

# Chief Executive's Report

January 2023

LEO Employment Survey 2022 results were published in January showing LEO Limerick ranking joint 5<sup>th</sup> nationally with jobs created and supported in 2022.

The 22 million euro Irish-Belgian feature film 'God's Spy' filmed in Limerick, in January. Set in 1940s Germany, several Limerick locations were used, including Cleeves which doubled for Berlin airport, and Pery Square which stood in for 1940s London.

Win for West End Youth Centre at Pride of Place Awards

Limerick City and County Council launched a four-week #LimerickOnFoot campaign on 20 January encouraging people to get outdoors and explore the tracks and trails throughout Limerick City and County.

# Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick City**  
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## Economic Development and Enterprise Directorate

### 1. Trade & Investment

- OMC Technologies Engineering Firm announced the creation of 40 new jobs, following a significant investment of €4m in the company. The investment will include an upgrade of their Head Office on Ballysimon Road, Limerick.
- Peregrine Technologies, headquartered in Nexus Innovation Centre, announced the creation of 20 new jobs after receiving an investment of €17.7m from the European Innovation Council Accelerator.

#### International Relations

- The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, supported by the Trade and Investment Department, welcomed the Norwegian Ambassador to Ireland, Ms. Mari Skåre. The purpose of the visit was to discuss opportunities for collaboration and strengthening of relationships between Norway and Limerick. Following the meeting at Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay, the Ambassador visited King John's Castle and was given a guided tour of the Castle.

### 2. Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

LEO Employment Survey 2022 results were published in January showing LEO Limerick ranking joint 5<sup>th</sup> nationally with jobs created and supported in 2022.

The results summary at 01 January for LEO Limerick is as follows:

• Number of Clients	305
• Gross Jobs	1,815
• Total Gains (2022)	376
• Net Employment gain of Jobs (2022)	177

2022 was the 9<sup>th</sup> year showing year-on-year growth for LEO Limerick supported businesses. The new figures show that the LEO Limerick financially supported 305 small businesses in their portfolio across the county; these companies, in turn, employ 1,815 people.

#### Funding Approved

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

#### LEO Workshops, Webinars and Training Workshops included:

- Start Your Own Business Introductory Workshop and Course.
- Digital Marketing Programme.
- Marketing Workshp.
- Social Media Marketing Bootcamp.
- Trading Online Voucher Seminar.

There were 114 participants on the LEO Business Training Workshops and 15 Business Owners were approved for the LEO Mentoring Programme.

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## 3. Innovate Limerick

The ENGINE Collaboration Centre in Upper Cecil Street, Limerick, is now open for bookings and events. A number of events were held there during January, including the Monthly Meeting of the Limerick Metropolitan District; LEO Marketing Workshop and Start-Up Grind.

### Film in Limerick

#### Writers' Factory

The Third Edition of our popular 22-week "Writers' Factory - Introduction to Screenwriting Course" continued, with weekly classes for a cohort of 20 local emerging screenwriters. The programme is supported by the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.

#### Film in Limerick Delegation to the European Film Market (EFM)

A call was made in January for local emerging producers to join the first in-person delegation to EFM in Berlin since 2020. Continuing our relationship with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, Film in Limerick is offering bursaries to locally based producers to attend and network at the market. The European Film Market (EFM) is the business centre of the Berlin Film Festival and one of the top international film markets in the world attended by over 8,300 international industry professionals.

#### Engine Shorts

'You're Not Home,' a short film made as part of Film in Limerick's Engine Short Film Scheme, has been selected for the prestigious SXSW Film Festival in Austin, Texas. The festival is regarded as one of the top film festivals in the world. The film, made on location in Limerick and Clare with local company Carbonated Comet, was produced by Greg Burrowes and directed by Derek Ugochukwu.

#### Munster Film and TV Crew Academy

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

- **Train the Trainer Course** - this three-day course is aimed at training new tutors to teach courses for the crew academy, with instructions and advice on how to create and develop lesson plans and effective presentation skills.
- **Final Draft for Screenwriting** - this short course teaches emerging screenwriters and producers to use the industry-leading software for Film and TV screenwriting.
- **Introduction to Extras Coordinating** - This two-day course took place at Troy Studios and looked at the role of the Extras Coordinator. Taught by West Coast Casting, recent local productions such as the God's Spy feature film were used as examples to teach the skills and requirements of the role and the course looked at how to find work in the industry.

#### Local Filming

The 22 million euro Irish-Belgian feature film 'God's Spy' filmed in Limerick, as well as Clare and Tipperary, in January. Set in 1940s Germany, several Limerick locations were used, including Cleeves which doubled for Berlin airport, and Pery Square which stood in for 1940s London.

Film in Limerick worked with the producers to bring the film to Limerick and assisted with locations, crewing and production office space at the ENGINE building in the city.

Film in Limerick is also working with two upcoming TV series that are currently in pre-production and planning to film in the region shortly - 'Hidden Assets' Season 2 and 'Blackwater.'

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## X-Pollinator Talent Development Initiative

X-Pollinator, a talent development initiative set up to address the lack of gender diversity in the Irish screen industry, ran a week-long lab in Adare in January. Run by Blinder Films and supported by Screen Ireland, the immersive residential talent development lab was held for twelve diverse female filmmakers

## 4. Forward Planning

- Work commenced on the preparation of the Newcastle West Local Area Plan with the publication of the First Issues public consultation document on 28 January.
- Material Alterations to the Draft Castleconnell Local Area Plan were placed on public display for a period of four weeks from 28 January.
- The Rathkeale Local Area Plan was adopted by the Elected Members of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale on 10 January.
- Work was ongoing on the preparation of the Draft Abbeyfeale Local Area Plan. Consultation took place within local schools, which involved the participation of 125 students.

## 5. Digital Services

Digital Services began a mobility data pilot in January and now has access to mobility data for seven districts in Limerick city centre from two providers, Three Ireland and Huq, with a view to validating their accuracy throughout 2023 through cross-referencing exercises. This will allow Limerick City and County Council to determine tourist and visitor numbers for the city centre.

In addition, Digital Services has access to LinkedIn's Talent Insights product for 2023 which will provide intelligence on Limerick's talent strengths, deficits and employment trends.

## 6. Limerick Twenty Thirty

### Opera Square

#### Progress Update

- Preferred tenderer for the next contract, the Basement and One Opera Square has been selected and a tender sum agreed. The Limerick Twenty Thirty Board has approved the selected tender.
- The full application on the planning amendment, including the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), is being prepared.

#### Communications Update

- The graphics for the Opera Square hoarding have been designed by Limerick Twenty Thirty's Branding and Marketing Consultant and include collaborations with TUS Limerick School of Art and Design and Limerick City and County Council branding Consultant, M&C Saatchi.

### Cleeves Riverside Quarter

#### Progress Update

- The Masterplan is being progressed by the Design Team. The Masterplan will focus on expediting delivery of residential units, and utilisation of the €34.5m Urban Regeneration and Development Fund grant. The Technical Analysis Report to support the final Masterplan and Vision Document is 85% complete.
- A Consultation Strategy has been implemented to ensure a comprehensive engagement with both targeted stakeholders and the general public for the Masterplan process.

#### Communications Update

- In line with the Consultation Strategy, a Stakeholder Consultation with Senior Technical Staff from Limerick City and County Council was held on 19 January.

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In January, God's Spy Productions DAC utilised Cleeves Riverside Quarter for the filming of a World War II feature film being shot in Belgium and Ireland. The site was used as a logistics base for the production company and a setting for a concentration camp and airfield.

## Non-Project/General Communications

### Communications Update

- An advert was agreed for the GAA Wall Planner with Limerick Leader Sport, which was published on 25 January.
- The Vault Boardroom at Gardens International is now available for Corporate bookings. Requests can be submitted to [gardens@limerick2030.ie](mailto:gardens@limerick2030.ie) or 061-517430.



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## Transportation & Mobility Directorate

### 1. Active Travel

#### Design Stage

**Childers Road (Greenpark to Roxboro Road Roundabout)** - Detail design ongoing.

**Roxboro Road** - Tender assessment for Consultants completed.

**Gotoon and Millennium Bridges** - Site meeting held with the appointed Consultants, Clandillon.

**Cappamore and Doon Public Realm** - Site meeting held with the appointed Consultants, Systra.

**University of Limerick to Annacotty** - Tender report completed in relation to Quotes for additional Surveying for this route.

