

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimní**

Limerick City  
& County Council

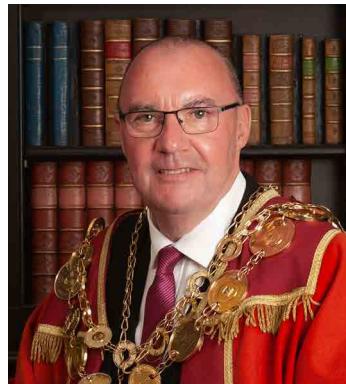
ATLANTIC EDGE  
**LIMERICK**  
EUROPEAN EMBRACE

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# JOINT FOREWORD



**Councillor Francis Foley**  
Mayor of the City and County  
of Limerick



**Dr. Pat Daly**  
Chief Executive

The Annual Report 2022 reflects on the activities and achievements of Limerick City and County Council over the course of the year. It continued to be a challenging year for the local authority especially when viewed against the backdrop of a war in Europe and the necessity to support thousands of displaced persons from Ukraine during the year.

Supporting this response, Limerick City and County Council established a new team to respond to the need for emergency accommodation for those fleeing the war in Ukraine. Limerick welcomed over 3,000 Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BoTPs) from Ukraine since early March with accommodation sourced throughout the city and county.

The report also highlights the wide range of services the Council provides in Limerick across all aspects of daily life. We now deliver over 600 services from emergency and weather-related event management to investment and development activities. The Council is delivering on housing provision, major road schemes, cycling and pedestrian infrastructure and improved tourism offerings.

Limerick City and County Council agreed a balanced budget for 2023 despite challenges created by global events. The €1.25 billion budget provides for the continuation of all council services. It has a clear focus on delivering on our housing targets, addressing climate change, tackling dereliction and vacancy and continuing our economic progress while providing financial supports to the most vulnerable in society through waivers and grant schemes.

Limerick City and County Council continued to work closely with Limerick Twenty Thirty (LTT) to develop key strategic sites in Limerick and recently jointly announced €80 million in funding from the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund to develop the One Opera Square office building, part of the transformational Opera Square commercial development in the heart of Limerick City Centre.

The council recognises the State's requirement for public housing and the target for Limerick of 2,693 new homes by 2026 under 'Housing for All'. Limerick City and County Council are focussed on significantly increasing new build delivery and meeting our targets under the plan.

Limerick City and County Council carried out 1,506 derelict site inspections in 2022 and commenced 54 Compulsory Acquisitions under the Derelict Site Act 1990. Work began on returning 31 derelict vacant properties to housing stock under the Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP) Renew.

The council refurbished 51 vacant units under the VOIDS scheme and returned them to housing stock for letting.

268 HAP tenancies were set up in 2022. There were 2,248 active HAP tenancies in Limerick City and County Council at the end of December.

The National Transport Authority (NTA) published the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS) in December 2022 which will aim to be a roadmap for improved connectivity across the metropolitan area incorporating pedestrian, cycling, rail, bus and road networks.

Limerick City and County Council invested €18 million in Active Travel projects. Improved cycling and pedestrian infrastructure are helping create a place that attracts people, jobs and activity from all over Ireland and beyond. The Active Travel Unit will carry out the strategy set out in the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area (LSMATS) to create a place where people of all ages can travel conveniently and safely.

A preferred transport solution for the N/M20 Cork to Limerick project was announced in March 2022. The project is at design and environmental

assessment stage. It will deliver 80km's of new and improved dual carriageway road as well as transformative active travel infrastructure.

Tourism activity continues to grow in Limerick. In February 2022, Limerick City and County Council established Discover Limerick DAC, as a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Council to operate and develop key tourism attractions that will strengthen Limerick as a destination and attract increased visitor numbers.

The operation of King John's Castle transferred from Shannon Heritage to Discover Limerick DAC in April 2022.

The number of people using the revitalised Limerick Greenway continued to accelerate in 2022 with 665,672 visits across the year. The 40km scenic walking and cycling route has proven popular with families, day trippers and even commuters since it reopened in July 2021 after a €10m investment by Limerick City and County Council.

In addition much-loved events such as the Limerick St. Patrick's Festival, Riverfest and Christmas in Limerick all returned to the streets of Limerick, following their 2021 cancellations.

The Council continued in 2022 to maximise the use of its resources, improve communication, improve customer services, partnership, citizen engagement and social inclusion across all directorates in 2022.

Limerick City and County Council, in partnership with our Elected Members, the people of Limerick and its stakeholders, has positioned itself to be a proactive organisation to serve the people of Limerick.

We will continue to demonstrate that we are a resilient organisation, proud of who we are and committed to making Limerick a dynamic and enviable location to live, work and visit.



**Councillor Francis Foley**  
Mayor of the City and  
County of Limerick



**Councillor Kieran O'Hanlon**  
Deputy Mayor of the City  
and County of Limerick

# LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS

## METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK

**METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK** (consisting of the Local Electoral Areas of Limerick City East, Limerick City North and Limerick City West) – 21 MEMBERS.

### Limerick City East - 7 Members



Cllr. Seán Hartigan  
(GP)



Cllr. Sarah Kiely  
(FG)



Cllr. Michael Murphy  
(FG)



Cllr. Joe Pond  
(FF)



Cllr. Elena Secas  
(LAB)



Cllr. Michael Sheahan  
(FG)



Cllr. Catherine Slattery  
(FF)

### Limerick City North - 7 Members



Cllr. Sharon Benson  
(SF)



Cllr. Tom Collopy  
(SF)



Cllr. Frankie Daly  
(NP)



Cllr. Sasa Novak Uí  
Chonchúir  
(GP)



Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon  
(FF)



Cllr. Olivia O'Sullivan  
(FG)



Cllr. Conor Sheehan  
(LAB)

## Limerick City West – 7 Members



Cllr. Daniel Butler  
(FG)



Cllr. James Collins  
(FF)



Cllr. Fergus Kilcoyne  
(NP)



Cllr. Joe Leddin  
(LAB)



Cllr. Dan McSweeney  
(FG)



Cllr. Elisa O'Donovan  
(SD)



Cllr. Abul Kalam Azad  
Talukder  
(FF)

## Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale – 6 Members



Cllr. Bridie Collins  
(FF)



Cllr. Stephen Kearny  
(FG)



Cllr. Emmett O'Brien  
(NP)



Cllr. John O'Donoghue  
(NP)



Cllr. Kevin Sheahan  
(FF)



Cllr. Adam Teskey  
(FG)

## Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock - 7 Members



Cllr. P.J. Carey  
(SF)



Cllr. Michael Donegan  
(FF)



Cllr. John Egan  
(FG)



Cllr. Gerald Mitchell  
(FG)



Cllr. Eddie Ryan  
(NP)



Cllr. Martin Ryan  
(FF)



Cllr. Brigid Teefy  
(NP)

## Municipal District of Newcastle West - 6 Members



Cllr. Michael Collins  
(FF)



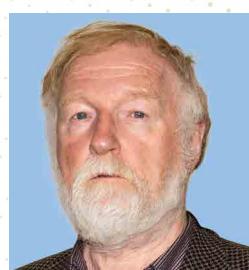
Cllr. Francis Foley  
(FF)



Cllr. Liam Galvin  
(FG)



Cllr. Tom Ruddle  
(FG)



Cllr. Jerome Scanlan  
(NP)



Cllr. John Sheahan  
(FG)

# COUNCIL MEMBERS AND MEETINGS

## COUNCIL MEMBERS AND MEETINGS

There are 40 Members on the Council – 21 Members in the Metropolitan District of Limerick (consisting of the Local Electoral Areas of Limerick City East, Limerick City North and Limerick City West) six Members in the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale, seven Members in the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock and six Members in the Municipal District of Newcastle West. Meetings of the Full Council are normally held on the fourth Monday of every second month, in the Council Chamber at Dooradoyle and virtually. The Full Council met on 22 occasions in 2022.

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS

Title	No. of Members	No. of Meetings
Metropolitan District of Limerick	21	14
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	6	11
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	7	13
Municipal District of Newcastle West	6	18

## LOCAL ELECTORAL AREA BRIEFINGS / WORKSHOPS

	No. of Members	No. of Meetings
Limerick City East	7	11
Limerick City North	7	11
Limerick City West	7	11

## CORPORATE POLICY GROUP

The Corporate Policy Group (CPG) is a Committee of the Council consisting of the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick and the Chairs of each of the Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) Membership is as follows:

- Councillor Francis Foley, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick
- Councillor Stephen Keary, Chairperson, Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee
- Councillor Saša Novak Uí Chonchúir, Chairperson, Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee
- Councillor Bridie Collins, Chairperson, Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee
- Councillor Michael Donegan, Chairperson, Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee
- Councillor Liam Galvin, Chairperson, Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee

The CPG links the work of the different SPCs, acts as a type of cabinet and provides a forum where policy positions can be agreed for submission to the full Council, which retains the decision-making authority. The CPG also monitors the performance of the Local Authority and plays a key role in preparing the budget. The CPG met on 12 occasions in 2022.

*\*Position as at 31/12/2022*

## COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

Strategic Policy Committee	No. of Members	No. of Meetings
Home and Social Development	24	5
Travel and Transportation	24	5
Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning	24	5
Community, Leisure and Culture	26	5
Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment	24	5

Other Committees	No. of Members	No. of Meetings
Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	12	1
Rural Water Committee	18	3
Audit and Risk Committee	7	6
Joint Policing Committee	16	5
Local Community Development Committee	19	10

## STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES

Each Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) comprises elected Councillors and Sectoral Representatives, working together in a more participative form of democracy, thereby providing a more effective policy focus on the functions and activities carried out by Limerick City and County Council. Each SPC is supported in its work by a Director of Service. While each SPC formulates and develops policy, the final decisions rest ultimately with the Full Council.

*\*Position as at 31/12/2021*

## HOME AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

### Elected Members:

Cllr. Stephen Keary	LCCC Chairperson
Cllr. Michael Murphy	LCCC
Cllr. Sarah Kiely	LCCC
Cllr. Fergus Kilcoyne	LCCC
Cllr. Tom Ruddle	LCCC
Cllr. Adam Teskey	LCCC
Cllr. Joe Leddin	LCCC
Cllr. Conor Sheehan	LCCC
Cllr. Seán Hartigan	LCCC
Cllr. Sharon Benson	LCCC
Cllr. Tom Collopy	LCCC
Cllr. James Collins	LCCC
Cllr. Michael Donegan	LCCC
Cllr. Brigid Teefy	LCCC
Cllr. Eddie Ryan	LCCC
Cllr. Catherine Slattery	LCCC

### Sectoral Representatives:

Mr. P.J. O'Grady	Development/Construction
Ms. Dee Ryan	Business/Commercial
Mr. Mike McNamara	Trade Union
Ms. Tracy McElligott	Community/Voluntary*
Ms. Anne Cronin	Community/Voluntary*
Mr. Patrick English	Community/Voluntary*
Ms. Siobhán Reidy	Community/Voluntary*
Ms. Una Burns	Social Inclusion

*\*Are nominated via Public Participation Network (PPN)*

The Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) is responsible for the formulation, monitoring and reviewing of policies related to housing and to advise the Council accordingly.

There were five meetings of the Home and Social Development SPC held in 2022. Presentations and policy were progressed on the following:

- Limerick City and County Council Housing Disability Strategy Plan 2022
- Presentation by Threshold on their services which provides free, independent, confidential advice to anyone in Ireland with tenancy problems

- Presentation on “Drugs and Alcohol Services in the Mid-West Region” by a representative from the Mid-West Regional Drugs and Alcohol Forum
- Mid-West Homeless Action Plan 2022-2025
- Homeless Policy Document
- Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy
- Housing One-Rep Policy

## TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

### Elected Members:

Cllr. Saša Novak Ú Chonchúir	LCCC Chairperson
Cllr. Elena Secas	LCCC
Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon	LCCC
Cllr. Martin Ryan	LCCC
Cllr. Dan McSweeney	LCCC
Cllr. Joe Leddin	LCCC
Cllr. Elisa O'Donovan	LCCC
Cllr. Tom Collopy	LCCC
Cllr. Frankie Daly	LCCC
Cllr. Fergus Kilcoyne	LCCC
Cllr. Brigid Teefy	LCCC
Cllr. Daniel Butler	LCCC
Cllr. Gerald Mitchell	LCCC
Cllr. John Sheahan	LCCC
Cllr. Michael Sheahan	LCCC
Cllr. Francis Foley	LCCC

### Sectoral Representatives:

Mr. Tim O'Brien	Agriculture/Farming
Mr. Frank Heffernan	Environment/Conservation*
Mr. Pat McCarthy	Development/Construction
Mr. Diarmuid O'Shea	Business/Commercial
Mr. Frank McDonnell	Trade Union
Mr. Dean Lillis	Community/Voluntary*
Mr. Bruce Harper	Community/Voluntary*
Ms. Maureen Browne	Social Inclusion*

\*Are nominated via Public Participation Network (PPN)

The Travel and Transportation SPC held five meetings in 2022. Presentations and policy were progressed on the following:

- Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS)
- Mobility Management Measures for Business

- Regulating Shared Car Service for Limerick City
- Active Travel Projects Update
- Health Benefits arising from Implementation of a Low Noise Road Surface
- Updates from Mid-West National Road Design Office – Transport Infrastructure Ireland Projects
- Proposed 30km Speed Limits in the Core Business District
- Electric Vehicle Strategy Presentation
- Bicycle Parks and Innovative ideas to facilitate Cycling

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE AND PLANNING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

### Elected Members:

Cllr. Bridie Collins	LCCC Chairperson
Cllr. Eddie Ryan	LCCC
Cllr. James Collins	LCCC
Cllr. Joe Pond	LCCC
Cllr. Martin Ryan	LCCC
Cllr. Catherine Slattery	LCCC
Cllr. John O'Donoghue	LCCC
Cllr. Daniel Butler	LCCC
Cllr. John Egan	LCCC
Cllr. Liam Galvin	LCCC
Cllr. Stephen Keary	LCCC
Cllr. Michael Murphy	LCCC
Cllr. Olivia O'Sullivan	LCCC
Cllr. Jerome Scanlan	LCCC
Cllr. Emmett O'Brien	LCCC
Cllr. Saša Novak Ú Chonchúir	LCCC

### Sectoral Representatives:

Mr. Aidan Gleeson	Agriculture/Farming
Ms. Madeleine Lyes	Environment/Conservation*
Mr. Michael Joyce	Development/Construction
Mr. Seán Golden	Business/Commercial
Mr. Diarmuid O'Shea	Business/Commercial
Mr. Declan Hehir	Community/Voluntary*
Mr. Brian Thompson	Community/Voluntary*
Mr. Keith Enright	Social Inclusion*

\*Are nominated via Public Participation Network (PPN)

The Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee met five times in 2022. The main items discussed were as follows:

- Development Plan 2022-2028 / Local Area Plans
- Planning Legislation Updates 2022 (Strategic Housing Developments/New Large-scale Residential Development (LRD) Arrangements).
- Residential Zoned Land Tax
- Update on E-Planning
- Town Centre First Plan Initiative
- Arthur's Quay Area Framework
- Wayfinding Signage Programme
- Mid-West Regional Enterprise Plan
- Shannon Estuary Task Force
- Shannon Foynes Port

## COMMUNITY, LEISURE AND CULTURE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

### **Elected Members:**

Cllr. Michael Donegan	LCCC Chairperson
Cllr. Michael Collins	LCCC
Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon	LCCC
Cllr. Francis Foley	LCCC
Cllr. Joe Pond	LCCC
Cllr. Kevin Sheahan	LCCC
Cllr. Sarah Kiely	LCCC
Cllr. Dan McSweeney	LCCC
Cllr. Gerald Mitchell	LCCC
Cllr. Olivia O'Sullivan	LCCC
Cllr. Tom Ruddle	LCCC
Cllr. Conor Sheehan	LCCC
Cllr. Elisa O'Donovan	LCCC
Cllr. P.J. Carey	LCCC
Cllr. Frankie Daly	LCCC
Cllr. Abul Kalam Azad Talukder	LCCC

### **Sectoral Representatives:**

Ms. Louise Crowley	Agricultural/Farming
Ms. Josephine Butler	Environment/Conservation*
Mr. Mike Ryan	Development/Construction
Ms. Louise Donlon	Business/Commercial
Mr. Padraig Lohan	Community/Voluntary*
Mr. Pete Moles	Community/Voluntary*
Mr. Keith Pigott	Community/Voluntary*

Ms. Mary Conlon	Community/Voluntary*
Ms. Maura Meaney	Social Inclusion*
Ms. Karen O'Donnell O'Connor	Social Inclusion*

\*Are nominated via Public Participation Network (PPN)

The Community, Leisure and Culture SPC met five times in 2022. The main items discussed were as follows:

- Age Friendly Healthy Homes Programme.
- King John's Castle/Discover Limerick Designated Activity Company
- Limerick Local Economic and Community Plan
- Briefing on Ukrainian refugee situation in Limerick
- Temporary Library for Castletroy/Annacotty
- Autism Friendly City and County
- People-Place- Platform: Limerick Libraries Development Plan 2021-2025
- Survey on the recovery of the Arts and Culture sector from COVID-19
- Comhairle Na Nog
- Culture and Creative Strategy 2023-2027
- Derelict Sites
- Limerick PPN
- Audit of Community Cultural and Arts Facilities in Limerick City and County Report
- Festival and Events Strategy
- Library Outreach Programme
- Discover Limerick Pass

The Autism Sub Committee continued to work on its key objective in Limerick becoming an autism friendly location.

The Sub-committee on the impact of Covid-19 on the Arts and Culture Section concluded its work at the end of 2022.

## CLIMATE ACTION, BIODIVERSITY AND ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

### **Elected Members:**

Cllr. Liam Galvin	LCCC Chairperson
Cllr. John Egan	LCCC
Cllr. Jerome Scanlan	LCCC

Cllr. John Sheahan	LCCC
Cllr. Michael Sheahan	LCCC
Cllr. Adam Teskey	LCCC
Cllr. Elena Secas	LCCC
Cllr. Bridie Collins	LCCC
Cllr. Michael Collins	LCCC
Cllr. Kevin Sheahan	LCCC
Cllr. Sharon Benson	LCCC
Cllr. P.J. Carey	LCCC
Cllr. John O'Donoghue	LCCC
Cllr. Emmett O'Brien	LCCC
Cllr. Seán Hartigan	LCCC
Cllr. Abul Kalam Azad Talukder	LCCC

#### **Sectoral Representatives:**

Mr. Martin Stapleton	Agriculture/Farming
Mr. Thomas Blackburn	Agriculture/Farming
Ms. Michelle Hayes	Environment/Conservation*
Ms. Ailish Ní Chofaigh	Environment/Conservation*
Ms. Dee Ryan	Business/Commercial
Mr. Seamus Hoyne	Business/Commercial
Mr. Denis McAuliffe	Community/Voluntary*
Mr. Caillum Hedderman	Community/Voluntary*

\*Are nominated via Public Participation Network (PPN)

The Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment SPC held five meetings in 2022.

The main policies considered include:

- Draft Blue Green Infrastructure Strategy
- Draft Tree Strategy
- Draft Litter Management Plan 2022-2025
- Draft Westfields Wetlands Management Plan

## LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

Cllr. Stephen Keary	LCCC Chairperson
Cllr. Brigid Teefy	LCCC
Cllr. Michael Collins	LCCC
Cllr. Joe Pond	LCCC
Mr. Gordan Daly	LCCC
Mr. Pádraig Casey	Ballyhoura Development Company
Ms. Anne Kavanagh	PAUL Partnership
Mr. Shay Riordan	West Limerick Resources

Mr. Maurice O'Connell	Public Participation Network
Mr. David Tobin	Public Participation Network
Ms. Linda Ledger	Public Participation Network
Mr. James Prior	Public Participation Network
Ms. Leona O'Callaghan	Public Participation Network
Mr. George O'Callaghan	Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board
Mr. Diarmaid Fitzgerald	Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
Ms. Niamh Wallace	Health Service Executive
Mr. Barry Murphy	Irish Farmers' Association
Ms. Fiona O'Grady	Limerick Youth Service
Mr. Diarmuid O'Shea	Limerick Chamber of Commerce

The LCDC held ten meetings in 2022 and was very active in the performance of its functions. The LCDC oversaw and made decisions, when required, in relation to the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), EU LEADER Programme and various grants schemes. In addition to the above programmes, the LCDC approved projects under the Community Enhancement Scheme, Healthy Ireland, Social Enterprise Grants and developed position papers under various headings. The reallocation of budgets within the themes of the EU LEADER Programme was completed in response to the needs of the community sector. Subgroup meetings took place in relation to SICAP evaluation, monitoring and planning, LEADER operational matters, Healthy Limerick and evaluation of applications for various grant schemes under the Community Enhancement Programme. The members also made an Expressions of Interest (EOI) to the Department Rural Community Development to deliver the next LEADER Programme 2023-2027.

## REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES

(\*position at 31/12/2022)

### LOCAL TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Cllr. Frankie Daly  
Cllr. Michael Sheahan  
Cllr. Michael Murphy  
Cllr. Michael Donegan

### ASSOCIATION OF IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AILG)

Cllr. Joe Leddin  
Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon  
Cllr. Dan McSweeney

### SOUTHERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Cllr. Frankie Daly  
Cllr. John Sheahan  
Cllr. Michael Collins

### LIMERICK MARKET TRUSTEES

Cllr. Francis Foley (Mayor of the City and County of Limerick)  
Cllr. Olivia O'Sullivan (Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick)  
Cllr. Saša Novak Uí Chonchúir  
Cllr. Fergus Kilcoyne  
Cllr. Elisa O'Donovan  
Cllr. Frankie Daly  
Cllr. James Collins  
Cllr. Kevin Sheahan  
Cllr. Catherine Slattery  
Cllr. Abul Kalam Azad Talukder  
Cllr. Martin Ryan  
Cllr. Daniel Butler  
Cllr. Sarah Kiely  
Cllr. Dan McSweeney  
Cllr. Michael Sheahan  
Cllr. Michael Murphy  
Cllr. Gerald Mitchell  
Cllr. Conor Sheehan

### LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

Cllr. Jerome Scanlan

### IRISH PUBLIC BODIES INSURANCE CLG

Cllr. Martin Ryan

### LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS' ASSOCIATION

Cllr. John Sheahan

### GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK - NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, CORK

Vacant

### GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK

Cllr. Francis Foley (Mayor of the City and County of Limerick)  
Cllr. Olivia O'Sullivan (Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick)

### ADARE HERITAGE TRUST LIMITED

Cllr. Francis Foley (Mayor of the City and County of Limerick)

### WEST LIMERICK RESOURCES LIMITED

Cllr. Elisa O'Donovan  
Cllr. Bridie Collins  
Cllr. Michael Collins  
Cllr. Tom Ruddle

### BALLYHOURA DEVELOPMENT LIMITED

Cllr. Michael Donegan  
Cllr. Gerald Mitchell

### PAUL PARTNERSHIP

Cllr. Abul Kalam Azad Talukder  
Vacant  
Vacant

### RURAL COMMUNITY CARE NETWORK (RCCN)

Cllr. Tom Ruddle  
Cllr. Francis Foley

### HUNT MUSEUMS' TRUST

Cllr. Olivia O'Sullivan  
Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon

### REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM WEST

Cllr. John Sheahan  
Cllr. Frankie Daly  
Cllr. John Egan  
Cllr. Dan McSweeney  
Cllr. Seán Hartigan  
Cllr. Francis Foley  
Cllr. Kevin Sheahan

### **JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE**

Cllr. Francis Foley (Mayor) (ex-officio)  
Cllr. Emmett O'Brien  
Cllr. John O'Donoghue  
Cllr. Seán Hartigan  
Cllr. Tom Collopy  
Cllr. Conor Sheehan  
Cllr. James Collins  
Cllr. Abul Kalam Azad Talukder  
Cllr. Stephen Keary  
Cllr. Adam Teskey  
Cllr. Kevin Sheahan  
Cllr. Bridie Collins  
Cllr. Martin Ryan  
Cllr. John Sheehan  
Cllr. Sarah Kiely  
Cllr. Michael Murphy

### **BOARD OF ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL**

Cllr. Francis Foley (Mayor of the City and County of Limerick)  
Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon

### **LIMERICK SPORTS PARTNERSHIP**

Cllr. Tom Ruddle

### **LIMERICK CIVIC TRUST**

Cllr. Bridie Collins

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF MOYROSS COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE CENTRE LIMITED**

Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon

### **BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF ST. MUNCHIN'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED**

Cllr. Olivia O'Sullivan

### **BOARD OF INNOVATE LIMERICK**

Cllr. James Collins  
Cllr. Olivia O'Sullivan  
Cllr. Eddie Ryan  
Cllr. Joe Leddin

### **LOCAL SME COMMITTEE (SUB-COMMITTEE OF INNOVATE LIMERICK)**

Cllr. Bridie Collins  
Cllr. Sarah Kiely  
Cllr. Fergus Kilcoyne

### **LIMERICK 2030 STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT DAC**

Cllr. John O'Donoghue  
Cllr. Daniel Butler  
Cllr. John Sheahan  
Cllr. James Collins

### **LIMERICK AND CLARE EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD**

Cllr. Brigid Teefy  
Cllr. Elena Secas  
Cllr. Liam Galvin  
Cllr. John Sheahan  
Cllr. Sarah Kiely  
Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon  
Cllr. Michael Donegan

### **AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE**

Cllr. Brigid Teefy  
Cllr. John Egan  
Cllr. John Sheahan

### **RURAL WATER MONITORING COMMITTEE**

Cllr. P.J. Carey  
Cllr. Eddie Ryan  
Cllr. Stephen Keary

### **BELLTABLE - SPECIAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF BOARD**

Cllr. Francis Foley (Mayor of the City and County of Limerick)

### **DECADE OF CENTENARIES ELECTED MEMBERS' COMMITTEE**

Cllr. Francis Foley (Mayor of the City and County of Limerick)  
Cllr. John Sheahan  
Cllr. Michael Collins  
Cllr. Sharon Benson  
Cllr. Brigid Teefy  
Cllr. Elena Secas  
Cllr. Seán Hartigan  
Cllr. Elisa O'Donovan

# RESERVED FUNCTIONS

## METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK

Approval of the draft Limerick City and County Council Control of Dockless On-Street Bicycle Hire Bye-Laws 2022 to go on public display in accordance with the requirements of Section 200(1) of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended.

Adoption of Schedule of Municipal District Works 2022 for the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

Approval of allocations under the Community Initiative Scheme 2022.

Approval to hold the Annual Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick on 20 June, after the Monthly Metropolitan Meeting.

Adoption of the Draft Limerick City and County Council Metropolitan District of Limerick Dockless On-Street Bicycle Hire Bye-Laws 2022 in accordance with Section 131A and Schedule 14A of the Local Government Act, 2001.

Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

Part 8 Approval for Refurbishment of Existing Properties at Nos. 82, 84 and 86 Hyde Road, Prospect, Limerick.

Part 8 Approval for R510 Quinn's Cross to Raheen Roundabout Improvement Scheme.

Part 8 Approval for Fr Russell Road Cycle Lane Scheme.

Approval to revoke the Southern Environs Local Area Plan 2021 – 2027 in accordance with Section 20(3) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

Approval to revoke the Castletroy Local Area Plan 2019 – 2025 in accordance with Section 20(3) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

Adoption of the Budgetary Plan 2023 for the Metropolitan District of Limerick in the amount of €628,000, and including the amendment to move the amount of €65,000 from Special Projects – LPT to F04, Community Initiatives and the amount of €150,000 from Special Projects – LA Infrastructure and €60,000 Special GMA Projects-Metro Area to D05 Tourism Development Recreation & Amenity in accordance with Section 102(4) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

Part 8 Approval for Development at Ros Mor, Kilmallock Road, R512, Limerick.

Part 8 Approval for Apartment Development at Speaker's Corner, Lower Carey's Road, Limerick city.

Approval to the taking in charge of the housing estate at Redgate Close, Caherdavin, Limerick in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993.

Part 8 Approval for the provision of 24 No. Housing Units at Barnakyle, Patrickswell, Co. Limerick.

Part 8 Approval in relation to the TUS Moylish to City Active Travel Scheme.

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CAPPAMORE-KILMALLOCK

Adoption of the Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Cappamore Kilmallock for the financial year ending 31st December 2022, in the total sum of €295,000 including:

Svc	General Municipal Allocation -2021	Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District
B04	Local Roads	130,000
D05	Tourism Development Recreation & Amenity	10,000
F04	Community Initiatives Special Projects - LA Infrastructure Special Projects LPT	10,000 100,000 45,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>General Municipal Allocation</b>	<b>295,000</b>

Approval of Allocations under the General Municipal Allocation, Development Fund, Community Initiatives Scheme and Community Facilities Grants Scheme 2022. 37 projects were nominated for the GMA Community Grants scheme totalling €29,993.50.

Approval of Part 8 applications were approved by the Elected Members:

- Radharc Cillín, Kilfinane, County Limerick
- Part 8 Cappamore Fire Station
- Part 8 2A and 2B High Street, Kilfinane

Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach.

Adoption of the 2022 Schedule of Works for the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock.

Decision to receive Deputations from the following:

- Maigue River Trust
- Step Forward Disability Group, Hospital

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE

Approval of allocations under the General Municipal Allocation 2022.

Approval of Development Fund 2022.

Adoption of the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2022 for the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District.

Approval to hold the Annual Meeting on the 28 June, 2022.

Election of the Cathaoirleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale.

Approval of Part 8 Procedure for No. 1 & 2 St. Mary's Terrace, Askeaton, Co. Limerick.

Approval of Proposed N21 Coolanoran Traffic Calming Scheme.

Adoption of the Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale for the financial year ending 31st December 2023, in the total sum of €270,000 and include the amendment that the total allocation of €270,000 be allocated to Service D05 – Tourism Development Recreation and Amenity, in accordance with Section 102(4) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST

Approval of Schedule of Municipal District Works 2022 for the Municipal District of Newcastle West.

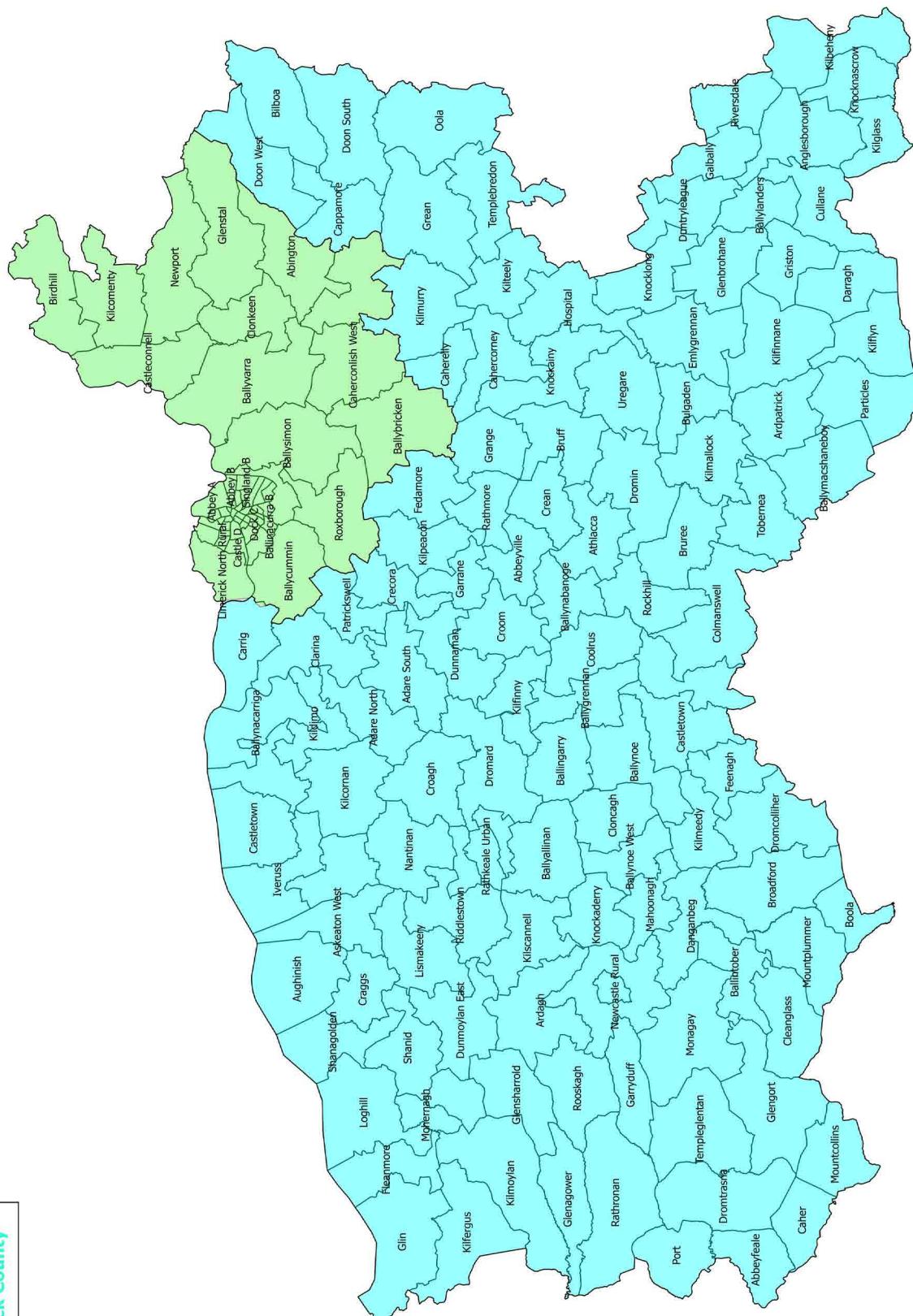
Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach.

Approval of Allocations under the General Municipal Allocation and Community Initiative Scheme 2022.

Approval of Allocations under the General Municipal Allocation Special Projects for projects within the District.

Adoption of the Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Newcastle West for the financial year ended 31st December, 2023 in the sum of €270,000 and including the amendment to move the amount of €100,000 from Special Projects – LA Infrastructure and the amount of €45,000 – Special Projects LPT to D05 Tourism Development, Recreation and Amenity, in accordance with Section 102 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended

# DAIL CONSTITUENCIES



# EVENTS, HIGHLIGHTS AND CIVIC RECEPTIONS





## THE FREEDOM OF LIMERICK

The Freedom of Limerick was conferred on Vicky Phelan on 3 February in The Council Chamber, Dooradoyle in recognition of her inspirational and courageous decision to tell her story and for becoming an advocate for the rights of women and focusing on the importance of proper and timely healthcare for women, through to supporting the rights and dignity of those at the end of their lives and in the process transforming our society for the better.



## EVENTS



A Mayoral Reception was hosted by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler on 20 January, for Billy Barrett, in recognition of his committed service over 40 years both voluntarily and professionally to some of the most vulnerable citizens of Limerick. Photograph includes the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler and Billy Barrett.



A Mayoral Reception was hosted by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler, on 20 January, for Terry Byrne, in recognition of her committed service over 40 years both voluntarily and professionally to some of the most vulnerable citizens of Limerick. Photograph includes the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler and Terry Byrne.



A Mayoral Reception was hosted by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler, on 20 January, for Michael J. Ryan, in recognition of his contribution and committed service to Limerick Civil Defence over 60 years. Photograph includes the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler and Michael J. Ryan.

## EVENTS



A Mayoral Reception was hosted by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler, on 14 April, for Catherine Duffy, in recognition of her outstanding leadership in business and her commitment in advancing Limerick economically. Vicki O'Toole, in recognition of her outstanding leadership in business and as an inspiration for new entrepreneurs in Limerick. Laura Ryan, in recognition of her leadership in addressing Limerick's image and creating a brand to drive Limerick economically, socially and culturally. Photograph includes Catherine Duffy, the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler, Laura Ryan and Vicki O'Toole.



A Mayoral Reception was hosted by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler, on 9 May, for Liam Dillon, in recognition of his voluntary contribution to the Caherdavin Community over 40 years. Michael Graham, in recognition of his dedicated service to Claughaun GAA Club over 50 years. Declan Real, in recognition of his voluntary service to the youth and community sector over 35 years. Photograph includes Michael Graham, the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler, Liam Dillon and Declan Real.

## EVENTS



A Mayoral Reception was hosted by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler, on 18 May, for Catholic Institute Women's Senior Hockey Team, in recognition of the singular achievement of The Catholic Institute Women's Senior Hockey Team in winning the Women's Irish Senior Cup in 2022. This was the highlight of a remarkable year of success for hockey in the Institute.



A Mayoral Reception was hosted by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler, on 2 June, for Paul Foley, in recognition of his committed and passionate leadership in creating a better Limerick socially, culturally and in sport. Linda Ledger, in recognition of her committed leadership in supporting communities across Limerick helping to build a more inclusive Limerick. Photograph includes Councillor Sarah Kiely, Councillor Dan McSweeney, Linda Ledger, the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler, Paul Foley, Councillor Olivia O'Sullivan and Councillor Fergus Kilcoyne.

## EVENTS



A Mayoral Reception was hosted by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler, on 22 June, for Munyaradzi Godknows Jonas, Denise Mwaka Chaila and Mawuli MuRli Boevi in recognition of their achievements in music and their leadership in redefining Limerick culturally and socially.



A Mayoral Reception was hosted by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, on 18 October, for Limerick Civil Defence, in recognition of their achievement in assisting during COVID-19 and the ongoing Ukrainian Crisis.

## EVENTS



A Mayoral Reception was hosted by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, on 1 December, for Tony Fitzgerald, in recognition of his lifetime of work with Ballynatty Rovers AFC, St. Munchins Boxing Club and many other sporting and community organisations. Photograph includes Kevin Kiely, the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, Tony Fitzgerald, Joan Fitzgerald and Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Kieran O'Hanlon.



A Mayoral Reception was hosted by Councillor Francis Foley, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, on 6 December, for Limerick Combat Gym, in recognition of their outstanding achievements at the World Kickboxing Association (WKA) World Kickboxing Championships.

## EVENTS



Councillor Francis Foley, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick following his election at the Annual Meeting of Limerick City and County Council held on 7 July.



Christmas Hampers - Photoshoot at the distribution of over 300 Christmas hampers to Limerick families at the Milk Market Limerick through the Mayor's Fund. The NeighbourFood Unit at the Limerick Milk Market supplied 250 hampers and the Urban Co-op added a further 50. Laura Howes, Dorothy Hickey, Deirdre MacMahon, Host of NeighbourFood and the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, with the Hampers at the Milk Market Limerick.



To mark Fairtrade Limerick 17th Birthday, the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley with winning artists from the Christmas Card competition, Aoife Velayati, Laurel Hill Secondary School and Kate Hennessy, Scoil Dean Cussen, Bruff.



The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley and Mr. Bernardo Guanche Hernández, Ambassador of Cuba on his visit to Limerick on 28 October.

## EVENTS



The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley presenting flowers to Sharon Slater, speaker at the launch of Limerick Womens Caucus Website on 29 September.



Agricultural Delegation Visit from Hohenlohe on 7 September. Presentation by Dr. Wolfgang Eiben, Leader of Agricultural Group from Hohenlohe to the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley and Deputy Chief Executive, Mr. Sean Coughlan during the Hohenlohe delegation visit to Limerick on 7 September.



Limerick Women's Caucus at launch of website on 29 September in Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay.

## EVENTS



Algerian Friendship Group - Limerick Irish Algerian Friendship Group (LIAF) Tree Planting Ceremony for the launch of the Algerian Oak Forest at the University of Limerick on 27 October. Performed by H.E. Mr. Mohammed Belaoura, the Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Professor Kerstin Mey, UL President and the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley.



Limerick North Munster Rotary Club Christmas Remembrance Tree - At the launch of the Limerick North Munster Rotary Club Remembrance Christmas Tree at the junction of Thomas Street with O'Connell Street, Limerick. The Christmas Remembrance Tree Project provides a public space for people to remember loved ones who have passed on or who are unable to be with them for Christmas or those who are missing. People write the name of a loved one on a yellow ribbon and have it placed on the tree. Pictured: The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley pinning a yellow ribbon on to the Remembrance Tree with President of Limerick North Munster Rotary Club, Pat Kearney.



Limerick Burial Grounds Awards - At the 13th Annual Limerick Burial Grounds Awards night held on 23 November, in the Millennium Centre, Caherconlish. Jim Supple, Helen McKeogh, John McKeogh, Mike O'Connell and Mike Fitzgerald from St. Nessan's Burial Ground, Munget, being presented with their award by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley and Nuala Gallagher, Director of Services, Planning, Environment and Place-Making, Limerick City and County Council after winning the overall prize in the Modern and Metro Categories at a ceremony.

## EVENTS

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley opening the Book of Condolences for Vicky Phelan.



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARDS

At the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2022 Limerick City and County Council picked up three awards. The three wins came in the Supporting Sustainable Communities, Promoting Economic Development and the Enhancing Urban Environment categories.



Local Government Awards Sustainability Winner

Supporting Sustainable Communities – Limerick City and County Council - New Build Incremental Purchase Scheme. Minister of State with responsibility for Planning and Local Government, Peter Burke TD; Jason Kenna, EirGrid; the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley; Helen Creed, Limerick City and County Council; Ian Talbot, Chambers Ireland.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARDS



### Local Government Awards Castletroy Greenway Winner

Enhancing the Urban Environment - Limerick City and County Council - Castletroy Urban Greenway.

Minister of State with responsibility for Planning and Local Government, Peter Burke TD; Anne Marie O'Connor, Office of the Planning Regulator; the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, Sean McGlynn, Limerick City and County Council; Ian Talbot, Chambers Ireland.



### Local Government Awards Engine Hub Winner

Promoting Economic Development - Limerick City and County Council - Engine Hubs Network.

Minister of State with responsibility for Planning and Local Government, Peter Burke TD; Karen Ferris, Irish Water; the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley; Mike Cantwell, Innovate Limerick; Ian Talbot, Chambers Ireland.

# SUPPORT SERVICES

local store.



4 Carriages  
In am / On Time

4 Carriages  
In am / On Time

4 Carriages  
In am / On Time

In am / On Time

In am

ard agus sábháilteacht na gcustaiméiri, nil

18-07-22  
17:29:24



Ardán 1  
Platform 1



Ardán 2  
Platform



# **SUPPORT SERVICES**

## **FINANCE TO COME**

## FINANCE TO COME

## FINANCE TO COME

## FINANCE TO COME

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICT)

The ICT Section of Limerick City and County Council continued to support sections in achieving their objectives throughout 2022. In addition to the operational activities such as, monitoring security, maintaining infrastructure and systems, and providing user and desktop support throughout 2022, several major projects were undertaken.

Some of these projects undertaken during 2022 were:-

### Cyber Security

Cyber security describes the discipline dedicated to protecting that information and the systems used to process or store that information. The security refers to the body of technologies, processes, and practices designed to protect networks, devices, programs, and data from attack, damage, or unauthorized access.

In addition to initiatives introduced during previous years, ICT continued to improve the Councils Cyber Security Posture through the following:-

- **Managed Extended Detection and response (XDR)**  
The Council published a tender (RFT) for Cyber Security Managed Extended Detection and Response (XDR) service December 2021, closing date for submission of responses 19 January 2022. This service is live since April 2022, and provides the following:
  - Faster Detection of Cyber threats and Response
  - Council Data and Systems better protected from Cyber-attacks
  - Superior threat expertise, intelligence and analytics
  - Dedicated SOC support 24/7 with a 15-minute response time

#### • **Cyber Security Table-Top Exercise**

A table-top exercise, that simulated a ransomware cyber incident, was facilitated by an external security company during 2022. Stakeholders from a number of sections participated in the exercise including Corporate

Services, Finance, Communications, Human Resources and HAP Shred Services Centre. The Cyber Security Incident Plan was initiated during the exercise.

The external security company has produced a report on the exercise, this report will be reviewed early 2023, and recommendations implemented. Procedures and policies will be updated as necessary, and required resources put in place.

- **Awareness Training\Phishing Campaigns**

A security awareness-training program has many benefits and can fortify the Councils' protection against phishing and other hacking attacks.

ICT continued to undertake "Monthly Phishing Campaigns" during 2022. The number of staff falling victim to these campaigns is constantly reducing, which would indicate that staff awareness is increasing. Staff members falling victim to these monthly campaigns have to undertake interactive online training and complete an online assessment. Repeat offenders are targeted for further training.

In addition to measures mentioned above, ICT continues to ensure all devices are updated with security updates in a timely manner and are continuously monitoring activity on the Councils' infrastructure.

### Disaster Recovery

Testing of different elements of the Disaster Recovery plan continued during 2022 with the test recovery of servers that host Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) SSC systems. These included:
 

- 3 X Agresso (Database, Application, and WEB).
- LC-SQL17-1 (HAP Ascendas Database Server).
- LC-APPS-8.
- Plus Domain Controller Servers.

Stakeholders from HAP SSC, Finance, Digital Services and ICT were involved in the process. The successful recovery of these servers has been documented, ensuring a fully tested and documented DR process is in place for these systems.

## Microsoft Exchange Online

ICT completed the process of migrating email from the Microsoft Exchange 2013 on-premise installation during 2022. The Online environment was fully configured and 1,150 mailboxes migrated. The 2013 on-premise environment was decommissioned once the migration of the mailboxes was completed.

## Business Systems

ICT worked with our colleagues in Digital Services to implement the following Business Systems.

- Agresso Milestone 7.
- Ascendas WebPAY.
- ePlan Online Submissions.
- CORE HR\Payroll Version 28.
- Property Interest Register (PIR) system.
- National Library Management System.

## ICT Service Desk

The ICT Service Desk dealt with 15,672 tickets during 2022, this is an increase of 1,349 (9.4%) over 2021. The number of tickets for the past three years is a substantial increase on previous years due to remote working.

The Service Desk endeavours to respond to and resolve service requests in a timely and courteous manner. In addition to providing support to users the ICT Helpdesk team also carry out other tasks as set out :-

- Create knowledge base articles for user empowerment
- Liaise with ICT\Digital Strategy teams to resolve issues and prevent future issues
- Keep users fully informed of changes/issues
- Develop and enforce policies and procedures around the provision of services and hardware
- Office and equipment organisation and maintenance
- ICT Project support

## HUMAN RESOURCES

### Introduction

A motivated and committed workforce equipped to provide the optimum standards of service delivery is fundamental to the attainment of the strategic and operational goals of Limerick City and County Council. In 2022, the Human Resources Department continued to provide a wide range of supports to our most valuable resource – our staff.

### Work/Life Balance Measures

A range of work/life balance measures were available to Council employees during 2022. These included Parental Leave, Carer's Leave, Work-Sharing, Shorter Working Year, and the option to avail of a Career Break. 297 Applications were received in 2022.

### Blended Working

Blended working in the local government sector reflects the implementation of government policy that public sector employees move to 20% remote working. Following the issue of a Local Government Blended Working Framework, Policy, and FAQ, Limerick City and County Council approved a Policy for Blended Working based on the national framework. Blended Working was introduced in Limerick City and County Council on 25 July. 515 Blended Working applications were approved with a 2022 start date.

### Gender Pay Gap

Arising from the enactment of the Gender Pay Gap Information Act 2021 and the subsequent publication of the Employment Equality Act 1998 (Section 20A) (Gender Pay Gap Information) Regulations – May 2022, all organisations, (relevant employers), with greater than 250 employees were required to report on their Gender Pay Gap in 2022. Reporting was via a set of metrics provided in the Regulations using a June 2022 snapshot date. Local authorities used a 30 June 2022 snapshot date which was 12 months retrospective. Relevant employers were additionally required to set out the reasons for Gender Pay Gap differences and the measures (if any) being taken, or proposed to be taken, by the employer to eliminate or reduce such differences.

The regulations provided for reports to be published within six months of the snapshot date. In common with other Local Authorities, Limerick City and County Council published its Report in December 2022.

## COVID-19

The Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) continued to have major impact globally, throughout 2022. Within Limerick City and County Council, the Human Resources Department continued to provide assistance to staff through the following measures;

1. Facilitation of return to the office and remote working, as restrictions changed in accordance with public Health Advice
2. Updating of a COVID-19 Policy and Procedure
3. Issue of Frequently Asked Questions documents in line with National Guidance
4. Provision of forms to assist staff in availing of COVID related special leave
5. Provision of advice on Returning to Work
6. Online COVID-19 Return to Work form, (in conjunction with ICT, BIU and Digital Strategy Departments)
7. Use of the “Council Connect” the staff and councillor mobile communication app to disseminate information
8. Liaison with internal and external stakeholders to create a co-operative approach to working during the COVID- 19 pandemic
9. Liaison with the COVID-19 Consultation Group, comprising union lead worker representatives and senior management.
10. Engagement with the Crisis Management Team as required

## Core

Version 28 – Phase 2 People Management, (Migrate HR Administration from BackOffice to Portal), was rolled out nationally to most Local Authorities, including Limerick City and County Council in 2022 with the remainder of the Local Authorities to commence in Quarter 1 2023.

Work has progressed with MakoData on the implementation of the HR Data Analytics Dashboards and there are now 21 LA's live with

the platform. The Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) and MakoData will continue to roll these out to the remaining LA's and will also begin work with the sector's People Strategy Steering Group and the National Standards Committee to further embed the use of the dashboards across the sector.

## MyPay Shared Services Centre – Superannuation and Payroll

Since the Council's superannuation function was transferred to MyPay in August 2018, MyPay are now dealing with the majority of queries for superannuation with support from Superannuation Staff in the Council. The Payroll function also continues to be administered by MyPay with support from the Payroll Staff in the Council.

## Superannuation

Apart from the provision of Pre-Retirement Seminars and assisting staff with various queries the following are the transactional details for the Superannuation Team for 2022.

New Starts	190
Leavers	123
Refunds	48
Retirements	28
Preserved Benefits	3
Members Gratuity	1
Retained Fire-Fighter Gratuity	2
Deceased Pensioners/Dependent Pensioners	45
New Dependent Pensions	7
Annuity Certs	995

## Payroll

The Payroll department oversees the payment of salaries and wages to existing members of staff and the payment of pensions to retired staff. During 2022, the payroll unit implemented the pay increases applicable on the 1/2/22 and 2/2/22. At the end of 2022 there were 1,476 employees paid through payroll along with 990 pensioners. The Payroll bill for 2022 amounted to €93.5 million.

## Industrial Relations

The Human Resources Department, and Limerick City and County Council as a whole, continued to foster a productive relationship with our colleagues in the unions throughout 2022. This engagement occurred through quarterly meetings of the Partnership forum and also through regular formal meetings and ongoing dialogue with individual unions.

## Recruitment

The Recruitment Section continues to contribute to the development of Limerick City and County Council's Workforce Planning process, ensuring that the Council is well placed to provide for the business needs of the organisation and the service needs of our citizens.

Recruitment of new staff into the Council continued in 2022 with a total of 63 competitions held through a combination of both online and face-to-face methods. There were 658 individual interviews carried out for positions within the Council in 2022.

Large recruitment processes included those for Library Attendant, Emergency Control Operator, and Park Ranger. 2022 also saw new competitions held like that of Executive Quantity Surveyor and Assistant Museum Curator.

There were ongoing recruitment campaigns in 2022 for technical, engineering, architectural and ICT staff in particular owing to the challenges faced in the local government sector in filling these roles.

There were also interviews held for the posts of Administrative Officer, Senior Staff Officer, Staff Officer, Assistant Staff Officer and Clerical Officer throughout 2022 with shortlisted candidates drawn from the initial competitions held the previous year.

Our Recruitment Schedule continues to be updated and revised to ensure continued support to the organisation in meeting the service demands required.

For those preparing applications, Interview Preparation Videos and our Interview Preparation Booklet is freely available to everyone, on our Learning and Wellbeing Platform at <http://training.limerick.ie/>

## Learning and Wellbeing

The Learning and Wellbeing Unit, organised programmes of training and workshops to meet the needs of management and staff alike arising from a combination of requests received through the Performance Management and Development System (PMDS), and identified training needs of the organisation. The demand for training was strong in 2022, being the first year post Covid-19 where some on-site training recommenced. The programme was delivered through a combination of online and face to face events, with over 1300 staff availing of some level of training during the year (see next page).

Course Name	No. of Attendees	Course Name	No. of Attendees
MS7 Requisition Raising	184	Social Media Training	33
MS7 - Budgets & Balance Tables	110	Professional Services Withholding Tax	1
Retirement Planning	18	Adobe Photoshop course	19
Certificate in Safety Management	1	Train the Trainer	10
Waste Modules Sligo	2	Conflict Management	28
IPA Debt Management	4	Safetalk Suicide Awareness	17
Age Friendly Housing & Public		PowerPoint	12
Realm course	14	A-Z of local Government	61
Project Management	1	Chairing Effective Meetings	18
MAPA training for traffic wardens	8	AutoCAD 3D	1
Safer Sea Swimming Course	1	Scenarios and Roleplay Training for Housing Practitioners	4
Orangeworks 4x4 CPC Driver Training	11	Dignity at Work training for Contact persons	7
Introduction to Children First Course	1	CIF Building Control Course - Module 3 Fire Safety	3
Data Breach Response Workshop	1	Internal Audit Training	4
Diversity & Inclusion Summit	1	Petroleum Vapours Emissions Training	5
Green Procurement Training (Climate action)	82	Catchment Science Module 3	7
Championship Leadership Training	5	Supervisory Management Training	15
Roscrea Training Courses - Environment/Roads/Water	48	Water Treatment Plant Operations	5
Microsoft Excel & Word Training Various Levels	170	IAT Roads Engineering	4
Mindfulness Workshops	40	PCSI - Pavement Surface Condition Index - Rural and Urban	1
Report Writing	10	Building Capacity Training for new members of Climate Action Teams	14
Time Management	7	Bridge Engineering Inspection	4
Minute Taking Courses	13	Solar PV Training	3
Basic Computer Course	10	Debt Collection Techniques	6
Drone Training	3	Employment Law - Discipline, Grievance and Workplace Investigations	1
C Truck License - Lessons & Test	3	E-Tenders Online Training	75
Tier 0 - Intro to Public Works		Autism Awareness Online Training	23
Procurement	59	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,305</b>
Tier 1 - Commercial Skills for Public Capital Works Projects	13		
Presentation Skills	29		
Negotiation Skills	32		
Communication Skills Training	27		
Microsoft Office SharePoint	16		

The national Climate Action training programme continued this year with 82 staff completing one or more of the six strands being delivered in 2022.

A comprehensive programme on Financial Governance was delivered across the organisation. This online course, which was developed inhouse, has been undertaken by 827 staff to date.

