

# Chief Executive's Report

December 2021

A major two-day innovation showcase event was held. Limerick Live @ Confirm attracted innovators, creatives and those involved in technology transfer to see the cutting edge of innovation from the Limerick and Mid-West Region.

Christmas in Limerick brought all the excitement and energy of the season to the streets of Limerick.

Completion of a series of county-wide projects connected to Active Travel.

Applications closed for the 2022 Social Inclusion Fund Grants. In 2021, 92 organisations benefited by €3.4million.

Council Teams dealt with Storm Barra and the clean-up operation that followed.

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Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick** City  
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## Economic Development and Enterprise Directorate

### 1. Trade & Investment

- Becton Dickinson BD, a medical technology company, announced plans to invest €70m in its R&D Centre of Excellence in Castletroy, creating 130 new jobs. The expansion will include a state-of-the-art laboratory, workspaces and technologies to support cutting-edge innovation.
- Hunters Sports Bar, an American style sports pub/restaurant, opened in the former Alex Findlater restaurant in O'Connell Street, Limerick, creating 40 new jobs.

#### • Outdoor Seating and Accessories Grant

During the month of December, €187,534 was paid to 59 applicants under the Outdoor Seating and Accessories for Hospitality and Tourism Scheme.

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

#### Funding Approved

- Four Businesses were approved Grant Funding, one Feasibility Study and three Business Expansion Grants awarded to a total of €91,450.
- One Business was approved for the LEO Trading Online Voucher.
- One Business approved for the Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters' Grant.
- LEO held a Virtual One-Day Start Your Own Business Course and a Digital Media Workshop on Creating Marketing Videos.

- There were 55 participants on the LEO Business Training Courses and four business owners availed of the LEO Mentoring Programme.

### 3. Innovate Limerick

- Innovate Limerick ENGINE's Collaboration Centre demonstrated and showcased how collaboration is driving new innovative opportunities in technology and film in the region. This included key testimonials from companies who shared their experiences and how Innovate Limerick assisted them to develop and scale in the region.
- Innovate has signed a deal with the UL Hospitals Group to drive an innovation asset management pilot with the hospital to track trolleys and assets in the Hospital. This is a collaboration between Innovate Limerick, Over-C and the UL Hospitals Group.
- Visited Innovation and Incubation HUBs in Belfast City to review their processes, programmes and opportunities to collaborate as part of wider innovation community.
- Attended and contributed to the First National Digital Research Centre All Ireland HUB Network as a first step to becoming a National Digital Research Centre partner from the Mid-West of Ireland.

### FILM IN LIMERICK

#### Diverse Screen Project

Innovate Limerick, through Film in Limerick, held a webinar on 'Working as a Script Supervisor in Film and TV,' with industry guest, Olivia O'Malley. Olivia discussed the role of the Script Supervisor on set and opportunities for emerging talent to access training and work in the booming screen industries. Diverse Screen is a new training initiative that responds to the under-

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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.

## Creative Producing Programme

The 15 selected participants (from 100 applicants) began the new six-month Introduction to Creative Producing Programme run in conjunction with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board. Participants meet up in Limerick and have started twice-weekly online classes. This course will train 15 new creative producers with ambitions to produce feature films and TV series in the region.

## Writers' Factory: Introduction to Screenwriting

The Writers' Factory Screenwriting Programme (with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board) continued weekly online sessions in December with 20 budding film and television writers from the Mid-West taking part.

## Makers and Shakers Awards at BAFTA

Innovate Limerick, through Film in Limerick, was nominated for the prestigious international Makers and Shakers Awards, with the ceremony held at BAFTA London in December. The awards celebrate excellence across screen content production worldwide and shine a spotlight on the work of film industry support services who have made a significant impact on the industry through creativity, innovation and ground-breaking initiatives in the past year.

Innovate Limerick was nominated in the 'Initiative to grow the Industry' category, alongside entries from New Zealand, UK, Sudan and Canada. The panel recognised Film in Limerick's impact on developing new talent through the Engine Shorts Training and Production Scheme. Engine Shorts is a partnership between Innovate Limerick, the Local Authorities in Tipperary, Limerick and Clare, and Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board. The initiative aims to become a key mechanism for developing filmmaking talent in the Mid West, supporting

skills and talent development through industry-led training and practical experience for crews on commissioned projects. The six projects were all filmed in the Mid-West, crewed by locally-based talent and offered skills training and career development for all those involved. The films will premiere in Limerick in 2022 before screening to international audiences.

While not winning the award this year, Innovate Limerick was delighted to be recognised internationally for the work taking place here to grow the film and TV sector.

## Film and TV Crew Hub for Limerick

Innovate Limerick, through Film in Limerick, and Screen Ireland announced details of a new Film and TV Crew Hub in Limerick. Responding to the huge demand for new talent across all areas of the screen industries, the Limerick-based Crew Hub will be one of three in Ireland, with the others based in Galway and Wicklow. These new hubs will develop skills and build capacity in production crew roles at all levels across the country.

## Presentation at Limerick Innovation Virtual Event (LIVE) at Confirm

Innovate Limerick, through Film in Limerick, and ENGINE Collaboration Centre, delivered a presentation at the LIVE event looking at the success of film and technology projects in the region.

## 4. Forward Planning

- The Chief Executive's Report on the submissions received on the Draft Development Contribution Scheme 2022-2026 was prepared and issued to the Elected Members on 13 December. The report and draft scheme will be considered at the January Council Meeting by the Elected Members.

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## 5. Digital Services

- The Household Waste Collection Subsidy Scheme (Bin Waiver) form went live on My Limerick in December allowing users apply for the subsidy online for the first time. Link to the form here <https://www.limerick.ie/binwaiver>

## EU Programmes

- On 02 December, staff involved in EU projects attended an event organised by Enterprise Ireland on Introducing Horizon Europe Clusters 4 and 5. A number of experts gave insights into how Horizon Europe funding will function over the coming years. Cluster 4 relates to Digital, Industry and Space, while Cluster 5 relates to Climate, Energy and Mobility.
- On 09/10 December, the Limerick Innovation Virtual Event took place at the CONFIRM Centre for Smart Manufacturing in Castletroy. This programme of events brought together a diverse mix of authorities, agencies, industry partners, universities, citizen networks, to showcase innovation happening in Limerick. Recordings of both days are available at <https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/business-and-economy/eu-programmes/limerick-innovation-virtual-event-live>. This event was part of the URBACT III Find Your Greatness Project. There was great traction across local media with coverage by publications such as the Limerick Leader, Limerick Post, and Irish Tech News. There was good traction on Social Media also.
- On 16 December, staff from the Economic Development and Enterprise Directorate attended the Find Your Greatness Transnational Meeting hosted online. This meeting looked at finalising the Integrated Action Plans from the Project, as well as planning ahead for 2022.
- On 22 December, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support advised that the merged Technical Support Instrument Project with the Office of Public Works, under Support to the Renovation Wave, will be funded with an indicative budget of €600,000. The Office of Public Works will look to developing structures for the deep energy renovation of Public Sector Historic Properties, while Limerick City and County Council will investigate a revolving fund for the retrofit of heritage city centre homes. This funding will allow Limerick City and County Council and the Office of Public Works to tender for expertise to develop these ideas further for implementation.



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## Transportation and Mobility Directorate

### 1. Travel and Transportation Strategy

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

The Part 8 planning application for the R445 (Dublin Road) / R506 (Cappamore Road) Junction Improvement Works was approved by Members of the Metropolitan District at their monthly meeting in December.

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

#### Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee

Presentations were made at the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee meeting in December. These included a briefing on the development of an Electric Vehicle Strategy for Limerick and the development of a Delivery and Servicing Strategy for Limerick City Centre.

#### Electrification of Limerick City and County Council Fleet

Work is ongoing to develop an Electric Vehicle Pilot Scheme at the Park Road Depot and it is proposed to operate a number of electric vehicles from the Depot on a trial basis. Works are ongoing at this time to ensure that appropriate infrastructure is in place for the pilot scheme.

#### 'Light Up Your Life' Cycling Campaign

During December, the Council supported the National Transport Authority's 'Light Up Your Life' Cycling Campaign.