**Wickham Street to Clare Street:** Updated Councillors on Concept.

**Christopher Lynch Bridge, Rathkeale** - Options being developed.

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

**Condell Road** - Draft Needs Analysis report received and working with National Transport Authority on review.

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

**Father Russell Road Phase 1** - work ongoing on detailed design.

### Construction

**Hyde Road** - Contractor, Priority Construction Ltd., on site.

**Brookville Avenue** - Contractor, P&D Lydon, on site.

**Mill Road, Corbally** - working on Construction Tender documentation.

**Rhebogue Footpath Connection** - Under Construction, Park Road and Rhebogue Hill 90% complete.

**Safe Routes to School** - Works nearing completion on St. Paul's, Dooradoyle, and Gaelscoil Sáirséil, Shelbourne Road.

**Smarter Travel Route Widening and Permeability Links** - Canal Bank widening completed - Troys Lock to Lelia Street.



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## Community, Tourism & Culture Directorate

### 1. Urban & Rural Community Development

#### PRIDE OF PLACE: AWARDS 2022

The Pride of Place Awards is an annual competition organised by Co-Operation Ireland and sponsored by IPB Insurance. For the 2022 Pride of Place Competition, the Council nominated four groups:

- **Adare Women's 2020 Club:** which promotes health and wellbeing for women of all ages, running activities such as a book club, arts and crafts, walking group and social gatherings.
- **Glenroe Ballyorgan Community:** The Community Council has driven a number of significant initiatives to bring new energy to this rural community. It succeeded in having the Glenroe Community National School re-opened, while Coolfree Pre-School was set up in the former Ballyorgan National School. Other projects include installation of modern dressing rooms at Glenroe GAA complex, a community walkway, astro-turf facility and local biodiversity projects.
- **St. Munchin's Community Centre Killeely-Thomondgate:** This is a busy community centre serving a wide catchment area of disadvantaged communities on the northside of Limerick city. Services include community café, meals-on-wheels, school lunches, catering for events/functions, hair and beauty salon, flower shop and photographic studio, community education and training and environmental projects, including allotments. St. Leila's School, within St. Munchin's complex, is being used as a refugee rest centre for Ukrainian refugees.
- **West End Youth Centre, Ballinacurra Weston:** The Centre is based in the heart of Ballinacurra Weston. It provides young people with opportunities for social and personal development and recreation in a safe space, offering programmes such as drug and alcohol

education, sexual health, healthy eating and LGBTIQ+ inclusion, regular clubs including cooking/baking, arts and craft and games/sports. The West End Youth Centre has 80-100 young people from the community coming through the doors on a weekly basis.

The Limerick groups featured strongly in the 2022 awards when the event was held on 21 January in Dublin. The West End Youth Centre took first place in the Community-Based Youth-led Initiative in the Cities competition, Glenroe Ballyorgan, Runner-Up in communities in the Population Category 300-1,000 and St. Munchin's Community Centre Runner-Up in the Community Resilience Category.

#### AGE FRIENDLY

A Workshop was held on 30 January for members of the Age friendly Alliance to review and assess the First Age Friendly Strategy against key Age Friendly themes. Actions to carry forward to the second Age Friendly Strategy were outlined for discussion. Results of the Age Friendly survey and consultation with older people in the City and County through focus groups, visits to nursing homes and Interviews with external stakeholders, were summarised. Findings from this work formed the basis for discussion and consultation at this Workshop and now provides the material for the first draft of a new Age Friendly Strategy.

#### LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

The Local Community Development Committee meeting took place on 31 January.

#### Public Participation Network (PPN)

- Limerick PPN launched its series of [Podcasts](#) focusing on the valuable work being done in the community/voluntary, social inclusion and environmental sectors of Limerick.



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- Membership of the PPN continues to grow and now stands at 189. The membership registration form is on the Limerick PPN [website](#) and eligible groups in Limerick can register at any time.
- There were three linkage group meetings in January: Home and Social Development; Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning; and Community Leisure and Culture.

## Environment Awareness

- The first Sustainable Gardening Course of 2023 took place in Adare on 28 January in collaboration with Adare Tidy Towns.
- Limerick City and County Council Pilot Cloth Nappy Incentive Scheme was launched on 30 January in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency and Voice Ireland. 20 Limerick families will be provided with a voucher number to be used to buy a cloth nappy starter kit worth €100 from partner retailers.

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- Consultation with the Community Response Forums in the city and county concerning the allocation of the Healthy Ireland Ukrainian Health & Wellbeing Fund has commenced. The purpose of the programme is to promote health and wellbeing of Ukrainian refugees seeking protection in Ireland. The types of activities that can be supported under this fund include for example yoga, arts & crafts, art therapy, outdoor activities such as woodland walks, family day excursions, cooking programmes and gardening programmes and/or any activities that can support health and wellbeing.
- Healthy Ireland continue to have an active social media presence on its regularly updated Twitter page.

## 2. Tourism

### Limerick Greenway Marketing Update

- Limerick Greenway's marketing and social media campaign continued throughout January highlighting the following:
  - Exploring the Greenway as a group while showcasing the new video featuring St. Paul's Scout Group. <https://fb.watch/irxL41wdb0/>
  - Updates on the continued improvement works being carried out on Limerick Greenway
  - Posts to encourage visitors to Limerick Greenway, especially during January and as part of Walk-your-Dog month.
- Limerick Greenway was featured as part of Neven Maguire's "Neven's Greenway Food Trails" on RTE in January. Limerick Greenway was showcased, along with local businesses "Springfield Castle," "The Dunraven Arms Hotel" and "Attyflin Estate." <https://fb.watch/irx8ZZs37Z/>
- Limerick Greenway attended Analog Devices "Green Week" event and had an opportunity to promote Limerick cycling and, in particular, the services along Limerick Greenway, including bike hire and shuttle bus services.
- Limerick Greenway also features in Limerick City and County Council's "Limerick - Walk It - Run It - Love It" campaign.

### Tourism Industry and Trade Events

Members of the Tourism Department attended an online conference in January entitled 'Sustainable Tourism – Who Cares Wins.' The conference had a number of experts in the field of sustainability, climate action and tourism, and looked at themes including journey to net zero, influencing human behaviour with insights, how Scotland is embracing sustainability in its VisitScotland brand and how a business can tell its story.

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## 3. Arts Office

### Arts Office

The final Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee sub-committee meeting for the Recovery of the Arts and Culture Sector in Limerick took place on 31 January.

### Open Calls for Bursaries

#### Limerick Grants under the Arts Act

Limerick Arts Office advertised for applications from individual artists or organisations under the 'Grants under the Arts Act' Scheme. Limerick City and County Council offers grant funding to amateur, community or voluntary groups, or organisations, and individual arts practitioners, which in the opinion of the authority, will stimulate public interest in the arts, promote the knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts or assist in improving the standards of the arts. Open Call to artists went live in January.

#### Artists' Apartments, 1-2 John's Square Call-Out 2023

The Artists' Apartments create conditions for affordable living spaces for individual artists and keep artists living and working in Limerick City, by encouraging living and working within the urban context. The apartments provide subsidised living spaces in recognition that artists and many individuals working in the arts are on modest income levels. Open Call to artists went live in January.

#### Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts Scheme 2023

The 2023 Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts Scheme was opened by Limerick City and County Council Arts Office. The purpose of the Scheme is to support the maximising of the leveraging of funding into Limerick from national and international sources and to support a vibrant creative culture. In January, three letters of support were issued.

### The National Mentorship Programme Call-Out

Limerick Arts Office supports the Irish Writers' Centre National Mentoring Programme for Literature, ensuring that at least one writer or poet from Limerick benefits from a literature mentoring relationship. This opportunity is available to writers of literary fiction, creative non-fiction, children's/young adult fiction and poetry. The mentoring process involves four meetings between the selected 'mentee' and their chosen professional writer over a six to eight month period. The mentor will read the mentee's prose or poetry, in advance of each meeting, and share critical feedback and advice. The Open Call went live in January.

### Centre Culturel Irlandais Artist Residency Programme

The Centre Culturel Irlandais Annual Residency Programme in the city of Paris offers great opportunities for artists of all disciplines. Limerick Arts Office, Limerick City and County Council, is supporting a one-month residency. Applicants must be based in the City or County of Limerick, with professional involvement in creative practice. The call closed on 12 January.

### Creative Ireland

#### Limerick Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027

Limerick City and County Council developed a new five-year Culture and Creativity Strategy for Limerick, as a part of the Creative Ireland Programme. Arts Leaders Associates have been engaged to support Limerick City and County Council for the Consultation, Research and Writing of the Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027. The Strategy was adopted by the Council on 23 January.

### CREATIVE IRELAND FUNDED PROJECTS

Creative Ireland Limerick secured a total funding allocation of €191,161 (€161,161 Core funding + €30,000 Cruinniú na nÓg funding) to support Limerick creatives and to bring creativity to our communities.

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## Creativity in Older Age - Musicians on Call

Musicians on Call was a project where professionally trained musicians worked in healthcare settings, in an appropriate and sensitive manner, to connect music-making opportunities to residents and healthcare staff in Nursing Homes and Community Hospitals. The project was delivered in collaboration with, and led by, the Limerick Arts Office, Age Friendly Limerick and Healthy Limerick, delivered in partnership with Artistic Partner Music and Healthy Ireland, Health Service Executive (HSE) and Clare County Council and Tipperary County Council. The professional healthcare musicians worked in nine settings and the project evaluation was completed in January.

## Strategic and Legacy funding – Restorative Justice

The Restorative Justice Steering Group is developing a theatrical production that can capture and communicate the experiences of victims, offenders and restorative justice workers, placing context on the crime, the impact of the crime and positive outcomes from taking a restorative approach. For such a project, the process of pre-development is important to identify stakeholders, the appropriate creative practitioners, what they would need, what the restorative justice project could bring in terms of access to experiences of people. Restorative Justice have engaged a practitioner to undertake this work.

