

Chief Executive's Report

February 2023

80-Million-Euro Investment Provides Curtain Raiser for Limerick's Opera Square

Draft Masterplan Approved for Cleeves Riverside Quarter

Bus Services in Limerick City and Suburbs to Increase by 70% Under BusConnects Limerick

Limerick Included in National Night Time Economy Pilot Project

Limerick Museum Feels the Love with Online Valentine's Day Display

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Economic Development and Enterprise Directorate

1. Trade & Investment

- Viatel Technology Group announced the creation of 50 new roles nationwide over the next 18 months. One third of the new jobs will be based in Limerick, which will add to its existing workforce of 120 at its base in Castletroy. The Company was established following its acquisition of Action Point last year and links businesses and staff to the internet, offering secure connectivity, voice and cloud data, and supports over 5,000 enterprise customers nationally.
- Limerick City and County Council was successful in its application to be included in the national Night Time Economy pilot programme. Guidelines and funding of €80,000 per year have been issued by the Department.

2. Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

Funding Approved

- €191,546 was approved for businesses to include one Feasibility Study Grant, three Priming Grants and three Business Expansion Grants.
- One Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters (TAME) Grant was approved.
- Eight businesses were approved for a Trading Online Voucher.

LEO Workshops, Webinars and Training Workshops included:

- Start Your Own Business Programmes
- Managing an Online Business
- Business Management Development Programmes
- Costing and Pricing Workshop
- Kickstarter Start your own Food Business Workshop
- Mid-West Food Starter Programme
- Exporting Webinar

- Basic Book-Keeping and Taxation Workshops (2)
- Search Engine Optimisation Webinar
- Business Advice Clinics

There were 124 participants on the LEO Business Training Workshops and 10 Business Owners were approved for the LEO Mentoring Programme.

3. Innovate Limerick

Film in Limerick

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

Three local emerging producers joined 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 offered a bursary to the 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.

Film in Limerick delivered the following training courses:

- **Vectorworks Intermediate**

A follow on from our beginner's course, this online class offered a deeper dive into the design software for Film/TV.

- **Passport to Production**

Validated by the Technological University of Dublin as a level 6 QQI 10 ECTS credit programme, our flagship course ran in February with 11 participants attending training at Troy Studios, prior to beginning work placements on Film/TV productions in the Region.

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• Writers Factory

The 3rd 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 Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.

• Engine Shorts 2

Almost 100 applications were received for the second edition of our hugely popular short film training and production scheme.

• Dublin Film Festival at TUS Moylish

Film in Limerick was represented by Rachael Power (Crew Academy Manager) at the Festival. Rachael took part in a panel discussion for young filmmakers, sharing insights into the opportunities that exist in the region for students to be involved in the sector after they graduate.

• Local Filming

Film in Limerick supported two major TV-series in their pre-production. 'Hidden Assets,' Season 2, and 'Blackwater.' Film in Limerick worked with the producers to bring the productions to the region and assisted with locations, crewing and permissions.

• Film Podcast

Film in Limerick, in partnership with Mary Immaculate College and supported by Screen Ireland, has developed a new podcast series. 'Da Pictures' airs on WiredFM, and will be available to listen back online. Two episodes were broadcast in February, including an episode covering the Film in Limerick Delegation to the European Film Market in Berlin.

4. Forward Planning

- The Forward Planning Team visited the Secondary School Children in Coláiste Íde agus Iosaf, Abbeyfeale, to undertake consultation to inform the preparation of the Abbeyfeale Local Area Plan.
- The review of the Patrickswell Local Area Plan 2015-2021 (as extended) commenced on 04 February with the publication of an Issues Paper to promote public consultation in the process. A public consultation event was held on 22 February in the GAA Hall and the Forward Planning Team visited the children in the National School in Patrickswell on 21 February.
- The review of the Adare Local Area Plan 2015-2021 (as extended) commenced on 04 February with the publication of an Issues Paper to promote public consultation in the process. A public consultation event was held on 13 February in the Village Hall. Consultation with National School Children in Adare (St. Nicholas's National School, Scoil Naomh Iosaf National School, Adare, and Our Lady Abbey National School) also took place on 27 and 29 February, to inform the preparation of the Adare Local Area Plan
- The Material Alterations on the Draft Caherconlish Local Area Plan 2023-2029 was published for public consultation on 04 February.
- A public consultation evening with regard to the publication of the First Issues Paper associated with the Review of the Newcastle West Local Area Plan took place on 23 February in the Newcastle West Municipal Office.

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5. Limerick Twenty Thirty

Opera Square

Communications Update

- On 13 February, Limerick Twenty Thirty and Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF), part of the National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA), announced the creation of a unique €80m Joint Venture Partnership to finance the development of the One Opera Square project. The event also announced the appointment of John Sisk & Son for Contract B works on site, including the Basement and One Opera Square. [Link to the Press Release.](#)
- The announcement commenced with a Briefing to the Elected Members in the Vault at Gardens International. The main event was held in the foyer with over 110 in attendance. Speakers at the event included the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien, TD, the Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with special responsibility for Local Government and Planning, Kieran O'Donnell, TD, Nick Ashmore, Director of ISIF, and Conn Murray, Chairman of Limerick Twenty Thirty.
- The event included operatic performances and was followed by a visit to the Opera Square site by key stakeholders. The announcement saw strong interest from media and several videos were issued with interviews by key stakeholders and new computer generated images of One Opera Square.

Progress Update

John Sisk & Son commenced the Basement and One Opera Square works in February. Sisk have mobilised and set up compound within the Granary. Piling rig has mobilised onsite with piling mat construction underway.

Cleeves Riverside Quarter

Progress Update

- The draft Masterplan has been prepared by the Design Team. The Masterplan focuses on expediting delivery of residential units, and utilisation of the €34.5m Urban Regeneration and Development Fund grant. The Masterplan draft was presented to the Limerick Twenty Thirty Board on 28 February and was approved for release to key stakeholders and the public.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been agreed and signed between Limerick Twenty Thirty and the Technological University of the Shannon (TUS). Initially their requirement is for 10,000 sqm, which has a capacity to accommodate 1,600 students and 150 academic staff.

Communications Update

- A Consultation Strategy has been implemented to ensure a comprehensive engagement with both targeted stakeholders and the public for the Masterplan process. The Consultation Strategy has identified the different stakeholder groups (targeted and public) and how the consultations will be undertaken.

Non-Project/General Communications

- The Vault at Gardens International was promoted in February for meeting and events bookings and the space was used to hold both the Opera Square announcement and other corporate events. Requests can be submitted to gardens@limerick2030.ie or 061-517430.

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Transportation & Mobility Directorate

1. Travel and Transportation Strategy

- A meeting of the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee was held in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle, and online on 21 February.

Proposed dates were agreed for the remaining 2023 meetings.

There were presentations on the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS) supporting measures, and a Review of the Budget Allocations for 2023.

- The National Transport Authority (NTA) published BusConnects Limerick, its draft new bus network for Limerick, on 22 February. The redesign of the bus network aims to transform the city's bus system, making public transport more useful to more people.

Under the proposals within the Limerick bus network redesign report, the level of bus services in Limerick city and its suburbs will increase by approximately 70%. 61% of people in Limerick city would be located within 400 metres walk of a bus stop, up from 53%.

Consultation on the draft new network will run for six weeks.

2. Active Travel

South Circular Road - Part 8 approved in February.

Schemes at Design Stage

- Childers Road (Greenpark to Roxboro Road Roundabout):** Design ongoing. Tender completed for tree surgery.
- Ballysimon Road:** Preliminary design ongoing.

- Roxboro Road:** Tender assessment complete, successful Consultant appointed.
- Gotoon Bridge, Kilmallock, and Millennium Bridge, Limerick:** Site meeting held with the appointed Consultants, Clandillon.
- Cappamore and Doon Public Realm:** Urban analysis complete, design strategy to consider options underway.
- R510 Quinn's Cross to Raheen:** Consultant progressing with detailed design.
- TUS Moylish to City Centre:** Punch Consulting Engineers progressing detailed design.
- University of Limerick to Annacotty:** Topographical survey started 27 February.
- Condell Road:** Draft Analysis Report received and under review.
- Roxboro Road:** Tender assessment for consultants complete.
- St Paul's Junction, Dooradoyle:** Working with MRG Consultants on detail design.

Schemes at Construction Stage

Hyde Road: Works ongoing on footpaths/cycle lane separators/Junctions by Contractor, Priority Construction Ltd.

Brookville Avenue: Works ongoing by Contractor, P&D Lydon, on footpaths/cycle lanes separators/junctions.

Mill Road, Corbally: Tree felling ongoing.

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Safe Routes to School: Road markings and bollards complete at Gaelscoil Sairséil, Shelbourne Road, Limerick.

Smarter Travel Route Widening and Permeability Links

Works ongoing on Active Travel themed painting of Pa Healy Bridge, Canal Bank, Limerick.



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Community, Tourism & Culture Directorate

1. Urban & Rural Community Development

Environment Awareness

- The Annual Tidy Towns Seminar took place on 15 February and was well attended. The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, opened the proceedings with a welcome address, followed soon after by a short presentation relating to Public Art, Panel discussions sharing knowledge of “doable” actions for the 2023 Tidy Towns application and linking them to the United Nations Sustainability Goals.

Public Participation Network (PPN)

- 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 two linkage group meetings in February - Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment; and Travel and Transportation.
- PPN Members were briefed by Limerick City and County Council regarding the Community Recognition Fund on 20 February.
- The Secretariat continues to fulfil its function with a Secretariat meeting held on 28 February.

