

Chief Executive's Report

March 2022

New exhibition celebrates Limerick sculptor's long and distinguished career

Public consultation on the provision of community CCTV cameras in public areas

Construction begins on 57 new homes in Moyross

Estimated 50,000 people lined the streets of Limerick to welcome back the first in-person Limerick St. Patrick's Day Parade in three years.

Preferred Route Option for N/M20 Cork to Limerick announced

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

Contents

Economic Development and Enterprise Directorate

1. Trade & Investment	3
2. Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Limerick	3
3. Innovate Limerick	3
4. Forward Planning	4
5. Digital Services	5

Transportation & Mobility Directorate

1. Travel and Transportation Strategy	6
2. Active Travel	7
3. Mid West National Road Design Office	11

Community, Tourism & Culture Directorate

1. Urban & Rural Community Development	12
2. Tourism	14
3. Arts Office	14
4. Property & Community Facilities	16
5. Libraries, Gallery & Museum	16

Regeneration Directorate

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

Housing Directorate

1. Housing Support Services	22
2. Local Authority Housing Construction and Maintenance	28
3. Strategy & Non-Local Authority Housing Construction	32
4. Municipal District Offices	34

Planning, Environment & Place-Making Directorate

1. Place-Making and Public Realm	38
2. Planning Development	39
3. Environment, Recreation & Climate Change	39
4. Urban Innovation	40
5. Veterinary Services	40

National and Regional Shared Services Centre Directorate

1. Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Shared Services Centre (SSC)	41
2. Fire and Emergency	41

Support Services Directorate

1. Finance	43
2. Business Improvement	45
3. Corporate, Governance and Customer Services	45

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Economic Development and Enterprise Directorate

1. Trade & Investment

- Kneat Solutions, a leading software development firm, opened a new 13,000 square foot office at Hawthorn House, National Technological Park, which will create 100 new jobs by the end of 2022.
- Analog Devices International announced an investment of €100m in a 100,000 sq. ft. innovation catalyst centre at its campus in the Raheen Business Park, which will create 250 new jobs over the next three years.
- Johnson & Johnson Vision announced a €35m investment in its operation in Castletroy, with the potential to create 200 jobs over the next three years.
- Callan Tansey, Law firm, has opened a new office in Limerick City, creating six new positions. The firm specialises in medical negligence and personal injury claims.

2. Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Limerick

Funding Approved

10 businesses were approved for the LEO Trading Online Voucher this month. One Intellectual Property (IP) Start Grant was approved.

Local Enterprise Week

Local Enterprise Week ran for the first week of March with various workshops, webinars and events organised by the 31 Local Enterprise Offices around the country. International Women's Day was also celebrated widely with LEO Limerick linking in with West Limerick Resources for a virtual event on 08 March.

Other Workshops and Training events in March included:

- Food Consumer Trends in 2022.
- Virtual Advice Clinics in Marketing and Public Relations, Human Resources, Business Advice, Finance and Accessing Funding, Cyber Threats to Businesses, Google Analytics and Setting up a Website Clinic.
- Tax and Self-Assessment.
- One-Day Start Your Own Business webinar and 6-Session Start Your Own Business course.
- Business Idea Generation and Business Planning webinar.
- Lean for Micro Programme.

There were 122 participants on the LEO business training courses and 12 business owners have availed of the LEO Mentoring Programme in March.

3. Innovate Limerick

Ongoing business development opportunities with British and Irish Trading Alliance networking regarding technology collaboration projects.

Actively driving a number of collaboration projects between companies in the Health and wellbeing industry.

Attended and presented at Research Development Innovation HUB sales event engaging with over 20 companies.

Working with University of Limerick and Mary Immaculate College on Technology and Education opportunities that help drive greater engagement in Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics in the region.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Successfully launched advertisement campaign for Software Start-up Mentoring Programme, engaging with over 150 companies.

Continuing to work with businesses who have new Technology ideas through Mentoring Programme.

FILM IN LIMERICK

Film and TV Crew Hub - Manager Interviews

Interviews took place for the role of Film and TV Crew Hub Manager in March. The new Limerick-based Film and TV Crew Hub, one of three in Ireland set up with Screen Ireland support, will launch this summer and deliver on-site training for new entrants looking to work in the screen industries, as well as advanced training for those currently working in the industry who are looking to upskill and progress their careers.

Film and TV Training Short Courses

In March, Film in Limerick ran three one-week courses in Prosthetic Make-up, Prop-Making for Film and TV, and Sci-Fi Miniature Model Making. The courses were developed to train new entrants to work in the screen industries and are fully funded by Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board. Odyssey Studios were appointed to deliver the courses, which all took place on-site at their studios in Limerick. A total of 45 participants took part in the programmes this month.

Training in Producing and Screenwriting

Our Introduction to Creative Producing course with 15 participants, and our Writers Factory: Introduction to Screenwriting course with 20 participants, continued in March. Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board support both courses.

Virtual Delegation to SXSW Festival in Texas

17 participants took part in the Innovate Limerick/Film in Limerick virtual delegation to SXSW Festival in Texas in March, in partnership with Engine Collaboration Centre and Local Enterprise Office Limerick. Participants attended

masterclasses, keynote events and availed of networking opportunities during the 10-day event.

Double Blind - Feature Film in Rathkeale

Innovate Limerick/Film in Limerick have been working closely with Failsafe Films for several months to bring the production 'Double Blind' to Limerick. The €1.5 million Horror/Thriller feature, funded by Screen Ireland and directed by Ian-Hunt Duffy, began filming in Rathkeale in March and will film at several locations in the city in the coming weeks.

Woken - Feature Film

Innovate Limerick/Film in Limerick have been working closely with Fantastic Films to bring the production 'Woken' to the region. The €2.5 million feature from Dublin-based Fantastic Films, whose credits include 'Vivarium,' 'Sea Fever' and 'You are Not My Mother,' stars Maxine Peake and has been in pre-production on-site in Clare throughout March.

4. Forward Planning

- Material Alterations to the Draft Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 were placed on public display on 11 March for four weeks.
- Public consultation on First issues for the review of the Caherconlish Local Area Plan concluded on 21 March. A public meeting, online webinar and schools consultation were completed in March. Work will now commence on the drafting of the proposed Caherconlish Local Area Plan.
- Public consultation on First issues for the review of the Castleconnell Local Area Plan concluded on 28 March. A public meeting, online webinar and schools consultation were completed in March. Work will now commence on the drafting of the proposed Castleconnell Local Area Plan.
- Work continued on the drafting of the proposed Rathkeale Local Area Plan.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

5. Digital Services

- On 11 March, staff of Digital Services (DS), along with ICT, reconvened the ICT Steering Group (ISG) for the first time since January 2020. The purpose of the ISG is to act as a partnership between DS/ICT and the business, providing the vision, setting the direction and determining the priorities of individual programmes and projects to ensure that IT is aligned with and focused on business targets and drivers. The group will meet quarterly in the future, both to review progress made with the rollout of the DS/ICT operational plan, and to ensure that the priorities of that plan are as they should be.
- On 21 March, Digital Services were shown a working demo of their proof-of-concept Realtime Automated Pothole Identification and Detection System (RAPIDS) project. The aim of this project, financed by funding received by the Council under the Digital Innovation Programme 2021 funding call, was to develop technology to improve the way we identify potholes and road surface quality on Limerick's roads, proactively identifying potholes earlier, reducing road maintenance costs, lowering the carbon footprint of roads maintenance with pinpoint location accuracy, and improving public safety and value for money. The demo showed an artificial intelligence (AI) model taking a video recording of a stretch of road, breaking it up into individual frames, analysing each frame for evidence of a pothole and sorting frames accordingly, anonymising frames with potholes of personal information by "scrubbing" features such as people and cars, and then providing a tabular output giving geo-located information for each pothole found which can be given to the roads maintenance fleet to help guide their efforts. The next phase of the project will aim to further refine the AI model by providing further footage of Limerick roads with which to train it, and to add some form of pothole categorisation methodology to the workflow.

EU Projects

- On 07 March, the +CityxChange National Advisory Team met in the Citizen Innovation Lab on Sarsfield Street, Limerick. The Team was impressed by the space and congratulated Limerick City and County Council and the University of Limerick on achieving it. In particular, the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland noted the potential of the space for engagement with the public to accelerate climate action.
- On 15 March, FourC, a partner in +CityxChange, presented a basic Alpha Version of their mobility app for Limerick. There is more work to do before it can be tested, but it looks promising.
- On 23 and 24 March, the North Western Regional Assembly carried out a First Level Control On-the-Spot Check of the Maritime, Military and Industrial Atlantic Heritage (MMIAH) project. This is the final claim for this project. A visit took place to the Lock Quay Buildings and the Conservation and Management Plan and the Evolutionary Study were reviewed.



Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Transportation & Mobility Directorate

1. Travel and Transportation Strategy

Electric Vehicle Strategy

Procurement procedures are ongoing 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. The closing date for the submission of tenders was 15 March 2022.

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 for four weeks until 15 March and members of the public were invited to submit comments during this time. A public consultation event was held at Newcastle West Municipal District Office on 01 March from 4pm – 8pm. Council staff and consultants were in attendance to discuss the proposed plans with members of the public.

Dockless Bike Bye-Laws

The Limerick City and County Council Control of Dockless On-Street Bicycle Hire Draft Bye-Laws 2022 were placed on public display on 04 March, in accordance with the requirements of Section 200(1) of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended. The draft bye-laws for the Metropolitan District of Limerick have been put on public display in Limerick City and County Council Offices at Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle, and have also been shared on the MyPoint website. Members of the public have been invited to submit comments in writing.

Bike Week 2022

During the month of March, grant-funding applications for Bike Week 2022 were invited from individuals, clubs, groups, communities, schools and workplaces interested in running cycling related initiatives in Limerick during Bike Week.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

2. Active Travel

During the month, the Active Travel Team received approval from the National Transport Authority to proceed with the following schemes.

Metropolitan District of Limerick - Asset Renewal (Cycle Tracks and Greenways)

Scheme Name	Details
Cycle Lane on the R526	Provide stone to field entrances to minimise mud soiling and kerbing in 60 km/h sections to provide protection to cyclists.
Kennedy Park Widen and Upgrade Cycleway	The scheme comprises widening of 400m of cycleway connecting Childers Road Cycle Path to Roxboro Road via the Kennedy Park green area.
Red Path Upgrade Cycle Ramp to Athlunkard Bridge and Link to Spring Grove	Provide cycle ramp adjacent to steps up to Athlunkard Bridge, provide cycleway link from Spring Grove to Red Path.
Widen and upgrade Cycle Way Clare Street to UL Boat Club	Widen and refurbish the Canal Bank / Shannon Bank Cycle way to connect Locke Quay to UL Boathouse.

Metropolitan District of Limerick - New Footpaths

Scheme Name	Details
Lisnagry National School	Proposed works comprise installation of footpath/cycleway extension from its terminus south of the mini roundabout to the school gate. Install speed ramp for road users crossing the road from the eastern footpath/cycleway and install flashing signage on approach to the school.
Lower Park Road to Rhebogue Hill Footpath Link	Proposed works comprise installation of 238m of footpath.
School Road Lisnagry Footpaths	The scheme comprises installation of 430m of footpath and installation of public lighting. The scheme is located on the L-11062-2 in the environs of Lisnagry.
Scoil Spioraid Naoimh Footpaths	The scheme comprises installation of 800m of footpath, installation of public lighting along this section of carriageway.
Ballykeefe Roundabout Footpath	The scheme comprises installation of approximately 250m of footpath around Ballykeefe roundabout.
Castleconnell National School Footpaths	Proposal is to construct a footpath in front of Castleconnell National School.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

Drombanna Footpaths	The proposed scheme comprises the installation of 360m of footpath, installation of public lighting along this section of carriageway. The scheme is located on the R-512 in the environs of Drombanna.
Garryowen Green Footpaths	The scheme comprises installation of 250m of footpath along this section of green area.

