

Chief Executive's Report

April 2022

Abbeyfeale E-Hub and ENGINE HUBS Network officially opened by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, TD.

Revised Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy unveiled by the National Transport Authority with submissions now being received.

New era for King John's Castle as it transfers to Council ownership.

TLC7 sees record number of volunteers out cleaning their communities on Good Friday.

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	5
5. Digital Services	5

Transportation & Mobility Directorate

1. Travel and Transportation Strategy	7
2. Active Travel	7

Community, Tourism & Culture Directorate

1. Urban & Rural Community Development	9
2. Tourism	10
3. Arts Office	12
4. Property & Community Facilities	13
5. Libraries, Gallery & Museum	13

Regeneration Directorate

1. Regeneration	17
-----------------	----

Housing Directorate

1. Housing Support Services	20
2. Local Authority Housing Construction and Maintenance	26
3. Strategy & Non-Local Authority Housing Construction	30
4. Municipal District Offices	32

Planning, Environment & Place-Making Directorate

1. Place-Making and Public Realm	35
2. Planning Development	36
3. Environment, Recreation & Climate Change	36
4. Urban Innovation	37
5. Veterinary Services	37

National and Regional Shared Services Centre Directorate

1. Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Shared Services Centre (SSC)	38
2. Fire and Emergency	38

Support Services Directorate

1. Finance	41
2. Business Improvement	43
3. Corporate, Governance and Customer Services	43
4. Marketing & Communications	48

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Economic Development and Enterprise Directorate

1. Trade & Investment

- Vitalograph, which produces respiratory diagnostic devices and based in Ennis since 1974, announced the opening of a new site in Engine, Upper Cecil Street, Limerick, creating 100 new jobs.
- Sports Retailer, Decathlon, announced the opening of a new store in the Parkway Retail Park, which will create 60 new jobs.

2. Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Limerick

Funding Approved

- Six businesses were approved funding at the April Evaluation and Approvals meeting to include three Priming Grants, one Business Expansion Grant and one Agile Research and Development Grant to a total value of €310,364.
- 10 businesses were approved for the LEO Trading Online Voucher.

National Enterprise Awards

The Limerick Local Enterprise Awards took place in April with the following awards:

- The Entrepreneur of the Year 2022 Award for Limerick went to Kiltelly Dromkeen Innovation Limited, Kiltelly. KDI is a green company which process and export recyclables and will go on to represent Limerick in the National Finals.
- The Innovation Award went to Solar Clean Robotics, Limerick.
- "This is You," Ballyhahill, was recognised with the 'One to Watch Award.'

- A Lifetime Achievement Award was made to Bernie Carroll, Student Programmes Ireland Limited (SPIL), who has provided additional income for over 2,500 host families in Ireland over the last 13 years.

LEO Workshops and Training events in April included:

- Business Idea Generation and Business Planning Webinar.
- Costing, Pricing and Cash-flow Management.
- Selling Online and Social Media Bootcamp Webinars.
- Start Your Own Business Course.
- Lean for Micro Programme.
- Management Development Programme weekly workshops continuing.

There were 63 participants on the LEO Business Training Courses and 12 Business Owners have availed of the LEO Mentoring programme in April.

3. Innovate Limerick

Abbeyfeale E-Hub

- Abbeyfeale E-Hub was officially opened by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, T.D., and the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler, on 08 April. Over 50 delegates attended the official launch. The hub was open to the public to drop in and view for the day and see the works completed.
- Four of the seven offices are currently full. There are eight permanent workers in the Hubs and three part-time remote workers. The hot-desking space is used when required.
- Abbeyfeale Community Council has held a number of meetings in the hub.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick City
& County Council**

- Innovate Board Meeting held in Abbeyfeale E-Hub.
- Abbeyfeale E-Hub operating under the name WorkBase.
- Spaces can be booked at <https://hqkerry.com/locations/workbase-abbeyfeale/>

Engine Hubs Network

- The Engine Hubs Network was officially launched on 08 April by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, T.D.
- There are currently 16 members of Engine Hubs Network:
 1. The Yard - Newcastle West.
 2. Bruree Food Units, Bruree.
 3. Spark Hub, Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership, Roxboro, Limerick.
 4. HQ Listowel.
 5. Croom Enterprise Centre, Croom.
 6. Kantoher Enterprise Centre, Newcastle West.
 7. The Boat Club, Sarsfield Bridge, Limerick.
 8. ACM Community Centre, Castleconnell.
 9. Ballyhoura Heritage and Development, Kilfinane.
 10. Engine Collaboration Centre, Cecil Street, Limerick.
 11. Broadford Enterprise Centre.
 12. HQ Tralee.
 13. Tipperary Digital Hub, Tipperary Town.
 14. Rathkeale Enterprise Centre, Rathkeale.
 15. Engine, Cecil Street, Limerick.
 16. WorkBase, Abbeyfeale.
- The first in-person, post-COVID Engine Hubs network member meet-up was held in Abbeyfeale E-Hub.
- Innovate Limerick is the lead partner on a Training Links funding submission. The submission of €36,000 is to secure training and upskilling for members of the Engine Hubs Network.
- Engine Hubs Information video is available at – <https://vimeo.com/681935329/16bd5d769d>

Promotional campaign undertaken through social media marketing and traditional marketing avenues.

Information on Engine Hubs - <https://enginehubs.ie>

Connected Hubs Funding 2021

- Lead Partner on completed €230,000 project for funding for upgrades and various works to The Yard Workspace - Newcastle West; Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership - Roxboro; Ballyhoura Heritage and Development, Kilfinane; Croom Enterprise Centre, Croom; and Engine-Limerick. Project completed and signed off on by Department of Rural and Community Development.

Connected Hubs Funding 2022

- Lead partner on submission of two Connected hubs, multi-hub applications totalling €408,250. Aim to improve Hub infrastructure. Seven Hubs involved are Spark Hub, Roxboro; Bruree Food Units; Croom Enterprise Centre; The Boat Club, Limerick; The Pavilion, Adare; The Yard, Newcastle West; Engine, Limerick.

Connected Hubs.ie

- Engine, Cecil Street, was used by Kieran O'Donnell, T.D., to participate in a special Fine Gael Parliamentary Party meeting, led by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys T.D., on the role of Enterprise hubs in rural development.
- Working with [Connected Hubs.ie](https://enginehubs.ie) to increase Hub awareness nationwide.

ENGINE COLLABORATION CENTRE

- Successful workshop with Analog Devices Catalyst innovation lab to discuss collaboration opportunities and areas of mutual interest.
- Working with Google Ireland and Mary Immaculate College on the application of technology in schools in Limerick region.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

- Engaged with six new companies for software mentoring and collaboration with small and medium enterprises for development capability.

FILM IN LIMERICK

• **New Film and TV Crew Hub Manager Appointed**

Film in Limerick welcomed Rachael Power as the newly appointed Manager for the Munster Film and TV Crew Hub, which is being set up at Innovate Limerick. The training hub, one of three country-wide, is being set up with Screen Ireland support to 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.

• **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 April. Both courses are supported by Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.

• **Double Blind - Feature Film Wraps in Rathkeale**

The €1.5 million Horror / Thriller feature, funded by Screen Ireland and facilitated by Innovate Limerick / Film in Limerick, has wrapped filming after a 25-day shoot in Rathkeale and at locations in the city.

• **Production Support**

Innovate Limerick / Film in Limerick has been working closely with Fantastic Films to facilitate the production 'Woken,' starring Maxine Peake, filming in Clare and Limerick, and with Treasure Entertainment on the filming of Season 3 of 'Smother.'

The Mid West Regional Enterprise Plan (REP)

To coincide with the launch of the new regional enterprise plans across the country, a new €5 million funding scheme has been announced - The Regional Enterprise Innovation

Scoping Scheme (REISS). See link to relevant documents and further details here: [Link](#)

The new scheme will enable the investigation of early stage concepts or accelerate the progress of significant projects seeking to develop new enterprise activities. The new scheme has two separate offerings:

- **Feasibility Funding** – to deliver Feasibility Studies on specific collaborative and innovative projects. A REISS Feasibility Grant with 80% grant support to cover consultancy and travel costs for smaller early stage feasibility projects, up to a maximum grant of €50,000, and
- **Priming Funding** – to scope out detailed project delivery plans including design, costing and planning of infrastructural elements. A REISS Priming Grant with 80% grant support to cover Consultancy and Travel, but also supporting the cost of Personnel, Promotion and the Rental of Office space for larger scale more significant scoping projects, up to a maximum €200,000 in grant aid per project.

A number of high-quality applications from the Mid-West, aligning with the actions of the new REP, are expected to be submitted by the closing date.

4. Forward Planning

- Work continued on the preparation of the draft Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 with the drafting of the Chief Executive's Report on the submissions received during the public consultation of the Material Alterations. A total of 39 valid submissions were received within the public consultation period, which closed on 01 April.

5. Digital Services

12 April saw the submission of the response of Limerick City and County Council to the Data Protection Commissioner's final report on our Community CCTV Scheme. This submission was the culmination of three

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

months of intensive work by a dedicated core team which included the Head of Digital Services, the Data Protection Officer and representatives from An Garda Síochána, Arup (public realm CCTV experts) and O'Flynn Exhams Solicitors firm (data privacy specialists). The scope of works involved included:

- The identification and mapping of all CCTV cameras controlled by Limerick City and County Council.
- Auditing all cameras in conjunction with An Garda Síochána for their proportionality, necessity and justification in relation to General Data Protection Regulation.
- Turning off all cameras which failed the proportionality, necessity and justification test.
- Redefining all cameras under four schemes - Northside, Southside, Canal and River Bank, Hinterland, and developing a Data Protection Impact Assessment for each one.
- Public consultation carried out on all four schemes online via My Point and within the communities at focus meetings with the Regeneration Team.
- Completing An Garda Síochána Community CCTV applications for all schemes.
- Development and sign-off of a Joint Controller Agreement between Limerick City and County Council and An Garda Síochána.
- Developing a CCTV oversight board, updating data processing agreements, updating limerick.ie and updating our CCTV policy, along with many other supporting documents.
- CCTV sign locations were identified, with signs ordered for installation.

