

# Chief Executive's Report

January 2022

€400 million investment by Eli Lilly reinforces Limerick as location as biopharma hub

€24 million for Active Travel projects across Limerick

30,000 visitors to Limerick Greenway over Christmas period

Belonging and Identity is the theme as the Limerick St. Patrick's Festival returns

# Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick** City  
& County Council

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## Economic Development and Enterprise Directorate

### 1. Trade & Investment

- Eli Lilly pharmaceutical company, announced an investment of €400m to include the building of a new facility at Raheen Business Park, which will create 500 construction worker jobs and 300 permanent jobs.
- Aldi announced plans for a €7m store to be located in Moyross, creating 50 construction jobs and 30 permanent jobs.

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

#### Funding Approved

- Four businesses approved for the LEO Trading Online Voucher this month.

#### LEO held Virtual Training and Workshops in the following areas:

- Start Your Own Business Courses
- Starting a Food Business Workshop and Grow with Aldi Workshop
- Marketing and PR Planning Workshop
- Webinars ran to include Social Media Bootcamp, Creating Marketing Videos, using Instagram in your business and Trading Online Webinar

There were 144 participants on the LEO business Training Courses and 13 business owners have availed of the LEO Mentoring programme in January.

### 3. Innovate Limerick

- ENGINE team has engaged with three new software start-up companies providing mentoring and opportunities to scale.

- Attended Scale up entrepreneur event engaging with over 20 companies in Ireland to help better position Limerick as a place to invest and setup.
- Joined Healthcare Innovation steering team to align Innovate Limerick to Healthcare innovation in the region.
- Ongoing engagement with UK British and Irish Trading Alliance to help identify new collaborative opportunities for the Limerick region.

#### ENGINE Hubs

- ENGINE Hubs Network - January Hubs Manager Meeting.
- Social Media Campaign on Engine Hubs Network.
- Grant aid drawdown of €49,000 approved and paid to The Yard, Newcastle West and Croom Enterprise Community Centre from Connected Hubs funding.
- Final Kit out of Abbeyfeale E-Hub.

#### FILM IN LIMERICK

##### Film Offices Forum Event

As part of our national film offices forum, set up and chaired by Film in Limerick, we arranged an online event in January with Screen Ireland and forum members looking at building regional crew skills and supporting infrastructure.

##### Film / TV Training Programmes

Our training programmes in January included the following events:

Our Creative Producing Programme, run in conjunction with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board ran seven sessions during the month with industry guests including:

- Deirdre Levins, producer of the new feature film 'You Are Not My Mother'

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- Nick Ryan, producer of Sundance documentary hit 'The Summit'
- Brendan McCarthy, producer of 'Wakewood' and 'The Last Days on Mars'
- Script Editor Aideen McCarthy.

Our Writers Factory: Intro to Screenwriting Course, with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, continued weekly online sessions in January with four sessions for 20 budding film and television writers from the Mid-West.

## Virtual Production Facility

Film in Limerick are a partner in a project led by LEDP to establish a Virtual Production Facility in Limerick for film and TV production. This month the project has sought bidders to carry out a feasibility study on the opportunity.

## Production Support

Film in Limerick supported seven productions in January (feature, TV Drama and TV productions) with location scouting, crew database enquires, Section 481 information and facilities support.

## 4. Forward Planning

- Work continued on the preparation of the Draft Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028, with five workshops held with Elected Members to consider the Chief Executive's report on the submissions received during the draft plan public consultation period.
- At the Full Council Meeting held on 24 January, the Elected Members adopted the Development Contribution Scheme 2022.

## 5. Digital Services

- On 10 January, Limerick City and County Council staff met with the Southern Regional Assembly to discuss the path taken on the early development of Smart Limerick. The Southern Regional Assembly is researching how to go about creating a smart region, and are consulting with several cities on how this might be achieved.
- On 24 January, members of EU Programmes and the Arts and Culture Department met with representatives from Provincie Fryslan, Technological University of Shannon, and St. James's Hospital to discuss participation in the Culture Cares project proposal. If successful, this Creative Europe project would investigate how art can be used in a care setting for the benefit of patients and staff.
- On 25 January, Limerick City and County Council submitted the Horizon Europe Proposal "ShannonTiDe" in response to the European Commission's New European Bauhaus call. If successful, this €5m project will develop pilot interventions in Limerick. This cross departmental effort, led by the Urban Innovation team, was in itself a worthwhile exercise as it made all involved think about novel ways in which Limerick City and County can do its part for Climate Action.
- On 26 January, the EU Programme Manager and members of the Community team attended the INTEgreat Kick-Off meeting. This Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AIMF) project in Cooperation with Doras Luimní will, over the next three years, develop new migrant sensitive trainings for public services bodies.
- On 28 January, members of the EU Programmes and the Environment team met with representatives from the Irish Bioeconomy Foundation, and the University of Florence to discuss potential participation in the S-Tree FOOD Project. Thanks to TUS MidWest, this opportunity might see Limerick working with African cities to explore the potential of urban trees from a cultural, social, and economic perspective.

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## Transportation and Mobility Directorate

### 1. Travel and Transportation Strategy

Approval granted for Part VIII - Junction Improvement works on the R445 (Dublin Road) / R506 (Cappamore Road)

- Active Travel published one post on Limerick Council LinkedIn with total followers of 8,197. The post was liked 92 times.
- Active Travel issued one press release announcing the Active Travel funding allocation for 2022.

### 2. Active Travel

#### Projects

- Childers Road – Work got underway on a new two-way segregated cycleway between the Roxboro Roundabout and the Kilmallock Roundabout. Once complete, the new stretch of cycleway will link up with the existing two-way segregated cycleway between the Kilmallock Roundabout and Parkway Shopping Centre.
- St. Nessen's Road - Kerb segregation was added to a large section of the cycle lane. The Active Travel team collaborated with the Operations team to deliver new kerbs on large stretches of St. Nessen's Road from the St. Paul's junction down as far as St. Nessen's Church.

Active Travel Road Sweepers – pupils at our Round 1 Safe Routes to School primary schools took part in a competition to name our new Active Travel road sweepers. A total of 63 entries were submitted and judging took place in early January.

A presentation was delivered by a Senior Executive Engineer with Active Travel as part of the Rapid Development Active Travel Workshop.

#### 2022 Allocation

The Department of Transport confirmed that Limerick City and County Council has been allocated approx. €24.4m by the National Transport Authority for the delivery of Active Travel infrastructure in 2022.

#### Marketing and Communications

- Active Travel tweeted seven times from the Limerick Council Twitter account with total followers of 17,100. The most popular post was liked 134 times.
- Active Travel produced a short social media video about the recently installed kerb segregation on St. Nessen's Road. The video was posted on the Limerick Council Twitter account and was viewed 2,441 times.



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## Community, Tourism and Culture Directorate

### 1. Urban & Rural Community Development

#### Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The January meeting of the LCDC was held on 19 January via Microsoft Teams. The Local Action Group (LAG) approved funding of €460,945.18 under the LEADER Programme 2014-2022 (€376,786.02 funded from the Transitional LEADER Programme and €84,159.16 funded from the European Union Recovery Instrument Fund).

