

Chief Executive's Report

August 2022

Permission granted for Foynes to Limerick Road, including the Adare By-Pass

Over 17.5 million impressions recorded on social media as part of Limerick 11 Summer national tourism marketing campaign

New Safe Routes to School route at the Model School

Global Irish Festival Series kicks off with international gathering at the Ashford Festival

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Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
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Economic Development and Enterprise Directorate

1. Trade & Investment

- Atlantic Projects Company, a power industry contractor specialising in the installation and maintenance of power plants, relocated its new Irish Headquarters to Limerick and announced plans to increase its workforce by 200 over the next 12 months.
- MacMarts, Ireland's leading provider of enterprise cloud applications, announced the creation of 40 new jobs over the next three years at its office space in the National Technological Park, Castletroy.
- Domino's Pizza have opened a new branch in Westbury Shopping Centre, Corbally, creating 15 new jobs.

As part of the 2022 Global Irish Festival Series, the community of Killeedy revived "The Ashford Festival" on 26-28 August and invited their diaspora from around the world to participate in the weekend long celebrations, either in person or online. The format of this event was similar to the Gathering Ireland project in 2013. The aim of this initiative is to connect the community of Killeedy with the Global Limerick network. The festival culminated with a unique event in which Killeedy diaspora from around the world live-streamed into the festival marquee to participate in a discussion about migration and being a member of the diaspora. Participants were given the opportunity to share their stories and to talk about what a connection to the Home Place means to them. Tim O'Connor, former Consul General of Ireland in New York, and Councillor Michael Collins, Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Newcastle West, chaired the discussion. There were approximately 100 people present in the festival marquee, with a further 50 tuning in online. The discussion moved between those in the marquee and contributors in Canada, the UK, USA, Iceland, New Zealand and Australia.

Key Takeaways

Diaspora appreciate being asked to tell their story to the Home Place.

- Diaspora want more – a newsletter perhaps, or a regular update on what is happening in the community.
- The Diaspora want to be part of the discussion, consultative or other, in relation to two major issues in Killeedy - housing and an after school/preschool service for the area.

The community is now working on follow-up actions to these key takeaways.

This event was an output of the Global Limerick Diaspora Strategy, adopted by Limerick City and County Council in 2021, which focuses on developing and supporting deeper connections between communities in Limerick and Limerick people around the world.

2. Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Limerick

Funding Approved

- Five businesses were approved for a Trading Online Voucher.
- Three businesses were approved a Digital Start Grant.
- Three Businesses were approved a Green for Micro Voucher.

LEO Workshops and Training Events

- Business Advice Clinics.
- Business Planning Webinar.
- Trading Online Webinar.

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There were 82 participants on the LEO Business Training Courses and 12 Business Owners availed of the LEO Mentoring programme.

3. Innovate Limerick

Engine Collaboration Centre

- Advanced discussions with a US Drone company regarding developing opportunities for health and safety for the Mid-West and establishing an operation in the region.
- Working with Dogpatch Labs to deliver first in-person Technology event in the Engine Collaboration Centre.
- Supported a successful workshop between two multinationals and an indigenous company regarding building out an integrated infrastructure.
- Working with University of Limerick and Technological University of the Shannon on sustainability technology challenges for Science Foundation Ireland proposals.
- Added three new software start-up businesses through the Software start-up programme, bringing the total to 36 companies being supported.

FILM IN LIMERICK

Film and TV Crew Academy Short Courses

Innovate Limerick / Film in Limerick's Crew Academy, in collaboration with Screen Ireland, ran the following courses:

• Film and TV Location Management

This course was aimed at those interested in working in locations management on a film and TV production, and offered a practical insight into the work of this fascinating department. Eight participants took part in the course. Two location trainees from the course completed a placement on the feature film 'The Popes Exorcist' filming in Limerick and Dublin.

• Firearm Safety for Film and TV at Troy Studios

This course took place at Troy Studios and gave an introduction to firearms safety and safe handling of firearms for film and TV productions. Twenty participants took part in this course.

• Movie Magic Scheduling

This course was aimed at Film and TV Drama production personnel looking to upskill and learn 'Movie Magic,' the industry-standard software for breaking down scripts and creating schedules for all types of productions. Seven participants took part in this course.

Production Support

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

4. Forward Planning

- Seventeen valid submissions received on the Proposed Rathkeale Local Area Plan 2023-2029, with closing date for submission 02 August.
- Work continued on the preparation of the Draft Castleconnell and Caherconlish 2023-2029 Local Area Plans.

5. Digital Services

EU Projects

- Met with Dublin City Council's new EU Programmes Officer to share best practices. It was an interesting conversation. Dublin City Council has been successful in embedding such a service at the political level to give it long-term stability, while here at Limerick City and County Council we have been successful in the co-ordination and delivery of projects.

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- Held a meeting in the Citizen Innovation Lab in Sarsfield Street, Limerick, with the team from Smart Dublin. We discussed how we can identify common needs between Irish cities and how to potentially co-operate to drive innovation in local government.
- Met with Derville Brennan who is carrying out research on behalf of the Southern Regional Assembly on the integration of outputs from Interreg projects in Local Authorities. We talked about the successes in the Military, Maritime and Industrial Atlantic Heritage (MMIAH) project, where the Lock Quay area is development-ready, and Place-EE and how findings and experience from that project are being applied in Age Action Ireland. We also discussed how findings from the Parks Atlantic project helped to inform later projects such as Health and Greenspace, and Go Green Routes.
- Met with Mark Sweeney from Enterprise Ireland in the Citizen Innovation Lab. Mark is the national contact point for Horizon Europe on Climate and Environment. We discussed project opportunities which will arise in this new funding period and we highlighted the strengths and successes in Limerick which we would like to take forward into new projects.
- On 31 August, we met with ESB Innovation to discuss X.Site, ESB's business incubator. Currently, they are looking at establishing eVehicle charging hubs for car sharing and would like to work with Transport to place two such hubs in Limerick City.
- **Finucane Brothers Memorial:** The stone used in the pushing wall of the memorial was repurposed from demolished buildings at Opera Square. An image of Tom Roche, Designer of the Memorial, Greg Glynn, Stone Mason, and Diarmuid Hayes, LTT Project Manager, was shared to LTT's social media.
- **Opera Square Hoarding:** Work progressed on the design of Phase Two of the hoarding with several collaborators.

Gardens International

- A brand logo was developed for 'The Vault' at Gardens International to aid in promoting the space for meetings and event bookings.

Cleeves Riverside Quarter

- Rape Crisis Midwest used the Cleeves Riverside Quarter carpark as their base for the Charity Paddle on 06 August. Information was shared to LTT's social media to promote the event and share information for donations.

Other Activity

- **Council Review:** LTT provided an update via Limerick City and County Council on recent and planned project activity for inclusion in the Council Review summer edition.
- **CIF Magazine:** LTT secured a feature in the Construction Industry Federation (CIF) Magazine special supplement for the CIF Summit for inclusion in their Summer Construction Issue.
- **LTT Projects Brochure:** LTT's portfolio brochure was refreshed to include updated information and imagery.

6. Limerick Twenty Thirty (LTT)

Opera Square

- **Marketing and Letting Strategy:** Originate, Cushman Wakefield, Teneo and LTT are progressing the Marketing and Letting Strategy for the overall site and One and Four Opera Square.

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Transportation & Mobility Directorate

1. Active Travel

Works – Metropolitan District of Limerick

- **Model School, O'Connell Avenue** – Works commenced on Safe Routes to School infrastructure outside The Model School. The project includes a new School Street on Roden Street and traffic calming measures on O'Connell Avenue.
- **Stoneyhurst Pedestrian Ramp** – Works commenced on a new layout for the Stoneyhurst Pedestrian Ramp in Dooradoyle.
- **R526, St. Nessian's Road** – Works commenced on the R526, St. Nessian's Road, in the vicinity of University Hospital Limerick. The works include new footpath and drop-kerbs and realignment of cycle lanes.
- **Ballykeefe Roundabout to St. Paul's** – Orcas were added to the cycle lane on St. Nessian's Road between Ballykeefe Roundabout and St. Paul's.
- **R512, Drombanna** – Works ongoing on 360m of new footpath along the R512 in Drombanna.
- **School Road, Lisnagry** – Works ongoing on 430m of new footpath along the L-11062-2 in Lisnagry.
- **Castleconnell National School** – Works commenced on new footpath in front of Castleconnell National School.
- **Scoil an Spioraid Naaimh, Roxborough (R511)** – Works commenced on new footpath near Scoil an Spioraid Naaimh.

Works – Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

- **Herbertstown** – Works commenced on a new walking and cycling route in Herbertstown.
- **Old Pallas** – Works commenced on a new footpath on L5048, Old Pallas.

