

Chief Executive's Report

October 2022

New Register of Electors introduced. The rolling register replaces the previous draft and live registers and will be continuously updated

A new Framework Plan is to be designed for the Arthur's Quay Area to see how best it can be developed

Mayor takes part in Bloomberg CityLab Summit

Limerick Student City campaign reaches over half a million impressions

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Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

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Economic Development and Enterprise Directorate

1. Trade & Investment

International Relations

Limerick City and County Council is leading on engagement with the cities of Austin, Texas, and Santa Clara, California, to progress educational links and further exchange programmes with the University of Limerick and the Technological University of the Shannon. Fostering educational links between Limerick and its Sister Cities is a priority action of the Council, which will go towards further strengthening economic and cultural ties.

Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Autumn School - Bruff

The Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Autumn School took place over the weekend 28-31 October. Developed as part of the Global Limerick Diaspora Strategy, this was a celebration of the Fitzgerald family who left Bruff to forge a new life in the USA and eventually attain the highest office in the world. The three-day festival reflected on the place the Fitzgeralds left in 1850, its culture both past and present. The programme of events honoured Rose Fitzgerald, the mother of John F. Kennedy, President of the United States of America, and her three grandparents who left Bruff in 1850. The events told the story of Bruff and its diaspora, past present and future. Thomas Fitzgerald, first cousin of John F. Kennedy, travelled from Boston to Bruff to participate in the weekend long celebrations. On the final day of the festival, Kerry Kennedy, daughter of Bobby Kennedy, was live-streamed from Boston into the Thomas Fitzgerald Centre in Bruff to participate in a discussion with Thomas Fitzgerald about the journey their families took from Limerick to Boston and eventually the Oval Office of the White House.

City Centre Revitalisation

Economic Development welcomed the inclusion of Limerick City in the new National Night Time Economy pilot programme and is delighted to be one of the successful applicants. This project gives a huge opportunity to showcase the city and what it has to offer, a vibrant, wide-reaching, night-time culture. Shaped and steered by a dedicated night-time economy manager, Limerick's unique creative arts, culture and entertainment scene will suit all age groups and will deliver greater social cohesion and encourage more footfall which will help frame a new narrative about Limerick city centre.

2. Local Enterprise Office

Funding Approved

Five Businesses were approved grant-aid this month - one Feasibility Study Grant, three Priming Grants and one Business Expansion Grant. The total amount of funding approved was €139,750.

- Five businesses were approved for a Trading Online Voucher.
- Three companies were approved for Lean for Micro.
- One business was approved a Digital Start Grant.
- One business was approved a TAME (Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters) Grant.
- One Business was approved an IPStart Grant.

LEO Workshops, Webinars and Training Workshops included:

- How to achieve your Business Goals.
- Online Advertising and Strategy, Managing an Online Business.
- Website Built - what next?
- Social Media, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and TikTok for Business.
- Business Planning and Business Advice Clinics.
- Start Your Own Business Courses.

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- Introduction to Bookkeeping and Taxation.
- Search Engine Optimisation.
- Digital Marketing Strategy and Digital Marketing (Beginners).
- Human Resources: How to recruit and retain staff.
- Search Engine Optimisation.
- GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) Training.
- Food Producers Meet-up and tour at Attyflin Estate.
- Costing and Pricing Workshop for Food Businesses.

National Women's Enterprise Day Mid-West took place in Cashel this year, where 30 Limerick Business Owners attended and Maura Kearney, Kearney's Bakery, Ballyhahill, was a Guest Panel Speaker.

There were 168 participants on the LEO Business Training Courses and 12 Business Owners availed of the LEO Mentoring programme in October.

Blas na hÉireann Awards - Limerick winners sponsored by LEO Limerick

- **Gold:** **Kearney's Home Baking Ltd., Tenekilla, Ballyhahill** - White Scones; and **Glen Aine, Hospital** - Cured Meat and Charcuterie.
- **Silver:** **Leahy Farmhouse Foods, Newcastle West** - Bally Goats Milk; **Sodalicious, Limerick City** - Cheddar and Chive Soda Bread; **Old Irish Creamery, Kilmallock** - Garlic and Herb Cheese; and **Ballyhoura Apple Farm** - Wild Atlantic Apple Syrup dressing.
- **Bronze:** **Ballyhoura Apple Farm** - Apple Cider Vinegar and Honey; **Sodalicious, Limerick City** - Rosemary and Chive Oil Soda-bread; and **McMahon Quality Meats, Abbeyfeale** - Irish Whiskey Barbeque Pork Ribs.
- **Best in County:** Ballyhoura Mountain Mushrooms.

3. Innovate Limerick

Digital Collaboration Centre

- Visited Microsoft to update the cloud and infrastructure team on Innovate Limerick's Engine Collaboration Centre plans and discuss cloud first access programmes for companies in the Region.
- Attended and promoted Engine Collaboration Centre at LEO Clare Digital event with good networking, particularly with Google.
- Good engagements with following organisations: Technology Aviation Business Consulting, Western Development Organisation and Austin Twin City Team.
- Workshop with the Health Service Executive, Over-C and University of Limerick regarding track and trace solution across the UL Hospitals Group.
- Attended Further Digital Transformation event in Convention Centre with very productive meetings with Skillnet Ireland, Smart City Dublin, Guinness Enterprise Store and others.

Engine Hubs

Connected Hubs Funding 2022

- Engine Hubs Network awarded €50,000 for Town and Village Renewal Marketing Measure 2022.
- Presented Keynote Event Details of "Champions of Collaboration - How To Progress Through Partnerships" - to Minister Heather Humphreys at the programme launch of Digital First Day. The nationwide initiative is driven by a new collaboration, Digital Ireland Network (www.digital-ireland.ie).
- Engine Hubs selected as one of six keynote events nationwide on Digital First Day.
- Key stakeholder in "Atlantic TIDE - Driving Sustainable Growth in the Design Industry in the Atlantic Region."

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- Infrastructural upgrades near completion in seven Hubs to upgrade facilities through the Connected Hubs Fund (€408,000) - Spark Hub, Roxboro; Bruree Food Units; Croom Enterprise Centre; The Boat Club, Limerick; The Pavilion, Adare; The Yard, Newcastle West; Engine, Limerick.
- Engine Hubs Network participated in the Connected Hubs Voucher Scheme Phase 1, and continuing with Phase 2 allocation of Hub Vouchers through Connected hubs.ie
- Relationship building with Community Enterprise Association of Ireland – worked with The Discovery Programme that is conducting a sectoral analysis and reviewing the roles and functions of key personnel across the National Hub Network.
- Hub Owner /Manager Network Member monthly meet-ups continued.
- Attended National Hub Network Connected Hubs fortnightly meet-ups.
- Membership of Engine hubs network is 19:
 1. The Yard - Newcastle West.
 2. Bruree Food Units, Bruree.
 3. Spark Hub, Local Enterprise Development Partnership (LEDP), Roxboro.
 4. HQ, Listowel.
 5. Croom Enterprise Centre, Croom.
 6. Kantoher Enterprise Centre, Newcastle West.
 7. The Boat Club, Sarsfield Bridge, Limerick.
 8. ACM Community Centre, Castleconnell.
 9. Ballyhoura Heritage and Development, Kilfinane.
 10. Engine Collaboration Centre, Cecil Street, Limerick.
 11. Broadford Enterprise Centre.
 12. HQ Tralee.
 13. Tipperary Digital Hub, Tipperary Town.
 14. Rathkeale Enterprise Centre.
 15. Engine, Cecil Street, Limerick.
 16. WorkBase, Abbeyfeale.
 17. Manor Fields, Adare.
 18. Bruff.
 19. Askeaton.

Film in Limerick

Munster Film and TV Crew Academy

Innovate Limerick, through Film in Limerick, is developing several new training courses as part of the new Munster Film and TV Crew Academy, delivered in collaboration with Screen Ireland:

Location Recce Skills for Trainees: This course will continue to support the participants from the previous “Fundamental Skills for Location Trainees” and will give them hands-on experience surveying and evaluating specific sites suitable for filming. This course will be run in person with a theory lesson at the Engine building and then offsite around the Limerick area.

Hairdressing and Barbering for Film and TV: This course will upskill existing hair graduates so that they can be aware of the work involved in working on set as a hair trainee in the Film industry. This will be held in the makeup and hair facilities at Troy Studios. Experienced hairdressers will have a full day of theory before another full day of fully practical hair demonstrations with live models.

Vector Works for Beginners is a software for the architecture, engineering, and construction, landscape, and entertainment industries. The software is often used to design film sets and for various departments to be able to share and adjust ideas. The course will be run by Vector Works directly, online.

Mid-West Film Training and Education Group

The Mid-West Film Training and Education Group met to discuss focused areas of excellence and new training collaborations between education providers in the Region.

Screen Ireland Industry Day

The Crew Academy Manager for Munster attended the Screen Ireland Industry Day, which was held at the Lighthouse Cinema and was opened by the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin, T.D. On the back of the €1 million increase it received to its capital fund in Budget 2023,

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Screen Ireland revealed details relating to a number of new funding initiatives, worth a total of €3 million.

Amazon Studios Visit to Limerick

Film Executives from Amazon Studios visited Limerick City and toured King John's Castle, kindly guided by the marketing and sales team. They also visited University of Limerick and Odyssey Studios. They travelled in from Los Angeles, the United Kingdom and Germany.

Creative Producers' Programme

The 2nd Edition of our 'Introduction to Creative Producing for Film' Programme, in association with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, launched for applications in October.

The five-month part-time programme gives aspiring and emerging creative producers the skills to develop collaborative projects. Led by Oscar-winning Producer, John McDonnell ('Vivarium,' 'Arracht'), the programme focuses on developing the crucial skills and knowledge needed to help develop and attract finance to projects, and it will put participants in a strong position to prepare their own company projects for financing, to work in a production company or to further their learning in this area.

Writers' Factory

The 3rd Edition of our popular 'Writers Factory - Introduction to Screenwriting Course' opened for applications in October.

Supported by Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, the 22-week hybrid course will give participants a strong foundation in the craft and art of screenwriting and help them to develop a framework for screenwriting practice. Participants will complete a ten-minute short script as part of the course and have the opportunity to pitch their project to producers and directors and receive feedback. The Writers' Factory course is suitable for both practising and emerging screenwriters and has grown into the gold-standard of screenwriting courses launching the careers of many successful screenwriters.

Engine Shorts 2

After a hugely successful 1st edition, our ENGINE Shorts Training and Production Scheme is back and now open for submissions.

Run by Innovate Limerick through Film in Limerick, ENGINE Shorts is delivered in partnership with the Local Authorities in Tipperary, Limerick and Clare and Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.

The film training and production scheme aims to inspire and support up-and-coming writers, directors and producers based in the Region to create inspiring, engaging world-class short films that resonate with a wide international audience.

The programme will again work with shortlisted writers/teams to develop their project ideas and up to six teams will be awarded production funding of up to €12,500 each to produce a ten-minute short film.

Individual writers or teams (writer, director, producer) can apply online now with a 'story outline' for a ten-minute film to be considered for the training programme. ENGINE Shorts, as the biggest regional film scheme in the country, is on a mission to find and support the next generation of local film talent.

4. Forward Planning

- The Draft Caherconlish Local Area Plan 2023-2029 was prepared and placed on public display on 15 October for a six-week period, allowing for submissions and observations to be made.
- The Draft Castleconnell Local Area Plan 2023-2029 was prepared and placed on public display on 01 October for a six-week period, allowing for submissions and observations to be made. A public information evening was held in the village on 13 October.
- The review of the Abbeyfeale Local Area Plan and preparation of a new Local Area Plan commenced.

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To assist in preparing the Draft Plan, an [Issues Paper](#) outlining the key issues to be addressed in the new Local Area Plan was prepared and placed on public display.

- Work was ongoing in relation to the preparation of the draft maps for the Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) process. The objective of the tax is to activate zoned and serviced residential development land and land zoned for mixed use, including residential, for development to increase housing supply and to ensure regeneration of vacant and idle lands in urban locations.

5. Digital Services

Digital Services

Limerick City and County Council's planning system (iPlan) was upgraded in October. Features include:

- The ability to retire agents/consultants without affecting legacy planning application information.
- Facilities to record pre-planning details against a planning file.
- Service indicator information now available to view in enquiry screen making it easier to ensure accuracy of data captured.
- Facilitating the capture of Eircodes (currently pending integration with Ordnance Survey Ireland system).
- iPlan can now integrate with the new online planning system.

