

Chief Executive's Report

February 2022

Freedom of Limerick awarded to Vicky Phelan

Limerick's St. Patrick's Festival to return to the streets of Limerick for first time in three years

New Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce to be established to develop the Estuary

Askeaton, Doon and Patrickswell received funding of €1 million for projects under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme

Contracts signed and construction begins on various housing developments in Regeneration areas

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& Contae **Luimnigh**

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Economic Development and Enterprise Directorate

1. Trade & Investment

- Stats Perform has established a Global Rugby Centre of Excellence at its headquarters in Limerick City and by end of 2022 will reach a milestone of 60 full-time staff and 280 part-time employees. The expansion of functions to create the Rugby Centre of Excellence has created more than 100 new roles in Limerick over the past 12 months in the areas of Rugby Union, Rugby League and Soccer, as well as supporting functions in video operations, data quality control and business intelligence.
- H&MV Engineering Company, based in Plassey, has been acquired by British Investment Firm, Exponent. As a result of the acquisition, it hopes to expand its workforce from 350 to 500 staff by year-end 2025.
- Call for Expression of Interest for membership of the Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce.

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment is inviting expressions of interest from suitably qualified individuals for membership of the Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce.

The Department is inviting expressions of interest from individuals who possess the following expertise and experience:

- Familiarity with the economic challenges and opportunities relevant to the Shannon Estuary area;
- A proven track-record at a senior level of identifying key strategic challenges and addressing them through targeted interventions working collaboratively with a range of public and private stakeholders;

- A working knowledge across at least one of the following economic sectors: transport, logistics, manufacturing, renewable energy and tourism.

It is anticipated that between five to ten individuals will be selected for membership of the Taskforce through the expressions of interest process. The closing date and time for receipt of expressions of interest is 5pm on 16 March 2022.

Link to further details and instructions: <https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/Publications/Call-for-Expression-of-Interest-Shannon-Estuary-Economic-Taskforce.html>

2. Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Limerick

Funding Approved

- Three Businesses were approved Grant support in February, one for a Feasibility Study and two Priming Grants for business start-ups.
- 12 Businesses were approved for the LEO Trading Online Voucher this month.

LEO held Virtual Training and Workshops in the following areas:

- Start Your Own Business Courses.
- Regional Food Starter Programme.
- Financial Management Course.
- Commenced 15-week Management Development Programme for growing businesses.
- Webinars held included Social Media Bootcamps, Creating Marketing Videos, advertising on Facebook and Instagram and Trading Online Webinar.

There were 130 participants on the LEO business Training Courses and 12 business owners have availed of the LEO Mentoring Programme in February.

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3. Innovate Limerick

- Engine Team is continuing to have positive discussions with Google and Amazon about developing the Technology ecosystem in Limerick.
- Attended and contributed to Ireland's Portershed Founder weekend, evaluating and mentoring 120 new technology entrepreneurs. Developed partnership between Innovate Limerick and the Portershed.
- Continuing to build mentoring Software start-up, now supporting 12 companies.
- Attended the British and Irish Trading Alliance networking event to meet UK and Irish companies and help better position Limerick as a place to develop partnerships and scale.

FILM IN LIMERICK

Training Courses in Props, Prosthetics and Model-making for Film and TV

Innovate Limerick, through Film in Limerick, has launched three one-week courses in prop making, prosthetics make-up and model-making for film and TV with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board and delivered with our Industry partner, Odyssey Studios.

Training in Producing and Screenwriting

Courses in Introduction to Creative Producing and Writers' Factory: Introduction to Screen Writing, have continued in February. Both courses are supported by Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.

European Film Location of the Year

Cahir Castle has won European Film Location of the Year. The awards are organised by EUFCN – The European Film Commissions Network. Cahir Castle recently served as a key setting for David Lowery's film, The Green Knight, a fantasy retelling of the famous medieval story of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, produced by Wild Atlantic Pictures and currently screening on Prime Video.

Virtual Delegation to SXSW Festival in Texas

Innovate Limerick, through Engine Collaboration Centre and Film and Limerick and Local Enterprise Office Limerick, continue their relationship with the SXSW Festival in Austin, Texas, with a callout in February for Tech and Film Delegates to join their virtual delegation for this year's event.

Hidden Assets TV Series

BBC has acquired Hidden Assets, the six-part crime thriller that aired on RTE last year and was filmed in Limerick and Clare. The series is being broadcast on BBC Four and is also available watch on the BBC iPlayer.

IFTA Nominations for Local Talent

Local film has been leading the way with Irish Film and Television Awards (IFTA) nominations including: Ruth Negga for her performance in 'Passing' and Eimear Ní Mhaoldomhnaigh for her costume work on 'Foundation.' Local company Carbonated Comet have received two nominations in the Short Film Category with 'Harvest' producer, Ronan Cassidy, and 'Ship of Souls' producer, Greg Burrowes. BBC Studios drama 'Smother' filmed in the region received six nominations and RTE's Hidden Assets received seven, including a nomination for local talent, Simone Kirby, in the Best Supporting Actress category.

'The Gates'

Film in Limerick has supported the production of feature film 'The Gates,' directed by local talent, Steve Hall. The Gates was filmed on location in Cork and at locations in the Mid West and is set in London in the 1890s. It tells the story of serial killer, William Colcott, who was sentenced to death by electric chair, but in his final hours, put a curse on the prison he was in, and all of those in it. The film stars John Rhys-Davies who played Gimli the dwarf in the 'Lord of the Rings' and Sallah in the Indiana Jones films and is due for release later this year.

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The Mid West Regional Enterprise Plan (REP)

The Tánaiste, Mr. Leo Varadkar, TD, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, launched the Mid-West Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024 in Nenagh on 18 February. Minister Damien English, TD, and Minister Robert Troy, TD, also attended the launch, the first of nine new regional enterprise plans to be launched nationally. The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler, the Chief Executive and the Director of Economic Development and Enterprise represented Limerick City and County Council at the launch.

The new plan for the Mid-West includes projects and initiatives across the three Mid-West counties (Clare, Limerick and Tipperary). Stakeholder consultation sessions attracted over 60 attendees from across industry, public sector and higher education sectors from within the region. The sessions highlighted the high level of collaboration and ambition that exists within the region, with a strong sense of optimism prevalent despite some regional challenges. Five key strategic objectives were agreed, with over 30 discrete actions developed across (1) Innovation, (2) sustainability, (3) balanced development, (4) SMEs and Microbusiness and (5) Social Responsibility.

The launch event also saw the announcement of a new national €180 million fund to further boost regional development. Ten local projects have to date benefited to the tune of over €16 million from Regional Enterprise Development Fund (REDF) funding under the regional enterprise plan initiative, with the aim of creating new jobs and helping companies to grow in the region.

Following the launch, Minister English visited two of the region's recently funded projects. The first visit was to REDF-funded Social Impact Ireland, based in the University of Limerick, who offer a range of business development and support services to social enterprises. The Minister then visited Takumi, who are a founding member of the REDF-funded Emerald Aero Cluster, a cluster of 12 Irish companies who deliver precision engineering solutions to the aerospace sector.

Press Release: <https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/Publications/Mid-West-Regional-Enterprise-Plan-to-2024.html>

Link to the new Plan: <https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/Publications/Publication-files/Mid-West-Regional-Enterprise-Plan-to-2024.pdf>

4. Forward Planning

- Work continued on the preparation of the Draft Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, with further Workshops held with Elected Members to consider the Chief Executive's Report on the submissions received during the draft plan public consultation period. At a Special Council Meeting on 18 February, the Elected Members passed a resolution to make material amendments to the draft plan. The material amendments will be placed on public display for four weeks.
- The pre-draft issues paper for the review of the Caherconlish Local Area Plan was published on 05 February. Public submissions on issues to be addressed in the new plan have been invited.
- The pre-draft issues paper for the review of the Castleconnell Local Area Plan was published on 12 February. Public submissions on issues to be addressed in the new plan have been invited.
- Work continued on the drafting of the proposed Rathkeale Local Area Plan.
- The Section provided assistance to nine groups to make applications under the Heritage Council Community Grants Scheme. Assistance was also provided for two farm heritage buildings grant applications.

