

Chief Executive's Report

July 2022

New Mayor elected for Limerick City and County

Huge positive response to Limerick 11 – this summer's tourism marketing campaign

Going for Gold returns with €60,000 plus in funding and prizes

Creative Partners selected for five communities involved in Climate Action project

Limerick scores three-in-a-row All-Ireland Hurling titles as Limerick celebrates with massive homecoming

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	6
5. Digital Services	6
6. Limerick Twenty Thirty	7

Housing Directorate

1. Housing Support Services	18
2. Local Authority Housing Construction and Maintenance	24
3. Strategy & Non-Local Authority Housing Construction	28
4. Municipal District Offices	31

Transportation & Mobility Directorate

1. Active Travel	8
2. Mid-West National Road Design Office	8

Planning, Environment & Place-Making Directorate

1. Place-Making and Public Realm	34
2. Planning Development	34
3. Environment, Recreation & Climate Change	35
4. Urban Innovation	36
5. Veterinary Services	37

Community, Tourism & Culture Directorate

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

National and Regional Shared Services Centre Directorate

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

Regeneration Directorate

1. Regeneration	16
-----------------	----

Support Services Directorate

1. Finance	41
2. Business Improvement	43
3. Corporate, Governance and Customer Services	43
4. Marketing & Communications	48
5. Munster Regional Communications Centre	50

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Economic Development and Enterprise Directorate

1. Trade & Investment

- Filecloud, Texas-headquartered software company, announced that it has chosen to establish its European Headquarters and Research and Development Centre in Limerick, creating 50 jobs over the next two and a half years. The new roles in Limerick will be spread across a number of different sectors, including development, operations and support, research and development, sales and marketing, and general administrative support. FileCloud CEO, Ray Downes, is originally from Limerick and now based in Austin, Texas, USA.
- WP Engine announced 20 new jobs during the official opening of their new office on Henry Street, Limerick. The new jobs announcement includes software engineers, senior development engineers and product designer positions. Its new office space, located on Henry Street in Limerick, is to serve as an innovation and economic growth hub for the company. WP Engine currently employs 120 people in Limerick.
- The Mayors of the Cities of Huy and Landen in Belgium visited Limerick as part of the Patrick Sarsfield Homecoming project. Limerick historian, John Elliott, took the Belgian delegations on a guided tour of the historic Sarsfield sites in the city and they participated in some of the Wild Geese festival activities over the weekend.
- On 28 July, an online meeting was held with the City of Austin, Texas, to progress the economic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between our two cities. While the MOU was signed in 2019, the global pandemic prevented any advance of the collaborative. Having reconnected, it is intended to move forward in four sectors: Innovative High Technology; Med Tec; Education and Creative Industry to forge valuable economic links between Austin and Limerick. Austin has long been a friend to Limerick and we look forward to strengthening ties and creating new mutually beneficial links.

2. Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Limerick

Funding Approved

- Seven businesses were approved for a Trading Online Voucher.

LEO Workshops and Training Events

- Business Advice Clinics and Business Planning Webinar.
- One-Day Start Your Own Business Course.
- Employing For the First Time Workshop.
- July Meet-up with Frank C. Guy.
- Protecting Passwords Workshop.
- 10 Top Tips for Getting PR.

There were 92 participants on the LEO Business Training Courses and eight Business Owners availed of the LEO Mentoring Programme.

3. Innovate Limerick

Engine Collaboration Centre

- Collaboration project for health and safety tracking now gone into pilot phase in University Hospital Limerick.
- Identified two new application opportunities for Healthcare with the University of Limerick Hospitals Group.
- Agreed collaboration process with several groups for the applications of two Science Foundation Ireland applications regarding climate change.
- Attended the launch of the Future Mobility Campus Ireland in Shannon with follow-up regarding Drone use case opportunities.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

- Supporting 33 software start-up businesses through the Software start-up programme.

The Mid West Regional Enterprise Plan (REP)

REISS Funding Success

Nine new Mid-West regional enterprise projects have been successful in securing funding out of 47 projects nationally under the Regional Enterprise Innovation Scoping Scheme 2022 (REISS) announced by Ministers Robert Troy and Damien English on 14 July. The REISS funding supports the development of potential innovative regional projects aligned with the objectives of the nine new Regional Enterprise Plans that were launched earlier this year.

The Mid-West secured the largest number of successful projects for any region, highlighting the level of innovation and collaboration that exists in the Mid-West, with each county securing multiple awards. Five of the successful projects are being developed in Limerick.

The successful Mid-West projects cover areas such as food, life sciences, social enterprise, advanced mobility, digital hubs, sustainable aviation and creative industry. More details can be found at the following link: <https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/news-and-events/departments/news/2022/july/14072022%203.html>

The following applicants secured feasibility funding (up to €50,000) for six new projects:

- Limerick City and County Council - Investigating the feasibility of developing of a Life Sciences Innovation Hub for Limerick.
- Limerick City and County Council - Study to map the regional food and drink ecosystem identifying strategic opportunities for the sector. Project in collaboration with Local Enterprise Offices in Limerick, Clare and Tipperary.
- Tipperary County Council - To study and establish the possible solutions to progress an Enterprise Development Hub in Thurles.

- Tipperary Town Revitalisation - Feasibility study to further develop plans for the establishment of a Food Enterprise Hub in Tipperary Town.
- University of Limerick - Feasibility study for an unmanned aerial systems flight and testing hub for the Mid West Region.
- Ze-Aviation Alliance, Clare - Feasibility Study to scope out the opportunities in the development of zero-emission aviation technologies from the Mid-West.

Priming funding (up to €200,000) was awarded to the following:

- *BNEST Social Initiative (Social Impact Ireland)*, Limerick - Bridging the 'Impact Space' between traditional and social businesses to further advance financial return and investment for enterprise.
- Future Mobility Campus Ireland, Clare - To scope out a project to expand on its initial Vertiport test bed with a large-scale Research, Development and Innovation Hub for Advanced Air Mobility.
- Limerick Enterprise Network, Limerick - The creation of a multi-functional Creative Industries Centre of scale at Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership (LEDP) with a virtual production studio and space to encourage indigenous small to medium sized enterprise sub-suppliers to the Film Industry.

Film in Limerick

National Launch of Film and TV Crew Academies

Innovate Limerick, through Film in Limerick, took part in a national launch event for the new Film and TV Crew Academies at the Galway Film Fleadh. Film in Limerick lead the Limerick-based Crew Academy for the Munster region, one of three academies in Ireland set up with Screen Ireland, the others are based in Galway and Wicklow. These new hubs will develop skills and build capacity in production crew roles at all levels both regionally and, as a result, nationally.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Film and TV Crew Academy Short Courses

Our first courses from our Film and TV Crew Academy have been launched.

- Location Skills Course - two-day course to develop the skills to work as Location Scouts.
- Firearm Safety Course - one-day course taking place at Troy Studios, which aims to develop awareness of firearms on set and their safe handling.
- Feature Prosthetics - ten-day course supported by Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board and delivered by Odyssey Studios, focusing on advanced prosthetic skills.
- Movie Magic Scheduling - two-day course, including hands-on introduction to the Industry Standard Movie Magic Scheduling Software.

Engine Short Film Scheme - Film Festival Screenings

Three of our recently completed short films from the first year of the Engine Shorts training and production scheme were selected for screening at the Galway Film Fleadh in July. The training scheme was supported by Limerick City and County Council, Clare County Council, Tipperary County Council, Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board and Creative Ireland. Films screened in Galway:

- 'You're not Home,' directed by Derek Ugochukwu and produced by Greg Burrows. 'You're not Home' was filmed in Limerick and is a drama about two African brothers seeking asylum who are faced with a dark entity lurking within their Direct Provision Centre.
- 'First Date,' is the story of a lonely farmer who goes to desperate measures to deny her daughter's chances of a pleasurable first date. Written by Áine Ryan, directed by Clara Planells, and produced by Pete Moles, 'First Date' was filmed on location in and around the Upperchurch area in Tipperary.

- 'Try and Touch,' filmed in Ennis, tells the story of a shy rugby star, Emer, who has caught feelings for a classmate. The short was written and directed by Nell Hensey and produced by Gemma O'Shaughnessy.

Engine Docs Film Screen - Film Festival Screenings

Also screened at the Film Fleadh in Galway were the three Engine Documentary shorts, made as part of the Engine Doc Scheme in partnership with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board and Sheffield Doc Fest. Films screened in Galway:

- 'Vonnie: Ireland's Forgotten Fashion Icon.' Fashion, Family and Fate. An intimate family portrait is woven as three sisters recollect the legacy of their mother, Vonnie Reynolds, a forgotten Irish fashion icon forced to retire after a tragic accident. Directed by Renata Lima and Produced by Melissa Collins.
- 'Focail Nua' (New Words). Ireland has two full-time terminologists whose job is to create hundreds of new Irish words and phrases every month. Focail Nua is a celebration of the vitality, complexity and depth of the language. Directed by Andrew Keogh and produced by Muireann de Barra.
- 'A Stone Place,' filmed in Clare, is a visual journey showcasing a unique rock that is quarried on the side of the biggest cliffs in Europe, and that has created the aesthetic of a small rural town in the West of Ireland. Directed by James Skerritt and Produced by Pete Moles.

Film Office Forum National Meeting

Innovate Limerick, through Film in Limerick, held a national meeting of film offices at the Galway Film Fleadh in July. The Forum, set up to develop and support regional film production, was set up and is chaired by Film in Limerick.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

4. Forward Planning

- Work continued on the preparation of the Draft Castleconnell and Caherconlish 2023-2029 Local Area Plans.
- A Draft Ministerial Direction and Notice Letter was received on 28 July in relation to the adopted Limerick Development Plan, directing the reinstatement of the Zoning Objectives for six sites in the city and suburbs. While the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 came into effect on 29 July, those parts of the Plan referred to in the Notice shall be taken not to have come into effect.