EU Programmes

- Joint Limerick City and County Council and University of Limerick Symposium held in Limerick's Citizen Innovation Lab. The symposium focused on three themes:
 1. **New European Bauhaus** – “It's not just that we decarbonise that is important, how we do it is important too”. The New European Bauhaus (NEB) policy aims to connect plans to become climate-neutral to people's living spaces and day-to-day lives. The panel presented some perspectives and projects relevant to the New European Bauhaus in Ireland.
 2. **+CityxChange** – A Limerick story of the climate-neutral transition. The Positive City Exchange (+CityxChange) project explores the development of a structured approach to decarbonising cities. Members of the +CityxChange implementation Team presented infrastructural demonstrators, insights and learning from +CityxChange implementation in Limerick to date.
 3. **City Collaboration and The Climate Neutral Cities Mission in Ireland** - The panel explored perspectives on city collaboration in the transition to climate-neutrality with contributions from Thomas Osdoba who leads the Net Zero Cities Consortium, coordinator of the EU Cities Mission Platform, Julio Lumbreros of Spain's CitiES2030, and others.
- Final On-Spot Check was carried out on two URBACT Projects, Find Your Greatness and Health and Greenspace. The audit was carried out by First Level Controller, Michael Buckley, Southern Regional Assembly. The audit went very well and no issues were reported by the auditor.

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6. Limerick Twenty Thirty

Opera Square

Progress Update

- The works to stabilise the Georgian buildings at 8 and 9 Rutland Street entered a critical phase with erection of temporary steel trusses to the front and rear facades.
- Engagement is ongoing with a preferred tenderer for the next contract, the Basement and One Opera Square.
- Limerick Twenty Thirty is seeking, on behalf of Limerick City and County Council, a planning amendment for Opera Square to achieve the latest sustainability requirements and deliver enhanced design standards in keeping with the city's Georgian heritage.

Communications Update

- The design of display boards was underway in October as part of the public engagement for the upcoming planning amendment process. The boards outline the amendments and enhancements to the landmark building, Four Opera Square, the Granary, Limerick Central Library, Public Realm and Apartments.
- Limerick Twenty Thirty hosted the President of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) at Opera Square on 06 October. Visiting from the UK, Ed McCann and stakeholders were provided with a detailed tour of the site.
- The tender process progressed for the artwork for Opera Square with two preferred options selected. Two artists responded to clarification requests and a preferred design was selected.
- Work continued with Originate, Limerick City and County Council and Limerick School of Art and Design - Technological University of the Shannon, for the design of Phase Two of the hoarding.

Cleeves Riverside Quarter

Progress Update

- Work progressed on the delivery strategy for the site, focusing on expediting delivery of residential units and utilisation of the €34.5m Urban Regeneration and Development Fund grant.
- A Masterplan for the site is being progressed by the Design Team.
- Preparation has commenced for scheduling of a public consultation pre-year end.

Communications Update

- Scare Factory returned to Cleeves Riverside Quarter from 20-31 October and information was shared to Limerick Twenty Thirty's social media.
- A music video was recorded in the Flaxmill Building at Cleeves Riverside Quarter.
- Meghann Scully held a photoshoot with Morning Star photography on-site.

Other Communications Activity

- Limerick Twenty Thirty exhibited at the Construction Industry Federation Annual Conference on 06 October in Croke Park. Information was shared to Limerick Twenty Thirty's social media.
- Limerick Twenty Thirty led another workshop at Gardens International on the Living Cities Initiative.
- A letting brochure for Gardens International was developed to assist in letting remaining vacant space.

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Transportation & Mobility Directorate

1. Travel and Transportation Strategy

- BAM Civil Limited was appointed as Contractor on the Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road – Advance Works Ballygrennan Railway Overbridge Contract.
- The Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee met on 25 October. The following presentations were delivered:
 - › Update on Mid-West National Road Design Office TII (Transportation Infrastructure Ireland) Projects.
 - › Proposed 30 km/h Speed Limits in the core business district.
 - › Health Benefits arising from implementation of a low noise road surface.
 - › Update on LSMATS – Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy.
- Rapid Deployment St. Nessian's Road, Raheen.
- Stakeholders meeting on South Circular Road.
- Appointed Consultants for Rhebogue Underpass.
- Completed works to Bus Stops, Oola.
- Installed bicycle stands in Newcastle West/Abbeyfeale/Kilmeedy.

2. Active Travel

- Awarded contract for Active Travel works to Hyde Road.
- Section 38 for Brookville Avenue.
- Section 38 for Childers Road.
- Detailed Design started on Fr. Russell Road.
- Detailed design commenced on Quinn's Cross to Raheen.
- Site Investigation Childers Road.
- Official Opening of the Safe Routes to School at Model National School.
- Completing works on Stoneyhurst Ramp, Dooradoyle.



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Directorate

1. Urban & Rural Community Development

AGE FRIENDLY

- Consultation continued during October for Limerick's second Age Friendly strategy with focus groups covering all parts of the county and city. Two nursing homes were also visited to consult with residents. The information gathered will help to identify what age friendly activities are developed to improve the quality of life for people, as we grow old. This survey is online on www.limerick.ie It opened on 07 October on My Point and is available for a number of weeks.
- The National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards were held on 27 October at Dromoland Castle. Congratulations to all the winners who won on the night and to everyone who was short-listed. Shannon Airport and Ireland West Airport Knock won under the Transportation Category. The Mungret Gate rightsizing project was short-listed under the Housing category.
- The first meeting of a restructured, expanded Alliance for Age Friendly Limerick was held on 18 October. The Age Friendly Alliance is a senior level cross-sector group whose member agencies form the overarching strategic partnership to develop and oversee the realisation of the second Age Friendly Strategy.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- On 06 October, the Annual Green Schools Teachers' Seminar took place with over 60 teachers attending this online event, which covered all of the Green Schools Themes.
- On 18 October, a presentation was made to the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee on how Local Authorities address Biodiversity.

- On 22 October, 36 participants attended a free one-day sustainable gardening course to celebrate National Reuse Month and covered everything from gardening chemical free, pollinator planting, vegetable growing, mini-pond building, pruning, cuttings and much more, including tips on reuse.

Limerick Going For Gold

- On 25 October, the Limerick Going for Gold final took place with Adare Tidy Towns named as overall winners of the Limerick Going for Gold competition for 2022.
- Limerick Going for Gold aims to make Limerick a cleaner, brighter place to work, live and visit and has captured the imagination of Tidy Towns groups, Residents' Associations, smaller groups and individuals right across Limerick city and county since it began in 2012. The competition is sponsored by the JP McManus Charitable Foundation and managed by Limerick City and County Council with key supports from Live 95, The Limerick Leader and The Limerick Post, Parkway Shopping Centre, I Love Limerick and Southern Marketing Media and Design.
- A total of 11 communities made the final of the Limerick Going for Gold Tidy Towns Category. The winners were Tidy Towns Category Adare (€10,000), Castleconnell (€7,000), Askeaton (€5,000), Patrickswell (€3,000), Kilmeedy (€2,000), Doon (€1,500), Hospital (€1,500), Newcastle West (€1,500), Athea (€1,500), Ardpatrick (€1,500) and Kiltleely (€1,500). Limerick Bee Friendly in Bloom winners were Kiltleely (€5,000), Kilfinane (€3,000), Garrienderk (€2,000), Ballingarry (€1,000) and Broadford (€1,000).
- The Residential Area winners were Meadowbrook Residents' Association (€2,000), Cappamore Estates Committee (€1,000), Castletroy View Residents' Association (€700), Garryowen Residents' Association (€700), Monaleen Park Residents' Association (€700) and Woodhaven Residents' Association (€700).

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- The ReUse Award went to Charity Gateway to Education - second-hand books and uniforms (€1,500) and Castleconnell Tidy Towns Water Fountain (€500).
- The Judges' Request Award went to Garrienderk – Best Small Area (€1,000), Newcastle West was awarded Best Litter Management in Town Centre (€1,200), Caherdavin - Best Litter Management in large residential area (€1,000) and Feenagh - Best Newcomer (€1,000).
- The Best Front Garden went to Michael Maume, Croom, with John and Mary O'Brien, Hospital, and John and Ita Carroll, Castlemahon, also receiving awards.

National Tidy Towns Awards

- 51 Limerick Groups entered the National Tidy Towns Competition, the results of which were announced on 28 October. Adare Tidy Towns received a Gold Medal at the awards in the RDS Arena event.
- In addition, Adare won the village County Award, with Ardpatrick Tidy Towns coming in second and Galbally Tidy Towns third. Bronze Medals were awarded to Ardpatrick (Category A), Galbally (Category B), Castleconnell (Category C), Newcastle West (Category E) and Limerick City Tidy Towns (Category H), while an Endeavour Award was presented to Athea Tidy Towns which recorded the biggest year-on-year improvement in Limerick.

TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME

- The restoration of the Countess Dunraven Fountain in Adare received a Commendation at the Irish Georgian Society Conservation Awards 2022, which took place in Dublin on 19 October. The project was delivered by Limerick City and County Council and was part-funded through the Accelerated Town and Village Renewal Scheme – an initiative of the Department of Rural and Community Development.

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 184. 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.
- There were three linkage group meetings in October: Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment; Travel and Transportation and Home and Social Development.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- The Healthy Ireland Fund Round 4 2023-2025 is now open for application. Local Authorities have been approved for an indicative budget of €75,000 in Year 1, €40,000 in Year 2 and a further €40,000 in Year 3. Round 4 sees the introduction of an outcomes-led approach with a maximum of two outcomes to be selected from a predefined list of five outcomes areas with all activities orientated toward contributing to the selected outcome(s).
- The Healthy Ireland Coordinator Limerick travelled to Dublin in October for Health Atlas training. Health Atlas provides access to key health related datasets that enable queries, area profiling, quality of care, and geo-spatial analyses and displays to inform decision-makers at all levels from clinical practice to policy. Health Atlas Ireland was developed by the National Health Intelligence Unit, Health Service Executive.
- A new Health and Wellbeing Working Group is being established. This group will be a sub- group of the Local Community Development Committee and will replace the Healthy Ireland Steering Group.

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2. Tourism

King John's Castle and AVEA Conference:

King John's Castle and Limerick Tourism attended the Annual Association of Visitor Experiences and Attractions (AVEA) Conference in Wexford on 17 and 18 October. The theme of the Conference was "Our People, Our Future." Delegates were able to engage in a number of topics with the focus of Day 1 on the talented and skilled people we have in our sector, while Day 2 looked through the lens of the customer and visitor giving consideration to changing expectations post-pandemic.

Limerick Wild Atlantic Way Gateway Group

A meeting of the Wild Atlantic Way Gateway Group took place in October with presentations received from Fáilte Ireland on new supports to help hospitality businesses retain talent. Updates were received by members of the group from the Hospitality sector, Fáilte Ireland and Limerick City and County Council.

Munster Vales Launch

On 18 October, Munster Vales launched their new brand logo and Sustainability Policy. Limerick was represented at the event by Limerick City and County Council Tourism Officer and local hospitality businesses and organisations which fall within the Munster Vales area, including Lough Gur and board members of Ballyhoura Fáilte. The Munster Vales tourism brand is an important resource of Limerick-based tourism businesses drawing in visitors with a particular interest in activity and outdoor recreation holidays.

Limerick Greenway Marketing Update

- Limerick Greenway marketing campaign, including Familiarisation trips with Charlotte Ryan from RTE and Meghann Scully from Limerick Post, were completed during October – [Charlotte Ryan](#) and [Meghann Scully](#)
- An October press release reporting on the extraordinary number of visits to Limerick Greenway, reaching over 800,000, received very positive coverage

from media outlets including The Irish Times, The Limerick Post and Limerick Leader and K News Media in the UK.