#### Limerick Public Participation Network (PPN)

- Limerick PPN Secretariat met once this month and continues to successfully deliver on its key functions.
- One PPN Linkage Group meeting took place this month: Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning.
- Details of the Linkage Groups are on the [Limerick PPN website](#)
- A new Resource Worker commenced working with Limerick PPN at the beginning of the month.
- 16 organisations across Limerick City and County applied to join Limerick PPN this month and membership now stands at 174 members. The membership registration form is on the [Limerick PPN website](#) and eligible groups in Limerick can register at any time.
- Limerick PPN continued to have an active social media presence on its regularly updated website and on Twitter and Facebook.

#### Environmental Awareness

- The “@limerickenvirom Don't Idle” social media campaign was launched along with an interview on Live 95 Limerick Today Show.

### 2. Tourism

#### Limerick Greenway

The Greenway recorded 30,000 visitors during the Christmas season.

#### Ardagh Station House and Abbeyfeale Railway Shed

The Ardagh Station House and Abbeyfeale Railway Shed have been allocated funding under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund.

A total of €600,000 has been allocated to Limerick City and County Council for the projects in Ardagh and Abbeyfeale in the latest tranche of funding by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

The project will develop plans to renovate the heritage buildings and sites adjacent to the Limerick Greenway providing improved visitor services and experiences for the public and visitors along the Limerick Greenway.

This in turn will provide a range of benefits to the adjacent villages.

### 3. Arts Office

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

An online meeting with GM Innovations, who are providing Research Evaluation, took place on 11 January. The presentation provided an overview of the brief, approach and methodology. A survey has been prepared.

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## OPEN CALLS

### Grants under the Arts Act Open Call

On 14 January, Limerick Arts Office announced the open call seeking applications from individual artists or organisations under the "Grants Under the Arts Act" scheme. Limerick City and County Council offers grant funding to amateur, community or voluntary groups, or organisations, and individual arts practitioners, which, in the opinion of the authority, will stimulate public interest in the arts, promote the knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts or assist in improving the standards of the arts. In the 2003 Arts Act, the arts are defined as painting, sculpture, architecture, music, film, drama, dance, literature, design in industry and the fine arts and applied arts generally. The awards can be used for the professional development of artists and the arts, and increasing access and participation in the arts. The closing date for applications to the scheme is 23 February.

## CREATIVE IRELAND FUNDED PROJECTS

Creative Ireland Limerick secured a total funding allocation of €175,161 (€145,161 Core funding + €30,000 Cruinniú na nÓg funding) to support Limerick creatives and to bring creativity to our communities. Funding for Cruinniú na nÓg, the national day of creativity for children and young people, has been doubled, to support empowering children and young people to develop their creative potential.

### Creativity in Older Age 2022

An application was prepared by Limerick Arts Office in collaboration with Age Friendly Limerick and Healthy Limerick and submitted to the Creative Ireland Creativity in Older Age 2022 for funding, closing date was 25 January. The proposal was for Musicians-on-Call (Phase 2), delivered in partnership with Artistic Partner Kids Classics, the Health Service Executive (HSE) and Clare and Tipperary County Councils. This brings professionally trained musicians from Music in Health Organisation Kids Classics to work in healthcare settings in the Mid-West Community Healthcare Region, to connect music-making opportunities to residents and healthcare staff in Nursing Homes and Community Hospitals. Musicians-On-Call provides a music

sharing experience that puts the residents' interests and choice at the heart of music making, by connecting closely with the setting before each visit and facilitating the residents to curate each visit through a two-way responsive engagement.

## ARTS COUNCIL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT PROGRAMME

### PARTNERSHIPS

#### Limerick Artist in Schools Programme 2021/2022

Letters were sent out to primary schools offering the opportunity to take part in a series of five weekly creative dance workshops facilitated by Dance Limerick and attend a special performance, entitled Bill & Fred, by professional dancers as part of Dance Limerick's 'What Next Festival'. Two schools from Adare-Rathkeale (Shanagolden National School and Coolcappa National School) and one school from Cappamore-Kilmallock (Knocklong National School) were successful.

Expressions of Interest have also been sought from all schools in the Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District for workshops facilitated by Ballyhoura's The Joyce Brothers Festival, and from Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District for workshops facilitated by the Feile na Greine Festival.

## ST. PATRICK'S FESTIVAL THEME ANNOUNCED

With the easing of Government restrictions on 23 January, Limerick City and County Council was able to announce that the Limerick St. Patrick's Festival will make a welcome return to the city streets following a COVID-enforced absence of two years. This year's theme is Belonging and Identity, ideas that many people have been thinking about and discussing throughout the two years of enforced restrictions. This year also marks the 100th anniversary of the Irish Free State and the 50th anniversary of Ireland joining the European Economic Community (now the European Union). The Limerick St. Patrick's Festival will include the traditional St. Patrick's Day Parade on 17 March and the Limerick International Band Championship taking place this year on 20 March.



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## 4. Property & Community Facilities

Dereliction, Vacancy & Reuse Team	
Inspections carried out	128
Property & Community Facilities Department Notices issued	14
Derelict Sites Cases opened	22
Statutory Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act	103
Derelict Sites Cases closed through engagement	16
Properties entered into the Derelict Sites Register	0
Properties put forward for Compulsory Acquisition (Section 15 Notices)	0
Properties Compulsorily Acquired (Section 17 Notices)	0
Bin Waivers Approved	2,260

## 5. Libraries, Gallery & Museum

### Library

- Newcastle West Library created the following book displays during the month of January: "You Never Know Where a Book May Take You ..." showcasing a selection of popular novels set in different countries, and "Green Fingers" with some wonderful new gardening books. Celebrating Lewis Carroll's birthday on January 27, Library staff made a large board display depicting extracts, illustrations and quotations from his famous books "Alice Adventures in Wonderland" and "Alice through the Looking Glass", with a short biography of the novelist's life. Weekly visits from Courtney Boys and Scoil Íosaf National Schools continued. Scoil Íosaf's Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Unit enjoyed a fantastic visit to the library with a fun filled morning with rhymes and stories ending with a lively spell on the library's Magic Table. The Magic Table is an interactive projector designed for adults and children with diverse care needs. The projected games stimulate movement, create a shared experience and enhance emotional wellbeing. This table was funded by Pobal. The children really enjoyed their visit and they hope to make it a weekly event. A further relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions allowed Newcastle West to welcome back Library members, from St. Joseph's Foundation and their carers. They enjoyed a lovely morning browsing through new non-fiction books, reading the local newspapers and chatting about their favourite books and movies.
- Throughout January, Kilmallock Library issued 25 more Touch Type Read and Spell (TTRS) licenses to local schools and individuals, bringing the total issued by Kilmallock Library to 150 to date. TTRS is a multi-sensory course that teaches touch-typing skills to help children and adults improve both their reading and spelling. It is of particular benefit to those adults and children with dyslexia and other learning difficulties. Voices: A Story for Everyone is a very special anthology of short stories by some of Ireland's most beloved writers designed to be accessible to readers at all levels. The stories are written in plain English and are designed to encourage adults who do not read often, or find reading long texts a challenge, to discover the joy of reading. The National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) has also published a new student workbook - 'Voices Matter' to accompany the short stories. The 'Voices Matter' workbook has worksheets and fun activities based around each of the stories in 'Voices'. The branch actively promoted this title and workbook online and in branch.
- In Watch House Cross Library classes returned in line with Covid-19, guidelines and two groups returned to the designated computer room for training in Fetac Level 2: Computers, and Driver Theory Test preparation. The branch was also delighted to welcome back classes from Corpus Christi Primary School, with visits from Second Class and Fourth Class to browse and borrow.