Works – Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

- **Holycross to Kyletaun, Rathkeale** – Works commenced on footpath upgrade on R518, Holycross to Kyletaun.
- **Cappagh** – Works ongoing on pedestrian improvements.
- **Adare** – Works ongoing on footpath upgrades on Station Road, Adare. Fencing works also underway along riverbank route.
- **Creora** – Works fully complete on new footpath connecting village centre to GAA pitch.
- **Banogue** – Works ongoing on footpath upgrades.
- **Pedestrian Crossings** – Works commenced on upgrading the pedestrian crossings at Ballingarry Village and at Station Road, Adare.

Works – Municipal District of Newcastle West

- **Athea Village** – Works ongoing on footpath refurbishments in Athea village.
- **Dromcollogher** – Works complete on the replacement of footpaths on the R522, Dromcollogher.

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Communications and Marketing

- Limerick Active Travel hosted two drop-in sessions at the Citizen Innovation Lab at the University of Limerick City Campus as part of the public consultation on the proposed TUS to City Active Travel Scheme.
- Limerick Active Travel hosted a Public Consultation Forum on the proposed route for the Limerick City Greenway (University of Limerick to Annacotty). The project was supported by a virtual public consultation room on the proposed scheme.
- Limerick Active Travel produced a social media video on the new Safe Routes to School infrastructure at The Model School. The video was shared on the school's social media channels in advance of the return to school and was viewed more than 3,700 times.
- Limerick Active Travel tweeted 11 times from the Limerick Council twitter account, with total followers now 17,400.
- Limerick Active Travel posted four updates to Limerick Council's LinkedIn account with total followers of 8,887.

2. Mid-West National Road Design Office

Foynes to Limerick Road (including Adare By-Pass)

On 30 August, An Bord Pleanála approved the Foynes to Limerick Road (including Adare By-Pass) which comprises the Foynes to Rathkeale Protected Road Scheme 2019, the Rathkeale to Attyflin Motorway Scheme 2019 and the Foynes Service Area Scheme 2019. The road consists of:

- 15.6 km of dual carriageway from Foynes to Rathkeale, with 1.9 km of single carriageway road between Ballyclogh and Askeaton.

- 17.5 km of motorway from Rathkeale to Attyflin (N21/N20/M20 junction), including a by-pass to the north of Adare Village.
- A service area for heavy goods vehicles near Foynes.

The project will cost in the region of €450 m and will connect the core port of Foynes to the motorway network near Limerick. The by-pass of Adare will remove 70%-80% of the c. 17,000 vehicles/day passing through Adare village, eliminating regular traffic congestion at Adare.

The Council will continue to work with Transport Infrastructure Ireland to progress the scheme.

N24 Beary's Cross Road Improvement Scheme

The Council appointed Sorensen Civil Engineering Ltd., Forge Hill Cross, Kinsale Road, Co. Cork, as contractor to carry out the main works contract for the N24 Beary's Cross Road Improvement Scheme. The road works scheme comprises:

- a new roundabout controlled junction.
- alteration to the present junction layout.
- the construction of a new regional road R513 approach to the junction.
- the alteration of the existing N24 approaches to the junction, road and drainage impact attenuation, fencing, landscaping, public lighting, accommodation works and associated site works.

The contractor mobilised on site on 15 August and works are scheduled to take approximately 12 months.

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N21 Ward's Cross Road Improvement Scheme

This scheme consists of widening the existing N21 carriageway to the north of the existing carriageway to provide a right-turn lane at the N21/L7091 Ward's Cross junction. The proposed works will also include pavement works, kerbing, new road markings and the installation of road drainage and associated site works along the scheme extents.

Following a tender process, C oir Infrastructure Ltd., Mountrath Enterprise Park, Portlaoise Road, Mountrath, Co. Laois, have been appointed to carry out the main works contract.



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Community, Tourism & Culture Directorate

1. Urban & Rural Community Development

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

On 03 August, the Department of Rural and Community Development announced the funding approvals under Measure 1 and the Project Development Measure (PDM) ORIS 2022. Limerick received funding for six projects, totalling €215,411 in grant funding for the following projects:

- Lough Gur Walkway (PDM) – Planning/Detailed Design of new walking trail (€50,000).
- Monument Hill Walk, Foynes (PDM) – Feasibility Study to re-establish the Monument Hill Walk (€50,000).
- Moore Abbey Loop Walks – Upgrade of the Moore Abbey National Trail Loop Walk (€30,000).
- National Walking Trails Map Boards – Update all National Walking Trail Map Boards in the Ballyhoura Region (€25,848).
- Appraisal of Usage – Outdoor Experiences – Install Counters on eight loop walks within the Ballyhoura Region (€29,998).
- Marketing of the Ballyhoura Region – Marketing the Outdoors in Ballyhoura as part of Hidden Heartlands (€29,565).

Town and Village Renewal Scheme

- The 2022 Scheme will prioritise tackling vacancy and dereliction in towns and villages for projects that will bring vacant and derelict buildings and sites back into use as multi-purpose spaces or re-purpose existing community/publicly owned buildings to facilitate remote working. Limerick City and County Council

submitted the maximum 11 applications allowed under the 2022 Scheme.

- The Knights of Glin Experience at Glin Library was officially opened by the Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Kieran O'Hanlon, on 27 August. A large group of people gathered in Glin to watch the Deputy Mayor and Madame Olda Fitzgerald cut the ribbon to the Knights of Glin Experience. This Interpretive Centre, located next to Glin Library, outlines the history of the Knights of Glin through interpretive boards and audio-visual material. Limerick City and County Council has worked with Glin Development Association over the past three to four years to deliver the project, which was funded under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme (2018 and 2019).

CLÁR Programme

Funding approvals under Measure 1 were announced in August under the CLÁR rural funding programme. Limerick received funding for eight projects including the following:

- Martinstown National Primary School – Resurfacing of carpark/delineation of parking bays (€20,880).
- Mountcollins AFC – Walkways upgrade and erection of perimeter fencing for safety (€22,326).
- Glenroe GAA - Installation of LED flood lighting at GAA all-weather sports and recreation facility (€50,000).
- Athea GAA – Resurfacing of Club/Walking Track Carpark (€44,573).
- Kiltely Tidy Towns – Community carpark resurfacing and delineation of parking bays (€27,911).
- Templeglantine GAA and Camogie Club – Development of artificial playing surface for all year-round use/Ball Wall upgrade (€9,788).

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- Oola GAA Club – Installation of a disabled and wheelchair accessible walkway and fencing for safety (€35,000).
- Kantoher Development Group – Remedial works to Ashford village carpark, including resurfacing to allow safe use (€50,000).

Pride of Place

The Pride of Place awards is an annual all-island competition operated by Irish Public Bodies in association with Co-operation Ireland, in conjunction with local authorities in the north and south of Ireland. This year marks the 20th anniversary of Pride of Place. The purpose of the awards is to acknowledge the work being done by communities all over the island of Ireland in partnership with their local Councils. Judging of the nominated projects was conducted face-to-face this year.

The four Limerick groups nominated by Limerick City and County Council to compete in this year's Pride of Place competition were visited by the Judges in August.

- St. Munchin's Community Centre entered under Community Resilience category.
- The West End Youth Centre entered under Community Youth Led Initiative category.
- Glenroe/Ballyorgan Community Council CLG entered under Population 300-1,000 category.
- Adare Women's 2020 Club entered under Community Wellbeing Initiative category.

Environmental Awareness

- Limerick City and County Council hosted the local launch of Gum Litter Task Force Anti-Gum Litter campaign on Howley's Quay in early August.
- Environmental staff from the Council took a stand at the Limerick Show. More than 2,500 people were engaged with during the day and 750 MyWaste Food Waste Recycling Kits were distributed. There was great

interest in preventing food waste, composting and biodiversity.

- Limerick Going for Gold Tidy Town Category interviews on Live 95fm and the Limerick Leader took place throughout August. Congratulations to Kilmeedy, Castleconnell, Askeaton and Patrickswell on being chosen as a 'public vote' finalist to date. This is the last week of live radio interviews and the public vote. The remaining groups are still in with a chance to be chosen as a judge's wildcard finalist.

Limerick Public Participation Network (PPN)

- Limerick PPN Secretariat continues to successfully deliver on its key functions.
- Membership of the PPN continues to grow and now stands at 183. The membership registration form is on the Limerick PPN [website](#) and eligible groups in Limerick can register at any time.

Limerick PPN continues to have an active social media presence on its regularly updated website as well as on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

2. Tourism

King John's Castle

- In August, the Roses of Tralee visited King John's Castle for a Mayoral Reception as part of the National Rose of Tralee Tour. The Ray D'Arcy Show on RTÉ Radio 1 also aired a programme from the Castle. A number of concerts were held during August in partnership with Dolans.

Limerick Greenway

- The Roses of Tralee visited Limerick Greenway on 18 August, including Rachel Duffy, Westmeath Rose, who went on to win the Rose of Tralee 2022 competition. The Roses enjoyed cycling part of the route and lunch at Platform 22 Café.

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- Ride with Pride - Limerick Greenway Cycle for LGBTQI+ Community - took place on 20 August, with participants cycling 37km of the route from Rathkeale to Abbeyfeale.
- The Marketing campaign continued to be rolled out for Limerick Greenway, with familiarisation trips, billboards and features in national media.
- As part of the ongoing Biodiversity Strategy development for Limerick Greenway, night bat surveys at Barnagh Tunnel and Station House were carried out in August.