- As part of the social media campaign, Limerick Greenway ran a competition through Facebook where three lucky families won the ultimate Greenway experience, including bike hire and shuttle service from "Limerick Greenway Bike Hire" and a voucher to use for any of the services provided by the Barnagh Hub.
- The Limerick Greenway Autumn Photoshoot was completed on 22 October with the help of St. Paul's Scouts Group, Dooradoyle, Limerick.
- Adare Camogie Club held a sponsored walk on Limerick Greenway starting at Barnagh Hub on 09 October and the bad weather did not dampen their spirits.
- A Halloween event was also held at Barnagh Hub from 29 to 31 October, including a treasure hunt incorporating the renovated Station House and underpass as part of the activities.
- The Abbeyfeale to Listowel section of the Kingdom of Kerry Greenways was officially opened, bringing the current length of the Greenway to 50.5kms from Rathkeale to Listowel.

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

The report was submitted to the October meeting of the Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee and 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.

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OPEN CALLS

Open Call for Bursaries

Limerick Theatre Bursary Awards

Limerick City and County Council announced an Open Call for the Limerick Theatre Bursary Awards Scheme. Three Bursaries, of up to €5,000 each, are available under the scheme. The closing date for applications was 4pm on 19 October.

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. For Arts Council grant calls in October, seven letters of support were issued.

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 online public consultation meetings took place on 11 and 19 October.

Strategic and Legacy Funding 2022

Limerick City and County Council Culture and Creativity Team was awarded additional funding for the Strategic and Legacy Funding for 2022 from Creative Ireland. This funding supports the delivery of the Limerick Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018-2022 by developing and sustaining projects.

Creative Ireland Climate Action “Decarbonising Together” projects

Two ‘Decarbonising Together’ projects presented work on 26 October. The first project was from the Garryowen Community Development Project. Veronica Santorum and Daniel Clancy (Project Leaders) presented a video on the project success with the local community in regard to energy saving projects and informing the community of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland grants available. Local schools were involved in the initiative. The second project was a tree planting initiative that took place at the Limerick Civic Trust, Bishop’s Palace. Maeve Stone and Alex Gill (Project leaders), with the help of Irish Seed Savers, are putting the first fruit trees near King John’s Castle. The project wants to highlight the importance of fruit trees in the local community.

Creative Climate Action - Decarbonising Together project, Limerick secured €118,889.50. Decarbonising Together invited five communities from the Limerick Metropolitan District to examine how meaningful climate action can become part of their day-to-day lives.

Irish Architecture Foundation Project

Reimagine University Hospital Limerick involves using creative placemaking processes to develop a new outdoor walkway in the hospital grounds. This walkway will be aimed primarily at the emotional and physical wellbeing of the staff, with secondary benefits for patients and visitors. The appointed design team comprises Ailish Drake, Madeleine Lyes and Anne Cronin who represent specialisms in architecture, public engagement, and public health. They have been working closely with a hospital-appointed stakeholder group, using a broad range of consultation strategies, including vox-pop, “walk-shops,” zoom meetings, surveys and mapping. They have fed into the hospital’s active travel planning and launched the prototyping phase of their project. The prototyping included landscaping and mural interventions. They worked with planters by Monaru and local creatives. A photographer, Deirdre Power, has also been engaged to document this process, publicising this project in early October.

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Jenny Traynor Yard Duets on Tour

Jenny Traynor "Yard Duets" visited a number of nursing homes during October, including Park Nursing Home, Castletroy, St. Paul's Nursing Home, Limerick, St. Anthony's Nursing Home, Pallasgreen, Carebright, St. Camillus' Hospital, Raheen Day Care Centre, Adare District Memory Care Centre and Ard na Rí, Bruff.

Arts Council Framework Agreement Programme

The annual application for Arts Council Framework Agreement under partnership agreement with Arts Council and Limerick City and County Council was submitted in October.

Éigse Launch

The Éigse Michael Hartnett Literary and Arts Festival took place from 06 - 09 October. This year's festival included workshops, screenings, book launches, talks and more, in Newcastle West, celebrating the poet, Michael Hartnett, poetry, and Newcastle West. This year, Limerick City and County Council committed additional funding to the festival to increase the prize money for the Éigse Michael Hartnett Poetry Award to €8,000, which was won by poet, Eleanor Hooke.

Castleconnell Concerts

A live programme of enchanting and beautiful music and song returned 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. The third concert took place on 25 October with Miriam Kaczor and Ellen Jansson performing, for broadcast on RTE Lyric FM, The Full Score Programme, with Liz Nolan.

Childers Road Rail Bridge

Painting began of the Childers Road Rail Bridge. A project developed with colleagues in the Roads Department, the Arts Office assisted in the artwork element of the process. Street Art Inc. won the tender to project manage and engaged a number of specialist street artists to deliver the work.

4. Property & Community Facilities

Dereliction, Vacancy and Reuse Team	
Inspections carried out	119
Property and Community Facilities Department Notices issued	8
Derelict Sites Cases opened	21
Statutory Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act	41
Derelict Sites Cases closed through engagement	12
Properties entered into the Derelict Sites Register	13
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

Library

- Limerick City and County Library Service has produced a fascinating new book on the Civil War in Limerick as part of Limerick City and County Council's Decade of Centenaries programme for 2022. 'The Inevitable Conflict - Essays on the Civil War in County Limerick,' edited by Dr. Seán Gannon, was launched by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, on 20 October. This is a remarkable, historical and photographic record of this period of Limerick's history and comprises thirteen original essays authored by professional and local historians and PhD students from Mary Immaculate College. They employ a wide range of traditional and newly released archival resources to shed new light on the experience of the Civil War in Limerick City and County.
- The annual Children's Book Festival started in library branches encouraging children to enjoy the experience of reading and support their reading development. Activities and events in collaboration with writers, illustrators, and storytellers have been offered to promote children's books and stories, to increase engagement with families and schools, and to attract new audiences. Glin Library hosted a story time for the local parents and toddler group, stories were read, games were played and some of the children registered for their first library card! Writer, Roisin Meaney, delighted children in Roxboro, Cappamore, Foynes and Glin libraries during the month with her fun, interactive and engaging story times. The pupils from Scoil Chaitríona, who attended her event in Cappamore, also got the opportunity to ask her what life is like as an author. Alex Dunne is a Limerick author living in Canada who was visiting Limerick and entertained primary school children in Adare and Watch House Cross Libraries with a workshop on creative writing and stories of life as an author.
- Rathkeale Library was delighted to welcome the boys from Rathkeale Youth Network to the branch this month for a library tour and an Irish mythology-themed story time. Library staff also visited Rathkeale Youth Space during the month and facilitated a story time with one of their after-school groups. On 19 October, Dogs Trust Ireland held a very engaging and interactive dog safety workshop, which was attended by the pupils from Church Street National School.
- Book Festival kicked off at Watch House Cross with author, Michael Smith, on 04 October. Sixty children from 5th and 6th class in Gaelscoil Sairséal attended a talk about Antarctic and Arctic exploration with particular focus on the life and contribution of Kerryman, Tom Crean. The children had read Tom Crean Iceman before the visit to the library and were fascinated by his story and full of questions for the author. Arran Towers of Tallest Smallest Theatre visited the library on 06 October. There was great excitement at the arrival of the BFG, with 75 children from Thomond Primary School attending the first performance and 60 children from Gaelscoil Sairséal attending the second show. Thankfully, there is a very high ceiling at Watch House Cross Library to accommodate a giant with no difficulty! The next Book Festival event was Storygate with Simone Schuemmelfeder and 50 children attended this event from Meelick Primary School. Simone's stories cover a wide range, from fairy tales and folklore from many cultures, to myths, personal stories and urban legends. The stories were told in a very interactive way with pictures and story stones as well as join-in actions for the younger age group. Watch House Cross Library has collaborated with Fighting Words to deliver The Story Seeds Creative Writing Programme over an eight-week period, with two workshops each week attended by classes from Corpus Christi and Thomond Primary Schools. Three branch staff are facilitating these workshops. The Story Seeds project supports young people to write their own story with the aim of enabling them to begin to understand their own life story, their personal, circumstantial and emotional story and their place, be it geographical, social, or imaginative. It is aimed at not only introducing children and young people to creative writing, but also to strengthen their positive sense of themselves and to allow them to re-imagine the negatives in

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their lives and transform their sense of place and possibilities. Age Action Ireland has started an eight-week programme in the library which aims to deliver one-to-one basic training in computers, tablets, smartphones and the Internet for people over the age of 55. Both Adult book clubs met during the last week of the month, the book for October was 'the Island of Missing trees' by Elif Shafak, which proved to be most popular with all our readers, giving it a 10 out of 10 recommendations. On 28 October, two members of staff were delighted to support the Halloween Haunted Basement experience hosted by the Learning Hub, with costumes inspired by The Corpse Bride with library staff as the scary storytellers. The sensory room continues to be well used with 250 users enjoying its relaxing facilities during the month. Leave No Trace workshops, with funding from the Environment Awareness Officer, and facilitated by 'Leave no Trace Ireland,' were held for primary school children this month in Watch House Cross Library. These workshops promote sustainable use of the Irish countryside.

- Children's Book Festival got off to a flying start in Dooradoyle Library with a visit from author and journalist, Michael Smith, on 04 October. Children listened to a very interesting and informative talk all about Tom Crean - 'Ice Man,' followed by a question-and-answer session with Michael. On 13 October, Michael Moylan, from Irish History Live, performed three shows for local primary school children where they learned all about the history of Ireland during the Middle Ages. Children were invited to take part in this unique learning experience by sampling the costumes they wore at that time, the weapons they would have used and the way they lived. Heritage expert, Dale Treadwell, held four sessions of his Naturally Wild show on 14 October. Children learned all about bugs, butterflies, bats and all things to do with biodiversity. On 26 October, Dooradoyle Library held an 'Inter-Schools Quiz' as part of its Children's Book Festival celebrations! A total of 27 teams from eight local schools took part and there were two winning teams and two runner-up teams. All the teams received a certificate of participation and everyone left with a goody bag. Over the course of the month, almost 700

children attended Children's Book Festival events in Dooradoyle Library. Dooradoyle Library Book Club members meet on the last Thursday of the month and, for October, they discussed 'The Funny Thing About Norman Foreman' by Julietta Henderson, which they thoroughly enjoyed. To celebrate Limerick Mental Health Week, Dooradoyle Library held a special story-time session with Ciara on 15 October. There were over thirty parents and children in attendance on the day. On 25 October, a group of 20 pre-schoolers from 'Tall Trees Childcare' in Castletroy visited the library for a Halloween story-time with Geraldine, where they also did colouring and some book browsing. Each child was gifted a bedtime storybook to take home with them. Dooradoyle Library is delighted to be hosting art exhibitions once again. The latest exhibition 'A Sense of Place' features a selection of paintings from local artist, Declan Chambers. The official opening took place on 27 October.

- In celebration of this year's Limerick Mental Health Week, storytimes were held in Adare, Dooradoyle, Kilmallock, Watch House Cross, and the City Library during the week of 10 -16 October.
- Library staff facilitated Hallowe'en story times in a number of branches throughout the month for local primary schools and preschools. Over 210 children attended in Roxboro, Cappamore, Rathkeale, and Adare libraries.
- Arran Towers and his Trunk of Tricks visited the City Library at Barrow House for Children's Book Festival on 07 October with children from St. John the Baptist Boys National School and St. John's Girls National School. First class students from St. John's Girls had great fun meditating, drawing and chilling out with author, Annmarie McCarthy, and her workshop 'Chill Out Charlie' on 13 and 20 October. Music Generation Limerick City created three tuneful sessions on 18, 25 and 26 October when pupils from 3rd and 4th class in St. Patrick's Girls National School and 3rd class from Scoil Iosagáin CBS Primary School took part in a music-making and song-writing workshop. On 21 October, Simone Schuemmfeder provided a wonderful

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Sensory Workshop. Ms. Kelly and Ms. Francis brought their classes from St. Mary's National School for this special interactive storytelling session using items such as pom-poms, marbles, feathers and pinecones to let the students feel their way through the stories.