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- Library staff attended the first two online seminars in the Youth Library Group 'Recommending With Confidence' series with topics including: Bibliotherapy, with Children's Books Ireland Chief Executive Officer, Elaina Ryan, and supporting LGBTQI+ Youth (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex), with Collette O'Regan from LGBT Ireland.
- Library Shelfies offer Libraries and book lovers an opportunity to express their reading preferences through a single photograph, which can be printed or posted online. Limerick Libraries took part in the annual #LibraryShelfieDay day, 26 January, with fun displays, both adult and juvenile, and posted them on the Library's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts with 17 posts on Library platforms, reaching over 4,000 social media users.
- Glin Library welcomed back a small group of enthusiastic early readers for the local pre-school.
- The City Library marked the beginning of the New Year with a series of displays designed to usher in 2022 with positivity and change. In the adult Library, visitors were encouraged to adopt a New Year Resolution-Read More with an ever-changing display of the best new titles, fiction and non-fiction. While those dreaming of foreign lands had a host of new travel guides to choose from in the Travel Inspiration book promotion. For the children, the Library promoted books on themes of Mindfulness and Positivity with a selection of books recommended by Children's Books Ireland. A special display of books around the topics of Health and Wellbeing in support of the Healthy Ireland at Your Library campaign also proved popular for both adults and children. School and class visits began again with the regular Friday visit from Ms. Mullins and her students from Christian Brothers School (CBS) Primary School. Another student group from the Autism Unit of CBS Primary School also dropped in to spend some time browsing, reading and enjoying their local Library on the 18. Other visitors to the Library in January included class groups from Saint Michael's National School on 20 January and a group from Limerick Youth Service who came for a Library tour on the 21.
- The Local Studies Department at Watch House Cross Community Library was busy throughout January. In line with Covid restrictions, visits to the department remained by appointment only and there were twenty-three such visits by researchers between 5 and 28 January. Nine of these visits involved research on the microfilm archive of Limerick newspapers, a further eleven on the subscription digital resources to which the department provides access (primarily the Irish Newspaper Archive, but also the British Newspaper Archive, and FindMyPast). Of the remaining three visits, two involved research on the Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI) map collection in both hardcopy and digital format, and one comprised an advice session on family history research. Twenty-six research queries were received via telephone or email, all of which were resolved, or are being currently dealt with, remotely. Work also commenced on the department's primary Decade of Centenaries project for 2022, viz. the production of a richly illustrated edited collection of essays by ten historians on Civil War in Limerick city and county.

## Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- Aileen Barry's major solo exhibition, **By Slight Ligaments**, continues. This is Barry's most ambitious exhibition to date and the culmination of several year's 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, which receives its premier in LCGA, it is an Irish Traditional Music Archive and Music Network, Bunting Commission.
- **Through the Lens** and **Unwrapped** from the Permanent Collection selected by Siobhan O'Reilly continued through January. 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. Unwrapped is an exhibition of a selection of recent acquisitions to the Permanent Collection, which will run until the end of January.

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- Work continues on future exhibitions programme, including Belonging, works from the European Investment Bank Collection, which will feature in a number of venues throughout the city. Work continues on Tom Fitzgerald's major retrospective.
- The collaborative relationship with Dance Limerick continues with the Bridges project under the aegis of the Shinnors Scholar at LCGA with four workshops delivered in January. This project received funding from Creative Ireland.
- LCGA have welcomed third year Business student, Hannah Keane, on a five-month placement. Hannah will develop an audience questionnaire and carry out a series of interviews with visitors to the Gallery to evaluate their experience and response to the exhibition programme.
- The Director/Curator continues to attend virtual meetings with colleagues to discuss the sectoral needs of the visual arts in Ireland. The Group presented a report to the Arts Council on pay and conditions for artists and art workers.
- Work has commenced on research for the digitization of the Permanent Collection and the first provisional selection of work has been made. The exhibition will mark the 75th anniversary of the opening of the purpose built gallery to house the Permanent Collection. The selection reflects the works that were in the Collection at the time of the opening.

## Limerick Museum

- Limerick Museum's long standing collaboration with the annual Robert Burns Night in Dolans on the Dock Road continued this year, when Dr. Matthew Potter, Museum Curator, gave a short talk on the many connections between Limerick and Scotland. For the first time ever, the 2022 Robert Burns Night was broadcast live on social media.



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## Regeneration Directorate

### 1. Regeneration

#### Economic

##### Jobs Initiative Programme Update

A number of stakeholder meetings took place in January. Ongoing consultation with community partners to engage mentors in each regeneration areas to support the programme. A database of employers has been established and work continued on engaging new employers into the programme. In order to enhance the programme additional resources have been committed through agencies such as Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board and TUS.

Various site visits were held with prospective employers in the construction industry who visited partner organisations involved in the programme.

#### Social

##### Social and Economic Intervention Fund

- Social Intervention Fund (SIF) 2022 Update - SIF 2022 application process has closed. Applications to the value of approximately €5 million are currently being processed.
- Social Regeneration Impact - A further example of how the Social Intervention Fund is supporting meaningful and impactful work in the communities was recently highlighted by the Changing Ireland magazine <https://www.changingireland.ie/moyross-where-every-youngster-backs-wesley/>

#### Community Engagement

##### Clinics for Resident Queries

Clinics took place with residents in the regeneration communities in person on a weekly basis throughout January.

##### Regeneration Committee Meetings

Regeneration Committee meetings took place online in all the regeneration communities in January with Residents Associations meeting in advance of these.

##### Community Activities

Some of the examples include:

- The recently formed ABC (A Better Community) Residents Group Ballinacurra Weston held a candlelight vigil in their school yard for all the community to remember those who passed away over Christmas.
- Tait House continue to work with the Mid-West Simon Community to distribute food parcels to those in need.
- A new working group to agree plans for the Kings Island Community Centre in St Mary's Park had their first meeting in January. There are many factors to be considered in this development, i.e. viability of site from the perspective of footfall, general connectivity to the community at large and surrounding communities etc.
- Limerick Employment Services (LES) which has an office in each of the areas is currently being tendered nationally with the community anxious to ensure this service continues.
- Moyross Partners met in January to discuss the topical issues affecting their area.