Community Recognition Fund 2023

- Limerick City and County Council opened an Expression of Interest (EOI) on 16 February for project proposals from community groups under the Community Recognition Fund 2023.

- The Department of Rural and Community Development launched the fund in recognition of community contributions to the emergency response.
- It targets capital projects in communities that have welcomed Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and/or International Protection applicants. The broad aim of this fund is to develop or improve facilities that will benefit the broader community into the future. The expressions of interest (EOI) opened online on [“My Point.”](#)

Age Friendly

Members of our new Old Persons’ Executive received training on 16 February on their role on the Executive for the next two years. This training is being rolled out to all the Old Persons’ Executives around the country to ensure they are all being run the same way and following the same guides and policies. Limerick Old Persons’ Executive training is now completed.

A consultation session was held by our Consultants, Mo Flynn Company Ltd, with our Old Persons’ Executive on 27 February as part of the ongoing consultative process, gathering information for actions required for Limerick’s second Age Friendly Strategy.

Our Network of Age Friendly Programme Managers residential meeting took place over two days in February, where our Age Friendly core team, Regional Programme Managers and Programme Managers from the 31 local authorities came together to discuss the progress and growth of Age Friendly Ireland and agree the workplan for the year ahead

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2. Tourism

Limerick Greenway Marketing Update

Limerick Greenway's marketing and social media campaign continued throughout February highlighting the following:

- Updates were provided on the continued improvement works being carried out on Limerick Greenway.
- Limerick Greenway continued its Spring social media campaign with promotional posts encouraging visitors to the Greenway over the mid-term and to make the most of the brighter evenings.

Limerick City and County schools were invited to attend an online presentation in February highlighting all that Limerick Greenway has to offer our young people. The aim was to support schools planning trips to the Greenway and also to discuss the many benefits of being outdoors in nature and the health benefits of cycling, walking and team building.

Brand Adare

On 12 February, the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, launched a new brand for Adare in collaboration with local community and business stakeholders. The brand is the culmination of 18 months of work by Limerick City and County Council Tourism and Marketing & Communications, in collaboration with local stakeholders and appointed Consultants, M&C Saatchi. Adare's new brand identity provides a revitalised platform to tell Adare's story effectively and comprehensively, whilst also deepening tourist appeal.

Tourism Industry and Trade Events

The Fáilte Ireland Wild Atlantic Way Regional Industry Day took place in Limerick on 23 February in the Strand Hotel. Welcoming industry professionals from Limerick and Clare, the event was addressed by key Fáilte Ireland personnel, including Paul Keeley and Miriam Kennedy. Presentations from Fáilte Ireland included National Policy,

Product and Enterprise Development, Marketing and Commercial Development and a panel discussion on key tourism initiatives taking place in Limerick and Clare.

3. Arts Office

OPEN CALLS FOR BURSARIES

Grants under the Arts Act Open Call

On 22 February, Limerick Arts Office announced the Open Call seeking 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. In the 2003 Arts Act, the arts are defined as painting, sculpture, architecture, music, film, drama, dance, literature, design in industry and the fine arts and applied arts generally. The awards can be used for the professional development of artists and the arts and increasing access and participation in the arts. The closing date for applications for the Scheme was 22 February.

Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts Scheme 2023

Limerick City and County Council Arts Office opened the 2023 Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts Scheme. 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 February, 11 letters of support were issued.

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CREATIVE IRELAND

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.

Limerick Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027

Limerick City and County Council developed and adopted a new five-year Culture and Creativity Strategy for Limerick, as a part of the Creative Ireland Programme. The Strategic Priorities in the Strategy are as follows: (1) Place-Making, (2) Cultural and Creative Careers, (3) Connections, (4) Change-Making, (5) Cultural and Creative Economy.

The Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Kieran O'Hanlon, represented Limerick City and County Council, accompanied by the Creative Ireland Co-ordinator | Arts Officer and the Administrative Officer of the Urban Innovation Department, at the Launch of the Local Authority Culture and Creativity Strategies which took place at Farmleigh House and Estate, Phoenix Park, Dublin, on 23 February, in the presence of Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin, TD, and Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with special responsibility for Local Government and Planning, Kieran O'Donnell, TD. The Limerick Team presented to the Ministers on the Creative Ireland funding project, Decarbonising Limerick.

Climate Action Presentation to Monaghan County Council Climate Action Steering Committee

Limerick Arts Office and the Urban Innovation Department gave a presentation to Monaghan County Council on the outcomes of the Creative Ireland Climate Action Programme in Limerick, which took place on 03 February.

Creative Ireland Made in Limerick Grants Open Call

On 16 February, Limerick Arts Office announced an Open Call seeking applications for Limerick-based creative practitioners, organisations and communities of place and

interest to submit applications for Made in Limerick Grants 2023. These grants are offered as part of Limerick Creative Ireland Programme to deliver activities taking place in 2023.

CREATIVE IRELAND FUNDED PROJECTS

Strategic and Legacy funding - Restorative Justice

The first Restorative Justice Steering Group meeting took place on 17 February. 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 and what the restorative justice project could bring in terms of access to experiences of people. A practitioner has been engaged to undertake this work.

Cruinniú na nÓg Advisory Group

A new Cruinniú na nÓg Advisory Group was formed and the first meeting took place on 28 February. Joining Limerick Arts Office and Fresh Film were representatives from Innovate Limerick, Limerick Libraries and the Limerick City Gallery of Art.

ARTS COUNCIL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT PROGRAMME

River Residencies - Invitation to Collaboration

Tidal Choreography, a film by Tania Candiani, was presented on 25 February in Ceol Corbraí Hall in Glin. The work was made while Tania was on residency in Glin, Co. Limerick, as part of Invitation to Collaboration funded project River Residencies, a series of artistic residencies along the Shannon. Limerick was lead partner on this Arts Council funded Invitation to Collaboration project with the Arts Offices in Cavan, Clare, and Tipperary, and Ormston House as artistic lead.

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River Residencies Exhibition opened in Ormston House on 16 February. It is an exhibition of work by William Bock, boredomresearch, Tania Candiani, Nathan O'Donnell and Clare Bell. Over the past two years, the artists met with communities in rural locations along the River Shannon in Clare, Cavan, Limerick and Tipperary. This is a presentation of the work developed during these four residencies along the River Shannon.

Roundtable Discussion

The Arts Officer/ Creative Ireland Coordinator was invited to participate in Music and Health, Ireland's Notes and Signs Roundtable Discussion, on 21 February, exploring creating capacity and opportunities for Deaf audiences for live music.

Artists in Schools

Limerick Arts Office has engaged Arts Leaders to evaluate, map, and make recommendations and plan for the future of the provision of the Limerick Arts Office Artists in Schools Programme. There is a changed landscape for provision in the area, due to the setup in the last decade of a number of programmes, both national and local, e.g. Music Generation, Creative Schools and TAP and BLAST. Having investigated provision and consulted with stakeholders, a new approach to how funding is invested will be devised, considering these factors.

Integrated Dance

Limerick Arts Office has engaged Promenade to evaluate, map, and make recommendations and plan for the future of the Integrated Dance Programme. A key current goal for the programme is to provide access to Dance for those with complex/additional needs. A review and assessment will advise how to best provide this programme sustainably.

Visual Artists Ireland Professional Development for Artists

Through Visual Artists Ireland, in partnership with Clare and Tipperary, Limerick Arts Office is offering a series of subsidised professional development webinars for visual artists living and working in Limerick. Dr. Áine Phillips facilitated training on Socially Engaged Practice on 02 February.

FMC Professional Development for Musicians

Limerick Arts Office partnered with Clare, Kerry and Tipperary Arts Offices to support the delivery of First Music Contact Regional Professional Development for Musicians. Webinars cover Online Marketing, Gigging Outside Ireland, Management, and Approaching Media. Limerick Musicians had a Limerick specific session in advance of the general webinar on 22 February.

Urban Art

Limerick Arts Office is working with colleagues in Active Travel and Roads Maintenance on an Art Project with Street Art Inc. for an art work on Pa Healy Bridge. On 08 February, the artist, Street Art Inc., and members of the Active Travel and the Arts Office teams, met with members of the public and local community groups in the area to present the project.

FESTIVALS and EVENTS

In recognition of the first national holiday for Saint Brigid, a series of events took place across Limerick City in February:

'Bantracht' – Female Art Collective at Treaty City Brewery, including Folk Stories of Fearless Females by Eddie Lenihan

The title 'Bantracht' translates from the Irish 'womenkind' or 'womenfolk' – the central theme of this Exhibition. Participants were asked to explore female figures from an historical, current, mythological or folklore context, and to create work in response to their discoveries. 'Bantracht' featured works from Rennie Buenting, Eva

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Byrne, Angelina Foster, Lara Grufferty, Carol Kennedy, Sibéal Riordan, Emily Robards and Sinéad Cunneen Williams. Mná na nEalain is a network of established and emerging female artists and creatives in Ireland, which evolved from the Creative Europe Womarts Programme.

The Exhibition was hosted by selected members of the Mná na nEalaín at Treaty City Brewery on 06 February.

'The Land of Saints and Glamour' – Aoife Cawley at King John's Castle

Aoife Cawley is a visual artist from Kildare, primarily working in the realm of printmaking and textiles. She is a current student of Contemporary Art Practice at the Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, Dundee, Scotland. Cawley's work is typically focused on retelling the stories from mythological, biblical, and historical contexts. She draws inspiration from Celtic art as well as Catholic iconography.

