

Chief Executive's Report

March 2023

Lights, Camera, Action as Limerick Wins Bid to Host Global Film Industry Cineposium

Limerick is Named FDI Micro European City of the Future by FDI Magazine

Global Sports Technology Experts Touch Down for One-Zero SportsTech Conference

Ancient Lough Gur Looks to the Future Under Discover Limerick DAC

Active Travel Have You Covered with New Bus Shelter Scheme

St Patrick's Festival is a Crowd Pleaser Drawing Tens of Thousands into Limerick

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Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**
Limerick City
& County Council

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Economic Development and Enterprise Directorate

1. Trade & Investment

- Uisce Éireann opened a new €60m Laboratory in Ballysimon, which will create 90 jobs. The new Laboratory and Scientific and Technical Service will deliver many benefits, including improving water quality data, regulatory compliance, increased transparency for the public and economic growth. The new 3,800 square metre facility will have the capacity to analyse 1.2 million water and wastewater tests annually with operations expected to commence in 2025.
- A world class Digital Manufacturing Facility opened in Limerick to help establish the city as a top manufacturing base. The Manufacturing Facility will ensure that Irish-based manufacturers have access to the infrastructure, technology and skills to help them solve real issues and to kickstart and continue to drive their digital transformation journey.
- Limerick was announced as one of the most attractive European Cities for foreign direct investment (FDI), earning the title of Micro European City of the Future, by FDI Magazine. The city also ranked highly for economic potential, business, friendliness and human capital and lifestyle.

International Relations

One-Zero SportsTech Conference

Leading figures from the global sports technology industry were in Limerick for the One-Zero SportsTech Conference on 31 March. The unique event saw SportsTech industry professionals from across the globe converge at Engine to learn, network and help shape the future of sport and technology. Lonie Paxton, three-time Super Bowl Champion, was joined by international speakers and panellists including Thomas Ryan, Vice President, Basketball Strategy, National Basketball Association(NBA), retired NBA player Maurice Evans and Tracy Deforge, CEO, The Players' Impact

The one-day event included a start-up competition, where entrepreneurs from the Irish Sports Technology sector pitched their concepts to a panel of judges, which included two US-based venture capitalists. There was also the construction of a temporary basketball court, where former NBA star, Chris Owens, demonstrated the future of technology in the sport.

There were panel discussions with expert insights into future trends, opportunities for investors and factors that business owners need to consider when raising capital. This event was a big leap forward towards putting Limerick on the international stage of the SportsTech industry and for demonstrating the start-up ecosystem, which the region has to offer.

2. Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

Funding Approved

- One Digital Start Grant was approved.
- Eight businesses were approved for a Trading Online Voucher.

March Programmes

Local Enterprise Week, which is a National initiative, ran from 06 to 10 March with various workshops, programmes and events running in Limerick City and County and are included below:

- Business Idea Generation
- Introduction to Self-Employment and Start Your Own Business Programmes
- Business Planning Workshop
- Trading Online Webinar and What Next after building Website Workshop
- Dealing with Cyber Threats and staying safe Online
- Key Principles of Good Business
- Future Skills for Sustainability Workshop

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- Export Programme Spring 2023
- Social Media Bootcamp
- Basic Book-Keeping and Taxation
- Developing a Flight Plan for your Business
- Various one-to-one Business Advice Clinics

There were 351 participants on the LEO Business Training workshops and 24 Business Owners were approved for the LEO Mentoring programme in March.

During March, LEO Limerick held the Finals for both the National Enterprise Awards and the Student Enterprise Programme.

The Local Enterprise Awards Final took place at The Engine with the winning company, Cotter Agritech, going forward to represent Limerick at the National Final in the Mansion House in Dublin.

To read more about this innovative business, Cotter Agritech, see <https://www.cotteragritech.com/>

The Student Enterprise Programme

On 21 March, the Limerick Final of the Student Enterprise Awards took place at the Castletroy Park Hotel with 22 Schools and over 900 second level Students partaking in the programme over the academic year.

The winners of the three categories will now represent Limerick City and County at the National Final in Croke Park. Despite intense competition, the three category winners all came from Desmond College in Newcastle West and they are:

- Junior Category: Isobel Romo, Kinga Tobianaska, Melody Ivo, Paulina Varuyeva from "Dunkin Buddy."
- Intermediate Category: Elissa Shiels, Laura Brenann from "Benchibles."
- Senior Category: Emma Greaney and Madison Brouder of "Rehabilitation Nation."

3. Innovate Limerick

Film in Limerick

Cineposium: Limerick 2023

Limerick has won the bid to host Cineposium, AFCI's (Association of Film Commissioners International) Global Film Industry Summit, in Limerick.

The announcement was made by the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin, TD, during OSCAR week in Los Angeles, with the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, in attendance.

AFCI's Cineposium event brings Film Commissions and industry leaders from around the world together to discuss policy, economic development and screen production and will serve as an opportunity to showcase Limerick and the west coast of Ireland to major studio executives.

Hosting the event is the result of a competitive bid process open to all AFCI Film Commission members, won this year by Film in Limerick. This is the first time that an Irish bid has won. Over the past decade, Cineposium has taken place in the US, France, New Zealand, Spain, South Korea, Russia and Colombia. The annual Cineposium conference connects AFCI members and film industry professionals with production industry partners and policy-makers worldwide.

A further reception took place for AFCI members and Studio Executives in Los Angeles in late March to invite industry leaders to Limerick during the event.

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Engine Short Film Scheme

12 projects were shortlisted this month from almost 100 applications for the second edition of Engine Shorts, the Mid-West short film training and production scheme. The 12 project applicants all took part in one-to-one sessions with a script editor and were also interviewed for an episode of our new Mary Immaculate College / Film in Limerick Podcast show, 'Da Pictures.'

'You're not Home,' a short film commissioned as part of the first edition of Engine Shorts, was screened at the SXSW Film Festival in Austin, one of the top 12 film festivals in the world. The producers, Greg Burrowes, Ronan Cassidy and Director, Derek Ugochukwu, were in attendance at the festival to represent Limerick and attend a reception at the Irish Consulate in Austin.

Awards for Engine Short Films

At the Fourth Catalyst Film Festival in Limerick in March, Engine Short film, 'Vonnie: Ireland's Forgotten Fashion Icon,' directed by Renata Lima and produced by Melissa Collins, won the Best Documentary Award. The Breakthrough Award went to Nell Hensey for Engine Short 'Try and Touch,' produced by Gemma O'Shaughnessy, with Renata Lima and Melissa Collins winning the runner-up prize. 'You're not Home' was awarded the runner-up prize in the Best Irish Short category for Director, Derek Ugochukwu, and Producer, Greg Burrowes.

Local Productions

Two local TV series began filming in March in the region. 'Hidden Assets,' Season 2, filmed in Limerick and Clare. 'Blackshore,' from the makers of 'Smother,' began filming in Clare and Tipperary. Film in Limerick assisted in bringing both productions to the region, and provided help in securing locations and crew with local support on the ground during pre-production and filming.

Crew Academy Steering Group

The quarterly meeting of the Munster Film and TV Crew Academy was held in March. This initiative, run by Film in Limerick, with support from Screen Ireland, trains and upskills aspiring and experienced crew throughout Munster.

Training Courses

A Workshop on Audiences and the Business of Film was hosted by Film in Limerick and the Engine Collaboration Centre in March. The event looked at the film value chain, the life of a film beyond the cinema screen, and the different commercial players and their needs.

Film in Limerick on TUS / Dublin Film Festival Panel

Film in Limerick participated in an industry panel for students and graduates at Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) as part of Dublin International Film Festival's regional outreach programme.

GASP - Digital Conference

Film in Limerick supported the new digital conference organised by the Piquant digital agency. Film in Limerick spoke with animation students all looking for the best way to kickstart their career once they graduate.

Film Festivals Support

Film in Limerick supported Catalyst Film Festival and Fresh Film Festival with several hugely successful events in the new Engine Collaboration Centre during the month. The festivals support diverse and next generation talent development and play a vital role in continuing to develop the sector in the region.

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4. Forward Planning

- 51 Determinations issued to landowners in response to submissions received on the Draft Map for the Residential Zoned Land Tax.
- A proposed variation to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, consisting of changes to the text in Chapter 7, to provide clarification regarding access to substandard roads, along with the associated environmental screening report, was placed on public display on 18 March.
- The Chief Executive's report on submissions received to the Material Alterations on the Draft Caherconlish Local Area Plan 2023-2029 issued to the Elected Members of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock.
- The Chief Executive's report on submissions received to the Material Alterations on the Draft Castleconnell Local Area Plan issued to the Elected Members of the Metropolitan District of Limerick.
- The Forward Planning Team visited the Secondary School Children in the Desmond College in Newcastle West, to undertake consultation to inform the preparation of the Newcastle West Local Area Plan. Consultation also took place with National School Children in Newcastle West in both the Courtney Boys' National School and Gaelscoil Ó Doghair.

