

Chief Executive's Report

December 2022

Film Production company rents the Collaboration Centre ground floor and mezzanine to support a new movie that will be filmed in Limerick.

King John's Castle audiovisual 3D animation show a huge hit with Limerick visitors for Christmas.

Urban Innovation with +CityxChange partners and Pathtoagreenhome have submitted an application titled Measurable Actionable Pathways for Net Zero Citizens (MAP4NZC) to the NetZeroCities Pilot Cities Programme.

In December, there were 172,361 unique site visits to Limerick.ie, a 5% increase on the same period in 2021.

Limerick Enterprise Office hosts Breakfast Briefing with David McWilliams - How to achieve your Business Goals.

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Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

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Economic Development and Enterprise Directorate

1. Trade & Investment

International Relations

On 03 December, the Mayor of Austin announced the recommencement of a special partnership with Limerick at the Passport to the World Festival in Texas.

There is a signed Memorandum of Understanding between Austin and Limerick, which was the beginning of a formal process towards the establishment of a Sister Cities relationship. The Memorandum of Understanding identifies opportunities for collaboration between our two cities in the areas of business, technology, manufacturing, professional services, research and development, education and the creative industries. The Agreement allows partnerships to be formed enabling industry, education and cultural interests on both sides to capitalise and learn from each other.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, progress on developing the relationship and progressing initiatives set out in the Memorandum has been slow. However, ties between our two cities received a boost when Mayor Adler announced the recommencement of the partnership at the Passport to the World Festival. The Passport to the World Festival is a family-friendly event celebrating Austin's International Sister City partnerships through culture, music, dance, interactive games and friendship. The event, which attracts a very large crowd, was free to attend and all Austin-based Limerick Diaspora were welcomed.

2. Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

Funding Approved

- Ten businesses were approved grant-aid, three Feasibility Study Grants, three Priming and four Business Expansion Grants. The total amount of funding approved was €132,100.

- Four businesses were approved for a Trading Online Voucher.
- Two businesses were approved a TAME (Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters) Grant.
- One Business was approved an IP (Intellectual Property) Start Grant and one was approved an IP Plus Grant.
- One Business was approved for the Gradstart Programme.

LEO Workshops, Webinars and Training Workshops included:

- Breakfast Briefing with David McWilliams - How to achieve your Business Goals.
- Business Planning Workshop.
- Trading Online Voucher Seminar.

There were 175 participants on the LEO Business Training Workshops and six Business Owners were approved for the LEO Mentoring Programme.

3. Innovate Limerick

Digital Collaboration Centre

- Opening of Engine Collaboration Centre, hosting David McWilliams' economics talk as our first event.
- Hosted American company, Spright, Senior Management, for a Workshop with regional partners with an opportunity for the company to set up in the Region.
- Film Production company, Gods Spy, has rented the Collaboration Centre ground floor and mezzanine to support a new movie that will be filmed in Limerick.

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- Engagement with a number of Small to Medium Enterprise companies to provide shared technology delivery capability across different sectors.
- Submission of three collaboration projects to the Department of Public Sector Reform.

4. Forward Planning

- A Chief Executive's Report was prepared on the submissions received on the Material Alterations to the Proposed Rathkeale Local Area Plan 2023-2029 and issued to the Elected Members of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale on 14 December.
- A Chief Executive's Report, prepared under Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), on the 48 submissions received as part of the public consultation on the Draft Castleconnell Local Area Plan 2023-2029, was issued to the Elected Members of the Metropolitan District of Limerick on 15 December.
- A Chief Executive's Report, prepared under Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), on the 23 submissions received as part of the public consultation on the Draft Caherconlish Local Area Plan 2023-2029, was issued to the Elected Members of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock on 16 December.

5. Limerick Twenty Thirty

Opera Square

Progress Update

- Works to stabilise the Georgian buildings at 8 and 9, Rutland Street, complete with road lane closure removed.
- Preferred tenderer for the next contract, the Basement and One Opera Square, was selected and a tender sum agreed.

Communications Update

Limerick Twenty Thirty, on behalf of Limerick City and County Council, is seeking a planning amendment for its landmark Opera Square building, public realm and Central Library to achieve the latest sustainability standards. Public information boards were on display in three locations until 02 December, these can be viewed online [here](#). Following this engagement period, all observations received were passed to the Planning Team in December for review and consideration.

Cleeves Riverside Quarter

Progress Update

- Design Team re-engaged and progressing the Site Masterplan which will focus on expediting delivery of residential units and utilisation of the €34.5m Urban Regeneration and Development Fund grant.
- A public engagement process took place on 13 December.
- Work commenced on an 'Expression of Interest' process.

Communications Update

A public information session was held for Cleeves Riverside Quarter in the Flaxmill Building on 13 December. The event was held to give an interim project update ahead of a formal public consultation.

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Non-Project/General Communications

Communications Update

Limerick Twenty Thirty presented and exhibited at the Property Summit in Croke Park on 01 December. A case study was presented relaying the importance of Limerick Twenty Thirty's vision for Limerick and commitment to sustainability.

A Briefing on Limerick Twenty Thirty's portfolio was presented at the Construction Industry Federation Mid-West Construction Summit.

The Vault Boardroom at Gardens International is now available for corporate bookings, requests can be submitted to gardens@limerick2030.ie or 061-517430.



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Transportation & Mobility Directorate

1. Travel and Transportation Strategy

• Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy

- The final draft of Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS) was published on 01 December.
- This Strategy sets out the framework for the delivery of the transport system required to further the development of the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area as a hub of cultural and social development and regeneration; as the economic core for the Mid-West; as an environmentally sustainable and unified Metropolitan unit; as a place where people of all ages can travel conveniently and safely; and a place that attracts people, jobs and activity from all over Ireland and beyond.
- The LSMATS was prepared by the National Transport Authority in collaboration with Limerick City and County Council, Clare County Council, and Transport Infrastructure Ireland. The cooperation of Irish Rail was also a key input.
- The LSMATS was subject to two full rounds of public consultation during its preparation, and extensive appraisal and assessment throughout its development. As such, the LSMATS comprises a comprehensive approach to transport planning in the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area for the strategy period based on a high level of technical and policy-based analysis and incorporating feedback from the public consultation processes.
- A meeting of the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee was held on 20 December and included:
 - A briefing on the published LSMATS.

- An EV (Electric Vehicle) Strategy Presentation by Mr. John McCarthy, Arups.
- An Update on a recent trip to the Netherlands from Active Travel.

2. Active Travel

The Active Travel Team completed the year with some notable achievements, including the passing of the Part 8 for the TUS Moylish to Town Centre Scheme, widening of the Canal Bank Greenway between Troy's Lock and Lelia Street and preparation of the Chief Executive's Report and ongoing stakeholder engagement on the South Circular Road Scheme.

Hyde Road - Construction Works commenced.

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

Ennis Road Cycle Scheme - Junction Turning Counts completed, analysis of data and modelling report currently underway.

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

Brookeville Avenue: Construction Contractor appointed.

Roxboro Road -Tendering for Design Consultants.

Bike Parking - 150 installed to date in the City and County.

R510 Quinn's Cross to Raheen -Detailed Design ongoing.

TUS Moylish to Town Centre - Part 8 passed, Punch Consulting Engineers appointed as Detailed Design Consultants.

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Patrickswell Village Renewal Scheme Phase 2 - P&D Lydon appointed as Construction Contractor.

Mill Road, Corbally - Pre-Construction Tree Felling Contract out for Tender, Land Negotiations ongoing.

University of Limerick to Annacotty (Limerick City Greenway) - Re-Design of route between the University of Limerick and Annacotty currently underway.

Wickham Street to Clare Street - An Options Selection Report completed in advance of Non-Statutory Public Consultation phase.

Ros Mór Roundabout and Active Travel Link - Detailed Design Consultant appointed.

Condell Road - Needs Assessment Report and Traffic Counts completed.

Smarter Travel Route Widening and Permeability Links - Canal Bank widening completed between Troy's Lock and Lelia Street.

Rhebogue Footpath Connections - Active Travel Path completed between Canal Bank and Musgraves.

Safe Routes to School - Works completed at St Paul's, Dooradoyle, and Gaelscoil Sáirséil, Shelbourne Road. Preliminary Design ongoing for Scoil Íde and St. Munchin's College, Corbally.

South Circular Road - Chief Executive's Report being completed, ongoing stakeholder engagement.

Ballykeeffe to St. Paul's - Options Selection Report completed.

Father Russel Road - Phase 1 in Detailed Design, Phase 2 Options Selection ongoing.

Kennedy Park (Cycle Paths through Green) - Works complete.



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Community, Tourism & Culture Directorate

1. Urban & Rural Community Development

Limerick Public Participation Network (PPN)

- Limerick PPN Secretariat continues to successfully deliver on its key functions.
- Membership of the PPN continues to grow and now stands at 184. The membership registration form is on the Limerick PPN [website](#) and eligible groups in Limerick can register at any time.
- Limerick PPN continues to have an active social media presence on its regularly updated website, as well as on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

- The December Meeting of the Local Community Development Committee was held on 06 December in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle.
- The Local Action Group (LAG) approved funding of €213,935.69 under the LEADER Programme 2014-2022.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme

There were six projects selected for funding of almost €1.2 million by the Department of Rural and Community Development for Limerick.

