

Chief Executive's Report

November 2022

Three wins for Limerick City and County Council at Excellence in Local Government Awards.

Ernst & Young (EY) announced the creation of 150 new jobs at its Limerick office.

Aldi announced plans for a €11.5m store to be located in Dooradoyle.

Christmas in Limerick launched celebrating all things Christmas.

13th Annual Burial Grounds Awards takes place.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Contents

Economic Development and Enterprise Directorate

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Trade & Investment | 3 |
| 2. Local Enterprise Office | 3 |
| 3. Innovate Limerick | 3 |
| 4. Forward Planning | 5 |
| 5. Digital Services | 6 |
| 6. Limerick Twenty Thirty | 6 |

Housing Directorate

| | |
|---|----|
| 1. Housing Support Services | 20 |
| 2. Local Authority Housing Construction and Maintenance | 26 |
| 3. Strategy & Non-Local Authority Housing Construction | 31 |
| 4. Municipal District Offices | 35 |

Transportation & Mobility Directorate

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Travel and Transportation Strategy | 8 |
| 2. Active Travel | 8 |
| 3. Mid West National Road Design Office | 9 |

Planning, Environment & Place-Making Directorate

| | |
|---|----|
| 1. Place-Making and Public Realm | 38 |
| 2. Planning Development | 39 |
| 3. Environment, Recreation & Climate Change | 40 |
| 4. Urban Innovation | 41 |
| 5. Veterinary Services | 42 |

Community, Tourism & Culture Directorate

| | |
|--|----|
| 1. Urban & Rural Community Development | 10 |
| 2. Tourism | 11 |
| 3. Arts Office | 12 |
| 4. Property & Community Facilities | 13 |
| 5. Libraries, Gallery & Museum | 13 |

National and Regional Shared Services Centre Directorate

| | |
|---|----|
| 1. Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Shared Services Centre (SSC) | 43 |
| 2. Fire and Emergency | 43 |

Regeneration Directorate

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| 1. Regeneration | 18 |
|-----------------|----|

Support Services Directorate

| | |
|--|----|
| 1. Finance | 45 |
| 2. Business Improvement | 47 |
| 3. Corporate, Governance and Customer Services | 47 |
| 4. Marketing & Communications | 54 |
| 5. Munster Regional Communications Centre | 55 |

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Economic Development and Enterprise Directorate

1. Trade & Investment

- Ernst & Young (EY) announced the creation of 150 new jobs at its Limerick office, with a number of the positions to be filled by university graduates.
- Aldi announced plans for a €11.5m store located in Dooradoyle which will create 30 permanent jobs and 50 construction jobs.
- Guji Coffee opened a Coffee Roastery on Dock Road, including an education centre, roastery, coffee bar and retail space and will create 20 new jobs.

2. Local Enterprise Office

Funding Approved

- Three businesses were approved for a Trading Online Voucher in November
- One business was approved for Green for Micro
- One Business approved the GradStart Grant

LEO Workshops, Webinars and Training Workshops included:

- Trading Online Webinar
- CONNECT Programme for Female Entrepreneurs
- Exporting Information Session Lunch & Learn
- Social Media Bootcamp Online Programme
- Lean for Micro programme
- Social Media for Business (various)
- Business Planning and Business Advice Clinics
- Costing & Pricing Workshop for Food Businesses
- Business Idea Generation workshop
- Grow Your Business Management Development Programme
- Google Analytics

There were 147 participants on the LEO Business Training Courses and 12 Business Owners have availed of the LEO Mentoring programme in November.

3. Innovate Limerick

Digital Collaboration Centre

- Development and agreement with an American healthcare drone company and the UL Hospitals Group to transport medical equipment from specific doctor practices and the hospital.
- Workshop with a Limerick technology company and the Irish Military to identify and scope out digital application opportunities. This has led to testbed being set up for testing for two new opportunities.
- Positive meetings with Sports Tech company 'One-Zero' to attract a worldwide conference to Limerick.
- Ongoing meetings with the Irish Skillnet organisation regarding implementation of Innovation Exchange Programme in the Mid-West.
- Reviews of new funding opportunities with the Department of Public Reform, Western Development Fund.

Engine Hubs

Engine Hubs Network Activity

- The Engine Hubs network was the Winner of Promoting Economic Development Award - Excellence in Local Government Awards 2022.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick City
& County Council**

- Keynote event for Digital First Day “Champions of Collaboration” - How To Progress Through Partnerships - 40 attendees from Business Sector.
- Engine Hubs participant in the nationwide initiative, driven by a new collaboration, Digital Ireland Network (www.digital-ireland.ie).
- Love Castleconnell pilot commenced focusing on digitisation of small, family business in rural area.
- Research participant in sustainability in hubs with Skillnets and the Community Enterprise Association of Ireland (CEAI) and worked with The Discovery project that is conducting a sectoral analysis and reviewing the roles and functions of key personnel across the National Hub Network.
- Participant in Management Development programme for public sector personnel involved with Hubs with the Community Enterprise Association of Ireland.
- 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 Connectedhubs.ie.
- Relationship building with Community Enterprise Association of Ireland.
- 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, 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 & Development, Kilfinane
 10. Engine Collaboration Centre, Cecil St,Limerick
 11. Broadford Enterprise Centre
 12. HQ Tralee
 13. Tipp Digital Hub, Tipperary Town
 14. Rathkeale Enterprise Centre
 15. Engine, Cecil St, Limerick
 16. WorkBase, Abbeyfeale
 17. Manor Fields, Adare
 18. Bruff
 19. Askeaton

FILM IN LIMERICK

Munster Film & TV Crew Academy

Several new training courses were delivered as part of the new Munster Film & TV Crew Academy, delivered in collaboration with Screen Ireland:

- **Location Recce skills for trainees** supporting the participants from the previous “Fundamental skills for location trainees” this course gave participants hands on experience surveying and evaluating specific sites suitable for filming. It was run in person with a theory lesson at the Engine building and then offsite around the Limerick area.
- **Hairdressing & Barbering for Film & TV.** The course had a focus on upskilling existing hair graduates so that they are aware of the work involved in working on set as a hair trainee in the Film industry. It was held in the makeup and hair facilities at Troy Studios. Experienced hairdressers gave a full day of theory before another full day fully practical hair demonstrations with live models.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

- **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.
- Film in Limerick were also successful this month in funding Year Two of the Film & TV Crew Academy with €300,000 raised through an open call from Screen Ireland.

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.

Writers Factory

The 3rd Edition of our popular 'Writers Factory 22-week Introduction to Screenwriting Course' began in November with a workshop in-person in Limerick. 20 new and emerging screenwriters from throughout the Mid-West have started the new programme. Supported by Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, once complete, 60 new locally-based writers will have completed the foundation training.

Panel event at Cork Film Festival with Screen Ireland and other Talent Academies

Innovate Limerick through Film in Limerick took part in a recent education / training focused panel at the Cork Film Festival.

Production Support

Production support and locations services were offered to four Film & TV productions in November including the 22-million US feature film "God's Spy" which has its unit base at Engine on Cecil Street.

4. Forward Planning

- A public consultation event was held in Caherconlish on the 15 November as part of the consultation on the Draft Caherconlish Local Area Plan 2023 – 2029. Following the closing date for public submissions on the 28 November, work has commenced on considering the submissions made and the preparation of a Chief Executive's Report.
- Material Alterations to the Proposed Rathkeale Local Area Plan 2023-2029 were published on the 05 November and submissions or observations invited on the Material Alterations only.
- Following the closing date for public submissions on the Draft Castleconnell Local Area Plan 2023 – 2029, on the 14 November, work has commenced on considering the submissions made and the preparation of a Chief Executive's Report.
- As part of the review of the Abbeyfeale Local Area plan and preparation of a new Local Area Plan a public consultation event was held in Abbeyfeale on the 24 November. This formed part of the First Issues public consultation which is currently open for submissions.
- Draft Maps outlining the land considered to be in scope for the Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) were placed on public display on the 01 November. 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. Draft RZLT Maps have been prepared for 16 settlements including: Limerick City and Suburbs, including Mungret and Annacotty, Abbeyfeale, Adare, Ballingarry, Bruff, Bruree, Caherconlish, Cappamore, Castleconnell, Doon, Kilfinane, Kilmallock, Newcastle West, Pallasgreen, Pallaskenry, Patrickswell.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

5. Digital Services

Digital Services

- On 24 November, Digital Services attended the annual Digital Government conference in Croke Park. This annual event provides a valuable opportunity to bring together key stakeholders to gain insight into the government's objectives for digital transformation, and hear directly from those responsible for driving this forward. Innovative projects were presented by An Garda Síochána and the Irish Prison service, and local authorities discussed approaches to quickly and effectively ramp-up online public services, while a new template for local authority websites that is fully integrated with the new National Service Catalogue was also presented.
- Analysis and decision making capacity of the council has been improved with 23 staff receiving GIS(Geographic Information System) training in November, along with customised GIS (Geographic Information System) workflows and spatial data quality enhancements for multiple teams. Staff can now also execute tasks easier and faster with an array of improvements to QGIS (Quantum Geographic Information System), including new background maps and data, and accessing Google Street View and Google Maps directly within QGIS (Quantum Geographic Information System).
- From 15-17 November, the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, attended the Smart City Expo World Congress event in Barcelona, Spain, where they met with industry experts and leading private and public sector organisations from around the globe, to discuss the common goal of how to leverage digitisation to ensure future-proofed cities that are focused on people and the environment, leading to a more sustainable and inclusive world.

European Programmes

The +CityxChange Consortium Meeting was held on 10 and 11 November in Pisek, Czech Republic. At the meeting, the Limerick team presented on the status to date in Limerick. They presented on achievements with Citizen Engagement and open calls initiatives and the proposal to establish Renewable Energy Communities to take ownership of energy assets under the project.

The EU Projects Office has a number of requests to join bids with other cities for EU Funding in areas such as the Circular Economy, Regeneration of Neighbourhoods and Digital Twin projects being processed at present.

6. Limerick Twenty Thirty

1. Opera Square

Progress Update:

- Works to stabilise the Georgian buildings at eight & nine Rutland Street complete with road lane closure removed.
- Preferred tenderer for the next contract, the Basement and One Opera Square has been selected and a tender sum agreed. Contract will be awarded upon approval of Limerick Twenty Thirty Board and funding structure.
- Limerick Twenty Thirty presented to the Elected Members on a planning amendment on the 03 November. A pre-application was then submitted to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) on the 11 November, followed by two Public Consultation Events held at Gardens International & County Hall Dooradoyle.

Communications Update:

- An independent selection panel have selected the artwork for Opera Square. It will be located within the public realm at the centre of the development.
- Limerick Twenty Thirty is seeking on behalf of Limerick City and County Council, a planning amendment for its landmark Opera Square building, public realm, and Central Library to achieve the latest sustainability

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

requirements and deliver enhanced design standards in keeping with the city's Georgian heritage. As part of this process Limerick Twenty Thirty undertook a stakeholder engagement strategy as follows:

- > Public Information Boards were put on display from 04 November in Limerick Twenty Thirty's offices at Gardens International and Limerick City and County Council's offices in Dooradoyle and Merchant's Quay.
- > Public Information sessions were held with the Design Team on 16 November in two locations: Gardens International and Dooradoyle.
 - i The public information boards can be viewed online along with detail on the changes being made [link to website](#).
 - ii A proactive social media campaign was undertaken by Limerick Twenty Thirty to share [updated CGI's](#) with the public.
 - iii Observations were received and collated for review by the Design Team.
 - iv Engagement also included letters to key stakeholders, letter drops to neighbouring residents and website notices on Limerick Twenty Thirty and Limerick City and County Council websites.

Progress is ongoing for delivery of Phase Two of the hoarding at Opera Square:

- v Presentations were held on 15 November as part of the collaboration with of Limerick School of Art and Design, Technological University of the Shannon for the design of hoarding on Michael Street. The third year Graphic Design and Motion Graphic Design students presented their designs in groups to representatives from Limerick Twenty Thirty and Limerick City and County Council. Designs were selected for installation on site.
- vi Limerick City and County Council worked on finalising designs for hoarding on Ellen Street featuring an installation showcasing the 'Atlantic Edge, European Embrace' brand.

2. Cleeves Riverside Quarter

Progress Update:

- Design team re-engaged and work is progressing on the site Masterplan. The masterplan will focus on expediting delivery of residential units, and utilisation of the €34.5m Urban Regeneration and Development Fund grant.
- An expressions of interest process is being prepared for submissions by investors and partners.
- Upon request from the Department of Housing to review the Preliminary Business Case to take account of recent hyper-inflation, the updated Preliminary Business Case was submitted by Limerick City and County Council on 29 November and work on review is underway.

Communications Update:

- Noel Hogan, from the Cranberries, released the music video for his group The Puro for 'Law of Return'. The music video was recorded in the Flaxmill Building at Cleeves Riverside Quarter.
- November saw the return of Team Hope and their Annual Christmas Shoebox Appeal to the Flaxmill Building. Since 2010, Team Hope has delivered over 2.1 million shoebox gifts to vulnerable children across the world. The shoeboxes were loaded on to a truck on 24 November for transit to children in need.