To celebrate the new bank holiday for our patron saint, Saint Brigid, artist Aoife Cawley put on an exhibition of new and existing work at King John's Castle, centred around Brigid and other figures from Irish folklore and legends. This exhibition featured works of bright neon colours and bold graphic lines that set out to revive the ancient stories that are embroidered into our culture and bring them into present day Ireland.

4. Property & Community Facilities

Dereliction, Vacancy and Reuse Team	
Site Inspections completed	120
Property and Community Facilities Department Notices issued	35
Derelict Sites Cases opened	10
Statutory Notices served under the Derelict Sites Act, 1990	183
Derelict Sites Cases closed through engagement	3
Properties entered into the Derelict Sites Register	7
Properties proposed for Compulsory Acquisition (Section 15 Notices)	0
Vesting Orders made for Properties Acquired Compulsorily (Section 17 Notices)	14
Croí Cónaithe Applications Approved	9

Bin Waiver Applications Approved	419
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5. Libraries, Gallery & Museum

Library

- Limerick Libraries celebrated Ireland Reads, the national campaign to get the whole country reading, throughout the month of February. This campaign, involving libraries publishers, booksellers and authors, is an annual event in the Right to Read programme. The #SqueezelnARead tag on social media featured creative images from library staff inviting everyone to take some time out to squeeze in a read in their busy lives to remind everyone of the power of opening a book, physically, digitally or on audio and immersing the senses in the joy of reading. Creative posts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Tik Tok reached out to a wide range of people to engage with this campaign in the lead-up to the National Day of Reading on 25 February. An interview with

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the Limerick Leader's, Meghan Scully, explaining the concept, was available on all social platforms. Branches also offered specialised displays and personalised recommendations throughout the month.

- The weekly knitting group, 'Close-Knit Friends,' in Dooradoyle Library has become very popular as a great opportunity for people to share their skills and make new friends. Helium Arts returned on 16 and 17 February for their mid-term break art workshops. These free creative workshops are designed to support children, aged 8-12, with lifelong physical health conditions. Regular story-time sessions continued throughout the month. On 11 February, children were treated to an Irish language story-time with Joanne. The event was very interactive and children enjoyed a mix of scéalta agus rainn. Forty parents and children attended the event. Limerick City and County Council Active Retirement Association held their monthly meeting on 21 February in the exhibition space. Limerick Literary Festival in honour of Kate O'Brien held one of their first events of 2023 in Dooradoyle Library. A poetry reading with Emily Cullen took place on 24 February. Emily is the Meskell UL-Fifty Poet in Residence at the University of Limerick. This free event was well attended by both young and old. The theme for 2023 was resilience and centred around the Kate O'Brien quote: "And she did not know that she carried armour." Book Club members met on the last Thursday of the month to discuss 'The 19th Wife' by David Ebershoff and selected Sara Baume's 'A Line Made by Walking' for their next reading choice. The branch has expanded its school programme with visits from over sixty students from Scoil Mháthair Dé. Children registered for library cards and took part in a fun activity where they designed their own bookmarks. St. Paul's National School also paid the library a visit with three of their 2nd classes on 28 February for a fun-filled morning of book-related activities. Regular visits from Red Hill School and members of the Health Service Executive Training Centre, Dooradoyle, also took place during the month of February.
- Glin Montessori School again visited Glin Library for a fun visit during the month.
- In partnership with Safefood, Limerick Libraries hosted a livestream event on 07 February. Library members were invited to join this free parenting talk about starting healthy eating habits as part of the Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme. Free recipe books "101 Square Meals" were distributed to all branches across the city and county for collection by members of the public. The book contains easy recipes for budget-friendly meals and has proven to be extremely popular.
- February in Adare Library started with a digital workshop organised by ALONE, a charity organisation set up to highlight the issues facing older people living alone. Founded in 1977 by Willie Bermingham, the charity seeks to help elderly people living on their own who may feel isolated and lonely, and to "connect them with the necessary support services in their community." The name ALONE is an acronym of the words "A Little Offering Never Ends." Members from the 2020 Club and Adare Men's Shed attended this Hi Digital session which is part of a new nationwide digital skill training programme for older people by ALONE. Step-by-Step Montessori and After-School visited the branch during February. Classes from Our Lady's Abbey Girls' National School and Scoil Naomh Iosaf learned more about responsible dog ownership and safety during a fun and educational Dogs Trust workshop. The Parent, Baby and Toddler group continued with their now traditional Thursday meetings. The events in Adare library finished with a 2020 Book-club meeting.
- Kilmallock Library was delighted to welcome the wonderful Junior and Senior Infants from Scoil Mhuire National School, Effin, with their teacher for a visit on 01 February. The children enjoyed browsing the bookshelves and a workshop of songs and stories and making some beautiful Saint Brigid's crosses. The Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme (VTOS) Art Group, Kilmallock, was welcomed too on 01 February to view the exhibition, Person/Presence/Perception, the annual touring exhibition of the Office of Public Works and the Department of Finance Northern Ireland. 03 February saw the welcome arrival of award-winning author, Pádraig Kenny, to Kilmallock Library. Pádraig is the author of many acclaimed children's novels,

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including Tin Man, Pog, The Monsters of Rookhaven and The Shadows of Rookhaven. Pádraig met with the 4th class students from Scoil Mocheallóg and he outlined the life of a writer, the process of writing and getting published. The students asked some excellent questions and a great discussion ensued. The branch was quickly depleted of a number of free copies of “101 Square Meals,” the accessible recipe book pioneered by Safefood, Health Service Executive (HSE), Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS) and other agencies to provide easy-to-prepare, low budget, delicious, highly nutritious meals. The coloured tabs allow for easy navigation and there is an array of easy-to-follow recipe ideas, including suggestions for slow cooker recipes – something for all the family to try and enjoy. The local Bridge Club continued its weekly meetings. St Joseph’s Foundation continued with its weekly visits to browse and select books and enjoy some sessions on the Magic Table provided by the “Happiness Programme,” a first-of-its-kind initiative helping to change the lives of people living with cognitive challenges. The Magic Table projects images on to a surface, a table, floor, ceiling or even someone’s bed – and as hands, arms or feet move through the light, the games that are projected begin to change and move. Bookings flooded in following the promotion of the C-Pen Reader. The C-Pen is a portable, pocket-sized tool that scans and reads words and full lines of text aloud, supporting independent reading and literacy. Those with dyslexia, those who have difficulty with reading or pronunciation, those learning languages or those with vision problems will find these pens extremely helpful pieces of technology. The Home Energy Kit continues to be fully booked out with a long waiting list eager to borrow it. Little Readers had its February session on 24 February, with an enthusiastic group of 19 pre-schoolers and their grown-ups. Interactive songs and stories echoed through the library followed by a craft session while the grown-ups had a chance to mingle and chat over refreshments.

- February was one of the busiest months in the City Library since it relocated from the Granary, with a whole range of popular activities and events taking place. The Limerick Mental Health Association, which provided confidence-building classes, finished their six-

week course on 28 February, while Paul Partnership’s work with asylum seekers continued the weekly personal development classes throughout the month. On Mondays throughout the month, the three different University of the Third Age (U3A) books clubs attended meetings on 13, 20 and 27 February, as did the Spiral Book Club on 15 February. The Limerick Writers’ Centre held two creative writing workshops in the library on the morning of 16 and 23 February. These Branching Out Workshops were well attended and participants were encouraged to use their writing to confront the impact of substance abuse and behavioural dependency. This initiative was co-funded by the Mid-West Regional Drugs Task Force. On the evening of 16 February, local Polish author, Ewa Bilicka, launched her second Polish language novel and over 20 people from the Polish community gathered to celebrate her achievement. Award-winning Limerick author, Helena Close, visited the branch on 02 February for a creative writing workshop with students from St. Patrick’s Girls National School, while another literary award nominee and local author, Pádraig Kenny, delivered two writing workshops to students from St. Michael’s and St. Mary’s on 24 February. Other primary, secondary and pre-schools visiting the City Library in February were St. John’s Boys National School and Scoil Íosagáin on 03 February and Poppins After School on 15 February. On 04 February, the Scoil Íosagáin Autism Support Class dropped by and on 10 February, St. Michael’s Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) class called in and both of these groups really enjoyed the new range of autism-friendly sensory toys and interactive panels. Other class visits included three classes from Presentation Primary library on 21, 22, and 23 February and two classes from St. Michael’s on 14 February. All of these students received a tour and then, to great excitement, joined the City Library and borrowed their choice of books for the first time. Author and storyteller Róisín Meaney’s monthly story time took place on 18 February and was great fun with an appreciative audience in attendance. The monthly Spanish language story time ‘Cuenta Cuentos’ resumed with a large group attending the interactive bilingual story session on 14 February, while Joanne Callinan held a special Irish story time session on 20 February. The Library’s own weekly Parent and Toddler Story Time also continued to entertain very

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engaged groups of children every Wednesday morning at 10.30 a.m. Library staff organised special Mid-Term break Arts and Crafts sessions on 16 and 17 February. These were hugely popular with young families in the locality and well over 100 children enjoyed their time making their different colourful creations.