EU Programmes

- Members of +CityxChange and EU Programmes Teams met with the International Energy Research Centre (IERC) based in Cork. The positive city exchange project was discussed, as well as the Up-Stairs project, and areas of commonality were found, particularly around one-stop-shops and digital twins, leaving the door open for future collaboration.
- Took part in the Budafok transnational meeting as part of the Find Your Greatness project. Limerick was

represented by a physical presence though the URBACT local group chair, and online by the EU Programme Manager. This meeting focused on tourism and the improvement and finalisation of Integrated Action Plans.

- The Horizon Europe SURE proposal was submitted on 26 April, led by Technopolis Group. If successful, this project will enable Limerick City and County Council to identify, plan, and design integrated urban planning and urban regeneration solutions and measures for the existing built environment. Should the New European Bauhaus application be successful, this project would complement it well.



Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

Transportation & Mobility Directorate

1. Travel and Transportation Strategy

Revised Draft Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy

The National Transport Authority (NTA) presented the revised Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS) on 26 April in an online briefing to all members of the Oireachtas, Elected Members and Councillors. The Strategy was also presented by the NTA to all Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee members on 27 April. All documents are available to download from the NTA website [here](#).

Submissions

Submissions or observations with respect to the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Draft Transport Strategy 2040 and/or associated Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report and/or associated Appropriate Assessment (AA) Natura Impact Statement will be taken into consideration in the finalisation of the transport strategy.

2. Active Travel

Projects

Limerick Active Travel received funding approval from the National Transport Authority for the following schemes:

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

Scheme	Details
Baggot Estate Upgrade Cycleway	Scheme comprises a new combined cycleway/footpath (approx. 440m) with public lighting linking into the existing cycle path network in Baggot Estate, connecting Dooradoyle Road to Rosbrien Road, providing access to Crescent Shopping Centre and onward to UHL.

Metropolitan District of Limerick – Asset Renewal (New Footpaths)

Scheme	Details
Rosbrien Road Footpaths	Scheme comprises installation of 800m of shared cycle/pedestrian path, installation of public lighting along this section of carriageway.
Ballybrown Church to School	Scheme comprises a footpath (approx. 300m) from the church to the school.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale – Minor Footpath Schemes

Scheme
Adare Pedestrian Linkage and Upgrades

Municipal District of Newcastle West – Minor Footpath Schemes

Scheme
L7809 Abbeyfeale – St Ita’s Road

These schemes are in addition to the Active Travel schemes previously approved by the NTA this year.

Works

- **Castletroy Urban Greenway** – Limerick Active Travel planted 15 trees along the newly opened Castletroy Urban Greenway.
- **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.
- **Ballykeefe Roundabout to St. Paul’s** – work is underway to remove the central reservation between the Ballykeefe Roundabout and St. Paul’s junction. This is to allow for the installation of kerb segregation on the on-road cycle lane on the outbound carriageway.

Marketing and Communications

- Active Travel issued one Press Release to coincide with the installation of an Active Travel display along the Castletroy Urban Greenway. The display includes almost sixty essays and pieces of artwork by the children of Gaelscoil Chaladh an Treoigh.

- Active Travel produced one video for social media on the installation of the Active Travel display along the Castletroy Urban Greenway.
- Active Travel tweeted eight times via the Limerick Council Twitter account with total followers now of 17,200.
- Active Travel posted three times on the Limerick Council LinkedIn account.
- A member of the Active Travel Team visited third class pupils at An Mhodscoil and St. Nessian’s National School in Mungret to deliver Active Travel workshops. More than twenty students took part in each workshop with more engagement sessions to follow elsewhere in 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

The April meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was held on 05 April. The Local Action Group (LAG) approved funding of €296,648.66 under the LEADER Programme 2014-2022 (€192,844.16 funded from the Transitional LEADER Programme and €103,804.50 funded from the European Union Recovery Instrument Fund).

Limerick Public Participation Network (PPN)

PPN Plenary (i.e. members') meeting held. Agenda included presentation on Community and Local Government response to Ukrainian displaced persons arriving in Limerick, as well as a programme to promote Limerick Autism Friendly which will provide training to Council staff and community groups.

Also considered at the meeting was the 2022 PPN non-financial and financial report, draft 2022 work plan and budget, ratification of successful PPN candidates from 2022 elections.

Changes to the PPN Constitution following a Department of Rural and Community Development Circular indicating an amendment to the PPN Handbook published by the Department at the end of 2020, was also considered.

Two PPN Linkage Group meetings took place in April - the Community, Leisure and Culture and Home and Social Development Linkage Groups. Details of all Linkage Groups are on the [Limerick PPN website](#).

Membership of the PPN continues to grow and now stands at 179. The membership registration form is on the PPN website and eligible groups in Limerick can register at any time.

Limerick PPN continued to have an active social media presence on Twitter and Facebook.

Visit of Minister Heather Humphreys, TD, to Rural Development Projects in West Limerick

On 08 April, the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, TD, visited a number of rural development projects in West Limerick. She formally launched projects completed with funding support from the LEADER programme and the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, Department of Rural and Community Development, in the presence of the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler. Projects officially opened by the Minister were Roots Community Shop and Café, Kilmeedy, Dromcollogher Community Park, Ashford Social Hub, Ashford, Barnagh Greenway Hub playground, Ardagh Astro Turf facility delivered by Ardagh District Recreational and Sporting Company and ENGINE E-Hub Abbeyfeale. The Minister and her officials also visited Council-led rural development projects, namely Ardagh Station House where conservation works have been completed on the Station House, the site has been landscaped and plans are advanced to develop Ardagh as a Hub on the Limerick Greenway, with funding support from the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF), and the Railway Goods Shed Rathkeale, where plans are in progress to re-develop this building and site as a services Hub on the Limerick Greenway. The Minister unveiled a large wood sculpture of the Ardagh Chalice at the Ardagh Station site. The Minister received a tremendous welcome by the communities in West Limerick towns and villages who were proud to present their achievements and showcase their projects.

Team Limerick Clean Up

In its seventh year, Team Limerick Clean-Up (TLC7) returned to a community gathering format post COVID on Good Friday, 15 April. A record number of 21,300 volunteers set about giving the city and county a spring clean with the tea/coffee gatherings making a welcome

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

return at various community locations. TLC is a unique collaboration with Limerick City and County Council, communities, public agencies and private partners in terms of an environmental countywide initiative. The collaborative nature of TLCs, with key stakeholders including the citizens of Limerick, schools around the county, along with key partners in Mr. Binman and the McManus Benevolent Fund, promotes sustainable environmental goals and lifelong learning in relation to the environment, particularly in schools. Those that took part included community groups, residents' associations, sports clubs, schools, businesses, families, and charities.

Ukrainian Supports

Limerick City and County Council continued to support displaced Ukrainians arriving in Limerick. The supports are being coordinated by both the Housing and the Community, Tourism and Culture Directorates. The International Provision Accommodation Service (IPAS), a Government Department, manage the allocation of accommodation for the Ukrainians on entry to Ireland and the Council notifies them of possible accommodation options such as multi-occupancy buildings, hotels etc. IPAS manage the contractual options with private sector providers.

Hotel Accommodation, mostly in the city, is the primary option being utilised but rest centres have been established in Ardagh, Foynes, Pallaskenry, Ballynanty, Castleconnell and Kilfinane.

Social Housing options are not being used to ensure there is no impact on Social Housing Applicants.

The Urban and Community Development Team lead the co-ordination of support services for the Ukrainians and the Ukrainian Community Response Forum meets weekly. The membership includes the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler, all state agencies and other key stakeholders and is chaired by the Chief Executive.

Age-Friendly

Croke Park recognised as the first Age Friendly Stadium in the World

On 07 April, Croke Park Stadium was formally recognised as being Age Friendly by the World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Network of Age Friendly Cities and Communities and Age Friendly Ireland. This designation comes after the stadium undertook a process of change to ensure that older people could continue to enjoy the facility, regardless of how their needs change across the course of their lives. The development of Croke Park as an Age Friendly Stadium is very welcome having regard to the projected increase in numbers of older people in society in years to come. The announcement was welcomed by Alana Officer, Unit Head, Demographic Change and Healthy Ageing at the WHO, Peter McKenna, Croke Park Stadium Director and Catherine McGuigan, Chief Officer, Age Friendly, Ireland.

Age Friendly Ireland is a local government-led programme working in partnership with other key service providers. Collaboration is key to successfully creating an Age Friendly Ireland and Croke Park is a stellar example of what can be achieved through cooperation and collaboration. Limerick City and County Council is an active members of the National Age Friendly Programme and leads on the delivery of the programme in Limerick.

2. Tourism

King John's Castle ownership transfers to Limerick City and County Council

A new chapter has begun in the long history of King John's Castle in Limerick with the transfer of ownership and business operations to Limerick City and County Council.

All business operations and staff at King John's Castle have transferred from Shannon Heritage to Discover Limerick DAC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Limerick City and County Council, established specifically to operate and develop key tourism attractions in Limerick that will

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick City
& County Council**

strengthen Limerick as a destination and attract increased visitor numbers.

King John's Castle is the first attraction to come under the Discover Limerick umbrella. The 14 staff, who had previously worked in the Castle for Shannon Heritage and contributed significantly to its success, have transferred to Discover Limerick with no change to their employment terms and conditions.

King John's Castle will remain open seven days a week, welcoming people from near and far.

Located at the heart of Limerick's Medieval Quarter, King John's Castle is the largest tourist attraction in Limerick city. It brings to life more than 800 years of dramatic local history through the art interpretive centre and exhibition showcases which tell the story of the most iconic building in Munster.

With around 100,000 visitors annually, the towers of King John's Castle provide panoramic views across Limerick city and the River Shannon.

A reception to celebrate the transfer of King John's Castle to Discover Limerick DAC and Limerick City and County Council was held at the Castle on 05 April, attended by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler; the Chief Executive of Limerick City and County Council; CEO, Shannon Group, Mary Considine; Interim Chair, Discover Limerick DAC, Tim O'Connor; elected representatives, officials and invited guests.