The IPA introductory courses in Local Government continue to be very popular with 61 staff (mainly new entrants) undertaking the A-Z of Local Government, and 19 completing the IPA Certificate in Local Government course. There are 10 further staff undertaking the Diploma in Local Government. Interest was strong in the continuous education option also, with 15 staff receiving financial support to pursue further studies.

The online induction training, which is continually being updated with new information, was delivered to 167 new entrants in 2022. This was followed up with a number of onsite Induction training days. Given that it was the first year post Covid-19 to hold such events, all staff who joined the Council since 2020 were invited to attend. Interest was strong with 152 staff attending the three training dates provided.

## Wellbeing

A range of courses and supports in the area of Health and Wellbeing were delivered in 2022, and included;

Monthly Wellbeing Newsletter	12 issues
Health talks (*2)	65 attendees
Autism Awareness training	25 attendees
Mindfulness workshops (*7)	40 attendees
Suicide Awareness	17 attendees
Pre Retirement courses (*2)	18 attendees
Cycle to Work Scheme	144 applications
Specsavers vouchers	70 issued

A Flu vaccination programme was also delivered this year to those staff working in front line services. Six clinics were held in three different locations, with 392 vaccines administered in total.

## BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT

The Business Improvement Department are a team who drive and support the Business Improvement approach in Limerick City and County Council. There are multiple projects ongoing within the organisation at any one time that use our 'Define, Measure, Analyse, Improve, Control' approach. The department provides several services including providing support to staff who have recognized an opportunity for improvement. We guide them through the approach, help them to gather data sets to make informed decisions, look for opportunities and outcomes and use tools like process mapping and cause and effect diagrams to tell the story of their improvement. Fifteen different training and support workshops were carried out remotely in 2022. As the Business Improvement Department evolves, more emphasis is placed on evidence and measurement to ensure decisions are well informed.

2022 saw the progression of a Business Improvement project to move towards a paperless office. Thirteen internal staff forms are now processed through a digitised workflow with all staff forms expected to be processed digitally by the end of 2023. This digitisation has resulted in a reduction of almost 10,000 pieces of paper in the organisation. The Business Improvement team also worked to move payments online with the introduction of <http://www.payments.limerick.ie> for our Fire payments and RAS and Rent tenants.

In early 2020, the Business Improvement team introduced an employee app called 'Council Connect'. With over 600 staff members without access to email, the app provided us with the opportunity to give real time notifications to all staff on all health and safety information, HR policy information and employee wellbeing notifications. In 2021, the Staff app won the award for Innovation in the Excellence in Local Government awards. Limerick City and County Council is the only local authority in Ireland to have all our capital projects managed through a cloud-based project management system Cora. Cora is a key deliverable of 'Project 18', which aims to embed

a Project Management Framework into Limerick City and County Council. There are now over 270 projects managed through Cora. The system has been integrated with Agresso, our financial management system, ensuring time, scope and money are now tracked across all projects. In 2020, we added additional functionality to Cora to allow for the digital approval of all job code set-ups and budget adjustments and 2022 saw additional reporting capabilities made available to our management team to ensure transparency and good governance on all Capital projects.

In line with our commitment to citizen engagement, 2022 saw the continued council wide use of My Point, our online engagement portal <https://mypoint.limerick.ie/>. The portal allows our citizens to have their say on projects that are being developed by Limerick City and County Council and 2022 saw over 60 public consultations and 13 surveys supported by Business Improvement through this portal.

The Business Improvement Department will continue to work with all departments to explore all possible engagement platforms to provide not only insight into what our citizens require but also to serve as a measure of our effectiveness. The department also continue to facilitate the 'Staff Liaison Network' a two-way communication platform for staff to discuss potential business improvements within their area. The networks provide opportunities for staff to have their say on potential improvements, talk with colleagues about opportunities for change in their departments and provide feedback on draft projects.

Having a dedicated Business Improvement team shows Limerick City and County council's absolute commitment to the provision of responsive, efficient and innovative services and we will continue to strive to deliver the highest possible quality of service to our citizens.

## **CORPORATE SERVICES, GOVERNANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

The Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services Department provides a wide range of support services to the Mayor, Councillors, staff and management of Limerick City and County Council. In this regard, a primary role of the Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services Department is Meetings Administration for Meetings of Limerick City and County Council, the Metropolitan District, the Joint Policing Committee and Local Electoral Area Briefings. The Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services Department also deals with Data Protection, Archives, Health and Safety, Facilities Management, Procurement, Customer Services, the Register of Electors and Corporate Governance. It also provides support to the Mayor's Office and manages Twinning/Sister City Relationships, Civic and Mayoral Receptions, the Corporate Plan, the Annual Service Delivery Plan, the Irish Language Scheme, Child Safeguarding Policy and a wide variety of ancillary services relating to Council business.

### **Civic Receptions**

There were no civic receptions held in 2022.

### **Freedom of Limerick**

The Freedom of Limerick was conferred on Vicky Phelan on 3 February, in recognition of her inspirational and courageous decision to tell her story and for becoming an advocate for the rights of women and focusing on the importance of proper and timely healthcare for women, through to supporting the rights and dignity of those at the end of their lives and in the process transforming our society for the better.

## Mayoral Receptions

The following Mayoral receptions were held in 2022:

**Billy Barrett**, in recognition of his committed service over 40 years both voluntarily and professionally to some of the most vulnerable citizens of Limerick.

**Terry Byrne**, in recognition of his committed service over 40 years both voluntarily and professionally to some of the most vulnerable citizens of Limerick.

**Michael J. Ryan**, in recognition of his contribution and committed service to Limerick Civil Defence over 60 years.

**Catherine Duffy**, in recognition of her outstanding leadership in business and her commitment in advancing Limerick economically.

**Vicki O'Toole**, in recognition of her outstanding leadership in business and as an inspiration for new entrepreneurs in Limerick.

**Laura Ryan**, in recognition of her leadership in addressing Limerick's image and creating a brand to drive Limerick economically, socially and culturally.

**Liam Dillon**, in recognition of his voluntary contribution to the Caherdavin Community over 40 years.

**Michael Graham**, in recognition of his dedicated service to Claughaun GAA Club over 50 years.

**Declan Real**, in recognition of his voluntary service to the youth and community sector over 35 years.

**Catholic Institute Women's Senior Hockey Team**, in recognition of the singular achievement of The Catholic Institute Women's Senior Hockey Team in winning the Women's Irish Senior Cup in 2022. This was the highlight of a remarkable year of success for hockey in the Institute.

**Paul Foley**, in recognition of his committed and passionate leadership in creating a better Limerick socially, culturally and in sport.

**Linda Ledger**, in recognition of her committed leadership in supporting communities across Limerick helping to build a more inclusive Limerick.

**Mawuli MuRli Boevi, Denise Mwaka Chaila and Munyaradzi Godknows Jonas** in recognition of their achievements in music and their leadership in redefining Limerick culturally and socially.

**Limerick Civil Defence**, in recognition of their achievement in assisting during COVID-19 and the ongoing Ukrainian Crisis.

**Tony Fitzgerald**, in recognition of his lifetime of work with Ballynatty Rovers AFC, St. Munchins Boxing Club and many other sporting and community organisations.

**Limerick Combat Gym**, in recognition of their outstanding achievements at the World Kickboxing Association (WKA) World Kickboxing Championships.

## Metropolitan District Reception

In May 2022, the Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, Councillor Catherine Slattery, hosted a Metropolitan District Reception and Presentation of Scrolls for individuals/groups in recognition of their Voluntary Work or Sporting Achievements in their local community in the Metropolitan District.

## Delegations That Travelled Abroad

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler accompanied by the Director of Service and Administrative Officer, Trade and Investment, travelled to London and Manchester from 14 – 17 February, to engage with Limerick Diaspora in both cities and to explore opportunities to strengthen the connection between Limerick and Limerick's people around the world.

Councillors Liam Galvin, John Sheahan, Frankie Daly, Brigid Teefy, Catherine Slattery accompanied by the Deputy Chief Executive and Administrative Officer, Corporate Services and Governance Department, attended the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Rockaway Beach, Queens, New York on 4- 7 March. The delegation also attended the Mass for Peace and Justice at St. Francis de Sales Church, Rockaway and also met with representatives of Limerick GAA where a presentation was made to them in recognition of their efforts in fostering and retaining the connection with the Limerick diaspora and for developing possible economic opportunities and contacts.

The Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Tom Ruddle, led a delegation comprising of Councillors Michael Donegan, Kieran O'Hanlon, Olivia O'Sullivan, Dan McSweeney and Joe Leddin and accompanied by two Directors of Service and Administrative Officer, Trade and Investment, travelled to New York for the St. Patrick's Day Parade from the 14- 18 March. Members of the delegation took part in a number of activities and events during their visit with the objective of promoting Limerick, developing deeper business relationships and engaging with the Limerick diaspora community.

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler, accompanied by Senior Executive Officer, Trade and Investment, visited London to lead the London St. Patrick's Day Parade at the request of the Irish Exiles Association in London 11- 20 March. They also attended a St. Patrick's Day breakfast hosted by the Irish Exiles and a lunch in the Irish Embassy in London hosted

by An Taoiseach, Mr. Micheál Martin. This London visit built on an earlier visit to London to visit the Diaspora in the UK intended to deepen the connections with Limerick people living/working in the UK.

They also travelled to Greenville , South Carolina, to visit the Global Headquarters of Ortec Inc who built and opened their first overseas facility in Newcastle West. The Mayor also met with representatives of the Greenville Area Development Association to exchange information and discuss areas of mutual interest.

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler, then travelled on to Savannah, Georgia and met with Councillors Michael Collins, Azad Talukder, Martin Ryan, Sarah Kiely, Conor Sheehan, Emmet O'Brien, Adam Teskey and Director of Service and Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services, and attended the 197th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade which is one of the largest St. Patrick's Day Parades in the world. The visit represented a great opportunity to continue the economic, social and cultural links between Savannah and Limerick. Several meetings were arranged with key players in Savannah and important links were forged with both the Members and Executives of the City of Savannah, Savannah Economic Development Association and the World Trade Centre in Savannah.

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler, travelled to London to attend the 'Limerick to London' event marking the Ille heritage ship's six day voyage from Limerick Docks to St. Katherines Dock, London 3 - 5 March 2023.

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler, accompanied by Acting Director of Service and Senior Executive Officer, Trade and Investment, travelled to Austin and Santa Clara, USA, 8 – 11 June, following invitations from the Mayor of Austin and Mayor of Santa Clara. The delegation took part in a number of activities and events during the visit with the

objective of promoting Limerick, developing deeper business relationships, developing sister city links and engaging with the Limerick diaspora community. The delegation met with Irish Business and Diaspora Groups, the Mayor of Austin, the IDA, Enterprise Ireland and the Consul General, The Assistant Secretary of State and staff of the Texas State Capitol Building, Austin Sister Cities Association, Texas International Education Consortium, the Celtic Cowboys, IDA in Mountain View, California and visited the Capital Factory Austin and Enterprise Ireland, San Francisco.

Councillor Francis Foley, incoming Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, accompanied by EU Programme Manager, travelled to Perugia, Italy, 20–23 July, to attend the final meeting of the URBACT III Find your Greatness Project in which Limerick City and County Council is a participating partner. The delegation took part in a number of activities and events alongside the meeting itself with the objectives of highlighting the work Limerick has done in this project, deepening the good relationships developed with the other partner cities in the project, exploring future project collaboration opportunities and sharing best practices around culture, tourism, smart cities and enterprise.

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, accompanied by Director of Service and Administrative Officer, Business Improvement Department, travelled to Amsterdam 8 – 11 October, to attend the Bloomberg CityLab 2022. CityLab is a global cities summit organised by Bloomberg Philanthropies in partnership with the Aspen Institute and brings together global Mayors alongside prominent city innovators, business leaders and urban experts to discuss and discover replicable solutions to pressing issues. The delegation took part in a number of activities and events with the objective of highlighting Limerick and innovation in Limerick City and County Council, exploring future project collaboration opportunities, sharing and learning from best practice in other cities and developing relationships and contacts from Local Authorities in cities across the world.

The Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Kieran O'Hanlon along with Councillors Olivia O'Sullivan, Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District, Sarah Kiely, Michael Sheahan, Sasa Novak, Sean Hartigan, accompanied by three Senior Executive Engineers and Senior Engineer travelled to Utrecht, Holland, 16 to 19 October, following positive feedback from other local authorities on the concepts being used in relation to cycle network within Utrecht. The delegation took part in a number of activities and events with the objectives of highlighting how the cycle network within Utrecht compared to Limerick, deepening the depth of knowledge in relation to cycling, exploring future project collaboration opportunities and sharing best practices.

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, accompanied by Head of Digital Services and EU Programmes and Programme Manager, Digital Services, attended the Smart City Expo World Congress 2022 in Barcelona on 14 – 18 November. This was one of the world's largest Smart City events attracting representatives from all over the world. The delegation met with delegates from a wide range of companies who work in the fields of climate change, mobility, data platforms, traffic management, crowd management along with a variety of augmented and virtual reality experience providers. The delegation also met with several companies who provide digital twin technology solutions and digital platforms that could be critical for the Council's measurement and management of carbon reduction targets. Attendance at the Smart City World Congress created some significant new links and opportunities for Limerick City and County and connection with industry and city leaders who are facing similar challenges to Limerick.

## Joint Policing Committee

Five Joint Policing Committee Meetings were held in 2022. The meetings provide an opportunity for cooperation between An Garda Síochána, public representatives and members of the public. Some of the matters discussed include:

- Crime Statistics from Senior Intelligence Analyst
- Consultation on Community CCTV Schemes in accordance with Section 38 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005
- Drug related intimidation
- Joint Policing Committee Annual Report 2021
- Reform of the Garda Operating Functional Model
- Road traffic accidents within the Limerick Division and prevention plans
- Burglary and Traffic Strategy in place over the Christmas period
- Garda Centenary Celebrations
- Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy
- The Garda Division Policing Plan 2023
- Operation Croí
- Operation Rothar
- Incidents of serious criminal behaviour and anti-social activity in Rathkeale

## Register of Electors

The Register of Electors comprises a list of all persons over the age of 18 years resident in Limerick City and County who are entitled to vote in elections to the Dáil, the European Parliament, Presidential elections, Local Elections, and Referendums. In October, the Register of Electors was modernized and moved to become a continuous live rolling register. Individuals can now register on-line or download paper forms for completion.

In 2022 there were two Dáil Constituencies in Limerick. The constituencies and number of Dáil seats in each were as follows:

- Limerick City 4 Seats
- Limerick County 3 Seats

As at 31 December there were 139,311 Presidential Electors and 146,583 Local Government electors on the 2022 Rolling Register of Electors. The Local Government Electorate is broken down as follows between the six Local Electoral areas:

• Adare-Rathkeale	23,171
• Cappamore-Kilmallock	27,777
• Limerick City East	25,304
• Limerick City North	25,496
• Limerick City West	22,639
• Newcastle West	22,196

## Health and Safety Training Unit

Corporate Services has a dedicated training team who are responsible for drafting and implementing a comprehensive training programme. Training requirements for 2022 were identified through the Performance Management Development System (PMDS) and prioritization given to health and safety training for specific roles. Health and Safety training requirements were also identified through risk assessments conducted by managers. In order to ensure effectiveness and value for money, training is delivered in-house where possible using internal trainers. External trainers are procured through the use of competitive quotes, this includes trainers who won tenders through the Regional Training Centre in Roscrea. With the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions in early 2022, a full programme of training was delivered which included addressing backlogs built up as a result of Covid-19 restrictions.

See below a list of training arranged by the Health and Safety Training Unit during 2022:

Courses	No. of Attendees
Abrasive Wheels	74
Asbestos Handling	19
Banksman	36
CSCS Locating Underground Services	8
CSCS Signing, Lighting, Guarding	25
CSCS Signing, Lighting, Guarding Update	9
CSCS Site Dumper	3
CSCS Telescopic Handler	13
CSCS Tractor	1
Chainsaw	4
Confined Spaces – Medium Risk	9
CPC Driving	133
Dealing with Aggressive and Violent Behaviour	111
First Aid Response	27
First Aid Response Refresher	15
First Aid Basic	16
Fire Warden	83
Fire Manager	11
Lawnmower and Strimmer	2
Manual Handling	487
Ride on Roller	29
Safe Use of Pesticides	12
Safe Pass	201
Sharps and Biological Hazards	2
Working at Heights	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,341</b>

## National Day of Commemoration

The Council hosted a Day of Commemoration Ceremony on Sunday, 10 July to honour all Irish men and women who died in past wars or on service with the United Nations. This was the tenth year in which the ceremony was held at Merchant's Quay. The 12th Infantry Battalion, Sarsfield Barracks performed the Guard of Honour and rendered honours when the National Flag was hoisted to full mast. Representatives of the Catholic Church, Church of Ireland, the Jewish Community and Quakers conducted the multi faith commemoration, at which, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley presided.

The music for the event was provided by Limerick based Choir 'The Curraghgower Singers' under the direction of Choir Master, Mr. Timothy Schinnick, along with Bulger, Don Phelan, Uilleann Piper, Michael O'Connell and Drummer, Sadhbh Ryan.



## Local Electoral Area Briefings for Metropolitan District

Local Electoral Area Briefings to discuss operational issues relating to Limerick City East, North and West are usually held on the first Tuesday and Wednesday of every month except for the month of August. A total of 33 Briefings were held in 2022.

## Christmas Prayer Service

A Christmas Prayer Service was held in Istabraq Hall, Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay on 22 December at which Councillors and staff participated.

## Annual Service Delivery Plan

Section 134 (a) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, requires the Chief Executive to prepare a Service Delivery Plan annually which identifies the principal services to be provided by the Council to the public following the adoption of its Annual Budget. The Service Delivery Plan sets out the work programme for each Directorate based on the adopted budget.

The Elected Members at their March Council Meeting adopted Limerick City and County Council's Annual Service Delivery Plan 2022. The review of the 2021 Annual Service Delivery Plan was circulated to Members as part of the 2022 Annual Service Delivery Plan.

## Irish Language Scheme 2019-2022

The Official Languages Act 2003 provides for the preparation by public bodies of a language scheme detailing the services, which they will provide through the medium of Irish, through the medium of English, and through the medium of Irish and English and the measures to be adopted to ensure that any service not currently provided by the body through the medium of the Irish language will be so provided within an agreed timeframe.

Limerick City and County Council adopted its second Irish Language Scheme for 2019 – 2022 on 1 February 2019 and is committed to delivering on all aspects of its Irish Language Scheme. Limerick

City and County Council is guided by the principle that the provision of Irish Language services should be based on a range of factors, including the following:

- The importance of a proactive approach to the provision of services in the Irish language, the level of demand for such services;
- The resources, including human and financial resources, and the capacity of the Council to develop or access the necessary language capability to provide these services.

Limerick City and County Council established a cross departmental Irish Language Working Group who convened on a number of occasions to further the Council's Irish Language Scheme commitments.

The Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021 was enacted in December 2021 to build on the progress made under the Official Languages Act 2003 and to increase and improve the provision of public services through the medium of Irish. Limerick City and County Council is committed to meet the requirements of the legislation and began monitoring Irish Language Advertising in 2022.

## Entertainment and Associated Expenses

Expenditure on entertainment and associated expenses included costs associated with Freedom of Limerick Ceremony, Receptions, scrolls for recipients at receptions, catering costs associated with same and corporate gifts.

## Directly Elected Mayor for Limerick

The General Scheme of the Local Government (Directly Elected Mayor with Executive Functions in Limerick City and County) Bill 2021, was approved by Government and published in April 2021. Following the publication by the Joint Oireachtas Committee for Housing, Local Government and Heritage of its Report on Pre-Legislative Scrutiny of the General Scheme in November 2021, the recommendations of the Committee's report are under consideration.

Minister O'Brien advised Limerick City and County Council that drafting of this complex Bill is progressing steadily and publication of the Bill has been identified as a priority for the Department as soon as practicable. The timing of elections for a mayor in Limerick will be decided by Government once the legislation is enacted.

## Health And Safety

Limerick City and County Council recognises its obligation to protect as far as reasonably practicable the safety health and welfare of all employees and anyone who may be affected by our work activities.

The Council has a safety management system that is founded on the continuous improvement model. The Council's Health and Safety Department provides guidance and support, in addition to monitoring and coordinating all health and safety activities.

The continuous improvement of the safety management system is achieved through the identification and implementation of an annual programme of work. Each year additional tasks are undertaken for reasons such as audit, inspection, change to legislation.

Below is a table of tasks undertaken in 2022

Task Origin	Number	Closed	Open
Programme of Work	10	09	1
Additional Task	17	15	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>3</b>

## Archives

In line with Section 80 of the Local Government Act 2001, Limerick City and County Council Archives Service provides for the preservation of and access to the archival records of Limerick City and County Council. The archives collections relate to the functions of Limerick City and County Council and its predecessor bodies. The collection includes Minute Books, financial records and Manager's Orders reflecting local administration. The collection includes donations of important collections relating to Limerick from private sources including the De Vere Papers of Curraghchase and the Chamber of Commerce.

In association with the National Archives of Ireland, the Archive Service hosted a major exhibition 'The Treaty 1921: Records from the Archives in Merchant's Quay marking the centenary of the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty, one of the most important documents in modern Irish history. Using the Treaty as a centrepiece, the exhibition opens up significant historical records, official documents and private papers including the first public presentation of both the Irish and British copies of the Treaty document. The exhibition located the Treaty negotiations in the political context of the Irish revolution and a world turned upside down by the First World War. Beginning with the exploratory talks between Éamon de Valera, President of Dáil Éireann, and British Prime Minister David Lloyd George during the summer of 1921, it detailed the work of the Irish plenipotentiaries and their secretariat, by presenting the documentary record that they left behind. The exhibition also included records from Limerick's own archive collections illustrating the local political reaction to the signing of the Treaty.

The Archive Service continued to develop access to collections online. The Owen Bresnan Papers, records of the well-known local historian and folklorist associated with Lough Gur, were digitised and made available on Limerick.ie

The Archives and Records Management Team supported and extended the LITe programme, a cloud-based Records Management System on

a MS365 SharePoint Online platform to include project sites and external sites. The system supports mobile and collaborative working with governance of digital records.

## Data Protection

Limerick City and County Council as a data controller must ensure that it processes the personal data of its staff, customers, providers and any other individuals (referred to as data subjects) in compliance with data protection legislation.

The Role of the Council's Data Protection Officer is set out in Article 39 of the GDPR. For all data protection related matters, Limerick City and County Council's Data Protection Officer can be contacted at [dataprotectionofficer@limerick.ie](mailto:dataprotectionofficer@limerick.ie)

The Data Protection Unit received 41 Data Subject Access Requests in 2022. This was a decrease of one request from the previous year. Of these requests, 21 were granted and part granted, 15 refused, two withdrawn and three requests remained live cases at year end.

In the case of the 15 refusals mentioned above, the Council had no personal data in respect of 9 of these requests, as the Council had no cameras at the relevant locations or there was no relevant CCTV footage available. One case was refused and forwarded to the Data Protection Officer in Cork County Council for further processing as the request related to the Cork area and the remaining five cases were refused as the documents/footage requested were deemed not personal data and fell outside the scope of Data Protection Legislation.

The Data Protection Unit received 59 Third Party Data Access Requests in 2022. Of these, 53 requests were from An Garda Síochána of which 27 were granted/part granted, 22 were refused as the Council did not have the personal data requested, one reminder was sent to An Garda Síochána and three were withdrawn.

Six requests were received from other Third Parties. Four were granted as relevant records were retrieved and a legal basis to share personal

data had been identified. One request was deemed incomplete and One is a live case at year end.

The Data Protection Unit provided the following training to staff of Limerick City and County Council:

- General Data Protection mandatory online training – 745 people trained to date since January 2021
- Data Champion Training and Data Subject Access Request Training was provided as required throughout 2022
- DPIA Training was provided on the 18th and 25th May, 2022

Under Article 13 of the General Data Protection Regulation, the Council as a data controller is required where personal data is obtained from a data subject, to provide the data subject with specific information. Privacy statements were updated and published throughout the year as required on the Council's website.

Limerick City and County Council CCTV and Drone policies were updated during the year and published on our website [www.limerick.ie](http://www.limerick.ie)

On foot of the decision received in December 2021 from the Data Protection Commission pertaining to an audit on surveillance technologies deployed, the Council undertook significant remedial actions in order to meet and comply with all corrective actions. Limerick City and County Council assembled a cross departmental team including members of An Garda Síochána to address the findings of the decision. A subsequent on-site inspection was carried out by the Data Protection Commission and feedback from this inspection was positive. The matter is now finalised.

In September 2022 the Data Protection Commission's ePrivacy Investigations Unit, brought to our attention issues in relation to Cookies on our website. With the support of our Digital Services team, we promptly rectified the concerns and are in compliance with the legislation.

The Unit continues to advise and support all departments to ensure Limerick City and County Council meets its statutory obligations under Data Protection legislation.

## Facilities Management

The Facilities Management (FM) team continued in 2022 to manage the safety and building maintenance of seven corporate offices for Limerick City and County Council, comprising Merchant's Quay Headquarters (HQ), Dooradoyle, Lissanalta House, Carlton House, Barrow House, Roxboro Regeneration Office and Limerick Museum.

With a property portfolio of approximately 32,000m<sup>2</sup> area, the FM team managed office facilities for up to 800 council staff and 400 tenants. The offices are of various ages and condition, including protected structures.

The everyday building maintenance and FM service for the corporate offices was provided by a Maintenance Contractor and the Council FM Manager and in house FM team who:-

- Managed Health & Safety, statutory servicing and planned preventative maintenance of the offices
- Managed the Multi Annual Building Maintenance Services Contract
- Delivered essential building services repairs and upgrade works
- Provided building security services
- Managed housekeeping, contract cleaning, waste disposal and reduction on energy usage
- Delivered office fit outs and refurbishment
- Scheduled and facilitated office moves
- Procured consultant design team services and works contracts
- Project managed the assessment of proposed building upgrades projects
- Facilitated the hosting of public civic events, council meetings, election counts and visiting dignitaries
- Coordinated the FM needs of office tenants

## FM Projects

In 2022, the FM team focused on the following projects in the corporate offices:-

- Management of building energy as part of the Reduce Your Use campaign to reduce energy usage and the increased budgets due to rising energy costs. This included a programme of office lighting replacement with LED energy efficient fittings and in November, the NSAI confirmed the recertification of the Council's ISO 50001 Energy Management Cert following a two-day audit in which the FM team participated.
- Preparation of detailed Building Asset Register to track plant maintenance and replacement to inform planned preventative maintenance and the scope of the contract for the Corporate Building maintenance services tender competition, which commenced in November. This contract will include a Computer Aided Facility Management (CAFM) system to coordinate, manage and track building repairs.
- Management of safety and maintenance of mechanical and electrically operated gates, doors, barriers and lifts
- Updating of Building Fire Registers and management of Emergency Evacuation drills with Fire Wardens and Managers
- Working with the Data Protection Officer to install new signage and enhanced procedures to ensure compliance with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) for building CCTV systems
- Coordinating and facilitating various office moves to provide collaborative working spaces for council teams
- Delivery of an office fit out to accommodate the new Active Travel team in Barrow House
- Upgrading staff tea station facilities in the Dooradoyle offices
- Replacement of microphones in the Metropolitan District Council Chamber in Merchant's Quay HQ
- Replacement of segregated recycling bins in Merchants Quay HQ and the Dooradoyle offices to encourage improved waste segregation and to reduce waste collection

- Procurement of office furniture for staff availing of remote home working
- Replacement of boiler in the Lissanalta House office
- Provision of building maintenance and COVID-19 safety advice to Council office managers over buildings such as Municipal District offices, Fire Stations, Arts Buildings, and Libraries.



Active Travel Offices, Barrow House

### COVID 19 Office Safety

In 2022, the FM team continued to meet the challenge to keep the offices COVID-19 safe for staff and public customers attending the buildings, concentrating on enhanced contract cleaning regimes in line with Government advice.

As 2022 progressed, restrictions on office occupancy limits and public accessing the offices lifted, allowing removal of COVID-19 signage in the buildings and a gradual return to full building use.

### FM Team Staff Training

The FM team underwent various training courses to enhance and develop their skills and experience. This training included Green Public Procurement, Financial Governance, E-Tendering, Fire Warden and Fire Manager training, Behavioural Safety programme, 1st Aid and Manual handling, Fire Management, Dealing with Aggression and Violence, Climate Action Plan awareness, GDPR and Data Protection Impact Assessment.

## Procurement

Limerick City and County Council recognised its responsibility in adhering to Procurement Rules as set out in the European Unions' Public Procurement Directive 2014/24/EU. Limerick City and County Council Procurement Policy 2021-2023 was adopted in April 2021. This policy will ensure all procurement undertaken is done so in a manner that is consistent with and in adherence to European Directives, National Legislation, Policy and Guidelines.

The Procurement Unit staff provides support and guidance in respect of procurement activities. They monitor procurement compliance and measures compliance against total spend. In 2022, the Council shows a 99% compliance rate against the annual spend.

The staff are also responsible for the setting up and extending existing procurement references on request from all departments within the Council.

The following shows the number of Procurement References dealt with from January – December 2022.

New Procurement References set up	410
Procurement References extended as per signed contract/arrangement	66

The Requisitions Oversight Unit was established as a result of an internal audit and falls within the remit of Procurement. This Unit provides a separation of duties in the procurement cycle and the function of the team is to validate each requisition raised across the entire Council to ensure procurement compliance which brings consistency and a standard to requisitions being raised across the entire Council.

18,904 requisitions were handled between January and December 2022

- Approved requisitions account for 83% of the total requisitions actioned.
- Rejected requisitions account for 17% of the total requisitions actioned.

Period	Approved	Rejected	Total Requisitions Actioned
Jan-Dec 2022	15,625	3,279	18,904

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.

## Customer Services

During the course of 2022, the Customer Services Team worked tirelessly to engage positively with our Elected Members, Public Representatives, Limerick's citizens and visitors. As the front-line team engaging with the public on multiple channels, including the Council's telephone contact centre, dedicated emails, MyLimerick.ie, Twitter etc huge efforts were made to respond to the public's enquiries and service requests as efficiently as possible.

With the Council's Office infrastructure open throughout 2022, there was a shift in the service delivery channels. Visits to the public counter naturally increased with clients returning to engage with the Council on a face-to-face basis. Total visits to the public counter were recorded as 24,291, with January being the highest month, accounting for 2,710 visits and the lowest being April, with 1,547 visits. Counter services included the review and validation of Housing Support Services applications, completion of cash desk receipting transactions, validation of Household Waste Subsidy applications, signposting individuals to the appropriate offices / colleagues and general enquiries in relation to the hundreds' of services provided by the Authority.

The back office expanded its services to include cash receipting terminals, which resulted in a total of 17,219 receipting tasks being completed, with the value exceeding €12.7m throughout the year. Other tasks included postal dispatch of information and application forms, responding to and disseminating incoming emails and all other social media contacts, and managing the call centre. 126,709 incoming calls were received with

55.94% being concluded at first point of contact. Email activity also noted a decrease of 9% with the volume reducing to 34,313. Applications in relation to Burning of Agricultural Vegetation remained consistent with the previous year's activity. 202 applications were received with 25% being submitted on-line.

The overall total volume of Customer Relationship Management (CRM) cases created throughout 2022 was 33,493 with 7,601 being received from public representatives. 83.6% of the overall total volume of cases created were closed throughout the year. The MyLimerick self-help case creation portal continued to provide an avenue for customers to engage directly with the Council. The total volume of cases for 2022 were 3,099, with 88% being received from public representatives, i.e. 2,753.

The introduction of a Councillor Liaison Officer, has ensured that the Councillors cases have been managed to an optimum level, with Councillors feedback very positive on this initiative. The total volume of cases received amounted to 2,299, with 73% being closed within the year.

Customer Services, in its role as the first point of contact for the Council, continues to provide a supportive role for the Operational Services for the Council, including Roads, Housing Operations and Maintenance, Parks and Open Spaces, Environmental services etc. The ICT/Training Officer co-ordinated and delivered a number of training workshops in order to optimise the proficiency in which the CRM platform is used throughout the organisation.

Throughout 2022, whilst Limerick did not witness severe weather events as those recorded in previous years, the team continued to respond to service requests relating to flooding risks, fallen trees, the need to clear roads after road traffic accidents, requirement to undertake pothole repairs, illegal dumping etc.

## Freedom of Information Requests

It is the policy of Limerick City and County Council to give members of the public access to information held by the Authority in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2014. Further information and application forms are available on the Council's website <https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/your-council/freedom-of-information>

In 2022 Limerick City and County Council received 208 requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2014. The following is the breakdown of decisions made on these requests:

Open cases at 01/01/2022	12
Requests received 2022	208
Granted	39
Part Granted	76
Refused	41
Withdrawn (of which 26 were invalid)	46
Transferred	0
Open cases at 31/12/2022	6

## Ombudsman Requests

The Office of the Ombudsman was established under the Ombudsman Act 1980. The role of the Office is to investigate complaints about administrative actions, delays or inactions adversely affecting persons or bodies in their dealings with state bodies including Local Authorities.

In 2022 Limerick City and County Council dealt with 55 complaints that were made to the Ombudsman in relation to decisions/actions taken by the Council. Of these 55 complaints the following is the breakdown of the results of the investigations carried out by Office of the Ombudsman:

- Cases closed 24
- Decisions not yet determined 31

## Access to Information on the Environment

Limerick City and County Council comply with Access to Information on the Environment Regulations 2007 to 2014 whereby, subject to certain exceptions, information relating to the Environment must be made available on request. In 2022 Limerick City and County Council received 14 requests. The following is the breakdown of decisions made:

Open cases at 01/01/2022	1
Requests received 2022	17
Granted	8
Part Granted	3
Refused	5
Open cases at 31/12/2022	1

## Re-Use of Public Sector Information

European Communities (Re-use of Public Sector Information) Regulations 2005 allows an individual or a legal entity to make a request to Public Bodies to release documents for re-use.

Limerick City and County Council received 0 requests in 2022.

## MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

2022 once again saw the Marketing and Communications team focus on promoting Limerick as an ideal City and County to live in, work in, study in and of course, to visit as tourists. The team launched a four week, Limerick Student City social and digital marketing campaign, 'There's No Place Like Limerick', in collaboration with the higher education institutes University of Limerick, Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest and Mary Immaculate College to promote Limerick as a leading University City ahead of the CAO application deadline 2022.

The campaign also featured students from College of Further Education, Mulgrave Street, Limerick and Griffith College, Limerick. The return of the Limerick St. Patrick's Festival was a major highlight of 2022, marking the first, in person parades, since before Covid-19.

The team managed a four and a half week multi-media marketing campaign up to 20 March across social, digital, radio and print media, targeting local, regional and national audiences. In April, MarComms concluded a four-week Spring Campaign social and digital tourism marketing campaign, 'Re-Embrace Limerick', to local and national audiences.

The campaign encouraged people to get back to experiencing the joys of a life without limits in Limerick. As always, the month of May was dominated by the annual Riverfest weekend (May Bank Holiday weekend). Riverfest Limerick secured national coverage across TV, digital and radio with features on Virgin Media News, Irish Independent, ie, Evoke.ie, Today FM and Ireland's Classic Hits. Some topline Figures included – Total impressions: 4.9 million | Video views: 532,032 | Website Views: 158,239 | #RiverfestLimerick impressions: 4.6 million.

A second Limerick Student City Campaign was launched in the run in to CAO Change of Mind Deadline date, July 1st, to persuade potential students to choose Limerick. The social media

campaign promoted Limerick's offering as a complete college experience – from cutting edge institutions to Ireland's most vibrant social scene. Tourism and hospitality businesses across Limerick reaped the benefits of 'Limerick 11', a major multi-media, national summer tourism campaign, which was supported by Fáilte Ireland and promoted Limerick's emerging status as a Gateway City to the Wild Atlantic Way and one of Ireland's leading destinations for value, welcome and excitement.

Building on the success of 2021's 'Double Your Summer' tourism campaign, local service providers and operators were engaged and a confident and original tourism offering a range of incentives and reasons for visitors to come to Limerick was developed. The hook for the campaign celebrated 11 centuries since the foundation of Limerick in 922AD. The campaign was framed in terms of "Eleven," with fantastic stakeholder offers, itineraries and things to see and do and unique prize packages for visitors to enjoy. A dedicated campaign hub [www.limerick.ie/11](http://www.limerick.ie/11) was created to showcase local stakeholder accommodation, dining and retail offers and promotions.

In what is now almost an annual event, the MarComms team once more worked closely with Limerick GAA to provide a coordinated communications campaign around the AllIreland Senior Hurling Final which took place on 17 July and the subsequent homecoming at TUS Gaelic Grounds on 18 July following Limerick's three-in-a-row victory.

In addition to leading the media element of the campaign, the team also managed the digital and social promotion of the events, provided live social coverage and commissioned photography and videography for distribution to local and national media with the events securing widespread coverage generating hugely positive PR for Limerick.

Following on from the Limerick Student City campaigns earlier in 2022, the team, in August and September produced a Limerick Student City Z card map and guide, highlighting the range of

off-campus activities on offer to Limerick's third level student population. This campaign was developed with tailored digital content to reach wider audiences through a series of Instagram Reels. The team also visited the UL, MIC, TUS and TUS LSAD campuses to further encourage the new student cohort to engage with Limerick.ie and its social platforms. As we look ahead to 2023, the Marketing & Communications team continues to strive to improve communication channels across and outside the organisation.

Christmas in Limerick was the final "major" campaign for the team which was launched in King John's Castle on November 18. The campaign, across print and digital platforms showcased the wonderful programme of events on offer in Limerick City, with Milestone being the anchor event manager for the season. The MarComms team worked with Piquant to create all print and social collateral, with the Christmas in Limerick video "together this Christmas" a real highlight. The Department's activity also included:

#### **Corporate Communications:**

- PR and media management of Council projects including the issuing of over 200 news releases, drafting over 100 Mayoral speeches, answering hundreds of queries from local and national media and managing the Council's numerous social media accounts.
- Working with the HSE, UL Hospitals, An Garda Síochána, third level and further education institutions, Shannon Group and other local authorities across the Mid-West to communicate collaboratively to the public about Covid-19 through #MidWestTogether.
- Providing PR and marketing support to internal Council departments for their public communications campaigns throughout the year.
- Participating in #YourCouncilDay, the national social media initiative promoting services provided by local authorities.
- Posting thousands of times to Limerick City and County Council Twitter account with total followers at 17,000.

#### **Marketing 2022**

##### **Limerick.ie and social media platforms:**

- Website visitors were up by over 10% on 2021 figures with over 1.9million visitors over 2022. Website views were up by over 16% on the previous year with over 4.2million website views. Over 3,500 new pieces of content were created on the site including events, articles, amenities and information on Council services.
- Issued Limerick.ie weekly 'What's On' newsletters, three Limerick Business Bulletins and 12 monthly Council Connect staff e-zines.
- Posted 420 times to Limerick.ie Facebook with total followers of 33,671 - 4% increase on last year.
- Posted 387 times to Limerick.ie Twitter with total followers of 21,330 - 4% increase on last year.
- Posted 184 times and created 190 Stories on Limerick.ie Instagram with total followers of 27,283 - 37% increase on last year.
- Posted 257 times to Limerick City and County Council LinkedIn with total followers of 10,000 - 23% increase on last year.

##### **Festivals and Events:**

- Ran the Limerick St. Patrick's Festival, the first in-person parades since before Covid-19. MarComms managed a four and a half week multi-media marketing campaign across social, digital, radio and print media targeting local, regional and national audiences.
- Managed the Riverfest marketing campaign, which secured national coverage across TV, digital and radio including features on Virgin Media News, Irish Independent, Evoke.ie, Today FM and Classic Hits.
- MarComms worked closely with Limerick GAA to provide a coordinated communications campaign around the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final, which took place on July 17 and the subsequent homecoming at TUS Gaelic Grounds on the 18. This involved the digital and social promotion of the events, live social coverage and commissioning of photography and videography for distribution to local and national media, generating significant PR for Limerick.

- Ran a 3 week social and digital campaign to drive awareness of Limerick's Halloween offering, including the production of a Halloween 'What's on' guide, social ads and campaign specific e-newsletters.
- Managed a 6 week multi-media marketing campaign promoting Christmas in Limerick, showcasing Limerick as a destination of choice for shopping, overnight stays and weekend breaks and encouraging footfall in Limerick.

**Invest:**

- Secured a number of comms features to increase brand awareness and attract increased investment to Limerick, namely:
  - Limerick Chamber Magazine
  - Irish Times
  - Eolas Magazine
  - All Ireland Business Summit event brochure
  - Limerick Post
  - InBusiness Magazine
  - Council Review
- Created a range of new assets including a video asset and accompanying social cutdowns, a print brochure and a revamped Limerick. ie/Business section, featuring new copy and imagery.
- Provided ongoing support to our Trade and Investment colleagues in the provision of branded merchandise and collateral for trade visits, delegations etc.
- In May, we worked on the 'Limerick to London' voyage of the Ilen ship to forge economic connections between both cities.
- MarComms attended the AIBF Summit in Croke Park, where Limerick was used as a 'power brand' case study.
- Collaborated with Limerick Chamber of Commerce on their upcoming Live Limerick updated website.

**Education:**

- Created new Limerick Student City brand guidelines, logo pack and graphics to bring them in line with the Brand Limerick family.
- Collaborated with Limerick's higher education institutions: UL, MIC and TUS in the creation of a video asset 'There's no Place like Limerick' and ran a joint social media and digital campaign in January to promote Limerick as a leading university city ahead of the CAO application deadline (Feb 1st).
- Ran a social media CAO Change of Mind campaign in the run up to deadline date (July 1st), promoting Limerick's offering as a complete college experience – from cutting edge institutions to Ireland's most vibrant social scene.
- Ran a 4 week social media 'Welcome to Limerick' campaign to introduce freshers to Limerick, get them off campus and in to experience the vibrancy of the city. On campus visits were also organised by the Marketing team on all four campuses to meet with students in person.
- Featured in the MIC Student Information Guide.
- Collaborated with UL, TUS and MIC on the 'Limerick Student City Rent a Room' print campaign.
- Created a Limerick Student City map and guide in print and digital format.
- Collaborated with UL in the UL 50 promotional city banner campaign featuring Brand Limerick.
- Ran an initiative to introduce international students from UL and TUS to Limerick City on Culture Night in collaboration with Culture and Arts and Trade and Investment.

**Tourism:**

- Created a new brand for Adare which is not only reflective of Brand Limerick but also stands for the already recognised and distinct personality of Adare village. The brand will be launched and rolled out in February 2023.
- Continued interdepartmental collaboration in preparation for the Ryder Cup.
- Ran a social media campaign 'Re-Embrace Limerick' in spring, in response to the challenges facing our hospitality stakeholders. Two compelling video assets were created highlighting Limerick's daytime and night-time offering.
- Managed a major 6-week multi-media domestic tourism campaign, 'Limerick 11' to position Limerick as a leading tourism destination for value, welcome and excitement. The campaign engaged social media influencers with a national reach as well as the creation of compelling content including dedicated reels and visitor itineraries, competitions and stakeholder offers.
- Secured a number of national tourism related features, including:
  - Irish Times
  - Irish Examiner
  - Your Daily Adventure Guide
  - Best of Ireland Series – Limerick Guide
  - Created new match book advertising and hoarding as part of Limerick City and County Council's sponsorship of Treaty United.
- Commenced the creation new assets and collateral for our upcoming 'Limerick on Foot' campaign, including the production of new video and still photography assets, copy for the campaign map and guide and the production of a new map asset promoting the Three Bridges Walk. Funding also secured via ORIS to promote three County trails: Kilmoylan Nature Walk Trail, Liskennett Forest Trail and Galtymore Hiking Trail.
- New photography asset creation to increase our promotional asset base – featuring family cast members specifically.
- Attended Tourism Ireland and Failte Ireland industry updates.

**MUNSTER REGIONAL CONTROL CENTRE**

The Munster Regional Communications Centre (MRCC) is located adjacent to Mulgrave Street Fire Station. The MRCC is a centralised 24-hour service providing rapid response and mobilisation to 999/112 emergency fire calls. Limerick City and County Council is the contracting Authority for this Centre and provides the service on behalf of the seven member Fire Authorities in Munster (Clare County Council, Cork City Council, Cork County Council, Kerry County Council, Limerick City and County Council, Tipperary County Council and Waterford City and County Council).

There were a total of 28,583 calls handled during the period 2022 of which 11,486 were mobilisations to incidents.

# NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SHARED SERVICES CENTRE





# NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SHARED SERVICES CENTRE

## HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT SHARED SERVICES CENTRE

Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) operates the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Shared Services Centre (SSC) on behalf of 31 local authorities and the Dublin Regional Homeless Executive (DRHE). The HAP Shared Services Centre forms part of the National and Regional Shared Services Directorate within Limerick City and County Council and is supported by council services including HR, ICT, Finance and other support services of the Council. Total annual expenditure on HAP was in excess of €670m in 2022.

HAP has been identified as a key part of the national strategy to provide a more integrated system of housing supports which:

- Allows all social housing supports to be accessed through the local authority; and
- Allows recipients to take up full-time employment and retain their housing support

The aim of the HAP SSC is to provide greater financial and operational efficiencies to its local authority clients through centralised service delivery; to provide best practice customer service through an ongoing commitment to investment in new SSC management technologies; and, to be a best practice data management and analytics hub for HAP, contributing to better policy, strategy and operations for HAP SSC and its stakeholders.

During the year, HAP SSC were involved in the below projects:

- Digitalisation of the National HAP Application Form: enabling greater real-time completion by the HAP recipient and landlord. Once approved the data automatically uploads into the HAP systems thereby increasing efficiency and

accuracy of data. Go live is expected in Quarter 1 2023.

- HAP APP: this app (available on all mobile phones) will enable HAP recipients to make payments, view balances, statements and access documentation on their mobile phones. Go live is expected in Quarter 1 2023.
- Roll-out of Digital Postbox: this will enable HAP recipients access their quarterly statements via MyGovID thereby removing the need to print and post circa 240,000 letters annual. Go live expected in Quarter 1 2023.

The principal financial transactions carried out by HAP SSC are:

- As the national customer contact centre for HAP, daily liaison with HAP landlords and tenants, and with local authority clients.
- Set-up of HAP tenancies, in 2022 a total of 8,634 tenancies were completed.
- Payment of monthly landlord rent which in December 2022 was in excess of €55.8 million per month.
- Charge of tenant differential rent for all tenancies which is in excess of €3.1 million per week.
- Management of the debt collection process (95-99% collection rate monthly).
- Over 70,000 customer calls handled by the debt collection department.
- Monthly recoupment of costs from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH).
- Monitoring, reviewing and maintenance of HAP tenancies with over 62,479 amendments completed in 2022.
- Tax clearance checking of landlords.
- Data analytics for stakeholders including local authorities and government departments.
- At the end of 2022 over 108,711 tenancies have been set up since the inception of the scheme.
- 59,258 active HAP tenancies were managed by the HAPSSC as of 31 December 2022.

## SOUTHERN REGION WASTE MANAGEMENT

### Southern Region Waste Management Plan 2015-2021

The Southern Waste Region comprises 10 local authorities: Carlow, Clare, Cork City, Cork County, Limerick City and County, Kerry, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Waterford City and County, and Wexford. The Southern Waste Region is one of three waste regions in the country. The other Waste Regions are the Eastern Midlands (EMR) and the Connaught Ulster (CUR) Waste Regions.

Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) and Tipperary County Council are the lead authorities for the Southern Waste Region. They are responsible for the co-ordination, implementation and monitoring of the Southern Region Waste Management Plan 2015 – 2021(the Plan) through the Regional Waste Management Planning Offices (RWMPGs).

A new “ National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2023-2029” has been prepared by all the lead authorities and will be published in draft for public consultation in early 2023 following approval by the CCMA National Oversight Group.

The New Plan is the first National Waste Plan and sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period 2023 to 2029 and LCCC will be leading the implementation of this new plan in the Southern Region.

### My Waste.ie

A number of national initiatives were progressed during 2022 including promotion of materials to assist all businesses to better segregate and prevent waste. Locally Bus Éireann, the Courts Service, academic institutions and many businesses have availed of free signage and guidance as part of this initiative: [www.mywaste.ie/business](http://www.mywaste.ie/business).

A Food Waste Recycling Project was launched to distribute over 150,000 food waste recycling packs to households nationwide. A new National Food Waste Recycling Week took place from 30 May to 6 June with all local authorities across the region providing advice and guidance to citizens on managing their food waste as well as distributing caddy packs at Bloom over the June Bank Holiday weekend.

The “Choose to Reuse “campaign ran in November and December 2022 to reduce the reliance on single use packaging and food related items such as beverage cups.

Refill Ireland tap map app (<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/tapmaprefill/id1586319296>) an initiative to encourage more consumption of tap water and reduce unnecessary plastic bottle usage has 71 of refill points listed for Limerick City and County Council including three on Limerick’s Greenway.

These Projects were funded by Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC).

## Reuse Month

Reuse Month (October 2022) established six years ago has the main objective of encouraging more citizen awareness about the value of reusing and repairing everyday items helping individuals and communities transition to a circular economy. Four events were hosted in Limerick including a staff Reuse Challenge. The annual Upcycle Challenge competition as part of Reuse Month was very successful with over 91 entries nationwide from community groups such as Men's Sheds, schools, professionals and individuals. Castleconnell Tidy Towns won the Best Community initiative for refurbishing an ornamental water pump as a working water fountain in the local national school.



Choose to Reuse Campaign December 2022



Choose to Reuse Campaign December 2022



Promotion of Food Waste Separation and Recycling

## Single Use Plastics at Events

In August 2022 the RWMPOs engaged Native Events to implement the immediate term recommendations of the Report on the reduction or elimination of Single Use Plastics (SUP) at public events in a Post Pandemic Society. In 2022, a focus group, of relevant stakeholders, has been established and the first of four pilot events took place at the Púca Festival, Co. Meath.

## Historic landfill

Progress on the road map for historic landfill has been achieved, investigations and remediation were funded by DECC and approximately €1.38M was spent in the Southern Region in 2022.

## Waste Capacity Monitoring

The RWMPOs published a quarterly waste capacity report during 2022 and these indicated that capacity to manage residual municipal waste is limited as commercial streams have not reached pre-pandemic levels again no emergency responses were required in 2022 but Ireland is still reliant on export to manage the day to day residual municipal waste generated.

## Construction and Demolition Waste

The RWMPO worked with Limerick 2030 and the Place-making and Public Realm Department of LCCC and secured EPA funding in 2022 to prepare Resource and Waste Management plans based on the EPA's BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES for the preparation of resource and waste management plans for these construction and demolition projects to help LCCC to transition to a circular economy.



Promotion of Food Waste Separation and Recycling

## FIRE AND EMERGENCY

Limerick City and County Council as Fire Authority operates and manages the Fire and Emergency Services in Limerick. Limerick Fire and Rescue Service has responsibility to protect the life and property of circa 200,000 people living in circa 70,000 houses and circa 18,000 commercial premises. Civil Defence is also part of the Fire and Emergency Services Department. This is a volunteer based organisation which supports the frontline emergency services as well as assisting at community events.

The Fire and Emergency Services Department has five broad areas of activity that are mutually supportive in the delivery of an integrated service to the public.

- Fire and Rescue Service
- Fire Prevention and Building Control
- Major Emergency Management
- Civil Defence
- Water Safety

## Fire Prevention and Building Control

The function of the Fire Prevention and Building Control Department is to ensure the safety, health and welfare of people who occupy or use buildings, through ensuring the reduction of fire risk, proper means of escape, the access for people with disabilities and the conservation of fuel and energy.

To deliver these functions, the work of this department includes assessing Fire Safety Certificate applications and Disability Access Certificates, inspection of commercial buildings and apartment complexes, investigating complaints and giving Community Fire Safety talks.

## Fire and Rescue Service



Training

## Fire and Rescue Service

### Fire Safety Certificates

Statistics	
Total number of fire safety certificate applications received	154
Total number of fire safety certificate applications Granted	150
Total number of applications deemed invalid.	8
Buildings inspected as a % of new buildings notified to the local authority	14.5%
Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority	715
Number of new buildings notified to the local authority that were inspected	104

### Disability Access Certificates

Statistics	
Total No. of valid Disability Access Certificates received	99
Total No. of Disability Access Certificates Granted	88
Total No. of Disability Access Certificates invalidated	5

### Planning Referrals

Statistics	
Total number of Planning Referrals processed	182
Total number of Valid Commencement Notices received (includes CNs, Short CNs, Opt-out CNs and 7-day Notices)	461

### Civil Defence

Statistics	
Total Expenditure costs for Civil Defence	€282,379

## Major Emergency Management

The functions of the Major Emergency Management section is to implement the provisions of the 2006 Framework for Major Emergency Management in Limerick City and County Council, to review and oversee Limerick City and County Council's Major Emergency Plan and to continually enhance Limerick City and County Council's capacity to respond to a major emergency.

Limerick City and County Council held internal Major Emergency Management Committee meetings and attended the Regional Working Group and Regional Steering Group meetings in 2022.

The work completed during 2022 consisted of:

- Review of the Regional Risk Assessments
- Weekly review of weather forecast and tides by the Severe Weather Assessment Team
- Review of Major Emergency Plan and Sub Plan for Limerick City and County Council
- Participation in the Mid-West Training Courses such as Information Management Officer, On-Site Co-ordination and Media Liaison Officer
- Review and testing of the Atlantic Fuel Supply Company External Emergency Plan in accordance with the Control of Major Accidents involving Hazardous Materials Regulations 2015

## Civil Defence

Limerick Civil Defence is a statutory volunteer based organisation that supports the front line emergency services while assisting our local community. Limerick Civil Defence supports the frontline emergency services in dealing with severe weather, flooding, major accidents and searching for missing people. Limerick Civil Defence also supports community events throughout the year.

During the onset of COVID-19, Limerick Civil Defence became a front line service and supported the Local Authority, HSE and the community. Throughout the year, Patient Transfer's which began during COVID-19 have continued. As a result of Limerick Civil Defence's response to COVID-19,

the unit was accorded a Mayoral Reception by the Mayor of Limerick City and County, Councillor Francis Foley on 18 October. On 29 November, the Minister for Defence and Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney T.D., honoured Civil Defence volunteers for their work during the COVID-19 pandemic at a ceremony in Croke Park where specially commissioned medals were presented to volunteers.