- Other events in the City Library included a special parent and toddler story time on 12 October as part of the Limerick Mental Health Week programme of events, the fabulous Roisin Meaney was back with her monthly Saturday story time on 15 October. On 18 October, the first session of Caroline Walters' new monthly Spanish story time got off to a great start with 30 parents and toddlers in attendance. In addition, a number of pre-school and class visits took place in October, including those from Poppins Pre-School, Scoil Iosagáin CBS and St. Mary's National School. There were seven meetings of book clubs throughout the month with Phoenix, Spiral, First Thursday and Second Wednesday book club all holding their regular monthly meetings, while three separate book clubs from the U3A (University of the 3rd Age) continued with their ongoing book club sessions on Monday afternoons. The Sahaja Yoga meditation meetings continued and Limerick's Writepace creative writing group continued their bi-monthly sessions.
- ALONE, the national organisation supporting older people to age at home, provided an information stand in the City Library on 17, 18 and 19 October. The location in the foyer of the Library allowed ALONE to meet with older people to talk about the supports that ALONE can offer and with those interested in volunteering with the organisation.
- As part of the Healthy Ireland at Your Library Programme, Limerick City Library was delighted to host a very informative talk by nutritional therapist, Helen Stapleton, of Feel-Good Nutrition, on 20 October. Entitled 'Nutrition Nuggets,' the talk focused on ways to foster a healthier diet and lifestyle.
- There were 45 onsite visits by researchers to the Local Studies Department at Watch House Cross Community Library in October. 32 involved research on the microfilm and digital archives of local and national newspapers, and nine on material from the Local Studies collections. Four visits comprised advice sessions on family history. 20 remote queries were received and fully or partially resolved. Distribution of the Department's Decade of Centenaries (DOC) commemorative volume on the Civil War, 'The Inevitable Conflict - Essays on the Civil War in County Limerick,' commenced following publication in the press, which generated great interest. Several new acquisitions were added to stock.
- As part of the Library Service's ongoing outreach programme to Men's and Women's Sheds, The City Library, Kilmallock, and Abbeyfeale, were thrilled to host a range of workshops featuring digital skills, the gentle martial art of Tai Chi, Yoga, and an introduction to the free online resources offered by Limerick Libraries. Library staff visited individual sheds across the city and county to roll out this initiative which is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development Dormant Accounts Fund.
- Newcastle West branch has once again organised its very popular Halloween writing competition. The first line of the story is provided and the children are asked to finish the story themselves. The competition is for 9-12-year-olds, with prizes for first, second and third. The library is delighted with the interest shown by both schools and individuals, with over 320 entries received! An Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) class from Courtenay Boys School visited the branch weekly in October accessing the Magic Table, the selection of sensory toys and story time with Liam.
- On 04 and 11 October, Kilmallock Library was delighted to host two evening workshops by Bruff-based Mobile-IT who introduced younger readers, aged 8 to 12, to the world of coding. "The Wheel," Ireland's national association of charities, community groups and social enterprises, funded the "Meet and Code" events. The children had great fun learning about coding and by the end of each of the sessions, the children had learned how to code with "Scratch" and created their own games. Michael Smith, author of "Tom Crean - Iceman" called to Kilmallock Library on 05 October to share his awe-inspiring story of Tom

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Crean, written especially for children. Tom Crean ran away from home at the age of 15 to join the navy and volunteered to join Captain Scott's first voyage to the Antarctic on Discovery. He was among the last to see Captain Scott alive near the South Pole in 1912 and saved the lives of two companions in the greatest single-handed feat of bravery in the history of exploration. Crean joined Shackleton's epic Endurance expedition in 1914, helping to sail a small open boat across raging seas and making the first forced march over the mountains and glaciers of South Georgia. Michael gave two sessions, one to pupils from Scoil Mocheallóg, Kilmallock, and the other to pupils of Kilbehenny National School who arrived by coach to soak in the story of one of Ireland's unsung heroes. The "Roses from the Heart" exhibition at Kilmallock Library continued to draw interest throughout October with curator, Imelda O'Riordan, who is also the author of "Lost Girls," meeting 67 of the Transition Year students from Coláiste Iósaef. Imelda gave an insight into the story behind the tribute bonnets remembering the Kilmallock Union Workhouse orphan girls who were transported to Australia during the Famine times. A special "Little Readers" session was held at Kilmallock Library to coincide with Limerick Mental Health Week. The children enjoyed songs, rhymes, stories and crafts, all with a Halloween theme, whilst their grown-ups chatted over a cuppa. On 20 October, Simone and Michael from Story Gate, along with their puppet characters, delighted the pupils of Scoil Mocheallóg with a super spooky story time at Kilmallock Library. The talented children created some beautiful and creepy Halloween artwork for the Halloween competition which is hanging in the foyer. Story Gate chose three winners and each joyfully received a prize of a book token. On 26 October, Kilmallock Library welcomed the junior infants from Scoil Mocheallóg for two fun-filled Halloween song, story and craft sessions followed by another session held the day after for the senior infants. The children eagerly participated in all the activities and ended by creating some wonderful Halloween bookmarks to take away with them.

Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- Marie Foley's exhibition "InSeeing" continues to attract significant visitor numbers. This is the artist's first solo exhibition in 15 years in a major institution and it has been important as a way of connecting her with people who knew her work from the 80s and 90s but also significant in introducing her work to a younger audience.
- Four other exhibitions have been running concurrently with InSeeing. The Maire and Maurice Foley Collection includes a number of works on long term loan (14) from Maurice Foley, in addition to five significant works of art that have been donated to the Permanent Collection. The works in the exhibition are by important Irish artists who are not in the Permanent Collection.
- The Jim Kemmy Remembered exhibition continues to attract a large local audience with the additional attraction of the newly acquired portrait of Michael Hartnett. The Michael O'Connor selection of posters has stimulated some very interesting conversations.
- Finally, Tiny Little Histories, an initiative of Creative Communities Midwest, opened on 06 October. The exhibition includes stories from seven community groups in Limerick and Clare, which is augmented by very high quality photographic images. This exhibition has been very popular and has reached an audience who might not normally visit LCGA.
- Research continues for the 2023/24 exhibition programme with site visits from artists and curators.
- The curator of the 2023 edition of EVA International, Sebastian Cichocki, visited the Gallery in October to discuss his plans for the exhibition.
- Two groups from the Community Music Song-Writing MA courses held two workshops in the Gallery in October, culminating in the participants responding to the work on display with a musical response.
- The University of the Third Age (UTA) groups continue to meet in the Gallery on a fortnightly basis.

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- Several school groups continue to visit the Gallery, including Desmond College Newcastle West, and a group from the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board in Limerick.
- LCGA has advertised its Shinnors Scholar 2 Year MA by practice role.
- The Museum commenced an Object of the Week programme on 19 October. Every Wednesday, an object from the collection will be featured across all our social media platforms with a view to highlighting the diversity and riches of the Museum's permanent collection.

Limerick Museum

- On 07 October, at the invitation of His Excellency, Mr Akhilesh Mishra, Indian Ambassador to Ireland, the Curator gave a lecture in the Indian Embassy, Dublin, on Ireland-India relations over the past 3,000 years. In his lecture, the Curator highlighted specific Limerick connections with India, including the career of Max Arthur Macauliffe, who translated the Sikh scriptures into English, the role of the Royal Munster Fusiliers in India and the many Limerick administrators and soldiers who served in India. The lecture may be viewed on the Indian Embassy's social media platforms.
- On 24 October, at the invitation of Limerick Civic Trust, the Curator gave a lecture to a Jewish Heritage Travel Group in the People's Museum, Pery Square. The subject of his lecture was the history of the Jewish community in Limerick. Jewish Heritage Travel is the world's leading travel management company for Jewish Heritage tours and Jewish-related travel around the world. It has been curating group tours for organisations and offering guided tours to destinations around the world for over 40 years. Its travel programmes combine the expertise and resources of two organisations that cherish the traditions, achievements, and faith of Jewish communities – past and present – around the world, Jewish Heritage Travel and the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York.
- The Assistant Curator has created two Museum activity sheets for children. One is entitled My Favourite Object which asks the child to identify their favourite object in the Museum, why they chose it, what type of person used it, and finally draw an image of it. The other is called Museum Explorers and consists of a treasure hunt. The children are asked five questions, the answers to which are found in the Museum display.



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Regeneration Directorate

1. Regeneration

The Council is currently finalising the procurement process regarding the proposed status update of the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan (LRFIP 2014-2023). The document will assess the current position and make recommendations for the future strategic direction of Limerick's social inclusion and regeneration programme.

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, visited each of the four Regeneration areas on 21 October. He met with volunteers, employees, teachers and students from each area listening to concerns and highlighting their achievements.

Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development, Joe O'Brien, T.D., also visited the Regeneration communities during October and met with representatives from all sections of the community during a day-long visit to Limerick.

Economic

Outreach to Employment Initiative

Following successful job fairs in all the Regeneration communities, work continues on this initiative. It involves the local youth leaders based in the community engaging directly as mentors with young and long-term unemployed persons towards the objective of employment and/or training. The Peter McVerry Trust has funded the recruitment of an Employment and Activation Leader to work and develop the Outreach Programme within the four Regeneration areas. This key role was recently advertised and will play an integral part in co-ordinating the existing mentors with further engagement and expansion of the range of employers. Any enquiries can be made to outreachtoemployment@limerick.ie.

Figures up to October are as follows:

Category	Dec 2021	Jan to Oct 2022	Total
A - ready for work	14	23	37
B - pre-development needed	8	16	24
C - Placed in employment	52	33	85
D - in education/training	23	17	40
E - dropped out of process	5	1	6
Total	102	90	192

Social

Economic and Social Intervention Fund (ESIF) Update

The 2023 ESIF application process is open and applications are being accepted with a new streamlined [online application process](#).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Activities

Moyross Residents' Forum supported 58 students from Moyross and St. Munchin's to avail of the Local and Community Development Programme (LCDP) Bursary by distributing the application form and arranging collection and processing. This bursary is vital to the students to support them with fees and course materials.

Our Lady of Lourdes Community Centre continued to work with Mid-West Simon Community to provide non-perishable food to families in need within the community; St. Vincent De Paul for fuel and electricity; and The Redemptorists for the provision of fresh meat, vegetables and food in general, along with fuel to those most in need within the community.

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Physical

- Thermal Upgrade contract 128 / 129, St. Mary's Park (25 units).

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 has procured a replacement contractor for completion of the 14 partially constructed units in Delmege Park, Moyross. The process for procurement of a replacement contractor for the completion of the remaining units in Delmege Park, Moyross (6), Hartigan's Villas, Moyross (4) and De Vere Court, Southill (14) is ongoing.
- 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.
- 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).

Community Facilities

Southill Play Facilities – A survey is now open for residents to have their say on what they would like to see in terms of outdoor play and activity space for children, young people and adults. A meeting was held on 19 October where views were shared by those in attendance.