Metropolitan District of Limerick - Asset Renewal (Footpaths)

Scheme Name	Details
Bengal Terrace Footpath Refurbishment	The scheme comprises installation of 80m of 2m wide footpath.
Clarina Footpath Refurbishment	Refurbish the footpath entering Clarina village from Mungret.
Collins Avenue / O'Malley Park Footpath Refurbishment	The scheme comprises installation of 410m of footpath along the R511 Collins Avenue/ Lilac Court.
Dooradoyle Footpath Refurbishment	The scheme comprises installation of 415m of footpath along the Mulcair Road from Avonmore Road to Ryan's Foodstores.
Farranshone Footpath refurbishment	The scheme comprises installation of 600m of footpath refurbishment in Farranshone / Belfield Court.
Footpath refurbishment Irish Estates	The Scheme comprises installation of 700m of footpath in Corbally on Lanahrone Avenue.
Kennedy Park Footpath Refurbishment	The scheme comprises installation of 700m of footpath within Kennedy Park housing estate.
New Street Footpath Refurbishment	The scheme comprises installation of 500m of refurbished footpath along this section of carriageway. The refurbishment works will be concentrated along the section of roadway which links Mary Immaculate College and Punches Hotel which is now student accommodation.
Footpath refurbishment Roseville Gardens / Park Gardens, Corbally	The scheme comprises installation of 750m of refurbished footpath in Corbally in Roseville Gardens and Park Gardens.
Wolfe Tone Street Footpath Refurbishment	The scheme comprises installation of 550m of refurbished footpath along Wolfe Tone Street linking the R527 and R858 in the city.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock - Minor Footpath Schemes

Scheme Name	Details
Marian Terrace, Galbally	Scheme comprises new section of public footpath to connect to existing footpath on the R663. Restoration of 150 m of existing footpath along the R663 and construction of a new pedestrian crossing, thereby completing a walking route of 1km between the estate and Galbally village.
Herbertstown Phase 1	This scheme will complete a walking and cycling route in the village of Herbertstown - these works will facilitate the creation of a 0.9km long route within the village of Herbertstown and will create a link to the National School, GAA Field/Soccer Field and village.
L1133 Cappamore	Provision of new footpath, drainage, public lighting, boundary wall to provide a safe walking route connecting residents on the L1133 to Cappamore Village.
Bruff - Ardykeohane	Construction of new footpath in addition to the replacement of existing public footpath along the R516 Hospital Road into Bruff.
L1135 Pallasgreen	Installation of public lighting and upgrade footpath on L1135.
L5048 Old Pallas	Provision of new footpath and public lighting to connect existing housing to the village.
Knocklong	Scheme comprises 500m of new footpath along the L8520 which connects from the R513 into the GAA club.
Elton	Provision of 650 metres of new public footpath and restoration of 100 metres of existing public footpath in Elton connecting the village to the Soccer Field, Housing Estate and Ribbon Development along the R515.

Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale - Minor Footpath Schemes

Scheme Name	Details
Banogue Pedestrian Route Upgrades	Upgrade paths along route to required standards to create connectivity to Church and School.
Cappagh Village	New Pedestrian Crossing at National School, footpath connectivity between National School and Church, public lighting etc.
Crecora Village to GAA Pitch	Connect village centre to GAA Pitch with new footpath and associated public lighting upgrades.
R518 Holycross to Kyletaun	Upgrade existing footpath and drainage.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

Municipal District of Newcastle West - Minor Footpath Schemes

Scheme Name	Details
Athea Village Footpaths	Refurbishment of existing footpaths.
Knockane Lower and Bóthar Buí, Newcastle West	The creation of footpaths along Bóthar Buí and Knockane Lower.
L1324 Tournafulla	Refurbishment of footpath along Main Street.
Mountcollins Village Footpath	New footpaths and refurbishment of existing footpaths.
Ardagh Footpath Extension	Footpath construction along R521 on either side of the traffic lights.

Limerick Greenway Connections

Scheme Name	Details
Abbeyfeale Greenway Connectivity	Working on concepts for new cycle and new or upgraded pedestrian connection to town centre.
Castlematrix Footpath Link	Footpath along Castlematrix Road to connect to housing in the area and connect to the Greenway Walking Route.
Bishop's Court Greenway Connection	A macadam shared surface through Bishop's Court will link the Greenway trailhead to Bishop Street in Newcastle West.
Ardagh Pedestrian Access to Greenway	Install pedestrian access at the Station House amenity facility on the Greenway at Ardagh to the village itself to provide a safe secure pedestrian link from the Greenway to the village, including pedestrian entrance to carpark.
St. Anne's School Link Rathkeale	Footpath/cycleway through St. Mary's Park Green connecting St. Anne's School to the Limerick Greenway Trailhead at the Palatine Museum, including junction tightening/ improved pedestrian facilities at the entrance to St. Mary's Park and pedestrian crossing (Toucan) to the Greenway.

Note: The Active Travel Team is continuing to engage with the National Transport Authority on securing approval for further schemes, in addition to those above, that fall under these project areas.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

- **Barrow House** – The Active Travel Team moved to its new office at Barrow House in Limerick City centre. The new office has undergone a major fit-out in recent months and will be home to a multi-disciplinary team of 23 staff including engineers, technicians, planners, architects, communications and administrative staff.
- **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 is substantially complete on the construction of a new footpath including drainage, public lighting and signage on the R518 in Kilmallock. The public lighting is in place and is awaiting connection.
- **Pride Rainbow Crossing** – The Active Travel Team installed a second Pride Rainbow crossing. The new crossing was put in place on the Dooradoyle Road, next to the Ballykeefe Roundabout.

Marketing and Communications

- Active Travel issued two press releases in March, one was about the move to the new office and the other was in relation to the installation of the second Pride Rainbow crossing in Dooradoyle.
- Active Travel tweeted three times via the Limerick Council Twitter account with total followers now of 17,200.
- A member of the Active Travel Team visited 5th class pupils at Scoil Íde in Corbally where he explained the work of Limerick Active Travel. This is the first of a number of planned school engagement sessions by Active Travel colleagues.

3. Mid West National Road Design Office

N/M 20 Cork to Limerick Project

The Preferred Option for the N/M20 Cork to Limerick Project was placed on public display on 30 March with a presentation to Elected Representatives. The presentation was held virtually.

The N/M20 Cork to Limerick project, when developed, will deliver 80 km of new and improved dual carriageway road that will significantly improve road safety, reduce journey times by 20 minutes, by-pass key towns and reuse between 30% and 40% of the existing N20 road asset.

The project will provide by-passes of the towns of Mallow, Buttevant and Charleville, removing strategic traffic and heavy goods vehicles from these communities. This will significantly improve air quality and reduce noise levels within these communities and further support sustainable transport and vibrant communities. The project will also deliver transformative active travel (walking and cycle) infrastructure.

The preferred transport solution has been identified following detailed appraisal of a large number of different options and alternatives over the last three years. This process has included significant consultation with the public, transport providers, government agencies and other key stakeholders.

An online public display platform has been developed on the project website www.corklimerick.ie which went live on 30 March. This online platform provides a virtual display room that allows the public and other stakeholders to view and interact with the project information and maps for the preferred transport solution. The public display information and maps are also available in the N/M20 Project Office in Lissanalta House, Dooradoyle, Limerick, and in a number of Council public offices and public libraries between Cork and Limerick.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Community, Tourism & Culture Directorate

1. Urban & Rural Community Development

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The March meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was held on 01 March in the Council Chamber, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.

- The Local Action Group (LAG) approved funding of €305,884 under the Community Activities Fund 2021.
- The Local Action Group (LAG) approved funding of €110,280.21 under the LEADER Programme 2014-2022 (€7,499.92 funded from the Transitional LEADER Programme and €102,708.29 funded from the European Union Recovery Instrument Fund).

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The current Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2023 is due to be reviewed and a new plan prepared during 2022 and early 2023. The preparation of the Community element of the Plan is the responsibility of the LCDC, while the Economic element of the Plan is the responsibility of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee. A Local Advisory Group, including members of the LCDC, the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee, and others, is to be set up to guide the process. This structure will also support a coordinated approach and integration of the Community and Economic elements of the Plan.

Following on from the issue of guidelines for the preparation of the new LECP by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) in Q4 2021, a series of workshops/seminars is being hosted by the DRCD to support local authorities in the preparation of their LECP during 2023. The first of these workshops (on the preparation of the socio-economic analysis) was hosted

by the Department during March and four representatives from Limerick attended. The preparation of the analysis of the socio-economic conditions in Limerick has commenced. This will create an evidence base for the new LECP.

Funding Streams

- Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2022 launched – the announcement of increased national funding of €15 million for ORIS 2022 builds on the commitment under “Our Rural Future” of continuing the investment in infrastructure that caters for the growth in both local and international outdoor adventure tourism. It will place a particular focus on developing adventure tourism in Rural Ireland and the Scheme is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development in partnership with Fáilte Ireland. The type of activities supported by the Scheme include hiking, mountaineering, kayaking, swimming and cycling.
- On 08 March, Urban and Rural Community Development invited Expressions of Interest (EOI) under Measure 1 of the Scheme, which provides funding for Small Scale Repair/Development/Promotion and Marketing with a maximum grant up to €30,000. The closing date for receipt of EOIs was 25 March 2022.

Limerick Public Participation Network (PPN)

- Limerick PPN Secretariat met once during the month and continues to successfully deliver on its key functions.
- The Memorandum of Understanding between Limerick PPN and Limerick City and County Council was signed in March and is available on the Limerick PPN website [here](#).

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

- Elections opened for three vacant seats: One Secretariat; One Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee; and the Limerick Active Cities Steering Group.
- Four PPN Linkage Group meetings took place this month: Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning; Community Safety and Policing; Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment and LCDC. Details of the Linkage Groups are on the [Limerick PPN website](#).
- A presentation was delivered to the Limerick Women's Network regarding the PPN and wider Council structures.
- Membership at Limerick PPN continues to grow and now stands at 176 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, Facebook and Instagram.

Age Friendly

The current Age Friendly Strategy 2015 to 2020 is due to be reviewed and a new Strategy finalised during 2022. Requests for quotations were invited from eight firms in March.

The final version of Shannon Airport Walkability Report was submitted in March and the Launch date is to be confirmed.

Invitations for the launch of the first Age Friendly stadium in Croke Park issued in March. The Manager, the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick and the Age Friendly Programme Manager will be attending the Launch.

Health and Wellbeing

Pilot Period Poverty Projects

Limerick City and County Council was successful in its application for funding to roll out focussed projects that

target period poverty amongst women and girls. The initiative stems from the Government's support of a Private Members' Bill on Period Poverty: 'The Free Provision of Period Products Bill, 2021 (Bill 4).'