- Newcastle West Library welcomed class visits for browsing and borrowing and continued to promote their wonderful selection of sensory play equipment. The Magic Table provides a unique sensory experience for all ages.
- At Watch House Cross Library, Age Action completed a six-week programme of training for seniors. Learners were shown how to manage their own devices, smart phone, tablet, iPads and how to use the Internet. Joanne O'Callaghan was on hand to offer *Rannta agus Scéalaíochta* to the toddler morning on 17 February. A group of 40 children and parents enjoyed singing along to the nursery rhymes 'as gaeilge.' ABC Startright commenced a five-week programme of baby reflexology in the library on 23 February. The second Lego Club group started on 24 February with 20 boys and girls involved. The feedback from the first session was really positive, and all the wonderful creations were put on display. Doras Luimní started a six-week Beginners' Computers Programme for asylum seekers recently arrived into Ireland and living in the Knockalisheen Centre in Meelick. Class visits during the month included 2nd and 5th classes from Corpus Christi. Unikids Pre-School from Castletroy brought 30 children for story time, songs and rhymes. Naíonra na nÓg, Shannonvale, Old Cratloe Road, visited with 25 children, parents and grandparents for story time in English and in Irish. There were four book club meetings during February, children's book clubs for 7-9 and 10-12 year olds and two adult groups. The Sensory Room had 60 bookings with 130 participants during the month.
- There were 28 onsite visits by researchers to the Local Studies Department at Watch House Cross Community Library in February. These comprised 18 research sessions on the microfilm and digital archives of local and national newspapers, and the FindMyPast

genealogy site, nine on material from the Local Studies and Archives collections (including three by students researching Junior or Leaving Certificate projects), and one advice session on family history. There were 26 remote queries, submitted by email or telephone. The Department's three Decade of Centenaries' projects for 2023 were submitted for formal approval and work on the primary one - an edited collection of essays on Protestant life in Limerick during the revolutionary period - was progressed. Several new acquisitions were added to stock.

- Local bestselling author, Pádraig Kenny, visited Cappamore Library to speak to local primary school children about his books and life as an author. The visiting classes were delighted to be presented with a signed edition of Pádraig's book 'The Monsters of Rookhaven.' Pádraig's visits were part of the library's ongoing programme of events for the national Right To Read initiative.
- Abbeyfeale Library was delighted to welcome back Dogs Trust for a workshops for local primary school children who found the workshops both informative and enjoyable.
- Limerick Libraries issued more Reading Eggs licences to DEIS schools during the month. Reading Eggs is a comprehensive online reading programme that helps students build literacy skills independently. These Reading Eggs licences were funded by Dormant Accounts funds.
- On 08 February, Abbeyfeale Library hosted Dogs Trust for a session outlining best practices for the care and training of dogs as pets in a family, and advice on how to behave around dogs while out and about.

Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- 342 visitors saw Brian Fay's exhibition, which closed on 12 February. The visitor numbers represented a 60% increase on numbers for the same period last year and demonstrated the value of LCGA and its exhibition programme.

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- 'Florance' was a new screen dance piece for four dancers, one actor and a string quartet. It was conceived by dance artist, Angie Smalis. This installation was on view from 01 - 12 February and was part of the 'What Next Festival,' an initiative of Dance Limerick. The Director/Curator of LCGA gave a guided tour of the Gallery on 11 February. The purpose of this talk was to bring artists from two practices together and explore the intersections that exist within the respective art forms.
- A selection of works from the Permanent Collection formed the basis of a very fine representation from the Collection. The selection was chosen by the Gallery technician responsible for the care of the Collection.
- The recipient of the first Test Space residency which commenced recently is Juliette Morrison who is currently doing an MA, by practice, at Limerick School of Art and Design. Visitors to the Gallery have the opportunity to engage with Juliette and observe an artist while she works.
- Two exhibitions opened on 25 February. The exhibitions are, Mammalia and Psyche, a collaborative project with artists, Mel French and Celine Sheridan, curated by Catherine Marshall. The second exhibition is Come on Baby - the first solo institutional exhibition by Casey Walshe. They were the recipient of a Next Generation award from the Arts Council.
- The newly appointed Facilities Technician took up the post on 14 February.
- The recruitment of the Shinnors Scholar, a two year MA by practice, commenced in February. This initiative is a partnership with the Technological University of the Shannon (TUS), which has been in place for 16 years with eight participants to date. The focus of the Shinnors Scholar is on the development of the education programme with primary schools.

Limerick Museum

- On 09 February, the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, performed the official opening of With Faith, an exhibition by Ukrainian photographers, Kateryna Vyshemirska and Olena Oleksiienko. This was the second exhibition with a Ukrainian theme that Limerick Museum has hosted, following on Shelter, the exhibition of children's drawings from Ukrainian bomb shelters. As with the Shelter exhibition, the opening ceremony of With Faith drew a large crowd, including many from the local Ukrainian community. Kateryna and Olena met a day before the Russian invasion of Ukraine. After a month of warfare, they were forced to leave their homeland with their families. After a long drive, the women and their children settled in Limerick where their new life began. They met a lot of great people and new friends. They struggled with new breakdowns, determinations and evaluations. However, they never forgot that their Motherland is on fire. Curated by Maurice Quillinan, With Faith provides a unique window into the experience of the Ukrainian people over the past twelve months. For both women, war in Ukraine was the hardest theme to talk about, but they are doing their best to help Ukraine, to help those who moved and those who stayed and keep on fighting for the life of Ukraine as a country and for the future of the nation. The With Faith exhibition attracted numerous visitors. It received extensive coverage in the local media and was the subject of a report on RTE Radio 1.
- Limerick Museum's social media platforms continued to attract much favourable attention, of which the following are two examples. On 14 February, the Assistant Curator displayed Valentine's Day related objects from the Museum's collection on the Museum's social media platforms; and on 16 February, an image of two racing cars whizzing around Punch's Cross, Limerick, during the 1936 Grand Prix, was viewed by 5,500 social media users.

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Regeneration Directorate

1. Regeneration

Regeneration

Overall

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 carried out an extensive series of engagements with relevant stakeholders across the Regeneration areas over the course of the month.

Economic

Outreach to Employment Programme

The first meeting of the St. Mary's Park Employment Group took place with various agencies/stakeholders working in the area, coming together to establish a working group to benefit the residents of St. Mary's Park. Various actions and initiatives to be progressed were discussed by the Group.

The Outreach to Employment Co-ordinator met with Employers who are keen to engage in the Programme and identified areas of opportunity for the residents of the Regeneration Communities. Also, meetings took place with the local primary and secondary schools to work on joint initiatives identifying pathways to education and training for young people in the Regeneration areas.

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

A Horticultural Working Group 'Limerick Growing Communities' has been established under Social Enterprise Limerick following the securing of funding for a feasibility study through the Dormant Accounts Fund.

A Tender was issued to appoint a Consultant to carry out this feasibility study. The purpose of this study is to explore the potential to harness existing services within disadvantaged communities and facilities across the city that would act as a vehicle to grow food product to supply existing community cafes, sell product locally and to act as a training, educational and employment pathway for school leavers/unemployed and promote healthy eating in the local community.

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 payment and monitoring work continued with the grantees, i.e. 190 projects across the city to the value of €3.715 million.

Physical

Housing Developments

- Construction of the new eight-unit social housing development at Sheep Street / Athlunkard Street on King's Island continued.
- Construction of the new 57-unit social housing development at Cosgrave Park and Dalgaish Park, Moyross, continued.
- Construction of the new 37-unit social housing development at Churchfield (Phase 2), Southill continued.
- Construction of the new 18-unit social housing development at Cliona Park (Phase 3), Moyross continued.

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- Construction of the 14 partially-constructed units by the Peter McVerry Trust in Delmege Park, Moyross, is completing. An advance archaeological excavation is being prepared ahead of the main development works.
- 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 commenced.
- Construction Works are completing on Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 122, St. Mary's Park.
- The status of the thermal upgrade projects is as follows:
 - 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 Activities

- Southill Residents' Association has updated its terms of reference and is ready to welcome new members.
- Tait House continued to work with the elderly of Colivet Court, providing a movie day once a month. They hosted a bingo night in aid of the Southill Elderly Group, to raise much-needed funds, and held a Valentine's Day event in Tait House for the Southill Women's Group.
- In Ballinacurra Weston, food hampers from various charities were delivered to houses and new households were referred to St. Vincent de Paul and Mid-West Simon Community for support.
- St. Mary's Park Regeneration Working Group has consulted with the community and is working to finalise an image for the Handball Alley in St. Mary's Park. Engagement on this project with St. Mary's National School was extremely positive and children from the area will be assisting with this project.
- Residents' Forum meetings was held in St. Mary's Park.
- The bi-monthly meeting of the St. Mary's Park Public Realm, Safety and Environment Working Group was held.
- A meeting of the agencies working in King's Island was held in King's Island Community Centre to raise awareness of the various service providers operating within St. Mary's Park.