Trade Events

The Tourism Section joined Environment and Active Travel in providing a stand at the Limerick Show to promote services across the local authority, including Limerick Greenway. Over 2,500 people visited the stand on the day:

<https://twitter.com/LimerickEnviron/status/1564168067420127234/photo/1>

<https://twitter.com/LimerickEnviron/status/1563812927752347649>

3. Arts Office

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

A report is being prepared by GM Innovations. The report 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

Open Call for Bursaries

Bursary calls for the Individual Arts Bursaries, Dolores O'Riordan Music Bursary and Tyrone Guthrie Bursary closed on 17 August and are being processed.

- **Individual Arts Bursary Awards Scheme**

Twenty-one applications from individual artists were made to this scheme for Bursaries of up to €4,000 for work/professional skills development.

- **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 of up to €4,000. There were ten applicants for this award.

- **Tyrone Guthrie Bursary**

The Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig is a residential workplace and residency programme in Ireland for artists of all disciplines. Two Bursaries for the Tyrone Guthrie Centre were made available in this Open Call and ten applications were received.

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 August, one letter of support was issued.

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Creative Ireland

Limerick Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027

Limerick City and County Council is developing a new five-year Culture and Creativity Strategy for Limerick, as a part of the Creative Ireland Programme. 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. Two Focus Group meetings took place on 24 and 26 August with internal and external stakeholders. The purpose of the Focus Group, facilitated by Arts Leaders, is for key stakeholders to inform the identification of priorities for Limerick's Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027. The results will inform the development of this five-year strategy.

Arts Council Framework Agreement programme

Culture Night

Further events have been registered for Culture Night 2022.

Castleconnell Concerts

A fully live programme of enchanting and beautiful music and song returns to All Saints Church in Castleconnell this Autumn. Castleconnell Autumn Concert Series is programmed by Limerick Arts Office, with financial support from the Arts Council and Creative Ireland. The concerts are presented in partnership with Love Castleconnell. This year's series welcomes Fiachra Garvey, Dean Power, Miriam Kaczor and Ellen Jansson, and the Marmen Quartet to the County Limerick riverside village. The first concert took place on 30 August with pianist, Fiachra Garvey, in All Saints Church in Castleconnell.

River Residencies Arts Council, Invitation to Collaboration

This is a collaborative initiative led by Limerick Arts Office and Ormston House in partnership with Cavan Arts Office, Clare Arts Office and Tipperary Arts Office. It is co-funded

by the Arts Council of Ireland through An Invitation to Collaboration award. The River Residencies focus on high quality engagement between artists and communities, exploring themes inspired by the River Shannon. An Open Call took place in 2021 with international artist, Tania Candiani, being awarded the Limerick residency in Glin. Tania Candiani was in residence in Glin during August where she engaged with multiple groups. An artistic film is being made as a part of the residency.

Place Making

Childers Road Railway Bridge

A Project Manager has been engaged and a programme of community engagement has commenced.

4. Property & Community Facilities

Dereliction, Vacancy & Reuse Team - August	
Inspections carried out	119
Property & Community Facilities Department Notices issued	11
Derelict Sites Cases opened	13
Statutory Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act	44
Derelict Sites Cases closed through engagement	18
Properties entered into the Derelict Sites Register	14
Properties put forward for Compulsory Acquisition (Section 15 Notices)	0
Properties Compulsorily Acquired (Section 17 Notices)	0

Bin Waivers Approved	4
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5. Libraries, Gallery & Museum

- Rathkeale Library was delighted to welcome boys and girls from both St. Anne's Primary school and St. Joseph's Boys' National School Summer Camp programme. They enjoyed a tour of the library, a book-based scavenger hunt, story-time and a Question and Answer session with library staff.
- The end of August brought many young readers to branch libraries to browse the book shelves in preparation for starting school and to collect a "My Little Library" bag." The 'My Little Library Book Bag' initiative is a collaboration between libraries, the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as part of the First 5 Strategy. As part of the initiative, a bag, which includes three books, is available free for every child starting school in 2022 to help them to prepare for this big step. Children and their parents or guardians can collect the bags at any library throughout the county.
- There were thirty onsite visits by researchers to the Local Studies Department at Watch House Cross Community Library in August. Twenty of these involved research on the microfilm and digital archives of local and national newspapers, and five on material forming part of the Local Studies and archival collections. Five visits comprised advice sessions on family history and/or research on FindMyPast. Nineteen remote queries were received and resolved. The Department's Decade of Centenaries (DOC) commemorative volume on the Civil War, *'The Inevitable Conflict: Essays on the Civil War in Limerick'*, was completed and the electronic version uploaded on to Limerick's DOC webpage. Printing of hard copies is underway. Work was also completed on the Department's other DOC project, Limerick-related claims lodged with the Irish Grants Committee in the 1920s; it has also been uploaded on to the DOC page. Some new acquisitions were added to stock.
- Dooradoyle Library welcomed a visit from Our Lady of Lourdes Summer Camp. The group of approximately thirty children, ranging from Junior Infants to Fifth Class, were treated to stories, nursery rhymes and a treasure hunt. Each child was given a complimentary bag of library goodies to take home. As part of the summer programme of events, Dooradoyle Library hosted an arts and crafts event with staff member Deirdre where children learned how to draw their favourite animals. Regular story-time sessions continued throughout the month. A display entitled 'Michael Collins: A Life,' curated by Dooradoyle Library staff, marked the 100th anniversary of the death of the famous Irish Republican revolutionary at Béal na Bláth on 22 August, 1922.
- Newcastle West Library created the following book/board displays during the month of August: "I can't remember the book, but the cover is blue!," new Adult Fiction collection, "Poets' Day," celebration of Poets' Day with a display of books for adults and children, and the Michael Collins Centenary Commemoration 2022." The Branch welcomed new members from the Ukrainian Community who were delighted with the selection of Ukrainian and Russian children's books, and access to e-books on the BorrowBox app.
- Newcastle West branch continue to develop use of The Magic Table with the support of the Happiness Programme on the website of Social Ability, the supplier of the table. The branch coordinated a West Limerick local radio interview with Librarian, Julie McLoughlin, on the diverse services and resources available in Limerick Libraries. West Limerick 102fm's Susan Shannon spoke with Julie about the Summer Stars Reading Challenge, resources such as Borrow Box, the "My Little Library" initiative, books in languages other than English, author visits and other library services. Julie also recommended great reads by Limerick writers.
- "Roses from the Heart," an exhibition of 32 tribute bonnets remembering the Kilmallock Union Workhouse orphans transported to Australia, 1849/1850, was opened on 04 August in Kilmallock Library by Sheila Queally. Based on the research of historian, Imelda O'Riordan, author of Lost Girls, each piece was created by a member of the local community as a tribute to the young orphan girls who

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left Kilmallock Union for Australia. The girls, some as young as fourteen, were sent as part of the Earl Grey Immigration Scheme. Sheila Queally shared a poignant and eloquent speech, while Eamon O'Riordan of the Kilmallock Historical Society set the era of the workhouses in context. A large crowd attended. The exhibition was on display for the month of August before the work eventually makes its way to Australia. "Roses from the Heart" is the international memorial to all women sentenced to transportation to Australia and the original project is the work of Tasmanian artist, Christina Henri.

- Heritage Week ran from 13 - 21 August and Kilmallock Library shared a display of very interesting local artefacts on loan from Kilmallock Museum which included butter-making packaging and tools from the Creamery, beverage bottles from W.H.O'Sullivan, Wholesale Tea, Wine & Spirit Merchants and also some artefacts from the Civil War.
- Kilmallock Library invited some wonderful people from St. Joseph's Foundation to be the first to try out the new Magic Table and the laughter that ensued proved its popularity! The group was so enthralled that they have included it on their weekly activities list. The Magic Table (or 'Tovertafel' in Dutch) is an award-winning innovation from the Netherlands, and it uses specially designed technology to help people with mid-to-late stage dementia and those with learning disabilities. It consists of a series of colourful and fun interactive light games projected onto the surface of a table, which respond to hand and arm movements that stimulate physical and cognitive activity as well as encouraging social interaction.
- Kilmallock Library continued its monthly "Little Readers" sessions on 26 August and welcomed an enthusiastic group of 16 pre-schoolers and their grown-ups for an interactive fun-filled session of rhymes, songs and stories, followed by craft session where each child decorated a star to be placed on our "Little Readers" giant caterpillar.
- The Summer Stars juggernaut continued to gather pace at the City Library as it celebrated the highest ever participation number with over 550 children signing up to take part in the reading challenge. Also in August, the library invited younger readers to enjoy the end of the summer holidays with a special 'Get Outdoors' display of titles. Also on display was a 'Back to School' selection of titles highlighting the best school-related stories and novels from the collection. Adult readers were challenged to take a chance on reading a 'banned' book and borrowing a title that, at one stage, was subject to censorship. Each selected title was accompanied by a short printed explanation of why the book was a cause of controversy on initial publication with the display attracting much comment and debate from intrigued readers. The Sahaja Yoga meditation meetings continued throughout the month with the free weekly sessions taking place every Tuesday evening at 6.00 p.m., regularly attracting an appreciative audience of 20-25 people. Limerick's Writepace continued to meet at the City Library with bi-monthly sessions devoted to providing support, sharing writing strategies, and making progress on writing for all members of this prestigious creative writing collective.
- Watch House Cross Community Library held three public events to celebrate the Summer Stars Reading Programme. On 03 August, 8 to 12 years olds were invited to a dance workshop. The theme of the workshop was based on 'A cover is not the book' from the movie "Mary Poppins Returns." The children enjoyed learning how to combine using a prop, their favourite book, with learning a new dance routine. On 10 August, library assistants, Michelle and Clara, facilitated a Fighting Words Story Creation Workshop. These workshops are designed to promote creativity and writing as a fun and powerful means of self-expression. The thirteen participants, with tons of ideas, worked together to create a story called, Dean's extraordinary Quest. On 18 August winner of the Children's Books Ireland 2021 Honour Award for Fiction, Pádraig Kenny, visited the library to talk about his book, "The Monsters of Rookhaven." This was the children's book-club title for the month of August and all present were thrilled to meet the author. There was a lively