A sum of €10,000 has been allocated to Limerick City and County Council and will be used to provide free period products in the bathrooms in various community centres and hubs. This work will be carried out in collaboration with the PAUL Partnership and their Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) partners in areas of higher deprivation as these venues are most accessible to the target group.

Limerick Lifelong Learning

A networking event with colleagues involved in innovative lifelong learning projects was held in the Castletroy Park Hotel in Limerick in early March to discuss running in-person and hybrid events for this year's event. The in-person event was well attended and marked a welcome return to networking in-person again. The event facilitated many groups making connections for their own events, whether that might involve partnering up, or helping to promote each other's events.

Integration

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler, signed a Declaration of Support for Ukraine during March as part of the Intercultural Cities Programme as Limerick signed up to be an Intercultural city in 2014.

A new Community Response Forum to support Ukrainian Refugees arriving in Limerick was established. The Forum consists of key state agencies and stakeholders to facilitate the co-ordination of wrap-around and community supports to the refugees.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Weekly meetings were held of the Integration Working Group sub-group on the Limerick anti-racism campaign. Following a tender process, Piquant was awarded the contract earlier in the year. The anti-racism-campaign will run for three to four weeks. A campaign schedule is currently being worked on. The campaign will seek to raise awareness among the general public that racism in all forms is unacceptable.

The EU project INTEgreat held its first co-ordination meeting on Work Plan 2. INTEgreat will focus on building a stronger integration strategy for migrants and refugees. The first version of Creating a Communications Strategy was completed in March.

OTHER

Property Marking Scheme

Limerick City and County Council was delighted to be involved in the first Property Marking event alongside West Limerick Resources and An Garda Síochána at Askeaton Community Centre on 05 March. It was great to see the public participation in this initiative to help curb the theft of personal property. It is hoped to facilitate more of these property marking events being rolled out in other communities around Limerick City and County in the near future.

2. Tourism

Limerick Greenway

The Greenway has recorded almost 410,000 unique trips since its re-opening in July 2021.

Fáilte Ireland hosted a familiarisation trip on the Limerick Greenway on 30 March with over 15 international tour operators from all over Europe cycling from Newcastle West to Barnagh.

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 a destination photography training workshop taking place.

Limerick Attraction Pass

Limerick City and County Council, in partnership with Fáilte Ireland, facilitated a stakeholder meeting during March of representatives of the tourism business community to present and discuss the Limerick Attraction Pass for Limerick, with a view to attractions being added to the pass system.

Tree Carving at Ardagh

Will Fogarty, Fear na Coillte, has begun carving a sculpture into an ash tree beside the recently restored 19th century Ardagh Station House at the Greenway trailhead and car park at Ardagh.

3. Arts Office

Update on the Community, Leisure and Culture 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 advertised on the Council website and the Council Newsletter. 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 survey closed on 06 March, with 115 completed surveys. Processing and analysis of the findings is in progress.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

OPEN CALLS

Grants under the Arts Act: Open Call

Limerick Arts Office announced an Open Call seeking applications from individual artists or organisations under the "Grants under the Arts Act" Scheme. Following the closing date, the Assessment Panel met on 09 March. There were 39 completed applications and the Panel recommended allocations to 31 successful applicants. The report to Full Council was approved at Council Meeting held on 28 March.

Platform 31

PLATFORM 31 is a nationwide Artist Development Scheme by the 31 Local Authority Arts Offices, in collaboration with the Arts Council. Platform 31 is a bursary for artists to develop their practice and test new ideas of collaboration, research, audience development, place-based arts and sharing their work. Participating artists will receive an €8,000 bursary to invest in themselves and their practice, combined with participation in a development programme. Applications opened from 03 to 30 March. Seven applications to Limerick were received and are being processed.

Strategic Fund

The Strategic Fund for the Culture and Arts Scheme supports applications to national and international funding bodies to help leverage funding by offering a percentage of any funding awarded in the event of a successful application. Eleven letters of support were issued in March.

CREATIVE IRELAND FUNDED PROJECTS

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 was 02 March, 2022. 19 applications were received and are being processed.

ARTS COUNCIL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT PROGRAMME

Bingo and Circus Open Days: House!

Play a game of bingo, or try out circus – open day events took place from 12 noon to 3pm on 26 and 27 March at the Irish Aerial Creation Centre, with over 150 people participating.

LIMERICK ST. PATRICK'S FESTIVAL

With the easing of Government restrictions, Limerick City and County Council was able to announce that the fun and craic associated with the Limerick St. Patrick's Festival would make a welcome return to the city streets following a COVID-enforced absence of two years. This year's theme was 'Belonging and Identity' which many people had been thinking about and discussing throughout the two years of enforced restrictions. This year also marked the 100th anniversary of the Irish Free State and the 50th anniversary of Ireland joining the EEC (now the European Union). Limerick St. Patrick's Festival included the traditional St. Patrick's Day Parade on 17 March and the Limerick International Band Championship on 20 March.

An estimated 50,000 people lined the streets of Limerick to welcome back the first in-person Limerick St. Patrick's Day Parade in three years. Glorious sunshine bathed the 1.6km route through the city centre as 52 groups took part in the parade. Led by the All-Ireland hurling champions as Grand Marshals, Limerick Manager John Kiely and hurlers Peter Casey and Barry Murphy showcased the Liam MacCarthy Cup supported by more than 150 GAA members from clubs around Limerick.

Visual artists, Buí Bolg, Spotlight Stage School Artastic, and the Hit Machine Drummers joined bands, community and sporting groups in a carnival of colour, music and spectacle celebrating this year's theme of Belonging and Identity.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

The plight of millions of Ukrainians impacted by the war was marked as the Ukrainian flag flew side-by-side with the Irish flag as they were brought down the route. Crowds showed their heartfelt support as they gave a rousing round of applause as the flag was carried through the city centre.

A special autism friendly area, which included a sensory room, covered marquee and seating area, meant that those with sensory issues could enjoy the parade.

Winners in the parade were:

- Best Overall Performance – Scoil Uí Nuallain, Irish Dance School.
- Best Creative Performance – Red Hot Mommas.
- Best Youth Group – Shannon RFC.
- Best Musical Performance – Redemptorist Centre of Music.

4. Property & Community Facilities

Dereliction, Vacancy & Reuse Team - March	
Inspections carried out	144
Property & Community Facilities Department Notices issued	11
Derelict Sites Cases opened	18
Statutory Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act	53
Derelict Sites Cases closed through engagement	6
Properties entered into the Derelict Sites Register	4
Properties put forward for Compulsory Acquisition (Section 15 Notices)	14
Properties Compulsorily Acquired (Section 17 Notices)	9

Bin Waivers Approved	30
-----------------------------	----

5. Libraries, Gallery & Museum

Library

- To celebrate 'World Book Day' on 03 March, Dooradoyle Library hosted a story-telling and craft event for 16 children from Daydreams Crèche. Each child took home a complimentary 'World Book Day' title. St. Paul's National School 3rd class students visited the library dressed as their favourite book character to celebrate the day. Two St. Patrick's Day themed arts and crafts sessions were held in Dooradoyle Library on 12 March with 20 children in attendance. The children enjoyed making model leprechauns and masks. Children who were not able to attend the craft sessions in the library were given a St. Patrick's Day craft pack to take home. The annual 'Tolkien Reading Day' took place on 25 March. Dooradoyle Library promoted this event with a reading display of J.R.R. Tolkien titles for both younger and older readers.
- Dooradoyle Library and Watch House Cross branches were delighted to welcome back book club members to the library for in-person meetings once again. Watch House Cross groups met on the last Thursday (31 March) and the last Friday (25 March) of the month and Dooradoyle members on 31 March. 'Mrs. Benson's Beetle,' by Rachel Joyce, and 'Embers,' by Sandor Marai, were the chosen titles.
- The City Library began the month by celebrating World Book Day on 03 March. Two groups from Poppins Pre-School visited for a fun morning of stories and craft with each child taking away a special World Book Day book pack. Throughout the day, free World Book Day books were gifted to all children who visited the Library. To celebrate the national holiday, the City Library hosted a St. Patrick's Day craft session on 11 March with pupils from St. Michael's National School who enjoyed creating their own St. Patrick's Day cards and bookmarks before choosing some great books by Irish authors to take away. In addition, a themed "40 Books of Green" and "Best of Irish Authors" displays proved popular with readers of all ages. On 23, 28 and 30 March, the City Library was delighted to welcome three different groups of pupils, staff and parents from Scoil na nÓg,

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

St. John's Preschool. The boys and girls were enthusiastic participants during their story time sessions and chose some excellent books to take away and read when back in their classrooms. Regular school and class visits continued with visits from St. Michael's National School, St. John the Baptist Boys' National School and CBS Primary School. Also visiting the City Library on 04 and 09 March were three groups of English language learners from Limerick Student Campus. The groups were treated to a tour of the Library and all became library members to further enjoy all the services available from their local library branch.

- In Watch House Cross branch on 02 March "UniKids" Pre-School visited with 21 children. This visit was in response to the First Five Little Library Initiative which aims to develop a consistent link between early learning and care services and their local library and to encourage a love of books and reading among young children. The children enjoyed listening to stories, colouring some book-themed characters, and the play school availed of the block loan service borrowing 30 books to use in their classroom. Weekly story time resumed following the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions. On World Book Day on 03 March, two story time sessions were held with a Harry Potter theme featuring Professor McGonigle and Hermione on hand to read to the children. Storytime sessions continue each Thursday at 4pm. Meeting rooms were once again available for booking and in March, the University of Limerick Writers' Group and Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board Guidance Counselling Service were delighted to be able to use the space. Two art and craft sessions were held in advance of St. Patrick's Festival and 20 children enjoyed cutting and pasting to create their own leprechaun mask with some creative work with pipe cleaners to create a shamrock ring to bling their outfits for St. Patrick's Day. Class visits from Corpus Christi continue with both 2nd and 5th classes enjoying browsing and chatting with librarians and borrowing from the children's library collection. The second module of the photography class finished on 10 March and the library is currently exhibiting some of its photographs under the heading, 'Always remember your Eye is Unique.' Age Action commenced a five-week programme in the library from 22 March. This programme is designed for those aged over 55 and provides one-on-one tutoring, encouraging and supporting adults in the use of laptops, tablets, iPads and mobile phones. This programme is free of charge and is part of Age Action's work to prevent digital exclusion. Examples of areas covered include the following: how to search the Internet, set up an email, shop online, access online banking, Government Websites, WhatsApp and Zoom. In March, the Sensory Room had 54 bookings with 176 users. The groups booking the room include ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) Units from Schools, the Brothers of Charity, Daughters of Avista and families.
- The Local Studies Department at Watch House Cross Community Library was busy throughout March. The relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions saw the number of onsite visits by researchers increase, totalling 45 no. for the period. Eleven of these visits involved research on the microfilm archive of Limerick newspapers, and 23 on the subscription digital resources to which the Department provides access (primarily the Irish Newspaper Archive and FindMyPast). Two patrons consulted the Ordnance Survey Ireland historical map collection, six consulted items from the Local Studies book collection, and there were three advice sessions on family history research. Thirty-eight research queries were received via telephone or email, all of which were resolved, or are being currently dealt with, remotely. Work continued on the Department's Decade of Centenaries publication, The Civil War in Limerick, 1922-1923, primarily the editing of the essays received from contributors and the sourcing of images for the book.
- Well known author and poet, Gabriel Fitzmaurice, was on hand to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge with visits to Abbeyfeale, Adare, Newcastle West and Rathkeale libraries where he entertained local primary school children with a variety of poems in both Irish and English.
- Rinne an leabharlann, Caisleán Nua Thiar, ceiliúradh ar Sheachtain na Gaeilge (01 to 17 March) le taispeántas faisnéiseach agus ildaite. The display gave a brief history of Conradh na Gaeilge: history of the Fáinne, Irish

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

poets, poetry, music, dance and culture. Scéal as Gaeilge le Liam – “Is breá le Lúlú an Leabharlann,” and a recording by Shirley O’Regan (Local Radio presenter) filíocht, scéalta agus ceol, were made available on Limerick Libraries social media sites. The Branch welcomed the following classes and community groups during the month: Scoil Íosaf – Early Intervention Class, Desmond Community Crèche, Courtenay Boys School, Gaeilscoil Ó Doghair, Secondary School Scoil Mhuire agus Íde availing of the Local History Files for their School History Projects. To celebrate, children’s author Dr. Seuss Birthday (02 March), the branch created a colourful display in the Children’s Library and a School Poster Craft Colouring Poster event for local primary schools, based on the book “Fox in Socks.” First Class from each of the following schools decorated their “Sock” posters – Killoughteen National School, Courtenay Boys School, Gaelscoil Ó Doghair and Scoil Íosaf. The completed posters are on display in the branch and each participating class received a selection of Dr. Seuss titles.

