



**LIMERICK**

**JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2021**

## **Message from the Chairperson of the Limerick Joint Policing Committee**

I would like to welcome the publication of the Annual Report for 2021. The report details the work of the Committee over the past 12 months and is an important means of communicating and highlighting the role and work of the Committee.

The overarching aim of the Joint Policing Committee is to develop greater consultation, co-operation and synergy on policing and crime issues between An Garda Síochána, Limerick City and County Council and elected local representatives and to facilitate the participation of the community and voluntary sectors in the committee.

As with previous years, the Joint Policing Committee continued to take a strategic approach to its work in addressing local issues collectively and strategically.

JPC Sub Committee structures are in place to cater for the differing needs and focuses of the Metropolitan and Municipal Districts of Limerick.

I want to record my appreciation to An Garda Síochána and Limerick City and County Council as well as Oireachtas Members, those representing the Community and Voluntary Sector for their very valued contributions. My thanks also to each Member of the JPC for their continuing support in fulfilling the role and purpose of the JPC and to Limerick City and County Council for the administration of the Committee.

2021 was a difficult year for everyone due to the Covid 19 pandemic and put a lot of strain on everyone. I would like to pay a special tribute to every member of An Garda Síochána for their hard work, dedication and policing during this very challenging year.

**Councillor Adam Teskey**  
**Chairperson of the Limerick Joint Policing Committee.**

## Functions of the Joint Policing Committee

The Garda Síochána Action (2005) (Section 36) provides for the establishment of a Joint Policing Committee (JPC) in each local authority administrative area. The function of the JPCs is *“to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority’s administrative area”*.

Particular functions are identified in the Joint Policing Committee Guidelines (as revised, 2014) as follows:

- a) Keep under review
  - i. The levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the area (including the patterns and levels of misuse of alcohol and drugs); and
  - ii. The factors underlying and contributing to the levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the area;
- b) Advise the local authority and the Garda Síochána on how they might best perform their functions having regard to the need to do everything feasible to improve the safety and quality of life and to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within the area;
- c) Arrange and host public meetings concerning matters affecting the policy of the local authority’s administrative area;
- d) Establish, in consultation with the local Garda superintendent, as the committee considers necessary within specific neighbourhoods of the area, local policing fora to discuss and make recommendations to the committees concerning matters that it is to keep under review under paragraph (a) or on which it is to advise under paragraph (b), in so far as those matters affect their neighbourhoods; and
- e) Coordinate the activities of local policing fora under paragraph (d) or otherwise.
- f) A local authority shall, in performing its functions, have regard to the importance of taking steps to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within its area of responsibility.

The JPC’s role is to provide input to policing plans and local authority plans and policies for the local authority administrative area. JPCs provide advice and make recommendations to the relevant agencies. The relevant agencies – An Garda Síochána and the local authority - are responsible for resourcing, establishing policy (and bye-laws) and operational matters.

## Meetings of JPC

The JPC met on four occasions during 2021, in March, June, September and December. It was not possible to hold a public meeting in 2021 due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

<b>5<sup>th</sup> March, 2021</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> June, 2021</b>
Regular meeting	Regular Meeting
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> December, 2021</b>
Regular Meeting	Regular Meeting