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler, said: "This is a wonderful start to a new era for King John's Castle. I would like to acknowledge and thank Shannon Heritage for their stewardship of King John's Castle for the past 30 years. With the Castle back under Limerick control, we are the masters of our own destiny. We have a wonderful attraction here that we all need to support and showcase in whatever way we can. And I would encourage all Limerick people to come and visit King John's Castle over the coming months. Great attractions on our doorstep are for locals as well as tourists."

Dr. Pat Daly, Chief Executive of Limerick City and County Council, said: "As the country emerges from a two-year pandemic, tourism recovery is a vital objective for Limerick City and County Council and the wider tourism industry in Limerick. The transition of the Castle from Shannon Heritage to Discover Limerick DAC presents an exciting opportunity for Limerick to grow and develop the tourism industry in the city and county."

Commenting on the transfer, **Mary Considine, CEO, Shannon Group**, said: "I would like to wish Limerick City and County Council every success as it takes on King John's Castle and, in particular, to thank the Council for working very closely with us to ensure a seamless transfer. The support of the Departments of Transport and Housing, Local Government and Heritage, along with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, and our close collaboration with the Council, ensured a smooth transition for our staff at King John's Castle, for which we are most grateful."

On 04 April 2022, King John's Castle entered a new period in its history, with the transfer to Discover Limerick DAC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Limerick City and County Council.

Limerick Greenway

Cattle Passes

Part 8 Planning was approved for one additional cattle overpass at the Kerry Border.

Ardagh Chalice Carving

A wooden carving of the Ardagh Chalice was unveiled at Ardagh Station House.

Greenway Footfall over Easter

The Greenway counters recorded 47,896 in footfall over the 40km during the month of April, with the peak day being 24 April. Rathkeale had recorded the highest percentage of footfall during this period.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Global Irish Festival Series Launch Event

The Global Irish Festival Series, a Fáilte Ireland and Department of Foreign Affairs initiative, aims to harness diaspora links for the benefit of local and community tourism. The Global Irish Festival Series was officially launched internationally by the Minister of State for Overseas Development Aid and Diaspora, Colm Brophy, TD, at the Consulate General of Ireland in New York on 20 April. Attendance at the event included representatives from Fáilte Ireland, Tourism Ireland, Limerick City and County Council, County Associations, Tour Operators, Irish American Groups, Aer Lingus and key media.

A joint initiative between Fáilte Ireland and the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Global Irish Festival Series aims to encourage diaspora to return home to visit Ireland and provides funding and support, through Local Authorities, for events that tap into international diaspora networks with support from Tourism Ireland. The annual Global Irish Festival Series was initially launched in 2018. This year, the series returns after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic and is once again supporting Limerick City and County Council on Global Limerick with an investment of €30,000.

3. Arts Office

Riverfest

Now in its 18th year, Riverfest Limerick kicked off on 29 April and attracted families and festival lovers from all over Ireland who enjoyed everything from Irish Naval Vessel tours, stand up paddle boarding, kayaking to zip lining across the River Shannon.

Open Calls

Platform 31

Stage 1 Assessment process took place on 07 April for Platform 31, a nationwide artist development scheme by the 31 Local Authority Arts Offices, in collaboration with the Arts Council. The shortlisted artists were submitted for Stage 2.

Strategic Fund

In April, one letter of support was issued to the Music Network Capital Scheme for application to the Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts Scheme.

Creative Ireland

Creative Ireland Made in Limerick Grants 2022

The Assessment Panel for Creative Ireland Made in Limerick Grants 2022 met on 27 April to make recommendations on all eligible applications according to the criteria of the award. Of the eighteen applications received, the Panel recommended eleven applicants for funding. These grants are offered as part of Limerick Creative Ireland Programme to deliver activities taking place in 2022.

Creative Ireland Bilateral Meeting

A Creative Ireland Bilateral meeting took place with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media officials from Dublin, with presentations from two members of the Creative Ireland Programme team, Sheila Deegan, and Eamonn Kelly, Principal Officer. It took place in the Council Chamber, Corporate Headquarters, on 25 April. The Creative Ireland programme has "in-principle" agreement for a further five-year framework for the Creative Ireland Programme. The presentation focused on the development of Limerick's Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027.

Arts Council Framework Agreement Programme

Arts Focused Disability Equality Training

Limerick Arts Office, in partnership with Arts and Disability Ireland, delivered Arts Focused Disability Equality Training on 05 April at Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay, Limerick. Fourteen people from seven organisations participated in the training, delivered by Pádraig Naughton, Executive Director, Arts and Disability Ireland, and Maureen Gilbert, Disability and Equality Consultant. Very positive feedback was received.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

Visual Artists Ireland Panel Discussion | How to Create an Artist-Led Network

Following on from the discussion on the benefits and pitfalls of working collaboratively, this panel discussion looked at how to set up an Artist-Led Network. On 28 April, this online discussion explored the routes taken by, and the range of experiences of, leading practitioners who operate in and work with Artist-Led Networks.

The Limerick Artists in Schools Programme ONLINE CELEBRATION of the Creative Outcomes of HearSay Artist in Schools 2020-2022

On 01 April, two wonderful short audio pieces were premiered, created by the children of Bilboa National School and Bulgaden National School, in collaboration with the current HearSay Artist in Schools, Niamh O'Brien. The event was attended by the Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Tom Ruddle, and the Arts Officer.

County Limerick Youth Theatre

Fifteen young artists aged 14 to 19 from across County Limerick took part in a performance of Katie Hims' comedy 'Variations' at Friars' Gate Theatre, Kilmallock, on 03 and 04 April. On 29 April, they transferred Variations to The Lyric, Belfast, for their Partner Theatre performance. This allowed members from County Limerick Youth Theatre the chance to meet and perform alongside other young artists from all over Ireland.

4. Property & Community Facilities

Dereliction, Vacancy & Reuse Team - April	
Inspections carried out	94
Property & Community Facilities Department Notices issued	4
Derelict Sites Cases opened	7

Statutory Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act	36
Derelict Sites Cases closed through engagement	8
Properties entered into the Derelict Sites Register	6
Properties put forward for Compulsory Acquisition (Section 15 Notices)	0
Properties Compulsorily Acquired (Section 17 Notices)	0

Bin Waivers Approved	19
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5. Libraries, Gallery & Museum

Library

- The library service has distributed Ukrainian language resources throughout the city and county branch network to support the Ukrainian refugees arriving in Limerick. These include activity/colouring sheets in Ukrainian, Ukrainian welcome posters, and dual language (Ukrainian and English) books for children. Our branches have also bookmarked links to open source resources available to Ukrainians. These include free audio books for all ages, dual language books, digital literacy resources, citizens' information and useful facts for parents of primary school children. Ukrainian welcome posters and information on dual language books have been advertised across all of Limerick Libraries social media accounts.
- Mental Health Ireland launched a new National campaign "Hello - How Are You?" on 07 April. The campaign promotes conversations and chats about mental health aimed at informing people how to access resources and reduce the silence and stigma around it. Abbeyfeale Library hosted a talk by Claire Flynn of Mental Health Ireland to promote the campaign.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

- “Digital Skills for Citizens” weekly classes, led by Ballyhoura Development CLG, continued at Kilmallock Library at maximum capacity. Kilmallock Library continued to welcome members of St. Joseph’s Foundation who have included the Library on their regular activity schedule to access books, CDs and DVDs. To mark the birthday of Samuel Beckett on 13 April, the branch created an in-house display inviting browsers to engage with Beckett through his plays, novels, letters, audio recordings and biographical works. Promotion on Facebook of weekly staff picks continue to prove popular amongst regular readers with requests for these titles on the increase.
- Kilmallock Library extended an open invitation for art and craft work for inclusion to this year’s “Cruinniú” summer exhibition. This popular event highlights the wonderful creativity of the local community throughout the summer months.
- The City Library marked Limerick Writers’ Centre annual April is Poetry Month festival by hosting a series of lunchtime lectures. The series began on 01 April with Kieran Beville’s talk entitled “The Transformational Power of Confessional Poetry.” On 08 April, Micheál Ó hAodha discussed the Irish poet, Seán Ó Ríordáin. On 22 April, Fiona Clarke Echlin gave a talk entitled “Poetry, Symbolism and the Sea.” The lecture series successfully concluded on 29 April with Dr. Arthur Broomfield’s presentation on surrealism in poetry. Book clubs made a welcome return to in-person meetings this month. On 11 April, the library hosted the Limerick University of the Third Age Book Club and the second Wednesday Book Club met on 20 April. All those in attendance were delighted to be back in their local library to meet and chat again. On 28 April, a special pop-up book club was held with Joachim Fischer, Jean Monnet Chair in European Cultural Studies, University of Limerick. The session took a ‘novel’ approach to discussing the European Union by reading “The Capital,” by Robert Menasse. The novel combines a murder mystery, humour and satire with considerable insights into the inner workings of the European Commission. To celebrate Easter, the Easter Bunny hid some Golden Bunny bookmarks in books in the Children’s Library. Children lucky enough to find the bookmarks received a special Easter prize. The branch was thrilled to welcome back local author, Róisín Meaney, on 23 April for the monthly children’s storytime. A rapt audience thoroughly enjoyed listening to Róisín weave her story-telling magic as she drew illustrations to accompany the tales. School and class visits continued with regular weekly visits from St. Michael’s National School and CBS Primary School. Also visiting this month were the happy children from Poppins Pre-School and After-School who enjoyed a storytime, colouring and picking out books to take home. April book displays were wide-ranging and proved popular with all. To celebrate ‘April is Poetry Month,’ a selection of titles were chosen to highlight the range of poetry available for all ages, while adult library displays included ‘Short on Time Short Stories’ and ‘Celebrating Riverfest.’ And in the children’s library, ‘Little Animals,’ ‘Hoppy Easter’ and nature books for Earth Day were featured.
- Study spaces remained filled at full capacity throughout the Easter period with students of all ages preparing for exams.
- 300 children participated in Dooradoyle Library’s Easter Egg Hunt and collected prizes for their efforts. Easter themed arts and craft sessions were held in the branch and craft packs were available to take home. Book Club members met on 28 April having resumed in-person meetings. Class visits from local schools also resumed.
- Poetry Day Ireland on 28 April was marked in many branches with this year’s theme of ‘Written in the Stars.’
- ‘Spring into Story time’ takes place in libraries across Ireland every April. This is part of the national Right-to-Read programme which aims to promote literacy and reading development for people of all ages and backgrounds. Newcastle West branch welcomed children from Mahoonagh National School for a storytelling, craft session and quiz. Staff member, Liam, read and recorded “Lost and Found” by Oliver Jeffers for posting on Limerick Libraries social media sites.
- “Autism Awareness Month” was marked in Newcastle west Library with a colourful book display, information

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

leaflets and a selection of Autism Assistive Games. The Branch thanks the local Cois Sionna Desmond Credit Union branch, through its Community Support Scheme/Projects, for financially assisting in the purchase of a wide selection of Autism Assistive/ learning games for use in the library. The branch welcomed weekly visits from friends in the Brothers of Charity and residents from St. Ita's Community Hospital. Mahoonagh National School, Courtenay Boys National School and Scoil Íosaf National School all visited the library in April.