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## Physical

### Housing Developments

- Construction works commenced on Churchfield Phase 2 in Southill.
- Construction works ongoing on Cliona Park Phase 3 in Moyross.
- Construction works ongoing on the Peter McVerry Trust Rapid Infill Housing Development in Delmege Park, Moyross.
- Vacant units in Dalgaish Park demolished this month to enable the construction of the 57 unit in Dalgaish/ Cosgrave Park housing development in Moyross.
- Assessment of Approved Housing Body expression of interest ongoing for the Orchard site development, St Mary's Park.
- Construction Works ongoing on Thermal Upgrade Contract 122 (St. Mary's Park).

## Community Facilities

- District Play Area for Castle Oaks View, Southill – Capital Appraisal submission to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has been approved for progressing to Stage 2 Initial Design.

### Demolitions

Strategic demolition of houses as per the Limerick Regeneration Programme took place in Southill and Moyross.

### CCTV Report from the Data Protection Commissioners

Following an audit by the Data Protection Commission and publication of the decision, the Council is actively working on complying with the data protection requirements to ensure that the public safety network of CCTV cameras in the Regeneration areas is maintained in compliance with relevant legislation.



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## Housing Directorate

### 1. Housing Support Services

#### • Waiting List

Housing Waiting List	2,088
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#### • Allocations

	No. of Units January	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	0
Newcastle West	0	0
Metropolitan District	22	22
Cappamore-Kilmallock	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>

#### • Refusals

	No. of Units January	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	0
Newcastle West	0	0
Metropolitan District	2	2
Cappamore-Kilmallock	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

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

Total Nominations	7
Successful Nominations	2
Nominations Pending	5
Unsuccessful Nominations	0

#### • Traveller Housing Welfare

No. of Units offered January	0
Year to Date	0

\* these figures are included in allocations figures

#### • Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)

Total number of units in RAS in January – 1,258

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

2,404 active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	18
No. of Amendments	364
No. of Cessations	45

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## HOME IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

January 2022		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aids Grants	No. Approved	4	0	8	5	17
	MAG Expenditure	€7,150.00	€11,500.00	€22,800.00	€5,750.00	€47,200.00
	No. Paid	2	2	4	1	9
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	7	1	6	5	9
	HAG Expenditure	€-	€89,159.35	€22,642.60	€19,212.90	€131,014.85
	No. Paid	0	5	2	3	10
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	4	12	13	7	36
	HOP Expenditure	€7,031.00	€73,159.35	€12,860.00	€18,610.00	€111,660.35
	No. Paid	3	19	3	4	29
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG's Paid	€0.00	€0.00	€55,047.50	€0.00	€55,047.50
	No. Paid	0	0	1	0	1

Total No. Approved	72
Total Monies Paid	€344,922.70
Total No. Paid	49

## RENT COLLECTION

Rent Collection Limerick City and County Council					
Opening Balance at 01.01.2022	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing Balance 31.01.2022	% Collection
5,901,732	1,684,472	7,586,204	1,230,015	6,356,189	19

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

Date: 16.01.2022		
Individuals		
Location	Description	Beds Used
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	29
Oak Lodge	Adults without children accommodated in low threshold emergency accommodation	55
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	17
St. Joseph Street	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	6
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	7
Temporary Emergency Provision TEP1 (Edenvilla)	Low threshold, night-by-night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	16
Temporary Emergency Provision TEP 2 (Phoenix Lodge)	Low threshold, night-by-night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	15
<b>Total</b>		<b>145</b>

Families				
Location	Description	Beds Used		
		Adults	Children	Families
Suaimehneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	9	6
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	18	32	15
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	12	12	10
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Adults</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>Families</b>
		<b>36</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>31</b>



# 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	4
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. approved	0
Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans	
Loan Applications: No. received	2
Loan Applications: No. approved	1
Deed of Discharge	
Deed of Discharge Applications: No. Received	10
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
Private Rented Inspections	
No. of Inspections	45

## Freedom of Information, Data Requests and Ombudsman

Freedom of Information Requested submitted	1
Ombudsman Query Cases	5
General Data Protection Regulation	1

# Chief Executive's Report



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## 2. Local Authority Housing Construction and Maintenance

The Team is dedicated to delivering:

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

### Local Authority Construction

#### Affordable Housing Fund (SSF Serviced Sites Fund)

Viability studies for several of the Serviced Sites Fund plots, have now been financially modelled, together with assistance from the National Development Finance Agency (NDFA).

The initial reports are being reviewed in conjunction with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's Affordable housing team to ascertain if the existing SSF schemes would benefit from transferring to the AHF funding stream, and which model of finance / and development strategy is most suitable.

An updated Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment (SSFRA) to include a Justification Test was produced for the Curragower site.

A SSFRA and Justification Test has been tendered for the Sonny's Corner site and submissions are being evaluated.

A draft archaeological report for Sonny's Corner is under review by the Limerick City and County Councils team and the feasibility study is being tailored to adjust for the finds.

A Scope of services brief is being prepared for an Integrated Design team to advance the Toppins Field framework so it can be tested for viability with various tenure models.

#### Mulgrave Street – Wallace Place, Limerick

Mulgrave Street housing scheme comprising of 17 no. units was completed on 28 January. The scheme was completed by the contractors Conack Construction. The scheme was designed and managed by an external design team with the overall project management being provided by Housing Construction.

The completed scheme consists of the following units:

- Unit 1 to 5 – 2 Bed 2 Storey house
- Unit 6 – 2 Bed First Floor Apartment
- Unit 7 – 2 Bed Ground Floor Apartment
- Unit 8 – 2 Bed Second Floor Apartment
- Unit 9 to 16 – 2 Bed 2 Storey house
- Unit 17 – 1 Bed Ground Floor (two Storey unit)

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## Local Authority Maintenance

### Grant Inspections

#### Metropolitan District – Inspections and Recommendations for Home Improvement Schemes/Disability Adaptations – January

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	1	0	5	6
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	9	0	15	24
HOPs (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	6	0	18	24
DPGs (Disabled Person Grant)	0	10	0	0	10
<b>Total Inspections by Inspection Type</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>64</b>

#### Cappamore-Kilmallock District – Inspections and Recommendations for Home Improvement Schemes/Disability Adaptations – January

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	2	0	1	3
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	11	0	2	13
HOPs (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	9	0	7	16
DPGs (Disabled Person Grant)	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Inspections by Inspection Type</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>32</b>

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## Newcastle West and Adare-Rathkeale District – Inspections and Recommendations for Home Improvement Schemes/Disability Adaptations – January

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	3	4	0	3	10
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	4	11	0	2	17
HOPs (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	6	19	0	14	39
DPGs (Disabled Person Grant)	0	0	0	0	0
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	13	34	0	19	66

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

Housing Maintenance and Housing Cases	Requests/Cases Created	Cases Dealt With/Closed	Balance of Open Cases at 31.12.2021
Metropolitan District	742	558	1,650
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	77	12	607
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	89	101	138
Municipal District of Newcastle West	109	106	796

# 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

In Limerick, the delivery target for 2022-2026 is 2,693 new homes. This is twice the target under the 'Rebuilding Ireland' programme from 2018-2021 of 1,365 homes. Build is the main delivery streams to deliver 2,693 new homes with 40% to be delivered by AHBs and 60% by Limerick City and County Council.