Mayoral Reception

There were 130 types of tasks undertaken by Limerick Civil Defence throughout the year, examples as follows:

- Assisting the HSE with the transporting of patients to hospitals for appointments and clinics
- Transporting members of the public to vaccination centres
- Setting up of Emergency Rest Centres for Ukrainian Displaced Persons
- Transporting of Ukrainian Displaced Persons for GP clinics and hospital appointments
- Providing medical and water cover at this year's JP McManus Pro-am
- Providing medical cover at varied community events



JP McManus ProAm



COVID-19 Medal Presentation

### Long Service Medals presented

Four volunteers received 10 Years of Service and two volunteers received 30 Years of Service awards

### Water Safety

Lifeguards were employed by the Council for the June Bank Holiday weekend and from July to the start of September at Glin Pier and Kilteery Pier. The lifeguards were busy again this year with the arrival of many visitors to the Piers for their daily swim and a water safety week run by the local area committee.

With a mixed variety of weather during the summer months, bathing still took place. The annual cross-river swim from Clare to Glin Pier took place this year along with the Glin Triathlon which were a great success. Hopefully next year will see bigger numbers for the Triathlon as this year's triathlon clashed with other triathlons around the country.

The new slip way is getting continuous use for boating activity, with many water users taking to the estuary on windsurfers and small boats.

The new shed acquired by the Council at Glin Pier proved invaluable for the storage of lifeguard equipment in a dry and secure environment during the summer season.

Replacement of lifebuoys continued as required in Limerick with the assistance of the Public Participation Network and local voluntary groups and staff of the Council.

## WATER SERVICES

Established in 2013 as Ireland's national water utility, Irish Water is responsible for providing and developing water services throughout Ireland. The statutory responsibility for operation of water and wastewater infrastructure and delivering water and wastewater services transferred to Irish Water on enactment of the Water Services Act 2013.

Limerick City and County Council completed Service Level Agreements (S.L.A.) with Irish Water. The S.L.A. defines the relationship between the Council and Irish Water and is effective from January 2014. Irish Water is accountable to two regulatory bodies – The Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU), which is the economic regulator for the water industry, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which is the environmental regulator. Limerick City and County Council is still responsible for the rural water programme and activity in this area is outlined below.

### Rural Water Programme 2021

The three year funding programme, the 'Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019 -2021' was introduced by the Department of Housing, Planning and Environment in 2019. The funding for this programme was broken down into six sections or 'Measures':

- Measure 1 - Source Protection
- Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance
- Measure 3 - Enhancement of Schemes under Water Conservation
- Measure 4 - New Group Water Schemes
- Measure 5 - Transition of Schemes to the Public Sector
- Measure 6 - Community Connections

The total funding allocation to Limerick County for this programme is €1,483,998 spread over 15 Group Water Schemes (GWS). The allocations for the Multi Annual Programme were released in November 2019, therefore work on the various projects within the programme commenced in 2021. Some examples of projects are as follows:

### West Limerick GWS (Croagh, Kileedy, Cappagh and Granagh)

#### West Limerick GWS (Combined)

Under Measure 3 - Enhancement of Schemes under Water Conservation - installation of District Meter Areas (DMAs) and Bulk Meter Loggers with a link back to Supervisory, Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) across the West Limerick GWS. A number of Bulk Meter Loggers have been installed and over 50% of the linkage work for the SCADA system is now in place.

#### West Limerick GWS (Croagh)

Under Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance - plant upgrades at Croagh will be required to address the nitrates issue.

#### Under Measure 3 - Enhancement of Schemes

under Water Conservation - extension of 940m length of main to accommodate further site development at the Ballingarry side of Croagh. These works were completed in 2022.

#### West Limerick GWS (Kileedy)

Under Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance - installation of turbidity monitors, UVT monitors and UV installation at two sources. The installation of the new UV systems has been completed in 2021 and provides UVT monitoring capabilities. Turbidity monitors were installed throughout the scheme in 2022.

Under Measure 3 - Enhancement of Schemes under Water Conservation - installation of individual flow meters installed to monitor the abstraction rate from Shanaghan's Well and the Ballough Mountain Well. These works were completed in early 2022.

#### West Limerick GWS (Cappagh)

Under Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance - continuous UVT monitoring at source to confirm existing UV operation. The installation of the new UV system was completed in 2021 and is providing UVT monitoring capabilities.

Under Measure 3 - Enhancement of Schemes under Water Conservation - upgrade of 300m of

25mm main to 100mm diameter. This project was abandoned as proper procurement rules were not followed. Scheme will be considered for inclusion in submission for MARWP 2022-2024.

#### **Lough Gur GWS**

Under Measure 3 - Enhancement of Schemes under Water Conservation - sealing of joints and relaying of new watermain sections to ensure future service reliability. These works were carried out in late 2021.

#### **Ballinamona GWS**

Under Measure 3 - Enhancement of Schemes under Water Conservation - installation of flow meters and scour valves along the network was completed in 2022.

#### **Barnagh-Glendarragh GWS**

Under Measure 1 - Source Protection - installation of perimeter fencing around the wells and associated plant and sealing of joints where the concrete rings lining the spring wells meet to ensure primary protection to the groundwater. These works were completed in mid-2022.

Under Measure 3 - Enhancement of Schemes under Water Conservation- installation of a Flow-metre and sampling tap for the spring water wells to enable quantification of discharge from the springs. This work were completed in mid-2022.

#### **Carroward West GWS**

Under Measure 5 - Transition of Schemes to the Public Sector - booster upgrade works have been carried out to the publicly supplied GWS to facilitate Taking In Charge by Irish Water. A submission is being prepared for taking in charge of the scheme in early 2023.

#### **Subsidy towards the Operational Costs of Group Water Schemes**

The operational subsidy grant provides assistance to group water schemes supplying water for domestic use. Group water schemes are entitled to claim an annual and advance subsidy each year. The Council processed subsidy payments to assist with operational costs to the value of €1,510,883.00 to 35 Group Water Schemes in 2022.

#### **Private Well Grants**

Limerick City and County Council processed 110 grants administered to the value of €433,139.67 in 2022.

The purpose of the grant is to help householders provide good quality, potable drinking water for their homes.

Grants payable under the Domestic Lead Remediation (Financial Assistance) Regulations 2016. The scheme is available to assist owners of premises connected to a domestic water supply with the costs of replacing lead piping or related fittings located within the internal distribution system of the premises, as defined in the Water Services Act 2007. The applicant must occupy the premises concerned as his or her principal private residence. The Council processed one grant to the value of €2,468.63 in 2022.

## Ukraine Response Team

Limerick City and County Council set up a new team in 2022 to respond to the need for emergency accommodation for those fleeing the war in Ukraine. Limerick welcomed over 3,000 Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BoTPs) from Ukraine since early March with accommodation sourced for multi-occupancy temporary accommodation on behalf of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) throughout the city and county. As part of this accommodation solution, the Council;

- Operated two emergency rest centres (St. Lelia's, Kileely and the former convent in Cappamore)
- Sourced appropriate accommodation solutions for the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
- Supported the private operators of accommodation centres in navigating and responding to the needs of the new residents in Limerick
- Supported the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth in identifying, placing, transferring and supporting accommodation solutions for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection
- Supported the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage through examining and proposing refurbishment projects for consideration under the Emergency Refurbishment (Ukraine) Project and appropriate sites for potential Rapid Build Homes
- Worked with the International Organisation for Migration to facilitate use of Irish Red Cross pledged accommodation in Limerick. There were 278 hosts in Limerick by November 2022
- Launched the Offer a Home Initiative in Limerick to encourage those with a vacant property to offer a home to for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection resulting in over 20 homes being offered for use in 2023
- Worked with the Community Forum to ensure wraparound services are delivered to the new residents in Limerick
- Welcomed the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to Ireland, Larysa Gerasko to Limerick and met with the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Council Officials, members of the Community Forum and the residents of St. Lelia's on 21 June
- Sought and received Active Travel funding to establish the Limerick Bike Hub as a facility to receive donated bikes, repair them and donate them to refugees to be operated by Doras and PAUL Partnership with assistance from Limerick Civic Trust and Limerick Civil Defence. The Hub received its first donation of 19 recovered bikes from An Garda Síochána, which have all been repaired and donated.

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE





# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE

In the story of Limerick's ongoing economic resurgence, 2022 was a year where the results speak for themselves. Over 3,000 new jobs created and a record €705m of investments by companies including Eli Lilly, Analog Devices, Johnson & Johnson, Kneat Solutions and STATS Perform. Our Local Enterprise office supported 305 indigenous Limerick businesses with Feasibility, Priming and Business Expansion Grants and high-quality training supports.

The Economic Development Directorate, which is charged with the promotion and development of Limerick, has led the way in further developing key projects and progressing cutting edge space to attract more inward investment, including the completion of the Engine Collaboration Centre. This state of the art facility will accelerate innovation in Limerick by providing a supportive environment to facilitate and encourage higher levels of collaboration between multinationals, SME's and Start-ups in the heart of our city. Our city centre city revitalisation continued with the completion of the winter proofing outside dining project on Bedford Row and Thomas Street and further progress on the O'Connell Street redevelopment.

In another first, the Elected Members of the amalgamated council adopted the first consolidated Development Plan for the City and County of Limerick in June. The Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 includes a Building Height Strategy for the City, a Housing Strategy for Limerick, the Limerick 2030 Spatial and Economic Plan review document and a joint Retail Strategy for Limerick and the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan area.

In April, the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Leo Varadkar TD, announced the membership of the Shannon

Estuary Economic Taskforce. The Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce will assess the strategic strengths and comparative advantages of the Shannon Estuary and scope out potential economic opportunities for the area. Limerick has the potential to become a Green Energy Hub and a western "Digital Gateway" to Europe.

Limerick's connection with its Diaspora continued in 2022 with the inaugural Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Autumn School in Bruff. This unique event celebrated the Fitzgerald family who emigrated from Bruff to forge a new life in the US and eventually attain the highest office in the world.

## TRADE AND INVESTMENT

The Trade and Investment Unit is tasked with supporting the efforts of IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, other state agencies and the business community, ensuring that Limerick is positioned, and has the appropriate ecosystem to attract and facilitate investment and job creation for the city and county. The Trade and Investment Team works closely with existing business in Limerick to assist them in maintaining and/or increasing employment. The team is also the function responsible for managing the development fund, conducting research and compiling reports on industry developments and key trends in local, national and international investment. Among the highlights of 2022 were:

- 2,808 new jobs announced and a record €705m of investments were committed by companies including Eli Lilly, Analog Devices, Johnson & Johnson, Kneat Solutions and STATS Perform, a further 376 jobs were created through LEO's support for small businesses.
- Completion of the Weatherproof outside dining project on Bedford Row and Thomas Street costing €750,000



Outdoor Dining on Thomas Street

- Inclusion of Limerick in the National Night Time Economy Pilot Programme. Among the supports under this programme will be dedicated night-time economy advisors to help re-invigorate our city 'after dark'.
- Opening of seven new retail and hospitality businesses in Limerick City
- The city centre Steering Committee made up of Traders, Chamber of Commerce, Council Officials and the Gardai continued to meet throughout 2022 to maintain lines of support and communication between the stakeholders within the city.
- In February, the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler travelled to London at the invitation of the Limerick Exiles Association. The purpose of the trip was to connect with Limerick diaspora and to recognise the work which the Limerick Association are doing to celebrate Limerick sport and culture in the UK.
- In June, Mayor Butler travelled to Austin Texas, at the invitation of Mayor Pro-Tem Alison Alter and the Austin Sister Cities International committee. The purpose of the visit was to further progress initiatives set out in the 2019 Memorandum of Understanding signed between Limerick and Austin, which will strengthen links between our two cities in the

area of business, education and culture.

- The Limerick Bastille Day Wild Geese Festival and Sarsfield Homecoming Project on 14 July. The Flight of the Wild Geese and the long-standing connection between Limerick and France is celebrated through the Limerick Bastille Day Wild Geese Festival. Incorporated into this year's event was The Sarsfield Homecoming Project. This project aims to locate the remains of Patrick Sarsfield, which are believed to be buried in Belgium, and repatriate them back to Ireland. Huy and Landen are two cities in Belgium where Patrick Sarsfield was last seen alive and is believed to be buried. The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, formally welcomed the Mayor of the City of Huy and the Mayor of the City of Landen to Limerick at a welcoming ceremony in Merchant's Quay. The Ambassador of Belgium to Ireland, Karen Van Vlierberge also attended and it was agreed between the three Mayor's to continue supporting the Sarsfield Homecoming project and to further strengthening the relationship and connections between our cities.



Pictured at The Limerick Bastille Day Wild Geese Festival, Cllr Francis Foley, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Gino Debroux, Mayor of the City of Landen, and Eric Dosogne, Mayor of the City of Huy

### **Diaspora Engagement**

Global Limerick, Limerick City and County Councils diaspora engagement project, continued on its mission to animate and mobiles the connection between Limerick and its diaspora. Central to the Global Limerick project is the importance of harnessing a mutually beneficial relationship between communities in Limerick and the Global Diaspora network.

2022 saw two pilot exercises where the council supported communities in Limerick with their connection to their Diaspora network.

### **The Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Autumn School - Bruff**

This Diaspora themed event was a weekend long celebration of the Fitzgerald family who emigrated from Bruff to forge a new life in the US and eventually attain the highest office in the world. The three-day festival honoured Rose, mother of John F. Kennedy and former President of the United States, and her three grandparents who left Bruff in 1850. The events reflected on the home place the Fitzgeralds left in 1850 and told the story of Bruff and its diaspora, past present and future.

### **The Ashford Festival - Killeedy**

The Ashford Festival was an invitation to the community and diaspora of Killeedy to participate in a weekend reunion, either in person or online, celebrating local Arts, Culture and Heritage. The format of this event was along similar lines to the Gathering Ireland project in 2013. The aim of the initiative was to connect the community of Killeedy with the Global Limerick network.



## LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) had another busy year having run 112 different training courses with 1,578 participants. 77 businesses received Trading Online Vouchers and over 200 individual mentoring assignments were carried out in a wide variety of disciplines. LEO Limerick is one of the most successful LEOs nationally when it comes to promoting the LEAN for Micro programme. In 2022, 31 businesses have engaged with LEAN processes to make their businesses more competitive. Green for Micro, Digi Start and TAME supports are also proving popular with Limerick Businesses while 21 secondary schools are participating on our Student Enterprise programme.

Direct financial supports for enterprise development plays a big part of what LEO Limerick does. In 2022, we support over 40 businesses with Feasibility, Priming, Business expansion and Agile R&D Funding and in 2022, grant aided companies created an additional 376 new jobs in Limerick City and County.

One of the highlights of the year was being able to host Mr. David McWilliams for a breakfast briefing in the newly constructed Engine Collaboration Centre. Over 150 people attended this early morning event and feedback was hugely positive. Another highlight was the recent announcement by the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Mr. Leo Varadkar TD, that role of LEO is to be expanded next year to include manufacturing businesses employing between 10 and 50 employees and who are not already Enterprise Ireland clients. We have been looking for this for some time and it is a most welcome.

- 376 new jobs created in 2022
- 9th year of YoY jobs growth
- 305 total small businesses employing 1,815 people supported by LEO Limerick

The 2022 Employment Survey figures show that the LEO Limerick financially supported 305 small businesses in their portfolio across the city and county these companies in turn employ 1,815 people which is a net increase of 177 jobs in one year.

The total national figures for the Local Enterprise Offices across the country were announced with the LEOs now supporting 37,863 jobs across 7,221 companies. In 2022 there were 7,870 new jobs created by LEO clients companies with a net jobs creation figure of 3,447. This was up 10% nationally on 2021. From the jobs created, 84% were outside of the Dublin region..

### The Mid West Regional Enterprise Plan (REP)

The new Mid-West Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024 was launched on February 18 in Nenagh by the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Mr. Leo Varadkar TD. This was the first of nine new regional enterprise plans since launched across the country.

The new plan includes collaborative projects and initiatives across the three Mid-West counties (Clare, Limerick and Tipperary), with the region's local authorities being the major stakeholders and supporters.

The following five key strategic objectives comprise the new plan, with discrete actions developed for each:

1. **Enable innovation to make the Mid-West a leading digital region** - this objective includes actions across themes such as advanced manufacturing, future mobility, sportstech, film, data centres, healthcare and innovative education.
2. **Make the Mid-West Ireland's leading sustainability / low carbon region** - this objective includes actions across themes such as Bio-Economy, renewable energy and sustainability in the built environment.
3. **Enable Enterprise Development in Regional Towns / Rural Areas** - this objective includes actions such as the development of a network of high quality eHubs, development of food

hubs, a skills heat mapping exercise, and digitalisation of the tourism sector.

4. **Initiatives to support SME, Start-ups and Microbusiness** - this objective contains actions such as industry cluster development, promotion of apprenticeships and traineeships, management and financial training, efforts to develop HPSUs, etc.
5. **Support Social Enterprise and Job Creation**  
**Initiatives for areas of high unemployment**  
- this objective includes actions such as the development and delivery of a connected jobs strategy to address unemployment in Limerick's Blackspots and continued growth of social enterprise to achieve sustainable progress towards employment equality. This objective also includes the development of targeted approaches for individual blackspots including a creativity hub at Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership (LEDP).

Education, Training and Skills initiatives will be delivered to support each of the objectives, with an overall goal to continue building regional capacity by leveraging regional strengths and opportunities. The Mid-West region has been hugely successful in securing funding for feasibility and priming of new projects in recent calls.

- Five new Mid-West projects were funded in the Regional Enterprise Transition Scheme at the end of 2021 (out of a national total of 27).
- In July of 2022 nine new Mid-West projects were funded in the Regional Enterprise Innovation and Scoping Scheme (out of a national total of 47). Mid-West project highlights include:
  - Life Science Innovation Hub for Limerick
  - Mapping the Mid-West Food Ecosystem
  - Development of a Food Enterprise Hub in Tipperary Town
  - Long Range Drone Applications
  - Sustainable Aviation Fuel Centre
  - Impact assessment methodology for Corporate Social Responsibility
  - Passenger Vertiport R&D Centre at Future Mobility Campus Ireland
  - Multi-functional Creative and Innovative Industries Centre at LEDP

Funding to support the new regional enterprise plans has been secured through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Nationally up to €180 million is being made available to up to 2027 to develop new enterprise projects and activities nationally. The first funding call to support capital and program works is expected to open in late 2022/early 2023.

#### **The Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce**

On the 21 April the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Mr. Leo Varadkar, TD announced the membership of the Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce. The Taskforce is being chaired by Barry O'Sullivan (formerly of J&J and current IDA Board Member), and will assess the strategic strengths and comparative advantages of the Shannon Estuary and scope out potential economic opportunities for the area.

An extensive programme of engagement has brought together stakeholders across national and local government, industry, research and academia, and local community to consider the opportunities, challenges, and future ambition for the Shannon Estuary region.

The programme of consultations included two public consultations which were conducted by the Department of Enterprise, Trade, and Employment on behalf of the Taskforce. Forty-two submissions were received from the energy sector, local government, local community groups, environmental bodies, academia, and members of the public. These submissions broadly support the development opportunities being examined by the Taskforce, with particular emphasis on energy, tourism, and the environment impacts of future economic development.

Limerick City and County Council are supporting the work of the taskforce and providing inputs and insight to shape the recommendations. Paraic Rattigan, Programme Manager for the Mid-West Regional Enterprise Plan is part of the taskforce secretariat, supporting staff at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. In addition, progress updates have been presented to both the full council and the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC.

The taskforce will produce a report, specifying the actions which can be taken to create jobs and secure investment along the estuary and in its vicinity. The Taskforce Report will be presented to the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment in early 2023. It will subsequently be considered by Government.

## INNOVATE LIMERICK

Building work is completed on the Engine Collaboration Centre. This collaboration centre seeks to maximise the benefits and strengths arising from collaboration and co-location of disruptive technology expertise to support all levels of regional technology activity in the Mid-West. Through consultation with industry partners it has been identified that the innovative capacity of the region will benefit from this dedicated facility which will drive collaboration between multinationals, SME's and StartUps to co-work on shared problems; to explore, investigate, develop solutions and innovate together.

### Engine Collaboration Centre projects

#### Software start-up mentoring program:

- Over the past year we had 744 entrepreneurs connect to the program, we held 60 meetings with interested parties and there are 36 people currently engaged in the program

#### Internet Of Things Project Win:

- Engine Collaboration Centre collaborated with University Of Limerick and Tech companies in Limerick to successfully secure funding of €307k for the region from Science Foundation

Ireland to develop an innovative solution for Agri Tech for emerging markets. The idea was focused on developing an internet of things solution to allow farmers make more informed decisions based on data available regarding weather, crop growing that is more sustainable.

#### Current Projects:

- Asset Management solution for the ULHG, leveraging 'near field communication' technology. This is a collaboration between these organisation which the Collaboration Centre is driving. The purpose is to digitize bed management tasks therefore driving greater efficiencies and productivity across the Hospital group
- Infrastructure collaboration project between Multinational and SME that provides a unified secure platform for data management and optimisation for their customers.
- Healthcare Drone project that transforms delivery of healthcare products between General Practitioners and the Hospitals. The project will provide a more sustainable strategy for healthcare products delivery driving better outcomes for citizens. This is a collaboration between a US Drone company, University of Limerick Robotics, Western Development Commission and Engine Collaboration Centre, who are leading the project.

#### Technology Partner Collaboration:

- Developed alliances with key Technology companies to support the development and growth of the Engine Collaboration Centre. These include Dell, Microsoft, Amazon, Google and their Cloud, Analytics platforms. We have also collaborated with partners Dogpatch Labs and Portershed to support entrepreneurial (e.g. start-up masterclasses, industry trends).

### Engine Hubs

- Engine Hubs won the Chambers Ireland 2022 Excellence in Local Government Awards -Promoting Economic Development Award- Limerick City and County Council.
- Secured funding of €408,250 through Connected Hubs fund, Department of Rural and

Community Development to upgrade of seven Hubs throughout Limerick City and County. Seven Hubs involved are Spark Hub, Roxboro; Bruree Food Units; Croom Enterprise Centre; The Boat Club, Limerick; The Pavilion, Adare; The Yard, Newcastle West; Engine, Limerick. This was the highest county total funding allocated nationwide

- Engine Hubs Network was awarded €50,000 Town and Village Renewal Funding in 2022. The purpose of this grant is to market the E-hubs in the Engine Hubs network, promote remote working opportunities and grow the hub network across the region.
- Abbeyfeale E-Hub - Officially opened by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Ms. Heather Humphries, T.D and the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler on 8 April. Over 50 delegates attended the official launch. The hub was open to the public to drop in and view for the day and see the works completed.
- The Engine Hubs network was officially launched on 8 April by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Ms. Heather Humphries, T.D. There are 19 Hubs in Engine Hubs network spanning Limerick, Tipperary and North Kerry



Minister for Rural and Community Development, Ms. Heather Humphries, T.D with Ms. Agnes Relihan, Engine Hubs at the launch of a facility in Abbeyfeale.

- We are working with Connected Hubs.ie to increase Hub awareness nationwide with Hub Owner /Manager Network Member monthly meet ups continued
- LEO Limerick and Engine Hubs have worked together to run workshops/training in Hubs throughout the County
- Limerick Business Welcoming Ukrainians Campaign launched
- Engine hubs network participated in the Connected Hubs Voucher scheme Phase 1 and continuing with Phase 2 allocation of Hub Vouchers through Connected hubs.ie
- Engine Hubs successful application to partner in the Digital AEC pilot project with Connected Hubs and DRCD
- Engine hubs selected as one of six keynote events nationwide on Digital First Day
- Key stakeholder in “Atlantic TIDE - Driving sustainable growth in the design industry in the Atlantic region”
- Worked with Castleconnell ehub and town traders to promote “Spend This Christmas in Castleconnell” as part of the Digital AEC Programme

### Film in Limerick

Film in Limerick is the film office for the Mid-West and works to attract and support productions to the region as well as developing crew and local film production companies and projects. Film in Limerick assists incoming productions with locations search, hiring local crew, Section 481 applications and facilities and infrastructure support.

- 2022 was a busy year for filming locally with several large TV productions including; Foundation - Season 2 at Troy Studios, Smother season 3 in Clare, Hidden Assets in Limerick and Clare, and Vikings filming in Tipperary.
- Several feature films were also shot in the region including The Pope's Exorcist in Limerick, Double Blind in Rathkeale, Woken and The Gates in Limerick and Clare.

### Film and TV Crew Academy

This year, we launched our Film and TV Crew Academy to train hundreds of new local crew and

Film in Limerick was awarded €300,000 in funding towards new training programmes. Funding for a second year of the Academy at the same level has now been confirmed. Courses run in 2022 include; Prop making, Prosthetics for Film, Model-Making for Film & TV, Location Skills Course, Location Recce skills for trainees, Firearm Safety course, Feature Prosthetics, Movie Magic Scheduling, Hairdressing and Barbering for Film and TV and Vector Works.

**Virtual Delegation to SXSW Festival in Texas**  
Innovate Limerick through Engine Collaboration Centre and Film and Limerick and Local Enterprise Office Limerick continued their relationship with the SXSW Festival in Austin, Texas supporting Tech and Film Delegates to join a virtual delegation at this year's event.

#### **Engine Shorts**

Our short film training and production scheme in partnership with the councils in Limerick, Tipperary and Clare, and Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board completed a eight-month programme and six short films were filmed. The films screened international picking up two awards to date (Best short film at Belfast Film Festival for Sour Milk and Best Comedy Film at Discover London Festival for First Date. Year 2 of the initiative is now underway.

#### **Engine Docs**

Our Documentary film training and production scheme in partnership with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board and Sheffield Doc Fest completed a six-month programme and three short films were made and have screening at festivals nationally and internationally.

#### **Fastnet Film Festival, Cork**

Film in Limerick brought a delegation of 15 producers from the Creative Producing programme to the Fastnet Festival in Cork for three days of industry events and networking opportunities. The trip was funded by Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board as part of the Creative Producing programme.

#### **Focus London**

Film in Limerick were represented by Regional Film Manager Paul C. Ryan and Crew Academy Manager Rachael Power at Focus London, an annual trade show for film commissions to meet with producers to market film locations.

## **FORWARD PLANNING**

The Forward Planning Section is responsible for the research, preparation and production of planning policy documents and planning for the sustainable development of housing, infrastructure, economic and environmental development in the City and County. Responsibility of co-ordinating the Heritage function and participating in the work of the Atlantic Economic Corridor also lies with this section.

#### **Development Plan**

Following over two years of extensive public consultation and engagement with the public, prescribed bodies and stakeholders the first consolidated Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 was adopted by the Elected Members of Limerick City and County Council at a Special Meeting on the 17 June. The Plan came into effect on the 29 July with the exception of six sites that were the subject of a Ministerial Direction. The final Ministerial Direction issued in November and updates were made to the plan as required. The plan incorporates a number of strategic documents including a Building Height Strategy for the City, a Housing Strategy for Limerick, the Limerick 2030 Spatial and Economic Plan review document and a joint Retail Strategy for Limerick and the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan area.

#### **Local Area Plans**

Work commenced on the preparation of Local Area Plans for the towns of Rathkeale, Caherconlish, Castleconnell and Abbeyfeale. Work involved significant research, analysis and consultation with Elected Members, stakeholders and the public. The work also involved the preparation of draft plans along with Strategic Environmental Assessment, Appropriate Assessment and Flood Risk Assessment reports.

## Residential Zoned Land Tax

Draft Maps outlining the land considered to be in scope for the Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) were prepared for 16 settlements and placed on public display on the 1 November. The settlements included Limerick City and Suburbs, Abbeyfeale, Adare, Ballingarry, Bruff, Bruree, Caherconlish, Cappamore, Castleconnell, Doon, Kilfinane, Kilmallock, Newcastle West, Pallasgreen, Pallaskenry and Patrickswell. The objective of the tax is to activate zoned and serviced residential development land.

## Contribution Scheme

The preparation of the Development Contribution Scheme 2022 – 2026 concluded with the Elected Members adopting the scheme in January.

## Atlantic Economic Corridor

Limerick are one of the 10 Local Authorities who play a key role in the AEC initiative, which aims to attract investment, support job creation and improve quality of life for the people who live there. The Forward Planning section continue to represent the Council on the Atlantic Economic Corridor Task Force.

## Monitoring

The section is responsible for ongoing economic monitoring including: monthly monitoring of the contribution scheme, monthly monitoring of house and commercial sales / rents/ commencements and number and type of planning applications.

## Heritage

The section provided assistance to a number of groups to make applications under the Heritage Council Community grants scheme and other schemes such as the National Biodiversity Action Plan, Farm Heritage Buildings grant and Heritage Stewardship scheme.

## DIGITAL SERVICES

- Throughout the year, sixteen Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) that had been approved for Limerick, were connected. These BCPs are sites in rural towns where a quality commercial broadband service is not readily available, and where a 150Mbps broadband connection has been arranged by the Council in cooperation with the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) and National Broadband Ireland (NBI) as an interim solution as part of the rollout of the National Broadband Plan.
- The Digital Services team procured Storm Technologies to begin the early stage assessment of migrating the SugarCRM application to a modern cloud based CRM solution that will help modernise Limerick City and County Council's case, permit and grant operations. This project is expected to be complete by Quarter 4 2023.
- Throughout 2022, all major digital applications (for example, iHouse, iPlan, iDocs, iReg) were upgraded to their latest versions bringing new functionality to the applications, but also addressing known security vulnerabilities.
- In December, the new national ePlanning portal was implemented in Limerick.
- The Limerick.ie platform experienced no unplanned outages in 2022, with 100% uptime delivered for the website.
- 2022 saw the use of the "My Limerick" portal on Limerick.ie continue to grow. Over 15,000 cases have now been logged through the portal since its inception in 2017. MyLimerick now has over 11,000 users registered for the portal.

## CCTV

- Following the publication of the Data Protection Commissioner's (DPC) final report in to Limerick City and County Council's operation and use of CCTV, Digital Services were tasked with leading the effort to remediate the findings. The DPC had requested that all remediation efforts be complete in 120 days from the date of publication of the final report.
- In conjunction with Limerick City and County Council's Data Protection Officer,

representatives from Housing and Regeneration, and senior members of An Garda Síochána, Limerick City and County Council successfully remediated all findings of the final decision report.

- During a follow up audit in July, it was determined that Limerick was in compliance with their General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) obligations.

## EU Projects

- In 2022 The EU Programmes Team supported the Hunt Museum enable the visit of the European Investment Bank staff and launch the Belonging Exhibition. The launch was held in St. Mary's Cathedral and was also broadcast online to a wide audience.



Pictured at the Sailor's Home Limerick were Cormac Murphy, Head of EIB Group Office for Ireland, the Mayor of Limerick City and County, Councillor Daniel Butler and Curator, Delphine Munro, Head of Arts and Culture at the EIB Institute.

### +CityxChange

- Members of the +CityxChange project met with Ciarán Cuffe, Member of the European Parliament, at the Citizen Innovation Lab in Sarsfield Street, Limerick. Progress on community engagement, the digital twin of Limerick, the Lab itself, and future challenges identified by the project, were presented. The feedback on the project was encouraging and the discussion was very helpful for targeting future opportunities which may arise in the longer term from legislation currently under discussion at the European Parliament

- In October, Joint Limerick City and County Council and University of Limerick Symposium held in Limerick's Citizen Innovation Lab. The symposium focused on three themes:
  - New European Bauhaus – “It’s not just that we decarbonise that is important, how we do it is important too”.
  - +CityxChange – A Limerick story of the climate- neutral transition. The Positive City Exchange (+CityxChange) project explores the development of a structured approach to decarbonising cities.
  - City Collaboration and The Climate Neutral Cities Mission in Ireland - The panel explored perspectives on city collaboration in the transition to climate-neutrality with contributions from Thomas Osdoba who leads the Net Zero Cities Consortium, coordinator of the EU Cities Mission Platform, Julio Lumbreros of Spain's CitiES2030, and others.

### • INTEgreat

This €1.6m, three-year project, is a transnational action on asylum, migration and integration, and led by the Ballafon Società Cooperativa Sociale in Italy. The Limerick Pilot, led by Doras Luimní with the support of Limerick City and County Council, brings an additional €263,000 to the city and county. The collaboration aims to build a stronger integration strategy and ecosystem for migrants and asylum seekers (women, men, families, LGBTQ+) in Europe.

### • PACTE Plus

PACTE+ project is linked to the objectives of the European Union's Work Plan for Sport, namely investments in sport and physical activity (at local level) and the ambitions to better promote Physical Activity. Its priority objective is to encourage cities to take a proactive approach to the promotion of physical activity, in sight of improving individual and collective well-being. The Limerick Pilot will build on Limerick Sports Partnership's success in the Active Cities concept, in line with the GAPPA model (Global Action Plan for Physical Activity).

### • GoGreen Routes

On 7 February, the second GoGreen Routes Challenge Workshop was held online. These workshops, organised by the Environment Team,

and facilitated by Connect the Dots, are to consult with Castletroy residents on how they would like to see GoGreen Routes project implemented on the Greenway. It was well attended and will be followed up by a walking workshop.

In total four workshops were completed in 2022 with local community interest groups - collaborating to design and deliver nature based solutions that 'green' the greenway. One solution was creating a natural play using features and materials available onsite. The natural play area was officially opened for a Nature Workshop in July. Following feedback from the community, the natural play area is being extended and due to be completed early spring. The overall design will be implemented throughout 2023.

In November, with [An Choill Beag](#) (little woodland) the first community workshop was held for planting a small woodland along the Greenway in Castletroy. The location for the small woodland is beside the Gaelscoil on the greenway.

## LIMERICK TWENTY THIRTY STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT DAC (DESIGNATED ACTIVITY COMPANY)

### Opera Square

Opera Square in Limerick City Centre will be transformational for the city and region. Opera Square will be developed over a six-year period. The project is well underway, with enabling and demolition works completed this year in 2022, ahead of basement and One Opera construction commencing in 2023.

In 2022, along with the demolition and enabling works, stabilise of the Georgian buildings at 8 and 9 Rutland Street were completed, these were the remaining two of the 14 being conserved on site.

A preferred tenderer for the Basement and One Opera Square was selected, and a tender sum agreed. The Contract will be awarded upon approval of Limerick Twenty Thirty (LTT) Board and funding structure early in the new year.



Open Square Library Interior



Open Square Aerial



Open Square Plaza

The graphics for Phase Two of the Opera Square hoarding were designed by LTT's Branding and Marketing consultant and includes collaborations with TUS Limerick School of Art and Design and Limerick City and County Council branding consultant M&C Saatchi.

An independent selection panel selected the artwork for Opera Square. The artwork will be located within the public realm at the centre of the development.

LTT presented to the Elected Members on a planning amendment on the 3 November. A pre-application was then submitted to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) on the 11 November, public information boards were on display for a four week period in three locations alongside an active social media strategy. Two Public Consultation Events held at Gardens International and County Hall, Dooradoyle as part of the process. The full application including the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) will be submitted to ABP on receipt of the determination, expected to be January 2023. Final decision by ABP is expected circa July 2023 or before allowing for a six-month review period.

## **Cleeves Riverside Quarter**

Cleeves Riverside Quarter is an opportunity that has been waiting to happen in Limerick for over a decade. These 10-acre much loved and historic brownfield site on the northern banks of the River Shannon in Limerick city centre has the potential to be one of the stand-out developments in the renaissance that is taking shape in Limerick. Cleeves Riverside Quarter will embrace the modern international city, the 'One Planet Living' concept, with its potential for a mixed-use scheme of residential, commercial, educational, and cultural accommodation alongside a new riverside public realm for locals and visitors to enjoy and its proximity to the city centre itself.

The site's potential has been underscored by the commitment of €34.5 m under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) - a pivotal moment for a project of local, regional and national significance.

The Design Team were reengaged in 2022 and are progressing the site Masterplan, due for completion in Quarter 1 2023.

A Consultation Strategy was implemented to ensure a comprehensive engagement with both targeted stakeholders and the public. A public information session was held for Cleeves Riverside Quarter in the Flaxmill Building on 13 December. The event was held to give an interim project update ahead of a formal public consultation which will take place in March 2023.

Throughout 2022 the Cleeves Riverside Quarter site was utilized by several businesses including Fossetts Circus in September, The Scare Factory in October, and Team Hope for the Annual Christmas Shoebox Appeal. Noel Hogan, from the Cranberries, released the music video for his group The Puro for 'Law of Return'. The music video was recorded in the Flaxmill Building at Cleeves Riverside Quarter.

## **Gardens International**

Gardens International continues to set the benchmark for office accommodation in Limerick. Two new tenants have availed of the space with the building now becoming multitenancy. A brand logo was developed for 'The Vault' at Gardens International to aid in promoting the space for meetings and event bookings. The Vault Boardroom is now available for corporate bookings, requests can be submitted to [gardens@limerick2030.ie](mailto:gardens@limerick2030.ie) or 061-517430.

## **Mungret**

In 2021 planning permission was granted on council owned lands at Mungret for 252 Residential Units, together with a Crèche and Community Centre. Located less than ten minutes from the city centre, the site will significantly boost Limerick's residential market, supplementing other private and public developments elsewhere in the city. Pending the outcome of a Judicial Review process, it is hoped that 2023 will see commencement of delivery of the first phase of the project. Limerick Twenty Thirty will provide project management services for this project.

## Expressions of Interest

Limerick Twenty Thirty are providing Project Management services to Limerick City and County Council on the Expression of Interest Project, which comprises three sites, namely Speakers Corner, New Road Thomondgate and Ballygrennan which will enhance the residential offering to Limerick.

## Speakers Corner

Situated in an inner city area the 0.14 hectare, brownfield site, site is located adjacent to the People's Park, and within proximity to Colbert bus and train station. A Part VIII planning application for 36 residential units was lodged in September and granted at a meeting of the Metropolitan District on 21 November. 2023 will see commencement of delivery of the development.

## New Road, Thomondgate

The 0.69-hectare, brownfield site is accessed from New Road, Thomondgate and is bounded on the northeast by the River Shannon. A planning application for 47 residential units, together with a biodiversity park was lodged on 30 December.

## Ballygrennan

The 7.56-hectare, greenfield site, site is located approximately 4.2km north west of Limerick city centre adjoining the northern boundary of Ballygrennan and will adjoin the new Northern Distributor Road, which will provide an urban style 2.2km carriageway between Coonagh Roundabout and Knockalisheen Road. The site, located in Limerick City environs which is included in the Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028. The site is zoned as Mixed Use, with the primary objective: To provide for a mixture of residential and compatible commercial uses.

The development consortium of Cluid, Whitebox and UPMC are engaging in pre- planning consultation with LCCC Planning Department to deliver circa 120 Nr residential units, together with the UPMC hospital and healthcare facility.

Limerick Twenty Thirty DAC are constantly looking at opportunities for Limerick that reimagine and enable economic development and investment to proactively position the region for the future and improve the quality of life for all its citizens. Limerick Twenty Thirty DAC aim to continue to self-develop and partner with other developers, as well as local and national agencies to transform strategic sites.

# COMMUNITY, TOURISM AND CULTURE





# COMMUNITY, TOURISM AND CULTURE

## URBAN AND RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Urban and Rural Community Development Department (URCD) is responsible for the operation of the structures of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the Public Participation Network (PPN). The Department is responsible for the preparation and monitoring of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP), the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) and the Rural Development Strategy including the EU LEADER Programme and other urban and rural community development and renewal programmes. One of the guiding principles of the Department is to support communities and local community and voluntary groups throughout Limerick to access supports, funding streams and programmes in a coordinated manner which meet the needs of local communities. The Strategic Policy Committee and the Local Community Development Committee are central in the development of specific policies and position papers, which inform the strategic direction of the Council along with engaging with local communities. The Urban and Rural Community Development Department is responsible for the preparation and monitoring and review of over-arching plans in local economic and community development.

### Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

In November 2021, Guidelines were issued by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) for the preparation of new Local Economic and Community Plans (LECP) across the state for the period 2022-2028. LECPs are statutory plans for the local authority area. Goals and objectives of the LECP must be consistent with higher level national and regional

plans – the *National Planning Framework Ireland 2040* and the *Regional Economic and Spatial Plan for the Southern Region (2021)* - and with the *Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028*. The LECP has two main elements – a Community Plan and an Economic Plan with the Community Plan led by the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the Economic Plan led by the Economic Strategic Policy Committee. The URCD is leading out on the preparation of the LECP in cooperation with Forward Planning, Economic Development Directorate. During 2022, a multi-stakeholder LECP Advisory Steering Group was set up and is operational to guide the preparation of the Plan. A Draft Socio-Economic Statement has been prepared including a socio-economic analysis of Limerick, draft High Level Goals and Sustainable Development Objectives. A public consultation process on the draft will commence in January 2023 with the new LECP expected to be approved by Council in Autumn 2023.

### Audit of Community and Cultural and Arts Facilities

In 2022, the URCD published an audit of community buildings and community cultural and arts facilities across the city and county. This involved a survey of all known facilities open for general community use. These include specific-purpose community facilities, schools and sports clubs that are made available to communities and cultural and arts centres. The survey findings are reported providing analysis of issues including the age and self-assessment of the condition of the buildings, energy efficiency, activities run, staffing and volunteering and enterprise / revenue generation. The report is available online.

## Community Engagement

Engagement with communities is the cornerstone to ensure there is effective delivery of services by the Urban and Rural Community Development Department and this engagement continued in 2022. The Team played a critical role in 2022 coordinating the provision of support services for displaced persons from Ukraine. The use of online technology and support for communities to adapt to this technology resulted in the continuation of strong community engagement. The Department of Rural and Community Development, and programmes under other Government Departments, continued to support communities. Community engagement with all communities is critical in the delivery of supports and projects.

## Public Participation Network (PPN)

The PPN Secretariat had nine meetings throughout the year and two Plenary meetings were held. Two rounds of elections for PPN representatives to sit on Council and other committees were held in 2022 with all PPN seats on external Committees now filled. There are now 185 PPN members across the Municipal Districts and an Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) was agreed between the Council and Limerick PPN.

Following the publication of the Structural Review of the PPN in March Limerick Public Participation Network (LPPN) worked with the Department of Rural and Community Development on several consultations regarding the proposed implementation process. The PPN also worked with the Department regarding the rollout of the National PPN Communications Campaign. This included extensive consultation regarding logo changes to ensure that a unified National visual identity is in place before the campaign is launched in the New Year.

A Research piece to develop a Strategy for Inclusion of Underrepresented groups (to increase membership of the Social Inclusion Pillar) was conducted along with the development of a Communications Strategy to be implemented in the coming year.

The process of reviewing the previous annual Report commenced in 2022 and was prepared and shared with the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD), with its content included in the national PPN annual report, which was published by the DRCD in December 2022. The PPN Linkage Groups continued to support the PPN Reps on the various committees by meeting in advance of committee meetings to discuss matters relevant to their respective committees and give feedback on previous meetings. Limerick PPN in conjunction with LCCC and the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications hosted one of the Community Climate Conversation workshops that formed part of the national community conversation on the National Climate Action Plan. A report arising from the workshops was published in November 2022.

## Key Progarmmes And Funding Streams

### Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

The LCDC oversaw the delivery of the SICAP programme and approved payments to the three Local Development Companies contracted to deliver the programme in Limerick – PAUL Partnership in the city/urban Limerick, West Limerick Resources in west Limerick and Ballyhoura Development in east Limerick. The programme budget in 2022 was €2,598,398, an increase compared with 2021. The core SICAP budget was €2,389,664 with an additional €208,734 provided for supports and services targeted on Ukrainian refugees, located in Limerick. Social inclusion actions under SICAP are delivered under two goals:

**Goal One:** Supporting local community groups

**Goal Two:** Supporting individuals in or at risk of social exclusion to identify and take steps to improve quality of life and well-being and access lifelong learning opportunities.

In 2022, the Local Development Companies continued to adapt their programmes to needs of most excluded groups. Based on a statement

of priorities agreed for the 2022 and 2023 programmes, priority groups for support were people in or leaving the Direct Provision system (in the urban SICAP programme), young people with mental health problems, Travellers / Roma, long-term unemployed people and older people living in rural isolation (in the rural SICAP programmes). In 2022, the Local Development companies played a key role in coordinating sub-area forums – in the city, east and west Limerick – to respond to needs of Ukrainian refugees. The Local Development Companies collaborate with other partners in the statutory and voluntary sector to reach and

support people and families most at risk of, or in, social exclusion and in order to assist them to access a wide range of services. Minister for Community Development and Charities, Mr. Joe O'Brien, TD, visited Limerick in October holding meetings in various sites in the city and rural Limerick. The Minister met with the Council, the Local Development Companies, local community and voluntary groups and Travellers to see the operation of SICAP, on the ground, and engage in a discussion of needs addressed by the programme.



Minister for Community Development and Charities, Mr. Joe O'Brien, T.D., with Limerick Traveller Network at the Southill Hub

## EU LEADER Programme

The delivery of the EU LEADER Programme (€14.097 million) advanced in 2022 and applications from various community and specific interest groups were evaluated and considered. The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), as the Local Action Group (LAG) for the LEADER Programme completed the full allocation of the 2014-2021 LEADER Programme Budget. In 2022, the LCDC approved 33 Projects to the value of €1,801,944.82

## Department of Rural and Community Development visit to Limerick

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Ms. Heather Humphreys, TD, came to Limerick on 8 April to visit a number of projects funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development under the EU LEADER Programme, Town and Village Renewal Scheme and the Rural Regeneration Development Fund. Minister Humphreys' spent time meeting the community members and officially opening the following projects:



Limerick Greenway Hub at Ardagh RRDF (Cat 2) 2021



Official Opening of Roots Community Shop and Café, Kilmeedy



Official Opening of Dromcollogher Community Park



Official Opening of Abbeyeafeal Engine E-Hub



Official Opening of Ardagh Recreational and Sporting Company Astro-turf

## Outdoor Recreation Infrastructural Scheme (ORIS)

The 2022 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, provided for the development of new and existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in rural areas, building on the commitment under “Our Rural Future”. This investment in infrastructure supports growth in local, national and international outdoor adventure tourism. The Scheme provides funding for small-scale repair, development or promotion and marketing in relation to existing infrastructure, medium/large scale upgrade works and new trail or amenity developments as well as a Project Development Measure to provide for the development costs for strategic large-scale projects. In 2022, five projects were funded including €55,848 for projects in Ballyhoura Country and Galbally (Moore Abbey), €200,000 in Kilmallock (Riverside Park) and €100,000 was allocated for two project development measure in Foynes (Monument Hill Walk) and Lough Gur Walkway.



Before – Croom Riverside Walk ORIS 2021 completed in 2022



After – Croom Riverside Walk ORIS 2021 completed in 2022



Before – Croom Riverside Walk ORIS 2021 completed in 2022



After – Croom Riverside Walk ORIS 2021 completed in 2022

## Town and Village Renewal Scheme

In June 2022, the Town and Village Renewal Scheme was announced with some amendments to the Scheme following the launch of Our Rural Future and subsequently the Town Centre First Policy. The 2022 Scheme outlined increased investment, out to 2025 under Our Rural Future, in remote working infrastructure to provide an opportunity for people to continue to live in rural communities while following their career ambitions. It also noted continued investment to support town centre living, ensuring cross government investment to support rural towns and villages as hubs of economic and social activity. The 2022 Scheme again placed particular emphasis on projects that brought vacant and derelict buildings and sites back into use as multi-purpose spaces.

Three projects in the following locations received funding in 2022 – Ardagh €250,000, Bruff €250,000 and Herbertstown €495,229.

A new Building Acquisition Measure was introduced in 2022. Grant funding of €400,000 was awarded in respect of the Parochial House, Feohanagh and the former Bank of Ireland building, Rathkeale. The property at Feohanagh will be developed into a community resource centre and the former bank in Rathkeale will be repurposed as an e-hub and multi-purpose community facility.

Grant funding of €91,000 was awarded under the Town and Village Project Development Measure.

The two projects are located in Athea (€50,000) and Croom (€41,000).

The Streetscape Enhancement Measure continued in 2022 with the village of Foynes receiving funding of up to €100,000. Works under the Streetscape Enhancement Measure 2022 are due to be completed during Quarter 3 2023.

A number of projects, funded under previous years Schemes were also completed in 2022 including Glin Interpretive Centre project, Kilteely

Community Wildlife Area project and The Reimagining of the Mall project Ballingarry.



Glin Interpretive Centre project Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2019 and 2020



Official Opening of Glin Interpretive Centre 27 August 2022



Before – Kilteely Community Wildlife Area project Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2019



After – Kilteely Community Wildlife Area project Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2019



Official Opening of Kilteely Community Wildlife Area project 30 July 2022

The remaining projects for 2019 and 2020 in Askeaton and Rathkeale respectively have been granted extensions and are due to be completed by end Quarter 2 2023. The 2021 projects in Patrickswell, Askeaton West Square, Doon and Bruree are all in progress and on track for completion in Quarter 3 2023.

## CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais)

CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) is a targeted investment programme for rural areas that provides funding for small infrastructural projects in rural areas that have suffered the greatest levels of population decline.

Five projects approved under the 2021 Scheme were implemented during 2022. There were three Schools/Community Safety Measure projects, Coolfree Community Crèche / Afterschool Facility involving installation of a footpath outside the school, road signage and other works; a grant to Oola National School to create a multisensory/accessible play area for all children including those with additional needs and Feenagh Soccer Club for a footpath, lighting and other works. Under the Community Gardens/Allotments Measure, Tournafulla Sustainable Living Community was awarded a grant to transform an area of waste land in the centre of village into a vibrant community garden. The Innovation Measure funded installation of contactless Water Fountains in specific CLÁR areas in five locations.

This year, the Department of Rural and Community Development increased funding by over 25% in recognition of the importance of the programme to some of our most remote rural areas. A total of €353,289 was awarded to eleven projects in Limerick namely: Martinstown National Primary School, Mountcollins AFC; Glenroe GAA; Athea GAA; Kilteely Tidy Towns; Templeglantine GAA and Camogie Club; Oola GAA Club; Kantoher Development Group for remedial works to Ashford Village carpark; Tournafulla Community Council; Kilfinane Community Council and Glin Development CLG.

## Community Activities Fund

In 2022, the LCDC secured €305,884.00 under the Community Activities Fund which provides funding to community groups to support groups in disadvantage areas. The purpose of this scheme was to assist groups/organisations with grants towards their non-pay running costs and grants towards necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities and purchasing of equipment. There were 146 groups in Limerick assisted under this scheme.

## Awards Programmes

The Department coordinated and supported community groups to enter national award programmes that acknowledge and showcase the efforts and quality of their activities to improve quality of life and social community and economic benefits to their local communities.

## Pride of Place

Pride of Place is an all-island competition run by Irish Public Bodies and Cooperation Ireland and run in conjunction with local authorities north and south. It aims to recognise and celebrate the contributions that communities make to society along with generating awareness, respect and inclusion for every facet of society. Limerick has an impressive record of achievement in this competition. In 2022, Runner Up for Lough Gur Development Cooperative Society under Community Tourism and Draw-Out Limerick (which involves a set of murals in urban spaces around the city) under Creative Place Initiative.



Community Garden, St. Munchin's Community Enterprise Centre, Killeely Thomondgate.

Four projects were entered in the 2022 Pride of Place competition by Limerick City and County Council. The projects are: Adare Women's 2020 Club; Glenroe Ballyorgan Community Council; St. Munchin's Community Enterprise Centre Killeely/ Thomondgate and West End Youth Centre, Ballincacurra Weston.

The results of this competition are expected in January 2023, with the Awards Ceremony taking place the 21 January.

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING

### Healthy Ireland/Healthy Limerick

The Healthy Limerick/Ireland programme continued to provide health and well-being supports during 2022. The lifting of COVID-19 restrictions provided the opportunity to progress the implementation of projects. These included the Healthy Food Made Easy Programme delivered in Limerick through the Limerick Food Partnership, a multi-stakeholder partnership of statutory and community and voluntary organisations managed by the PAUL Partnership. The Limerick Food Partnership receives funding from Healthy Limerick, the HSE Sláintecare Healthy Communities and the Redemptorists and its key



Healthy Food Made Easy Delivery



Limerick Youth Service's Healthy Food Made Easy

focus is to raise awareness, improve access and increase the supply of healthy food options to its target communities in Limerick City and County. The Limerick Food Partnership links with the



Healthy Food Made Easy Tutor Certification Presentation

School of Allied Health in University of Limerick and is currently supporting two MSc students in conducting an evaluation of the programme.

Healthy Limerick, in collaboration with the Limerick Food Partnership supported integration work with migrant communities using food as an engagement tool throughout 2022. It also collaborated with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, Limerick Integration group and Doras in the Riverfest BBQ competition. As part of Limerick's Lifelong Learning Festival, a member of the Indian community in Limerick was supported to deliver a "cooking with spices workshop". The Limerick Food Partnership also engaged with the Childhood Anti-Poverty Programme in Limerick, ABC Start Right, on a project to identify how the 'Starting your Baby onto Solids' can be adapted to meet the needs disadvantaged families including migrant families and those living in transitional housing with little or no access to cooking facilities.



River Fest BBQ Competition

Healthy Limerick supported the establishment of a city centre-based community kitchen in Tait Community Centre, Lord Edward Street. The planning, development, and installation of the kitchen in conjunction with the Council was funded by Healthy Ireland and Sláintecare Healthy Communities. The launch of the community kitchen took place in December 2022. The kitchen is now open for community organisations to hold Healthy Food Made Easy classes and other related workshops.

Other events were supported by the Limerick Food Partnership including: Cappamore Community Food Initiative Day, Limerick Fittest Youth Club organised by West End Youth Service Ballinacurra Weston and Croom Healthy Community Day held at the Croom Family Resource Centre.

The Social Health Education Programme (SHEP) delivered three programmes supported by Healthy Ireland/Healthy Limerick during 2022. The SHEP programme is well-established in Limerick and Healthy Ireland funding has led to the expansion of the programme. The programme aims to achieve improved health and well-being for our communities through the delivery of community-led supports in the form of advocacy, counselling, community organisation supports and improved interagency approaches at local level.

Healthy Ireland supported the Woodlands for Health initiative in collaboration with mental health Ireland, Limerick Sports Partnership and the HSE. Walks were aimed at supporting those with various mental health issues and took place on Friday mornings between March and June 2022 in Curraghchase Forest Park.