### 2. Active Travel

#### Projects

- **Glin Village Footpath Improvement Works** – new footpaths completed between Glin National School and the GAA ground and Glin village and the Kilfergus estate.
- **Newcastle West Pedestrian Improvement Works** – new macadam surface added to some pedestrian routes within the Demesne Park, as well as the completion of new pedestrian crossings at Station Road and Sheehan's Road.
- **Athea Village Pedestrian Connection Works** – completion of footpath upgrades.
- **Abbeyfeale Pedestrian Crossing** – completion of new pedestrian crossing.
- **Croom Village Pedestrian Improvement Works** – completion of new footpath and pedestrian crossing.
- **Rathkeale Pedestrian Improvement Works** – completion of new footpaths at New Line and Castlematrix.
- **Ballingarry Village Pedestrian Improvement Works** – completion of new footpath to provide connectivity to graveyard and park.
- **Kildimo Pedestrian Connection Works** – Construction of new footpath connecting GAA pitch to Old Kildimo. Some boundary works to be completed.
- **Askeaton Village Pedestrian Improvement Works** – completion of new footpath linking the swimming pool with the N69. Completion of new footpath linking existing paths along The Quay. Reconstruction of the existing footpath on Church Street on eastern approach.

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- **Pallaskenry Pedestrian Improvement Works** – footpath improvements complete.
- **Caherconlish Footpath Improvement Works** – completion of new footpaths and replacing/widening of existing footpaths to provide for continuous walking loops.
- **Kilmallock Pedestrian Facilities** – substantially complete with a small section of the scheme needing further work.
- **Ardagh Village Improvement Works** – completion of new footpath linking Limerick Greenway car park at Ardagh to the centre of the village.
- **Kilfinane Footpath Improvement Works** – completion of a new footpath and replacement/widening of some existing footpaths.
- **Castletroy Urban Greenway** – 190 metres of hedge-planting put in place along the Castletroy Urban Greenway.
- **School House Road** – work commenced on a new pedestrian crossing on School House Road in Castletroy.

## Funding

Active Travel Finance Team drew down €12m from the National Transport Authority in December (the overall drawdown being €18.1m for the year), which saw the delivery of sustainable and stimulus-type works across the city and county.

## Marketing and Communications

- The Active Travel Unit launched a bespoke webpage on Limerick.ie. The page can be found in the Travel Directory of the Roads and Travel Section [here](#). It includes a video highlighting the work of Active Travel in 2021. The video has had more than 3,200 views.
- Active Travel issued one press release in December highlighting the almost €4m spent on improvements to the pedestrian network in sixteen towns and villages across Limerick. The press release resulted in coverage in the Limerick Leader, Limerick Post, ilovelimerick.ie and a broadcast interview on Limerick's Live 95 with the Senior Engineer for Active Travel.
- Active Travel tweeted three times via the Limerick Council Twitter account with total followers now 16,900.



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## Community, Tourism and Culture Directorate

### 1. Urban & Rural Community Development

#### Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)

- The Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee met on 06 December. The members discussed a Notice of Motion on the impact to the sense of community and place in the estates near the University of Limerick. The members also received updates on the Culture Sub-Committee, the Limerick Greenway and a presentation from EVA International.

#### Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

- The Department of Rural and Community Development approved the budget increase for SICAP for 2022 and 2023. This will bring the budget for Limerick to €2,389,644 per annum - an increase of 6.2% compared with 2021. For the remainder of the current SICAP programme (2022 and 2023), the Limerick Local Development Companies will give priority to groups identified at national level as most seriously affected by social exclusion: new communities, especially those living in Direct Provision Centre; mental health, especially targeting youth, long-term unemployed people, Traveller / Roma populations and older people and others experiencing isolation.

#### Limerick Public Participation Network (PPN)

- PPN Plenary (Members) Meeting held. The agenda included the following - presentation on Local Authority Community Funding by staff from Urban and Rural Community Development and the Chairperson of Abbeyfeale Community Council; 2021 PPN non-financial and financial report; Draft 2021 Workplan; ratification of successful PPN candidates from 2021 elections; and adoption of the updated PPN Constitution to bring it in line with the updated PPN Handbook published by the

Department of Rural and Community Development at the end of 2020.

- Two PPN Linkage Group meetings took place in December - Community, Leisure and Culture and Home and Social Development. Details of the Linkage Groups are on the Limerick PPN website, <https://www.limerickppn.ie/>
- Membership of the PPN continues to grow and now stands at 165. The membership registration form is on the PPN website and eligible groups in Limerick can register at any time
- Limerick PPN continued to have an active social media presence on Twitter and Facebook.

#### Community Activities Fund 2021

- The Department of Rural and Community Development has approved €305,884 in funding for Limerick under the Community Activities Fund 2021 to support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas. The fund assists groups with their non-pay running costs, for example, utility bills (electricity costs, refuse charges, heating charges), or other non-pay operating costs, for example, rental/lease costs, insurance bills. Groups will also be able to use the funding to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities, purchase equipment such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies and training equipment. The closing date for receipt of completed application forms is 12 Noon on 28 January 2022.

#### Age Friendly

- Walkability Audit** - Shannon Airport Walkability Audit was carried out on 13 December by a group from the Older Persons' Executive of both Limerick and Clare Local Authorities, together with staff working on Age Friendly.



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The objective of carrying out this study was to significantly improve the experience of older people as customers travelling through Shannon Airport.

The airport was divided into four areas and the group was divided into two, with each group covering two separate areas. The areas covered were (i) Carpark and Check-In, (ii) Security and Transit Lounge, (iii) Boarding Gates, and (iv) Baggage Hall and Arrivals Hall.

This provided an opportunity for the group to identify and prioritise things that could be improved, such as flooring, signage, comfortable seating and other facilities. At the end of the Walk, all attendees completed a Questionnaire. The results of the study will be published.

This will complete phase 1 of a 4 -phase process after which we will be in a position to launch Shannon Airport as an Age Friendly airport.

- **Stirring Memories** - Age Friendly in Limerick has been in a position in December to purchase 25 licences for nursing homes/residential care facilities. This is an initiative called Stirring Memories, and is named Parlour Songs, to encourage older people to tell their stories. Each licence can be used on multiple iPads etc. within each nursing home and therefore can be used by individual elderly people.
- **Limerick Opera Festival** - Age Friendly Limerick has also been able to contribute to the Limerick Opera Festival, which includes possibilities for older communities to access operatic performances.
- **Online Meetings/Webinars attended** - these included A Spotlight on Age Friendly Ireland - Community Support and Health, Comhairle na nÓg Steering Group Meeting, Limerick Learning/Lifelong Learning Festival Information and Network Meeting and Limerick Innovation Virtual Event.
- **Christmas Lights** - Additional funding of €30,000 for Christmas lighting in six towns was received in December from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

## Health and Wellbeing

- **One Million Stars** - The One Million Stars project to end violence was launched live on Facebook from the Hunt Museum on 08 December.

A 12-foot by 12-foot star was revealed with thousands of eight-pointed stars attached and lit up, with the official cutting of the ribbon performed by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler. The purpose of this project is to show solidarity towards those impacted by domestic violence. The Star will remain lit up in the courtyard of the Hunt Museum and citizens of Limerick city and county can continue to drop off their stars or attach their star themselves to this beautiful art structure, which is partially funded by Limerick City and County Council.

It attracted the attention of Virgin Media News with an emphasis on Adapt Domestic Abuse Services and featured on Virgin Media News on 15 December.

- **Healthy Limerick and the Limerick Food Partnership** - Healthy Limerick launched a further two videos in December as part of the campaign to highlight the work of the Limerick Food Partnership. The videos included the "Healthy Food Made Easy Programme" and the Redemptorist Christmas Hamper Appeal. Healthy Limerick has supported all of these initiatives as they adapted to ever-changing circumstances through COVID-19 restrictions. <https://t.co/hHyCzW8qik>
- **Online Meetings/Webinars attended**

Healthy Ireland Survey 2021 Launch - The Healthy Ireland Survey is a survey of health and health behaviours of people living in Ireland, commissioned by the Department of Health and carried out by IPSOS MRBI. Nearly 7,500 respondents, aged 15 and older and living in Ireland, took part in the survey, representing a time during which significant COVID-19 restrictions were necessary. It provides a very valuable snapshot of health-related behaviours during the pandemic.

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A Staff Health and Wellbeing Christmas Concert was held with staff choirs, musicians and special guests.