As at January, Limerick City and County Council has over 200 projects approved to deliver homes through the Build, Buy and Lease delivery streams as follows:

<b>New-Build</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SHIP Construction and Turnkey</li> <li>• Regeneration</li> <li>• CAS Construction and Turnkey</li> <li>• AHB CALF Construction and Turnkey</li> <li>• Part V</li> </ul>
<b>Buy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SHIP Acquisitions (national target of 200 acquisitions. There has been no target identified for Limerick)</li> <li>• Buy and Renew Acquisitions</li> <li>• Regeneration Acquisitions</li> <li>• CAS Acquisitions</li> <li>• AHB CALF Acquisitions</li> </ul>
<b>Lease</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repair and Lease</li> <li>• Mortgage to Rent</li> <li>• Payment and Availability Agreements</li> <li>• Long-term leasing (rollover leases from 2021 as Limerick has no target from 2022-2026)</li> </ul>

Limerick's target for 2022 is 565 new homes. As at 31 January, the following is a summary of completed and in progress schemes measured against our target.

As at 31 January (01.01.22 – 31.12.22)	Build	Buy	Lease	TOTAL
<b>Complete</b>	17	0	1	<b>18</b>
<b>In Progress</b>	333	33	52	<b>418</b>
<b>Overall Complete and In Progress</b>	350	33*	53	<b>436</b>
<b>"Housing for All" 2022 Delivery Target</b>	565	0	74**	

\*Relates to units carried over from 2021

\*\*LCCC has a target of 21 short-term leasing units. The 53 units in progress is made up of units carried over from 2021

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## 2. Current Operational Programme

13 properties were returned in January 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 January - Categorisation	
Cat 1	0
Cat 2	0
Cat 3	0
Cat 4	0
To be inspected	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>

House Returns January By Municipal District	
Adare-Rathkeale	3
Cappamore-Kilmallock	1
Newcastle West	2
Metropolitan	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>

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

Current Working Programme		
	Completed in January	In Progress
Local Authority Construction Team	2	90
Local Authority Maintenance Team	3	44
Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process	0	25
Regeneration Team	2	8
Team to be assigned	NA	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>195</b>

### Advance Purchase Turnkeys for Affordable Housing and Mixed Tenure

A new campaign was launched, seeking home builders and housing developers in Limerick city and county to consider offering unbuilt houses or apartments with planning permission to Limerick City and County Council under an advance purchase turnkey arrangement.

Limerick City and County Council are seeking to enter into advance purchase arrangements to secure turnkey homes in areas where the need, in particular for affordable housing, is most acute. This call is targeted at advance purchase opportunities for a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 150 dwellings in any one scheme.

Limerick City and County Council is seeking to agree advance purchase of unbuilt turnkey properties 'off-plan' in the following areas:

- Limerick City (all areas including suburbs)
- Newcastle West
- Abbeyfeale
- Kilmallock
- Castleconnell

This advance purchase opportunity has been put in place to provide for accelerated delivery of housing generally, and primarily, to provide affordable homes for eligible

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applicants nominated by the local authority in areas where a significant need for affordable or social housing has been identified. It is anticipated that, depending on circumstances and proposals, local authorities will enter into an advance purchase agreement for an approved number of homes, with payment on completion. The advance purchase agreement also provides for the direct sale of homes by the developer to an eligible purchaser nominated by the local authority. Joint venture arrangements that include an Approved Housing Body (AHB) will also be considered.

Applications closed on the 31 January and the Housing Directorate is currently assessing applications received.

## Private Rightsizing Scheme at Mungret Gate

The Housing Directorate launched its first rightsizing scheme at Mungret Gate aimed at private homeowners over the age of 55. The scheme allows eligible homeowners to request the local authority to purchase their home in return for a life-long tenancy in a managed Older Persons' Scheme. The 'rightsizing' scheme is entirely voluntary and in partnership with Clann Housing.

The first pilot at Mungret Gate, Limerick City consisted of eight two-bed townhouses with large rear gardens and front curtilage parking. The pilot was successful and now has expanded to a new scheme of 23 two-bed apartment.

The closing date to apply for the second phase of Private Rightsizing Scheme at Mungret Gate was 24 January. The Housing Directorate is currently assessing applications received.

## Housing Disability Strategy Plan for Limerick

A meeting was held in January of the Housing and Disability Strategy Group (HSE, Acquired Brain Injury Ireland, Enable Ireland, Brothers of Charity and other key service providers) to finalise the Housing Disability Strategy Plan for Limerick. This Plan will proceed to the next Strategic Policy Committee meeting for endorsement.

## Vacant Homes Workshop

Addressing vacancy and maximising the use of existing housing stock is a primary concern of this Government and the new Housing for All Strategy outlines a multi-faceted approach to addressing this matter, including:

- A new local authority-led programme to help Local Authorities buy or compulsory purchase 2,500 vacant homes in their areas which can then be sold on the open market will ensure homes do not lie vacant.
- Reform of the Fair Deal Scheme to remove disincentives to selling or renting unused homes.
- The Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund will be delivered by local authorities for the provision of serviced sites for housing, to attract people to build their own homes and to support the refurbishment of vacant properties, enabling people to live in small towns and villages, in a sustainable way.
- A new Town Centre First policy, which will include approaches to utilising existing stock and new financial incentive mechanisms.

Staff in the Housing Directorate attended a virtual workshop on the 27 January to discuss the above matters in more detail.

## Finance

- Claims totalling €7,221,184 were sent to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in January.



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## 4. Municipal District Offices

### Metropolitan District of Limerick

#### Metropolitan District Meetings

##### January Monthly Meeting

The January Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick took place on the 17 January.

#### Operational Area Briefings

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

### Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

- The monthly meeting of the District took place on 11 January on-line.
- Essential repairs to social houses and public roads were undertaken by the Housing Maintenance and Roads Maintenance team.
- 86 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance team in January.
- 67 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance team in January.

#### Capital Road Projects

Croom Car Park Construction under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme currently underway.

Croom Walkway Works (along old N20) commenced - funded from Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

Tenders received for Marine Cove Foynes - Construction of Overflow channel and new culvert under the N69

Askeaton Undergrounding of Public Utilities - Tenders received

Active Travel Funding Allocation 2022 - €1.15m for Minor Footpath Works.

#### Road Maintenance Works

Kildimo Drainage Works

N21 Litter Pick and opening of Water Inlets on regional and local roads carried out during the month

R518 Footpath Works Rathkeale continued during the month.

### Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

- The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock was held online on 20 January.
- A Deputation was received at the Meeting from Bruff Grange Meanus Community Council in relation to a proposal for a Remote Workers' Hub in Bruff.
- The Quarterly Joint Policing Sub-Committee Meeting was also held online on 20 January.
- An Online Workshop to launch the consultation on the Caherconlish Local Area Plan was also delivered to the Elected Members on 20 January.