## SláinteCare Healthy Communities Programme

The Council collaborated with the Department of Health, the HSE and community agencies, in the delivery of the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme. This new national programme aims to improve the health and wellbeing of persons living in areas of high deprivation. The programme was launched in November by Minister of State for Public Health, Wellbeing and National Drugs Strategy, Mr. Frank Feighan, TD, in the Southill Hub and the Mayor of Limerick City and County, Councillor Francis Foley addressed the audience on the day. The key role of the Council in this programme is to develop initiatives in designated areas of deprivation that enhance the living environment and lead to improved health and wellbeing for residents. Projects can include improvements to, and positive use of open spaces, natural play areas, gardening and horticulture, access to improved services, and other wellbeing initiatives. A Healthy Communities Local Development Officer was appointed by the Council to deliver the Programme. The holistic interdepartmental, interagency approach is being delivered through partnership with communities and a range of partners, working together to provide dedicated and integrated supports to build lasting improvements across communities of most need. This work is supported by the Sláintecare Community Enhancement Fund and three projects have commenced and new initiatives will be developed in 2023.

## Period Poverty Pilot Scheme

Limerick City and County Council were approved for €10,000 to deliver a Period Poverty Pilot Scheme in 2022. This very positive initiative supports teenage girls and women on low incomes as part of the Health and Wellbeing programme. The project is being successfully delivered in seven locations that experience high levels of deprivation in collaboration with the PAUL Partnership and their SICAP partners. Period products and dispensers were made available to the general population in the areas at various locations including Family Resource Centres, Community Centres and community-based venues where footfall is significant.

## Autism-Friendly Limerick

The Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee established a working group in 2021 to consider what the Council as an organisation could do to become more autism friendly. Based on the findings of the Working Group a successful application for funding was made by the Council to the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. Amongst the actions to be funded with the grant are: training and awareness-raising on autism for local authority staff and local community and voluntary groups and other interests. Training of local authority staff commenced in 2022 and will be expanded within the organisation and to other interests in 2023. The objective is to work towards an autism-friendly city and county in Limerick.

## Ukrainian Community Response Forum

In March 2022, structures were put in place to facilitate the provision of supports for displaced persons from Ukraine and in March the Limerick Ukrainian Community Response Forum was established. The role of the Forum is to facilitate the coordination of support services and to coordinate the community-lead response in the provision of assistance to displaced Ukrainians in Limerick. The Forum, chaired by the Chief Executive of Limerick City and County Council, Dr. Pat Daly, has a membership of over 22 organisations across the state, private, community and voluntary sectors. The forum has ensured that the required supports are delivered in a co-ordinated manner and identified gaps in service provision are addressed where possible.



Ukrainian Community Response Forum picture here: Limerick Ukrainian Response Forum Meeting and Workshop - Strand Hotel 7 December 2022

## EU INTEgreat Project

The EU INTEgreat project co-funded by the European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. INTEgreat started in January 2022 and has a duration of 36 months. It involves the participation of seven partners with cross-cutting complementary skills from five European countries: Cyprus, Greece, Ireland, Italy and Spain, reflecting a range of geographic and socio-cultural conditions.

The project aims to build a stronger integration strategy and ecosystem for migrants and asylum seekers (women, men, families, LGBTQAI+) in Europe through:

- Analysis of the local contexts: development of an innovative Integration Strategy Framework (ISF)
- Implementation of five pilots in the five partnering countries - Italy, Spain, Greece, Cyprus and Ireland - to test the framework
- Development of a methodology to measure the impact of the pilots and creation of materials/practices that can be used more widely
- Dissemination of results through web-based platforms and social media

The first eight months of INTEgreat were dedicated to literature and policy analysis in the five countries. Currently Limerick City and County Council together with our local partner Doras are working on implementation of Limerick pilot activities that will last 18 months. The pilots will allow to test the Integration Strategy Framework in Limerick Urban Area through a series of activities in four main areas: healthcare, employment, social cohesion, capacity building and training of both migrants and local citizens.



INTEgreat Project Meeting in Varese, Italy 17 November 2022

## Africa Day

Limerick City and County Council supported Africa Day celebrations in May and the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler was keynote speaker. The Africa Day event was held in the gardens of the Hunt Museum and among the entertainment were stage performances, African food sampling and, for the first time, this year featured a carousel for the kids among the children's entertainment and an exhibition of African outfits.

## Comhairle Na nÓg

Limerick City and County Council continued to support Comhairle na nÓg in 2022. Comhairle na nÓg returned to in-person meetings during the year and worked collaboratively with various stakeholders on their chosen themes of LGBTQIA+ awareness and gender equality.

The first in person event in three years was held in October. The Youth Conference was held in Istabraq Hall, Merchant's Quay, opened by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, it was a hugely successful event offering our young people the opportunity to voice their opinions on the challenges and opportunities facing them and how best we can improve and change our communities.



Andrew Purcell and Christine Houghton, Limerick Comhairle na nÓg with the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley at the Youth Conference

Limerick Comhairle na nÓg launched three of their projects at the end of 2022. The projects were developed to raise awareness of gender identity, equality and the experiences of the

LGBTQIA+ community. Led by young people, the three projects included a series of short bilingual education videos that will inform and support people in understanding the LGBTQIA+ terminology; a documentary that celebrates the Limerick LGTBQIA+ community and an interactive workshop for young people and teachers on the theme of gender identity and understanding.

In 2022, Comhairle na nÓg gave a presentation to the elected members at a Council meeting and also gave a presentation to the members of the Community, Culture and Tourism Strategic Policy Committee.

## Lifelong Learning Limerick

The Learning Limerick Steering Group is a partnership forum that brings together sectoral networks and partnerships and is committed to creating a culture of learning in Limerick. It is made up of statutory, local development, business, community, and voluntary sector partners.

Learning Limerick's primary role is to promote the value of learning in Limerick, across all stages of the life cycle, to share information that enhances members and partners' organisational learning, and to support sectoral networks and groups in their efforts to engage communities in positive learning experiences. The launch of the 12th Annual Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival took place in Kilmallock Library in May. The event was a precursor to what was a very successful weeklong run of events from 23 until 29 May. This year's theme 'Learn Something New in 2022' saw a plethora of events ranging from Art, Cookery, Early Childhood Development, Wellness Clinics and Language Taster Sessions.

## Age Friendly Limerick

Limerick City and County Council continued to support the Age Friendly Limerick Programme throughout 2022. Work began in 2022 on the new Age Friendly Limerick Strategy 2023-2027 and Consultants were appointed to conduct research and compile the strategy. Consultation via focus groups and surveys commenced in 2022 and the new Strategy will be completed in 2023.



Participants of a Focus Group at the Millennium Centre, Caherconlish in October 2022



Catherine Bowes Kelly, Age Friendly Limerick Programme Manager with Paddy Hyland, OPC Vice-Chair, Anne Rizzo, Regional Programme Manager, Jillian Robinson, Age Friendly Homes Co-Ordinator, Kathleen O'Meara of Mo Flynn Consultants at the Age Friendly Limerick Open Day.

The Age friendly Homes Programme continued in 2022 with over 400 people availing of the service. The Healthy Age Friendly Homes programme aims to enable older people to "Age in Place" and to continue living in their homes or in a home more suited to their needs to live with a sense of independence and to avoid premature admission to long term residential care.

The National Older Peoples Council Convention were held in May in Meath and members of the Limerick Old Peoples Executive attended the event. The National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards were held in October at Dromoland Castle. Shannon Airport and Irish West Airport Knock won an award under the Transportation Category. Limerick Age Friendly were part of the Shannon Airport entry. The first meeting of a restructured, expanded Alliance



The Elected Members of the Older Persons Council together with staff from Age Friendly Limerick

for Age Friendly Limerick was held in October. The Age friendly Alliance is a senior level cross sector group whose member agencies form the overarching strategic partnership to develop and oversee the realization of our second Age Friendly Strategy.

The Age Friendly Open Day was held in November at the Woodlands Hotel in Adare. There were over 130 attendees and 13 exhibitors on the day which included An Garda Síochána, Health Service Executive, Library Service and the Fire Service.

The Older Persons Executive are the voice of Older People in Limerick, held their Annual General Meeting in November with six existing members remaining on the committee and six new members were appointed from nominations put forward at the annual Open Day.

## One Million Stars

The One Million Stars project, an initiative to end domestic violence was sited in front of the Desmond Castle, Newcastle West in November 2022. A 12 foot by 12-foot star, with thousands of stars submitted by the public attached was launched with the word HOPE incorporated across the stars. The purpose of the project is to demonstrate solidarity with those impacted by domestic violence.



Members of the One Million Stars Committee at the launch of the Star at the Castle in Newcastle West

## Property Marking Scheme

Property Marking events took place during the year. A number of property marking events were undertaken on the University of Limerick Campus by Community Gardaí from Henry Street and over 600 items of personal property were marked. Community Groups continued to engage with Limerick City and County Council and An Garda Síochána to mark property items and this has been proven to reduce theft of valuable items.

## School Meals Scheme

The School Meals Programme (Bun and Milk Scheme) continued in 2022 providing the service to 10 DEIS schools, approximately 1,500 children.

## ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

### National Tidy Towns

In 2022, the Tidy Towns competition saw judges return to carry out onsite visits to the fifty-one Limerick entrants to the competition. Adare Tidy Towns were awarded a gold medal and Limerick City and Newcastle West were awarded bronze medals in the national competition. The Limerick County Awards were; 1st Adare, 2nd Ardfatrick, 3rd Castleconnell and Galbally. Athea Tidy Towns were awarded the Endeavour Award.

### Going for Gold

Adare took first place in the Tidy Towns Category of the Limerick Going for Gold Competition sponsored by the JP McManus Charitable Foundation. The following were also successful, Castleconnell 2nd, Askeaton 3rd, Patrickswell 4th and Kilmeedy 5th.

Groups from Doon, Hospital, Newcastlewest, Athea and Kilteely were highly commended. In the Limerick In Bloom Category, Kilteely were the overall winner, Kilfinane 2nd and Garrienderk 3rd. Ballingarry and Broadford were highly commended. In the Residential Estates category Meadowbrook Residents' Association, Corbally were awarded first prize and Cappamore Estates Committee awarded second place. Castletroy View, Garryowen, Monaleen Park and Woodhaven Residents Associations were highly commended in the Residential Estates Category.



Limerick Going for Gold Awards and winners presentation.

The Going for Gold Reuse Award celebrating National Reuse Month were awarded to the Charity Reuse Shop, Gateway to Education. Castleconnell Tidy Towns received an award for the refurbished Water Fountain.

### Team Limerick Clean Up (TLC7)

For Limerick City and County Council TLC is a unique collaboration with communities, public agencies and private partners in terms of an environmental countywide initiative. The collaborative nature of TLC's, with stakeholders including the citizens of Limerick, the National Schools around the county, along with key stakeholders the McManus Benevolent Fund and Mr. Binman, it promotes sustainable environmental goals and lifelong learning in relation to the environment particularly in schools.



TLC7 launch at the Abbey, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick

To date the overall participation figures are close to the 122,000 mark and include volunteers from all walks of life including schools, colleges, sporting organisations and or clubs, community groups, residential groups, businesses, charities, nursing homes and well-known local faces. Official media partners include Limerick Leader, Limerick Post, Live 95, I Love Limerick and ELive.

Over 21,000 volunteers took part in TLC7 from across 596 community groups around the City and County on Good Friday. Team Limerick Clean Up contributed significantly at local level on the ground to a number of the UN Sustainable Goals as follows; (11) Sustainable Cities and Communities - Encourages custodian of the environment



Volunteers participating in TLC7

ideals necessary for sustainable cities, towns, villages and communities right across the city and county of Limerick. (12) Responsible Consumption and Production - Promotes the idea of being responsible for what you purchase and the litter/waste generated from it. (13) Climate Action, -Managing waste and litter effectively is an action under climate action. (15) Life On Land, - Minding our life on land – managing the impact of litter and waste.

## Waste Prevention

There were a number of initiatives under Waste Prevention including a refurbished water fountain project and the promotion of reusable bottles in Castleconnell National School.



Mayor Daniel Butler with Children at Castleconnell National

A novel seed harvesting Workshop at the Hunt Museum Community Garden in collaboration with Irish Seedsavers also took place. Successful Sustainable Gardening Courses in the Hunt

Museum Community Garden and the Newcastle West Desmond Complex were well attended. Foodwaste Recycling initiatives were held during the year at the Limerick Show various Council Offices. Over 1,000 food waste recycling kits were distributed over the three events.

The first national week to celebrate the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, (SDG) was celebrated with a reusable cup promotion for the general public and staff in Limerick City and County Council, Dooradoyle and Merchant's Quay Offices.

A national conference on “How Local Authorities Can Address the Biodiversity Emergency” was held in the Strand Hotel, Limerick to celebrate this national the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals week.

## Green Schools and other campaigns

Over 60 teachers from schools across Limerick participated in the Limerick City and County Council Annual Green School Seminar online. Twenty schools renewed their flags over a range of themes including energy, water, travel, biodiversity and global citizenship. A total of 161 schools are registered for the Green Schools programme. The PickerPals initiative was launched in Patrickswell National School.

An Anti-Dog Litter Awareness campaign along with an Anti-dumping campaign was also undertaken in 2022, which included digital campaigns, and local radio adverts. Limerick City and County Council continued its bronze level membership of Leave No Trace and ran workshops in collaboration with the library network. The Council also participated in IBEC's National Gum Litter Campaign.

## Fairtrade

Newcastle West and Adare Tidy Towns launched their intent at becoming Fairtrade Towns to celebrate Fairtrade fortnight. In November, Limerick City celebrated its 17th year as a Fairtrade City with the return of the School's Christmas Card Competition.

## TOURISM

### Limerick Greenway

In 2022, Limerick City and County Council continued operation and development of Limerick Greenway. In May, Limerick Greenway reached 500,000 visits to the 40km scenic off-road walking and cycling route since it reopened in July 2021, following a €10 million investment by Limerick City and County Council. This is a testament to its popularity among local communities and visitors. Walkers, runners, cyclists and those of all abilities have been enjoying the Greenway, which has flourished since the first phase of its ambitious redevelopment was completed last summer. In 2022, the Greenway has recorded a total of 665,672 visits.



Minister for Rural and Community Development, Ms. Heather Humphreys, TD, visits Tree Carving at Ardagh on Limerick Greenway

JBA Consulting have been appointed as consultants to prepare a biodiversity plan for the entire length of Limerick Greenway which marks the first comprehensive study of a Greenway in Ireland. Surveying and mapping of species and habitats will commence in June 2023.

In July, a new shuttle bus service began operating along the Greenway, seven days a week during the summer months. This was a welcome addition to the first-class network of visitor facilities already in place along the 40km scenic off-road walking and cycling route.

There are several bike hire companies in operation along the route and the daily shuttle bus is available to all Limerick Greenway users.

The 8020 Food Company were the successful applicants for the provision of a food and beverage truck at the Greenway Hub at Ardagh and starting trading from July. This has provided a very popular service to Limerick Greenway visitors especially over the summer season.



Enjoying Limerick Greenway

### Events on Limerick Greenway

Limerick Greenway hosted a number of events throughout 2022 including the following;

On 14 February, the Council hosted a familiarisation trip for the Wild Atlantic Way Gateway Group on Limerick Greenway with over 20 hospitality and tourism stakeholders cycling from Barnagh to Rathkeale.

Fáilte Ireland hosted a familiarisation trip on the Limerick Greenway on 30 March with over 15 international tour operators from all over Europe cycling from Newcastle West to Barnagh.

The Rás Tailteann completed a non-competitive section of Stage 3 on 17 June. The race had 22 domestic teams, 12 International teams and 170 riders in total, who cycled the section from Newcastlewest to Ardagh before commencing the race proper.

Other Local and National Events included:

- Daffodil Day
- Bike Week
- GOSHH Pride Ride
- Halloween at Barnagh HUB
- Disability Bike Demonstration Day

- Adare Camoige Club Sponsored Walk
- Askeaton Touring Club Charity Cycle

## Greenway Facilities and Amenities

In addition to the station houses projects and car parking, the Council is advancing a work programme for facilities and amenities for all greenway users. These included picnic areas, seating/bike stands at regular intervals, small children's play areas, e-bike charging points, bike repair points and water points. Funding for these works was awarded under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS).

## Greenway Marketing and Promotion

In 2022, the Council procured consultants to lead a national integrated communications and marketing campaign to launch this new amenity. The key elements of the marketing and communications campaign objectives were to increase awareness of Limerick Greenway as a go-to tourism amenity both locally and nationally and to raise the profile of Limerick Greenway with key stakeholders.

The campaign during 2022 included:

- Outstanding seasonal photography and videography along the Greenway, which formed the central element of a marketing and promotional campaign
- An online and printed brochure
- Billboards and Transport presence including advertising within Train Station, Airport, Bus links and Bus Stop and on major routes in and out of Limerick
- A new dedicated website as part of [limerick.ie/greenway](http://limerick.ie/greenway)
- Signage and interpretation was developed and put in place along the full route giving visitors destination and historical information
- Familiarisation trips for journalists from the Irish Independent, Irish Examiner, Irish Star, Irish Times, Newstalk and RTÉ.ie, working with local businesses including bike hire and shuttle services, family hotels, quirky shops, fascinating museums and the best of West Limerick's food scene to create authentic experiences that showcased the real people and stories

along the Greenway. Limerick Greenway also hosted Cycling Ireland and the Rose of Tralee contestants

- Limerick Greenway were included in the Top 40 things to do in Limerick and appeared in eight out of nine Google searches on the first google search page
- Media Coverage included 14 pieces of National Earned Media Articles, 32 pieces of Regional Earned Media and nine pieces of Earned Media Articles across stakeholder publications which resulted in a reach of six million people. Some of these publications include the Irish Times, Irish Independent, Irish Examiner as well as Limerick Post and Limerick Leader locally
- Limerick Greenway featured in the Limerick Guide and GAA Match Programme as well as the Hurling Final Programme
- Social Media Platforms Reach for 2022
  - Facebook page reach: 505,787
  - Facebook profile visits: 10,988
  - Facebook engagements: 806 unique post engagements (comments, reactions, shares)
  - Facebook page new likes: 1,912 (New total 8,692)
  - Facebook video views: 1,084,133
  - Instagram page reach: 34,431
  - Instagram profile visits: 2,934
  - Instagram page new followers: 693 (New total 4,714)
  - Instagram video views: 989,339

## Destination Development Programme

Limerick City and County Council in collaboration with Kerry County Council and West Limerick Resources continued to work with appointed consultants in 2022 on a destination development programme with community groups and businesses along the route. The programme commenced with detailed virtual community consultation workshops and seeks to support business growth and the realising of new opportunities for communities and the economy along the Limerick Greenway and on to the Kingdom of Kerry Greenway.

## Tourism Development

In 2022, Limerick City and County Council continued to deliver on the objectives of the Limerick Tourism Development Strategy – Action Plan.

## WAW Gateway City Strategy Implementation in Partnership with Fáilte Ireland

Limerick City and County Council continue to work with Fáilte Ireland to leverage funding to schemes such as Participatory Festivals Grant Scheme, and to deliver on the objectives of the Wild Atlantic Way Gateway and Region.

The visitor experience brand and strategy for Limerick City as a Wild Atlantic Way (WAW) Gateway City entered its second year in 2022. The five year strategy aims transform Limerick City into a compelling visitor destination and as base for exploring the Wild Atlantic Way. This is a multi-stakeholder collaborative approach being applied to Tourism to realise Limericks' abundant potential to become an international, urban tourism destination of significance.

As part of the key actions in WAW Gateway City Strategy for Limerick the Tourism Development Team:

- Developed the new Discover Limerick Pass for visitors to Limerick. The pass funded in partnership with Fáilte Ireland offers discounted access to key hero attractions in Limerick and is supported by a marketing campaign including a new Discover Limerick Brochure and Visitor Maps, which were piloted in 2022 head of a complete roll out next year
- In partnership with Waterways Ireland, the team progressed a feasibility study to consider how accessibility to the river in the city environs can be maximised. This initiative is one of a number of actions seeking to leverage the potential of Limerick's location on the River Shannon. This report was substantially completed in 2022
- Nicholas Street and Kings Island Brand Development: In 2022 the Tourism Development team worked with members

of the WAW Gateway Group to consider the rebranding of the Kings Island and Nicholas Street areas of the city for tourism. A series of workshops were carried out and a brand name and concept developed. Community stakeholder engagement was carried out with the main concepts receiving good feedback. This work will continue in 2023 when the brand will be designed and launched along with an implementation plan in collaboration with the local community, the WAW Gateway Group and LCCC Regeneration.

- Worked with our colleagues in Marketing and Communications to roll out a summer tourism campaign for staycations working with local businesses, leveraged the Limerick Greenway as a key destination product to attract domestic visitors to Limerick city and county.

## Global Irish Festival Series



Global Irish Festival Series: Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Ms. Catherine Martin, TD, Minister of State for Overseas Development Aid and Diaspora, Mr. Colm Brophy, TD, Ms. Ciara Sugrue, Fáilte Ireland and Mr. Tim O'Connor.

The Global Irish Festival Series, a Fáilte Ireland and Department of Foreign Affairs initiative, aims to harness diaspora links for the benefit of local and community tourism. The Global Irish Festival Series was officially launched internationally by the Minister of State for Overseas Development Aid and Diaspora, Mr. Colm Brophy, TD, at the Consulate General of Ireland in New York on 20 April. Attendance at the event included representatives from; Fáilte Ireland, Tourism Ireland, Limerick City and County Council, County

Associations, Tour Operators, Irish American Groups, Aer Lingus and key media.

A joint initiative between Fáilte Ireland and the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Global Irish Festival Series aimed to encourage diaspora to return home to visit Ireland and provide funding and support, through Local Authorities, for events that tap into international diaspora networks with support from Tourism Ireland. The annual Global Irish Festival Series was initially launched in 2018. This year, the series returned after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic and once again supporting Limerick City and County Council on Global Limerick with an investment of €30,000. Limerick City and County Council wanted to develop a series of diaspora related festivals and events during the months of September and October, as a festival driven tourism proposal for Limerick. The festivals that the local authority engaged with were:

- Richard Harris International Film Festival: An international cultural festival, celebrating Richard Harris's unique talent, in the city where he was born and raised. The festival seeks to showcase the work of the Irish diaspora at the festival and encourages those of Irish descent to return home to display their work
- Pigtown Food and Culture Series: A dedicated food festival celebrating Limerick's food culture and heritage and is inspired by the history of Limerick's famous bacon industry
- Ashford/Killeedy Music Festival: A community festival organised by Killeedy community celebrating its links with the diaspora
- Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Autumn School, Bruff: A community event organised by the Bruff community celebrating its links with the Fitzgerald and Kennedy family.

## Lough Gur

### Highlights

- Megalithic art find discovery leading to national coverage
- Walkway project progressed
- Bird hide & environmental initiatives progressed
- Development of new visitor services
- Two national awards
- Focus on cultural experiences to benefit the region

### Award Winning Site

- First Green Heritage Site Accreditation for Limerick
- Pride of Place Award in the Tourism Category
- New Green Flag award for 2022/2023
- SFI Education Centre Accreditation
- Leave No Trace Ireland Accredited Centre



Green Heritage Site Accreditation Ceremony at Lough Gur

### Marketing Initiatives

- Feature on RTÉ programmes including Paul Flynn's Food Truck Favourites, Keys to My Life and USA TV Travel Show coverage (along with repeat episodes of Lough Gur Nationwide episode and Kathryn Thomas Travel Show)
- Limerick hurlers launch new jersey with O' Neills Sports
- Consistent coverage across local newspapers, radio and national features on the Irish Independent and Irish Times
- Development of activity-based nature day

camps welcoming local children and 25 primary schools

- The new Lough Gur welcome sign has become the most photographed and shared image from the area across social media
- Promotion of Megalithic art find at Grange Stone Circle
- Extension of water activity based activities with Kinsale Outdoor Education Centre (KOEC) and Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB)
- Building brand loyalty through new sale of Lough Gur clothing. Items have sold out on three occasions this year
- Work with Music Generation Limerick and Clare to deliver popular songwriting Summer camps for children
- Social media reach increased by 26% across all platforms

#### Tourism Initiatives

- Walking tours
- Cycling tours
- Environmental tours
- Water-based activities
- Historical & Archaeological tours
- Combined experience tours with local providers
- Visit the interpretative centre and playground
- Wellness experiences
- Educational workshops
- Short trails
- Coffee aficionado location
- Visitor Centre, Kiosk and Playground, park and facilities

#### Community Initiatives

- Working with landowners and community members to build relationships and deliver local initiatives.
- Walking events held throughout the year to maximise use of new link Slí Na Sláinte from Lough Gur to Bruff.
- Autumn festival welcomes 3,000 people to the area for storytelling, markets, speaker events and more.
- Summer water activities delivered for Limerick citizens and international visitors.
- Birdwatching group established with training

provided by Bird Watch Ireland.

- Community fieldtrips to similar sites arranged.
- Christmas event welcomed over 400 families
- Visits from Carebright Centre, Bruff and local schools across Limerick connecting people and communities of all ages

#### Continuous Improvements

- Recovery of visitor services after forced pandemic closure in January
- Development of a Lough Gur tourism network including local providers
- Purchase of bird hide site. Funding approved
- Creation of a community birdwatch group focusing on conservation
- Car park areas resurfaced with support from local Councillors
- Park improvements after groundskeeper Rory O'Connor is appointed by the Council
- Expansion of salable experience to offer all visitors to Limerick
- Lough Gur excels in social media
- Lough Gur walkway project progressed
- Further improvements in landowner relationships
- New bikes stands
- New water refill station
- New handrails
- New tree trail signage
- New planting approach
- New bee lodge trail
- New resurfaced car park areas
- New presentation of park areas

### West Limerick Tourism Gateway

#### Strategy

A feasibility and options report were completed in 2020 for the Fullers Folly Buildings and site with a view to developing a tourism experience of scale. Consultants were appointed in 2022 to develop tender documents for the appointment of an architect led multidisciplinary team to develop the options outlined in this report and this team were appointed.

## Conferencing, Bid for Events and the Ryder Cup

The Tourism Development Team has continued to work with colleagues and a range of sectoral stakeholders to support the development of conferencing and hosting of international events of scale in Limerick. 2022 continued to see a pivoting of the events industry, and the team have been providing advice, advocacy and support to event planners as they emerge from Covid-19 back to in person events.

The Tourism Officer also established a working group with Fáilte Ireland Shannon Region Sports and Conferencing Bureau, Fáilte Ireland WAW Team and UL to continue to present Limerick as a high quality offer for hosting sporting and conferencing events. Chaired by the Councils Tourism Officer the group secured and supported three Championship Sporting Events for Limerick:

- World Lacrosse
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Ultimate Strong Man



Lacrosse World Champs in Limerick

Limerick City and County Council continue to strategically plan and prepare for the Ryder Cup, due to be held in Adare Manor in 2027. The Council has established an internal strategic management structure for oversight and collaboration across the organisation for the delivery of the event. Limerick is represented on the national working group for the delivery of the event and in 2022 attended a number of meetings to agree a work programme in the build up to 2027. A delegation also visited

Limerick in July to understand the potential and opportunity which can be leveraged through the hosting of this event. The Council has also committed funding provision, to enable a number of key studies and business cases to be developed, to allow the Council to bid for national funding to support this internationally significant event.

## Larger Scale Funding Streams for Local Communities

The Tourism Department were successful in a grant application for €250,000 under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2022. A building on Main Street, Ardagh, acquired by the Council, which is currently derelict and has been vacant for over a decade shall be redeveloped. The redevelopment and partial fit-out of the building will enable a third party operator to lease the building to provide a new retail and tourism use in the village. This will bring a disused building back to life in Ardagh, and has the potential to create a new vibrancy and sense of place in the village centre. The proposed use is for a café and artisan retail outlet. This new use in Ardagh will further consolidate and support Limerick Greenway as a catalyst for rural development and as a destination for visitors.

## The Shannon Estuary Way

The Council in partnership with West Limerick Tourism and our counterparts in County Clare have been working with appointed consultants to deliver the Shannon Estuary Way Destination Development Programme. This regionally significant driving route along the estuary, is part of the Wild Atlantic Way, and connects to Limerick City, with North Kerry and the southern shores of Clare also included in the loop, complementing Limerick's new designation as a Wild Atlantic Way Gateway City.

The Shannon Estuary Way Website was launched by Minister of State at the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Mr. Patrick O'Donovan, TD on the 30 May in Kildimo. The result of a partnership between Clare County Council, Limerick City and County Council, West Limerick Resources and Clare Development Company, the website is the culmination of a

Destination Development Programme run for the local communities along the route. The Shannon Estuary Way is a spectacular 207km looped drive and unspoiled riverside destination just off the Wild Atlantic Way. An area of remarkable beauty, this is where Ireland's longest river, the Shannon, flows into the wild waters of the Atlantic Ocean. It connects the people of Clare to the north and Limerick and Kerry to the south. The Destination Programme has led to a number of partnerships and collaborations amongst the hospitality and tourism sector along the route to provide high quality tourism experiences for visitors. See [www.shannonestuaryway.ie](http://www.shannonestuaryway.ie) for more info.

## Ballyhoura

In 2022, the Ballyhoura Region joined Irelands Hidden Heartlands, work on the transfer of this tourism region to this Fáilte Ireland Brand commenced in August, a strategic implementation plan was drafted in collaboration with Fáilte Ireland, Limerick City and County Council, Ballyhoura Fáilte and Key Stakeholders, with workshops facilitated by Repucon. The implementation of the new brand will be led by Ballhyoura Fáilte with support from Fáilte Ireland and the Council. The Unique Selling Point of the Brand is Regenerative Tourism and Climate Action Planning and local businesses and attractions are key to implement new processes and tourism experiencing that reflect principals of sustainable and climate action.

The New Ballyhoura Trails Guide App was launched at the Ballyhoura Mountain Bike Trails on the 5 May. The App provides trail users with valuable information to improve the overall visitor experience in an accessible way.

## Discover Limerick DAC

Discover Limerick DAC, has been established as a wholly owned company of Limerick City and County Council to operate and develop key tourism attractions in Limerick that will strengthen Limerick as a destination and attract increased visitor numbers. The delivery of additional tourism products is essential to realising our ambition and Discover Limerick DAC will play a central role.

The DAC can meet its objectives in a number of ways;

- By taking on existing attractions e.g. King John's Castle, transferred 4 April
- By taking back management of attractions owned by the Council but currently leased e.g. Adare Heritage Centre
- By developing new attractions e.g. West Limerick Tourism Hub, Newcastle West

The overall objectives of the DAC will be to provide an improved tourism offering in Limerick, the effective management of these attractions and to generate a return to the Council. The company will have a commercial focus and be guided by a board with expertise in the area of visitor attractions of scale.

On the 4 April, all business operations and staff at King John's Castle transferred from Shannon Heritage to Discover Limerick DAC. King John's Castle is the first attraction to come under the Discover Limerick umbrella. The 14 staff, who had previously worked in the castle for Shannon Heritage and contributed significantly to its success, have transferred to Discover Limerick with no change to their employment terms and conditions. Four Elected Members of Limerick City and County Council have been appointed to the Board of Discover Limerick DAC and attended their first board meeting on 24 June. The elected members include Councillors Bridie Collins, Olivia O'Sullivan, Catherine Slattery and Frankie Daly. Discover Limerick DAC has signed a Heads of Agreement with Adare Heritage Centre to commence the transfer process to the DAC.



King John's Castle

## **RRDF Project – Foynes Flying Boat Museum**

A successful application was made to the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) in 2021 with an allocation of €1,500,000 grant funding for the expansion and re-imaging of the Foynes Flying Boat and Maritime Museum and integrated Digital Hub, which was progressed throughout 2022. The allocation of €1.5M was fully drawn down in 2022. This project will create a multi-functional complex, including a Digital Hub, which will regenerate the west part of Foynes village. It will transform the Museum from a regional tourist amenity and community space to an internationally-focused tourism product on the Shannon Estuary Way, yielding significant socio-economic benefits and adding to the number of indoor tourism attractions in Limerick. The project is also funded with a grant of €1.75 million by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Limerick City and County Council and own resources of the Museum.

## **ARTS OFFICE**

The adopted Limerick Cultural Strategy Framework 2016-2030 sets out a clear vision and ambition for Limerick.

### **Report on Research on the impact of Covid-19 on the Arts and Culture Sector in Limerick**

Commissioned by Limerick City and County Council as a part of the brief of the Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Subcommittee on the impact of COVID-19 on the Arts and Culture Sector. GM Innovations provided Research Evaluation to support the Arts and Culture Sub-Committee and inform policy making when considering the recovery of the sector by presenting an evidence-based report with recommendations on the delivery of Limerick City and County Council policy in this area.

### **Creative Ireland**

Creative Ireland is an all-government five-year initiative, from 2017 to 2022, which places culture and creativity at the centre of public policy. The Limerick Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018 – 2022 sets out six strategic priorities for Limerick:

- (i) Future Creators: Children and Young People;
- (ii) Creative Minds: Nurturing and supporting artists and other creators;
- (iii) Creative Springboard: Fostering cultural and creative innovation;
- (iv) People, Places, Networks: Enhancing our local cultural and creative infrastructure;
- (v) Creative Screens: A focus on film and coding;
- (vi) Creative Citizens: People creating and accessing culture on their doorstep.

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

Arts Leaders Associates were engaged to support Limerick City and County Council for the Consultation, Research and Writing of the Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027, as part of the development of the Creative Ireland programme 2023-2027.

Creative Ireland Made in Limerick 2022 grant call  
In 2022, the sixth year of the Programme, the Culture and Creativity Team at Limerick City and County Council secured the following:

<b>Core Grant Funding</b>	<b>€145,161</b>
<b>Cruinniu na nÓg</b>	<b>€30,000</b>
<b>Creativity in Older Age</b>	<b>€50,000</b>
<b>Strategic and Legacy Projects</b>	<b>€45,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€270,161</b>

## Core Grant Funding Programme

In 2022, there were 53 projects uploaded to the Creative Ireland portal. A selection includes:

### Made in Limerick Grants

Made in Limerick Grants were offered as part of the Limerick Creative Ireland Programme to deliver activities taking place in 2022 that support Pillar 2 of the Creative Ireland Programme, Enabling Creativity in Every Community. This grant scheme consists of Four strands; **Strand 1**. Creative Minds: Nurturing and supporting creative practitioners, **Strand 2**. Creative Citizens: People creating and accessing culture at their doorstep, **Strand 3**. People, Places, Networks: Enhancing our local cultural and creative infrastructure – Spotlight on Heritage and **Strand 4**. Creative and Cultural Activities and Wellbeing. Eleven Creative Ireland Made in Limerick grant applications were recommended for funding, with a total of €42,200 being awarded to a diverse range of high-quality projects and events.

### International Christmas in Limerick

International Christmas in Limerick took place on 11 December and was co-ordinated by Limerick Arts Office, in partnership with The Hunt Museum, supported by Creative Ireland. A celebration of Christmas traditions and non-Christmas winter traditions with our international communities in Limerick. There was music and dancing from Mexico and India, a children's Mexican decoration making workshop, piñata breaking, Polish carol singing, presentations and displays of cultural items. The event was well attended and we hope it becomes part of the annual calendar of Christmas in Limerick events.



International Christmas In Limerick

### Youth

Projects that support the ambitions of the Creative Youth Plan published by Creative Ireland include Future Creators and the Emerging Limerick Filmmakers (ELF).

### Cruinniú na nÓg 2022

A National day of creativity for children and young people, Cruinniú na nÓg, took place on 11 June. Children and young people were invited to take part in a range of events and workshops delivered by the Arts Office, in partnership with Fresh Film. All events were free of charge, child-centred and activity-based.



Cruinniú na nÓg 2022

## This is Art

This is Art, a young people's art competition organised by RTÉ and the Creative Ireland Programme, was held in conjunction with Cruinníu na nÓg and a selection of work was chosen. Celebrating visual art made by young people, 'This is Art' invited young artists of all abilities, aged 18 and under individually or in groups to create an original piece of art that will be showcased in an online art gallery.

This year's Cruinníu na nÓg saw partnerships with Limerick City and County Youth Service, Foroige Newcastle West, The Local Creative Youth Partnership Young Beoirs Gathering, East Limerick Youth Services, Dóchas Mid-West, Emerging Limerick Filmmakers and Clare and Limerick Education and Training Board. As well as participating in workshops on the day, these groups took part in in-person workshops in the weeks building up to Cruinníu na nÓg and were targeted at groups who found it difficult to connect due to restrictions.

## Additional funding-Musicians on Call (Phase 2) - Creativity in Older Age

### 2022

Limerick secured a grant of €50,000 as lead partner for Musicians-on-Call (Phase 2). This project is delivered in partnership with Artistic Partner Music and Health Ireland, the Health Service Executive (HSE) and Clare and Tipperary County Councils. This brings professionally trained musicians to work in healthcare settings in the Mid-West Community Healthcare Region, to connect music-making opportunities to residents and healthcare staff in Nursing Homes and Community Hospitals.

Additional Funding-Strategic and Legacy Projects Creative Ireland provided additional funding of €45,000 to Limerick City and County Council Culture and Creativity team in 2022 for the Strategic and Legacy project initiatives:

1. **Embedding the creative community in the fabric of Limerick's historic district.**
2. **Enriching the creative environment within a new state of the art Women's Prison facility.**
3. **100 Women of Limerick**
4. **Restorative Justice-Research and Development**



Musicians on Call at St. Camillus Hospital

## Additional Funding-Decarbonising Together-Creative Climate Action

Dr. Pippa Little, Arts Officer and Creative Ireland Programme Coordinator and Sinead Hourigan Administrative Officer of Urban Innovation Department presented online to the Creative Ireland Coordinators on 28 September on the Creative Climate Action - Decarbonising Together project, for which Limerick secured €118,889.50. Decarbonising Together invited five communities from the Limerick Metropolitan area to examine how meaningful climate action can become part of their day-to-day lives.

Communities	Creative Industry Practitioners	Medium
Munster Indian Cultural Association	Chelsea Canavan and Deirdre Power	Socially engaged practice
Garryowen Community Partners	Veronica Santorum and Daniel Clancy	Visual Artists
Limerick Island Partners	Patrick Mulvihill and Heather Griffin	Art / Design
Meadowbrook Residents Association	Workshop Architects	Architecture
Limerick Civic Trust	Maeve Stone & Alex Gil	Film



Decarbonising Together – Orchard Project

## Funding and Open Calls

Funding opportunities were implemented through a series of Open Calls, designed to support individuals, creative practitioners and groups organising and engaging in cultural and arts activities that deliver the aims of the Limerick Cultural Strategy.

- Grants under the Arts Act - There were 39 applications for funding. 31 were successful, with a total allocation of €20,000.
- Individual Arts Bursary Awards Scheme – There were 21 applications for funding. Seven were successful, with a total allocation of €20,000.
- Dolores O'Riordan Music Bursary - There were 10 applications for funding. Steven Tynan was awarded the bursary of €4,000.
- Limerick Theatre Bursaries. There were 10 applications for funding, with four Bursaries being awarded a total allocation of €19,930. The successful applicants were Liam McCarthy, Joanne Ryan, Mike Finn and Aniela Nowak.
- Festivals and Events Funding Scheme 2022/2023 – There were 41 applications for funding. 31 applicants were put forward for combined funding of €205,750.
- The Strategic Fund - There were 63 letters of support issued offering 10% of the award issued. To date, 18 applications were successful, leveraging over €400,000 from The Arts Council and other national funding bodies for artists in Limerick.
- Tyrone Guthrie Centre Regional Bursary Scheme - Three Tyrone Guthrie Bursaries were awarded in 2022, for 2023.

## Engine Short Film Scheme

The Engine Short Film Scheme supports new and emerging film writers, directors and producers from across Limerick, Clare and Tipperary. This scheme is a partnership between Arts Offices in Limerick, Clare and Tipperary, Innovate Limerick/Film in Limerick and Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board. The total investment from Limerick Arts Office is €20,000.

Other opportunities for professional artistic development included:

### Words Ireland National Mentoring Programme 2022

Limerick City and County Council in partnership with Words Ireland, offered an opportunity to a Limerick writer for a structured mentoring programme. In 2022, two successful mentees were supported for the Words Ireland National Mentoring programme, Luke Brennan and Sarah Togher.

### Summer School Bursaries

In 2022, two bursaries were awarded to attend the Drama League of Ireland Summer School, two Blas International Summer School of Irish Traditional Music and Dance bursaries and two Meitheal Summer School Bursaries were awarded.

### River Residencies, Arts Council, Invitation to Collaboration

This is a collaborative initiative led by the Limerick Arts Office and artistic lead Ormston House, in partnership with Cavan Arts Office, Clare Arts Office and Tipperary Arts Office. The River Residencies focus on high quality engagement between artists and communities, exploring themes inspired by the River Shannon with international Mexican artist Tania Candiani undertaking the Limerick residency in Glin, in summer.

### PLATFORM 31

PLATFORM 31 is a national opportunity for artists to develop their practice and test new ideas of collaboration, research, audience development, place making and sharing their work. The recipient of the Limerick bursary is Joanne Ryan, an Award-winning theatre artist, playwright and performer based in Limerick.

### Visual Artists Ireland (VAI), Professional Development

The three Arts Offices of Clare, Limerick and Tipperary are working in partnership to bring a shared suite of VAI training to artists. This was delivered primarily online, or through blended learning. The first Visual Artist Café took place in

September, introducing Arts in Midwest Region at which the Arts Officers of each Local Authority presented.

### **Arts and Disability Ireland Training**

Limerick Arts Office in partnership with Arts and Disability Ireland, delivered an Arts Focused Disability Equality Training that took place in April at Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay. Arts and Disability Ireland provide disability equality training (DET) which is specifically tailored for the needs of arts organisations who want to include artists and audiences with disabilities in what they do. The basic programme covered topics such as: ways of thinking about disability, thinking about words, thinking about access, thinking about arts and disability, communication and participation. DET is participative and dynamic and places disability firming in the context of equality and rights.

### **Sliabh Luachra Residency**

In 2022, the project continued to promote the celebration & preservation of the musical heritage, the cultural and creative tourism in the Sliabh Luachra region and the encouragement of participation.

### **Stony Thursday Poetry Book**

The Stony Thursday Book is one of the longest-running literary journals in Ireland. It is funded by The Arts Council and Limerick City and County Council. The 44th Edition, No. 18 in the New Series, was edited by Annemarie Ní Churreáin, a Donegal poet who is an Arts Council Next Generation Artist and Markievicz Awardee. Of one hundred and 61 submissions, 84 were chosen for inclusion. The launch of the Stony Thursday Poetry Book No. 18 took place on 13 of December at the Belltable, Limerick. The launch included poetry recitals from the book and performance with Traditional Fiddle Player Mairéad O' Donnell.

## **International Partnerships-European Projects**

### **International Partnerships European Projects**

Limerick City and County Council are participating in Creative Europe funded projects as an associate partner on Libertalia Labs and Performances. Libertalia sees the formation of a new partnership between three past and future European Capitals of Culture, an ECoC candidate city, a Borough of Culture and two cultural organisations. Labs continued in 2022 with workshops and performance of 'Born by the River' live streamed from Liverpool, July.

### **Local Live Performance Scheme**

The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media provided funding for the Local Live Performance Scheme III and IV of €286,000 for 2022. Creatives were supported through enhanced cultural programme, including The Limerick Opera Festival, enhanced Halloween events in Limerick with Samhain, Limerick's Hallowe'en Festival with Lumen Street Theatre and Twisted Tales from the Opera Workshop ensemble.

### **The Limerick Opera Festival**

The Limerick Opera Festival, "Opera for All", was held from 20 May, commencing with an Operatic Buffet Evening at Greenyard Café featuring David Howes and Jean Wallace, on 21 May an "Opera Trail" at King John's Castle, Opera Square, Thomas Street and People's Park, Age Friendly Workshop at St. Mary's Cathedral on 24 May and culminating with an Opera Gala Evening at St. Mary's Cathedral on 28 May.

## Portfolio of Cultural Properties

### Limerick's Residential Artist Apartments Scheme, 1-2 John's Square

Open call for the Artists' Apartments, 1-2 John's Square: One apartment became available for early 2023 and an open call was advertised.

### Short-term Artists Apartments, 1-2 John's Square, Limerick

Two studio apartments are made available for short-term use, as a resource for cultural and arts organisations that provide cultural activities for Limerick.

### Artists' Studios, James St. Limerick City

The Artists' Studios, James Street is an affordable space for individuals to produce work and allows artists to continue to live and work in Limerick, by encouraging working within the urban context. One Studio in the complex became available at the end of 2022. There were five applications to the open call and the panel met in December.

## Festivals and Events

### Festivals and Events Strategy Development for Limerick 2020-2030

The development of a strategy for festivals and events in Limerick has been ongoing during 2022.

### Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2022

Limerick City and County Council provided further strategic investment in Festivals and Events in 2022, through competitive open call, to the sum of €205,750. This year's fund included a €21,750 contribution in partnership with Fáilte Ireland. Forty-one applications were received with a total ask of €532,790.32. Thirty-one applicants were put forward for combined funding of €205,750.

## Civic Festivals

### St. Patrick's Festival

With the easing of Government restrictions on 23 January, Limerick City and County Council were able to announce that the fun and craic associated with the Limerick St. Patrick's Festival made a welcome return to the city streets following a COVID-enforced absence of two years. This year's theme was *Belonging and Identity*, ideas which

many people have been thinking about and discussing throughout the two years of enforced restrictions. This year also marked the 100th anniversary of the Irish Free State and the 50th anniversary of Ireland joining the EEC (now the European Union). The Limerick St. Patrick's Festival included the traditional St. Patrick's Day Parade on 17 March and the Limerick International Band Championship took place on 20 March 2022.

An estimated 50,000 people lined the streets of Limerick to welcome back the first in-person Limerick St. Patrick's Day Parade in three years. Glorious sunshine bathed the 1.6km route through the city centre as 52 groups took part in the parade. Led by the All-Ireland hurling champions as Grand Marshal, Limerick Manager John Kiely, and hurlers Peter Casey and Barry Murphy showcased the Liam MacCarthy cup supported by more than 150 GAA supporters from clubs around Limerick.

Visual artists Buí Bolg, Spotlight Stage School, Artastic, and the Hit Machine Drummers joined bands, community and sporting groups in a carnival of colour, music and spectacle celebrating the theme of Belonging and Identity.

The plight of millions of Ukrainians impacted by the war was marked as the Ukrainian flag flew side by side with the Irish flag as they were brought down the route. Crowds showed their heartfelt support as they gave a rousing round of applause as the flag was carried through the city centre. A special autism friendly area, which included a sensory room, covered marquee and seating area, meant that those with sensory issues could enjoy the parade.

Winners in the parade were:

- Best Overall Performance – Scoil Uí Nuailain, Irish Dance School
- Best Creative Performance – Red Hot Mommas
- Best Youth Group – Shannon RFC
- Best Musical Performance – Redemptorists Centre of Music



Limerick St. Patrick's Day

## International Band Championships

The Limerick International Band Parade

Championships made a welcome return to the city streets following a COVID-19 enforced absence of two years. Twenty Bands took part in the parade that was held on 20 March.

## Riverfest

Limerick proved the place to be on the May Bank Holiday weekend with more than 120,000 people enjoying the city's biggest festival Riverfest. From fireworks to the daring zipline, delicious BBQ to checking out what it's like aboard a naval ship, to the buzz of the Riverfestival Village, or hanging about at bingo with Fidget Feet, there was something for everyone. Added to the Riverfest mix was the Regeneron Great Limerick Run and a host of other events making Limerick truly the place to be for the May Bank Holiday weekend!



Riverfest 2022

## ECO Showboat

On May, School of Looking artists Anne Cleary and Denis Connolly launched the Eco Showboat expedition from the Hunt Museum in Limerick, a four-month voyage upriver to Enniskillen on the Mayfly, the first solar electric boat to make this journey.



Eco Showboat

## House!

A drive-in show packed with entertainment from start to finish, 20 Fidget Feet artists performed alongside members of the local community to bring HOUSE!, a sold-out theatre, circus, bingo extravaganza in Limerick Race Course over the May Bank Holiday. An invitation to Collaboration project funded by Arts Council with Clare Arts Office as lead, Limerick City and County Council's Arts Office and Galway County Arts Office, this

project culminated in a symposium on Diversity and Public Engagement while creating work in University of Limerick, 27 May. The Arts Officer presented on learnings and evolutions from previous project *Bingo Wings and House!*

## Culture Night Limerick / Óiche Chultúir

Culture Night took place in Limerick City and County on 23 September. There were almost 60 free cultural events taking place across city and county. The night was programmed into hubs, creating hives of activities. From family friendly performances by Fidget Feet in the Potato Market, to showcasing local and national electronic music in King John's Castle, the night saw cyanotype print workshops, dance performances, film screenings, opera, talks, walks, tours, and street art creating an enjoyable night for all.

At the centre of the programme at King John's Castle was a live music concert featuring the best of local and national electronic music scene featuring R Kitt, Paddy Mulcahy, Fedah and Rumi. This event was produced in association with King Johns Castle, the SIONNA Festival, TOT Events and Culture Night Late. Additional funding of €20,000 was secured from the Arts Council for this flagship live music concert. Another late-night event saw The Belltable host the Jazz Festival in their foyer from 10:15pm- late.

Fidget Feet performed two shows on Friday and two on Saturday in the Potato Market. Their production Handful of Dreams, had recently returned from touring in Northern Ireland and the UK. This free outdoor aerial performance for families was very popular!



Limerick Culture Night – Fidget Feet

There were also live hubs of activity at the Hunt Museum, Dance Limerick and Milk Market. The Hunt Museum played host to an evening of sound and vision with an exhibition of robotics and a live broadcast of Lorcan Murray's Classic Drive. The Milk Market hosted the Limerick Food Group who launched their Pigtown Culture and Food Series with a display of their Giant Pig after it paraded through the town, with their recently commissioned family pig floats. They also hosted live music and a petting farm for kids and families. Dance Limerick presented a variety of youth arts with Tobi Omoteso, Limerick Youth Dance, Rachel Sheil and Fresh Film taking part in an evening of hip-hop, street dance, and youth film.

Culture Night was supported by the Cultural Civic Engagement Programme with over twenty-five Volunteers.



Limerick Culture Night at King John's Castle - Sionna

## Cultural Civic Engagement programme

The Cultural Civic Engagement programme was resumed and supports cultural diversity and equality through the participation of volunteers.

## Christmas in Limerick

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

visitors throughout the Christmas period, families came in to spend time together, visitors to the city had plenty to see and do and the atmosphere in the city was festive and uplifting, after two years of restrictions.

Limerick City and County Council supported animation and performances on Bedford Row and Thomas Street and a series of Christmas performances by local creative organisations. This year brought a Christmas Village Event to Arthur's Quay Park, starting at the end of November and running up to Christmas. Limerick City and County Council also supported other stakeholders in the city with their Christmas events, including the Milk Market, Georgian Market, Nicholas Street, Hunt Museum and other events throughout the city and county.



Christmas In Limerick

## THE ARTS COUNCIL – FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

The Arts Council/County and City Management Association (CCMA) agreement, A Framework for Collaboration (2016 – 2025) is a commitment allowing Limerick City and County Council and The Arts Council to enter into Framework Agreement with shared strategic priorities for arts development in Limerick including.

1. Supporting Artists and Cultural Organisations
2. Rural Arts and Excellence
3. Young People, Children and Education
4. Festivals and Events

## 1. Supporting Artists and Cultural Organisations

### Helium Arts

Helium Arts are delivering their programme for children and young people with chronic illnesses. Arts as an Intervention for Maternal Wellbeing This project at the University Maternity Hospital Limerick, UMHL, funded by Healthy Ireland through the CYPSC. The Arts Office are supporting this project through the Limerick City and County Council Strategic fund.

## 2. Rural Arts and Excellence

### Castleconnell Autumn Concerts Series 2022

The Castleconnell Autumn Concerts takes place between August to November which is presented by Limerick City and County Council Arts Office. A fully live programme of enchanting and beautiful music and song returned to the All Saints Church in Castleconnell in Autumn. Castleconnell Autumn Concert Series is programmed by Limerick Arts Office, with financial support from the Arts Council and Creative Ireland. The concerts are presented in partnership with Love Castleconnell. The first concert took place on 30 August with Fiachra Garvey. The second concert took place on the 27 September with Dean Power accompanied on piano by Richard McGrath. The third concert took place on 28 October with Miriam Kaczor and Ellen Jansson. The final concert took place on 29 November with the Marmen Quartet performing in All Saints Church in Castleconnell brought in partnership with the National String Quartet Foundation. All concerts will be broadcast on RTE Lyric FM, The Full Score Programme with Liz Nolan.



Castleconnell Concerts – Liz Nolan

## Eigse – Michael Hartnett Literary and Arts Festival 2022

The Éigse Michael Hartnett Literary and Arts Festival is held annually in Newcastle West, County Limerick, celebrating the poet Michael Hartnett, poetry, and Newcastle West. Éigse took place from 6 to 9 October and included workshops, screenings, book launches, talks and more.

This was the twentieth year of the Michael Hartnett Poetry Award, which is jointly funded by Limerick Arts Office, Limerick City and County Council and The Arts Council. This year, we were delighted to announce that the value of the prize has been doubled and now stands at €8,000. The adjudicators were poets Kerry Hardie and Peter Sirr, both past recipients of the award. The winning poet, Eleanor Hooker was presented with the Michael Hartnett Poetry Award on the opening night of Éigse Michael Hartnett Literary and Arts Festival.



Eigse 2022

## 3. Young People, Children and Education

### Artist in Schools

The Artist in Schools programme works to develop opportunities for engagement for young people through involvement in culture and aims to achieve this by placing professional creative practitioners in a primary school setting to enhance and diversify pupil's creative education.

Limerick Artist in Schools Programme 2022: This programme was run in conjunction with several Limerick festivals. Dance Limerick's 'What Next Festival', the Ballyhoura 'The Joyce Brothers Festival' and 'Féile na Greine' Festival worked with three schools each.

### County Limerick Youth Theatre

Shane Hickey O'Mara, Artistic Director of the County Limerick Youth Theatre has delivered a packed programme including the writing, producing and showing of plays. *The County Limerick Youth Theatre* rehearsed and performed three productions, attended Festival of Youth Theatre in Kilkenny, and other live productions. Co. LYT has 38 members.

### Limerick Youth Choir

The Limerick Youth Choir, for young people between ages of 17 and 28, is a mixed voice choir for Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass. It is directed by Maire Keary-Scanlon and performs contemporary and classical music. Regular rehearsals took place, some online due to COVID-19. 2022 saw a concert in Redemptorists Church in June.