- The 'My Little Library Book Bag' initiative is a collaboration between Libraries, the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as part of the First 5 Strategy. This is a wonderful initiative aimed at children who are starting school in 2022. Each bag contains a selection of books on starting school and making friends. Each new member receives a library card with a special 'My Little Library' cardholder. Book bags are available in both Irish and English and Library branches were happy to welcome all the four and five year old children to collect their book bags and begin their library membership journey. Limerick Libraries were delighted with the interest shown.

Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- The major celebration of the work of Limerick artist, Tom Fitzgerald, continues to attract significant numbers of visitors. The exhibition, Spirit Music, includes work from private and public collections including Limerick City and County Council and University of Limerick. A publication to accompany the exhibition was launched on 09 April with opening remarks by Marian Fitzgibbon; The exhibition catalogue is fully illustrated with contributions from architect, Sean Ó Laoire, and academics, Gerry Dukes and Niamh Nic Ghabhann. Over 150 people attended the launch event.
- LCGA is one of eight venues hosting the major exhibition, BELONGING, from the collection of the European Investment Bank (EIB), which closed on 24 April. This was a unique opportunity to view work by predominantly European artists who are not represented in the collections of Irish institutions. 8,311 visitors attended the exhibition during its run at LCGA.
- LCGA facilitated the performance by CIKADA Circus on 17 April as part of the BELONGING ancillary programme.
- LCGA facilitated a workshop on 02 April as part of Catalyst International Film Festival taking place in Limerick venues for the weekend.
- LCGA hosted the launch and reading by Imelda Maguire from her second poetry collection on 24 April as part of the Limerick Writers' Centre Poetry Month programme for April 2022.
- 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 was supported with funding from Creative Ireland.
- Test Space residencies began on 11 April with Fiona and Rowena Quill, both of whom are printmakers appointed as our in-house artists in residence, while Rachel Rockwell, an artist from Wexford, was awarded the on-line residency. 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. This initiative fulfils one of the objectives of our Strategic Plan to support and promote artists in practical ways.
- 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.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

- LCGA continues to negotiate with Artists and Curators on forthcoming exhibitions and events as part of its programme for 2023.

Limerick Museum

- In April, two art exhibitions opened in Limerick Museum. On 01 April, Bright Sadness, a virtual exhibition by renowned artist, Siobhan Potter, incorporating both poetry and visual pieces, went online. On 21 April, the first live exhibition held in the Museum for two years, The Works We Thought We Had, opened to the public. It is a group exhibition of artists from seven countries, curated by well-known artist, Maurice Quillinan, and Dr. Matthew Potter, Curator of the Museum.
- Limerick Museum has commenced a new collaboration with the newly established Discover Limerick Designated Activity Company (DAC), which has been set up to administer King John's Castle. This is a continuation of the previous collaboration with Shannon Heritage, under which the Curator of Limerick Museum is also curator of a significant collection of artefacts on loan from the National Museum of Ireland, which is currently on display in the Castle.
- As part of the Museum's ongoing and very active outreach programme, the Museum Curator gave lectures on the history of the Museum to Raheen Men's Shed (07 April) and Limerick-Shannon Ladies Probus Group (27 April). He gave a walking tour of the history of the Three Bridges to the Limerick City and County Council Active Retired Association on 26 April.
- A large number of objects from Limerick Museum are included in the The Art of Reading in the Middle Ages, a project curated by the Hunt Museum which may be viewed on the Digital Repository of Ireland website at [The Art of Reading in the Middle Ages - The Hunt Museum - Digital Repository of Ireland \(dri.ie\)](https://dri.ie)



Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Regeneration Directorate

1. Regeneration

Economic

Outreach Employment Initiative

The Project Team met in relation to the expansion of the Outreach Employment Initiative and planning for the next Jobs Fair is currently underway. Work on the expansion of the mentor network and participation of various stakeholders and employers in each of the Regeneration areas continued throughout the month.

Social

Economic and Social Intervention Fund (ESIF) Update

- Over 80 funding applications to the value of approximately €3.7 million have been submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for approval.
- Social Regeneration Impact - A further example of how the Economic and Social Intervention Fund is supporting meaningful and impactful work in the communities was recently highlighted by RTE news – details on the Link below.
<https://www.rte.ie/news/regional/2022/0414/1292354-limerick-opera-recycling/>

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 St. Mary's Park.

St. Marys Parish – Environmental Sub-Group Established

On 27 April, an Environmental Sub-Group was established for the area of St. Mary's Parish to set out a local plan for the environment needs of the area. The Sub-Group will meet monthly to implement actions identified within the plan and work with the various service providers in a cohesive manner.

Community Activities

Some of the examples of activities include:

- Residents in the Regeneration areas continued to work on the project brief for a Strengthening Communities project with the Development Worker in PAUL Partnership.
- Residents in the Regeneration areas took part in this year's Team Limerick Clean-Up. After three years, it was great to see such strong community spirit in action. A special word of thanks to J.P. McManus, Paul O'Connell, and the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler, for coming along to meet the volunteers.
- Tait House held a Coffee Morning in aid of the Ukraine Crisis Appeal for the Irish Red Cross – raising €830.
- Our Lady of Lourdes community services group continued to support families with food parcels via Mid West Simon, support with utility bills via St. Vincent de Paul and referring individuals to the Age Friendly Homes Programme.
- New signs for no dumping and Illegal littering were mounted on light poles in some areas of Moyross which have been affected by illegal dumping. A continuous effort has been made by the community to keep the area clean and tidy and free from litter and illegal dumping.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Physical

Housing Developments

- Construction of the new 57-unit social housing development at Cosgrave Park and Dalgaish Park, Moyross, is ongoing.
- 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.
- The Peter McVerry Trust is progressing matters to ensure the completion of Rapid Infill Housing Development in Delmege Park, Moyross.
- Assessment of Approved Housing Body expressions of interest received for the Orchard Site development, St. Mary's Park, has completed. Tender preparations are completing.
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Stage 4 approval for the award of a contract for the construction of the eight-unit Sheep Street / Athlunkard Street development has been received. Pre-contract actions are currently being advanced.
- Construction works ongoing on Thermal Upgrade Contract 122, St. Mary's Park.
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage approvals sanctioning advancement of the following Thermal Upgrade contracts to tender stage have been received:
 - Thermal Upgrade Contract 121, Moyross (47 units).
 - Thermal Upgrade Contract 121A, Moyross (18 units).
 - Thermal Upgrade Contract 123, Southill (53 units).
 - Thermal Upgrade Contract 125, St. Mary's Park (16 units).
 - Thermal Upgrade Contract 126, Southill (50 units).

Transport

The latest draft Transport Strategy for Limerick has been published by the National Transport Authority. A section on Regeneration is now included. There are six measures in total, all of which can, if realised, contribute effectively to Limerick Regeneration. The draft is currently on display with full details on the link below.

<https://consult.nationaltransport.ie/en/consultation/draft-limerick-shannon-metropolitan-area-transport-strategy-lsmats>

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.

Tait House Community Enterprise, with the support of the Regeneration Team, submitted a funding application to the Heritage Council under the Community Heritage Grant Scheme for the Turner Vinery restoration project. The funding application was approved and will facilitate the appointment of a built heritage specialist.

Demolitions

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

- Galvone Arms – O'Kelly Bros. have mobilised for this demolition. Asbestos removal and internal soft stripping is complete.
- Planned demolitions in Nos. 45, 47 and 49 Lenihan Avenue in Ballinacurra Weston are complete.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

CCTV Report from the Data Protection Commissioners

Following an audit by the Data Protection Commissioners and publication of the report, the Council submitted a response to the report by the deadline of 12 April.



Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

Housing Directorate

1. Housing Support Services

Approved Housing Applicants

Approved Housing Applicants	2,214
Tenant Transfer Applicants	347

Closed Housing Applications

Closed Applications	62
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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 April	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	1	1
Newcastle West	1	3
Metropolitan District	15	54
Cappamore-Kilmallock	23	27
Total	40	85

Refusals

	No. of Units April	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	0
Newcastle West	0	0
Metropolitan District	2	7
Cappamore-Kilmallock	1	3
Total	3	10

Approved Housing Body Allocations 2022 (year to date)

Total Nominations	85
Successful Nominations	18
Nominations Pending	59
Unsuccessful Nominations	8

Traveller Accommodation *

No. of Units offered April	2
Year to Date	4

* 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 April	18
Year to Date	58

Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)

The total number of units in RAS accommodation in April was 1,248, of which 734 were private and 514 were Voluntary.