#### Housing and Road Maintenance

Essential repairs to houses were undertaken by the Housing Maintenance Team and Roads Maintenance Team:

- 100 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
- 81 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

#### Housing Grants

Eight Private Housing Grants were paid in January and 17 were approved.

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## Municipal District of Newcastle West

- The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West took place online on 12 January.
- 13 grant applications were approved under the Private Housing Grant Schemes during the month. The total value of approvals was €59,983.50
- Payments of €73,159.35 were made to 19 applicants who completed works under the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.
- Payments of €89,563.78 were made to five applicants who completed works under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme.
- Payments of €11,500 were made to two applicants who completed works under the Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme.
- Routine road maintenance work including the opening of drainage inlets along roadways and the repair and replacement of signage has also taken place during the month of January.
- During the month of January, 985 routine transactions were processed by the Motor Tax Section at the Newcastle West Office.



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## 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 are progressing on site.
- **Dock Road Improvement Scheme** – The Compulsory Purchase Order for the scheme is with An Bord Pleanála.
- **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.
- **Limerick Greenway Newcastle West Carpark** – detail design of a carpark for Greenway users at Station Road Newcastle West is progressing.
- **Newcastle West Athletics Hub** – Construction of a new 8-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.
- **Askeaton Swimming Pool** – Flood Protection Works. Lawler Sustainability have been appointed to carry out an Energy Study and prepare an EXEED application to SEAI for funding to upgrade pool plant.

### 2. Planning Development

#### Planning Applications

A total of 85 new planning applications were received as follows:

<b>Part 8</b>	0
<b>Housing Developments</b>	0
<b>Domestic Developments</b>	63
<b>Agricultural Developments</b>	10
<b>Commercial Developments/ Change of Use</b>	6
<b>Sporting/ Community and Educational Developments</b>	1
<b>Other Developments</b>	5

### 3. Environment, Recreation & Climate Change

#### Cemeteries

#### Number of Burials in City Cemeteries

<b>Mount St. Lawrence</b>	20
<b>Mount St. Oliver</b>	9
<b>Castlemungret</b>	14
<b>Kilmurry</b>	3

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## Waste Regulation and Enforcement

During the month -

- 236 complaints were received.
- A total of 330 inspections were undertaken.
- Two Directions were served by the Department.
- 66 Warnings were issued.
- Six Notices were issued
- Eight Prosecutions were initiated
- A total of 10 fines were issued during the period.

## 4. Urban Innovation

The Urban Innovation Department submitted an application for funding under the Horizon Europe New European Bauhaus Programme to support the Climate Action programme of the Council.

The Urban Innovation department was successful in an application for Technical Support to DG REFORM to create a sustainable investment fund for the retrofitting of the historic building stock in the city.

### Creative Climate Fund – Decarbonising Together

An information session was held on January 12 for communities interested in participating in Decarbonising Together. Twenty community representatives attended an online session to learn more about the project and ask questions as to how it will operate. Each group will work with an arts or creative industry partner to explore a decarbonisation challenge that matters to them. Communities will be selected and paired with a creative partner. This project is a collaboration between Limerick City and County Council and the University of Limerick, events and community engagement will be located in the Citizen Innovation Lab in the UL City Centre Campus on Sarsfield Street. Creative Climate Action is funded by Creative Ireland through the Department of Environment, Communications and Climate Action.

## 5. Veterinary Services

- 22 stray or wandering equines were impounded.
- The Dog Control Unit processed 10 dogs during the month.
- One food sample was submitted for analysis under the National Residues and Microbiological Sampling Programme.



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## National and Regional Shared Services Centre Directorate

### 1. Housing Assistance Payments Shared Services Centre (HAPSSC)

- There were 61,712 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAPSSC at the end of January.
- A weekly average of 184 HAP tenancies have been set-up during 2022.
- The January landlord payment run was €56.4 million.
- The weekly tenant charge at the end of January was €3.1 million.
- The Debt Management Unit of the HAP SSC collected a total of €12.7 million in differential rent to end of January 2022.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of January 2022 was 78% (Note: January collection rate driven by timing of invoicing at month end).
- The Debt Management Unit issued 8,694 HAP debt reminder letters in January 2022.

### 2. Fire and Emergency

#### Statistics

	No of Fire Related Calls	No of Non Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call outs 01/01/22 – 31/01/22	77	48	125
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	77%	57%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	15%	34%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	8%	9%	

	No. received / assigned	No. validated	No. invalidated / refused	No. granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications January	10	8	0	6	
Disability Access Cert Applications January	10	8	0	3	
Licensing Applications January	2		0	6	
Commencement Notice January	52	43	8	43	51
Completion Certificate January	7	6	0	6	6
Planning Referrals January	20				14
Sugar CRM Cases January	0				2

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## Fire & Emergency Training Events

During the month of January, the following training courses took place:

- The commencement of refresher training for staff in Limerick City Fire Station, on the operation of Fireswift, the boat so often used in rescues on the River Shannon.
- The delivery of Emergency Service Driver Training for drivers within the Brigade.

## Civil Defence attendance at Events

The following activity took place in January:

- Patient Transfer: Limerick residence - University Hospital Limerick and return - 1 day.
- Candlelit Vigil in memory of Ashling Murphy at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick - 1 day.
- Mayoral Reception for Michael J. Ryan for 60 years service to Limerick Civil Defence - 1 day.

## Water Safety

No. of lifebuoy replacements	January	Total 2022
Metropolitan Area	1	1
Municipal Area	0	0

## Munster Regional Communications Centre

	No. of Calls mobilised to an emergency incident by MRCC	Other Calls	Average call processing time in minutes and seconds	Total No. of calls in January
No. of call-outs 01/01/2022 – 31/01/2022	836	1,287	1:20	2,123

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## Support Services Directorate

### 1. Finance

#### Commercial Rates and Loans

##### Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2022	
As at 31st January 2022*	
Opening Balance - 1 Jan €	6,546,447 *
Accruals €	60,186,341 **
Vacant Property Adjustment €	-
Writes offs/ Waivers €	955
Total for Collection €	66,731,833
Amount Collected €	327,585
Arrears €	66,404,248
Specific Doubtful Arrears €	3,581,824
% Collected	1%

Debtors Loans	
As at 31st January 2022*	
Opening Balance - 1 Jan €	310,319 *
Accruals €	- ^
Writes offs €	-
To Collect €	310,319
Receipts €	201,508
Arrears €	108,811
% Collected	65%

\* subject to finalisation of year end accounts for 2021

^ Accruals not updated for loans for January 2022

\*\* The Date for Making the 2021 Rate was 26th January 2022

\* subject to finalisation of year end accounts for 2021

#### Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No of days in overdraft 0