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5. Digital Services

EU Programmes

- From 01 -03 February, colleagues working on the Health and Greenspace, and Find Your Greatness projects, took part in the online Urbact eUniversity. The EU Programme manager spoke at the Irish session on 03 February to explain the connection between the TechTown Project, Limerick's Digital Strategy, and the Find Your Greatness project.
- On 07 February, the second GoGreen Routes Challenge Workshop was held online. These workshops, organised by the Environment Team, and facilitated by Connect the Dots, are to consult with Castletroy residents on how they would like to see GoGreen Routes project implemented on the Greenway. It was well attended and will be followed up by a walking workshop.
- On 10 February, the EU Programmes Team enabled the visit of the European Investment Bank staff, and the launch of the Belonging Exhibition, by providing support to the Hunt Museum. Digital Services managed to bring together the various stakeholders involved to successfully project manage the launch and to make sure that it ran smoothly and was broadcast online to a wide audience.
- On 16 February, the Find Your Greatness Candelaria Transnational meeting was held online. This meeting focused on brand strategy for smart tourism. It also looked at the development of our Integrated Action Plans in the project.



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Transportation & Mobility Directorate

1. Travel and Transportation Strategy

Electric Vehicle Strategy

Procurement has commenced to secure the services of a Multidisciplinary Consultancy Team to prepare a strategy for Electric Vehicle Charging Point (EVCP) Infrastructure and Fleet Electrification for Limerick City and County Council.

Newcastle West Public Realm and Movement Plan

Limerick City and County Council is currently progressing a Public Realm and Movement Plan for Newcastle West town. The draft plan was placed on public display on 15 February.

Dockless Bike Bye-Laws

On 21 February, the Limerick City and County Council Control of Dockless On-Street Bicycle Hire Draft Bye-Laws 2022 were presented to the Members of the Metropolitan District of Limerick at their monthly meeting. The Members approved the placing of the draft Bye-Laws on public display in accordance with the requirements of Section 200(1) of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee

At the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee meeting in February, presentations were given to members on Mobility Management Planning for Businesses in Limerick and on proposed Car Share Services for Limerick.

Bike Week 2022

Funding has been secured from the National Transport Authority for Bike Week 2022.

2. Active Travel

Projects

Bridge Street – Limerick's first Pride Rainbow crossing was installed alongside the pedestrian crossing on Bridge Street, just outside Limerick City and County Council's offices on Merchant's Quay. The new crossing is designed to highlight how inclusive Limerick is as a place to live, work and call home.

Childers Road – Work continued 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 Kilmallock Roundabout and Parkway.

Kilmallock Pedestrian Facilities – Work continued on the construction of a new footpath including drainage, public lighting and signage on the R518 in Kilmallock. Once complete, the new footpath will connect to the R512 and L8659 to provide a 2km walking loop.

Annacotty and Ballyclough – The lights at the newly installed pedestrian crossings in Annacotty and Ballyclough were connected by the ESB.

Marketing and Communications

Active Travel issued one Press Release about the installation of the Pride Rainbow crossing. The story featured in regional and national newspapers and on the RTE News website.

Active Travel tweeted three times via the Limerick Council Twitter account with total followers now of 17,200. The most popular tweet was about the Rainbow Pride crossing that had 21,282 impressions, that is the number of times the post was seen.

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The Senior Engineer from Active Travel was interviewed as part of an RTE television series looking at road safety and the role Active Travel is playing in making Limerick's roads safer for vulnerable road users. Active Travel posted one update on Limerick City and County Council's LinkedIn page. The post received 158 interactions.

Awards

The Castletroy Urban Greenway has been shortlisted in the Civil Engineering Under €10m category of the Irish Construction Excellence Awards 2022. The entry was submitted by P&D Lydon.



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Community, Tourism & Culture Directorate

1. Urban & Rural Community Development

Town and Village Renewal Scheme

Three towns and villages in County Limerick are to benefit after Limerick City and County Council was successful in the latest round of the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. Projects in Askeaton, Doon and Patrickswell will share funding of €1 million in the scheme, which focuses on projects which can help to enhance rural towns and villages, with a particular emphasis on addressing dereliction and vacancy. The projects selected for funding have been announced by the Department of Rural and Community Development and are administered through the local authorities.

The three Limerick projects to receive funding are:

- **Doon** - Development of a community services and e-hub facility in Doon. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is now a major shift to home working requiring online computing and video conferencing facilities (€250,000).
- **Askeaton** - Creation of a parklet on a derelict site within the West Square, Askeaton. The project will bring a derelict and vacant site back into use and create a public place within the heart of the town for the local community and visitors to the town (€250,000).
- **Patrickswell** - Development of a community hub within the village of Patrickswell to enhance community services to include community hall, community café, meeting rooms and provision of hot-desking facilities (€500,000).

Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee

- The Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee met on 07 February. The members received presentations on Derelict Sites and the Age Friendly Healthy Homes Programme. The members also received updates on the Culture Sub-Committee and the Autism Programme.

Limerick Public Participation Network (PPN)

- Limerick PPN Secretariat met once during the month and continues to successfully deliver on its key functions.
- Three PPN Linkage Group meetings took place: Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning; Home and Social Development; and Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment. Details of the Linkage Groups are on the Limerick PPN [website](#).
- Membership at Limerick PPN continues to grow and now stands at 175 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.

Limerick Tidy Towns Seminar

- Limerick City and County Council Annual Tidy Towns Seminar took place on 16 February. The event was very well attended and content included three guest speakers from Blackrock Tidy Towns, Co. Louth, Abbeyleix Tidy Towns, Co. Laois, and a Tidy Towns Adjudicator who shared knowledge and experiences of Tidy Towns on the night.

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Team Limerick Clean-up (TLC)

- Team Limerick clean-up (TLC) - Registration is now open for the 7th edition of the largest one-day clean-up in Ireland. Anybody interested in participating is asked to complete the registration form on www.teamlimerickcleanup.ie. TLC is a much-loved community event resuming after a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19 and volunteers are asked to sign up early. Participants in TLC7 are also encouraged to stringently observe health and safety guidelines, in line with Government and Health Service Executive directives.

Age Friendly

During February, the National Programme Managers' meeting was held outlining the work to be achieved during 2022. The February webinar was based on respect and social inclusion. A number of important launches are scheduled for the year ahead, most importantly for Limerick - in conjunction with Clare - will be the launch of Shannon Airport as an Age Friendly airport.

Age friendly business recognition training was provided by Orlaith Carmody for the Age Friendly Programme Managers, outlining work to be done to involve businesses in Limerick City and County to become Age friendly businesses.

Age friendly Housing and Public realm training was provided for staff of Limerick City and County Council to equip participants with essential knowledge and skills to maximise the age friendliness of their environment in areas of their work and planning.

A survey of 76 questions spread over many areas in the organisation was completed providing estimates for funding spent directly and indirectly on Age Friendly projects.

A meeting was held with the Old Persons' Executive outlining the restructuring necessary for proceeding with Age friendly business during the year and into the future.

Integration

A number of meetings were held by a sub-group of the Integration Working Group to progress an Anti-Racism Campaign.

The kick-off meeting for INTEgreat was held in February. This is a European project with funding received from AMIF, (transnational actions on Asylum, Migration and Integration). Limerick City and County Council, in partnership with Doras Luimní and five other organisations from Italy, Greece, Cyprus and Spain, will deliver the programme. The aim is to build a stronger integration strategy and ecosystem for migrants and asylum seekers in Europe. Limerick City and County Council has been allocated a contribution of €73,783.13 towards administrative costs for the project.

The first coordination meeting of Work Plan 2 was held on 24 February with the objective of analysing the existing knowledge, practices and policies in the countries of the partners and to review under Healthcare, Employment, Capacity Building and Training, and Social Cohesion.

2. Tourism

Limerick Greenway

The Greenway has recorded almost 340,000 trips since its opening.

Limerick City and County Council hosted a familiarisation trip for the Wild Atlantic Way Gateway Group on the Limerick Greenway with over 20 hospitality and tourism stakeholders cycling from Barnagh to Rathkeale.

Shannon Estuary Destination Development Plan

The Tourism Space continues to deliver a destination development programme to community and business stakeholders in the Shannon Estuary Region with website development and saleable experience training workshops taking place.

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Limerick Attraction Pass

Limerick City and County Council, in partnership with Fáilte Ireland, invited Quotations from interested service providers who wished to be considered for the provision of a Sightseeing Pass for Limerick City and County. The contract was awarded during February to Open Pass, who will commence implementing the Attraction Pass.

The Limerick Sightseeing Pass is a pass that visitors can purchase for entry to a number of key attractions and experiences in the destination with one single purchase of a pass. The visitor can then experience a variety of tourism products, usually over one or two days.

The Limerick Sightseeing Pass will become the official sightseeing ticket for Limerick City and County attractions and will provide access to a number of handpicked attractions or experiences.

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

An online survey was provided to the Sub-Committee. The purpose of the survey was to quantify the challenges and assess the opportunities that have arisen from the pandemic and understand what sustainability will look like for the Arts and Culture Sector in the years ahead. The online survey went live on 21 February on the [Limerick.ie](https://www.limerick.ie) website and it will close on 06 March.