- Library headquarters staff provided more than 120 no. St. Patrick’s Day craft bags, circulated through the branch network, for families to take home and enjoy. Those participating included Doireann and Jack who enjoyed making the crafts with their friends in the Irish Embassy in Tanzania. How-to videos were recorded and uploaded to the library’s social media platforms so families could enjoy making the crafts together at home. A number of branches also held in-branch St. Patrick’s Day craft sessions with over 150 children attending. The Limerick Reads initiative (#LimerickReads) continued with copies of Judi Curtin’s book ‘Lily Steps Up’ moving on to Corpus Christi School, Moyross, from St. Patrick’s Girls National School.
- Kilmallock Library celebrated World Book Day by welcoming all the pupils from Scoil Mocheallóg who paid visits class-by-class throughout the day with approximately 200 pupils attending in total. They were warmly greeted by staff in book-inspired costumes and treated to in-house events such as rhyme/song time, story times and puzzle time. Regular school visits from the local national and secondary schools continued throughout the month with a special

library tour given to Transition Year students from Scoil Mocheallóg. To celebrate Seachtain Na Gaeilge, Kilmallock Library shared an online story time with a book from Irish author/musician, Niall Breslin, called “The Magic Trick,” which incorporates an easy mindfulness technique for children when they feel anxious or scared. To celebrate St. Patrick’s Day and all things Irish, staff were thrilled to welcome the wonderful 2nd class pupils from Kilmallock National School to take part in an interactive craft workshop. The children had great fun making some lovely Shamrock rings and Leprechaun masks.

- Kilmallock Library issued an open invitation for a free four-week “Digital Skills for Citizens” course, led by Ballyhoura Development CLG (Company Limited by Guarantee) to learn new skills and boost confidence when engaging with the digital world. The workshops cover areas such as email, accessing news, paying car tax online, booking holidays, shopping online and much more with devices provided as required.

Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- The major celebration of the work of Limerick artist, Tom Fitzgerald, opened on 03 March with 3,306 visitors to date. The exhibition, Spirit Music, includes work from private and public collections, including Limerick City and County Council and University of Limerick.
- The collaboration between LCGA and Dance Limerick continues to develop with a series of workshops with “The Model” in response to Fitzgerald’s exhibition, Spirit Music. The other schools involved in this project are St. Michael’s and Limerick School Project. The documentation of this project has been supported with Creative Ireland funding.
- LCGA is one of eight venues hosting the major exhibition, BELONGING, from the collection of the European Investment Bank (EIB). This is a unique opportunity to view work by predominantly European artists who would not be represented in Irish institutions or familiar to the public but are of immense importance in the art historical world.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

- Interviews were held in March for the Test Space residencies. This initiative was piloted at the end of 2021 and we successfully applied for and received funding from the Arts Council to develop this project. The in-house residency was awarded to sisters, Fiona and Rowena Quill, both of whom are printmakers. Rachel Rockwell, an artist from Wexford, was awarded the online residency. This initiative fulfils one of the objectives of our Strategic Plan to support and promote artists in practical ways.
- The Mushroom Book, which had been on loan to Somerset House, London, as part of a major exhibition held there in 2020, is currently on display. This important book is held in just two public collections – LCGA and the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) in New York. Artist, Jim Sheehy, donated the book to the Permanent Collection.
- Siobhan O'Reilly has selected significant sculptural works from the Permanent Collection to reflect Tom Fitzgerald's work in the ground floor galleries. The installation by Alicia Clooney marks her award for her piece of work in the 2020 Degree Show in Limerick School of Art and Design.
- 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.
- LCGA continues to negotiate with Artists and Curators on forthcoming exhibitions and events as part of its programme for 2022.

Limerick Museum

Limerick Museum collaborated with the Arts and Culture Department and the Communications and Marketing Department in relation to Limerick St. Patrick's Festival. The short film that resulted from this collaboration last year, on the history of Limerick St. Patrick's Festival, was extensively used in the promotion of this year's programme of events. The film featured images from the Museum's collection and was narrated by the Curator of Limerick Museum. In addition, the Curator gave a radio interview on the same topic to Live 95.

As part of a long-standing collaboration between Limerick Museum and Limerick Chamber of Commerce, the Curator of the Museum gave a lecture to the entire staff of the Chamber on its history since its establishment in 1807.



Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Regeneration Directorate

1. Regeneration

Economic

Jobs Initiative Programme

The scale and depth of the programme continues to broaden and evolve with significant agency and community buy-in. A very successful Jobs Fair, in partnership with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board and TUS, was held in Moyross on 02 March. Several major local employers were available on the night to engage directly with communities in relation to employment opportunities. Limerick City and County Council's Recruitment Team was also present to meet with the community.

Social

Economic and Social Intervention Fund (ESIF)

Following a meeting of the Limerick Regeneration Economic and Social Intervention Fund Assessment Panel, over eighty ESIF 2022 applications to the value of approximately €3.7 million have been submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for approval.

Monitoring of the 2020 grants of €10,000 or more has begun, with 49 organisations invited to report on outcomes for that year.

A review of the ten largest ESIF grant recipients since 2015 is ongoing. This study is engaging with organisations working in all four Regeneration areas.

Community Engagement

Clinics for Resident Queries

In-person clinics took place with residents of the Regeneration communities on a weekly basis throughout the month.

Regeneration Committee Meetings

In-person Regeneration Committee Meetings took place in Ballinacurra Weston, Southill and Moyross and St. Mary's Park.

Community Activities

Some of the examples of activities include:

- Our Lady of Lourdes Estate Management workers distributed food parcels, fuel and topped up pre-pay utility cards for families in need within the community from funds received from Fr. Seamus Enright in the Redemptorists. The service connected two new members of the community with Mid-West Simon food bank. At the same time, they are linking residents with the Healthy Food Made Easy Programme to upskill them as tutors to deliver the programme themselves.
- Southill After Schools Club celebrated its 25th year birthday, in the presence of the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler, with an afternoon of fun entertainment for the children and their families.
- St. Mary's Park Care and Repair Service is up and running with five jobs having been completed by four local volunteers and two buddies.
- The Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Mr. Eamon Ryan, TD, visited Moyross to meet residents in the Regeneration area and have a discussion with them regarding a number of issues.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

- The Senior Citizens' Working Group in St. Mary's Park visited Friends of the Elderly Headquarters on Carey's Road to gather information and ideas. This proved very informative. Links will be maintained going forward, with the next step being the development of an initial event for local residents.

Physical

Housing Developments

- Construction of the new 57-unit social housing development at Cosgrave Park and Dalgaish Park, Moyross, was commenced by K&J Townmore Construction Ltd.
- Construction of the new 37-unit social housing development at Churchfield (Phase 2), Southill, is ongoing.
- Construction of the new 18-unit social housing development at Cliona Park (Phase 3), Moyross, is ongoing.
- Construction works on the Peter McVerry Trust Rapid Infill Housing Development in Delmege Park, Moyross, stalled on foot of contractor trading difficulties. Discussions are ongoing with the contracting authority regarding completion options.
- Assessment of Approved Housing Body expressions of interest received for the Orchard Site development, St. Mary's Park, has completed. Tender preparations are ongoing.
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Stage 4 approval is awaited for award of a contract for the construction of the eight-unit Sheep Street/ Athlunkard Street development.
- Construction Works ongoing on Thermal Upgrade Contract 122, St. Marys Park.

Community Facilities

The Team is working to progress two community centre projects:

- Our Lady of Lourdes (OLOL) Community Centre Refurbishment – liaison with the OLOL Board is ongoing regarding the project specification.
- St. Mary's Park Community Centre Working Group continue to meet with the Regeneration Team to establish the project brief.

Demolitions

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

- 319-322 Larkin Drive demolished.
- Galvone Arms – O'Kelly Bros. have mobilised for this demolition. Asbestos removal and internal soft stripping is ongoing.

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, including a public consultation survey which was opened from 10 – 27 March for public views. A high response rate was achieved on this.



Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

Housing Directorate

1. Housing Support Services

Approved Housing Applicants

Approved Housing Applicants	2,203
Tenant Transfer Applicants	344

Closed Housing Applications

Closed Applications	35
---------------------	----

Applications are closed for the following reasons:

- Failure to satisfy the eligibility criteria for social housing support as set out in legislation.
- Failure to submit a complete application and/or further information requested.
- Applicants who have been housed by Limerick City and County Council or an Approved Housing Body.
- Applicants who wish to apply to another local authority or are no longer interested in social housing support.

Allocations

	No. of Units March	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	0
Newcastle West	1	2
Metropolitan District	8	39
Cappamore-Kilmallock	2	4
Total	11	45

Refusals

	No. of Units March	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	0
Newcastle West	0	0
Metropolitan District	0	5
Cappamore-Kilmallock	2	2
Total	2	7

Approved Housing Body Allocations 2022 (year to date)

Total Nominations	65
Successful Nominations	11
Nominations Pending	50
Unsuccessful Nominations	4

Traveller Accommodation *

No. of Units offered March	1
Year to Date	2

* these figures are included in allocations figures

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

Housing Welfare Visits

No. of Visits March	10
Year to Date	40

Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)

The total number of units in RAS accommodation in March is 1,275, of which 765 are private and 510 are Voluntary.