## Arts Council Framework Agreement Programme

### Supporting Artists and Key Strategic Organisations

*Visual Artists Ireland a Visual Artists Guide* Funding and Applications Webinar and Clinics: 12 January. Training delivered in partnership with Clare and Tipperary Arts Offices.

### Children, Young People and Education

To inform change and improved approaches to programme, Limerick Arts Office has begun undertaking research by mapping provision for Primary Schools and reviewing the Integrated Dance Programme. Arts Leaders have been engaged to review the Artists in Schools

Programme and Promenade to review the Integrated Dance Programme.

## 4. Property & Community Facilities

Dereliction, Vacancy and Reuse Team	
Site Inspections Completed	121
Property and Community Facilities Department Notices issued	20
Derelict Sites Cases opened	16
Statutory Notices served under the Derelict Sites Act, 1990	13
Derelict Sites Cases closed through engagement	2
Properties entered into the Derelict Sites Register	4
Properties proposed for Compulsory Acquisition (Section 15 Notices)	0
Vesting Orders made for Properties Acquired Compulsorily (Section 17 Notices)	0
Croí Cónaithe Applications Approved	4

<b>Bin Waiver Applications Approved</b>	<b>1,824</b>
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## 5. Libraries, Gallery & Museum

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## Library

- January proved to be a busy month at the City Library with several new and returning events and activities. The first in a new series of confidence building classes began on 24 January. Organised by the Limerick Mental Health Association and with a tutor from the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, these classes are for adults who wish to build their skills, abilities, talents, and interests and become more confident through learning. On Monday mornings throughout the month, the Library hosted a series of Personal Development Classes for new migrants and asylum seekers organised by Paul Partnership. Also on Mondays, the University of the Third Age (U3A) attended in the afternoon on 09, 16 and 23 January for their ongoing book club series, as did the Spiral Book Club on 18 January. Award winning Limerick author, Helena Close, visited on 25 January for a creative writing workshop with students from Laurel Hill. The students thoroughly enjoyed this immersive introduction to writing skills and were encouraged and inspired to go on and create their own stories. Other primary, secondary and pre-schools visiting the City Library in January were St. John the Baptist Boys' National School on 06 January; Coláiste Mhichíl Secondary School on 18 January; St. Michael's Infant School, Scoil Iosagáin Boys' Primary School and St. Michael's National School, all on 20 January; Poppins Pre-School visited on 25 January and St. Mary's National School on 26 January. Author and storyteller, Róisín Meaney's monthly story time took place on 21 January and was as lively and fun as always with an appreciative and interactive audience. The monthly Spanish language story time 'Cuenta Cuentos' also returned for 2023 with a lively group of 25 children and adults attending the interactive bilingual story session on 17 January. The Library's own weekly Toddler Story Time also continued to entertain some wonderful young readers with story and song every Wednesday morning at 10.30am.
- Dromcollogher Library was featured in the RTE TV Nationwide programme broadcast on 30 January. Featuring the story of the 1926 fire disaster, which claimed the lives of 48 people, the programme included interviews with locals and the author of a new play about the subject, Charlie McCarthy. The library was built on the site of the fire to commemorate the tragic event.
- The Parent, Baby and Toddler group continued their weekly meetings in Adare Library. The group is a valued support to parents and has attracted many new members. Junior and Senior Infants from Our Lady's Abbey called in to the branch for a class visit. More than 30 girls learned more about how the library works and how to find books for their age group. The month finished with a book club meeting with the Adare Women's 2020 Club.
- There were 26 onsite visits by researchers to the Local Studies Department at Watch House Cross Community Library in January. Of these, 15 involved research on the microfilm and digital archives of local and national newspapers, six on material from the Local Studies collections, while five visits related to family history research on our databases. Twenty-one remote queries were received and fully or partially resolved. Work continued on the Department's primary Decade of Centenaries project for 2023 – an edited collection of essays on Protestant life in Limerick during the revolutionary period, several new acquisitions were added to stock.
- First year students from Crescent College Comprehensive Secondary School visited Dooradoyle Library to avail of library services as their own school library is being refurbished. 'Close-Knit Friends,' the Library's new weekly knitting group, met for the first time on 18 January. Parents and children enjoyed a special story-telling session on 21 January and regular story-time sessions took place throughout the month. Dooradoyle Library's book club members met for the first time this year on 26 January to discuss 'The Snow Child' by Eowyn Ivey, which they thoroughly enjoyed. The Home Energy Saving Kit continued to be popular

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amongst library members and is available for loan on a weekly basis.

- As part of Limerick Library's developing Outreach Programme, two staff members paid a visit to St. Vincent's School, Lisnagry, on 30 January for a series of story-telling events. The sessions included stories, songs and nursery rhymes.
- Limerick Libraries recently acquired a number of C-Pen Readers, which are available to borrow from selected branches. The C-Pen Reader Pen is a robust portable, pocket-sized device that reads text out aloud with a human-like digital voice. Reading pens make reading content more accessible, helping give students independence, increase reading speed and fluency, and enhance comprehension. It is a helpful tool for a wide range of readers, from those with reading and learning difficulties, particularly dyslexia, to anyone learning English as a foreign language.
- A class from Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board visited Kilmallock Library to view the exhibition titled Person/Presence/Perception. The focus of this exhibition is people - the many ways they are represented in artworks and the responses elicited by the viewer. The branch was delighted to welcome Sunshine Kids, Kilfinane Pre-School, for a session of song, stories and craft, which was enjoyed immensely by both staff and pupils. Little Readers continued with the first session of 2023 being held on 27 January. Young readers started the New Year with a fun-filled interactive session of rhyme, song, story and craft whilst their adults enjoyed a chat and a cuppa! The local Bridge Club continued to meet during the month. These two-hour sessions allow longstanding members to share their card skills with those new to the game.
- Library staff attended the first meeting of 2023 of the Rathkeale Youth Network to discuss continued collaborative work between all the partners involved. Rathkeale Library donated withdrawn children's stock to the Network for use by the groups of children and young people who attend the Rathkeale Youth Space.
- Watch House Cross Library welcomed the return of classes to its dedicated computer room. Weekly classes took place in Literacy through computers, Fetac Level 2 Computer and Internet, and Driver Theory Support. Age Action Ireland has begun a new eight week programme for seniors where learners can bring their own device to class; laptop, tablet, iPad or smart phone and each person is assigned a tutor. The Mindfulness and Healthy Lifestyle programme continued to run weekly on Wednesdays from 10am to 12 Noon. The weekly story time was held on Thursdays at 4pm throughout January and is targeted towards children from babies to six year olds. Story time is a great way to introduce children to the world of books and these events are interactive with lots of involvement from the children being encouraged. The weekly Parent and Toddler event was well attended with an average of 20 parents with babies and toddlers enjoying play, songs and rhymes on Friday mornings. Colleagues kindly donated Lego for the launch of the new Lego Club on 06 January. The club is for children between the ages of seven and 12 years and runs from 3.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. on Fridays. Each week up to 20 children were busy working to a theme, with their creations on display in the children's library. There are now four book clubs meeting in the library each month, two adult groups and two for children. The seven to nine year old book club is a new venture, and held its first meeting on 23 January reading 'The Legend of Kevin' by Philip Reeve; this is a great way for children to learn to interact with one another and there are lots of fun activities to be enjoyed. Watch House Cross Library was delighted to see classes from local primary schools visiting to browse, chat to staff about the latest books and head back to school with a book to enjoy. The branch received visits from Thomond Primary School 3<sup>rd</sup> class and Corpus Christi 2<sup>nd</sup> class. An eight-week programme designed to provide information and support for those seeking asylum started on 26 January with 24 participants. Paul Partnership, working with the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, supported new arrivals at Knockalisheen Accommodation Centre. The Sensory Room had 65 bookings during the month with 160 users in total.
- Newcastle West Library entertained families on 21

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January with "Folktales from Far Away" with Simone from Story Gate telling magical stories from all around the globe. The branch also welcomed Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) units from local schools to make use of the Magic Table and other sensory equipment.

## Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- Brian Fay's exhibition, ***The Most Recent Forever***, attracted very significant visitor numbers with **6,227** to date. This exhibition received an Arts Council touring grant. There has been a noticeable number of group visits from LSAD (Limerick School of Art and Design), Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB), amongst others.
- The ***Jim Kemmy Remembered*** exhibition attracted a large audience with the additional attraction of the newly acquired portrait of Michael Hartnett. The Maire and Maurice Foley Collection included 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. Both these exhibitions finished on 22 January. A new selection of work has been selected from the Permanent Collection and will be open to the public from 30 January.
- Research continued for the 2023/24 exhibition programme, with site visits from artists and curators.
- The University of the Third Age (U3A) groups continued to meet in the Gallery on a fortnightly basis for their poetry and music groups. The Director/Curator led a tour of the current exhibitions for a group, which was well attended.
- Several school groups continued to visit the Gallery, including groups from Galway and Clare and a group from the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board in Limerick.
- On 19 January, Her Excellency, Ms Larysa Gerasko, Ambassador of Ukraine, visited Limerick Museum, where she performed the official opening of ***Shelter***, an exhibition of children's drawings from Ukrainian bomb shelters. The opening ceremony drew a large crowd, including many from the local Ukrainian community. The Curator greeted Ambassador Gerasko in Ukrainian: 'laskayo prosymo do Muzeyu Limeryka,' meaning 'welcome to Limerick Museum.' The Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Kieran O'Hanlon, spoke of the natural affinity that Ireland has with Ukraine due to the historic and cultural parallels between the two countries. He thanked the Ambassador for sharing this collection of children's drawings with the people of Limerick. In reply, she spoke of the terrible suffering that the Ukrainian nation has undergone over the past twelve months and thanked the people of Limerick for their support. Curated by Maurice Quillinan, *Shelter* is a deeply moving exhibition. Drawing is a child's first response to any situation, be it happy or sad, and these drawings convey the anguish of lives uprooted, families uprooted and a whole country uprooted. They are visceral in nature but also tender in emotion.
- From 21 January, Limerick Museum extended its opening hours to include Saturdays. The Museum's new opening hours are Monday to Friday 10.00am-5.00pm and Saturday 10.00am-1.00pm and 2.00 pm-5.00 pm.
- Limerick Museum commenced a collaboration with the School of Archaeology in UCD and Abarta Heritage, who are working on an Irish Research Council-funded project dealing with the archaeology of the Irish revolutionary period (1916-23) in East Limerick. The Museum has a large collection of objects relating to the Irish Revolution.

## Limerick Museum

# Chief Executive's Report



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## Regeneration Directorate

### 1. Regeneration

#### 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 focus groups in Moyross, Southill and St. Mary's Park in January with a range of residents, service providers and stakeholders with more focus groups planned.

#### Economic

##### Outreach to Employment Programme

A meeting of the Project Team was held to identify priorities of the group for the year. The Project Team will focus on these priorities through the various community mentors working across the four Regeneration areas. The Outreach to Employment Co-ordinator continued to meet with employers to expand the range of employers currently engaging with the programme. Work continued on this initiative and enquiries can be made to [outreachtoemployment@limerick.ie](mailto:outreachtoemployment@limerick.ie)

#### Social

##### Economic and Social Intervention Fund (ESIF) Update

The 2023 Economic and Social Intervention Fund (ESIF) grants were approved by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and letters of approval have been sent out to all applicants. Grants to the value of €3.715 million have been approved for 190 projects across the city.

#### 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 completing. 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.
- Tenders for consultancy services for the design of the proposed 20-unit Cliona Park Phase 4 social housing development in Moyross have been received. Assessment processes have been commenced.
- Construction Works are completing on Thermal Upgrade Contract no. 122, St. Mary's Park.

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- Approval to construction stage has been sanctioned by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in respect of two Moyross, two Southill and two St. Mary's Park area Thermal Upgrade contracts. Retendering was necessary in respect of two of those contracts following withdrawal of the recommended tenders. Revised stage 4 submissions have been issued to the Department on foot of the ancillary retender processes. Consequently, authorisation to advance three contracts to construction stage is awaited.
  - Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 121, Moyross (47 units) - Pending revised approval to construction stage following re-tender.
  - Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 121A, Moyross (18 units) - Approved to construction stage.
  - Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 123, Southill (53 units) - Pending revised approval to construction stage following re-tender.
  - Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 125A, St. Mary's Park (25 units) - Approved to construction stage.
  - Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 126, Southill (50 units) - Approved to construction stage.
  - Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 127, Ballinacurra Weston (12 units) - Pending approval to construction stage.
  - Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 128/129, St. Mary's Park (25 units) - Approved to construction stage.

## Community Facilities

**Southill Play Facilities** – A presentation was given to the Southill Regeneration Committee on 24 January on a draft design of a play space for Southill based on the findings of a community consultation survey. The proposal for an outdoor play and activity space for children, young people and adults was endorsed by the committee.

**Ballinacurra Weston/Prospect** – Congratulations to the team and young people in West End Youth Centre in Our Lady of Lourdes Community Centre who won the national Pride of Place Awards Category 6 – Community Based Youth Led Initiative category (city). A great accolade to an understated service.

**King's Island Community Centre** - A project brief and associated funding request for the King's Island Community Centre, inclusive of a new build element and partial refurbishment of the existing Community Centre, was submitted to the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage in January. The project brief was developed and endorsed by a King's Island Community Centre Working Group with the brief and associated proposal endorsed by the St. Mary's Park Regeneration Committee.

## Community Activities

Regeneration Connect Newsletter winter edition was circulated to all the houses in the Regeneration communities with a range of articles including events happening in each of the areas.

## Southill

The launch of the 'Stronger Together – Southill Community Collaborative Planning Project' took place in the community on 25 January with many residents and service users turning up to show their support. The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, was delighted to support this partnership between Southill Hub, Southill Family Resource Centre and Tait House Community Enterprise.

An independently facilitated Workshop took place with the Southill Regeneration Committee on 24 January where new terms of reference were agreed which will see the committee focusing on strategic issues to improve quality of life in Southill, and also the expansion of the membership to include the parents council, third level education and enterprise - to name just a few.



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## St. Mary's Park

New community activities include parent and child art classes in conjunction with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board; adult art classes in No.19 Nicholas Street in conjunction with Limerick Art; a new coffee dock opened in the Alms Houses serving Eleven 14 coffee as a welcome addition to the area and for people walking the three bridges; 20 smoke alarms supplied and installed through the Care and Repair service.

## Ballinacurra Weston

The Fit for Leadership pre-leadership programme began, focusing on physical and mental wellbeing, starting a journey to community leadership led by the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) Community Development Worker.



# Chief Executive's Report



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## Housing Directorate

### 1. Housing Support Services

#### Housing Waiting List

Approved Housing Applicants	2,261
Approved Tenant Transfer Applicants	349

#### Returned Incomplete Housing Applications

January	Year to Date
8	8

#### Closed Housing Applications

	January	Year to Date
Closed Applications	33	33

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 January	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	2	2
Newcastle West	2	2
Metropolitan District	11	11
Cappamore-Kilmallock	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>

### Refusals

	No. of Units January	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	1	1
Newcastle West	1	1
Metropolitan District	2	2
Cappamore-Kilmallock	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

### Approved Housing Body Allocations 2023 (year to date)

Total Nominations	28
Successful Nominations	0
Nominations Pending	28
Unsuccessful Nominations	0

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## Traveller Accommodation\*

No. of Units offered January	1
Year to Date	1

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

## Housing Welfare Visits

No. of Visits January	24
Year to Date	24

## Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS) January

Private Tenancies	715
Capital Assistance Scheme/Rental Assistance Scheme Tenancies	518
Part V	1
New Private Tenancies	0

New Voluntary Housing Tenancies	3
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## Housing Assistance Payments Limerick (HAP)

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

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	24
No. of Amendments	524
No. of Cessations	39

## RENT COLLECTION

Rent Collection Limerick City and County Council					
Opening Balance	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing Balance	% Collection
€5,916,167	€1,825,473	€7,741,640	€1,502,003	€6,239,637	19%

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## HOME IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

January 2023		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aid Grants	No. Approved	0	0	2	0	2
	MAG Expenditure	€0.00	€0.00	€14,437.50	€5,425.00	€19,862.50
	No. Paid	0	0	3	1	4
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	3	5	13	9	30
	HAG Expenditure	€0.00	€27,035.00	€146,657.40	€60,769.50	€234,461.90
	No. Paid	0	4	18	6	28
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	10	9	22	6	47
	HOP Expenditure	€5,400.00	€56,633.75	€78,177.15	€34,492.00	€174,702.90
	No. Paid	1	12	20	7	40
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG Expenditure	€0.00	€0.00		€0.00	€0.00
	No. Paid	0	0		0	0

Total No. Approved	79
Total Monies Paid	€429,027.30
Total No. Paid	72

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## Community Sustainment Unit

### Tenancy Inductions

No. of Tenancy Inductions	27
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### House Visits

No. of House Visits	351
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### Sugar CRM (Customer Relationship Management) Cases

Active cases at month-end	191
Cases closed during month	24

## Repossessions

Repossession of Council properties	11
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## Garda Checks

Garda Checks processed	80
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## Limerick Homeless Action Team – Pathway Accommodation and Support System (PASS) Data

Date: 22.01.2023		
Individuals		
Location	Description	Beds Used
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	30
Oak Lodge	Adults without children accommodated in low threshold emergency accommodation	59
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	23
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	11
<b>Total</b>		<b>161</b>

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Families				
Location	Description	Beds Used		
		Adults	Children	Families
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	10	6
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	68	92	52
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	14	18	10
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Adults</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>Families</b>
		<b>88</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>68</b>

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

Tenant Purchase	
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. received	2
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. approved	0
Local Authority Home Loans	
Loan Applications: No. received	3
Loan Applications: No. approved	2
Deed of Discharge	
Deed of Discharge Applications: No. Received	22
Consent to Sale	
Consent to Sale Applications: No. Received	5
Cottage Purchase Annuity	
No. of Cottage Purchase Annuity Applications	0
Ground Rent	
No. of Ground Rent applications	9
Private Rented Inspections	
No. of Inspections	84

## Freedom of Information, Data Requests and Ombudsman

Freedom of Information requests	1
Ombudsman Query Cases	3
Data Access Requests	5

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## 2. Local Authority Housing Construction and Maintenance

### Local Authority Housing Construction

House Returns January	
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>

House Returns January By Municipal District	
Adare-Rathkeale	1
Cappamore-Kilmallock	0
Newcastle West	1
Metropolitan District	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>

During January, the Local Authority Housing Construction Team was notified of one house returned in the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale, 0 in the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock, one in the Municipal District of Newcastle West and nine in the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

Current Working Programme		
	Completed in January	In Progress
Local Authority Construction Team	0	135
Local Authority Maintenance Team	0	79
Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process	0	27
Regeneration Team	1	29
Team to be assigned	N/A	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>281</b>

In January, work on one property was completed by Regeneration.