Housing Assistance Payments Limerick (HAP)

2,381 active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	29
No. of Amendments	409
No. of Cessations	38

RENT COLLECTION

Rent Collection Limerick City and County Council					
Opening Balance at 01.04.2022	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing Balance 30.04.2022	% Collection
€5,396,118	€6,287,772	€11,683,890	€5,675,450	€6,008,440	49%

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

HOME IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

April 2022		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aids Grants	No. Approved	2	0	4	3	9
	MAG Expenditure	€5,750.00	€13,550.00	€41,230.00	€5,750.00	€66,280.00
	No. Paid	1	3	8	1	13
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	1	2	17	1	21
	HAG Expenditure	€17,531.73	€20,119.94	€125,557.00	€0.00	€163,208.67
	No. Paid	1	2	17	0	20
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	2	3	23	3	31
	HOP Expenditure	€9,725.00	€37,148.50	€121,940.92	€27,558.99	€196,373.41
	No. Paid	3	7	36	7	53
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG Expenditure	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
	No. Paid	0	0	0	0	0

Total No. Approved	61
Total Monies Paid	€425,862.08
Total No. Paid	86

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

Year-to-date

Jan-April 2022		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aids Grants	No. Approved	8	4	22	12	46
	MAG Expenditure	€63,664.45	€41,257.27	€103,625.00	€47,240.00	€255,786.72
	No. Paid	12	9	21	9	51
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	13	6	52	13	84
	HAG Expenditure	€57,381.94	€141,604.59	€306,769.88	€50,772.78	€556,529.19
	No. Paid	8	10	38	6	62
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	8	30	65	23	126
	HOP Expenditure	€67,653.50	€205,175.12	€286,869.59	€131,181.39	€690,879.60
	No. Paid	19	47	78	28	172
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG Expenditure			€78,476.74	€12,042.35	€90,519.09
	No. Paid	0	0	3	2	5

Year to date Total No. Approved	256
Year to date Total Monies Paid	€1,593,714.60
Year to date Total No. Paid	290

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.

Works were carried out by the Community Sustainment Unit on 07 April in the Cois Má estate in Croom. This comprised the supply and installation of railway sleepers and bark mulch to accentuate a tree and plaque originally planted and erected by Cois Má Residents Association a number of years ago. This marks the 30th Anniversary of this community being together. This Residents' Association is an active working group improving the local area.

(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 April, 152 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. 10 such inductions took place during April.

(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 April was 171. The number of cases closed during April was 13.

The Unit carries out formal Garda checks on prospective new tenants. 98 such formal reviews were undertaken during April.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

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

Date: 21 April, 2022		
Individuals		
Location	Description	Beds Used
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	30
Oak Lodge	Adults without children accommodated in low threshold emergency accommodation	55
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	16
St. Joseph Street	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	5
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	14
Temporary Emergency Provision TEP1 (Edenvilla)	Low threshold, night-by-night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	12
Temporary Emergency Provision TEP 2 (Phoenix Lodge)	Low threshold, night-by-night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	17
Total		149

Families				
Location	Description	Beds Used		
		Adults	Children	Families
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	9	6
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	41	57	27
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	12	13	10
Totals		Adults	Children	Families
		59	79	43

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

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

Tenant Purchase	
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. received	4
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. approved	3
Local Authority Home Loans	
Loan Applications: No. received	16
Loan Applications: No. approved	5
Deed of Discharge	
Deed of Discharge Applications: No. Received	14
Consent to Sale	
Consent to Sale Applications: No. Received	1
Cottage Purchase Annuity	
No of Cottage Purchase Annuity Applications	6
Ground Rent	
No of Ground Rent applications	2
Private Rented Inspections	
No. of Inspections	72

Freedom of Information, Data Requests and Ombudsman

Freedom of Information requested submitted	5
Ombudsman Query Cases	13
Data Access Requests	6

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

- Revised Stage 2 submission for Phase 1 of the Deerpark, Adare, project for 13 housing units has been submitted.
- Part 8 planning permission received for Ballylanders. This Part 8 is for a nine unit social housing scheme in Church Glen, Ballylanders, County Limerick. The subject site measures approximately 0.62 ha. in area and is located within the settlement of Ballylanders. Access to the proposed site is via the existing residential access road serving the Church Glen estate (comprising of 27 two-storey and one-storey units). The proposed development includes nine housing units, which includes one 3-bed house, three 2-bed units and five 1-bed units.

Affordable Housing Fund (SSF Serviced Sites Fund)

Toppins Field Lands, Limerick

An integrated Design Team has been appointed for the continued design development of Toppins Field Lands from participants on the Master planning and Architect-Led Integrated Design Team Consultancy Services framework established under the Public Land Activation Programme for Limerick City and County Council. The Council's vision is for the site to be fully developed over time to provide a sustainable mixed tenure residential quarter.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Sonny's Corner, Limerick

Following the finalisation of an archaeological report for Sonny's Corner, the Limerick City and County Council team has designed a feasibility study for the site, making allowance for the exciting archaeological finds. There is a focus on the integration of the castle wall in the design of the public space and also a vision of bringing the old castle moat, the "Fosse," into the scheme as a sustainable blue/green park element.

Local Authority Maintenance

Local Authority Houses: Maintenance Complaints dealt with during April

Housing Maintenance and Housing Cases - April	Requests/Cases Created	Cases Dealt With/Closed	Balance of Open Cases at 30.04.2022
Metropolitan District	885	1,464	1,176
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	76	127	406
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	123	134	142
Municipal District of Newcastle West	108	80	628

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 – April

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	5	0	4	9
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	7	0	9	16
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	1	21	0	27	49
DPGs (Disabled Person Grant)	0	2	0	0	2
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	1	35	0	40	76

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	6	0	1	7
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	5	0	4	9
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	9	0	10	19
DPGs (Disabled Person Grant)	0	2	0	0	2
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	22	0	15	37

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 – April

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	1	5
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	4	0	4	8
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	3	0	5	8
DPGs (Disabled Person Grant)	0	0	0	0	0
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	11	0	10	21

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	2	0	1	3
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	2	0	5	7
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	1	0	12	13
DPGs (Disabled Person Grant)	0	0	0	0	0
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	5	0	18	23

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 30.04.2022 is as follows:

As at 30 April (01.01.22 – 30.04.22)	Complete	In Progress	Overall Complete and In Progress	“Housing for All” 2022 Delivery Target
Build	41	374	415	565
Buy	9	34	43*	0
Lease	8	66	74	21**
TOTAL	58	474	532	

* Includes 33 units carried over from 2021.

** Limerick City and County Council has a target of 21 short-term leasing units. The 66 units in progress is made up of units carried over from 2021.

2. CURRENT OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

Twelve properties were returned in April 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 April - Categorisation

Cat 1	0
Cat 2	0
Cat 3	0
Cat 4	0
To be inspected	12
Total	12

House Returns April By Municipal District

Adare-Rathkeale	0
Cappamore-Kilmallock	2
Newcastle West	1
Metropolitan District	9
Total	12

Chief Executive's Report



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Limerick City
& County Council

Current Housing Works Programme		
	Completed in April	In Progress
Local Authority Construction Team	0	110
Local Authority Maintenance Team	5	55
Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process	0	27
Regeneration Team	1	16
Team to be assigned	N/A	27
Total	6	235

In April, works on five properties were completed by the Local Authority Maintenance Team and one property was completed by Regeneration.

Project Approvals and Submissions

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

Scheme	Project Details	District
Short Term Lease Arrangements	Submission for approval to lease six units in Limerick City, four units in James Street and two units in Sexton Street.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Long Term Leasing	Submission for approval to lease one unit at Fairgreen, Limerick	Metropolitan District

3. UPDATES

Finance

Claims totalling €511,328 were sent to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in April.

Claims totalling €1,829,504 were paid by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in April.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
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Limerick City
& County Council

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

Scheme	Project Details	District
Mortgage to Rent – under the Social Housing Current Expenditure Programme (SHCEP)	Approval to lease two properties under the Mortgage to Rent Scheme	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Mortgage to Rent – under the Social Housing Current Expenditure Programme (SHCEP)	Approval to lease one property under the Mortgage to Rent Scheme	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock
Part V	Approval for four Part V units at Adare	Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale
Long Term Leasing	Approval for one unit at Fairgreen, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
SHIP Construction Turnkey	Approval for 13 units at Broad Street, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
SHIP Construction Turnkey	Approval for two units at Corbally, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick

4. Municipal District Offices

Metropolitan District of Limerick

Upgrade/Refurbishment Works

Description of Project: Installation of Gullies and Pipework.

- Location: Donoughmore.
- Cost of Project: €50,000.
- Work carried out by Limerick City and County Council Roads Team.

Description of Project: Road Drainage and Rehabilitation of Footpaths

- Location: Lisnagry National School.
- Cost of project: €27,000.
- Work carried out by Limerick City and County Council Roads Team.

Description of Project: Footpath Refurbishment Works

- Location: Irish Estates, Corbally.
- Cost of Project: €150,000.
- Contractor: Peter Ryan.

Chief Executive's Report



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Limerick City
& County Council

Metropolitan District Meetings

April Monthly Meeting

The Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick took place on 19 April.

Special Briefings

Special Briefings were held during April for the Elected Members of the Metropolitan District on:

- Loughmore Canal/Raheen Business Park;
- Proposed Property Lease Agreement;
- St. Paul's National School - Safe Routes to Schools Proposals.

Operational Area Briefings

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

Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

The monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale took place on 12 April in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle.

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

- 59 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
- 33 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

Capital Road Projects

Works ongoing on River Walkway, Croom (old N20 Route) - funded via Outdoor Recreation and Infrastructure Scheme.

Marine Cove, Foynes - overflow channel and new culvert under N69.

Road Reconstruction Works carried out in Shanagolden/Creeves/Ballysteen areas.

Active Travel

Junction Improvement Works completed at Seven Sisters, Kildimo.

Crecora - Footpath Extension, Drainage and Public Lighting Works commenced adjacent to GAA Grounds.

Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

April Municipal District Meeting

The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock was held in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle, on 21 April.

A proposal was made by the Bulgarian Embassy in relation to the placement of a commemorative plaque for James Boucher, which was discussed at the meeting.

A presentation was delivered regarding a Part 8 in Church Glen, Ballylanders.

An update on the Housing Delivery Plan was delivered.

Housing and Road Maintenance

- 112 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
- 76 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

Housing Grants

Eight Private Housing Grants were paid and seven were approved. There were 22 initial inspections undertaken (including two Disabled Persons Grants) and 15 final inspections.