OPEN CALLS

Grants under the Arts Act Open Call Closed (39 applications)

Limerick City and County Council offered grant funding to amateur, community or voluntary groups, or organisations, and individual arts practitioners, which, in the opinion of the Authority, would stimulate public interest in the arts, promote the knowledge, appreciation and practice of the

arts or assist in improving the standards of the arts. 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 was 4pm on 23 February.

Creative Ireland Made in Limerick Grants 2022 - Open for new applications

On 02 February, Limerick Arts Office announced an Open Call seeking applications for Limerick-based creative practitioners, organisations and communities of place and interest to submit applications for Made in Limerick Grants 2022. These grants are offered as part of Limerick Creative Ireland Programme to deliver activities taking place in 2022. The closing date for completed applications is 02 March, 2022. Applications and Guidelines can be located at [Creative Ireland Made in Limerick Grants | Limerick.ie](https://www.limerick.ie/creativeireland)

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. 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. The application for funding was successful.

ARTS COUNCIL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT PROGRAMME

PARTNERSHIPS

Limerick Artist in Schools Programme 2021/2022

This programme is designed to support Objective 6 of Limerick Cultural Strategy 2016-2030, through a series of workshops delivered by professional creative practitioners, in a primary school setting. Following on from the three schools confirmed last month, letters were sent out to primary schools in the Municipal Districts of Cappamore-Kilmallock and Adare- Rathkeale offering the opportunity to take part in the Limerick Artist in Schools Programme 2021/2022.

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The successful schools in the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock were Herbertstown National School, Lough Gur National School and Scoil Fhionáin in Kilfinane. These schools will be facilitated by workshops by Ballyhoura's The Joyce Brothers Festival.

The schools in the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale which successfully applied for a series of creative song writing workshops, facilitated by the Féile na Gréine Festival, were Croom National School, Kilcolman National School and the Church Street National School in Rathkeale. The Workshops will culminate with a professional recording of their own song.

Strategic Fund

The Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts Scheme supports applications to national and international funding bodies to help leverage funding and, in February, eight letters of support were issued: seven to Arts Council schemes including Agility, Bursaries, YES, Opera Commissions and Theatre Artist in Residence and one to the Heritage Council Community Scheme.

4. Property & Community Facilities

Dereliction, Vacancy & Reuse Team - February	
Inspections carried out	110
Property & Community Facilities Department Notices issued	16
Derelict Sites Cases opened	21
Statutory Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act	58
Derelict Sites Cases closed through engagement	11
Properties entered into the Derelict Sites Register	22
Properties put forward for Compulsory Acquisition (Section 15 Notices)	0
Properties Compulsorily Acquired (Section 17 Notices)	0
Bin Waivers Approved	173

5. Libraries, Gallery & Museum

- St. Brigid's Day, 01 February, was celebrated in library branches and online with craft demonstrations recorded by staff showing how to make your own St. Brigid's Cross and how to find out more about the woman behind the iconic image.
- Safer Internet Day on 08 February was promoted in-house in Kilmallock and Watch House Cross by a display of books and promotional literature from www.webwise.ie. Webwise have developed a suite of resources for parents, including the updated parent guide, toolkit and a new topic generator to help parents begin conversations about online activity with their child.
- For Valentine's Day, library staff created craft kits for all ages to make colourful cards from the materials and instructions included. Bags were collected at branches for home use with the help of instruction videos on Facebook and YouTube.

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- Kilmallock Library was delighted to welcome “Star Kids Preschool” who visited on 09 February and enjoyed a rhyme and song time followed by a story. Study spaces remained full to capacity in the run-up to the pre-exams for students from Coláiste Iósaef in Kilmallock and in many other branches across the city and county.
- Colm Tóibín, the new Laureate for Irish fiction, presented the first of a series of literary events online, “The Art of Reading,” with an interview with Claire Keegan about her recent book “Small Things Like These.” Kilmallock Library streamed this interview as a book club event.
- In February, Limerick Libraries partnered with six nursing homes to deliver weekly sessions of Chair Yoga as part of the Healthy Ireland At Your Library programme. Abbot Close Askeaton, Adare & District, Athlunkard Corbally, Marie Goretti Kilmallock, Killeline Care Centre Newcastle West and St. Anthony’s Pallasgreen all enjoyed the lively and fun classes. The feedback received from nursing home co-ordinators was very positive. The library also took delivery of several bespoke chairs that were ordered to create dedicated “health zones” in the branch libraries. The chairs were funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) for the HIAYL programme.
- The City Library marked the start of Spring by celebrating St. Brigid’s Day on 01 February. Crafting expert Sarah demonstrated how to make the symbolic St. Brigid’s Cross with a step-by-step tutorial on Facebook and YouTube. There were also free crafting instructions and Celtic crosses available in the Library for those who wanted to follow along at home. Valentine’s Day displays proved popular for all ages with everyone encouraged to fall in love with a book from the tempting selection of new and recommended titles. School and class visits continued with regular weekly visits from St. Michael’s National School, CBS Primary School and St. Mary’s National School. Also visiting this month were the happy children from Poppins Pre-School, who read stories, coloured and enjoyed all the great books on offer, some of which they borrowed with their new pre-school library card.
- Everyone at the Library pledged to #SqueezelnARead on 25 February as part of the national ‘Ireland Reads’ initiative. Well-read Library staff shared some of their favourite books, from graphic novels to fascinating non-fiction on social media, and storyteller Marie read two wonderful children’s tales on the Library’s YouTube channel as part of this excellent campaign to promote the joy and benefits of reading for people of all ages.
- Ireland Reads was a campaign to get the whole country reading in the lead-up to a National Day of Reading on 25 February. Ireland Reads is a Public Libraries initiative, in partnership with [Healthy Ireland](#), publishers, booksellers, authors and others. The campaign aims to celebrate reading and all the benefits it can have for wellbeing and enjoyment. Limerick Libraries were delighted to be involved again this year. With a special focus on encouraging all ELCs (Early Learning and Care settings) to get involved, library staff recorded four storytimes that were shared across social media channels on the day. Library staff were delighted to be invited on to both Limerick Today on Live 95 and The Exchange on West Limerick 102FM to talk about the Ireland Reads campaign, and were equally thrilled to have well-known Limerick hurler, Tom Morrissey, record a video encouraging everyone to #SqueezelnARead on the day.
- Newcastle West branch created the following book displays during the month of February: “Celebrating St. Brigid’s Day” – Book Display and Information Board, “Chinese New Year” – Colourful Display and Information Board celebrating the Year of the Tiger, “Celebrating 100 years of publication of James Joyce’s “Ulysses” – Board Display depicting extracts, quotations and illustrations from “Ulysses” and “Valentine’s Day – Fall in Love with your Library” – Board display celebrating Love of reading/Love of Libraries!
- Library visits continued in Newcastle West Library from friends in The Brothers of Charity and patrons from St. Ita’s Community Hospital Nursing Home. Desmond College students, accompanied by their teacher and special needs assistants, visited and availed of the Local Study Files for their Leaving Cert History Project. Staff took part in the following Youth Libraries Seminars

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during the month of February: "Fighting Words" – Children and Young People Creative Writing Skills, "Book Clubs for Children and Young People" and "Supporting Class Visits" – Scottish Book Trust.

- Watch House Cross Library welcomed the return of ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) units from Corpus Christi and Thomond Primary for their weekly session in the sensory room. Two new computer classes started in the computer room in collaboration with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board. The ABC Startright programme held a workshop for new parents in the library on 17 February.

Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- Aideen Barry's exhibition, *By Slight Ligaments*, finished on 13 February with record in-person visitors viewing the exhibition (5,961) since the Gallery re-opened post COVID-19. This was augmented by Barry's and LCGA's social media platforms reaching a significant number of new visitors.
- The collaboration between LCGA and Dance Limerick continues to develop with a series of workshops with St Michael's School. The other schools involved in this project are The Model and Limerick School Project. The documentation of this project has been supported with Creative Ireland funding.
- Installation of a major celebration of the work of Limerick artist, Tom Fitzgerald, commenced on 21 February. The exhibition, *Spirit Music*, includes work from private and public collections, including Limerick City and County Council and University of Limerick.
- LCGA is one of seven venues hosting the major exhibition, *BELONGING*, from the collection of the European Investment Bank (EIB), which opened on 10 February. This is a unique opportunity to view work by predominantly European artists who would not be well known to the public but are of immense importance in the art historical world.
- LCGA is delighted to have given Niamh Schmidtke her first post-graduate show in the Gallery in 2019 and

purchased the work for the Permanent Collection. Niamh was selected to attend the European Investment Bank (EIB) artist development programme in 2021 and the work she made during that time was purchased by the EIB for their collection. The piece of sculpture by Niamh is currently on exhibit as part of the *BELONGING* exhibition at UL.