### Integrated Dance

This project introduces participants to dance as an art form whilst facilitating active and productive engagement in dance activities amongst disabled and non-disabled participants. The Integrated Dance Programme is delivered by Mary Hartney. *Integrated Dance Programme*: St. Gabriel's engaged with 4 taster workshops in the first half of the year. The recording of "In Time", took place in June. Mary Hartney, the project coordinator, retired in 2022. An evaluation is taking place to review the programme and plan for the future.

## PROPERTY AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The Property and Community Facilities Department covers four specific areas:

- Property – Acquisitions and Disposals
- Property Management and Digitisation
- Dereliction, Vacancy, Reuse/Sports and Community
- Rural Limerick Housing Development

Property Acquisition and Disposal provides a key support to other Directorates for the acquisition, disposal, leasing and licencing of council properties. During 2022, this team acquired properties under the Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP), Buy and Renew, Part V and Regeneration programmes.

Ongoing Acquisitions	
Housing	21
General Property	10
Completed property acquisitions	86

Significant acquisitions that were being processed by the Property Team during 2022 included:

- Four Former Bank of Ireland Branches at Abbeyfeale, Askeaton, Bruff and Kilmallock - completed
- Rigid Building, Galvone Industrial Estate – completed
- Lands at Lough Gur - completed
- Barrow House – final stages
- Parochial House, Feohanagh – final stages

The Department is also responsible for all disposals (including freehold and leasehold property interests) under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended).

Ongoing Disposals:-

- Lease/Licence – Nine
- Housing, Derelicts, Transfer to Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) and House Exchange for Regeneration – 92
- Property Disposal Transactions received during 2022 – 74

Significant disposals that were processed during 2022 included:

- Lands at Carroward East, Dromcollogher.
- In progress with various disposals in Galvone to address vacancy in the area.

Expressions of Interest were advertised during 2022 and will be assessed in early 2023 for the following properties:

- Former Garda Station, Mary Street.
- Toll Cottages.



Toll Cottages vested under the Derelict Sites Act

The **Property Management Department** looks after capital works on existing, acquired and vested properties. During 2022 the following projects were procured and completed:

Minor Works (<€ 2,000)	24
Medium Works (€2,000-10,000)	3
Major Works (>€ 10,000)	2

The Department responded to 488 new property related queries and carried out 312 site inspections throughout 2022.

The Department also prepared legal mapping for 81 Acquisitions, Disposals, Leases and Licenses. The new Property Interest Register (PIR) software system was delivered in Quarter 4 2022. This bespoke software system is the first of its kind in the country and will help the Department rationalise its data sources for all Acquisitions, Disposals, Leases and Licenses. This will lead to more accurate information being available in the future for the organisation as a whole.

The **Dereliction, Vacancy and Re-use section** is committed to supporting communities by taking a proactive approach to dereliction and vacancy in Limerick City and County. The team works collaboratively with property owners, seeking timely actions and improvements to sites of concern. Staff collaborate closely with Housing Development, Planning and Enforcement, as well as public representatives and communities to bring properties back into use. Owners of derelict and vacant properties are advised in relation to schemes such as Buy and Renew, Repair and Lease, Retail and Business Incentive Scheme and the Council's Paint Scheme that provides funding for property owners to improve the appearance of their properties. Where all reasonable alternatives are exhausted, the Council may commence compulsory acquisitions under the Derelict Sites Act 1990.

Outcomes	2022	2021
Derelict site inspections	1,506	1,493
Statutory Notices issued under Derelict Site Act, 1990	664	615
Properties added to Derelict Site Register	153	100
Properties removed from the Derelict Site Register	53	33
Compulsory Acquisitions were commenced under Derelict Site Act 1990	54	61
Properties vested in the name of the Council	19	82
Derelict Sites Levies collected €269,364.51 supported by the Debt Management Unit		



Pallasgreen Property before refurb by owner



Pallasgreen Property after refurb by owner

## Vacant Sites

There are currently nine sites on Limerick City and County Council's Vacant Sites Register. Limerick City and County Council collected €200,200 in Vacant Site Levies in 2022 supported by the Debt Management Unit.

## Vacant Homes

Utilising existing housing stock is a key pillar under of Rebuilding Ireland, Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness. The objective of the Limerick City and County Vacant Homes Action Plan is to establish an accurate picture of vacancy in Limerick and increase housing supply by assisting property owners to reactivate their properties for social or private housing. In 2022, the Council continued to identify vacant properties, particularly in areas of high housing demand, and work with property owners to bring their properties back into housing use. The Vacant Homes Officer works closely with the Housing Development Directorate in relation to liaising with owners about Buy and Renew Scheme and Repair and Lease Scheme.

In 2022 the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage launched the *Croi Conaithe* Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant that the Council administers for those applicants who wish to turn a formerly Vacant / Derelict house or building into their principal private residence. Grants up to €50,000 are available and may be used in conjunction with the SEAI's Home Energy Grants.

Croi Conaithe 2022	
Applications Received	51
Applications Approved	18
Total Grant Aid Committed	€702,847

## Rural Limerick Housing Development (RLHD) Project

A successful application was made to the Rural Regeneration Development Fund in 2020 with an allocation of €2,500,000 grant funding toward the regeneration of five towns: Askeaton, Ardagh, Abbeyfeale, Bruff and Rathkeale.

In 2022 seven additional towns: Ballingarry, Croom, Cappamore, Hospital, Kilfinnane, Kilmallock and Newcastle West were included in RLHD to total 12 no. RLHD towns in Co. Limerick. This provides an additional approach to tackling dereliction in Rural Limerick. Properties vested in the Council via the Dereliction Process, for which there is a limited market in the private sector, in their existing state, will be refurbished and sold on the open market. This is a demonstrator project with Limerick being the first county to receive such funding. It is hoped that the project will provide local employment and will breathe new life into local communities.

There was significant advances in this area during the year with 63 properties currently at different stages of the cost, design and build process.

Activity	2022	2021
Stage 1 Feasibility Reports: Structure, Costplan, Asbestos Assessment	63	10
Stage 2 Design and Tender to main Contractor	8	3
Stage 4 On site refurbishment	5	0

An informational video has been commissioned and is tracking the onsite progress of three sample properties undergoing refurbishment.

## Newcastle West Regional Athletics Hub

With the support of funding from the Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF) work continued on the development of the new regional athletics hub at Cloonyschrehane, Newcastle West. The project includes the construction of an athletics track to International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) standard, floodlights and all associated track facilities with disability access.

The Newcastle West Regional Athletics Hub is due to open in Quarter 2 2023.

## Askeaton Pool and Leisure Centre

Limerick City and County Council received a grant funding of €646,659 under Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund (LLSIF) to carry emergency upgrade work at Askeaton Pool. Further requirements for upgrades to ensure improved Energy Efficiencies were identified in 2022. Works are due to commence on site in 2023.

## Bin Waiver Scheme

Approximately 3,220 Waivers were issued to applicants under the Bin Waiver Scheme in 2022, which was funded from internal Limerick City and County Council funds.



Rathbane Golf Course

## Rathbane Golf Course

Rathbane Golf Course was awarded All Ireland All Star Public Course of the year 2022, third year in a row that the course has been given this award. Limerick City and County Council continues to provide ongoing financial support to enable the operation of Rathbane Golf Course. There was a substantial increase in the costs of utility services during the year due to the worldwide increase in costs of Electricity and Gas.

The Council applied for funding under the Small Scale Capital Grant Scheme to upgrade the facilities in the Club House. Funding of €37,783.00 was secured for energy upgrades in the Club house. Membership of Rathbane Golf Course has remained stable during 2022 with approx. 475 members.

## Grove Island Leisure Centre

As with Rathbane Golf Course, 2022 saw substantial increases in the costs of utility services due to the worldwide increase in costs of Electricity and Gas. Due to large costs involved in Heating and Operating a Swimming Pool, Limerick City and County Council continued to provide support to the operator of Grove Island Leisure Centre.



Rathkeale Community Playground: Surface Wetpour edging repairs under Repair and Upgrade Scheme of Assistance for Community Playgrounds

## Community Playgrounds

Limerick City and County Council continues to provide support in terms of public liability insurance for the operation of 19 Community Playgrounds. Limerick City and County Council also provided financial support to playgrounds during 2022 to carry out minor repair works to the Community Playgrounds, and provided training to the community groups to enable them to carry out weekly Health and Safety inspections.

During 2022, Limerick City and County Council introduced a “Repair and Upgrade Scheme of Assistance for Community Playgrounds”. During the year there were 12 funding applications approved.



Glin Community Playground: Slide Section replaced under Repair and Upgrade Scheme of Assistance for Community Playgrounds

## LIBRARIES, GALLERY AND MUSEUM

### Libraries

Limerick City and County Library continues to develop innovative and responsive ways to deliver a customer focused service to our communities. The core of the Library mission is to promote wellbeing and quality of life by providing equality of access to recreation, information, education, cultural and reading opportunities to the citizens of Limerick city and county.

Following the easing of public health restrictions in the first quarter of 2022, the Library was delighted to be able to offer the full range of services and facilities in libraries once again. The focus during 2022 was to provide an extensive programme of events, workshops, exhibitions and outreach activities designed to re-establish patterns of library visits and community engagement. This programme was successfully delivered over the course of the year by Library staff via our network of 16 libraries, mobile library service and school delivery service.



Minister Patrick O'Donovan, Sergeant Martin Concannan, Inspector Gary Thompson with the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley and Councillor Michael Donegan at the opening of the Person Presence Perception Exhibition of OPW Art Collection at Kilmallock Library – December 2022

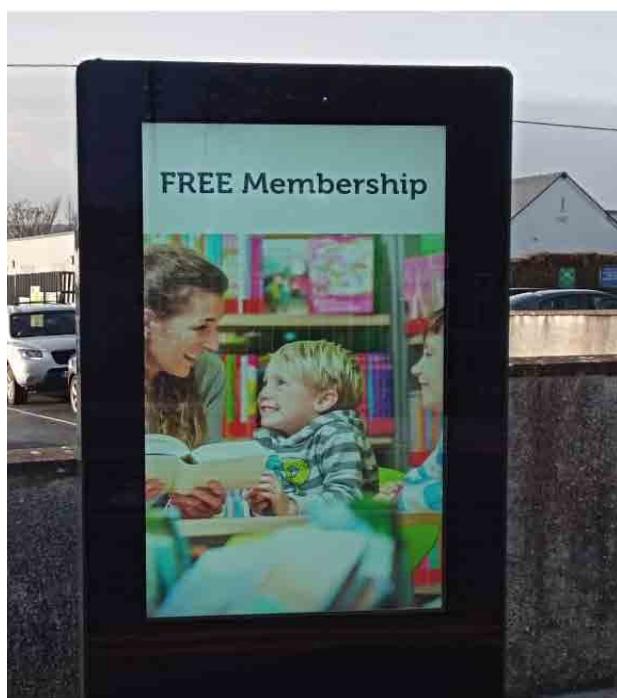
In early 2022, we rolled out the new Library Management System across all our libraries. This national software solution went live in March, providing enhanced transparency and access for customers to manage their accounts, place requests for items from any library in the country and have these delivered to their own local library for collection.

### Welcoming and Inclusive Libraries

The central vision of People Place Platform: Limerick Libraries Development Plan 2021-2025 is to offer attractive and welcoming spaces to enable all members of the community to access knowledge and ideas and where people can reflect, connect and learn. Throughout the course of 2022 work has progressed to achieve on the aim of the Development Plan.

The library team in collaboration with Limerick Twenty Thirty Strategic Development DAC have developed detailed plans for the flagship City Library at Rutland Street as part of the Opera Square development.

We continue to improve and maintain the fabric of our library network with a rolling programme of improvements and refurbishment work across libraries in the city and county. A major refurbishment of Newcastle West Library was undertaken in 2022. This ambitious remodel of the Library, both internally and externally has enhanced facilities at the Library and will enable the library team to deliver innovative customer focused services to the community. The Library has remained open to the community throughout the course of the refurbishment.



External Digital Screen at Driveway entrance to Newcastle West Library

- **Autism Friendly and Sensory Libraries**

Limerick City and County Library continues to develop its autism and neuro diverse friendly services throughout the library network. In addition to the extensive Sensory suite at Watch House Cross Library and the Sensory Pod at Abbeyfeale Library we have installed Sensory Dens, and collections of Sensory Toys across our library network. This service has had a hugely positive response and reinforces the vision of our libraries as neuro diverse friendly and welcoming places of interest for all.

- **Magic Tables**

The Magic Table is an interactive projector with games and puzzles and adventures, which stimulate movement and shared experiences. The Magic Table may be used by all but is particularly beneficial to Adults and Children with diverse needs. In 2022 we installed additional height adjustable tables which have made the Tovertafel "Magic Tables" at Kilmallock and Newcastle West Libraries more user friendly and accessible for people with additional needs.



Mary McDermott using the "Magic Table" at Newcastle West Library

- **Age Friendly Libraries Recognition Programme**

Library staff have excellent experience and skills in assisting people of all ages to access library services and resources. All members of the library frontline team across all the 16 libraries and mobile library have completed training to become Age Friendly Champions

and are well placed to empower folk to avail of the fantastic range of library services available both at the physical library and online. Our libraries are well on the way to achieve Age Friendly Recognition Age Friendly Status.

- **Energy Saving Kits at the Library**

With the rise in energy costs throughout 2022 the Home Energy Saving Kits have proved a very popular offer at our Libraries. Available at Abbeyfeale, City Library, Dooradoyle, Kilmallock and Watch House Cross Libraries the kit contains five useful tools to help you better understand the energy use at home and advice on how to take steps to reduce your energy use.



The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley launching the Home Energy kits with Niamh O'Rourke, City Library and Sinead McDonnell, Environment Awareness Officer

- **Healthy Ireland at your Library**

The Healthy Ireland At Your Library programme continued to grow in 2022, hosting 39 events throughout the year, both in-branch and online, with over 890 attendees. Topics covered included chair yoga for nursing home residents, mindfulness for children, five ways to mental health, the hidden benefits of walking, therapeutic art for mental wellbeing, yoga for disabilities, yoga for primary school children, healthy cooking and nutrition workshops.

The Healthy Ireland at your Library programme continued to engage with community partners including Limerick Mental Health Association, Mental Health Ireland, Men's Sheds Ireland and Women's Sheds, local schools and nursing homes in Limerick. All events were promoted on library social media platforms.



Peggy Cunningham & Bernadette English at Chair Yoga

The Library successfully accessed funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development to enable the enhancement of existing dedicated “Health Zones” in some of our main branches. This funding also allowed for the purchase of three height adjustable tables which are beneficial in allowing the Health Zones to be more readily accessible for all users, including those with limited mobility and wheelchair users.



Pius Murray at Kilmallock Library

- **Digital and Literacy Supports**

Limerick Libraries were successful in securing funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development to provide digital and literacy aids to support children and adults to acquire the reading skills. These support are useful to all but are extremely beneficial to those who are experience challenges or who may be using English as a second language

- **TTRS Touch Type Read Spell** is a multisensory, structured online course which assists students to learn at their own pace. In addition to developing typing skills, TTRS is designed to benefit students of all ages in particular those who experience challenges in reading, spelling or writing

- **Reading Eggs** is an App to develop the reading skill and support core literacy teaching with a focus on phonics and sight words. The App is designed for children from age three upwards to become independent readers

- **C-Pens** The C-Pen reader is a portable, pocket-sized device that reads text out aloud with an Irish accented digital voice. The C-Pens are useful for people with visual impairment, dyslexia and other challenges. Seven C-Pens are available across our full-time libraries at City Library, Abbeyfeale, Adare, Dooradoyle, Kilmallock, Newcastle West and Watch House Cross Libraries.

## Library Outreach

We have continued to develop our Outreach services beyond the walls of our libraries and successfully applied and received grant aid from the Department of Rural and Community Development Dormant Accounts Fund to support two Outreach programmes in the second half of 2022.

- **Women and Men Shed Groups** This project sought to reach out to the many Women's and Men's Shed groups throughout the city and county to afford the shed group members the opportunity to access and participate in a range of Library services. Based on consultation and feedback from Shed Groups, the Library team programmed a series of workshops and taster sessions which focused on the themes of Wellbeing and Staying Active, Digital Literacy and Getting to Grips with Apps and Nurturing Creativity. A total of 37 workshops/ taster sessions were delivered on location at the Shed venues.



Art therapy workshop with Dooradoyle Women's Shed



Getting to Grips with Apps and Digital Literacy at Mulcair Men's Shed

The following Shed Groups participated in the programme. Abbeyfeale Women's Group, Adare Men's Shed, Adare 2020 club, Bruff Men's Shed, Caherdavin Men's Shed, Dooradoyle Men's Shed, Dooradoyle Women's Shed, Headway Shed Group, Galbally Men's Shed, Kilmallock Men's Shed, Mulcair Men's Shed, Newcastle West Women's Shed Group.

- **Crafting Connections** this project sought to build connections and nurture creativity through a shared intergenerational art and craft project. Library staff consulted with Nursing Homes and Primary Schools and on the basis of feedback engaged Imelda O'Riordan a local arts practitioner to work with Bruree National School and Scóil Mocheallog, Kilmallock and the neighbouring Beechlodge Care Facility at Bruree and Maria Goretti Nursing Home at Kilmallock to facilitate this rewarding intergenerational project. St. Anthony's Nursing Home, Pallasgreen and Adare and District Nursing Home, Croagh also took part. A total of 18 workshops were delivered on location at Nursing homes and schools. A celebratory exhibition on the shared artwork will be held at Kilmallock Library in spring 2023.

## Families and Children

**Right to Read** is the national initiative to promote literacy and reading development for people of all ages. It includes four national seasonal programmes specifically targeted to promote the joy of reading for children – Spring into Storytime, Summer Stars, Children’s Book Festival and Family Time at your Library.

- **Spring into Storytime**

Public health restrictions lifted just in time for the library to launch our first in library events for Spring into Storytime. A total of 54 events were held with 954 participants across our libraries.



Limerick writer Roisin Meaney launching Spring into Storytime at Cappamore Library

- **Summer Stars**

The annual Summer Stars promotion took place in all our libraries throughout the months of July and August. Summer Stars is all about the joy of reading. It is not competitive and every child who joins the promotion and borrows books over the holiday is considered to have taken part. A total of 32 events at our libraries were delivered with 1,700 certificates awarded this year to every child who took part in the programme.



Iarlaith and Ailbhe Dennison at Abbeyfeale Library

- **Little Library Bag**

This year the library provided each child who started school in September with their very own Little Library Bag. This wonderful initiative is a collaboration between libraries and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as part of the First Five Strategy. 2,091 Little Library Bags were given out in total during the year. Each bag, which was available in both Irish and English, contained the following

- Three books on starting school, making friends and being comfortable to be yourself
- A story card on going to the library
- A postcard the child can write or draw on and send to their new teacher, or bring to give to the teacher on their first day at school
- Their very own library card and special ‘My Little Library’ cardholder



Boys and Girls from Galbally Childcare Services collecting Little Library Bags at Galbally Library

- **Children’s book festival and Family Time at the Library**

are held during the months of October and December. These promotions are focused on sharing the enjoyment of books and reading among children and families. The Library team together with writers and illustrators bring a programme of workshops, writer visits, talks and conversations to libraries and schools throughout the city and county. Children’s Book Festival comprised a total of 116 events with 3740 children attending. Family Time at the Library comprised 28 events in total with 736 children taking part.



Fighting Words and Story Seeds creative writing workshops at Watch House Cross Library

## Online Services

The range and variety of reading opportunities and recreational activities and information sources available through Limerick Libraries continued to grow in 2022. The uptake of this offer grew significantly during public health restrictions and this level of usage has been maintained even while we are back operating from our libraries without visiting restrictions. The range of material available directly at home or on the mobile device in your pocket includes

- E-Books, E-Audio,
- Digital Comics and Graphic Novel
- Online Courses
- National and International Newspaper
- Popular and Special Interest Magazines
- Limerick Studies Online

E-books & E-audio – online books & audio – Borrowbox	83,779 issues
National & International Newspapers - Pressreader:	37,550 issues
Popular and Special Interest Magazines – Libby Overdrive	11,679 issues
Language Learning Courses	1,194 issues
Online Courses	4,502 lessons viewed

## Social Media

Our social media presence continues to grow across all platforms in 2022. In addition to Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, we have now also commenced posting to TikTok. We have seen wonderful engagements across all platforms. The spread of platforms enables us to broaden our reach across the generations and we have seen wonderful engagement, locally nationally and internationally. Much of our content has been reposted via Libraries Ireland thus reaching an every wider audience.

## Indicators \*

Total Visits	323,566
Total Number of Items Borrowed	255,145
Total Number of Borrowers	30,681
Total No Events for Adults	381
Total Number of Events for Children	944
Total Public Access PC Sessions	15,937
Total No of Public Access PC Hours	11,714

\*Public Health Restrictions allowing for unrestricted Library visits were eased at the end of March 2022.

## Decade of Centenaries Commemoration Programme 2022

Limerick Libraries and Limerick Museum completed a number of significant projects and hosted or supported several commemorative events during the course of the year.

The Library published *The Inevitable Conflict: essays on the Civil War in County Limerick*. Coordinated and edited by Seán Gannon of Limerick Libraries. This richly illustrated book is a collection of essays by many accomplished historians and gives a comprehensive overview of the Civil War in Limerick. Since its publication in October 2022, the book has received a hugely positive response. Most of the 500 copies that were printed have now been distributed. The book is also available in full online on the *Decade of Centenaries* page on limerick.ie. This book serves as a permanent and significant addition to the published resources on the history of this period in Limerick.

A number of significant online resources were created and published. Early in the year, the *Interactive Revolutionary Maps of Limerick* were launched. These maps pinpoint the locations of events during the revolutionary period and Civil War which occurred in Limerick City and County. Information regarding each event can be accessed by clicking the tagged locations on the map or selecting from a date-by-date menu.

Two online exhibitions now permanently available on the Council's website, created by Limerick Museum, mark the disbandment of the Royal Munster Fusiliers in 1922, and a fascinating critical survey of local newspaper coverage of events over the entire revolutionary period in Limerick.

A significant documentary film was produced and directed by historian, Angus Mitchell, about the nationalist politician and writer, Bulmer Hobson, who spent the last years of his life at Castleconnell, County Limerick, and who died there in 1969. Hobson was a significant figure in the rise of Irish nationalism, leading to the Rising of 1916, but has been largely forgotten in recent times. The

documentary serves as a most useful reminder of his importance in the rise of nationalism in Ireland in the early years of the twentieth century. The film, *Remembering Bulmer Hobson*, will be presented at schools, libraries and history societies as well as being made available on the Decade of Centenaries web-page.

The *Limerick Lady Live Podcast Show* was recorded with a live audience in November, hosted by artists Emma Langford and Ann Blake, regarding the experiences and stories of a selection of historic LGBTQ women in Ireland between 1912 and 1923, such as Eva Gore Booth, Esther Roper, Elizabeth O'Farrell, or Julia Grenan. Giving the historical context was local historian and author Sharon Slater. The evening included live performances celebrating the theme from a host of musicians, poets and actors. This was a significant Decade of Centenaries event as it cast light on a world that was in shadows at the time. The addition of an LGBTQ-focussed event to the slate of events commemorating the centenary of the revolutionary period is a welcome illustration of the inclusive agenda of the centenary commemorations.

Among the other events arranged or supported by the Council's Decade of Centenaries Programme in 2022 included, the annual Knocklong History Seminar, a memorial tree-plating at Athea in memory of Paddy Dalton, the acquisition the Irish Grants Committee Papers (Limerick-related) by the library, a significant collection of documents which detail claims for compensation made by people who were adversely affected by events of the Civil War.

## MUSEUM

In April, with the relaxing of Covid-19 restrictions, Limerick Museum was delighted to resume its programme of in-person exhibitions. In total, the Museum held two virtual and 10 live exhibitions in 2022.

### List of Exhibitions

Name	Date	Exhibitor	Venue
Bright Sadness	April	Siobhan Potter	Virtual
The Works We Thought We Had	April	Various artists	Limerick Museum
Leaf Litter	May	Mags Dunne	Limerick Museum
Limerick Operatic Memorabilia Exhibition	June	Curated by Ger Reidy and Matthew Potter	Limerick Museum
A Woman's Culm	July	Pauline O'Connell	Limerick Museum
Unlocking the Secrets of Limerick Museum	August	Curated by Matthew Potter and William O'Neill	Saint Mary's Cathedral
Tracing the Pattern Of Limerick Lace	September	Curated by Sharon Slater	Virtual
Jim Kemmy in Newspaper and Pictures	September	In partnership with Limerick Library Service	Merchant's Quay
Pigtown Exhibition	September	Curated by Matthew Potter	Saint Mary's Cathedral
Wrap	September/October	Nuala O'Sullivan	Limerick Museum
Small Works from the Studio	November	Robert Ryan	Limerick Museum
Christmas Past	December	Curated by Zara Power	Limerick Museum
Art exhibition inspired by Ukrainian War	December	Maurice Quillinan and Eamon Colman	Limerick Museum

As part of the Decade of Centenaries programme, Limerick Museum, working in partnership with the Limerick Library Service completed four online projects:

- *Revolutionary Map of Limerick 1913-23*;
- *The Royal Munster Fusiliers 1881-1922* Exhibition;
- *Limerick Newspapers and the Irish Revolution* Exhibition;
- *Limerick in 1922* Historical Symposium.

Limerick Museum and Limerick Library Service collaborated in marking the 25th anniversary of the death of Jim Kemmy (1936-97), former T.D., the Mayor of Limerick and long-serving member of Limerick City Council. On 23 September, the Mayor

of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, performed the official opening of *Jim Kemmy in Newspaper and Pictures*, a joint exhibition by Limerick Library Service and Limerick Museum, held in the area outside the Council Chamber, Merchant's Quay. On the same occasion, the Library Service and Museum hosted *Jim Kemmy, his Life, Labour and Legacy*, a lecture by Professor Eoin Devereux of the University of Limerick held in the Council Chamber itself.

In 2022, Limerick Museum continued its well-established partnership with the Hunt Museum. One example was the inclusion of a large number of objects from Limerick Museum in the *The Art of Reading in the Middle Ages*, a project curated

by the Hunt Museum which may be viewed on the Digital Repository of Ireland website at <https://repository.dri.ie/catalog/1831s8999>.

Limerick Museum sponsored the Crafts Section of Limerick Show, which was held on 27 August. In addition, at the Show, Dr. Matthew Potter presented a copy of his history of Limerick lace to EU Commissioner Mairead McGuinness in the presence of Councillor Kieran O'Hanlon and the Chief Executive Dr. Pat Daly.

Successful collaborations were continued with our existing partners including the Limerick Library Service, Hunt Museum, St. Mary's Cathedral, the University of Limerick, Mary Immaculate College, and Friends of Lace. We commenced two new collaborations: with the newly established Discover Limerick DAC, which has been set up to administer King John's Castle; and the Foynes Flying Boat and Maritime Museum.

The Museum's outreach programme was very active with the Curator delivering lectures in a number of venues including Limerick Chamber of Commerce; Raheen Men's Shed; Limerick Shannon Ladies Probus Group; Limerick 922 Probus Club; and the People's Museum. As part of the Museum's longstanding collaboration with the Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival, the Curator gave two well-attended tours of the Museum on 24 and 26 May.

On 7 October, at the invitation of His Excellency Mr Akhilesh Mishra, Indian Ambassador to Ireland, the Curator gave a lecture in the Indian Embassy, Dublin on Ireland-India relations over the past 3,000 years. In his lecture, the Curator highlighted specific Limerick connections with India, including the career of Max Arthur Macauliffe, who translated the Sikh scriptures into English, the role of the Royal Munster Fusiliers in India and the many Limerick administrators and soldiers who served in India. The lecture may be viewed on the Indian Embassy's social media platforms.

The Museum's online offering continued to develop. On 5 September, Limerick Museum's twitter followers exceeded 2,000 for the first time. In addition, we commenced an Object of the Week programme on 19 October. Every Wednesday, an object from the collection is featured across all our social media platforms with a view to highlight the diversity and riches of the Museum's permanent collection.

In addition, as part of our continuing commitment to Limerick lace, its history and heritage, the Museum digitised its entire collection of 374 Limerick lace patterns.

## **Limerick City Gallery of Art Exhibition Programme**

2022 was the first full year of uninterrupted public service since 2020. A total of six significant exhibitions were held featuring four major solo shows by Irish artists: Aideen Barry, Tom Fitzgerald, Marie Foley and Brian Fay. Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA) also presented a drawing exhibition by Dutch artist Arno Kramer in conjunction with Coda Museum, Appeldorn, Netherlands.

One of most significant innovations in 2022 was the hosting of an open submission exhibition for recent graduates from art colleges in Ireland. A total of 133 applications were received and 16 artists selected by a peer panel comprising Patrick Murphy, director of the Royal Hibernian Academy, artist, Aideen Barry and Úna McCarthy, Director/Curator of LCGA. This was a very exciting opportunity for these recent graduates to present their work in a major institution. The exhibition also drew support from the Irish Research Council who awarded three artists research bursaries to a total of €2,000.

Another major highlight for LCGA was the continuation of TEST SPACE – an artist – in – residence scheme. This innovative scheme aimed to establish better, and more meaningful, connections with the local artistic community. Apart from providing a space for an artist to connect to the Gallery the residency was also used to interrogate the development of LCGA's Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI) policy. In parallel with the in-house residency LCGA also offered a virtual artist in residency, which was filled by Rachel Rothwell, an Irish artist, based in London.

## Permanent Collection

Throughout the year LCGA programmed a number of exhibitions from the Permanent Collection. These included works from the Michael O'Connor Poster Collection, the Maire and Maurice Foley Collection and the Jim Kemmy Remembered exhibition which was presented to mark the 25th anniversary of Kemmy's death and was very popular with local residents.

LCGA made a number of acquisitions during 2022 with the most notable acquisition being the portrait of Michael Hartnett by the renowned portrait and still life painter Edward McGuire which was secured with financial assistance from the Friends of the National Collections of Ireland and Limerick City and County Council.

## Education and Community Events

The Shinnors Scholar, Brendan Egan, designed and delivered a number of workshops throughout 2022 with a focus on three local primary schools. These workshops were supported by Dance Limerick and involved a rich combination of movement and visual art. LCGA also continued to work with the Three Muses project, a learning programme designed to increase access, ownership and enjoyment of the collections of The Hunt Museum, Limerick Museum and Limerick City Gallery of Art. LCGA collaborated on a number of community projects throughout the year including an exhibition by Helium Arts who work with children with long-term illnesses; Tiny Little Histories, an initiative by Cultural Communities Mid-West; and the Irish Aerial Dance Company on their pan European project.

LCGA hosted the 75th anniversary exhibition of the Limerick Art Society which attracted a significant number of people from the city and county. LCGA continued its ongoing relationship with Light Moves and hosted a residency and presentation of work by two Canadian artists in June.

A huge thank you is given all our visitors, friends, neighbours, schools, students, researchers, and workers (past and present), for their support this year – our first year of uninterrupted activity since the pandemic. We look forward to increasing our visitor numbers in 2023 as we continue to be a free, open place for everyone to explore our rich and varied programme. LCGA is a safe haven for people to gather and connect with art, to slow down and explore thoughtful responses to the issues of our times.

Total audience figures for 2022: 69,640, which represents a slow return to our pre-pandemic visitor numbers.

# REGENERATION





# REGENERATION

The overall aim of the Regeneration Directorate is to enable safe and sustainable communities by improving quality of life and promoting greater social and economic inclusion in the designated regeneration areas of Moyross, St. Marys Park, Southill, and Ballinacurra Weston.



St. Mary's Park Residents and Councillors at a community celebration]

## Limerick Regeneration Status Update 2023-2030

The Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan 2014 – 2023 (LRFIP) forms the policy basis on which the Regeneration Programme is currently being delivered. The LRFIP set out key objectives for delivery physical, social and/or economic focus to 2023.

The LRFIP is structured around three pillars: physical (housing, public realm, amenity and physical connectivity), social and economic regeneration, to be delivered via an integrated approach. Five important themes underpin the economic and social regeneration strategy. These include Education and Learning, Health, Wellbeing and Ageing Well, Employment, Families and Youth at Risk, Community Safety.

A significant financial commitment was made by Government towards delivery of the LRFIP programme. The bulk of the funding (an average of €20 million per annum) was for physical works

focused on new housing schemes, necessary demolitions, housing up-grades, community facilities and public realm. Between €3 million and €4 million per annum is available for economic and social regeneration though the Economic and Social Intervention Fund. The current funding commitment ends in 2023.

Significant progress has been made towards delivering the overall vision of the LRFIP. However, it also must be acknowledged that implementation of that overall LRFIP vision is not achievable within a typical 5, 10, or 15 year timeframe due to the deep structural nature of the deprivation and social upheaval affecting these areas. It is also important to note that much of the physical development envisaged in the LRFIP was not deliverable in a 10 year time frame and that some of the programme deliverable within the 10 year timeframe was adversely impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic.

In November, KPMG were appointed to produce a Limerick Regeneration Status Update 2023 - 2030. The purpose of the LRFIP Status Update 2023 - 2030 is to access the current overall position of the Regeneration communities through an evidence-based assessment of the physical, social and economic parameters in the LRFIP, and to make recommendations for the future strategic direction of the Programme. Work on the Status Update got underway in November with focus groups and design workshops planned for January 2023. It is intended that a draft report will be completed in late Spring 2023 following consultation with relevant stakeholders.

## ECONOMIC

The economic development strategy for regeneration is focused on the delivery of a number of key objectives. They include;

- ensuring the growth of local capacity through the provision of focused sectoral training and employment opportunities;
- fostering a culture of social innovation and social enterprise in the areas as well as create a programme of civic and economic interventions to attract, support and grow small and community enterprise; and,
- attracting inward investment into Limerick City and the areas of Regeneration from the private and public sectors that stimulates additional economic activity.

There are a number of routes to employment for residents of regeneration areas. For example, Regeneration supports jobs creation by investing in the development of community and social enterprises through the Economic and Social Intervention Fund (ESIF) such as community cafés and meals on wheels.

The ESIF supports programmes that reach out to unemployed individuals in order to reconnect them with education, increase their employability and help them progress into the labour market. There is a focus particularly on addressing youth unemployment in the regeneration areas.

For example, the ESIF has partnered with the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB) on two projects which are delivering results in the area of pathways to employment:

- The investment in the development of the Moyross Development Company's Workplace Training Programme in conjunction with the LCETB
- The Hospitality Education and Training Centre (HETC) in Roxboro was set up as a joint project between Regeneration and the LCETB.



Pre-Apprenticeship Programmes

## Outreach to Employment Programme

An Outreach to Employment Initiative, led by the Jobs Co-ordinator within the Regeneration Directorate, worked with a project team of stakeholders and agencies including Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, Department Social Protection, Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) and PAUL Partnership.

Significant work was undertaken by the Project Team to develop a database of participants who engaged with the process. Extensive collaboration with community partners continued during 2022 in the regeneration communities. The Outreach to Employment Programme engages directly with employers and training partners in order to match individuals' skills development to jobs, creating opportunities for residents of the regeneration areas. Links have been established with local multinational and construction companies in order to lay down pathways to employment.

The key elements are:

- Recognising and reducing barriers to employment e.g. education, training, CV writing skills, lack of transportation, addiction, lack of driving license, access to childcare, access to bank account/email address/PPS number, lack of confidence;
- Putting industry led training in place through LCETB and employer led programmes currently at Moyross Youth Academy and Limerick City Build; and,
- Direct engagement with employers to identify employment opportunities e.g. construction, manufacturing, hospitality, health care, cleaning, logistics and defence forces.

A Jobs Fair was held in each of the Regeneration communities providing the opportunity for local people to engage directly with employers and training providers. The Jobs Fairs proved to be a great success with positive feedback from both the attendees and the employers. Over 25 different employers/agencies participated in the jobs fair across the four areas.

In 2022, mentors worked with 110 participants with 60 participants securing employment and/or engaging in further education and training. The significant number of participants successfully secured employment or engaging in further education and training is as a result of the wrap around supports provided by the Community Mentors who are a key element of the Outreach to Employment Programme.

Work continues on this initiative and any enquiries can be made to [outreachtoemployment@limerick.ie](mailto:outreachtoemployment@limerick.ie)



Southill Jobs Fair at the Southill Hub

## SOCIAL

Under the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan (LRFIP), the Economic and Social Intervention Fund (ESIF) underpins the LFRIP's primary objectives but also aims to close the gaps with the average population by improving access to opportunities for residents of the regeneration areas, as well as improving service provision across the statutory and voluntary/community sector.

The annual ESIF is open to all community and voluntary organisations as well as public bodies working in the regeneration areas or serving former and current regeneration residents. Projects that meet the objectives of the LRFIP are selected by theme-based sub-committees and submitted to the Local Strategic Advisory Monitoring Group (LSAMG) for approval. The process is reviewed by an independent verification panel, before the list of grantees is submitted for approval by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. In 2022, allocation of funding to grass-roots community organisations has been maintained. While involving relatively small amounts of funding, these projects are generally volunteer-led and are highly appreciated and visible in local regeneration communities.



Street League Homeless World Cup Under 18s 5-side team - Players from Moyross United F.C.

In 2022, over 80 organisations working in the Regeneration Communities have received a significant boost with €3.63 million in funding allocated to 127 projects. A core group of projects supporting youth and families with complex needs have also maintained their funding in 2022. These are important in stabilising that population, connecting them to mainstream services and promoting social inclusion. Most of these projects now operate on the basis of referrals from statutory agencies and/or work in co-operation with and are co-funded by other statutory bodies. The Regeneration Team have continued to engage with this group of social inclusion projects to promote good connectivity with economic development initiatives and where there is scope, to encourage those with potential into training and employment opportunities.

Grants to schools and other services for education and learning have also been maintained. The evidence indicates that additional support into programmes delivered in schools or out-of-school services (after school programmes, summer camps, therapeutic services offered to children in schools) is contributing to the achievement of better educational outcomes for children in regeneration areas/ from disadvantaged social backgrounds. These outcomes include better educational attainment, improved school attendance, improved retention in second level education and improved behaviour.



Clean-Up Volunteers in Southill]

Employability and work projects, skills training and access to employment for regeneration area residents continues to be a high priority. A strong link with the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP) and the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB) is particularly important in order to promote the sustainability of these initiatives.

The Social Regeneration Coordinator continues to review and work with stakeholders on the following:

- the impact and efficiency of existing interventions funded through the Economic and Social Intervention Fund in regeneration areas;
- identifying key tangible revisions or new interventions required to improve the outcomes for families with the highest and most complex needs; and,
- developing and overseeing implementation of those recommendations.



The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick Councillor Francis Foley visiting West End Youth Centre at the Our Lady of Lourdes Community Centre

## PHYSICAL

The physical regeneration pillar encompasses

- Replacement housing;
- Thermal upgrades;
- Refurbishments;
- Strategic demolitions;
- Provision of community infrastructure;
- Environmental management; and,
- New and improved connectivity in terms of roads, footpaths, cycle ways.

## Housing

In accordance with the LRFIP, the social housing need specific to the Regeneration areas are calculated with reference to three specific variables:

- Replacement housing need: Replacement housing need refers to additional accommodation requirements generated in order to enable planned demolitions;
- Overcrowded need: This refers to additional accommodation requirements necessary to resolve overcrowding situations within selected individual homes in accordance with the Housing Waiting List; and,

- Returning housing need: This refers to additional accommodation requirements necessary to facilitate the return of former regeneration residents to their original community (subject to housing applications being registered on the Local Authority's housing waiting list).

In 2022 there has been significant progress with delivery of replacement housing with 134 dwellings commenced and under construction and a further 80 units being advanced through the pre-construction stage.

Housing contracts awarded / under construction in 2022:

- Cliona Park Phase 3 (18 units), Moyross – construction ongoing.
- Churchfield Phase 2 (37 units), O'Malley Park, Southill – construction ongoing.
- Dalgaish Park / Cosgrave Park (57 units), Moyross – construction ongoing.
- Sheep Street / Athlundard Street (8 units), King's Island – construction ongoing.



Dalgaish Park/Cosgrave Park under construction



Cliona Park Phase 3 Housing Development Moyross due for completion late Spring 2023



Cliona Park Phase Housing Development Moyross indicative



Churchfield Phase 2 Housing Development Southill due for completion early 2024

In addition, the Peter McVerry Trust recommended the construction of the 14 no. partially completed units in Delmege Park, Moyross. Their completion will represent the first phase of the 38 unit housing development split between Moyross and Southill. The tender process for the remaining 24 units is at an advanced stage with construction expected to commence through the first quarter of 2023.

#### Housing projects at pre-construction stage 2022:

- Orchard Housing development (27 units), King's Island – tender documentation for the main development is in preparation and advance archaeological excavation contract is expected to be progressed through the first half of 2023.
- Cliona Park Phase 4 (20 units), Moyross - the Regeneration Department submitted and received Stage One Approval for Cliona Park Phase 4. Procurement of an Integrated Design Team is underway with a Part 8 due to be progressed through the first half of 2023.
- Regeneration Area Derelicts Lot 1 (9 units) – the Regeneration Department submitted and received Stage 1-3 Approval for Regeneration Area Derelicts Lot 1. Tender documentation

preparation and associated contractor appointment is expected to be progressed through the first half of 2023.

## Thermal Upgrades

The LRFIP objective is that all occupied housing units with the four regeneration areas are retained to a C grade Building Energy Rating. There has been significant progress towards completing the remainder of the LRFIP Thermal Upgrade Programme in 2022 as outlined below:

Thermal Upgrade contracts awarded / under construction in 2022:

- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 122, St Mary's Park (19 Units) – construction completing.
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 124, St Mary's Park (19 Units) – construction completing.

Thermal Upgrade contracts in design through 2022:

- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 121, Moyross (47 Units) – Approved to construction stage but retendered following withdrawal of the recommended tender.
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 121A, Moyross (18 Units) – Approved to construction stage.
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 123, Southill (53 Units) – Approved to construction stage but retendered following withdrawal of the recommended tender.
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 125A, St. Mary's Park (26 Units) – Awaiting approval to award contract.
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 126, Southill (50 Units) – Approved to construction stage.
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 127, Ballinacurra Weston (12 Units) – Awaiting approval to award

contract.

- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 128/128, St. Mary's Park (25 Units) – Awaiting approval to award contract.
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 130, Moyross (51 Units) – Survey and scoping processes commenced.

## Strategic Demolitions

The Directorate continued with programme of strategic demolitions to facilitate new housing development, new community spaces, new connections and resolution of dereliction. There were 41 strategic demolitions carried out in regeneration areas in 2022 as per table 1.1 below:

Area	Demolitions Total Southill
Southill	19
Moyross	14
Ballinacurra Weston	6
St. Mary's Park	2

Table 1.1: Strategic demolitions in regeneration areas 2022



Galvone Arms site Southill post-demolition

## Community and Social Infrastructure

Continued to improve communities by delivering community infrastructure projects including:

- **Upgrade Works, Southill Hub** - Construction upgrade works commenced in Quarter 2 2022 and are due for completion in Quarter 1 2023.
- **District Play Area, Southill** - Regeneration, with the support of the Southill community, received a Stage One Approval from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for



Minister Joe O'Brien visiting the Southill Hub

a district play area on Castle Oaks View Road to the east of the Holy Family Church. A design team has been appointed with community consultation, design and Part 8 planning documentation in preparation.

- **Our Lady of Lourdes Community Centre** - Following consultation with the Ballinacurra Weston/Prospect community, the Regeneration Team are preparing a project brief for the refurbishment of the Our Lady of Lourdes Community Centre.
- **King's Island Community Centre** - A Working Group for the progression of King's Island Community Centre was established with members from the community, key stakeholders and the Regeneration Directorate represented. Project brief parameters were established, endorsed by the Working Group and endorsed by the Regeneration Committee. The proposed partial retention of the existing community centre and associated new build on the current community centre site is expected to be submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in Quarter 1 2023.

The Regeneration Department supported a successful Heritage Council Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2022 submission which facilitated the preparation of a condition survey of the existing brick sub structure, associated conservation strategy and tender documentation for the restoration of the brick sub structure.



Public Realm Improvements at Verdant Place, St. Mary's Park

- **Turner Vinery** - The Regeneration Department supported Tait House Community Enterprise in their successful Heritage Council Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2022 submission which facilitated the preparation of a condition survey of the existing brick sub structure, associated conservation strategy and tender documentation for the restoration of the brick sub structure.

## Refurbishments

Regeneration spend is circa €1 million throughout 2022 on refurbishing housing stock in regeneration areas and to return casual vacancies to pre-letting standards in a cost effective, timely and compliant manner.

## Connections

The LRFIP envisages improvements to connectivity to and from the city centre, within Regeneration areas, to and from their adjacent areas and to the city centre. In 2022 there has been work done to progress a number of connectivity projects including:

### Moyross

- Ongoing design development of a connection between Old Cratloe Road and
- Ongoing design development of a connection between Moylish Road and the new Dalgaish Park development;

### Southill

- Ongoing design development for improved cycleway and footway connectivity on Childers Road and around LEDP/Maldron Hotel/Aldi area

## Environmental Management

Regeneration continued to invest (circa €507k) in small capital and environmental projects across all four communities via community safety initiatives, street cleansing, grass cutting, landscaping, clean-ups and footpath realignments.

## Community CCTV Provision

The Regeneration programme continued to promote and invest in community safety and reduction in anti-social behavior impacts.

As part of on-going liaison with the Data Protection Commission (DPC) during 2022, Regeneration staff on an Limerick City and County Council appointed team prepared a response to the DPC audit. This including Data Protection Impact Assessments for community CCTV operating in the Northside and Southside of the City.

Following a public consultation on the community CCTV cameras in March, responses were received via MyPoint online survey, emails and community network meetings. The comments made across 157 respondents across six questions were overwhelmingly supportive of the Community CCTV cameras in public areas.

Garda Commissioner Authorisation under Section 38 of An Garda Síochana Act 2005 was received to the CCTV network covering the Regeneration areas.

# HOUSING





# HOUSING

The Housing Directorate is responsible for the selection, funding and delivery of housing projects under the Government's 'Housing for All' programme and works to fast-track the supply of housing to address homelessness. The Housing Directorate and the stakeholders with whom they work are committed to improving the quality of life for people and communities, whether long established or newly created.

The Housing Directorate consists of the following units:

1. Housing Support Services.
2. Local Authority Construction and Maintenance.
3. Strategy and Non Local Authority Housing Construction.
4. Traveller Accommodation

## HOUSING FOR ALL

'Housing for All' launched on 2 September, 2021 is the Government's housing plan to 2030. It is a multi-annual, multi-billion euro plan, which will improve Ireland's housing system and deliver more homes of all types for people with different housing needs. The policy has four pathways to achieving housing for all:

1. Supporting home ownership and increasing affordability;
2. Eradicating homelessness, increasing social housing delivery and supporting social inclusion;
3. Increasing new housing supply;
4. Addressing vacancy and efficient use of existing stock.

The pathways contain actions to be taken by government departments, local authorities, State agencies and others. The pathways are supported by actions to enable a sustainable housing system.

Limerick's target under 'Housing for All' In Limerick, the delivery target for 2022-2026 is 2,693 new homes. This is twice the target under the 'Rebuilding Ireland' programme from 2018-2021 of 1,365 homes. Build is the main delivery stream to deliver 2,693 new homes with 40% to be delivered by Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) and 60% by Limerick County and County Council. The table below provides the Government's target for Limerick for each year from 2022 to 2026.

Delivery Type	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
New Build	9000	9100	9300	10000	10200
Acquisitions	200	200	200	200	200
Long Term Leasing	1300	1200	800	200	0
Mortgage to Rent	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Short term leasing	200	200	200	200	200
RLS	120	130	130	140	140
<b>Limericks Targets Total 2693</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>562</b>

At the end of 2022, Limerick City and County Council has over 216 build projects approved and awaiting a site start, and 172 units on site to deliver homes through the Build, Buy and Lease delivery streams:

New-Build	Buy	Lease
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SHIP Construction and Turnkey</li> <li>Regeneration</li> <li>CAS Construction and Turnkey</li> <li>AHB CALF Construction and Turnkey</li> <li>Part V</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SHIP Acquisitions</li> <li>Buy and Renew Acquisitions</li> <li>Regeneration Acquisitions</li> <li>CAS Acquisitions</li> <li>AHB CALF Acquisitions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repair and Lease</li> <li>Mortgage to Rent</li> <li>Payment and Availability Agreements</li> <li>Long-term leasing (rollover leases from 2020 as Limerick has no target from 2022-2026)</li> </ul>

## HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES

### Housing Assessments

The total number of social housing applicants approved on Limerick City and County Council's social housing waiting list at 31/12/2022 is 5,821. This includes applicants who have secured HAP and RAS accommodation and also Council/Approved Housing Body tenants who have been approved for a transfer.

The Net Social Housing Need excluding HAP and RAS tenants and Council/AHB tenants that have been approved for a transfer is 2,239 households.

#### Summary of Social Housing Assessment

The Annual Housing Assessment of Need was successfully completed by the Assessments Team which consists of contacting approved housing applicants in order to establish if they are still interested in social housing support and also to establish if they are still eligible.

This is a statutory requirement to be carried out on an annual basis as notified by the Department of Housing, Environment and Heritage.

### Housing Allocations

Allocation of social housing remained strong in 2022 with 250 units from Limerick City and County Council housing stock allocated to successful applicants and a further 236 social housing nominations made to Approved Housing Bodies.

### Housing Welfare Team

In 2022, the Housing Welfare Team streamlined its service by developing and formalising the Housing Welfare Referral form. The form has been circulated and is available to internal and external agencies that are involved with families and individuals that have additional needs and that may present with particular vulnerabilities.

The Housing Welfare Team work collaboratively with all departments in Housing, in particular Community Sustainment, Allocations and Assessments. The Housing Welfare Team liaise with specialised services such as Tusla, Disability

Services, Children Services and approved housing bodies in order to explore options and improve the quality of accommodation that vulnerable families and individuals are residing in.

There have been approx. 239 formal referrals to the Housing Welfare Team since the form was circulated in April.

### Homelessness

Homelessness is currently at the highest level in the history of the Irish State. Locally Limerick City and County Council have experienced unprecedented levels of homeless presentations in the past five years.

The number of homeless cases at the end of December is as follows: Individuals-153 singles, and Families 71 families (92 adults and 125 children). The Limerick Homeless Action Team continues to operate a multidisciplinary team, staffed by operational clinical staff from the HSE, Support Staff from the Approved Housing Body Sector, Welfare Services from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection and Accommodation/Case Managers from the Local Authority. In the changing homeless environment, prevention of Homelessness has become as important as the delivery of accommodation service. In this regard engaging with those who are at risk of becoming homeless is critical. The rollout of Family Hubs, the Place Finder Service, shared living options, street outreach services and Housing First has added to the service options available and our ability to respond to the issue of homelessness in the Region.

The Homeless Action Team was developed as a direct result of actions arising from the Government's National Homeless Strategy. As part of Limerick City and County Council's Housing Support Services, the team is focused on ensuring that all services to homeless persons are delivered to the highest quality and in a co-ordinated and integrated way. This allows a wide range of supports to be put in place, not only giving people a roof over their heads but also providing elements of health care essential to the needs of

homeless persons via a multi-disciplinary team. On presentation to the Homeless Action Team, service users are fully assessed to ensure that all their economic, health and accommodation needs are addressed in line with Homeless Policy.

In 2022, the following services continued to be rolled out in relation to supporting those at risk of or experiencing homelessness in the Limerick region:

### **Housing First**

Housing First targets people who have experienced long-term homelessness and are currently experiencing mental health and/or addiction issues. Housing First has resulted, to date, in 39 tenancies being set up since February 2018, housing individuals in permanent, stable and supported housing units for homeless single persons.

The original pilot from 2018-2021 has ended with Housing First becoming an integral part of the 'Housing For All' plan.

### **Housing Assistant Payment (HAP) Placefinder**

Two HAP Placefinder roles are now, integrated into the Homeless Action Team. These roles support clients experiencing homelessness to source properties in the private rental market, which are supported through HAP. The Placefinder Service is also one of the key responses from Limerick City and County Council in the prevention of homelessness, as it engages with HAP tenants and landlords who may be involved in Notice-To-Quit (NTQ) in an effort to avoid the closure of a tenancy.

### **Family Hubs**

Suaimhneas and Dublin Road Family Initiative have been operational throughout 2022 catering to families.

### **Tenancy Sustainment**

Clients access this support through various service providers in Limerick. Tenancy Sustainment Services provide a key response in preventing

tenancies from ending and in providing support to clients to maintain their accommodation.

### **Street Outreach**

The Street Outreach team have seen an increase in numbers accessing this service throughout 2022, each client is engaged with to ensure a seamless support is offered.

### **Community Sustainment Unit**

The Council's Community Sustainment Unit provides an essential service supporting tenants and residents of its estates and Council accommodation generally. The key objectives of the Unit include Garda vetting of prospective tenants, comprehensive tenancy induction for new occupants, follow-up visits to such tenants to assist them in bedding into their new homes and communities, developing partnerships with other relevant state agencies such as An Garda Síochána, HSE, Tusla etc., and forging closer links with Approved Housing Bodies.

The Unit is comprised of three main strands: (i) Estate Supports (ii) Individual Tenant Support and (iii) Tenancy Enforcement/Anti-Social Behaviour.

#### **(i) Estate Supports**

The main aim of this programme is the provision of supports with a view to improving quality of life and developing community spirit within Council estates. To this end, the Unit works closely with existing residents' associations and encourages the formation of new such groups, supporting the implementation of key actions identified by them to improve their estates. The support provided varies from assistance in provision of minor infrastructural works such as fencing, walls, signage etc. to softer measures such as committee skills training, contributing towards clean-up days, events for children etc.

During 2022, Parkview Residents Association, Ballynatty Beg Residents Association and Faha View Residents Associations were formed. Tait Residents Association and Rathbane Residents Association were reactivated following the pandemic.

Limestone rockery nameplates have been provided by the Community Sustainment Unit for estates in Ballynatty Beg, Parkview Terrace, Hassetts Cross and The Limeyard, Pallaskenry. This Unit has worked in conjunction with the residents of the Parkview Terrace estate to carry out a clean-up, bulb planting and painting of the communal walls. Thomondgate Residents Association members have carried out a lot of work in 2022 including a clean-up in Canon Breen Park and planting of new flower and shrub beds.