5. Digital Services

Digital Services

- A follow-up audit on Limerick City and County Council's use of CCTV was conducted by the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (DPC). The Head of Digital Services and the Data Protection Officer hosted Deputy Commissioner, Tony Delaney, and Head of Enforcement, Prosecutions and ePrivacy Investigations, Antoinette Gavin, in Merchant's Quay, along with Inspector Sandra Heelan and Detective Nick Jones of An Garda Síochána. A recap of the work completed by Limerick City and County Council to date was presented to the DPC's representatives. Site visits were arranged to CCTV in installations at Clare Street as part of the Canal and Riverbank Scheme, along with a visit to Henry Street Garda Station, Rathkeale Library and the CCTV monitoring centre at Moyross Community Enterprise Centre. Feedback on the day was positive and the efforts undertaken by Limerick City and County Council were positively recognised by the DPC. A follow-up audit report will be published in due course.

EU Projects

- The EU Programme Manager met with Ertico for the second part of their City Moonshot survey. ERTICO City Moonshot aims to engage, inspire and empower cities by understanding their needs and requirements in relation to mobility and transport. By interviewing 300 cities worldwide on their smart mobility challenges, needs and trends, ERTICO City Moonshot is working to create a unique knowledge database. It focuses on data sharing; Mobility as a Service (MaaS); and policy priorities on sustainability and the role of transport.
- The EU Programme Manager attended "Europe is our Future: Opportunities in Your Sector Across Europe." This event, in the University of Limerick, was co-organised by the Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA) and Enterprise Ireland and looked at opportunities for Irish companies in the Life Sciences, Consumer Retail, Industrial and Digital Technologies. The event opened with a keynote address from Mairead McGuinness, European Commissioner, followed by talks by Enterprise Ireland Market Advisers from across Europe.
- Members of the +CityxChange project met with Ciarán Cuffe, Member of the European Parliament, at the Citizen Innovation Lab in Sarsfield Street, Limerick. Progress on community engagement, the digital twin of Limerick, the Lab itself, and future challenges identified by the project, were presented. The feedback on the project was encouraging and the discussion was very helpful for targeting future opportunities which may arise in the longer term from legislation currently under discussion at the European Parliament.
- The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, and the EU Programme Manager, attended the final meeting of the Urbact III Project, Find Your Greatness, in Perugia, Italy. This marks the end of a three-year project which has resulted in an Integrated Action Plan for branding Limerick as a Smart City. All cities, including Limerick, presented their visions for the next few years and shared best practices and learnings with each other.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

6. Limerick Twenty Thirty

Opera Square

Nos. 8 and 9 Rutland Street

Work commenced on Nos. 8 and 9 Rutland Street to stabilise two Georgian Buildings; these are two of the remaining 14 being conserved on site. A video was created outlining Limerick Twenty Thirty's endeavours to retain the Georgian Heritage within the site. [link to video](#).

Procurement - Contract B Construction

Tenders were received for the development of the Basement and One Opera Square, which are being assessed for the award of the construction contract.

Phase Two of Hoarding

Work progressed in July with several collaborators for the design of Phase Two of the hoarding at Opera Square:

- Limerick Twenty Thirty continued work with Ormston House to develop hoarding to promote the Women of Limerick app.
- Engagement continued with the Arts Office/Limerick Street Art to arrange a mural by Street Artist, Joe Caslin, on mental health activism.
- Scope was agreed with Marketing and Communications Section on their feature for Limerick Atlantic Edge, European Embrace branding along a large area of Ellen Street.
- A brief was agreed for a collaboration with Limerick School of Art and Design, Technological University of the Shannon Graphics and Motion Graphics Students for a project to design a large area of hoarding on Michael Street.
- Design work progressed on the spotlight sections, office letting and business as usual signage.

Cleeves Riverside Quarter

- Funding for the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) of €34.5m was allocated to Cleeves Riverside Quarter following the preliminary business case being accepted.
- Work progressed on finalising the delivery of the masterplan, which is to be completed by year-end.
- The Chimney Stack was lit up green once again in support of Limerick GAA All-Ireland Senior Hurling Champions.

Gardens International

- A brand was developed for 'The Vault at Gardens International' public boardroom, which will now be marketed for meeting space bookings to the public.



Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Transportation & Mobility Directorate

1. Active Travel

Works

- **Roseville Gardens/Park Gardens, Corbally** – Works completed on 750m of refurbished footpath. Project includes formalisation of permeability link.
- **Drombanna Footpaths** – Works continued on 360m of new footpath along the R512 in Drombanna.
- **School Road, Lisnagry Footpaths** – Construction commenced on 430m of new footpath along the L-11062-2 in Lisnagry.
- **Collins Avenue/Lilac Court, O'Malley Park** – Works completed on renewal of 410m of footpath along the R511 Collins Avenue/Lilac Court.
- **An Mhodhscoil/Model School** – Construction commenced on Safe Routes to School project at An Mhodhscoil, O'Connell Ave, Limerick.
- **Crecora Village** – Works completed on new footpath to connect village centre with GAA pitch.
- **Adare** – Footpath upgrades ongoing along Station Road, Adare.
- **Tournafulla** – Footpath upgrade works along the Main Street completed.

Marketing & Communications

- Limerick Active Travel produced two social media videos for the Limerick Council Twitter account in July. Collectively, the videos were viewed more than 2,000 times.
- Limerick Active Travel tweeted five times from the Limerick Council twitter account with total followers now 17,400. The most successful tweet had 61 likes, 30 retweets and 9,094 impressions.

- Limerick Active Travel posted two updates to Limerick Council's LinkedIn account with total followers of 8,887.

2. Mid-West National Road Design Office

N69 Hegarty's Cross to Askeaton Phase 1

The scheme is approximately 3.2km in length and provides for road reconstruction, drainage improvements, pavement surfacing, traffic signage, road markings and associated works. Construction works were undertaken by Falconhurst Ltd., t/a Kellys of Fantane, Borrisoleigh, Co. Tipperary. The works were completed in July.

N21 Croagh to Coolballyshane Pavement Improvement Scheme

The scheme is approximately 2 km in length and provides for milling of existing pavement, pavement surfacing, drainage, road markings and associated works. Construction works were undertaken by Roadstone Ltd., Fortunestown, Tallaght, Dublin 24. The works were completed in July.



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 July meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was held on 05 July in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle. The Local Action Group (LAG) approved funding of €30,000 under the LEADER Programme 2014-2022.

Environmental Awareness

- Relove Paint Scheme - a new circular economy social enterprise, Relove Paint, developed for Limerick by Tait House Community Enterprise, was launched on 27 July. With support from Limerick City and County Council, the Environmental Protection Agency's Local Authority Prevention Network, Panda Greenstar and the Rediscovery Centre, the paint-recycling project provides affordable, high-quality paint in a range of colours for reuse in the local community.
- Going for Gold 2022 was launched with the help of Askeaton Tidy Towns on 07 July. Limerick City and County Council and JP McManus Charitable Foundation partnered to bring the Limerick Going for Gold competition back after a COVID-enforced break of two years. This unique community-based competition returns with more than €60,000 in prize funding. Limerick Going for Gold aims to make Limerick a cleaner, brighter place to work, live and visit and has captured the imagination of Tidy Towns groups, residents' associations, smaller groups and individuals right across Limerick city and county.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme Building Acquisition Measure

- The new 2022 Building Acquisition Measure forms part of the overarching Town and Village Renewal Scheme structure. Limerick City and County Council has been awarded €400,000 to purchase vacant and derelict buildings for future development as community assets.

Limerick Public Participation Network (PPN)

- Limerick PPN delivered a presentation to Limerick branch of Comhairle na nÓg. This talk included promoting involvement in their own local community groups and an outline of the structures of the PPN and the networks engagement with Limerick City and County Council. Membership of the PPN continues to grow and now stands at 180. Limerick PPN continued to have an active social media presence on its regularly updated website as well as on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

2. Tourism

Limerick Greenway

- Starting from July, Limerick Greenway users can now access shuttle bus services seven days a week, adding to the first-class network of visitor facilities already in place along the 40km scenic off-road walking and cycling route. There are several bike hire companies in operation along the route and the daily shuttle bus is available to all Greenway users.
- The 8020 Food Company was the successful applicant to provide a food/beverage truck at the Greenway Hub at Ardagh and has started trading this month. This is a very welcome addition to Limerick Greenway services for visitors, especially over the summer season, and we wish them every success.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

- The Marketing campaign continues to be rolled out for Limerick Greenway. For July, the campaign included earned content/fam trips/social media and promotions. This included advertising in the All-Ireland hurling and football final programmes, cinema advertising, billboards and newspaper editorials.
- Cara's Inaugural 'Go All Out Week' is set to inspire people with disabilities and professionals working in the outdoor sector to understand the value and to see the opportunities that are available to them in their local communities. As part of 'Go All Out Week,' a demonstration by LiKe Bikes on Limerick Greenway was held in conjunction with CARA Sport Inclusion Ireland and both Limerick and Kerry Sports Partnerships, with free sessions for those with low mobility/disability to trial their bikes and trikes.
- JBA Contracting completed the first biodiversity seasonal survey of the Greenway.

3. Arts Office

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

On 07 July, two focus group meetings took place online with members of the Sector and third level educational providers. The purpose of the Focus Groups, facilitated by GM Innovations, was for key stakeholders to quantify the challenges and assess the opportunities that have arisen from the pandemic and understand what sustainability will look like for the Arts and Culture Sector in the years ahead. A survey has taken place with the Sector. The results of the focus group and survey will support the work of the Culture and Arts Sub-Committee and inform policy-making when considering the recovery of the Sector by presenting an evidence-based report with recommendations on the delivery of Limerick City and County Council policy in this area.

Open Calls

Strategic Fund

The Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts Scheme supports applications to national and international funding bodies to help leverage funding, by offering general letters of support, benefit in kind, or a percentage of any funding awarded in the event of a successful application. In July, eight letters of support were issued.

The recommendations for the Strategic Fund for the Limerick City and County Council Arts and Culture Awards went before the Council at the July Meeting. Three allocations, amounting to €4,500, were approved.

Festival and Events Grant 2022/2023 Open Call

The recommendations for Festivals and Events funding for the Limerick City and County Council Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2022/2023 went before the Council at the July Meeting. The following recommendations from the Assessment Panel were approved:

Strand 1: Fund Available: €42,250

- 28 applications were considered under this Strand with a total ask of €162,340.
- The Assessment Panel has recommended the allocation of funding to 18 successful applicants totalling €42,250.

