Michael Palin. Yule also teaches screenwriting at the Liverpool Screen School at Liverpool John Moore's University. The course takes place online and participants will compete a script during the course and have the opportunity to pitch and receive feedback.

Creative Producing Programme

Innovate Limerick, through Film in Limerick, and Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, received almost 100 applications for places on their six-month producer training programme. Led by OSCAR-winning producer, John McDonnell, the new programme is the culmination of nearly two years of development and it will train 15 new creative producers with ambitions to produce feature films and TV series in the region.

4. Forward Planning

- The Chief Executive's report on the public consultation stage of the Draft Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 was prepared pursuant to Section 12 (4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The report issued to the Elected Members on 26 November.
- The review of the Rathkeale Local Area Plan 2012-2018 (as extended) commenced with the publication of an Issues Paper outlining some of the key issues that will be considered in preparing the Local Area Plan. This pre-draft public consultation period is open until 20 December, 2021, at 5pm.
- The consultation period for the proposed Development Contribution Scheme closed on 29 November. The scheme sets the contributions, which are attached to a grant of planning permission, to ensure the delivery of services.

5. Digital Services

- The implementation of the WIFI4EU project across County Limerick was concluded in early November. This project used EU funding, along with equivalent match-funding from the government via the Department of Rural and Community Development, to deliver 40 free public Wi-Fi access points across Limerick city and county for a minimum of three years. This is another step forward in the Council's aim to bridge the digital divide for citizens by removing barriers they may face in those areas when trying to get online to learn, to transact, stay connected with friends and family, and avail of online Council services. It is also anticipated that this free connectivity will promote footfall in these areas, which will be of benefit to local businesses.
- The Broadband Officer utilised government funding received via the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Connected Hubs 2021 funding initiative to deliver a suite of audio-visual equipment and supporting peripherals to 13 of Limerick's Broadband Connection Points (BCPs). This equipment

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

will allow them to make full use of the broadband service provided under the Broadband Connection Point programme, in addition to being made available for use by local community groups. This will also allow each site to avail of the different workshops and courses expected to be rolled out by the department to BCPs under the thematic headings of Arts and Culture, Remote Working, Digital Upskilling, and eHealth. Each BCP site also received an access control system, that can be controlled remotely by a cloud-hosted administration platform, to allow them to fully secure their new equipment.

- On 15 November, the Head of Digital Services and the Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Tom Ruddle, travelled to Barcelona, Spain, to attend the SMARTCITY Expo World Congress 2021, where they met with industry experts and leading organisations from around the world to discuss the common goal of how to help build better, safer, more inclusive cities worldwide.

EU Programmes

- Limerick City and County Council hosted the first Regional University Network-European University (RUN-EU) Regional Government Associate Partner Meeting. This meeting, organised by the Technological University of the Shannon (TUS), was to create a strategic focus for a sustainable European Zone for Interregional Development among RUN-EU regional partners and RUN-EU Higher Education Institutions in the context of current and future EU regional strategies, smart specialisation strategies and European Regional Development Fund mechanisms. It also identified quick win and long-term projects which could involve several regions and their associated RUN-EU Higher Education Institutes.
- As part of the +CityxChange project, a meeting was held between Limerick City and County Council, GoCar, UL and ESB Innovation on campus at the University of Limerick to explore the possibility of electric car sharing on campus. This was followed by a meeting at the Clayton Hotel between Positive Energy Block (PEB) building owners (An Post, Gardens International,

Limerick Chamber of Commerce, Rooney Auctioneers, and Limerick Youth Services), to update them on the digital models of their buildings and to present them with potential options for Retrofit through the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland.

- On 11 November, a GoGreen Routes Challenge Workshop was held online with users of the Castletroy Greenway. The purpose of the workshop was to:
 - introduce the GoGreen Routes Project and Limerick's Cultivating City project to the local community;
 - bring key local stakeholders together to get to know each other, identify their skills, knowledge and potential contributions;
 - present locations under question for the Limerick Urban Well-Being Labs;
 - gather participant feedback, ideas, perceived challenges relating to the site and project.
- A meeting was held with Enterprise Ireland and a representative from Cinea (European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency) to discuss the New European Bauhaus, and the 100 Climate Neutral Cities Mission. Enterprise Ireland has awarded Limerick City and County Council a support grant of €16,000 for the writing of a proposal for this Horizon Europe Call. On 25 November, there was a half-day meeting (part of an ongoing series of writing sessions) with the proposal writers to further progress this application.
- EU Programmes and Urban Innovation met with a Project Officer from The Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support to work on merging the recent Technical Support Instrument application in relation to a revolving fund for retrofitting historic buildings, with a similar proposal by the Office of Public Works.
- On 26 November, Limerick City and County Council took part in the Irish Regions European Office (IREO)/ Southern Regional Assembly (SRA) Seminar 'Dialogue

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

for Strength and Resilience,' a webinar on how EU Cohesion Policy funding can benefit local government and communities, focusing on funding benefits from the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) programmes, and how local communities can engage with the EU.



Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Transportation and Mobility Directorate

1. Active Travel

Projects

- **Childers Road** – Contractor appointed to carry out works on two-way cycle lane between Roxboro Roundabout and Kilmallock Roundabout. Temporary bollards installed ahead of work commencing.
- **R926 Dooradoyle Road** – Bolt down kerbs added along existing on-road cycle lanes from Crescent Shopping Centre junction (playground access road) towards Garryowen Football Club.
- **R926 Dooradoyle Road** – Traffic loop maintenance works carried out.
- **Ballyneety Village Footpath and Pedestrian Crossing** – Lights installed at pedestrian crossing. Awaiting connection.
- **Annacotty Village Footpath** – Accommodation works carried out with civil works to follow.
- **Ballyclough Footpath Extension** – Works commenced on 01 November.
- **Various Locations** – Pedestrian improvement works continuing at various locations in Municipal Districts of Newcastle West, Adare-Rathkeale and Cappamore-Kilmallock.

- Tweeted a series of pictures from the Limerick Council twitter account about two separate Active Travel projects – one on the Milford Road and one on the Dooradoyle Road. The Dooradoyle Road tweet received 60 likes and the Milford Road tweet was liked 24 times.

2. Mid-West National Road Design Office

N21 Newcastle West Road Scheme

The aim of the N21 Newcastle West Road Scheme is to relieve congestion on the N21 Limerick to Tralee Road through Newcastle West. The project is expected to have positive benefits for the town centre environment of Newcastle West and will improve the quality of life of commuters and local residents. The project offers opportunities to provide safe, segregated cycling and walking facilities and to integrate with the wider active travel networks such as the Limerick Greenway.

The preferred option for this road scheme went on public display on 09 November with a presentation to elected representatives. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the presentation was delivered Online.

The public display is online and runs for four weeks from 09 November. Feedback on the preferred option is being sought. The Project Team is engaging with affected landowners and other stakeholders.

Marketing and Communications

- Produced and shared a social media video via Limerick Council Twitter and LinkedIn celebrating the work of Active Travel in 2021. The video featured engineers from the Active Travel Team describing works carried out across the city and county. In its first day, the video received more than 1,000 views.

N21 Abbeyfeale Road Scheme

The N21 Abbeyfeale Road Scheme is being progressed to relieve congestion on the N21 Limerick to Tralee Road through Abbeyfeale. The project is expected to have positive benefits for the town centre environment of Abbeyfeale and will improve the quality of life of commuters and local residents. The project offers opportunities to provide safe, segregated cycling and

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

walking facilities and to integrate with the wider active travel networks such as the Limerick Greenway.

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Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Community, Tourism and Culture Directorate

1. Urban & Rural Community Development

Funding

- Limerick City and County Council was awarded funding of €448,000 under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS), which will see the development of three natural amenities in Limerick:

Dohyle Pool and Lough Complex was awarded €50,000 to for a feasibility study in respect of the swimming pool/marina, canal and lough and detailed design proposal for Phase 1 elements at the Pool and Lough at Dohyle, Rathkeale.

Croom Riverside Walk was awarded €198,000 for resurfacing and landscaping of Riverside Walk from Croom Mill towards Islanmore/Anhid to improve connectivity to Cois Sruthain Estate with a new access ramp and public lighting.

Bruff to Holycross Slí Na Sláinte was awarded €200,000 for the upgrade of Bruff to Holycross Slí Na Sláinte 2.5km Trail.

Limerick Public Participation Network (PPN)

- Limerick PPN Secretariat met once this month and continues to successfully deliver on its key functions.
- Three PPN Linkage Group meeting took place this month: Community Safety and Policing, Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment and Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning. Details of the Linkage Groups are on the Limerick PPN website, www.limerickppn.ie
- The Land Development Agency delivered a presentation to Limerick PPN members on the Colbert Quarter Draft Spatial Framework at the Savoy Hotel, Limerick,

organised by the Community, Leisure and Culture Linkage Group.