## 2. Tourism

### · Limerick Greenway Development

Works on the final section of the Limerick Greenway at the Kerry border are now completed and the final section has opened to the public. Snagging is ongoing and with the installation of ancillary infrastructure, funded through the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, including benches, water points etc., will continue over the coming months.

Essential Maintenance works on the Barnagh Tunnel took place during the month and the Tunnel re-opened to the public on 23 December.

On 06 December, a presentation was given to the Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee providing an update on the Limerick Greenway development and impact in 2021.

### · Ardagh Station House

In December, Limerick City and County Council announced the completion of extensive restoration works on the historic Ardagh Station House - almost 155 years after it first opened. The Station House was part of a larger site which had lain derelict for years before it was purchased by the Local Authority as part of the ambitious plans for the Limerick Greenway. On 16 December, the Council published a series of 'before and after' photographs, revealing the extent of the works now completed. The buildings are Protected Structures and great care and craftsmanship went into their conservation by the Building Contractors, Thomas Nolan and Sons Builders Limited.

These works comprise Phase 1 and Limerick City and County Council will be exploring options to complete internal works and bring these buildings back into use in the near future.

### · Further Investment Secured for the Limerick Greenway

Funding of €3 million for refurbishments along the Limerick Greenway between Rathkeale and Abbeyfeale, with €2.5 million allocated for the Section between Listowel and the Limerick border by the Department of Transport.

Funding was also allocated under the Carbon Tax Fund 2020 and provides support for feasibility, planning and design for Greenways around the country, including the allocations to Limerick projects. Part of the funds will be used for a Feasibility Study and Options Report for a 22km section from Rathkeale to Patrickswell through Adare.

## 3. Arts Office

### Update on the Strategic Policy Committee Sub-Committee for the recovery of the Arts and Culture Sector in Limerick following the impact of COVID-19 on the Sector

### Online Briefing Meeting with National Campaign for the Arts

An online briefing meeting with the National Campaign for the Arts took place on 01 December, with presentation with Angela Dorgan (Chair), National Campaign for the Arts, and Aileen Galvin, (Steering Group) National. The presentation provided:

- Overview of Pre-Budget 2022 submission.
- Post Budget Update.

GM Innovations were engaged as Research Evaluator for the project.

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## • OPEN CALLS

### Strategic Fund

In December, three letters of support were issued: one to the final round of the Arts Council Open Call, one general letter of support and one to Culture Ireland.

### Festive Workshops for Children Help Get the Elf Home!

Twenty participants took part in two workshops, which took place in the Belltable Hub on 04 December. The theme was that Santa's Elf was lost in the Belltable Hub and needed the children's help in getting back to the North Pole. The children, aged between seven and nine years old, joined two facilitators to solve Christmas riddles, go bauble-hunting and beat Jack Frost in a dance-off in an attempt to build up enough Christmas cheer to send this Elf home in time for Christmas.

### Children's Festive Workshops with Limerick Libraries

In December, the Children's Festive Workshops with Limerick Libraries, as part of Family Time at Your Library, consisted of two You Tube 'how to' videos created by artist and facilitator, Ella Daly, on how to make a Christmas Star and Danish Heart basket. Activity packs/craft bags were made available ahead of the workshops in Library branches.

### Children's workshops with Limerick City Gallery of Art

In December, a series of workshops took place in collaboration between Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA) and Dance Limerick. These workshops engaged students from a selection of chosen schools and classes with Mark Garry's 'Songs and the Soil' (the meadow of flowers) and Aideen Barry's upcoming exhibition 'By Slight Ligaments.' The facilitators/artists were Brendan Egan and Philippa Donnellan.

### Surreal Christmas Mashup workshops with Hunt Museum

On 15 and 17 December, 25 children from Knockalisheen Direct Provision Centre, aged between seven and 12, took part in two workshops with the Hunt Museum. Using Virtual Reality, the children encountered the hybrid and imagined animals who inhabit the fantastical and surreal worlds of Garden of Earthly Delights, by Hieronymus Bosch. They explored the characters, iconography and colours associated with Christmas and mixed them up to create their own unique clay-based Christmas tree decorations. These are displayed on the Christmas tree located in the communal area of the Knockalisheen Direct Provision Centre.

### Down Syndrome Limerick

The 'Lockdown Lookback: My Perspective' project enabled people with Down Syndrome to tell their story. Each participant worked with a professional photographer to take a picture which meant something to them during the COVID-19 pandemic. An exhibition of work due to take place from 15 to 30 December has been displayed as a virtual exhibition due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.

## ARTS COUNCIL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT PROGRAMME PARTNERSHIPS

### The Castleconnell Autumn Concert Series 2021

The final concert in this year's series, delivered in partnership with the National String Quartet Foundation, the Navarra Quartet, featured on Liz Nolan's 'The Full Score' Programme on RTÉ Lyric fm on 07 December.

### Stony Thursday Book

The Stony Thursday Book call for submissions for one of the longest-running literary journals in Ireland closed on 08 December. Submissions were received from over 150 local, national and international poets. Donegal Gaeltacht poet, Annemarie Ní Churreáin, has been named as editor of the latest edition of The Stony Thursday Book.

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## County Limerick Youth Theatre

In December, the County Limerick Youth Theatre continued to rehearse three productions. On 14 December, it had Christmas festivities for the younger groups and on 21 December, it had a Christmas play screening of The National's production of Romeo and Juliet in The Honey Fitz Theatre, Lough Gur, for members aged 13 plus.

## Limerick Youth Choir

Directed by Marie Keary-Scanlon, the Limerick Youth Choir performed on 05 December as part of the Christmas in Limerick programme at the market in Pery Square.

## Integrated Dance

In December, six dancers from Enable Ireland, Castleconnell, and two guest dancers, worked with Mary Hartney on a dance film derived from Seamus Heaney's last poem, "In Time."

## Limerick Artist in Schools Programme 2021/2022

Letters were sent out to primary schools in the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale offering the opportunity to work with programme facilitators from Dance Limerick to take part in a series of five weekly creative dance workshops and attend a special performance, entitled Bill and Fred, by professional dancers, as part of the forthcoming Dance Limerick's 'What Next Festival.'

## Christmas in Limerick

The Christmas in Limerick programme kicked off on the weekend of 03 December with festive fairs in both the Medieval and Georgian Quarters where people were invited to embrace local seasonal splendours at these outdoor Christmas fairs, to experience memorable festive experiences filled with incredible foods, handmade crafts and delightful gift ideas from local artisan traders. The first weekend in December also saw the rollout of the Milk Market's famous festive weekend markets.

Each weekend also saw a myriad of musical treats on the streets, will a full programme of choirs, singers/performers and bands programmed for strategic points in the City Centre. Meanwhile, the County saw the return of the 'Festival in a Van,' bringing festive cheer to Adare, Newcastle West and nursing homes around the Cappamore-Kilmallock area.

'Toots the Train' returned to the city centre on 10 December, running right up to Christmas Eve.

## 4. Property & Community Facilities

### DERELICTION AND VACANCY

Dereliction, Vacancy and Reuse Team - December	
Inspections carried out	110
Property and Community Facilities Department Notices issued	4
Statutory Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act	35
Cases closed through engagement	13
Properties entered onto the Derelict Sites Register	3
Properties put forward for Compulsory Acquisition (Section 15 Notices)	0
Properties Compulsorily Acquired (Section 17 Notices)	15

### BIN WAIVERS

Bin Waivers Approved	651
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## 5. Libraries, Gallery & Museum

### Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- Aideen Barry's major solo exhibition, *By Slight Ligaments*, opened on 16 December. This is Barry's most ambitious exhibition to date and the culmination of several years' work. It includes film, sound, drawing, digital animation and several specially commissioned collaborations with artists, designers, and craft workers.

At the heart of the exhibition is *Oblivion / Seachmalltacht / ʃbɔːlɪvɪən / ʃeɪkəmɑːlɪtɪtʃ*, ([here](#)) which received its premiere in Limerick City Gallery of Art. It is an Irish Traditional Music Archive and Music Network Bunting Commission. This is a spectacular performance, moving image and sound installation created by Barry, with internationally renowned Inuit Canadian singer and songwriter, RIIT, Irish artist, Aisling Lyons and costume design by Margaret O' Connor. LCGA is the first venue to show this work before an extensive national and international tour. RTE live-streamed a concert featuring RIIT from Dublin on 21 December.