Strand 2: Fund Available: €159,000

- 13 applications were considered under this Strand with a total ask of €330,450.32.
- The Assessment Panel has recommended the allocation of funding to 12 successful applicants totalling €159,000.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick City
& County Council**

Strand 3: Fund Available: €4,500

- 10 applications were received with a total ask of €40,000.
- The Assessment Panel has recommended the allocation of funding to one successful applicant totalling €4,500.

Open Call for Bursaries

Bursary calls opened on 26 July for Individual Arts Bursaries, Dolores O'Riordan Music Bursary, and Tyrone Guthrie Bursary.

Dolores O'Riordan Music Bursary Award

Limerick Arts Office, Limerick City and County Council, invited applications from professional musicians to be considered for a Music Bursary in honour of Dolores O'Riordan of up to €4,000 for the development of work/professional skills. Artists based in Limerick City and County Council's administrative area, or operating substantially within Limerick City and County, are eligible to apply for a Bursary.

Individual Arts Bursary Awards Scheme

Limerick Arts Office, Limerick City and County Council, invited applications from professional artists to be considered for a Bursary of up to €4,000 for the development of work/professional skills. Artists based in Limerick City and County Council's administrative area, or operating substantially within Limerick City and County, are eligible to apply for a Bursary in multiple art forms, including Visual Arts, Circus, Dance and Literature.

Tyrone Guthrie Bursary

Limerick Arts Office, Limerick City and County Council, announced an Open Call for two Bursaries for the Tyrone Guthrie Centre in 2023. The Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig is a residential workplace and residency programme in Ireland for artists of all disciplines. This Open Call to recognised cultural practitioners, across all art forms, residing within Limerick City and County, will allow

successful applicants to undertake a short residency at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig, the artist's workplace in County Monaghan. These bursaries cover all board and lodging expenses for one week, plus the use of a studio if necessary.

Creative Ireland

Reporting for 2021 and funding drawdown were submitted in July as required.

Limerick Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027

Arts Leaders Associates have been engaged to support Limerick City and County Council for the Consultation, Research and Writing of the Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027.

Decarbonising Together - Creative Climate Action

In partnership with Urban Innovation, Decarbonising Together has engaged creative practitioners with community partners to undertake a creative process of exploring decarbonising together.

Strategic and Legacy Funding

Limerick City and County Council prepared and submitted an application to Creative Ireland for Strategic and Legacy Funding for 2022 to support the delivery of the Limerick Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018-2022.

Arts Council Framework Agreement Programme

Limerick Culture Night 2022

The deadline for receipt of applications from the Limerick Culture and Arts Community for Limerick Culture Night 2022 was 12 Noon on 04 July.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick City
& County Council**

Culture Night Late in the grounds of King John's Castle, Limerick

Limerick Arts Office was successful in the application to this Open Call, which supports implementing aspects of the Night Time Economy Task Force recommendations for Culture Night this year.

4. Property & Community Facilities

Dereliction, Vacancy & Reuse Team - July	
Inspections carried out	171
Property & Community Facilities Department Notices issued	13
Derelict Sites Cases opened	15
Statutory Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act	79
Derelict Sites Cases closed through engagement	8
Properties entered into the Derelict Sites Register	37
Properties put forward for Compulsory Acquisition (Section 15 Notices)	17
Properties Compulsorily Acquired (Section 17 Notices)	0

Bin Waivers Approved	0
-----------------------------	---

5. Libraries, Gallery & Museum

- Limerick Libraries welcomed the Department of Education's Summer Camps and July Provision programme participants this month, offering free access to books and literacy support activities. These initiatives are targeted at primary and post-primary students with complex additional educational needs and those at the greatest risk of educational disadvantage. Two Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) units from St. Michael's Infant School attended Watch House Cross Library on 06 July; twelve children attended the library with seven staff members and

enjoyed listening to a story with some colouring and some relaxing time in the Sensory Room. The branch welcomed 20 July Provision groups. Kilmallock Library was delighted to welcome the children from two summer camps held by Scoil Mocheallóg, Kilmallock, for four sessions of story, song, puzzle and craft sessions. 76 attendees eagerly participated in all the activities and launched the maiden flight of the aircrafts they so proudly crafted in one of the crafting sessions outside the Library on their final visit. Rathkeale Library was delighted to welcome the pupils from St. Anne's Primary School when they called in as part of their summer camp. They took part in a book-themed scavenger hunt, were given a tour of the library, a talk from the Librarian and a story time session, almost 70 pupils visited over four mornings. The City Library also welcomed a number of visits from school summer camps with Our Lady Queen of Peace attending for two sessions of story and craft on 08 and 13 July. Newcastle West branch was delighted to welcome pupils attending Summer Camps in nearby Courtenay Boys School. They enjoyed a short tour of the branch and were very happy with the lovely new selection of junior stock. Matthew and Arran called into Newcastle West Library with their assistant, Úna; the boys had a great time on the Magic Table and played with the newly acquired Autism Spectrum Disorder (A.S.D.) toy collection. The Sensory Pod at Abbeyfeale Library continues to be well used, with 16 users this month. Anyone wishing to use the pod can contact Abbeyfeale Library at 068 32488 to reserve a time.

- "Summer Stars" reading programme was in full swing throughout July with hundreds of children signed up for the programme at library branches in the city and county. The participating children are encouraged to visit the library, borrow their books and collect little rewards as the summer goes by. Branches provided prizes and activities to keep the readers motivated to complete the programme. Watch House Cross branch held an art and craft session on 06 July with 12 children making a bird feeder from recycled milk or juice cartons. The children learned about the art of decoupage and were delighted to take home some very colourful bird feeders to place in their gardens. Also on 27 July,

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

children between the ages of 6 and 12 were introduced to the practice of yoga. They were guided through a meditation and yoga sequence and got to experiment with handmade yoga cards. On 06 July, Watch House Cross Library was delighted to welcome a group of Library and Information Science students from the University of North Carolina. The group consisted of 21 students, two faculty leaders and one International Studies Abroad (ISA) staff member. They were visiting as part of an International Studies Abroad custom programme that enables the students to understand the role and practice of librarians and archivists in other cultural contexts. They were particularly interested in our autism-friendly resource, the Sensory Room and highlighted that many US public libraries do not yet have sensory rooms. They were also keen to see the Local Studies Department, and to understand the role it plays in preserving the historical record in relation to the heritage of Limerick City and County. On 14 July, the library held a second Junior Book Club meeting for children aged 9-12. The Book Club meets once a month to discuss a book carefully selected by our Library Assistant, Michelle. The name of the Book Club was voted on, with the majority favoring the name, "How to Train Your Bookworms." The book that was selected for July was "All the Money in the World" by local author, Sarah Moore-Fitzgerald. The children discussed the book, designed their own book cover and wrote book reviews. They rated the book 3/5. Throughout the month, there were 142 visits to the Sensory Room. The weekly storytime continues every Thursday at 4pm, with new stories being shared each week, sharing the idea of reading and storytelling for pleasure.

- There were 35 onsite visits by researchers to the Local Studies Department at Watch House Cross Community Library in July. Twenty-one of these involved research on the microfilm and digital archives of local and national newspapers, and 10 on material forming part of the Local Studies and archival collections. Four visits comprised advice sessions on family history and/or research on FindMyPast. Seventeen remote queries were received and resolved. Design was completed on department's forthcoming Decade of Centenaries (DOC) publication, 'The Inevitable Conflict' Essays

on the Civil War in Limerick, and work on its other DOC project, Limerick-related claims lodged with the Irish Grants Committee in the 1920s, is in train. Several new acquisitions (both books and journals) were added to stock.

- Kilmallock Library was thrilled to host a free Creative Song Writing Camp led by the wonderful Music Generation County Limerick from 26 to 28 July. The free camp, suitable for 9 to 12 year olds, ran from 10am – 2pm daily. Some children brought along their own instruments but Music Generation also provided an array of instruments from strings to percussion to the budding musicians and songwriters. Music Generation is a national partnership programme whose mission is to create inspiring experiences for children and young people through music and to make sure that everyone, whatever their background, gets access to music tuition. The annual "Cruinniú" exhibition continued during the month with a selection of beautiful work collected in response to an open invitation for art and craft work for inclusion. Local artists provided paintings, ceramics, photography, wood sculpture, felting, drawings, quilting and willow for all to enjoy. The branch continued with its ever-popular monthly "Little Readers" session with a fun-filled, friendly, inclusive session of storytelling, song, rhymes and chat geared towards younger members. Limerick Pride Week was celebrated with a colourful in-house display of some of the books available from the Children's Books Ireland and An Post 'Rainbow Reads' collection with stories that focus on individuality and inclusion.
- In Adare Library, the Parent and Toddler Group met on two occasions during the month. The Mosaic exhibition, organised in collaboration with local Women's Shed (2020 Club), is still attracting visitors and admirers.
- Dooradoyle Library has recently been awarded an Age Friendly Status by Age Friendly Ireland. Staff members, Ciara Barry and Geraldine Byrne, have been named as Age Friendly champions. To gain recognition

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

As an Age Friendly branch, the library has continued to engage with active retirement groups in the community to promote library services. Staff have also been trained as Library Digital ambassadors and the library has an events space to facilitate Age-Friendly talks and events. As part of the Summer programme of events, Dooradoyle Library recently hosted 'Rosie's Animal Magic', an exciting opportunity to get up close to Rosie's treasured animals including lizards, birds and other exotic creatures and learn how to care for and appreciate these amazing animals. The event was preceded by a story-time session and there were approx. 100 people in attendance on the day. Other events include regular Arts and Crafts and story-time sessions during the summer months.

- A special exhibition entitled '2022 Road to Croke Park' on display in the Library showcases the Limerick Senior Hurlers' 2022 All-Ireland win. The exhibition has been an almost yearly feature at Dooradoyle Library since 2018 and is a great way for children to learn the history of the two teams featured in the final. The Limerick Leader featured an article on this exhibition in one of their recent publications dated 25 July.
- On 07 and 14 July, two groups from the Student Campus English Language School in Limerick City visited the City Library. Each group of students is training to improve their English Language skills and their Library tour and accompanying introduction to all its services is an important element in their studies. The Sahaja Yoga meditation meetings continued throughout July with the free weekly sessions taking place every Tuesday evening at 6.00p.m. The Writepace Creative Writing Group also held its bi-monthly meetings with sessions on 21 and 23 July.
- Newcastle West Library created a number of Book/Board Displays during the month. "Fleadh Cheoil na Mumhan 2022," Limerick County Board of Comhaltas in Newcastle West, hosted the event this year. The display gave a brief history of the Fleadh, which celebrates our Irish Cultural Traditions. The town of Newcastle West is steeped in tradition and previously hosted 'Fleadh Cheoil na Mumhan' in 2007 and 1965. The branch put together an informative and colourful

display for the All Ireland Hurling Final featuring a brief history of the game of hurling, information on the Limerick Senior Team and Management, and their road to the final. Members were very happy to show their support for the Limerick Team by adding their name to the interactive Promethean screen. The Branch welcomed visits from the following community groups during the month: weekly visits by friends from the Brothers of Charity, Patrons from St. Ita's Community Hospital Nursing Home and Rathfredagh Cheshire Home.

Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- PULSE, a significant new initiative by Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA), opened on 21 July. This exhibition presents the work of sixteen emerging artists who graduated from a recognised Irish College of Art between 2017 and 2021. An Open Call had been issued and 133 artists applied. Patrick Murphy, Director of the Royal Hibernian Academy (RHA), Artist, Aideen Barry and Director/Curator LCGA, Úna McCarthy, made the final selection. The artists are graduates from all the main colleges in Ireland and this is a very exciting and fresh introduction to divergent practices and subject matter of these artists.
- In addition to the opportunity to exhibit in a high-profile visual arts institution, there were a number of awards, including three monetary awards from the Irish Research Council: €1,000 to Judy Foley and €500 each to Daniel Murray and Jonathan O' Grady. Limerick Printmakers awarded a six-month membership to Nicola Sheehan, and LCGA purchased a piece by Artist, Shane Hynan, which will be included in the Permanent Collection. There was a great turnout of over 150 people on the night and the response from visitors was overwhelmingly enthusiastic. It is hoped that we can introduce this open submission opportunity for emerging artists as the opportunities for them have significantly reduced over the last decade.
- Arno Kramer's exhibition, In Time, finished on 10 July and was de-installed and packed for shipment to Holland the following week. 6,932 visitors saw the

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

exhibition over its eight-week run with some very favourable comments.

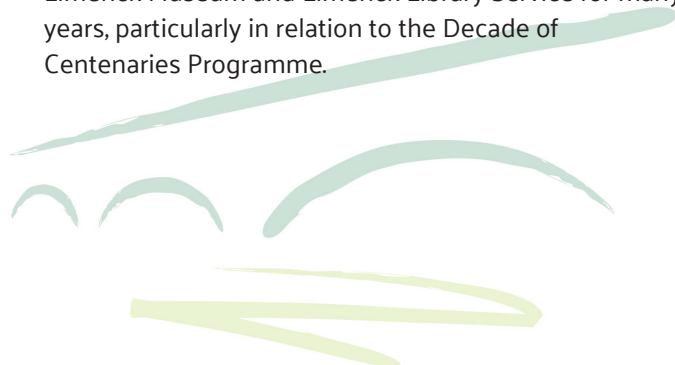
- The Test Space residency, with a dance artist/choreographer and architect, finished with a performance of their research, which was attended by an invited audience of 15 persons.
- LCGA marked Limerick Gay Pride Week (GPW) with the 'Irish Names Quilt' Exhibition from 04-17 July, which went on display in conjunction with Gender, Orientation and Sexual Health (GOSH), Limerick. This event attracted a very large number of visitors (332) on the day of the Limerick Pride march. This was the first time LCGA collaborated with GPW and marks an important development of our commitment to our nascent Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) policy.
- LCGA continued to display a selection of watercolours and drawings, including work by Percy French, Walter Verling, and Mainie Jellet amongst many other artists. In the upper floor galleries, there is a selection of more recent acquisitions demonstrating the breadth of the Collection and its importance to supporting artists throughout their careers.
- Preparations for our Autumn programme are well advanced and will include the upcoming 80th anniversary of Limerick Arts Society, and "Remember Jim Kemmy," to mark the 25th anniversary of the death of the well-known politician.

Limerick Museum

- Limerick Museum's latest exhibition, 'A Woman's Culm,' by Pauline O'Connell, was launched by Councillor Olivia O'Sullivan, Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, on 14 July, and ran for the remainder of the month. It was a 17-minute artistic film, which commemorated rural women and the importance they played during the Irish Revolution. Culm is the coal dust that was a by-product of coal mining. In many places, it was used to make culm balls, which were a common domestic fuel. In the coal mining districts of Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny, these culm balls were known as 'bombs.' 'A Woman's Culm' is a short artistic film,

which centres on the upland areas of the Castlecomer Plateaux, and makes visible rural women's day-to-day struggles during Ireland's War of Independence era. By 'keeping the home fires burning,' women not only maintained the home and family, but they also provided support to the 600+ men of the Castlecomer Battalion. The women's tasks included administering first aid, message carrying, weapons carrying, secrecy and providing safe houses to those on the run, and keeping equilibrium in the face of the unknown.

- Focusing on the relationship between rural women's personal struggle for survival, Pauline O'Connell used the camera lens as a witnessing device to mediate rural women's less visible role at a time when the broader struggle for independence for communities was sought 100 years ago. Through the cultural practice of 'culm' making - unique to coal mining areas - the women's hands became the fighting tools and 'buns,' 'bungs,' 'bumps,' or 'culm bombs' became the measure of that labour, a material object that embeds resilience, self-sustainability and commemoration alike. 'A Woman's Culm' formed part of the County Kilkenny's Decade of Centenaries Programme and Limerick Museum was delighted to see it form part of the Limerick Decade of Centenaries Programme. This is the first time that Limerick Museum has hosted a film since it inaugurated its very successful exhibition series five years ago.
- On 22 July, the Museum hosted another pioneering event, where Pauline O'Connell held a public conversation with [Dr Sinéad McCool](#), the Limerick-born historian, author, broadcaster, script writer and exhibition curator, who has collaborated closely with Limerick Museum and Limerick Library Service for many years, particularly in relation to the Decade of Centenaries Programme.



Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Regeneration Directorate

1. Regeneration

The Council will shortly invite submissions from qualified entities to assist in the preparation of a status update at this important stage in the Regeneration Programme. This update will assess the current position in the relevant areas across the social, economic and physical pillars and make recommendations for the post 2023 period.

Economic

Outreach to Employment Initiative

The Project Team continue to meet regularly to progress various initiatives and actions to support young people into education, training and employment. The initiative has evolved and expanded across the four Regeneration areas with significant agency and community buy-in.

Social

Economic and Social Intervention Fund (ESIF) Update

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage approved funding for 127 projects across 72 organisations, totalling almost €3.8million. Site visits were undertaken throughout July as part of the monitoring programme in place.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

• Regeneration Committee Meetings

Regeneration committees met in Southill, Ballinacurra Weston and St. Mary's Park in July.

• Clinics for Resident Queries

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

• Community Information

A first edition of the Regeneration Connect Newsletter went to print and was circulated to all the households and service providers in the Regeneration communities. A flyer of useful Regeneration contacts is being circulated in the St. Mary's Park, Southill and Ballinacurra Weston communities. The flyer for Moyross is being prepared.

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 currently progressing the procurement of replacement contractors for the completion of the new 38-unit Infill Housing Developments in Delmege Park and Hartigan's Villas, Moyross, and De Vere Court, Southill.
- Tender preparations are currently being completed for the 27-unit Orchard Site, King's Island.
- Construction Works are ongoing on Thermal Upgrade Contract 122, St. Mary's Park.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage approvals sanctioning advancement of the following Thermal Upgrade contracts to tender stage have been received. Contracts are being progressed to tender on a sequential basis with a number of contracts now being advanced through the tender process:

- 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 (25 units).
- Thermal Upgrade Contract 126, Southill (50 units).
- Thermal Upgrade Contract 127, Ballinacurra Weston (12 units).
- Thermal Upgrade Contract 128 / 129, St. Mary's Park (25 units).

Community Facilities

The Team is working to progress two community infrastructure projects:

- Our Lady of Lourdes Community Centre community consultation is ongoing with regard to the refurbishment of the Centre and what services the community would like to see.
- St. Mary's Park Community Centre Working Group continue to meet with the Regeneration Team to establish the project brief.

Other

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

- Demolition of Nos. 20, 22 and 24 Crecora Avenue, Ballinacurra Weston.



Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Housing Directorate

1. Housing Support Services

• Housing Waiting List

Approved Housing Applicants	2,273
Approved Tenant Transfer Applicants	353

• Closed Housing Applications

	July	Year to Date
Closed Applications	45	442

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 July	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	2	6
Newcastle West	0	6
Metropolitan District	11	90
Cappamore-Kilmallock	1	36
Total	14	138

• Refusals

	No. of Units July	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	0
Newcastle West	0	0
Metropolitan District	0	9
Cappamore-Kilmallock	0	5
Total	0	14

Approved Housing Body Allocations 2022 (year to date)

Total Nominations	139
Successful Nominations	67
Nominations Pending	54
Unsuccessful Nominations	18

• Traveller Accommodation *

No. of Units offered July	4
Year to Date	10

* these figures are included in allocations figures

Housing Welfare Visits

No. of Visits July	14
Year to Date	99

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

- Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)**

The total number of units in RAS accommodation in July was 1,246, of which 730 were private, 515 were Voluntary and there was one Part V. Five new tenancies were created.