5. Limerick Twenty Thirty

Opera Square

Progress Update

- John Sisk & Son were awarded the contract for the Basement and One Opera Square.
- Sisk have mobilised and set up compound within the Granary.
- Three Piling rigs have mobilised onsite with both the piling guide wall and piling installation works commencing.

Project Communications Update

- All neighbouring properties of the Opera Square development were issued with a letter drop by John Sisk & Son outlining the commencement of construction works for the Basement and One Opera Square.
- A press release issued on 14 March outlining the top construction standards in place to ensure the project is delivered with minimum disruption during the two-year Basement and One Opera Square build programme - [Link](#).

Cleaves Riverside Quarter

Progress Update

- The Design Team has prepared the draft Masterplan. The Masterplan focuses on expediting delivery of residential units, and utilisation of the €34.5m Urban Regeneration and Development Fund grant.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was agreed and signed between Limerick Twenty Thirty (LTT) and Technological University of the Shannon (TUS), initially their requirement was for 10,000 sq.m (107,000 sq.ft).

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Project Communications Update

- The Chimney at Cleeves Riverside Quarter turned green once again in celebration of St. Patrick's Day on 17 March.
- Masterplan Consultation Strategy
 - A Consultation Strategy was completed with comprehensive engagement with both targeted stakeholders and the public for the Cleeves Riverside Quarter Masterplan process.
 - A Briefing with the Senior Management Team at Limerick City and County Council took place on 09 March. A Briefing to the Elected Members took place in the Council Chamber in Dooradoyle on 22 March.
 - Stakeholder consultations with St. Michael's Rowing Club, Salesian Primary School and neighbouring residents took place on various dates in March.
 - Public Consultations took place in the Flaxmill Building at Cleeves Riverside Quarter on 28 and 29 March. The Project Team and LTT staff engaged with members of the public giving further detail to the [public information boards](#), which were on display.
 - A comprehensive communications programme was undertaken in advance which led to a strong turnout with members of the public including: [press release](#), adverts, radio interviews, letter drops and a social media campaign. A second [press release](#) issued following the engagements on 30 March announcing details of the proposed Masterplan.
 - LTT is welcoming submissions on the draft Masterplan by email, online form and by post; further information can be found [here](#).

General LTT Communications Update

- A group of 50 students from Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) Property Valuation Management and Technological University Dublin (TUD) Property Economics were welcomed to the Vault at Gardens International on 28 March. The LTT Team presented to the Fourth Year students on LTT's property portfolio, followed by a tour of completed (LEED) Gold Office Building Gardens International and a site visit to Opera Square.
- Maria Siguenza, of the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), was briefed by LTT as part of her Limerick visit, hosted by Limerick City and County Council. The CEB is a key funder of Opera Square since its commitment of an €85m loan and is key to seeing this transformational project for Limerick come to fruition.
- The Vault at Gardens International was promoted in March for meeting and events bookings. Requests can be submitted to gardens@limerick2030.ie or 061-517430.



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Transportation & Mobility Directorate

1. Travel and Transportation Strategy

This year's Marchathon Step Challenge took place from 01 – 31 March.

There were many teams competing to win weekly competitions and aiming to top the Leader boards.

2. Active Travel

- Gaelscoil Sáirséal, Shelbourne Road, Limerick, had the official opening of the Safe Routes to School by Minister Jack Chambers on 30 March.
- 19 new bus shelters are to be built across Limerick city and county after the local authority was allocated €630,000 in March. This funding will be used for Bus Shelter Enabling Works for 2023.

The funding, which has been allocated by the National Transport Authority, will see five bus shelters constructed in Limerick's Metropolitan District and a further fourteen across the county.

It follows a successful funding application from Limerick City and County Council's Active Travel Team to the National Transport Authority.

It is a significant increase on the amount of funding received by Limerick City and County Council in last year's Bus Shelter Enabling Works Scheme which totalled €100,000.

Exact sites for each individual shelter are currently being assessed by Limerick City and County Council's Active Travel Team and designs are being prepared for each location.



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Community, Tourism & Culture Directorate

1. Urban & Rural Community Development

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

- A meeting of the LCDC took place on 07 March in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle. The LCDC members allocated funding of €354,098.00 under the Community Support Fund 2022.

Environment Awareness

- On World Water Day, 22 March, the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, launched contactless public drinking water fountains, funded by the Environmental Protection Agency's Local Authority Prevention Network Grant, in Newcastle West Demesne.
- On 20 March, a Waste Presentation was given to 40 clients of the Bergerie Trust, Pennywell.
- Limerick City and County Council radio adverts themes on Live 95 were: 'Dog Litter,' 'Man in the Van' and 'The Only Cure For Litter Is You.'
- Revamp Tramp Upcycling Demos: A Circular Economy Initiative for Lifelong Learning. Limerick City and County Council collaborated with local Tidy Towns Groups to bring this about. Almost 100 people were treated to a fun circular economy learning experience. Kilmallock Event was run in conjunction with Kilmallock, Kilfinane, Ardfpatrick and Galbally Tidy Towns. The Newcastle West Event was run in collaboration with Newcastle West, Adare, Templeglantine and Abbeyfeale Tidy Towns.

Education

- Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival for 2023 was launched on 13 March in Istabraq Hall, Merchant's Quay. The Festival itself ran for a week from 27 March. "Come Learn with Me" was the theme for this year. Limerick City and County Council arranged some of the events, all of which were free, and also provided venues for various events.
- Limerick City and County Council was represented at the Shared Island Initiative which was held in Belfast during March. The Shared Island Programme supports projects and initiatives between Local Government partners North and South, Derry, Belfast, Cork, Dublin and Limerick. All five cities have committed themselves to becoming learning Cities. The exchanges are designed to be a platform to share learning and advance network of learning cities.

Public Participation Network (PPN)

- Membership of the PPN continues to grow and stands at 189. The membership registration form is on the Limerick PPN website and eligible groups in Limerick can register at any time.
- There were two linkage group meetings in March - Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment and Home and Social Development.
- The Secretariat continued to fulfil its function with a Secretariat meeting held on 28 March.

Healthy Ireland

- Healthy Ireland Local Government ran a series of wellbeing lunchtime talks as part of Limerick's Lifelong Learning Festival. Talks were well attended and included Caring for Your Wellbeing, Managing Stress in Your Everyday Life and Everything You Need To Know about Menopause.

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- The Healthy Ireland Coordinator attended a three-day March 28-30 JointheDots Conference in Derry. The conference focused on Health, Innovation and Inclusive Communities with wider reflections on how healthcare outcomes impact on engaging communities into economies.

2. Tourism

Limerick Greenway

- Limerick Greenway's marketing campaign continued throughout March and included the following:
 - A press release was issued ahead of the commencement of the new Limerick Greenway HUB at Rathkeale. This was picked up by various media outlets.
 - Limerick Greenway had a presence at the Gaelic Grounds in Limerick for the Limerick v Tipperary hurling league semi-final where Greenway beanies were distributed to attendees and worn by stewards on the night.
 - The St. Patrick's Day parades in both New York and Rockaway featured Greenway merchandise worn by delegation members and also captured on social media.
 - This year, Abbeyfeale's theme for St. Patrick's Day was doing things the "Green Way" and included Limerick Greenway on the day with the promotion of cycling. As part of the run-up to the day, schools were invited to enter a colouring competition and Limerick Greenway provided greenway goody bags as prizes, including the greenway bike bell to promote use of bells on the Greenway.
 - Limerick Greenway featured in the "Ireland of the Welcomes" magazine in March.

- Limerick Greenway featured in an advertising space locally in Arthur's Quay Shopping Centre from 27 March with the aim of attracting locals to visit Limerick Greenway over the Easter period.
- Limerick Greenway's social media campaign included the following:
 - Celebrating International Women's Day.
 - Provided updates throughout March on the current closures due to improvement works and the construction and completion of under/overpasses.
 - St. Patrick's Day and doing things the "Green Way."
 - Promoting Limerick Greenway as accessible to all, cyclists, dog walkers and those of all abilities.
 - National Tree Day.
- Limerick Greenway town information signs were erected in the Squares of Abbeyfeale, Foyne, Newcastle West and Rathkeale.

Discover Limerick Pass

- Following a competitive tender process, Springboard Communications were appointed to provide services to develop and manage a marketing and advertising campaign for Summer 2023 for the new sightseeing pass in Limerick, enabling the visitor to see a number of attractions over a one-day, two-day or three-day pass.
- The Discover Limerick promotional tourism assets - brochure and map - were revised after stakeholder feedback with a new brochure and map being printed and distributed through various channels to accommodation providers, venues and attractions across Limerick City and County in advance of St. Patricks Day. These are available digitally at: <https://www.limerick.ie/discover/visiting/travel-guide/visitor-maps-guides>

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Tourism Industry and Trade events

The Fáilte Ireland's Limerick Meitheal Familiarisation trip took place on St. Patrick's Day with members of the Tourism team showing Limerick at its best. This included a pre-opening tour of the International Rugby Experience, attendance in the Grand Stand at the St. Patrick's Day parade and a tour of King John's Castle where locally produced food was on offer. The group continued their trip on 18 March by cycling Limerick Greenway and visiting Lough Gur.