- **Ardagh** – Redevelopment of derelict and vacant property on Main Street to provide café space, artisan retail space with barista bar and open-view kitchen, as well as improvements to the public realm (€250,000);

- **Bruff** – Renovation of former Bank of Ireland building at Main Street, Bruff, to develop a remote working hub which will add to Limerick's significant remote working infrastructure (€250,000);
- **Herbertstown** – Renovation and repurposing of former Co-Op building to develop it as a multi-use community space (indoor and outdoor), providing community café, Men's Shed, remote working hub, enterprise hub and community garden (€495,229);
- **Athea** was awarded €50,000 under the Project Development Measure (PDM) to undertake feasibility study for detailed design and tender package for a community owned building);
- **Croom** was awarded €41,000 under the Project Development Measure (PDM) for feasibility study, including detailed survey, design layouts for the old schoolhouse and school master's house.
- **Foynes** was awarded €100,000 under the Streetscape Enhancement Measure funding stream.

EDUCATION

Limerick Comhairle na nÓg launched three of their projects at the end of 2022. The projects were developed to raise awareness of gender identity, equality and the experiences of the LGBTQIA+ community. Led by young people with Limerick Comhairle na nÓg, the three projects included a series of short bilingual education videos that will inform and support people in understanding the LGBTQIA+ terminology; a documentary that celebrates the Limerick LGBTQIA+ community and an interactive workshop for young people and teachers on the theme of gender identity and understanding.

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2. Tourism

King John's Castle, Limerick

The first audiovisual 3D animation show of its kind, 'A Christmas tale at the Castle,' ran until 18 December at King John's Castle as part of the Christmas in Limerick festivities, receiving very good attendance and feedback from the public. The show projected onto the castle walls, showcasing its impressive built heritage, and was part of the Council's festive calendar of events in Limerick.

Limerick Greenway Marketing Update

Limerick Greenway marketing and social media campaign continued throughout December highlighting the following:

- Visiting the Greenway as a family during the Christmas period and engaging with Family activities hosted in key locations along the route.
- Promoting respect for all users along the Greenway through the Code of Conduct.
- Christmas Market at Barnagh Hub on 11 and 18 December.
- As part of the Local Authorities implementation of the revisions to the Irish language Act, the promotional Christmas feature of Limerick Greenway 'as Gaeilge' was included on [Tuairisc](#). The Irish translation link to the feature was also included on [Limerick.ie](#) and was shared on social media channels.
- Local Media and Advertising included Christmas feature "Winter Wheels" which issued to Vale Star and Kerryman and was promoted in the Limerick Post and Clare Echo.

Towns and Village Renewal Scheme

The Tourism Department was successful in a grant application for €250,000 under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2022. The grant is for the

redevelopment of a building on Main Street, Ardagh, acquired by Limerick City and County Council, bringing a disused building back into use as a café and artisan retail outlet. The project is one of a number of projects through Limerick Greenway supporting rural development and the visitor experience.

Tourism Industry and Trade Events

Members of the Tourism Department attended Mid-West Clinic Chicago to promote Limerick's International Band Championships to North American High School and University Bands. The convention took place from 19-22 December and is one of the largest conventions of its kind. It is attended annually by Fáilte Ireland, St. Patrick's festival and Tourism Ireland to promote Ireland as a key destination for bands to perform as part of the St. Patrick's Festivities.

3. Arts Office

Open Call for Bursaries

Centre Culturel Irlandais Annual Artist Residency Programme

The Centre Culturel Irlandais Annual Artist 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. A call-out was made in December and 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

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and Training Board. Limerick Arts Office is a partner on this initiative. The closing date for applications was 16 December.

Call-Out for Artists' Studios - James' Street, Limerick City

Limerick Arts Office, Limerick City and County Council, announced an Open Call to recognised visual artists for the use of one of the 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 was one Studio in the James' Street complex available in this Call-Out. The closing date for applications was 07 December and the Panel met on 19 December.

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 sparkled this Christmas! There was a feast of festivities for all ages to enjoy and celebrate Christmas in Limerick!

The Stony Thursday Book Launch

The Stony Thursday Book is one of the longest-running literary journals in Ireland and this is its 44th edition, No.18, in the new series. The Stony Thursday Book seeks submissions from local, national and international poets through a public call-out each year. The Arts Council and Limerick City and County Council Arts Office fund it. The launch of the Stony Thursday Poetry Book No. 18 took place on 13 December at the Belltable, 69 O'Connell Street, Limerick.

4. Property & Community Facilities

Dereliction, Vacancy and Reuse Team	
Inspections carried out	109
Property and Community Facilities Department Notices issued	11
Derelict Sites Cases opened	17
Statutory Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act	26
Derelict Sites Cases closed through engagement	8
Properties entered into the Derelict Sites Register	0
Properties put forward for Compulsory Acquisition (Section 15 Notices)	0
Properties Compulsorily Acquired (Section 17 Notices)	0

Bin Waivers Approved	1,286
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5. Libraries, Gallery & Museum

Library

- Family Time at Your Library is a reading initiative that forms part of the Right to Read Programme in libraries. In December, the City Library, at Barrow House, celebrated Family Time at Your Library with two special story time sessions of Festive Folktales from Far Away. On 03 December, Simone from Story Gate had audiences of children and their adults enthralled with a selection of tales highlighting the winter traditions from different cultures across the globe. Author and story teller, Róisín Meaney's story time on 17 December was another family fun event with an appreciative group of children enjoying her inimitable story telling

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style, while the Library's own weekly Toddler Story time saw lots of festive fun every Wednesday morning. December was also a busy month for school visits with St. Michael's Infant School, St. Michael's National School, Scoil Iosagáin, Limerick Educate Together and Coláiste Nano Nagle all sending classes to visit their local library branch for library tours and to borrow books. On 02 December, the branch welcomed the multi-award winning author, Helena Close, for a creative writing workshop. Fifth class from St. John's Girls' National School thoroughly enjoyed this immersive introduction to writing and were inspired to go on and create their own stories. The monthly Spanish language story time 'Cuenta Cuentos' continued to grow in popularity with a lively group of 30 children and adults attending the interactive bilingual story session on 13 December. On 01 December, the City Library hosted the last in a series of special information sessions for asylum seekers and migrants in conjunction with the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board and on 05 December, a new series of Personal Development Classes for migrants and asylum seekers began in conjunction with Paul Partnership. Library book clubs held four separate meetings during the month - The Phoenix, First Thursday, Second Wednesday and U3A (University of the 3rd Age) book clubs all met and stocked up on some extra reading for the holiday period.

- Limerick Libraries outreach programme provided Christmas craft workshops for residents at St. Anthony's Nursing Home, Pallasgreen, and at Adare and District Nursing Home, Croagh. An inter-generational craft project between primary school children and nursing home residents was completed in early December, with the final four workshops taking place at Bruree Nursing Home, Bruree National School and Kilmallock Nursing Home.
- On 09 December, nearly eighty people took sanctuary from the freezing weather in celebration of Library's Ireland Week and Family Time at your Library at Watch House Cross Library. The coffee morning offered hot drinks, homemade treats and Christmas carols, performed by the wonderful Corpus Christi School Choir. Local community partners such as Céim ar Chéim, Extern and Regeneration attended to celebrate

the connection with the branch. On 10 December, the very valuable collaboration with Fighting Words continued with a festive creative writing workshop for young writers, from 7-12 years old, who wrote a story about a reindeer, Bauble, who wanted to steal Christmas! However, his best friend, Mr. Jingle Bells and his army of E.L.F had other ideas. Follow the link to read more: [The Christmas Robbery | Fighting Words](#) On the afternoon of the same day, a Christmas movie - the original Santa Claus movie starring Tim Allen - was shown in the library with cups of hot chocolate, homemade treats and Christmas jumpers to make the experience all the more special. Every Thursday throughout December there was a Christmas craft session, alongside the weekly story-time. Participants made Christmas baubles, Christmas tree cards and paper snowmen. Story-time sessions were also inspired by the festive season featuring Irish authors such as Evie's Christmas Wishes by Siobhán Parkinson and How Will Santa Find Us? by Stephen Rogers and Shane O'Brien. Watch House Cross Library Parent and Toddler group continued to meet each Friday for rhymes, stories, play and chat, with the final meeting on 16 December having a special visit from Santa who gave out books as presents to each child. ABC Startright continued to provide a weekly session for new parents in the library, offering support in areas such as baby nutrition and weaning, baby massage and reflexology. The Junior Book Club read 'Adventures on Trains: The Highland Falcon,' by M.G Leonard. This rip-roaring page-turner is about a group of strongminded youngsters in a classic who-dunnit series and is reminiscent of Enid Blyton's Famous Five series. Both Adult Book Clubs met at the end of December where they had lively discussions about the book 'Still Life' by Sarah Winman - a fictional biography of not two lives, but of several and a chronicle of the intertwining of those lives. It provides a fascinating insight into the unlikely friendship between a British soldier and an alleged spy in a wartime Tuscany ripe with colour and the ghosts of the past. The Sensory Room had over 150 users during December.