There are three teams in Limerick City and County Council assigned to refurbish properties. As of January, the Local Authority Construction Team was in the process of completing works in 135 properties, Local Authority Maintenance was working on 79 properties and the Regeneration Team had 29 properties. Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process – 27 properties. 11 properties were in the process of being assigned to a Team.

### Project Updates

#### Affordable Housing Fund (AHF)

##### Toppins Field Lands

An application for consideration for funding under the Pilot programme for Local Authorities regarding delivery methods/efficiencies for Affordable Housing and an examination of differing construction options on a live sample basis (Modern Methods of Construction/ Off Site Construction); Lot 2 Development with 50 – 150 Homes, was submitted to the Housing Agency in January. Three research projects are being shortlisted for funding by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, in collaboration with the Housing Agency. The integrated Design Team, led by Allies and Morrison / Cullen Payne Architects, completed an updated order of magnitude costings and this was combined into an ongoing application under the Affordable Housing Fund by the Limerick City and County Council Affordable Housing Team. The Team's traffic engineers held meetings with the Limerick City and County Council Operations and Maintenance Services and the Active Travel Department on the potential for synergies between projects in the area and possible upgrades to the infrastructure.

##### Curragower Lands

The Design Team Consultants were briefed at the start of January and work has begun on developing the current viability study into a preplanning design project. Archaeological and Site investigation tenders were sent

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out for procurement. Pre-planning Design is underway and meetings were held with Limerick City and County Council Operations and Maintenance Services and Limerick City and County Council Property. Appropriate Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment Consultants were appointed and work is underway on those reports for a part 8 planning submission. Design risk assessments were carried out.

## Sonnys Lands

An updated order of magnitude costings was done by the Limerick City and County Council Affordable Housing Team, and utilised by the Housing Agency, in updating viability modelling done to reflect the increased level of subsidy made available. An Affordable Housing Fund application is underway using these new viability figures.

## Local Authority Maintenance

### Local Authority Houses: Maintenance Complaints dealt with during January

Housing Maintenance Cases - January	Requests/Cases Created	Cases Dealt With/ Closed	Balance of Open Cases at 31.01.2023
Metropolitan District of Limerick	1,142	994	1,954
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	128	114	216
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	154	178	240
Municipal District of Newcastle West	165	108	599
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,589</b>	<b>1,394</b>	<b>3,009</b>



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## Grants Inspections

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	6	0	6	12
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	1	11	0	11	23
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	20	1	14	35
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	2	2	9	13
<b>Total Inspections by Inspection Type</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>83</b>

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

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	9	0	5	14
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	10	1	8	19
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Inspections by Inspection Type</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>34</b>

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

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	8	0	5	13
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	21	0	4	25
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Inspections by Inspection Type</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>39</b>

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

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	1	2
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	6	0	6	12
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Inspections by Inspection Type</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>

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## HOUSE INSPECTIONS UNIT

Houses Inspected for Refurbishment Works and Re-Letting - January - Categories	No. of Properties Inspected
Cat 1 – minor repairs needed	5
Cat 2 – moderate repairs needed	11
Cat 3 – substantial repairs needed	2
Cat 4 – major repairs needed	0
<b>TOTAL INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT</b>	<b>18</b>
No. of Properties Awaiting Inspection	10

## 3. Strategy & Non-Local Authority Housing Construction

### BUILD, BUY AND LEASE

Buy/Build/Lease as of 31.01.2023 as follows:

As at 31.01.2023 (01.01.2023 – 31.01.2023)	Build	Buy	Lease	TOTAL
Complete	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
In Progress	435	22	81	<b>538</b>
Overall Complete and In Progress	435	22	81	<b>538</b>
“Housing for All” 2023 Delivery Target	502		20	

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## CURRENT OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

### Finance

- Claims totalling €4,518 were paid by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in January.

### Project Approvals and Submissions

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

Scheme	Project Details	District
Social Housing Capital Expenditure Programme Mortgage to Rent (MTR)	Approval for the acquisition by Home for Life of one unit at Lisnagry, Co. Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Revised Stage 4 Approval for the construction of five units at Henry Street, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Pallaskenry, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Old Cratloe Road, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Alphonsus Street, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Broad Street, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Caherconlish, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock
Social Housing Capital Expenditure Programme (Repair and Leasing Scheme)	Approval for the leasing of five units at Lower Mallow Street, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick

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

Scheme	Project Details	District
Social Housing Capital Expenditure Programme (Leasing Scheme)	Submission for the leasing by Peter McVerry Trust of nine units at Bridge Street, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Newcastle West
Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP)	Submission for the acquisition of one unit at North Circular Road, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP)	Submission for the acquisition of one unit at Caherdavin, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Stage 4 Construction Submission for four units at Gerald Griffin Street, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Stage 1 and 2 Construction Submission for three units at Doon, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the acquisition of one unit at Castletroy, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the acquisition of one unit at Clarina, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the acquisition of one unit at Caherconlish, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the acquisition of one unit at Pery Street, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick

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## UPDATES

### Conferences and Workshops

The Affordable Housing Team attended a Local Government Management Agency Affordable Practitioners' Group Meeting on 17 January.

An Affordable Housing Workshop on the Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase was held for Councillors on 30 January to review the existing Scheme of Priority for Affordable Purchase in line with the Affordable Housing Regulations.

## 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 16 January in the offices of Innovate Limerick, ENGINE Building, Upper Cecil Street, Limerick.

##### Workshop/Briefings

The following were held for the Elected Members of the Metropolitan District during January:

- Workshop on the South Circular Road Cycle Scheme;
- Briefing on the Draft Castleconnell Local Area Plan 2023-2029;
- Briefing on the proposed Wickham Street to Clare Street Active Travel Scheme;
- Briefing on the Quarterly Housing Delivery in the Metropolitan District.

### Operational Area Briefings

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

#### Upgrade/Refurbishment Works in the Metropolitan District Area

##### Description of Project: Rhebogue Newly Widened Footpath Scheme Phase 2 - Active Travel Scheme;

Location: Rhebogue Road and Old Park Road;

Cost of project: €150,000;

Contractor: Neville Civil Engineering Ltd.

##### Description of Project: Condell Road Footpath Scheme (Moinéir Housing Site to Ted Russell Park) - Active Travel Scheme;

Location: Caherdavin;

Cost of project: €200,000;

Contractor: Neville Civil Engineering Ltd.

##### Description of Project: Rosbrien Road New Footpath Scheme (adjacent to Old Crescent Rugby Club) - Active Travel Scheme;

Location: Rosbrien;

Cost of project: €70,000;

Contractor: Tallybrook.

##### Description of Project: Clarina Footpath Upgrade Scheme - Active Travel Scheme;

Location: Clarina (N69);

Cost of project: €50,000;

Contractor: Peter Ryan Construction.

##### Description of Project: Clarina Lighting Upgrade Scheme;

Location: Clarina (L1401);

Cost of project: €11,000;

Contractor: Enerveo.

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## Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale took place on 10 January in the Rathkeale District Office, Rathkeale.

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

- 128 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
- 130 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

## Askeaton Undergrounding of Overhead Utilities Project

Phase 1 works at West Square under construction.

## Active Travel

Footpath connectivity from Church/School to Community Centre at Ballysteen ongoing.

Footpath works commenced at Ballycullen Road, Askeaton, and on Main Street, Fedamore.

## Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

### Monthly Meeting

The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock was held in Lough Gur Activity Centre on 19 January.

The Draft Caherconlish Local Area Plan was presented to the Elected Members at this Meeting, further to a Briefing held on the 12 January.

### Housing and Road Maintenance

- 154 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
- 204 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

### Housing Grants

- 14 Private housing grants were paid totalling €100,686.50 and 15 were approved.
- 20 initial inspections were undertaken, one re-inspection and 13 final inspections were undertaken in relation to Private Housing Grants.
- Applications for eight Disabled Persons' Grants were received.

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## Municipal District of Newcastle West

- The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West took place on 11 January in Áras William Smith OBrien, Newcastle West.
- 14 grant applications were approved under the Private Housing Grant Schemes during the month. The total value of approvals was €82,757.25.
- Payments of €56,633.75 were made to 12 applicants who completed works under the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.
- Payments of €27,035 were made to four applicants who completed works under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme.
- During the month, the Motor Tax Section at the Newcastle West Office processed 1,268 routine transactions.





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## Planning, Environment & Place-Making Directorate

### 1. Place-Making and Public Realm

#### Project Updates

##### Public Realm

##### Limerick Wayfinding and Orientation Signage Project

- A Workshop for Councillors was held in January to discuss the proposals.