Sales and marketing representatives of Discover Limerick DAC and the Tourism Department of Limerick City and County Council attended Meitheal 2023 in Killarney on 20/21/22 March, along with representatives of hotels and tourist attractions in Limerick to promote Limerick as a place to visit for international tour operators.

DISCOVER LIMERICK DAC

Lough Gur Visitor Centre and associated facilities were added to the portfolio of visitor attractions under the umbrella of Limerick City and County Council's subsidiary company, Discover Limerick DAC, with the transfer taking effect on 01 March. On 29 March, the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, joined guests, including current and past Chairs of Lough Gur Development, in Lough Gur to celebrate this important occasion and acknowledge the tremendous work of the community in the past decade in adding new amenities at Lough Gur.

3. Arts Office

OPEN CALLS FOR BURSARIES

Grants under the Arts Act Open Call

The Grants under the Arts Act Assessment Panel for this competitive Open Call took place on 08 March and comprised Sarah Searson, who currently serves on the Governing Body of Maynooth University and Galway Arts Centre, and Michael Fortune, a Wexford born artist/folklorist, who is also a part-time Assistant Lecturer in Limerick School of Art and Design. The recommendations of the Assessment Panel for the Grants under the Arts Act Scheme were approved at the Full Council Meeting of Limerick City and County Council on 27 March.

Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts Scheme 2023

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

CREATIVE IRELAND

Creative Ireland Programme Audit

Limerick Arts Office submitted standard audit reports to Creative Ireland for 2022.

Creative Ireland Made in Limerick Grants Open Call

Limerick Arts Office announced an Open Call seeking applications for Limerick-based creative practitioners, organisations and communities of place and interest to submit applications for Made in Limerick Grants 2023. These grants are offered as part of Limerick Creative Ireland Programme to deliver activities taking place in 2023. The closing date for completed applications was 15 March and 26 applications were received.

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Creative Climate Action 2 Fund

Urban Innovation and Limerick Arts Office prepared and submitted an application to the Creative Climate Action 2 Fund, Strand 2 Ignite. The 'Creative Climate Action II: Agents of Change' programme is a joint initiative of the Creative Ireland Programme and the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications.

ARTS COUNCIL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT PROGRAMME

Creative Places

Limerick Arts Office partnered with Ballyhoura Development CLG in its application for Arts Council's Creative Places Award on 30 March. Creative Places is an opportunity for places which had not benefitted from sustained arts investment in the past to build local arts programmes which will benefit the people who live in these places. Each programme will have a coordinator or researcher who will begin local conversations to discuss and plan a range of brilliant creative and participatory projects for local people to take part in and enjoy. The proposed project builds on the strong foundations of Ballyhoura Development CLG's ongoing work and creative projects in the region, bringing artistic and creative opportunities to artists and communities in these rural areas.

FMC Professional Development Workshops

First Music Contact is the lead national music organisation for resourcing musicians and the independent music sector in Ireland. Limerick Arts Office is working in partnership with First Music Contact to deliver professional development workshops. On 29 March, the Limerick Development Panel on Funding and the Limerick Arts Office conversation took place online. The Development Panel comprised Ciaran Walsh, Associate Director, Culture Ireland, Tara Bolger, Support Manager, Music and Opera and the Arts Officer, Limerick City and County Council. The second hour was a hosted conversation between the Artists and Limerick Arts Office to assess the needs of musicians in Limerick and approaches to working together to deliver for these needs.

Artists Apartments

Open Call for the Artists Apartments, subsidised medium-term accommodation for artistic practitioners, closed on 08 March. The panel met and assessed the five applications for one apartment on 13 March.

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Limerick St. Patrick's Festival

The Festivals and Events Office had a busy month in March with 50,000 people attending **Limerick's St. Patrick's Festival 2023**. The celebrations kicked off with a burst of colour and entertainment for the St Patrick's Day Parade, which was led by Grand Marshal, Jon Kenny, who recently starred in 'The Banshees of Inisherin.' More than 70 groups participated under this year's theme of 'Discover Limerick.' Limericks creativity was on display with impressive spectacles such as the 40 ft. Viking long boat replica, a Treaty Stone recreation and a reimaging of the Dancer of Quimper. Limerick's local bands, community, voluntary and sporting groups brought huge energy to the parade.

Street Show Saturday saw the City streets come alive with a family fun day of high energy acrobatics, magic and comedy on Bedford Row and Thomas Street. City centre streets were also animated with roving stilt walkers and circus figures. The Limerick City Centre Traders' Association spread the fun with a range of amusements on Cruises Street.

The weekend of celebrations concluded on Sunday with **The International Band Championship**. Wet weather failed to dampen the spirits of the thousands who lined the streets and they were treated to energetic performances from twenty bands from the North Americas, Europe and Ireland. Limerick's 51st International Band Championship featured more than 1,500 musicians. The Pride of Bixby Marching Band from Oklahoma was the overall winner but there were awards too for many of the other groups.

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4. Property & Community Facilities

Dereliction, Vacancy and Reuse Team	
Site Inspections completed	190
Property and Community Facilities Department Notices issued	33
Derelict Sites Cases opened	10
Statutory Notices served under the Derelict Sites Act, 1990	138
Derelict Sites Cases closed through engagement	1
Properties entered into the Derelict Sites Register	17
Properties proposed for Compulsory Acquisition (Section 15 Notices)	0
Vesting Orders made for Properties Acquired Compulsorily (Section 17 Notices)	0
Croí Cónaithe Applications Approved	8

Bin Waiver Applications Approved

31

5. Libraries, Gallery & Museum

LIBRARY

- Adare Library celebrated World Book Day on 02 March with story times and arts and crafts sessions attended by almost 60 Junior and Senior infants from St. Nicholas' and Patrickswell National Schools. Considering the popularity of the Harry Potter books, the branch marked Luna Lovegood's birthday with interactive arts and crafts sessions for more than 60 pupils from Our Lady's Abbey and St. Nicholas National School. Two very successful Healthy Ireland at Your Library events were held, including a talk from Limerick Sports Partnership about the importance of exercise and healthy diet with boys from Scoil Naomh Íosaf, and an Eco Art therapy session with Helena Gleeson and the 2020 Club. Baby, Parent and Toddler

group continued and there were two class visits from Junior and Senior Infants from Our Lady's Abbey Girls National School. The 2020 group held their book club meeting and the branch marked Astronomy Week and St. Patrick's Day with colourful displays.

- World Book Day was celebrated at Kilmallock Library by class visits all week long, with children attending in costumes bringing their favourite characters to life. A prize of a book token was given to the most imaginative and organic costume. Knockadea National School and Scoil Mocheallóg National School enjoyed some stories, shared some fun riddles and jokes, sang some songs and had a fun, interactive library scavenger hunt. The busy week continued at Kilmallock Library with large numbers from local schools attending to make their own bookmarks and flower paper crafts. The introduction of a giant chess set on 09 March in the new chess corner was met with immense enthusiasm, attracting chess lovers young and old, whether a keen player or a student of the game. After school young chess players gathered to practice their skills and compete with each other.

The branch displayed and promoted "Untold Stories, a collection of poems and short stories" written by local women and presented by Women's collective Ireland-Limerick. Women's Collective Ireland-Limerick has been working with women locally for over 20 years and aims to promote gender equality through their work with women who experience multiple forms of oppression by providing information on a range of issues such as health provision, screening services and Violence against Women services. They also provide supports for women to return to education and training and to access employment and/or volunteering opportunities. A special promotion of Graphic Novels to encourage reluctant readers was held. The Fifth class pupils of Scoil Mocheallóg National School visited Kilmallock Library on 24 March to celebrate Astronomy Week with a talk by Derek O'Keeffe of Cork Astronomy Club. Derek gave a fascinating talk introducing the pupils to the world of astronomy and the wonders in the nighttime sky and was very impressed by the questions, curiosity and insights of the children. The branch was thrilled to be invited by the Glenroe Parent and Toddler Group in conjunction with Glenroe/

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Ballyorgan Community Council, to present an outreach “Little Readers” session at Glenroe National School on 25 March. A great crowd attended with over 30 toddlers present with their grown-ups. Staff shared a fun morning of songs, nursery rhymes, story and craft followed by fantastic catering funded by Limerick Childcare Committee. The in-house “Little Readers” session continued on March 31 when songs, nursery rhymes and stories echoed throughout the Library. The little readers then enjoyed a crafting session whilst their grown-ups enjoyed a chat and a cuppa. On 16 March, the branch hosted a bilingual lecture entitled ‘Irish is a foreign language no different to Yiddish!’ focusing on the hidden history of the attempts to suppress and save the Irish Language during the Irish Revolution. This entertaining and thought-provoking talk from Lecturer, Dr Pádraig Óg Ó Ruairc, prompted a lively Q&A session, which was enjoyed by the large group in attendance. For the younger audience, there was an animated and fun session of Scéalta agus Ránnta with Joanne from Comhluadar Luimnigh. The interactive bilingual stories and rhymes entertained all who attended on 16 March.