Housing Assistance Payments Limerick (HAP)

2,391 active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	36
No. of Amendments	343
No. of Cessations	57

HOME IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

March 2022		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aid Grants	No. Approved	1	3	3	2	9
	MAG Expenditure	€22,390.00	€5,400.00	€0.00	€35,740.00	€63,530.00
	No. Paid	4	1	0	7	12
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	3	2	10	3	18
	HAG Expenditure	€21,638.71	€5,022.02	€68,417.50	€18,003.28	€113,081.51
	No. Paid	3	1	7	1	12
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	1	6	9	6	22
	HOP Expenditure	€35,847.50	€44,475.24	€69,276.00	€61,764.90	€211,363.64
	No. Paid	10	10	18	12	50
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG Expenditure	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€12,042.35	€12,042.35
	No. Paid	0	0	0	2	2

Total No. Approved	49
Total Monies Paid	€400,017.50
Total No. Paid	76

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

Year-to-date

Jan-Mar 2022		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aid Grants	No. Approved	6	4	18	9	37
	MAG Expenditure	€57,914.45	€27,707.27	€62,395.00	€41,490.00	€189,506.72
	No. Paid	11	6	13	8	38
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	12	4	35	12	63
	HAG Expenditure	€39,850.21	€121,484.65	€181,212.88	€50,772.78	€393,320.52
	No. Paid	7	8	21	6	42
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	6	27	42	20	95
	HOP Expenditure	€57,928.50	€168,026.62	€164,928.67	€103,622.40	€494,506.19
	No. Paid	16	40	42	21	119
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG Expenditure	€0.00	€0.00	€78,476.74	€12,042.35	€90,519.09
	No. Paid	0	0	3	2	5

Year to date Total No. Approved	195
Year to date Total Monies Paid	€1,167,852.52
Year to date Total No. Paid	204

RENT COLLECTION

Rent Collection Limerick City and County Council					
Opening Balance at 01.03.2022	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing Balance 31.03.2022	% Collection
€5,396,118	€4,550,755	€9,946,873	€4,279,221	€5,667,652	43%

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Community Sustainment Unit

The Community Sustainment Unit is comprised of three main strands: (i) Estate Support (ii) Individual Tenant Support and (iii) Tenancy Enforcement/Anti-Social Behaviour

(i) Estate Support

The main aim of this programme is the provision of supports with a view to improving quality of life and developing community spirit within Council estates. To this end, the Unit works closely with existing residents' associations and encourages the formation of new such groups, supporting the implementation of key actions identified by them to improve their estates. The support provided varies from assistance in provision of minor infrastructural works such as fencing, walls, signage etc. to softer measures such as committee skills training, contributing towards clean-up days, events for children etc.

(ii) Individual Tenant Support

The Unit provides a service, supported by the Housing Welfare Officer, of intensive support for tenants who may be identified as vulnerable or in need of such help for any other reason. In addition, there is monitoring of individual tenancies that may require particular attention to prevent problems occurring. There is an ongoing programme to reach out to all tenants in our estates. During the month of March, one hundred and ten such visits were carried out by the Community Sustainment Officers.

Tenancy Induction training is provided for all newly-appointed tenants. Among other things, the terms of the Letting Agreements which are signed are clearly explained so that the obligations of both the tenants and, indeed, the Council are clearly understood. Thirteen such inductions took place during March.

(iii) Tenancy Enforcement/Anti-Social Behaviour

The Unit deals with in excess of 400 complaints each year, with approximately half of these relating to anti-social behaviour. The Council's policy is to respond to these issues quickly and firmly and it works in close co-operation with An Garda Síochána where necessary. The number of active cases at end of March was one hundred and eighty four. The number of cases closed during March was one hundred and thirty two.

The Unit carries out formal Garda checks on prospective new tenants. Ninety-four such formal reviews were undertaken during March.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

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

Date: 14 March, 2022		
Individuals		
Location	Description	Beds Used
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	35
Oak Lodge	Adults without children accommodated in low threshold emergency accommodation	54
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	14
St. Joseph Street	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	6
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	13
Temporary Emergency Provision TEP1 (Edenvilla)	Low threshold, night-by-night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	13
Temporary Emergency Provision TEP 2 (Phoenix Lodge)	Low threshold, night-by-night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	14
Total		149

Families				
Location	Description	Beds Used		
		Adults	Children	Families
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	8	6
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	28	48	20
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	12	11	9
Totals		Adults	Children	Families
		46	67	35

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

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

Tenant Purchase	
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. received	5
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. approved	9
Local Authority Home Loans	
Loan Applications: No. received	13
Loan Applications: No. approved	3
Deed of Discharge	
Deed of Discharge Applications: No. Received	21
Consent to Sale	
Consent to Sale Applications: No. Received	3
Cottage Purchase Annuity	
No. of Cottage Purchase Annuity Applications	3
Ground Rent	
No. of Ground Rent applications	7
Private Rented Inspections	
No. of Inspections	74

Freedom of Information, Data Requests and Ombudsman

Freedom of Information requested submitted	5
Ombudsman Query Cases	15
Data Access Requests	2

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

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 Housing Construction

Project Updates

- Part 8 planning application for 18 housing units at Cluain Dara, Broadford, Co. Limerick, was recently approved. The proposed development will be completed in two phases and will consist of:
 - Phase 1: The provision of 11 no. residential units, consisting of 2 no. 1 Bed units, 1 no. 4 Bed unit, 6 no. 2 Bed units, 2 no. 3 Bed units;
 - Phase 2: The provision of 7 no. residential units, consisting of 5 No. 1 Bed units, 2 no. 2 Bed units;
 - Hard landscaping including new footpaths, new entranceways, boundary treatments and boundary walls, upgrading of foul sewers and surface water drainage, and all associated site works.

Detailed design and the preparation of Contract Documents can now commence to progress the scheme.

- Part 8 planning application for a development of 10 Social Housing units at Radharc Cillín, Kilfinane, Co. Limerick. This project has been developed in accordance with current planning guidelines, Departmental Circulars and the Capital Works Management Framework (CWMF) process. The subject site, measuring approximately 0.42 hectares in area, is located within the existing housing estate of Radharc Cillín, to the western edge of Kilfinane, Co. Limerick.

The site is a greenfield site that slopes from the southern access point with the existing housing estate

down to the northern boundary. The western boundary comprises of an established natural hedgerow which includes a mix of native species and mature Ash trees. There are scenic views of County Limerick to the north of the site due to the sloping topography and elevated position. The housing units are in two terraced blocks along the southwest side of a new cul-de-sac road sloping down from southeast to northwest. The units are two-storey 2, 3 and 4 bedroom houses with the exception of two 1-bedroom duplex apartments. The proposed development includes 10 no. housing units, which includes 8 no. houses and 2 no. duplex apartment units, including 4 no. 4-bedroom houses, 3 no. 3-bedroom houses, 2 no. 2 bedroom houses and 2 no. 1 bedroom duplex apartments. The two-storey housing units have traditional 'A' framed roofs with the eaves to roadside for the majority of the road. The units include punctuating gable-fronted houses to bookend north and south and to acknowledge the crank at the middle of the elevation. The cranked plan is to allow for the retention of existing underground foul and storm lines that service the greater town.

The units have recessed porch entries and, in addition, the ground floor duplex/two-bedroom units have corner windows on the porches to increase passive supervision of their entry and the road. The rear gardens include a raised private terrace before stepping into soft landscape gardens, this is to manage the slope of the site. The small front open spaces are sufficient to house bins/bikes.

The houses are finished in painted render with a blue/black slate roof and Aluclad windows. A buff brick is used to the front elevations to provide variation, contrast and depth. Buff brick has historic precedent in Kilfinane, Co. Limerick, a number of protected structures include the material finish - refer to Kilfinane Convent (RPS Reg No.1294) and the associated house (RPS Reg No.1297).

- Stage 1 approval has been received for the development of 24 units at Quinn's Cross, Limerick. This scheme will now be advanced through to the Stage 2 approval prior to Part 8 planning.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

- Disabled Persons Grant extension at 16 Hartigan Villas, Limerick, has been completed.
- Tenders for Lot 2 (18 units) for Derelict refurbishments have been issued.

Affordable Housing Fund (SSF Serviced Sites Fund) Toppins Field Lands, Limerick

Following a call-off contract competition, mini-tenders were received for the continued design development of Toppins Field lands from participants on the Masterplanning and Architect-Led Integrated Design Team Consultancy Services framework established under the Public Land Activation Programme for Limerick City and County Council. An integrated Design Team is in the process of being appointed to conduct a feasibility analysis for the Toppins Field lands site. The Council's vision is

for the site to be fully developed over time to provide a sustainable mixed tenure residential quarter. In order to develop the residential quarter vision at Toppins field, there is a need to evaluate an existing masterplan, adapt and revise it where necessary, and utilise the resulting feasibility report to identify the most suitable and viable mix of tenures and unit typologies on the site.

Finance

Applications for funding totalling €667,046 were issued to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage during March.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage paid €864,518 in claims made during the month.

Local Authority Maintenance

Local Authority Houses: Maintenance Complaints dealt with during March

Housing Maintenance and Housing Cases	Requests/Cases Created	Cases Dealt With/ Closed	Balance of Open Cases at 31.03.2022
Metropolitan District	887	1,466	1,230
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	76	128	423
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	123	135	140
Municipal District of Newcastle West	108	80	664

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Grants Inspections

Metropolitan District of Limerick – Inspections and Recommendations for Home Improvement Schemes/Disability Adaptations – March

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)	1	8	0	8	17
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	9	0	15	24
DPGs (Disabled Person Grant)	0	3	1	0	4
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	1	24	1	28	54

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

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	8	10
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	11	0	7	18
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	5	0	9	14
DPGs (Disabled Person Grant)	0	0	0	0	0
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	18	0	24	42

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale – Inspections and Recommendations for Home Improvement Schemes/ Disability Adaptations – March

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	0	0	3	3
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	4	0	2	6
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	2	0	6	8
DPGs (Disabled Person Grant)	0	0	0	0	0
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	6	0	11	17

Municipal District of Newcastle West – Inspections and Recommendations for Home Improvement Schemes/ Disability Adaptations – March

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	0	1
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	3	0	0	3
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	5	0	3	8
DPGs (Disabled Person Grant)	0	0	0	0	0
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	9	0	3	12

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

3. Strategy & Non-Local Authority Housing Construction

The Team is dedicated to delivering:

- Formulation of Housing Strategies and Policies.
- 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 31.03.2022 is as follows:

As at 31 March (01.01.22 - 31.03.22)	Build	Buy	Lease	TOTAL
Complete	17	4	3	24
In Progress	403	39	52	494
Overall Complete and In Progress	420	43*	55	518
"Housing for All" 2022 Delivery Target	565	0	21**	

* includes 33 no. units carried over from 2021.

** Limerick City and County Council has a target of 21 no. short-term leasing units. The 55 no. units in progress are made up of units carried over from 2021.

2. CURRENT OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

18 properties were returned in March 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 March - Categorisation	
Cat 1	0
Cat 2	0
Cat 3	1
Cat 4	2
To be inspected	15
Total	18

House Returns March By Municipal District	
Adare-Rathkeale	0
Cappamore-Kilmallock	4
Newcastle West	3
Metropolitan District	11
Total	18

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

Current Housing Works Programme		
	Completed in March	In Progress
Local Authority Construction Team	0	105
Local Authority Maintenance Team	3	59
Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process	0	27
Regeneration Team	1	15
Team to be assigned	n/a	24
Total	4	230

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 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.

3. UPDATES

Finance

- Claims totalling €3,764,738 were sent to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in March.
- Claims totaling €2,234,073 were paid by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in March.

Project Approvals and Submissions

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

Scheme	Project Details	District
Capital Assistance Scheme	Stage 2 Construction Submission for 4 no. units at Gerald Griffin Street, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick

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

Scheme	Project Details	District
Capital Assistance Scheme	Stage 1 Construction Approval for 8 no. units at Broadford, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Newcastle West
Capital Assistance Scheme	Acquisition Approval for a three-bedroom house at Kileely, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme	Acquisition Approval for a four-bedroom house at Doon, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock.