##### Decluttering Project

- A survey of existing city centre signage was carried out in January.

##### Limerick Public Realm Strategy

- The Online Survey which ran for six weeks until 12 January is closed. A total of 864 participated in the survey. Preliminary findings from the survey have been distributed from Consultants LUC to Limerick City and County Council.
- A Workshop took place with Metropolitan District Elected Members on the Public Realm Strategy currently being prepared for Limerick City Centre. Now in Stage 2 of the Programme, the Members were updated on the Information Gathering/Context Appraisal that took place across Stage 1, the Online Survey results from the first round of engagement, and future engagement events.

##### King's Island Walled Town

- The first internal Steering Group meeting of King's Island Walled Town took place on 30 January. The meeting included representatives from Regeneration, Tourism Arts Office, Property Services and Roads. The purpose of the internal Steering Group is to coordinate work in the area across the Directorates involved.

- Vegetation Clearance works took place across seven sites in the walled town area of King's Island. Invasive trees growing from historic walls were also treated ahead of the Bird Nesting Period. The seven sites are as follows:

- Parade Park, Castle Street;
- No.35 Nicholas Street;
- The Fireplace Site (No.36 - No. 39 Nicholas Street);
- St. Anne's Court/Sonny's Corner;
- Thosel Site, Gaol Lane;
- Walls of Limerick at St. Peter's Street;
- Walls of Limerick at Island Road/Castle Street junction.

#### Other

The Place-Making and Public Realm Team facilitated a request from the Limerick City and County Council Arts Office to show the EVA International Team potential spaces for use in the city as part of Ireland's Biennial of Contemporary Art in January.

#### Capital Projects

- **Urban Regeneration and Development Fund – Lim005 Strand1 Living Georgian City – Housing Demonstration Project** - Part 8 applications for scheme for 58 O'Connell Street and 33 and 34 Thomas Street were lodged and hard copies of the Part 8 application documents were on Public Display until 27 January. The same documents in soft copies are on Public Display on [mypoint.limerick.ie](http://mypoint.limerick.ie).

#### Revitalisation of O'Connell Street

- Works recommenced on site on the 03 January. Works were carried out to the William Street/Sarsfield Street junction, the Roches Street junction and the Cecil Street junction outside the Irish Rugby Experience Museum. In addition, street furniture was installed in

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a number of different locations. Sealing and cleaning works to the newly laid pathway and cycle lane took place on 31 January between Denmark Street and William Street on the Cruises Street side, around Arthur's Quay Shopping Centre, and between Roches Street and Cecil Street on both sides of the street.

- A meeting with the Limerick City Traders' Group and Chamber took place in mid-January to provide programmatic updates and discuss issues arising.
- A stakeholder clinic was held to discuss localised issues at the end of January and was well attended.
- Newsletters continued to be circulated to stakeholders on a weekly basis providing updates on the works completed during the week and outlining the planned work for the week ahead.

## 2. Planning Development

### Planning Applications

A total of 70 new planning applications were received as follows:

Category	Amount
Part 8	0
Housing Developments	3
Domestic Developments	53
Agricultural Developments	2
Commercial Developments/Change of Use	4
Sporting/ Community and Educational Developments	1
Other Developments	7

The current applications include proposals for:

- Construction of three covered industrial type warehouse units with associated external storage, parking and circulation areas, Upgrade of existing site services and all ancillary works associated with the site development. The application is for a 10-year permission and will include the submission of an Natura Impact Statement (NIS) at Durnish, Internal Port Road, Shannon Foynes Port, Co. Limerick.
- Construction of 28 no. dwelling houses, comprising of 12 semi-detached units (6 blocks) and 16 terrace units (4 blocks), boundary treatment, entrance, estate road, connection to civil services and associated site works at Glenfield, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick.
- Construction of a residential development comprising a four-storey apartment block consisting of 21 no. apartments, storage for bins, bikes and lock-ups and all ancillary site development works to include connections to the public water main, foul and surface water drainage, access roads, footpaths, vehicle parking, landscaping, boundary treatments and site development works above and below ground on lands at the at the Junction of the Childers Road/Greenfield Road, Rosbrien, Limerick.
- A development comprising demolition of existing showroom/sales building, storage sheds, single-storey derelict dwelling house and all other structures and boundary walls on the site. The construction of a new building of a total gross floor area of 4,208 square metres, ranging in height from three to seven storeys, to provide 122 no. student bed spaces (22 no. apartments) with an internal courtyard providing vehicular access from Old Clare Street to 4 no. staff parking spaces, 68 no. bicycle parking spaces, private open space, bin store and ESB substation. Alterations to footpaths and roads bounding the site, creation of a designated set down area, connections to public services and utilities and all ancillary siteworks at New Road/Pennywell Road and Old Clare Street, Limerick.

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## 3. Environment, Recreation & Climate Change

### Cemeteries

#### Number of Burials in City Cemeteries

Mount St. Lawrence	16
Mount St. Oliver	16
Castlemungret	13
Kilmurry	3

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

During the month -

- 280 complaints were received.
- A total of 519 inspections were undertaken.
- 46 Warnings were issued.
- Nine Notices were issued.
- Seven Directions were served by the Department.
- One Prosecutions was initiated.
- A total of 36 fines were issued.

## 4. Urban Innovation

### SMARTLAB Project Launches at the Citizen Innovation Lab

The project was launched at the Citizen Innovation Lab, and the first drop-in sessions took place on 26 January.

This energy research project offers the opportunity for people in Limerick to install free smart sensors to monitor and reduce building energy use. The SMARTLAB project is funded by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Research Development and Demonstration (RD&D) Funding Programme. Limerick City and County Council, Integrated Environmental Solutions, The Convex Lens and

Carrig Conservation International are all project partners and the project is led by the University of Limerick.

The initiative is to test new ways to make buildings smart-ready, so they can better respond to the needs of occupants, cost less to run, and be ready to interact with a future decarbonised energy grid. Local building owners and occupants were invited to join the project, receiving free energy monitors and environmental sensors to install in their buildings, and free expert analysis of how healthy and energy efficient their building currently is.

Up to 100 building owners and occupants in Limerick city were invited to install sensors provided by SMARTLAB to monitor their building's temperature, humidity, and carbon dioxide levels. The project team will support participants to understand far more about how their buildings use energy, giving them more power to lower energy costs and make good decisions about their building's future.

The SMARTLAB project will use a living lab approach and work with project participants to explore the real-world challenges and opportunities of making buildings smart ready. Project outcomes will be used to create policy guidance concerning the adoption of the European Union Smart Readiness Indicator in Ireland.

To learn more, visit [www.smartlablimerick.ie](http://www.smartlablimerick.ie) / @SMARTLAB\_LK

### Technical Support Instrument (TSI)

A kick-off meeting of the Technical Support Instrument (TSI) was held in January between Urban Innovation project partners and consultants. This project is a European Union programme operated by Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support (DG Reform) that provides tailor-made technical expertise to European Union member states to design and implement reform. The project seeks to establish a model of sustainable investment that would support the retrofitting of historic building across Limerick. It combines a request from the Office of Public Works (OPW) to develop specific advice for historic buildings and the development of a training programme for public sector staff. The European Union

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appointed a consortium of consultants led by an economic consultancy firm based in Brussels and Rotterdam, Trinomics, to carry out this work, together with a number of sub-contractors, including Technical University of the Shannon – Midlands Midwest.

## 5. Veterinary Services

- Seven stray or wandering horses were impounded.
- The Dog Control Unit processed 15 dogs during the month.

## 6. Limerick Sports Partnership

- Limerick Sports Partnership secured €61,000 to recruit a Physical Activity for Health Officer. The role will support individuals with chronic conditions to be active. Limerick is one of six counties nationally who were successful in securing this funding. Recruitment is underway.
- Limerick Sports Partnership secured funding from Sport Ireland under the Return to Sport/COVID Grant Scheme totalling €98,040. It is broken down as outlined below.
 

• Minority Clubs/Community Group Supports	€35,000
• good2Go Inclusion Initiative	€20,780
• Youths from Disadvantaged Area supports	€17,260
• Migrants and Ukrainian Supports	€25,000
- The Limerick Sports Partnership has a suite of Physical Activity Programmes in person across the City and County. Programmes include:
  - Men on the Move
  - Women in Sport
  - Youth Leadership
  - Cool Movers and Inclusion Club
  - Engaging Youths from Disadvantaged Communities

- Community Leadership Education courses
- Older Adult Good2Go Hubs at eight sites
- Community Sports Hub Activities in Garryowen and Moyross are engaging numbers across all target groups. Sláinte Care Healthy Communities Programmes are ongoing in Community Healthcare Network 8.
- For more information on programmes and activities, visit [www.limericksports.ie](http://www.limericksports.ie)



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## National and Regional Shared Services Centre Directorate

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

- There were 59,096 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAP SSC at the end of January.
- A weekly average of 144 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2023.
- The January landlord payment run was €55.7 million.
- The weekly tenant charge at the end of January was €3.1 million.
- The Debt Management Unit of the HAP SSC collected a total of €12.9 million in differential rent to end of January.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of January was 91%.
- The Debt Management Unit issued 9,611 HAP debt reminder letters in January.