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- An Age Action workshop featuring Chair Yoga with Kathleen Crowley took place in Newcastle West Library. For younger members, the branch ran a Santa colouring competition with many colourful submissions on display and book tokens for winning entries. Books on: Christmas cooking, baking, candle-making, Christmas cards, and homemade decorations featured prominently in displays for readers to take home for inspiration with lots of seasonal books for children too. The branch's "Books under Wrap" idea has been very successful with a selection of both fiction and non-fiction reads wrapped in Christmas paper and tagged under their genre: romance, mystery, historical, biography and more. Patrons chose a gift-wrapped book to borrow and enjoy their "surprise" read! A lucky dip for book lovers! Friends from the Brothers of Charity continued their visits and Newcastle West Knitting Group was welcomed back following branch renovations. The Ladies meet on Fridays for a "knit and a chat!" Weekly visits from local schools - Scoil Iosaf, Courtenay's, Gaelscoil Ó Doghair and Killoughteen National School - continued up to the school holidays. The Magic Table and the great selection of sensory play equipment was a big attraction again this month with Scoil Iosaf Autism Spectrum Disorder (A.S.D) class and their teacher Lisa and assistants visiting weekly.
- December in Adare library was all about Christmas with over 100 children participating in seasonal activities and special displays of festive stock. Junior Infants, Senior Infants and 1st class of St. Nicholas School attended Christmas Storytime as part of Family Time at Your Library programme. Forty girls from Our Lady's Abbey National School participated in a Christmas Quiz in the branch. A special Christmas Storytime was provided for local Parent, Baby and Toddler group.
- There were 21 onsite visits by researchers to the Local Studies Department at Watch House Cross Community Library in December. Of these, 14 involved research on the microfilm and digital archives of local and national newspapers, four on material from the Local Studies collections, while three visits related to family history research. 17 remote queries were received and fully resolved. Distribution of hard copies of the Decade of Centenaries commemorative volume on the Civil War, *'The Inevitable Conflict: Essays on the Civil War in County Limerick'*, continued. Some new acquisitions were added to stock.
- Kilmallock Library was delighted to welcome Minister Patrick O'Donovan and the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, on 15 December for the launch of the Office of Public Works (OPW) annual touring exhibition curated in partnership with the Department of Finance, Northern Ireland. This year's exhibition 'Person Perception Presence' focuses on people and the many ways they are represented in artworks and the responses elicited by the viewer. The 41 artworks by 40 artists showcase a range of portraits from the collections in a variety of media, including paintings, photographs, prints and sculpture. Each piece spotlights the vision of the artist while celebrating individuality and the humans at the centre of works, people past and present. Kilmallock Library was thrilled to display a giant Christmas tree in the foyer of the library this year. The tree was crafted from beautifully coloured and patterned crochet squares by members of Kilfinane Arts and Traditional Crafts Group and stands proudly at approx. 15 ft. high. Members of the group kindly delivered and erected the tree and patrons have been in awe of its beauty! The Home Energy Saving Kit continued to be fully booked out on loan from Kilmallock Library. The kit contains five practical energy saving tools to carry out a mini-energy audit of the home, get a better understanding of energy usage, identify the easiest and most important areas to save energy and reduce bills. The kit can be booked on a one-week basis with library membership. Kilmallock Library has a number of free copies of *'The Inevitable Conflict' - Essays on the Civil War in County Limerick*, available for library members and these have proved immensely popular with patrons in December. Christmas melodies filled the air at this month's Little Reader session on 16 December with festive songs, Christmas stories, and some fun crafts.

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- The latest exhibition in Dooradoyle Library, 'New Beginnings,' by members of the Health Service Executive (HSE) Training Centre, Dooradoyle, featured a selection of artwork and a life-size model reindeer. The official opening took place on 01 December. On 13 December, the library welcomed approximately 60 members of the Limerick Women's Shed for an evening of Christmas festivities and songs. The Women's Shed is a new voluntary-based community group which was set up to combat rural and social isolation. During the month, all 4th Class pupils from St. Paul's National School in Dooradoyle attended a Christmas-themed arts and crafts event in the library where they made beautiful Christmas cards and sang Christmas carols. All of the children thoroughly enjoyed the activities and wore their Christmas hats and jumpers for the occasion. The awards ceremony for Dooradoyle Library's annual Christmas Colouring competition took place on 17 December. This event was attended by almost 350 parents and children. Councillor Daniel Butler hosted and each of the winners received a prize and a goody bag to take home. All of the winning entries were displayed in the branch. The library offered a number of 'Family Time at Your Library' events during the month, including regular story-times and arts and crafts sessions. Dooradoyle Library held a 'Predict the Winner of the World Cup 2022' competition. There were many entries submitted and the competition was open to all ages. There were seven winners in total, each of whom received a prize for selecting the 2022 World Cup winning team, Argentina.

Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

Brian Fay's exhibition, '*The Most Recent Forever*,' opened on 01 December with Alice Maher delivering the opening remarks to an audience which included a large student attendance. An exhibition by Caroline Dunne, the recipient of the 2022 LCGA Graduate award "Objects of Memories" opened on the same night. Caroline is from Limerick and graduated this year from Limerick School of Art and Design.

The '*Jim Kemmy Remembered*' exhibition continued to attract a large audience with the additional attraction of the newly acquired portrait of Michael Hartnett. 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 launch of Donncha MacGabhann's book, '*The Book of Kells – A Masterwork Revealed*,' was launched on 08 December by John Logan. Over 30 people attended the event.

The Director/Curator attended a North South conference on Sustainable Futures for the visual arts sector in Trinity College on 06 December.

The University of the Third Age (U3A) groups continued to meet in the Gallery on a fortnightly basis for their poetry and music groups.

Úna Hussey, Engagement Curator with the Three Muses project, delivered a number of workshops with local schools titled 'Clay through the Ages.'

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 advertised its Shinnors Scholar two-year MA by practice role.

Limerick Museum

- From 05 December until the end of the month, Limerick Museum held an exhibition entitled '*Christmas Past*,' curated by the Assistant Curator. This was the first ever Christmas exhibition in the history of the Museum. From Victorian Figgy Pudding recipes to whimsical 1960s toys, the exhibition was a colourful celebration of Christmas in Limerick in times gone by.

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- Limerick Museum also hosted an art exhibition by Maurice Quillinan and Eamon Colman of works which were inspired by the ongoing crisis in the Ukraine.
- The Curator took part in a radio documentary entitled 'The Custom and the Sea,' which was broadcast on 21 December on RTE Radio 1. It told the true story of a 15-year-old Limerick boy who was sacrificed and eaten by the crew of the capsized *Francis Spaight* ship in 1835. The Curator provided historical background for this tragic episode in Limerick's maritime history.



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Regeneration Directorate

1. Regeneration

The Council has appointed KPMG to prepare 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 Regeneration Programme. KPMG undertook site visits in December by means of background research for the upcoming focus group meetings with relevant stakeholders.

Economic

Outreach to Employment Programme

In 2022, the Mentors have worked with 110 participants with 60 participants securing employment and/or engaging in further education and training. The significant number of participants who have successfully secured employment or have engaged in further education and training is as a result of the wrap around supports provided by the Community Mentors who are a key element of the Outreach to Employment Programme. The work of the Community Mentors varies and involves a person-centred process identifying individuals seeking employment and ensuring steps are taken on a case-by-case basis to reduce barriers. These barriers to employment can include education, training, CV writing skills, lack of transportation, addiction, lack of driving licence, access to childcare, access to bank account /email address / PPS number and a general lack of confidence.

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

Social

Economic and Social Intervention Fund (ESIF) Update

The 2023 Economic and Social Intervention Fund (ESIF) grant recommendations by the relevant sub-committees of statutory bodies were presented to the Local Strategic Advisory and Monitoring Group at its meeting on 01 December and an independent verification process was undertaken before final submission for consideration by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Community Activities

St. Mary's Park - The Community of St. Mary's Park, in partnership with Limerick City and County Council, PAUL Partnership, Limerick Island Community Partners (LICP) and St. Mary's National School organised a Santa's Grotto on 10 December for the children of the community. Over 120 children met Santa and had their photo taken. Face-painting and various other fun activities were organised and enjoyed by all. This community event was a great success and the children enjoyed the visit to Santa in his grotto in King's Island Community Centre.

Southill - Santa's Kingdom was held in Tait House on 15 December with 70 families attending. Tait House Craft Fair took place on 21 December with a range of local craft-makers selling their wares. A movie day for the elderly was held in Colivet Court as a regular monthly event.

Ballinacurra Weston/Prospect - A Christmas party for 70 senior citizens took place in the community centre. 100 free Christmas meals-on-wheels were delivered, as well as 140 food hampers to households within the community on behalf of the Redemptorists.

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Moyross – The Residents' Forum organised the Moyross Community Christmas celebrations which took place on 08 December. The annual wreath-laying ceremony took place following 9.30 a.m. Mass with the children from Corpus Christi Primary School laying a wreath in memory of all deceased children in Moyross. Families had an opportunity to have a photo with Santa and refreshments were served by the staff from the centre. This was a wonderful celebration of the community with over 100 children present with their parents and guardians. Also in December, 58 students from Moyross and St. Munchin's were supported to avail of the Limerick Community Development Programme (LCDP) Bursary. The work included distributing the application form and arranging collection/processing. This bursary has recently been paid out to all students who qualified. This bursary is vital to the students to support them with fees and course materials.