3. Gardens International

- A press release issued on Transact Campus celebrating six months at Gardens International. The story featured the alignment of creating world-class office space to attract world-class companies such as Transact.
- Legato Health Technologies held a two-day Innovation event in Gardens International in November featuring panel discussions and guest speakers. In addition to event space, the Vault at Gardens International is newly available for meeting room bookings.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Transportation & Mobility Directorate

1. Travel and Transportation Strategy

- Tenders were received in November for The Provision of a Public Dockless Bicycle Scheme for the Groody Valley and Environs/Castletroy area.
- The appointed consultants for The Electric Vehicle Strategy presented the first draft of the strategy to the Steering Group in November.
- In November, the appointed consultants on the Newcastle West Area Based Transport Assessment completed the baseline assessment to inform the ongoing local area plan.
- The consultants for the Bus Connects met with National Transport Authority, Bus Eireann and Clare County Council in November to inform the initial draft of the Limerick Bus connects routes.

2. Active Travel

The Active Travel Team is delighted with the recent acknowledgement at the Excellence in Local Government Awards - Enhancing the Urban Environment for the Castletroy Greenway.

Hyde Road - Priority Ltd appointed and works have commenced.

St. Nesson's Road and Stoneyhurst - Works complete on Stoneyhurst and St. Nesson's Road.

Condell Road to Clare Street Phase 1 - Options being updated and finalised.

Ennis Road Cycle Scheme - Preliminary cost estimate and Technical Note to be undertaken. Junction turning costs now complete.

Childers Road (Greenpark to Roxboro Road Roundabout) - Section 38 now complete.

Brookeville Avenue - Tender now complete and document currently being assessed.

Ballycummin Road and Church Hill Meadows - Preliminary design complete.

Roxboro Road - Brief completed to engage consultants.

Bike Parking - Over 130 No. bike stands installed up to the end of November.

Gotoon & Millennium Bridges - Site meeting held with the appointed Consultants Clandillon.

Cappamore & Doon Public Realm - Site meeting held with the appointed Consultants Systra.

R510 Quinn's Cross to Raheen - Consultant progressing with detailed design.

Rhebogue Footpath Connections - Works under construction.

Rhebogue Railway Bridge - Fehilly Timoney appointed to carry out feasibility study.

Christopher Lynch Bridge Rathkeale - Options being developed.

St. Anne's Active Travel Link Rathkeale - Options being developed.

Safe Routes to School - Works ongoing at St. Pauls and Gaelscoil Sairseil.

Ros Mor Roundabout - Part 8 passed. Tender for detailed design and construction.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Scoil Íde and St. Munchin's College Safe Routes to School

- Junction tightening and shared path link to Smarter Travel Path and Mill Road - works designed by Active Travel.

Smarter Travel Route Widening and Permeability Links -

Canal Bank widening under construction.

South Circular Road - Submissions being assessed

Ballykeeffe to St Paul's - Tree survey and environmental reports being progressed.

Father Russell Road Phase 2 - Works ongoing on potential option.

Father Russell Road Phase 1 - Detailed design ongoing.

Kennedy Park - Raised crossing completed.

3. Mid West National Road Design Office

N21 Ward's Cross Road Improvement Scheme

This scheme provides for the widening of the N21 carriageway and a right turn lane at the N21/L7091 Ward's Cross junction. The scheme also includes pavement works, kerbing, new road markings and the installation of road drainage and associated works.

Works have been completed and the road was open to traffic during November.



Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Community, Tourism & Culture Directorate

1. Urban & Rural Community Development

AGE FRIENDLY

Open Day for AGE FRIENDLY LIMERICK

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, opened Age Friendly OPEN DAY on 21 November. 130 people attended on the day with the focus being to create more awareness about Age Friendly, to stimulate interest for new people to nominate themselves on to the Old Persons Executive and to continue the consultation process for the second Age Friendly Strategy.

Old Persons Executive

On the 30 November a meeting was held for the Old Person Executive and members were appointed for a period of one year.

One Million Star Project

The One million Star project is an initiative to raise awareness and show solidarity with women who suffer from domestic abuse. This year the event was launched on 25 November at the Desmond Castle in Newcastle West, which saw the official lighting of the star.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

On 28 November, the Department of Rural and Community Development announced the funding approvals under Measure 2 and 3 of Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2022. Limerick received funding of €200,000 for the Measure 2 project at the River Loobagh, Kilmallock – Riverside Amenity area and upgrade of riverside walk

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The November meeting of the LCDC was held on 01 November in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle. The Local Action Group (LAG) approved funding of €229,641.06 under the LEADER Programme 2014-2022 (€159,822.01 funded from the LEADER Transitional LEADER Programme and

€69,819.05 funded from the European Union Recovery Instrument Fund).

Environmental Education

- The Sustainable Gardening Course took place on 12 November at the Desmond Complex, Newcastle West.
- On 16 November, a presentation was to on Waste Prevention presentation to Glenroe Active Retirement Group.
- On 21 November, a Sustainable Development Goals online presentation was given by Bruff Tidy Towns Group to Limerick Tidy Towns groups.
- On 29 November, the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, led celebrations for Limerick's 17th Fairtrade birthday. As part of the Limerick Fairtrade Group's awareness programme, students across Limerick have created Christmas Cards centred on the Fairtrade message of promoting fair trading practices between Ireland and developing countries. Pupils of all ages, ranging in age from five up to 18, and involving schools across the city and county, took part, illustrating what Fairtrade means to them. The Mayor presented prizes to students at Scoil Dean Cussen, Bruff, and Laurel Hill Secondary School.
- Local Radio anti-litter adverts for Man in Van, Dog Litter and General Litter continued on Live95.

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.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

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

HEALTH & WELLBEING

- The Limerick Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme was launched at the Southill Hub in Southill on the 07 November by Minister of State for Public Health, Wellbeing and National Drugs Strategy, Frank Feighan TD. The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, welcomed the programme as a successful culmination of close collaboration between many partners including the Department of Health, the HSE, Limerick City and County Council, Paul Partnership, Limerick Social Services Council and local communities.
- A new Health and Wellbeing working group is established. This group will be a sub group of the LCDC and will replace the Healthy Ireland steering group.
- An allocation of €39,000 for Health & Wellbeing initiatives to support the Ukrainian community was received from the Department of Health.

2. Tourism

King John's Castle

The Christmas in Limerick events and marketing campaign was launched at King John's Castle on 18 November by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick Councillor Francis Foley, with local media and stakeholders in attendance. The first audiovisual 3D animation show of its kind, 'A Christmas tale at the Castle' commenced at the Castle on 26 November. The show projects onto the castle walls showcasing its impressive built heritage, and is part of the Council's festive calendar of events in Limerick.

Limerick Greenway Marketing Update

- Members of the Tourism Department visited the new Kingdom of Kerry Greenway at Listowel and took part in a number of meetings with Fáilte Ireland and Kerry County Council. The new section open from the county border at Kilmorna, brings the greenway length to 50.5km from Rathkeale to Listowel.
- Limerick Greenway marketing and social media campaign continued throughout November highlighting the following:
 - The opening of the Abbeyfeale to Listowel section of Greenway
 - Encouraging people to visit the micro forest where 1,000 trees were donated by the Sikh community and planted in Templeglantine Village
 - World Kindness Day and the need to respect all Limerick Greenway users whilst also showing kindness to the various birds, bees and animals native to Limerick Greenway.

Limerick Greenway Capital Projects Update

- Healy Partners Architects were appointed to head an architect led integrated design team to develop the visitor experience along Limerick Greenway at Ardagh and Barnagh and to head an architect led integrated design team to develop the visitor experience along Limerick Greenway at Newcastle West Hub and West Limerick Tourism Hub – Fullers Folly.
- Feeney McMahon Architects were appointed to head an architect led design team for the proposed Limerick Greenway Hub at Abbeyfeale.
- A grant drawdown submission with Transport Infrastructure Ireland for capital expenditure on the greenway.

Tourism Industry and Trade events

Members of the Tourism Department attended The Shannon Region Ambassador Recognition Awards Gala Dinner, as hosted by The Shannon Region Conference and Sports Bureau in association with Fáilte Ireland on 22 November.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

3. Arts Office

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. Four Bursaries, of up to €5,000 each, were available under the scheme. Ten applications were received with a total ask of €47,290. The Assessment Panel met on 10 November and recommended the allocation of Limerick City and County Council funding to four successful applicants. These allocations were approved at the Full Council meeting on 28 November.

Centre Culturel Irlandais Artist residency programme

The Centre Culturel Irlandais annual residency programme in the city of Paris, offers great opportunities for artists of all disciplines. Limerick Arts Office Limerick City and County Council is supporting a ONE-month residency for the period August 2023-June 2024. Applicants must be based in the City or County of Limerick, with professional involvement in creative practice.

ENGINE Short Film Scheme - Call for Producers and Directors

ENGINE Shorts aims to inspire and support up-and-coming writers, directors and producers to create inspiring, engaging world-class short films that resonate with a wide international audience. Run by Innovate Limerick through Film in Limerick the ENGINE Short Film Scheme is a partnership between Local Authorities in Clare, Limerick and Tipperary and the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board. Limerick Arts Office is a partner on this initiative.

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 November, one letter of support was issued. The Council approved €11,100 in Strategic Funding at the November Council Meeting.

Call out for Artists' Studios, James Street Limerick City

Limerick Arts Office, Limerick City and County Council are delighted to announce an open call to recognized visual artists for the use of one of our Studios at James' Street, Limerick City. The Artists' Studios, James Street is an affordable space for individuals to produce work and allows artists to continue to live and work in Limerick, by encouraging working within the urban context. There is one Studio in the James' Street complex available in this call out.

Creative Ireland

Limerick Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027

Limerick City and County Council developed 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. Following Public Consultation, in November the draft Culture and Creativity Strategy has been submitted to Senior Forum, Management Team and to the Strategic Policy Committee for Community, Leisure and Culture.

CREATIVE IRELAND FUNDED PROJECTS

Annual reporting on each project to Creative Ireland was completed in November.

Dance Limerick-Yard Duets on Tour

"Yard Duets" visited a number of nursing homes:

- 17 November 12pm - St. Anthony's Nursing Home Pallasgreen, Co. Limerick
- 17 November 2pm - St. Camillus' Hospital Shelbourne Rd, Limerick City
- 14 November 11am - Carebright, Bruff
- 22 November 11am - Maria Goretti Nursing Home, Kilmallock
- 25 November 12pm - Ard na Rí, Bruff
- 25 November 2pm - Adare District Memory Care Centre
- 28 November 2pm - Raheen Day Care Centre

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Arts Council Framework Agreement programme Castleconnell Concerts

A live programme of enchanting and beautiful music and song returns to All Saints Church in Castleconnell this autumn. Castleconnell Autumn Concert Series is programmed by Limerick Arts Office, with financial support from the Arts Council and Creative Ireland. The concerts are presented in partnership with Love Castleconnell. The final concert took place on 29 November with the Marmen Quartet performing in All Saints Church in Castleconnell, to be broadcast on RTE Lyric FM, the Full Score Programme, with Liz Nolan.

HOUSE!

Clare County Council won a 2022 Excellence in Local Government Award for HOUSE!, which Limerick City and County Council is a partner on. HOUSE! brought Fidget Feet Aerial Dance Theatre featuring a jaw-dropping array of theatre, circus and dance to Limerick Racecourse for Riverfest 2022. A drive-in bingo show for all the family was supported by an Invitation to Collaboration Award from the Arts Council.

Christmas in Limerick

With a festive calendar filled with family fun events, street fairs brimming with local seasonal splendours, twinkling illuminations and a host of after dark theatre, music and merriment, Limerick is set to sparkle this Christmas! Limerick City and County Council launched Christmas in Limerick celebrating all things Christmas including an exciting entertainment line-up!