- Siobhan O'Reilly has selected two exhibitions, *Through the Lens* and *Unwrapped* from the Permanent Collection. The exhibition in the East Gallery comprises a selection of photographic work, including work by Limerick artists, Maighread Tobin, Sinead McKillican, Deirdre Power, Andrew Kearney and Eamonn O' Mahoney. In total, there are 54 works by 24 artists on show.
- LCGA received a donation of a painting by Thomas Ryan PPRHA (Past President Royal Hibernian Academy), titled *The Shannon at Limerick, Sarsfield's Bridge, 1967*, from the Friends of the National Collections of Ireland. The painting was presented to the Gallery in memory of Thomas Ryan, recently deceased. It is included in the *Unwrapped* Exhibition with a selection of recent acquisitions to the Permanent Collection.
- Carl Doran, invited as the first artist in residence at Test Space/LCGA, completed his residency at the beginning of December. During his time in the Gallery, Doran interacted with the Exhibition programme by

maintaining a visual diary, 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 (EDI) policy. Both these positions are funded under the Arts Council's Strategic Funding of the artistic programme at LCGA.
- The University of the Third Age (U3A) continues to meet on a fortnightly basis. As with all events in LCGA, people are requested to adhere to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Work continued on future exhibitions programme, including *Belonging* works from the European Investment Bank (EIB) Collection which will feature in several venues throughout the city. Work continued on Tom Fitzgerald's retrospective in 2022 with three commissioned essays now completed.
- The Director/Curator continued to attend virtual meetings with colleagues to discuss the sectoral needs of the visual arts in Ireland. A report was presented to the Arts Council on pay and conditions for artists and art workers.
- Work commenced on research for the digitisation of the Permanent Collection and the first provisional selection of work was made. The selection reflects the works that were in the Collection at the time of the opening of the extension in 1948 and the exhibition will mark the 75th anniversary of the opening of the Gallery purpose-built to house the Permanent Collection.

# Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach  
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## Limerick Museum

- Limerick Museum received a significant donation of Limerick lace from Mrs. Melanie Watson Morton, who lives in London, and is a descendant of William Smith O'Brien, a leader of the Young Ireland movement and of the 1848 Rebellion.
- Significant progress continued to be made on the audit of Limerick Museum's collection at its new storage facility.



# Chief Executive's Report



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## Regeneration Directorate

### 1. Regeneration

#### Economic

##### Jobs Initiative Programme

A meeting with the Project Team and various stakeholders was held in December to review the initiative to date and an overview of the participants engaged in the process was provided. Meetings with industry representatives/ community partners were also held to further enhance and expand the programme.

#### Social

##### Social Intervention Fund

- Applications to the Social Intervention Fund (SIF) 2022 closed on 16 December. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage approved approximately €3.4 million to 92 organisations as part of the Social Intervention Fund 2021 process.
- Engagement has been taking place with community and statutory stakeholders to enhance the impact and effectiveness of the SIF with a Social Intervention Fund Project Review Study currently being prepared.
- An example of the positive impact of the Social Intervention Fund was recently highlighted in the local press – See Links below:

<https://www.limerickleader.ie/news/education/711326/limerick-pupils-receive-in-class-speech-and-language-therapy-thanks-to-regeneration.html>

Regeneration funding helping young pupils in school in Moyross (limerickpost.ie)

##### Community Centres in the Regeneration Communities

With some funding from Regeneration, these centres continue to provide services for residents, including for older people, teenagers, children, education, employment, environmental and wellbeing services, not least of which are the community cafes and Christmas food parcels and dinners.

##### Community Engagement Meetings

**Clinics for Resident Queries** – Meetings took place with residents in the communities on a weekly basis throughout December.

**Moyross Residents' Forum** - A meeting with the Moyross Residents' Forum was held and the Regeneration Team provided residents with an update on the physical contracts and also responded to various issues raised by the Forum. The Residents' Forum acknowledged the work that was carried out in 2021 and referred to the positivity that has been generated among the community as a result of the progress to date with the various projects.

#### Physical

##### The Factory Southside Youth Space

Following a negotiation between Limerick Youth Service and the Council, a three-year licence has been put in place for this facility to continue operating 2022-2024. The Factory is an activity space, based in the industrial unit in the Galvone Industrial Estate, where young people, youth and community groups can spend their free time and take part in a variety of activities ranging from creative arts and sports to education and employment opportunities. Its purpose is for the social inclusion of young people through personal, social, sporting and recreational programmes.

# Chief Executive's Report



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## Southill - Churchfield Phase 2 Housing Development

Local engagement, which took place with residents and Councillors, has resulted in a revised unit mix for this development – the 37-unit development will now comprise six one-bed units, 15 two-bed units and 16 three-bed units.

**King's Island Community Centre** – A working group made up of a cross-section of stakeholders, including resident representatives, has been established to work on a community centre project brief.

**St. Mary's Park - Orchard Site Housing** – Expressions of interest were sought from interested Approved Housing Bodies for the construction stage and post-construction stage management of the proposed Orchard Site development which is shortly due to be progressed to tender.

**Moyross - Dalgaish Park / Cosgrave Park Housing** – Stage 4 approval was sanctioned by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage authorising the award of the contract for the construction of the proposed 57-unit Cosgrave Park / Dalgaish Park residential development at Moyross.

**Thermal Upgrades** – A stage 3 (pre-tender) application was submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in respect of Thermal Upgrade contract No. 121A seeking authorisation to tender the thermal upgrade works proposed to 18 residential units across the Moyross area.

**Moyross - Delmege Park Housing Development** - Significant progress was made on the new homes being constructed by The Peter McVerry Trust in Delmege Park. The Regeneration Team worked closely with the Allocations Team in relation to future occupation of these properties.

**Coonagh/Knockalisheen Northern Distributor Road** - Work progressed on this road in December, including the work carried out from Coonagh to Knockalisheen with the new bridge over the railway line, the completion of the new entrance to Moyross at the Watch House Cross in December and the new exit road for the Hartigan Villas Residents. The contractor is making good progress and has been widely welcomed by the community.





# Chief Executive's Report



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## Housing Directorate

### 1. Housing Support Services

#### • Waiting List

Housing Waiting List	2,109
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#### • Allocations

	No. of Units December 2021	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	1	17
Newcastle West	0	19
Metropolitan District	11	211
Cappamore-Kilmallock	4	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>288</b>

#### • Allocations Refusals

	No. of Units December 2021	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	6
Newcastle West	0	1
Metropolitan District	1	12
Cappamore-Kilmallock	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>

#### • Approved Housing Body Allocations 2021 (year to date)

Total Nominations	297
Successful Nominations	186
Nominations Pending	62
Unsuccessful Nominations	49

#### • Traveller Housing Welfare

No. of Units offered December 2021	1
Year to Date	19

\* these figures are included in allocations figures

#### • Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)

Total number of units in RAS in December – 1,267.

#### • Housing Assistance Payments Limerick (HAP)

2,426 active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	22
No. of Amendments	281
No. of Cessations	41

# Chief Executive's Report



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## Home Improvement Schemes

December 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	€6,850.00	2	€29,606.50	3	€21,765.00	6	€19,295.00	3
Newcastle West	€0.00	0	€5,462.50	1	€44,574.00	9	€98,455.59	14
Metropolitan	€55,531.30	11	€129,861.91	10	€62,511.95	18	€85,533.60	2
Cappamore-Kilmallock	€0.00	0	€4,312.50	1	€0.00	0	€14,187.50	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>€62,381.30</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>€169,243.41</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>€128,850.95</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>€217,471.69</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Total Monies issued in December 2021 = €577,947.35</b>								
<b>Total Grants issued in December 2021 = 82</b>								

January to December 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	€108,933.34	23	€203,528.36	26	€204,994.00	50	€26,605.00	4
Newcastle West	€125,950.00	23	€215,868.95	32	€429,265.93	95	€111,815.58	16
Metropolitan	€401,911.11	77	€676,165.59	80	€490,507.42	139	€386,621.50	14
Cappamore-Kilmallock	€186,672.11	35	€126,289.37	16	€183,768.19	37	€28,079.90	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>€823,466.56</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>€1,221,852.27</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>€1,308,535.54</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>€553,121.98</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Total Monies issued January to December 2021 = €3,906,976.35</b>								
<b>Total Grants issued January to December 2021 = 673</b>								