- The *Mushroom Book*, which had been on loan to Somerset House, London, as part of a major exhibition held there in 2020, has been returned. This important book is held in just two public collections: LCGA and the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) in New York. Regarded as a rare book, the *Mushroom Book* was donated to Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA) along with other significant works in the mid-1990s by printmaker and former lecturer at LIT Limerick School of Art and Design, Jim Sheehy, and now forms part of the LCGA's Permanent Collection.
- LCGA continues to support the University of the Third Age hosting its monthly Poetry and Music groups.
- Students from Mary Immaculate College (MIC) who have taken art history as an optional subject are using the Gallery for tutorials on a fortnightly basis.

Limerick Museum

- Limerick Museum collaborated with Sarah Blake, an awarding producer with RTE, on a radio documentary which she is making on the true story of a 15-year-old Limerick boy who was sacrificed and eaten by the crew of the capsized Francis Spaight ship in 1835. Dr. Matthew Potter, Curator of the Museum, provided historical background and was interviewed for the documentary, which will be broadcast later this year.
- Limerick Museum received a fine donation of a set of framed images of Limerick.

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Regeneration Directorate

1. Regeneration

Economic

Jobs Initiative Programme

Work is continuing on the Jobs Initiative Programme led by the Jobs Coordinator and supported by a project team of stakeholders. Significant work is being done on building on a database of prospective employers willing to engage in the programme. TUS is supporting this element of the process.

Limerick City Build /Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board employability training programme commenced in Limerick City Builds training centre with a number of participants from St. Mary's Park on the programme. Recent construction skills programme completed in Moyross Youth Academy has led to five young people on the Northside securing employment. West End Youth Centre has also engaged in the programme. Southill Hub has recently employed a Development Worker for its Targeted Youth Employment initiative which will enhance the scale and depth of the programme on the Southside.

Social

Social and Economic Intervention (SIF) Fund

Over 80 SIF 2022 applications to the value of approximately €4.5 million currently being processed and validated.

SIF Assessment Panel met to assess applications on 28 February. Recommendations will be sent to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for approval.

Post SIF 2023 Planning

SIF Review – the study has commenced which will focus on the impact and effectiveness of the 10 largest SIF grant recipients since 2015. Organisations working across the four regeneration areas will be involved in this study.

Limerick Strategic Advisory and Monitoring Group – Following a meeting of the statutory and community stakeholders, sub-groups are currently being configured to look at how the post 2023 landscape will be shaped under each of the regeneration themes - Education and Learning, Employability and Work, Ageing Well, Health and Wellbeing, Community and Families and Youth at Risk.

Community Engagement

Clinics for Resident Queries

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

Regeneration Committee Meetings

Regeneration Committee meeting took place in person in St. Mary's Park.

Community Activities

Some of the examples of activities include:

- St. Mary's Park Community Group convened a number of sub-groups in person following the lifting of restrictions, including environmental, senior citizens' sustaining communities and care and repair.
- Food parcels from the Mid West Simon Community distributed by Our Lady of Lourdes Community Centre and Tait House to families in need.

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- Our Lady of Lourdes Community Centre continued to link families with St. Vincent de Paul for support with utility bills and has referred individuals to the Age Friendly Healthy Homes Programme. They also have seen an increase in individuals and families seeking assistance in applying for Social Housing.
- A new tiny forest project commenced on the grounds of Tait House with over 800 trees planted. This is as well as an ongoing horticulture programme in conjunction with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.
- Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board Community Creative Writing classes commenced and will take place weekly for eight weeks in Southill.
- Moyross welcomed the appointment of the new Sports Development Officer to the Moyross Sports Hub. His aim is to have a Moyross Active Community, identifying the different initiatives and activities in the area, using the resources of the Limerick Sports Partnership to provide training for groups and individuals, accessing what is already in the community and raising awareness, and mapping the facilities available, where they are and who can access them.
- Moyross Residents' Forum is leading a joint project with Corpus Christi School and PAUL Partnership with 10 families to encourage a healthy eating lifestyle. This is a six-week programme.
- of the new 37-unit social housing development at Churchfield (Phase 2), Southill. Construction works are ongoing.
- Contracts were also signed with Martins Construction Ltd. on 09 February for the construction of the new 18-unit social housing development at Cliona Park (Phase 3), Moyross. Construction works are ongoing.
- Construction works are ongoing on the Peter McVerry Trust Rapid Infill Housing Development in Delmege Park, 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. Marys Park.

Community Facilities

- Our Lady of Lourdes (OLOL) Community Centre – the Regeneration Team is liaising with OLOL in order to establish the project brief.
- St. Mary's Park Community Centre Working Group met with the Regeneration Team to establish the project brief.

Demolitions

The following took place as part of the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan:

- Southill - 204-208 Valley View and 353 and 354 Roseview Drive.
- Moyross - Dalgaish bungalows - 10 no. completed.

CCTV Report from the Data Protection Commissioners

Following an audit by the Data Protection Commissioners and publication of the report, 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.

Physical

Housing Developments

- The contract for the construction of a new 57-unit social housing development at Cosgrave Park and Dalgaish Park, Moyross, was awarded to K&J Townmore Construction Ltd. An official sod-turning event took place in Moyross on 24 February. The event was attended by Elected Members and officials from the Council, along with representatives from the community.
- Contracts were signed with JADA Projects Ltd. at the Southill Area Centre on 22 February for the construction

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Housing Directorate

1. Housing Support Services

Waiting List

Housing Waiting List	2,145
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Allocations

	No. of Units February	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	0
Newcastle West	1	1
Metropolitan District	9	31
Cappamore-Kilmallock	2	2
Total	12	34

Refusals

	No. of Units February	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	0
Newcastle West	0	0
Metropolitan District	3	5
Cappamore-Kilmallock	0	0
Total	3	5

Approved Housing Body Allocations 2022 (year to date)

Total Nominations	35
Successful Nominations	5
Nominations Pending	29
Unsuccessful Nominations	1

Traveller Housing Welfare *

No. of Units offered February	1
Year to Date	1

* these figures are included in allocations figures

Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)

Total number of units in RAS accommodation in February - 1,255.

Housing Assistance Payments Limerick (HAP)

2,400 active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	23
No. of Amendments	356
No. of Cessations	33

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HOME IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

February 2022		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aids Grants	No. Approved	1	1	7	2	11
	MAG Expenditure	€28,374.45	€10,807.27	€39,595.00	€0.00	€78,776.72
	No. Paid	5	3	9	0	17
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	2	1	19	4	26
	HAG Expenditure	€18,211.50	€27,303.28	€90,152.78	€13,556.60	€149,224.16
	No. Paid	4	2	12	2	20
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	1	9	20	7	37
	HOP Expenditure	€15,050.00	€50,392.03	€82,792.67	€23,247.50	€171,482.20
	No. Paid	3	11	21	5	40
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG's Paid	€0.00	€0.00	€23,429.24	€0.00	€23,429.24
	No. Paid	0	0	2	0	2

Total No. Approved	74
Total Monies Paid	€422,912.32
Total No. Paid	79

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Year-to-date

Jan-Feb 2022		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aids Grants	No. Approved	5	1	15	7	28
	MAG Expenditure	€35,524.45	€22,307.27	€62,395.00	€5,750.00	€125,976.72
	No. Paid	7	5	13	1	26
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	9	2	25	9	45
	HAG Expenditure	€18,211.50	€116,462.63	€112,795.38	€32,769.50	€280,239.01
	No. Paid	4	7	14	5	30
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	5	21	33	14	73
	HOP Expenditure	€22,081.00	€123,551.38	€95,652.67	€41,857.50	€283,142.55
	No. Paid	6	30	24	9	69
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG's Paid	€0.00	€0.00	€78,476.74	€0.00	€78,476.74
	No. Paid	0	0	3	0	3

Year to date Total No. Approved	146
Year to date Total Monies Paid	€767,835.02
Year to date Total No. Paid	128

RENT COLLECTION

Rent Collection Limerick City and County Council					
Opening Balance at 01.02.2022	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing Balance 28.02.2022	% Collection
€5,729,178	€3,118,723	€8,847,901	€2,713,298	€6,134,603	31%

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

Date: 11 February 2022		
Individuals		
Location	Description	Beds Used
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	30
Oak Lodge	Adults without children accommodated in low threshold emergency accommodation	55
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	15
St. Joseph Street	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	6
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	11
Temporary Emergency Provision (TEP1 (Edenvilla))	Low threshold, night-by-night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	15
Temporary Emergency Provision TEP 2 (Phoenix Lodge)	Low threshold, night-by-night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	18
Total		150

Families				
Location	Description	Beds Used		
		Adults	Children	Families
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	9	6
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	24	40	19
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	11	10	9
Totals		Adults	Children	Families
		41	59	34

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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	2
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. approved	0
Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans	
Loan Applications: No. received	21
Loan Applications: No. approved	0
Deed of Discharge	
Deed of Discharge Applications: No. Received	25
Consent to Sale	
Consent to Sale Applications: No. Received	2
Cottage Purchase Annuity	
No of Cottage Purchase Annuity Applications	5
Ground Rent	
No of Ground Rent applications	2
Private Rented Inspections	
No. of Inspections	69

Freedom of Information, Data Requests and Ombudsman

Freedom of Information Requested submitted	7
Ombudsman Query Cases	7
General Data Protection Regulation	2

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

Project Updates

Part 8 planning submitted for housing project in Ballylanders for nine housing units:

Type of house	Number
3-bed house	1
2-bed house	3
1-bed house	1
1-bed duplex apartment	4

Roofing is ongoing on the 20 units in Hospital and windows/doors are on order.