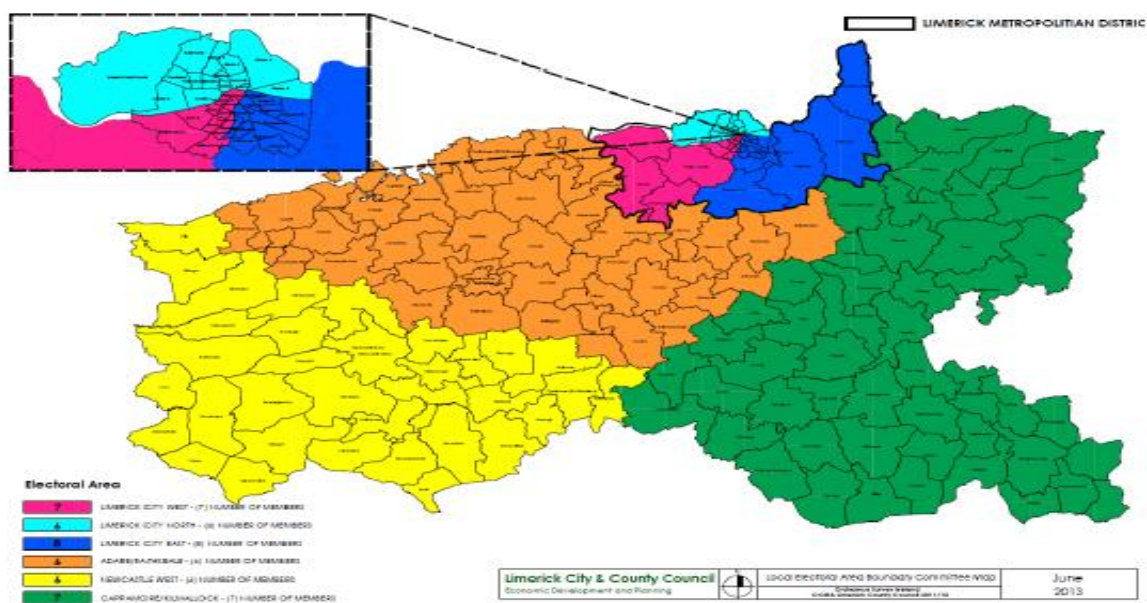
## ITEMS DEALT WITH AT MEETINGS IN 2021

- Overview at each meeting from An Garda Síochana on crime statistics for the following :  
Property Crime;  
Crimes against persons;  
Traffic crimes;  
Assaults;  
Traffic policing;  
Collisions and lifesaver offences;
- Presentation by Inspector B. O’Grady on Control of Horses;
- Update from Inspector Sugrue on addressing anti-social behaviour in Johnsgate Village;
- Approval of JPC Standing Orders 2021;
- Update by Chief Superintendent on ‘Operation Copog’;
- Attendance and address from Assistant Commissioner M. Finn;
- Presentation by Mr. S. Hayes, Limerick City and County Council, on Exclusion Orders;
- Update by Chief Superintendent on Limerick County Beats Initiative 2021;
- Update by Chief Superintendent in relation to policing during Covid;
- Consultation on CCTV Scheme along Canal Bank/Shannon Fields to UL Boathouse Smarter Travel Route;
- Update by Chief Superintendent in relation to opening up of society post covid;
- Presentation by Sergeant M. McCarthy, Divisional Drugs Unit;
- Presentation by Inspector P. Sutton on Road Safety;
- LA 16 Collision Reporting and Evaluation Procedure;
- Briefing by Chief Superintendent on Garda Síochana Older Persons Strategy;

### Limerick City and County Council Administrative Area JPC

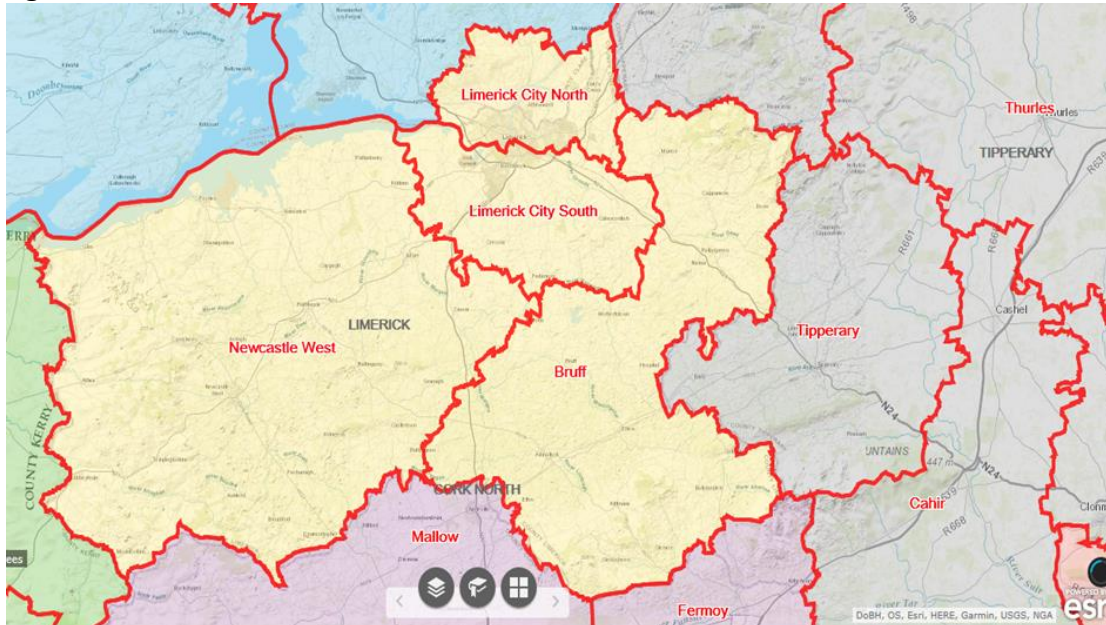
The Limerick JPC has been established for the administrative area of Limerick City and County – See Figure 1 below.