## Rent Collection

Rent Collection Limerick City and County Council					
Opening Balance at 01/01/2021	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing balance 23.12.2021	% Collection
€5,040,713	€17,448,471	€22,489,184	€16,587,452	€5,901,732	74%

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

Individuals - 06 December 2021		
Location	Description	Beds Used
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	30
Oak Lodge	Adults without children accommodated in low threshold emergency accommodation	51
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	15
St. Joseph Street	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	7
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	6
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	17
<b>Total</b>		<b>140</b>

Families				
Location	Description	Beds Used		
		Adults	Children	Families
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	9	6
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	21	24	14
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	10	9	9
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Adults</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>Families</b>
		37	42	29

# Chief Executive's Report



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

Tenant Purchase	
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. Received	1
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. Approved	0
Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans	
Loan Applications: No. Received	7
Loan Applications: No. Approved	2
Deed of Discharge	
Deed of Discharge Applications: No. Received	7
Consent to Sale	
Consent to Sale Applications: No. Received	2
Cottage Purchase Annuity	
No. of Cottage Purchase Annuity Applications	1
Ground Rent	
No. of Ground Rent Applications	6

## Freedom of Information, Data Requests and Ombudsman

Freedom of Information Requested submitted	3
Ombudsman Query Cases	5
General Data Protection Regulation	4

# Chief Executive's Report



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## 2. Local Authority Housing Construction & Maintenance

The Team is dedicated to delivering:

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

### Local Authority Construction

#### Capital Schemes

- The proposed housing development at Radharc Cíllin, Kilfinane, has recently been advertised and has gone to Part 8 public consultation.
- A Capital Appraisal has been completed and submitted for a site at 52 New Road, Thomondgate, Limerick.
- A Stage 2 submission has been made to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for Sycamore Crescent, Newcastle West.
- A Sage 2 submission has been made to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for Site No. 2, Barnakyle, Patrickswell.
- The proposed development at Quinn's Cross, Limerick, has issued to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for Stage 1 approval.

### Affordable Housing Fund (Services Sites Fund)

As part of "Housing for All," the Affordable Housing Fund has replaced the Services Sites Fund to assist in the delivery of affordable homes for purchase or rent by local authorities. Guidelines have been made available and the Services Sites Fund Team, together with assistance from the National Development Finance Agency, is mapping the higher level of subsidy to ascertain if the existing Services Sites Fund schemes would benefit from transferring to Affordable Housing Fund. A number of feasibility schemes are complete and these are being tested for viability with varying densities and with various tenure models. The Limerick City and County Council Team is working closely with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's Affordable Housing Fund Team.

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## Local Authority Maintenance

### Grant Inspections

#### Home Improvement Schemes

#### Metropolitan District - Inspections and Recommendations for Home Improvement Schemes/Disability Adaptations - December

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-Inspection	Final Inspection	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGS (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	8	0	8	16
HAGS (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	13	0	8	21
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	15	0	14	29
DPGS (Disabled Person Grant)	0	6	0	0	6
<b>Total Inspections by Inspection Type</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>72</b>

## Local Authority Houses: Maintenance Complaints dealt with during December

Housing Maintenance and Housing Cases	Requests/Cases Created	Cases Dealt With/ Closed	Balance of Open Cases at 31.12.2021
Metropolitan District	743	562	1,560
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	77	12	770
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	92	104	155
Municipal District of Newcastle West	109	106	945

## Void Properties

To date this year, the Local Authority Maintenance Department has refurbished a total of 74 void properties which have been returned to stock and allocated to new tenants.

# Chief Executive's Report



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## 3. Strategy & Non Local Authority Housing Construction

The Team is dedicated to delivering:

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

### 1. Build, Buy and Lease

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

As at 31 December (01.01.21 – 31.12.21)	Build	Buy	Lease	Total
<b>Complete</b>	201	21	143	<b>365</b>
<b>In Progress</b>	0	1	8	<b>9</b>
<b>Overall Complete and In Progress</b>	201	22	151	<b>374</b>
<b>“Housing for All” 2021 Delivery Target</b>	441	10	84	<b>535</b>

*\*\*The Government lockdown on construction sites from January to April 2021 had an impact on the Council achieving its full target for the year.*

The above table sets out the units of accommodation complete and in progress in 2021 under the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's 'Housing for All' Buy, Build, Lease delivery Programme.

All units 'In Progress' are estimated for 2021 delivery. Units expected to be delivered in 2022 and 2023 are not included.

All units 'Complete' have been delivered between the periods of 01.01.2021-31.12.2021.

## 2. Current Operational Programme

Eight properties were returned in December 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 December - Categorisation	
Cat 1	0
Cat 2	0
Cat 3	0
Cat 4	0
To be inspected	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>

House Returns December by Municipal District	
Adare-Rathkeale	1
Cappamore-Kilmallock	1
Newcastle West	0
Metropolitan	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>

In December, works in 12 properties were completed by the Local Authority Maintenance Team. The Regeneration Team completed works in one property and the Local Authority Construction Team completed works in three properties.

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Current Working Programme		
	Completed in December	In Progress
Local Authority Construction Team	3	81
Local Authority Maintenance Team	12	42
Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process	0	25
Regeneration Team	1	10
Team to be assigned	N/A	29
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>187</b>

## 4. Municipal District Offices

### Metropolitan District of Limerick

#### December Monthly Meeting

The December Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick took place on 20 December. Amongst the agenda items, the Elected Members considered a report that had been prepared in accordance with Section 179 3(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, in relation to Junction Improvement Works on the R445 (Dublin Road) / R506 (Cappamore Road), Limerick.

#### Briefings for Members

Briefings for Members of the Metropolitan District of Limerick took place on the following:

- Briefing from the National Transport Authority (NTA) on the Bike Share Scheme - 03 December.
- Briefing on the Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022-2026 - 10 December.
- Briefing on proposed property disposals - 13 December.

#### Operational Area Briefings

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

#### Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

- The monthly meeting of the Municipal District took place on 14 December in the Rathkeale House Hotel, Rathkeale.
- Essential repairs to social houses and public roads were undertaken by the Housing Maintenance Team and Roads Maintenance Team:
  - 56 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
  - 65 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.
- Funding in the sum of €220,000 under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme was received for Croom Riverside Walk. This will allow for resurfacing and landscaping of the Riverside Walk from Croom Mill towards Islandmore/ Anhid, which will also improve connectivity to Cois Sruthain Estate with a new access ramp and Public Lighting.



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- A sum of €50,000 has been provided for a Feasibility Study in respect of the swimming pool/marina and canal at Dohyle Lake, Rathkeale.

## Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

- The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock was held in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle, on 16 December.
- The meeting was preceded by a Workshop for Members in relation to zoning under the Kilmallock Local Area Plan.

## Housing and Road Maintenance

- Essential repairs to houses were undertaken by the Housing Maintenance Team and Roads Maintenance Team:
  - 91 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
  - 95 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

## Road Works Programme 2021

The following works were completed during the month:

- Caherconlish Footpath Improvement Works funded by Active Travel and Town and Village Renewal Scheme.
- Glenstal Gate Flood Mitigation and Edge Protection Project funded by Climate Change Fund.
- Active Travel footpath at Holycross, Bruff.
- Drainage works at Herbertstown, Grange and Newtown.

## Municipal District of Newcastle West

- The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West took place on 01 December.
- A Workshop was held with the Members of the Municipal District on the Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022-2026.
- The submission of recoupment claims to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with regard to the Housing Grant Schemes was completed by the deadline of 03 December, 2021.
- Storm Barra brought an orange wind warning to Limerick on 07 December. The Newcastle West roads crew and local Fire Brigade unit dealt with fallen trees and debris in Newcastle West, Abbeyfeale, Bruff Line, Kilmeedy, Ardagh, Monagea and the Old Mill.
- During the month, 43 cases were logged on the Council's Customer Relationship Management System (CRM) with regard to requests for road repairs. All these requests were completed by the Newcastle West District roads crew.
- Extensive renovation works were completed on the old Ardagh Station House which was purchased by the Council in 2020 as part of the upgrade works for the development of the Limerick Greenway. As well as works on the Station House and adjoining goods shed, the Council also cleared and landscaped the site and has provided a new car park for use by those accessing the Greenway.
- 30 grant applications were approved under the Private Housing Grant Schemes during the month. The total value of approvals was €142,531.00.
- Payments of €11,419 were made to three applicants who completed works under the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.
- Payments of €5,462.50 were made to one applicant who completed works under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme.