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Housing Directorate

1. Housing Support Services

Housing Waiting List

Approved Housing Applicants	2,143
Approved Tenant Transfer Applicants	355

Returned Incomplete Housing Applications

October	Year to Date
49	363

Closed Housing Applications

	October	Year to Date
Closed Applications	199	744

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 required.
- 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 October	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	1	12
Newcastle West	2	10
Metropolitan District	19	130
Cappamore-Kilmallock	4	42
Total	26	194

Refusals

	No. of Units October	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	1
Newcastle West	1	1
Metropolitan District	2	11
Cappamore-Kilmallock	0	5
Total	3	18

Approved Housing Body Allocations 2022 (year to date)

Total Nominations	Successful Nominations	Nominations Pending	Unsuccessful Nominations
205	133	40	32

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Traveller Accommodation *

No. of Units offered October	1
Year to Date	19

* these figures are included in Allocations Figures and Approved Housing Body Allocations

Housing Welfare Visits

No. of Visits October	19
Year to Date	149

Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)

Private Tenancies	738
Capital Assistance Scheme/Rental Assistance Scheme Tenancies	507
Part V	1
New Private Tenancies	8
New Voluntary Housing Tenancies	4

RENT COLLECTION

Rent Collection Limerick City and County Council					
Opening Balance	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing Balance	% Collection
€5,396,118	€15,527,897	€20,924,015	€14,762,421	€6,161,594	71%

Housing Assistance Payments Limerick (HAP)

2,257 active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	22
No. of Amendments	398
No. of Cessations	45

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HOME IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

October 2022		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aid Grants	No. Approved	3		0	0	3
	MAG Expenditure	€2,050.00	€2,300.00	€6,000.00	€0.00	€10,350.00
	No. Paid	1	1	1	0	3
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	6	0	18	0	24
	HAG Expenditure	€12,322.50	€10,775.00	€66,292.14	€0.00	€89,389.64
	No. Paid	1	2	7	0	10
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	2	0	23	0	25
	HOP Expenditure	€0.00	€20,942.75	€13,760.00	€5,225.00	€39,927.75
	No. Paid	0	5	3	2	10
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG Expenditure	€0.00	€0.00	€65,384.02	€16,054.58	€81,438.60
	No. Paid	0	0	5	2	7

Total No. Approved	52
Total Monies Paid	€221,105.99
Total No. Paid	30

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Year-to-Date

Jan-Oct2022		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aid Grants	No. Approved	14	16	47	16	93
	MAG Expenditure	€103,648.45	€95,732.27	€259,441.78	€112,990.00	€571,812.50
	No. Paid	22	20	54	21	117
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	32	19	161	27	239
	HAG Expenditure	€174,568.51	€206,724.59	€874,410.47	€110,429.28	€1,366,132.85
	No. Paid	19	21	103	12	155
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	49	87	186	49	371
	HOP Expenditure	€187,897.36	€467,804.53	€764,956.67	€265,930.85	€1,686,589.41
	No. Paid	50	105	206	59	420
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG Expenditure	€2,150.83	0	€397,626.46	€80,806.33	€480,583.62
	No. Paid	1	0	33	11	45

YTD Total No. Approved	703
YTD Total Monies Paid	€4,105,118.38
YTD Total No. Paid	737

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Community Sustainment Unit

Tenancy Inductions

No. of Tenancy Inductions	15
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House Visits

No. of House Visits	405
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Sugar CRM (Customer Relationship Management) Cases

Active cases at month-end	179
Cases closed during month	62

Repossessions

Repossession of Council properties	6
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Garda Checks

Garda Checks processed	64
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Limerick Homeless Action Team - Pathway Accommodation and Support System (PASS) Data

Date: 25 October 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	58
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	18
St. Joseph Street	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	6
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	15
Temporary Emergency Provision (TEP) 1 - Edenvilla	Low threshold, night-by-night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	15
Temporary Emergency Provision (TEP) 2 - Phoenix Lodge	Low threshold, night-by-night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	17
Total		159

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Families				
Location	Description	Beds Used		
		Adults	Children	Families
Suaimehneas	Family Emergency accommodation	5	9	5
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	94	135	65
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	14	14	10
Totals		Adults	Children	Families
		113	158	80

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

Tenant Purchase	
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. received	2
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. approved	0
Local Authority Home Loans	
Loan Applications: No. received	6
Loan Applications: No. approved	2
Deed of Discharge	
Deed of Discharge Applications: No. Received	18
Consent to Sale	
Consent to Sale Applications: No. Received	5
Cottage Purchase Annuity	
No. of Cottage Purchase Annuity Applications	0
Ground Rent	
No. of Ground Rent applications	6
Private Rented Inspections	
No. of Inspections	70

Freedom of Information, Data Requests and Ombudsman

Freedom of Information requests	3
Ombudsman Query Cases	3
Data Access Requests	2

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2. Local Authority Housing Construction and Maintenance

Local Authority Housing Construction

House Returns October - Categorisation	
Cat 1 - minor repairs needed	0
Cat 2 - moderate repairs needed	1
Cat 3 - substantial repairs needed	0
Cat 4 - major repairs needed	0
To be inspected	5
Total	6

House Returns October By Municipal District	
Adare-Rathkeale	1
Cappamore-Kilmallock	1
Newcastle West	2
Metropolitan District	2
Total	6

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

Current Working Programme		
	Completed in October	In Progress
Local Authority Construction Team	0	138
Local Authority Maintenance Team	12	53
Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process	0	27
Regeneration Team	0	21
Team to be assigned	N/A	20
Total	12	259

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

There are three teams in Limerick City and County Council assigned to refurbish properties. As of October, the Local Authority Construction Team was in the process of completing works in 138 properties, Local Authority Maintenance 53 properties and the Regeneration Team 21 properties. Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process - 27 properties. 20 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 Council 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.

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Project Updates

Ardagh, Co. Limerick

Part 8 planning for the construction of ten housing units, including two three-bed units, four two-bed units and four one-bed units. The scheme frames an existing green and contributes to the public open space in the area. The scheme also includes an access road which is an extension to the existing cul-de-sac, services, footpaths, parking, boundary treatment and landscaping works. The Councillors have voted in favour of the part 8 and it is progressing to detailed design and construction.

Affordable Housing Fund (AHF)

Toppins Field Lands

The integrated Design Team, led by Allies and Morrison / Cullen Payne Architects, have established that any scheme on the site will need to move to the higher level of subsidy under the Affordable Housing Fund to achieve the affordability targets.

Curragower Lands

The Housing Agency and Limerick City and County Council's Affordable Housing Team have received completed tender returns for Building Services Engineering, Traffic Consultancy, Landscape Design and EIA/AA (Environmental Impact Assessment/Appropriate Assessment) screening consultancy.

Sonnys Lands

Latest viability modelling to reflect increases in building costs and increases in borrowing interest rates have now shown that a higher level of subsidy is necessary under the Affordable Housing Fund to make cost rental homes viable at this wonderful city centre location. The Department of [Housing, Local Government and Heritage](#) has advised that the extra funding needed is being made available.

Guinness Lands

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in relation to the Guinness site at Carey's Road, work is ongoing with the Land Development Agency on the Land Acquisition Strategy for the area.

Finance

- Applications for funding totaling €2,330,207 issued to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Local Authority Maintenance

Local Authority Houses: Maintenance Complaints dealt with during October

Housing Maintenance Cases - October	Requests/ Cases Created	Cases Dealt With/ Closed	Balance of Open Cases at 31.10.2022
Metropolitan District of Limerick	933	710	1,255
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	120	346	155
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	141	121	213
Municipal District of Newcastle West	137	128	516
Total	1,331	1,305	2,139

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Grants Inspections

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	4	0	6	10
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	16	0	12	28
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	22	0	15	37
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	9	1	4	14
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	51	1	37	89

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	1	0	0	1
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	3	1	9	13
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	10	0	9	19
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	0	2	0	2
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	14	3	18	35

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

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	0	2
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	4	0	1	5
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	13	0	7	20
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	4	1	0	5
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	23	1	8	32

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	3	0	3	6
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	4	0	2	6
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	11	0	10	21
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	8	0	0	8
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	26	0	15	41

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HOUSE INSPECTIONS UNIT

Houses Inspected for Refurbishment Works and Letting - October - Categories	Number of Properties
Cat 1 - minor repairs needed	3
Cat 2 - moderate repairs needed	6
Cat 3 - substantial repairs needed	1
Cat 4 - major repairs required.	0
TOTAL INSPECTIONS	10

3. Strategy & Non-Local Authority Housing Construction

1. BUILD, BUY AND LEASE

Buy/Build/Lease as of 31 October is as follows:

As at 31 October (01.01.2022 - 31.10.2022)	Complete	In Progress	Overall Complete and In Progress	"Housing for All" 2022 Delivery Target
Build	157	205	362	565
Buy	25	21	46	0
Lease	31	19	50	21
TOTAL	213	245	458	

2. CURRENT OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

Finance

- Claims totalling €6,631,908 were sent to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in October.

- Claims totalling €5,737,144 were paid by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in October.

Project Approvals and Submissions

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

Scheme	Project Details	District
Mortgage to Rent (MTR)	Approval for the acquisition by Home for Life of one unit at Castleconnell, Co. Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Mortgage to Rent (MTR)	Approval for the acquisition by Home for Life of one unit at Knocklong, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock
Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP)	Approval for the refurbishment of one unit at Foynes, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Stage 1 Approval for the Construction of 18 units at Bruree, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Stage 1 and 2 Approval for the Construction of 23 units at Doon, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Dooradoyle, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick

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

Scheme	Project Details	District
Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP)	Submission for the acquisition of one unit at 2/3 Rutland Street, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP)	Submission for the acquisition of one unit at Rhebogoue, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Buy and Renew Acquisition	Submission for the acquisition of one unit at Corbally, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Buy and Renew Acquisition	Submission for the acquisition of one unit at Prospect, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Part V	Submission for the acquisition of one unit at Rhebogoue, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Stage 4 Construction Submission for 12 units at Mallow Street, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick

3. UPDATES

Conferences and Workshops

Staff attended an online presentation hosted by the Local Government Management Agency on Multi-Unit Developments and Owners' Management Companies.

MUD is the Multi-Unit Developments Act which regulates the ownership and management of the common areas of multi-unit developments.

OMCs are Owners' Management Companies - they are responsible for the ownership and management of estate

common areas, for example entrance halls, stairways, gardens and car parks.

National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards Evening

The Age Friendly Cities and Counties Programme is part of a worldwide, World Health Organisation (WHO) inspired movement which embraces the challenges and opportunities that our ageing population presents by facilitating local authorities to take the lead on changing thinking about ageing, and how services are planned and delivered.

Each year, a local authority hosts the awards. Clare County Council hosted the National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards for 2022 on 27 October in Dromoland Castle, Co. Clare.

Limerick City and County Council submitted the private 'rightsizing' scheme at Mungret Gate which allows private households older than 55, who find their dwellings too large, to request the Council to purchase their private home in return for a life-long tenancy in a managed Older Persons' Scheme. The scheme is entirely voluntary and helps people transfer to a smaller home whilst releasing larger three-four bedroom properties that are in high demand for families on the Housing Waiting List.

Delivering more age-friendly housing, and planning to ensure the right housing options and supports are in place as our population ages, reduces the likelihood of people entering into nursing homes/care facilities.

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4. Municipal District Offices

Metropolitan District of Limerick

Metropolitan District Meetings

October Monthly Meeting

The Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick took place on 24 October.

Special Briefings

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

- N69 Mungret and Boland's Road Safety Improvement Scheme;
- Proposed Property Disposals;
- Draft Budgetary Plan.

Operational Area Briefings

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

Upgrade/Refurbishment Works

- Description of project – Nelson's Cross Traffic Calming;
- Location – Nelsons Cross, Castleconnell;
- Cost of project - €50,000;
- Contractor – Multi Contractor, including Direct Labour.
- Description of project – Skeehan's Cross Footpath Construction;
- Location – Skeehan's Cross, Castleconnell;
- Cost of project - €26,000;
- Contractor – Direct Labour.
- Description of project – Groody Road Reconstruction;
- Location – Groody Road;
- Cost of project - €235,875;
- Contractor – Roadstone Ltd.

- Description of project – Former National Road - R445 Pavement Rehabilitation;
- Location – Old Dublin Rd, Carrowkeel (Finnegan's);
- Cost of project - €500,000;
- Contractor – Roadstone Ltd.

- Description of project – Colbert Avenue Drainage;
- Location – Colbert Avenue, Janesboro;
- Cost of project - €90,000;
- Contractor – Maramba Road Services Ltd.

- Description of project – Granville Footpath Works;
- Location – Granville, Garryowen;
- Cost of project - €15,000;
- Contractor – Direct Labour.

- Description of project – Lynwood Footpath Works;
- Location – Lynwood, Garryowen;
- Cost of project - €50,000;
- Contractor – Maramba Road Services Ltd.

- Description of project – Lisnagry National School Active Travel Works;
- Location – Lisnagry;
- Cost of project - €135,000;
- Contractor – Neville Civil Engineering Ltd.

- Description of project – Rosbrien Road Restoration Improvement Scheme;
- Location – Rosbrien;
- Cost of project - €160,000;
- Contractor – Roadstone Ltd.

- Description of project – Lord Edward Street Restoration Improvement Scheme;
- Location – Lord Edward Street;
- Cost of project - €170,000;
- Contractor – Roadstone Ltd.

- Description of project – Lanahrone Avenue Restoration Improvement Scheme;
- Location – Corbally;
- Cost of project - €135,000;
- Contractor – Roadstone Ltd.