- Limerick PPN co-hosted a webinar with the Local Authorities Water Programme: 'Help Protect Limerick's Rivers, Lakes and Coastal Waters,' as part of the public consultation event on the Draft River Basin Management Plan (2022 to 2027).
- Five PPN nominations to - Joint Policing Committee, Local Community Development Committee, Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee and Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee - were ratified at the November Meeting of Limerick City and County Council.

All PPN seats on Limerick City and County Council Committees are now filled.

Environmental Awareness

- Limerick's first virtual Tidy Towns Network Meeting for #Limerick Tidy Towns Groups took place on 08 November.
- The National Tidy Towns Awards were announced in November. Congratulations to all the Limerick Tidy Towns Groups who participated.
 - Silver Medal and County Prize – Adare Tidy Towns.
 - Bronze Medal - Ardpatrik, Castleconnell, Galbally, Limerick City Centre and Newcastle West Tidy Towns.
 - Endeavour Award – Oola Tidy Towns.
 - Sustainable Development Goals Special Award - Bruff Tidy Towns.
- Limerick City and County Council celebrated European Waste Reduction Week with two Lunch and Learn Webinars taking place.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

- Limerick City celebrated its 16th Birthday as a Fairtrade City. To commemorate the occasion, Limerick Fairtrade objects were presented to the People's Museum by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler.

Dan Buoy Project

The Dan Buoy and Tetra Pilot Project was launched at Bishop's Quay, Limerick, on 05 November by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler.

This project aims to save lives and improve the outcomes of water-based incidents for all the residents of Limerick City with a focus on three main aspects - Communications, Training and Equipment. The project is a joint initiative between Limerick City and County Council and An Garda Síochána and will improve recovery/rescue time for those needing assistance in the river.

Age Friendly

Online Meetings/Webinars attended

- Launch of the Age Friendly Ambassadors.
- National Network of Age Friendly Programme Managers.

Education

Online Meetings/Webinars attended

- Comhairle na nÓg Steering Group Meeting.
- Limerick Childcare Committee Meeting.

Integration

Online Meetings/Webinars attended

- EDNIP (Embracing diversity, Nurturing Integration Project).
- Integrated Working Group (Sub-Group to discuss tender for Anti-Racism Campaign).

Health and Wellbeing

- First meeting of the Active Cities Steering Group was held in November. Limerick is one of the cities piloting this new initiative
- Food Partnership Project - Promotional videos and photographs were created with Richard Lynch from 'I love Limerick' on the Healthy Ireland Food Partnership Project. See links below:

<https://www.ilovelimerick.ie/limerick-food-partnership-fakeaway-classes/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CWlZjNgMR7/>

- Healthy Cities and Counties Learning and Networking Event - Presentation from Maeve O'Brien, Interim Programme Lead, Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme, who presented and linked in with Healthy Cities and Counties coordinators on the Sexual Health Programme.

Online Meetings/Webinars attended

- Orienteering Training at Baggot Estate, Limerick.
- EU Projects Meeting and update on links with Healthy Limerick.
- Limerick Food Partnership Steering Group Meeting.
- Healthy Cities and Counties Coordinators' Meeting.
- Five One Million Stars Project Meetings/Webinars.
- Healthy Communities.

Property Marking Scheme

The Property Marking Scheme was launched on 24 November. It involved Limerick City and County Council teaming up with An Garda Síochána and community groups across Limerick to help reduce the incidences of property theft. Two training sessions were provided on the launch date by James O'Neill of Property Marking Ireland for members of the Gardaí and various community groups who all got an opportunity to use the property marking machines. These were purchased by Limerick City and County Council and will now be loaned out to community

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

groups who received this training. These groups will, in turn, organise property-marking events in their localities. Further training will be provided in the New Year to roll it out to other Districts, as the initial areas covered on the launch date were the Municipal District of Newcastle West and Limerick City North.

2. Tourism

Limerick Greenway

• Official Opening

The Official Opening of the Limerick Greenway took place on 05 November and was performed by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler, in the presence of Minister of State, Mr. Niall Collins, TD and Minister of State, Mr. Patrick O'Donovan, TD. While numbers at the event were limited due to COVID-19, it was attended by public representatives, local community stakeholders and representatives from state agencies, including Fáilte Ireland.

• Marketing and Promotion

Limerick Greenway was the subject of a half hour-long feature on RTE Nationwide this month, which aired on 08 November and is available on the RTE Player.

On 10 November, local hotel Manager, Ann Madigan, of the newly refurbished Rathkeale House Hotel, and Aoife Potter-Cogan, Tourism Officer, were invited by Radio Kerry to discuss the recent success of the Limerick Greenway, with over 250 thousand visitors using the Greenway since it opened to the public.

The resulting articles from a number of Familiarisation Trips to raise national awareness of this new tourism attraction have been published. Pol Ó Conghaile, Irish Independent, and Esther McCarthy, Irish Examiner, published well-received reviews of the Limerick Greenway on 13 November raising further awareness of the amenity nationally.

• Destination Development

The Limerick Kerry Greenway Destination Development Programme has been taking place throughout November. 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. It is supported by Fáilte Ireland and funded by the LEADER Programme and facilitated by the appointed Consultants, Tourism Space.

The programme was open to any business or community group who wanted to learn more about tourism and how to maximise the Greenway opportunity. Limerick City and County Council's Tourism Department gave a presentation to the participants on 22 November focusing on how the Greenway is developed and managed by Limerick City and County Council and how to engage with the Council through its CRM (Customer Relationship Management) platform on Limerick.ie.

• Development

Works on the final section of the Limerick Greenway at the Kerry Border are now completed and the final section opened to the public on 08 November marking the completion of the main contract. The installation of ancillary infrastructure, including benches, water points etc., will continue over the coming months.

3. Arts Office

OPEN CALLS

Limerick Theatre Bursaries 2021

Limerick City and County Council worked in partnership with the Lime Tree Theatre I Belltable to bring a new suite of Limerick Theatre Bursaries to theatre practitioners in Limerick and nationally. Limerick Theatre Bursaries of up to €5,000 each were funded. An Assessment Panel met on 10 November to assess and make recommendations on all eligible applications, according to the criteria of the

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Award. Eighteen applications were received with a total ask of €87,273. The Panel recommended the allocation of Limerick City and County Council funding to the following successful applicants, totalling €15,000:

- Honest Arts / Pius McGrath.
- Ann Blake.
- Gorm Media / Mamobo Ogoro.

This recommendation was approved at the Full Council Meeting on 22 November.

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 November, two letters of support were issued in support of the Festival Investment Scheme and one was issued in support of the Creative Ireland Strategic Partner Scheme.

CREATIVE IRELAND FUNDED PROJECTS

Annual reporting on each project to Creative Ireland was completed in November. Additional funding was secured for two successful projects which had previously been funded through the Creative Ireland Creativity in Older Age 2021 Challenge Fund. This has allowed the projects to continue. Musicians on Call has brought professionally trained musicians from Kids Classics to work in healthcare settings to connect music-making opportunities to residents and healthcare staff in nursing homes and community hospitals. In Limerick, musicians called on residents in St. Camillus' Hospital, Limerick, and St. Ita's Hospital, Newcastle West. Yard Duets, with Dance Limerick, has brought four dance artists associated with Limerick together to develop two new, short dance works for presentation at residential care homes.

ARTS COUNCIL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT PROGRAMME

PARTNERSHIPS

The Castleconnell Autumn Concert Series 2021

This year's concerts all took place in November and were introduced by Liz Nolan of Lyric FM. On 02 November, pianist, Cahal Masterson, and 16 November, pianist and cellist duo, Reámonn Keary and Annette Cleary, narrated by Actor Barry McGovern, had pre-recorded concerts at All Saints Church, Castleconnell, streamed to an audience through Limerick.ie. The Cahal Masterson concert was released on RTE Lyric FM on 09 November and Reámonn Keary and Annette Cleary, narrated by Actor Barry McGovern, was released on 23 November. The third and final concert in this year's series with Music Networks Navarra Quartet took place in front of a capacity live audience at All Saints Church on 30 November.

Stony Thursday Book

The Stony Thursday Book call for submissions, for one of the longest-running literary journals in Ireland, opened on 17 November. The closing date is 08 December. Donegal Gaeltacht poet, Annemarie Ní Churreáin, has been named as editor of the latest edition of The Stony Thursday Book. Annemarie, whose publications include Bloodroot (Doire Press, 2017), Town (The Salvage Press, 2018) and The Poison Glen (The Gallery Press, 2021), will join a list of distinguished writers who have edited one of Ireland's longest-running literary journals. The Stony Thursday Poetry Book is funded by Limerick City and County Council and The Arts Council.

County Limerick Youth Theatre

In November, County Limerick Youth Theatre continued to rehearse three productions: *Spyrates (Spies vs. Pirates: Journey to the Forbidden Island)* by Robbie Gordon and Jack Nurse; *Thanks for Nothing*, by PappyShow, and *Variations*, by Katie Hims. Past member, Laura O'Riordan, led a two-day devising workshop in Herbertstown Community Hall as part of the Erasmus Plus Project TheArtThee, with 15 participants taking part.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Limerick Youth Choir

Limerick Youth Choir has been meeting weekly online throughout November to rehearse for upcoming singing opportunities.