4. Property & Community Facilities

| Dereliction, Vacancy and Reuse Team | |
|--|-----|
| Inspections carried out | 153 |
| Property and Community Facilities Department Notices issued | 8 |
| Derelict Sites Cases opened | 21 |
| Statutory Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act | 67 |
| Derelict Sites Cases closed through engagement | 9 |
| Properties entered into the Derelict Sites Register | 15 |
| Properties put forward for Compulsory Acquisition (Section 15 Notices) | 23 |
| Properties Compulsorily Acquired (Section 17 Notices) | 0 |

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Bin Waivers Approved | 5 |
|-----------------------------|---|

5. Libraries, Gallery & Museum

Library

- In Kilmallock Library on 03 November, Music Generation, Limerick County, held a workshop on the art of song writing for children. Participants learned about tempo, recording, singing and playing the ukulele. The pupils and staff of Caherelly National School made two trips to the library during the month for Science Week. Pupils visited on the 09 November sharing in some interactive science related songs, and discussed the book, Ada Twist, Scientist, by Andrea Beaty. The children also created some eye-catching science based mandalas and bookmarks. The 1st and 2nd class pupils and staff from Caherelly visited the library on 23 November and enjoyed some fun

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

collaborative songs, a reading of an alternative version of The Three Little Pigs tale, a few mind bending riddles and finished up the with some art, a browse through the bookshelves and a mini tour of the library. The Nutty Scientists also made an appearance on 11 November with a workshop for the students from Bruree, Effin, Kilmallock, and Scoil Mocheallóg National Schools. Supported by the Stem Department at Mary Immaculate College the children enjoyed taking part in experiments and learning about science. This concluded with a poster competition in partnership with the Stem Department at Mary Immaculate College. Two “Leave no Trace” workshops led by Jacinta of Leave No Trace Ireland were enjoyed in the branch by students from Scoil Mocheallóg, Kilmallock and Kilbehenny N. S. The children were inspired to become more aware of their natural environment and to identify opportunities in their own life where they can apply the principles of “Leave No Trace”. Weekly Bridge classes continued during the month of November with the more experienced players offering lessons and tips to those who are new to the game. On 29 November a large crowd attended the county launch of “The Book of Kells – A Masterwork Revealed: Creators, Collaboration, and Campaigns” written by Limerick academic and scholar, Donncha MacGabhann. Donncha has been engaged in the study of the Book of Kells for the past fifteen years. As an independent scholar, he is dedicated to communicating this research both to the academic and the wider community. Sublime calligraphy, marvellous art, and amazing initials, have charmed and captivated the audience of the Book of Kells for over twelve hundred years. Following years of meticulous research, this book tells the story of the two masters, believed by Donncha to have been responsible for this work, to create a Gospel book of unprecedented magnificence.

- At Watchhouse Cross Library, mid-term break got off to a scary start with a spooky storytime followed by a craft session. The spooky theme continued on 03 November with a group of 20 seven to 12 year olds attending a Fighting Words Workshop facilitated by staff in the branch. Their story starts with “*A young fella named John was trick- or-treating with his friends and his dog, Binx. Suddenly, an explosion from a nearby*

nuclear power plant occurs”. Click the link to see what happens and view the wonderful illustrations at: [It's a zombie world! | Fighting Words](#). The Junior Book Club read Skulduggery Pleasant by Derek Landy in November giving it a ten out of ten and they really loved the varied themes of fantasy, magic, horror and humour. In collaboration with Mary Immaculate College, a recording was made for Science Week featuring storytimes on video: Izzy Gizmo written by Pip Jones and Sara Ogilvie, and Plant the Tiny Seed by Christie Matheson, which was shared with primary schools in Limerick and on Limerick Libraries social media platforms. A staff “Scientist” for the day facilitated several experiments, making balloon rockets, oobleck, a substance made from a mix of cornstarch and water, volcanic explosions and chemical reactions, much to the delight of 15 budding young scientists. Oobleck can feel like a solid when you hold it in a ball, but it becomes liquid when you let your hand go loose, it takes the shape of whatever is holding it. Oobleck got its name from a book by Dr. Seuss, called Bartholomew and the Oobleck. Watchhouse Cross Library Parent & Toddler group continued to meet each Friday for rhymes, stories and chat. The Fighting Words Story Seeds Project concluded on 30 November, workshops were held in the library with 400 children participating in the creative writing process. ABC Startright provided a weekly session for new parents in the library, offering support in areas such as, baby nutrition and weaning, baby massage and reflexology. Both Adult Book Clubs met during November, reading My Sister the Serial Killer by Oyinkan Braithwaite, lively discussions were held as to the credibility of the storyline. The book provides a fascinating insight into the complex relationship between sisters and all agreed it was an interesting read. The Sensory Room had over 200 users during November.

- Newcastle West Library celebrated Science Week with a book display, science themed quizzes and word searches for visiting classes. Movember, the annual event involving the growing of moustaches during the month of November to raise awareness of men's health issues, such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and men's suicide was marked with the creation of an information board and book display on men's health.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

On 23 November Michael Moylan, of “Irish History Live” visited the branch for a Children’s Book Festival event. Michael brought his “Ancient History” interactive show, which imagines survival in an Irish forest 10,000 years ago. Hunting with spear and bow, napping flint, wearing fur and using traps, progressing to grinding corn and the use of the new technology of bronze, Michael animates this period in history with props and anecdotes. There were three sessions with five classes, 135 students and their teachers attended. Class visits continued with use of new sensory toys and the Magic Table.

- There were 36 onsite visits by researchers to the Local Studies Department at Watch House Cross Community Library in November. Of these, 24 involved research on the microfilm and digital archives of local and national newspapers, eight on material from the Local Studies collections, and four visits comprised advice sessions on family history. The Department also hosted its first class visit since the pandemic, a Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB) genealogy class who came for an advice session on family history research here. Twenty remote queries were received and fully resolved. One of the Department’s Decade of Centenaries (DOC) arts events, a live podcast on female revolutionaries, 1912-23, featuring the historian Sharon Slater, took place in a city venue on 25 November and was well attended. Distribution of hard copies of the DOC commemorative volume on the Civil War, ‘The Inevitable Conflict: Essays on the Civil War in Limerick’ continued.
- Adare Library welcomed well-known author Judi Curtin for two workshops on writing and reading with forty pupils from Our Lady’s Abbey. The school also attended a Mental Health Talk organised in collaboration with Limerick Sports Partnership. 25 pupils from Scoil Naomh Iosaf came to the library for an informative and educational workshop organised by Leave No Trace Ireland. Leave No Trace Ireland is about encouraging young people to discover, learn and connect with nature. The Parent, Baby and Toddler group met four times during November. For adults two Eco Art Therapy workshops with Helena Gleeson were organized by the library and attended by members of Adare’s 2020 Club.

This group also had the second of the newly launched book club meeting in the library.

- Dooradoyle Library was delighted to welcome back Irish author, Gillian Perdue for one of her most popular shows, ‘Conor’s Cowboy Suit’ on 11 November. First class students from St. Paul’s N.S. came along to Gillian’s event and were entertained with stories, songs and dancing. Helium Arts, the national children’s art and health charity began their six-week Winter Art Workshop in Dooradoyle on 12 November. These are free creative art workshops, led by artist Chelsea Canavan. The aim is to help children, aged six -12, with lifelong physical health conditions live life to the full. The latest edition of the Old Limerick Journal, (Issue 57, Winter 2022) was officially launched by Councillor Elena Secas in Dooradoyle Library on 24 November. Many of the contributors were in attendance as well as the editorial committee, headed by Tom Donovan. Parents and children enjoyed a collection of ‘Festive Folk Tales’ in Dooradoyle Library on 26 November, where German storyteller and writer Simone Schuemmelfeder shared some of her favourite festive tales from around the world. There were two sessions, and children were invited to place decorations on Simone’s Christmas tree after each story. Almost 170 first year students from Crescent College Comprehensive secondary school visited Dooradoyle Library during the month of November. Students were introduced to the range of library services on offer, with a special focus given to Online Resources. All of the students were given library cards and plan to make regular visits during the school year. A total of 120 third class pupils from Monaleen National School visited the library over two days during November. They listened to a reading of ‘All I Said Was’... by Michael Morpurgo, and had a wonderful time browsing the books and using their new library cards. This month, Dooradoyle Book Club read a selection of titles from Limerick author, Kate O’Brien to celebrate 125 years since her birth.
- Cappamore Library had a busy month in November with class visits from local primary schools, a very special spooky story time with Simone and Michael from Storygate. Residents of Vinmore House called

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

in for a visit early in the month to browse and borrow books.

- Glin Library was delighted to welcome the 'After the Bell' afterschool group who called in for their first library visit during the month. They enjoyed a storytime, activities and also registered for library membership.
- Every Thursday morning throughout November, the City Library hosted a series of special information sessions for asylum seekers and migrants in conjunction with the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board. Featuring speakers from other relevant agencies such as Doras and Paul Partnership, these well-attended workshops were a great success and highlighted the Library service to a new and appreciative audience. Book clubs continued with a total of seven separate meetings taking place during November. The Phoenix, Spiral, first Thursday and second Wednesday book clubs all had their regular monthly meetings while the U3A (The University of the Third Age) continued with their ongoing individual book club sessions across three successive Monday afternoons. In the children's library, the weekly parent and toddler story time continued to grow with new families joining each week for stories, rhymes and songs. Author and storyteller extraordinaire Róisín Meaney held court at her wonderful monthly Saturday story time, which enthralled and entertained all the little ones who attended on 19 November. Also proving popular is the monthly Spanish language story time 'Cuenta Cuentos', a lively and interactive bilingual story session which took place on 15 November while Poppins Pre-School joined us for their own special library visit and story time on 04 November. The Children's Book Festival continued with a visit from Gillian Perdue where she entertained first class from St. Brigid's National School with stories, songs and dance and a little bit of Cowboy swagger as the children donned their Stetsons to participate in a celebration of Gillian's best-selling children's book, *Conor's Cowboy Suit*. Dogs Trust Ireland visited on 28 November to deliver two workshops to St. Michael's National School about responsible dog ownership and safety. The children from fourth, fifth and sixth classes were very interested to learn all about the responsibilities and

commitment involved in dog ownership. They learned about how to be safe around dogs while at home, and while out in the community.

- During the month of November, Limerick Libraries hosted 31 outreach events. 15 Digital Skills training workshops were delivered to Men's Sheds at Headway, Limerick, Dooradoyle, Abbington, Bruff, Galbally and Kilmallock. Helena Gleeson [Art Therapist] delivered four Eco Art Therapy workshops to Women's Sheds at Dooradoyle Library and Newcastle West Community Centre with a combined attendance of 38 people. Members of Adare Men's Shed group commenced guitar lessons with tutor, Mike Fitzpatrick, with the aim of starting their own folk group. An Intergenerational craft project between residents of Nursing Homes and children of the local primary schools in Bruree and Kilmallock commenced in early November.

Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- Marie Foley's exhibition, *In Seeing* finished on 27 November and it attracted significant visitor numbers of 7,526. This was 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 80s and 90s but also significant in introducing her work to a younger audience. On 19 November, Paula Meehan gave a poetry reading in celebration of Maire Foley's exhibition.
- Four other exhibitions have been running concurrently with *In Seeing*. 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.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

- Finally, a selection of posters from the Michael O'Connor Poster collection were shown with their socio-political resonances as most of the posters are from central and eastern Europe from the 70s and 80s. The poster collection comprising 2,800 items was donated to LCGA in the early 90s.
- The Director/Curator attended Visual Artists Ireland curating event on 22 November and met with 24 artists from all over Ireland.
- The University of the Third Age (U3A) groups continue to meet in the Gallery on a fortnightly basis for their poetry and music groups.
- Several school groups continue to visit the Gallery including groups from Galway and Clare and a group from the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board in Limerick.
- LCGA have advertised its Shinnors Scholar two-year Master of Arts (MA) by practice role which closed on 24 November
- On 15 November, as part of Limerick Museum's long and successful partnership with Limerick Civic Trust, the Curator gave a lecture in the People's Museum, Pery Square, Limerick on the Earls of Desmond 1329-1583. It was one in the series of the Leonard Lecture programme, which commemorate Denis Leonard (1947-2009), the founder and first chief executive of Limerick Civic Trust.
- On 15 November, as part of the Museum's outreach programme, the Curator welcomed members of Limerick Strand Probus Club to the Museum and gave them a guided tour. On 22 November, he gave a lecture to the Limerick 922 Probus Club in Bobby Byrne's Bar, O'Connell Street, on the history of the Jewish community in Limerick.
- To celebrate the 100th year anniversary of the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb, the Assistant Curator made a video lecture on the fascinating history of the boy-Pharaoh. Limerick Museum possesses an Ancient Egyptian seal, depicting a scarab beetle, which was sacred to the Egyptians. Our seal is 3,000 years old, dating from 971 BC, the period of the Twenty-First Dynasty. We also have our own mummified cat, which is not Egyptian, but from sixteenth-century Limerick.

Limerick Museum

- For the entire month of November, Limerick Museum hosted an art exhibition entitled *Small Works from the Studio*, curated by Maurice Quillinan and featuring works by Robert Ryan. From historic Lough Gur, County Limerick, Robert Ryan graduated from Limerick College of Art and Design in 1987. He has exhibited nationally and internationally since and his work is in a large number of prestigious public and private collections in Ireland and abroad. At the very genesis of Robert's work is a respect for a "universal creature". A lifelong passion for the natural world and travel has greatly informed his evocative images. Robert borrows qualities from the European old masters but uses traditional painting characteristics in a post-modern context. Allegorical concepts such as solitude, the infinity of space and time, vulnerability and the fragility of life are explored in his work.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Regeneration Directorate

1. Regeneration

The Council has appointed KPMG to produce a 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.

Economic

Outreach to Employment Initiative

Work continues on this initiative and any enquiries can be made to outreachtoemployment@limerick.ie.