**Figure 1: Limerick Metropolitan (Limerick City West, Limerick City North, Limerick City East) and Municipal Districts - Cappamore-Kilmallock, Adare-Rathkeale and Newcastle West.**



The boundaries of Limerick Garda Division, within the Southern Garda Region, cover the territory of Limerick city and county. Limerick Garda Division extends into the sub-urban areas of the city (e.g., into Clare County) taking in some territory beyond the administrative area of Limerick City and County Council. See Figure 2.

**Figure 2: Limerick Garda Division and Districts**



### Membership of the JPC

The Limerick JPC comprises elected members of Limerick City and County Council (15), Oireachtas elected members (5), An Garda Síochána (2); Local Authority Officials (2) and community representatives (7) nominated to the JPC by the Public Participation Network (PPN). Representatives of the media are entitled to be present at JPC meetings. In special cases, where the JPC is of the opinion that the absence of members of the public and representatives of the media from the whole or part of the meetings is desirable, the JPC may decide to meet in committee.

### JPC Steering Group

The Limerick Joint Policing Committee Steering Group comprises the JPC Chairman, Councillor Adam Teskey, Dr. Pat Daly, Chief Executive and the Chief Superintendent Gerard Roche

### JPC Membership

Title	First Name	Surname	Organisation
Councillor	Adam	Teskey	Limerick City and County Council
Councillor	John	O'Donoghue	Limerick City and County Council
Councillor	Sean	Hartigan	Limerick City and County Council

Councillor	John	Costelloe	Limerick City and County Council
Councillor	Conor	Sheehan	Limerick City and County Council
Councillor	James	Collins	Limerick City and County Council
Councillor	Azad	Talukder	Limerick City and County Council
Councillor	Stephen	Keary	Limerick City and County Council
Councillor	Emmet	O'Brien	Limerick City and County Council
Councillor	Kevin	Sheahan	Limerick City and County Council
Councillor	Bridie	Collins	Limerick City and County Council
Councillor	Martin	Ryan	Limerick City and County Council
Councillor	Liam	Galvin	Limerick City and County Council
Councillor	Sarah	Kiely	Limerick City and County Council
Councillor	Michael	Murphy	Limerick City and County Council
Chief Executive	Pat	Daly	Limerick City and County Council
Senior Executive Officer	Laura	Flannery	Limerick City and County Council
Chief Superintendent	Gerard	Roche	An Garda Síochana
Superintendent	Brian	Sugrue	An Garda Síochana
Deputy (TD)	Richard	O'Donoghue	Oireachtas Member
Deputy (TD)	Brian	Leddin	Oireachtas Member
Deputy (TD)	Niall	Collins	Oireachtas Member
Deputy (TD)	Maurice	Quinlivan	Oireachtas Member
Senator	Kieran	O'Donnell	Oireachtas Member

**Note:** The Community / Voluntary Members are drawn from the Public Participation Network and are as follows:

First Name	Surname	Organisation
Denise	Dunne	Adapt

Dr. Breda	Hayes	Environmental Trust Ireland
Cillian	Flynn	GOSHH
Shirley	Johnston	Limerick Suicide Watch
Joe	Slattery	Northstar Family Support Project
John	Nugent	Garryowen Residents Association
Frank	Dennison	Abbeyfeale Community Council

### Links to Objectives and Actions of the Limerick LECP

The Limerick Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2021 was adopted by Council in July 2016. The overall goal of the LECP is “to promote improved quality of life and well-being of people and communities in Limerick City and County”. The LCDCs and the LECPs were introduced under the reform of local government, “Putting People First” – Action Programme for Effective Local Government (2012), and operate under the remit of the Department Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (DGPCLG).

The LECP has nine high level goals. Goals relevant to the functions of the JPC are shown below.

#### High-Level Goals of the LECP Relevant to JPC

Goal 1 is particularly relevant to the functions of the JPC, namely:

Goal 1: to promote equally vibrant and **safe** communities with high quality of life, access to quality services in urban and rural Limerick, engaged in civic life and local decision-making.