Chief Executive's Report



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Limerick City
& County Council

Road Works

Climate Adaptation Works took place on the R517 in Darragh and on the L8641 at Flood's Cross.

Road Drainage Scheme Works took place on the L8548, Ballyferode.

General Municipal Allocation Grants

A Workshop to discuss the General Municipal Allocation for the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock was held on 28 April.

Municipal District of Newcastle West

The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West took place on 06 April in Áras William Smith O'Brien, Newcastle West.

Five grant applications were approved under the Private Housing Grant Schemes during the month. The total value of approvals was €75,020.21.

Payments of €37,148.50 were made to seven applicants who completed works under the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.

Payments of €20,119.94 were made to two applicants who completed works under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme.

Payments of €13,550.00 were made to three applicants who completed works under the Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme.

Routine road maintenance work, including the opening of drainage inlets along roadways and the repair and replacement of signage, also took place.

During the month, the Motor Tax Section at the Newcastle West Office processed 1,038 routine transactions.



Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
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Limerick City
& County Council

Planning, Environment & Place-Making Directorate

1. Place-Making and Public Realm

Project Updates

Place-Making

King's Island Walled Town Rejuvenation Works - Planters have been added to Nicholas Street and Verdant Place.

"Meanwhile Uses" in Limerick City Centre - Traffic Management Consultant, CHM Group, appointed to produce Traffic Management Plans for road closures which will take place during Summer months in the interest of testing pedestrian-priority public realm in key areas of the city centre.

Public Realm

Castletroy Park Playground Extension Works - Works to extend and upgrade the playground are complete and the playground opened to the public on 14 April.

Limerick Greenway Underpasses and Overpasses - Tenders are being assessed for the construction of two cattle passes between Abbeyfeale and the Kerry Border. Detailed design of further underpasses and overpasses to separate a number of livestock crossings from the Greenway is progressing, together with landowner liaison. A Part 8 Planning for one overpass at Port, Abbeyfeale, is underway.

Limerick Greenway Newcastle West Car Park - Detailed design of a carpark for Greenway users at Station Road, Newcastle West, is progressing. Site investigation has been completed.

Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Scheme - Priority Geotechnical Limited commenced Abbeyfeale Slit Trench Site Investigation contract.

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 (ABP) to allow site investigation works along Non-Office of Public Works embankments. Further information response requested by An Bord Pleanála which is currently in progress.

Adare Flood Relief Scheme - Data collection and analysis ongoing to inform hydraulic modelling. Site investigation contract tender returns received, with tender evaluation currently ongoing.

Castleconnell Flood Relief Scheme - Hydrology Report finalised. Hydraulic Report currently being finalised. Preparing Options Report (including landowner liaison proposed within the next period).

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. A Geotechnical Investigation Contractor has been appointed.

Dock Road Improvement Scheme - The Compulsory Purchase Order for the scheme is with An Bord Pleanála. One objection was lodged.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

Askeaton Swimming Pool – Flood Protection Works. Lawler Sustainability is working with Limerick City and County Council and has submitted an Excellence in Energy Efficiency Design (EXEED) application to the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) for funding to upgrade pool plant.

- Construction of a three-storey 91 bed nursing home with area of 4,717 sq. metres and 32 No. unit single-storey independent living units, 93 vehicular parking spaces and 20 cycle parking spaces. New vehicular, cycle and pedestrian access is via a new distributor road at Skagh, Croom, Co. Limerick.

2. Planning Development

Planning Applications

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

Category	Amount
Part 8	0
Housing Developments	3
Domestic Developments	80
Agricultural Developments	5
Commercial Developments/ Change of Use	6
Sporting/ Community and Educational Developments	5
Other Developments	12

The current applications include proposals for:

- Residential development comprising a five-storey apartment block consisting of 24 apartments at Childers Road/Greenfield Road, Rosbrien, Limerick.
- Construction of 13 dwellings at Coolbawn Meadows, Coolreiry, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick.
- Construction of 21 dwellings at Rathmale, Mungret, Co. Limerick.

3. Environment, Recreation & Climate Change

Cemeteries

Number of Burials in City Cemeteries

Mount St. Lawrence	16
Mount St. Oliver	22
Castlemungret	14
Kilmurry	5

Waste Regulation and Enforcement

During the month -

- 131 complaints were received.
- A total of 531 inspections were undertaken.
- 13 Warnings were issued.
- Three Notices were issued.
- Two Directions were served by the Department.
- Nine Prosecutions were initiated.
- A total of 19 fines were issued during the period.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
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**Limerick City
& County Council**

4. Urban Innovation

+CityxChange

City Engage Week 5 – The Citizen Innovation Lab

+CityxChange project partners hosted City Engage Week 5 in the newly opened Citizen Innovation Lab in Sarsfield Street, a collaborative space run by Limerick City and County Council and University of Limerick. Citizens of Limerick were invited to attend events such as “Start a Sustainable Energy Community,” “Climate Fresk,” “What Would a Climate Neutral Limerick Look Like,” and “Greening the Grid.” The theme of the week was ‘What can the Innovation Lab Do?’ The events targeted a variety of participants with the ambition to engage the citizens of Limerick with Climate action and clean energy issues. Discover all events from city engage week at <https://www.limerick.ie/cityxchange/city-engage>.

Open Innovation Call 3

Open Innovation Calls are an invitation to the public to participate in the work of the +CityxChange project in Limerick. Two Open Innovation Calls since 2019 have supported eleven projects addressing the themes “Re-imagining Limerick’s Laneways” and “Take control of Your Energy.” Open Innovation Call 3 will support projects that explore social and other innovations to enable energy collaboration. We are looking for ideas that can help us work together to reduce the amount of energy used. For more information, see [mypoint.ie/ Open Call 3: Social Innovation and Energy Collaboration](https://www.limerick.ie/cityxchange/city-engage) Link - [Open Innovation Call 3 : Social Innovation and Energy Collaboration | Limerick City & County Council's Online Consultation Portal](#)

Decarbonising Together - A Creative Climate Action Fund Project

This April, the call for creative practitioners to engage with communities was launched as part of the Decarbonising Together project. Decarbonising Together pairs Artists/ Creatives/Creative Industry Partners with Limerick communities to explore an aspect of decarbonisation that matters to them. Creative partners can come from a range

of disciplines including Arts, Design, Audio-visual, IT, etc. It is anticipated that the five outputs from the creative collaborations will use diverse skills in a range of creative mediums. The project will focus on learning and doing together, and will use Limerick’s Citizen Innovation Lab as a collaboration hub. Five community groups were selected through an open process and have identified initial ideas to develop together with their creative partners. For more information, see [mypoint.ie/Creative Climate Action Fund Link - Creative Climate Action Fund | Limerick City & County Council's Online Consultation Portal](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.
- Three 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 61,229 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAP SSC at the end of April.
- A weekly average of 186 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2022.
- The April landlord payment run was €56.3 million.
- The weekly tenant charge at the end of April was €3.1 million.
- The Debt Management Unit of the HAP SSC collected a total of €52.1 million in differential rent to end of April.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of April was 98%.
- The Debt Management Unit issued 8,388 HAP debt reminder letters in April.

2. Fire and Emergency

Statistics

	No of Fire Related Calls	No of Non Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call outs 01/04/22 – 30/04/22	87	39	126
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	64%	44%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	19%	43%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	17%	13%	

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

	No. received / assigned	No. validated	No. invalidated / refused	No. granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications April	8	5	2	8	8
Disability Access Cert Applications April	7	5	0	5	5
Licensing Applications April	4		0	4	
Commencement Notice April	42	40	1	40	42
Completion Certificate April	10	10	0	10	10
Planning Referrals April	18				13
Sugar CRM Cases April	2				2

Fire and Emergency Training Events

During the month, the following training courses took place:

- 'Block Training' was completed for the wholtime fire fighters of Limerick City Fire Station. This training included Emergency Traffic Management, Electric Car technology and Road Traffic Collision techniques, Ship and Port familiarisation and HazMat training.
- This was followed by training of all retained fire fighters from the six retained stations and senior officers in Emergency Traffic Management, Electric Car technology and Road Traffic Collision techniques.
- Four fire fighters attended a Wildland fire fighting course in Co. Clare.
- One Sub-Station Officer attended a Module 2 Officer Development course in Co. Tipperary.
- Four fire fighters were trained in the use of the Simon Snorkel aerial appliance.
- On-station training continued in all stations.

Civil Defence attendance at Events

The following activity took place in April:

- Setting up Emergency Rest Centre at Kileely, Limerick - 2 days.
- Setting up Emergency Rest Centre at Pallaskenry, Co. Limerick - 2 days.
- Patient Transfer (Limerick residence to Mater Hospital, Dublin and return) - 1 day.
- National Ceremony of Remembrance and Reflection, Merchant's Quay, Limerick - 1 day.
- Providing cover at Emergency Rest Centre at Kileely, Limerick - 1 day.
- Patient Transfer (Limerick residence to University Hospital Limerick and return) - 1 day.
- Ukrainian Displaced Person Transport – Kileely, Limerick, to Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare - 1 day.
- Patient Transfer (Limerick residence to Tralee General Hospital and return) - 1 day.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

- Patient Transfer (Limerick residence to Shelbourne Road, Limerick, and return) - 1 day.
- Patient Transfer (Kileely, Limerick, to University Hospital Limerick) - 1 day.
- Ukrainian Displaced Person Transport - Limerick City to Kileely, Limerick - 1 day.
- Patient Transfer (Limerick Residence to Dooradoyle, Limerick, and return) - 1 day.
- Patient Transfer (Limerick Transfer to Ennis, Co. Clare, and return) - 1 day.
- Riverfest BBQ, Limerick City - medical cover - 1 day.
- Dragon Boat on River Shannon through Limerick - safety boat cover - 1 day.