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## Planning, Environment and Place-Making Directorate

### 1. Planning Development

#### Planning Applications

A total of 157 new planning applications were received as follows:

Part 8	2
Housing Developments	2
Domestic Developments	118
Agricultural Developments	6
Commercial Developments/Change of Use	15
Sporting/Community and Educational Developments	3
Other Developments	11

The current applications include proposals for:

- Part 8 for the construction of 10 no. housing units in 2 no. two-storey terraces, in addition to ancillary site works comprising of an access road, services, footpaths, parking, boundary treatment and landscaping works at Radharc Cillín, Kilfinane, 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 Knockalisheen Road, 98 no. car parking spaces and 10 no. bicycle spaces, signage, landscaping/lighting, boundary treatment, engineering and site development works at New Road/Knockalisheen Road, Ballynanty More, Moyross.
- Permission for the construction of a new 19,405 sqm. hospital over 2 to 4 no. storeys, with plant at roof level and associated 504 sqm. 2 no. storey energy centre. The proposed development will provide a 79 no. bed hospital, with both in-patient and out-patient facilities and treatment rooms. The principal access and egress to the site will be from Groody Road. The development will also include ancillary administration offices, laboratories, patient pharmacy, oratory, operating theatres, staff and patient facilities including a staff and patient restaurant, car park at surface level, electric vehicle charging facilities, public lighting, boundary treatments, hard and soft landscaping, vehicle set down areas, and all associated site development works above and below ground at Bloodmill Road and Groody Road, Towleron, Ballysimon, Limerick.
- Permission for the construction of a Primary Health Care Centre building consisting of 4 storeys, with part 5 storeys above undercroft car parking with raised entrance podium to include a pharmacy retail unit gross floor area 99 sqm. at entrance level, internal access road, surface car parking, totem sign, associated building signage, roof mounted solar panels, boundary treatment, connection to public services and all ancillary and associated works at Caherdavin, Ennis Road, Limerick.
- Permission for the construction of 99 no. dwelling units, installation of all necessary and associated site works to include vehicular and pedestrian connections to public roundabout (currently under construction) on Pass Road, installation of foul and surface water drains connecting to public mains on Old Cratloe Road, roadways, footpaths, green spaces, landscaping and boundary treatments, public lighting, bin storage areas at Clonconane, Old Cratloe Road, Limerick.
- Permission for a student housing development comprising the construction of two separate buildings consisting of 'Block A' 5 storey structure providing 156 no. student bedspaces in 20 no. apartments with each apartment consisting of a 'common room' kitchen/living

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area, 'Block B'- 2 storey structure over basement providing 40 no. student bedspaces in 8 no. apartments with each apartment consisting of 'common room' kitchen/living area, surface carparking including dedicated disabled bays and electric vehicle charge points, and covered and uncovered bicycle parking, connection to public services, modification of existing vehicular access from the existing public link road to facilitate vehicular and pedestrian access/egress to that link road, landscaping, public lighting and all associated site development works at Courtbrack, Limerick City.

## 2. Environment, Recreation & Climate Change

### Cemeteries

Number of Burials in City Cemeteries

Mount St. Lawrence	25
Mount St. Oliver	17
Castlemungret	9
Kilmurry	2

### Waste Regulation and Enforcement

During the month –

- 130 complaints were received.
- A total of 130 inspections were undertaken.
- Three Directions were served by the Department.
- Nine Warnings were issued.
- A total of 14 fines were issued during the period.

## 3. Urban Innovation

### Creative Climate Action – Decarbonising Together

In December, Urban Innovation launched an Open Call for five communities in the Metropolitan District of Limerick to collaborate with a creative partner in a project known as Decarbonising Together. Funded by Creative Ireland, €2,000 is being offered for each community and €12,000 for creative partners, a total of €14,000 to cover each project.

The project is seeking five community groups to explore how they can decarbonise, to identify an aspect that matters to them, and to describe a challenge or opportunity relevant to their day-to-day lives and activities. Each group will be paired with an artist or creative industry partner to explore their challenge and tackle climate change in Limerick city. Creative partners can be drawn from a range of fields, including design, music, publishing, architecture, film and video, crafts, visual arts, fashion, TV and radio, advertising, literature, computer games and the performing arts.

Decarbonising Together will focus on learning and doing together, and will use Limerick's new Citizen Innovation Lab as a collaboration hub. This is a new space for observation, co-creation and experimentation that places citizen creativity at the heart of Limerick's mission to decarbonise by 2050. Successful participants can also access Fab Lab Limerick, a maker space and digital fabrication laboratory run by the School of Architecture at University of Limerick and co-located with the Citizen Innovation Lab on Sarsfield Street, Limerick.

Community applications are open now and can be found on <https://mypoint.limerick.ie/>  
Closing date for entry is 24 January, 2022.

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## 4. Veterinary Services

- Four stray or wandering equines were impounded.
- The Dog Control Unit processed 16 dogs during the month.
- Three food samples were submitted during December for analysis under the National Residues and Microbiological Sampling Programme.



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## National and Regional Shared Services Centre Directorate

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

- There were 61,907 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAP SSC at the end of December 2021.
- A weekly average of 252 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2021.
- The December landlord payment run was €56.5 million.
- The weekly tenant debit at the end of December 2021 was €3.1 million.
- The Debt Management Unit of the HAP SSC collected a total of €155.9 million in differential rent to end of December 2021.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of December 2021 was 99%.
- The Debt Management Unit issued 10,963 HAP debt reminder letters in December 2021.

### 2. Fire and Emergency

#### Statistics

	No. of Fire Related Calls	No. of Non Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call outs 01/12/2021 – 31/12/2021	73	87	160

	No. Received / Assigned	No. Validated	No. Invalidated / Refused	No. Granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications December	8	8	0	11	11
Disability Access Cert Applications December	4	5	0	7	7
Licensing Applications December	3	3	0		
Commencement Notice December	26	22	2	22	24
Completion Certificate December	11	8	0	8	8
Planning Referrals December	16				12
Sugar CRM Cases December	3				3

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## Major Emergency Management

Severe Weather Assessment Team was convened in response to Storm Barra.

## Civil Defence attendance at Events

- Irish Blood Transfusion Service Blood Donor Clinics - 4 days.
- Patient Transfer: Limerick residence - Nenagh General Hospital and return - 1 day.
- Patient Transfer: Limerick residence - Shannon Testing Centre and return - 1 day.

## Fire and Emergency Training Events

The Fire Service completed the last two refresher courses for Swiftwater First Responders and also completed the assessment of six new Swiftwater First Responder Instructors.

## Water Safety

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

## Munster Regional Communications Centre (MRCC)

	Total Emergency Calls Received	Total No. of Calls Mobilised
No. of Call-Outs 01/12/2021 - 31/12/2021	1,430	1,035

# Chief Executive's Report



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**Limerick** City  
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## Support Services Directorate

### 1. Finance

#### Commercial Rates and Loans

##### Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2021	
As at 31 December 2021	
Opening Balance - 01 Jan €	10,696,120
Accruals €	59,967,795 **
Vacant Property Adjustment €	1,117,439
Write Offs / Waivers €	17,736,705
Total for Collection €	51,809,771
Amount Collected €	44,791,832
Arrears €	7,017,939 ^
Specific Doubtful Arrears €	2,403,984
% Collected	91%

Debtors Loans	
As at 31 December 2021	
Opening Balance - 01 Jan €	357,981
Accruals €	1,685,441 *
Write Offs €	46
To Collect €	2,043,376
Receipts €	1,900,975
Arrears €	142,401 ^
% Collected	93%

\* Accruals not up to date to end of December 2021

^ subject to finalisation of year end accounts for 2021

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

^ subject to finalisation of year end accounts for 2021

#### Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No. of days in overdraft 0