Social

Economic and Social Intervention Fund (ESIF) Update

The 2023 ESIF application process closed on 04 November and the applications have been assessed by the relevant sub-committees of statutory groups with recommendations made to the Local Strategic Agency Monitoring Group.

Community Engagement

Regeneration Committee Meetings

Meetings took place in Ballinacurra Weston, Moyross, Southill and St Mary's Park in November as well as the Limerick Community Consultative Forum. Various sub groups of the regeneration committee are now up and running in St Mary's Park.

Community Activities

New All Weather Pitch at Our Lady of Lourdes Community Centre - A new floodlit 3G seven-a-side artificial grass pitch 52m x 30m is open on the grounds of the Our Lady of Lourdes Community Centre in Ballinacurra Weston. It

is a relocation of the previous all weather pitch as a result of the new Gough Place housing development. It is very much welcomed by the community and is being used by a range of community, youth and sports groups including the newly formed residents group ABC Group (A Better Community).

Our Lady of Lourdes were shortlisted in the Going for Gold competition, but were beaten by Askeaton, however they still have an opportunity to be selected as a wildcard by the judges. Also, a street art project is underway, with utility boxes painted with the designs selected by local children.

Santa's Grotto was in the Southill Hub with great excitement over the visit.

The images and timeframe were agreed for the locally designed mural portfolio for the handball alley St Mary's Park.

Physical

Housing Developments

- Construction of the new eight-unit social housing development at Sheep Street / Athlunkard Street on King's Island has been commenced by Martins Construction Ltd.
- 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.
- Construction of the 14 no. partially constructed units in Delmege Park, Moyross has been re-commenced by the Peter McVerry Trust's appointed contractor. Teder assessment for the procurement of a replacement contractor for the completion of the remaining units in

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

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 Kings Island.
- Construction Works are completing on Thermal Upgrade contract 122, St Marys Park.
- Approval to construction stage has been sanctioned by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in respect of the four Moyross and Southill area contracts. Pre-contracts actions are being progressed in respect of those contracts authorised to advance to construction stage:
 - Thermal Upgrade contract 121, Moyross (47 units).
 - Thermal Upgrade contract 121A, Moyross (18 units).
 - Thermal Upgrade contract 123, Southill (53 units).
 - Thermal Upgrade contract 125, St Mary's Park (25 units).
 - Thermal Upgrade contract 126, Southill (50 units).
 - Thermal Upgrade contract 127, Ballinacurra Weston (12 units).
 - Thermal Upgrade contract 128 / 129, St Mary's Park (25 units).

Community Facilities

Southill Play Facilities – A survey 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 was completed.

King's Island Community Centre - At the November St Mary's Park Regeneration Committee meeting the Regeneration team presented a summary of the King's Island Community Centre Working Group meetings which took place during the year, decisions taken and their recommended proposal to progress refurbishing an element of the existing community centre alongside a new build. The Regeneration Committee endorsed the submission of this proposal to the Department of Housing.



Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Housing Directorate

1. Housing Support Services

Housing Waiting List

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Approved Housing Applicants | 2175 |
| Approved Tenant Transfer Applicants | 353 |

Returned Incomplete Housing Applications

| November | Year to Date |
|----------|--------------|
| 14 | 377 |

Closed Housing Applications

| | November | Year to Date |
|---------------------|----------|--------------|
| Closed Applications | 45 | 789 |

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 November | Year to Date |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Adare-Rathkeale | 1 | 13 |
| Newcastle West | 0 | 10 |
| Metropolitan District | 13 | 143 |
| Cappamore-Kilmallock | 7 | 49 |
| Total | 21 | 215 |

Refusals

| | No. of Units November | Year to Date |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Adare-Rathkeale | 0 | 1 |
| Newcastle West | 0 | 1 |
| Metropolitan District | 3 | 14 |
| Cappamore-Kilmallock | 0 | 5 |
| Total | 3 | 21 |

Approved Housing Body Allocations 2022 (year to date)

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Total Nominations | 218 |
| Successful Nominations | 165 |
| Nominations Pending | 18 |
| Unsuccessful Nominations | 35 |

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Traveller Accommodation *

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| No. of Units offered November | 2 |
| Year to Date | 21 |

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

Housing Welfare Visits

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| No. of Visits November | 23 |
| Year to Date | 172 |

Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)

| | |
|--|-----|
| Private Tenancies | 729 |
| Capital Assistance Scheme/Rental Assistance Scheme Tenancies | 517 |
| Part V | 1 |
| New Private Tenancies | 2 |
| New Voluntary Housing Tenancies | 6 |

RENT COLLECTION

| Rent Collection Limerick City and County Council | | | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Opening Balance | Accrued Income | Total for collection | Receipts | Closing Balance | % Collection |
| €5,396,118 | €17,005,027 | €22,401,145 | €16,343,471 | €6,057,674 | 73% |

Housing Assistance Payments Limerick (HAP)

2,244 active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

| | |
|--|-----|
| No. of HAP tenancies set up this month | 19 |
| No. of Amendments | 413 |
| No. of Cessations | 40 |

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

HOME IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

| November 2022 | | Adare-Rathkeale | Newcastle West | Metropolitan | Cappamore-Kilmallock | Total |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Mobility Aid Grants | No. Approved | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| | MAG Expenditure | €2,550.00 | €21,262.43 | €0.00 | €2,300.00 | €26,112.43 |
| | No. Paid | 1 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 7 |
| Housing Adaptation Grants | No. Approved | 5 | 3 | 10 | 6 | 24 |
| | HAG Expenditure | €41,973.04 | €17,001.24 | €118,150.00 | €18,695.64 | €195,819.92 |
| | No. Paid | 3 | 2 | 17 | 4 | 26 |
| Housing Aid for Older People | No. Approved | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 42 |
| | HOP Expenditure | €55,735.00 | €110,359.10 | €34,687.65 | €14,741.80 | €215,523.55 |
| | No. Paid | 16 | 25 | 29 | 4 | 74 |
| Disabled Person's Grant | DPG Expenditure | €32,807.18 | €0.00 | €0.00 | €0.00 | €32,807.18 |
| | No. Paid | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Total No. Approved | 70 |
| Total Monies Paid | €470,263.08 |
| Total No. Paid | 110 |

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Year-to-Date

| Jan-Nov 2022 | | Adare-Rathkeale | Newcastle West | Metropolitan | Cappamore-Kilmallock | Total |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Mobility Aid Grants | No. Approved | 15 | 17 | 47 | 18 | 97 |
| | MAG Expenditure | €106,198.45 | €116,994.70 | €259,441.78 | €115,290.00 | €597,924.93 |
| | No. Paid | 23 | 25 | 54 | 22 | 124 |
| Housing Adaptation Grants | No. Approved | 37 | 22 | 171 | 33 | 263 |
| | HAG Expenditure | €216,541.55 | €223,725.83 | €992,560.47 | €129,124.92 | €1,561,952.77 |
| | No. Paid | 22 | 23 | 120 | 16 | 181 |
| Housing Aid for Older People | No. Approved | 58 | 97 | 197 | 61 | 413 |
| | HOP Expenditure | €243,632.36 | €578,163.63 | €799,644.32 | €280,672.65 | €1,902,112.96 |
| | No. Paid | 66 | 130 | 235 | 63 | 494 |
| Disabled Person's Grant | DPG Expenditure | €34,958.01 | 0 | €397,626.46 | €80,806.33 | €513,390.80 |
| | No. Paid | 4 | 0 | 33 | 11 | 48 |

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| YTD Total No. Approved | 773 |
| YTD Total Monies Paid | €4,575,381.46 |
| YTD Total No. Paid | 847 |

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Community Sustainment Unit

Tenancy Inductions

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| No. of Tenancy Inductions | 21 |
|---------------------------|----|

Repossessions

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Repossession of Council properties | 8 |
|------------------------------------|---|

House Visits

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| No. of House Visits | 333 |
|---------------------|-----|

Garda Checks

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| Garda Checks processed | 93 |
|------------------------|----|

Sugar CRM (Customer Relationship Management) Cases

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Active cases at month-end | 183 |
| Cases closed during month | 48 |

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

| Date: 06 November 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 | 57 |
| 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 | 16 |
| 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 | 16 |
| Total | | 158 |

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

| Families | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Location | Description | Beds Used | | |
| | | Adults | Children | Families |
| Suaimhneas | Family Emergency accommodation | 6 | 10 | 6 |
| B&B/Hotel Accommodation | Families | 97 | 135 | 67 |
| Twin Oaks Family Hub | Family Hub | 14 | 14 | 10 |
| Totals | | Adults | Children | Families |
| | | 117 | 159 | 83 |

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

| Tenant Purchase | |
|--|----|
| Tenant Purchase Applications: No. received | 4 |
| Tenant Purchase Applications: No. approved | 5 |
| Local Authority Home Loans | |
| Loan Applications: No. received | 6 |
| Loan Applications: No. approved | 1 |
| Deed of Discharge | |
| Deed of Discharge Applications: No. Received | 20 |
| Consent to Sale | |
| Consent to Sale Applications: No. Received | 9 |
| Cottage Purchase Annuity | |
| No. of Cottage Purchase Annuity Applications | 5 |
| Ground Rent | |
| No. of Ground Rent applications | 0 |
| Private Rented Inspections | |
| No. of Inspections | 97 |

Freedom of Information, Data Requests and Ombudsman

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Freedom of Information requests | 4 |
| Ombudsman Query Cases | 2 |
| Data Access Requests | 3 |

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

2. Local Authority Housing Construction and Maintenance

Local Authority Housing Construction

| House Returns November | |
|------------------------|----|
| Total | 12 |

| House Returns November By Municipal District | |
|--|-----------|
| Adare-Rathkeale | 1 |
| Cappamore-Kilmallock | 2 |
| Newcastle West | 3 |
| Metropolitan District | 6 |
| Total | 12 |

During November, 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; two in the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock; three in the Municipal District of Newcastle West; and six in the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

| Current Working Programme | | |
|---|-----------------------|-------------|
| | Completed in November | In Progress |
| Local Authority Construction Team | 0 | 137 |
| Local Authority Maintenance Team | 4 | 60 |
| Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process | 0 | 27 |
| Regeneration Team | 0 | 27 |
| Team to be assigned | NA | 20 |
| Total | 4 | 271 |

In November works on four properties were completed by the LA Maintenance team.

There are three Teams in Limerick City and County Council assigned to refurbish properties. As of November, the Local Authority Construction Team is in the process of completing works in 137 properties, Local Authority Maintenance Team 60 properties and the Regeneration Team 27 properties. Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process - 27 properties. 20 properties are in the process of being assigned a Team.

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.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

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

Project Updates:

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. The team is currently looking at the viability of a westerly first mover Phase 1 scheme of approximately 50 units, and preparing an Affordable Homes Fund application for that.

Separately, Limerick City and County Council's Affordable Housing team submitted an expression of interest application to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, for part of Toppins Field to be considered for inclusion in the next tranche of the Social Housing Public Private Partnership (SH PPP) Programme. The Limerick City and County Council Affordable Housing Team is collaborating with the Regeneration Department and the Active Travel Unit on the potential for synergies between projects in the area and any new development proposal.

Curragower Lands

Limerick City and County Council received Approval in Principle for increased funding under the Affordable Housing Fund in November, and the scheme has now transferred from the Serviced Sites Fund stream to the Affordable Housing Fund programme.

The remaining design team consultants will now be appointed and work will then continue in further developing the viability study into a preplanning design, where a Part 8 planning application will be prepared for

this key city centre site. Engagement with local Councillors and input from neighbours will help to inform the design over the coming months.

Sonnys Lands

Limerick City and County Council's Affordable Housing Team in partnership with the financial analysts at the Housing Agency have now stress tested the viability of developing cost rental homes on this attractive city centre site and it appears viable. A paper is being prepared for the Limerick City and County Council Finance Department to review, but initial feedback is positive.

Latest viability modelling to reflect increases in building costs and increases in borrowing interest rates have 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](#) have advised that the extra funding needed is being made available and once this is confirmed, the intention is to submit an Affordable Housing Fund application, and present to Councillors for discussion on the funding mechanism.

Guinness Lands

Work is ongoing with the Land Development Agency on the Land Acquisition Strategy for the area and a design team is being commissioned to conduct a Capacity Analysis for the combined folio land bank. Talks are well underway with affected stakeholders, and once the land bank for the first phase is finalised, this Design Team will work with Limerick City and County Council to develop the density and tenure mix envisioned for the site. This Capacity Analysis will inform and be part of the final Development Agreement between Limerick City and County Council and the Land Development Agency.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Finance:

- Applications for funding totaling €2,952,191, issued to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage paid €3,786,943 in claims made.

Local Authority Maintenance

Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme 2022:

Works are progressing well on the 51 units at various locations, with 15 units substantially completed by 30 November.