Stage 1 approval received for 17-unit social housing development in Bruff.

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 NDFA (National Development Finance Agency). 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 Serviced Sites Fund Schemes would benefit from transferring to the Affordable Housing Fund funding stream, and which model of finance/and development strategy is most suitable.

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An invitation to tender package for the continued design development of Toppins Field Lands was prepared and sent to the Framework Participants under the Masterplanning and Architect Led Integrated Design Team Consultancy Services established under the Public Land Activation Programme for Limerick City and County Council. It is anticipated that an integrated design team will be appointed to continue the viability studies on this site.

Finance

Applications for funding totaling €2,308,652 issued to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Local Authority Maintenance

Grants Inspections

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	8	0	3	11
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	4	0	6	10
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	10	0	14	24
DPGs (Disabled Person Grant)	0	6	0	0	6
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	28	0	23	51

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Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock - Inspections and Recommendations for Home Improvement Schemes/ Disability Adaptations - February

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	4	0	5	9
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	12	0	2	14
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	12	0	10	22
DPGs (Disabled Person Grant)	0	0	0	0	0
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	28	0	17	45

Municipal Districts of Newcastle West and Adare-Rathkeale - Inspections and Recommendations for Home Improvement Schemes/Disability Adaptations - February

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	9	11
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	2	0	4	6
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	16	0	14	30
DPGs (Disabled Person Grant)	0	0	2	0	2
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	20	2	27	49

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Local Authority Houses: Maintenance Complaints dealt with during February

Housing Maintenance and Housing Cases	Requests/Cases Created	Cases Dealt With/Closed	Balance of Open Cases at 28.02.2022
Metropolitan District	1,051	960	1,690
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	89	247	496
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	105	123	136
Municipal District of Newcastle West	124	273	639

3. Strategy & Non-Local Authority Housing Construction

The Team is dedicated to delivering:

- Formulation of Housing Strategies and Policies.
- Social-Rental Build Programme with Approved Housing Bodies and Private Developers/Builders.
- Social-Rental Acquisition Programme.
- Social-Rental Lease Programme.
- Affordable Housing with Private Developers/Builders.

1. BUILD, BUY AND LEASE

Buy/Build/Lease as of 28.02.2022

As at 28 February (01.01.22 - 28.02.22)	Complete	In Progress	Overall Complete and In Progress	"Housing for All" 2022 Delivery Target
Build	17	403	420	565
Buy	3	37	40*	0
Lease	3	54	57	21**
TOTAL	23	494	517	

* includes 33 units carried over from 2021.

** Limerick City and County Council has a target of 21 no. short-term leasing units. The 54 no. units in progress is made up of units carried over from 2021.

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2. CURRENT OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

16 properties were returned in February 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 February - Categorisation	
Cat 1	1
Cat 2	1
Cat 3	0
Cat 4	3
To be inspected	11
Total	16

House Returns February By Municipal District	
Adare-Rathkeale	1
Cappamore-Kilmallock	2
Newcastle West	2
Metropolitan	11
Total	16

During February, Limerick City and County Council Strategy and Non Local Authority Housing Construction team was notified of one house returned in the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale, two in the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock, two in the Municipal District of Newcastle West and 11 in the Metropolitan District.

Current Working Programme		
	Completed in February	In Progress
Local Authority Construction Team	0	98
Local Authority Maintenance Team	2	50
Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process	0	25
Regeneration Team	1	13
Team to be assigned	N/A	24
Total	3	210

The Strategy and Non Local Authority Housing Construction Team is currently looking at more sustainable solutions to the issue of vacant properties in our ownership.

- **Option 1** - assign to internal team for the refurbishment.
- **Option 2** - consider disposal to Approved Housing Body.

Options 2 is being considered at present with a view to moving through the current batch of houses that are vacant. Where Option 2 is proposed, the team of the Housing Directorate will bring the matter before the relevant Municipal District for approval, with all disposals going through Section 183 for the approval of the Full Council.

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3. UPDATES

Part V Workshop

Staff from Strategy and Non Local Authority Housing Construction attended virtual workshops on Part Vs. The workshops were hosted by the Housing Agency on 22 and 24 February and the following items were covered during the workshops:

Introduction to Part V

- History of Part V
- Housing strategies
- Part V principles and legislation
- Process for concluding Part V agreements
- Funding for Part V

Part V Calculations for Delivery Options

- Net Monetary Value
- Equivalent Net Monetary Value
- Delivery options
- Worked examples of calculating the equivalent net monetary value for onsite delivery, offsite delivery and leasing
- Valuations
- Disputes and arbitration
- Case studies

Mortgage to Rent Scheme

The Mortgage to Rent (MTR) Scheme was reviewed by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in 2021. The changes to the Mortgage to Rent Scheme came into effect from 14 February.

The key changes which will apply are:

- 1) an increase to the positive equity limit, which is being adjusted by region to align it with the range of house prices and market conditions across the regions.
- 2) purchase price thresholds updated to take account of current market conditions.
- 3) additional flexibility in the number of allowable bedrooms in a dwelling – this will apply for borrowers aged 65 and above, and also borrowers who have a disability, or where a dependant has a disability

On 22 February, Staff from Strategy and Non Local Authority Housing Construction attended a virtual meeting with the Department and The Housing Agency to go through the key changes in the MTR Review and Protocols in detail.

Housing Need and Demand Assessment

Objective 37 of the National Planning Framework (NPF) provides for a Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA) to be undertaken in each local authority area in order to ensure long-term strategic housing needs are met. The purpose of the HNDA is to:

- Assist local authorities to develop long-term strategic views of housing need across all tenures.
- Provide a robust evidence base to support decisions about new housing supply, wider investment and housing-related services. These inform an overall national housing profile.
- Inform policies about the proportion of social and affordable housing required.
- Provide evidence to inform policies related to the provision of specialist housing and housing related services.

Staff from the Housing Directorate attended training on 16 February. The session gave an overview of the HNDA Framework and policy context, the HNDA Excel Tool, its data sources and how to set it up. A demonstration of how to use the Tool was also given.

National Social Housing Map Viewer

On 09 February, Staff from Strategy and Non Local Authority Housing Construction attended a virtual meeting with the Local Government Management Agency and the Housing Delivery Coordination Office on an information session to review the National Social Housing Map and provide guidance on how to input data to record:

- Remaining Landbanks within Council Ownership
- Social and Affordable Funding Approved Developments

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Finance

Claims totalling €1,644,605 were sent to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in February.

Department Approvals

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage issued approval on 14 February to deliver two units in Chapel Court, Cathedral Place, Limerick, for social housing. This delivery will be funded by way of Payment & Availability payments and a Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF) loan.

Project submissions to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in February

Scheme	Project Details	District
Capital Assistance Scheme	Stage 3 Construction Submission for 8 no. units at McGarry House, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme	Revised Stage Construction 3 Submission for 12 no. units at 2/3 Mallow Street, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme	Stage 3 Construction Submission for 5 no. units at 47/48 Main Street, Croom	Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale
Capital Assistance Scheme	Acquisition Submission for a 4-bedroom house at Liscaugh, Doon	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

Project approvals from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in February

Scheme	Project Details	District
Capital Advance Leasing Facility	Capital Advance Leasing Facility - Turnkey approval of 2 no. units at Chapel Court, Cathedral Place	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme	Acquisition Approval for a 3-bedroom house at St. Senan's, Croom	Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

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4. Municipal District Offices

Metropolitan District of Limerick

Monthly Meeting

The Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick took place on 21 February.