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- Description of project – Clancy Strand Restoration Improvement Scheme;
- Location – Clancy Strand;
- Cost of project - €300,000;
- Contractor – Roadstone Ltd.
- Description of project – Avondale Drive / Coolraine Estate;
- Location – Greystones;
- Cost of project - €145,000;
- Contractor – Roadstone Ltd.
- Description of project - Childers Road Retail Park Traffic Signals Upgrade;
- Location - Childers Road;
- Cost of project - €10,000;
- Contractor - Traffic Solutions.
- Description of project - Hassett's Cross Traffic Signals Upgrade;
- Location - Ballynanty;
- Cost of project - €6,000;
- Contractor-Traffic Solutions.
- Description of project – Oakview Drive;
- Location – Ballincurra;
- Cost of project - €11,000;
- Contractor – Direct Labour.
- Description of project – Traffic Calming Cill Chaoide;
- Location – Clarina;
- Cost of project - €11,000;
- Contractor – Maramba.
- Description of project – Road Surfacing Mounteen Mungret- Local Improvement Scheme;
- Location – Mungret;
- Cost of project - €44,910;
- Contractor – Tallybrook.
- Description of project – Road Surfacing Cloughkeating, Patrickswell – Local Improvement Scheme;
- Location – Patrickswell;
- Cost of project - €44,910;
- Contractor – Tallybrook.
- Description of project – Widen and Upgrade Cycle Way Clare Street to University of Limerick Boat Club - Active Travel Scheme;
- Location – Canal Bank;
- Cost of project - €400,000;
- Contractor – Maramba.
- Description of project – Farranshone Footpaths Upgrade - Active Travel Scheme;
- Location – Farranshone;
- Cost of project - €120,000;
- Contractor – Maramba.
- Description of project – New Street Footpaths Upgrade - Active Travel Scheme;
- Location – New Street;
- Cost of project - €100,000;
- Contractor – Sorenson.
- Description of project – Ted Russell Park / Condell Road Footpath / Lighting Scheme - Active Travel Scheme;
- Location – Caherdavin / North Circular Road;
- Cost of project - €200,000;
- Contractor – Tallybrook.
- Description of project – Lower Park to Rhebogue New Footpaths - Active Travel Scheme;
- Location – Rhebogue;
- Cost of project - €500,000;
- Contractor – Neville Civil Engineering Ltd.
- Description of project – Hunt Museum Permeability Scheme - Active Travel Scheme;
- Location – Hunt Museum;
- Cost of project - €40,000;
- Contractor – Shareridge Civil Engineering Ltd.
- Description of project – Childers Road Railway Bridge Street Art;
- Location – Childers Road;
- Cost of project - €50,000;
- Contractor – Tallybrook / Street Art Inc.

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Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

- The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale took place on 18 October in Áras Seán Finn, 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.
 - 74 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

• Active Travel

Works finalised at Cappagh and Banogue.

• Hedge Cutting Limerick National Roads

Hedge cutting works carried out on the N21, N20 and N69.

• Community Involvement Schemes

Community Involvement Schemes completed at Killaheen, Rathkeale, Liskilly, Patrickswell, Corrig and Foynes.

• Local Improvement Schemes

Local Improvement Schemes completed at Milltown, Croagh, Ballynacarriga, Kildimo, Castlequarter, Fedamore.

• Overlay Macadam Works

Overlay Macadam works completed at Station Road, Adare.

Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

Meetings

The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock was held in Deebert House Hotel, Kilmallock, on 20 October.

The Quarterly Joint Policing Sub-Committee Meeting was also held on 20 October, as was a Workshop on the Draft Budgetary Plan 2023 for the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock.

Housing and Road Maintenance

- 120 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
- 115 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

Housing Grants

Two Private Housing Grants were paid totalling €5,225 and eight were approved. 14 initial inspections were undertaken, three re-inspections and 18 final inspections.

In relation to Disabled Persons Grants, two projects were paid.

Municipal District of Newcastle West

- The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West took place on 12 October in Áras William Smith OBrien, Newcastle West.
- The Draft Budgetary Plan Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West took place on 26 October in Áras William Smith OBrien, Newcastle West.
- 15 grant applications were approved under the Private Housing Grant Schemes during the month. The total value of approvals was €72,847.43.
- Payments of €20,942.75 were made to five applicants who completed works under the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.

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- Payments of €10,775.00 were made to two applicants who completed works under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme.
- Payments of €2,300.00 were made to one applicant who completed works under the Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme.
- During the month, the Motor Tax Section at the Newcastle West Office processed 1,068 routine transactions.



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Planning, Environment & Place-Making Directorate

1. Place-Making and Public Realm

Project Updates

Public Realm

- **Urban Regeneration 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.
- A Request for Tenders has been published for a multi-disciplinary team to prepare the Arthur's Quay Area Framework Plan.

- **Wayfinding Strategy** - Part 8 Planning process in preparation.

- **Decluttering Project** - Survey tender documents in preparation.

- **Adare Public Realm Strategy** - Finalised plan under review in light of recent developments in relation to the Adare By-Pass and recent confirmation from Irish Rail that it is proceeding with the implementation of a freight line project (of which Adare railway line constitutes a part).

- **Honan's Quay Meanwhile Use - Mural** - Enabling works on University of Limerick City Campus facades are complete, as is Phase One of Three of the Mural on the Western façade.

- **Limerick Public Realm Strategy** - Stage 1 of the Limerick Public Realm Strategy has commenced with Consultants, LUC. A Steering Group of key Limerick City and County Council representatives has been formed and will meet at regular intervals to guide the draft work as the project evolves.

- **King's Island** - An occupancy review of Nicholas Street, in collaboration with Regeneration, is now complete and will inform the strategy for the overall area moving forward.

- **Greening Limerick - Mobile Forest** - Part of the mobile forest was temporarily relocated to University Hospital Limerick (UHL) as part of a "Reimagine Place" project funded by the Irish Architecture Foundation. The mobile forest was moved to the Health and Wellbeing Centre in UHL in order to run a pilot programme that offered up a relaxing space for hospital personnel. A version of the mobile forest intervention will hopefully be realised on a more permanent basis in UHL in the future.

Capital Projects

- **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 SEAI feedback is now awaited on the Stage 2 Application.

- **Urban Regeneration and Development Fund - URDFLim005 Strand 1 Living Georgian City - Housing Demonstration Project** - a redesign of Housing Demonstration Projects at O'Connell Street site and Thomas Street site is completed. A pre-planning meeting with the Area Planner has been held. Internal consultation is ongoing. The Integrated Design Team is preparing revised package for Part 8 Planning Application.

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- **O'Connell Street Revitalisation Project** - Works are nearing completion between Patrick Street and William Street Junctions and between Shannon Street and Lower Cecil Street. Works are underway to Sarsfield Street Junction and Cecil Street Junction.

Archaeology

Burial Grounds

- Community Monument funded works continued at Ballynoe Tower House, Bruree.
- Limerick City and County Council, with match funding from the Heritage Council's Stewardship Fund, carried out advance works at Galbally Graveyard. The vegetation was cut back to enable a measured survey which will allow a condition survey of the structure.
- The Community Monuments Fund also enabled a non-invasive survey on the Hill in Kilmallock.
- The next phase of the works to the City Wall in Johnsgate commenced. The works were financed by the Irish Walled Towns Networks Capital Fund, under the auspices of the Heritage Council.

2. Planning Development

Planning Applications

A total of 88 new planning applications were received as follows:

Category	Amount
Part 8	1
Housing Developments	1
Domestic Developments	55
Agricultural Developments	13
Commercial Developments/ Change of Use	8
Sporting/ Community and Educational Developments	3
Other Developments	7

The current applications include proposals for:

- Construction of 54 residential units, installation of all necessary and associated site works to include: vehicular and pedestrian connections onto Old Cratloe Road (L3102), roadways, footpaths, green spaces, landscaping and boundary treatments, together with all associated drainage connection works and all ancillary site works. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) accompanies this application in the townland of Clonconane, Limerick.
- Demolition of an existing two-storey retail building and road boundary walls and the construction of a five-storey mixed use development in one block with part ground floor commercial consisting of two retail units and the upper floors to consist of a Build to Rent (BTR) residential development with a total of 30 apartments, bicycle parking area, ESB sub-station, ancillary utility/ services rooms, bin storage area, public lighting, car parking, connections to utilities and all associated

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engineering and site works necessary to facilitate the proposed development at Saint Nesson's Road, Dooradoyle.

3. Environment, Recreation & Climate Change

Cemeteries

Number of Burials in City Cemeteries

Mount St. Lawrence	12
Mount St. Oliver	8
Castlemungret	13
Kilmurry	4

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

During the month -

- 225 complaints were received.
- A total of 116 inspections were undertaken.
- 26 Warnings were issued.
- Two Notices were issued.
- Two Directions were served by the Department.
- Four Prosecutions was initiated.
- Ten fines were issued.

4. Urban Innovation

Limerick Symposium

The Urban Innovation Department, together with the University of Limerick and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, held a learning exchange symposium in Limerick's Citizen Innovation Lab on 13 October. The [Citizen Innovation Lab](#), established through the Horizon 2020 +CityxChange project, embodies the

New European Bauhaus (NEB) [values](#) of sustainability, beauty and inclusion. As the national contact point for the New European Bauhaus policy initiative, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage supported this symposium to amplify the Citizen Innovation Lab approach.

The Symposium focused on three themes:

- *New European Bauhaus* – “It’s not just that we decarbonise that is important, how we do it is important too.” The New European Bauhaus (NEB) policy aims to connect plans to become climate-neutral to people’s living spaces and day-to-day lives. This panel presented some perspectives and projects relevant to the New European Bauhaus in Ireland.
- *+CityxChange* – A Limerick story of the climate-neutral transition. The Positive City Exchange (+CityxChange) project explores the development of a structured approach to decarbonising cities. Members of the +CityxChange Implementation Team presented infrastructural demonstrators, insights and learning from +CityxChange implementation in Limerick to date.
- *City Collaboration and The Climate Neutral Cities Mission in Ireland*. This panel explored perspectives on city collaboration in the transition to climate-neutrality. Contributors included Thomas Osdoba who leads the [Net Zero Cities](#) Consortium – coordinator of the EU [Cities Mission](#) Platform – and Julio Lumbreras of Spain’s CitiES2030, Spain’s National Cities Mission Platform.

The symposium was opened by the Director of Planning, Environment and Place-Making, Limerick City and County Council, with keynote addresses from Member of the European Parliament, Ciarán Cuffe, European Parliament Rapporteur for the revision to the Energy Performance in Buildings Directive, and Borislava Woodford, New European Bauhaus Policy Analyst, Joint Research Centre, European Commission. The Symposium was closed by the President of the University of Limerick, Kerstin Mey, who highlighted the importance of collaboration between the Council and the University and public participation in the transition to climate neutrality.

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Decarbonising Together

This month saw two wrap-up events held for Decarbonising Together:

- Limerick Civic Trust and Cracking Light Productions held plantings in a number of Orchards across Limerick, including planting 21 heritage apple trees, all native Irish varieties and most from Limerick, with the help of Seed Savers in their Orchard on King's Island. This is the first of many that Limerick Civic Trust will be planting as part of their Urban Orchard Project to help build biodiversity, food security and cultural heritage in Limerick City.
- Garryowen Community Development Project, in conjunction with Garryowen Residents' Association and Creative Partners Veronica Santorum and Daniel Clancy, held, an inter-generational gathering as young and old met to consider climate action in Garryowen on 26 October in St. John's Brass and Reed Band Hall. St. Patrick's National School and St. Bridget's National School Green Schools' Committees took part, helping to work together towards an energy efficient community for the future. The event showcased the work done by this collaboration over the past few months, including community walks that helped spark the conversation on decarbonising and protecting future generations.

5. Veterinary Services

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

6. Limerick Sports Partnership

Limerick Sports Partnership (LSP) secured €280,000 in 2022 Dormant Account Funding supporting Sport, Physical Activity and Education.