- Housing Assistance Payments Limerick (HAP)**

2,305 active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	22
No. of Amendments	317
No. of Cessations	62

RENT COLLECTION

Rent Collection Limerick City and County Council					
Opening Balance	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing Balance	% Collection
€5,396,118	€10,520,233	€15,916,351	€10,022,346	€5,894,005	63%

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

HOME IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

Jul-2022		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aid Grants	No. Approved	0	0	8	0	8
	MAG Expenditure	€5,750.00	€4,150.00	€27,700.00	€0.00	€37,600.00
	No. Paid	1	1	5	0	7
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	1	2	17	2	22
	HAG Expenditure	€0.00	€0.00	€81,023.75	€0.00	€81,023.75
	No. Paid	0	0	8	0	8
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	1	12	13	7	33
	HOP Expenditure	€23,050.00	€17,300.00	€71,717.50	€9,230.88	€121,298.38
	No. Paid	5	4	19	2	30
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG Expenditure	€0.00	€0.00	€66,389.28	€0.00	€66,389.28
	No. Paid	0	0	17	0	17

Total No. Approved	63
Total Monies Paid	€306,311.41
Total No. Paid	62

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Year-to-Date

Jan-Jul 2022		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aid Grants	No. Approved	10	12	42	14	78
	MAG Expenditure	€80,062.45	€62,657.27	€203,215.00	€83,740.00	€429,674.72
	No. Paid	15	13	42	16	86
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	20	14	124	19	177
	HAG Expenditure	€82,496.84	€149,367.09	€571,175.98	€88,394.78	€891,434.69
	No. Paid	11	12	70	8	101
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	25	69	136	37	267
	HOP Expenditure	€141,989.86	€357,087.62	€598,483.99	€185,440.47	€1,283,001.94
	No. Paid	38	77	160	41	316
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG Expenditure	€2,150.83	0	€231,935.66	€40,235.75	€274,322.24
	No. Paid	1	0	24	6	31

YTD Total No. Approved	522
YTD Total Monies Paid	€2,878,433.59
YTD Total No. Paid	534

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.

1. 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.
- On 06 July, members of the Community Sustainment Team worked alongside the residents of Cois Má, Croom, upgrading the flower beds and installing kerbing in their estate.

2. 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 Council estates. During the month of July, 118 of these 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. Eight such inductions took place during July.

3. 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 the end of July was 172. The number of cases closed during July was 33. The Community Sustainment Team secured possession of seven Council properties during the month of July following death of tenant, abandonment of property or other particular circumstances.
- The Unit carries out formal Garda checks on prospective new tenants. 74 such formal reviews were undertaken during July.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

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

Date: 17 July 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	56
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	17
St. Joseph Street	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	5
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	21
Temporary Emergency Provision (TEP1 (Edenvilla))	Low threshold, night-by-night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	15
Temporary Emergency Provision TEP 2 (Phoenix Lodge)	Low threshold, night-by-night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	16
Total		160

Families				
Location	Description	Beds Used		
		Adults	Children	Families
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	10	6
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	52	72	39
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	13	13	10
Totals		Adults	Children	Families
		71	95	55

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	3
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. approved	1
Local Authority Home Loans	
Loan Applications: No. received	10
Loan Applications: No. approved	6
Deed of Discharge	
Deed of Discharge Applications: No. Received	20
Consent to Sale	
Consent to Sale Applications: No. Received	3
Cottage Purchase Annuity	
No of Cottage Purchase Annuity Applications	2
Ground Rent	
No of Ground Rent applications	1
Private Rented Inspections	
No. of Inspections	50

Freedom of Information, Data Requests and Ombudsman

Freedom of Information requested submitted	3
Ombudsman Query Cases	0
Data Access Requests	2

2. Local Authority Housing Construction and Maintenance

The Team is dedicated to delivering:

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

Local Authority Housing Construction

House Returns July- Categorisation	
Cat 1	0
Cat 2	0
Cat 3	0
Cat 4	0
To be inspected	7
Total	7

House Returns July By Municipal District	
Adare-Rathkeale	0
Cappamore-Kilmallock	1
Newcastle West	2
Metropolitan District	4
Total	7

During July, Limerick City and County Council Strategy and Non-Local Authority Housing Construction Team was notified of 0 houses returned in the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale, one in the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock, two in the Municipal District of Newcastle West and four in the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Current Working Programme	
	Completed in July
Local Authority Construction Team	0
Local Authority Maintenance Team	12
Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process	0
Regeneration Team	0
Team to be assigned	N/A
Total	12

Project Updates:

- Refurbishment works have commenced on 17 derelict units in Limerick City. Tenders have been advertised for refurbishment works for a further 16 units in Limerick County and nine units in Limerick City.
- In July, the Council received Stage 2 approval for a 24-unit housing scheme in Barnakyle, Patrickswell, and a 31-unit housing scheme in Sycamore Crescent, Newcastle West.

Finance

- There is no submission for July.

In July, works on 12 properties were completed by the Local Authority Maintenance Team.

There are three Teams in Limerick City and County Council assigned to refurbish properties. As of July, the Local Authority Construction Team was in the process of completing works in 115 properties, Local Authority Maintenance Team 44 properties and the Regeneration Team 19 properties. Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process - 27 properties. 45 properties have no Team assigned yet.

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

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

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

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Local Authority Maintenance

Local Authority Houses: Maintenance Complaints dealt with during July

Housing Maintenance Cases - July	Requests/Cases Created	Cases Dealt With/ Closed	Balance of Open Cases at 31.07.2022
Metropolitan District	709	773	1,079
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	76	109	386
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	121	100	190
Municipal District of Newcastle West	87	146	577
Total	993	1,128	2,232

Grants Inspections

Metropolitan District of Limerick - Inspections and Recommendations for Home Improvement Schemes/Disability Adaptations - July

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)	2	10	0	11	23
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	10	0	20	30
DPGs (Disabled Person Grant)	0	3	0	2	5
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	2	28	0	37	67

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	1	0	4	5
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	2	1	1	4
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	6	0	4	10
DPGs (Disabled Person Grant)	0	1	0	0	1
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	10	1	9	20

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	0	0	2	2
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	2	0	4	6
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	7	0	5	12
DPGs (Disabled Person Grant)	0	0	0	0	0
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	9	0	11	20

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	1	0	2	3
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	2	0	1	3
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	14	0	14	28
DPGs (Disabled Person Grant)	0	0	1	10	11
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	17	1	27	45

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.
- Acquisitions with sales closed.
- Leases that are signed/sealed.

1. BUILD, BUY AND LEASE

Buy/Build/Lease as of 31.07.2022 is as follows:

As at 31 July (01.01.22 – 31.07.22)	Complete	In Progress	Overall Complete and In Progress	“Housing for All” 2022 Delivery Target
Build	110	273	383	565
Buy	11	38	49*	0
Lease	23	40	63	21**
TOTAL	144	351	495	

* includes 33 no. units carried over from 2021.

** Limerick City and County Council has a target of 21 no. short-term leasing units for 2022. The 63 no. units ‘Complete and in Progress’ is made up of units carried over from 2021.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

2. CURRENT OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

Finance

- Claims totalling €1,835,955 were sent to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in July.
- Claims totaling €218,288 were paid by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in July.

Project Approvals and Submissions

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

Scheme	Project Details	District
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the acquisition of 1 no. Unit at Dympna's Terrace, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Stage 1 Construction Approval for 7 no. units at Ballygrennan, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Stage 3 Construction Approval for 9 no. units at Kilfinane, Co. Limerick	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Stage 2 and 3 Construction Approval for 4 no. units at Gerald Griffin Street, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Stage 1 Construction Approval for 10 no. units at Glin, Co. Limerick	Municipal District of Newcastle West
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Stage 1 Construction Approval for 8 no. units at Feenagh, Co. Limerick	Municipal District of Newcastle West
Short Team Lease - under the Social Housing Current Expenditure Programme (SHCEP)	Renewal of 13 no. units at Old Cratloe Road, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Long Team Lease - under the Social Housing Current Expenditure Programme (SHCEP)	Renewal of 3 no. units at Castletroy, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

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

Scheme	Project Details	District
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the acquisition of 1 no. unit at Sexton Street, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the acquisition of 1 no. unit at Caherdavin, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the acquisition of 4 no. units at Askeaton, Co. Limerick	Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Stage 1/2/3 Construction Submission for 4 no. units at Athea, Co. Limerick	Municipal District of Newcastle West
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Revised Stage 1/2 Construction Submission for 23 no. units at Doon, Co. Limerick	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

3. UPDATES

Repair and Leasing Scheme Pilot - Expansion of Scheme for Vacant Commercial Properties

An expansion to the Repair and Leasing Scheme (RLS) removes the requirement that a property owner must be unable to fund or access funding to bring vacant properties into compliance with the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations, 2019.

This modification applies to certain categories of vacant properties only:

- Vacant commercial properties.
- Vacant units associated with a commercial property (e.g. over a shop).
- Vacant former institutional buildings.
- Unfinished developments where these have been vacant for a significant period of time.

The existing RLS criteria remain for all other dwellings. This expansion is on a pilot basis. Approval must be granted by the Local Authority or Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, where appropriate. Enquiries to housingeoi@limerick.ie

Targeted Leasing Initiative

The Targeted Leasing Initiative was launched on 15 July by means of an Expression of Interest (EOI) for submissions to The Housing Agency. The EOI invites proposers to indicate their capacity to provide proposals with a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 150 properties in a Local Authority area for the purposes of the initiative below:

- Facilitate and expedite additional permanent social housing;
- Provide additional supply targeted at areas of greatest need; and
- Prioritise State support for homes aligned with the needs of the social housing waiting list.

Proposers have two options under which to submit proposals as part of the EOI:

Option 1: Standard leasing with a maximum term of 25 years, with proposers to submit proposals for discount to market rents over and above the standard leasing terms (15/20%) currently in operation.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Option 2: Standard leasing up to a maximum of 30 years for the standard discount (15/20%) currently in operation with transfer of the leased properties to the Local Authority at the end of the lease term at a discount to the open market value of the leased properties. Proposers will be required to submit a proposed percentage discount on the future open market value of the leased properties.

The initiative is being carried out via an EOI issued via www.etenders.gov.ie.

Further queries in relation to this initiative can be directed to The Housing Agency: leasing@housingagency.ie

4. Municipal District Offices

Metropolitan District of Limerick

Metropolitan District Meetings

July Monthly Meeting

The July Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick took place on 20 July.

Briefings

Briefings were held for Metropolitan District Members on the following:

- Proposed Property Disposals.
- Active Travel Projects.

Operational Area Briefings

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

Upgrade/Refurbishment Works either started or completed during July

Description of Project: Bushy Island Local Roads Surface Dressing

- Location: Bushy Island, Donoghmore, Co. Limerick.
- Cost of Project: €45,000.
- Contractor: Limerick City and County Council Surface Dressing Fleet.

Description of Project: Attyflin to Lucey's Cross Local Roads Surface Dressing

- Location: Patrickswell, Co. Limerick.
- Cost of Project: €36,000.
- Contractor: Limerick City and County Council Surface Dressing Fleet.