Integrated Dance

The aim of this project is to introduce participants to dance as an art form whilst facilitating active and productive engagement in dance activities amongst disabled and non-disabled participants. Integrated Dance workshops for service-users of Enable Ireland, Castleconnell, took place on four Mondays during the month of November.

Helium Arts

Limerick Creative Health Hub successfully returned to delivering in-person community workshops for children and young people, delivering a longer six-week programme for 6-8 and 9-12 year-olds throughout November. Nine children are taking part in these programmes delivered by staff artist, Chelsea Canavan.

Limerick Artist in Schools Programme 2021/2022

Limerick's festival organisers were invited to submit Expressions of Interest to participate in the delivery of Limerick's Artist in Schools Programme 2021/2022, which is part of the annual programming by Limerick City and County Council Arts Office for young people, children and education. The Artist in Schools Programme is funded by The Arts Council, with support from Limerick City and County Council. Three festivals were selected to deliver a range of workshops in county schools.

Christmas in Limerick

Due to the continuing situation with COVID-19, Limerick was not able to have the traditional switching on of Christmas lights for the second year running. However, Christmas in Limerick 2021 was launched on 14 November with two beautiful Christmas trees in place and extra lighting erected all around the city centre, which will aid in the provision of Christmas programming over the coming weeks.

4. Property & Community Facilities

DERELICTION AND VACANCY

Dereliction, Vacancy and Reuse Team - November	
Inspections carried out	193
Property and Community Facilities Department Notices issued	15
Statutory Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act	51
Cases closed through engagement	39
Properties entered onto the Derelict Sites Register	7
Properties put forward for Compulsory Acquisition (Section 15 Notices)	9
Properties Compulsorily Acquired (Section 17 Notices)	3

BIN WAIVERS

Bin Waivers Approved	1
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5. Libraries, Gallery & Museum

Library

- On 10 November, Limerick Libraries welcomed back its City Library branch as it re-opened in Barrow House on Michael Street. This space, formerly InStore Furniture, will be the temporary home for the City Library while the flagship Central Library for Limerick is under construction as part of the Opera Site development. The Library covers two floors with a comprehensive range of books, movies and music available. On the lower

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

ground floor, readers will discover a wide and varied range of Fiction, Non-Fiction, Graphic Novels, DVDs, Audio Books and Teenage Literature collections. The first floor is a dedicated Children's Library, storytime area, activities room and a superb music library. Free Wi-Fi, public PC access, and printing/scanning facilities are also available. Already proving a great success, the City Library attracted over 1,500 visitors in its first full week of opening, many of whom have complimented the innovative reimagining of the former iconic retail space as a busy public library at the heart of Limerick's city centre

Welcoming the announcement, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler, said, *"It is great to see the City Library in a brand-new home in such a vibrant and central location while we wait for the completion of a new central Library for Limerick. I think this will prove to be a very inclusive and popular library for all and am delighted to hear that it's open."*

Among its visitors this month were five class groups from two city centre primary schools, Coláiste Mhichíl - CBS Sexton Street, and St. Mary's National School, Bishop Street, who enjoyed a tour of the new children's library and all the fantastic books on offer. Also in November, three ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) class groups from the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board visited the Library as part of their exams. The students joined the Library and chatted with staff about the library and the many services on offer.

- Limerick's Local Studies Department has re-opened and is now located at Watch House Cross Library. Research spaces and microfilm readers are available by appointment. Appointments can be made by contacting 061-557726 or by email at localstudies@limerick.ie.
- Limerick Libraries this month added Comics and Graphic Novels for members of Limerick Libraries to the Libby App. Previously offering free access to full-colour, interactive digital magazines, the Libby App now includes additional access to 3,000 comics and graphic novels. With no waiting time, these comics and graphic

novels are a welcome addition to this popular library app. There are now over 6,000 titles in all, covering 53 different subjects, meaning there is a comic, graphic novel or magazine for all ages and interests.

- The Little Library Initiative aims to develop a consistent link between Early Learning and Care Services and their local library, to encourage a love of books and reading among young children. Wave 1 of this initiative took place earlier this year, and Wave 2 is currently underway. Limerick Libraries are distributing almost 200 book bags to Early Learning Centres and registered childminders throughout the city and county through the branch network. These bags contain books chosen by librarians, and materials developed to support storytelling and reading with children. Some Little Library bags will also be available for borrowing by families and for use during in-branch storytimes.
- TTRS (Touch-Type, Read and Spell) Licences – Limerick Libraries continue to offer free access to TTRS licences. TTRS is particularly beneficial to all 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.
- Following on the success of the Halloween craft bags, Limerick Libraries were delighted to offer an autumn-themed craft bag to younger members. 120 bags were handed out in Kilmallock, Newcastle West, Watch House Cross and many other branches. Online videos with instructions on how to make your own paper hedgehog accompanied the bags.
- Watch House Cross Library participated in The Limerick Science Festival with two online Storytimes - David Attenborough from the "Little People, Big Dreams" series, written by Maria Isabel Sánchez Vegara, and 'Rosie Revere, Engineer' written by Andrea Beaty, Storytimes - each video was viewed over 100 times.
- Watch House Cross Library staff member, Clara, provided classes on digital photography for members of the public over a number of weeks in November.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Teaching the basic skills of how to use your camera, the course finished with an exhibition of photographs from each of the participants.

- Newcastle West and Adare created vivid book displays for Science Week and Nursery and Rhyme Week, images of these displays featured on the library's social media pages. Winners in the "Spooky Scholars" competition read their stories on Local Radio - West Limerick 102fm with poet and presenter, Shirley O'Regan.
- Branches enjoyed visits from local school classes and crèches throughout the month.
- Newcastle West Library supported the 'Movember' charity, focusing on men's health and wellbeing, with a poster and book display.
- Library branches continue to find innovative ways to enhance the visitor experience to branches under COVID-19 restrictions with quick pick displays of new titles such as "A Harvest of Good Reading," by Newcastle West Library, showcasing some wonderful new fiction and non-fiction titles.

Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- Exhibitions: "Songs and the Soil," Mark Garry, "Resonant Landscape," Natalia Beylis, Padraig Cunningham, Sharon Phelan, finished on 28 November. The third iteration of EVA International finished on 14 November. Visitor numbers for the three exhibitions were 15,595.
- Carl Doran, invited as the first Artist in Residence at Test Space, continues his residency. During his time in the Gallery, he will interact with the exhibition programme by maintaining a visual diary and presenting a display of works in book form with other artists. A number of interviews with Carl have been posted on various social media.
- Running in tandem with the "physical" residency is a virtual residency with Rajinder Singh who is based in London and whose practice is based on choreography.

It is envisaged that both residencies will contribute to the development of LCGA's Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity (EID) policy. Both these positions are funded under the Arts Council's Strategic Funding of the Artistic Programme at LCGA.

- A selection of photographic works from the Permanent Collection, curated by Siobhan O'Reilly, is currently installed in the East Gallery. The exhibition comprises 64 works by 24 photographers, including Willy Doherty (Turner Prize nominee), Amelia Stein and Anthony Haughey, alongside Limerick artists, Deirdre Power, Eamonn O Mahoney and Andrew Kearney.
- LCGA received a donation of a painting of Limerick from the Friends of the National Collections of Ireland. The painting will be presented to the Gallery in memory of Thomas Ryan, recently deceased.
- A series of collaborative workshops has been running over November with Dance Limerick and Limerick School Project. LCGA has strictly adhered to COVID-19 guidelines as outlined in the document prepared by the Library Services. LCGA received a grant from Creative Ireland to fund the documentation of these workshops.
- On 27 November, a "closed" launch took place to mark the closing of the current suite of exhibitions and the launch of a publication, Becoming Audible, by artist, Austin McQuinn.
- The installation of the next exhibition, By Slight Ligaments, by artist, Aideen Barry, commenced on 30 November and LCGA will be the first venue prior to a national and international tour over two years.
- At the request of the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler, LCGA curated a selection of works by Limerick artists for the Mayor's Office, including work by Brian McMahon, Gillian Kenny, Gavin Hogg and Robert Ryan. A limited-edition print of a compilation of works from the Permanent Collection is also on display.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

- The University of the Third Age (U3A) continues to meet on a fortnightly basis.
- Work continues on future exhibitions programme, including Aideen Barry, European Investment Bank Collection, and Tom Fitzgerald, retrospective in 2022.
- The Director/Curator continues to attend virtual meetings with colleagues to discuss the sectoral needs of the visual arts in Ireland. They presented a report to the Arts Council on pay and conditions for artists and art workers.
- Work has commenced on research for the digitisation of the Permanent Collection and the first provisional selection of work has been made. The selection reflects the works that were in the Collection at the time of the opening of the extension in 1948.
- LCGA continues to participate in Positive Energy Champions Programme and working with +CityxChange partners, IES, is taking part in testing equipment within the Carnegie Building to measure relative humidity, temperature to assist with data in relation to Energy conservation. The installation of the equipment took place in early November.