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Question and Answer session with lots of questions about the book, monsters and the publishing world in general! The sensory room had 200 users during the month, including children and teachers taking part in the Summer Programme, which aims to support children with complex needs and those at risk of educational disadvantage.

- During August, the local Parent and Toddler group met twice in Adare Library. The group is a significant and recognised support for new parents in the Adare area. The Mosaic exhibition was taken down on 15 August but before that, it was visited by Irish Public Bodies Pride of Place judges. (IPB Pride of Place, in association with Co-operation Ireland, is an all-island competition that acknowledges the work that communities are doing all over the island of Ireland). Adare's Women's 2020 club is nominated in the category of community wellbeing. The library marked International Dog Day (26 August) with a dedicated book display and a video that was posted on Limerick Libraries Facebook page.

Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- PULSE, a significant new initiative by Limerick City Gallery of Art, continued throughout August. Visitor numbers have been very strong throughout the summer with a noticeable volume of tourists from Europe. Obviously, the LCGA is a very attractive tourist destination with the additional bonus of being FREE with significant tourism opportunities.
- LCGA continued to display a selection of watercolours and drawings, including work by Percy French, Walter Verling and Mainie Jellet amongst many other artists. The upper floor galleries houses a selection of more recent acquisitions demonstrating the breadth of the Collection and its importance to supporting artists throughout their careers.
- Islanders' Focus, a photographic exhibition by Croatian artist, was opened on 12 August by the Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Kieran O'Hanlon. This was a collaboration with Irish Aerial Creation Centre with support from Creative Europe.

This was followed by a performance by two artists from Greece.

- Over August, LCGA's Shinnors Scholar ran a series of FREE Yoga and Art summer camps for 7-12-year-olds. The children attended for one session and was hugely popular, with 176 children attending the camps. An additional benefit was that many who participated (and their parents/guardians) were first-time visitors to the Gallery and came from the city and county.
- The Shinnors Scholar, Brendan Egan, finished in LCGA on 31 August. Brendan achieved significant goals during his tenure where he developed an inspirational on-line programme.
- LCGA took delivery of the portrait of Michael Hartnett, by Edward Maguire, purchased by Limerick City and County Council with the help of the Friends of the National Collections of Ireland (FNCI).
- In addition to the acquisition outlined above, LCGA also received three donations of important works. Maurice Foley has offered a Tony O' Malley painting on loan for a period of 5 years. In addition to that, a collector in Dublin, with links to Co. Limerick, donated two highly valuable Robert Motherwell works. LCGA accepted these paintings on a ten-year loan on the basis that they will complement our existing collection of mid-century American Abstract Expressionist prints, donated by Jim Sheehy.

Limerick Museum

- On 17 August, the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, performed the official opening of *Unlocking the Secrets of Limerick Museum*, an exciting exhibition of historic artefacts from Limerick Museum in Saint Mary's Cathedral. This exhibition has been curated by the Curator of the Museum and William O'Neill, Historian, and was one of the highlights of Heritage Week in Limerick. It was funded by the Heritage Council.

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- Limerick Museum's collection is so large that only some of it can be displayed at any given time. This is a problem in museums all over the world. In 2022, it was decided to reveal Limerick Museum's hidden treasures to everyone by holding an exhibition of some of its most iconic items in Saint Mary's Cathedral. This exhibition highlighted those many objects that have never been on display before and introduced the public to a wealth of 'hidden' objects in the Museum collection. It was a fine example of the collaboration between different cultural stakeholders in Limerick city and county. The Museum worked closely with Dean Niall Sloane, Noreen Ellerker and the staff of Saint Mary's Cathedral, without whose enthusiasm this exhibition could not have been held. *'Unlocking the Secrets of Limerick Museum'* continued in Saint Mary's Cathedral until 31 August, but many of the most renowned items will remain on display in the Cathedral on a long-term basis.
- *'Unlocking the Secrets of Limerick Museum'* also included the online publication of projects previously stored on obsolete ASKSAM software. This involved updating a large amount of invaluable material, storing it on modern technology and uploading it to the Limerick Museum website.
- On 15 August, as part of Heritage Week, Limerick Museum hosted a lecture by invited speaker, Merrie O'Sullivan, who introduced the lace collection of her grandmother, Amy Whitelegge. The collection included a stunning beautiful wedding dress and a sample of Amy's work, with many intricate stitches. It also displayed a wide variety of filling stitches and tambour, tape lace, Carrickmacross lace and crochet lace, as well as original artistic designs.
- On 03 August, the RTE programme *'Nationwide'* had a feature on the Limerick Wild Geese Festival, which included an interview with the Curator of the Museum. *Nationwide* has a nightly viewership of 250,000.
- On 13 August, the Curator of the Museum also took part in a documentary on RTE Radio One called "The Custom of the Sea" which dealt with the shipwreck of the Limerick cargo ship *'Francis Spaight'* in 1835.
- Limerick Museum has commenced a new collaboration with the Foynes Flying Boat and Maritime Museum. On 09 August, Margaret O'Shaughnessy and Barry O'Kelly from the Foynes Museum visited Limerick Museum and it was agreed that both institutions would collaborate on a number of exhibitions in the future.
- Limerick Museum sponsored the Crafts Section of Limerick Show, which was held on 27 August. Also at the Show, the Curator of the Museum presented a copy of his History of Limerick Lace to EU Commissioner, Mairead McGuinness, in the presence of the Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Kieran O'Hanlon, and the Chief Executive.



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Regeneration Directorate

1. Regeneration

The Council has invited 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. Planning work is taking place for the next Jobs Fair in Southill, with all welcome to attend.

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. Appeals were being dealt with in August.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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 was circulated in the St. Mary's Park, Southill and Ballinacurra Weston communities. The flyer for Moyross is being prepared.

Newsletter 'Regeneration Connect' is available on the Council website [here](#).

Community Activity

Facilitated planning and review sessions took place with the St. Mary's Park Regeneration Committee and proved very productive.

Our Lady of Lourdes community, having been shortlisted in the Going for Gold competition, were beaten by Askeaton but still have an opportunity to be selected as a wildcard by the judges.

West End Youth Centre youth workers and young people put their best foot forward during a visit from the judges for the Pride of Place Awards initiative.

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.

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- 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 Design Team was appointed in August for the Southill community playground.

Other

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

- Demolition of the old petrol station building in Galvone.



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Housing Directorate

1. Housing Support Services

Housing Waiting List

Approved Housing Applicants	2,278
Approved Tenant Transfer Applicants	350

Returned Incomplete Housing Applications

August	Year to Date
61	257

Closed Housing Applications

	August	Year to Date
Closed Applications	36	478

Applications are returned/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 August	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	3	9
Newcastle West	0	6
Metropolitan District	10	100
Cappamore-Kilmallock	0	36
Total	13	151

Refusals

	No. of Units August	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	161
Successful Nominations	89
Nominations Pending	50
Unsuccessful Nominations	22

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Traveller Accommodation *

No. of Units offered August	4
Year to Date	14

* these figures are included in allocations figures

Housing Welfare Visits

No. of Visits August	16
Year to Date	115

Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)

The total number of units in RAS accommodation in August was 1,244, of which 730 were private, 513 were Voluntary and there was one Part V. Seven new private tenancies and one new voluntary housing tenant were created.