Briefings for Members

Briefings for Members of the Metropolitan District of Limerick took place as follows:

- Briefing on proposed property disposals – 07 February.
- Briefing on Control of Dockless On-Street Bicycle Hire Bye-Laws, 2022 – 16 February.

Operational Area Briefings

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

Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale took place on 08 February in Ballysteen Carnegie Library, Ballysteen, Co.Limerick.

Essential repairs to social houses and public roads were undertaken by the Housing Maintenance and Roads Maintenance Teams:

- 90 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
- 83 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

Capital Road Projects

- Croom Car Park substantially complete under Town and Village Renewal Scheme.
- Croom Walkway Works (old N20) commenced, funded from Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.

Road Maintenance Works

- Kildimo – Drainage and Footpath works.
- Tree lopping carried out at various locations in preparation for Surface Dressing season.
- R518 Danaher's Cross - Drainage Works.
- Askeaton - Footpath Works.

Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

- The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock was held in Deebert House Hotel, Kilmallock, on 17 February.
- A Deputation was received at the Meeting from the Maigne River Trust to update the Elected Members on the work that the Trust has been undertaking.
- Property and Community Facilities presented information on disposal of properties and derelict properties in the Municipal District.
- Diarmuid Cronin of Muintir na Tire presented information on the Community Alert programme to the Elected Members
- The Executive Architect, Property Support and Place-Making, attended the meeting to issue the Bruff Public Realm Plan to the Elected Members.

Housing and Road Maintenance

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

- **124** cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
- **110** cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

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Housing Grants

- Seven Private Housing Grants were paid and 13 were approved.
- Three Disabled Persons Grant inspections were undertaken.

Municipal District of Newcastle West

- The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West took place on 02 February in Áras William Smith OBrien, Newcastle West.
- 11 grant applications were approved under the Private Housing Grant Schemes during the month. The total value of approvals was €55,282.76.
- Payments of €50,392.03 were made to 11 applicants who completed works under the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.
- Payments of €27,303.28 were made to two applicants who completed works under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme.
- Payments of €10,807.27 were made to three 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.
- The Motor Tax Section at the Newcastle West Office processed 1,028 routine transactions.



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Planning, Environment & Place-Making Directorate

1. Place-Making and Public Realm

Project Updates

Place-Making

- **Adare Public Realm Plan** - An online presentation to stakeholders of the pre-draft Adare Public Realm Plan took place on 28 February. This presentation is available on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xy9EDzW3AX8>. Any comments in relation to the proposals can be emailed to publicrealm@limerick.ie by 13 March. All comments will be reviewed and, following this, a draft edition of the Adare Public Realm Plan will be published on the <https://mypoint.limerick.ie/> website for comment.
- **King's Island Walled Town Rejuvenation Works** - Vegetation Clearance works have been completed in key sites surrounding Nicholas Street in order to continue to protect the integrity of the Medieval Walls and other key sites in order to enhance the area. Other key sites have been ear-marked for locating planters which will deter illegal parking and further beautify the area.

Public Realm

- **Castletroy Park Playground Extension Works** - Works to extend and upgrade the playground are progressing well on site.
- **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. A Part 8 Planning Application for one overpass at Port, Abbeyfeale, is being finalised.
- **Mount Saint Oliver Graveyard Wall Project** - Site Clearance works have been completed. Limerick City and County Council is in the process of procuring

an Engineer-led integrated design team for the detailed design of the wall.

- **Limerick Public Realm Strategy** - The appointment of the Design Team Lead Consultant is underway.

Flood Protection (CFRAM Programme)

- **Limerick City and Environs Flood Relief Scheme** - 177AE planning application submitted to An Bord Pleanála to allow site investigation works along Non-Office of Public Works embankments. Invasive species management contract currently being finalised.
- **Adare Flood Relief Scheme** - Data collection and analysis ongoing to inform hydraulic modelling.
- **Castleconnell Flood Relief Scheme** - Hydrology and Hydraulic Reports currently being finalised.
- **Athea Flood Relief Scheme** - Site Investigation works still ongoing. 177AE Planning application submitted to An Bord Pleanála to allow gravel removal from river bed.

Capital Projects

- **Dock Road Improvement Scheme** - The Compulsory Purchase Order for the scheme is with An Bord Pleanála for assessment.
- **Limerick Greenway Newcastle West Carpark** - detail design of a carpark for Greenway users at Station Road, Newcastle West, is progressing. Site investigation has been completed.
- **Newcastle West Athletics Hub** - Construction of a new eight-lane Athletics track and ancillary facilities is progressing on site.
- **Park Road Bridge** - Detailed design is underway for a proposed new bridge between South Canal Bank and Lower Park Road which will improve the pedestrian,

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cyclist and vehicle crossing facilities of the canal. Procurement of Geotechnical Investigation Contractor is underway.

- **Askeaton Swimming Pool** – Flood Protection Works. Lawler Sustainability is carrying out an Energy Study and preparing an EXEED application to the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland for funding to upgrade pool plant.
- **Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Scheme** - CCTV Survey of drainage network.

2. Planning Development

Planning Applications

A total of 120 new planning applications were received as follows:

Category	Amount
Part 8	1
Housing Developments	0
Domestic Developments	87
Agricultural Developments	10
Commercial Developments/ Change of Use	11
Sporting/ Community and Educational Developments	3
Other Developments	8

The current applications include proposals for:

- Part 8 for the construction of 9 no. housing units, in addition to ancillary site works comprising of an access road, services, footpaths, parking, boundary treatment and landscaping works at Churchglen, Glennahaglish, Ballylanders, Co. Limerick.

- Permission for the construction of a biopharmaceutical manufacturing campus, with an overall floor area of approximately 47,384 square metres at Ballycummin, The IDA Business and Technology Park, Raheen, County Limerick.

3. Environment, Recreation & Climate Change

Cemeteries

Number of Burials in City Cemeteries

Mount St. Lawrence	18
Mount St. Oliver	5
Castlemungret	4
Kilmurry	3

Waste Regulation and Enforcement

During the month -

- 205 complaints were received.
- A total of 260 inspections were undertaken.
- The Department served Two Directions.
- Six Warnings were issued.
- Two Notices were issued.
- Three Prosecutions were initiated.
- A total of 10 fines were issued during the period.

Urban Innovation

The Urban Innovation Department presented to the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee.

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Creative Climate Fund – Decarbonising Together

Following on from an Information Evening, an Open Call was held for interested community groups to participate in the programme. Five communities groups have been selected to begin the process of exploring the decarbonisation challenge. Each group will work with an arts or creative industry partner to explore a decarbonisation challenge that matters to them. 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 on Sarsfield Street in the City centre. Creative Climate Action is funded by Creative Ireland through the Department of the Environment, Communications and Climate Action.

5. Veterinary Services

- 17 stray or wandering equines were impounded.
- The Dog Control Unit processed 11 dogs during the month.
- Two 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 (HAP) Shared Services Centre (SSC)

- There were 61,685 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAP SSC at the end of February.
- A weekly average of 198 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2022.
- The February landlord payment run was €56,330,153.76 million.
- The weekly tenant charge at the end of February was €3,099,312.48 million.
- The Debt Management Unit of the HAP SSC collected a total of €25,281,712 million in differential rent to end of February.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of February was 88%.
- The Debt Management Unit issued 6,294 HAP debt reminder letters in February.

2. Fire and Emergency

Statistics

	No of Fire Related Calls	No of Non Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call outs 01/02/22 – 28/02/22	60	52	112
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	72%	37%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	25%	44%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	3%	19%	

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	No. received / assigned	No. validated	No. invalidated / refused	No. granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications February	9	8	1	14	14
Disability Access Cert Applications February	7	6	0	7	7
Licensing Applications February	5		0	0	
Commencement Notice February	37	34	2	34	36
Completion Certificate February	28	26	0	26	26
Planning Referrals February	11				9
Sugar CRM Cases February	7				4

Fire & Emergency Training Events

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

- All boat operators in Limerick City completed two-day Power Boat Operators' Course. These courses update the skills firefighters require to operate the 'Fireswift' boat on the River Shannon.
- An Officer from Cappamore Fire Station completed a National Directorate Instructors' Course in Ennis .
- A new Recruit Fire Fighter for Newcastle West Fire Station commenced his initial recruit training in Castlebar.
- A number of staff received training in operating a Hydraulic Platform.
- On-Station training continued in all stations.

- Three members of Limerick City Fire Station successfully completed their Swiftwater First Responder Instructor Assessments.
- Training commenced on the new Simon Snorkel aerial appliance.
- Block Training for the wholetime Fire Service in Limerick City commenced on 28 February covering topics such as Emergency Traffic Management; electric vehicles, Ship and Port safety and Hazardous Materials. This course is being delivered in Limerick Racecourse, Patrickswell.