This Funding is broken down as follows:

Active Cities Phase 3 Funds	€145,000
Moyross Community Sports Hub Phase 2 funds	€40,000
Garryowen Community Sports Hub Phase 4 funds	€20,000
Inclusion Equipment for Cycling and Vision Sports	€28,000
Transition Year VIP Leadership Programme	€15,000
Volunteer Supports	€20,000
Get Girls Active	€12,000

The LSP has a suite of Physical Activity Programmes in-person across the City and County. Programmes include:

- Men on the Move
- Women in Sport
- Youth Leadership
- Cool Movers and Inclusion Club
- Engaging Youths from Disadvantaged Communities
- Community Leadership Education courses
- Older Adult Good2Go Hubs at eight sites
- The LSP is delivering a suite of opportunities for Ukrainian and Migrant communities.
- Community Sports Hub Activities in Garryowen and Moyross are engaging numbers across all target groups. Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programmes are ongoing in CHN8 (HSE Community Health Network No. 8).
- For more information on programmes and activities, visit www.limericksports.ie

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National and Regional Shared Services Centre Directorate

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

- There were 59,513 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAP SSC at the end of October.
- A weekly average of 171 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2022.
- The October landlord payment run was €55.7 million.
- The weekly tenant charge at the end of October was €3.1 million.
- The Debt Management Unit of the HAP SSC collected a total of €131.8 million in differential rent to end of October.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of October was 98%.
- The Debt Management Unit issued 6,536 HAP debt reminder letters in October.

2. Fire and Emergency

Statistics

	No of Fire Related Calls	No of Non-Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call-outs 01.10.2022 – 31.10.2022	50	65	115
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	70%	46%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	24%	30%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	6%	24%	

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	No. received / assigned	No. validated	No. invalidated / refused	No. granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications October	17	15	1	4	4
Disability Access Cert Applications October	13	11	2	11	11
Licensing Applications October	7	7	0		1
Commencement Notice October	40	40	2	N/A	N/A
Completion Certificate October	14	14	0	N/A	N/A
Planning Referrals October	17	12	0	N/A	N/A
Sugar CRM (customer relationship management) Cases October	3	3	N/A	N/A	N/A

Fire and Emergency Training Events

During the month, the following training courses took place:

- Six staff completed a Cardiac First Responder Advanced course.
- Eight staff completed a six-day Emergency First Responder Initial course.
- Eight staff completed a one-day Agricultural Emergency Rescue Course run by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) in Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.
- Three Officers instructed for the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) on three separate Officer training courses in Bray, Co. Wicklow.
- 32 staff completed three separate two-day Emergency First Responder Refresher courses.
- One Sub-Station Officer completed a one-week Module 2 training course in Bray run by the NDFEM.
- One Officer completed a one-day ESB safety awareness training course in the ESB training facility in Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

Civil Defence attendance at Events

The following activity took place in October:

- Medical cover at the "3 for 3 Breast Cancer Awareness Walk," Limerick City - 1 day.
- Patient Transfer – Limerick residence to St. Camillus' Hospital and return to residence - 3 days.
- Annual Training Camp – Carlingford, Co. Louth – 1 day.
- Mayoral Reception for Limerick Civil Defence - 1 day.

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- National Radiation Monitoring Exercise in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency – grass and soil samples collected in Ferrybridge and Abington, Co. Limerick - 1 day.
- Ukraine Displaced Person Request – transfer of equipment from Annacotty to Mungret – 1 day.
- Medical cover for the “Samhain: Limerick’s Halloween Festival 2022,” commencing at the Potato Market and finishing at Nicholas Street via Clancy Strand, Limerick - 1 day.

Major Emergency Management

- Information Management Officer training (four staff).
- On-Site Coordination Centre Training (three staff) attended by Limerick City and County Council personnel.

Water Safety

No. of lifebuoy replacements	Total January-September	October	Total 2022
Metropolitan District	15	1	16
Municipal District	10	0	10



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Support Services Directorate

1. Finance

Commercial Rates and Loans

Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2022	
As at 31st October 2022	
Opening Balance - 1 Jan €	8,732,896
Accruals €	58,976,566 **
Vacant Property Adjustment €	746,290
Writes offs/ Waivers €	3,505,778
Total for Collection €	63,457,394
Amount Collected €	51,175,367
Arrears €	12,282,027
Specific Doubtful Arrears €	2,342,308
% Collected	84%

** 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 October 2022	
Opening Balance - 1 Jan €	310,319
Accruals €	1,377,834 ^
Writes offs €	-
To Collect €	1,688,153
Receipts €	1,540,587
Arrears €	147,566
% Collected	91%

^ Accruals not updated for loans for September & October 2022

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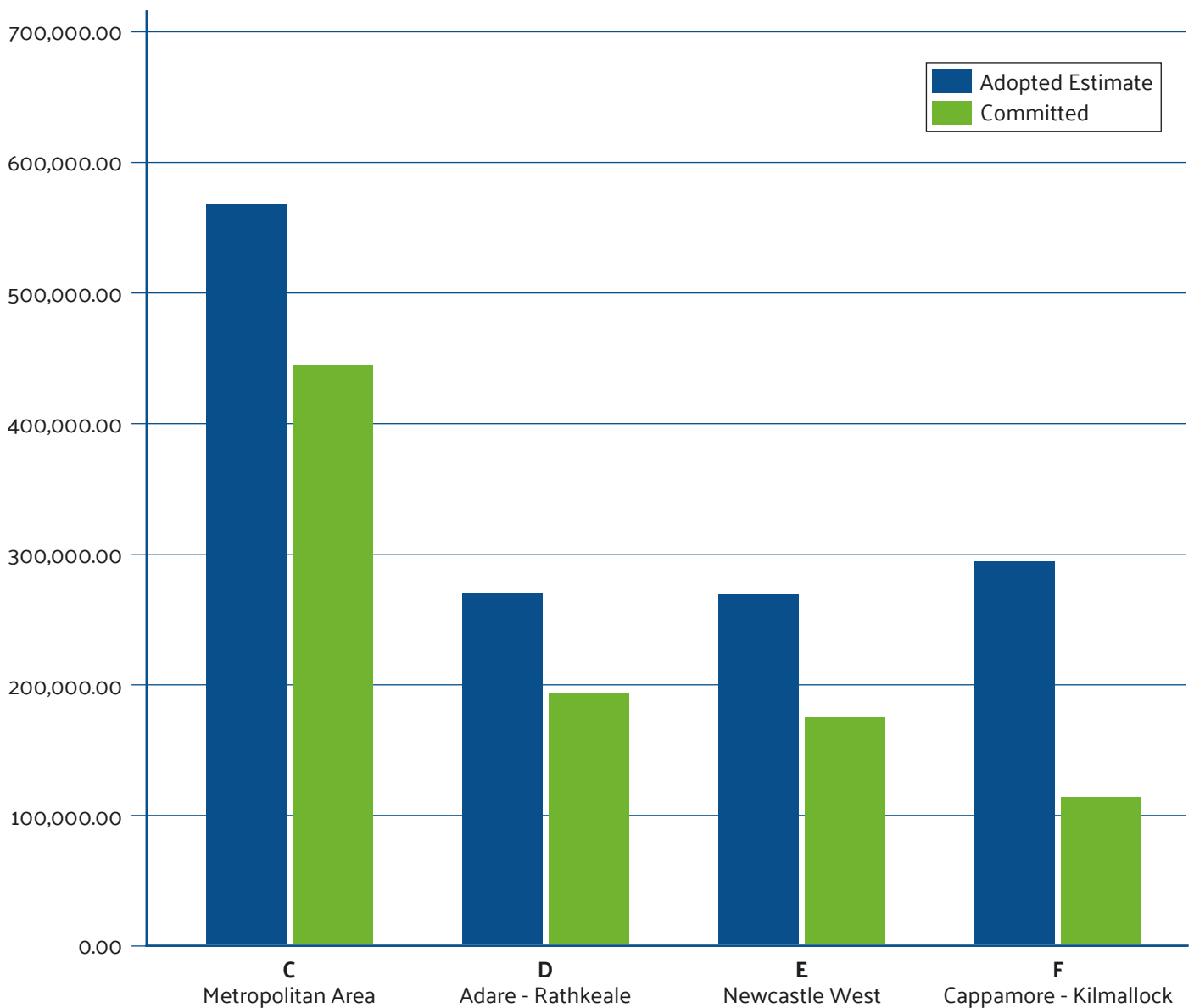


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General Municipal Allocation 2022 Adopted Estimate €1.403 Million

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



Municip (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate (€)	Value Committed (€)
C Metropolitan Area	568,000.00	446,094
D Adare - Rathkeale	270,000.00	192,132
E Newcastle West	270,000.00	175,023
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	295,000.00	115,319

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2. Business Improvement

- Business Improvement launched three new digitised online forms – the “Work Sharing” application form, the “Travel Outside The Country” form and the “Innovative Ideas” form.
- Business Improvement ran a number of events to mark Public Sector Innovation Week.
- A total of 923 active users are now live on the Employee App.
- Services on Service Catalogue = 701.
- There are 317 capital projects now managed through Cora, our cloud-based project management system. Project Managers and Sponsors can now request job codes, budget adjustments, reports and a digitised audit trail through an automated workflow.

3. Corporate, Governance and Customer Services

Office of the Mayor

Mayoral Reception was held for the following:

- Limerick Civil Defence in recognition of their achievement in assisting during COVID-19 and the ongoing Ukrainian Crisis.

The Mayor hosted the following in Corporate Headquarters:

- The Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development, Joe O'Brien, T.D.
- Visiting Jewish Heritage Travel Group from America who were travelling to Ireland to explore the Jewish Heritage of Ireland.
- Courtesy Visit of the Cuban Ambassador to Ireland.

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

- The Mid-Western Cancer Foundation Butterfly Charity Ball.
Venue: Radisson Blu Hotel and Spa, Limerick.
- Online participation at the 4th Urban Economy Forum (UEF4) in Toronto, Canada. Theme: Innovative Solutions for Housing and Sustainable Urban Development. Topic: Promoting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Cities through national and regional urban finance leaders.
- Launch of the UL50 Exhibition ‘50 years of ‘Pioneering Women’ at the University of Limerick: Past and Present.’
Venue: Glucksman Library, University of Limerick, Castletroy, Limerick.
- Official Opening of Éigse Michael Hartnett Literary and Arts Festival.
Venue: Áras William Smith O'Brien, Council Offices, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.
- Official Opening of Coláiste Chiaráin Community College, New School Campus, by the Minister for Education, Norma Foley, T.D.
Venue: Coláiste Chiaráin Community College, Skagh, Croom, Co. Limerick.
- Richard Harris International Film Festival and The Global Irish Festival Series, An evening of music from the films of Richard Harris with the RTE National Concert Orchestra.
Venue: University Concert Hall, Castletroy, Limerick
- Z Space Contemporary Health Centre, a mindful walk supporting mental health awareness for Mental Health Awareness Week in Limerick, A ‘Walk Your Mind Happy’ Mental Health Initiative.
Venue: Commence at Nicholas Street, Limerick.

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- Launch of MyMove Counselling Service for Limerick, Tipperary and Laois.
Venue: 4, Pery Square, Limerick and the People's Park, Pery Square, Limerick.
- Invitation from University of Limerick, Reception to remember and mark the contribution of all who campaigned for the establishment of a University in Limerick.
Venue: Glucksman Library, University of Limerick, Limerick.
- Villiers School, Annual Prize Day.
Venue: Villiers School, North Circular Road, Limerick.
- Grow Mental Health, Midwest Region, Open Afternoon, to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the opening of the J.P. McManus premises.
Venue: 33, Henry Street, Limerick.
- Breaking of ground for the 96 Bed Block at University Hospital Limerick by the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly, T.D.
- Launch of the 2022 Limerick Gift Card for Limerick Chamber to urge shoppers to visit Limerick's towns and villages to do their Christmas shopping.
Venue: Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.
- United Rugby Championship Munster v Vodacom Bulls.
Venue: Thomond Park, Limerick.
- Irish Chamber Orchestra, Classical Concert Performance of Fennessy, Haydn and Dvořák.
Venue: University Concert Hall, Castletroy, Limerick.
- College Players Theatre Company, Press Launch for production of 'Pigtown' by playwright, Mike Finn.
Venue: JJ Bowles, Thomondgate, Limerick.
- Photoshoot to publicise the publication by Limerick City and County Library Service, as part of Limerick City and County Council's Decade of Centenaries programme for 2022, of *'The Inevitable Conflict: Essays on the Civil War in County Limerick.'*
Venue: Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- AGM for Comhairle na nÓg.
Venue: Istabraq Hall, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- West Limerick Resources, celebration for the conclusion of 'Cooperating to Succeed' Programme, Social Enterprise Development Initiative.
Venue: Longcourt House Hotel, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.
- American Chamber of Commerce Ireland, Mid-West Region, Dinner with the US Ambassador to Ireland, Claire D. Cronin.
Venue: Adare Manor, Adare, Co. Limerick.
- Visit to the Regeneration Areas of Moyross, Southill and St. Mary's Park.
- Limerick Panto Society, Press Launch for Panto Cinderella.
Venue: Limerick City Centre Hotel, Mallow Street, Limerick.
- St. Michael's Rowing Club victory dinner dance to celebrate the achievements of all their athletes over the past year.
Venue: The Strand Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick.
- Launch of Active Travel Week for Crescent College Comprehensive SJ.
- The Cecilian Musical Society, Press Launch for Oklahoma!
Venue: South's Bar, 4 Quinlan Street, Limerick.
- Opening Night of the World Premiere of Red Army.
Venue: Lime Tree Theatre, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick.
- Limerick Going for Gold Grand Final.
Venue: Limerick Strand Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick.
- University of Limerick, Physical Education and Sport