Local Authority Houses: Maintenance Complaints dealt with during November

| Housing Maintenance Cases-November | Requests/Cases Created | Cases Dealt With/Closed | Balance of Open Cases at 30.11.2022 |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Metropolitan District of Limerick | 1,031 | 736 | 1,475 |
| Municipal District of Adare - Rathkeale | 101 | 86 | 176 |
| Municipal District of Cappamore - Kilmallock | 153 | 133 | 245 |
| Municipal District of Newcastle West | 172 | 146 | 519 |
| Total | 1,457 | 1,101 | 2,415 |

Grants Inspections

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

| Inspection Types | Pre-application | Initial Inspection | Re-inspection | Final Inspections after Works completed | Total Inspections by Grant Type |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|---|---------------------------------|
| MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme) | 0 | 6 | 0 | 9 | 15 |
| HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme) | 0 | 13 | 1 | 17 | 31 |
| HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme) | 0 | 10 | 0 | 32 | 42 |
| DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant) | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Total Inspections by Inspection Type | 0 | 30 | 2 | 60 | 92 |

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

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

| Inspection Types | Pre-application | Initial Inspection | Re-inspection | Final Inspections after Works completed | Total Inspections by Grant Type |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|---|---------------------------------|
| MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme) | 0 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 9 |
| HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme) | 0 | 4 | 0 | 8 | 12 |
| DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Total Inspections by Inspection Type | 0 | 10 | 1 | 16 | 27 |

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

| Inspection Types | Pre-application | Initial Inspection | Re-inspection | Final Inspections after Works completed | Total Inspections by Grant Type |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|---|---------------------------------|
| MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme) | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 8 |
| DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| Total Inspections by Inspection Type | 0 | 4 | 0 | 13 | 17 |

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

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

| Inspection Types | Pre-application | Initial Inspection | Re-inspection | Final Inspections after Works completed | Total Inspections by Grant Type |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|---|---------------------------------|
| MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme) | 0 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 8 |
| HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme) | 0 | 10 | 0 | 17 | 27 |
| DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 |
| Total Inspections by Inspection Type | 0 | 15 | 0 | 31 | 46 |

HOUSE INSPECTIONS UNIT

| Houses Inspected for Refurbishment Works and Re-Letting - November - Categories | Number of Properties |
|---|----------------------|
| Cat 1 – minor repairs needed | 3 |
| Cat 2 – moderate repairs needed | 5 |
| Cat 3 – substantial repairs needed | 1 |
| Cat 4 – major repairs required. | 0 |
| TOTAL INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT | 9 |
| No of Properties Awaiting Inspection | 14 |

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

3. Strategy & Non-Local Authority Housing Construction

1. BUILD, BUY AND LEASE

Buy/Build/Lease as of 30.11.22 November is as follows:

| As at 30 November (01.01.2022 - 30.11.2022) | Complete | In Progress | Overall Complete and In Progress | "Housing for All" 2022 Delivery Target |
|---|------------|-------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Build | 281 | 104 | 385 | 565 |
| Buy | 44 | 8 | 52 | 0 |
| Lease | 32 | 11 | 43 | 21 |
| TOTAL | 357 | 123 | 480 | |

2. CURRENT OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

Finance

- Claims totalling €9,094,807 were sent to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- Claims totalling €8,087,739 were paid by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Project Approvals and Submissions

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

| Scheme | Project Details | District |
|------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Mortgage to Rent (MTR) | Approval for the acquisition by Home for Life of 1 no. Unit at Hyde Road, Limerick | Metropolitan District of Limerick |
| Mortgage to Rent (MTR) | Approval for the acquisition by Home for Life of 1 no. Unit at Deerpark, Adare, Co. Limerick | Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale |
| Mortgage to Rent (MTR) | Approval for the acquisition by Home for Life of 1 no. Unit at Castleview, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick | Municipal District of Newcastle West |
| Mortgage to Rent (MTR) | Approval for the acquisition by Home for Life of 1 no. Unit at Carrigkerry, Athea, Co. Limerick | Municipal District of Newcastle West |

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

| Scheme | Project Details | District |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF) | Revised approval for units at Clonmacken, Condell Road Limerick due to the Housing Finance Agency increasing its interest rates and providing a new fixed rate product for Approved Housing Bodies. | Metropolitan District of Limerick |
| Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF) | Revised approval for units at Bloodmill Road, Limerick due to the Housing Finance Agency increasing its interest rates and providing a new fixed rate product for Approved Housing Bodies. | Metropolitan District of Limerick |
| Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF) | Revised approval for 1 unit at Woodfield, Park, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick due to the Housing Finance Agency increasing its interest rates and providing a new fixed rate product for Approved Housing Bodies. | Municipal District of Newcastle West |
| Social Housing Capital Expenditure Programme (Leasing) | Approval for the leasing of 4 no. Units at Davis Street, Limerick | Metropolitan District of Limerick |
| Social Housing Capital Expenditure Programme (Repair and Leasing) | Approval for the leasing of 7 no. Units at Church Street, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick | Municipal District of Newcastle West |
| Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP) | Approval for the acquisition of 1 no. Unit at 2/3 Rutland Street, Limerick | Metropolitan District of Limerick |
| Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP) | Approval for the acquisition of 1 no. Unit at Rhebogue, Limerick | Metropolitan District of Limerick |
| Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP) | Approval for the acquisition of 1 no. Unit at Castletroy, Limerick | Metropolitan District of Limerick |
| Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP) | Approval for the acquisition of 1 no. Unit at Janesboro, Limerick | Metropolitan District of Limerick |
| Buy and Renew Acquisition | Approval for the acquisition of 1 no. Unit at Corbally, Limerick | Metropolitan District of Limerick |
| Buy and Renew Acquisition | Approval for the acquisition of 1 no. Unit at Prospect, Limerick | Metropolitan District of Limerick |

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

| Scheme | Project Details | District |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Buy and Renew Acquisition | Approval for the acquisition of 1 no. Unit at Prospect, Limerick | Metropolitan District of Limerick |
| Buy and Renew Acquisition | Approval for the acquisition of 1 no. Unit at Kennedy Park, Limerick | Metropolitan District of Limerick |
| Buy and Renew Acquisition | Approval for the acquisition of 1 no. Unit at Clancy Strand, Limerick | Metropolitan District of Limerick |
| Buy and Renew Acquisition | Approval for the acquisition of 1 no. Unit at Murroe, Limerick | Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock |
| Buy and Renew Acquisition | Approval for the acquisition of 1 no. Unit at Oola, Limerick | Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock |
| Buy and Renew Acquisition | Approval for the acquisition of 1 no. Unit at Croom, Limerick | Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale |
| Part V | Approval for the acquisition of 1 no. Unit at Rhebogue, Limerick | Metropolitan District of Limerick |
| Part V | Approval for the acquisition of 1 no. Unit at Caherdavin, Limerick | Metropolitan District of Limerick |
| Part V | Approval for the acquisition of 2 no. Unit at Caherconlish, Limerick | Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock |
| Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) | Stage 4 Approval for the Construction of 12 no. units at Mallow Street, Limerick | Metropolitan District of Limerick |
| Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) | Turnkey Approval for 6 no. Units at Thomondgate, Limerick | Metropolitan District of Limerick |

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

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

| Scheme | Project Details | District |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF) | Submission for 16 no. units at The Orchard, Pallaskenry, Co. Limerick | Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale |
| Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) | Submission for the acquisition of 1 no. unit at Quins Cottages, Limerick | Metropolitan District of Limerick |
| Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) | Submission for the acquisition of 1 no. unit at Shannonvale, Old Cratloe Road, Limerick | Metropolitan District of Limerick |
| Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) | Revised Stage 4 Construction Submission for 5 no. units at Henry Street, Limerick | Metropolitan District of Limerick |
| Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) | Turnkey Submission for 30 no. Units at Broad Street, Limerick | Metropolitan District of Limerick |

3. UPDATES

Conferences and Workshops

The Excellence in Local Government Awards showcase best practice in local government and recognise the skills, hard work, innovation and enthusiasm within local government that can often go unrecognised. The Excellence in Local Government Awards are held in conjunction with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

The 2022 Excellence in Local Government Award winners were announced at the 19th annual ceremony on 24 November at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Northwood, Santry, Dublin. The Housing Strategy and Non-Local Authority Housing Construction Team was delighted to win an award for the 'New Build - Incremental Purchase Scheme' under the category 'Supporting Sustainable Communities.'

Staff attended an online workshop delivered by the Housing Agency in relation to cost inflation in the context of the delivery of Part V homes.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

4. Municipal District Offices

Metropolitan District of Limerick

Metropolitan District Meetings

Monthly Meeting

The November Monthly Meeting of Metropolitan District of Limerick took place on the 21 November.

Special Meeting

A Special Meeting was held on the 10 November for the Elected Members of Metropolitan District of Limerick to discuss the following:

- Wayfinding Strategy for Limerick City;
- Laneways Strategy for Limerick City;
- Nicholas Street Area;
- High Street and Milk Market Area;
- Update on the World-Class Waterfront.

Operational Area Briefings

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

Upgrade/Refurbishment Works in the Metropolitan District

Description of project: Old Cork Road – Georgian Village to Nursing Home Restoration Improvement Scheme;

Location: Old Cork Road;
Cost of project: €160,000;
Contractor: Roadstone Ltd.

Description of project: New Street Restoration Improvement Scheme;

Location: New Street;
Cost of project: €60,000;
Contractor: Roadstone Ltd.

Description of project: Belfield Park Restoration Improvement Scheme;

Location: Ennis Road;
Cost of project: €40,000;
Contractor: Roadstone Ltd.

Description of project: Hillcrest Drive / Hazeldine Drive Restoration Improvement Scheme;

Location: Ennis Road;
Cost of project: €104,000;
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: Childers Road-Railway Bridge Street Art;

Location: Childers Road;
Cost of project: €55,000;
Contractor: Tallybrooke / Street Art Inc.

Description of project: Colbert Ave Drainage;

Location: Colbert Ave, Janesboro;
Cost of project: €90,000;
Contractor: Maramba Road Services Ltd.

Description of project: Old Park Road / Corbally road junction safety improvements;

Location: Corbally;
Cost of project: €10,000;
Contractor: Tallybrooke.

Description of project: Union Cross, Ennis Road traffic signals upgrade;

Location: Union Cross, Ennis Road;
Cost of project: €6,000;
Contractor: Traffic Solutions.

Description of project: Nicholas Street, Mary Street, Bridge Street/Athlunkard Street traffic signals upgrade;

Location: Nicholas Street area;
Cost of project: €8,000;
Contractor: Traffic Solutions.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Description of project: New Street footpaths upgrade - Active Travel Scheme;

Location: New Street;
Cost of project: €100,000;
Contractor: Sorenson.

Description of project: Rhebogue / Corbally Newly widened footpath scheme- Active Travel Scheme;

Location: Ard Scoil Mhuire, Corbally & Old Park Road;
Cost of project: €175,000;
Contractor: Neville Civil Engineering Ltd.

Description of project: Ballykeefe Roundabout footpath scheme- Active Travel Scheme;

Location: Dooradoyle;
Cost of project: €30,000;
Contractor: Peter Ryan.

Description of project: Condell Road Footpath Scheme (Moineir housing site) - Active Travel Scheme;

Location: Caherdavin;
Cost of project: €200,000;
Contractor: Neville Civil Engineering Ltd.

Description of project: Lisnagry School Pedestrian Crossing - Active Travel Scheme;

Location: Lisnagry;
Cost of project: €30,000;
Contractor: Neville Civil Engineering Ltd.

Description of project: Arthurs Quay Raised pedestrian Crossing - Active Travel Scheme;

Location: Arthurs Quay;
Cost of project: €50,000;
Contractor: Shareridge.

Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

- The November Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale took place on 08 November in Croom Civic Centre, Croom.
- Essential repairs to social houses and public roads were undertaken by the Housing Maintenance and Roads Maintenance Teams:
 - 101 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
 - 129 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

Community Involvement Schemes

Community Involvement Schemes were completed at Killaheen, Rathkeale.

Local Improvement Schemes

Local Improvement Schemes were completed at Knockfirena, Ballingarry, and Poulatoon, Fedamore.

Overlay Macadam Works

Overlay Macadam works were completed on the N21 at Coolanoran.

Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

Meetings

The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock was held in Deebert House Hotel, Kilmallock, on 17 November.

A Municipal District Reception was held on 17 November to recognise the achievements of eight persons local to the District who had been successful nationally or internationally in their field. These included in the fields of Sports, Business, Social Media and the Arts.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick City
& County Council**

Housing and Road Maintenance

- 149 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance team.
- 167 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance team.

Housing Grants

18 Private Housing Grants were paid in November totalling €94,975.40 and 20 were approved. There were ten initial inspections undertaken, one re-inspections and 16 final inspections.

One Disabled Persons Grant was completed.