Thomondgate Residents Association Flower and Bulb Planting



Canon Breen Clean Up with Residents



Clean Up with Parkview Terrace Residents Association

## **(ii) Individual Tenant Support**

The Unit provides a service, supported by the Housing Welfare Office, of intensive support for tenants who may be identified as vulnerable or in need of such help for any other reasons. In addition, there is monitoring of individual tenancies that may require particular attention to prevent problems occurring. Tenancy Induction training is provided for all newly appointed tenants. Among other things, the terms of the Letting Agreements, which are signed, are clearly explained so that the obligations of both the tenants and, indeed, the Council, are clearly understood. The number of such training meetings conducted in 2022 was 215. Community Sustainment Officers carried out in excess of 2,300 visits/inspections during the year, and this figure included visits to newly appointed tenants to offer support. The Council adopted a new Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy on 28 November 2022. This policy relates principally to social housing provided and managed by Limerick City and County Council.

## **(iii) Tenancy Enforcement/Anti-Social Behaviour**

The Unit deals with in excess of 550 complaints each year, with approximately half of these relating to anti-social behaviour. The Council's policy is to respond to these issues quickly and firmly and it works in close co-operation with An Garda Síochána where necessary. The Council uses all legislative tools available to it to try to deal with anti-social behaviour. One of the most effective tools is seeking Excluding Orders against

individuals barring them from specified estates for periods of up to three years. Limerick City and County Council is one of the most proactive local authorities in the country in the use of this measure. In the period 2013-2022, 24 such orders were secured. The Unit carries out formal Garda checks on prospective new tenants. Approximately 900 such formal reviews were undertaken during the year.

## Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

35 applications have been received by Limerick City and County Council under the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016. Of these, 23 were deemed eligible to proceed to letter of offer. By year end of 2022, five properties had been sold by Limerick City and County Council under the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016.

## Housing Loans

The Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL) is a government backed mortgage scheme available nationwide from all local authorities. Limerick City and County Council offer first-time buyers' mortgages and Fresh Start Applicants of 90% LTV up to a maximum property value of €250,000 in Limerick. €4,840,000.00 was allocated for new lending approvals in 2022. The actual loan drawdown may take place in either 2022 or 2023. Loans approved in 2022 remain valid for six months post-approval.

125 applications have been received by Limerick City and County Council under the Local Authority Home Loan Scheme. 32 loan applications have been approved to a total value of €4,640,600.00 of these five relate to the Tenant Purchase Scheme, where tenants were approved funding to buy the property, they were renting from Limerick City and County Council. 14 approved loans have been drawn down by the applicants, to a total value of €1,885,995.50 these include both Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans and Local Authority Home Loans. 18 loan offers are still valid and may be drawn down.

## HOUSING GRANTS

### Adaptation, Mobility Aid and Housing Aid for Older People

A total of 827 housing adaptation grants were completed under the Housing Adaptation, Mobility Aids and Housing Aid for Older People grant schemes in 2022. The total expenditure on grant schemes was €4,378,589.40.

Jan-Dec 2022		Total
Mobility Aid Grants	No. Approved	104
	MAG Expenditure	€625,542.43
	No. Paid	128
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	281
	HAG Expenditure	€1,704,459.98
	No. Paid	187
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	457
	HOP Expenditure	€2,048,586.99
	No. Paid	512
YTD Total No. Approved	842	
YTD Total Monies Paid	€4,378,589.40	
YTD Total No. Paid	827	

In addition to private grants, adaptation works were completed to a further 71 local authority properties at a total spend of €796,835.23. The Disabled Persons Grant (DPG) scheme provides funding for extensions and adaptations to existing social housing stock for older people and people with a disability such as grab rails, disabled access ramps, wet rooms, downstairs bedrooms etc. The scheme also provides extensions in cases of overcrowding.

### Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

The number of properties in the private rented sector under the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) was 718 and a further 519 tenancies were supported under RAS in the Voluntary Housing Sector at year end.

From 11 June, Tenancies of Unlimited Duration were introduced into law. This change provides more security of tenure for tenants. It means that, after six months living in a tenancy, the tenant will have a right to remain in the property for an unlimited duration. This is subject to the tenant upholding their rental obligations and the landlord's right to end the tenancy in accordance with the Residential Tenancies Act 2004 (RTA).

## Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

There were 2,248 active HAP tenancies in Limerick City and County Council at the end of December, 2022.

HAP enables Limerick City and County Council to provide housing assistance for households who live in the private rented sector who qualify for social housing support.

The HAP Unit set up 268 HAP tenancies in 2022.

## Traveller Accommodation

The Traveller Accommodation Programme for 2019-2024 sets out to accommodate 105 Traveller families over its lifetime. The Local Traveller Consultative Committee (LTACC) is made up of Public Representatives, Traveller Representatives and Council Officials who usually meet four times per year. Whereas such meetings were deferred in 2021 due to Covid-19, there was a meeting of the LTACC in October 2022 given the formation of the new Traveller Accommodation Unit (TAU) together with associated new staff. One of the targets of the Traveller Accommodation Programme is to make 105 offers of accommodation over the lifetime of the plan. From 2019 to June 2022, there has been 107 offers of accommodation made, of which 73 have been accepted with 34 refusals.

In 2022, Limerick City and County Council:

- Have completed a pilot caravan loan schemes for three families who will now be responsible for their own repair and maintenance costs going forward;
- Held meetings with individual families on the Childers Road halting site and have subsequently progressed site layout plans which have been positively received;
- Continue to undertaken social work assessments for individual housing applicants;
- Tendered for the Phase 1 demolition of redundant bays to the rear of the Long Pavement halting site. Such works will commence in Quarter 1 2023 subject to funding approval and will substantially reduce the overall footprint of the site;
- Tendered to procure a repair and maintenance contractor to year end 2024;

- Completed fire audits on all Metropolitan District halting sites;
- Completed social and engineering assessments of the existing chalets within the Hillview halting site in Rathkeale. A funding application is now with the Department for new and enlarged chalets together with improved site infrastructure works;
- Completed the acquisition and refurbishment of a specific unit in Limerick City;
- Received 779 new requests for maintenance issues from the Traveller Specific Accommodation in the Metropolitan District through Customer Services and Sugar CRM. A total of 626 were completed and closed in the same period. The remaining cases are being dealt with by the technical staff in the TAU or have been closed due to the unfounded nature of some requests.

The TAU will continue to work with Traveller families, Approved Housing Bodies and Traveller lead organisations to improve the accommodation for Traveller Families in its administrative area.

## LA HOUSING CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

The team is dedicated to delivering the build programme on local authority owned lands and the refurbishment and maintenance of social housing stock.

The Local Authority new build units are funded by the Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP) and are constructed on Local Authority owned land.

Name	Number of Units
Ballysimon/Greenhills Road	17
Gough Place	17



Ballysimon/Greenhills 2



Gough Place 1



Gough Place 2



Ballysimon/Greenhills 1

Project Name	Number of Units	Project Status
82, 84, 86 Hyde Road	1	Proposal
1 and 2B Kilfinane	0	Proposal
1 and 2 St Mary's, Askeaton	0	Proposal
Ballycummin Road	19	Stage 1 Approved
Brugh na Deise, Bruff, Co. Limerick	17	Stage 1 Approved
52 New Road	6	Stage 1 Approved
Michael Street, Limerick	9	Stage 1 Approved
Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale	4	Stage 2 Approved
Sycamore Crescent, Newcastle West (working on stage 2)	21	Stage 2 Approved
Church Glen, Ballylanders	9	Stage 2 Approved
Radharc Cillin, Kilfinane	10	Stage 2 Approved
Mountcollins	4	Stage 2 Approved
O'Connor Park, Ardagh	10	Stage 2 Approved
Deerpark, Adare North Site	13	Stage 2 Approved
Broadford	11	Stage 2 Approved
Broadford	8	Stage 2 Approved
Patrickswell (Barnakyle Site 2)	24	Stage 2 Approved
Deerpark, Adare South Site	18	Stage 2 Approved
Sycamore Crescent, Newcastle West	10	Stage 2 Approved
Station Close, Knocklong	12	On-site
Glenview Drive, Hospital	20	On-site
Clare Street, Limerick City	7	On-site
Clonmacken, Limerick City	43	On-site

## Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP) Renew

SHIP Renewal is a housing delivery stream, which is 100% exchequer funded construction on derelict vacant properties. These can be derelict properties acquired, within Local Authority ownership already or derelict properties vested under a compulsory acquisition. SHIP renewals are managed and delivered by Limerick City and County Council under LA Construction and Maintenance unit. In 2022, an application was made to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for 31 units under SHIP Renew. The application was approved for €5,398,709. In Quarter 4 2022 work began on returning these derelict units back into housing stock.

## VOIDS 2022

Limerick City and County Council refurbished 51 units under this scheme in 2022. These units were completed using a combination of direct labour teams and contractors depending on available resources and scale of works required on the unit. Units were returned to stock for letting during quarter three and four of 2022. Funding of €561,000.00 was drawn down on completion of the units during the fourth quarter of 2022. In 2022, a Working Group on Vacant Houses was established by the Housing and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee.

This Working Group met on four occasions in 2022 and received presentations such as;

- Process of return, inspection and refurbishment of properties from key-to-key and the various funding streams
- Allocation and Sustainment
- Dereliction, Vacancy and Reuse Initiative
- Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund

A report is being prepared on the recommendations from the Working Group and will be presented to the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee in 2023.

## Energy Efficiency Retrofit Scheme 2022

Work commenced to retrofit 51 occupied housing units across the four municipal districts in 2022. The units will achieve a minimum BER rating of B2 on completion. This scheme was grant aided by the European Regional Development Fund as part of the EU Operational Programme and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with the remaining costs of €2.1 million to be funded from the Council's own resources.



Energy Retrofit 2022 – Schoolhouse Lane, Limerick

## Affordable Housing Fund (AHF) previously SSF - Serviced Sites Fund)

The Serviced Sites Fund SSF scheme has now been replaced by the Affordable Housing Fund (AHF), which will continue to assist local authorities in developing affordable housing schemes.

A dedicated Limerick City and County Council affordable housing team, in collaboration with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the Housing Agency and the National Development Finance Agency, have now shown that all of the Serviced Site Fund projects, will need to avail of the higher level of subsidy available under the Affordable Housing Fund scheme to be viable projects.

Enabling Works, viability reviews, and preplanning design has been progressing on each of the sites:

- Toppins Field - Viability review complete, Integrated Design team appointed, AHF application being prepared
- Guinness Lands - Viability review in progress, Design team being procured, Development

agreement package with LDA underway

- Clonmacken Lands - Viability review in progress
- Sonny's Corner - Viability review complete, Design team being procured and AHF application being prepared
- Curragower Lands - Viability review complete, Design team appointed, AHF grant approval received, – Part 8 preplanning design underway

### **Response Maintenance**

Housing Maintenance received 14,585 new requests for maintenance through Customer Services and Sugar CRM. A total of 15,405 requests were closed off in the same period.

The response maintenance works undertaken during 2022 were completed in compliance with HSE and Health and Safety guidelines. Customer Services provided a vital role in this regard in advising tenants of this in advance.

Compared to previous years there was a modest increase in the number of housing maintenance requests received during the year.

Though issued in 2020 the Tenants Handbook continues to have a positive impact with regard to additional clarity for tenants of services that are provided under response maintenance.

## **STRATEGY AND NON LA HOUSING CONSTRUCTION**

The team is dedicated to delivering:

- Formulation of Housing Strategies and Policies
- Build programme with Approved Housing Bodies and Private Developers
- Acquisition Programme
- Lease Programme

### **Build Programme with Private Developers**

Land owned by Limerick City and County Council that is appropriate for building new housing is finite. The Housing Strategy and Housing Need Demand Assessment (HNDA) informs the policies and objectives of the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, playing a key role in translating national and regional housing policies to the local level.

Following the launch of a Turnkey campaign in 2019, the interest generated will see Turnkeys continuing as a key delivery mechanism in the housing programme. The Turnkey campaign is about getting live planning permissions that have stalled, particularly due to financial issues, up and running. In locations where we have a housing need, Limerick City and County Council enter into a contract with the developer to buy the properties at a price that includes a builder's profit. A new Framework to ensure an appropriate tenure mix in large-scale turnkeys was developed in collaboration with Elected Members and sectoral reps at SPC level. The final Framework mix of future large-scale turnkeys are to align to 50% affordable (including cost-rental), 30% social-rental and 20% private + private right-sizing tenure. This policy was approved at Full Council in December 2020.

### **Pipeline site for Social Housing**

Limerick City and County Council recognises the State's requirement for public housing and the target for Limerick of 2,693 new homes by 2026 under 'Housing for All'.

The Council are focussed on significantly increasing new build delivery and to move away from delivery via long term leasing and acquisitions that may impact on the first-time buyer market.

After consultation with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), the Council published its final Housing Delivery Action Plan in August which sets a strong delivery pipeline from 2022 to 2026 to ensure that each settlement of the City and County reaches its assigned target.

By 2026, we are confident of meeting our delivery target for social housing of 2,693 homes. The Council are actively prioritising an increasing number of acquisitions where valid NTQs have been served. In addition, all new Council led schemes are providing for 15% to be designed to a Universal Design standard so that it can meet the needs of widest range of tenancies possible (disability, elderly etc).

## New Build Incremental Purchase Scheme

Limerick City and County Council piloted a new scheme the New Build Incremental Scheme, 100% state funded which allowed people to buy a new starter home at a discounted price.

The Incremental Purchase Scheme is a purchase option to meet the needs of those requiring long-term housing support. The scheme supports existing low-income tenants and assists prospective local authority tenants to make a start on the route to home ownership.

The Incremental Purchase Scheme is targeted at working households currently in private rented accommodation who may be on Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) or social leasing. Where an increasing number of valid notice to quits are issued by landlords as they exit the market, the Scheme offers a sustainable choice for a new build home, day one as a private tenure-type.

A new build home can be purchased at 40% - 60% discount from the all-in construction price, depending on the income band of the applicant. The housing authority in turn places a reducing charge on the property that is equivalent to the discount afforded to the purchaser. The two locations where the scheme was piloted in 2022 were new housing developments in Redgate Road, Limerick City and Woodfield Manor, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick. In 2022, four new homes were purchased under the new build Incremental Purchase Scheme (IPS) in Limerick city at Redgate Close. Six new homes were progressed to purchase under the scheme in Woodfield Manor, Newcastle West.

Limerick City and County Council were delighted to win an award for the New Build Incremental Scheme under the category Supporting Sustainable Communities at the 19th annual ceremony of the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2022 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dublin on the 24 November.

The Excellence in Local Government Awards showcase best practice in local government and recognise the skills, hard work, innovation and enthusiasm within local government.

## Advance Purchase Turnkeys for Affordable Housing and Mixed Tenure

Three Affordable Housing campaigns were launched in 2022, seeking home builders and housing developers in Limerick city and county to consider offering unbuilt houses or apartments with planning permission to Limerick City and County Council under an advance purchase turnkey arrangement. Limerick City and County Council are seeking to enter into advance purchase arrangements to secure turnkey homes in areas where the need, in particular for affordable housing, is most acute. This call is targeted at advance purchase opportunities for a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 150 dwellings in any one scheme.

Limerick City and County Council is seeking to agree advance purchase of unbuilt turnkey properties 'off-plan' in the following areas:

- Limerick City (all areas including suburbs)
- Newcastle West
- Abbeyfeale
- Kilmallock
- Castleconnell

This advance purchase opportunity has been put in place to provide for accelerated delivery of housing generally, and primarily, to provide affordable homes for eligible applicants nominated by the local authority in areas where a significant need for affordable has been identified. It is anticipated that, depending on circumstances and proposals, local authorities will enter into an advance purchase agreement for an approved number of homes, with payment on completion. The advance purchase agreement also provides for the direct sale of homes by the developer to an eligible purchaser nominated by the local authority. Joint venture arrangements that include an Approved Housing Body (AHB) will also be considered.

## **Partnerships with the AHB Sector to deliver Cost-Rental and Private Downsizing**

In addition to the targeted provision of social housing units by 2026 under 'Housing for All', the expanded provision of new and affordable homes is another key objective. The Housing Directorate is setting out an ambitious agenda for increasing the supply of new private homes and particularly new affordable homes for starter families and key-workers on suitable sites in its ownership in the city. Three Council-owned sites in Limerick city were advertised in November 2020 on e-tenders seeking AHB involvement in delivering mixed tenure. Speakers Corner Part 8 planning was approved by Council in November 2022. The scheme will involve the construction of a five storey apartment buildings consisting of a total of 36 No. apartments comprising 11 No. 1-Bed and 25 No. 2-Bed apartments.

A planning application was lodged in December for the site in New Road, Thomondgate which

would comprise the construction of a residential development of 46 No. apartments consisting of the following: 1 No. four store apartment block consisting of 23 No. 1-bed apartments, 14 No. 2-bed apartments and a community room and 1 No. three storey apartment block consisting of 9 No. 2-bed apartments.

## **Private Rightsizing Scheme at Munget Gate**

Limerick City and County Council developed a policy where persons over the age of 55 who own their own home, and who find their dwellings too large for their needs, may request the Council to purchase their home in return for a lifelong tenancy in a managed Older Persons Scheme. The 'rightsizing' scheme is entirely voluntary and in partnership with Clann Housing. The first pilot at Munget Gate, Limerick City consisted of eight two-bed townhouses with large rear gardens and front curtilage parking. The pilot was successful and expanded to a new scheme of 23 two-bed apartments in 2022.

Clann Housing is a dedicated age-friendly housing provider, committed to providing high quality housing, which enables people to age in place, create homes and thriving communities.

The private rightsizing scheme at Munget Gate was shortlisted in the National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards in October under the category Age Friendly Housing Award. The primary aim of the awards is to recognise and reward achievement in age friendly initiatives around Ireland.

## **Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs)**

Approved Housing Bodies are non-profit organisations that provide and manage good-quality housing at affordable rents for households on the Local Authority housing waiting lists. Examples of Limerick Based AHBs: Arlington Novas Ireland Ltd, Mid-West Simon Association, St. Vincent De Paul, Athaea Housing Association, Dromcollogher Housing Association, Focus Ireland, Glin Voluntary Housing Association, Cluid and Peter McVerry Trust. AHBs work closely with

Limerick City and County Council to meet their housing targets under Housing for All.

The **Capital Assistance Scheme** provides funding to AHBs to deliver housing to the priority groups of Elderly, Homeless and Disability by way of a loan of up to 100%. These loans are not repayable, provided that the accommodation continues to be let to eligible categories of persons and is properly maintained.

The **Capital Advance Leasing Facility Scheme** is a facility available to assist AHBs to access private or Housing Finance Agency (HFA) loan finance for the purchase and construction of units that will then be made available for social housing under the leasing initiative.

#### Under the **Mortgage to Rent scheme (MTR)**

borrowers who are in mortgage arrears can apply to become a social housing tenant of an AHB. The property is sold to the AHB, which in turn leases the property back to the borrowers.

Limerick City and County Council has an oversight role in the regulation of Approved Housing Bodies and to date 53 Approved Housing Bodies operating in Limerick have signed up to the Voluntary Regulation Code (VRC). As per the most recent AHB occupancy audit for the year 2021, AHBs collectively own, lease and manage 1,899 homes in Limerick with new units continuously increasing annually via the schemes mentioned above. Limerick City and County Council regulate AHBs and assist in the allocation of a property.

## Acquisitions

Housing Acquisition continues to be an effective housing delivery mechanism. Mindful of first-time buyers, the need for vacant possession and house price inflation, Limerick City and County Council is focusing on houses that are vacant for long periods and in areas where the private market deems the refurbishment of such properties unviable to reactivate. There was an increase in notices to quits in 2022 and the Council had delegated sanction from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to purchase homes where the tenant was at risk of homelessness. AHBs can still access funding for acquisitions

under Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) and Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF) streams but the national target overall under 'Housing for All' is capped.

## Leasing

Under 'Housing for All' the following leasing streams were pursued in 2022.

## Repair and Leasing Scheme (RLS)

The scheme is aimed at better utilisation of existing housing stock. Properties must be vacant for at least one year, and property owners and contractors engaged under the scheme must demonstrate that they are tax compliant through the provision of tax clearance certificates on request.

The ideal units targeted under the RLS will require a low level of investment to bring them to the required standard for renting. Capital repairs cost on a single unit must not exceed €60,000 (inc VAT). All direct leases must be for the duration of between 5-25 years. No shorter terms will be eligible. The cost of the repairs shall be offset against the agreed rental payment until the value of the works is repaid.

There was an expansion to the Repair and Leasing scheme (RLS) which removed the requirement that a property owner must be unable to fund or access funding to bring vacant properties into compliance with the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019.

This modification applied to certain categories of vacant properties only. These are:

- vacant commercial properties;
- vacant units associated with a commercial property (e.g. over a shop);
- vacant former institutional buildings and
- unfinished developments where these have been vacant for a significant period of time.

This expansion is on a pilot basis. Approval was required to be granted by the local authority or DHLGH, where appropriate, on or before 31 December. The pilot period has been extended to 17 June 2023.



## Short Term Rental Agreements (RAS type)

Short Term Rental Agreements (RAS type) are used to secure the availability of privately owned property for the purposes of social housing support. The Short Term Rental Agreement target for 2022 was 21. The arrangement takes the form of a series of contracts between a property owner, a housing authority and a tenant. The arrangements are normally for periods of up to 10 years, but can be for the duration of the existing tenancy only. The arrangements are structured so that the housing authority can allocate tenants to the property while the property owner is obliged to be the landlord to the tenant nominated by the housing authority.

## Mortgage to Rent

The Mortgage to Rent (MTR) scheme is a government scheme, which helps homeowners who are at risk of losing their homes due to mortgage arrears. It lets homeowners in mortgage difficulty switch from owning their home to renting their home as social housing tenants.

The MTR scheme is a social housing option only available if one is eligible for social housing support and the mortgage is unsustainable. To qualify for the scheme the property owner must have participated in their lender's Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process (MARP), a process in which the lender and the owner must take part in order to try and resolve their financial difficulties.

Approved applicants will voluntarily surrender possession of their home to their mortgage lender who immediately sells it to a housing association who will then rent it back to the family. The proceeds from the sale of the property to the housing association will go towards the mortgage debt and the applicant makes an arrangement with their lender for any remaining payments owed, if any. There is potential to buy back the home after a period of 5 years if the household's financial situation improves.

## Research and Policy Formation

A New National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 – 2027 (NHSDP) was launched on the 14 January 2022 and clearly sets out Government's vision for the delivery of housing and related support services for disabled people over the next five years.

Limerick City and County Council finalised the Housing Disability Strategy Plan in early 2022. The vision of Limerick City and County Council's Housing Disability Strategy Plan is to facilitate access, for people with disabilities, to the appropriate range of housing and related support services, delivered in an integrated and sustained manner, which promotes equality of opportunity, individual choice and independent living.

All new Council schemes are designing 15% of total units to Universal Design standard which is a wheelchair liveable standard. 1.8m turning circles for wheelchairs in kitchen, living, bathroom, bedrooms and hallway. Floor areas are +12m<sup>2</sup> above minimum floor area standard.

Quarterly meetings of the Housing and Disability Strategy Group took place in 2022 with key service providers (HSE, Acquired Brain Injury Ireland, Enable Ireland, Brothers of Charity and other key service providers).

Housing Delivery Action Plan: Limerick City and County Council undertook consultation at each Municipal District Level to produce a Housing Delivery Action Plan for Limerick. This Plan was endorsed by the DHLGH was published in August and outlines the housing delivery target for each settlement in the City and County required under 'Housing for All'. The plan highlights those settlements where Buy and Renew and Repair and Lease are required due to infrastructural challenges and where demand is currently being met with new build schemes approved and underway. There is a commitment to review this plan each year to ensure that each town and village in Limerick in addition to the City is delivering upon its target.

# TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY





# TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY

The Transportation and Mobility Directorate plays a vital role in the delivery of transport infrastructure for Limerick City and County. The Directorate leads in the development of quality transport infrastructure for Limerick, the day-to-day maintenance of the road network and the development of sustainable travel options, thereby playing a major role in climate change mitigations. The Transportation and Mobility Directorate is responsible for policy and strategy and supports and administers the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee (SPC). The Directorate has the lead role in the prioritisation and funding of all major physical and infrastructure development projects relating to roads and sustainable Travel schemes. The Directorate also incorporates the Mid-West National Road Design Office (MWRDO), which is responsible for delivering major infrastructural projects including the N/M20 Cork to Limerick Road Scheme and the Foynes-Limerick Road (including bypass of Adare) and of late significant greenway projects. The Directorate also works closely with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), the National Transport Authority (NTA) and the Department of Transport (DoT) on the delivery of major road projects and active travel projects and worked closely with the NTA during 2022 on the finalisation of the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS). The MWRDO manages the Limerick Greenways on behalf of TII.

## TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT STRATEGY

The National Transport Authority (NTA) published the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS) in December 2022. The Strategy sets out the framework for the delivery of the transport system required to further the development of the Limerick Shannon

Metropolitan Area as a hub of cultural and social development and regeneration, as the economic core for the Mid-West, as an environmentally sustainable and unified metropolitan unit, as a place where people of all ages can travel conveniently and safely and a place that attracts people, jobs and activity from all over Ireland and beyond.

### Bike Week 2022

Bike Week 2022 was an opportunity for Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) to celebrate and promote cycling as a sustainable mode of transport and a fun leisure activity. A weeklong schedule of free bicycling events were hosted from the 14 to 22 May throughout Limerick City and County. Bike Week began on the 14 May with a Family Cycle along the Limerick Greenway. A bike mechanic was in attendance at Rathkeale Greenway carpark to provide free bike checks and repairs ahead of the cycle.

Bike Clinics were held around Limerick throughout the week. Bike Mechanics were in attendance at various locations including People's Park, Mungret Park, Arthur's Quay Park, and Castletroy Neighbourhood Park where more free bike checks and repairs were undertaken.

Community groups, schools and workplaces had the opportunity to apply for funding support to run bicycle related events throughout the city and county. 24 applications for funding were received and events included free bicycle repair workshops, organised cycles, and safety promotions.

Limerick City and County Council flagship Bike Week event took place on 22 May. A parade of almost one hundred cyclists took to the streets of Limerick to mark the end of another successful Bike Week. The cyclists left Arthur's Quay Park for

a 4km Three Bridges loop route that took in King John's Castle, Thomond Bridge, Clancy Strand, O'Callaghan Strand and Shannon Bridge. Along with the bike parade, the crowds also enjoyed an afternoon of entertainment in the park with music, face painters and a puppet show.



The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler leading the Family Bike Parade in Limerick City



Cycling Tour, Lough Gur

**Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road**  
 Construction work ceased on the Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road in March 2022 due to the main contractor Roadbridge going into receivership. Progress has continued on the project with the completion of the Cratloe Road Emergency works contract and the fencing contract in 2022. The Ballygrennan Bridge Contract and the Trunk Watermain Contract are currently in progress.



Ballygrennan Bridge under construction

## ACTIVE TRAVEL

### Mill Road Corbally

This project progressed to Detailed Design this year and will be tendered for Construction in Quarter 1 2023. Final land negotiations are currently underway and an advance tree felling contract commenced in January 2023.

### UL to Annacotty (Limerick City Greenway)



Photomontage of proposed new bridges on Greenway in the vicinity of Plassey Mills

This project had a Non statutory Public Consultation in August. This consultation process yielded many design change proposals which are currently being assessed for incorporation into the design. When this Design Process has been completed the project will be lodged with An Bord Pleanala for approval. This is expected in Quarter 2 2023.

## Wickham Street to Clare Street

An Options Selection process has been completed for this project and a Non Statutory Public Consultation Phase will now commence. It is expected that a Statutory Public Consultation (Part 8 Planning) will be completed in Quarter 2 2023, with construction following in Quarter 3 2023.

## Ros Mor Roundabout and Active Travel Link

Part 8 Planning was approved for this project in Quarter 4 2022. This is now in detailed design, with construction expected in Quarter 2 2023.

## Metropolitan Area – Asset Renewal Cyclepaths and Greenways

Works were completed on the Canal Bank Greenway, Kennedy Park Cycle paths and on the R526 Cycle path to Patrickswell.



Widened Greenway from Troy's Lock to Lelia Street along the Canal Bank

## Metropolitan Area – New Footpaths

New Footpaths have been provided at the Park Road, Ard Scoil Mhuire, School Road Lisnagry and Lisnagry National School, Ballybrown Chuch to School, Castleconnell National School, Ballykeeffe Roundabout, Drombanna, Garryowen Green, The Condell Road and Scoil Spioraid Naomh.



New Footpath Link at Ballykeeffe Roundabout

## Metropolitan Area – Asset Renewal (footpaths)

Footpaths were improved at Bengal Terrace, Collins Avenue, Avondale Road, Farranshone, Irish Estates, Kennedy Park, New Street, Roseville/Park Gardens and Wolfe Tone Street.

## Low cost Junction Tightening/ Pedestrian Crossing Schemes

Low cost Junction tightening and Pedestrian Crossing schemes were completed at Lisnagry National School, Castleconnell, Roxboro Road, Belmont Hill, Arthur's Quay and at College Park Corbally.



New footpaths and pedestrian crossing connecting Ard Scoil Mhuire to Corbally Shopping Centre



New Permeability Link at the Hunt Museum



School Street An Mhodh Scoil



School Zone St. Paul's National School, Dooradoyle

## Low Cost Permeability Measures

Low cost permeability measures were completed at the Hunt Museum and Monaleen Heights to Kilmurry.

## Projects Under Development

Consultants have been appointed to develop projects at St. Anne's School to Greenway and Christopher Lynch Bridge, Rathkeale, Rheiogue Railway Bridge Pedestrian Facilities, and Active Travel Measures for the Condell Road.

## Safe Routes to School

During 2022 works progressed on the delivery of the Safe Routes to School programme at eight Limerick schools, as part of the first round of the programme. The schools include An Mhodh Scoil Ascaill Uí Chonaill, Gaelscoil Sáirséal Bóthar Shíol Bhróin, Laurel Hill Coláiste FCI Cnoc Na Labhras, Limerick School Project National School, O'Connell Avenue, Scoil Íde, Corbally, St. Munchin's College Corbally, St. Paul's National School, Dooradoyle, St. Nessan's National School, Mungra.

In September, Limerick's first School Street officially launched as part of Safe Routes to School Programme. The 'School Street' has been implemented on Roden Street, adjacent to An Mhodhscoil, and is designed to remove vehicle traffic from the area directly outside the school gates at the crucial drop-off and pick-up times. The School Street provides a much safer environment for children who cycle, walk or wheel to An Mhodhscoil.

Round 2 schools were announced in December 2022 and include Caherconlish National School, Crescent College Comprehensive S.J., Dooradoyle, Hazelwood College Dromcollogher, Lisnagry National School, and St. Patrick's GNS Dublin Road. Work will continue into 2023 to develop plans and deliver safety improvements through upgraded and additional infrastructure outside these schools.

## R510 Quinn's Cross to Raheen

Part 8 Planning Approved in September. Progressing at Detailed Design with Construction planned for 2023.

## TUS to City

Part 8 Planning Approved in December. Progressing at detailed design and construction in 2023.

## Patrickswell Village Renewal Scheme Phase 2

Detailed Design and Procurement completed with Contractor appointed in December. Construction Planned for early 2023.

## Plassey Road / Plassey Park Road

Detailed Design Advanced with Tender for Construction planned for early 2023.

## Castletroy Link Road

Options Report finalised with Preferred Option to progress to Planning early in 2023.

## Castletroy Greenway Extension (Holland Road)

Funding approved and Design to Progress in 2023.

## Blackabbey Road, Adare

Funding approved and Design advanced in 2022.

## Abbeyfeale Greenway Extension

Options Assessment developed in 2022 with Options Report to be finalised early in 2023.

## Adare/ Rathkeale Municipal District

Minor Footpath construction projects undertaken in Adare, Rathkeale, Askeaton, Cappagh, Banogue, and Crecora.

Pedestrian Crossing projects completed in Adare and Ballingarry.

## Newcastle West Municipal District

New footpaths were constructed in Newcastle West Municipal District at Knockane/Boher Bui., St. Ita's Rd Abbeyfeale, Ardagh, Mountcollins, Athea, Dromcollogher, Tournafulla and Glin.

## Father Russell Road Phase 1

Planning permission was granted for Father Russell Road Phase 1 which will proceed to construction in 2023.



Father Russell Road Phase 1

## South Circular Road

The South Circular Road scheme is currently in the planning process with a decision due in early 2023. Other schemes in the west of the Metropolitan District including Father Russell Road Phase 2, St. Paul's to Ballykeeffe roundabout and Dooradoyle Road are at options or preliminary design stage.



South Circular Road at Fennessy's Junction



South Circular Road at Ballinacurra Bridge

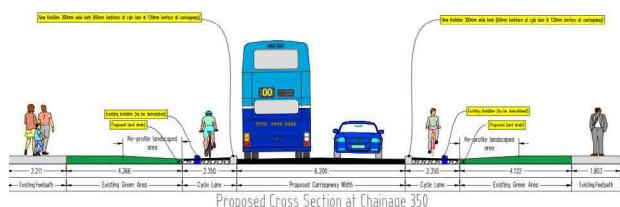
## Sustainable Travel

A shared cycle/pedestrian path through Baggott Estate linking Ballinacurra with Rosbrien is at option selection stage.

## Hyde Road

Section 38 complete for segregated cycle lanes to both sides of Hyde Road, upgrade of a number of junctions and improvement of pedestrian facilities. Contractor appointed and commenced in December.

## Childers Road (Greenpark to



Typical Cross Section on Hyde Road

## Roxboro Road Roundabout

Section 38 completed for a two-way cycle track to the north side of Childer's Road. The project also includes improved pedestrian facilities and junction tightening. Detail design underway and construction tender Quarter 1 2023.



Typical Section of On-Road Two-Way Cycle Track on Childers Road

## Childers Road (Roxboro Roundabout to Kilmallock Roundabout)

Construction of the two-way segregated cycle facility was completed between both roundabouts. 800m of two-way segregated cycle track. 120m of two-way off road cycle track and pedestrian improvements.



Childers Road looking towards Kilmallock Roundabout

## Brookeville Ave

Section 38 complete for a two-way cycle track to the south side of Brookeville Avenue. Project also includes improved pedestrian facilities and junction tightening. Construction tender complete and contractor to commence in late January 2023.

## Roxboro Road

Tender complete to engage consultant engineers, tender assessment underway and appointment due in late January 2023.

## Bike Parking

Three bike bunkers were installed at Barrow House, UL Building, Sarsfield Street, and The Engine, Cecil Street for employees and students in the adjacent buildings.



On-street Bike Parking Sarsfield Street.

Across the Metropolitan and Municipal districts, a total of 199 bike stands, were installed.



Bike Bunker on Cecil Street

## Cappamore/Kilmallock Area

Gotoon and Millennium Bridges: Consultants have been appointed for Gotoon Bridge, Kilmallock and Millennium Bridge in Caherconlish.

Cappamore and Doon Public Realm: Consultants have been appointed to develop plans for the public realm in both Cappamore and Doon.

### Other Projects:

Location	Total Area of Footpath
Marian Terrace Galbally	780 sqm
Herbertstown	1170 sqm
Bruff	1780 sqm
Knocklong	880 sqm
Elton	1450 sqm
Sycamore Drive Bruff	250 sqm
Ashill Estate Kilmallock	185 sqm
Riverside Park Access Kilmallock	160 sqm
L1133 Cappamore	910 sqm
L1135 Pallasgreen	400 sqm
L5048 Old Pallas	320 sqm
Cloverfield NS	80 sqm
R506 Cappamore	112 sqm
Pallasgreen – Cannon Lee Park	400 sqm



Nicker National School



R506 Cappamore



L1133 Cappamore

## MID-WEST NATIONAL ROAD DESIGN OFFICE

### MAJOR ROAD SCHEMES

#### Foynes to Limerick Road (including Adare Bypass)

This proposed road is 35km in length, and when completed will connect the core port of Foynes to the motorway network near Limerick City. The road is comprised of the construction of approximately 15.6km of dual carriageway from Foynes to Rathkeale (with approximately 1.9km of single carriageway road between Ballyclogh and Askeaton) along with the construction of approximately 17.5km of motorway from Rathkeale to the existing motorway network at Attyflin. The proposed motorway will also provide a bypass of Adare village.

An Bord Pleanála approved the scheme with modifications on 30 August. Three separate judicial review applications in respect of the decision were subsequently lodged in the High Court. These will be contested by An Bord Pleanála and Limerick City and County Council, but will unfortunately delay the delivery of the scheme.

#### N/M20 Cork to Limerick Project

Limerick City and County Council, in partnership with Cork County Council, Cork City Council, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and the Department of Transport are developing the N/M20 Cork to Limerick Project.

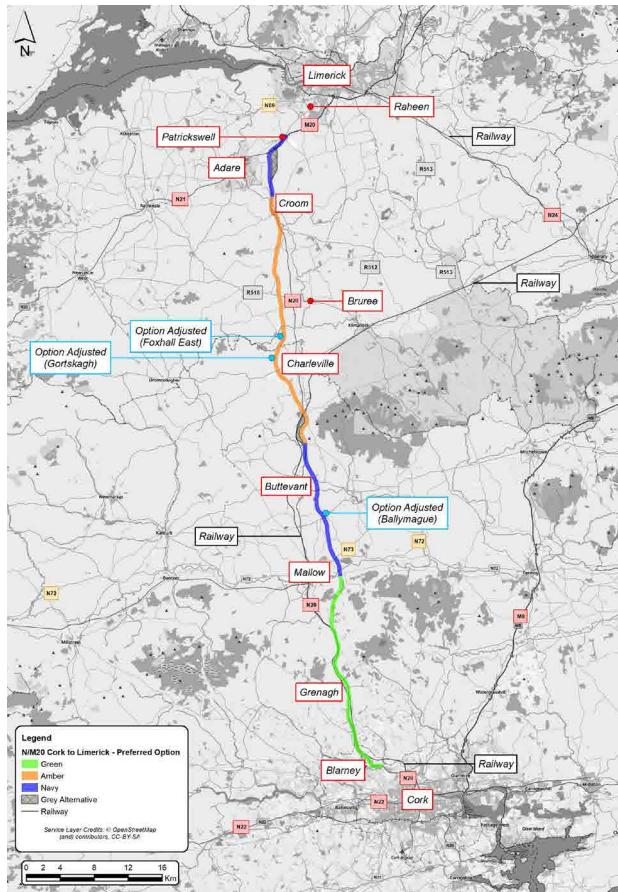
The N/M20 Cork to Limerick project is at Design and Environmental Assessment stage.

#### New and Improved Infrastructure

The N/M20 project will deliver 80 kilometres of new and improved dual carriageway road between Cork City and Patrickswell that will provide bypasses of the towns of Mallow, Buttevant and Charleville and will reuse between 30% and 40% of the existing N20 road asset. The preferred road-based option commences from the existing N20 dual carriageway between Cork City and Blarney and then continues online reusing the existing N20 until Mounaberry. The option then heads offline bypassing to the east of Mallow, New Twopothouse and Buttevant. The option goes online reusing the existing N20 north of Buttevant, then heads offline bypassing to the west of Ballyhea, Charleville and Banogue. The option then goes online reusing the existing N20 Croom bypass and then ties into the existing M20 motorway at Attyflin near Patrickswell.

The preferred transport solution was announced at a major public display in March. A briefing was held for elected representatives, letters were issued to property owners along the preferred option, and an online public display platform were made available.

Since the preferred transport solution was announced, the N/M20 project team has progressed the Design and Environmental Assessment stage of the project. This has included developing the alignment of the N/M20 dual carriageway within the published 500m wide preferred option, undertaking ecological surveys, geotechnical investigations, archaeological geophysical surveys, traffic surveys, along with ongoing consultation with the key stakeholders, including property owners, businesses and community groups along the study area.



N/M20 Cork to Limerick Road - Preferred Transport Solution



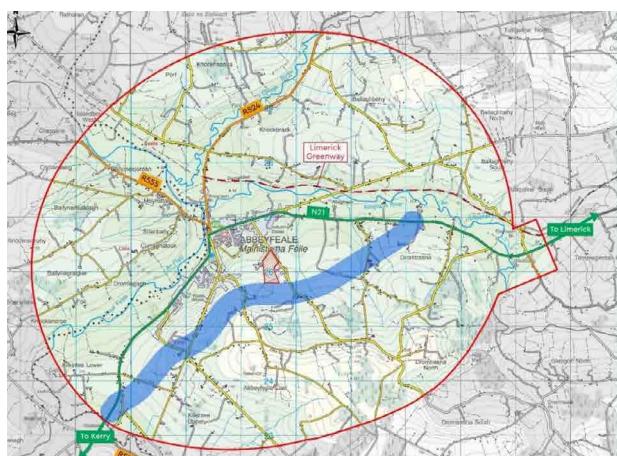
N/M20 Cork to Limerick Site Investigation and Archaeological Geophysical Surveying



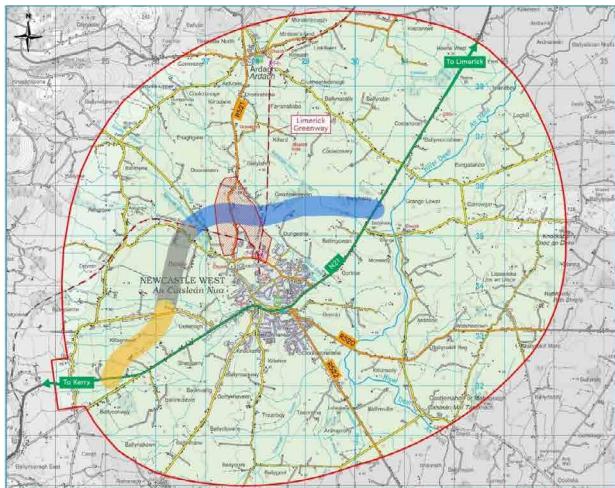
N/M20 Cork to Limerick Site Investigation and Archaeological Geophysical Surveying

## N21 Abbeyfeale Road Scheme and N21 Newcastle West Road Scheme

Limerick City and County Council in consultation with TII continued to progress planning of the N21 Abbeyfeale Road Scheme and the N21 Newcastle West Road Scheme. The Design and Environmental Evaluation stage of the scheme (Phase 3) commenced in early 2022. This involved further development of the scheme, including design of the road, identifying the land take required, junction design, landowner and stakeholder engagement and the preparation of an environmental impact assessment. In order



N21 Abbeyfeale Road Scheme - Preferred Route Option



N21 Abbeyfeale Road Scheme - Preferred Route Option

to inform the design process, the project team continued to undertake a range of engineering and environmental site surveys.

## Road Improvement/ Re-alignment Works

### N20 O'Rourke's Cross Road Improvement Scheme

A new roundabout-controlled junction is to be constructed necessitating alterations to the existing junction layout and the construction of new N20 approaches to the junction and the alteration of the existing R518 approaches to the junction at N20 O'Rourke's Cross. An Bord Pleanála confirmed the compulsory purchase order (CPO) to acquire the land necessary for the road development in April 2021. However, following a judicial review application by a landowner on the scheme in July 2021, there is a stay on the operation/implementation of the CPO, pending a high court hearing, which is delaying the delivery of the scheme. The judicial review application is being contested by An Bord Pleanála and Limerick City and County Council.

### N24 Beary's Cross Road Improvement Scheme

The Council commenced the construction of a new roundabout-controlled junction on the N24 at Beary's Cross. The road works scheme comprises:

- a new roundabout controlled junction
- alteration to the existing junction layout
- construction of a new regional road R513 approach to the junction



Construction works at N24 Beary's Cross Road Improvement Scheme

- alteration of the existing N24 approaches to the junction
- accommodation works and associated site works

Construction commenced in August with an expected 12-month construction period.

### N21 Ward's Cross Road Safety Scheme

Ward's Cross is located approximately one kilometre east of Abbeyfeale at a junction with the local road L7091 and the N21 mainline. The scheme consists of small-scale roadworks; widening the existing N21 carriageway to the north of the existing carriageway to provide a right turn lane at the N21/L7091 Ward's Cross junction. Construction works commenced in September and were completed in November.



N21 Ward's Cross Road Safety Scheme

### **N69 Munget and Boland's Cross Road Safety Improvement Scheme**

This road safety scheme is located along the N69 and its environs between Boland's Cross junction (N69/L1403) and the junction of Moore's Road and the N69 (N69/L1438).

The scheme comprises the realignment of Boland's Cross, junction improvements at Munget Cross, modified traffic layout and road realignment in the vicinity of Munget Cross, provision of pedestrian and cyclist facilities and pavement works. The Council made a presentation to the Elected Members in October and a public information session was subsequently held where drawings of the proposed scheme were available for inspection. The design is being finalised following feedback from stakeholders and the public information session and a Part 8 planning process will commence in early 2023.

### **Road Safety Audits**

The MWNRDO continued to undertake road safety audits on behalf of local authorities in the region during 2022. The road safety audit is undertaken to identify potential safety issues within a scheme design or construction as they could affect road users.

### **Pavement Rehabilitation Works**

#### **N69 Hegarty's Cross to Askeaton Phase 1**

The scheme is approximately 3.2km in length and provides for road reconstruction, drainage improvements, pavement surfacing, traffic signage, road markings and associated works. Construction works commenced on site in May and were completed in July.

#### **N21 Croagh to Coolballyshane Pavement Improvement Scheme**

The scheme is approximately 2 km in length and provides for milling of existing pavement, pavement surfacing, drainage, road markings and associated works. Construction works commenced on site in June 2022 and were completed in July.

### **Greenway Projects**

The MWNRDO currently has four greenway schemes that are in the early stages of development. Details of these projects are set out below:

#### **Rathkeale to Limerick Greenway**

This scheme is seeking to extend the existing Limerick greenway from Rathkeale to the environs of Limerick city. Technical services providers were appointed in May to deliver a strategic assessment report (SAR) in line with Phase 0 Project Management Guidelines and this commission has been completed. Subject to TII approval, a tender competition will be initiated to appoint new technical services providers to progress the project up to Phase 4.

#### **Cork to Limerick Greenway**

This project is being delivered as part of the transport solution for the N/M20 Cork to Limerick Road currently being progressed by the MWNRDO. Technical services providers have completed the Phase 0 Strategic Assessment Report (SAR). The technical services providers have identified several 'concept alignment corridors' in the SAR and these will be developed further in Phase 1 as part of the feasibility report, subject to TII approval.

### **Limerick to Cahir Greenway**

The technical services providers for the N24 Cahir to Limerick Junction Road Scheme were appointed to complete the Phase 0 Strategic Assessment Report (SAR) for this greenway scheme and completed that commission in 2022. The SAR has also identified a number of 'concept corridors' along with points of interest within the designated study area. A draft copy of this report was submitted to TII and subject to their approval; the project will progress to the next Phase.

### **UL to Montpelier Greenway**

Following a tendering process, technical services providers Atkins were appointed in September to deliver this scheme from Phase 0 - Phase 4. The project is at the early stages of development.

## **Other MWNRDO Projects in the Region**

### **N67/N85 Inner Relief Road Ennistymon (Blake's Corner) Road Scheme**

This road scheme provides for an inner relief road of Ennistymon, which includes a new river crossing of the Inagh/Cullenagh river approximately 80m upstream of the existing crossing. The overall route runs from a point located approximately 170m southeast of Blake's Corner on the N85 to a point located approximately 180m west of Blake's Corner on the N67, via Bogbere Street.

An Bord Pleanála confirmed the compulsory purchase order to acquire the land necessary for the scheme construction on 20 September. A judicial review application in respect of the decision was subsequently lodged in the High Court by a landowner affected by the scheme. The Mid West National Road Design Office is assisting Clare County Council to defend these proceedings.

### **N19 Shannon Airport Access Road Improvement Scheme**

In 2022, the Mid West National Road Design Office continued to assist Clare County Council with the progression of the planning and design phases for the N19 Shannon Airport Access Road. The scheme shall provide a high-quality road improvement

scheme on the N19 national primary road between Drumgeely roundabout and Knockbeagh Point roundabout on approach to Shannon International Airport. The proposed scheme is approximately 2.2 km in length.

The Design and Environmental Evaluation stage of the scheme (Phase 3) commenced in February. This involves further development of the scheme, including design of the road and active travel components, identifying the land take required, junction design and the preparation of an environmental impact assessment report. In order to inform the design process, the project team continued to undertake a range of engineering and environmental site surveys.

### **N24 Cahir to Limerick Junction Project**

The Mid West National Road Design Office continued to assist Tipperary County Council with the progression of the planning and design phases for the N24 Cahir to Limerick Junction project during 2022. The section of the N24 being progressed in this project, is located between the M8 motorway, north of Cahir, Co. Tipperary to west of Brooks Bridge, Co. Limerick. Tipperary County Council is the lead authority for the scheme. The preferred transport solution for the scheme was presented to the elected representatives of Tipperary and Limerick in May and subsequently went on public display.

The Design and Environmental Evaluation stage of the scheme (Phase 3) commenced in August. This involves further development of the scheme, including design of the road and active travel components, identifying the land take required, junction design and the preparation of an environmental impact assessment report. In order to inform the design process, the project team continued to undertake a range of engineering and environmental site surveys in addition to stakeholder and landowner engagement.

## Pavement Rehabilitation Works

During 2022, the Midwest National Road Design Office assisted Tipperary County Council with the completion of the N62 Kilnloe to Thurles Road South Pavement Scheme. The scheme involved pavement resurfacing and strengthening, including associated ancillary works, on approximately 4 km section of the N62.

## Structures

The Mid West National Road Design Office also has a role in procuring/ arranging/ organising the maintenance and reconstruction of national road structures/bridges in the Munster region in order that they remain functional, safe and visually acceptable.

The following are two of the key schemes undertaken in 2022;

### **Stabilisation of Blennerville Canal Walls**

The stabilisation and rebuilding of the Blennerville canal walls outside Tralee involved ground anchors, grouting, masonry wall rebuild, reconstructing areas of the lock gates, spray applied concreting and resurfacing.

### **Caha Tunnel**

Another significant piece of work was the installation of rock anchor, rock removal and rock stabilisation at the Caha Tunnel between Kenmare in County Kerry and Glengarriff in County Cork. The height of the tunnel was also increased.



Blennerville Canal Walls - Ground anchors installed, awaiting grouting and masonry finish

## ROAD, TRAFFIC AND CLEANSING

The Roads Traffic and Cleansing Department manages most of the Limerick's road improvements across a wide range of services.

The primary expenditure area is delivered at District level and is referred to as Road Maintenance Section. This includes General Maintenance, Safety maintenance, Road reconstruction, Road re-surfacing as well as day to day patching and drainage maintenance for the circa 4,000km of the county and city public road network.

Improvements are delivered through the four Municipal District Offices and our Central Services Team based in County Hall. We manage Road Closures, Road Opening Licences, Public Lighting, Road Safety, Traffic Management and Structures (Bridges and Crash Barriers). It also provides resources for delivery of Flood protection schemes, CLÁR funded measures, Active Travel schemes and Climate Change Adaption schemes.

The Fleet Management and Machinery Yard team with bases in Newcastle West and Limerick manage the Council's Fleet and Machinery as well as providing significant resources to facilitate the Roadworks programme. They also play a key role in operation of the Winter Maintenance Plan. The Insurance Team oversees Insurance, and Public Liability related management on behalf of key operational areas of the Authority.

The Traffic Section manages traffic and parking in the City and provides support to developments, events and new infrastructure. Traffic Wardens and School Wardens provide essential street management.

As a result of the restructuring in July, the Metropolitan Cleansing section was merged with the Traffic Section. The Cleansing Section is responsible for street cleaning, litter bins and road sweeping.

The department delivered over €41.5m of expenditure in 2022 on Roads related projects.

Expenditure Category	€Million
<b>Non- Core Public Road Expenditure 2022</b>	
MD Delivered Active Travel 2022	€9.50
MD Delivered Climate Change, OPW, CLAR, TVR, ORIS,GMA etc.	€2.75
<b>Sub-total non-core Public Road Expenditure 2022</b>	<b>€12.3</b>
<b>Core Public Road Expenditure 2022 (primarily grant aided)</b>	
Restoration Improvement (incl. Former National Roads & Own Resources)	€12.6
General Maintenance 4000 km of roads (Patching, Road repairs, drainage etc.)	€5.8
Public Lighting (O&M) -23,000 Lights	€2.9
Restoration Maintenance – 4048km (Surface dressing of Roads)	€2.9
Specific Drainage Grant (Roads related drainage)	€0.9
Bridge Rehabilitation	€0.8
Winter Maintenance – up to 800km per event	€0.6
Safety Improvement Schemes –	€0.5
Community Involvement Scheme*(Total Spend) *Primarily to cater for Local Tertiary Roads (CIS)	€0.80
Street Cleaning – Metropolitan District	€0.5
<b>Sub-total Core Public Road Expenditure 2022</b>	<b>€28.27</b>
<b>Non-public Roads</b>	
Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) Grant 2022	€0.93
<b>Total Spend 2022</b>	<b>€41.45</b>

## Active Travel Measures 2022 (City Environs and County)

Following on from the significant additional expenditure allocated to Limerick in 2021, further Active Travel projects valuing over €12m were delivered through the District Engineering teams completed throughout the City and County.

## NON-NATIONAL ROADS PROGRAMME 2022

### Restoration Improvement (Local and Regional Roads) Expenditure of €12.6M

Typically, the most significant annual expenditure category in this department is termed as Restoration Improvement.

Restoration Improvement works are those deemed necessary to first strengthen and then surface or reseal public roads.

There are a variety of methods used including

- Crushed Stone Overlays (Where the existing structure is weak)
- Recycled Stone Overlays (Using the existing stone to reshape the road)\*
- Macadam Overlays (Structural Improvements typically to trunk roads)

\* Greater emphasis is being placed on reducing transport of material where this can be avoided. Recycling existing stone road structures are considered where engineering assessments justify such an approach. This approach is consistent with- low carbon and green policies.

In 2022, €12.6M (including €0.5m on former National Roads) was expended on Restoration Improvement schemes throughout the County improving over 80km (2%) of the road network. This provides for a 1 in 50-year treatment cycle.

### Restoration Maintenance (Local & Regional Roads) - Expenditure of €2.9M

More commonly referred to as Surface Dressing, restoration maintenance works are used to extend the life of a road, protect the road structure from ingress of moisture and provide a durable wearing course for traffic. In effect a stich in time principle.

These schemes offer best value and longevity when the road drainage and roadside hedges\ trees are well maintained. The role and responsibility of landowners in this regard is critical and their co-operation is greatly appreciated.

In 2022, €2.9M was expended on 117 km of Restoration Maintenance Schemes improving 3% of the network. The Network maintenance rate of 1 in 34 years.

### Minor Private Roads

#### Community Involvement Scheme 2022 (Public Roads) Department of Transport Grant - Expenditure of €713,900

In 2022, we completed 23 No. schemes costing an average of €34,600. This scheme is aimed at funding upgrades and resurfacing of roads that would not have been carried out as soon under the annual programme based on current prioritisation.