Description of Project: Brick Lodge to Harty Road Local Roads Surface Dressing

- Location: Clarina, Co. Limerick.
- Cost of Project: €57,000.
- Contractor: Limerick City and County Council Surface Dressing Fleet.

Description of Project: Newtown Hedge School to Main Road Local Roads Surface Dressing

- Location: Ballybrown, Co. Limerick.
- Cost of project: €40,000.
- Contractor: Limerick City and County Council Surface Dressing Fleet.

Description of Project: Castleconnell School Footpaths

- Location: School Road, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick.
- Cost of Project: €105,000.
- Contractor: Tallybrooke Civil Engineering.

Description of Project: Kilpeacon Cross to Lisnalty Local Roads Surface Dressing

- Location: Kilpeacon, Co. Limerick.
- Cost of Project: €72,000.
- Contractor: Limerick City and County Council Surface Dressing Fleet.

Description of Project: Collins Avenue / O'Malley Park Footpath Refurbishment

- Location: Collins Avenue / O'Malley Park, Limerick.
- Cost of project: €82,000.
- Contractor: Maramba Ltd.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

The monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale took place on 12 July in the Municipal District Office, Rathkeale.

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

- 47 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
- 39 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

Capital Road Projects

Marine Cove Foynes – New Culvert under N69 and overflow Spillway ongoing.

Active Travel funded works ongoing at Crecora GAA field and Station Road, Adare.

Road Works

Drainage Works carried out on the L8027 Clogh Road, Croagh, L6113 Knocknaboula, Foynes and R518 Ballywilliam, Rathkeale.

Macadam Overlay works carried out at the L8036 and the R518 Ballingarry.

Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) completed at Corgrig, Foynes.

Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) completed at Morgans North, Askeaton.

Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

Municipal District Meetings

The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock was held in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle, and Online, on 14 July.

The Quarterly Joint Policing Sub-Committee Meeting of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock was also held in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle, and Online, on 14 July.

Housing and Road Maintenance

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

Housing Grants

Two Private Housing Grants were paid totalling €9,230.88 and seven were approved. There were nine initial inspections undertaken, one re-inspections and nine final inspections.

In relation to Disabled Persons Grants, 0 projects were completed and two were contracted.

Completed Road Scheme Works in Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal Roads Area

Thirty-five roads in the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock have been completed under the Restoration Improvement Grant Programme.

Thirty-six roads in the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock have been completed under the Restoration Maintenance and Supplementary Restoration Maintenance Grant Programme.

Grant Schemes: Seven schemes were completed under the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) and three schemes were completed under the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS).

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Municipal District of Newcastle West

- The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West took place on 13 July in Áras William Smith O'Brien, Newcastle West.
- 14 grant applications were approved under the Private Housing Grant Schemes during the month. The total value of approvals was €65,247.50.
- Payments of €17,300 were made to four applicants who completed works under the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.
- No Payments were made to applicants under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme.
- Payments of €4,150 were made to one applicant who completed works under the Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme.
- The Road Maintenance Team started the road works programme and has commenced Local Improvement Schemes.
- The Motor Tax Section at the Newcastle West Office processed 1,118 routine transactions.



Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Planning, Environment & Place-Making Directorate

1. Place-Making and Public Realm

Project Updates

Public Realm

- **Limerick Greenway Underpasses and Overpasses** – Construction is continuing to programme on 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.
- **Limerick Greenway Newcastle West Carpark** – Design of a carpark for Greenway users at Station Road, Newcastle West, is being finalised. A Part 8 Planning Application is being prepared for the revised design.

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.
- **Askeaton Swimming Pool Flood Protection Works** – The Stage 1 EXEED application to the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland for funding to carry out an Energy Study was successful. Lawler Sustainability have carried out an Energy Study at the facility and are now finalising the Stage 2 Application.
- **Dock Road Improvement Scheme** – The Compulsory Purchase Order for the scheme is still with An Bord Pleanála. One objection was lodged.

- **Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road - Cratloe Road Reinstatement Works** - Appointment of Priority Construction Ltd., 162 Clontarf Road, Clontarf, Dublin 3, for Cratloe Road Reinstatement Works Contract. There are approximately 150 metres of the Cratloe Road closed to traffic in both directions with a temporary diversion in place utilising temporary traffic lights on the Pass Road. The Cratloe Road Reinstatement Works Contract is an advance works contract to complete the outstanding works on the Cratloe Road to enable this section to be reopened to two-way traffic.

Archaeology

Mid-West Lime Ltd. was appointed to carry out the conservation works at Kilfinane Church, funded under the Community Monuments Fund 2022, and works got under way on site in the last week of July.

2. Planning Development

Planning Applications

A total of 91 new planning applications were received as follows:

Category	Amount
Part 8	0
Housing Developments	5
Domestic Developments	52
Agricultural Developments	3
Commercial Developments / Change of Use	16
Sporting / Community and Educational Developments	1
Other Developments	14

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

The current applications include proposals for:

- Construction of seven covered industrial-type warehouse units with associated external storage, parking and circulation areas; upgrade of existing site services and all ancillary works associated with the site development at Durnish, Shannon Foynes Port, Co. Limerick.
- Construction of an extension to a C1 R&D Pilot Line building to provide R&D and 1st industrial deployment/manufacturing use in the proposed C2 fanfare building, the construction of a two-storey extension to the existing energy centre, re-organisation of the site layout, relocation of 300 car park spaces to a landscaped car park accessed off Derrybeg Road and associated alterations and siteworks at Raheen Industrial Business Park, Raheen, Co. Limerick.
- Construction of 86 residential units, installation of all necessary and associated site works to include vehicular and pedestrian connections to public roundabout (currently under construction), on Pass Road, roadways, footpaths, green spaces, landscaping, boundary treatments and bin storage areas, together with all associated drainage connection works and all ancillary site works. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) accompanies this application at Clonconane, Limerick.
- Construction of a residential development comprising 93 residential units and all associated site works, including access from Station Road at Churchtown, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.
- Construction of a residential development comprising 97 residential units, a crèche; pumping station with a pumped rising main connection to existing infrastructure at the Raheen Roundabout along with the construction of all associated roads, pavements, car parking, street lighting, foul and surface water drainage and all ancillary site development works. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) accompanies this application at Baunacloka, Raheen, Co. Limerick.

3. Environment, Recreation & Climate Change

Cemeteries

Number of Burials in City Cemeteries

Mount St. Lawrence	15
Mount St. Oliver	17
Castlemungret	8
Kilmurry	3

Environmental Services (Litter, Waste Enforcement, Air, Noise, Water/Waste Water and Public Health)

- 263 complaints were received.
- A total of 342 inspections were undertaken.
- 12 Warnings were issued.
- Eight Notices were issued.
- Eight Directions were served by the Department.
- Eight Prosecutions were initiated.
- A total of 14 fines were issued during the period.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

4. Urban Innovation

Decarbonising Together - A Creative Climate Action Fund Project

Following a process of evaluation, five creative partners have now been selected to work with a Limerick community on an aspect of Decarbonisation that is meaningful to them. The matchmaking process is complete and the creative collaborations have commenced and will continue throughout the summer. Details of the creative collaborations are:

Community Group	Creative Partner	Project Aim
Limerick Civic Trust	Cracking Light Productions	Limerick Civic Trust is collaborating on a film project that will highlight the local connections and networks that the Civic Trust has built over four decades through its work in buildings and green spaces across the city.
Garryowen Community Partners	Veronica Santorum and Daniel Clancy	Garryowen Community Partners will work to gather climate-related ideas and solutions by working with artists to have a "community conversation" to co-create a sustainable community to ease the burden of climate change-related issues for residents.
Island Community Partners	Patrick Mulvihill of Amicitia and Heather Griffin	Island Community Partners will collaborate with residents from King's Island to create an interactive, place-based installation that will spark conversation and encourage action on decarbonisation and a just transition in the medieval heart of Limerick City. Partners on the project include St. Nicholas Youth Space and Limerick Island Community Partners and will work over the next few weeks to experiment with new ideas and support Limerick's mission to decarbonise by 2050.
The Munster Indian Cultural Association (MICA)	Chelsea Canavan and Deirdre Power	The MICA will work towards awareness and practical steps enabling sustainable change in every day, embracing acts of reciprocity and legacy through the creative process.
Meadowbrook Residents' Association	Workshop Architects	Meadowbrook Residents Association will bring members of their community together and start conversations about decarbonisation to initiate some new plans for climate action.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

+CityxChange

Following an invitation from the +CityxChange Team, Dublin's Green Party Member of the European Parliament, Ciarán Cuffe, visited the Citizen Innovation Lab at the University of Limerick City Campus to learn about the progress of +CityxChange and the role of the Lab in Limerick's climate transition. The Citizen Innovation Lab is a place for observation, co-creation and experimentation. It is a place where people can take part in activities to help shape a sustainable future for the city. Mr Cuffe was given a tour of the space which includes a Citizen Observatory, Engagement Hub and Fab Lab Limerick and introduced to the digital tools available and in the projects being implemented by the Project Team.

Open Innovation Call 3

Open Innovation Calls are an opportunity for citizens to prototype and trial ideas related to Limerick's clean energy transition. Two Open Innovation Calls since 2019 have supported 11 projects addressing the themes "Re-imagining Limerick's Laneways" and "Take control of Your Energy." In July, the process of evaluation took place on the applications for Open Innovation Call 3 "Social Innovation and Energy Collaboration." Four applications were successful. The successful grantees were informed and grant agreements signed. Projects funded include an electric cargo bike-sharing scheme and support for the development of community energy projects.

5. Veterinary Services

- Three stray or wandering equines were impounded.
- The Dog Control Unit processed eight dogs during the month.



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 60,335 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAP SSC at the end of July.
- A weekly average of 176 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2022.
- The July landlord payment run was €56.1 million.
- The weekly tenant charge at the end of July was €3.1 million.
- The Debt Management Unit of the HAP SSC collected a total of €92.2 million in differential rent to end of July.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of July was 97%.
- The Debt Management Unit issued 7,102 HAP debt reminder letters in July.