Water Safety

No. of lifebuoy replacements	Total January-March	April	Total 2022
Metropolitan District	4	0	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 April
No. of call-outs 01/04/2022 - 30/04/2022	917	1,457	1:45	2,374



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 30th April 2022	
Opening Balance - 1 Jan €	8,732,896
Accruals €	59,598,687 **
Vacant Property Adjustment €	134,971
Writes offs/ Waivers €	2,021,077
Total for Collection €	66,175,535
Amount Collected €	16,264,417
Arrears €	49,911,118
Specific Doubtful Arrears €	2,492,445
% Collected	26%

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

Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No of days in overdraft 0

Debtors Loans	
As at 30th April 2022	
Opening Balance - 1 Jan €	310,319
Accruals €	312,615 ^
Writes offs €	-
To Collect €	622,934
Receipts €	711,561
Arrears €	-88,627
% Collected	114%

^ Accruals not updated for loans for March & April 2022

Chief Executive's Report

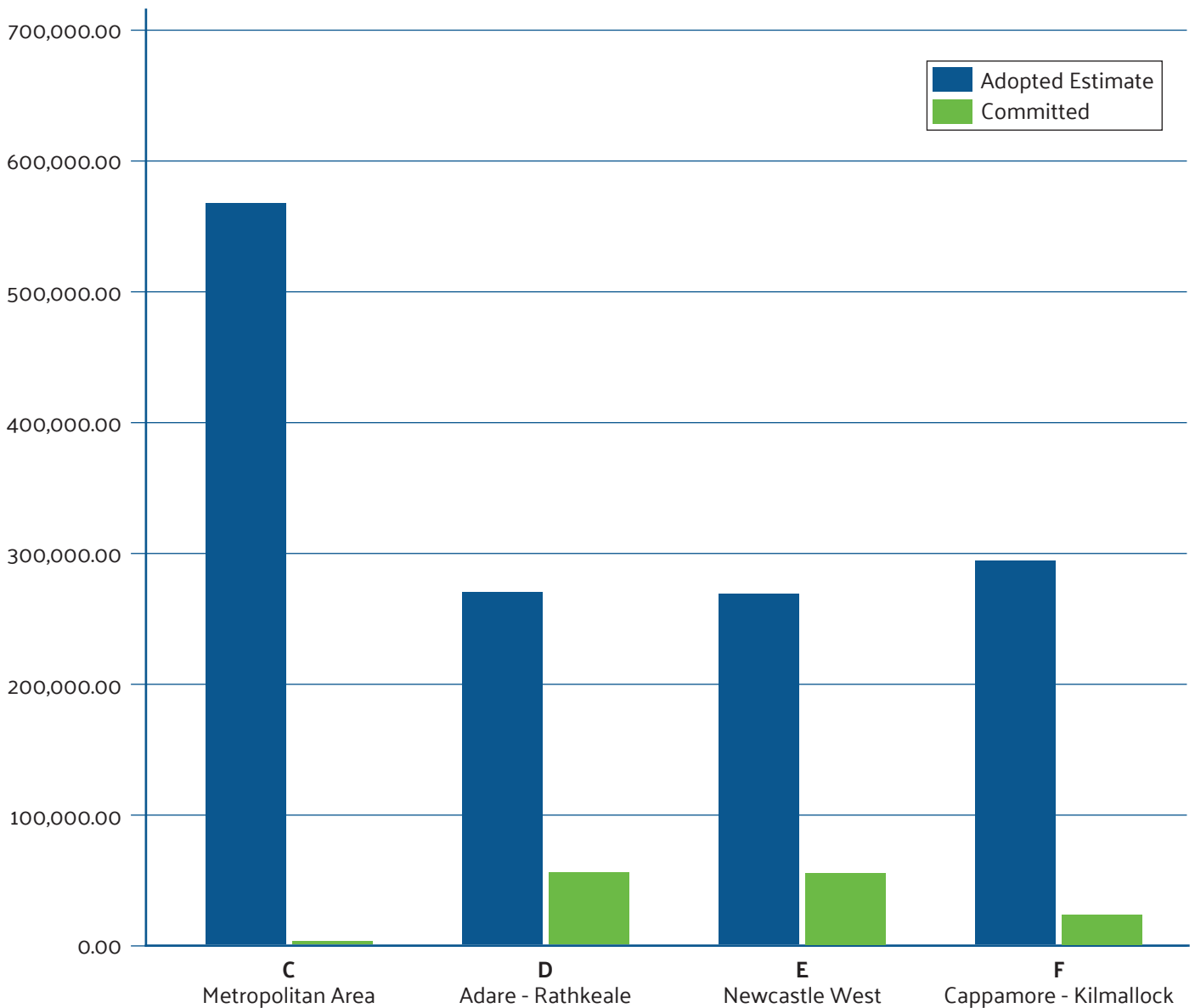


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Limerick City & County Council

General Municipal Allocation 2022 Adopted Estimate €1.403 Million

Graph outlining adopted budget and draft committed expenditure up to 30 April 2022



Municip (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate (€)	Value Committed (€)
C Metropolitan Area	568,000.00	2,613
D Adare - Rathkeale	270,000.00	57,800
E Newcastle West	270,000.00	56,073
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	295,000.00	23,973

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

2. Business Improvement

- Business Improvement launched a new digitised online form – Shorter Working Year Scheme Application Form. The objective is to eliminate paper forms, reduce our carbon footprint and reduce the staff time spent on processing forms.
- A total of 894 active users are now live on the Employee App.
- There are now 700 services on the Limerick City and County Council Service Catalogue.
- There are 255 projects live on our cloud-based Cora Project Management System.

3. Corporate, Governance and Customer Services

Office of the Mayor

Mayoral Receptions were held for the following:

- **Catherine Duffy**
In recognition of her outstanding leadership in business and her commitment in advancing Limerick economically.
- **Vicki O'Toole**
In recognition of her outstanding leadership in business and as an inspiration for new entrepreneurs in Limerick.
- **Laura Ryan**
In recognition of her leadership in addressing Limerick's image and creating a brand to drive Limerick economically, socially and culturally.

The Mayor hosted the following in Corporate Headquarters:

- Courtesy Visit of the Georgian Ambassador.

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

- Virtual launch of HearSay Arts in Schools project with pupils of Bilboa and Bulgaden National Schools.
- United Rugby Championship, Munster v Leinster.
Venue: Thomond Park, Limerick.
- Visit to Ard Scoil Mhuire - Junior Rugby Team crowned Champions of the Inaugural Munster Women's Rugby Schools Girls Junior Cup.
Venue: Ard Scoil Mhuire, Corbally, Limerick.
- Transfer of ownership and business operations of King John's Castle to Limerick City and County Council.
Venue: King John's Castle, Limerick.
- Welcome Group of Secondary School students from Quimper, France.
Venue: Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Visit to Limerick School of Art and Design
Venue: Limerick School of Art and Design, Clare Street Campus, Limerick.
- Launch of Croke Park as the first Age Friendly Stadium and Launch of Age Friendly Ambassadors.
Venue: Hogan Suite, Croke Park, Dublin.
- Limerick Person of the Year 2021 Gala Awards Ceremony.
Venue: Clayton Hotel, Steamboat Quay, Limerick.
- Opening of Creating Connections, an Exhibition of Watercolour Portraits by Art, Craft and Design Learners, Aoife Carroll and Aksana Sasnouskaya.
Venue: Belltable Arts Centre, Limerick.
- Limerick Youth Service, Volunteer Recognition Night. Presentation of awards in recognition of the contribution of volunteers to the lives of young people in Limerick City and County.
Venue: Limerick Youth Service, Lower Glentworth Street, Limerick.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick City
& County Council**

- Accompanied Minister Heather Humphreys on her visit to Limerick.
Locations: Roots Community Shop and Café, Kilmeedy, Co. Limerick; Dromcollogher Community Park, Dromcollogher, Co. Limerick; Ashford Social Hub, Ashford, Co. Limerick; Abbeyfeale ENGINE E-Hub, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick; Barnagh Greenway Hub Playground and Barnagh Greenway Hub, Platform 22 Café, Barnagh, Co. Limerick; Ardagh Station House and access point to the Limerick Greenway and Ardagh District Recreation and Sporting Company Astro-turf, Ardagh, Co. Limerick; The Yard, Market Yard, Gortboy, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick; Rathkeale Railway Goods Shed, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick.
- Limerick Civic Trust, Fundraising Spring Business Lunch.
Venue: No.1 Pery Square Hotel, Limerick.
- Launch of Spirit Music by Tom Fitzgerald, A Celebration of a Life's Work.
Venue: Limerick City Gallery of Art, Carnegie Building, Pery Square, Limerick.
- 2021 All Ireland Community and Council Awards.
Venue: The Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dublin Airport, Dublin.
- Special Ceremony of Remembrance and Reflection to mark impact of COVID-19 on society. Remembering those lost and paying tribute to those who have fought against the virus.
Venue: Grounds of Limerick City and County Council, Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Limerick Jazz in partnership with Improvised Music Company (IMC), Young Irish Jazz Musician in 2022 Award.
Venue: University Concert Hall, Castletroy, Limerick.
- Launch of the Quidditch European Cup and the International Quidditch Association European Games.
Venue: Plassey House, University of Limerick, Limerick.
- Launch of the 7 Bridges Walk.
Venue: Locke Bar, George's Quay, Limerick.
- TUS Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest, Scholarship Awards Ceremony 2021/2022.
Venue: Millennium Theatre, TUS, Moylish Park, Limerick.
- Open FREE NOW, mobility app, Limerick Electric Vehicle (EV) Roadshow
Venue: Limerick Racecourse, Patrickswell, Co. Limerick.
- Visit to the Ark Facility in UL Hospital.
Location: UL Hospital, Dooradoyle, Limerick.
- Launch of Team Limerick Clean Up 7, TLC7.
Venue: 2nd Floor International Rugby Experience, Cecil Street, Limerick.
- Launch of The Wellbeing Way, Official Opening of offices and treatment rooms, affordable wellness initiative in Limerick.
Venue: Nicolas Street, Limerick.
- Heineken Champions Cup Match between Munster and Exeter Chiefs.
Venue: Thomond Park, Limerick.
- 2022 Munster Senior Hurling Championship, Cork V Limerick.
Venue: Páirc Uí Chaoimh, Cork.
- Media Announcement and Launch IFAF European Flag Football Championships 2023.
Venue: Plassey House, University of Limerick, Castletroy, Limerick
- Welcome Delegation attending a research roundtable symposium event at University of Limerick that is helping the design of a pilot project to be run in Limerick - Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) and Community Safety Co-Response Model.
Venue: King John's Castle, Limerick.
- Limerick Chamber Business Luncheon.
Venue: Savoy Hotel, Limerick.
- Final of the Con and Annie Kirby Memorial Stake.
Venue: Limerick Greyhound Stadium, Greenpark, Dock Road, Limerick.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