# Chief Executive's Report

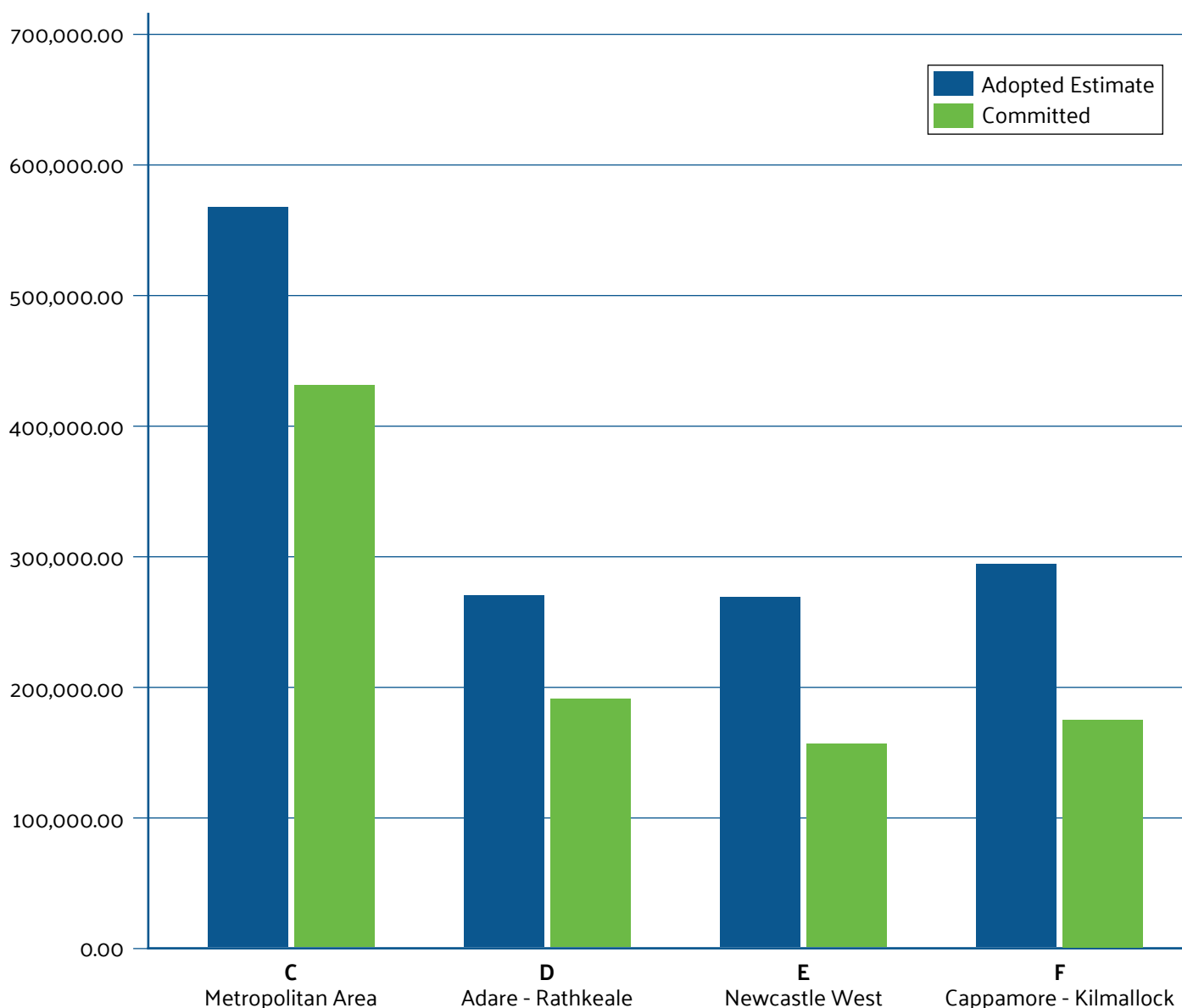


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## General Municipal Allocation 2021 Adopted Estimate €1.403 Million

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



### Municip (Code) + (Text)

### Value Adopted Estimate (€)

### Value Committed (€)

C Metropolitan Area

568,000.00

431,244.00

D Adare - Rathkeale

270,000.00

192,639.00

E Newcastle West

270,000.00

158,519.00

F Cappamore - Kilmallock

295,000.00

177,837.00



# Chief Executive's Report



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## 2. Business Improvement

- A total of 912 users are now live on the Employee App.
- A Staff Liaison Network meeting was held on 01 December. Topics discussed with staff included the Requisitions Oversight Unit and Brand Guidelines.
- Business Improvement worked with a variety of Departments to place their citizen engagements on MyPoint:
  - Local Authority Housing Construction and Maintenance – Part 8 Consultation for “Proposed 2-Phased Housing Development at Broadford.”
  - Local Authority Housing Construction and Maintenance – Part 8 Consultation for “Construction of 10 Housing Units in Radharc Cillín, Kilfinane.”
  - Urban Innovation – Application Form for “Creative Climate Action Fund - Decarbonising Together.”
- Photoshoot for Limerick City Centre Traders' Association for the launch of their Christmas Music Programme for the city, Music on the Street.  
Venue: Little Catherine Street, Limerick.
- Presentation Ceremony at Mungret St. Pauls GAA  
Venue: Mungret St. Pauls GAA, Moneteen, Limerick.
- Hayes Christmas Lights Charity Display in Shanagolden in aid of Milford Hospice, Limerick, the Children's Ark Paediatric Unit in University Hospital Limerick and St. Gabriel's, Limerick.  
Venue: Shanagolden, Co. Limerick.
- Photoshoot to mark the completion of the Energy Efficiency Upgrade Retrofit Programme of 179 local authority homes in Limerick City and County. Joint programme run by Limerick City and County Council and SSE Airtricity.  
Venue: Galvone Road, Kennedy Park, Limerick.
- Photoshoot to announce the winners of the #MissionPossible Limerick Tidy Towns Video Competition. Challenge for Tidy Towns Groups to create a 90-seconds or less video suitable for use on social media showcasing their town or village, along with a minimum of five categories in the Tidy Towns Competition. Competition focused on a sense of PLACE. Patrickswell Tidy Towns were announced as the winners, with Elton Tidy Towns runners-up and Kiltelly Tidy Towns in third place.  
Venues: Patrickswell, Elton and Kiltelly.

## 3. Corporate, Governance and Customer Services

### Office of the Mayor

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

- Courtesy Visit of the Ambassador of Georgia, George Zurabashvili, to Ireland.

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

- Launch of Charity CD for Unity Gospel Choir.  
Venue: Locke Bar, George's Quay, Limerick.
- Launch of book, Bishop Charles Graves, Former Bishop of Limerick.  
Venue: Conradh na Gaeilge, Thomas Street, Limerick.
- Attendance at online ECO-UNESCO Youth Climate Justice Programme, Earth Gala Event Series.
- Launch of the 'One Million Stars to End Violence Project' Limerick Network's aim was to weave 10,000 stars by the end of December for an art display at The Hunt Museum. The installation represents solidarity with women and families affected by domestic violence.  
Venue: The Courtyard, The Hunt Museum, Limerick.

# Chief Executive's Report



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- Opening of Limerick's Live at Confirm, a two-day Limerick Innovation Virtual Event (LIVE), smart sustainable city journey.  
Venue: Confirm Centre, Dublin Road, Castletroy, Limerick.
- Switching on the Festive Lights at Cleeves Chimney Stack, Limerick.  
Venue: Cleeves Chimney Stack, Cleeves Riverside Quarter, Limerick.
- Visit to Bath Fitter.  
Venue: Unit 25 Eastlink Business Park, Ballysimon Road, Limerick.
- Ardscoil Mhuire Transition Year Careers Day.  
Venue: Ardscoil Mhuire, Corbally Limerick.
- Heineken Champions Cup Match, Munster v Castres.  
Venue: Thomond Park, Limerick.
- Visit to Direct Provision Centre at Gerald Griffin Street, Limerick.
- Launch of the Limerick Vintage Toys Display Window.  
Venue: Narrative 4, 58 O'Connell Street, Limerick.
- End of Year Games for Limerick Astro Football.  
Venue: University of Limerick North Campus Astro Pitches, Limerick.
- Attendance at Online Staff Christmas Prayer Service. Broadcast from St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick.
- Christmas Opera at St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick.

## Christmas Prayer Service

- An online Christmas Prayer Service for Staff and Councillors took place in St. Mary's Cathedral on 22 December at 10.00 a.m. The Rev. Dean Niall Sloane and Fr. Derek Leonard partook in the Prayer Service along with the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler, Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Tom Ruddle, Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick,

Councillor Catherine Slattery, Chief Executive, Dr. Pat Daly, and staff members. Music on the day was arranged by Rev. Dean Niall Sloane and the Service was live-streamed.