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Housing Directorate

1. Housing Support Services

Housing Waiting List

Approved Housing Applicants	2,301
Approved Tenant Transfer Applicants	346

Returned Incomplete Housing Applications

February	Year to Date
12	20

Closed Housing Applications

	February	Year to Date
Closed Applications	60	93

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 February	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	2
Newcastle West	3	5
Metropolitan District	11	22
Cappamore-Kilmallock	1	4
Total	15	33

Refusals

	No. of Units February	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	1
Newcastle West	0	1
Metropolitan District	0	2
Cappamore-Kilmallock	0	0
Total	0	4

Approved Housing Body Allocations 2023 (year to date)

Total Nominations	Successful Nominations	Nominations Pending	Unsuccessful Nominations
30	3	26	1

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Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)

Private Tenancies	711
Capital Assistance Scheme/Rental Assistance Scheme Tenancies	518
Part V	1
New Private Tenancies	4
New Voluntary Housing Tenancies	8

Housing Assistance Payments Limerick (HAP)

7,211 active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	20
No. of Amendments	361
No. of Cessations	33

RENT COLLECTION

Rent Collection Limerick City and County Council					
Opening Balance	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing Balance	% Collection
€5,916,167	€3,350,653	€9,266,820	€2,937,748	€6,329,072	32%

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HOME IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

February 2023		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aid Grants	No. Approved	2	1	6	2	11
	MAG Expenditure	€5,745.00	€8,200.00	€22,489.00	€0.00	€36,434.00
	No. Paid	1	2	1	0	4
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	6	3	9	2	20
	HAG Expenditure	€46,317.40	€7,315.00	€70,440.35	€14,725.00	€138,797.75
	No. Paid	7	1	10	2	20
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	12	7	25	8	52
	HOP Expenditure	€18,232.50	€33,735.50	€111,728.75	€12,207.50	€175,904.25
	No. Paid	4	7	13	4	28
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG Expenditure	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
	No. Paid	0	0	0	0	0

Total No. Approved	83
Total Monies Paid	€351,136.00
Total No. Paid	52

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HOME IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES - Year to Date

Jan - Feb 2023		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aid Grants	No. Approved	2	1	8	2	13
	MAG Expenditure	€5,745.00	€8,200.00	€36,926.50	€5,425.00	€56,296.50
	No. Paid	1	2	4	1	8
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	9	8	22	11	50
	HAG Expenditure	€46,317.40	€34,350.00	€217,097.75	€75,494.50	€373,259.65
	No. Paid	7	5	28	8	48
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	22	16	47	14	99
	HOP Expenditure	€23,632.50	€90,369.25	€189,905.90	€46,699.50	€350,607.15
	No. Paid	5	19	33	11	68
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG Expenditure	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
	No. Paid	0	0	0	0	0

YTD Total No. Approved	162
YTD Total Monies Paid	€780,163.30
YTD Total No. Paid	124

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Community Sustainment Unit

Tenancy Inductions

No. of Tenancy Inductions	15
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Repossessions

Repossession of Council properties	9
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House Visits

No. of House Visits	254
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Garda Checks

Garda Checks processed	58
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Sugar CRM (Customer Relationship Management) Cases

Active cases at month-end	256
Cases closed during month	54

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

Date: 24.02.2023		
Individuals		
Location	Description	Beds Used
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	39
Oak Lodge	Adults without children accommodated in low threshold emergency accommodation	59
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	24
Phoenix Lodge	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	10
St. Joseph Street	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	6
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	20
Temporary Emergency Provision (TEP) - Edenvilla	Low threshold, night-by-night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	15
Total		173

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Families				
Location	Description	Beds Used		
		Adults	Children	Families
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	8	6
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	71	94	55
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	14	13	10
Totals		Adults	Children	Families
		91	115	71

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

Tenant Purchase	
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. received	4
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. approved	4
Local Authority Home Loans	
Loan Applications: No. received	3
Loan Applications: No. approved	0
Deed of Discharge	
Deed of Discharge Applications: No. Received	23
Consent to Sale	
Consent to Sale Applications: No. Received	6
Cottage Purchase Annuity	
No. of Cottage Purchase Annuity Applications	0
Ground Rent	
No. of Ground Rent applications	6
Title	
Title Deeds Received/Requested	14
Title Rectifications Received	1
Private Rented Inspections	
No. of Inspections	92

Freedom of Information, Data Requests and Freedom of Information, Data Requests and Ombudsman

Freedom of Information requests	0
Ombudsman Query Cases	4
Data Access Requests	4

Housing Welfare and Traveller Accommodation Unit

* Traveller Accommodation

No. of Units offered February	0
Year to Date	1

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

Housing Welfare Visits

No. of Visits February	23
Year to Date	47

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2. Local Authority Housing Construction and Maintenance

Local Authority Housing Construction

House Returns February	
Total	8

House Returns February By Municipal District	
Adare-Rathkeale	0
Cappamore-Kilmallock	2
Newcastle West	2
Metropolitan District	4
Total	8

During February, the Local Authority Housing Construction Team was notified of 0 houses returned in the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale, two in the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock, two in the Municipal District of Newcastle West, and four in the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

Current Working Programme		
	Completed in February	In Progress
Local Authority Construction Team		125
Local Authority Maintenance Team	3	89
Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process		26
Regeneration Team	1	29
Team to be assigned	N/A	17
Total	4	286

In February, works on one property were completed by Regeneration and works on three properties were completed by Local Authority Maintenance.

There are three teams in Limerick City and County Council assigned to refurbish properties. As of February, the Local Authority Construction Team was in the process of completing works in 125 properties, Local Authority Maintenance was working on 89 properties and the Regeneration Team had 29 properties. Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process – 26 properties. 17 properties were in the process of being assigned to a Team.

On 13 February, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien, TD, visited two housing projects being completed in Co. Limerick – 12 units being built to extension of Station Close in Knocklong and 20 units being built in Hospital.

Project Updates

- The super structure commenced on seven units at Clare Street, Limerick.
- Detailed design complete for Phase 1 for 11 units at Broadford.
- Assessment of Consultants for detailed design stage complete for 24 units at Barnakyle, Patrickswell.
- Assessment of Consultants for detailed design stage complete for 31 units at Sycamore Crescent, Newcastle West. Part 8 for this project was passed by the Elected Members of the Municipal District of Newcastle West.
- Application for approval for refurbishment of nine houses submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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Finance

- Applications for funding totalling €991,773.00 issued to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage paid €35,660.00 in claims made.

Local Authority Maintenance

Local Authority Houses: Maintenance Complaints dealt with during February

Housing Maintenance Cases - February	Requests/Cases Created	Cases Dealt With/ Closed	Balance of Open Cases at 28.02.2023
Metropolitan District of Limerick	869	1,222	1,654
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	75	55	233
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	118	113	248
Municipal District of Newcastle West	91	87	612
Total	1,153	1,477	2,747

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Grants Inspections

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	2	0	3	5
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	1	14	1	11	27
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	22	0	13	35
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	4	2	3	9
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	1	42	3	30	76

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

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	7	0	5	12
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	8	0	9	17
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	5	0	0	5
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	21	0	14	35

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	1	0	0	1
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	2	0	2	4
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	4	0	7	11
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	1	0	0	1
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	8	0	9	17

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	2	0	4	6
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	8	0	5	13
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	12	0	11	23
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	0	0	0	0
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	22	0	20	42

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HOUSE INSPECTIONS UNIT

Houses Inspected for Refurbishment Works and Re-Letting - February - Categories	No. of Properties Inspected
Cat 1 - minor repairs needed	2
Cat 2 - moderate repairs needed	0
Cat 3 - substantial repairs needed	0
Cat 4 - major repairs required.	0
TOTAL INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT	2
No. of Properties Awaiting Inspection	17

3. Strategy & Non-Local Authority Housing Construction

BUILD, BUY AND LEASE

Buy/Build/Lease as of 28.02.2023 is as follows:

As at 28.02.2023 (01.01.2023 - 28.02.2023)	Complete	In Progress	Overall Complete and In Progress	"Housing for All" 2023 Delivery Target
Build	0	420	420	502
Buy	3	29	32	0
Lease	1	87	88	27
TOTAL	4	536	540	

Chief Executive's Report



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Limerick City
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CURRENT OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

Finance

Claims totaling €4,194,898 were sent to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in February.

Claims totaling €33,562 were paid by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in February.

Project Approvals and Submissions

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

Scheme	Project Details	District
Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP)	Submission for the acquisition of one unit at Fr. Russell Road, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the acquisition of one unit at Grattan Street, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the acquisition of one unit at Raheen, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Combined Stage 1/2/3 Submission for the CAS Renewal of one unit at Hyde Road, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Combined Stage 1/2/3 Submission for the CAS Renewal of one unit at Bengal Terrace, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Revised Stage 4 submission for the Construction of four units at Lower Gerald Griffin Street, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Submission for 24 units at Windmill House, Dock Road, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Affordable Housing Fund (AHF)	Submission of Affordable Housing Fund application for a Local Authority-led development of 28 affordable purchase dwellings at Toppins Field Lands	Metropolitan District of Limerick

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

Scheme	Project Details	District
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Old Cratloe Road, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick

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UPDATES

Conferences and Workshops

A private Workshop for Elected Members to discuss Affordable Housing in the Municipal District of Newcastle West took place in Áras William Smith O'Brien, Newcastle West, on 20 February.

The Housing Agency held an in-person Housing and Disability Steering Group (HDSG) event for Local Authority Coordinators on 20 February in the Athlone Springs Hotel. The event outlined the role of the Housing and Disability Steering Group as part of the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027.

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 20 February in the Council Offices, Dooradoyle, and Online.

Workshops/Briefings

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

- Three separate Workshops on the South Circular Road Cycle Scheme;
- Workshop on the Christmas 2023 Events Programme;
- Workshop on the Community Recognition Fund Scheme.

Operational Area Briefings

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

Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

The February Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale took place on 14 February in the Manor Fields Complex, Adare, Co Limerick.

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

- 75 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
- 104 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

Askeaton Undergrounding of Overhead Utilities Project

Phase 1 works at West Square substantially complete.

Active Travel

- Footpath connectivity from Church/School to Community Centre at Ballysteen ongoing.
- Ballycullen Road, Askeaton - footpath works nearing completion.

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Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

February Municipal District Meeting

The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock was held in Cuan Mhuire, Bruree, on 16 February.