Part V Workshop

On 10 March, staff from Strategy and Non-Local Authority Housing Construction attended a Virtual Workshop on the principles and legislation of Part V. This Workshop was hosted by the Housing Agency.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Joint National Housing Conference

On 28 and 29 March, staff from Strategy and Non-Local Authority Housing Construction attended the Joint National Housing Conference, which was held in Limerick, hosted by the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland in partnership with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The theme was "Future Settlement: Living Cities and Towns" and the following conference sessions took place during the conference:

- Housing for All – New Planning Initiatives.
- Colbert Station Masterplan Limerick – Planning Initiatives.
- Edge City Ballymount – UDZ and Planning Initiatives.
- Housing Delivery Challenges: Perspective of the Planning Regulator.
- Irish Cities 2070 – Galway 50-Year Vision.
- Housing Typologies for Compact Growth.
- Distinctively Local; Housing Guidelines.
- Small Town Revitalisation/Improving Densities.
- Mid-Density Low Rise Housing.
- Town Centre First.
- Valedictory: Housing and other Achievements; Ireland at 100.

A staff member from the Housing Directorate was invited to provide a response to the challenges of Housing Delivery as part of a panel discussion with Michael Stanley, CEO, Cairn Homes.

4. Municipal District Offices

Metropolitan District of Limerick

Monument Remedial Works/Upgrade Works/Footpath Refurbishment

- Specialist remedial works were carried out on the Treaty Stone, Clancy Strand, with a project cost of €65k and the contractor was the Nolan Group.
- Upgrade works were completed at Mungret Gate Junction at the old Mungret Church at a cost of €40k and the contractor was Tallybrook.

- Footpath refurbishment works took place in the Irish Estates, Corbally, with an estimated cost of €150k and the contractor was Peter Ryan.
- Footpath refurbishment works were also completed at Kennedy Park at a cost of €130k and the contractor was Maramba.

Metropolitan District Meetings

March Monthly Meeting

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

Special Briefing

A Special Briefing was held for the Elected Members of the Metropolitan District on the proposed approach for World Class Waterfront Scheme, including the University of Limerick City Campus.

Operational Area Briefings

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

Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

- The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale took place on 08 March in the Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, Co. Limerick.
- A Civic Reception honouring citizens of the Municipal District took place after the Meeting.
- Essential repairs to social houses and public roads were undertaken by the Housing Maintenance and Roads Maintenance Teams:
 - 68 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
 - 70 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

Capital Road Projects

- Car Park, Main Street, Croom completed and funded via Town and Village Renewal Scheme.
- Works ongoing on River Walkway, Croom (old N20 Route) - funded via Outdoor Recreation and Infrastructure Scheme.
- Foynes – Marine Cove Overflow Channel and new culvert under N69. Niaron Ltd. appointed as Contractor.

Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

March Municipal District Meeting

The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock was held in Deebert House Hotel, Kilmallock, on 24 March.

A presentation was delivered by the Community, Tourism and Culture Directorate in relation to the Dereliction and Vacancy Initiative.

The Housing Directorate delivered a presentation on a Part 8 procedure for Radharc Cillín, Kilfinane, in relation to the construction of 10 no. housing units.

The Schedule of Municipal District Works was delivered by the Senior Executive Engineer for the District and was agreed by the Elected Members.

Details of the following programmes and budgets for 2022 were outlined:

Roads

Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock Road Works Scheme 2022	
Work Category	€
Restoration Improvement (RI) - Road Reconstruction	3,282,278

Restoration Maintenance (RM) - Surface Dressing	564,703
Supplementary Restoration Maintenance (SRM) - Surface Dressing	442,750
Drainage Grant	200,000
General Maintenance (GM)	1,074,654
Tar Patching (TP)	558,285
Low Cost Safety Improvement Works (LCSI)	130,000
General Municipal Allocation (GMA)	295,000
Bridge Rehabilitation	180,575
Active Travel Programme	1,500,000
Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works	400,000
Office of Public Works Minor Flood Mitigation Works	91,700
Development Fund Municipal Allocation	70,000
CLÁR	35,100
M20 Limerick to Cork	6,000,000
N20 Rourke's Cross	300,000
N24 Beary's Cross	3,000,000
N24 Brooks Bridge	25,000
Total Defined Municipal District Spending	18,150,045

As well as the above works, Winter Maintenance, Community Improvement Scheme and Local Improvement Scheme, Public Lighting, Transport Infrastructure Ireland Capital Maintenance Works, National Transport Authority Low Cost Junction Tightening, Pedestrian Crossing and Permeability measures will be implemented.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Housing Maintenance

Details on timeframes for emergency repairs, urgent repairs and routine repairs were provided.

Budget allocation details for Housing Maintenance and re-letting were provided, as well as details of the Energy Retrofit project and Private Housing Grants.

Parks and Landscaping

Grants towards maintenance of Kilmallock Town and proposed works for the two parks in the Municipal District, namely Lough Gur and Clare Glens, were outlined.

Cemeteries

Details of the numbers of cemeteries in the Municipal District (102 or 38%), and the distribution of the budget allocation towards Maintenance, were provided. The Schedule of Municipal District Works also outlined the annual budget of €30,000 provided as grant-aid to community groups across Limerick wishing to develop a new burial ground.

Environmental Schemes and Facilities

The 2022 budget across the City and County for Bring Banks and Civic Amenity Sites was provided, as well as details of the Limerick Going for Gold Environmental Improvement Grant and Competition, and Grant Scheme for Maintenance of Open Spaces in Housing Developments.

Housing and Road Maintenance

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

- **114** cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
- **121** cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

Housing Grants

20 Private Housing Grants were paid and 11 were approved. There were 18 initial inspections undertaken and 24 final inspections.

Three Disabled Persons Grants works were completed.

Road Works

Drainage Scheme Works on the R512 Cullamus and L1508 Newtown were completed.

Knockainey Village Footpath Works completed under the General Municipal Allocation Grant.

General Municipal Allocation Grants

Elected Members were requested to submit nominations under both the Roads and Tourism Programme and the Community Grants General Municipal Allocation Grants.

Municipal District of Newcastle West

Meetings:

The following Meetings of the Municipal District of Newcastle West took place in Áras William Smith OBrien, Newcastle West, during the month:

- Monthly Meeting - 02 March.
- Special Meeting - 23 March.
- Joint Policing Sub-Committee Meeting - 30 March.
- 11 grant applications were approved under the Private Housing Grant Schemes during the month. The total value of approvals was €53,399.
- Payments of €44,475.24 were made to 10 applicants who completed works under the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.
- Payments of €5,022.02 were made to one applicant who completed works under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

- Payments of €5,400.00 were made to one applicant 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, also took place during the month.
- During March, the Motor Tax Section at the Newcastle West Office processed 1,138 routine transactions.



Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Planning, Environment & Place-Making Directorate

1. Place-Making and Public Realm

Project Updates

Place-Making

- **Adare Public Realm Plan** – An in-person public consultation event was held in the Town Hall on 24 March where the draft public realm plan was presented. The draft public realm plan was also uploaded on MyPoint on 24 March. Comments can be submitted online via MyPoint. All comments will be reviewed and, following this, the final edition of the Adare Public Realm Plan will be published by Limerick City and County Council.

- **King's Island Walled Town Rejuvenation Works** - Limerick City and County Council is currently undertaking public realm enhancement works in the Medieval Quarter surrounding Nicholas Street. Phase 1 of the project focuses on the implementation of short-term micro interventions that will positively impact the quality of the public realm, making the streets more liveable and animated.

Phase 1 of the works involves aspects such as reducing street clutter, parking rationalisation, planting and enhancing the features that make the historic Quarter special.

To date, vegetation clearance works have taken place in order to maintain the integrity of the Walls of Limerick, along with site clearance works at key sites along Gaol Lane and Mary Street.

Planters have been located along strategic points in order to add definition to the street edge and beautify the pedestrian way.

- **O'Connell Street Revitalisation** - Limerick City and County Council is currently undertaking the Limerick Urban Centre Revitalisation – O'Connell Street (LUCROC) Project – Phase 1.

Phase 1 of the LUCROC project focuses on the area of O'Connell Street from the end of Patrick Street to below the junction with Cecil Street, including the junctions and tie-ins on side streets, and an extended area along Thomas Street as far as the junction of Thomas Street and Little William Street.

Phase 1 of the works is being delivered on a block-by-block basis over six blocks between Denmark Street to Cecil Street. The blocks are broken down as follows:

- Block 1: Denmark Street to William Street.
- Block 2: William Street to Thomas Street.
- Block 3: Thomas Street to Roches Street.
- Block 4: Roches Street to Cecil Street.
- Block 5: Cecil Street to Glentworth Street.
- Block 6: Thomas Street.

Presently, all of Block 6 and half of the east side two largest blocks, Block 2 and Block 3, are substantially completed. Work is currently underway to the western side of Block 2 (William Street to Thomas Street), Block 3 (Thomas Street to Roches Street), the west side of Block 1 (from Denmark Street to William Street) in front of Penneys Department Store and Block 4 east between Roches Street and Cecil Street in front of the new International Rugby Experience (IRE) building.

Public Realm

- **Castletroy Park Playground Extension Works** – Works to extend and upgrade the playground are nearing completion on site.
- **Limerick Greenway Underpasses and Overpasses** – Main Works Contract has been offered out to e-tender. Design of underpasses and overpasses to separate

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

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, has been submitted.

Flood Protection - National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (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 out to tender. Site investigation contractor appointed to carry out site investigation works along existing embankments.
- **Adare Flood Relief Scheme** - Data collection and analysis ongoing to inform hydraulic modelling. A public consultation day was held in Adare Public Hall on 24 March. Site investigation contract tendered.
- **Castleconnell Flood Relief Scheme** - Hydrology Report finalised. Hydraulic Report currently being finalised. Preparing Options Report.
- **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

- **Newcastle West Athletics Hub** - Construction of a new eight-lane Athletics Track and ancillary facilities is progressing on site.
- **Park Road Bridge** - Detailed design is underway for a proposed new bridge between South Canal Bank and Lower Park Road which will improve the pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle crossing facilities of the canal. Geotechnical Investigation Contractor has been appointed.

2. Planning Development

Planning Applications

A total of 111 new planning applications were received as follows:

Category	Amount
Part 8	1
Housing Developments	0
Domestic Developments	78
Agricultural Developments	8
Commercial Developments/ Change of Use	10
Sporting/ Community and Educational Developments	2
Other Developments	12

The current applications include proposals for a Part 8 for the construction of 1 no. cattle overpass at the Limerick Greenway, Port, Co. Limerick.

3. Environment, Recreation & Climate Change

Cemeteries

Number of Burials in City Cemeteries

Mount St. Lawrence	22
Mount St. Oliver	12
Castlemungret	12
Kilmurry	1

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Waste Regulation and Enforcement

During the month -

- 270 complaints were received.
- A total of 465 inspections were undertaken.
- 46 Warnings were issued.
- 12 Notices were issued.
- 12 Directions were served by the Department.
- 13 Prosecutions were initiated.
- A total of 16 fines were issued during the period.

4. Urban Innovation

Citizen Innovation Lab – Sarsfield Street, Limerick

Activities commenced in the Citizen Innovation Lab in early March. The purpose of the space is to be a centre for citizen engagement and participation in the areas of climate action, energy transition, sustainability and city centre rejuvenation. This month, the Urban Innovation Team hosted events for +CityxChange, Bloomberg Innovation Training and Creative Climate Action. An arts event, 'Belonging - Re-imagining the River,' saw adults and children share memories of the city and river as part of the St. Patrick's Day festival.