Housing Assistance Payments Limerick (HAP)

2,293 active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	32
No. of Amendments	303
No. of Cessations	32

RENT COLLECTION

Rent Collection Limerick City and County Council					
Opening Balance	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing Balance	% Collection
€5,396,118	€12,292,897	€17,689,015	€11,754,310	€5,394,705	66%

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HOME IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

Aug-2022		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aid Grants	No. Approved	1	3	3	1	8
	MAG Expenditure	€19,370.00	€19,025.00	€40,200.00	€23,250.00	€101,845.00
	No. Paid	4	4	8	4	20
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	3	2	15	3	23
	HAG Expenditure	€50,739.02	€20,166.50	€202,994.85	€9,437.50	€283,337.87
	No. Paid	5	3	20	2	30
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	9	15	23	7	54
	HOP Expenditure	€33,807.50	€57,103.76	€125,630.18	€26,125.00	€242,666.44
	No. Paid	10	14	35	6	65
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG Expenditure	€0.00	€0.00	€16,692.80	€15,890.00	€32,582.80
	No. Paid	0	0	0	2	2

Total No. Approved	85
Total Monies Paid	€660,432.11
Total No. Paid	117

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Year-to-Date

Jan-Aug 2022		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aid Grants	No. Approved	11	15	45	15	86
	MAG Expenditure	€99,432.45	€81,682.27	€243,415.00	€106,990.00	€531,519.72
	No. Paid	19	17	50	20	106
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	23	16	139	22	200
	HAG Expenditure	€133,235.86	€169,533.59	€774,170.83	€97,832.28	€1,174,772.56
	No. Paid	16	15	90	10	131
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	34	84	159	44	321
	HOP Expenditure	€175,797.36	€414,191.38	€724,114.17	€211,565.47	€1,525,668.38
	No. Paid	48	91	195	47	381
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG Expenditure	€2,150.83	0	€248,628.46	€56,125.75	€306,905.04
	No. Paid	1	0	24	8	33

YTD Total No. Approved	607
YTD Total Monies Paid	€3,538,865.70
YTD Total No. Paid	651

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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.

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 August, 281 such visits were carried out by the Community Sustainment Officers.
- Tenancy Induction training is provided for all newly-appointed tenants. Among other things, the terms of the Letting Agreements which are signed are clearly explained so that the obligations of both the tenants and, indeed, the Council are clearly understood. 24 such inductions took place during August.

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 August was 181. The number of cases closed during August was 68. The Community Sustainment Team secured possession of 11 Council properties during the month following death of tenant, abandonment of property or other particular circumstances.
- The Unit carries out formal Garda checks on prospective new tenants. 65 such formal reviews were undertaken during August.

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

Date: 28 August, 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	16
St. Joseph Street	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	6
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	13
Temporary Emergency Provision (TEP1 (Edenvilla))	Low threshold, night-by-night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	14
Temporary Emergency Provision TEP 2 (Phoenix Lodge)	Low threshold, night-by-night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	15
Total		150

Families				
Location	Description	Beds Used		
		Adults	Children	Families
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	10	6
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	78	97	51
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	12	15	10
Totals		Adults	Children	Families
		96	122	67

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

Tenant Purchase	
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. received	2
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. approved	1
Local Authority Home Loans	
Loan Applications: No. received	10
Loan Applications: No. approved	0
Deed of Discharge	
Deed of Discharge Applications: No. Received	18
Consent to Sale	
Consent to Sale Applications: No. Received	3
Cottage Purchase Annuity	
No of Cottage Purchase Annuity Applications	1
Ground Rent	
No of Ground Rent applications	2
Private Rented Inspections	
No. of Inspections	65

Freedom of Information, Data Requests and Ombudsman

Freedom of Information requested submitted	6
Ombudsman Query Cases	2
Data Access Requests	0

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 August - Categorisation	
Cat 1 - minor repairs needed	0
Cat 2 - moderate repairs needed	0
Cat 3 - substantial repairs needed	0
Cat 4 - major repairs required	0
To be inspected	8
Total	8

House Returns August By Municipal District	
Adare-Rathkeale	0
Cappamore-Kilmallock	1
Newcastle West	0
Metropolitan District	7
Total	8

During August, 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, 0 in the Municipal District of Newcastle West and seven in the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

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Current Working Programme		
	Complete in August	In Progress
Local Authority Construction Team	0	126
Local Authority Maintenance Team	11	45
Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process	0	27
Regeneration Team	0	19
Team to be assigned	N/A	29
Total	11	246

In August, works on eleven 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 August, the Local Authority Construction Team is in the process of completing works in 126 properties, Local Authority Maintenance Team 45 properties and the Regeneration Team 19 properties. Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process - 27 properties. 29 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.

Project Updates

- Stage 1 approval received for a six-unit scheme in Mulcaire Drive, Annacotty.

Affordable Housing Fund (AHF)

Toppins Field Lands

The integrated Design Team, led by Allies and Morrison / Cullen Payne Architects, has completed the first part of a feasibility report to confirm requirements, verify data, establish/verify constraints, and update volume studies and cost plans. The Team is testing variant versions of the scheme to identify the most suitable and viable mix of tenures and unit typologies on the site. A viability analysis of market valuations and projected build costs is now being reviewed.

Curragower Lands

Limerick City and County Council's Affordable Housing Team, in co-operation with the National Development Finance Agency and Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Affordable Housing Team, submitted an application to move to the increased level of subsidy available under the Affordable Housing Fund in August. In order to progress the project, the Housing Agency and Limerick City and County Council's Affordable Housing Team have now agreed a shared service arrangement whereby the two parties will collaborate to continue to develop the viability volume study to a part 8 planning.

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Local Authority Maintenance

Voids 2022

This year to date, three voids assistance claims have been submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in respect of 32 Void properties which have been refurbished and returned to Local Authority housing stock in 2022.

Local Authority Houses: Maintenance Complaints dealt with during August

Housing Maintenance Cases - August	Requests/Cases Created	Cases Dealt With/Closed	Balance of Open Cases at 31.08.2022
Metropolitan District	739	747	941
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	70	50	406
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	101	121	185
Municipal District of Newcastle West	131	137	496
Total	1,041	1,055	2,028

Grants Inspections

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

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	6	11
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	12	0	14	26
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	23	0	17	40
DPGs (Disabled Person Grant)	0	2	3	1	6
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	42	3	38	83

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

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	3	4
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	7	0	4	11
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	10	0	14	24
DPGs (Disabled Person Grant)	0	0	0	2	2
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	18	0	23	41

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

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	3	4
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	3	0	3	6
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	12	0	8	20
DPGs (Disabled Person Grant)	0	1	8	0	9
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	17	8	14	39

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	2	0	3	5
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	3	0	2	5
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	14	0	13	27
DPGs (Disabled Person Grant)	0	0	0	0	0
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	19	0	18	37

HOUSE INSPECTIONS UNIT

Houses Inspected and Returned - August	
Categories	Number of Properties
CAT 1 – minor repairs needed	3
CAT 2 – moderate repairs needed	8
CAT 3 – substantial repairs needed	1
CAT 4 – major repairs required	0
TOTAL	12

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.

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1. BUILD, BUY AND LEASE

Buy/Build/Lease as of 31.08.2022 is as follows:

As at 31 August (01.01.2022 – 31.08.2022)	Complete	In Progress	Overall Complete and In Progress	“Housing for All” 2022 Delivery Target
Build	124	257	381	565
Buy	13	36	49	0
Lease	25	40	65	21
TOTAL	162	333	495	

2. CURRENT OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

Finance

- Claims totalling €1,971,574 for payment were issued to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage during August.

Project Approvals and Submissions

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

Scheme	Project Details	District
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Sexton Street, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick.
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Revised approval for the acquisition of four units at Doon.	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock.
Mortgage to Rent (MTR)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Hyde Road, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick.
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Approval for 11 units at Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Newcastle West.
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Revised Approval for 85 units at Bloodmill Road, Singland.	Metropolitan District of Limerick.
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Revised Approval for 32 units at Newtown Meadows, Castletroy (phase 1).	Metropolitan District of Limerick.
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Revised Approval for 31 units at Newtown Meadows, Castletroy (phase 2).	Metropolitan District of Limerick.

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

Scheme	Project Details	District
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Stage 4 Construction Submission for five units at Croom, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale.
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Stage 2 Construction Submission for four units at St. Joseph Street, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick.
Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP)	Revised budget submission for nine Turnkey units at Gortboy, Kilmallock.	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock.
Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP)	Budget submission for the refurbishment of one unit at Foynes, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale.
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Submission for 11 units at Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Newcastle West.
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Revised submission for 85 units at Bloodmill Road, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick.
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Revised submission for 63 units at Clonmacken, Condell Road Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick City
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Revised submission for 63 units at Newtown Meadows Phase 1 and 2 Castletroy, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick.

3. UPDATES

Conferences and Workshops

Staff from Housing Strategy and Non-Local Authority Housing Construction attended an online briefing for the launch of Housing Association for Integrated Living (HAIL) Annual Report.

The Affordable Housing Team within Housing Strategy and Non-LA Housing Construction Unit invited home builders and housing developers to submit proposals for residential developments for affordable housing. The aim is to enter into advance purchase arrangements to secure affordable homes in areas where the need is most acute. The deadline for receipt of submissions was 06 August and six submissions were received. Information is available on Limerick City and County Council's website <https://www.limerick.ie/affordable-housing-acquisition>.