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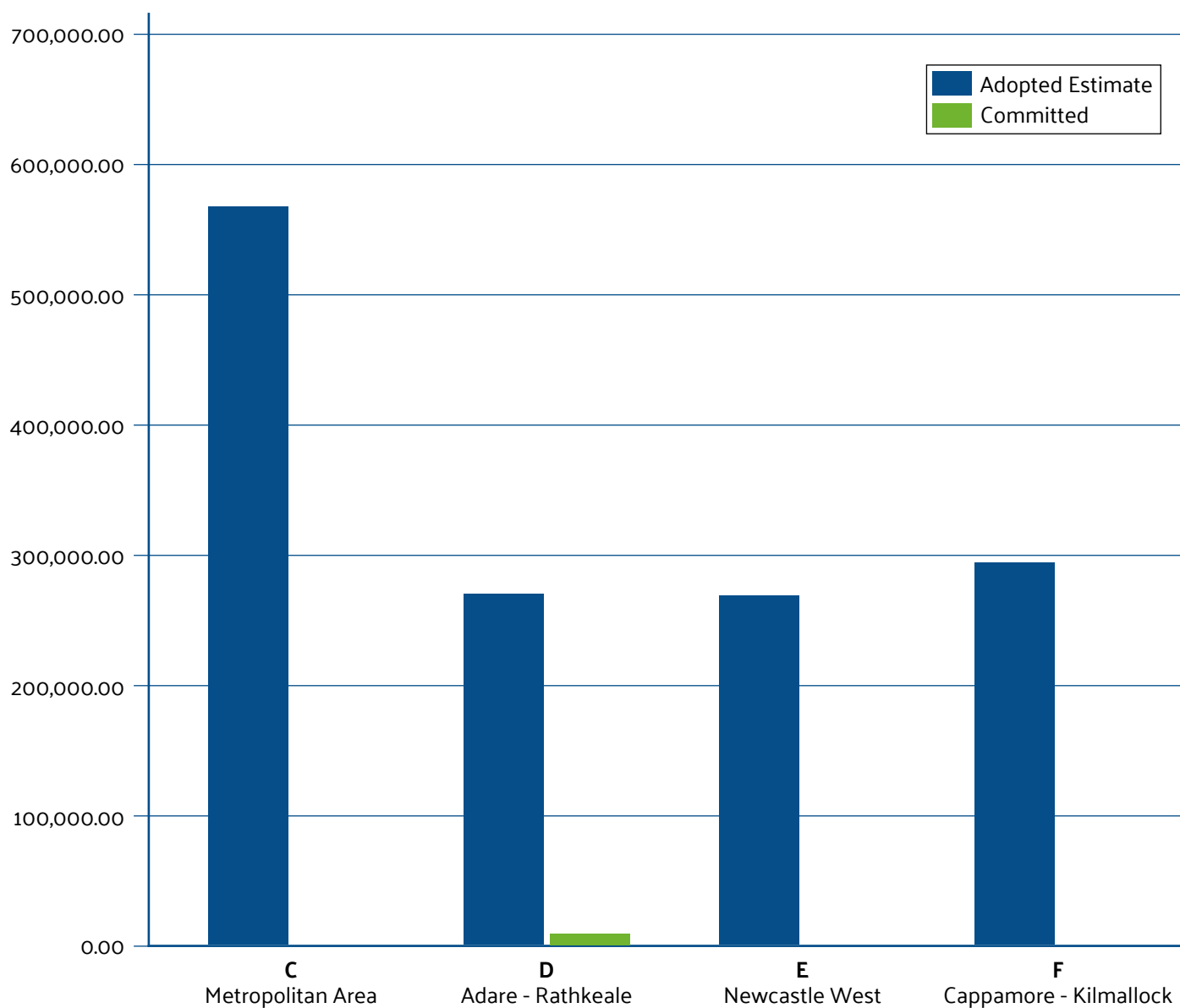


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## General Municipal Allocation 2022 Adopted Estimate €1.403 Million

Graph outlining adopted budget and draft committed expenditure up to 31st January 2022



### Municip (Code) + (Text)

### Value Adopted Estimate (€)

### Value Committed (€)

C Metropolitan Area

568,000.00

0

D Adare - Rathkeale

270,000.00

7,000

E Newcastle West

270,000.00

0

F Cappamore - Kilmallock

295,000.00

0

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## 2. Business Improvement

- 906 users are now live on the employee app 'Council Connect'.
- Business Improvement launched two digitised online forms – the Mobile Device Application Form and the Ethics Form. The objective is to eliminate paper forms and reduce our carbon footprint.
- Business Improvement arranged MyPoint consultation and survey training for 28 employees.

## 3. Corporate, Governance and Customer Services

### Office of the Mayor

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

- Billy Barrett  
In recognition of his committed service over 40 years both voluntarily and professionally to some of the most vulnerable citizens of Limerick.
- Terry Byrne  
In recognition of his committed service over 40 years both voluntarily and professionally to some of the most vulnerable citizens of Limerick.
- Michael J. Ryan  
In recognition of his contribution and committed service to Limerick Civil Defence over 60 years.

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

- Courtesy visit of the Ambassador (designate) of India to Ireland.
- Courtesy Visit of the Bulgarian Ambassador to Ireland.

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

- United Rugby Championship, Munster v Ulster  
**Venue:** Thomond Park, Limerick.
- Official announcement and launch of the Group Test for the International Bus of the Year 2022 which will take place in Limerick in May 2022  
**Venue:** Coach Park on Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Video message for UNESCO's (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) Global Network of Learning Cities, in celebrating 70 years of UNESCO's Lifelong Learning Institute. As a Learning City we want to encourage and promote lifelong learning to all our citizens across all age groups and sectors throughout the island of Ireland.
- Candle Lit Vigil in memory of Mary Immaculate College graduate Ashling Murphy who was killed after being attacked in broad daylight while out running in her hometown of Tullamore  
**Venues:** Arthur's Quay Park and Mary Immaculate College, Limerick.
- Commemoration to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Handover of Dublin Castle  
**Venue:** Dublin Castle, Dublin 2
- Visit to Impact Labelling Systems Ltd.  
**Venue:** Eastlink Business Park, 77/78 Ballysimon Road, Monacloine, Limerick.
- Launch of KeytoLife restaurant  
**Venue:** 46 Henry Street, Limerick.
- Launch of Team Limerick Clean Up (TLC7).  
**Venue:** The Abbey, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick
- Heineken Champions Cup, Munster v Wasps.  
**Venue:** Thomond Park, Limerick.

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- Robbie Burns Night.  
**Venue:** Dolan's, Dock Road, Limerick
- Patrol with Limerick Suicide Watch

## Register of Electors

The Register of Electors Team in Corporate Services continued to update the Draft Register and postal voters' list in preparation for publication of the Live Register 2022/2023.

Staff from the Register of Electors Team attended a meeting providing an update on the Modernisation of the Electoral Registration Process.

Staff from the Register of Electors Team continued to process emails and forms submitted in relation to queries and changes to the Register of Electors.