Creative Climate Action – Decarbonising Together

Five community groups were selected to take part in the project following an evaluation process. The groups attended the first Decarbonising Together event in the Citizen Innovation Lab, where each group learned more about decarbonisation and explored aspects that may be challenging in their communities.

+CityxChange – Sustainable Energy Community

The +CityxChange Team hosted an engagement event, in the Citizen Innovation Lab, on the deployment of a tidal turbine close to Thomond Weir. A key element of the deployment turbine will be the establishment of a Sustainable Energy Community that in time will see the community using the energy generated and take on ownership of the turbine. Local Limerick company,

Gkinetic, gave an update on the planning and foreshore licensing processes as well as details on environmental assessments. +CityxChange partners, Space Engagers, outlined the process of forming a Sustainable Energy Community and the potential and long-term benefits for the community.

City Engage Week 4 – A Sustainable Energy Future for Limerick

+CityxChange partners hosted City Engage Week 4 recently with over a hundred people attending online events over the course of the week. The theme of the week was 'A Sustainable Energy Future for Limerick' and focused on the clean energy transition in the City. Property Owners in the Georgian Neighbourhood, professionals working on heritage buildings, and anyone with an interest in forming an energy community in Limerick City were invited to take part in a week-long series of targeted events focusing on a sustainable energy future for Limerick.

Recordings of the events from City Engage Week 4 can be accessed on the following link. <https://www.limerick.ie/cityxchange/city-engage>

5. Veterinary Services

- Seven stray or wandering equines were impounded.
- The Dog Control Unit processed 14 dogs during the month.
- 16 food sample was submitted for analysis under the National Residues and Microbiological Sampling Programme.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

National and Regional Shared Services Centre Directorate

1. Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Shared Services Centre (SSC)

- There were 61,433 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAP SSC at the end of March.
- A weekly average of 193 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2022.
- The March landlord payment run was €56.3 million.
- The weekly tenant charge at the end of March was €3.1 million.
- The Debt Management Unit of the HAP SSC collected a total of €39.6 million in differential rent to end of March.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of March was 97%.
- The Debt Management Unit issued 7,686 HAP debt reminder letters in March.

2. Fire and Emergency

Statistics

	No of Fire Related Calls	No of Non Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call outs 01/03/22 - 31/03/22	79	65	144
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	64%	53%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	21%	35%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	15%	12%	

	No. received / assigned	No. validated	No. invalidated / refused	No. granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications March	11	9	0	14	
Disability Access Cert Applications March	6	7	0	10	
Licensing Applications March	6		0	5	
Commencement Notice March	31	28	2	28	30
Completion Certificate March	11	7	0	7	7
Planning Referrals March	16				13
Sugar CRM Cases March	1				3

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

Fire & Emergency Training Events

During the month, the following training courses took place:

- Three Retained Fire Fighters attend a one-week QQI Compartment Fire Behaviour Course in Hacketstown, Co. Carlow.
- Two Officers attended a two-day Operational Command Course in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.
- The majority of Limerick City Fire Fighters have now completed a one-week block release training course over the last four weeks in Patrickswell Racecourse. This course covers Emergency Traffic Management, Electric Cars, Road Traffic Collisions, Ship and Ports, and two days of Hazardous Materials Training.
- Two Officers attended two-day Fire Safety workshops in Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
- On-Station Training continued in all stations.

Civil Defence attendance at Events

The following activity took place in March:

- Patient Transfer Limerick residence to Mater Hospital, Dublin, return - 1 day
- Mary Immaculate Students' Union Run/Walk in memory of Ashling Murphy at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick - 1 day
- Milford Hospice 10K Run/Walk - 1 day
- Medical Cover for St. Patrick's Day Parade - O'Connell Street, Limerick - 1 day
- Participated in St. Patrick's Day Parade - O'Connell Street, Limerick - 1 day
- Participated in St. Patrick's Day Parade - Adare, Co. Limerick - 1 day
- Assisted in setting up of Rest Centre for Displaced Persons, Cahermoyle House, Ardagh, Co. Limerick - 2 days
- International Band Parade - O'Connell Street, Limerick - 1 day
- Primary School Sports Hall Athletics Blitz - UL Sports Arena, Castletroy, Limerick - 1 day

Water Safety

No. of lifebuoy replacements	Total January-February	March	Total 2022
Metropolitan District	2	2	4
Municipal District	1	0	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 March
No. of call-outs 01/03/2022 - 31/03/2022	975	1,582	1:49	2,557

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

Support Services Directorate

1. Finance

Commercial Rates and Loans

Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2022	
As at 31st March 2022	
Opening Balance - 1 Jan €	8,732,896
Accruals €	59,586,128 **
Vacant Property Adjustment €	68,271
Writes offs/ Waivers €	1,794,142
Total for Collection €	66,456,611
Amount Collected €	11,749,140
Arrears €	54,707,471
Specific Doubtful Arrears €	3,623,057
% Collected	19%

Debtors Loans	
As at 31st March 2022	
Opening Balance - 1 Jan €	310,319
Accruals €	312,615 ^
Writes offs €	-
To Collect €	622,934
Receipts €	634,785
Arrears €	- 11,851
% Collected	102%

^ Accruals not updated for loans for March 2022

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

Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No of days in overdraft 0

Chief Executive's Report

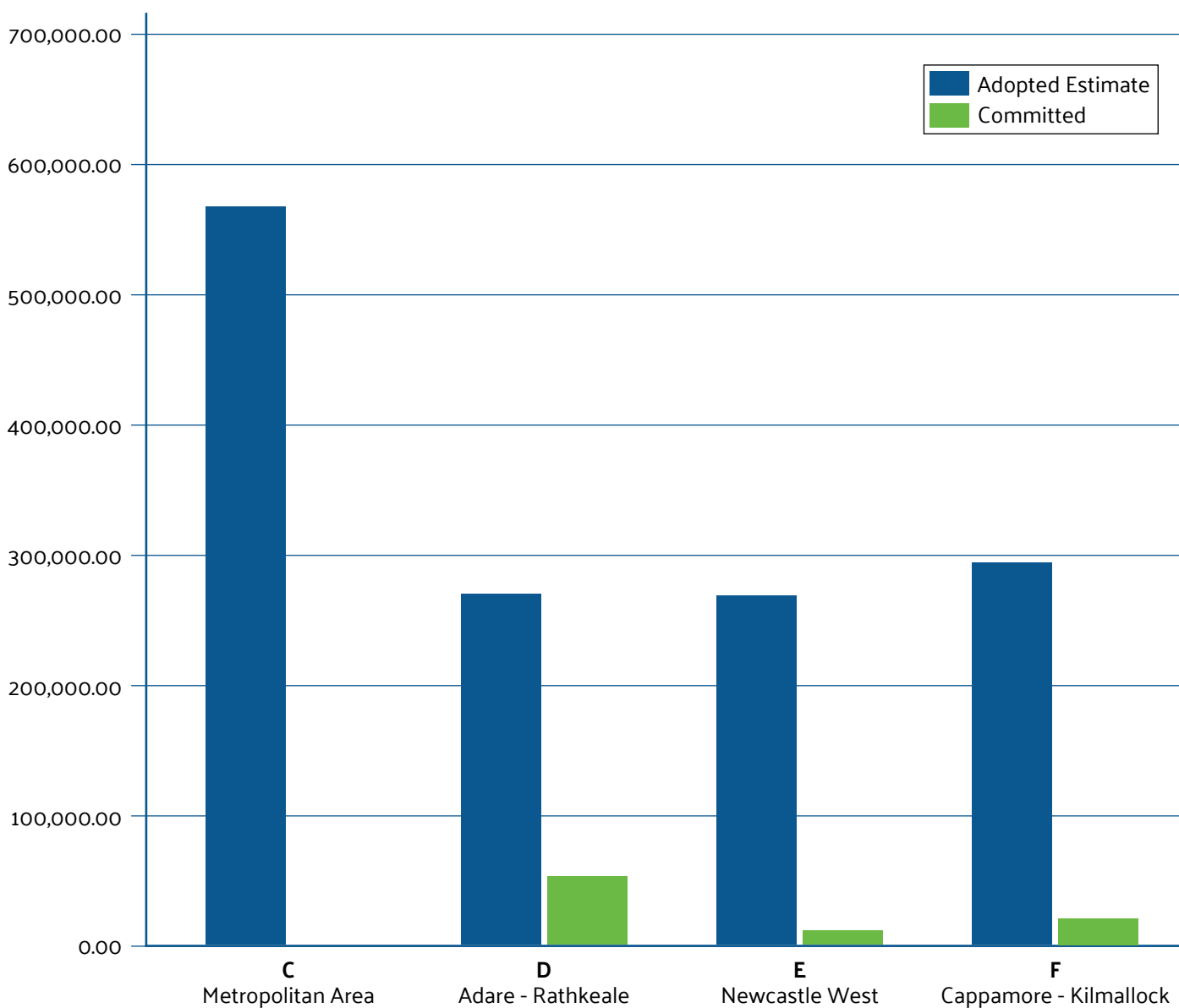


Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

General Municipal Allocation 2022 Adopted Estimate €1.403 Million

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



Municip (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate (€)	Value Committed (€)
C Metropolitan Area	568,000.00	0
D Adare - Rathkeale	270,000.00	53,800
E Newcastle West	270,000.00	10,575
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	295,000.00	20,340

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

2. Business Improvement

- A total of 900 active users are now live on the Employee App.
- Business Improvement launched a digitised online staff form for requesting a Low Value Purchase Card. The objective is to eliminate paper forms, reduce the time spent in the processing of forms and reduce our overall carbon footprint.
- Business Improvement has added Fire Service Payments to the online payments portal which provides our citizens with the option to make payments online.
- On MyPoint, our online engagement portal, Business Improvement built the Mayor's Ideas Box for schoolchildren and also assisted the Digital Services Team with creating an online public consultation on community CCTV cameras in public areas.
- There are 250 capital projects now managed through Cora, our cloud-based project management system. Project Managers and Sponsors can now request job codes, budget adjustments, reports and a digitised audit trail through an automated workflow.

3. Corporate, Governance and Customer Services

Office of the Mayor

The Mayor hosted the following in Corporate Headquarters:

- Visit from National Learning Network, Raheen, as part of their social education programme.
- Courtesy Visit of the Belgian Ambassador to Ireland.
- Group of 3rd and 4th year Law and Tax Students from Technological University of the Shannon: Midland Midwest.