- The annual Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival launched on 27 March and the City Library was delighted to host a number of events as part of this important festival and to promote the festival theme of ‘Come Learn with Me in 2023.’ On 27 March, a capacity crowd attended ‘Caring for Your Wellbeing.’ This talk, delivered by the Social Health and Education Project, aimed to explore the idea of wellbeing and provide techniques to help deal with distress. The Social Health and Education Project returned on 28 March with another booked out session on ‘Managing Stress in Your Everyday Life.’ This talk allowed participants a chance to better understand their own stress and to find ways to break the stress cycle and set up a cycle of wellness instead. Also on 28 March, the Library welcomed the ‘Think Before You Flush’ environmental education campaign run by Clean Coasts in partnership with Uisce Éireann by hosting an information stand and workshop in the foyer. This campaign was developed in response to sewage related litter on beaches and Uisce Éireann reporting a high level of pipe blockages and highlighting how our actions in our own homes

can affect our waterways and beaches. On 29 March, the City Library hosted a talk by Cian McDonnell, chartered physiotherapist, on ‘The Benefits of Active Living as We Age.’ Cian delivered a well-attended talk for our older patrons on the importance of staying active, the science behind it, and offered advice on how to work active living principles into everyday lives. 30 March saw the City Library invite everyone to ‘Explore Limerick City’ with a guided walking tour of Limerick City and its History, led by Jorgen Hartogs, a qualified tour guide with over 20 years’ experience in Limerick. With two sessions on offer, these exciting tours quickly booked out and proved a most enjoyable and informative way to discover more about our wonderful city. World Book Day was celebrated on 02 March with a busy day of events. Second Year JSCP (Junior Certificate School Programme) students from Ardscoil Mhuire launched their Make-a-Book Exhibition of their self-designed wellbeing journals to mark World Book Day. These beautiful and creative books were on display in the Library for a week where they were much admired by all. As the Library was inundated by requests from schools and preschools to visit as part of their World Book Day celebrations, they had to schedule the fun over two days not one! On 02 and 03 March, they welcomed multiple classes from the Presentation Primary School and from Poppins Preschool who all enjoyed the wonderful selection of stories and books available in our bright and friendly children’s library. In addition to the World Book Day groups, the branch had class visits from several primary schools across the month, including Scoil Íosagáin Autism Support Class on 09 March; Presentation Primary School on 16 March; St. Michael’s Infant School Autism Unit on 24 March and CBS Primary School on both 29 and 30 March. Secondary schools visiting during the month included First Year students from St. Clement’s College on 14 March and Second Year students on 16 March. Also visiting on 16 March were Second Year students from Coláiste Nano Nagle who enjoyed a library tour, registered for membership and collected their EU information packs courtesy of the Library’s Europe Direct Information Centre. The monthly book clubs continued to meet and engage in lively debate about their chosen titles. Meetings of the First Thursday Book Club took place on 02 March; the

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second Wednesday Book Club on 08 March; the U3A (University of the Third Age) book clubs on consecutive Mondays on 13, 20 and 27 March; and the newest book club, this time for children, which is held in partnership with Limerick Youth Service, and had its first very successful meeting on 02 March. The weekly Toddler Story Time continued to go from strength to strength every Wednesday morning, while the monthly Spanish language story time 'Cuenta Cuentos' saw a large group attending the interactive bilingual story session on 14 March. Then, on 25 March, the wonderful Róisín Meaney delighted her ever-growing audience of fans with her monthly children's story time. Also continuing throughout March were the weekly Personal Development Classes for migrants and asylum seekers organised by PAUL Partnership and Tuesday evening's Sahaja Yoga meditation meetings, while the Writepace Creative Writing group held their monthly meeting on a Saturday.

- Watch House Cross Library was delighted to host the launch of Story Seeds: Adventures Around Limerick and Beyond, in the magnificent setting of the conference room at Thomond Park Stadium. The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, was in attendance to launch the book which was the culmination of a creative pilot project in which over 600 children were encouraged to use their imagination and to have fun writing a collection of stories. Through Story Seeds, Fighting Words has connected with organisations working in the areas of disadvantage, social marginalisation, mental health, disability, ethnic minorities and refugees/migrants. They have brought together groups to work with facilitators to create new stories, plays, poems and more. Following staff training, contact was made with local schools, Corpus Christi and Thomond Primary, to commence workshops. Participants from Second to Sixth Class attended a series of workshops over an eight-week period held in Watch House Cross Library, facilitated by Fighting Words volunteers, library staff and illustrators. The context was set by asking the young writers about their favourite books, TV shows and movies to help them identify the key elements of a story. The idea was that the first school would write the first chapter of a story, choose characters and identify well-known

local amenities that would form the basis of the story. Ending on a cliff-hanger enabled the next school to continue the following chapter of the story. The result was 10 stories written by primary schools in Limerick City and in Co. Tipperary from October 2022 to January 2023. The Limerick schools involved were Corpus Christi Primary School, Thomond Primary School, Our Lady Queen of Peace, Roxboro, and St. Mary's National School, Bishop Street. The Tipperary schools involved were St. John the Baptist Boys' National School, Cashel, St. John the Baptist Girls' National School, Cashel, Bishop Harty National School, Ballinree, and Scoil Iosef Naofa, Roscrea. These students put a huge amount of effort into this project and were thrilled to be presented with their very own copy in Thomond Park. This event was widely reported by RTE, the Irish Times and local media. ABC Startright finished their six-week programme of baby nutrition, baby massage and baby reflexology which was held on Thursday mornings in the library. Age Action continued to hold a weekly class for seniors in the library, providing training for over 55s in the use of computers, smartphones and the Internet. Class visits during March included First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Classes from Thomond Primary School. Senior Infants from Corpus Christi also visited the library. Second Class from Scoil Chriost Rí, Caherdavin, enjoyed a library tour and borrowed books to take home. Storytime continued each Thursday during March combined with a special arts and craft event to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. The children enjoyed making a shamrock ring and a St. Patricks' Day mobile decoration. 15 children attended with parents for the event. The Parent and Toddler Group met each Friday morning for tea, chat, songs, nursery rhymes and stories. Doras Luimní continued to teach a Beginners' Computers Programme for asylum seekers recently arrived into Ireland and living in the Knockalisheen Centre in Meelick. Helium Arts, who work with children and young people living with long-term health conditions, delivered a creative workshop in the library on 25 March. The workshop was facilitated by artist, Chelsea Canavan, and is designed around supporting the wellbeing and creativity of children and young people with underlying or complex medical conditions. The Northside Family Resource Centre art exhibition was launched on 28 March. Limerick Childcare

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Committee, as part of The Lifelong Learning Festival, held a talk in the library on 29 March titled 'Using Children's Books to introduce your young child to diversity.' The recommended books discussed during the talk can be borrowed from the local branch library. The two Children's Book Clubs met on 29 March. 'Wingbearer' by Marjorie Liu, a graphic novel, was a big hit with the 9 to 12 year old age group. 'Fright Forest' by Marcus Sedgwick - the 7 to 9 year old choice for March - gave rise to plenty of chats and exchange of views about the story. Both Adult Book Clubs met during March having read 'The Glorious Guinness Girls' by Emily Hourican. Lego Club met each Friday from 3.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., with an average of 15 to 20 children in the group each week. The Sensory Room continued to be very well used with 70 bookings during March and 183 individuals using the space.