2. Fire and Emergency

Statistics

	No of Fire Related Calls	No of Non Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call outs 01.07.2022 – 31.07.2022	67	53	120
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	66	59	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	21	29	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	13	12	

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 July	16	13	1	7	7
Disability Access Cert Applications July	8	6	0	5	5
Licensing Applications July	7	7	0	5	5
Commencement Notice July	41	36	2	36	38
Completion Certificate July	18	18	0	18	18
Planning Referrals July	16	12	0	12	12
Sugar CRM Cases July	4	4			3

Fire and Emergency Training Events

During the month, the following training courses took place:

- A fire-fighter completed an Emergency Services Driving Standards Instructor Workshop in Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.
- On-station training is continuing for all personnel.

Civil Defence attendance at Events

The following activity took place in July:

- Medical and water cover at the JP McManus Pro-Am, Adare Manor – 2 days.
- Medical cover at the JP McManus Pro-Am Gala Dinner, Adare Manor – 1 night.
- Transfer of provisions/equipment for Ukrainian Displaced Persons – 3 days.
- Medical cover – National Day of Commemoration, Limerick City – 1 day.
- Patient Transfer, Limerick residence to University Hospital Limerick and return – 2 days.
- Patient Transfer, Limerick residence to St. Camillus' Hospital, Limerick, and return – 6 days.
- Patient Transfer, Croom Hospital to Limerick residence – 1 day.
- Medical Cover at Family Fun Day, Abha Bhán, Loughill – 1 day.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Water Safety

No. of lifebuoy replacements	Total January-June	July	Total 2022
Metropolitan District	6	5	11
Municipal District	6	1	7



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 31 July 2022	
Opening Balance - 1 Jan €	8,732,896
Accruals €	58,979,922 **
Vacant Property Adjustment €	336,757
Writes offs/ Waivers €	2,953,510
Total for Collection €	64,422,551
Amount Collected €	39,955,014
Arrears €	24,467,537
Specific Doubtful Arrears €	2,787,564
% Collected	65%

Debtors Loans	
As at 31 July 2022*	
Opening Balance - 1 Jan €	310,319
Accruals €	929,244 ^
Writes offs €	-
To Collect €	1,239,563
Receipts €	1,084,370
Arrears €	155,193
% Collected	87%

^ Accruals not updated for loans for July 2022

** The date for making the 2022 Rate was 26 January 2022.

Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No. of days in overdraft 0

Chief Executive's Report

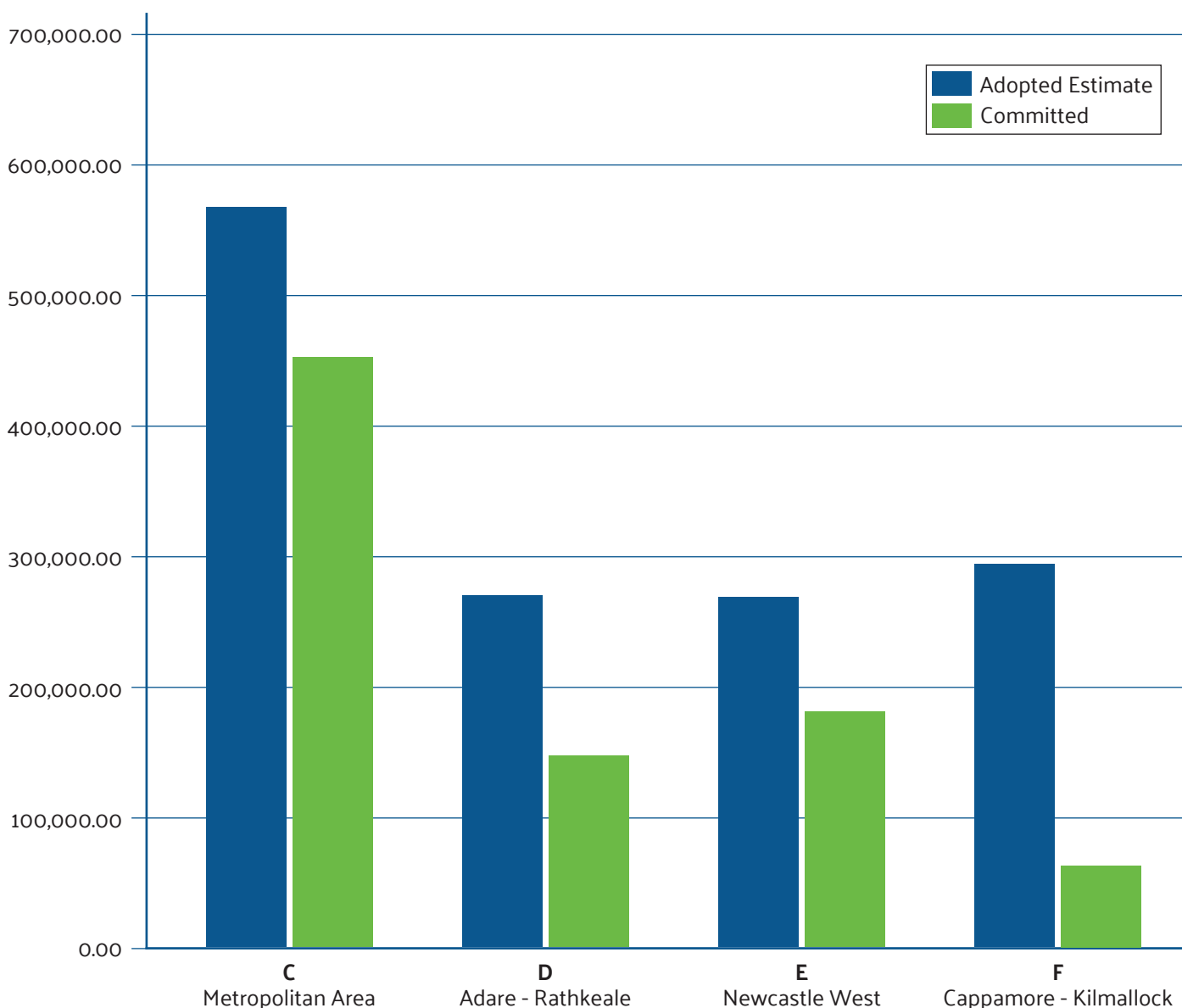


Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

General Municipal Allocation 2022 Adopted Estimate €1.403 Million

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



Municip (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate (€)	Value Committed (€)
C Metropolitan Area	568,000.00	400,446
D Adare - Rathkeale	270,000.00	145,019
E Newcastle West	270,000.00	185,075
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	295,000.00	68,976

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

2. Business Improvement

- Business Improvement launched a new digitised online form – Blended Working Application Form.
- A total of 912 active users are now live on the Employee App.
- Services on Service Catalogue = 700.
- There are 264 capital projects now managed through Cora, our cloud-based project management system. Project Managers and Sponsors can now request job codes, budget adjustments, reports and a digitised audit trail through an automated workflow.

3. Corporate, Governance and Customer Services

Election of Mayor

Councillor Francis Foley was elected Mayor of the City and County of Limerick at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 07 July.

Councillor Kieran O'Hanlon was elected Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick at the Annual Meeting of the Council also.

Limerick All Ireland Hurling Three-in-a-Row Champions

Limerick City and County Council, in conjunction with Limerick G.A.A., provided a big screen in the TUS Gaelic Grounds for hurling fans to watch the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final against Kilkenny on 17 July. This was attended by thousands of people.

A Homecoming Event was also organised for the following evening to welcome home the victorious All-Ireland Hurling Three-in-a-Row Champions. Thousands of people lined the streets of Limerick to welcome the team home before proceeding to the TUS Gaelic Grounds where they were met by a rapturous crowd for the official part of the event. A wonderful atmosphere ensued in glorious weather conditions for these two events.

Office of the Mayor

The Mayor hosted the following in Corporate Headquarters:

- Courtesy Visit of the Austrian Ambassador to Ireland, Mr. Thomas Nader.
- Visit of the Mayor of Huy, Belgium, and the Mayor of Landen, Belgium, to Limerick.

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

- GAA Hurling All Ireland Semi Final, Limerick v Galway
Venue: Croke Park, Dublin.
- JP McManus Pro-Am 2022 Golf Tournament
Venue: Adare Manor, Adare, Co. Limerick.
- Raising the Pride Flag, in support of Limerick Pride Week
Venue: Mary Immaculate College, South Circular Road, Limerick.
- JP McManus Invitational Pro-Am 2022 Gala Dinner
Venue: Adare Manor, Adare, Co. Limerick.
- Opening of the 16th Annual River of Dreams Quilt Exhibition
Venue: Limerick School of Art and Design TUS, Clare Street, Limerick.
- Swim Ireland National Division 2 Swimming Championships 2022
Venue: UL Sports Arena, University of Limerick, Plassey, Limerick.
- Launch of Limerick Going for Gold 2022
Venue: Askeaton Tourist Office, East Square, Askeaton, Co. Limerick.
- Old Christians GAA Club Re-Naming of Grounds and 60th Anniversary Celebrations, including Mass for deceased players and members
Venue: Old Christians GAA Club, Rathbane, Limerick.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

- 19th Annual Pig n Porter Tag Rugby Festival
Venue: Old Crescent RFC Grounds, Rosbrien, Limerick.
- National Day of Commemoration Ceremony to honour all those Irish men and women who died in past wars or on service with the United Nations
Venue: The grounds of Limerick City and County Council, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Technical University of the Shannon (Moylish Campus) and University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), Launch of UPMC and TUS Sports Medicine Clinic and Institute for Health
Venue: UPMC Sports Medicine Clinic Limerick, TUS Moylish, Limerick.
- Photoshoot extending invitation to Councillor David Fitzgerald, Mayor of Kilkenny, to visit Limerick following the All-Ireland Final and Presentation of Hamper, a mix that included 11 Limerick gifts as part of 'Limerick 11 Summer 2022' tourism campaign.
Venue: Mayor's Office, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Opening of WP Engine's New Office
Venue: Corner of Henry Street and Cecil Street, Limerick.
- French Embassy in Ireland, Reception on the occasion of Bastille Day
Venue: Résidence de France, Ailesbury Road, Dublin 4.
- Official Opening of 'A Woman's Culm,' by Pauline O'Connell, an artistic film commemorating rural women and the importance they played during the Irish Revolution
Venue: Limerick Museum, Henry Street, Limerick.
- Ribbon Cutting for the relocation of Angel Times from Thomas Street to Shannon Street
Venue: Shannon Street, Limerick.
- Limerick Bastille Day and Wild Geese Festival International Fashion Show, Honora French and Irish Sustainable Couture Show as a tribute to Lady Honora Burke, Patrick Sarsfield's wife.
Venue: St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick.
- Limerick Bastille Day and Wild Geese Festival Parade and flag-raising ceremony.
Venue: King John's Castle, Limerick.
- All Ireland Hurling Final 2022 followed by homecoming celebrations
Venue: Croke Park, Dublin; Colbert Station, Limerick, TUS Gaelic Grounds, Limerick.
- University of Limerick, Business Breakfast Briefing
Venue: University of Limerick, Plassey, Limerick.
- Launch Event to announce the European Roundnet Championships in Limerick
Venue: East Room, Plassey House, University of Limerick, Plassey, Limerick.
- Launch of 'HOME,' an Exhibition celebrating Traveller Pride 2022
Venue: Hunt Museum, Rutland Street, Limerick.
- Official Opening of Community Wildlife Area in Killeely
Venue: Community Wildlife Area, Killeely, Co. Limerick.
- Photocall for the Launch of Paint Reuse Project
Venue: Mungret Recycling Centre, Mungret, Co. Limerick.
- Meet with Representatives of University of Florida Marching Band
Venue: Mayor's Office, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.