A presentation on Hidden Heartlands was made to the Elected Members. A Deputation on behalf of the Caherquillamore Memorial Committee also presented to the meeting.

Housing and Road Maintenance

- 108 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
- 114 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

Housing Grants

- Six Private Housing Grants were paid in February, totalling €2,6932, and 12 were approved.
- 21 initial inspections and 14 final inspections were undertaken in relation to Private Housing Grants.
- Applications for two Disabled Persons Grants were received.

Road Works

- Office of Public Works Minor Flood Mitigation Works, Spittle, Ballylanders.
- General Municipal Allocation Works, Knockainey Community Centre Car Park Surfacing.
- General Municipal Allocation, Public Lighting, Moore Street, Cappamore.
- Maddyboy Drainage Scheme, Murroe.

Municipal District of Newcastle West

- The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West took place on 10 February in Áras William Smith OBrien, Newcastle West.
- 11 grant applications were approved under the Private Housing Grant Schemes during the month. The total value of approvals was €57,885.73.
- Payments of €33,735.50 were made to seven applicants who completed works under the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.
- Payments of €7,315 were made to one applicant who completed works under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme.
- Payments of €8,200 were made to two applicants who completed works under the Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme.
- During the month, the Motor Tax Section at the Newcastle West Office processed 1,144 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

- Consultation on the project has been completed.

Decluttering Project

- A survey of existing city centre signage was completed.

Arthur's Quay Framework Plan

- Tender evaluation was completed for a multi-disciplinary team to prepare the Arthur's Quay Area Framework Plan.

Capital Projects

Revitalisation of O'Connell Street

- Activity hubs were installed in all areas and the planting of trees and shrubs completed allowing the protection barriers to be removed. A number of new solar compactor bins were installed week commencing 20 February.
- In Block 1 at Denmark Street, the new watermain was connected and a new fire hydrant installed. O'Connell Street/ William Street Junction, excavation works have been extended outside Eir in preparation for service ducting. Further paving works have continued at the corner of Starbucks.
- Paving was completed around the new activity hub in Block 3 West between Bedford Row and Shannon Street. The paving around the new seating area outside the Chicken Hut was continued.

- At the junction of Roches Street/Shannon Street, paving for the pedestrian crossing from Leavys Shoes to the Chicken Hut was installed and the service ducts extended onto Shannon Street. The first section of kerbing was also installed on Shannon Street. Paving continued on the north-east of the junction.
- In Block 5, at the Southwest corner at Roberts Pharmacy, the first section of ducting and drainage was installed on O'Connell Street, followed by the concrete protection slab and paving was commenced. Paving works have continued on Cecil Street Junction Upper and along the footpath area in Cecil Street Lower.

58 O'Connell Street

- Urban Regeneration and Development Fund – Lim005 Strand1 Living Georgian City – Housing Demonstration Project - Part 8 application for redesigned scheme for 58 O'Connell Street received 41 observations / submissions.

33 and 34 Thomas Street

- Urban Regeneration and Development Fund – Lim005 Strand1 Living Georgian City – Housing Demonstration Project - Part 8 application for redesigned scheme for 33 and 34 Thomas Street received two observations.

King's Island Walled Town Rejuvenation Works (29 and 35 Nicholas Street)

- Three quotations for completion of an Asbestos Survey of the buildings received.

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Street Tree Planting

- The Landscape Specialist tender issued was awarded to Hawthorn Nurseries and Landscaping. The project is funded through Development contributions. Cross-departmental consultation was undertaken to deliver a comprehensive Scope of Works.

2. Planning Development

Planning Applications

A total of 98 new planning applications were received as follows:

Category	Amount
Part 8	2
Housing Developments	0
Domestic Developments	61
Agricultural Developments	13
Commercial Developments/ Change of Use	10
Sporting/ Community and Educational Developments	3
Other Developments	9

The current applications include proposals for:

- Part 8 for the demolition of end-of-terrace two-storey derelict house and adjacent vacant site. The proposed construction consists of a parklet. The works include demolition of the existing boundary onto West Square, the construction of end-of-terrace 1.5m wide two-storey abutment, feature walls/seats built from existing stone walls and associated works comprising of services, boundary treatment and hard and soft landscaping works. The site is within an Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA) at West Square, Askeaton Co. Limerick.

- Construction of a new five-storey (5,529sq.m. approx.) medical building with plant at roof level, including car park at surface level providing 97 no. car parking spaces and 56 no. cycle parking spaces, electric vehicle (EV) charging facilities, internal roads and paths including vehicle set down area, signage, public lighting, boundary treatments, hard and soft landscaping, connection to existing water and wastewater services and all related site development works. Vehicular, pedestrian and cyclist access to and egress from the site will be via the newly constructed link road (Towlerton Distributor Road, permitted under Limerick City and County Council Register Reference No. 19/546). The planning application is accompanied by a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) at Towlerton, Ballysimon, Limerick.

3. Environment, Recreation & Climate Change

Cemeteries

Number of Burials in City Cemeteries

Mount St. Lawrence	22
Mount St. Oliver	10
Castlemungret	16
Kilmurry	4

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

During the month -

- 272 complaints were received.
- A total of 367 inspections were undertaken.
- 163 Warnings were issued.
- Seven Notices were issued.
- Eight Directions were served by the Department.
- Five Prosecutions were initiated.
- 33 fines were issued.

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4. Urban Innovation

SMARTLAB

SmartLab applications went live in February. SMARTLAB is testing new ways to make buildings smarter, so they can better respond to occupants' needs, cost less to run, and be ready to interact with a future decarbonised energy grid. Up to 100 building owners and occupants in Limerick city are installing sensors provided by SMARTLAB to monitor their building's temperature, humidity, and carbon dioxide levels. The project team are supporting 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. To learn more, or to apply visit: www.smartlablimerick.ie / @SMARTLAB_LK

Creative Ireland Programme 2023-2027

Urban Innovation in collaboration with the Arts Office showcased the Creative Climate Fund project Decarbonising Together to Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin, TD, and Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with special responsibility for Planning and Local Government, Kieran O'Donnell, TD, at the launch of the Creative Ireland Programme 2023-2027 at Farmleigh in the Phoenix Park on 23 February. The event announced the rollout of 31 new Local Authority Creative Ireland Culture and Creativity Strategies (2023-2027). The new Culture and Creativity Strategies reflect the creative ambitions of communities around the country which will be supported by the Creative Ireland Programme 2023-2027.

NetZero Cities

Urban Innovation with +CityxChange partners and Pathtoagreenhome submitted an application titled Measurable Actionable Pathways for Net Zero Citizens (MAP4NZC) to the NetZeroCities Pilot Cities Programme. The proposal was to support a pilot that positions the Citizen Innovation Lab as a focal point for capacity building and mobilisation of citizens in creating peer-to-peer learning structures, utilising digital tools to

achieve tangible carbon reductions through education and promotion of behavioural change. The application progressed to the EU Commission Stage Three of the process Strategic Allocation. However, following this review the application was unsuccessful on this occasion.

+CityxChange - Open Innovation Call 3

Open Innovation Calls are an opportunity for citizens to prototype and trial ideas related to Limerick's clean energy transition. In February the process of evaluation took place on the applications for, Open Innovation Call 3 "Social Innovation and Energy Collaboration" and three applications were successful. The successful grantees were informed and grant agreements signed. Projects funded include a Community Energy Champions campaign, Solar PV installation and support for the development of community energy projects.

Technical Support Instrument

Limerick City and County Council together with the Office of Public Works were successful in a bid to DGREFORM for the procurement of consultancy services to examine the technical and financial aspects of historic building retrofit. In particular the consultants will examine and present a business case model for such works taking into account lifecycle costs, embedded carbon and wider societal benefits. The consultants will also examine the legal, financial and technical issues in setting up a "revolving fund"/ Sustainable Investment Fund to accelerate this work in Limerick. The project will take 2 years to complete.

Climate Action Plan

The preparation of the Climate Action Plan commenced in February. The plan must be completed within one year. As part of laying the groundwork for the plan a number of baselines studies have been procured including a countywide baseline and emissions survey, a baseline and emissions survey of the proposed Decarbonisation Zone and a Climate Change Risk Assessment. In respect of the Climate Change Risk Assessment two staff workshops were held in February. These studies will form part of the stakeholder and public engagement phases of the plan preparation.

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5. Veterinary Services

- 16 stray or wandering horses were impounded.
- The Dog Control Unit processed 12 dogs during the month.
- Two food samples were submitted for analysis under the National Residues and Microbiological Sampling Programme.



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National and Regional Shared Services Centre Directorate

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

- There were 58,987 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAP SSC at the end of February.
- A weekly average of 155 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2023.
- The February landlord payment run was €55.7 million.
- The weekly tenant charge at the end of February was €3.1 million.
- The Debt Management Unit of the HAP SSC collected a total of €25.4 million in differential rent to end of February.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of February was 97%.
- The Debt Management Unit issued 7,116 HAP debt reminder letters in February.