- In Dooradoyle Library, the Irish M.E. Trust (Myalgia Encephalomyelitis) had their first gathering of 2023 on 01 March, where they met to discuss the effects of M.E., C.F.S. (Chronic Fatigue Syndrome) and Long Covid Fatigue. World Book Day got off to a flying start on 02 March with a visit from First, Second and Third Class pupils from Patrickswell National School. Over 50 children visited the library for story-time, arts and crafts and each child received their very own library card. Cute and Clever Playschool, Lisnagry, also visited to celebrate World Book Day where they enjoyed an interactive session of stories, nursery rhymes and songs. Mid West Bereavement Social Group hosted its first book club meeting on 03 March. They selected 'The Librarian of Auschwitz' by Antonio Iturbe for members to read. Dooradoyle Library Book Club members met on 30 March to discuss 'A Line Made by Walking' by Sara Baume which they thoroughly enjoyed. 'Into the Light,' a beautiful collection of patchwork quilting, is the latest exhibition at Dooradoyle Library. The exhibits are by local quilter, Frances Shanahan, who only discovered her love of quilting in recent years. The exhibition was officially opened by Jan O'Sullivan on 10 March. Arts and crafts sessions took place on 15 March to mark St. Patrick's Day. Children made leprechaun masks and shamrock bookmarks. A selection of craft packs were made available for children who were unable to attend the

in-house craft events. A group of Third Year students from St. Clement's College visited on 16 March as part of their Literacy Week Programme. The students were given a tour of the library and a brief introduction to the range of E-services on offer. Each student registered for library membership. A group of twenty adults from Enable Ireland held a poetry reading on 23 March where they listened to poems and shared a selection of their own writings. Dooradoyle Library hosted three events as part of this year's Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival. The first event on 28 March was a talk by Marie McElhinney from Limerick Childcare Committee on 'Using Children's Books to Introduce Your Young Child to Diversity.' Later that day, library staff hosted a paper-folding craft session for adults where they learned how to make hedgehogs and flowers using old books. Finally, on 31 March, independent art historian, Dr. Deirdre Kelly, delivered a fascinating talk on the Pre-Raphaelite Art Movement of the mid-nineteenth to early twentieth century. Regular story-times and class visits continued throughout the month.

- There were 36 onsite visits by researchers to the Local Studies Department at Watch House Cross Community Library in March - these comprised seven research sessions on the microfilm archives of local newspapers, and 17 on the databases to which the Department subscribes. Nine researchers worked on material from the Local Studies and Archives collections, and three advice sessions on family history were provided. There were 22 remote queries, submitted by email or telephone. Work proceeded on the Department's three 'Decade of Centenaries' projects for 2023, as did work relating to the development of the new Local Studies website. A number of new acquisitions were added to stock.
- World Book Day was also celebrated with bestselling local author, Roisín Meaney, reading to the boys and girls from First and Second Class in Le Chéile National School, and the pupils from Church Street National School in Rathkeale paid a visit to Rathkeale Library for a storytime and craft session by library staff.

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- On 16 March, Glin Library hosted 'Craic agus Ceol in the Library,' a coffee morning with an Irish twist, to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge. There was plenty of singing and dancing, and the crowd was delighted to be treated to spontaneous songs, and a poem written especially for the occasion by retired Glin Librarian. The library received so much praise for the event and it was greatly supported by the local community, all of whom enjoyed food from a local bakery and a music session led by local musicians. Glin Library also arranged a very special bi-lingual storytime for Second and Third Classes from St. Fergus' National School on 15 March to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge.
- Newcastle West Library continued with class visits, displays for Seachtain na Gaeilge, St. Patrick's Day and Astronomy Week.

LIMERICK CITY GALLERY OF ART (LCGA)

- Two exhibitions continued during March - *Mammalia* and *Psyche* - a collaborative project with artists Mel French and Celine Sheridan curated by Catherine Marshall. The second exhibition is *Come on baby* - the first solo institutional exhibition by Casey Walshe. They were the recipient of a Next Generation award from the Arts Council in 2022.
- A selection of works from the Permanent Collection form the basis of a very fine representation from the Collection.
- The first Test Space residency continued throughout March. The recipient of the residency is Juliette Morrison who is currently doing an MA, by practice, at Limerick School of Art and Design TUS. Visitors to the Gallery have the opportunity to engage with Juliette and observe an artist while she works.
- Meetings continued with various artists and organisations in preparation for the remainder of 2023 and 2024.

- The recruitment of the Shinnors Scholar, a two-year MA by practice, has commenced. This initiative is a partnership with TUS, which has been in place for 16 years with eight participants to date. The focus of the Shinnors Scholar will be on the development of the education programme with primary schools.

LIMERICK MUSEUM

- On 09 March, *New Paintings*, an exhibition of new work by P J O'Connell and curated by Maurice Quillinan, opened in Limerick Museum. A native of Thurles, Co. Tipperary, P J O'Connell was educated at Limerick School of Art and Design and the Academie Van Beeldende Kunsten, Rotterdam. He is currently Head of Art and Design in Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed Secondary School in Thurles. P J O'Connell has exhibited work in solo and group shows in Ireland and abroad since 1987. His paintings are in private collections in Ireland, Europe, North America, Africa and Australia. In addition, many of his works are in public collections, including Limerick City Gallery of Art, Mater Private Hospital, University of Limerick, Limerick City and County Council, Kildare County Council, Tipperary County Council, University Hospital Limerick, and the Irish Embassy, Kampala, Uganda. P J O'Connell has stated that *'my recent works continue my commitment to the principles and methods of abstraction. As such, references made in my work to the ways in which the everyday world appears to us are almost entirely put aside so that feeling and emotion can be aroused directly through the interaction of the materials and technique, the media and the various ways the elements of design can be made to behave. There is a major commitment to the grid in these latest series of works with great stress (and delight) given to the physicality of application of paint resulting in repetitive phrases and shifting layers.'*
- On 16 March, Councillor Joe Pond, who deputised for the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, performed the Official Opening of *The Life and Legacy of Saint Patrick*, an exhibition curated by the Assistant Curator of Limerick Museum.

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- This exhibition formed part of the wider celebrations across Limerick city and county to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day. It featured a range of items including images and ephemera from the permanent collection of Limerick Museum which chronicle the life and legacy of Saint Patrick, and explored how the day was celebrated in Limerick in times gone. The display was complemented by colourful artwork created by the boys and girls of Senior Infants in Shountrade National School, depicting the many legends surrounding Saint Patrick from his time as a shepherd to his banishment of the snakes.
- To commemorate International Women's Day on 08 March, Limerick Museum hosted a lecture by renowned historian, Sharon Slater, on 'The Extraordinary Lives of Catalina Sarsfield and Constance O'Meara.' The event was organised by the Limerick Federation of the Irish Countrywomen's Association, and attracted a large and enthusiastic attendance. In March, the Museum acquired three significant collections. First, the collection of Maude Kearney (1873-1963) which consists of several pieces of Limerick lace and numerous lace patterns. Mrs. Kearney ran a lace-making business called the Thomond Lace Industry, which employed between fifty and eighty workers at the height of its success. The collection was donated by Grania McElligott, a granddaughter of Maude Kearney. Second, the Press 22 Collection consists of a large collection of photographic negatives and related material, relating to the Press 22 photographic agency, established in Limerick in April 1984. The collection was donated by Liam Burke, Director/Photographer at Press 22. Third, Joe Donnellan donated his extensive collection of material relating to the history of the Cecilian Musical Society, of which he was a long serving member and former president. The Cecilian Musical Society is one of Ireland's longest running musical societies. Founded in 1919, it has been a staple part of Limerick's entertainment scene for over 100 years.
- The Museum was again involved in the celebration of Saint Patrick's Day in Limerick. The Curator and Assistant Curator were interviewed on two radio stations in connection with the history of Saint Patrick's Day in Limerick and the Life and Legacy of Saint Patrick Exhibition - Limerick's Live 95 on 15 March and Wired FM (which is run by students from Mary Immaculate College and the Technological University of the Shannon) on 16 March. In addition, a short video on the history of Saint Patrick's Day in Limerick, researched and narrated by the Curator, featured on Limerick.ie during the Saint Patrick's Day Festival.
- 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 28 and 31 March.



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Regeneration Directorate

1. Regeneration

Regeneration

Overall

The Council has appointed KPMG to prepare a status update of the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan (LRFIP 2014-2023). The document will assess the current position and make recommendations for the future strategic direction of Limerick's Regeneration Programme. KPMG have now completed their series of engagements with relevant stakeholders across the Regeneration areas and work has now commenced on the drafting of the report.

Economic

Outreach to Employment Programme

St. Mary's Park Employment Project Team held its first meeting in Limerick Island Community Partners (LICP). This meeting comprised of all the agencies and organisations working in the area of St. Mary's Park with a specific focus on training, further education and employment. Initiatives for the year ahead were discussed and meetings are to take place on a regular basis facilitated by Outreach to Employment Coordinator.

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

Social

Economic and Social Intervention Fund (ESIF) Update

Significant work continued to ensure the expeditious drawdown of the Economic and Social Intervention Fund 2023. 190 projects across the city will benefit from the fund under the five Regeneration themes of -

- Community - 50 Projects
- Employability and Work - 14 projects
- Health, Wellbeing and Ageing Well - 47 projects
- Education and Learning - 52 projects
- Families and Youth at Risk - 27 projects

The Directorate continued to engage with all of these projects with a consistent focus on securing an enduring legacy from the successes of the Social and Economic Pillars of the Regeneration programme.