Physical

Housing Developments

- Construction of the new eight-unit social housing development at Sheep Street / Athlunkard Street on King's Island is ongoing.
- 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 partially constructed units by the Peter McVerry Trust in Delmege Park, Moyross, is ongoing. Tender assessment for the procurement of a replacement contractor for the construction of the remaining units in Delmege Park, Moyross (6), Hartigan's Villas, Moyross (4) and De Vere Court, Southill (14) is now completed with a recommendation prepared for the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- Tender preparations are currently being completed for the 27-unit Orchard Site King's Island.
- A procurement competition for consultancy services for the design of the proposed 20-unit Cliona Park Phase 4 development in Moyross has been published.
- Construction Works are completing on Thermal Upgrade Contract 122, St. Mary's Park.
- Approval to construction stage has been sanctioned by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in respect of two Moyross and two Southill area Thermal Upgrade contracts. Authorisation to advance three remaining contracts to construction stage is awaited. While pre-contracts actions are being progressed in respect of two of the four contracts authorised to advance to construction stage, retendering has been initiated on two of the contracts following withdrawal of the recommended tenders:
 - Thermal Upgrade Contract 121, Moyross (47 units) - Retender ongoing.
 - Thermal Upgrade Contract 121A, Moyross (18 units) - Approved to construction.
 - Thermal Upgrade Contract 123, Southill (53 units) - Retender ongoing.
 - Thermal Upgrade Contract 125A, St. Mary's Park (25 units) - Pending approval.
 - Thermal Upgrade Contract 126, Southill (50 units) - Approved to construction.
 - Thermal Upgrade Contract 127, Ballinacurra Weston (12 units) - Pending approval.
 - Thermal Upgrade Contract 128/129, St. Mary's Park (25 units) - Pending approval.
- Approval was received in December to proceed to tender for the refurbishment of nine Regeneration area derelict properties with an all-in budget of €1.7m.

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Community Facilities

Southill Play Facilities – A presentation was given to the Southill Regeneration Committee on the initial findings of a survey on proposals for an outdoor play and activity space for children, young people and adults.



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Housing Directorate

1. Housing Support Services

Housing Waiting List

Approved Housing Applicants	2,239
Approved Tenant Transfer Applicants	351

Returned Incomplete Housing Applications

December	Year to Date
17	394

Closed Housing Applications

December	Year to Date
33	822

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 December	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	1	14
Newcastle West	16	26
Metropolitan District	13	156
Cappamore-Kilmallock	5	54
Total	35	250

Refusals

	No. of Units December	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	1
Newcastle West	0	1
Metropolitan District	2	16
Cappamore-Kilmallock	1	6
Total	3	24

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Approved Housing Body Allocations 2022 (year to date)

Total Nominations	236
Successful Nominations	167
Nominations Pending	32
Unsuccessful Nominations	37

Traveller Accommodation *

No. of Units offered December	2
Year to Date	23

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

Housing Welfare Visits

No. of Visits December	15
Year to Date	187

Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)

Private Tenancies	715
Capital Assistance Scheme/Rental Assistance Scheme Tenancies	515
Part V	1
New Private Tenancies	0
New Voluntary Housing Tenancies	0

Housing Assistance Payments Limerick (HAP)

2,243 active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	20
No. of Amendments	372
No. of Cessations	19

RENT COLLECTION

Rent Collection Limerick City and County Council					
Opening Balance	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing Balance	% Collection
€5,396,118	€18,414,901	€23,811,019	€17,894,852	€5,916,167	75%

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HOME IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

December 2022		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aid Grants	No. Approved	0	1	6	0	7
	MAG Expenditure	€0.00	€0.00	€25,317.50	€2,300.00	€27,617.50
	No. Paid	0	0	3	1	4
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	2	0	15	1	18
	HAG Expenditure	€7,362.50	€5,775.00	€129,369.71	€0.00	€142,507.21
	No. Paid	1	1	4	0	6
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	6	4	30	4	44
	HOP Expenditure	€17,012.50	€18,305.00	€104,981.50	€6,175.00	€146,474.00
	No. Paid	4	5	7	2	18
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG Expenditure	€0.00	€65,035.81	€208,534.12	€9,874.50	€283,444.43
	No. Paid	0	8	14	1	23

Total No. Approved	69
Total Monies Paid	€600,043.14
Total No. Paid	51

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Year-to-Date

Jan-Dec 2022		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aid Grants	No. Approved	15	18	53	18	104
	MAG Expenditure	€106,198.45	€116,994.70	€284,759.28	€117,590.00	€625,542.43
	No. Paid	23	25	57	23	128
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	39	22	186	34	281
	HAG Expenditure	€223,904.05	€229,500.83	€1,121,930.18	€129,124.92	€1,704,459.98
	No. Paid	23	24	124	16	187
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	64	101	227	65	457
	HOP Expenditure	€260,644.86	€596,468.63	€904,625.82	€286,847.65	€2,048,586.99
	No. Paid	70	135	242	65	512
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG Expenditure	€34,958.01	€65,035.81	€606,160.58	€90,680.83	€796,835.23
	No. Paid	4	8	47	12	71

YTD Total No. Approved	842
YTD Total Monies Paid	€5,175,424.60
YTD Total No. Paid	898

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Community Sustainment Unit

Tenancy Inductions

No. of Tenancy Inductions	27
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House Visits

No. of House Visits	213
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Sugar CRM (Customer Relationship Management) Cases

Active cases at month-end	186
Cases closed during month	14

Repossessions

Repossession of Council properties	10
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Garda Checks

Garda Checks processed	42
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Limerick Homeless Action Team – Pathway Accommodation and Support System (PASS) Data

Date: 01 December 2022		
Individuals		
Location	Description	Beds Used
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	36
Oak Lodge	Adults without children accommodated in low threshold emergency accommodation	58
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	22
St. Joseph Street	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	6
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	17
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	10
Total		164

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Families				
Location	Description	Beds Used		
		Adults	Children	Families
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	10	6
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	82	114	60
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	14	14	10
Totals		Adults	Children	Families
		102	138	76

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

Tenant Purchase	
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. received	3
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. approved	3
Local Authority Home Loans	
Loan Applications: No. received	0
Loan Applications: No. approved	2
Deed of Discharge	
Deed of Discharge Applications: No. Received	10
Consent to Sale	
Consent to Sale Applications: No. Received	5
Cottage Purchase Annuity	
No. of Cottage Purchase Annuity Applications	2
Ground Rent	
No. of Ground Rent applications	1
Private Rented Inspections	
No. of Inspections	135

Freedom of Information, Data Requests and Ombudsman

Freedom of Information requests	1
Ombudsman Query Cases	3
Data Access Requests	3

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2. Local Authority Housing Construction

House Returns December	
Total	10

House Returns December By Municipal District	
Adare-Rathkeale	1
Cappamore-Kilmallock	2
Newcastle West	1
Metropolitan District	6
Total	10

During December, the 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, one in the Municipal District of Newcastle West and six in the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

Current Working Programme		
	Completed in December	In Progress
Local Authority Construction Team	4	134
Local Authority Maintenance Team	6	60
Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process	0	27
Regeneration Team	4	27
Team to be assigned	N/A	23
Total	14	271

In December, works on six properties were completed by the Local Authority Maintenance Team, four properties were completed by Regeneration and four were completed by Local Authority Construction.

There are three teams in Limerick City and County Council assigned to refurbish properties. As of December, the Local Authority Construction Team was in the process of completing works on 134 properties, Local Authority Maintenance 60 properties and the Regeneration Team 27 properties. Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process – 27 properties. 23 properties were in the process of being assigned to a team.

Project Updates

Affordable Housing Fund

Toppins Field Lands

The integrated Design Team, led by Allies and Morrison / Cullen Payne Architects, completed a viability study for a first phase of approx. 56-unit mixed tenure units.

Affordable purchase three and four-bed units appear viable under the Affordable Housing Fund. The Team held meetings with the Regeneration Department on the potential for synergies between projects in the area and possible upgrades to the infrastructure. The work-in-progress project was presented at an Affordable Housing Workshop with Councillors on 05 December.

Curragower Lands

With Affordable Housing Fund approval received, the remaining Design Team Consultants were appointed and continued in developing the viability study into a preplanning design. The work in progress project was presented at an Affordable Housing Workshop with Councillors on 05 December with useful initial feedback from Councillors. A risk analysis, recommendation report and property transaction application were prepared and submitted in relation to Folio LK 69107F. The report recommended proceeding with a land swap transaction to acquire this adjacent folio to the site, and this was presented to the Members of the Metropolitan District

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of Limerick at a Workshop and subsequently to the December Meeting of the Metropolitan District.

Sonny's Lands

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage issued Circular Housing 50 of 2022: Additional Affordability Measures (consequent changes to the Affordable Housing Fund (AHF) Scheme), on 09 December. Viability modelling was completed to reflect increases in building costs and increases in borrowing interest rates. It showed that the new higher level of subsidy was necessary under the Affordable Housing Fund to make cost rental homes viable at this wonderful city centre location. The viability volume study was presented to Councillors at a Workshop on 05 December and initial feedback was very positive.

Guinness Lands

Project and Steering Group level meetings were held with the Land Development Agency on the Land Acquisition Strategy and a Design Team is in the process of being appointed to conduct a Capacity Analysis for the combined folio land bank. Due diligence work was progressed and talks are continuing with affected stakeholders. The Capacity Analysis will inform and be part of the final Development Agreement between Limerick City and County Council and the Land Development Agency.

Refurbishment Works

Two Houses - 14 Cherry Avenue and 4 Galtee Close, in Lot 2A completed and keys given to Allocations.

No. 16 and No. 33 Johnsgate Village completed and keys given to Allocations.