## Health and Safety

The following courses took place during the month:

Course Name	No. of Attendees
Safe Pass Course	1
Hedge and Grass Verge Cutting Training	1
Dealing with Aggressive Customers	23

## Requisitions Oversight Unit

The role of the staff in the Requisition Oversight Unit 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. The following stats apply for January 2022.

- Approved requisitions account for 81.9% of the total requisitions actioned for this given month.
- Rejected requisitions account for 18.1% of the total requisitions actioned for this given month

Month	January
Approved	1,080
Rejected	239
Total Requisitions Actioned	1,319

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

Rejection Reason	January
Memo - Requisition not raised in advance	75
Documentation uploaded not relevant to RQ/nothing uploaded	52
Procurement Reference Omitted/ Incorrect	43
Approved officers order Omitted	30
Incomplete/unsigned/missing/ incorrect level CAPA form	26

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## Procurement Department

Staff in the Procurement Department are responsible for the setting up and extending existing procurement references on request from all departments within the Council.

The following shows the number of Procurement References dealt with during January

New Procurement References set up	32
Procurement References extended as per signed contract/arrangement	21

## Presentations

All staff of this department presented at Agresso briefings through MS Teams in conjunction with the Agresso team during this month.

A total number of 16 presentations were delivered to all staff.

## Schedule of Meetings for January

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
<b>Full Council</b> Full Meeting of Limerick City and County Council	24.01.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
<b>Operational Briefings</b>  Limerick City East Limerick City North Limerick City West	11.01.2022 11.01.2022 12.01.2022	Virtual Virtual Virtual
<b>Municipal District of</b>  Newcastle West Monthly Meeting  Adare-Rathkeale Monthly Meeting  Cappamore-Kilmallock Monthly Meeting	12.01.2022   11.01.2022  20.01.2022	Virtual   Virtual  Virtual

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Name of Meeting	Date	Location
<b>Metropolitan District of Limerick</b> Monthly Meeting	17.01.2022	Virtual
<b>Joint Policing Committee</b> Sub-Committee Meeting for Elected Members of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	20.01.2022	Virtual
<b>Protocol Committee</b> Meeting Meeting	21.01.2022 28.01.2022	Virtual Virtual
<b>Corporate Policy Group</b> Meeting Meeting	14.01.2022 17.01.2022	Virtual Virtual
<b>Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)</b>	19.01.2022	Virtual
<b>Party Leader's Meeting</b>	21.01.2022	Virtual

## Access to Information

	January	2022 (January to December)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	21	21
Freedom of Information Internal Appeals	0	0
Information Commissioner Appeals	1	1
Total Ombudsman Requests	5	5
Total Access to Information on the Environment Requests	0	0

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## Customer Services

This January customers continued to use the online application facility for the Household Waste Subsidy Scheme (Bin Waivers). Customer Services staff liaised with both the Property and Community Facilities and the Digital Strategy departments to streamline the application process and continue to facilitate online applications, making the process quicker and easier for new and existing applicants. Throughout the month, Customer Services staff forwarded over 2,000 application forms for the Household Waste Subsidy Scheme to potential applicants, as well as advising how to apply online and fielding all other queries through our call centre. Customer Services managed a total of 788 calls in relation to this scheme during the month.

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

- In January, Customer Services call centre dealt with 12,652 calls. This represents an average of 633 per day, with the number of calls exceeding 600 on several occasions and reaching 798 on our highest days of calls. 58% of calls this month, 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 our Elected members.
- During January 3,017 cases were created, with 754 of these logged on behalf of Public Representatives. 3,287 cases were closed, with 739 of these being cases logged by Public Representatives.
- January saw a total of 3,236 emails processed through our Customer Services email platform.
- January saw 434 calls received through the Voxpro out of hours services.

- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued, with a total of 381 cases being logged in January; 316 of which were submitted by Public Representatives.
- Customer Services continued to support the Housing Maintenance Department in creating the service requests and keeping our citizens up to date on progress made. Throughout January Customer Services logged 95% of cases for Housing Maintenance in the Metro District.
- Customer Services continued to provide other frontline services to the general public, such as the processing of Residential Parking Permits. There were 101 new Residential Parking Permit applications processed throughout January, with 72 issued.
- January saw a total of 2,643 callers to both our Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle counters.

## 4. Marketing & Communications

### Marketing

#### Marketing

- Launched Limerick Student City social and digital marketing campaign, There's No Place Like Limerick, in partnership with the higher education institutes University of Limerick, Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest and Mary Immaculate College to promote Limerick as a leading university city ahead of the CAO application deadline 2022. The campaign also featured students from College of Further Education, Mulgrave Street, Limerick and Griffith College, Limerick.
- Commenced collaboration with Tourism, Culture & Arts Department ahead of Limerick St. Patrick's Festival campaign launch.

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- Secured a five-page feature in The Spirit of Ireland Magazine promoting Limerick Wild Atlantic Way Gateway City to the North American market.
- Brand Limerick feature advert secured in 'Your Daily Adventure' Visitor Guide 2022
- Produced Christmas in Limerick 2021 report detailing a performance overview of marketing and PR activities throughout the seven-week multimedia marketing campaign. Topline figures include: Total impressions: 4.07 million; Link clicks: 33,425; Video Views: 655,762; Engagements: 189,659; Total Website Views: 98,852.
- Continued engagement with Brand Limerick Ambassadors.
- Progressed the creation and development of promotional assets to attract increased investment in Limerick.
- Created and developed a new brand identity for Adare Village, including a suite of brand assets and brand guidelines.
- Created and issued five Limerick.ie e-newsletters
- Presented at the Social Media Dublin annual conference, giving an insight as to how Limerick City and County Council used social media to engage with the public and drive increased public engagement.
- Tweeted 10 times on Limerick.ie's **Twitter**, @limerick\_ie, with total followers now 20,592. Our tweets earned 216,600 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).
- Posted five times on Limerick.ie's **Instagram** and created seven Stories with total followers now 20,000.
- Posted eight times on Limerick City and County Council's **LinkedIn** with total followers now 8,200.

## Limerick.ie

In January 2022, there were 150,918\* unique site visits to Limerick.ie, a 26% increase on the same period in 2021. (\*Fathom Analytics)

The most popular pages on Limerick.ie in January 2022 were:

1. [www.limerick.ie](http://www.limerick.ie)
2. [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)
3. [www.limerick.ie/council](http://www.limerick.ie/council)
4. [www.limerick.ie/council/services/housing/social-housing/housing-assistance-payment-hap](http://www.limerick.ie/council/services/housing/social-housing/housing-assistance-payment-hap)
5. [www.limerick.ie/search](http://www.limerick.ie/search)

Content Report: 47 articles, 192 events and 5 amenities were added to Limerick.ie in January 2022.

## 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 12 times on Limerick.ie's **Facebook** with followers now 32,336. Posts reached 110,293 users with 6,020 engagements.

## Communications

- Issued 19 news releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and researched and wrote two speeches for the Office of the Mayor
- Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter
- Tweeted 130 times on Limerick City and County Council's **Twitter** account, @limerickcouncil, with total followers now 17,118. Our tweets earned 175,400 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).