Perugia, Italy

EU Project called 'Find Your Greatness' Final Conference from 20 to 22nd July.

Register of Electors

Staff from the Register of Electors Team continue to process application forms and emails which have been submitted in relation to the Register of Electors.

Total number of additions carried out in July - 14, total deletions - 118, total modifications - 13.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick City
& County Council**

Staff from the Electoral Register Team participated in a Teams Meeting with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage which gave an update on the Electoral Reform Bill and the Modernisation Project for the Electoral Register. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage advised that the Electoral Reform Bill, 2022, has been published, and the Bill has gone to the President for signing.

Health and Safety Training

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

Course Name	Numbers Trained
Safe Pass	11
Drivers' Certificate of Professional Competence	3
Manual Handling	17
Signing, Lighting and Guarding at Roadworks - Information Update	17
Sharps Removal and Biological Hazards	2
Safe Use of Pesticides and Herbicides	12
Roller Driving Training	6
Basic First Aid	2

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 July:

- Approved requisitions account for 84% of the total requisitions actioned for this given month.

- Rejected requisitions account for 16% of the total requisitions actioned for this given month.

Month	Approved	Rejected	Total Requisitions Actioned
July	1,190	225	1,415

The Top five requisition rejection reasons for the month of July are identified as follows:

Rejection Reason	July
Memo - Requisition Not Raised in Advance	75
Award Notice - Omitted/Incorrect copy provided	32
Procurement Reference Omitted/Incorrect	31
Quotes - Omitted/Incorrect copy provided	26
Approved Officer's Order - Omitted/Incorrect copy provided	23

Procurement Department

Staff in the Procurement Department are responsible for 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 the month of July:

New Procurement References set up	22
Procurement References extended as per signed contract/arrangement	7

The Unit continues to work with staff of all Departments to ensure procurement to pay cycle is adhered to within the Council through the validation of all requisitions for approval or rejection via the Requisitions Oversight Unit.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Schedule of Meetings for July

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Full Council		
Annual Meeting – Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.	07.07.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Special Meeting – to discuss establishment of an Expert National Review Group on Horticulture.	11.07.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Bi-Monthly Meeting of Council.	11.07.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Special Meeting – Vote of Sympathy for former Member and Cathaoirleach of Limerick County Council, David Naughton, RIP.	18.07.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Operational Briefings		
Limerick City East	05.07.2022	Online
Limerick City North	05.07.2022	Online
Limerick City West	14.07.2022	Online
Municipal District of		
Newcastle West Monthly Meeting	13.07.2022	Newcastle West
Adare-Rathkeale Monthly Meeting	12.07.2022	Rathkeale
Cappamore-Kilmallock Joint Policing Sub-Committee Meeting	14.07.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Monthly Meeting	14.07.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Metropolitan District of Limerick		
Monthly Meeting	20.07.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Meeting	05.07.2022	Dooradoyle
Corporate Policy Group		
Meeting	01.07.2022	Online
Meeting	12.07.2022	Online

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Party Leaders' Meeting	07.07.2022	Online
Protocol Committee Meeting	07.07.2022	Online
Strategic Policy Committee Meeting		
Adjourned Travel and Transportation Meeting	12.07.2022	Dooradoyle and Online

Access to Information

	July	2022 (January to July)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	15	125
Freedom of Information Internal Appeals	2	10
Information Commissioner Appeals	2	5
Total Ombudsman Requests	1	37
Total Access to Information on the Environment Requests	1	10

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

- Customer Services Call Centre answered 9,455 calls. This represents an average of 450 per day, with the number of calls exceeding 500 on several occasions. 54% of calls were handled at first point of contact.
- A total of 2,507 emails were processed through the Customer Services email platform.
- 2,319 cases were created, with 592 of these logged on behalf of Public Representatives. 3,353 cases were closed, with 951 of these being cases logged by Public Representatives.
- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued, with a total of 199 cases being logged. Of these, 182 were submitted by Public Representatives.
- Customer Services continued to support the Housing Maintenance Department in creating the service requests and keeping citizens up to date on progress made. Customer Services logged 75% of cases for Housing Maintenance in the Metropolitan District of Limerick.
- Customer Services continued to provide other frontline services to the general public, such as processing applications for Residential Parking Permits, of which 101 were applied for and 84 issued.

Customer Services

A total of 1,574 visitors were welcomed to Customer Services in both Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle Offices.

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

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

4. Marketing & Communications

Marketing

All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final 2022

- Worked closely with Limerick GAA to provide a co-ordinated communications campaign around the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final which took place on 17 July and the subsequent homecoming at TUS Gaelic Grounds on 18 July following Limerick's three-in-a-row victory.
- In addition to leading the media element of the campaign, the team also managed the digital and social promotion of the events, provided live social coverage and commissioned photography and videography for distribution to local and national media with the events securing widespread coverage generating hugely positive PR for Limerick.
- Staff members were encouraged to show their support for Limerick by wearing green on 15 July. Images were shared on @LimerickCouncil Twitter throughout the day.
- A 90 second video was commissioned to capture the homecoming celebrations as the All-Ireland champions returned to Limerick with the Liam MacCarthy Cup. The video was shared on Limerick.ie, across our social channels and was circulated to national press. Total reach to date: 117,408.
- To generate additional publicity in the lead-up the All-Ireland final, Limerick City and County Council issued five press releases to local and national media.
- Marketing & Communications, on behalf of the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, issued a Limerick-themed hamper to Councillor David Fitzgerald, Mayor of Kilkenny, ahead of the counties' clash for the All-Ireland final. The 'therapy' hamper included a range of Limerick products and Brand Limerick merchandise, along with a warm invitation to visit the Treaty County following the All-Ireland Final. A press release was shared with national

press and the initiative gained traction with Kilkenny and Limerick media with coverage secured on KCLR 96FM, Live 95, Limerick Leader, Ireland Live, Kilkenny People and the Irish Mirror.

Limerick 11 Summer 2022 Domestic Tourism Campaign

- Continued six-week multi-media domestic tourism marketing campaign, 'Limerick 11,' to position Limerick as a leading tourism destination for value, welcome and excitement.
- Collaborated with local service providers and businesses to run 11 competitions with unique Limerick prize packages on offer.
- Engaged top Irish influencers to promote the eleven-themed itineraries and reach wider audiences:
 - **11 Iconic Insta Spots** - Trisha Lewis (@trishas.transformation 222K followers)
 - **11 Fantastic Free Things to Do** - Chloe Moloney (@nursefancypants 14.2K followers)
 - **11 Girlie Getaways** - Louise Cantillon (@louise_cantillon 13.7K followers)
 - **11 Hidden Gems on Limerick Greenway** - Deirdre Holland Hannon (@deehollhan 18.2K followers)
- Continued promotion of [Limerick.ie/11](https://www.limerick.ie/11) - the dedicated campaign hub showcasing local stakeholder accommodation, dining and retail offers and promotions.
- Continued promotion across Limerick.ie's social media channels, via paid and organic social media advertising; Limerick.ie newsletters; digital display; SEM and a national radio campaign, including Newstalk and Today FM.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Limerick Student City

- Concluded two and a half week Limerick Student City CAO Change of Mind social media campaign to promote Limerick's offering as a complete college experience. Topline figures include: 413,090 Total Impressions, 81,359 Total Reach, 286,661 Total Video Views and 25,881 Total Engagements
- Developed student marketing collateral for the 2022/2023 academic year in preparation for international students' arrival to Limerick.

Other Marketing Activity

- Collaborated on the production of the 2022 edition of Limerick Best of Ireland Series.
- Created and issued eight Limerick.ie e-newsletters.

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 56 times on Limerick.ie's **Facebook** with followers now 32,893. Posts reached 1,515,820 users with 73,889 engagements.
- Tweeted 54 times on Limerick.ie's **Twitter**, @limerick_ie, with total followers now 21,231. Our tweets earned 1.87million impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).
- Posted 34 times on Limerick.ie's **Instagram** and created 120 Stories with total followers now 26,378.
- Posted 20 times on Limerick City and County Council's LinkedIn with total followers now 9,048.now 9,048.

Limerick.ie

In July, there were 223,172* unique site visits to Limerick.ie, a 7.5% increase on the same period in 2021. (*Fathom Analytics)

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

1. <https://www.limerick.ie/limerick-11>
2. <https://www.limerick.ie>
3. <https://www.limerick.ie/greenway>
4. <https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning>
5. <https://www.limerick.ie/discover/limerick-11/win-eu1111-personal-shopping-experience-brown-thomas-limerick>

Content Report: 81 articles and 64 events were added to Limerick.ie in July 2022.

Communications

- Issued 15 news releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and researched and wrote 10 speeches for the Office of the Mayor.
- Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter.
- Tweeted 172 times on Limerick City and County Council's Twitter account, @limerickcouncil, with total followers now 17,608. Our tweets earned 142K impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

5. Munster Regional Communications Centre

	No. of Calls mobilised to an emergency incident by MRCC	Other Calls	Average call processing time	Total No. of calls in July
No. of call-outs 01.07.2022 - 31.07.2022	939	1,335	103.65 secs	2,274