Finance

Applications for funding totalling €2,832,524.00, issued to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Local Authority Maintenance

Local Authority Houses: Maintenance Complaints dealt with during December

Housing Maintenance Cases - December	Requests/ Cases Created	Cases Dealt With/ Closed	Balance of Open Cases at 31.12.2022
Metropolitan District of Limerick	1,200	832	1,741
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	103	82	192
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	129	121	253
Municipal District of Newcastle West	126	93	551
Total	1,558	1,128	2,737

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Grants Inspections

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	3	0	2	5
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	1	7	1	17	26
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	11	0	21	32
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	2	0	0	2
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	1	23	1	40	65

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

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	1	0	2	3
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	5	0	7	12
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	0	0	0	0
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	6	0	10	16

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

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	0	0
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	1	0	2	3
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	4	0	5	9
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	0	1	2	3
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	5	1	9	15

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	1	0	0	1
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	2	0	0	2
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	6	0	6	12
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	0	0	4	4
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	9	0	10	19

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HOUSE INSPECTIONS UNIT

Houses Inspected for Refurbishment Works and Re-Letting - December - Categories	No. of Properties
Cat 1 - minor repairs needed	1
Cat 2 - moderate repairs needed	3
Cat 3 - substantial repairs needed	0
Cat 4 - major repairs required.	0
TOTAL INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT	4
No. of Properties Awaiting Inspection	18

3. Strategy & Non-Local Authority Housing Construction

1. BUILD, BUY AND LEASE

Buy/Build/Lease as of 31.12.2022 as follows:

As at 31 December 2022	Complete	In Progress	Overall Complete and In Progress	"Housing for All" 2022 Delivery Target
Build	384	3	387	565
Buy	47	0	47	0
Lease	34	0	34	21
TOTAL	465	3	468	

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2. CURRENT OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

Finance

- Claims totalling €18,705,480 were sent to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in December.
- Claims totalling €25,003,670 were paid by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in December.

Project Approvals and Submissions

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

Scheme	Project Details	District
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Quin's Cottages, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Approval for 16 units at The Orchard, Pallaskenry, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Revised approval for five units at Dromsally Woods, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock
Mortgage to Rent (MTR)	Approval for the acquisition by Home for Life of one unit at South Cappagh, Foynes, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale
Buy and Renew Acquisition	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at St. Patrick's Road, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Buy and Renew Acquisition	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Lower Carey's Road, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Buy and Renew Acquisition	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Shanagolden, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale
Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Clare Street, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP)	Approval for the acquisition of 19 units at Woodfield Manor, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Newcastle West

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Scheme	Project Details	District
Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP)	Approval for the acquisition of 13 units at Broad Street, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP)	Approval for the acquisition of two units at Knocklong, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock
Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP)	Approval for the acquisition of two units at Corbally, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP)	Approval for the acquisition of nine units at Gortboy, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock
Part V	Approval for the acquisition of two units at Castletroy, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Part V	Approval for the acquisition of two units at Corbally, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Part V	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Caherdavin, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Part V	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at North Circular Road, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Part V	Approval for the acquisition of two units at Castletroy, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick

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

Scheme	Project Details	District
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the acquisition of one unit at Pallaskenry, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the acquisition of one unit at Old Cratloe Road, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the acquisition of one unit at Alphonsus Street, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the acquisition of one unit at Broad Street, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick

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Scheme	Project Details	District
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Approval for 37 units at Bru na Gruadan, Castletroy, Co. Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Revised approval for five units at Dromsally Woods, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock
Social Housing Capital Expenditure Programme (Repair and Leasing Scheme)	Submission for the leasing approval for five units at Lower Mallow Street, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP)	Submission for the acquisition of one unit at Murroe, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

4. Municipal District Offices

Metropolitan District of Limerick

Metropolitan District Meetings

Monthly Meeting

The Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick took place on 12 December.

Special Meeting

A Workshop, followed by Special Meeting, was held on 15 December for the Elected Members of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to discuss the following:

- Strategic Housing Development at Punches Cross, Limerick.

Operational Area Briefings

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

Upgrade/Refurbishment Works in the Metropolitan District Area

Description of Project: Old Park Road / Corbally Road Junction Safety Improvements

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

Description of Project: Nelson's Cross Traffic Calming

Location: Nelson's Cross, Castleconnell;
Cost of project: €50,000;
Contractor: Multi Contractor, including Direct Labour.

Description of Project: Childers Road to Ballysimon Road Stormwater Network Assessment

Location: Ballysimon;
Cost of project: €50,000;
Contractor: Cahir Environmental Services.

Description of Project: Lisnagry National School Footpath Scheme - Active Travel Scheme

Location: Lisnagry;
Cost of project: €135,000;
Contractor: Neville Civil Engineering Ltd.

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Description of Project: Ballykeefe Roundabout Footpath Scheme- Active Travel Scheme

Location: Dooradoyle;

Cost of project: €30,000;

Contractor: Peter Ryan Construction.

Description of Project: Rhebogue / Corbally Newly Widened Footpath Scheme- Active Travel Scheme

Location: Ard Scoil Mhuire, Corbally, and Old Park Road;

Cost of project: €175,000;

Contractor: Neville Civil Engineering Ltd.

Description of Project: Garryowen Green Footpath Scheme- Active Travel Scheme

Location: Garryowen;

Cost of project: €50,000;

Contractor: Maramba.

Description of Project: Arthur's Quay Raised Pedestrian Crossing - Active Travel Scheme

Location: Arthurs Quay;

Cost of project: €50,000;

Contractor: Shareridge Civil Engineering Ltd.

Description of Project: Hunt Museum Permeability Scheme - Active Travel Scheme

Location: Hunt Museum;

Cost of project: €40,000;

Contractor: Shareridge Civil Engineering Ltd.

Description of Project: Old Dooradoyle Road to Glencairin Permeability Scheme - Active Travel Scheme

Location: Sluggary;

Cost of project: €50,000;

Contractor: Tallybrook.

Description of Project - St. Nessian's Court to Meadow Lawn Permeability Scheme - Active Travel Scheme

Location: Gouldavoher;

Cost of project: €10,000;

Contractor: Peter Ryan Construction.

Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

- The December Meeting of Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale took place on 13 December in the Rathkeale District Office, Rathkeale.
- Essential repairs to social houses and public roads were undertaken by the Housing Maintenance and Roads Maintenance Teams:
 - 103 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
 - 41 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.
- Marine Cove - Overflow Channel and N69 Culvert, Foynes, complete.
- Garland Consulting appointed to carry out Feasibility Report for Monument Hill Walkway, Foynes.
- Office of Public Works Minor Flood Mitigation Works Funding in the sum of €117,225 approved for Storm Water Works on R511 at Coolfunne, Fedamore.

Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

Monthly Meeting

- The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock was held in Pallasgreen Community Centre on 08 December.

Housing and Road Maintenance

- 117 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
- 55 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

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Housing Grants

- Three Private Housing Grants were paid totalling €4,917.50 and five were approved. Six initial inspections and 10 final inspections were undertaken.
- One Disabled Person's Grant was paid.

Municipal District of Newcastle West

- The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West took place on 02 December in Áras William Smith O'Brien, Newcastle West.
- Five grant applications were approved under the Private Housing Grant Schemes. The total value of approvals was €20,800.00.
- Payments of €18,305.00 were made to five applicants who completed works under the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.
- Payments of €5,775.00 were made to one applicant who completed works under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme.
- The Motor Tax Section at the Newcastle West Office processed 914 routine transactions.



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Planning, Environment & Place-Making Directorate

1. Place-Making and Public Realm

Project Updates

Public Realm

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund - URDFLim008 Strand 3 Pedestrian Bridges and Waterfront Infrastructural Works

- A brief is being finalised to procure a multi-disciplinary team to prepare a Preliminary Business Case under the Public Spending Code for these works.
- The closing date for the Request for Tenders for a multi-disciplinary team to prepare the Arthur's Quay Area Framework Plan was 19 December. A number of tenders were received and are being evaluated.
- An update was given to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee at its meeting on 12 December.

Limerick Wayfinding and Orientation Signage Project

- Presentation/Workshop for Limerick City and County Council staff was held on 09 December to discuss feedback on proposals.
- An update was given to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee at its meeting on 12 December.

Decluttering Project

- Quotations for survey of existing signage were received on 05 December and, following assessment, the appointment of a surveying contractor is progressing.

Limerick Public Realm Strategy

Information gathering stage (Stage 1) of the Public Realm Strategy now complete. As part of the context appraisal stage (Stage 2), an online survey is now live 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.

Adare Public Realm Plan

- Adare Public Realm Strategy – the plan has now been completed.

Capital Projects

- **Urban Regeneration and Development Fund - URDFLim005 Strand 1 Living Georgian City - Housing Demonstration Project** - The part 8 planning applications for the Housing Demonstration Projects at No. 58 O'Connell Street site and Nos. 33 and 34 Thomas Street were lodged on 20 December.
- **O'Connell Street Revitalisation Project** – The Christmas moratorium was in place on the O'Connell Street site for the month of December. Minor works, including the completion of the rain gardens and planting of same in Block 2 East and West (between Sarsfield Street and Bedford Row/William Street and Thomas Street) and also Block 3 East (between Thomas Street and Roches Street), were carried out. Tactile strips were installed at the Cruises Street/O'Connell Street junction and a demarcation line was painted along the carriageway. Safety barriers were removed from the site and both lanes of traffic were opened on O'Connell Street and at Sarsfield Street junction.

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Flooding Projects

King's Islands Flood Relief Scheme

- Priority Construction Limited laid a duct to underground 10KV ESB line to north of St. Mary's Park.
- Dermot Casey Tree Care Limited carried out vegetation clearance at Sir Harry's Mall, Athlunkard Boat Club and Lee Estate.