- Launch of the Ilen Kingship Cultural Voyage, Limerick to London 2022.
Venue: Steamboat Quay, Limerick.
- Book Launch of the Centenary of the Curfew Murders 1921-2021.
Venue: Janesboro Football Club, Pearse Stadium, Janesboro.
- 2022 Munster Senior Hurling Championship, Limerick V Waterford.
Venue: TUS Gaelic Grounds, Limerick.
- Vitalograph Company Announcement with Minister of State, Patrick O'Donovan T.D.
Venue: King John's Castle, Limerick.
- Legato Health Technologies Ireland Ltd, Roundtable Discussion with Minister Robert Troy and other stakeholders on enabling their very significant growth plans for Limerick.
Venue: Legato Health Technologies Ireland Ltd., Clive House, National Technology Park, Limerick.
- Visit to Mid West National Road Design Office (shared service between Limerick City and County Council, Tipperary County Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland) following the Office's recent Continuing Professional Development (CPD) re-accreditation from Engineers Ireland.
Venue: Mid West National Road Design Office, Lissanalta House, Dooradoyle Road, Dooradoyle, Limerick.
- Opening of Exhibition 'A Place Like Home,' Multidisciplinary Exhibition showcasing over twenty Year-3 students of TUS Limerick School of Art and Design.
Venue: People's Museum, Pery Square, Limerick.
- Children's Active Travel stories and artwork put on public display. Children at Gaelscoil Chaladh an Treoigh in Castletroy have created a collection of stories and artwork that captures what the new Castletroy Urban Greenway means to them. These stories and drawings have now gone on public display along the greenway for members of the local community to enjoy.
Venue: Castletroy Urban Greenway, Castletroy, Limerick.
- Launch of Aura Restaurant.
Venue: Roches Street, Limerick.
- Attendance at Riverfest Limerick 2022.
- Mayor's Charity Gala Dinner.
Venue: Adare Manor, Adare, Co. Limerick.

Register of Electors

- Staff from the Register of Electors Team continued to process application forms and emails submitted in relation to the Register of Electors.
- Training was provided to new staff on the Register of Electors Team.
- Total number of additions carried out in April – 28; total deletions – 230; and total modifications – 24.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

Health and Safety Training

The Health and Safety Training Team organised the following courses throughout the month:

Course Name	Numbers Trained
Safe Pass	40
Driver Certificate of Professional Competence	1
Manual Handling	73
Confined Spaces Medium Risk	4
Fire Warden Training	42
First Aid Response	1

Requisitions Oversight Unit

The Requisitions 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 statistics apply for April:

- Approved requisitions account for 82% of the total requisitions actioned for this given month.
- Rejected requisitions account for 18% of the total requisitions actioned for this given month.

Month	Approved	Rejected	Total Requisitions Actioned
April	1,202	257	1,459

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

Rejection Reason	April
Memo - Requisition not raised in advance incomplete/omitted	77
Procurement Reference Omitted/Incorrect	58
Documentation uploaded not relevant to Requisition/nothing uploaded	53
Approved Officer's Order omitted	21
Justification for Supplier Selection Omitted/ Unclear	19

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 April:

New Procurement References set up	28
Procurement References extended as per signed contract/arrangement	1

Members of the Procurement and Requisitions Oversight teams attended a briefing session with staff from the Kilmallock District Office on 07 April to discuss the validation process and to answer the various questions they had.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
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Limerick City
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Schedule of Meetings for April

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Operational Briefings		
Limerick City East	05.04.2022	Virtual
Limerick City North	05.04.2022	Virtual
Limerick City West	06.04.2022	Virtual
Municipal District of		
Newcastle West Monthly Meeting	06.04.2022	Newcastle West
Adare-Rathkeale Monthly Meeting	12.04.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Cappamore-Kilmallock Joint Policing Sub-Committee Meeting	21.04.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Monthly Meeting	21.04.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Metropolitan District of Limerick		
Monthly Meeting	19.04.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Strategic Policy Committee Meetings		
Community, Leisure and Culture	04.04.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning	11.04.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Home and Social Development	20.04.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Travel and Transportation	27.04.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Local Community Development Committee Meeting	05.04.2022	Dooradoyle

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Access to Information

	April	2022 (January to April)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	17	81
Freedom of Information Internal Appeals	3	4
Information Commissioner Appeals	2	3
Total Ombudsman Requests	6	27
Total Access to Information on the Environment Requests	3	6

Customer Services

The 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 as well as the general public. April saw a total of 2,473 cases created, with 633 of these being on behalf of Elected Members, and a total 3,888 closed, with 1,248 of these being on behalf of Elected Members.

Throughout the month, a number of enquiries were received from the public via telephone, email and the public counter, seeking information regarding the housing options available for Ukrainian citizens who have temporarily located to Ireland. The Customer Services Team directed these people to the official government information sources.

- The following figures highlight the activity within the contact centre throughout April:

- Customer Services Call Centre answered 9,702 calls. This represents an average of 511 per day, with the number of calls exceeding 550 on several occasions. 58% of calls were handled at first point of contact.
- April saw a total of 3,001 emails processed through the Customer Services email platform.
- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued, with a total of 285 cases being logged, 254 of which were submitted by Public Representatives.
- Customer Services continued to support the Housing Maintenance Department in creating the service requests and keeping citizens up to date on progress made. Throughout the month, Customer Services logged 91% of cases for Housing Maintenance in the Metropolitan District, and logged 68% of all Housing Maintenance cases throughout the Municipal Districts.
- Customer Services continued to provide other frontline services to the general public, such as processing applications for Burning of Agricultural Vegetation Permits, 15 of which were processed in April with 13 being issued, as well as processing 94 new applications for Residential Parking Permits and issuing 65.
- Customer Services staff welcomed a total of 1,873 visitors to its public counters in both Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle.

4. Marketing & Communications

Marketing

Re-Embrace Limerick

- Concluded four-week Spring Campaign social and digital tourism marketing campaign, "Re-Embrace Limerick" to local and national audiences. The campaign encouraged people to get back to experiencing the joys of life without limits as they Re-Embrace Limerick.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

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& County Council

- A suite of digital assets was created for the campaign which ran across social media until 18 April.
- Topline Figures include: Total impressions: 5,980,849 Engagements: 122,296, Video views: 318,214, Link clicks: 3,484,579.
- Shop Limerick advert placed in Limerick Chamber Magazine to support and promote local businesses. [Limerick.ie/Shop](https://limerick.ie/shop) virtual marketplace currently features 307 local traders making it easier than ever to shop and support local.

Riverfest Limerick

- Launched Riverfest Limerick marketing campaign on 04 April.
- Developed a suite of digital and social marketing assets, video content and print and radio advertisements for rollout throughout the four-week multimedia campaign.
- Extensive promotion across local and national media platforms – Limerick Leader, Limerick Post, Live95, Spin Southwest and Ireland's Classic Hits, including extensive traditional, social and digital coverage across all platforms.
- Coordinated four social media competitions to increase awareness, engage audiences and promote local businesses.
- Created a range of publicity pieces to gain coverage nationally across TV, print and radio.
- Engaged local content creators to promote the campaign to wider audiences across their social media channels: Meghann Scully [@meghannscully](https://twitter.com/meghannscully), Julie Byrnes [@juliebyrnes](https://twitter.com/juliebyrnes) and Emma O' Leary [@lifewithtinyhumans](https://twitter.com/lifewithtinyhumans)
- Commissioned festival photography and videography for future promotion.
- Marketing support provided for the Global Irish Festival Series Launch, New York.
- Marketing support provided for the Limerick to London voyage of the Ilen ship.
- Created and issued nine Limerick.ie e-newsletters.
- Request for Tender published on e-Tenders platform to engage Media Buying Services.

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 50 times on Limerick.ie's [Facebook](https://facebook.com/limerickie) with followers now 29,469. Posts reached 3,025,754 users, with 13,049 engagements.
- Tweeted 52 times on Limerick.ie's [Twitter](https://twitter.com/limerickie), @limerick_ie, with total followers now 20,800. Our tweets earned 1.1 million impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).
- Posted 20 times on Limerick.ie's [Instagram](https://instagram.com/limerickie) and created 61 Stories with total followers now 20,485.
- Posted 27 times on Limerick City and County Council's [LinkedIn](https://linkedin.com/company/limerick-city-and-county-council) with total followers now 8,587.

Other Marketing Activities

- Limerick 50 Days of Summer, Limerick City and County Council's largest and most ambitious tourism marketing campaign, won gold for the Best Connected Council (Communication and Digital Marketing) at the 2021 All-Ireland Community and Council Awards.

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& County Council

Limerick.ie

In April, there were 201,936* unique site visits to Limerick.ie, a 40% increase on the same period in 2021. (*Fathom Analytics)

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

1. www.limerick.ie/riverfest
2. www.limerick.ie
3. www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning
4. www.limerick.ie/discover/eat-see-do/festivals/riverfest/riverfestival-village-0
5. www.limerick.ie/discover/eat-see-do/festivals/riverfest/irish-naval-vessel-0

Content Report: 82 articles, 296 events and four amenities were added to Limerick.ie in April.

Communications

- Issued 19 news releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and researched and wrote 15 speeches for the Office of the Mayor.
- Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter.
- Tweeted 129 times on Limerick City and County Council's **Twitter** account, @limerickcouncil, with total followers now 17,300. Our tweets earned 108,000 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).
- Provided marketing and communications support to Limerick Person of the Year 2021, which was won by 'Paudcast' star, Pdraig O'Callaghan.