Other Goals with links to the functions of the JPC are as follows:

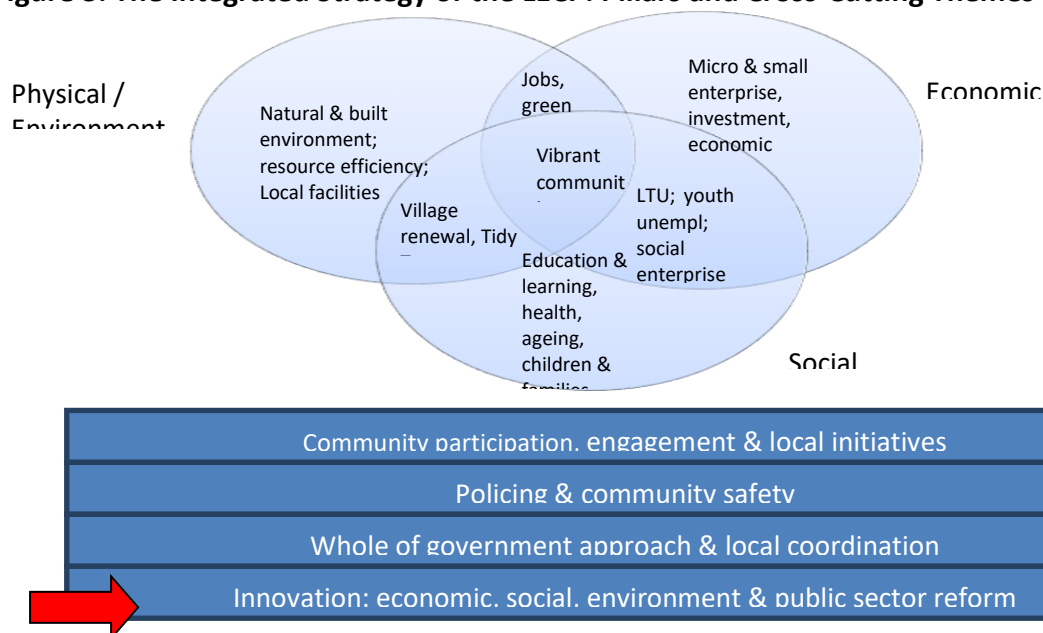
Goal 4: To reduce the number of people living in deprivation, promote social and economic inclusion and a reduction of social inequalities particularly addressed to local communities and groups in Limerick with a profile of social disadvantage and / or at risk of exclusion.

Goal 5: To create a strong urban core, thriving towns, attractive and socially sustainable villages and countryside.

The LECP is based on an integrated approach structured around three pillars – (1) *Economic*, (2) *Social* and (3) *Physical / Environment*. The three pillars are under-pinned by four cross-cutting themes including *Policing and Community Safety*. The integrated approach and cross-cutting themes are shown in Figure 3 below.



**Figure 3: The Integrated Strategy of the LECP: Pillars and Cross-Cutting Themes**



The Policing and Community Safety Priority Theme is consistent with the functions of the JPC as outlined above:

**“Priority 5: Policing and Community Safety: where low crime, trust in policing and safe communities are fundamental to creating the conditions for economic and social interventions to be successful and for good quality of life.”**

Under the Policing and Community Safety Theme in the LECP, there is a focus on preventive action, the role of communities in crime prevention (LECP 5.2), addressing factors associated with higher risks of crime (low education, deprivation, poor mental health, risk behaviours), building trust in policing, confidence in the policing services (coverage, accessibility) as well as responding to crime and offending behaviour.

Specific objectives and actions under the Social Pillar and the Community Participation, Engagement and Local Initiatives of the LECP also focus on policing and community safety issues.

Actions in the LECP relevant to the JPC strategy include: safety and security for older people (LECP 2.3 Ageing Well / Age-Friendly City and County); interventions for young people at risk of offending (LECP 2.5 Children, young people and families); and working in partnership with communities, especially those experiencing deprivation (LECP 4.1 Public Participation Network (PPN) and Civic Engagement).

Policing and Community Safety is also relevant to actions under the Physical / Environment Pillar including: revival of Limerick city centre and village and town renewal (LECP 3.2 Urban and Village Renewal, strategic sites and civic projects).

Inter-agency structures that focus on policing, crime prevention and community safety which are already in place are referenced in the LECP. These include: the Age-Friendly Alliance; the Limerick Children’s and Young People’s Services Committee; the Strategic Advisory and Monitoring Group on Regeneration; the Local Regeneration Committees and the Inter-Agency Traveller Group (LECP 5.1). Other areas of An Garda Síochána, local authority and wider inter-agency cooperation include: the Resettlement Programme, for Syrian Refugee Families (under the Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration, Department of Justice and Equality) and Emergency Planning.