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- Science Department, Official Launch of the Sport and Human Performance Research Centre (SHPRC).
Venue: University of Limerick, Castletroy, Limerick.
 - Limerick Irish Algerian Friendship Group (LIAF), Launch of the Algerian Oak Forest at the University of Limerick, tree-planting ceremony.
Venue: University of Limerick, Castletroy, Limerick.
 - Launch of the Three Muses Joint Educational Programme: Clay Through the Ages.
Venue: The Hunt Museum, Limerick.
 - Mary Immaculate College, MIC conferring of Academic Awards.
Venue: Mary Immaculate College, South Circular Road, Limerick.
 - Opera Workshop production 'Twisted Tales.'
Venue: The Coach House, No. 2, Pery Square, Limerick.
 - The National Age Friendly Achievement Awards Ceremony 2022.
Venue: Dromoland Castle, Co. Clare.
 - Reception for delegation from the International Association of Dance Medicine and Science, International Conference.
Venue: Limerick City and County Council, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
 - Official Opening of the Kingdom of Kerry Greenway, Listowel to Abbeyfeale project, by the Minister of State for Transport, Hildegard Naughton, T.D.
 - Launch of NOVAS' 2021 Annual Report and Strategic Plan 2023-2027.
Venue: Savoy Hotel, Limerick.
 - Opening of the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Autumn School.
Venue: Thomas Fitzgerald Centre, Bruff, Co. Limerick.
 - United Rugby Championship Munster v Ulster.
Venue: Thomond Park, Limerick.
 - Invitation from Limerick County GAA Board to celebrate the achievements of the 1997 National Hurling League Winners 25 Years On.
Venue: Limerick Strand Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick.
 - Bon Secours Hospital, Limerick County Senior Hurling Championship Final.
Venue: TUS Gaelic Grounds, Ennis Road, Limerick.
 - Richard Harris International Film Festival, Red Carpet Gala Awards Evening.
Venue: Thomond Park Events and Conferencing Facility, Limerick.
- ### Bloomberg CityLab 2022
- Attendance at the Bloomberg CityLab Summit 2022 from 09 to 11 October in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Bloomberg CityLab is a global cities summit organised by Bloomberg Philanthropies in partnership with the Aspen Institute.
- ### Register of Electors
- A New Rolling Register came in to force on 13 October to incorporate the newly enacted legislation as part of the Electoral Reform Bill, 2022, which commenced on 13 October 2022. The rolling register replaces the previous draft and live registers and will be continuously updated.
 - In addition, from 13 October, 2022, online registration is available through www.checktheregister.ie and this can be accessed in order to register for the first time and/or update personal details. Members of the public have engaged with the new system submitting their information through www.checktheregister.ie and staff are updating this information.
 - Staff from the Register of Electors Team participated in an update given by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage reviewing the updated system.

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- 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 October – 38; total number of deletions – 24; and total number of modifications - 23.
- 22 new application forms were forwarded to electors to replace incorrect forms submitted.

Health and Safety Training

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

Course Name	Numbers Trained
Safe Pass	26
Drivers Certificate of Professional Competence	8
Manual Handling	66
Dealing with Aggression and Violence in Workplace Online	10
Basic First Aid Training	6
First Aid Response Refresher Training	2
Working at Heights	11
Construction Skills Certification Scheme: Signing, Lighting and Guarding at Roadworks	4
Abrasive Wheels	27
Basic Tractor Training	1
Hedge and Grass Verge Cutting	1
Fire Warden Training	41
Total Staff Trained	203

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 October:

- Approved requisitions account for 85% of the total requisitions actioned for this given month.
- Rejected requisitions account for 15% of the total requisitions actioned for this given month.

Month	Approved	Rejected	Total Requisitions Actioned
October	1,389	252	1,641

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

Rejection Reason	October
Memo – Requisition not raised in advance	104
Procurement Reference omitted/incorrect	44
Documentation uploaded not relevant to Requisition/nothing uploaded	29
Quotes - omitted/incorrect copy provided	23
Approved Officer's Order – omitted/incorrect copy provided.	19

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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 October:

New Procurement References set up	31
Procurement References extended as per signed contract/arrangement	6

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 October

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Full Council		
Special Meeting to fill casual vacancy on the Council consequent on the passing of Councillor Jerry O'Dea, RIP.	21.10.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Special Meeting to discuss proposed Land Tax and related issues.	21.10.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Operational Briefings		
Limerick City East	04.10.2022	Online
Limerick City North	04.10.2022	Online
Limerick City West	05.10.2022	Online
Municipal District of		
Newcastle West		
Monthly Meeting	12.10.2022	Newcastle West
Joint Policing Sub-Committee Meeting	12.10.2022	Newcastle West
Draft Budgetary Plan 2023 Meeting	26.10.2022	Newcastle West and Online
Adare-Rathkeale		
Monthly Meeting	19.10.2022	Rathkeale
Special Meeting	19.10.2022	Rathkeale
Cappamore-Killmallock		
Monthly Meeting	20.10.2022	Killmallock
Joint Policing Sub-Committee Meeting	20.10.2022	Killmallock
Metropolitan District of Limerick		
Monthly Meeting	24.10.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Strategic Policy Committee Meetings		
Community, Leisure and Culture	03.10.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning	10.10.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment	18.10.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Home and Social Development	19.10.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Travel and Transportation	25.10.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Housing Action Plan Monitoring Group		
Inaugural Meeting	04.10.2022	Merchant's Quay
Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)	11.10.2022	Dooradoyle
Home and Social Development Working Group on Vacancy	12.10.2022	Dooradoyle
Corporate Policy Group	17.10.2022	Online
Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	21.10.2022	Dooradoyle
Audit and Risk Committee		
Meeting	03.10.2022	Merchant's Quay and Online
Meeting	11.10.2022	Merchant's Quay and Online

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Access to Information

	October	2022 (January to October)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	20	186
Freedom of Information Internal Appeals	0	11
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	8
Total Ombudsman Requests	4	50
Total Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) Requests	1	15
AIE Internal Appeals		1
Appeals to OEIC (Office of Environmental Information Commissioner)	1	1

Customer Services

Customer Services aided the Housing Support Services Team staff while they carried out their annual Summary Social Housing Assessment (SSHA) by fielding calls, answering general queries and accepting application forms.

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

The following figures highlight the activity within the Contact Centre:

- Customer Services Call Centre answered 10,102 calls. This represents an average of 505 calls per day, with the number of calls exceeding 550 on several occasions. 53% of calls were handled at first point of contact.
- 3,021 emails were processed through the Customer Services email platform.
- 2,827 cases were created, with 558 of these logged on behalf of Public Representatives. 6,042 cases were closed, with 1,382 of these being cases logged by Public Representatives.
- Of these 2,827 cases, Customer Services staff logged 70%.
- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued, with a total of 187 cases being logged. Of these, 173 were submitted by Public Representatives.
- Customer Services continued to support the Housing Maintenance Department in creating the service requests and keeping citizens up to date on progress made. 94% of housing maintenance cases for the Limerick Metropolitan District were logged by Customer Services staff in the Dooradoyle and Merchant's Quay offices.
- 111 out-of-hours cases being created.
- Customer Services continued to provide other frontline services to the public, such as processing applications for Residential Parking Permits, of which 94 were applied for and 72 issued.
- Customer Services staff welcomed 2,054 customers at both the Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle offices.

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4. Marketing & Communications

Marketing

Halloween in Limerick Promotional Campaign

- Launched a four-week #HalloweenInLimerick social and digital campaign from 10 October.
- Rollout of marketing collateral targeting regional audiences, including campaign-specific graphics, animated social gifs and a [Halloween in Limerick digital event guide](#).
- Dedicated weekly Halloween in Limerick e-newsletter distribution promoting Halloween events, festivals and hotel breaks.
- Continued development of [Limerick.ie/Halloween](#) promoting events, festivals and hotel breaks.

Limerick Student City

- Concluded four-week Limerick Student City marketing campaign, which welcomed new students to Limerick and encouraged them to explore all that Limerick has to offer off-campus.
- The campaign, which used #LimerickStudentCity, employed captivating content, including Instagram Reels, static imagery and campaign-specific graphics to engage our target audience.
- Further campus visits took place at TUS Moylish and Clare Street to meet with students in person and create engagement with Limerick.ie and our social channels via an iPad giveaway.
- Supported University of Limerick, Technological University of the Shannon and Mary Immaculate College social media campaigns marking the Limerick Open Days on 20 and 21 October.

- Campaign topline figures:

- Total Impressions: 505,187.
- Video Views: 122, 028.
- Engagement: 8,733.
- Reach: 377,855.

Other Marketing Activities

- Series of autumnal social media reels and posts produced to promote Autumn in Limerick.
- Request for Tender published to eTenders platform for Strategic and Creative Services.
- Ongoing engagement with Limerick Arts Office, Tourism and Trade and Investment to progress the public relations and marketing campaign for Christmas in Limerick 2022 ahead of the festival launch.
- Communications plan activated ahead of Christmas in Limerick 2022 campaign launch.
- Adare brand guidelines finalised.
- Designs for Brand Limerick creative produced for Opera Site hoarding.
- Marketing and Communications Ryder Cup 2027 Position Paper produced.
- Commenced asset development for 'Limerick - Walk It Run It Love It,' in preparation for campaign launch.
- Created and issued eight Limerick.ie e-newsletters.
- Content provided to the University of Limerick in the creation of a Virtual Tour video.

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- Marketing material and Brand Limerick merchandise provided to:
 - Delegates attending the SAPOE (Society of Aircraft Performance and Operations Engineers) Annual Conference at the University of Limerick on 05 and 06 October.
 - Social media influencers staying at the Clayton Hotel.
 - Mary Immaculate College Open Days.
 - UL Global @ University of Limerick - orientation packs.
 - Rose Kennedy Fitzgerald Autumn School, Bruff.

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 36 times on Limerick.ie's [Facebook](#) with followers now 33,572. Posts reached 524,871 users with 3,487 engagements.
- Tweeted 35 times on Limerick.ie's [Twitter](#), @limerick_ie, with total followers now 21,409. Our tweets earned 192,000 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).
- Posted 13 times on Limerick.ie's [Instagram](#) and created 78 Stories with total followers now 27,226.
- Posted 12 times on Limerick City and County Council's LinkedIn with total followers now 9,670.

Limerick.ie

In October, there were 169,501* unique site visits to Limerick.ie, a 4% decrease on the same period in 2021. (*Fathom Analytics)

The most popular pages on Limerick.ie were:

- www.limerick.ie
- www.limerick.ie/discover/eat-see-do/festivals/halloween
- www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning
- www.limerick.ie/discover/whats-on/theatre-film-dance/scare-factory-0
- www.limerick.ie/discover/whats-on/browse

Content Report: 100 articles and 117 events were added to Limerick.ie in October.

Communications

Issued 18 news releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and researched and wrote 20 speeches for the Office of the Mayor.

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

Tweeted 140 times on Limerick City and County Council's [Twitter](#) account, @limerickcouncil, with total followers now 17,831. Our tweets earned 110K impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).

Provided social media support for the following Departments: Housing (Turnkey Acquisition campaign and the Croí Cónaithe Scheme), Human Resources (School Warden and Local Enterprise Office Business Advisor recruitment), Active Travel, Planning, Environment and Regeneration.

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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 October
No. of call-outs 01.10.2022 – 31.10.2022	950	1,399	103.75	2,349