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

- Vigil in unity and solidarity with the people for Ukraine.
Venue: Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Moyross Jobs Fair 'Meet your New Employer.'
Venue: Moyross Youth Academy at The Bays, Moyross, Limerick.
- Official Opening of Analog Devices International (ADI) Catalyst, first-of-its-kind Collaboration Accelerator.
Venue: Catalyst Building, Cloughkeating Avenue, Raheen Business Park, Limerick.
- United Rugby Championship, Munster v Dragons.
Venue: Thomond Park, Limerick.
- Junior League Fixture, Richmond RFC vs Old Christians.
Venue: Richmond RFC, Canal Bank, Rhebogue, Limerick.
- Visit to Caherconlish National School to promote Local Area Plan and Suggestion Box for Children.
Venue: Caherconlish National School, Caherconlish, Co. Limerick.
- Official Launch of Limerick Community Education Network (LCEN) new Strategic Plan 2022-2025
Venue: Istabraq Hall, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Planting of Tree for National Tree Week.
Venue: St. Nessans, Mungret, Limerick.
- Gate Reception to celebrate the return of Transatlantic Air Services at Shannon Airport, The Aer Lingus Shannon to Boston Service.
Venue: Shannon Airport, Shannon, Co. Clare.
- Launch of Limerick's annual Poetry Festival 'April is Poetry Month in Limerick.'
Venue: Istabraq Hall, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Photoshoot to announce Limerick's Active Travel Team move to its permanent home at Barrow House, Michael Street.
Venue: Barrow House, Michael Street, Limerick.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

- A presentation of work created by the Transition Year Students from CBS Sexton Street 'Communities of Culture Project.'
Venue: Hunt Museum, Rutland Street, Limerick.
- Breakfast Fundraiser in aid of the Peter McVerry Trust.
Venue: Castletroy Park Hotel, Castletroy, Limerick.
- Commemorate National Flag Day.
Venue: Laurel Hill Coláiste FCI, North Circular Road, Limerick.
- 12th Infantry Battalion and Sarsfield Barracks, Limerick, St. Patrick's Day Mass.
Venue: The Garrison Church, Sarsfield Barracks, Limerick.
- St. Patrick's Day Parade.
Venue: Viewing of Parade at the festival grandstand on Liddy Street, Limerick.
- Adare St. Patrick's Day Parade.
Venue: Adare, Co. Limerick.
- 12th Infantry Battalion and Sarsfield Barracks Ceremony to commemorate the Centenary of the vacation of Sarsfield Barracks by British Armed Forces, followed by a Family 'Open Day.'
Venue: Sarsfield Barracks, Limerick.
- The 50th International Band Championship.
Venue: The festival grandstand outside Howley's Quay, Henry Street, Limerick.
- Launch of the Con and Annie Kirby Memorial Stake.
Venue: Limerick Greyhound Stadium.
- An Garda Síochána, Garda Divisional Youth Awards.
Venue: Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, County Limerick.
- Mungret St. Paul's GAA Club, Dinner Dance and Medal Presentation.
Venue: Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick.
- Housing Conference 'Future Settlement: Living Cities & Towns'.
Venue: Strand Hotel, Limerick.
- Launch for Limerick Mental Health Association Campaign 'Hello Limerick How Are You'.
Venue: Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Official Opening of Co-Operative Housing Ireland's development of 71 homes at Baunacloka Heights, Mungret.
Venue: Baunacloka Heights, Mungret, Limerick.
- The unveiling of second Pride Rainbow Crossing for Limerick on the Dooradoyle Road, next to the Ballykeefe Roundabout.
- Virtual Awards Ceremony for Limerick County Final of the Student Enterprise Programme.
- Visit to the Urban Co-Op.
Venue: Eastway Business Park, Ballysimon Road, Limerick.
- Contract Signing for the construction of a 57-unit Social Housing Development at Cosgrave Park and Dalgaish Park, Moyross.
Venue: Moyross Community Hub, Moyross.
- Fun afternoon for the children in Southill Afterschools Club CLG to celebrate their 25th Anniversary.
Venue: Southill Hub, O'Malley Park, Southill.
- Attendance at the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade New York City 2022.
- Attendance at the Annual Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade, Rockaway Beach, Queens, New York.
- Attendance at the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in London, United Kingdom.
- Attendance at the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah, Georgia.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

Register of Electors

Staff from the Register of Electors Team attended a webinar briefing in relation to the modernisation of the Register. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage advised that the Electoral Reform Bill, 2022, has been published. The Bill will now progress through the Houses of the Oireachtas.

The Team commenced creating the Supplementary Register. There were the following amendments:

- Additions 65.
- Deletions 144.

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

Health and Safety Training

The following training courses took place during the month:

Names of Course	Number Staff Trained
Safe Pass	41
Manual Handling	55
Driver Certificate of Professional Competence	27
Confined Spaces Medium Risk	3
First Aid Response	4
First Aid Response Refresher	7
Construction Skills Certification Scheme - Site Dumper	3

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 March:

- Approved requisitions account for 83% of the total requisitions actioned for this given month.
- Rejected requisitions account for 17% of the total requisitions actioned for this given month.

Month	Approved	Rejected	Total Requisitions Actioned
March	1,381	290	1,671

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

Rejection Reason	March
Memo - Requisition not raised in advance incomplete/omitted	115
Documentation uploaded not relevant to Requisition/nothing uploaded	65
Procurement Reference omitted/incorrect	43
Justification for Supplier Selection omitted/ unclear	25
Approved Officer's Order omitted	20

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

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 March:

New Procurement References set up	53
Procurement References extended as per signed contract/arrangement	1

This month, a Procurement and Requisition Oversight 'Hints and Tips' e-mail was circulated to all staff. It is intended to continue providing these on a Quarterly basis.

Schedule of Meetings for March

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Full Council		
Special Meeting to discuss Climate Action Plan with Minister Eamon Ryan	11.03.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
March Meeting of Council	28.03.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Operational Briefings		
Limerick City North	01.03.2022	Virtual
Limerick City East	01.03.2022	Virtual
Limerick City West	02.03.2022	Virtual
Local Community Development Committee	01.03.2022	Merchant's Quay
Joint Policing Committee	04.03.2022	Virtual

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Municipal District of		
Newcastle West Monthly Meeting	02.03.2022	Newcastle West
Special Meeting to receive update on Distributor Roads for Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale	23.03.2022	Newcastle West
Joint Policing Sub-Committee Meeting	30.03.2022	Newcastle West
Adare-Rathkeale Monthly Meeting	08.03.2022	Adare
Cappamore-Kilmallock Monthly Meeting	24.03.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Metropolitan District of Limerick		
Monthly Meeting	21.03.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Rural Water Monitoring Committee Meeting	24.03.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Party Leaders' Meetings	09.03.2022 24.03.2022	Virtual Virtual
Protocol Committee Meeting	24.03.2022	Virtual
Strategic Policy Committee Meeting		
Special Meeting Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment	14.03.2022	Dooradoyle and Online

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

Access to Information

	March	2022 (January to March)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	21	64
Freedom of Information Internal Appeals	1	1
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	1
Total Ombudsman Requests	8	21
Total Access to Information on the Environment Requests	1	3

Customer Services

A total of 2,124 visitors were welcomed to Customer Services in both Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle Offices during March.

The Customer Services Team continued to support customers at first point of contact by answering customer queries via telephone, email, MyLimerick and social media. Case creation, payments processing, posting application forms on request, processing Residential Parking Permits and generally facilitating applications for Council services continued throughout the month.

The following figures highlight the activity within the Contact Centre during March:

- Customer Services Call Centre answered 11,671 calls. This represents an average of 556 per day, with the number of calls exceeding 600 on several occasions. 56% of calls were handled at first point of contact.

- Customer Services Case Management Team continued working with key service areas of the Council in supporting the closure and update of representations from Elected Members.
- 2,845 cases were created, with 649 of these logged on behalf of Public Representatives. 3,719 cases were closed, with 788 of these being cases logged by Public Representatives.
- A total of 2,835 emails were processed through the Customer Services email platform.
- 499 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. Customer Services logged 75% of cases for Housing Maintenance in the Metropolitan District as well as 104 cases for the South and West Districts, logging 66% of all housing maintenance cases throughout the city and county.
- Customer Services continued to provide other frontline services to the general public, such as processing applications for Burning of Agricultural Vegetation Permits, 11 of which were issued.
- Other frontline services included the processing of Residential Parking Permits. 96 new Residential Parking Permits were processed, with 70 issued.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Marketing & Communications

Marketing

Limerick St. Patrick's Festival

- Managed a four and a half week multimedia marketing campaign up to 20 March across social, digital, radio and print media, targeting local, regional and national audiences.
- Provided live social media coverage of events across the four-day festival from 17 to 20 March.
- Secured Limerick St. Patrick's Festival coverage on RTÉ's Today Show with Maura and Dáithí, which aired on 16 March, while Limerick St. Patrick's Day parade featured on RTÉ Six One News on 17 March.
- As Limerick was identified as one of six regional destinations for promotion as part of the national St. Patrick's Festival initiative, Marketing & Communications worked with Fáilte Ireland to ensure that Limerick St. Patrick's Festival featured across official @stpatricksfestival social channels.
- Coordinated five social media competitions to increase awareness, engage audiences and promote local businesses.
- Developed, launched and promoted the Limerick St. Patrick's Festival playlist, exclusively celebrating Limerick bands and musicians.
- Commissioned festival photography and videography for future promotion.

Re-Embrace Limerick

- Created two compelling and attractive video pieces to showcase the diversity of attractions, amenities and activities available in Limerick by day and Limerick's night time economy.

- Launched a paid and organic national social media campaign (running for four weeks from 22 March) to raise brand awareness and increase engagement.
- Running across Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube, the campaign encourages individuals to Re-Embrace a life without limits in Limerick, with a short break this Spring.
- Created a dedicated Re-Embrace Limerick hub on Limerick.ie including stakeholder special offers and campaign-related visitor content.
- Launched a Re-Embrace Limerick Photo Competition encouraging people to participate in creating quality user-generated content with a chance to win one of three prize packages.

Other Marketing Activities

- Secured a feature in a Staycation Summer Special Report in the Irish Times and Irish Examiner.
- Created new match book advertising and hoarding as part of Limerick City and County Council's sponsorship of Treaty United.
- Continued engagement with Brand Ambassadors and stakeholders.
- Created and issued four Limerick.ie e-newsletters.
- Marketing materials provided for the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland/Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage National Housing Conference 2022 "Future Settlement: Living Cities and Towns," which was held in Limerick on 28 and 29 March.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Social Media

- Continued to monitor, schedule and update social media channels with creative content to utilise our engagement with the public and put Limerick in people's minds.
- Posted 60 times on Limerick.ie's Facebook with followers now 32,400. Posts reached 622,533 users with 14,193 engagements.
- Tweeted 59 times on Limerick.ie's Twitter, @limerick_ie, with total followers now 20,772. Our tweets earned 300,000 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).
- Posted 16 times on Limerick.ie's Instagram and created 11 Stories with total followers now 20,262.
- Posted 17 times on Limerick City and County Council's LinkedIn with total followers now 8,402.

Limerick.ie

In March, there were 173,717* unique site visits to Limerick.ie, a 25% increase on the same period in 2021. (*Fathom Analytics)

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

- www.limerick.ie/stpatricksfestival
- www.limerick.ie
- www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning
- www.limerick.ie/discover/whats-on/festivals/limerick-st-patricks-festival-2022
- www.limerick.ie/stpatricksfestival/limerick-international-band-championship

Content Report: 98 articles, 177 events and four amenities were added to Limerick.ie in March.

Communications

- Marked Seachtain na Gaeilge with a series of short phrases [Focal an Lae], which were sent to staff daily for the duration of the festival.
- Issued 21 news releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and researched and wrote eight speeches for the Office of the Mayor.
- Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter.
- Produced and distributed the Quarterly Business Bulletin Newsletter.
- Tweeted 154 times on Limerick City and County Council's Twitter account, @limerickcouncil, with total followers now 17,298. Our tweets earned 104,500 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).