Roads Maintenance

The following works were completed in November:

- Murroe Pedestrian Crossing
- Nicker Pedestrian Crossing
- Collins Cross Safety Improvement Scheme
- L1133 Cappamore Footpath Scheme
- Boher Drainage Scheme
- Clonteen Drainage Scheme
- Installation of Road Studs on R505
- Active Travel Footpath Works at Herbertstown, Bruff, Knocklong and Elton
- Low Cost Safety Scheme Works at Patrickswell and Ballynagallagh Cross
- General Municipal Allocation Works – Knockainey Wall Repairs
 - Dromin Graveyard Works
 - Mill Road Kilfinnane Footpath Works
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland GeoAPP Drainage Works at O' Rourke's Cross
- Climate Adaption Works on R512 at Sunville and L8549 Castleoliver

Municipal District of Newcastle West

- The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West took place on 02 November in Áras William Smith OBrien, Newcastle West.
- A Special Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West took place on 16 November in Áras William Smith OBrien, Newcastle West.
- 14 grant applications were approved under the Private Housing Grant Schemes during the month. The total value of approvals was €72,356.68.
- Payments of €110,359.10 were made to 25 applicants who completed works under the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.
- Payments of €17,001.24 were made to two applicants who completed works under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme.
- Payments of €21,262.43 were made to five applicants who completed works under the Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme.
- During the month, the Motor Tax Section at the Newcastle West Office processed 1,007 routine transactions.



Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Planning, Environment & Place-Making Directorate

1. Place-Making and Public Realm

Project Updates

Public Realm

World Class Waterfront

- Officials from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage came on a site visit to view Urban Regeneration and Development Fund projects on 22 November.
- An update on the World Class Waterfront was given to Members at a Special Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick on 10 November.

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund: URDFLim008 Strand 3 Pedestrian Bridges & 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.
- There has been good interest in the Request for Tenders which was published for a multi-disciplinary team to prepare the Arthur's Quay Area Framework Plan.
- **Wayfinding Strategy** - Part 8 Planning process in preparation. Documents circulated for internal consultation.
- **Decluttering Project** - Request for quotes for survey of existing signage has been issued.
- **Limerick Public Realm Strategy** - Information gathering stage (Stage 1) of the Public Realm Strategy is now complete. As part of the context appraisal stage (Stage 2), there is a live online survey for the purpose of obtaining initial feedback on public opinion of the city's public realm. The survey is anonymous and open

ended to encourage people to share their current experience of the city.

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 have carried out an Energy Study at the facility and we are now waiting for SEAI feedback 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. Pre-planning meeting with area planner was carried out. Internal consultation is ongoing. Redesign scheme submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for comments. The Department carried out site visit in both locations and commented that it welcomed, at a strategic level, the refurbishment of these Georgian buildings, both in terms of the urban regeneration impact and increasing city centre living. Integrated Design Team is completing Part 8 Planning Application submission package.
- Priority Construction Limited were appointed to lay a duct to underground 10KV ESB line to north of St Mary's Park. The works are required to remove overhead electrical wires in advance of the King's Island Flood Relief Scheme. The contract has a value of €45,690.00 excl. VAT.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Flooding Projects

Limerick City and Environs Flood Relief Scheme

- Geotechnical investigations of the existing Office of Public Works (OPW) embankments essentially complete. Planning consent under the 177AE Planning Application has been approved and geotechnical investigations commenced on non-OPW embankments (including embankments in County Clare), there is 42km of embankments across the scheme area.
- Section 85 Agreement went through Full Council meetings in both Limerick and Clare. Section 85 Agreement is now in operation.
- Public Realm Topographical Surveys are complete.
- Five year invasive species management contract across scheme area commenced.
- Defence asset condition survey complete.

Adare Flood Relief Scheme

- Geophysical survey works (archaeology) now complete.
- Geotechnical investigations have commenced on site.
- Storm Sewer investigation contract complete awaiting final report.
- Commenced invasive species treatment of scheme area.
- Ecology surveys complete and awaiting final reports.

Athea Flood Relief Scheme

- Draft Hydraulic Model complete and reviewed by Limerick City and County Council and the Office of Public Works.
- Geotechnical investigations complete.
- An Bord Pleanála granted approval (with conditions) to allow the removal of the gravel blockage from under the bridge. Contractor was appointed and gravel removal contract is now complete.

Castleconnell Flood Relief Scheme

- Draft Hydraulic Report complete with flood maps. New flood maps to be incorporated into the Castleconnell Local Area Plan.
- Three viable options presented at the Public Participation Day.

- Options discussed at a Limerick City and County Council cross directorate collaborative workshop.
- Arborist survey of scheme area complete.

Archaeology

- The works to the City Wall at Johnsgate, funded by the Irish Walled Towns Network through the Heritage Council, were completed and the drawdown was submitted.
- Phase 1 of the works to the Tower House in the graveyard at Ballynoe, Bruree were completed and the drawdown through the Community Monuments Fund (Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage) was submitted.
- The drawdown of the capital works funded by the Community Monuments Fund and Limerick City and County Council at Kilfinane, and for the Community Monuments Fund Stream 3 Non-Invasive Survey on Kilmallock Monastic Site, were also submitted.

2. Planning Development

Planning Applications

A total of 72 new planning applications were received as follows:

| Category | Amount |
|--|--------|
| Part 8 | 1 |
| Housing Developments | 3 |
| Domestic Developments | 42 |
| Agricultural Developments | 8 |
| Commercial Developments/ Change of Use | 6 |
| Sporting/ Community and Educational Developments | 6 |
| Other Developments | 6 |

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

The current applications include proposals for:

- Part 8 for the construction of 31 residential units which will be completed in two phases and will consist of:
Phase 1: The provision of 21 residential units and Phase 2: The provision of ten residential units, new road running north-west connecting the existing Sycamore Crescent estate with the proposed development, 37 car parking spaces, hard landscaping including; bin stores, privacy strip to front gardens, rear garden walls, bicycle stands, installation of street lighting; New public open space including soft landscaping, tree planting, street furniture, street lighting, footpaths, new watermain, new foul and storm sewers to connect into existing drainage system and all associated site works at Sycamore Crescent, Gortboy, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.
- Large-Scale Residential Development (LRD) comprising the construction of a Purpose-Built Student Accommodation (PBSA) scheme consisting of 26 apartments with a total of 202 student bedspaces distributed across three multi storey blocks with a gross development area of 5,771 sq. metres at Old Dublin Road, Rhebogue, Limerick.
- Refurbishment of the former Railway Hotel (Protected Structure - RPS Ref. 6035) and a change of use to Student Residences, demolition of McEnerys Shop, erection of a three storey building to Parnell Street and a seven storey building to Davis Street/Davis Lane, to provide 116 bed spaces (six studios and 19 apartments), a ground floor Café to Parnell Street/ Davis Street, a Laundry accessed via courtyard, Bicycle and Bin Stores, accessed via courtyard and Davis Lane and all associated site works at McEnery's Shop and Railway Hotel, Parnell Street and Davis Street, Limerick.
- Re-development of the existing school and its grounds at CBS Sexton Street comprising demolition of buildings to the rear of the main school building, (including sports hall), conservation and renovation of existing historic school buildings, construction of school building extension (6,418.9 sq. metres) over three levels consisting of classrooms, specialist teaching spaces, social spaces, multi-purpose hall,

special education needs unit, reception offices and ancillary accommodation. Services to include roof mounted photovoltaic panels, boiler, ESB substation kiosk and gas compound, proposed attenuation tank, underground fire fighting storage tank and public lighting, formation and landscape of central school courtyard, car parking to western side of site (this development is within the demesne of a Protected Structure) at Sexton Street, Limerick.

- Demolition of existing derelict building and associated works, construction of a residential development comprising of 28 apartments which will be located within 4 separate blocks, construction of new access and internal roads, the installation of all required services to include pumping stations, connection to all public utility services, hard and soft landscaping with all associated site works at Sexton Street North, Limerick.
- Construction of a 24.7 hectare solar farm comprising the construction of PV panels mounted on metal frames, new access tracks, underground cabling, perimeter fencing with CCTV cameras and access gates, installation of nine transformer containers, a temporary construction compound and all ancillary grid infrastructure and associated works. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) accompanies the planning application at Ellaha and Mullagh, Co. Limerick.

3. Environment, Recreation & Climate Change

Cemeteries

Number of Burials in City Cemeteries

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Mount St. Lawrence | 12 |
| Mount St. Oliver | 6 |
| Castlemungret | 13 |
| Kilmurry | 2 |

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Annual Burial Grounds Awards

The 13th Annual Burial Grounds Awards Night was held on 23 November in the Millennium Centre, Caherconlish with approx. 100 people attending in the presence of the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley. As stated by The Mayor, 13 is usually an unlucky number but for 22 Community Groups who received awards for their respective burial grounds, (11 awards each in the Ancient and Modern categories) it was a lucky night. Award winners were as follows;

Ancient

Metropolitan District of Limerick - 1st St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick;

Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale - 1st Ballingarry Old Burial Ground, 2nd Knockpatrick Burial Ground and 3rd Kilbradran Burial Ground;

Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock 1st Glenlary (Araclaw) Burial Ground, 2nd Tankardstown Burial Ground, 3rd Old Pallas Burial Ground and 4th St. Fintan's Burial Ground, Doon;

Municipal District of Newcastle West - 1st Kilmeedy Burial Ground, 2nd The Square Burial Ground, Abbeyfeale and 3rd St. David's Burial Ground, Churchtown, Newcastle West.

Modern

Metropolitan District of Limerick -- 1st St. Nessian's, Mungret;

Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale - 1st Kilcornan Burial Ground, 2nd Shanagolden New Burial Ground and 3rd Ballingrane Burial Ground (Embury Heck);

Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock - 1st Athlacca Burial Ground, 2nd Caherconlish Burial Ground (Extension 1), 3rd Kilfinane Burial Ground and 4th St. Columba's Burial Ground, Pallasgreen;

Municipal District of Newcastle West - 1st Dromcollogher Burial Ground, 2nd Kinard Burial Ground, Glin and 3rd Ardagh Burial Ground.

In addition, an overall winner was announced for both categories:

Overall winner in the Ancient Category was Ballingarry Old Burial Ground and in the Modern Category was St. Nessian's Burial Ground, Mungret.

There was also a very informative presentation by Emer O'Regan, Ballingarry Development Association, on works undertaken by the group in rehabilitating the grounds of Ballingarry Old Burial Ground and restoring two mausoleums in the burial ground. There was also a presentation from the Limerick City and County Council Archaeologist on streams of funding utilised by the Council in repairing/rehabilitating historic structures.

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

During the month -

- 239 complaints were received.
- A total of 244 inspections were undertaken.
- 20 Warnings were issued.
- Five Notices were issued.
- Five Directions were served by the Department.
- 15 Prosecutions was initiated.
- 22 fines were issued.

4. Urban Innovation

+CityxChange

Members of the Urban Innovation Department Team travelled to Písek, Czechia to attend the +CityxChange Consortium Meeting. The aim of the meeting was to plan for the final year of the +CityxChange project. We were able to discuss hurdles and achievements, as well as future steps for the project. The programme was

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

structured around specific challenges and needs of the seven project cities, which were discussed in workshops and interactive discussion-based sessions. The focus was on our journey and needs, what we have learned from the demonstration phase, and plans for moving forward towards replication. We also discussed how to best extract all the knowledge (and associated processes) that we have tested and created throughout the last four years, and how to make this information accessible.

As part of the programme, Limerick and Trondheim each presented on how to make the last year count - Limerick about forming Energy Communities and Trondheim on How to make a Positive Energy Block.

After several sessions and important discussions, it became even more apparent that the cities have had differing challenges and successes, which need to be understood and recognised for the value they bring to the table. We are learning from our 'failures' and finding meaningful ways to bridge the gaps in our intended impacts.

CrAft Cities

In November, members of the Urban Innovation Department Team travelled to Prague to attend the Kick off session of the CrAft Cities EU Project. The project Creating Actionable Futures – CrAft is part of the New European Bauhaus (NEB) initiative of the European Union and will place the transition to climate neutrality at the heart of urban stakeholders.

In the Citizen Innovation Lab

In early November Smart Dublin held two workshops for Academy of the Near Future in the Citizen Innovation Lab. Academy of the Near Future is a smart city education programme for [students](#) and [local authority professionals](#) offered by CONNECT and Dublin City Council. They exist to accelerate sustainable and inclusive smart city development through awareness, skills, and confidence-building. Academy of the Near Future programmes are a combination of interactive workshops, online learning and "hands on" activities with sensor kits that provide learners

with an understanding of how technologies such as the Internet of Things and Big Data can help cities deal with traffic congestion, air pollution, extreme weather events, and more.

Decarbonising Together

November saw the Creative Climate Action Fund Project Decarbonising Together enter its reporting stage. A summary report was drafted for Creative Ireland to highlight the work done by our Communities and Creatives to examine how meaningful climate action can become part of their day-to-day lives. Each group explored an aspect of Decarbonisation that matters to them through a creative collaboration with arts and creative industry partners. The projects focused on making and doing together to enable behaviour change towards Decarbonisation in Limerick.