Limerick City and County Council made one application under the new Affordable Housing Fund (AHF) to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) for 25 units for affordable purchase. Once approved, Limerick City and County Council can enter into an advanced purchase agreement with the developer to assist them in meeting the cost of delivery of affordable purchase housing.

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4. Municipal District Offices

Metropolitan District of Limerick

Upgrade/Refurbishment Works either started or completed during August

Description of Project: Union Cross Local Roads Reconstruction

- Location: Ennis Road, Limerick.
- Cost of project: €65,000.
- Contractor: Roadstone.

Description of Project: Hillcrest Local Roads Surface Dressing

- Location: Ballysheedy.
- Cost of project: €10,000.
- Contractor: Limerick City and County Council Surface Dressing Fleet.

Description of Project: New Street Footpath Refurbishment

- Location: New Street, Limerick.
- Cost of project: €100,000.
- Contractor: Maramba.

Description of Project: Ballybrown Church to school footpaths

- Location: Ballybrown/Clarina.
- Cost of project: €100,000.
- Contractor: Peter Ryan.

Description of Project: Roxboro Pedestrian Crossing

- Location: Roxboro Road, Limerick.
- Cost of project: €40,000.
- Contractor: Maramba.

Description of Project: Traffic Signals Upgrade

- Location: Lower Shelbourne Road/Condell Road.
- Cost of project: €8,000.
- Contractor: Traffic Solutions.

Description of Project: Local Roads Surface Dressing

- Location: Toureen, Ballysimon.
- Cost of project: €30,000.
- Contractor: Limerick City and County Council Surface Dressing Fleet.

Description of Project: Carrinderry Drainage and Connections

- Location: Carrinderry, Annacotty.
- Cost of project: €35,000.
- Contractor: Maramba.

Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

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

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

Capital Road Projects

- Marine Cove Foynes – Culvert Installation Works complete - Overflow Spillway Works ongoing.

Road Works

- Macadam Works R518 Ballywilliam, Rathkeale.
- Local Improvement Scheme completed at Morgans, Askeaton.
- Community Involvement Scheme completed at Corrig, Foynes.

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- Low Cost Safety Scheme completed on the R521 O'Donovans Cross.

Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

Housing and Road Maintenance

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

Housing Grants

Ten Private Housing Grants were paid totalling €47,395.88 and 15 were approved. 18 initial inspections were undertaken, with 23 final inspections.

In relation to Disabled Persons Grants, two projects were completed, one in progress.

Completed Road Scheme Works in Cappamore Kilmallock Municipal Roads Area

Active Travel Schemes

Cloverfield National School works and R506 Cappamore (Credit Union) works were completed.

Restorative Improvement Schemes

Cappamore Limerick College of Further Education to Cahill's Cross works are complete

Drainage

Ashroe works are complete.

Municipal District of Newcastle West

- A Special Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West took place on 03 August in Áras William Smith OBrien, Newcastle West. Councillor Michael Collins was elected Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Newcastle West and Councillor Francis Foley was elected Leas-Chathaoirleach.
- 20 grant applications were approved under the Private Housing Grant Schemes during the month. The total value of approvals was €97,779.09.
- Payments of €57,103.76 were made to 14 applicants who completed works under the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.
- Payments of €20,166.50 were made to three applicants who completed works under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme.
- Payments of €19,025.00 were made to four applicants who completed works under the Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme.
- The Road Maintenance Team continued the roadworks programme and has continued Local Improvement Schemes during the month.
- The Motor Tax Section at the Newcastle West Office processed 1,342 routine transactions.



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Planning, Environment & Place-Making Directorate

1. Place-Making and Public Realm

Project Updates

Public Realm

- **Urban Regeneration and Development Fund - URDFLim008 Strand 3 Pedestrian Bridges and Waterfront Infrastructural Works** – A brief is being finalised to procure a multi-disciplinary team to prepare a Preliminary Business Case under the Public Spending Code for these works.
- **Limerick Greenway Underpasses and Overpasses** – Construction is complete 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.
- **King's Island Walled Town** - Wildflower Meadow sown at The Parade, Nicholas Street.
- **Mobile Forest** - partially relocated from Honan's Quay to Colbert Station.
- **Road Closures** - applications have been submitted for Honan's Quay and Catherine Street to form part of Culture Night events.

Capital Projects

- **King's Island Flood Relief Scheme** - Japanese Knotweed Ireland Ltd. commenced invasive species control contract on King's Island Flood Relief Scheme.
- **Newcastle West Athletics Hub** – Construction of a new eight-lane Athletics track and ancillary facilities is progressing well on site.
- **Askeaton Swimming Pool** - Flood Protection Works - The Stage 1 EXEED application to the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) for funding to carry out an Energy Study was successful. Lawler Sustainability has carried out an Energy Study at the facility and is now waiting for SEAI feedback on the Stage 2 Application.

2. Planning Development

Planning Applications

A total of 94 new planning applications were received as follows:

Category	Amount
Part 8	3
Housing Developments	3
Domestic Developments	64
Agricultural Developments	4
Commercial Developments/ Change of Use	11
Sporting/ Community and Educational Developments	2
Other Developments	7

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The current applications include proposals for:

- Part 8 for the construction of a five-storey apartment building consisting of a total of 36 apartments and all associated site works at Speakers Corner, Lower Carey's Road, Limerick.
- Part 8 for development works from TUS Moylish Campus to the City comprising segregated cycle lanes and footpath upgrades along Cratloe Road, Sexton Street North and High Road, with a number of dedicated pedestrian and cycle crossing facilities. Upgrade of the traffic signals and junction layout at Hassett's Cross, Cross Road and Belfield Court Junctions. An inbound bus lane extending along Cratloe Road from Moylish Roundabout to Hassett's Cross. Traffic calming measures on Belfield Court and Belfield Gardens. Upgrade works to bus stops, side road junctions and new road surfacing. Installation of LED public lighting. Surface water drain works. Landscaping works including tree removal and tree planting and all associated site works at Cratloe Road, Sexton Street North, High Road, Belfield Court and Belfield Gardens, Limerick.
- Construction of 12 residential units, two commercial blocks comprising Block A - coffee shop, two retail units, and Block B consisting of a food store, signage and associated car parking, outdoor playground and associated car parking and associated site works to include vehicular and pedestrian connections to Pass (Meelick) Road. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) accompanies this application at Clonconane, Limerick.
- Construction of a neighbourhood centre comprising the provision of a single-storey discount foodstore, including off-licence use, as well as roof mounted plant and solar panels. A single-storey café building with external seating area. A three-storey building comprising six commercial units at ground floor area and first and second floors consisting of office floorspace. A six-storey building comprising four commercial units at ground floor with the upper five floors comprising 38 apartments, with entrance at ground floor. Provision of building signage, pedestrian and vehicular access, 172 car parking

spaces, 142 cycle spaces, public realm area with street furniture, residents' communal open space, site landscaping, public lighting, boundary treatments, ESB substation, external bin storage areas and all other site development works at Towlerton, Ballysimon, Co. Limerick.

3. Environment, Recreation & Climate Change

Cemeteries

Number of Burials in City Cemeteries

Mount St. Lawrence	23
Mount St. Oliver	16
Castlemungret	17
Kilmurry	4

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

During the month -

- 314 complaints were received.
- A total of 496 inspections were undertaken.
- 26 Warnings were issued.
- Seven Notices were issued.
- Nine Directions were served by the Department.
- Eight Prosecutions were initiated.
- A total of 28 fines were issued during the period.

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4. Urban Innovation

Decarbonising Together - A Creative Climate Action Fund Project

August saw the Decarbonising Together Projects progressing well and getting the climate conversations started with the citizens of Limerick.

Garryowen Residents' Association and Garryowen Development Project have been working with artists Veronica Santorum and Daniel Clancy to encourage residents in Garryowen to imagine a future where their community has a smaller carbon footprint through a series of community conversation walks, which was reported on by Live 95, Limerick's local radio station, see article [Project has inspiring plans for Garryowen - Live 95 \(live95fm.ie\)](#)

The themes of the community walks range from Travel to Home energy and are proving very popular.

Meadowbrook Residents' Association and Workshop Architects met with a member of Limerick City and County Council's Active Travel Team to discuss the Mill Road, Corbally, Active Travel plans and how the proposal will help encourage residents to use active travel.

Limerick Civic Trust and Cracking Light Productions also had a busy month meeting with a member of Limerick City and County Council's Environment, Recreation and Climate Team to discuss Urban Greening as part of their documentary collaboration. They also met with Pat Mulcahy of the Limerick Bell Ringers at St. Munchin's Church where the practice bells have been given a new home by Limerick City Trust, protecting rare species of culture for a healthy community.