Limerick Museum

As part of the Decade of Centenaries Programme, Limerick Museum, working in partnership with the Limerick Library Service, has completed four online exhibitions. They are:

- **Women in Limerick in 1921.** This exhibition examines the role of women in the Limerick of 1921, paying particular attention to four Limerick women whose experiences demonstrated different aspects of the revolutionary period. On 14 May, 1921, 23-year-old Winnie Barrington, daughter of the popular local landowner, Sir Charles Barrington of Glenstal Castle, was accidentally shot dead during an IRA ambush, highlighting the fate of innocent civilians in the fighting. On 21 May, 1921, Alderman Maire O'Donovan became acting Mayor of Limerick in the absence of the Mayor in the USA, thus becoming the first female head of a

Limerick local authority. On 24 May, 1921, her sister, Kate O'Callaghan, widow of the murdered Mayor O'Callaghan, was elected the first ever female TD representing a Limerick constituency, while on the same day, Kathleen Clarke was returned as TD for the Dublin Mid Constituency.

- **Dromkeen Ambush Exhibition.** Limerick played a central role in the War of Independence, with 130 fatalities, the fifth highest death toll of any Irish county, after Cork, Dublin, Tipperary and Kerry. The Dromkeen Ambush of 03 February, 1921, was one of the biggest events in Limerick during this period. It was the largest ambush in the entire War of Independence after Kilmichael and was carried out by the flying columns of the East and Mid Limerick Brigades IRA, some 45 riflemen, under the command of Donncha O'Hannigan, commander of East Limerick Brigade Flying Column. Illustrated with numerous images and maps, this exhibition examines the Dromkeen Ambush in detail, telling the story of how a small east Limerick village witnessed a significant defeat for the might of the Crown forces.
- **Soviets and Strikes: Labour in Limerick 1917-1922.** Between 1917 and 1922, Limerick was one of the epicentres of Labour activity in Ireland. The large unionist-owned Cleeves business empire was the scene for a series of 'soviets' and strikes of which the Knocklong and Bruree Soviets in 1921 was among the most prominent. Many of these soviets used the slogan 'we make bread not profits.' However, there were numerous other labour disputes in Limerick city and county during this period which attracted widespread publicity. Eventually, the prevailing social conservatism, the absence of a large industrial workforce and the outbreak of the Civil War resulted in the ultimate defeat of this wave of labour agitation.
- **A Socio-Economic Profile of County Limerick in 1921.** In 1921, Limerick was a microcosm of Ireland, both urban and rural. The city was the fourth largest urban area in the country, with numerous industries and a prosperous port, while the county was overwhelmingly rural with a few market towns and was one of the leading

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

agricultural regions in Ireland. In both area and population, Limerick was the tenth largest county on the island of Ireland. It had an area of 1,064 square miles (2,756 square kilometers), and in 1911, its population was 143,069. The population of Limerick City was 38,518 (27 per cent of the total) and of the county was 104,551 (73 per cent of the total). This exhibition examines Limerick in 1921 under several headings, including local government, politics, the War of Independence, industry, religion and education.

- Limerick Museum, working in partnership with the Sisters of Mercy Heritage Centre, Charleville, has also produced an online exhibition entitled Limerick Lace: From Design to Makers. This exhibition depicts designs used to make Limerick lace; profiles the makers of lace in Limerick city in 1901 and 1911; and shows examples of finished pieces of lace. Images of lace designs from

Mercy convents in Munster, housed in the Sisters of Mercy Heritage Centre in Charleville, demonstrate the basis for the creation of the pieces. Maureen Egan of Pennywell Lace Makers in Limerick City, and Ruth Guiry Cagney, MA, have created a database of lace makers in Limerick, mainly based on the Census of 1901 and the Census of 1911. This gives an invaluable window into the lace-making workforce during the heyday of the industry. Images of lace pieces from Mercy convents in Munster, housed in the Sisters of Mercy Heritage Centre in Charleville, demonstrate the beauty and craft which resulted from the collaboration between design and makers.

- All exhibitions may be viewed at <https://www.limerick.ie/council/whats-on/festivals/limerick-city-and-county-council-decade-centenaries>



Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Regeneration Directorate

1. Regeneration

Economic

November saw continued development of The Pathways to Employment Initiative. Work has been undertaken by the Project Team, and is ongoing, to develop a database of participants who are engaging with the Pathways to Employment process. Extensive collaboration with community partners, employers and key state agencies has been ongoing in the north side and in Ballinacurra Weston, with plans in development to roll out the initiative to the other regeneration communities.

Individuals involved in the programme are divided into four categories:

- Pre-Development Phase - individual work being done in conjunction with community partners e.g. personal development support, counselling, etc.
- Job Ready Phase - focus on interview skills, career/job guidance, liaising with employers to identify opportunities etc.
- Training and Education Phase - individuals who are returning to training e.g. Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, or Education e.g. Third Level Access Programmes.
- Employment Phase - individuals who have secured work. Check-In programme with participants and employers currently being further refined.

Social

Social Intervention Fund 2022 - the application process for funding bids opened in November. Closing date for receipt of applications is 16 December, 2021, at 4pm.

Social Intervention Fund 2021 - Continued work processing and disbursing over €3.5 million to over 140 projects across the regeneration communities. Recommendations from the Social Intervention Fund Appeals Committee

pertaining to appeals lodged have been sent to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for approval. Ongoing guidance and advice being provided to community groups/organisations to support the drawdown of funding.

Post Social Intervention Fund 2023 - Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan Transition Survey Report is currently being completed. Information was collated from list of organisations awarded €10k and over in 2021. In terms of a Social Intervention Fund Review, work has been ongoing to develop a Proposal and Design Framework for a study to highlight the impact and effectiveness of Social Intervention Fund-funded organisations. This review is extremely important in the context of Social and Economic Regeneration in the communities post 2023.

Physical

New Housing Development

Contracts were awarded for the previously Stage 4 approved Churchfield Phase 2 development in Southill.

Thermal Upgrade Programme

A Stage 3 application was submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in respect of Thermal Upgrade Contract 121 (Moyross).

Community Centre, Our Lady of Lourdes

Progression of Community Centre Brief establishing occupants and community future provision requirements.

Southill Hub, Southill

Design Team progressing to Tender Stage for Fire Upgrade Works, Southill Hub. The Hub, in conjunction with Limerick City and County Council, has prepared an associated Social Intervention Fund funding application.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Housing Directorate

1. Housing Support Services

• Waiting List

Housing Waiting List	2,074
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• Allocations

	No. of Units November 2021	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	1	16
Newcastle West	0	19
Metropolitan District	19	200
Cappamore-Kilmallock	3	37
Total	23	272

• Allocations Refusals

	No. of Units November 2021	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	1	6
Newcastle West	0	1
Metropolitan District	2	11
Cappamore-Kilmallock	0	3
Total	3	21

• Approved Housing Body Allocations 2021 (year to date)

Total Nominations	291
Successful Nominations	141
Nominations Pending	102
Unsuccessful Nominations	48

• Traveller Housing Welfare

No. of Units offered November 2021	2
Year to Date	18

* these figures are included in allocations figures

• Housing Assistance Payments Limerick (HAP)

2,439 active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	21
No. of Amendments	408
No. of Cessations	55

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Home Improvement Schemes

November 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	€4,984.50	1	€11,269.85	4	€7,310.00	1
Newcastle West	€22,950.00	4	€71,681.87	8	€109,406.70	22	€13,359.99	2
Metropolitan	€44,728.59	9	€83,616.96	7	€65,235.24	19	€50,643.26	5
Cappamore-Kilmallock	€11,250.00	2	€23,750.00	2	€46,960.00	9	€6,231.15	3
Total	€84,678.59	16	€184,033.33	18	€232,871.79	54	€77,544.40	11
Total Monies issued in November 2021 = €579,128.11								
Total Grants issued in November 2021 = 99								

January to November 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	€102,083.34	21	€173,921.86	23	€183,229.00	44	€7,310.00	1
Newcastle West	€125,950.00	23	€210,406.45	31	€384,691.93	86	€13,359.99	2
Metropolitan	€346,379.81	66	€546,303.68	70	€427,995.47	121	€301,087.90	12
Cappamore-Kilmallock	€186,672.11	35	€121,976.87	15	€183,768.19	37	€13,892.40	4
Total	€761,085.26	145	€1,052,608.86	139	€1,179,684.59	288	€335,650.29	19
Total Monies issued January to November 2021 = €3,329,029.00								
Total Grants issued January to November 2021 = 591								

Rent Collection

Rent Collection Limerick City and County Council					
Opening Balance at 01/01/2021	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing balance 30.11.2021	% Collection
€5,040,713	€16,068,183	€21,108,896	€15,543,534	€5,565,362	74%

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

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

Individuals – 05 November 2021		
Location	Description	Beds Used
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	29
St. Patrick's Hostel	Higher threshold accommodation for single males	45
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	13
St. Joseph Street	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	5
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	4
Clare Street Emergency Pods	Adults without children accommodated in low threshold emergency accommodation	9
Temporary Emergency Provision TEP 1 (Edenvilla)	Low threshold, night by night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	14
Temporary Emergency Provision TEP 2 (Phoenix Lodge)	Low threshold, night by night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	14
Total		133

Families				
Location	Description	Beds Used		Families
		Adults	Children	
Suaimehneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	9	6
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	16	19	10
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	10	13	9
Totals		Adults	Children	Families
		32	41	25

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

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

Tenant Purchase	
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. Received	4
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. Approved	1
Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans	
Loan Applications: No. Received	4
Loan Applications: No. Approved	2
Deed of Discharge	
Deed of Discharge Applications: No. Received	20
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	4
Ombudsman Query Cases	3

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

2. Local Authority Housing Construction & Maintenance

The Team is dedicated to delivering:

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

Local Authority Housing Construction

Project Update

Vacant units - surveys and scoping are being completed on vacant houses throughout the city and county. This is an important step in preparing to return these dwellings to the social stock. Once completed, it will allow the development of tender packages. Works will then follow on completion of the tender process and subject to approvals and funding.