Civil Defence attendance at Events

The following activity took place in February:

- Patient Transfer, Patient Residence to University Hospital Limerick return - 2 days.
- Patient Transfer, Patient Residence to St. Gabrielle's, Dooradoyle return - 1 day.

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Water Safety

No. of lifebuoy replacements	Total January	February	Total 2022
Metropolitan Area	1	1	2
Municipal Area	0	1	1

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 February
No. of call-outs 01/02/2022 -28/02/2022	865	1,286	1:45	2,151



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Support Services Directorate

1. Finance

Commercial Rates and Loans

Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2022	
As at 28th February 2022*	
Opening Balance - 1 Jan €	8,727,082 *
Accruals €	59,931,123 **
Vacant Property Adjustment €	40,951
Writes offs/ Waivers €	33,775
Total for Collection €	68,583,479
Amount Collected €	6,858,925
Arrears €	61,724,554
Specific Doubtful Arrears €	3,458,816
% Collected	11%

Debtors Loans	
As at 28th February 2022*	
Opening Balance - 1 Jan €	310,319 *
Accruals €	- ^
Writes offs €	-
To Collect €	310,319
Receipts €	411,936
Arrears €	101,617
% Collected	133%

* subject to finalisation of year end accounts for 2021

^ Accruals not updated for loans for January & February 2022

** The Date for Making the 2022 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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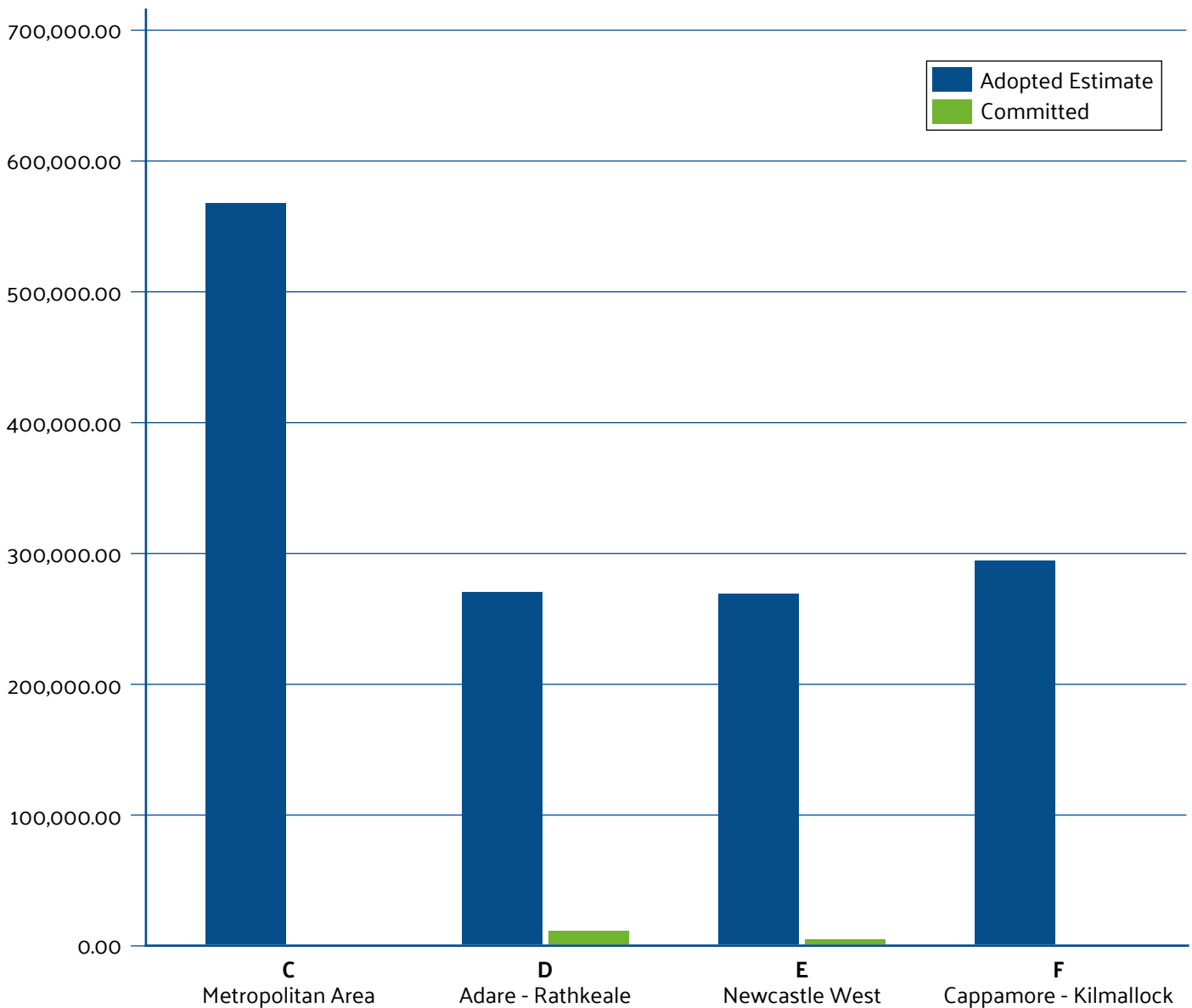


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General Municipal Allocation 2022 Adopted Estimate €1.403 Million

Graph outlining adopted budget and draft committed expenditure up to 28th February 2022



Municip (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate (€)	Value Committed (€)
C Metropolitan Area	568,000.00	0
D Adare - Rathkeale	270,000.00	11,000
E Newcastle West	270,000.00	5,427
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	295,000.00	0

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2. Business Improvement

- A Staff Liaison Network Meeting was held on 16 February.
- Training in *MyPoint*, the online engagement portal, took place in February with Councillors.
- Business Improvement worked with a variety of Departments to engage with citizens on *MyPoint* on the following:
 - Newcastle West Public Realm and Movement Plan.
 - Part 8 Consultation for Housing Units in Churchglen, Ballylanders.
- Sole Provider Procurement Setup/Justification Form was digitised providing an automated approval workflow.
- There are now 235 capital projects live on Cora Project Management System.
- Training took place with Staff on Cora PPM (Portfolio Project Management).

3. Corporate, Governance and Customer Services

The Freedom of Limerick

The Freedom of Limerick was held in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle, Limerick on 03 February for Vicky Phelan in recognition of her inspirational and courageous decision to tell her story and for becoming an advocate for the rights of women and focusing on the importance of proper and timely healthcare for women, through to supporting the rights and dignity of those at the end of their lives and, in the process, transforming our society for the better.

Office of the Mayor

The Mayor hosted the following in Corporate Headquarters:

- Courtesy Visit of the Romanian Ambassador to Ireland.
- Group from Limerick Narwhals following their success at the Ice World Swimming Championships.
- Courtesy Visit of the American Ambassador to Ireland.

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

- Visit to the University of Limerick's City Centre Campus to welcome the first students to the Campus.
Venue: UL City Centre Campus, Sarsfield Street, Limerick.
- Visit to Down Syndrome Limerick.
Venue: Down Syndrome, Unit 2, Castletroy Park Business Centre, Castletroy, Limerick.
- Visit to Patrickswell National School to promote a unique school-based litter-picking programme called Picker Pals, initiative enabling young children to take an active role in combatting litter and caring for their environment.
Venue: Patrickswell National School, Patrickswell, Co. Limerick.
- Visit to Limerick Post Newspaper.
Venue: 97, Henry Street, Limerick.
- Launch of the 2022 World Lacrosse Men's U21 World Championships taking place at the University of Limerick Sports Campus in August 2022.
Venue: University of Limerick, Castletroy, Limerick.
- Contract Signing for the construction of 18 new homes in the third phase of development at Cliona Park, Moyross, Limerick.
Venue: Council Chamber, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.