The Munster Indian Cultural Association, along with their creative partners Deirdre Power and Chelsea Canavan, organised a site visit and workshop to New Leaf Urban Farm with farmer, Kevin Wallace. The group participated in a workshop on the farm introducing them to diverse practices such as KNF - Korean Natural Farming. (A self-sufficient farming system that involves the culturing of indigenous micro-organisms (IMO) and methods of no dig, composting. The group worked on the farm to assist

in clearing the land to prepare for a no-dig approach to the soil.

The progress of all the Decarbonising Together Projects can be followed on the Citizen Innovation Lab Twitter account [@CILLimerick](#)

5. Veterinary Services

- One stray or wandering horse was impounded.
- The Dog Control Unit processed 12 dogs during the month.
- 10 food samples were submitted for analysis under the National Residues and Microbiological Sampling Programme.



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National and Regional Shared Services Centre Directorate

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

- There were 60,031 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAP SSC at the end of August.
- A weekly average of 173 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2022.
- The August landlord payment run was €55.7 million.
- The weekly tenant charge at the end of August was €3.1 million.
- The Debt Management Unit of the HAP SSC collected a total of €106.0 million in differential rent to end of August.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of August was 97%.
- The Debt Management Unit issued 7,484 HAP debt reminder letters in August.

2. Fire and Emergency

Statistics

	No of Fire Related Calls	No of Non Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call outs 01.08.2022 - 31.08.2022	90	43	133
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	77	42	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	18	33	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	5	25	

	No. received / assigned	No. validated	No. invalidated / refused	No. granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications August	18	17	1	15	16
Disability Access Cert Applications August	13	12	2	11	13
Licensing Applications August	50	50	0	46	46

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	No. received / assigned	No. validated	No. invalidated / refused	No. granted	No. Completed
Commencement Notice August	37	36	1	37	37
Completion Certificate August	9	9	0	9	9
Planning Referrals August	19	17	0	17	17
Sugar CRM Cases August	6	6			3

Fire and Emergency Training Events

During the month, the following training courses took place:

- Two members of staff successfully completed refresher training in Emergency Services Driving Standards training.
- On-Station training continued throughout the month

Civil Defence attendance at Events

The following activity took place in August:

- Patient transfer – Limerick residence to St. Camillus’ Hospital, Limerick, and return to residence – 3 days.
- Patient transfer – Limerick residence to University Hospital Limerick and return to residence – 1 day.
- Cappamore Show – medical cover – 1 day.
- Ukrainian Displaced Persons – transported from emergency rest centre to various locations around Limerick City and County – 1 day.

Water Safety

No. of lifebuoy replacements	Total January-July	August	Total 2022
Metropolitan District	11	2	13
Municipal District	7	1	8



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Support Services Directorate

1. Finance

Commercial Rates and Loans

Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2022	
As at 31st August 2022	
Opening Balance - 1 Jan €	8,732,896
Accruals €	58,982,095 **
Vacant Property Adjustment €	364,879
Writes offs/ Waivers €	3,033,161
Total for Collection €	64,316,951
Amount Collected €	45,767,095
Arrears €	18,549,856
Specific Doubtful Arrears €	2,705,024
% Collected	74%

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

Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No. of days in overdraft 0

Debtors Loans	
As at 31st August 2022	
Opening Balance - 1 Jan €	310,319
Accruals €	1,226,040 ^
Writes offs €	-
To Collect €	1,536,359
Receipts €	1,240,920
Arrears €	295,439
% Collected	81%

^ Accruals not updated for loans for August 2022

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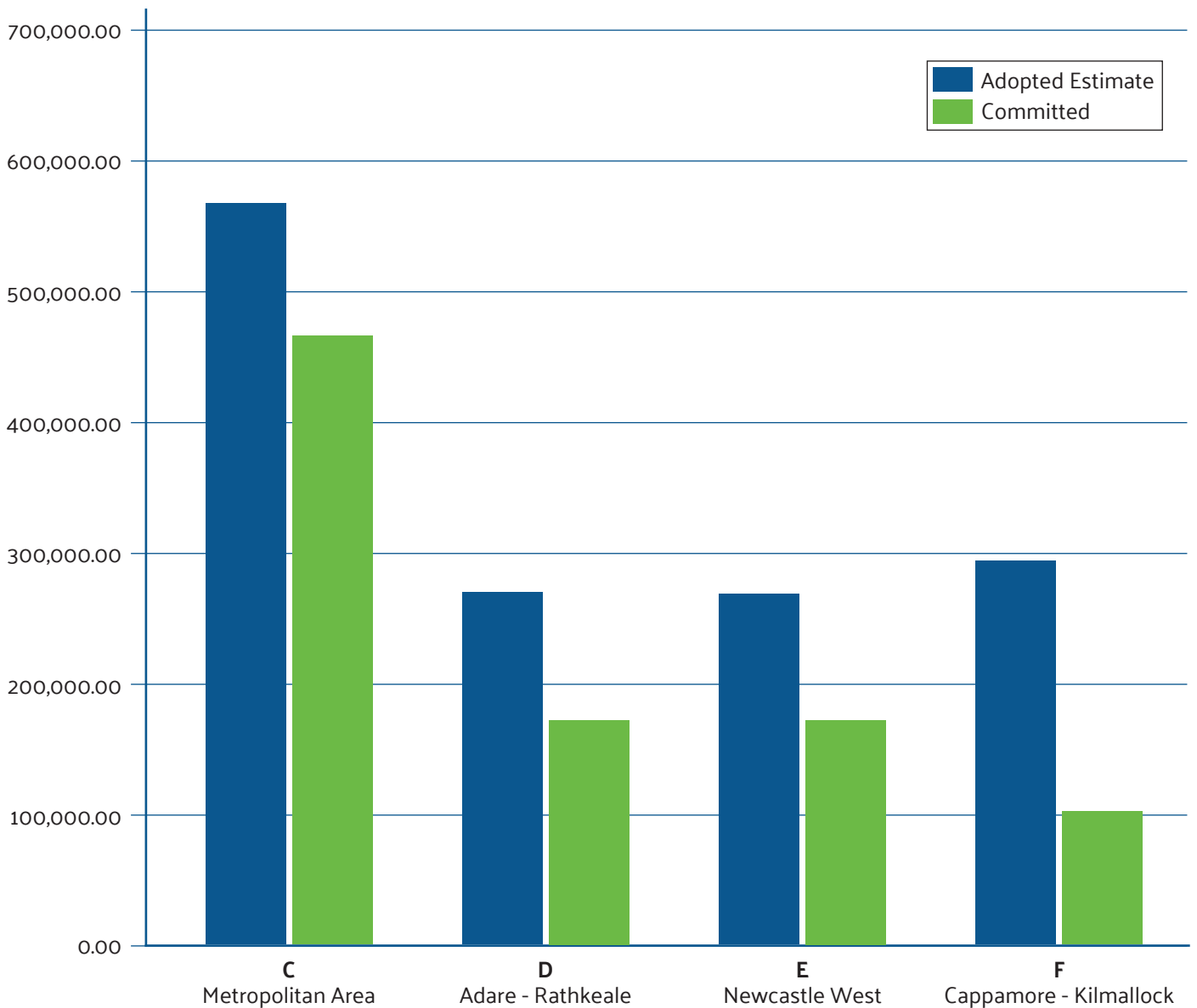


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General Municipal Allocation 2022 Adopted Estimate €1.403 Million

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



Municip (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate (€)	Value Committed (€)
C Metropolitan Area	568,000.00	421,168
D Adare - Rathkeale	270,000.00	173,019
E Newcastle West	270,000.00	173,523
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	295,000.00	101,739

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2. Business Improvement

- The digital Parental Leave form went live on the Staff Portal.
- The Business Improvement Department Team completed a time-in-motion study in the Planning Department.
- Business Improvement assisted Housing Support Services to launch their Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy on MyPoint.
- Business Improvement worked with Urban and Rural Community Development to create their PPN Logo survey on MyPoint.
- A total of 923 active users are now live on the Employee App.
- Services on Service Catalogue = 700 services.
- There are 299 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.
- 2022 World Lacrosse Men's U21 World Championship and World Festival.
Venue: GAA Maguire Pitch, near the UL Sport Arena, Castletroy, Limerick.
- The Irish Aerial Creation Centre, launch of Art Exhibition, 'Inner Island, Islander's Focus,' a photographic art exhibition.
Venue: Limerick City Gallery of Art, Carnegie Building, Pery Square, Limerick.
- Launch for CARI, Shining a Light for Children, in support of their emergency funding appeal, to raise €100,000 in 100 days to support child victims of sexual abuse.
Venue: CARI House, Ennis Road, Limerick.
- Reception with the Ambassador of India on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the Independence of India.
Venue: India House, Knocksinna, Foxrock, Dublin.
- Launch of Fund Raising Luncheon and Fashion Show for Munster Heart Foundation.
Venue: Savoy Hotel, Limerick.
- Launch of the 92nd Annual Limerick Show.
Venue: AMCS Offices, City East Plaza, Floor 6, Block C, Ballysimon, Castletroy, Limerick.