Approvals Sought/Obtained

Stage 2 approval received from the Department to go to planning for housing project in Ardagh.

Stage 2 approval received from the Department to go to planning for housing project in Ballylanders.

Stage 2 approval received from the Department to go to planning for housing project in Mountcollins.

Capital appraisal has been issued to the Department for a new 17-unit housing development in Bruff.

A Part 8 has been submitted for housing project in Broadford.

Finance

Applications for funding totalling €4,777,223 issued to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage during November.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage paid €1,912,206 in claims made during the month.

Local Authority Maintenance

Energy Retrofit 2021

The Energy Efficiency Upgrade Programme for 2021 is now in its final stages and 59 homes throughout the city and county will be improved as part of this year's work. The scheme sees homes within the social stock being upgraded to improve their energy efficiency. Limerick City and County Council works closely with its partners, including SSE Airtricity and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in completing these works.

Typically, energy improvements works such as external wall insulation, heat pump heating systems, window and door replacement, low energy fittings are undertaken. The opportunity is also taken to address other non-energy related issues to improve the overall dwelling leading to efficiencies and savings in delivery.

The works have been grant-funded up to 45% of the total cost of the upgrade, subject to scheme caps.

The outcome of the work is homes which are more energy efficient and comfortable for tenants.

A full review will be given on completion of the scheme giving more detail on the final outcome.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Grants Inspections

The Grants Inspections Team has recently transferred to the Local Authority Maintenance Department in Dooradoyle and the following are details of the Inspections carried out in November in respect of the various Grant Applications received in the Metropolitan District.

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-Inspection	Final Inspection	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	6	0	10	16
HAGS (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	17	0	8	25
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	26	0	15	41
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	49	0	33	82

Local Authority Houses: Maintenance Complaints dealt with

Housing Maintenance and Housing Cases	Requests/Cases Created	Cases Dealt With/Closed
Metropolitan District	1,034	905
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	93	22
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	134	121
Municipal District of Newcastle West	109	60

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

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 November in the above Social Housing delivery streams:

As at 30 November (01.01.21 – 30.11.21)	Build	Buy	Lease	Total
Complete	112	20	75	207
In Progress	101	20	34	155
Overall Complete and In Progress	213	40	109	362
“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 period of 01.01.2021 – 30.11.2021.

2. Current Operational Programme

Six properties were returned in November 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 November - Categorisation	
Cat 1	0
Cat 2	1
Cat 3	0
Cat 4	0
To be inspected	5
TOTAL	6

House Returns November by Municipal District	
Adare-Rathkeale	1
Cappamore-Kilmallock	1
Newcastle West	1
Metropolitan	3
TOTAL	6

In November, works in 12 properties were completed by the Local Authority Maintenance Team, and the Regeneration Team completed works in two properties.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Current Working Programme		
	Completed in November	In Progress
Local Authority Construction Team	0	83
Local Authority Maintenance Team	12	54
Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process	0	25
Regeneration Team	2	11
Team to be assigned	N/A	21
TOTAL	14	194

4. Municipal District Offices

Metropolitan District of Limerick

Upgrade works across the Metropolitan District

- New footpaths and public lighting were constructed at Lower Walkers Road, Annacotty, by Tallybrooke Contractors and the total cost of the project was €230,000.
- Table top junctions and ramp upgrades were also constructed at locations in Garryowen including:
 - South Claughaun/Reidy Court Road by Grotto;
 - South Claughaun Road and Downey Street;
 - Outside 7 North Claughaun Road;
 - Junction of North Claughaun Road and Kilmurry Court;
 - Outside 15 North Claughaun Road;
 - Outside 22 North Claughaun Road.

The brief for this project was to slow vehicular traffic and improve pedestrian crossing facilities. The work was carried out by Roadstone Limited and the total cost of the project was €150,000.

Metropolitan District Meetings

• November Monthly Meeting

The November Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick took place on 15 November and amongst the agenda items, the Elected Members considered the Strategic Housing Development (SHD) planning application to An Bord Pleanála at the former Greenpark Racecourse, Dock Road, Limerick site that entails the proposed construction of 371 Housing Units, a Crèche and associated works.

• Special Meeting

A Special Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick took place on 08 November to consider the disposal of the Opera Site to Limerick Twenty Thirty Strategic Development DAC.

• Workshop

A Workshop for the Members of the Metropolitan District of Limerick was held on 12 November to discuss Limerick City and County Council's Property Disposal Process.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

• Operational Area Briefings

Operational Area Briefings also were held for the Elected Members in early November.

Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

- The monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale took place on 09 November in the Rathkeale House Hotel, Rathkeale.
- Essential repairs to social houses and public roads were undertaken by the Housing Maintenance and Roads Maintenance Teams:
 - 60 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
 - 55 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.
- Active Travel Works were carried out at Askeaton, Croom, Rathkeale and Pallaskenry.
- Footpath Works were completed in Foynes and Adare.
- Drainage Works were completed at Dromard, Rathkeale and Curraghdeely.

Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

- The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock was held in Deebert House Hotel, Kilmallock, on 18 November.
- Essential repairs to houses were undertaken by the Housing Maintenance Team and Roads Maintenance Team:
 - 128 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
 - 77 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

Road Works Programme 2021

- Limerick has received funding of €583,868.24 to develop a number of outdoor recreation projects across the county.
- In the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock, this has translated to the following projects:

Bruff to Holycross Slí Na Sláinte

Upgrade of Bruff to Holycross Slí Na Sláinte 2.5km Trail.	€200,000
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Cois Abhainn, Kilmallock

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
--	---------

Three Trails at Kilmoyley, Doon; Liskennett and GaltyMore

Marketing and Promotion of Trails. Marketing and promotion of three newly developed rural Limerick walking, cycling and running trails.	€20,000
---	---------

Darragh Hills and Castlegale Loop Walk Upgrades

Upgrade of trail surface and installation of sections of boardwalk.	€20,000
---	---------

Darby's Bed Trail Development, Galbally

Enhancement of Darby's Bed Loop Walk to include signage, benches, and distance markers.	€20,000
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Chief Executive's Report



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Limerick City
& County Council

Lough Gur Awarded First Ever Green Flag Award

- Lough Gur has been awarded a Green Flag in recognition of exceptional work carried out by Limerick City and County Council at the scenic Lakeshore Park over the previous two years. The park was officially conferred with the international mark of quality for parks and green spaces on 17 November.

Lough Gur joins The People's Park in Limerick City and Abbeyfeale Town Park in flying the Flag proudly at its location, along with 2,300 other public parks in 16 countries.

The Award sets a gold standard to adhere to by the custodians of the park. The Award is applied for each year to monitor progress and ongoing improvements. Assessment criteria for the Green Flag Award include visible evidence of management in the areas of marketing and communication, a warm welcoming approach, heritage and biodiversity and community involvement.

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler, who formally raised the Green Flag over Lough Gur, said: "Local authorities willingly apply for a Green Flag Award knowing that from the day the park is nominated, it sets an international standard for maintaining and operating the park as a public facility for all Limerick citizens to enjoy."

Municipal District of Newcastle West

- The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West took place on 03 November.
- 28 grant applications were approved under the Private Housing Grant Schemes during the month. The total value of approvals was €138,619.50.
- Payments of €109,406.70 were made to 22 applicants who completed works under the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.
- Payments of €22,950 were made to four applicants who completed works under the Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme.
- The Newcastle West District Roads Programme of Works 2021 is 100% complete with all large-scale resurfacing, reconstruction and overlay works finished.



Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Planning, Environment and Place-Making Directorate

1. Place-Making and Public Realm

Project Updates

- **Castletroy Park Playground Extension Works** – works to extend and upgrade the playground started on site on 29 November. The playground is now closed to facilitate the works.
- **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 Cycleway/Footway Facilities.
 - Public Lighting.
 - Accommodation Works.
 - Associated Site Works.
- **Limerick Greenway**
 - Underpasses and overpasses – design of underpasses and overpasses to separate a number of livestock crossings from the Greenway is progressing, together with landowner liaison.
 - Newcastle West Car Park – detailed design of a carpark for Greenway users at Station Road, Newcastle West, is progressing.
- **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.

2. Planning Development

Planning Applications

A total of 118 new planning applications were received as follows:

Part 8	0
Housing Developments	1
Domestic Developments	84
Agricultural Developments	7
Commercial Developments/Change of Use	10
Sporting/Community and Educational Developments	1
Other Developments	15

The current applications include proposals for:

- Permission for a solar farm on a site of approximately 141.8 hectares. The proposed development comprises of 755,000 sqm of solar photovoltaic panels on ground mounted steel frames, inverter/transformer stations, underground power and communication cables and ducts, boundary security fencing, new internal access tracks, associated drainage infrastructure, site entrances to the R507 public road (site entrance to main solar farm) and the L5040 public local road, CCTV cameras

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

and all associated site services and works. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) accompanies the planning application at Ballyvalode, Garryduff, Gortnakistin, Gortyvahane, Keelogs, Kilmacogue, Moanoola and Moanroe, Co. Limerick.

- Permission for the construction of a single-storey discount foodstore (to include off-licence use) with a gross floor area of 1,820 sqm, new vehicular/pedestrian access from Dooradoyle Road, 95 no. car parking spaces and eight no. bicycle spaces to serve the discount foodstore at lands adjacent to Collins Bar, Dooradoyle Road, Sluggary, Limerick.
- Permission for the demolition of an existing derelict building and the construction of a six- storey mixed use development in one block with part ground floor commercial consisting of two no. retail units and the remainder to consist of a build-to-rent (BTR) residential development with a total of 37 no. apartments at 48-50 Parnell Street, Limerick.

3. Environment, Recreation & Climate Change

Cemeteries

Number of Burials in City Cemeteries

Mount St. Lawrence	20
Mount St. Oliver	15
Castlemungret	8
Kilmurry	1

Waste Regulation and Enforcement

During the month –

- 262 complaints were received.
- A total of 443 inspections were undertaken.
- One Warning was issued.
- One Direction was served by the Department.
- A total of 35 fines were issued during the period.

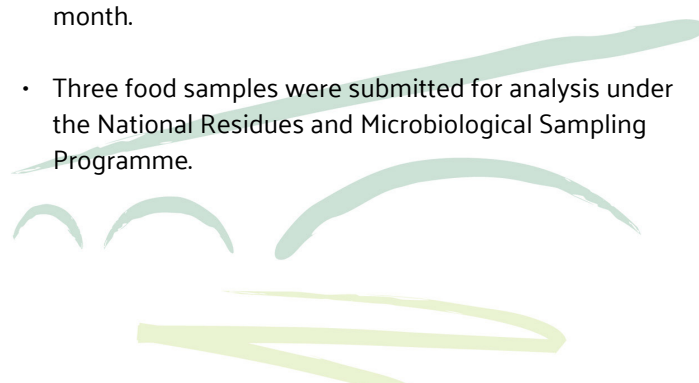
4. Urban Innovation

+CityxChange

- The Urban Innovation Department presented the +CityxChange project during the Public Sector Innovation Week.
- Representatives of the Department participated in the Local Authority Climate Action Awareness Training – Building Capacity.
- The Department has made a joint application with the Office of Public Works for funding under the Technical Support Instrument (TSI) Programme - "Support to the Renovation Wave;" Developing Structures for Deep Energy Renovation of Historic Properties.

5. Veterinary Services

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



Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

National and Regional Shared Services Centre Directorate

1. Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Shared Services Centre

- There were 62,160 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAP SSC at the end of November.
- A weekly average of 266 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2021.
- The November landlord payment run was €56.4 million.
- The weekly tenant charge at the end of November was €3.1 million.
- The Debt Management Unit of the HAP SSC collected a total of €144.2 million in differential rent to end of November.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of November was 98%
- The Debt Management Unit issued 7,084 HAP debt reminder letters in November.

2. Fire and Emergency

Statistics

	No. of Fire Related Calls	No. of Non Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call outs 01/11/2021 – 30/11/2021	42	69	111

	No. Received / Assigned	No. Validated	No. Invalidated / Refused	No. Granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications November	10	8	1	9	9
Disability Access Cert Applications November	6	6	0	9	9
Licensing Applications November	9	9	0		
Commencement Notice November	34	30	4	30	30
Completion Certificate November	8	7	0	7	7
Planning Referrals November	13				11
Sugar CRM Cases November	4				1

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Fire and Emergency Training Events

During the month, the following training courses took place:

- All wholtime Fire Service personnel completed Breathing Apparatus Refresher Training in Sligo Fire Station.
- Three retained fire fighters from Kilmallock and Abbeyfeale Fire Stations attended a Breathing Apparatus Initial Training course in Sligo Fire Station.
- Retained Fire Stations received training in the use of new state-of-the art battery powered Road Traffic Collision extrication tools.
- A Sub-Station Officer from Limerick City Fire Station attended and successfully completed a 'Managing Fire Service Incidents' – Module 2 Course, in Bray Fire Station.
- A Rostered Senior Officer attended and successfully completed a 'Managing Fire Service Incidents' – Module 3 Course, in Bray Fire Station.

Civil Defence attendance at Events

The following activity took place, including Patient Transfers, Official Opening and Irish Blood Transfusion Service Blood Donor Clinics:

- Patient Transfer (Mater Hospital, Dublin, to Limerick Residence) - 1 day.
- Patient Transfer (Limerick Residence to Mater Hospital, Dublin, and return) - 1 day.
- Official Opening of the Limerick Greenway - Medical Cover - 1 day.

Irish Blood Transfusion Service Blood Donor Clinics

- Castletroy Park Hotel, Castletroy, Limerick – 1 day.
- Greenhills Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick – 2 days.
- South Court Hotel, Raheen, Limerick – 2 days.
- Community Centre, Pallasgreen - 1 day.
- Devon Inn, Templeglantine - 2 days.

Water Safety

Number of lifebuoy replacements	Total January -October	November	Total 2021
Metropolitan District	8	0	8
Municipal Districts	9	1	10

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 November
No. of Call-Outs 01/11/2021 – 30/11/2021	836	1,235	1 min. 45 seconds	2,071

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Support Services Directorate

1. Finance

Commercial Rates and Loans

Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2021	
As at 30 November 2021	
Opening Balance - 01 Jan €	10,696,120
Accruals €	59,964,651 **
Vacant Property Adjustment €	904,106
Write Offs / Waivers €	17,347,027
Total for Collection €	52,409,638
Amount Collected €	41,748,244
Arrears €	10,661,394
Specific Doubtful Arrears €	2,762,545
% Collected	84%

Debtors Loans	
As at 30 November 2021*	
Opening Balance - 01 Jan €	357,981
Accruals €	1,527,926
Write Offs €	46
To Collect €	1,885,861
Receipts €	1,732,605
Arrears €	153,256
% Collected	92%