2. Planning Development

Planning Applications

A total of 126 new planning applications were received as follows:

Category	Amount
Part 8	3
Housing Developments	7
Domestic Developments	87
Agricultural Developments	8
Commercial Developments/ Change of Use	10
Sporting/ Community and Educational Developments	6
Other Developments	5

The current applications include proposals for:

- Part 8 for a change of use and remodelling of the former city library at 58 O'Connell Street, including a rooftop extension to provide commercial space at ground floor level, 5 no. apartments at basement, first, second and third floor levels, as well as in the proposed rooftop extension. Material alterations, repairs and renewals are proposed to the Protected Structure. The proposed development also consists of a change of

use and part-demolition of the former library store/warehouse to the rear of the site – between Glentworth Street and Mallow Street – to provide 3 no. apartments at ground, first and second floor levels. The part-demolition of the former library store/warehouse includes retention of flanking walls along the north-east and south-west boundaries of the site. The proposed development includes the creation of a semi-private courtyard between No. 58 O'Connell Street and the proposed mews building – to provide residential amenity space, as well as bicycle and bin storage for the residential apartments. Services and siteworks proposed to facilitate the proposed development include: new foul sewage/storm water connections to public mains; air-to-water and roof-mounted solar panels for heating and ventilation. 58 O'Connell Street is a Protected Structure and within an Architectural Conservation Area.

- Part 8 for a change of use from single house to apartments and remodelling of the existing four-storey-over-basement Georgian terraced house at No. 33 Thomas Street to provide 5 no. 1 bedroom apartments. The proposed development also consists of demolition of the former fire station structure at No. 34 Thomas Street to provide two ranges of residential apartments around an internal courtyard – one facing onto Thomas Street and the other along the rear boundary of the site, connected by a staircase and passenger lift structure. The proposed new apartment structure is five-storeys tall, comprising retail/commercial, community and storage uses at ground floor level, with apartments at first, second, third and fourth floor levels. The proposed apartments comprise 8 no. two-bedroom units. The proposed development includes the creation of a semi-private courtyard between the Thomas Street and the rear block– to provide residential amenity space as well as bicycle and bin-storage for the residential apartments. Services and siteworks proposed to facilitate the proposed development include: new water, foul sewage and storm water connections, air-to-water and roof-mounted PV panels for heating and ventilation at Nos. 33 & 34 Thomas Street, Limerick.

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- Permission for a development comprising 52 no. residential units, (10 no. detached houses and 42 no. semi-detached houses), ancillary surface car parking, vehicular and pedestrian access to the proposed development and all associated site development works and landscape works. The planning application is accompanied by an NIS (Natura Impact Statement) at Ballyveloge Patrickswell Co. Limerick.
- Permission for the demolition of a non-historic single storey over basement extension, walls and railings of a protected structure and the construction of 24 no. residential units over commercial unit and café in two separate blocks as follows: the conversion of the existing 3 storey over basement building to a residential and commercial block comprising 3 no. apartments over existing commercial use at ground floor and basement levels. A new seven storey over basement residential and café block comprising: 4 no. studio units, 6 no. 1 bed units, 11 no. 2 bed units on first to sixth floors over ground floor and basement. The block includes a café, an entrance lobby, 25 no. residents' bicycle parking spaces, 2 no. lifts, bin store, plant room/switch room at ground floor level, and gym, communal storage room, plant room and storage at basement level, the development includes alterations to facilitate the conversion to residential use at first and second floor levels in the protected structure, 18 no. visitor bicycle parking spaces at Lower Glentworth Street, a green roof, solar PV panels on the roof of the new block, site services and all ancillary and associated site development works. The proposed development involves works to a protected structure within an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) at 94 O'Connell Street, Limerick.
- Permission for the construction of a residential development of 46 no. apartments consisting of the following: 1 no. four store apartment block consisting of 23 no. 1-bed apartments, 14 no. 2-bed apartments and a community room. 1 no. three storey apartment block consisting of 9 no. 2-bed apartments. Permission is also sought for the construction of an ESB sub-station, switch room, bin store, bicycle store, landscaped bio-diversity park, external water tank & heat pump units, surface water attenuation swale, connections to existing drainage & water supply network along with all associated site works. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) accompanies this application at Prior's Land, New Road, Thomondgate, Limerick.
- Seven year planning permission for demolition of 3 no. commercial buildings and removal/demolition of a number of sheds/outbuildings, refurbishment of Block B an existing warehouse building, provision of 3 no. retail warehouse units in Block D fronting onto Dock Road, provision of 2 no. logistics warehouse units in Block H, provision of 34 no. commercial/enterprise units delivered in 5 no. blocks (A, B1, E, F & G) totem and building signage and all associated site works including provision of an ESB substation, pumping station and emergency storage, PV panels, mechanical ventilation mounting plant and external condenser units. Primary access to the site will be through the Corcanree Business Park via the Greenpark Roundabout. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been prepared in respect of the proposed development and accompanies the planning application at Dock Road, Corcanree, Limerick.
- Permission for the construction of a new part single storey, part two storey and part three storey building for a new Regional Headquarters, Office of the Medical Director and Ambulance Base, together with a new Helipad, Ambulance fleet parking with associated canopies, staff and vehicle parking, external vehicle wash bay, site boundary walls and fencing, gates and vehicle access control barriers, external services facilities including a sub-station, generators and heat recovery plant, together with associated roads and paths and site works for the National Ambulance Service at John Carew Park, Link Road, Rosbrien, Limerick.

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3. Environment, Recreation & Climate Change

Cemeteries

Number of Burials in City Cemeteries

Mount St. Lawrence	19
Mount St. Oliver	26
Castlemungret	5
Kilmurry	0

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

During the month -

- 156 complaints were received.
- A total of 185 inspections were undertaken.
- 24 Warnings were issued.
- Four Notices were issued.
- Two Directions were served by the Department.
- Four Prosecutions was initiated.
- A total of 12 fines were issued.

4. Urban Innovation

NetZeroCities Pilot Cities Programme Application

Urban Innovation with +CityxChange partners and [Pathtoagreenhome](#) have submitted an application titled **Measurable Actionable Pathways for Net Zero Citizens (MAP4NZC)** to the NetZeroCities Pilot Cities Programme. This proposal will support a pilot that positions the Citizen Innovation Lab, Sarsfield Street, Limerick, as a focal point for capacity building and mobilisation of citizens in creating peer-to-peer learning structures, utilising digital tools to achieve tangible carbon reductions through education and promotion of behavioural change. This will address a key issue identified by the +CityxChange project, namely the difficulty of accurately tracking carbon

emissions in communities. This citizen-sourced data will be analysed through a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) process to systematically provide data to evidence community experience of decarbonisation efforts and obstacles in Limerick. Digital tools, including the Green App and the Limerick Digital Twin (LDT), developed through +CityxChange, will be leveraged in support of this outcome. This technology platform, when localised for the Limerick perspective, will empower citizens to learn about the impact of their actions on greenhouse gas emissions, while educating them in reducing their environmental impact through incentivised behavioural changes as a catalyst to mobilise communities. Quantification of citizens' carbon footprint will be integrated into the LDT, providing a new level of detail to inform decision-making, policy and regulation at local, regional and national levels to better target measures for decarbonisation and track the change in the carbon and environmental footprint of the city.

Public Service Innovation Fund Application

In December, Urban Innovation with Innovate Limerick submitted an application to the Public Service Innovation Fund. The submission proposes a Citizen Innovation Platform as a mechanism to support communities in the climate transition. Citizens and communities often struggle to identify what they can do on a local and individual scale to address the issue. What makes this so difficult is not just the scale and complexity of the issue but the fact that "business as usual" responses are no longer adequate. Thinking and acting at a local level helps communities address these challenges sustainably and, in doing so, builds resilience to climate impacts. For this to happen, we must move more rapidly from awareness raising to action. This requires the development of active citizenship across society that develops its innovative response to the challenges of climate change. This proposal seeks to empower and enable local communities to active engagement with the Climate Action Response. The proposal has a number of elements:

1. The development of a bespoke innovation programme for communities based on the "Design Think" approach to innovation.

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2. The hosting of a community "OPEN CALL" where two communities are selected, not only to participate in the innovation programme, but to develop their own innovation portfolio of possible solutions – one of these solutions to be detailed to a prototype and tested with the support of local enterprises.
3. A digital platform for Community Innovation Platform to be created providing communities with access to the innovation training programme, as well as catalogue of portfolios, prototypes and products developed so that their innovation journey and response to the Climate Emergency is accelerated.

Climate Action

The Citizen Innovation Lab hosted the Regional Steering Group of the Climate Action Atlantic Seaboard South. This group's function is to foster collaboration and information-sharing as each local authority commences the preparation of its Climate Action Plan. At a local level, invitations to tender were published to collate the necessary baseline information and to prepare the Climate Action Plan.

Technical Support Instrument

Notification was received from DG REFORM of the appointment of the consultants to investigate and advise on the establishment of a fund to support the deep retrofitting of historic buildings across Limerick. The team is headed by the Dutch company, Trinomics, with Carrig Conservation International and Technical University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest (TUS) providing input also. This is a joint project with the Office of Public Works (OPW) which is fully funded by the EU and has a total value in excess of €400,000.

5. Veterinary Services

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



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National and Regional Shared Services Centre Directorate

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

- There were 59,258 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAP SSC at the end of December.
- A weekly average of 166 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2022.
- The December landlord payment run was €55.8 million.
- The weekly tenant charge at the end of December was €3.1 million.
- The Debt Management Unit of the HAP SSC collected a total of €159.4 million in differential rent to end of December.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of December was 99%.
- The Debt Management Unit issued 6,703 HAP debt reminder letters in December.