A recent visit from Maltese Government Departments served to further emphasise the scale and positive impact of the Economic and Social Intervention Fund throughout the life cycle of the Regeneration Programme.

<https://www.limerickleader.ie/news/home/1063049/maltese-officials-inspired-by-regeneration-projects-during-limerick-visit.html>

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Community Activities

- International Women's Day was celebrated in all four Regeneration communities, including multi-cultural events held in the community centres to celebrate women and their contribution to the community and wider.
- A King's Island Public Information evening was held on 07 March following on from an Agency Networking event that took place in King's Island Community Centre. The meetings were held to advise the King's Island community of the services and agencies that are active in their area. This was a well-attended event and was a joint initiative between PAUL Partnership and the Regeneration Directorate.
- A meeting was held with artist, Louise Keeley, at St. Mary's Primary School and local children who will be working with Louise as part of the community mural at the handball alley in St. Mary's Park. The children were very excited to hear they will be contributing to the handball alley artwork, having submitted their own artwork from school as part of the project.
- The King's Island Community Group, which consisted of the school, afterschool group, Limerick Island Community Partners (LICP), Barnardos, PAUL Partnership, scouts and members of Star Rovers FC and St. Mary's Rugby Club, all marched in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. The families participating made a lot of the materials themselves, including banners, during the nine-week family art programme in the community centre run by LICP in conjunction with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.
- LICP hosted a Lego building group in No 19. Nicholas Street every Thursday.
- A Thursday young mothers' drama group started in St. Mary's Park in March, working towards a community event.
- Moyross Residents' Forum held a Health and Wellness Day at the Moyross Community Centre on 13 March. Residents were given taster treatments, information on reflexology, Indian head massage, and acupuncture on the day. Health information on a variety of topics from healthy eating exercise and quit smoking were available on the day. The event was supported by the Marie Keating Foundation. It was a great success for the community of Moyross. Moyross Bingo is acknowledged for sponsoring the cost of the Body Tree Community Clinic on the day.
- Moyross Residents' Forum supported the rollout of the Strengthening Communities Programme in the four Regeneration areas. This has the potential to support new upcoming community leaders and support and encourage young adults to engage, advocate and have their voices heard.
- A joint community project with Watch House Cross Community Library to paint a mural on the wall outside the library got underway in March. The children from Corpus Christi Primary School, the youths in Moyross Youth Academy and a number of residents have been engaged in this project. The theme is the environment and the children from First Class to Sixth Class were involved in a colouring competition.
- Social enterprise videos funded by PAUL Partnership were published in the Regeneration areas to showcase the enterprising work taking place regularly in the communities.
- The West End Youth Centre in Our Lady of Lourdes Community Centre was honoured by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, for its recent Pride of Place Award. There was a great attendance with very kind words delivered by all involved.
- Our Lady of Lourdes Community Centre assisted several individuals and families with food hampers from various charities and referred some new households to St. Vincent de Paul and Mid-West Simon Community.

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- The first Stronger Together Southill Community Newsletter produced by Tait House, Southill Hub and the Southside Family Resource Centre, was delivered to every household in Southill.
- A coffee morning was held in Mr. Tait's Café on 23 March in aid of the Irish Cancer Society and €261 was raised.
- Tait House Digital Resource Centre was launched. It is a space that has been made available in Tait House to facilitate computer access and IT competency in the community.

Physical

Housing Developments

- Construction of the new eight-unit social housing development at Sheep Street / Athlunkard Street on King's Island continued.
- Construction of the new 57-unit social housing development at Cosgrave Park and Dalgaish Park, Moyross continued.
- Construction of the new 37-unit social housing development at Churchfield (Phase 2) Southill continued.
- Construction of the new 18-unit social housing development at Cliona Park (Phase 3), Moyross continued.
- Construction of the 14 units by the Peter McVerry Trust in Delmege Park, Moyross, is completing.
- Preparations are currently being completed for the 27-unit Orchard Site King's Island. An advance archaeological excavation is being prepared ahead of the main development works.

- Tenders for consultancy services for the design of the proposed 20-unit Cliona Park Phase 4 social housing development in Moyross have been received. Assessment processes is nearing completion. The Council is awaiting correspondence from lowest tenderer to formally appoint.
- Construction Works are completing on Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 122, St. Mary's Park.
- The status of the thermal upgrade projects is as follows:
 - Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 121, Moyross (47 units) – were prepared this month.
 - Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 121A, Moyross (18 units) – were prepared this month.
 - Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 123, Southill (53 units) - awaiting insurance clearance to formally appoint selected contractor.
 - Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 125A, St. Mary's Park (25 units) – contractor insurance clearance has been received.
 - Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 126, Southill (50 units) - Alan Hart Contractor commenced works mid-March.
 - Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 127, Ballinacurra Weston (12 units) - awaiting clearance of the selected Contractor's insurance.
 - Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 128/129, St. Mary's Park (25 units) – contractor insurance clearance has been received.
 - Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 130 – scoping in Pineview Gardens is nearing completion which will facilitate Stage 3 submission to Department.

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House Refurbishments

- Approval was received to proceed to tender for the refurbishment of nine Regeneration area derelict properties with an all-in budget of €1.7m.
- Closing date for return of Tenders for the design and contract supervision was 31 March.

Environmental Works

- Contractor appointed to undertake various environmental works and barrier removals at Avondale Court, O'Malley Park.
- Airtricity has completed the removal of residual / redundant poles in O'Malley Park as contracted.

Demolitions

- Demolition of 17 Whitecross Gardens
 - House demolished.
 - Removal of access road ongoing.
- Contractor appointed for the demolition of
 - 48 Craeval Park, Moyross

Feasibility

- Consultant working on the development of viable options for new western access to/from O'Malley Park.



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Housing Directorate

1. Housing Support Services

Housing Waiting List

Approved Housing Applicants	2,334
Approved Tenant Transfer Applicants	356

Returned Incomplete Housing Applications

March	Year to Date
0	20

Closed Housing Applications

March	Year to Date
42	135

Applications are returned/closed for the following reasons:

- Failure to satisfy the eligibility criteria for social housing support as set out in legislation.
- Failure to submit a complete application and/or further information required.
- Applicants who have been housed by Limerick City and County Council or an Approved Housing Body.
- Applicants who wish to apply to another local authority or are no longer interested in social housing support.

Allocations

	No. of Units March	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	2
Newcastle West	1	6
Metropolitan District	37	59
Cappamore-Kilmallock	1	5
Total	39	72

Refusals

	No. of Units March	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	1
Newcastle West	0	1
Metropolitan District	3	5
Cappamore-Kilmallock	0	0
Total	3	7

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Approved Housing Body Allocations 2023 (year to date)

Total Nominations	Successful Nominations	Nominations Pending	Unsuccessful Nominations
48	20	26	2

Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)

Private Tenancies	709
Capital Assistance Scheme/Rental Assistance Scheme Tenancies	528
Part V	0
New Private Tenancies	1
New Voluntary Housing Tenancies	6

Housing Assistance Payments Limerick (HAP)

2,211 active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	22
No. of Amendments	315
No. of Cessations	43

RENT COLLECTION

Rent Collection Limerick City and County Council					
Opening Balance	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing Balance	% Collection
€5,916,167	€4,897,298	€10,813,465	€4,652,921	€6,160,544	43%

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HOME IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

March 2023		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aid Grants	No. Approved	1	2	3	0	6
	MAG Expenditure	€6,000.00	€5,750.00	€8,050.00	€0.00	€19,800.00
	No. Paid	1	1	2	0	4
<hr/>						
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	5	11	17	7	40
	HAG Expenditure	€27,860.00	€89,453.08	€123,887.75	€14,155.00	€255,355.83
	No. Paid	5	6	16	2	29
<hr/>						
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	8	10	24	6	48
	HOP Expenditure	€31,274.00	€51,595.68	€72,174.92	€17,874.25	€172,918.85
	No. Paid	8	13	18	5	44
<hr/>						
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG Expenditure	€2,150.83	€0.00	€0.00	€2,150.83	€4,301.66
	No. Paid	1	0	0	1	2

Total No. Approved	94
Total Monies Paid	€452,376.34
Total No. Paid	79

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HOME IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES - Year to Date

Jan - Mar 2023		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aid Grants	No. Approved	3	3	11	2	19
	MAG Expenditure	€11,745.00	€13,950.00	€44,976.50	€5,425.00	€76,096.50
	No. Paid	2	3	6	1	12
<hr/>						
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	14	19	39	18	90
	HAG Expenditure	€74,177.40	€123,803.08	€340,985.50	€89,649.50	€628,615.48
	No. Paid	12	11	44	10	77
<hr/>						
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	30	26	71	20	147
	HOP Expenditure	€54,906.50	€141,964.93	€262,080.82	€64,573.75	€523,526.00
	No. Paid	13	32	51	16	112
<hr/>						
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG Expenditure	€2,150.83	€0.00	€0.00	€2,150.83	€4,301.66
	No. Paid	1	0	0	1	2