2. Fire and Emergency

Statistics

	No of Fire Related Calls	No of Non-Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call-outs 01.02.2023 – 28.02.2023	107	60	167
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	59%	55%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	28%	31%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	13%	14%	

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	No. received / assigned	No. validated	No. invalidated / refused	No. granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications February	11	8	2	5	10
Disability Access Cert Applications February	11	7	1	4	8
Licensing Applications February	0		0	2	
Commencement Notice February	49	48	10	0	48
Completion Certificate February	11	9	0	9	9
Planning Referrals February	21	15	0	0	15
Sugar CRM Cases February	5	0	0	0	2

Fire and Emergency Training Events

During the month, the following training was carried out:

- 22 fire fighters completed a Department of Transport accredited Short Range VHF Radio operator course. This course is for personnel working on or near the river and who communicate with the coastguard during incidents.
- Eight fire fighters completed a Working at Heights 'Train the Trainer' course in Cappamore Fire Station and are now delivering Working at Heights training to their fellow fire fighters.
- 33 fire fighters travelled to Bray Fire Station to complete their two-day Breathing Apparatus refresher training.
- 25 fire fighters received Cardiac First Responder - Advanced refresher training.
- 21 fire fighters received Working at Heights training, where new equipment and procedures were introduced.
- 24 fire fighters completed Patient Handling training for the purpose of moving and/or evacuating casualties and patients in emergency or ambulance assistance cases.

- 11 fire fighters travelled to Kilmallock Fire Station to carry out Pump Operator refresher training.
- A fire fighter from Limerick City Fire Station was recertified as a Snorkel S220 aerial appliance Instructor.
- On-station training is continuing as normal.

Civil Defence attendance at Events

The following activity took place in February:

- Certificate Presentation, COVID-19 and Long Service Medal Presentation Awards, HQ Docklands, Limerick - 1 day.
- Patient Transfer - Thomondgate, Limerick, to Croom Hospital, Limerick - 1 day.
- Milford Hospice, Limerick, 10km Run/Walk - Medical Cover - 1 day.
- Patient Transfer - Kildimo, Limerick - University Hospital Limerick - 1 day.
- Transfer from Ukrainian Emergency Rest Centre, Limerick, to City West Hotel, Dublin - 1 day.

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Water Safety

No. of Lifebuoy Replacements	January	February	Total 2023
Metropolitan District	1	0	1
Municipal District	0	1	1



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Support Services Directorate

1. Finance

Commercial Rates and Loans

Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2023	
As at 28th February 2023*	
Opening Balance - 1 Jan €	5,898,303 *
Accruals €	64,089,596 **
Vacant Property Adjustment €	58,716
Writes offs/ Waivers €	54,260
Total for Collection €	69,874,923
Amount Collected €	4,309,613
Arrears €	65,565,310
Specific Doubtful Arrears €	2,396,366
% Collected	6%

** 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 28th February 2023*	
Opening Balance - 1 Jan €	300,639 *
Accruals €	- ^
Writes offs €	-
To Collect €	300,639
Receipts €	345,477
Arrears €	-44,838
% Collected	115%

* subject to finalisation of year end accounts for 2022

^ Accruals not updated for loans for January 2023

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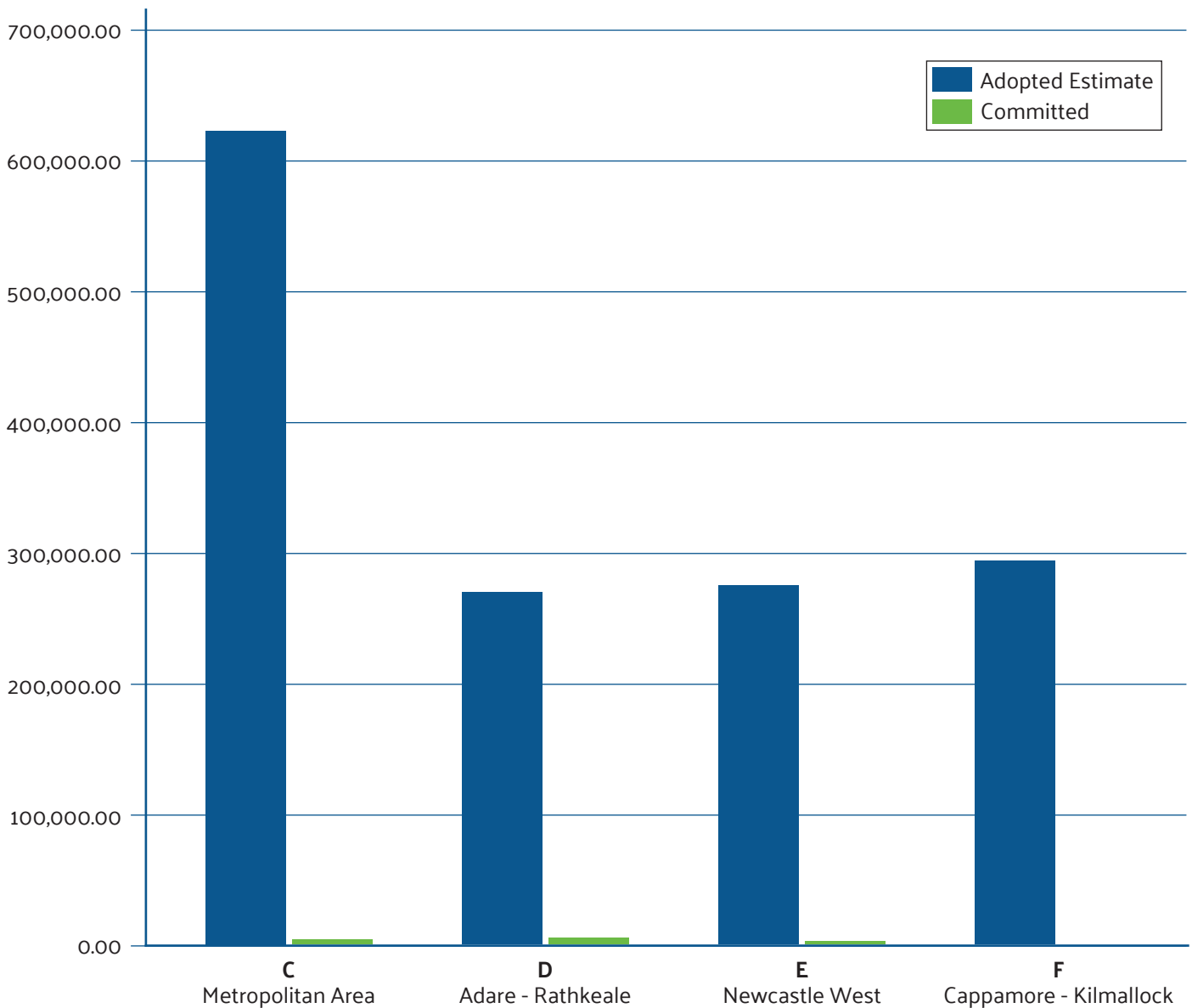


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General Municipal Allocation 2023 Adopted Estimate €1.463 Million

Graph outlining adopted budget and draft committed expenditure up to 28th February 2023



Municip (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate (€)	Value Committed (€)
C Metropolitan Area	628,000.00	3,641
D Adare - Rathkeale	269,500.00	4,500
E Newcastle West	270,500.00	1,323
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	295,000.00	0

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2. Business Improvement

- Business Improvement launched the 'Health and Safety Training Application Form' as a digitised online form.
- Business Improvement assisted Urban and Rural Community Development to launch their "Community Recognition Fund" Expression of Interest application form on MyPoint.
- A total of 919 active users are now live on the Employee App.
- Services on Service Catalogue = 701.
- There are 372 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 Jazz Society, in recognition of the 40th Anniversary of the Society and its tireless work over the years promoting jazz performance and education. Their work and that of all the artists they have presented has made a significant contribution to enriching Limerick's diverse cultural and artistic life.
- Monaleen GAA, in recognition of their achievement in winning the All-Ireland Club Intermediate Hurling Championship 2022-2023 and in being the first Limerick club to do so.
- CBS Pipe Band, in recognition of the service they have provided to the people of Limerick since 1963 on the occasion of their 60th birthday. They have supported civic, cultural, sporting and charity events as a proud representation of the best of Limerick.

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

- Launch of inaugural St. Brigid's Festival and opening of 'The Land of Saints and Glamour,' an exhibition of work by artist, Aoife Cawley, at King John's Castle, Nicholas Street, Limerick.
- Annual Convention for the Limerick Area of Alcoholics Anonymous, Opening Meeting.
- Production of Lily's Labyrinth, a magical children's opera, an opera written for children and performed by children. Collaboration between Limerick School of Music and Limerick Opera Festival at TUS Millennium Theatre, Moylish, Limerick.
- The Manor Fields Adare, Opening of The Pavilion, Adare, Co. Limerick.

Tom Duffy's Circus, at Funderland Site, Groody Road, Castletroy, Limerick.
- Public talk on the Sarsfield Homecoming Project, the search for the remains of the Earl of Lucan. The project aims to locate and repatriate to Ireland the remains of Irish national hero, Patrick Sarsfield.
- Opening of 'With Faith,' an exhibition by Ukrainian photographers, Kateryna Vyshemirska and Olena Oleksienko. Curated by Maurice Quillinan, *With Faith* provides a unique window into the experience of the Ukrainian people over the past twelve months. Hosted at the Limerick Museum, Old Franciscan Friary, Henry Street, Limerick.
- Conferring of the Honorary Doctorate of the University of Limerick on Professor Jörg Widmann at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, University of Limerick.
- Celebration of the 50th anniversary of Jackman Park, a commemorative match was played between Limerick District League and SSE Airtricity League First Division Treaty United at Jackman Park on Carey's Road.