### 2. Fire and Emergency

#### Statistics

	No of Fire Related Calls	No of Non-Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call-outs 01.01.2023 – 31.01.2023	57	60	117
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	74%	47%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	24%	38%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	2%	15%	

	No. received / assigned	No. validated	No. invalidated / refused	No. granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications January	11	11	1	6	7
Disability Access Cert Applications January	4	4	1	7	8
Licensing Applications January	8		0	1	
Commencement Notice January	38	32	3	32	35
Completion Certificate January	8	8	0	8	8
Planning Referrals January	21				15
Sugar CRM Cases January	1				0

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## Fire and Emergency Training Events

During the month, the following training course took place:

- Eight fire fighters have been upskilled in the use of the Snorkel S220 Aerial Platform.
- 12 fire fighters have completed a Working at Heights Train-the-Trainer session in Cappamore Fire Station.
- 20 fire fighters completed a three-day Peer Support course, enabling them to offer support to their crew members during stressful and traumatic times

## Civil Defence attendance at Events

The following activity took place in January:

- Patient Transfers from Cappamore to Medical Appointment and return - 1 day.
- Visit to Rescue Helicopter 115 Shannon, Co. Clare - 1 day.
- Patient Transfer - Milford Hospice, Limerick, to Lifford Hospice, Donegal (Ambulance Transport) - 1 day.
- Patient Transfer Kildimo, Limerick, to Barrack View Primary Health Centre, Limerick - 1 day.
- Patient Transfer Kildimo, Limerick, to University Hospital Limerick - 1 day.
- Call-Outs - Set up of new Ukrainian Displaced Persons Emergency Rest Centre - 1 day.
- Certificate Presentation, COVID-19 and Long Service Medal Presentation Awards - Dockland Business Park, Headquarters, Limerick - 1 day.

## Water Safety

No. of lifebuoy replacements	January	Total 2023
Metropolitan District	1	1
Municipal District	0	0



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## Support Services Directorate

### 1. Finance

#### Commercial Rates and Loans

##### Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2023	
As at 31st January 2023*	
Opening Balance - 1 Jan €	5,867,465 *
Accruals €	64,113,354 **
Vacant Property Adjustment €	-
Writes offs/ Waivers €	2,698
Total for Collection €	69,978,121
Amount Collected €	326,176
Arrears €	69,651,945
Specific Doubtful Arrears €	1,620,500
% Collected	0.5%

\*\* The Date for Making the 2023 Rate was 2nd February 2023

\* subject to finalisation of year end accounts for 2022

#### Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No. of days in overdraft 0

Debtors Loans	
As at 31st January 2023*	
Opening Balance - 1 Jan €	300,639 *
Accruals €	- ^
Writes offs €	-
To Collect €	300,639
Receipts €	187,202
Arrears €	113,437
% Collected	62%

\* subject to finalisation of year end accounts for 2022

^ Accruals not updated for loans for January 2023

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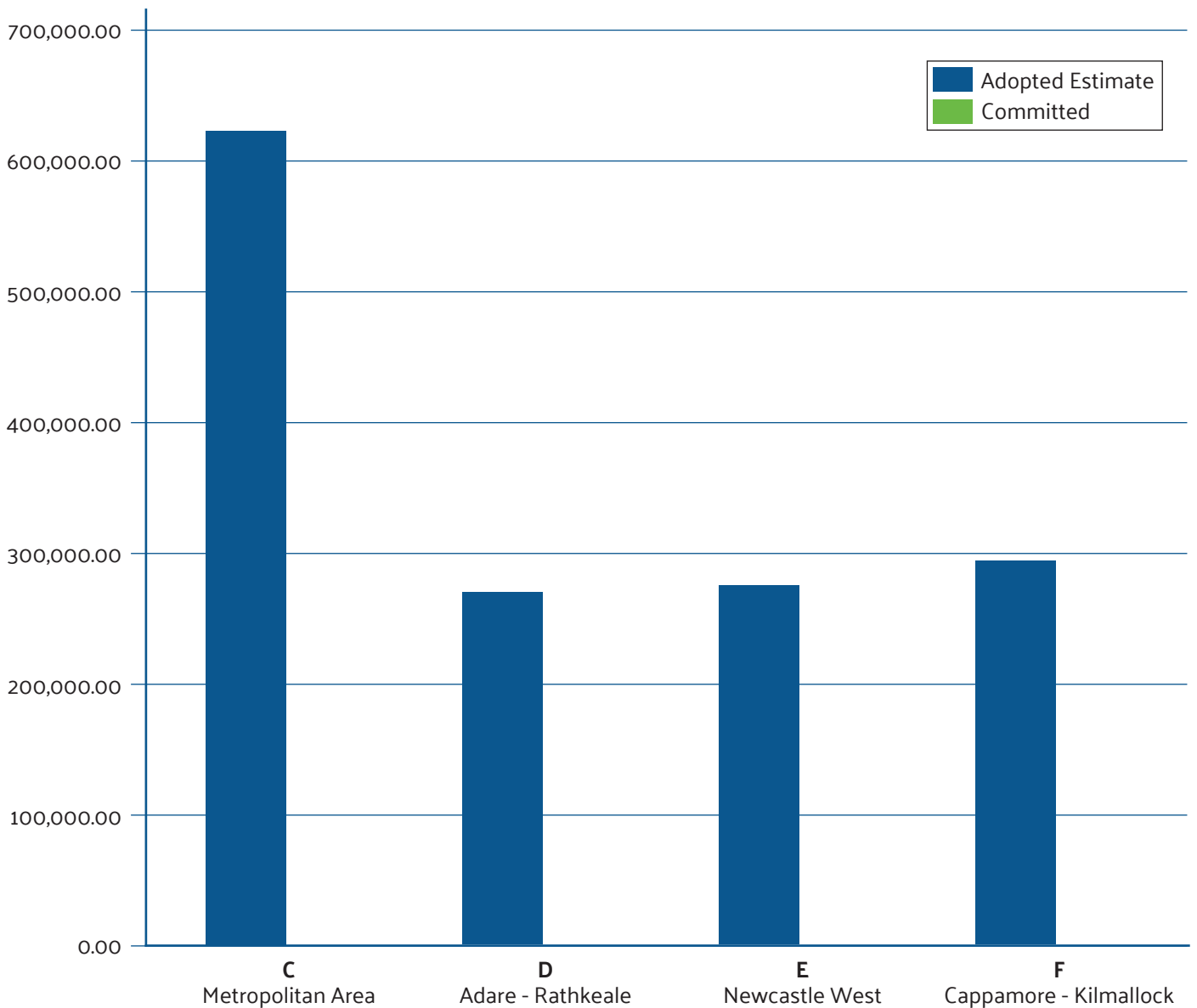


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## General Municipal Allocation 2023 Adopted Estimate €1.463 Million

Graph outlining adopted budget and draft committed expenditure up to 31st January 2023



Municip (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate (€)	Value Committed (€)
C Metropolitan Area	628,000.00	0
D Adare - Rathkeale	269,500.00	0
E Newcastle West	270,500.00	0
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	295,000.00	0



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## 2. Business Improvement

- Business Improvement launched the Personal Development Plan (PDP) as a digitised online form.
- MyPoint demonstrations were given to various Departments showcasing how applications can be built for the customer.
- MyPoint Consultations Training was completed by the Active Travel Department.
- A total of 920 active users are now live on the Employee App.
- Services on Service Catalogue = 701.
- There are 366 capital projects now managed through Cora, our cloud-based project management system. Project Managers and Sponsors can now request job codes, budget adjustments, reports and a digitised audit trail through an automated workflow.

## 3. Corporate, Governance and Customer Services

### Office of the Mayor

#### Mayoral Reception was held for the following:

Limerick Suicide Watch, in recognition of its achievement in saving lives through riverside patrols, suicide interventions and mental health awareness.

#### The Mayor hosted the following in Corporate Headquarters:

- Courtesy Visit of the Norwegian Ambassador to Ireland.
- Certificate Awards to Southill Hub Junior Leaders who received certificates on completion of their Junior Leaders' Programme.

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

- Launch of Limerick Bike Hub at Singland Cross, St. Patrick's Road, Limerick. The Hub is a volunteer-based initiative where donated bikes will be repaired, before being distributed to people across the city and county. Among those who will benefit are newly arrived displaced persons from Ukraine and other parts of the world, including asylum seekers living in Direct Provision.
- Celebration of the traditional Ukrainian Christmas in song and dance.
- An Garda Síochána, Presentation on the policing plans for Limerick Division 2023 in the Strand Hotel, Limerick.
- Heineken Champions Cup Match between Munster and Northampton Saints at Thomond Park, Limerick.
- University of Limerick Winter Conferring Ceremonies.
- Photoshoot for the production of Lily's Labyrinth, a magical children's opera. Production presented by the students of Limerick School of Music, in partnership with Limerick Opera Festival, at Limerick School of Music, Mulgrave Street, Limerick.
- Press Launch for Limerick Youth Service 50th Anniversary Celebrations at Limerick Youth Service Building, Lower Glentworth Street, Limerick.
- Visit to the film set of a major feature film set in Berlin during World War II, God's Spy, the true story of a German theologian and pastor who stood up to the Nazis in his attempt to save countless Jewish lives. Film set located at Pery Square which will double as 1940s London, and Cleaves, Limerick.
- Official Opening of Shelter, an exhibition of children's drawings from Ukrainian bomb shelters, at the Limerick Museum, Henry Street, Limerick.
- Pride of Place Awards Ceremony in Dublin.