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- Launch of Belonging Exhibition, an exhibition of artworks from the European Investment Bank (EIB) collection in eight locations across Limerick city.
Venue: St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick.
- Dinner to celebrate the launch of Belonging Exhibition.
Venue: The Captain's Room, Hunt Museum, Rutland Street, Limerick.
- Fundraising Gala Dinner for Limerick Bastille Day / Wild Geese Festival.
Venue: One Pery Square, Limerick.
- Launch of the 2022 Regeneron Great Limerick Run.
Venue: The Strand Hotel, Limerick.
- Annual Tidy Towns Seminar.
Venue: Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, Co. Limerick.
- Opening Night of Bottom Dog Theatre Company production, Gravity (A Love Story).
Venue: Belltable, 69, O'Connell Street, Limerick.
- Launch of the Mid-West Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024.
Venue: Civic Offices of Tipperary County Council, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.
- Photocall to announce the launch of Fairtrade Fortnight in Limerick.
Venue: Townhall, Adare, Co. Limerick.
- United Rugby Championship, Munster v Edinburgh.
Venue: Thomond Park, Limerick.
- Premiere of four new short films developed and produced by members of Emerging Limerick Filmmakers and Limerick Youth Theatre.
Venue: Odeon Cinema, Castletroy, Limerick.
- St. Mary's Cathedral Community Awards.
Venue: St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick.
- Contract signing for the construction of 38 units in the second phase of development at Churchfield, O'Malley Park, Southill, Limerick.
Venue: Southill Area Centre, Southill, Limerick.
- Sod Turning to announce new development at Dalgaish and Cosgrave Parks, Moyross
Venue: Dalgaish Park, Moyross, Limerick.
- Launch of 'Ideas Box,' specifically for primary school children, so that the children of Limerick could post their ideas or suggestions, which they feel will make a better Limerick for all. The Ideas Box will be online via the Council's online portal MyPoint.
Venue: St. Paul's National School, Dooradoyle, Limerick

Mayoral Visits

The Mayor travelled to London and Manchester from 14 to 17 February to promote Limerick as an investment location and to commence dialogue with the Limerick Diaspora in the UK as part of the Global Limerick initiative.

Register of Electors

The Register of Electors Team in Corporate Services has finalised the Live Register 2022/2023 and updated the Postal Voters' Lists. The Live Register 2022/2023 was published on 01 February and came into force on 15 February.

Copies of the Live Register 2022/2023 have been circulated to all Councillors, members of the Oireachtas, members of the European Parliament, Post Offices, Libraries, Garda Stations and other Public Bodies.

The website www.checktheregister.ie has been updated with the Live Register for 2022/2023.

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

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Health and Safety

The following courses took place during the month:

Names of Course	Number Staff Trained
Safe Pass	15
First Aid Response	1
First Aid Response Refresher	2
Confined Spaces Medium Risk	1
Chainsaw New Entrant	4
Manual Handling	39
Drivers Certificate of Professional Competency Training	26

Requisitions Oversight Unit

The Requisition Oversight Unit staff 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 February:

- Approved requisitions account for 78% of the total requisitions actioned for this given month.
- Rejected requisitions account for 22% of the total requisitions actioned for this given month.

Month	Approved	Rejected	Total Requisitions Actioned
February	1,183	335	1,518

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

Rejection Reason	February
Memo - Requisition not raised in advance	104
Procurement Reference omitted/incorrect	71
Documentation uploaded not relevant to Requisition/nothing uploaded	56
Approved Officer's Order omitted	33
Award Notice - omitted/incorrect copy provided	27

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 February:

New Procurement References set up	68
Procurement References extended as per signed contract/arrangement	1

A digitised **Sole Supplier Form** went live on 11 February, which is available on the Staff Portal under '**Other Useful Links**.'

'A sole source purchase means that only one supplier (source), to the best of the requester's knowledge and belief, based upon thorough research, (i.e. conducting market research), is capable of providing an item or service, and therefore it is not possible to obtain competitive bids.'

Business Improvement held a training session for all staff on 10 February on the usage of this application. All Sole Supplier applications have to be applied for through this Portal.

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Schedule of Meetings for February

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Full Council		
Special Meeting to discuss Development Plan process.	11.02.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Special Meeting to consider Draft Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028.	18.02.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Operational Briefings		
Limerick City North	01.02.2022	Virtual
Limerick City East	01.02.2022	Virtual
Limerick City West	02.02.2022	Virtual
Municipal District of		
Newcastle West Monthly Meeting	02.02.2022	Newcastle West
Adare-Rathkeale Monthly Meeting	08.02.2022	Ballysteen, Askeaton
Cappamore-Kilmallock Monthly Meeting	17.02.2022	Kilmallock
Metropolitan District of Limerick		
Monthly Meeting	21.02.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Party Leaders' Meeting	15.02.2022	Virtual
Strategic Policy Committee Meetings		
Community, Leisure and Culture	07.02.2022	Virtual
Home and Social Development	16.02.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Travel and Transportation	22.02.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning	23.02.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment	28.02.2022	Dooradoyle and Online

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Access to Information

	February	2022 (January to February)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	22	43
Freedom of Information Internal Appeals	0	0
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	1
Total Ombudsman Requests	8	13
Total Access to Information on the Environment Requests	2	2

Customer Services

During the month of February, the Customer Services Agents managed the majority of customer interactions at the first point of contact. The primary pathways for customers to engage with the Council's services are email and phone calls. The majority of these interactions included requests for application forms, the processing of payments for Council Services such as housing rents and approving valid applications received for Residential Parking Permits.

In the last week of February, the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications decided to reinstate the Burning of Agricultural Vegetation permits. This enabled Customer Services to process all outstanding applications that were on hand. 25 permits were processed in the four working days from 23 – 28 February.

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

- Customer Services Call Centre answered 11,353 calls. This represents an average of 568 per day, with the

number of calls exceeding 600 on several occasions. 54% 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 Elected Members.
- 2,907 cases were created, with 744 of these logged on behalf of Public Representatives. 3,754 cases were closed, with 831 of these being cases logged by Public Representatives.
- 3,095 emails were processed through the Customer Services email platform.
- 574 calls were received through the Voxpro out-of-hours services.
- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued, with a total of 313 cases being logged, 279 of which were submitted by Public Representatives.
- Customer Services continued to support the Housing Maintenance Department in creating the service requests and keeping citizens up to date on progress made. Throughout the month, Customer Services logged 85% 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. 115 new Residential Parking Permit applications processed, with 25 issued.
- There were 2,157 callers to both the Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle counters.

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4. Marketing & Communications

Marketing

Limerick St. Patrick's Festival

- Officially launched Limerick St. Patrick's Festival 2022 marketing campaign, with launch photography securing front page coverage on the Irish Examiner.
- Commenced development of a suite of digital and social marketing assets, video content and print and radio advertisements for rollout throughout the four and a half week multimedia campaign.
- Managed the design, production and installation of branded street banners to create impact and promote the festival throughout Limerick City centre.

Other Marketing Activities

- Concluded four-week Limerick Student City social and digital marketing campaign, *There's No Place Like Limerick*, run in partnership with the University of Limerick, Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest and Mary Immaculate College. Topline Figures include: Total impressions: 1,274,471, Engagements: 1,702, Video views: 281,949, Link clicks: 1,445.
- Commenced production of *Invest Limerick* video asset to attract increased investment and interest in Limerick as a business location.
- Preparations underway for the development a spring social media campaign showcasing Limerick's daytime activities and nighttime economy.
- Continued engagement with Brand Limerick Ambassadors.
- Attended Fáilte Ireland's Limerick Wild Atlantic Way Gateway City Brand Adoption Workshop.

- Created and issued four Limerick.ie e-newsletters.
- Marketing materials provided to EU Ambassadors and European Investment Bank representatives visiting Limerick for the European Expo launch event 'Belonging' at the Hunt Museum.
- Updated Limerick City Traders' Association about upcoming campaigns.

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 29 times on Limerick.ie's [Facebook](#) with followers now 32,361. Posts reached 30,732 users with 4,752 engagements.
- Tweeted 23 times on Limerick.ie's [Twitter](#), @limerick_ie, with total followers now 20,673. Our tweets earned 32,400 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).
- Posted three times on Limerick.ie's [Instagram](#) and created four Stories with total followers now 20,048.
- Posted 13 times on Limerick City and County Council's LinkedIn with total followers now 8,294.

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Limerick.ie

In February, there were 145,122* unique site visits to Limerick.ie, a 19% increase on the same period in 2021. (*Google Analytics)

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

1. www.limerick.ie
2. www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning
3. www.limerick.ie/council
4. www.limerick.ie/stpatricksfestival
5. www.limerick.ie/discover/whats-on/browse

Content Report: 71 articles, 127 events and five amenities were added to Limerick.ie in February.

Communications

- Lead the Communications and Media elements of the Freedom of Limerick ceremony for Vicky Phelan.
- Marketing and Communications were responsible for the 'look and feel' of the whole event, which garnered nearly 5,000 views worldwide during the live streaming.
- Commenced a trial of issuing a short video with certain press releases. The housing construction project in Dalgaish and Cosgrave Parks in Moyross was the first one.
- Issued 31 news releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and researched and wrote four speeches for the Office of the Mayor.
- Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter.
- Tweeted 138 times on Limerick City and County Council's [Twitter](#) account, @limerickcouncil, with total followers now 17,231. Our tweets earned 219,400 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).