3. Corporate, Governance and Customer Services

Office of the Mayor

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

- Photoshoot to launch 'Bin It' as part of an upcoming gum litter education campaign for Limerick.
Venue: Howley's Quay, Limerick.
- Launch of 23rd Cook Medical Mini Marathon.
Venue: Limerick Strand Hotel, Limerick.
- Richard Harris International Film Festival (RHIFF) - Press Announcement regarding the new Lead Sponsor of the Festival, Amcomri Entertainment, and 10th Year Celebrations.
Venue: King John's Castle, Limerick.
- Welcome to Rose of Tralee Contestants visiting Limerick.
Venue: King John's Castle, Limerick.
- Opening of 'Unlocking the Secrets of Limerick Museum,' a Limerick Museum Exhibition.
Venue: Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick.

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- Unveiling of a Memorial Bench and Sculpture to commemorate the humanitarian work of two Limerick brothers, who are synonymous with the Concern charity, Fathers Jack and Aengus Finucane.
Venue: Barrington's Pier, Condell Road, Limerick.
- Launch of the Bonnie Hickey Commemorative Exhibition - the Exhibition is a collection of artwork by the late Limerick Artist, with funds raised from the Exhibition to be donated to the Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust.
Venue: The People's Museum of Limerick, Limerick Civic Trust, 2 Pery Square, Limerick.
- Photoshoot for the launch of the Global Irish Festival Series and Live in Limerick.
Venue: King John's Castle and the Treaty Stone, Limerick.
- Conferring of Honorary Doctorate of University of Limerick on Professor Brigid Laffan and Sr. Stanislaus Kennedy.
Venue: University Concert Hall, Castletroy, Limerick.
- Official Opening of the Knights of Glin Experience, Interpretive Centre outlining the history behind the Knights of Glin.
Venue: Rear of Glin Library, Main Street, Glin, Co. Limerick.
- Limerick Show.
Venue: Limerick Show Grounds, Patrickswell, Co. Limerick.
- Gaisce, The President's Award, celebration of the achievement of the 'Bronze Gaisce Award' for eight young refugees based in Co. Clare and Co. Kerry.
Venue: The Hunt Museum, Limerick.
- Ashford Festival, part of the Limerick Global Irish Festival Series, aims to encourage diaspora to return home to visit Limerick. The highlight was linking up with diaspora around the world and sharing their experiences and their memories of the Home Place.
Venue: Ashford, Ballagh, Co. Limerick.

Register of Electors

- Staff from the Register of Electors Team continued to process application forms and emails submitted in relation to the Register of Electors.
- Total number of additions carried out in August - 17; total number of deletions - 187; total number of modifications - seven.
- 22 Letters and Forms were sent to Nursing Homes in relation to renewal of their Special Voter Applications.
- 60 Letters and Forms were issued to Disabled Postal Voters for renewal of their Postal Votes.
- Training was provided on Register of Electors operation to a new member of staff.

Health and Safety Training

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

Course Name	Numbers Trained
Safe Pass	9
Driver's Certificate of Professional Competence	6
Manual Handling	22
Dealing with Aggression and Violence in Workplace Online	20
First Aid Response Refresher Training	3
Basic First Aid Training	2

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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 August:

- Approved requisitions account for 81% of the total requisitions actioned for this given month.
- Rejected requisitions account for 19% of the total requisitions actioned for this given month.

Month	Approved	Rejected	Total Requisitions Actioned
August	1,300	307	1,607

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

Rejection Reason	August
Memo - Requisition Not Raised in Advance	132
Procurement Reference Omitted/Incorrect	54
Quotes - Omitted/Incorrect Copy Provided	36
Signature(s) Missing	25
Approved Officer's Order - Omitted/Incorrect Copy Provided	20

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 August:

New Procurement References set up	33
Procurement References extended as per signed contract/arrangement	11

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.

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Schedule of Meetings for August

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Municipal District of Newcastle West Special Meeting	03.08.2022	Newcastle West

Access to Information

	August	2022 (January to August)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	23	148
Freedom of Information Internal Appeals	1	11
Information Commissioner Appeals	3	8
Total Ombudsman Requests	3	40
Total Access to Information on the Environment Requests	2	12

Customer Services

In August, Customer Services welcomed a total of 2,455 visitors in both Merchant’s Quay and Dooradoyle offices.

August saw unprecedented warm weather with three Yellow Weather Warnings issued throughout the month for high temperatures, which in turn led to an Orange Forest Fire Warning issued from the Department of Agriculture. This resulted in the immediate cessation of all Burning of Agricultural Vegetation Permits which were issued for that timeframe. Customer Services telephoned all customers with valid permits to advise them not to burn while the Orange Weather Warning was in place.

The following figures highlight the activity within the Contact Centre:

- Customer Services Call Centre answered 10,130 calls. This represents an average of 460 per day, with the number of calls exceeding 500 on several occasions. 53% of calls were handled at first point of contact.
- A total of 2,476 emails were processed through the Customer Services email platform.
- 2,759 cases were created, with 682 of these logged on behalf of Public Representatives. 3,056 cases were closed, with 689 of these being cases logged by Public Representatives.
- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued, with a total of 267 cases being logged. Of these, 248 were submitted by Public Representatives.

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- Customer Services continued to support the Housing Maintenance Department in creating service requests and keeping citizens up to date on progress made. Customer Services logged 90% of cases for Housing Maintenance in the Metropolitan District of Limerick.
- 62 out-of-hours cases were created.
- Customer Services continued to provide other frontline services to the general public, such as processing applications for Residential Parking Permits, of which 114 were applied for and 82 issued.

4. Marketing & Communications

Marketing

Limerick Student City

- Produced Limerick City map and Top 10 Insta Spots Z card highlighting the range of off-campus activities on offer to Limerick's third level student population.
- Distributed Limerick Student City map to incoming international students across UL, MIC, TUS, LCETB and Griffith College campuses.
- Developed Limerick Student City brand guidelines and logo pack.
- Secured Top 10 Insta Spots double-page feature in Mary Immaculate College's Student Guide 2022/2023.
- Rent A Room print campaign collaboration with University of Limerick, Technological University of the Shannon and Mary Immaculate College appealing to Limerick households to register their vacant rooms for student rental.
- Brand Limerick/University of Limerick collaboration on a series of UL50 promotional banners which were installed in Limerick City centre marking fifty years of learning and teaching, research with impact, enterprise and engagement at the University of Limerick.

Invest Limerick

- Invest Limerick print brochure and digital PDF produced to attract increased investment to Limerick City and County.

Limerick 11 - National Summer Tourism Campaign

- Concluded six-week multimedia domestic tourism marketing campaign, 'Limerick 11,' positioning Limerick as a leading tourism destination for value, welcome and excitement.
- Topline results from the campaign include:
 - Total competition entries: 10,815
 - Total website visitors: 67,351
 - Total website views: 115,294
 - Total impressions: 17,517,495
 - Total engagements: 712,269
 - Total link clicks: 83,559
 - Total new followers: 6,641

Other Marketing Activities

- Created and issued six Limerick.ie e-newsletters.
- Preparations underway for Halloween in Limerick marketing campaign.
- Produced pitchside Brand Limerick signage for the Lacrosse World Championships, with games broadcast internationally to ESPN audiences.
- Provided assets and Limerick footage for promotion of the city and county at the Ultimate Strongman Championships.
- Double Your Summer, Limerick City and County Council's 2021 summer tourism campaign, supported by Fáilte Ireland, was shortlisted for the Excellence in Local Government Awards 2022.

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Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

- Brand Limerick marketing material provided to:
 - Rose of Tralee entrants who visited Limerick City, King John's Castle and Limerick Greenway ahead of the main event in Tralee. The reigning Rose of Tralee was Limerick doctor, Sinéad Flanagan.
 - Limerick City and County Council's stand at the Limerick Show, which attracts around 10,000 people annually to the event in Patrickswell.
- The Dean of St. Mary's Cathedral for the Conference for the Deans of the Church of Ireland being held in Limerick.
- Hohenlohe delegation to Limerick.
- Limerick Choral Union for a choral festival in Sardinia.

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 30 times on Limerick.ie's [Facebook](#) with followers now 33,448. Posts reached 36,058 users with 4,041 engagements.
- Tweeted 35 times on Limerick.ie's [Twitter](#), @limerick_ie, with total followers now 21,300. Our tweets earned 42,200 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).
- Posted eight times on Limerick.ie's [Instagram](#) and created six Stories, with total followers now 26,190.
- Posted 29 times on Limerick City and County Council's LinkedIn with total followers now 9,212.

Limerick.ie

In August, there were 155,055* unique site visits to Limerick.ie. (*Fathom Analytics)

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

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

Communications

Issued 11 news releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and researched and wrote 11 speeches for the Office of the Mayor.

Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter.

Tweeted 115 times on Limerick City and County Council's [Twitter](#) account, @limerickcouncil, with total followers now 17,681. Our tweets earned 88,600 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).

Chief Executive's Report



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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 August
No. of call-outs 01.08.2022 - 31.08.2022	1,246	1,743	106.12 secs	2,989