2. Fire and Emergency

Statistics

	No of Fire Related Calls	No of Non-Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call-outs 01.12.2022 – 31.12.2022	98	51	149
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	60%	54%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	30%	41%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	10%	5%	

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	No. received / assigned	No. validated	No. invalidated / refused	No. granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications December	12	10	1	5	5
Disability Access Cert Applications December	3	2	0	9	9
Licensing Applications December	2				1
Commencement Notice December	20	15	5	15	15
Completion Certificate December	27	26	1	26	26
Planning Referrals December	22	0	0	0	14
Sugar CRM Cases December	3	0	0	0	3

Fire and Emergency Training Events

During the month, the following training course took place:

- Six people were retrained in the use of the Bronto Aerial appliance.

Civil Defence attendance at Events

The following activity took place in December:

- Ukrainian Displaced Person Request – Cappamore to GP surgery – three days.
- Patient Transfer – Limerick Residence to Ennis (one-way) – one day.
- “Light Up Limerick 2022” Blue Light Parade – one day.
- Ukrainian Displaced Person Request – Equipment moved to Emergency Rest Centre – one day.
- Ukrainian Displaced Person Request – Equipment organised and counted in Annacotty base – one day.

Water Safety

No. of lifebuoy replacements	Total January-November	December	Total 2022
Metropolitan District	17	0	17
Municipal District	11	0	11

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Support Services Directorate

1. Finance

Commercial Rates and Loans

Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2022	
As at 31 December 2022	
Opening Balance - 1 Jan €	8,732,896
Accruals €	58,978,680 **
Vacant Property Adjustment €	1,213,299
Writes offs/ Waivers €	4,121,246
Total for Collection €	62,377,031
Amount Collected €	55,856,608
Arrears €	6,520,423 ^
Specific Doubtful Arrears €	1,763,788
% Collected	92%

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

^ subject to finalisation of year end accounts for 2022

Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No. of days in overdraft 0

Debtors Loans	
As at 31 December 2022	
Opening Balance - 1 Jan €	310,319
Accruals €	1,680,757 *
Writes offs €	-
To Collect €	1,991,076
Receipts €	1,801,525
Arrears €	189,551 ^
% Collected	90%

* Accruals not updated for loans for November & December 2022

^ subject to finalisation of year end accounts for 2022

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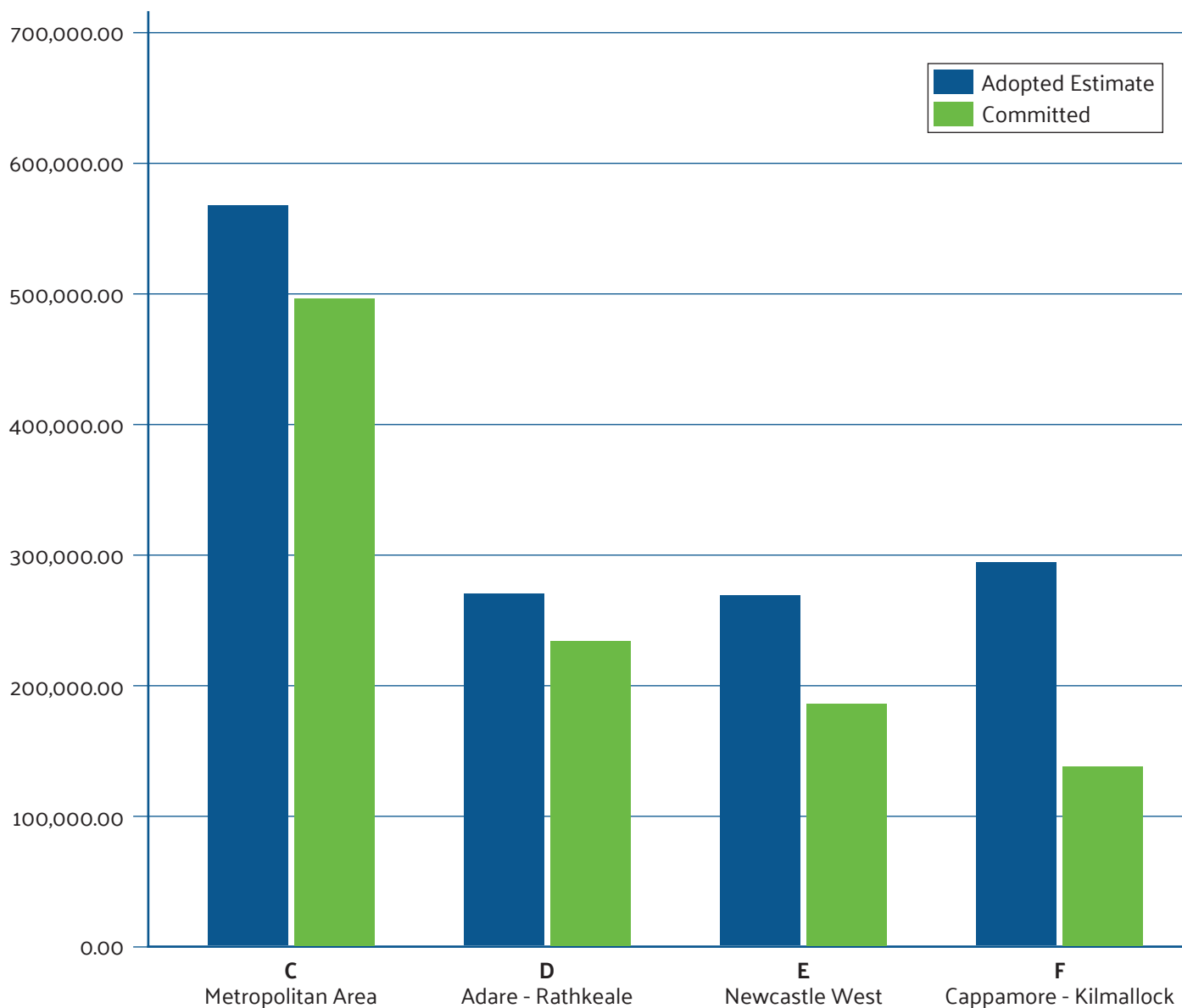


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General Municipal Allocation 2022 Adopted Estimate €1.403 Million

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



Municip (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate (€)	Value Committed (€)
C Metropolitan Area	568,000.00	495,714 ^
D Adare - Rathkeale	270,000.00	233,585 ^
E Newcastle West	270,000.00	187,738 ^
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	295,000.00	148,814 ^

^ subject to finalisation of year end accounts for 2022

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2. Business Improvement

- Business Improvement attended the 76th Midwest Clinic in Chicago – the prestigious International Band and Orchestra Conference. The objective was to promote the St. Patrick's Day Band Parade and build relationships with American bands.
- Business Improvement assisted Property and Community Facilities to launch its "Colbert Terrace Abbeyfeale" Part 8 consultation on MyPoint.
- A total of 923 active users are now live on the Employee App.
- Services on Service Catalogue = 701.
- Tender for Staff App closed on E-Tenders.
- There are 358 capital projects now managed through Cora, our cloud-based project management system. Project Managers and Sponsors can now request job codes, budget adjustments, reports and a digitised audit trail through an automated workflow.

3. Corporate, Governance and Customer Services

Office of the Mayor

Mayoral Receptions were held for the following:

- **Tony Fitzgerald**
In recognition of his lifetime of work with Ballynanty Rovers AFC, St. Munchin's Boxing Club and many other sporting and community organisations.
- **Limerick Combat Gym**
In recognition of the Gym's outstanding achievements at the World Kickboxing Association (WKA) World Kickboxing Championships.

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

- Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Limerick, Breakfast Briefing with David McWilliams, Irish Economist, Author and Broadcaster, at Engine, Upper Cecil Street, Limerick.
- Blessing of new extension to Meenkilly School, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.
- Video interview with young traveller girls from Abbeyfeale on life in Abbeyfeale, at the Glorach Theatre, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.
- Three-In-A Row All-Ireland and Munster Senior Hurling Championship Medal Presentation Ceremony for the Limerick Senior Hurling Panel 2022, at Adare Manor, Adare, Co. Limerick.
- Eiro – Irish Romanian Cultural and Business Development Association CLG. The sound of Stradivarius: a Violin and Cello Recital with Alexandru Tomescu and Adrian Mantu to celebrate the Romanian National Day and Eiro's 15 years of community and voluntary service, at Hunt Museum, Limerick.
- 2nd Shared Island Forum with An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, TD, at St. Patrick's Hall, Dublin Castle, Dublin.
- Launch of the Limerick North Munster Rotary Club Remembrance Christmas Tree at the junction of Thomas Street with O'Connell Street, Limerick.
- Press Launch for Unity Gospel Choir 10th Anniversary Concert at Olio & Farina Bistro, Little Catherine Street, Limerick.
- Patrol with Limerick Suicide Watch.
- Coffee Morning at Limerick Youth Service, Lower Glentworth Street, Limerick.
- Ethical Christmas Market at Castletroy College, Limerick.