### Minor Private Roads

#### Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) Private Roads Department of Community and Rural Development (DCRD) Grant - Expenditure of €0.93M

As a result of funding in 2022 we completed 27 No. schemes at an average cost of €34,400 under this programme with grant aid from the Department of Community and Rural Development.

## **Bridge Rehabilitation Expenditure of €790,000**

The purpose of this programme is to repair existing road bridges. Works are managed through our Central Services Section. Depending on costs, extent of repairs and available funding, we typically repair four to eight bridges per annum.

## **Fleet Management and Machinery Yard**

We continue to invest in our plant and machinery. The Fleet Management team supports all the operational sections in the Council with a significant portion associated with Roads, Traffic and Cleansing.

We took delivery of two compact road sweepers in 2022 to assist in the maintenance of the increased Active Travel Infrastructure (Cycle Lanes, Cycle Paths, Greenways, Amenity Walks etc.)

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE

### Roads

#### Regional and Local Roads

Expenditure on maintenance and improvement works on roads in 2022 was financed by way of Government Grants and the Council's own resources.

Road expenditure programmes included:

- Surface Dressing works of 27 kilometres of road network carried out at a cost of €708,000
- Road Reconstruction works were carried out on 15 kilometres of roadway at a cost of €2.11m
- Eight Drainage Improvement Schemes totaling €200,000 were undertaken
- Winter maintenance of the N21, N20 and N69 (TII funded) and Regional Roads (Department of Transport funded)

### Community Involvement Schemes

Six Community Involvement Schemes were completed at a cost of €336,000 at Kilmore, Corrig, Liskilly, Morgans North, Killeaney and Killeheen.

### Local Improvement Schemes

Six Local Improvement Schemes were completed during the year at a cost of €420,603 at Morgans South, Doolrus, Knockfierna, Ballynacarriga, Castlequarter and Milltown.

### Marine Cove Foynes

A new Culvert under National Road N69 with an outfall to the River Shannon together with a new overground spillway along Marine Cove Road, Foynes was constructed during 2022. The overall cost, €570,000 was funded via a combination of Office of Public Works (OPW) and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) funding. This project was carried out due to an unprecedented flooding event in November 2017 when water cascaded down a cliff face and surcharged onto Marine Cove road with extensive flooding on Marine Cove road, N69 and Flying Boat Museum.



New Spillway under construction Marine Cove Foynes

### OPW Minor Flood Mitigation Works

A new 225mm Storm main with a headwall and outfall to local stream was constructed at Ballyshonick, Pallaskenry with funding from OPW of €41,310. This new storm main will prevent future flooding of public road and private properties.

### Active Travel

Five Towns and Villages across Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District have benefitted from €1.15m of investment in Active Travel measures. With funding from the National Transport Authority, Limerick City and County Council has delivered a range of improvements for Pedestrians.

#### Adare Pedestrian Linkage and Upgrades

##### Station Road

Upgrade Footpaths, extend public lighting and upgrade uncontrolled Pedestrian Crossing along popular Walking route from Village Centre leading to River Bank Walk. Upgrade fencing on riverbank walk.

##### Banogue Pedestrian Route Upgrades

Upgrade Housing Estate Paths and link to village Centre

##### Cappage Village

New Pedestrian Crossing at National School. Footpath connectivity between National School and Church, Public Lighting, Boundary Setbacks and associated drainage

### Crecora Village to GAA Pitch

Connect existing properties within speed limit to GAA Pitch with new Footpath, drainage and Public Lighting

### R518 Holycross to Kyletaun

R518 Holycross to Kyletaun. Upgrade existing Footpath and drainage and provision of Public Lighting



Holycross- Kyletaun Active Travel Scheme Rathkeale

### Town and Village Renewal Funding

A new off street Car Park was constructed in early 2022 with €100,000 funding from Department of Rural and Community Development under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. The development of the car park has resulted in 18 off street car parking spaces. The provision of this alternative off street parking will ensure the future viability of the town as a trading centre.

### Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

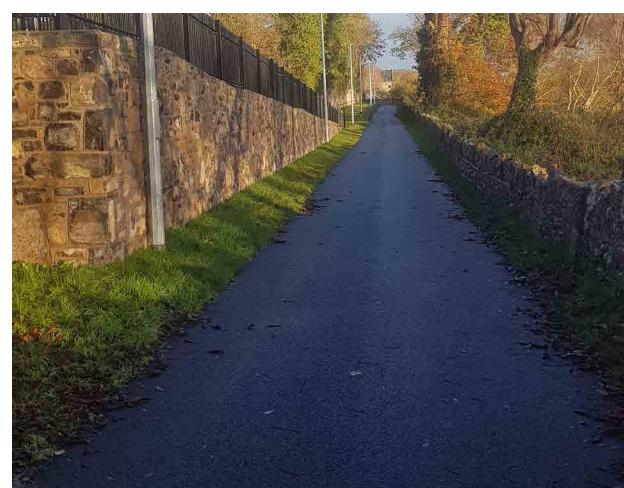
With funding of €198,000 from Department of Rural and Community Development, resurfacing and landscaping works were carried out on the Riverside Walk from Croom Mill towards Islanmore/Anhid on the old N20 route adjacent to the River Maigue. Works also included improved connectivity to Cois Sruthain Estate with a new access ramp and Public Lighting.

The walkway straddles the N20 to the West and the River Maigue to the East and is located at the southern end of Croom town. Since construction of the Croom Bypass in mid 1990's, this walkway had become overgrown with reduced widths. With ORIS funding, a new macadam surface minimum 2m wide has been provided along entire walkway. A number of park benches are strategically located at the northern side where there are views of the River Maigue.

The existing Pedestrian access to Cois Sruthain consisted of a straight vertical stepped 5m elevated lift from the walk to the housing estate. This has now been replaced with a new ramp and handrail. Due to the difference in height from the walkway to the Estate open space area, the ramp required covers a distance of 60m.



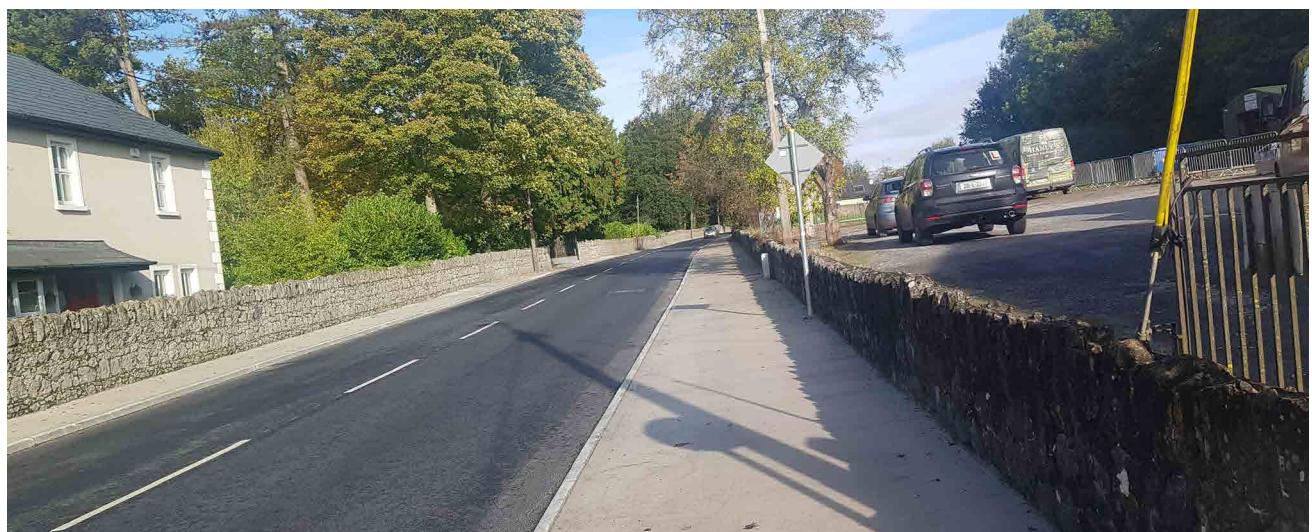
Croom Ramp and Walkway



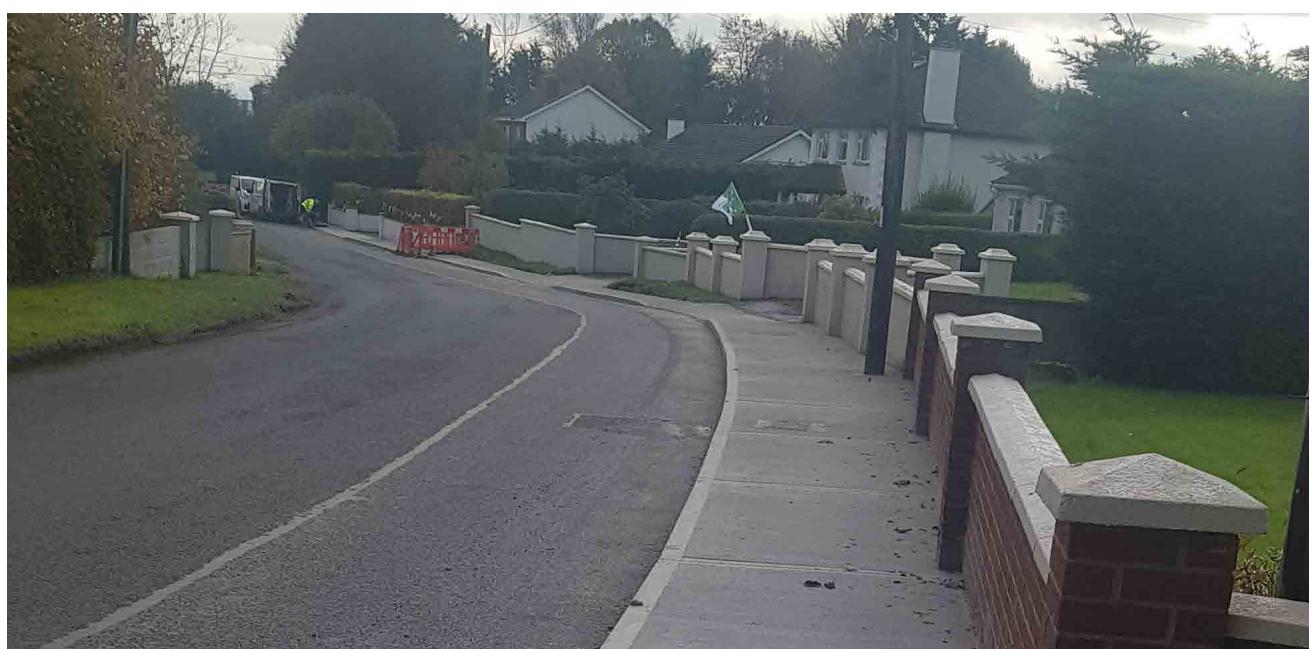
Croom Ramp and Walkway



Ballingarry Active Travel



Croom Active Travel



Croom Active Travel

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CAPPAMORE-KILMALLOCK

In 2022, investment, including additional grants, of over €20m (with over €18m on the Roads works scheme) secured by the Municipal district throughout the year for works associated with Climate Adaption, Office of Public Works (OPW) Minor Drainage Works, Community Improvement Schemes (CIS), Local Improvement Schemes (LIS), Outdoor Recreation Improvement Schemes (ORIS) and TII Geo App.

Cappamore-Kilmallock has been very successful in getting funding approved across the Municipal District in 2022,

Grant type	Amount
Town and Village Renewal (Bruff, Herbertstown)	€745,229.00
CLAR approvals (Martinstown, Glenroe GAA, Kilteely, Oola GAA, Kilfinane) Measure 1	€ 164,011.25
Climate Adaption (6 schemes)	€400,000.00
OPW Minor Works (Tobernea, Bresheen, Spittle, Portnard)	€166,500.00
ORIS (Riverside Park, Mapboard Upgrades, Moore Abbey Loop Walks, Lough Gur Walkway (Sli na Slainte))	€305,848.00
Community Involvement Scheme (13 Schemes)	€294,000.00
Local Improvement Scheme (7 Schemes)	€235,000.00
Transport Infrastructure Ireland Geo App	€83,000.00
LEADER Rural Development Programme 10 projects (In partnership with Ballyhoura Development – approved by LCDC)	€305,169.57
SICAP (including €28,208 Ukrainian Allocation)	€511,531.00
Community Activities Fund – 46 Projects	€78,547.30

Arts and Culture Grant Funding allocated to the region in 2021	
Arts Act (between 3 recipients)	€1,356
Festival and Events Grants (Cappamore Show, Ballyhoura Walking Festival and Hearsay Audio Arts Festival)	€34,000
Limerick Creative Ireland (Friars Gate Theatre and Ballyhoura CCE)	€5,400

## Service Operations Directorate - Roads

Expenditure on maintenance and improvement works on roads in 2022 was financed by way of Government Grants and the Council's own resources.

In addition to the additional funding secured throughout the year, road expenditure programmes during 2022 also included:

Cappamore Kilmallock District Road Works Scheme 2022	
Work Category	€
Restoration Improvement (RI) -Road Reconstruction	3,282,278
Restoration Maintenance (RM) -Surface Dressing	564,703
Supplementary Restoration Maintenance (SRM – Surface Dressing)	442,750
Drainage Grant	200000
General Maintenance (GM)/Own resources	1,282,401
General Maintenance Safety (GMS)	74,000
Tar Patching (TP)	558285
Low Cost Safety Improvement Works (LCSI)	130,000
General Municipal Allocation (GMA)	295,000
Bridge Rehabilitation	180575
Sustainable Travel Measures Grant (Active Travel)	1,712,911
Development Fund Municipal Allocation	70,000
M20 Limerick to Cork	6,000,000
N20 Rourke's Cross	300,000
N24 Beary's Cross	3,000,000
N24 Brooks Bridge	25,000
<b>Total Defined MD Spending</b>	<b>€18,117,903</b>

## Examples Of Capital Road work projects undertaken in the Cappamore-Kilmallock District in 2022 include:

- General Municipal Allocation Capital works including:
  - Knockainey Community Centre Car Park
  - Fairyfield Footpath replacement, Kilmallock
  - Hillview Grove Estate, Doon
- Active Travel and Town and Village projects at Herbertstown, Bruff, Knocklong, Nicker and Pallasgreen

- Outdoor Recreation Improvement Scheme including
  - Kilmallock Riverside Park
  - Sli na Slainte Bruff
- CLÁR
  - Coolfree Preschool and Afterschool** (approved 2021) approved for grant funding of €35,100 (90%) under **Measure 1 Support for Schools/Community Safety Measures** in 2021. The project entailed installation of new section of public footpath, four no. public lights, replacement of two no. existing gates and installation of two no. Digital Warning signs. €3,900 was contributed to the project by Coolfree.

## Service Operations Directorate – Housing

### Housing Maintenance

- The Housing Maintenance crew for the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock is responsible for the maintenance of 802 houses within the District, which is 14% of the overall Council housing stock.
- The District had a pre-letting budget of €98,661 for minor works to vacant properties prior to letting in 2022 and €308,840 was spent on response maintenance requests from existing tenants.
- The crew received 1,469 service requests in 2022.

### Housing Grants

#### Private House Grants

In relation to the ongoing House adaptation grants available to private home owners, 24 Mobility aid Grants were paid, totalling €119,340, 16 Housing Adaptation for persons with disability Grants were issued totalling €159,081.12 and 69 Housing Adaptation for Older Person Grants were issued totalling €295,977.23.

#### Disabled Persons Grant

Nine Disabled Person Grants were approved for Local Authority tenants totalling €68,763.98

### Housing Capital

#### SHIP Construction

- 12 in Station Close Knocklong
- 20 in Glenview Drive Hospital

#### Turnkeys

- Kilmallock turnkey - 33 units – allocated to tenants
- Knocklong older persons housing - 5 units - under construction

#### CALF Schemes with AHBs

- Dromsally Woods, Cappamore (Focus Ireland) – 5 units

#### LA Part V

- Ceol na hAbhainn, Caherconlish – 4 units

### CAS Acquisition

- Liscaugh, Doon – 4 units
- Tread na Ri, Kilfinane – 1 unit
- Garanbawn Court, Murroe – 1 unit
- Main St, Oola – 1 unit
- The Oaks, Murroe – 1 unit

### Private MTR

- Thomastown Kilmallock – 1 unit
- Sheares Avenue, Kilmallock – 1 unit
- Pallasbeg, Cappamore – 1 unit

### LA repair and lease

- Main St Caherconlish – 1 unit.

### Municipal District Meetings

The Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District held 11 District Meetings, one Annual Meeting, and one Budgetary Planning meeting in 2022. Five workshops and four JPC meetings were also held. Two Briefings were delivered to the Elected Members and one Municipal District Reception was held. Two Deputations were made to the Elected Members in 2022.

### Bruff Public Realm

The Bruff Public Realm plan was issued at the February Municipal District Meeting.

### Lough Gur

In 2022, the Limerick City and County Council steering group for Lough Gur achieved significant progress including but not limited to:

- Megalithic art find discovery leading to national coverage
- Walkway project progressed
- Bird hide and environmental initiatives progressed
- Development of new visitor services
- Increased brand loyalty and appreciation for Lough Gur
- Collaboration with local communities
- Two national awards
- Focus on cultural experiences to benefit the region. There were 29,529 visitors to the Lough Gur Visitor Centre in 2022, 52,293s vehicles to the Lakeside and 14,904 to Grange Stone Circle.

## Sugar CRM cases

Cases Created			Cases Closed		
Total cases 2022	3478		Total cases 2022	3556	
Reps	773	22.23%	Reps	629	17.69%
Public	2705	77.77%	Public	2927	82.31%

Department	Total Cases	Public Cases	Councillors	TDs/Senators
Roads Maintenance	1253	954	101	198
Housing Maintenance	1423	1354	10	59
Housing Support Services	498	116	38	337
Public Lighting	542	362	22	22
Veterinary Department	251	249	1	1
Street Cleaning	14	14	0	0



2022 Herbertstown Active Travel Works



2022 Low Cost Safety Scheme Works Kilmallock Town



2022 ORIS SLI NA SLAINTE Walkway Improvements



Bathroom adaptation - Mobility Aid Grant



Stairlift Mobility Aid Grant



New windows Housing for Older persons grant

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST ROADS, TRAFFIC AND CLEANSING

Expenditure on maintenance and improvement works on roads in 2022 were financed by way of Government grants and the Council's own resources. The Newcastle West roads crew maintains 24% of the county's roads.

Road expenditure programmes during 2022 included:

- Road surface dressing of 35km of roadway to the value of €808,143
- Road reconstruction works to the value of €2,501,078
- Road overlays at Ballyagran Village, Ardagh Village and Assumpta Park Newcastle West.
- Bridge rehabilitation works at Mountcollins and Templeglantine
- Low cost safety improvement works at Glin
- Footpath upgrade works at Glin, Ardagh, Dromcollogher, Abbeyfeale, Mountcollins and Newcastle West
- Major drainage improvements at Abbeyfeale, Bruff line, and R522 completed to the value of €200,000
- Winter Maintenance
- General road maintenance and safety measures
- Local Improvement Schemes - 10 schemes completed to the value of €150,558
- Community involvement schemes – 2 schemes completed to a value of €137,000

The total expenditure on road related projects including the above across the District in 2022 was €6,500,000.

### Local Authority Housing Construction and Maintenance Department

The Housing Maintenance crew for the Municipal District of Newcastle West is responsible for the maintenance of 665 houses within the District, which is 12% of the overall Council housing stock. The District had a pre-letting budget of €81,280 for minor works to vacant properties prior to letting

in 2022 and €326,966.22 was spent on response maintenance requests from existing tenants. The crew received 1,427 service requests in 2022.

### Housing Support Services – Housing Grants Schemes

Twenty four applications under the Housing Adaptation Grants for People with a Disability were approved in 2022 at a cost of €237,335.97.

Twenty three applications under the Mobility Aids Grants were approved at a cost of €109,241.93 One hundred and ten applications under the Housing Aid for Older People were approved at a cost of €505,020.25.

Also eight Council properties within the District had works completed on them for persons with a disability at a cost of €65,035.81

### Corporate, Governance and Customer Services

The Municipal District of Newcastle West held 20 meetings during 2022.

### Newcastle Motor Taxation Office

The Motor Taxation Section in Newcastle West had a total of 13,234 routine transactions during 2022.

### Corporate, Governance and Customer Services

The customer services initiative and the use of Sugar CRM system continued during 2022. All queries and service requests received at the office were logged on this system by Newcastle West office staff.

Under the Special Projects General Municipal Allocation, Newcastle West District Councillors approved funding for 18 projects within the District.

## Water Services

Irish Water is the organisation with overall responsibility for water and waste water matters throughout Ireland. The water services crew at Newcastle West acts as an agent for Irish Water and on their behalf operates and maintains a large number of water schemes throughout the County.

## Roads, Traffic and Cleansing – Machinery Yard

The Machinery Yard at Newcastle West and Park Road depot continues to play a central role in the Council's Roadworks programmes. The Winter Maintenance programmes are operated from the depots at Atlas Avenue, Doonakenna, Kinard and Kilmallock. All bitumen used in the county is distributed through the Municipal District depots and Council vehicles are maintained by the Machinery Yard. The upgrading of the Council fleet of vehicles continued during 2022.

## Newcastle West District Projects

### • Active Travel Programme National Transport Authority

Newcastle West, Abbeyfeale, Glin, Ardagh, Athea, Mountcollins, Dromcollighier and Athea benefitted from funding under this scheme in 2022 with the projects being processed by the Newcastle West Roads Department.

Also one new pedestrian crossings was installed at

- Bishop Street, Newcastle West.
- Two new pedestrian crossing were also installed at Main Street, Ardagh Village and the Greenway Link to Ardagh Village.
- New footpaths were installed in Newcastle West, one between the Monagea road and the secondary school National School and the other between Glin village and the Kilfergus estate.
- In Ardagh, a new footpath was installed linking the Limerick Greenway carpark with the centre of the village and the R521. Footpath upgrades were also carried out in Athea, Mountcollins, Dromcollighier.
- Greenaway links to Newcastle West town centre via Greenway.

## Regional Athletics Hub Newcastle West

- The Limerick Regional Athletics hub is due for completion in the spring of 2023.
- This facility will contain the following:
- Athletics track to International World Athletics Standard
- Floodlights for the track and a fully lit walking path on the track perimeter
- Field sports such as shot putt, discuss, hammer, javelin, long jump, high jump and pole vault



Newcastle West Athletics Hub

# PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND PLACE-MAKING





# PLACE-MAKING AND PUBLIC REALM

## PLACE-MAKING AND PUBLIC REALM

The Place-making and Public Realm Department (PMPR) was established in 2021 in response to the heightened appreciation of the importance of quality public space.

Place-making is a multi-faceted approach to the planning, design, delivery and management of city and town centre areas. Its intention is to create quality public spaces and buildings that promote physical, economic and environmental sustainability, social inclusion as well as enhanced identity and sense of place.

Public realm refers to all areas to which the public have access, such as streets, lanes, parks, bridges and open spaces. The current work of the PMPR includes high profile projects such as the O'Connell Street Rejuvenation Project, the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) programme and flood relief schemes. Projects range in scale from large scale capital works to small scale urban interventions.

In line with the objectives of the department, PMPR became responsible for the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) projects in 2022. Projects include the World Class Waterfront Programme, the Future Proofing Place Programme (which includes O'Connell Street Phase 2 and the Laneways Project) and the Housing Demonstrator Projects at 58 O'Connell Street and 33/34 Thomas Street, complementing projects already underway in the department.

Phase 2 of the Link Street at Munget commenced in 2022. This is a key project to facilitate development of the overall Munget Masterplan including providing access to significant housing land and a new secondary school under construction since September.

Joint Receivers and Managers were appointed to Roadbridge Limited on 11 March, which resulted in construction work ceasing on the Coonagh Knockalisheen Distributor Road. PMPR addressed emergency works resulting from the cessation of the contract including work to Cratloe Road. Following the successful opening of the Limerick Greenway in 2021 further works have taken place to enhance the project, including the provision of overpasses and underpasses at key locations to eliminate cattle crossing points. Design work also advanced for a new greenway hub at Newcastle West to enhance the visitor experience. An expanded Castletroy Playground was officially opened in 2022 by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler. This facility complements the Castletroy Urban Greenway which provides enhanced connectivity to Castletroy Park in this growing area of the city. Construction of the Newcastle West Athletics Hub advanced in 2022 and will be completed in early 2023.

PMPR became responsible for the Limerick Wayfinding and Orientation Project in 2022. This project has been expanded to include “decluttering” of existing obsolete signage and street clutter from the city centre.

In tandem with medium and long term projects a number of experimental projects were carried out in 2022 to test urban concepts. These included the installation of a mobile urban forest at Catherine Street, Sarsfield Bridge and Honan's Quay, carried out in conjunction with the Environment, Recreation and Climate Change Department. An Urban Art installation was completed at Honan's Quay, by internationally renowned Spanish urban artist and muralist Digo Diego, on the façade of the University of Limerick (UL) City Campus building. This project was carried out in collaboration with UL.

The department is set to expand in 2023, building on the strengths of the current multidisciplinary team.

## Public Realm and Streets

Project Name	Stage at the end of 2022
Adare Public Realm Plan	Ongoing
O'Connell Street Revitalisation Project Phase 1	Construction
LIHAF Mungret Link Street	Construction
Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan	Detailed Design
Limerick City Public Realm Strategy	Ongoing
King's Island Walled Town Rejuvenation Works	Ongoing
UL City Campus Mural (in conjunction with the University of Limerick)	Complete
Mayor's Tree Project - Mobile Forest (Catherine Street, Sarsfield Bridge, Honan's Quay, Colbert Station Plaza and University Hospital Limerick) in conjunction with Parks Department	Complete
Wayfinding and Orientation Project (including Decluttering Project)	Ongoing
URDF - World Class Waterfront (including pedestrian bridges and waterfront infrastructure works)	Ongoing
URDF Streets Upgrades (including O'Connell Street Phase 2)	Inception
URDF - Laneway Solutions	Inception
URDF - Cruises Street Canopy	Inception
URDF - Food Hub	Inception
URDF - Meanwhile Use - Site adjacent to King John's Castle	Ongoing
URDF - Meanwhile Use – Honan's Quay Phase 2	Ongoing
Abbeyfeale Town Centre First Plan	Ongoing
Toll Cottages, King's Island – Urban Art Project (in conjunction with the Limerick School of Art and Design (LSAD)	Ongoing
Shopfront Design Guide	Inception
River Swimming Feasibility Study	Inception

## Flood Protection Projects

Project Name	Stage at the end of 2022
King's Island Flood Relief Scheme	Pre-tender
Castleconnell Flood Relief Scheme	Stage 1
Athea Flood Relief Scheme	Stage 1 (Advance Works Complete)
Limerick City and Environs Flood Relief Scheme	Stage 1
Adare Flood Relief Scheme	Stage 1

## Sports Facilities

Project Name	Stage at the end of 2022
Newcastle West Regional Athletics Hub	Construction
Askeaton Swimming Pool Flood Relief Works and Renewable Energy Upgrade	Detailed Design

## Heritage Projects

Project Name	Stage at the end of 2022
Kilfinnane Church Conservation	Complete
Ballynoe Church Conservation	Complete
Canal Harbour Building	Complete
Limerick's City Walls (New Road to Old Clare Street)	Complete

## Playgrounds

Project Name	Stage at the end of 2022
Castletroy Playground	Complete

## Housing

Project Name	Stage at the end of 2022
URDF – Housing Demonstrator Project – 58 O'Connell Street	Part 8 Planning Application Submitted
URDF – Housing Demonstrator Project – 33/34 Thomas Street	Part 8 Planning Application Submitted



Official Opening of Castletroy Playground



Official Opening of Castletroy Playground



Official Opening of Castletroy Playground



Official Opening of Castletroy Playground



Local Authority Flood Relief Schemes Forum held in Limerick



Regeneron Great Limerick Run 2022 - O'Connell Street



Arthur's Quay Area Framework Plan



Athea Flood Relief Scheme - Advanced Works



Aerial View of Castletroy Playground



Aerial View of the Coonagh Knockalisheen Distributor Road March 2022



Aerial View of the Coonagh Knockalisheen Distributor Road



Coonagh Knockalisheen Distributor Road - Cratloe Road Emergency Works



Public Art Bollards Projects Honan's Quay



Public Art Bollards Projects Honan's Quay



Limerick Flood Relief Scheme - Ground Investigation Works



Honan's Quay Mural R to L Artisit Digo Diego with Kersten Mehl, UL President, Catherine O'Halloran, Draw Out and Nuala Gallagher, Limerick City and County Council.



Aerial View of Mural by Artist Digo Diego at Honan's Quay



Mungret Link Street - View to the East



Mungret Link Street - View North to Mungret Gate



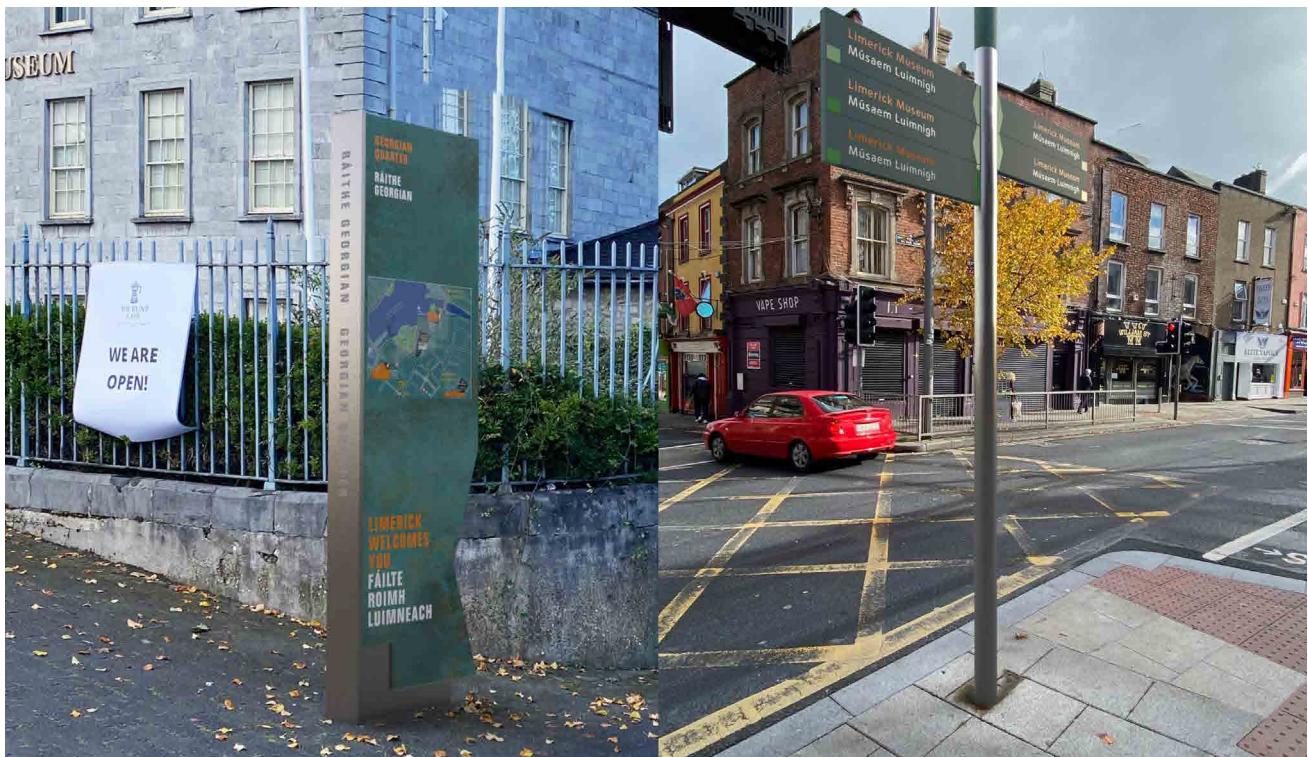
Greenway Overpass



Wayfinding and Orientation Project - Gateway Signage Visualisation



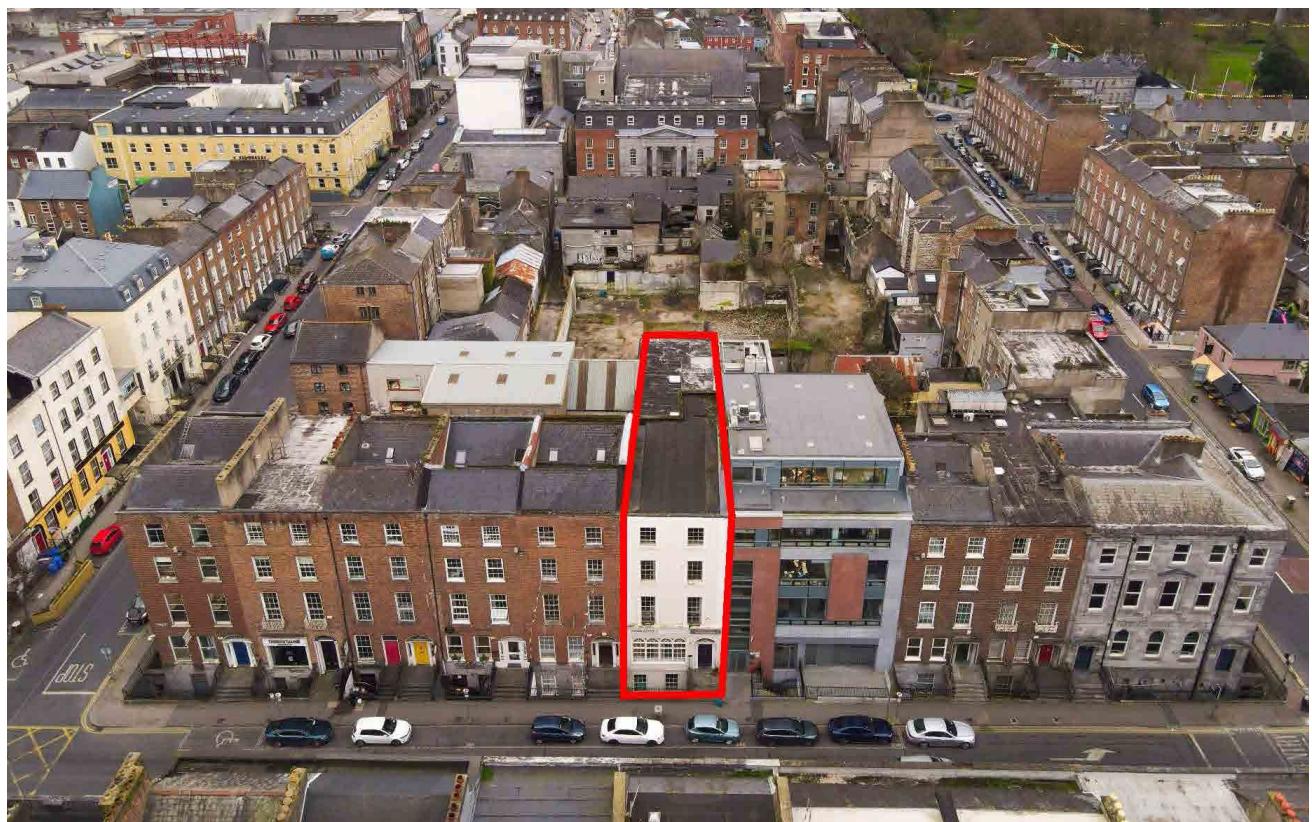
Limerick Greenway Overpass



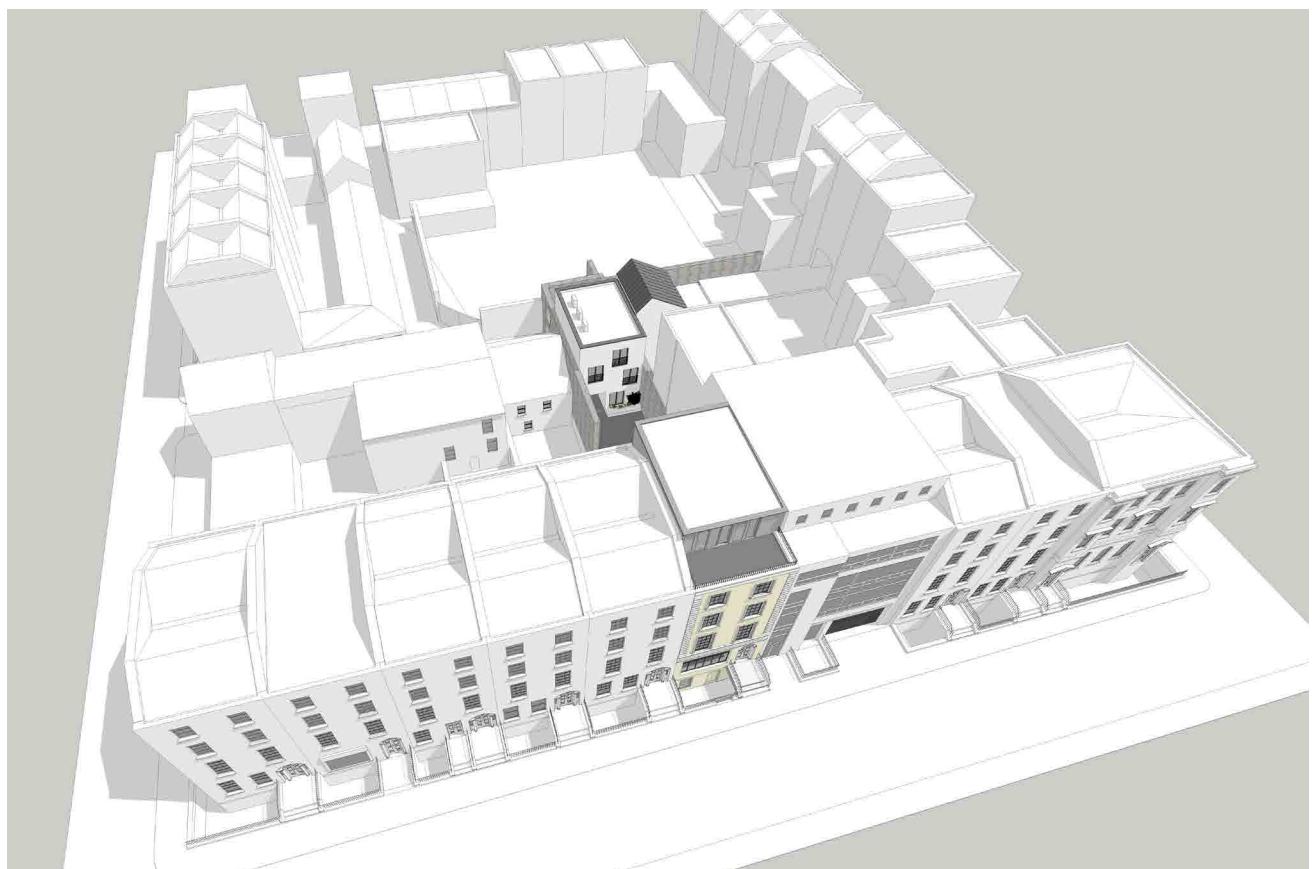
Wayfinding and Orientation Project - Signage Visualisation



World Class Waterfront Project Scope



Aerial View of 58 O'Connell Street



Sketchup Model of 58 O'Connell Street



Aerial View of 33 and 34 Thomas Street



Sketch up Model of 33 and 34 Thomas Street



Sketch up Street View of 33 and 34 Thomas Street



Enjoying the Music at the Mobile Urban Forest Catherine Street



Mayor's Tree Project - Mobile Forest Catherine Street



Mayor's Tree Project - Mobile Forest Sarsfield Bridge



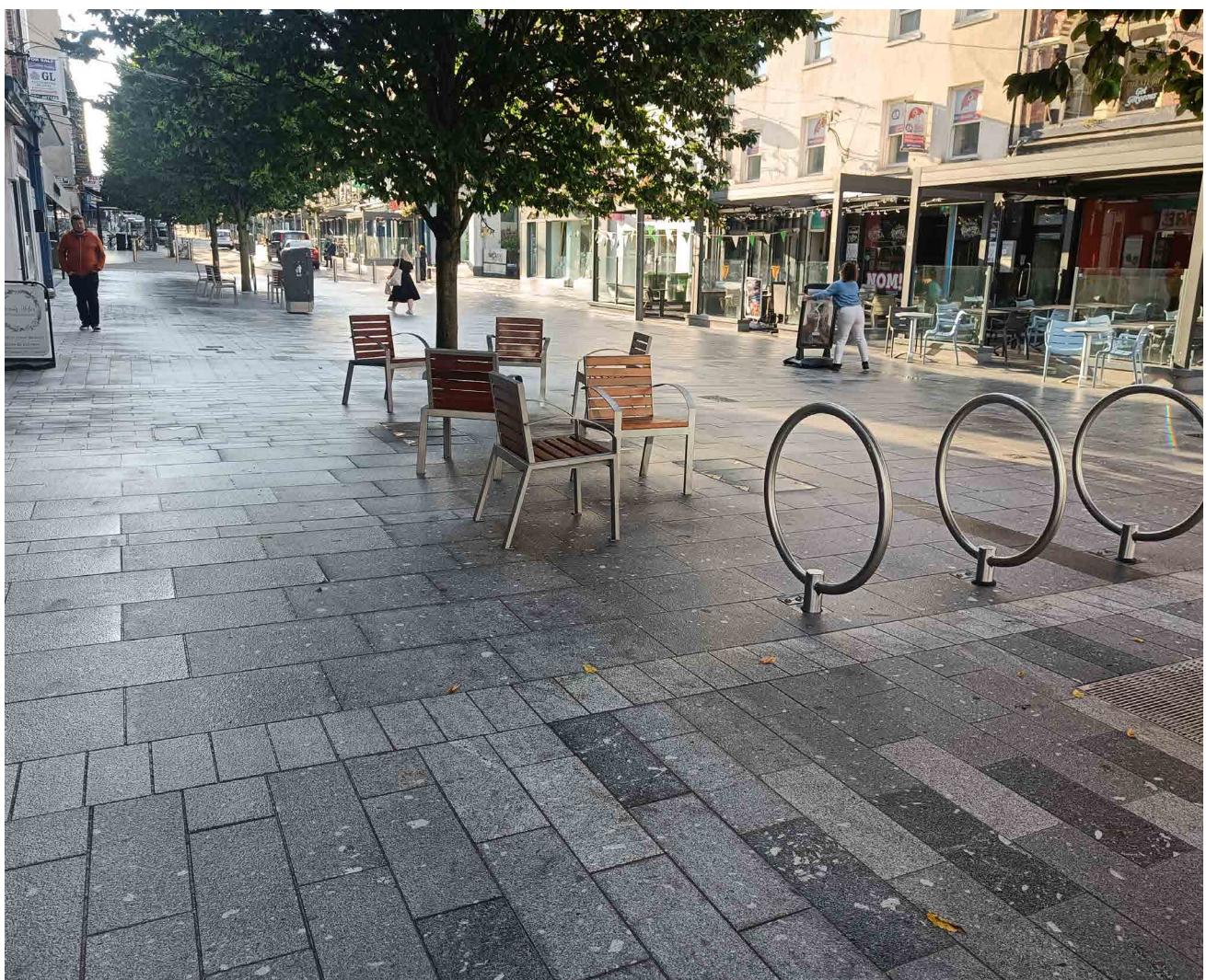
Street Performer Mayor's Tree Project - Mobile Forest Sarsfield Bridge



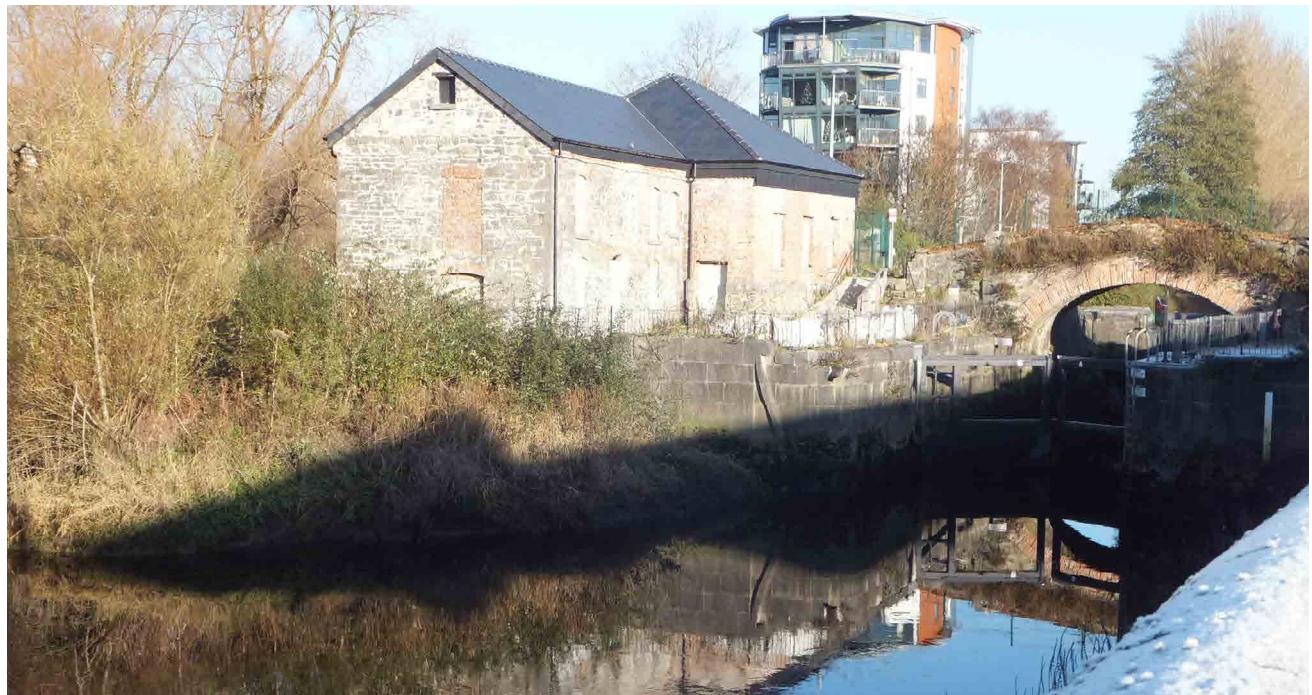
Consolidated section of City Wall at Irishtown



Public Realm Works O'Connell Street



Public Realm Works Thomas Street



Exterior View of the Canal Harbour Building



Interior View of the Roof Structure of the Canal Harbour Building

## PLANNING DEVELOPMENT

The Planning Section is responsible for the evaluation of planning applications received across the county.

In excess of 1,370 applications were received in the year to 24 December. Rural housing applications made up 70% of residential applications. Refusals formed 9% of decisions, reflective of changes in legislation and of the changes of policy in the new Limerick Development Plan.

The Planning Section also assessed and reported on four Strategic Housing Developments/Large-Scale Residential Developments and three Strategic Infrastructure Developments.

A number of significant planning applications were granted in 2022. The table below contains a sample of these developments.

Planning Reference Number	Description of Development
21/1740	<p><b>Bon Secours Health System CLG</b>            The proposed development will provide a 79 no. bed hospital, with both in-patient and out-patient facilities and treatment rooms. The principal access and egress to the site will be from Groody Road to the south-east.</p>
22/190	<p><b>Eli Lilly (Kinsale) Limited</b>            The construction of a Biopharmaceutical Manufacturing Campus with an overall floor area of approximately 47,384 sq. Metres at Ballycummin, The IDA Business and Technology Park, Raheen, County Limerick.</p>
22/462	<p><b>Johnson &amp; Johnson Vision Care Ireland Unlimited Company</b>            Development of an extension to the existing Manufacturing Building, with associated plant, equipment and ancillary works.</p>
21/1400	<p><b>Osprey Construction Ltd.</b>            Residential development comprising 96 no. residential units, (16 no. semi-detached houses, 6 no. terrace houses, 2 detached units along with 2 no. 5 storey apartment blocks over basement, comprised of 72 no. apartments and basement parking). Newtown, Castletroy, Co. Limerick.</p>
21/1222	<p><b>Voyage Property Limited</b>            Development for a nursing home at a site of c.1.3ha, in the south-eastern part of the former Greenpark Racecourse, Dock Road, Limerick.</p>
22/796	<p><b>Health Service Executive</b>            An 803m<sup>2</sup>, two-storey extension to the existing hospital, incorporating 14 No. bedrooms with en-suites, staff bases, toilets, support rooms and plant space, connection to the existing hospital street and associated internal modifications, and all other associated site works.</p>
22/803	<p><b>Analog Devices International</b>            A ten-year planning permission for an extension to C1 R&amp;D Pilot Line building to provide R&amp;D and 1st Industrial deployment/Manufacturing use in the proposed C2 Fanfare building at Raheen Industrial Business Park, Raheen, Co. Limerick.</p>
22/808	<p><b>Howmedica International S. De R.L</b>            Alterations to the Planning Permission previously granted 21/1637 (for the construction of a 550 sq. m. extension to the North West of the existing production facility, to relocate the existing canteen facility, kitchen and storage areas and all associated external works</p>

## Development Contributions

Monies received to the end of November in accordance with Development Contribution Schemes totalled €3,631,571.71. Monies received represent an increase of 59% in comparison with November 2021.

## Online Planning

Online Planning is an online portal developed by the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) through which planning applications can be made and applicants will be kept updated on the progress of their application. Limerick City and County Council is part of the second wave of the roll out and it will be available for use on the 15 December.

## Architectural Heritage

The Conservation Office provides advice and support in relation to the protection of our architectural heritage both in-house, and to members of the public and community groups. Other key work includes reviewing development proposals, administering grant schemes, working on cross-departmental public awareness campaigns and, in 2022, inputting into the Development Plan process. During the course of the year there were several positive engagements with property owners in relation to responding to the Ukrainian Refugee Crisis.

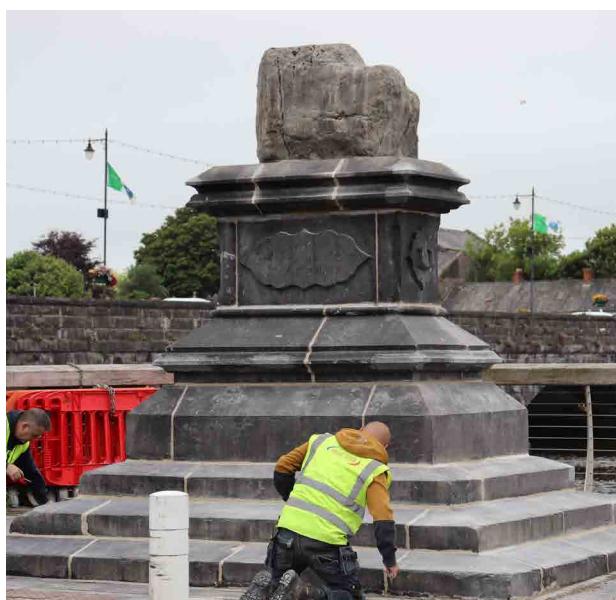
The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage provides a number of grant schemes to assist property owners in the conservation of their protected structures, buildings in architectural conservation areas, and archaeological monuments.

## Built Heritage Investment Scheme

Under this measure, aimed at assisting small-scale labour-intensive projects, 21 property owners were supported. Though decrease of one on the previous year, awards totalling €208,800 (an increase of over €56,565 on 2021), ranged from the minimum of €2,500 to the maximum of €15,000.

## Historic Structures Scheme

Of five projects awarded monies under this measure, directed towards large-scale labour-intensive works, three came to fruition. A total of €132,996 was awarded, the projects assisted being The Treaty Stone on Clancy's Strand, a range of significant outbuildings near Caherline, and an important shopfront in Kilfinane.



Work in progress, being undertaken by craftsmen from Nolan Conservation, on the Treaty Stone and its surrounds



Completed works on the Treaty Stone

## Community Monuments Fund

This recent initiative, aimed at sites covered by the Record of Monuments and Places, funds both studies and works. One of the city's most historic and important sites, Saint Mary's Church of Ireland Cathedral, was allocated funding totalling €25,000 for the preparation of a Conservation Plan to assist the stakeholders define the significance of their building. This is a foundation mechanism for planning future interventions and works for the oldest building in Limerick in continuous use since its construction over 800 years ago.

## Public Service Empowerment Initiative

This new measure under the New European Bauhaus [Beautiful | Sustainable | Together] is aimed at assisting public servants explore innovative ways by which their skill sets can be brought to bear on issues in pioneering ways. A fund of €6,000 was made available to study an archaeological site and explore proposals for repurposing it in a suitable way to deliver a positive future for the site and to contribute to its location.

## Planning Enforcement

The Planning Section is responsible for the regulation of unauthorised development, and the table below sets out the enforcement activity carried out to the end of November.

Complaints Received	439
Warning Letters Issued	272
Enforcement Notices Issued	151
Prosecutions Initiated	31

## Licensing

In 2022, the Council issued 31 Tables and Chairs Licenses and 17 buildouts licenses. 50 Casual Trading licenses were also issued.

Three licenses for large-scale events issued in 2022 – St. Patrick's Day Festival, Riverfest and Ed Sheeran concerts.

## ENVIRONMENT, RECREATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

Local authorities in Ireland have responsibility for a broad range of environmental functions including climate action, preservation of our natural heritage, environmental regulation and licensing and provision and maintenance of parks and open spaces.

## Biodiversity

The Environment Section continue to undertake a suite of initiatives and projects to support the enhancement of biodiversity in the county.

- **International Conference: How Local Authorities Can Address the Biodiversity Emergency**

A large international conference was hosted by Limerick City and County Council and focused on how local authorities can help to address the Biodiversity Emergency that Ireland is facing. Over 200 delegates attended the conference over two days.

The conference heard from a variety of experts about how biodiversity in Ireland has suffered a serious decline in recent decades with the result that almost a quarter of all species are threatened with extinction.

Case studies for Europe were presented which showcased examples of where concerted actions by local authorities, often working in collaboration with local communities, were able to address biodiversity issues to create a more diverse, healthy living environment.

The delegates highlighted the need for local authorities and other public bodies to take the challenge of addressing biodiversity loss more seriously, and to incorporate biodiversity targets in all aspects of their work.

The conference was organised by Limerick City and County Council in partnership with the

National Biodiversity Data Centre and was due to be held in 2020 during Limerick's designation as European Green Leaf city.

Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. Malcolm Noonan, TD, addressed the conference highlighting the hugely important role that local authorities play in shaping policies and actions at the local level.