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- Launch of the Regeneron Great Limerick Run.
- Chinese New Year Celebration.
- Launch of the Southill Community consultation report. A joint initiative between Southill Family Resource Centre, Southill Hub, Tait House Community Enterprise and supported by PAUL Partnership Limerick.
- Annual Robert Burns Night at Dolan's, Dock Road, Limerick.
- Visit to Tarbert Comprehensive School to speak with their CSPE (Civic, Social and Political Education) Class.
- Legato Health Technologies Ireland, Rebrand Launch Event - Legato is rebranding to Carelon Global Solutions Ireland.
- Civil Defence Volunteer Certificate Presentation Night at Unit 6e Docklands Business Park, Dock Road, Limerick.

## European Green Capital Tallinn 2023

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, travelled to Tallinn, Estonia from 19 - 21 January to attend the Opening and Handover Ceremony for the European Green Capital 2023 Award.

## Register of Electors

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

- Additions to the Electoral Register - 380
- Deletions from the Electoral Register - 443
- Modifications to the Electoral Register - 525
- 263 requests were received through the updated *Check The Register* [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	9
Basic Tractor Training	1
Manual Handling	60
Construction Skills Certification Scheme - Signing, Lighting and Guarding at Roadworks	4
Hazardous Chemical Spillage	20
<b>Total Staff Trained</b>	<b>94</b>

## 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 January:

- Approved requisitions accounted for 84% of the total requisitions actioned for this given month.
- Rejected requisitions accounted for 16% of the total requisitions actioned for this given month.

Month	Approved	Rejected	Total Requisitions Actioned
January	1,311	247	1,558

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The Top six requisition rejection reasons for the month of January are identified as follows:

Rejection Reason	January
Memo – Requisition not raised in advance	69
Procurement Reference omitted/incorrect	48
Documentation uploaded not relevant/ nothing uploaded	25
Approver Officer's Order – omitted/ incorrect copy provided	22
Quotes – omitted/incorrect copy provided	18
CAPA (Corrective Action, Preventative Action Form) – omitted/not signed/ insufficiently completed	18

## 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 January:

<b>New Procurement References set up</b>	43
<b>Procurement References extended as per signed contract/arrangement</b>	74

The Unit continued to work with staff of all Departments to ensure procurement to pay cycle was 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 January

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
<b>Full Council</b> Bi-Monthly Meeting of Limerick City and County Council	23.01.2023	Dooradoyle and Online
<b>Operational Briefings</b> Limerick City East Limerick City North Limerick City West	10.01.2023 10.01.2023 11.01.2023	Online Online Online
<b>Municipal District of</b>		
<b>Newcastle West</b> Monthly Meeting	11.01.2023	Newcastle West
<b>Adare-Rathkeale</b> Monthly Meeting Special Meeting 'In Committee'	10.01.2023 12.01.2023	Rathkeale Rathkeale
<b>Cappamore-Kilmallock</b> Monthly Meeting	19.01.2023	Lough Gur Visitor Centre
<b>Metropolitan District of Limerick City</b> Monthly Meeting	16.01.2023	ENGINE Building, Upper Cecil Street and Online
<b>Corporate Policy Group Meeting</b>	16.01.2023	Online
<b>Party Leaders' Meeting</b>	20.01.2023	Online
<b>Protocol Committee Meeting</b>	20.01.2023	Online
<b>Meeting of Limerick Women's Caucus</b>	25.01.2023	South Court Hotel, Raheen
<b>Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Meeting</b>	31.01.2023	Dooradoyle

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## Access to Information

	January	2023 (January to January)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	14	14
Freedom of Information Internal Appeals	1	1
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	0
Total Ombudsman Requests	6	6
Total Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) Requests	2	2

## Customer Services

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 the month of January:

- Customer Services Call Centre answered 11,698 calls. This represents an average of 557 per day, with the number of calls exceeding 600 on several occasions and reaching as high as 656. 69% of calls were handled at first point of contact.
- A total of 3,497 emails were processed through the Customer Services email platform.

- 3,606 cases were created, with 724 of these logged on behalf of Public Representatives. 3,284 cases were closed, with 717 of these being cases logged by Public Representatives.
- Of these 3,606 cases, Customer Services staff logged 67% of same.
- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued, with a total of 257 cases being logged. Of these, 232 were submitted by Public Representatives.
- Customer Services continued to support the Housing Maintenance Department in creating service requests, with 88% of housing maintenance cases for the Limerick Metropolitan District being logged by Customer Services staff in the Dooradoyle and Merchant's Quay offices.
- A total of 112 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 101 were applied for and 86 issued.
- Customer Services staff welcomed a total of 2,481 customers at both the Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle offices.

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## 4. Marketing & Communications

### Marketing

#### Limerick - Walk It - Run It - Love It

- Launched a four-week #LimerickOnFoot campaign on 20 January encouraging people to get outdoors and explore the tracks and trails throughout Limerick City and County.
- Developed a dedicated subsection on Limerick.ie [Limerick.ie/Walking](#) featuring a comprehensive city routes and county trails listing and an engaging photo gallery of user generated content of Limerick's tracks and trails.
- Produced a twenty-page [Walking & Running guide](#), in digital and print format, with distribution of 15,000 print guides currently underway.
- Produced a downloadable [Three Bridges Walk map](#), detailing over twenty points of interest to discover along Limerick's renowned riverside route.
- Produced and launched still photography and promotional video assets for three County Limerick routes funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development, Fáilte Ireland and Limerick City and County Council under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme – [Kilmoylan Woods Nature Walk](#) | [Liskennett Forest Trail](#) | [Galtymore](#)
- Developed and launched [Limerick Walk It Run It Love It playlist](#), an uplifting soundtrack exclusively celebrating some of Limerick's leading musical talents.
- Engaged a number of prominent local influencers to promote the campaign, including fitness and lifestyle content creator, [Michelle McNulty](#) and business owner, mum and soprano singer, [Sinéad O'Brien](#)
- Launched **Limerick Student City** social and digital marketing campaign, *There's No Place Like Limerick*, in partnership with the higher education institutes, University of Limerick, Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest, and Mary Immaculate College to promote Limerick as a leading university city ahead of the CAO application deadline 2023. The campaign also featured students from College of Further Education, Mulgrave Street, Limerick, and Griffith College, Limerick.
- Produced Christmas in Limerick 2022 report detailing a performance overview of marketing and PR activities throughout the six-week multimedia marketing campaign. Topline figures include:
  - **Total impressions:** 4.8 million | **Video views:** 829,309 | **Engagements:** 180,808 | **Link clicks:** 57,172 | **Website views:** 147,391
- Collateral designed and produced for Brand Adare, to be used at the stakeholder launch. Stakeholder engagement sessions also completed with members of the Adare community, which set the context and story of the brand, the journey to this point and how best to adopt the brand for businesses and stakeholders right across the community.
- Brand Limerick feature advert secured in 'Your Daily Adventure' Visitor Guide 2023.
- Created and issued six Limerick.ie e-newsletters.

### 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 [Facebook](#) with followers now 33,318. Posts reached 441,391 users with 29,058 engagements.

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- Tweeted 25 times on Limerick.ie [Twitter](#) with total followers now 21,397. Our tweets earned 161.8K impressions (number of times users saw our tweet).
- Posted 19 times on Limerick.ie [Instagram](#) and created 32 Stories with total followers now 27,390.
- Posted 12 times on Limerick City and County Council [LinkedIn](#) with total followers now 10,112.

## Limerick.ie

In January, there were 153,062\* unique site visits to Limerick.ie, a 1% increase on the same period in 2022. (\*Fathom Analytics)

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

1. [www.limerick.ie](http://www.limerick.ie)
2. [www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning](http://www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning)
3. [www.limerick.ie/council](http://www.limerick.ie/council)
4. [www.limerick.ie/discover/whats-on/browse](http://www.limerick.ie/discover/whats-on/browse)
5. [www.limerick.ie/council/your-council/jobs](http://www.limerick.ie/council/your-council/jobs)

**Content Report:** 58 articles, 175 events and four new amenities were added to Limerick.ie in January.

## Communications

Issued 19 news releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and researched and wrote 12 speeches for the Office of the Mayor.

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

Tweeted 48 times on Limerick City and County Council's [Twitter](#) account, @limerickcouncil, with total followers now 17,950. Our tweets earned 91K impressions (number of times users saw our tweet).

Handled all media queries which come into [communications@limerick.ie](mailto:communications@limerick.ie) and continued to offer Communication support to all Directorates of Limerick City and County Council.

## 5. Munster Regional Communications Centre

	No of Calls mobilised to an emergency incident by MRCC	Other Calls	Average call processing time in minutes and seconds	Total No. of calls in January
No. of call-outs 01.01.2023 – 31.01.2023	841	1,070	102.91	1,911