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- Winter Craft Fair, in the College of FET (Further Education and Training), O'Connell Avenue Campus, O'Connell Avenue, Limerick.
- Opening of Christmas Exhibition 'Christmas Past' at Limerick Museum, Henry Street, Limerick.
- St. Mary's Park Community Santa Event at King's Island Community Centre.
- Final of the Matchbook Betting Exchange Irish St. Leger at Limerick Greyhound Stadium, Greenpark, Dock Road, Limerick.
- Launch of International Christmas in Limerick at Hunt Museum, Limerick.
- Heineken Champions' Cup match between Munster and Toulouse at Thomond Park, Limerick.
- Irish Aerial Creation Centre, Creative Ireland Future Creators' Show, at Unit 2, Burlington Business Park, Gillogue, Co. Clare.
- Launch of Stony Thursday Poetry Book at Belltable, 69, O'Connell Street, Limerick.
- Launch of Art Exhibition "Person Presence Perception" at Kilmallock Library, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick.
- Civic Carol Service at St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick.
- Visit to Rathfredagh Cheshire Home at Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.
- Focus Ireland Christmas Concert, Concert of Hope, at St. Mary's Cathedral.
- Photoshoot at the distribution of over 300 Christmas hampers to Limerick families at the Milk Market Limerick through the Mayor's Fund. The NeighbourFood Unit at the Limerick Milk Market supplied 250 hampers and the Urban Co-op added a further 50.
- Christmas Prayer Service in Istabraq Hall, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- United Rugby Championship Match, Munster v Leinster, at Thomond Park, Limerick.

Register of Electors

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

- Additions to the Electoral Register - **315**
- Deletions from the Electoral Register - **55**
- Modifications to the Electoral Register - **383**

250 requests were received through the updated www.checktheregister.ie website for updating details of electors.

Health and Safety Training

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

Course Name	Numbers Trained
Safe Pass	4
Drivers' Certificate of Professional Competence	4
Manual Handling	47
Dealing with Aggression and Violence in Workplace	20
Basic First Aid	3
First Aid Response Refresher Training	1
Total Staff Trained	79

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Requisitions Oversight Unit

The Requisitions Oversight Unit staff validate all requisitions raised across the entire Council and the Unit provides a segregation of duties to avoid any potential conflict of interest. The following statistics apply for December:

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

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

Month	Approved	Rejected	Total Requisitions Actioned
December	1,184	218	1,402

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

Rejection Reason	December
Memo - Requisition not raised in advance	84
Procurement Reference omitted/incorrect	37
Award Notice - omitted/incorrect copy provided	28
Approved Officer's Order - omitted/incorrect copy provided	22
Quotes - omitted/incorrect copy provided	21

Procurement Department

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

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

New Procurement References set up	29
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.

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Schedule of Meetings for December

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Full Council Special Meeting to pass a Vote of Sympathy on the passing of former Member and Cathaoirleach of Limerick County Council, Michael Collins, RIP.	06.12.2022	Dooradoyle and Online
Operational Briefings Limerick City East Limerick City North Limerick City West	06.12.2022 06.12.2022 07.12.2022	Online Online Online
Municipal District of Newcastle West Monthly Meeting Adare-Rathkeale Monthly Meeting Cappamore-Killmallock Monthly Meeting	02.12.2022 13.12.2022 08.12.2022	Newcastle West Rathkeale Pallasgreen
Metropolitan District of Limerick Monthly Meeting Special Meeting	12.12.2022 15.12.2022	Dooradoyle and Online Dooradoyle and Online
Strategic Policy Committee Meetings Community, Leisure and Culture Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Home and Social Development Travel and Transportation	05.12.2022 12.12.2022 13.12.2022 14.12.2022 20.12.2022	Dooradoyle and Online Dooradoyle and Online Merchant's Quay and Online Dooradoyle and Online Dooradoyle and Online
Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Meeting	06.12.2022	Dooradoyle
Audit and Risk Committee Meeting	02.12.2022	Merchant's Quay and Online

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Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Rural Water Monitoring Committee Meeting	15.12.2022	Newcastle West
Joint Policing Committee Meeting Special Meeting	16.12.2022 23.12.2022	Dooradoyle and Online Dooradoyle and Online

Access to Information

	December	2022 (January to December)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	5	208
Freedom of Information Internal Appeals	1	13
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	10
Total Ombudsman Requests	2	55
Total Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) Requests	1	17
AIE Internal Appeals	0	1
Appeals to OEIC (Office of Environmental Information Commissioner)	0	1

Customer Services

Throughout December, Customer Services staff continued to support the Property and Community Team by fielding over 1,100 calls and queries as well as forwarding over 1,600 forms to prospective applicants of the Household Waste Collection Subsidy Scheme (Bin Waiver) 2023.

The Customer Services Team continued to support customers and Public Representatives at first point of contact by answering queries via telephone, email, MyLimerick and social media. Case creation, payments processing and generally facilitating applications for all Council services also continued throughout the month.

The following figures highlight the activity within the Contact Centre throughout December:

- Customer Services Call Centre answered 8,816 calls. This represents an average of 490 per day, with the number of calls exceeding 600 on several occasions and reaching as high as 643. 66% of calls were handled at first point of contact.
- A total of 2,552 emails were processed through the Customer Services email platform.
- 2,634 cases were created, with 418 of these logged on behalf of Public Representatives. 2,405 cases were closed, with 491 of these being cases logged by Public Representatives.
- Of these 2,634 cases, Customer Services staff logged 74% of same.

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- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued, with a total of 159 cases being logged. Of these, 143 were submitted by Public Representatives.
- Customer Services continued to support the Housing Maintenance Department in creating the service requests and keeping citizens up to date on progress made. Throughout the month, 80% of housing maintenance cases for the Limerick Metropolitan District were logged by Customer Services staff in the Dooradoyle and Merchant's Quay offices.
- A total of 292 out-of-hours cases were created.
- Customer Services continued to provide other frontline services to the general public, such as processing applications for Residential Parking Permits, of which 59 were applied for and 48 issued, and Burning of Agricultural Vegetation Permits, of which 20 were applied for and 20 issued.
- Customer Services staff welcomed a total of 2,111 customers at both the Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle offices.
- Ran six competitions on [Limerick.ie/Christmas](https://www.limerick.ie/Christmas) with themed and festive unique prizes, to increase followers and engagement.
- Created and distributed Christmas in Limerick event guide in print and digital format highlighting the range of events taking place over the Christmas period.
- Produced and installed Christmas in Limerick signage and banners around Limerick City centre.
- Created a range of video, still photography and print collateral assets in preparation for the launch of the Limerick on Foot campaign.
- Continued interdepartmental collaboration in advance of the Ryder Cup.
- Continued collaboration with our Tertiary Education sector partners regarding the promotion of Limerick as a destination of choice for Third Level study, including preparation for the Central Applications Office (CAO) Deadline campaign.
- Request for Tender issued and awarded to M&C Saatchi for the provision of Strategic and Creative Services.
- Contributed to Discover Ireland events calendar.
- Created and issued 10 Limerick.ie e-newsletters

4. Marketing & Communications

Marketing

Christmas in Limerick

- Concluded an integrated six-week, multi-media marketing campaign promoting Christmas in Limerick to local and regional audiences across social, digital, print and radio.
- Engaged a number of prominent local influencers to promote the campaign including: make-up artist and fashion creator [Chloe Koyce](#), Hermitage Green musician [Barry Murphy](#) and stylist [Styled by Sharon](#).
- Created and promoted dedicated video and still photography content, celebrating the festive season in Limerick across digital and social media.

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 28 times on Limerick.ie's [Facebook](#) with followers now 33,671. Posts reached 91,644 users with 3,522 engagements.
- Tweeted 24 times on Limerick.ie's [Twitter](#), @limerick_ie, with total followers now 21,330. Our tweets earned 26.2K impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet).

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
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Limerick City
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- Posted 15 times on Limerick.ie's [Instagram](#) and created 71 Stories with total followers now 27,283.
- Posted 11 times on Limerick City and County Council's LinkedIn with total followers now 10,000.

Limerick.ie

In December, there were 172,361* unique site visits to Limerick.ie, a 5% increase on the same period in 2021. (*Fathom Analytics)

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

1. www.limerick.ie/christmas
2. www.limerick.ie/discover/whats-on/christmas/limerick-ice-1
3. www.limerick.ie
4. www.limerick.ie/christmas/events/all
5. www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning

Content Report: 51 articles, 153 events and 31 Council services were added to Limerick.ie in December 2022.

Communications

Issued 18 news releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and researched and wrote 12 speeches for the Offices of the Mayor and the Chief Executive.

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

Tweeted 135 times on Limerick City and County Council's [Twitter](#) account, @limerickcouncil, with total followers now 17,876. Our tweets earned 153,000 impressions (no. of times users saw our tweet). Here are some tweets which were scheduled for individual Departments:

- Promotion continued for the Turnkey Acquisition Campaign, Residential Zoned Land Tax Campaign and the Affordable Housing Scheme for the Housing Department.

- Promoted the Placemaking and Public Realm Survey.
- Promoted the Government's 'Offer a Home' Scheme for Ukrainian Refugees.
- Promoted the Community Support Fund 2022 call for applications.
- Road updates for LIHAF (Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund) Mungret and Coonagh-Knockalisheen.
- Several updates on projects for the Active Travel Department.
- Shared several recruitment notices for Human Resources.
- Promotion of 'Let's Clear the Air' campaign and 'Be-Winter Ready' campaign for Environment.

Chief Executive's Report



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5. Munster Regional Communications Centre

	No of Calls mobilised to an emergency incident by MRCC	Other Calls	Average call processing time	Total No. of calls in December
No. of call-outs 01.12.2022 – 31.12.2022	1,010	1,606	101.67 secs	2,616