5. Veterinary Services

- 11 stray or wandering horses were impounded.
- The Dog Control Unit processed 13 dogs during the month.
- One food sample was submitted for analysis under the National Residues and Microbiological Sampling Programme.



Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

National and Regional Shared Services Centre Directorate

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

- There were 59,448 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAPSSC at the end of November.
- A weekly average of 170 HAP tenancies have been set-up during 2022.
- The November landlord payment run was €55.7 million.
- The weekly tenant charge at the end of November, was €€3.1 million.
- The Debt Management Unit of the HAP SSC collected a total of €145.6 million in differential rent to end of November.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of November was 99%.
- The Debt Management Unit issued 8,692 HAP debt reminder letters in November.

2. Fire and Emergency

Statistics

| | No of Fire Related Calls | No of Non-Fire Related Calls | Total |
|--|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------|
| No. of call-outs 01.11.2022 – 30.11.2022 | 72 | 51 | 123 |
| % of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call | 64% | 54% | |
| % of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call | 19% | 36% | |
| % of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call | 17% | 10% | |

| | No. received / assigned | No. validated | No. invalidated / refused | No. granted | No. Completed |
|--|-------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Fire Certificate Applications November | 14 | 17 | 2 | 13 | 13 |
| Disability Access Cert Applications November | 9 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 7 |
| Licensing Applications November | 9 | 9 | 0 | | 6 |
| Commencement Notice November | 34 | 32 | 1 | 32 | 32 |
| Completion Certificate November | 15 | 12 | 0 | 12 | 12 |
| Planning Referrals November | 10 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Sugar CRM Cases November | 8 | 0 | 1 | | 7 |

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Fire and Emergency Training Events

During the month, the following training courses took place:

- 38 fire fighters completed HIAB and Winch refresher training in Newcastle West Fire Station
- Six officers attended the Senior Officer Seminar in Tullamore, Offaly.
- Limerick Fire Service successfully delivered a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) accredited Transportation Incidents course in Limerick Racecourse, training nine fire fighters from Limerick and a number of fire fighters from Tipperary Fire Service.
- Two fire fighters completed their Breathing Apparatus initial Wearers course in Clonmel Fire Station
- Three fire fighters attended a BFireSafe seminar on the delivery of fire safety talks in primary schools
- On-Station training continued in all stations.

Civil Defence attendance at Events

The following activity took place:

- Patient Transfer – Limerick residence to St. Camillus' (5 Days)
- Ukrainian Displaced Persons transportation (5 Days)
- Civil Defence Officers Association Conference & Trade Show 2022 (1 Day)
- Patient Transfer – Limerick residence to Southcourt Hotel, Limerick (1 Day)
- Patient Transfer – National Rehabilitation Centre, Dublin to Limerick residence (1 Day)
- Patient Transfer – Limerick residence to Nenagh General Hospital, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary (1 Day)
- Covid-19 Medals Presentation by Minister of Defence in Croke Park, Dublin (1 Day)

Major Emergency Management

- Attended Shannon Estuary Inter-Agency Table Top Exercise
- Severe Weather Assessment Team constantly review water levels on the Shannon.

Water Safety

| No. of lifebuoy replacements | Total January - October | November | Total 2022 |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------|------------|
| Metropolitan District | 16 | 1 | 17 |
| Municipal District | 10 | 1 | 11 |

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Support Services Directorate

1. Finance

Commercial Rates and Loans

Draft Collection Figures

| Commercial Rates 2022 | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| As at 30th November 2022 | |
| Opening Balance - 1 Jan € | 8,732,896 |
| Accruals € | 58,978,680 ** |
| Vacant Property Adjustment € | 1,045,614 |
| Writes offs/ Waivers € | 4,037,658 |
| Total for Collection € | 62,628,304 |
| Amount Collected € | 53,648,519 |
| Arrears € | 8,979,785 |
| Specific Doubtful Arrears € | 1,855,099 |
| % Collected | 88% |

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

Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No. of days in overdraft 0

| Debtors Loans | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| As at 30th November 2022 | |
| Opening Balance - 1 Jan € | 310,319 |
| Accruals € | 1,680,757 ^ |
| Writes offs € | - |
| To Collect € | 1,991,076 |
| Receipts € | 1,713,364 |
| Arrears € | 277,712 |
| % Collected | 86% |

^ Accruals not updated for loans for November 2022

Chief Executive's Report

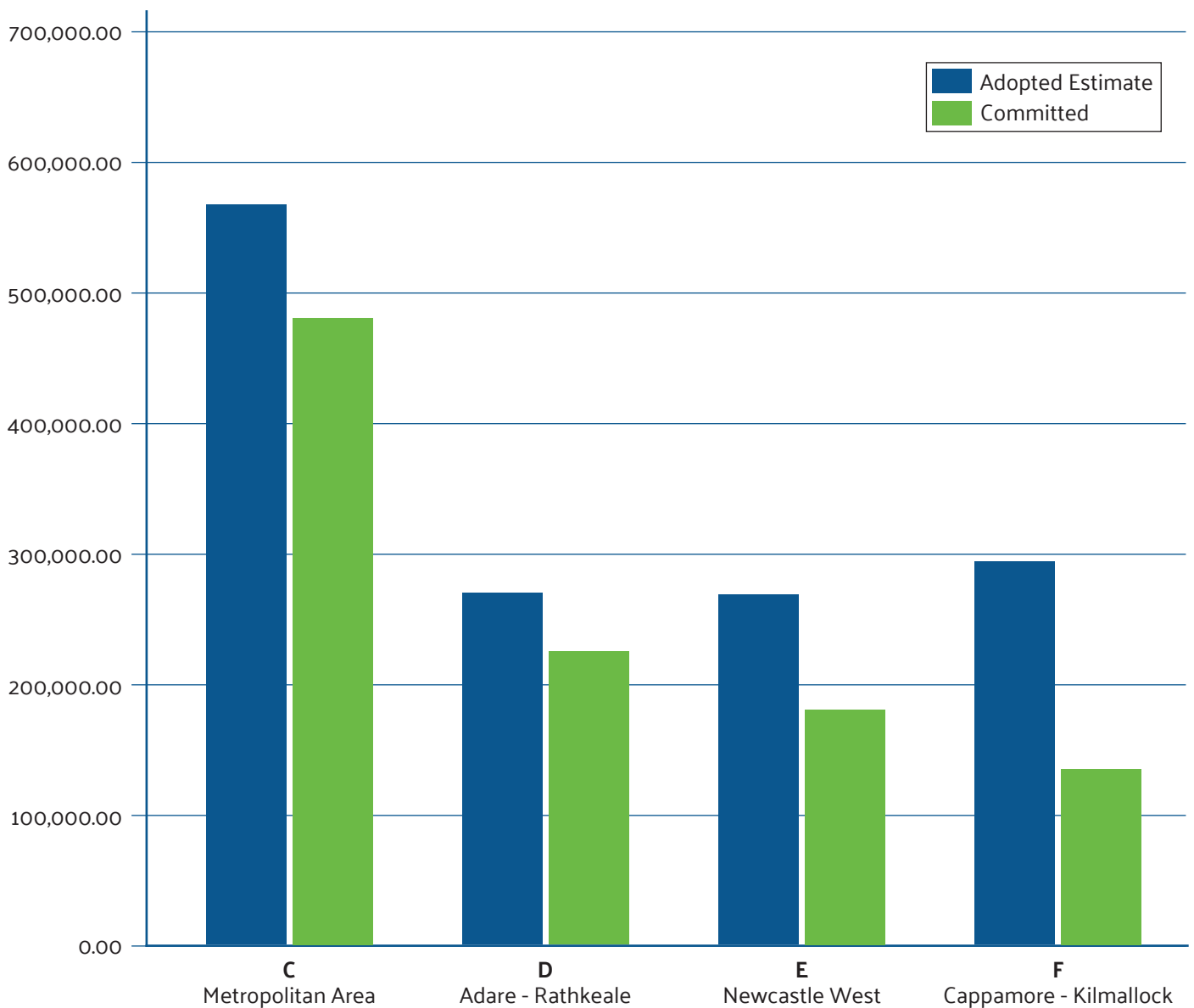


Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

General Municipal Allocation 2022 Adopted Estimate €1.403 Million

Graph outlining adopted budget and draft committed expenditure up to 30 November, 2022.



Municip (Code) + (Text)

Value Adopted Estimate (€)

Value Committed (€)

C Metropolitan Area

568,000.00

481,276

D Adare - Rathkeale

270,000.00

223,835

E Newcastle West

270,000.00

181,421

F Cappamore - Kilmallock

295,000.00

136,952

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

2. Business Improvement

- Business Improvement launched two new digitised online forms –
 - The Property Transaction Acquisition/Disposal Application Form
 - The Vehicle Application Form.
- 11 staff members received MyPoint Consultation training.
- A total of 924 active users are now live on the Employee App.
- Services on Service Catalogue = 701.
- Tender for Staff App went live on E-tenders.
- There are 355 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

The Mayor hosted the following in Corporate Headquarters:

- Visit of the Colombian Ambassador to Ireland.
- Visit of the Brazilian Ambassador to Ireland.

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

- Launch for University Concert Hall Christmas Panto, Peter Pan.
Venue: Savoy Hotel, Henry Street, Limerick.
- Formally open the Transforming Education Conference.
Venue: University of Limerick, Limerick City Centre Campus, Sarsfield Street, Limerick.
- Eli Lilly Community Information Event.
Venue: Great National South Court Hotel, Raheen, Limerick.
- Breaking Barriers Soccer Tournament.
Venue: Factories indoor soccer hall in Southill, Galvone Road, Limerick.
- Invitation from Shannon RFC to a derby between Shannon and Garryowen.
Venue: Thomond Park, Limerick.
- Royal British Legion, ROI, Laying of Poppy Crosses and Commemoration Service for the Limerick Fallen in World War 1.
Venues: King's Island Cemetery, St. Mary's Cathedral and Limerick War Memorial.
- Launch of the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme in Limerick.
Venue: Southill Hub, Limerick.
- Immigrant Council of Ireland, 'Integration Matters' Conference.
Venue: Absolute Hotel, Sir Harry's Mall, Limerick
- Photoshoot for Regeneron Community Responsibility Initiative.
Venue: John's Square, Limerick.
- Unveiling of COVID Memorial
Venue: St. Mary's Cathedral.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

- Presentation of the Limerick Carer of the Year Award 2022 to Collette O'Shea.
Venue: Council Chamber, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- The Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, University of Limerick, A Memorial Event for Mick Moloney.
Venue: Theatre 2, Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, University of Limerick.
- Launch of Fairy Door and Art Exhibition by service users across West Limerick, to mark and celebrate West Limerick Social Inclusion Week.
Venue: Red Door, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.
- Mid West Simon Community Horticulture for Everyone Open Day Event.
Venue: Oak Lodge, Clare Street, Limerick.
- Relaunch of the 1908 Book "A Sketch of the Life of Rev. William Casey P.P. of Abbeyfeale".
Venue: Glórach Theatre, Convent Road, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.
- Limerick County GAA Board, Medal Presentation to celebrate the success of the Munster U20's Hurling Champions 2022.
Venue: Castletroy Park Hotel, Castletroy, Limerick.
- University of Limerick, Business Breakfast Briefing.
Venue: UL City Campus, Sarsfield Street, Limerick.
- Honorary Doctorate for Mr. John Kiely, Manager of Limerick's Senior Hurling Team and Sports Scholarship Awards 2022.
Venue: University Concert Hall (UCH), Castletroy, Limerick.
- Inaugural Address of Ireland first female University President, Professor Kerstin Mey. Inaugural address entitled "Back to practical utopias".
Venue: University Concert Hall, Limerick.
- Southill Community Bingo, Birthday Celebrations.
- Official opening of TravFest, a celebration of Traveller culture in Limerick.
Venue: Belltable Gallery, 69, O'Connell Street, Limerick.
- A special convocation of the University of Limerick to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary.
Venue: University Concert Hall, Limerick.
- An Garda Síochána Centenary Commemorations in Newcastle West, Open Day and Re-Enactment of the arrival of the first members of An Garda Síochána to Newcastle West.
Venue: Desmond Castle, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.
- Launch of Christmas in Limerick Campaign.
Venue: King John's Castle, Limerick.
- Annual Mass for the deceased members of Limerick City Fire Brigade and the Munster Regional Communications Centre.
Venue: St. John's Cathedral, Limerick.
- Limerick Chamber President's Dinner and Regional Business Awards 2022.
Venue: Limerick Strand Hotel, Limerick.
- An Garda Síochána, Centenary Commemorations in Adare, Historical Display and Open Day.
Venue: Historical Display in Adare Court House (Aunt Lena's) and Open Day in Adare Garda Station.
- Official Opening/Ribbon cutting of St. Vincent de Paul new shop in Abbeyfeale
Venue: Vincent's Shop, Main Street, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.
- 15th Annual UL Alumni Awards, special celebration in honour of three outstanding UL graduates.
Venue: Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick.
- Caherdavin Celtic Athletic Football Club, Golden Jubilee Celebration Ball.
Venue: Greenhills Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