YTD Total No. Approved	256
YTD Total Monies Paid	€1,232,539.64
YTD Total No. Paid	203

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Community Sustainment Unit

Tenancy Inductions

No. of Tenancy Inductions	32
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Repossessions

Repossession of Council properties	10
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House Visits

No. of House Visits	300
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Garda Checks

Garda Checks processed	89
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Sugar CRM (Customer Relationship Management) Cases

Active cases at month-end	271
Cases closed during month	47

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

Date: 17.03.2023		
Individuals		
Location	Description	Beds Used
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	38
Oak Lodge	Adults without children accommodated in low threshold emergency accommodation	60
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	23
Phoenix Lodge	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	9
St. Joseph Street	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	6
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	14
Temporary Emergency Provision (TEP) - Edenvilla	Low threshold, night-by-night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	16
Total		166

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Families					
Location	Description	Beds Used			Families
		Adults	Children		
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	8		6
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	65	90		53
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	14	13		10
Totals		Adults	Children		69
		85	111		

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

Tenant Purchase	
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. received	4
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. approved	3
Local Authority Home Loans	
Loan Applications: No. received	5
Loan Applications: No. approved	0
Deed of Discharge	
Deed of Discharge Applications: No. Received	18
Consent to Sale	
Consent to Sale Applications: No. Received	6
Cottage Purchase Annuity	
No. of Cottage Purchase Annuity Applications	3
Ground Rent	
No. of Ground Rent applications	9
Title	
Title Deeds Received/Requested	12
Title Rectifications Received	0
Private Rented Inspections	
No. of Inspections	85

Freedom of Information, Data Requests and Ombudsman

Freedom of Information requests	2
Ombudsman Query Cases	5
Data Access Requests	1

Housing Welfare and Traveller Accommodation Unit

* Traveller Accommodation

No. of Units offered March	2
Year to Date	3

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

Housing Welfare Visits

No. of Visits March	43
Year to Date	90

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2. Local Authority Housing Construction and Maintenance

Local Authority Housing Construction

House Returns March	
Total	8

House Returns March By Municipal District	
Adare-Rathkeale	2
Cappamore-Kilmallock	1
Newcastle West	1
Metropolitan District	4
Total	8

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

Current Working Programme		
	Completed in March	In Progress
Local Authority Construction Team	3	121
Local Authority Maintenance Team	10	83
Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process		26
Regeneration Team	5	25
Team to be assigned	N/A	22
Total	18	277

In March, work on three properties was completed by the Local Authority Housing Construction Team, work on ten properties was completed by the Local Authority Maintenance Team and work on five properties was completed by the Regeneration Team.

There are three teams in Limerick City and County Council assigned to refurbish properties. As of March, the Local Authority Construction Team was in the process of completing works in 121 properties, the Local Authority Maintenance Team was working on 83 properties and the Regeneration Team had 25 properties. 22 properties were in the process of being assigned to a Team.

Project Updates

- Stage 4 approval was received for eight units from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for Lot 3A under the Derelicts Programme.
- 17 mixed type units at Rosbrien Court, Rosbrien Road, were completed and handed over to tenants.
- Two properties from Lot 2B were substantially refurbished and keys given to Allocations.
- Contractor appointed for Lot 9 and Lot 10A for refurbishment works at four properties.
- Quantity Surveyor appointed in Lot 3B for refurbishment works at nine derelict properties in Limerick City and County.

Finance

- Applications for funding totaling €1,103,655, issued to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage paid €3,061,822 in claims made.

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Local Authority Maintenance

Local Authority Houses: Maintenance Complaints dealt with during March

Housing Maintenance Cases - March	Requests/Cases Created	Cases Dealt With/Closed	Balance of Open Cases at 31.03.2023
Metropolitan District of Limerick	882	917	1,606
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	77	59	254
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	98	122	227
Municipal District of Newcastle West	121	81	601
Total	1,178	1,179	2,688

Grants Inspections

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	5	0	3	8
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	1	7	0	14	22
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	6	0	22	28
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	6	2	1	9
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	1	24	2	40	67

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	0	0	0	0
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	6	1	10	17
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	5	0	8	13
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	4	0	0	4
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	15	1	18	34

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	1	0	0	1
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	2	0	5	7
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	12	0	8	20
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	0	0	0	0
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	15	0	13	28

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	1	0	0	1
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	7	0	2	9
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	14	0	6	20
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	0	0	0	0
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	22	0	8	30

HOUSE INSPECTIONS UNIT

Houses Inspected for Refurbishment Works and Re-Letting – March - Categories	No. of Properties Inspected
Cat 1 – minor repairs needed	1
Cat 2 – moderate repairs needed	3
Cat 3 – substantial repairs needed	1
Cat 4 – major repairs required.	0
TOTAL INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT	5
No. of Properties Awaiting Inspection	17

3. Strategy & Non-Local Authority Housing Construction

BUILD, BUY AND LEASE

Buy/Build/Lease as of 31.03.2023 is as follows:

As at 31.03.2023 (01.01.2023 - 31.03.2023)	Complete	In Progress	Overall Complete and In Progress	“Housing for All” 2023 Delivery Target
Build	0	450	450	502
Buy	4	220	223	75
Lease	1	86	87	27
TOTAL	5	756	760	

* The majority of ‘In Progress’ units under the ‘Buy’ category are Notices to Quit.

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AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Status of Affordable Housing Scheme proposals as of 31.03.23 is as follows:

Scheme	District	Type	No. of Units	Status
Curragower	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Affordable Housing Fund	7	Affordable Housing Fund application approved. Design Team appointed and work continuing on preplanning design. Expected delivery in 2025.
Sonny's Lands	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Cost Rental Affordable Housing Fund	19	Serviced Sites Funding approval in principle received. Affordable Housing Fund application being prepared. The raising of a loan from the Housing Finance Agency to fund the delivery of this cost rental scheme was approved by Council on 27 March. Expected delivery in 2025.
Toppins Field Lands	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Affordable Housing Fund	28 (Phase 1)	Affordable Housing Fund application submitted. Traffic and transportation assessment underway. Expected delivery in 2025.
Guinness Site	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Cost Rental Affordable Housing Fund	270	Memorandum of Understanding signed with Land Development Agency. Design Team appointed and initial capacity analysis complete and under review. Strategy to deliver up to 300 units with the majority of units earmarked for cost-rental. Expected delivery in 2026.
Clonmacken Lands	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Cost Rental Affordable Housing Fund	22	Awaiting completion of social housing scheme. Serviced Site Fund approved for this site. A new application under Affordable Housing Fund will be required. Expected delivery in 2026.
Speaker's Corner	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Cost Rental Expression of Interest Site with Approved Housing Body	18	Part 8 process for 36 residential units has concluded and the tender/detailed design stage is underway. Expected delivery in 2025.

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Scheme	District	Type	No. of Units	Status
New Road, Thomondgate	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Cost Rental Expression of Interest Site with Approved Housing Body	23	Planning application has been submitted. Expected delivery in 2025.
Ballygrennan Lands	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Expression of Interest Site with Approved Housing Body	65	Part of a wider strategy to deliver a hospital, commercial units, and a nursing home in addition to residential units. Expected delivery in 2026.
Mungret Site	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund	50	252 residential units with Part 8 adopted of which 50 units are earmarked for affordable. Plans for the site are currently being reviewed to determine if more units can be assigned to Affordable Purchase. Expected delivery in 2025/2026.
Thomas Street and O' Connell Street	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Urban Regeneration and Development Fund	11	Part 8 concluded for 21 residential units in total. The Affordable Purchase model is being considered with a funding application to be made to the Affordable Housing Fund. Expected delivery in 2024/2025.
Adare	Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	Affordable Purchase Self-build plots	8	Plots identified for affordable purchase. Awaiting servicing to be provided to social housing site. Expected delivery in 2025.

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Scheme	District	Type	No. of Units	Status
Advance Purchase Turnkey – Campaign 1	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase	91	Campaign 1 resulted in five submissions from private developers, of which two have withdrawn from the process. An Affordable Housing Fund application has been approved for a proposed development of 25 units in the city. Concluding review of remaining applications. Expected delivery 2024 to 2025.
	Municipal District of Newcastle West	Affordable Purchase	10	
Advance Purchase Turnkey – Campaign 2	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase	145	Campaign 2 resulted in six submissions from private developers, of which three have withdrawn from the process. Affordable Housing Fund applications have been submitted for proposed developments of 11 units in Croom and 42 units in Newcastle West. Expected delivery 2024 to 2026.
	Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	Affordable Purchase	11	
	Municipal District of Newcastle West	Affordable Purchase	42	
Advance Purchase Turnkey – Campaign 3	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase	111	Campaign 3 resulted in two submissions from private developers. Applications are currently under review. Expected delivery 2024 to 2025.
	Municipal District of Newcastle West	Affordable Purchase	44	
Large Scale Residential Sites	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Cost Rental	358	In discussions to deliver up to 50% affordable on large-scale residential sites. Expected delivery in 2025.