The conference formed part of Ireland's 1st national Sustainability Development Goal week – [\(SDG Week\)](#) which was part of the wider European Sustainable Development Week.

Key recommendations from the conference sessions will be submitted to the consultation phase of the fourth National Biodiversity Action Plan.

Presentations have been uploaded to the EGLA You Tube channel <https://www.youtube.com/c/LimerickEuropeanGreenLeafCity>

## **European Green Leaf Award**

The Limerick European Green Leaf City 2020 You Tube Channel remains active with webinars and other relevant content being posted. Biodiversity is a regular feature. (<https://www.youtube.com/c/LimerickEuropeanGreenLeafCity>)

## **Invasive Species**

The works to control Giant hogweed on the River Loobagh continued for a fourth year in 2022. The bulk of the work during 2022 focused on the river Loobagh from Kilfinane to the Farm Bridge west of Kilmallock Town. Work began in early spring and ended in late August. Previous years digging out and maceration of roots has been successful in eradicating mature plants and only 15 flowering heads were removed along the river corridor from Kilfinane to Garrose Bridge in 2022. Results to date indicate that manual control methods are both effective and efficient. It is intended to continue the project for an additional year in 2023.

## **All Ireland Pollinator Plan**

### **2021 -2025**

Limerick City and County Council continued with its commitment to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) by leaving significant sections of road verges in the city uncut. "Let it Bee" signage was erected in these locations to inform the public. Large sections of green space in several parks were designated "Let it Bee" areas, leading to an increase in native wildflowers, nesting sites and winter food for birds.

## **Maigue Rivers Trust**

The Council continued to support and facilitate the work of the Maigue Rivers Trust in 2022, which is establishing itself as a significant influencer in the Maigue catchment. The Trust appointed a full-time project officer in May 2020 with funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH).

## **Green and Blue Infrastructure**

The Environment Section continues to focus on the development, enhancement and maintenance of our public open spaces. This included the implementation of a number of plans and strategies to enhance open spaces around the city and county.

## **Limerick City and Environs Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy**

Land Use Consultants Ltd. completed the Stage 3 Report in 2022, which is the *Draft Limerick City and Environs Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy*. The strategy will inform and guide the planning and management of a network of multi-functional green and blue spaces in Limerick City and its Environs, with one of the key objectives being to create a green and blue corridor around Limerick City, becoming Ireland's first City-scale planning and ecosystems enhancement programme. The draft strategy was on public consultation between September and October 2022 and submissions received from the public, stakeholders and elected members have been reviewed and incorporated into the draft final strategy. While the strategy is focused on the Limerick City and Environs, many

of the key actions arising will be applicable to the wider County.

### URBACT Health and Greenspace

Funding approval for phase two of URBACT Health and Greenspace was obtained in May 2020. This project aims to develop an action plan for selected greenspaces in the city, including the Baggott Estate and a number of residential greenspaces, which will enhance their value from a health, wellbeing and biodiversity perspective. Limerick is one of nine partner cities from around Europe. The project is led by Budapest.

Collaboration and engagement with stakeholders were undertaken on the project to inform an Integrated Action Plan (IAP). The IAP was developed in consultation with the Urbact Local Group and visits to each URBACT site were carried out with stakeholders. Small-scale actions (wildflower planting, biodiversity talks and walks and orienteering course and training) were completed across a number of sites between May and November 2021. The IAP was completed in September 2022.

### Horizon 2020 Go Green Routes

Limerick City and County Council is one of 49 partners in this ambitious project, which aims to develop and implement nature-based solutions with a view to making urban areas more sustainable. The target area for this project is the Castletroy urban greenway and project will run until August 2024, with the project being led by the National University of Ireland, Maynooth.

### Healthy Ireland Funding Round 3

Healthy Ireland granted €18,000 for the development of a biodiversity garden in Baggott Estate under the criteria spaces and places for health and well-being. A collaborative approach with local stakeholders saw the project completed in 2022 with the installation of raised beds, fruit trees/bushes, native hedging, seating, shelter and composting facilities. The space will provide opportunities for use by local groups to develop and maintain their own garden spaces.

The installation of nesting boxes for birds and habitats for pollinators will potentially increase the biodiversity of the area. The space will be used for socialisation and educational talks.

### Noise Action Plan 2018-2023

The Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC) aims to put in place a European wide system for identifying sources of environmental noise, informing the public about relevant noise data and taking necessary steps to avoid, prevent and reduce noise exposure. The Noise Action Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Environmental Noise Regulations and is aimed at the strategic long-term management of environmental noise, primarily from road noise in both the Limerick city and county.

In 2022, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), in acknowledgement of the Council's effort in preparing cost benefit assessments reviewing mitigation measures to reduce excessive road noise on the national road network adjacent in Limerick, changed the road pavement along the M7 between Junctions 28 and 30 to a low noise road surface. The Council has continued to highlight in 2022 at the National Local Authorities Noise Steering Group and to the Department of Environment the need for further measures to be implemented on national roads in Limerick based on cost benefit assessments, such as at the Ballycummin and Patrickswell Noise Hotspots.

Under the Environmental Noise Regulations, 2018, Limerick City and Environs is designated as a Noise Agglomeration. Preparation of data for the strategic noise mapping and the running of noise models has been progressed during 2022 for Limerick Agglomeration (roads, rail and industry) and County Limerick (major roads only).

## Parks and Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Unit continued to maintain parks, playgrounds and public amenities to the highest of standards. In 2022, both People's Park and Lough Gur retained their Green Flag status. Lough Gur also received a Heritage Flag in recognition of the archaeological and historical significance of the site. It is the first Heritage Flag for Limerick.



Lough Gur



Newcastle West Playground

There was a significant increase in public footfall utilising the parks and amenities across city and county with staff ensuring best practices were implemented into public amenities.

New willow structures for natural play were provided in Ted Russell Park, Adare Park and Baggott Estate with further natural play elements to be provided in the future. Improvements were provided to Newcastle West playground, with



Adare Park



Baggott Estate



Baggott Estate Biodiversity Garden

the replacement of fencing and tarmacing of grassed areas. New fencing was provided to the basketball court in Abbeyfeale Community Park. Both Munget Park and Castletroy Park received additional pollinator friendly planting that have greatly enhanced the visual appeal of these Parks.

The biodiversity garden in Baggott Estate, funded by Healthy Ireland was completed in 2022. The Council collaborated with Focus Ireland, Limerick Clare Educate Together, Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School and Local Residents Association. All groups have been allocated beds and are responsible for their maintenance.



Baggott Estate Biodiversity Garden

The Council took over maintenance of Adare Park and Lough Gur in 2002, which saw vast improvements to both these amenities. Both of these amenities had previously been maintained by a contractor. Both amenities were provided with additional planting, increasing colour, appeal and supporting the enhancement of biodiversity in Limerick. Fencing was provided to the perimeter of Lough Gur and also safety fencing at the public toilets.

In addition to the pollinator friendly planting in the Parks, the Council also replanted areas throughout the city with pollinators, including O'Connell Monument, George's Quay, Honan's Quay, People's Park, Shelbourne Park and O'Brien Park.



Adare Park



Lough Gur

## Grass Cutting

The Council continued to provide an extensive grass cutting programme to the public in 2022, cutting approximately 300 hectares of grass between March and October on a fortnightly roster. There was an increase in areas which were left to grow to support the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. "Let it Bee" signage were erected in these locations to inform the public. Sections in a number of the parks, Castletroy, Mayorstone, Mungrange and the Newcastle West Demesne were designated "Let it Bee" sites and allowed to develop into wildflower meadows managed with one cut and lift a year, this saw a huge increase in biodiversity in a short time. A My Point survey was carried out to gauge public interest in allowing more green spaces to develop as wildflower areas to increase biodiversity.



Castletroy Park - "Let It Bee"



Castletroy Park – “Let It Bee”

## Roundabout Sponsorship

The 2022/2023 Roundabout Sponsorship scheme kicked off again in 2022 and Limerick City and County Council have seen increased expressions of interest from local businesses and organisations interested in sponsoring a roundabout. The scheme provides businesses and organisations with an excellent opportunity to promote themselves through their association with the landscaping and maintenance of roundabouts. The sponsoring company is responsible for having a biodiversity friendly design created for their roundabout of choice. These designs should reflect the character of their settings, with the more rural roundabouts incorporating wildflowers and native species, while more formal designs, based on pollinator friendly perennials, are encouraged for the roundabouts in more urban locations.

Limerick City and County Council have received expressions of interest for Kilmallock, Roxborough, Garryglass, Greenpark, LIT/TUS and Newtown roundabouts and these projects are progressing into 2023. Regeneron were the successful sponsor for the Ballycummin roundabout and this project was completed in 2022.



Ballycummin Roundabout



Loughmore Roundabout

## Park Events

The Council facilitated events from many voluntary, community groups, local schools and charitable organisations in many of its parks. Our parks continue to be appreciated amenities for all communities and even more so during the difficult Covid-19 pandemic, where our parks became an important amenity for our citizens to visit and for recreation. This trend has carried on and our parks are now seen as a central part of our citizens' lives and a necessary and important amenity for all of our citizens of every age.



Lough Gur Live Music Event



Munget Park Newstalk Radio Walking Event

## “Bridges in Bloom” and Corbally Nursery

The annual work continued in Corbally Nursery for the provision of flowers in the City. Work commenced in March in the Nursery until the end of May when all flowers are in place in the city for the June Bank Holiday weekend. The “Bridges in Bloom” where flower baskets are placed on seven bridges in the city and flower tiers provided on the Three Bridges Walk, Colbert Plaza, Arthur’s Quay Park and selected streets in the city centre. Additional flower baskets were provided throughout the city centre in consultation with the city traders. New planters were sourced in 2022 and provided on Thomas Street and Bedford Row. Additional flower baskets were also provided on the railings at Robert Byrne, Curragower and along O’Callaghan Strand.



Corbally Nursery



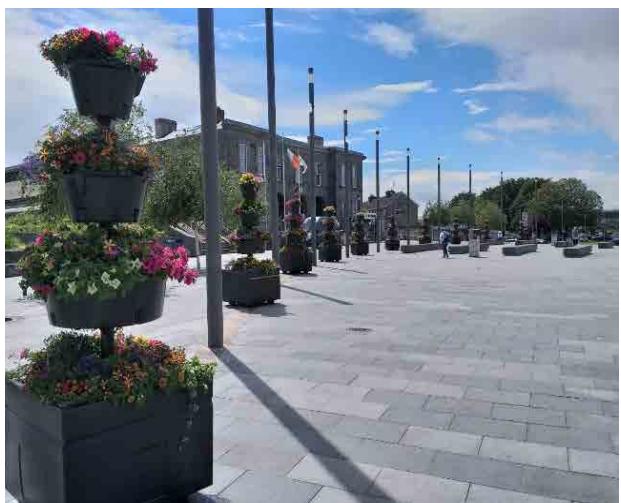
Corbally Nursery



Corbally Nursery



Thomond Bridge



Colbert Plaza



Howley's Quay

## Mayor's Tree Project - Mobile Forest

A Mobile Tree Forest was launched by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler on the June Bank Holiday week, creating an urban forest in the city. The project was a greening initiative to increase the attractiveness of the city and raise awareness on the importance of trees for carbon sequestration and the cooling effect of trees. This project was done jointly with the Place-making and Public Realm Department in the Council. The mobile planters are a tree nursery with the trees to be planted in the ground after two years. The project was an initiative of the Mayor, which subsequently involved the design and tendering of a number of tree planters that could be manually moved throughout the city. The project was also assisted by Limerick City Build, who provided local youths to move the tree planters around the various locations in the city. The project was rolled out on the June Bank Holiday weekend, one day on Catherine Street, one day on Sarsfield Bridge and Honan's Quay for the remainder of the summer. The project was well received by the public. The mobile tree forest is currently in place on Colbert Plaza for the Autumn/Winter period.



The Mayor's Tree Project



The Mayor's Tree Project



The Mayor's Tree Project

## Tree Planting

The Council planted 1,455 saplings throughout the County in Ted Russell Park, Thomond Pocket Forest, Mayorstone Park, Ballynatty, Ashbrook, Garryowen, Munget Park, Patrickswell green, Raheen, Mulcair Road and the Demesne in Newcastle West.

As part of National Tree Week, the Council gave out 2,200 saplings to the public at the Recycling Centres. The saplings consisted of Oak, Beech, Whitethorn, Blackthorn and Alder. The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler, planted a tree in St Nessan's National School, Munget to mark National Tree Week and also planted trees in Kilteely, Hospital, Murroe, Castleconnell and Glin to acknowledge the efforts of the community during Covid-19 throughout the county.



Tree Planting St. Nessan's National School, Munget

## Invitation to Bloom

The Council received an invitation from Bord Bia Bloom to attend the 2022 Bloom Festival in the Phoenix Park in Dublin on the June Bank Holiday weekend. The theme of the festival was Greener Cities. The Council showcased the various greening projects in Limerick including our mobile tree planters, health and greenspace projects, and biodiversity and pollinator projects.



Limerick City and County Council Staff at Bloom 2022 – Phoenix Park



Limerick City and County Council Staff at Bloom 2022 – Phoenix Park

## URBACT Health and Greenspace

Limerick was one of nine partner cities in the URBACT Health and Greenspace Project and the objective of the URBACT Health and Green Space Project was to support and enhance the provision of quality green infrastructure in urban areas for their health benefits. URBACT is a European exchange and learning programme that promotes integrated sustainable urban development. It enables cities to work together to develop solutions to major urban challenges. The output from the project was an Integrated Action Plan (IAP) for greenspace in Limerick. It is a policy instrument that will be used to respond in a concrete way to the specific challenge of dealing with the health risks associated with unsustainable urban development. The project was completed in 2022.

The Council progressed a number of Health and Greenspace projects in 2022 that were identified as part of the URBACT project. Slaintecare funding has been secured for three projects in Garryowen, Ballynatty and Johnsgate. A number of community consultations were held in each community to hear their concerns and to determine how these concerns could be addressed. The Johnsgate project contains a large section of the old city wall of Limerick including the grass embankment which are a protected structure. It was historically used as a promenade for walking. The objective of the project was to work towards this grass embankment once again functioning as a linear parkway helping to enhance the health and greenspace of the area. The project also complements the City Walls project with the ultimate aim of opening up the area to tourism and greater footfall while maintaining the structure of the wall itself.

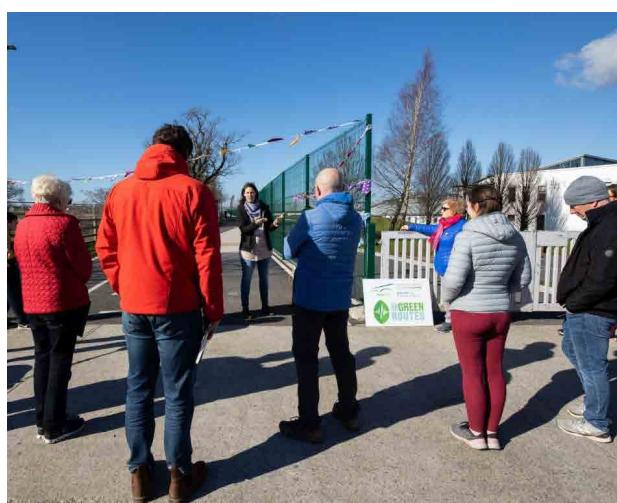
## Horizon 2020 Go Green Routes

Go Green Routes is a €10.5 million international project funded by the European Union. It focuses on six cities in Europe, Latin America, and China. Its aim is to enhance the physical and mental well-being of urban residents by increasing their connection to nature.

The Castletroy Urban Greenway is the target area for the Go Green Routes project as it provides connectivity between Castletroy College secondary school and Castletroy Gaelscoil primary school. The greenway consists of a 3.5m wide cycleway alongside a 2.5m wide footpath with 1m wide grass edges. The main spine of the Greenway extends for approx. 820m.

A total of four workshops were completed in 2022 with local community interest groups, residents, local environmental groups and interested parties. Workshops focused on the co-creation, and collaboration to design and deliver relevant nature based solutions that 'green' the greenway. One nature based solution was creating a natural play using SUDs features and materials available onsite. The natural play area was officially opened for a Nature Workshop in July. Following feedback from the community, the natural play area is being extended and due to be completed in early 2023.

In November, with An Choill Beag (little woodland) a community workshop was held for planting a small woodland along the Greenway in Castletroy. An Choill Bheag is a small dense biodiverse native woodland habitat that can be planted in school grounds or community spaces. It can be planted as small natural woodland thickets, or a hedgerow or a linear woodland that act as ecological corridors. The location for the small woodland is beside the Gaelscoil.



Horizon 2020 Go Green Routes



Horizon 2020 Go Green Routes



Horizon 2020 Go Green Routes

## ENVIRONMENT REGULATION

### Waste Infrastructure

The infrastructure managed by this Department includes two closed landfill sites which are currently being managed under licences issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). One is located at Longpavement in the City area and the other at Gortadroma near Shanagolden.

Based on figures available for the first eleven months of the year, the landfill gas at Gortadroma was used to generate almost four MW (megawatts) of electricity generating an approximate net income of €233,000 in 2022. In addition, there are 26 historic landfill sites in Limerick i.e. closed former landfills that were operated by the Council before licensing existed.

### Waste Regulation

Waste facilities and waste collectors in Limerick are regulated under the Waste Management Act and associated Regulations. Some authorisations are granted by other bodies but enforced by Limerick City and County Council.

As at the end of 2022, the Council monitored/enforced its 18 current Certificates of Registration and 42 Waste Facility Permits. It also has responsibility for enforcement/monitoring of 80 Authorised Waste Collectors. All authorisations need to be monitored to check compliance with their statutory obligations.

### Air Noise and Water Team

The Air Noise and Water Team is responsible for the implementation of environmental legislation aimed at protecting and improving water quality and air quality and preventing or alleviating noise and other nuisances.

### Air Quality

Significant efforts continued in 2022 to raise awareness of the Solid Fuels Regulations and the ban on marketing, selling, distributing or burning smoky fuels within the restricted area. Awareness campaigns were undertaken using posters and social media. Staff carried out inspections of fuel retailers and wholesalers, including a “blitz” in late November and early December, on fuel retailers. The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications set up a working group in December to review the workings of the Air Pollution Act, 1987 and a Council staff member sits on this group.

The Council operates three air quality monitors in Limerick City and Environs at Castletroy, Munget and O’Connell Street, that measure particulate matter and gases. Monthly reports have been prepared based on results from these monitors and summarise the air quality in Limerick for 2022.

### Water Quality

Specific areas of activity related to water quality in 2022 included implementing the programmes of measures under the Water Framework Directive (WFD), particularly in relation to agriculture,

unsewered industries and septic tanks. The Council completed all septic tank inspections assigned to it under the EPA's National Inspection Plan.

## Septic Tank Inspections

The national programme of septic tank inspections continued in 2022 as follows:

Total septic tanks inspections	68
Compliant	43
Non-compliant	25
Registered	60
Un-registered	8

## Discharge Licensing

The Council is responsible for licensing discharges of trade and sewage effluent to waters from unsewered industries. There are currently 36 such licences in place which cover a range of facilities including hotels, nursing homes, quarries and industrial premises. All of these licences have been screened to ensure that the conditions attached to them are compatible with the achievement of the Council's water quality obligations.

## Noise

The Department continues to respond to complaints alleging noise nuisance. During the year, a number of surveys were undertaken in the vicinity of industrial and commercial outlets following which there was positive engagement with all parties concerned.

## Litter Management

The Council's Litter Management Team continued to address the problems of littering, fly-tipping and illegal dumping during 2022 by enforcing the provisions of the Litter Pollution Act, Waste Management Acts and Segregation and Presentation of Waste By-Laws.

The Council's Litter Management Plan 2019–2022 objectives are being implemented by the Domestic Waste, Street Cleaning, Environmental Awareness and Community/Housing Support Services Teams.

A combination of awareness/enforcement measures are consistently utilised to stem the trend of illegal waste disposal activity in the City and County. Clean-up and prevention works were undertaken at 28 heavily littered sites in the City and County under the 2022 Anti-Dumping Initiative (ADI) Scheme administered by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.

One significantly polluted site was remediated under the ADI scheme. This site was heavily polluted with Glass bottles, cans, plastics, and other waste. A 95% recycling rate was achieved while the site was cleared.



Site Clean Up Before



Site Clean Up After

Signs were erected at locations prone to dumping. The Litter Team includes five Inspectors who carry out litter/illegal dumping patrols throughout the City and County.

The following have been completed by the Domestic Waste and Litter team, Commercial Waste Team and the Air Noise and Water team.

No. of cases	3,018
No. of Inspections	4,815
No. of Fines	189
No. of Prosecutions	110
No. of Household surveys	1,372
No. of Warning letters	500
No. of Notices	60
No. of Directions	72
No. of Fixed Penalty Notices	13

## Water Framework Directive (WFD)

The Council WFD team focused its efforts in 24 Priority Areas for Action (PAA's). PAA's include waterbodies for restoration and protection. The second cycle priority areas include the Maigue Catchment (Morningstar, Loobagh and Glasha Rivers), the Deel Catchment (Owenskaw, Arra, Bunoke and Broadford Streams) and the Feale Catchment (Caher, Galey, Knockfinnisk and Owvane Rivers).

Furthermore, the team carried out investigative assessments in other at risk water bodies to identify the significant pressures causing water bodies to be at risk of not achieving the objectives of the WFD. Over 300 farm inspections, which included physical onsite inspections and desk based follow ups and risk assessments were completed. In quarter four, there was a concentration of inspections on intensive farms, which are considered to be presenting a particular risk to a number of water bodies. The team work very closely with the farming community to address issues directly and to ensure that the

impact from each farm is mitigated and controlled to an acceptable level which is compatible with achieving the requirements of the River Basin Management Plan.

The third cycle of the Water Framework Directive, Draft River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 was published in July 2022 and will continue the process of improving and protecting water quality. During 2022, the WFD Team worked very closely with the regional Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO). The focus of LAWPRO was on the priority areas of action (PAA) identified in the River Basin Management Plan 2017-2021.

Specific areas of activity related to water quality in 2022 included implementing the programme of measures under the Water Framework Directive (WFD), particularly in relation to agriculture, unsewered industries and septic tanks.

## Litter Management

The Council's Litter Management Team includes five Inspectors who carry out litter/illegal dumping patrols throughout the City and County. The Litter Management Team continued to address the problems of littering, fly-tipping and illegal dumping during 2021 by enforcing the provisions of the Litter Pollution Acts, Waste Management Acts. The Council also administers the City and County of Limerick (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Byelaws.

The Council's Litter Management Plan 2019-2022 objectives are being implemented by the Domestic Waste, Street Cleaning, Environmental Awareness and Community/Housing Support Services Teams. A combination of awareness/enforcement measures are consistently utilised to stem the trend of illegal waste disposal activity in the City and County.

Over 1,558 cases were recorded during the year and Enforcement staff undertook 4,370 inspections. 224 on-the-spot fines were issued for litter/presentation of waste offences. The total amount of income from spot fines was in

excess of €11,500. 42 cases were referred for legal proceedings under the Litter Pollution/Waste Management Acts. 13 cases were finalised in Court.

A total of 580 “other” enforcements including Warnings, Notices, and Directions were also issued during the year.

Household Waste Disposal surveys were issued to properties in urban/rural areas in order to ascertain that households had proper refuse collection arrangements in place. Clean-up and prevention works were undertaken at 40 heavily littered sites in the City and County under the 2020 Anti-Dumping Initiative Scheme administered by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.

## Cemeteries

The Cemeteries team is responsible for the management of over 257 burial grounds throughout Limerick City and County. Maintenance works included significant tree surgery works at St. Nicholas Cemetery Adare, Galbally Old Graveyard, Kilfinnane Old Graveyard. Boundary Wall repairs were carried out at Crecora and Kilmurry, gate repairs at St Joseph’s Cemetery, Rathkeale and Castlemungret Cemetery. Footpaths replaced at Lismakeery, Kilfinnane, Ardagh Cemeteries. Drainage works also carried out at Mt. St. Oliver Cemetery and Relig Ide Naomha, Abbeyfeale. Limerick Civic Trust continue to provide invaluable assistance to the Council in the maintenance of a number of cemeteries in the Metropolitan area.

The Council is also responsible for the provision of new cemeteries as determined by the Burial Ground Strategy. On 6 September, the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley officially opened the extension to Caherconlish Burial Ground. This extension will provide 240 additional burial spaces for the community.



Opening of extension to Caherconlish Burial Ground

Limerick City and County Council also provides grant aid to 135 Community Groups towards the maintenance of 197 burial grounds. The Council acknowledges the good work of communities at an annual Burial Ground Awards ceremony. The Council held its first awards ceremony since Covid-19 on the 23 November. The 13th Annual Burial Ground Awards took place in Caherconlish where 22 community groups were rewarded for their contribution to the upkeep of both Council and Community burial grounds throughout the city and county. Prizes were presented by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley.



Burial Ground Awards - Castlemungret BG Committee



Burial Ground Awards - Ballingarry Development Association

There was also a very informative presentation by Emer O'Regan, Ballingarry Development Association, on works undertaken by the group in rehabilitating the grounds of Ballingarry Old Burial Ground and restoring two mausolea in the burial ground.

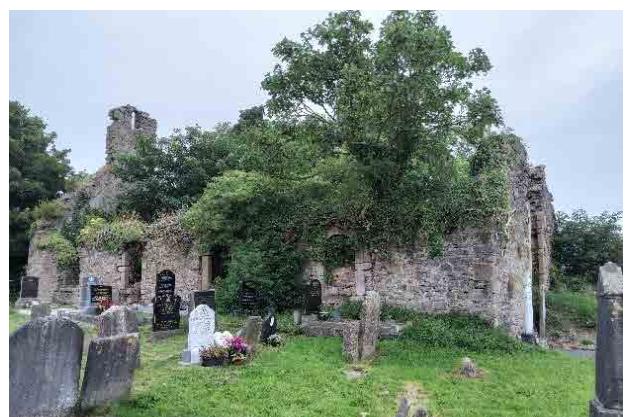


Ballingarry Mausoleum

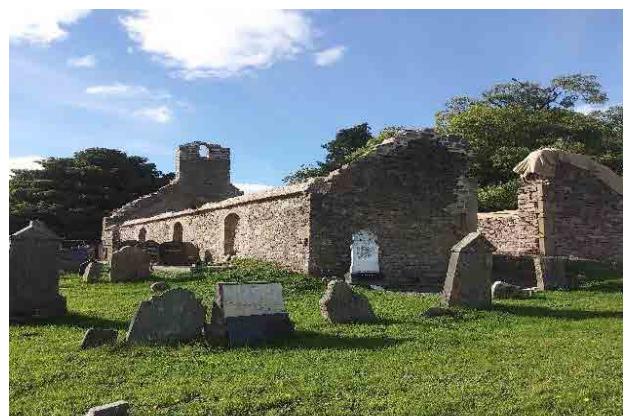


Ballingarry Mausoleum

The Council also undertook works to its historical structures. Works were carried out to consolidate the ruined Church of Ireland Church in Kilfinnane. These works were funded by the Community Monuments Fund (CMF) (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage) €85,000 with the balance provided by the Burial Ground Unit. Further works to clean out the interior of the church have also been completed.

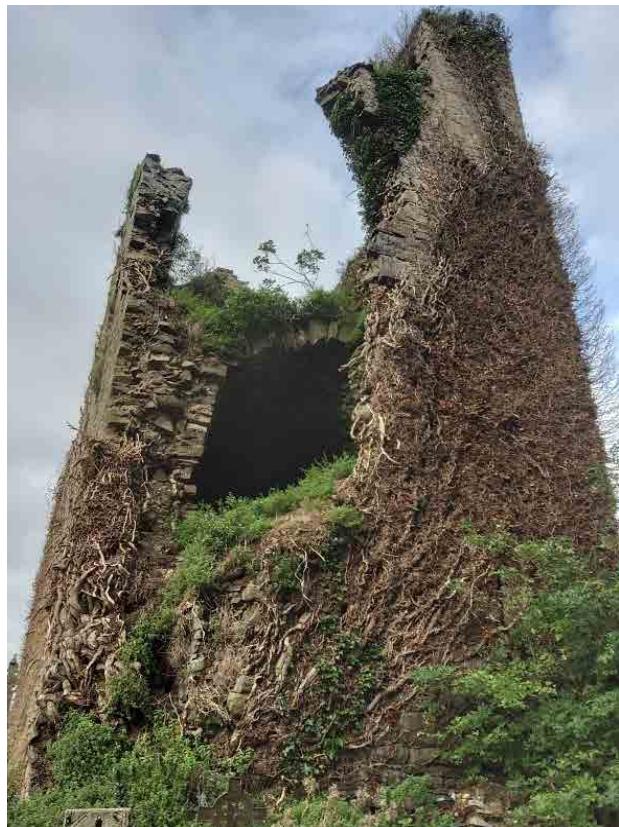


Works at Kilfinnane Burial Ground Before

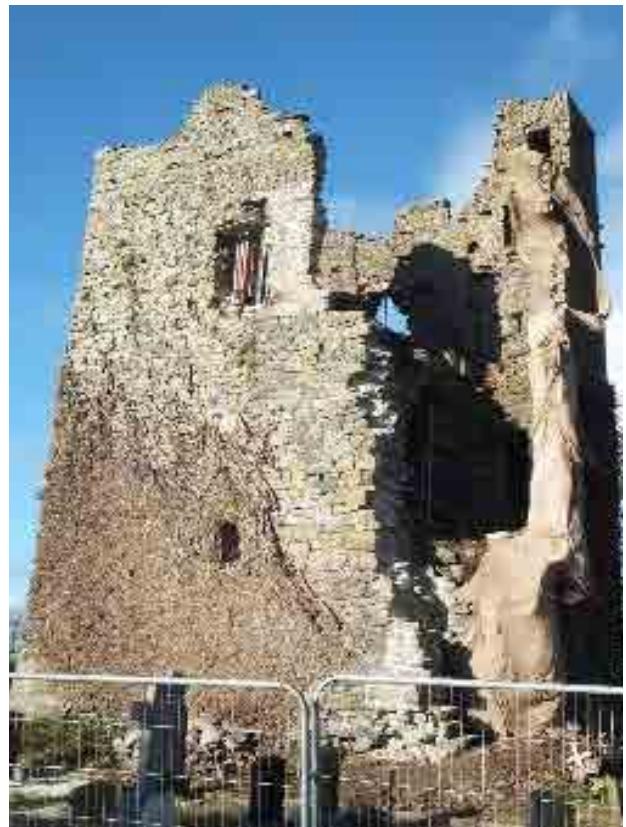


Works at Kilfinnane Burial Ground After

Phase 1 of works to the Tower House at Ballynoe, Bruree were also funded by the CMF €85,000 with match funding from the Burial Ground Unit. The walls at the SE corner, which had collapsed in the late 19th century, were consolidated and other urgent works were also completed.



Works at Ballynoe, Bruree Before



Works at Ballynoe, Bruree After



Works at Galbally Church

Advance works were carried out at Galbally Church. Under a Heritage Stewardship Fund grant of €7,950, with match funding from the Burial Ground Unit. A comprehensive cut back of vegetation was carried out, followed by an in-house survey and a Conservation Engineer's Condition Survey and Works Methodology. These works will facilitate grant applications in 2023.

## URBAN INNOVATION

The Urban Innovation Department (UID) focuses on supporting innovation to enable new urban services and products to transform urban living and working to reach the challenges of climate change and the digital economy. The Urban Innovation Department has three main functions:

- Open Collaboration: supporting an open ecosystem for urban innovative services in the Georgian Neighbourhood, Limerick's first dedicated collaboration zone.
- Demonstration Projects: leading by example by developing key demonstration projects to promote compact urban development and catalyse investment by others.
- Building and Sites Activation: activating key buildings and opportunity sites, engaging with property owners to promote refurbishment and optimise usage and diversifying the development market.

In the course of 2022 the Department took on the role of developing Limerick City and County Council's Climate Action Plan and in 2023 will take on the responsibility for the preparation of the Climate Action Plan and co-ordinating a response to the Climate Action Emergency.

### Living Georgian City Programme

Limerick's Living Georgian City (LGC) programme is an historic city centre revitalisation process that is being piloted in Limerick's Georgian Neighbourhood. The LGC programme seeks to develop innovative, community-led solutions to address the following challenges; city vacancy, lack of housing options, failure in public realm investment, fragmented land ownership and development preference for green field development. It is supported by funding from the Urban Renewal and Development Fund (URDF) 2018 and 2020 and the Horizon 2020 +CityxChange Programme, the Creative Climate Action fund, SEAI Research Development and Demonstration (RD&D) funding.

The LGC Programme progressed throughout 2022. The main activities undertaken were;

The LGC Advisory Board was set up to provide expert advisory input into the LGC programme. It comprises of external representatives from the fields of housing, architecture and urban design, as well as local and national government. The facilitation of the LGC Advisory Board has moved to the Place-making and Public Realm Department.

A report was completed by Campbell Tickell and Self Organised Architects focused on the governance and financial aspects of Community Led Housing (CLH). This report detailed areas for further work including establishment of an incremental approach to CLH. Further work in this area is supported by the Place-making and Public Realm Department.

Connect the Dots were appointed as Community Engagement and Communications Consultants on the LGC Programme. They undertook stakeholder workshops, a Georgian Neighbourhood webpage review and also produced a tactical urbanism project proposal. Further work is facilitated by the Place-making and Public Realm Department.

### +CityXChange

Limerick is one of two EU 'lighthouse' cities selected for a major climate-change pilot programme that will give a lead to the rest of Europe on how to dramatically reduce the carbon footprint of urban areas. Funded by the EU through Horizon 2020, the overall aim is to trial new kinds of technology and community solutions to turn Limerick into a positive energy city – a city that produces more energy than it consumes. It hopes to influence citizen behaviour around energy in order to meet the challenge of moving to a low carbon sustainable future. A number of project deliverables were completed in 2022 and are now publicly available on the +CityxChange website [cityxchange.eu](http://cityxchange.eu);

- D4.8 Limerick Citizen Observatory
- D4.7 Limerick 2050 Vision, Integrated Action Plan and Digital Guide
- D4.10 Limerick Innovation Lab Solutions Catalogue 2

## Open Innovation Call 3 – Social Innovation in Energy Collaboration

Open Innovation Calls are an opportunity to test out new ideas, prototypes, and services, with support from +CityxChange partners. Ideas are tested in real life settings for a set period of time and we welcome interest from citizens, makers, creatives, start-ups, businesses, non-governmental organisations (NGO's) and other stakeholders.

Open Call 3 – Social Innovation in Energy Collaboration sought to support projects that explored social and other innovations to enable energy collaboration. The Open Call looked for ideas that facilitate collaboration to reduce the amount of energy used, e.g., by promoting collaborative approaches to energy retrofits or grant schemes; and increase the renewable energy generated by residents, businesses, and others in the city, e.g., through working together on the development of local renewable energy projects. Three projects are currently in the implementation phase in the areas of community energy and sustainable transport and an extension to the call will see a new round of funding awarded in February 2023.

## Implementing Positive Energy Blocks

In support of the objective of creating a positive energy block in the city centre the following actions were undertaken in 2022: Special Bespoke guidelines for Retrofitting of Georgian buildings were developed by the Urban Innovation Team. These guidelines aim to promote the maximum possible retrofit of these traditional buildings, while maintaining their considerable heritage value. Urban Innovation made multiple submissions to national regulatory authorities by communicating learnings from the project in order to contribute to Ireland's transition to a low carbon future. The department has supported CXC project partners in the application for the installation of tidal turbine array adjacent to the weir at St. Mary's Park.

## Citizen Innovation Lab

In 2022, work was completed on the Citizen Innovation Lab (CIL) in the UL City Centre Campus building in Sarsfield Street in partnership with UL. The CIL is designed to be a place for observation, co-creation and experimentation. A place where people can take part in activities to help shape a sustainable future for the city. Through the Citizen Innovation Lab people can work together to explore local responses to the challenges we face. Becoming a climate-neutral city will involve new technologies, new opportunities and changes in our day-to-day lives. The goal of the Citizen Innovation Lab is to help empower people to take part, to co-create this future together. The space includes a Citizens' Observatory, an Engagement Hub, a digital platform and a programme of events. It is co-located with the School of Architecture at University of Limerick (SAUL) Fab Lab Limerick. The three distinct physical spaces work together with a digital platform to provide a space for citizen engagement and participation. The CIL is part of the European Network of Living Labs (ENOLL) and has hosted a number of events over the course of the year.

## Limerick Symposium

Urban Innovation together with the University of Limerick and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government held a learning exchange symposium in Limerick's Citizen Innovation Lab on the 13 October. [The Citizen Innovation Lab](#), established through the Horizon 2020 +CityxChange project, embodies the New European Bauhaus (NEB) [values](#) of sustainability, beauty and inclusion. As the national contact point for the New European Bauhaus policy initiative, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage supported this symposium to amplify the Citizen Innovation Lab approach.

The Symposium focused on:

- *New European Bauhaus – It's not just that we decarbonise that is important, how we do it is important too.* The New European Bauhaus ([NEB](#)) policy aims to connect plans to become climate-neutral to people's living spaces and

day-to-day lives. This panel presented some perspectives and projects relevant to the New European Bauhaus in Ireland.

- *+CityxChange – A Limerick story of the climate-neutral transition.* The Positive City Exchange (+CityxChange) project explores the development of a structured approach to decarbonising cities. Members of the +CityxChange implementation team presented infrastructural demonstrators, insights and learning from +CityxChange implementation in Limerick to date. City Collaboration and The Climate Neutral Cities Mission in Ireland. This panel explored perspectives on city collaboration in the transition to climate-neutrality. Contributors included Thomas Osdoba who leads the [Net Zero Cities](#) Consortium – coordinator of the EU [Cities Mission](#) Platform – and Julio Lumbreiras of Spain's CitiES2030, Spain's National Cities Mission Platform

The symposium was opened by the Director of Planning, Environment and Place-making, Limerick City and County Council with keynote addresses from Ciarán Cuffe MEP, European Parliament Rapporteur for the revision to the Energy Performance in Buildings Directive and Borislava Woodford, New European Bauhaus Policy Analyst, Joint Research Centre, European Commission. The Symposium was closed by University of Limerick President Kirsten May who highlighted the importance of collaboration between the Council and the University and public participation in the transition to climate neutrality.

## Living City Initiative Tax Incentive

Urban Innovation administers the Living City Initiative Scheme which provides property tax incentives designed to regenerate both historic buildings and other buildings in Limerick. The scheme was extended until 2027 as part of Budget 2023. The Department provides ongoing support and runs One Stop Shops for building owners and for people carrying out refurbishment of homes, rental properties, commercial and retail spaces in the special regeneration areas of historic Limerick. A multi-disciplinary team (Fire Officer, Conservation

Officer, Senior Architect, and Town Planner) holds a fortnightly advice clinic in the CIL. Five applications were received and over 20 property owners have been supported through the advice clinics for the scheme in 2022.

## Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Programme

The Urban Innovation Department administers the SBIR (Small Business Innovation Research) Programme. SBIR is a mechanism which enables public sector bodies to connect with innovative ideas and technology businesses, to provide innovative solutions for specific public sector challenges and needs. Limerick City and County Council is working in partnership with Enterprise Ireland who have established a dedicated fund to co-support innovative and competitive challenges. This SBIR challenge addressed Fire Safety and Accessibility of Historic Buildings and was launched in October 2018 in collaboration with Enterprise Ireland, Local Enterprise Office Limerick, Innovate Limerick and Dublin City Council. Though completed the UID continue to work with the winner "Safefility" to further develop their product with the Georgian Neighbourhood in Limerick as the testbed location. Through this process Safefility have received significant funding from the European Space Agency to continue product development.

## Creative Climate Action – Decarbonising Together

Funded by Creative Ireland, Decarbonising Together is a collaboration between communities in Limerick and the arts, culture and creative sectors supported by Limerick City and County Council, University of Limerick's Fab Lab and +CityxChange partners, Colaborativa and Space Engagers. The project was conceived as a framework to enable community-led open innovation in Limerick's decarbonisation mission. Five community groups, identified through an expression of interest shared via the Limerick Public Participation Network (PPN), were invited to first examine decarbonisation and Limerick's Decarbonisation Plan, identify an aspect of decarbonisation that matters to them and then

work with a creative partner to explore and enable behaviour change towards decarbonisation in their day to day lives and activities. Community groups were paired with an arts or creative industries partner who were selected through an open call process.

### **Appletown – Limerick Civic Trust with Cracking Light, Maeve Stone and Alex Gill**

Limerick Civic Trust collaborated with Cracking Light Productions on a film project that highlighted the local connections and networks that the Trust has built over four decades through its work in buildings and green spaces across the city. In Climate Action we talk a lot about system change and acting locally; this project celebrated the potential for Limerick Civic Trust to become a pioneer seeding environmental system change working in, and with, local communities. It's all about the people that will keep the heart of the city ticking into the future.



Appletown Limerick Civic Trust and Cracking Light, Decarbonising Together

### **Community Conversations – Garryowen Residents with Veronica Santorum and Daniel Clancy**

This project gathered climate-related ideas and solutions by working with artists to have a “community conversations” to co-create a sustainable community to ease the burden of climate change-related issues for their residents. They brought people together within Garryowen to consider decarbonising themes in a local context using creative thinking approaches. The project acted as a catalyst for new community

conversations and creative thinking at the personal and community level. It helped the Garryowen community to generate and prioritise decarbonising ideas, some of which can go on to be implemented through small projects and grants and others, which can feed into a Sustainable Energy Community Plan and be funded through larger schemes. Their aim was to encourage people to continue to engage with their local community organisations to help bring about these changes.



Garryowen Community with Veronica Santorum and Daniel Clancy

### **Ministry of the Imagination – King’s Island Community Partners with Amicitia - Patrick Mulvihill and Heather Griffin**

This project worked with Nicholas St. Youth Space to co-create an interactive, place-based, installation that sparked conversation, encouraged action on decarbonisation and a just transition in the medieval heart of Limerick City, and supported Limerick’s mission to decarbonise by 2050. Artist developed a place-based tool that will bring members of King’s Island together, young and old, to learn about decarbonisation and collective futures in a fun and engaging way by blurring the boundaries between fictional spaces and real-life action. The Ministry of Imagination tool kit, a tote bag containing seed bombs, stickers,

a kaleidoscope, a membership totem, a pen and a journal. The project developed a Ministry of Imagination Top Trumps' game with 30 speculative roles from a decarbonised future Limerick.

### **Grounds for Change - Munster Indian Cultural Association with Deidre Power and Chelsea Canavan**

This Project worked towards building awareness and developing practical steps to enabling sustainable change in their every day, encouraging the community to embrace acts of reciprocity and legacy through the creative process. The community explored changing approaches to recycling and reusing in their events and gatherings and switching to using compostable materials, separating recyclables accurately and efficiently in labelled bins, and redistribution of organic food waste



Grounds for Change, Munster Indian Cultural Association with Power and Canavan

### **Meadowbrook – Meadowbrook Residents with 'Wrkshop Architects'**

Meadowbrook Residents Association brought members of their community together and started conversations about decarbonisation to initiate some new plans for climate action. What communities need is an excuse to interact on climate issues so the project focused on creating a focal point where interests overlap. A modest structure, sculptural in form, which creates this overlap of function, would become a new prototype for a "community centre". The structure became a symbol of their shared identity and

an expression of their common values. Energy, freely generated and provided, becomes a public asset, like the produce of the garden. The project involved the co-design of a sheltered platform raised above the flood levels in the shared green area of Meadowbrook. The notional structure was used as a device to generate ideas and momentum for carrying out decarbonising initiatives.

### **Smart Buildings Lab**

The UID in partnership with UL, Intergrated Environmental Solutions Research and Development (IES R&D) and the Convex Lens Commenced a project supported by SEAI to create a smart buildings lab. The project which commenced in October will see a range of sensors deployed in over 100 buildings in the city centre measuring a range of issues including energy use, temperature, humidity etc. The outputs of the research will provide a better understanding of the performance of the building stock in the city and provide an evidence base for the development of future initiatives to support the refurbishment of the historic building stock.

### **Technical Support Instrument (TSI)**

The UID together with the Office of Public Works (OPW) made a successful application to the European Commission (DG REFORM) under the TSI programme. The funding sees the procurement of expert advice to support the establishment of a sustainable investment fund to accelerate the deep energy retrofitting of the historic building stock in the city centre initially and across the county thereafter. The procurement of this advice was completed by DG REFORM in late 2022 and it is anticipated that the consultants will commence their work in early 2023.

## Climate Action

The UID was tasked with establishing a Climate Action unit in the course of 2022. A proposed structure and work programme was agreed by Management Team which will see the Department renamed as Climate Action and Innovation in 2023. In the course of 2022, the UID has:

- Completed a number of training programmes delivered by the Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO) as part of building the capacity with the section.
- Completed the annual review of the Climate Adaptation Plan and reporting these back to the Southern CARO.
- Commenced the preparation of the Climate Action Plan through the procurement of baseline and Emissions Inventories for both the entire county and the proposed Decarbonisation Zone and a Climate Adaptation Risk Assessment. Further procurement to support the preparation of the Limerick Climate Action Plan will be carried out in 2023.
- Recruited an Energy Engineer to support the preparation of the Climate Action Plan.
- Hosted meetings of the CARO in the CIL.

## VETERINARY SERVICES

The Veterinary Services Team has carried out the following functions during 2022:

### Food Safety

- Official veterinary controls were carried out at six abattoirs and 15 small meat-manufacturing premises.
- A Veterinary Inspector inspected all animals intended for slaughter for human consumption before and after slaughter, in accordance with food safety legislation.
- Veterinary Inspections carried out a structured programme of sampling of meat producing premises as part of the National Residue Control Programme and the National Microbiological Control Programme.

### Control of Dogs

- The Dog Control Team dealt with 941 complaints or cases.
- 128 dogs were processed in the Dog Shelter during the year. 93 of these were re-homed, 28 were reclaimed and four were euthanised. The number successfully rehomed was a significant improvement on previous years.
- The Dog Wardens carried out a planned programme of inspections of each of the 31 Dog Breeding Establishments registered with Limerick City and County Council based on a risk assessment. 62 Inspections were undertaken in the year.
- 8,469 dog licences were issued.

### Control of Horses

- The Horse Control Team dealt with 95 cases.
- 81 horses were processed in the Horse Pound during the year. 62 of these were re-homed, 19 were reclaimed and none was euthanised.
- The Horse Control Team continues to work in cooperation with other Council departments, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and An Garda Síochána in enforcing the relevant horse control legislation.



Positive Ageing Week, Active Cities Limerick

## LIMERICK SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

In 2022, Limerick Sports Partnership secured funding to the value of €1,300,000 (includes Core, Education, and programme funding) from multiple funders to assist with its operations and programme delivery. Key funders are Sport Ireland, LCETB UBU Fund, the HSE and the Dormant Accounts programme.

The three key functions of the LSP are to **Inform**, **Educate** and **Enable**, individuals and communities to engage in physical activities. Our aim is to increase participation numbers by 1% annually and decrease sedentary behaviour by 0.5% annually. Through our initiatives 21,000+ participants engaged in programmes, events, and education initiatives throughout the year. We had enormous success with targeted programmes, resource development and equipment provision to those in disadvantaged communities. An extended summer provision across all marginalised groups and additional supports for the Ukrainian community was facilitated through summer camp opportunities. These camps were hosted in Ballyhoura mountain biking, Kayaking on the Shannon, UL Sport Climbing wall and the multi-



**Pitch & Putt**  
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

**FREE EVENT!**

• For Adults over 55  
• Come & Try Event  
• Tutor Led

**Come and Try Event for Positive Ageing Week 2022**

**Wednesday, 28th Sept 10am**

**Free**

**Emerald Par 3  
V94 KO78**

*Ever wanted to give Pitch & Putt a try but lacked the confidence?*

*Now is your opportunity! Limerick Sports Partnership have teamed up with Emerald Par 3 to bring you a Come & Try Pitch & Putt Event!*

To register, contact Pádraig at [preale@limericksports.ie](mailto:preale@limericksports.ie) or 061-333600

**#BEACTIVE**  
EUROPEAN WEEK OF SPORT  
23 - 30 September

**AgeAction**  
Age Equality

**SPORT IRELAND**  
LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIPS

Positive Ageing Week, Pitch and Putt

Sport camps at UL Sport Arena. The additional funds afforded us the opportunity to have more young people experience the weeklong camps at UL.

We secured funding for a new Active Cities initiative which will be delivered over a three-year period worth €500,000 to the LSP. In 2022 we expanded our Community Sports Hubs offerings in

Garryowen, Moyross and Athlunkard. Limerick LSP has a staff compliment of fourteen including our community-based officers. We have assigned staff to specific geographical areas to ensure we have a key contact to engage in local committees and networks. This ensures that those most in need are supported. In 2022 we opened a regional office in Newcastle West to establish a stronger presence in west Limerick. We plan to recruit an additional three staff in 2023-2024, a Physical Activity for Health officer, an Outdoor Recreation officer and an Inclusion and diversity officer.



Positive Ageing Week, Seminar 2022



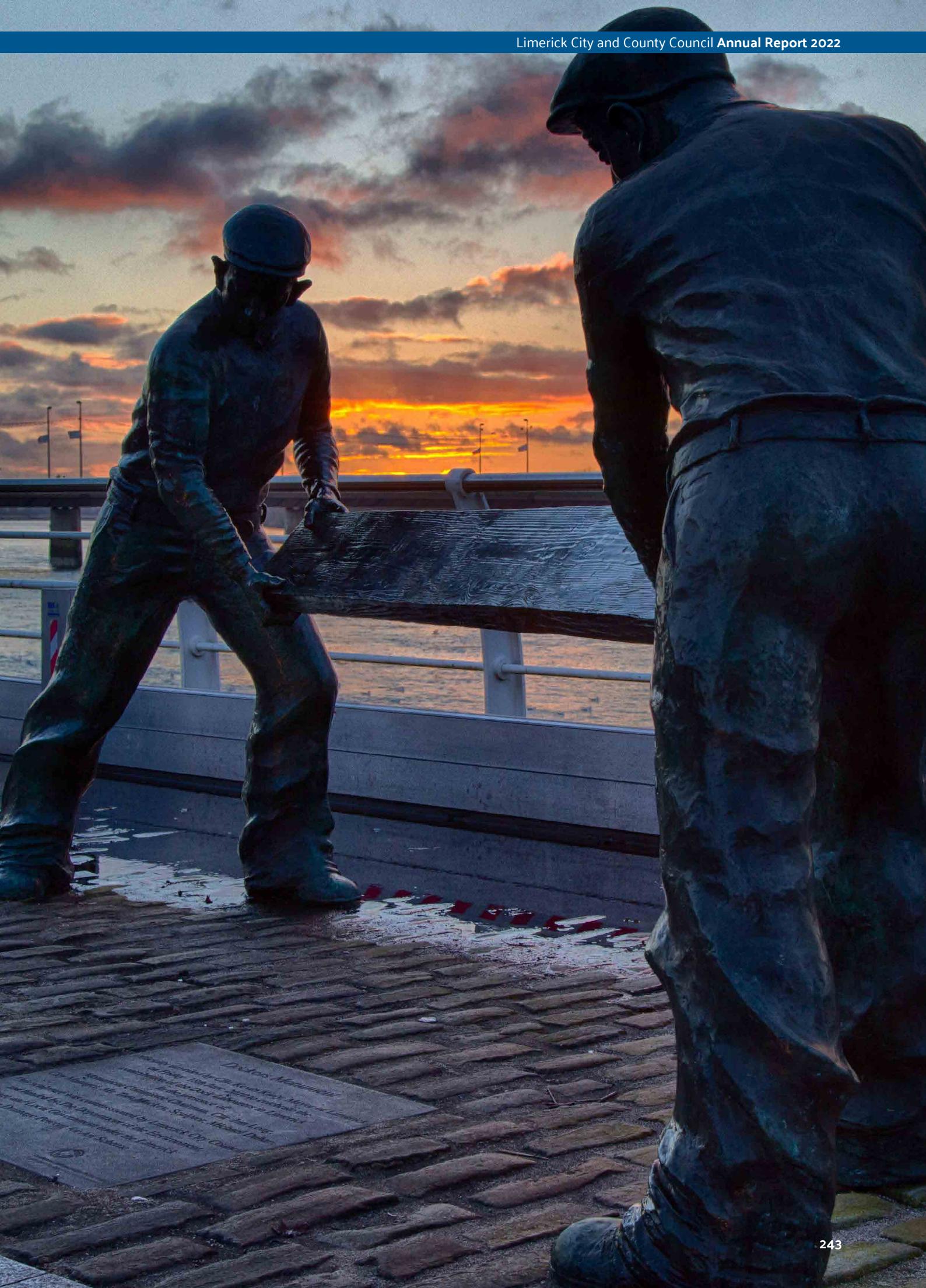
Positive Ageing Week, Seminar 2022



Positive Ageing Week, Seminar 2022



Positive Ageing Week, 3 Bridges Walk



# APPENDIX



# APPENDIX

## CONFERENCES/SEMINARS ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2022

Date	Title	Venue	No.
7-9 January	Seminar organised by Celtic Conferences entitled 'The Finance Act 2021'	The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	5
14-17 June	Seminar organised by Dekon Congress and Tourism entitled 'Velo City 2022, Cycling the Change'	Ljubljana, Slovenia	1
20-21 June	Seminar organised by Inland Fisheries Ireland entitled 'EIFAAC Symposium Ireland 2022'	Dromhall Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry	1
22 July	Seminar organised by Eventbrite entitled 'Derelict in Donegal and Beyond'	Dillons Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	2
18 August	Seminar organised by CMG Training entitled 'Traffic Management Training Course'	Webinar	1
22 September	Seminar organised by Public Affairs Ireland entitled 'Climate Commitments and Developing Housing for All'	Webinar	1
30 September - 2 October	Seminar organised by Celtic Conferences entitled 'A Practical Guide to Budget 2023'	The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	1
11-13 November	Seminar organised by Celtic Conferences entitled 'The Role of Local Authorities addressing the needs of older people'	The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	2

# PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
<b>Housing: H6 Approved</b>	?	€ ?	?
<p>PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</p> <p>**TO FOLLOW – ALLOW 10 PAGES - same will not be ready until June/July</p>			

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
<b>Housing: H6 Approved</b>	?	€4684887.00	?

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Housing: H6 Approved	?	€4684887.00	?



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnígh**  
Limerick City  
& County Council

ATLANTIC EDGE  
**LIMERICK**  
EUROPEAN EMBRACE

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