- Official switching on of Noonan's Christmas lights for charity.
Venue: Templeglantine, Co. Limerick.
- Age Friendly Open Day.
Venue: Woodlands Hotel, Adare, Co. Limerick.
- Granting of a Charter by Rotary International to a new rotary club in Limerick, Limerick North Munster Rotary Club.
Venue: Savoy Hotel, Henry Street, Limerick.
- Graduation Ceremony for Griffith College Limerick.
Venue: Munster Suite, Thomond Park Stadium, Limerick.
- Burial Ground Awards Ceremony.
Venue: Millennium Centre, Caherconlish, Co. Limerick.
- Cecilian Musical Society performance of Oklahoma.
Venue: Lime Tree Theatre, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick.
- Annual Capt. Thomas Keane Memorial.
Venue: Sarsfield Barracks, Limerick.
- Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards.
Venue: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Northwood Park, Santry Demesne, Dublin 9.
- The Construction Industry Federation (CIF) Mid West Branch, Construct Conference "CIF Mid West Construct".
Venue: Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick.
- Launch of the Limerick Journal.
Venue: Dooradoyle Library, Dooradoyle, Limerick.
- University of Limerick, Sounding Sionna, a celebration of music and dance.
Venue: University Concert Hall, Limerick.
- J.P. McManus Scholarship Awards.
Venue: Adare Manor, Adare, Co. Limerick.
- Limerick Ladies Football Medal Presentation Night.
Venue: Bulgaden Castle, Bulgaden, Co. Limerick.
- African Scholars Association Ireland (AfSAI) - 3rd Annual International Conference. Theme: Global Disruptions, Innovations and Transformations'.
Venue: Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, University of Limerick, Limerick.
- United Rugby Championship Match Munster V Connacht.
Venue: Thomond Park, Limerick.
- Abbeyfeale Community Alert, Seniors' Christmas Party.
Venue: Fr. Casey's GAA Club, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.
- Turning on of the Star on top of the Cathedral Tower.
Venue: St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick.
- Unveiling of Memorial Seat in memory of Jim Gibbs who was involved in the planning and planting of the forest in Baggot Estate.
Venue: Baggot Estate, Ballinacurra, Co. Limerick.
- Presentation of the Schools' Fairtrade Christmas Card Competition.
Venue: Council Chamber, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Irish Chamber Orchestra, launch of ICO Originals at The Hunt Museum, Limerick.
Venue: Hunt Museum, Limerick.

Smart City Expo World Congress 2022

The Mayor travelled to Barcelona, Spain from 15 to 17 November, to attend the Smart City Expo World Congress 2022.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Register of Electors

Staff from the Register of Electors Team processed the following during the month:

- Additions to the Electoral Register - 372
- Deletions from the Electoral Register - 141
- Modifications to the Electoral Register - 322

1,295 requests were received through the updated Check The Register website.

In order to inform the public of Rolling Register a Nationwide Advertising Campaign took place during the month of November, 'The easy way to secure your say.' This was a very busy period on the Register of Electors and staff continue to work to respond and act on all requests submitted through www.checktheregister.ie

Staff from the Register of Electors Team attended an online training for the new Rolling Register.

Health and Safety Training

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

| Course Name | Numbers Trained |
|---|-----------------|
| Safe Pass | 9 |
| Drivers' Certificate of Professional Competence | 5 |
| Manual Handling | 47 |
| Dealing with Aggression and Violence in Workplace | 19 |
| First Aid Response | 3 |
| First Aid Response Refresher Training | 3 |
| Confined Spaces Medium Risk | 4 |
| Fire Warden Training | 26 |
| Total Staff Trained | 116 |

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 November:

- Approved requisitions account for 87% of the total requisitions actioned for this given month.
- Rejected requisitions account for 13% of the total requisitions actioned for this given month.

| Month | Approved | Rejected | Total Requisitions Actioned |
|----------|----------|----------|-----------------------------|
| November | 1,749 | 266 | 2,015 |

- The Top six requisition rejection reasons for November are identified as follows:

| Rejection Reason | November |
|---|----------|
| Memo – Requisition not raised in advance | 105 |
| Procurement Reference omitted/incorrect | 56 |
| Quotes – omitted/incorrect copy provided | 30 |
| Documentation uploaded not relevant to the requisition/nothing uploaded | 28 |
| Approved Officer's Order – omitted/incorrect copy provided | 20 |
| Award Notice – omitted/incorrect copy provided | 20 |

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Procurement Department

Staff in the Procurement Department are responsible for the setting up and extending existing procurement references on request from all Departments within the Council.

The following shows the number of Procurement References dealt with during the month of November:

| | |
|---|----|
| New Procurement References set up | 37 |
| Procurement References extended as per signed contract/arrangement | 4 |

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.

Corporate Buildings Facilities Management

The Facilities Management Team assisted with and delivered the following:

- Special colour lighting of Merchant's Quay Corporate Headquarters building to highlight Alzheimer's Awareness, Worldwide Pneumonia Awareness, support World Prematurity Day, 16 Days of Action opposing Domestic Violence and GlowRed4WAD to support World AIDS Day.
- Attendance at the Council's November Plenary Meeting held in The University of Limerick.
- Council's recertification to ISO 50001 Energy following two-day audit by National Standards Authority of Ireland.
- Free Christmas in Limerick weekend parking in Merchant's Quay Corporate Headquarters staff carpark.
- Replacement of staff tea stations in the Dooradoyle Offices as well as provision of new segregated waste recycling facilities installed in Merchant's Quay Corporate Headquarters and the Dooradoyle Offices.
- Replacement of microphone facilities in the Metropolitan District Chamber in Merchant's Quay Corporate Headquarters.
- Small pilot project trialled to replace lighting in the Dooradoyle Offices with LED energy efficient fittings.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Schedule of Meetings for November

| Name of Meeting | Date | Location |
|---|--------------------------|--|
| Full Council Statutory Budget Meeting of Limerick City and County Council | 25/11/2022 | Dooradoyle and Online |
| Bi-Monthly Meeting of Limerick City and County Council | 28/11/2022 | University of Limerick and Online |
| Operational Briefings | | |
| Limerick City East | 01/11/2022 | Online |
| Limerick City North | 01/11/2022 | Online |
| Limerick City West | 02/11/2022 | Online |
| Municipal District of | | |
| Newcastle West Monthly Meeting Special Meeting | 02/11/2022 16/11/2022 | Newcastle West Newcastle West and Online |
| Adare-Rathkeale Monthly Meeting Joint Policing Sub-Committee Meeting | 08/11/2022 08/11/2022 | Croom Croom |
| Cappamore-Kilmallock Monthly Meeting | 17/11/2022 | Kilmallock |
| Metropolitan District of Limerick | | |
| Special Meeting Monthly Meeting | 10/11/2022 21/11/2022 | Dooradoyle and Online Dooradoyle and Online |
| Party Leaders' Meeting | 21/11/2022 25/11/2022 | Dooradoyle and Online Dooradoyle and Online |
| Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Meeting | 01/11/2022 | Dooradoyle |
| Corporate Policy Group Meeting | 21/11/2022 | Dooradoyle and Online |
| Protocol Committee Meeting | 25/11/2022 | Dooradoyle and Online |

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Access to Information

| | November | 2022 (January to November) |
|--|----------|-------------------------------|
| Total Freedom of Information Requests | 17 | 203 |
| Freedom of Information Internal Appeals | 1 | 12 |
| Information Commissioner Appeals | 2 | 10 |
| Total Ombudsman Requests | 3 | 53 |
| Total Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) Requests | 1 | 16 |
| AIE Internal Appeals | 0 | 1 |
| Appeals to OEIC (Office of Environmental Information Commissioner) | 0 | 1 |

Customer Services

At the Statutory Budget Meeting held on 25 November, the Council agreed once again to adopt the Household Waste Collection Subsidy Scheme 2023 (Bin Waiver), under the Property and Community Facilities Department. Customer Services supported the Bin Waiver Team by fielding all calls and issuing application forms to those eligible for the scheme as well as directing applicants to the online portal for applying for same.

Throughout the month 775 calls were dealt with by Customer Services staff and 636 application forms were posted to customers in respect of the Household Waste Collection Subsidy Scheme 2023.

The Customer Services staff also fielded 66 calls for the Urban & Rural Community Development Department for their Age Friendly Open Day which they held in November.

The following figures highlight the activity within the Contact Centre:

- Customer Services call centre answered 11,674 calls. This represents an average of 531 per day, with the number of calls exceeding 550 on several occasions and reaching as high as 866. 60% of calls this month were handled at first point of contact.
- 3,237 emails processed through our Customer Services email platform.
- 3,438 cases were created, with 718 of these logged on behalf of Public Representatives. 3,029 cases were closed, with 594 of these being cases logged by Public Representatives.
- Of these 3,438 cases, Customer Services staff logged 68% of same.
- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued, with a total of 246 cases being logged. Of these, 227 were submitted by Public Representatives.
- Customer Services continued to support the Housing Maintenance Department in creating the service requests and keeping our citizens up to date on progress made. 86% of housing maintenance cases for the Limerick Metropolitan District were logged by Customer Services staff in the Dooradoyle and Merchant's Quay offices.
- 107 out of hours cases being created.
- Customer Services continued to provide other frontline services to the general public, such as processing applications for Residential Parking Permits, of which 92 were applied for and 72 issued, and Burning of Agricultural Vegetation Permits, of which 15 were applied for throughout the month and 17 issued.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

- Customer Services staff welcomed a total of 2,245 customers at both our Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle offices.

4. Marketing & Communications

Marketing

Christmas in Limerick

- Launched a six-week multimedia marketing campaign for Christmas in Limerick 2022 across social, digital, radio and print media channels.
- Produced a launch video Together this Christmas to officially mark the beginning of the festive season in Limerick. The video featured the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, Designer Aoife McNamara, and Limerick Hurling Champions, Mike and Peter Casey, among others.
- Developed a dedicated website [Limerick.ie/Christmas](https://limerick.ie/christmas), the official online guide to Christmas in Limerick, promoting a full seasonal event listing, Christmas competitions, shopping guide, festive parking initiatives and hotel winter breaks in Limerick.
- Produced Christmas in Limerick digital guide, with distribution of 10,000 print guides currently underway across Limerick City and County.
- Issued one Christmas in Limerick e-newsletter.
- Increased still photography asset bank with a dedicated Christmas in Limerick, family-friendly photo shoot in Limerick city.

Other Marketing Activities

- Completed four-week Halloween in Limerick social and digital marketing campaign. Topline stats Reach: 393,568 | Impressions: 655,395 | Engagement: 1,371
- Continued asset development for Limerick Walk It Run It Love It in preparation for campaign launch.
- Created designs for Brand Limerick hoarding for Phase 2 of Opera Square.
- Commenced asset development for Brand Adare in advance of launch.
- Request for Tender for Strategic and Creative Services published to E-Tenders platform.
- Created and issued seven Limerick.ie e-newsletters.
- Continued collaboration with our Arts, Tourism and Trade & Investment colleagues in the promotion of Limerick.

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 29 times on Limerick.ie's [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/limerick.ie) with followers now 33,625. Posts reached 35,291 users with 6,429 engagements.

Tweeted 29 times on Limerick.ie's [Twitter](https://twitter.com/limerick_ie), @limerick_ie, with total followers now 21,307. Our tweets earned 28K impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).

Posted 15 times on Limerick.ie's [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/limerick.ie) and created 52 Stories with total followers now 27,187.

Posted 17 times on Limerick City and County Council's LinkedIn with total followers now 9,930.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Limerick.ie

In November, there were 161,001* unique site visits to Limerick.ie, a 5% decrease on the same period in 2021.

(*Fathom Analytics)

The most popular pages on Limerick.ie were:

1. www.limerick.ie
2. www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning
3. www.limerick.ie/christmas
4. www.limerick.ie/council
5. www.limerick.ie/greenway

Content Report: 115 articles, 172 events, 5 amenities and Council services were added to Limerick.ie in November.

Communications

Issued 23 news releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and researched and wrote 19 speeches for the Office of the Mayor.

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

Tweeted 188 times on Limerick City and County Council's Twitter account, @limerickcouncil, with total followers now 17,788. Our tweets earned 155K impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).

Communications Officer MCed the launch of the Limerick Sláintecare Healthy Communities programme. Minister Frank Feighan launched the latest Healthy Communities location in Limerick which aims to deliver increased health and wellbeing services in 19 areas of greatest need across Ireland. The Healthy Communities programmes aim to support people's wellbeing within the community and provide better access to a range of services needed to help improve and promote healthier lifestyle behaviours.

This work is supported by the Sláintecare Community Enhancement Fund which provided €250,000 to deliver projects that will assist and impact on the health and wellbeing of people living in the Limerick City areas.

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 November |
|--|--|-------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| No. of call-outs 01.11.2022 – 30.11.2022 | 930 | 1,176 | 104.36 secs | 2,106 |