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

Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No. of days in overdraft 0

Chief Executive's Report

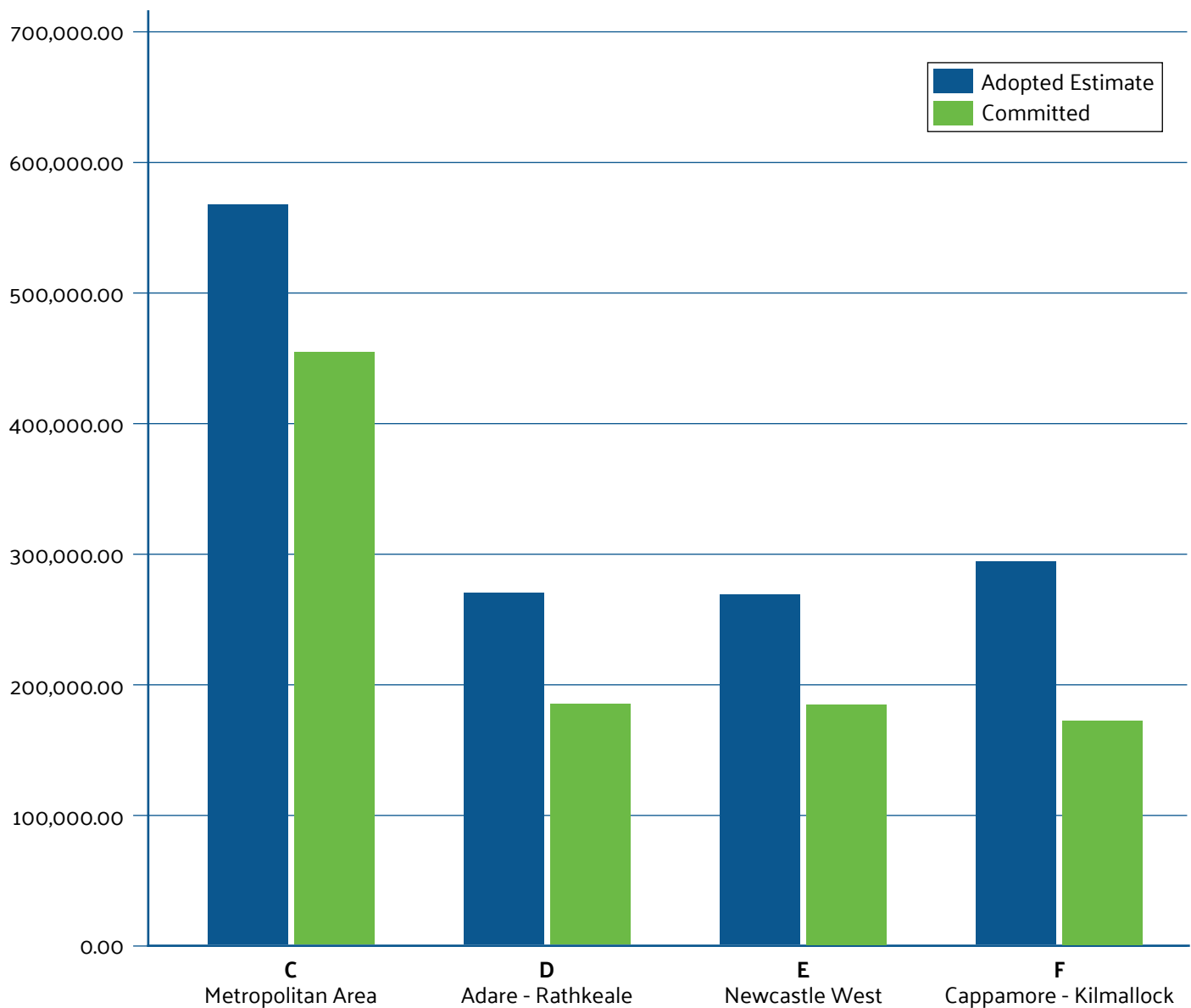


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& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

General Municipal Allocation 2021 Adopted Estimate €1.403 Million

Graph outlining adopted budget and draft committed expenditure up to 30 November 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 (€)

451,836

184,939

185,405

172,587

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

2. Business Improvement

- Business Improvement Department won first prize in the Excellence in Local Government Awards in the Local Authority Innovation category for the 'Council Connect' Staff App.
- Business Improvement worked with a variety of Departments to get Applications for the Household Waste Subsidy Scheme for 2022 (Bin Waivers) online. Information can be found at www.limerick.ie/binwaiver
- A PPN (Public Participation Network) Election went live on Mypoint and the Transportation and Mobility Directorate was assisted in putting the Mungret LIHAF (Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund) Consultation online.
- Payments.limerick.ie went live where RAS (Rental Accommodation Scheme) tenants can now pay through a new online portal.
- The CAS (Capital Assistance Scheme) Construction projects are now live on the Cora PPM (Portfolio Project Management) system.

3. Corporate, Governance and Customer Services

Office of the Mayor

Mayoral Reception was held for the following:

- Nathan Tenzer, Edwards Lifesciences, in recognition of his contribution to the local economy and his advocacy of Limerick and the Mid-West Region.

The Mayor hosted the following in Corporate Headquarters:

- Courtesy Visit of the Finnish Ambassador to Ireland.
- Courtesy Visit of the Algerian Ambassador to Ireland.
- Courtesy Visit of the German Ambassador to Ireland.
- Visit of French Minister for Foreign Trade and Economic Attractiveness, Mr. Franck Riester.

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

- Contract Signing for Consultancy Services for Adare Flood Relief Scheme and Limerick City and Environs Flood Relief Scheme.
Venue: Council Chamber, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Official Opening of Enet's Open Access Networks new state-of-the-art Headquarters and National Operations Centre in Limerick.
Venue: Enet House, National Technology Park, Castletroy, Limerick.
- Launch of Future Mobility Campus Ireland Showcase by Electronomous, highlighting mobility innovation and the business ecosystem in the region.
Venue: Building One, Block L Shannon Freezone, Shannon, Co. Clare.
- Conferring of Honorary Doctorate Degrees by the University of Limerick on Anne Anderson, Paul Brady, Michael Noonan and John Slattery.
Venue: University Concert Hall, Foundation Building, Castletroy, Limerick.
- Gathering of the Limerick Irish Algerian Friendship Group.
Venue: Kemmy Business School, University of Limerick, Castletroy, Limerick.
- Launch of the Dan Buoy and Tetra Pilot Project in Limerick City. A Dan Buoy is deployed in much the same way as a ring buoy, but has the potential to be more effective.
Venue: Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick.
- Signals from the River Project, a series of uniquely designed flags, is a socially engaged participatory arts project by artists, Chelsea Canavan and Deirdre Power, as well as those from local communities by way of the River Shannon.
Venue: Alms Houses, Nicholas Street, Limerick.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

- Welcome Address at the International Conference in Irish-German Studies.
Venue: A&L Goodbody Moot Appeal Court Room, Glucksman Library, University of Limerick, Castletroy, Limerick.
- Visit of International Delegation for meeting of the Regional University Network, European University (RUN-EU) General Assembly.
Venue: Council Chamber, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Photoshoot to celebrate An Post being emission-free in Limerick.
Venue: General Post Office, Lower Cecil Street, Limerick.
- An Post 'Living Leaves a Mark, let's leave one we're proud of' event to introduce the city's electric vehicles postal fleet and major investment in the General Post Office on Cecil Street and the ongoing transformation of An Post and its business
Venue: No. 1, Pery Square, Limerick.
- Official Launch of the Limerick Greenway.
Venue: The Barnagh Station House, Barnagh, Co. Limerick.
- Formal Opening of the restored Countess Dunraven Fountain in Adare.
Venue: Adare, Co. Limerick.
- Royal British Legion Remembrance Ceremonies, laying of Poppy Crosses at King's Island Cemetery with Prayer Service, followed by a Commemoration Service at St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick.
- Photoshoot for the re-opening of Limerick City Library while the flagship central library for Limerick is under construction as part of the Opera Site development.
Venue: Barrow House, Michael Street, Limerick.
- Limerick Local Enterprise Office, Look for Local Campaign video recording in various locations in County Limerick.
- The Construction Industry Federation (CIF) Mid-West Construction Summit.
Venue: Limerick Strand Hotel, Limerick.
- Official Launch of Legato Health Technologies Global Research and Development Hub in Limerick.
Venue: Clive House, National Technology Park, Limerick.
- Meeting with Drug and Alcohol Awareness Group from King's Island, Limerick.
Venue: Council Chamber, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Mid-West Simon Community Charity Ball 2021.
Venue: Radisson Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick.
- Royal British Legion Commemoration and Wreath Laying at War Memorial, Pery Square, Limerick.
- Limerick County GAA Board, An Evening of Celebration, Munster Minor Hurling Championship 2020 Medal Presentation.
Venue: Fitzgerald Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, Co. Limerick.
- Visit to Regional Probus Club.
Venue: South Court Hotel, Raheen, Limerick.
- Green Flag Award Flag Raising Ceremony.
Venue: Lough Gur Visitor Centre, Lough Gur, Co. Limerick.
- Photocall for Lighting Project on Nicholas Street, Limerick.
- Photoshoot with TIER Mobility, e-bike company, to show their latest model of e-scooter, which is being launched in their 400th city (Belfast) this week.
Venue: Mungret Park, Limerick.
- Limerick Fire Brigade Sports and Social Club, Annual Mass for the deceased members of Limerick City Fire Brigade and Munster Regional Communications Centre.
Venue: St. John's Cathedral, Limerick.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

- To mark the 16th Birthday of Limerick as a Fairtrade City, presentation of some Fairtrade artefacts to the People's Museum.
Venue: People's Museum, 2 Pery Square, Limerick.
- Kirkland Development Limited Official Sod Turning for 1BQ development in Limerick – a nine-storey riverside block on the site of the old ESB building.
Venue: Bishop's Quay, Henry Street, Limerick.
- Opened the Reignite Conference hosted by Limerick Local Enterprise Office. Breakfast Seminar aimed at celebrating and supporting the SME Sector in Limerick City and County.
Venue: Limerick Strand Hotel, Limerick.
- Photoshoot to announce Initiative being led by Limerick City and County Council, in partnership with An Garda Síochána and local communities - Property Marking Machines - to aid in reducing property crime across Limerick.
Venue: UL Bohemians RFC Grounds, Annacotty, Co. Limerick.
- Graduation Ceremony for Griffith College, Limerick Campus.
Venue: Thomond Suite, Thomond Park Stadium, Limerick.
- Thanksgiving Lunch for International Students in Mary Immaculate College.
Venue: Mary Immaculate College, South Circular Road, Limerick.
- Photoshoot at the Launch of the Inaugural two-day Limerick Innovation Virtual Event (LIVE), 'Smart Sustainable City' journey.
Venue: Confirm Centre, Dublin Road, Limerick.
- Launch of Book 'Limerick - Snapshots of the Treaty City and County 1840-1960,' book on old Limerick billheads and invoices.
Venue: St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick.