## Register of Electors

- During the month, staff in the Electoral Register Team dealt with queries in relation to Claims Court which was held on 08 December. A total of 542 Claims were adjudicated on by the County Registrar and these were updated on the I-Reg system.
- A total of 360 letters were sent out to those who submitted Claims advising them of the outcome at the Claim Court.
- Applications for Postal Voters and Nursing Homes received prior to the closing date of 25 November were processed on I-Reg system during the month.

## Health and Safety Training

The following Health and Safety training courses took place:

Course Name	Number of Staff Trained
Safe Pass	4
Construction Skills Certification Scheme Signing Lighting and Guarding Information Update	13
First Aid Response Refresher	7
First Aid Response	5
Driver Certificate of Professional Competency	6

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## Requisitions Oversight Unit

- The Requisitions Oversight Unit was identified as a key compliance requirement in a recent Internal Audit report. The Unit falls under the remit of the Procurement Officer and has a staff force of one Staff Officer and three Clerical Officers. Their role is to validate all requisitions raised across the entire Council and the Unit provides a segregation of duties to avoid any potential conflict of interest.
- December's approved requisitions account for 85.09% of the total requisitions actioned for this given month.
- December's rejected requisitions account for 14.91% of the total requisitions actioned for this given month.

Month	December
Approved	1,198
Rejected	210
<b>Total Requisitions Actioned</b>	<b>1,408</b>

- The Top five requisition rejection reasons for December are identified as follows:

Rejection Reason	December
<b>Memo 13 (Requisition not raised in advance) - omitted/not signed/insufficient reason provided</b>	65
<b>Procurement Reference - omitted/incorrect</b>	39

Rejection Reason (cont.)	December
<b>Award Notice - omitted/incorrect copy provided</b>	30
<b>CAPA (Corrective Action, Preventative Action form) - omitted/not signed/insufficiently completed</b>	23
<b>Documentation n/a - supporting documentation omitted/incorrect documentation attached</b>	19

- The number of Corrective Action and Preventative Action (CAPA) forms currently being used until a competitive process is completed and a new appointed supplier is in place is 74, breakdown below of total at each of the three levels:

Levels	Total
<b>Level 1</b>	67
<b>Level 2</b>	5
<b>Level 3</b>	2

# Chief Executive's Report



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## Schedule of Meetings for December

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
<b>Full Council</b>		
Adjourned Meeting to complete agenda for November Meeting	09.12.2021	Virtual
Special Meeting to consider granting the Honorary Freedom of Limerick	21.12.2021	Virtual
<b>Operational Briefings</b>		
Limerick City East	07.12.2021	Virtual
Limerick City North	07.12.2021	Virtual
Limerick City West	08.12.2021	Virtual
<b>Municipal District of</b>		
<b>Newcastle West</b> Monthly Meeting	01.12.2021	Newcastle West
<b>Adare-Rathkeale</b> Monthly Meeting	14.12.2021	Rathkeale
<b>Cappamore-Kilmallock</b> Monthly Meeting	16.12.2021	Dooradoyle
<b>Metropolitan District of Limerick</b> Monthly Meeting	20.12.2021	Dooradoyle and Online
<b>Strategic Policy Committee Meetings</b>		
Community, Leisure and Culture	06.12.2021	Virtual
Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment	07.12.2021	Virtual
Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning	13.12.2021	Virtual
Travel and Transportation	14.12.2021	Virtual
<b>Audit Committee Meeting</b>	08.12.2021	Virtual

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Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Joint Policing Committee	17.12.2021	Virtual
Protocol Committee	17.12.2021	Virtual

## Access to Information

	December	2021 (January to December)
Total Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests	14	246
FOI Internal Appeals	0	13
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	3
Total Ombudsman Requests	4	52
Total Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) Requests	1	14

## Customer Services

December saw temporary road closures in effect due to the adverse weather conditions caused by Storm Barra. As it broke land on 07 December, Storm Barra recorded wind gusts of 115km per hour, causing damage to properties, roads and trees throughout the county. There were 70 cases created in relation to fallen trees, debris and other road safety concerns over the 24-hour period.

The Household Waste Collection Subsidy Scheme 2022 (Bin Waivers) was adopted under the 2022 revenue budget. Throughout December, Customer Services staff responded to all calls, email and counter queries that arose. The 2022 Scheme saw the introduction of the option for the public to submit applications online via the MyLimerick platform. Customer Services staff promoted the benefits of the online application option to the public and responded to 1,592 telephone enquiries during the month. 984 hard copy

application forms were dispatched in the post and a large volume of emails were acknowledged.

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

- Customer Services Call Centre dealt with 9,782 calls. This represents an average of 515 per day, with the number of calls exceeding 600 on several occasions and seeing the highest days of calls reaching 800. 65% 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.
- 2,102 cases were created, with 394 of these logged on behalf of Public Representatives. 1,898 cases were

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- closed, with 441 of these being cases logged by Public Representatives.
- 2,813 emails were processed through the Customer Services email platform.
- 510 calls were received through the Voxpro out-of-hours services.
- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued, with a total of 90 cases logged in December, 65 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 93% of cases for Housing Maintenance in the Metropolitan District.
- Customer Services continued to provide other frontline services to the general public, such as the processing of Residential Parking Permits. 49 new Residential Parking Permits were processed, with 25 issued.
- The total number of callers to both Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle public counters was 2,051.
- Created and promoted video content celebrating the festive season in Limerick, A Very Limerick Christmas, featuring children from all around Limerick sharing what they love most about Christmas.
- Developed a series of **Limerick Gift Guides** on Limerick.ie/Christmas featuring 150 gift ideas from local Limerick businesses.
- Supported the Holman Lee Agency with the promotion of the Christmas Fashion in Limerick video promoting fashion businesses and boutiques throughout Limerick City and County.
- Continued to develop local business listings on **Limerick.ie/Shop**, which now features 319 local traders.

## Other Marketing Activities

- Finalised Limerick Student City video asset and social marketing assets in preparation for launch of Limerick Student City campaign in January 2022.
- Provided marketing support to Limerick Food Group.
- Created and issued seven Limerick.ie e-newsletters.
- Collaborated with our colleagues in Smart Limerick in the marketing of and communications for the LIVE @ Confirm event, which took place on 09 and 10 December.

## 4. Marketing & Communications

### Marketing

#### Christmas in Limerick

- Concluded seven-week multi-media marketing campaign promoting Christmas in Limerick to local and regional audiences across social, digital, print, radio and television.
- Engaged a number of prominent local influencers to promote the campaign including TV Chef, **Eoin Sheehan**, Radio Presenter and Columnist, **Louise Cantillon**, Fashion Stylist, **Chloe Markham**, and Behaviour Specialist, **Deirdre Holland Hannon**.
- 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 62 times on Limerick.ie's **Facebook** with followers now 32,319. Posts reached 37,484 users with 7,523 engagements and 167,000 impressions.

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- Tweeted 63 times on Limerick.ie's **Twitter**, @Limerick\_ie, with total followers now 20,478. Our tweets earned 91,400 impressions (number of times users saw our tweet).
- Posted 11 times on Limerick.ie's **Instagram** and created 11 Stories with total followers now 19,957.
- Posted 20 times on Limerick City and County Council's **LinkedIn** with total followers now 8,123.

## Limerick.ie

In December 2021, there were 163,949\* unique site visits to Limerick.ie, a 13% increase on the same period in 2020. (\*Fathom Analytics)

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

1. [www.limerick.ie/christmas](http://www.limerick.ie/christmas)
2. [www.limerick.ie](http://www.limerick.ie)
3. [www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning](http://www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning)
4. [www.limerick.ie/council](http://www.limerick.ie/council)
5. [www.limerick.ie/discover/whats-on/kids-family-fun/santa-experience-grotto-visit](http://www.limerick.ie/discover/whats-on/kids-family-fun/santa-experience-grotto-visit)

Content Report: 69 articles, 132 events were added to Limerick.ie in December.

## Communications

- Issued 26 news releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and wrote five speeches for the Office of the Mayor.
- Issued a Christmas message to Staff and Councillors on behalf of the Chief Executive and Mayor of the City and County of Limerick.
- Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter.
- Tweeted 154 times on Limerick City and County Council's **Twitter** account, @limerickcouncil, with total followers now 17,002. Our tweets earned 283,200 impressions (number of times users saw our tweet).