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- Special Concert, The Three Forges, concert of original music compositions performed by Mel Mercier and the Irish Gamelan Orchestra, together with special guest, at the Irish World Academy, University of Limerick.
- Official unveiling of Brand Adare at Adare, Co. Limerick.
- Official commencement of work at the Peter McVerry Trust regeneration project at 2-3 Lower Mallow Street, Limerick.
- Limerick Twenty Thirty and the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF), announcement of the next phase of development of the One Opera Square Project in Limerick City Centre.
- Opening reception of The Black Line: Sacred Landscapes of the Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta, at the Bourn Vincent Gallery, University of Limerick, Limerick.
- Annual Tidy Towns Seminar 2023 at the Woodlands Hotel, Adare, Co. Limerick.
- Opening of River Residencies Exhibition at Ormston House, Patrick Street, Limerick.
- Bon Secours Health System, New Limerick Hospital, sod turning event to mark the commencement of the building of the new Bon Secours Limerick Hospital at Towleron, Ballysimon.
- United Rugby Championship match Munster v Ospreys at Thomond Park, Limerick.
- Kerry Hospice Tea Dance at Fr. Casey's GAA Club, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.
- Community Awards Service in St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick.
- International Mother Language Day 2023.
- Irish Mexican Chamber, Trade Mission Dinner.

- Launch of Creative Ireland Local Authority Culture and Creativity Strategies 2023-2027 at Farmleigh House and Estate, Phoenix Park, Dublin.
- Commemoration of the first anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia at Arthur's Quay, Limerick.

Limerick Association Birmingham

The Mayor travelled to Birmingham, England to attend the Limerick Association Birmingham Buffet Dance and also to meet with the Lord Mayor of Birmingham.

Register of Electors

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

- Additions to the Electoral Register – 110.
- Deletions from the Electoral Register – 352.
- Modifications to the Electoral Register – 140.
- 165 requests were received through the updated *Check The Register* [website](#) for updating details of electors.

Health and Safety Training

A new Online Health and Safety training form went live on 06 February. All requests for Health and Safety training are now to be requested through this online form.

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

Course Name	Numbers Trained
Safe Pass	20
Drivers' Certificate of Professional Competence Training	4
Manual Handling	59
Institute of Occupational Safety and Health - Managing Safety in Construction	17
Dealing with Aggressive Customers and Personal Safety at Work	10
Total Staff Trained	110

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Requisitions Oversight Unit

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

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

Month	Approved	Rejected	Total Requisitions Actioned
February	1,304	245	1,549

- The Top five requisition rejection reasons for February are identified as follows:

Rejection Reason	February
Memo – Requisition not raised in advance	97
Procurement Reference - omitted/incorrect	49
Quotes – omitted/incorrect copy provided	20
CAPA (Corrective Action, Preventative Action Form) – omitted/not signed/insufficiently completed	19
Justification for Supplier Selection – omitted/insufficient detail	16

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 February:

New Procurement References set up	42
Procurement References extended as per signed contract/arrangement	8

The Unit continues to work with staff of all Departments to ensure procurement to pay cycle is adhered to within the Council through the validation of all requisitions for approval or rejection via the Requisitions Oversight Unit.

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Schedule of Meetings for February

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Full Council		
Special Meeting to pass a Vote of Sympathy on the passing of former Member and Chairman of Limerick County Council, Seán Broderick, RIP.	09.02.2023	Dooradoyle and Online
Operational Briefings		
Limerick City East	07.02.2023	Online
Limerick City North	07.02.2023	Online
Limerick City West	08.02.2023	Online
Municipal District of		
Newcastle West		
Monthly Meeting	10.02.2023	Newcastle West
Joint Policing Sub-Committee Meeting	10.02.2023	Newcastle West
Adare-Rathkeale		
Special Meeting 'In Committee'	09.02.2023	Rathkeale
Monthly Meeting	14.02.2023	Adare Recreation & Community Complex
Cappamore-Kilmallock		
Joint Policing Sub-Committee Meeting	16.02.2023	Cuan Mhuire, Bruree
Monthly Meeting	16.02.2023	Cuan Mhuire, Bruree
Metropolitan District of Limerick City		
Monthly Meeting	20.02.2023	Dooradoyle and Online
Strategic Policy Committee Meetings		
Community, Leisure and Culture	07.02.2023	Dooradoyle and Online
Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning	13.02.2023	Dooradoyle and Online
Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment	14.02.2023	Dooradoyle and Online
Home and Social Development	15.02.2023	Dooradoyle and Online
Travel and Transportation	21.02.2023	Dooradoyle and Online
Protocol Committee Meeting	09.02.2023	Online
Rural Water Monitoring Committee Meeting	16.02.2023	Deebert House Hotel, Kilmallock

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Access to Information

	February	2023 (January to February)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	14	28
Freedom of Information Internal Appeals	0	1
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	0
Total Ombudsman Requests	4	10
Total Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) Requests	2	4

Customer Services

Customer Services staff process all permits for Burning of Agricultural Vegetation, a permit which allows farmers to legally burn vegetation from their lands. 2023 saw an amendment to the Waste Enforcement Regulations meaning that burning of agricultural vegetation can now only take place from 01 January to 28 February and again within the three-month period of September-November. This saw an increase in Burning of Agricultural Permits processed in February in comparison to previous years, with 54 permits being issued in February 2023, which is more than double the number issued in February 2022.

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

- Customer Services Call Centre answered 10,028 calls. This represents an average of 528 per day, with the number of calls exceeding 600 on several occasions and reaching as high as 664. 71% of calls were handled at first point of contact.

- A total of 3,165 emails were processed through the Customer Services email platform.
- 2,924 cases were created, with 679 of these logged on behalf of Public Representatives. 3,762 cases were closed, with 807 of these being cases logged by Public Representatives.
- Of these 2,924 cases, Customer Services staff logged 74% of same.
- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued, with a total of 226 cases being logged. Of these, 215 were submitted by Public Representatives.
- Customer Services continued to support the Housing Maintenance Department in creating service requests and, throughout the month, 96% of housing maintenance cases for the Limerick Metropolitan District were logged by Customer Services staff in the Dooradoyle and Merchant's Quay offices.
- A total of 101 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 104 were applied for and 82 issued.
- Customer Services staff welcomed a total of 1,974 customers at both the Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle offices.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
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4. Marketing & Communications

Marketing

Limerick St. Patrick's Festival 2023

- Officially launched Limerick St. Patrick's Festival 2023 marketing campaign.
- Commenced development of a suite of digital and social marketing assets, video content and print and radio advertisements for rollout throughout the three-week multimedia campaign.
- Developed a dedicated website [Limerick.ie/StPatricksFestival](https://limerick.ie/stpatricksfestival) promoting a full event listing, parade routes, theme and a festival playlist exclusively celebrating Limerick bands and musicians.
- Produced [Limerick St. Patrick's Festival digital event guide](#), with 5,000 print guides being distributed across Limerick City and County.
- Managed the production and installation of branded street banners to create impact and promote the festival throughout Limerick City centre.
- Valentines in Limerick promotion run across social and digital channels to increase audience engagement and drive traffic to Limerick.ie.
- Brand Adare launched following extensive consultation and engagement with stakeholders. The new brand represents the distinct village of Adare, whilst also reflecting and connecting Limerick's new brand identity, providing a shared platform to tell the story of Adare to increase the impact of all stakeholders. New assets produced include a launch video, featuring the businesses, places and faces, which make Adare the village it is today. A series of branded displays were also produced along with a range of still photography for promotional use.
- Commenced the collation of content for Riverfest Limerick 2023 (May Bank Holiday weekend).
- Continued rollout of **Limerick Walk It Run It Love It**, a four-week campaign encouraging people to get outdoors and explore the tracks and trails throughout Limerick City and County.
- Engaged a number of prominent local influencers to promote the campaign including presenter, author, fitness and lifestyle content creator [Meghann Scully](#) and chef, corporate speaker and fitness content creator [Trisha Lewis](#).
- Actioned revisions and reprint of the Invest Limerick brochure.
- Advertisement created and placed in fDi Magazine.
- Concluded four-week **Limerick Student City** social and digital marketing campaign, *There's No Place Like Limerick*, promoting Limerick as a leading university city ahead of the CAO application deadline 2023.
 - Topline figures – **Total impressions:** 1.18 million | **Video views:** 154,247 | **Engagements:** 11,023 | **Link clicks:** 1,072.
- Created and issued nine 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 25 times on Limerick.ie [Facebook](#) with followers now 33,481. Posts reached 432,370 users, with 22,292 engagements.
- Tweeted 25 times on Limerick.ie [Twitter](#) with total followers now 21,437. Our tweets earned 21,736 impressions (number of times users saw our tweet).
- Posted 20 times on Limerick.ie [Instagram](#) and created 32 Stories with total followers now 27,460.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City & County Council

- Posted 18 times on Limerick City and County Council [LinkedIn](#) with total followers now 10,195.

Limerick.ie

In February, 136,922* users visited Limerick.ie, a 5.6 % decrease on the same period in 2022. (*Fathom Analytics)
The most popular pages on Limerick.ie in February were:

- www.limerick.ie
- www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning
- www.limerick.ie/council
- www.limerick.ie/discover/whats-on/browse
- www.limerick.ie/discover/eat-see-do/sports-recreation/activities/walking

Content Report: 91 articles and 110 events were added to Limerick.ie in February.

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 February
No. of call-outs 01.02.2023 – 28.02.2023	895	878	104.28	1,773

- Issued 18 news releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and researched and wrote 16 speeches for the Office of the Mayor.
- Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter.
- Tweeted 128 times on Limerick City and County Council's [Twitter](#) account, @limerickcouncil, with total followers now 18,007. Our tweets earned 100,929 impressions (number of times users saw our tweet).

5. Munster Regional Communications