SMARTCITY Expo World Congress 2021

The Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Tom Ruddle, travelled to Barcelona, Spain, from 15 to 19 November to attend the SMARTCITY Expo World Congress 2021.

Register of Electors

- The Draft Register 2022/2023 was published on 01 November and distributed by the Register of Electors Team to all Councillors, members of the Oireachtas, Libraries, Post Offices and Garda Stations, together with advertising posters issued by the Department advising the public to check their details on the Draft Register prior to the deadline of 25 November. 40 copies of the Electoral Register were printed for distribution.
- A public relations campaign, in conjunction with Marketing and Communications, was organised encouraging people to 'Check the Register' and to contact the Council with any additions or updates. It also informed the public about the deadline. The campaign used traditional print and broadcast channels along with social media.

Notices were placed in the local and regional media, and information about the deadline and how to apply was carried in the Limerick Leader, Limerick Post, Vale Star and the Weekly Observer newspapers.

Assets supplied by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage were used as part of a social media campaign focusing on different audiences. Videos focusing on those about to turn 18, those who had moved home and those either new to Ireland or returning home from abroad, were shared on the Council official Twitter page.

Information was also available on [Limerick.ie](https://limerick.ie)

- www.checktheregister.ie website was updated to reflect the publication of the Draft Register.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

- Staff in the Register of Electors Team processed Claims to the Draft Register in preparation for Claim Courts. 542 Claims were processed during the month, received through post and email. Staff continue to engage with the public via telephone and email in relation to applications.
- Letters were sent out to all those who submitted Claims advising of the date and venue of Claim Court.
- Nursing Homes were contacted advising them of the closing date of 25 November for receipt of Postal and Special Voters' applications.

During the month, the Register was updated as follows:

Total number of Claims processed	542
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Health and Safety Training

The following Health and Safety training courses took place:

Course Name	Number of Staff Trained
Safe Pass	20
Health and Safety Rep. Training	1
Construction Skills Certification Scheme Signing Lighting and Guarding Information Update	23
Manual Handling	82
First Aid Response	14
Chainsaw New Entrant Training	8
Driver Certificate of Professional Competency	16
Dealing with Difficult and Aggressive Customers	17

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Schedule of Meetings for November

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Full Council		
Special Meeting on Affordable Housing	02.11.2021	Dooradoyle and Online
November Meeting	22.11.2021	Dooradoyle and Online
Statutory Budget Meeting	26.11.2021	Millennium Theatre, TUS, Moylish
Operational Briefings		
Limerick City East	02.11.2021	Virtual
Limerick City North	02.11.2021	Virtual
Limerick City West	03.11.2021	Virtual
Municipal District of		
Newcastle West		
Monthly Meeting	03.11.2021	Newcastle West
Adare-Rathkeale		
Special Meeting on Draft Budgetary Plan 2022 and Pallaskenry Housing Scheme.	03.11.2021	Rathkeale
Monthly Meeting	09.11.2021	Rathkeale
Joint Policing Sub-Committee Meeting	16.11.2021	Rathkeale
Cappamore-Kilmallock		
Draft Budgetary Plan 2022 Meeting	04.11.2021	Kilmallock
Monthly Meeting	18.11.021	Kilmallock
Metropolitan District of Limerick		
Special Meeting on the Opera Site	08.11.2021	Dooradoyle and Online
Monthly Meeting	15.11.2021	Dooradoyle and Online
Local Community Development Committee	02.11.2021	Virtual

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Party Leaders' Meeting	17.11.2021	Dooradoyle and Online
Corporate Policy Group	11.11.2021 15.11.2021	Virtual Virtual

Access to Information

	November	2021 (January to November)
Total Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests	26	232
FOI Internal Appeals	3	13
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	3
Total Ombudsman Requests	7	48
Total Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) Requests	0	13

Customer Services

The Refuse Waiver Scheme for 2022 was formally adopted at the Statutory Budget Meeting on 26 November. Customer Services not only fielded 365 calls in relation to the waiver scheme throughout November, it also worked closely with the Digital Services, Property and Community Facilities and Business Improvement Departments in developing an online application process.

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

- Customer Services Call Centre dealt with 12,801 calls. This represents an average of 582 per day, with the number of calls exceeding 600 on several occasions. 57% of these calls were handled at first point of contact.
- Customer Services Case Management Team continued working with key service areas of the Council in supporting the closure and update of representations from Elected Members.
- 2,926 cases were created, with 597 of these logged on behalf of Public Representatives. 2,839 cases were closed, with 792 of these being cases logged by Public Representatives.
- 3,351 emails were processed through the Customer Services email platform.
- 386 calls were received through the Voxpro out-of-hours services.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued, with a total of 253 being logged, 229 of which were submitted by Public Representatives.
- Customer Services continued to support the Housing Maintenance Department in creating the service requests and keeping citizens up to date on progress made. Customer Services logged 97% of cases for Housing Maintenance in the Metropolitan District.
- Customer Services staff also continued to provide other frontline services to the public, such as the processing of Residential Parking Permits. There were 105 Residential Parking Permits applied for, with 60 being issued.
- The total number of callers to both Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle public counters was 2,679.

4. Marketing & Communications

Marketing

Christmas in Limerick

- Commenced a seven-week multi-media marketing campaign for Christmas in Limerick to promote festive activities and events and appeal to consumers to shop locally and support small independent stores in particular this Christmas.
- Launched two videos celebrating the festive season in Limerick:
 - *Lift the Lights* launch video featuring Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler, together with local sporting heroes, Olympic hockey player, Róisín Upton, and hurling legend, Cian Lynch.
 - *The Perfect Pigtown Ham* video featuring TV chef, Eoin Sheehan.
- Dedicated Christmas section created on [Limerick.ie](https://www.limerick.ie).

- Produced a digital 'Christmas in Limerick' Event Guide featuring festive events and parking initiatives.

Secured 'Christmas in Limerick' feature on RTÉ's Today Show with Maura and Dáithí, which aired live from Limerick on 17 November.

Other Marketing Activities

- Brand Limerick feature secured in online and print versions of the 'Limerick on the Rise' Supplement in the Irish Examiner (20 November). Also engaged in a digital takeover of the Irish Examiner website homepage for the weekend of 19 to 21 November to coincide with the feature.
- Brand Adare designs finalised with work ongoing in the development of accompanying brand guidelines.
- Ongoing Marketing and Communications support to our Smart Limerick colleagues for the upcoming LIVE @ Confirm (Showcase of Innovation event).
- Attended global branding conference 'City Nation Place' (CNP) to explore the evolving role of place brands in the rebuilding of more sustainable place economies. Asked to judge at the CNP Awards following Brand Limerick's success at last year's ceremony.
- Work ongoing in the development of content and promotional assets to attract increased invest activity to Limerick.
- Work ongoing in preparation for Limerick Student City campaign.
- Created and issued Quarter Four Limerick Business Bulletin.
- Created and issued seven Limerick.ie e-newsletters.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

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 52 times on Limerick.ie's **Facebook** with followers now 32,236. Posts reached 44,055 users with 5,800 engagements and 186,710 impressions.

Tweeted 52 times on Limerick.ie's **Twitter**, @Limerick_ie, with total followers now 20,381. Our tweets earned 69,800 impressions (number of times users saw our tweet).

Posted eight times on Limerick.ie's **Instagram** and created seven Stories with total followers now 19,900.

Posted 18 times on Limerick City and County Council's **LinkedIn** with total followers now 8,028.

Limerick.ie

In November, there were 170,347* unique site visits to Limerick.ie, a 34% increase on the same period in 2020. (*Fathom Analytics)

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

1. [Limerick.ie](#)
2. [Limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning](#)
3. [Limerick.ie/christmas](#)
4. [Limerick.ie/council](#)
5. [Limerick.ie/greenway](#)

Content Report: 90 articles, 166 events and eight new amenities were added to Limerick.ie in November.

Communications

- Issued 19 News Releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and wrote 19 speeches for the Office of the Mayor.
- Supported Transportation and Mobility Directorate in the launch of the new Disabled Space Finder App.
- Provided communications support to Finance Department ahead of Budget 2022.
- Attended Local Government Management Agency Communications Seminar 2021 (online this year).
- Created photomontage for Civic Reception for Limerick All-Ireland Hurling Champions (event subsequently postponed).
- Started outline of plan to boost profile of Regeneration projects.
- Managed three-week public communications social media campaign 'Limerick is Open for Business' on behalf of the Place-Making and Public Realm Department to encourage shoppers and diners to continue to visit the city while O'Connell Street Revitalisation project works ongoing.
- Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter.
- Tweeted 145 times on Limerick City and County Council's Twitter account, @limerickcouncil, with total followers now 16,841. Our tweets earned 346,000 impressions (number of times users saw our tweet).