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CURRENT OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

Finance

Claims totaling €608,469 were sent to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in March.

Claims totaling €4,541,815 were paid by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in March.

Project Approvals and Submissions

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

Scheme	Project Details	District
Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP) Turnkey	Submission for the acquisition of four apartments at Laurel Lodge, Mill Road, Corbally, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the acquisition of one unit at Old Singland Road Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the CAS Renewal acquisition of one unit at Garryowen, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the CAS acquisition of one unit at Raheen, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the CAS acquisition of one unit at Dooradoyle, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the CAS acquisition of one unit at Dooradoyle, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the CAS acquisition of one unit at Raheen, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Revised Design Team fee submission for the Construction of 23 units at Doon, Co Limerick	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Stage 1A submission for refurbishment of eight units at Bruree, Co Limerick	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Stage 4 Construction submission for eight units at Alphonsus Street, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick

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Scheme	Project Details	District
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Submission for 17 units at Turagh Crescent, Cappamore, Co. Limerick	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Submission for eight units at Woodfield Manor, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick (six Part V plus two private rightsizing units)	Municipal District of Newcastle West
Affordable Housing Fund (AHF)	Submission of Affordable Housing Fund application for Advance Purchase Turnkey for 11 affordable purchase dwellings in Croom, Co. Limerick	Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale
Affordable Housing Fund (AHF)	Submission of Affordable Housing Fund application for Advance Purchase Turnkey for 42 affordable purchase dwellings in Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Newcastle West

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

Scheme	Project Details	District
Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Fr. Russell Road, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at North Circular Road, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Caherdavin Lawn, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Liscreagh, Murroe, Co. Limerick	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock
Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Kilteragh, Dooradoyle, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Henry Street, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Combined Stage 1/2/3 approval for the CAS Renewal of one unit at Bengal Terrace, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Combined Stage 1/2/3 approval for the CAS Renewal of one unit at Hyde Road, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick

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Scheme	Project Details	District
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Stage 4 approval for the Construction of five units at Lower Gerald Griffin Street, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Stage 4 approval for the Construction of eight units at Alphonsus Street, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Revised Design Team fee approval for the Construction of 23 units at Doon, Co Limerick	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Old Singland Road, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Grattan Street, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Castletroy, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Clarina, Co. Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Raheen, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Pery Street, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Revised Approval for three units in Abbeyfeale, Feenagh, and Newcastle West, Co. Limerick	Municipal District of Newcastle West
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Approval for 37 units at Bru na Gruadan, Castletroy	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF) - Housing Agency Acquisition	Approval for one unit at Sarsfield Hall, Sarsfield Street, Limerick, and one unit at Heidelberg, Milford Grange, Castletroy, Co. Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Social Housing Capital Expenditure Programme Mortgage to Rent (MTR)	Approval for the acquisition by Home for Life of one unit at Glanntán, Golf Links Road, Castletroy, Co Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Social Housing Capital Expenditure Programme Mortgage to Rent (MTR)	Approval for the acquisition by Home for Life of one unit at Cragaun, Father Russell Road, Raheen, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick

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Scheme	Project Details	District
Social Housing Capital Expenditure Programme Mortgage to Rent (MTR)	Approval for the acquisition by iCare Housing of one unit at Ballylusky, Croom, Co. Limerick	Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale
Social Housing Capital Expenditure Programme Mortgage to Rent (MTR)	Revised Approval for the acquisition by Home for Life of one unit at Ballycommane, Tounafulla, Co. Limerick	Municipal District of Newcastle West
Pilot programme for Local Authorities regarding delivery methods/efficiencies for Affordable Housing and an examination of differing construction options on a live sample basis (Modern Methods of Construction/Off Site Construction).	Expression of Interest for Toppins Field Lands has been selected as one of two projects nationally to participate in this pilot programme	Metropolitan District of Limerick

UPDATES

Scheme of Priority

A Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements was adopted by the Council on 27 March.

The first formal register of interest will now take place in May with 25 Affordable homes at Bru na Grudan, Castletroy, Limerick city.

Conferences and Workshops

The Local Government Management Agency (in conjunction with The Central Bank of Ireland) held a Central Credit Register (CCR) information session virtually on 15 March.

A private Workshop for Elected Members on Modern Methods of Construction and an update on Sonny's Corner cost rental development was held in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle, and Online on 13 March.

The Housing Agency held an Affordable Homes Workshop for Local Authority teams involved in the delivery of affordable homes on 21 March in the Strand Hotel, Limerick. The Workshop focused on delivery and the tools available to assist in that delivery.

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4. Municipal District Offices

Metropolitan District of Limerick

Metropolitan District Meetings

Monthly Meeting

The March Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick took place on 20 March in the Council Offices, Dooradoyle, and Online.

Workshop/Briefings

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

- Briefing on Property Disposals;
- Briefing on King's Island naming;
- Workshops on the Schedule of Municipal District Works for the Metropolitan District of Limerick 2023;
- Briefing on Irish Rail Upgrade Works on the Foyne Railway Line.

Operational Area Briefings

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

Upgrade/Refurbishment Works

- General maintenance works in March, including activities such as pothole repairs, gully cleaning, street cleaning, emergency road repairs, and monitoring flood defences throughout the Metropolitan District where required;
- Description of project: New Footpath Link from Monaleen Heights to Kilmurry Road - Active Travel Scheme,
Location: Castletroy,
Cost of project: €30,000,
Contractor: Neville Civil Engineering Ltd.

- Description of project – St. John's Hospital New Raised Table Top and Pedestrian Crossing - Active Travel Scheme,
Location: Arthur's Quay,
Cost of project: €150,000,
Contractor: Shareridge Ltd.
- Description of project: Condell Road Footpath Scheme (lighting works) - Active Travel Scheme,
Location: Caherdavin,
Cost of project: €80,000,
Contractor: Enerveo / Neville Civil Engineering.
- Description of project: New shared footpath / cycle lane link to the Red Path located at the End of Spring Grove beside Corbally Baths- Active Travel Scheme,
Location – Corbally,
Cost of project - €100,000,
Contractor – Maramba Ltd.
- Description of project: Footpath Upgrade Scheme Lenihan Avenue,
Location: Prospect,
Cost of project: €40,000,
Contractor: Peter Ryan Construction Ltd.

Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

- The March Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale took place on 14 March in Coláiste Chiaráin Secondary School, Croom.
- Essential repairs to social houses and public roads were undertaken by the Housing Maintenance and Roads Maintenance Teams:
 - 76 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
 - 120 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

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Askeaton Undergrounding of Overhead Utilities Project

- Phase 1 works at West Square complete.
- Phase 2 on eastern approach to East Square under construction.

Active Travel

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

Ballycullen Road, Askeaton - footpath works complete.

Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

Meetings and Workshops

- The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock was held in Deebert House Hotel, Kilmallock, on 23 March.
- A Workshop on the Speed Limit Appeals Process was held prior to the Municipal District Meeting.
- A Workshop to propose the General Municipal Allocation (GMA) nominations for 2023 was held on 22 March in Deebert House Hotel, Kilmallock.
- A Workshop to outline a Part 8 Housing Development Proposal for Bruff was held on 09 March in Deebert House Hotel, Kilmallock.

Housing and Road Maintenance

- 93 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
- 138 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

Housing Grants

Seven Private Housing Grants were paid in March, totalling €32,029.25, and 13 were approved.

15 initial inspections and 18 final inspections were undertaken in relation to Private Housing Grants.

Four initial inspections were undertaken in relation to the Disabled Persons Grants.

Road Works

The following General Municipal Allocation (GMA) works were completed:

- Fencing and Landscaping Works at Cois Abhainn Estate, Kilmallock.
- Public Lighting Works at Ardkeilmartin Cemetery.
- Footpath Works in Ardykeohane Estate, Bruff.
- Surfacing of Access to Holycross Soccer Field.
- Public Lighting on R513 to Hospital Tennis Court.

Municipal District of Newcastle West

- The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West took place on 01 March in Áras William Smith O'Brien, Newcastle West.
- On 21 March, German exchange students and teachers from the Schloßgymnasium in Künzelsau, along with students and teachers from Scoil Mhuire agus Íde, Newcastle West, visited Áras William Smith O'Brien to meet the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley.
- 11 grant applications were approved under the Private Housing Grant Schemes during the month. The total value of approvals was €57,885.73.
- Payments of €33,735.50 were made to seven applicants who completed works under the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.

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- Payments of €7,315 were made to one applicant who completed works under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme.
- Payments of €8,200 were made to two applicants who completed works under the Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme.
- During the month, the Motor Tax Section at the Newcastle West Office processed 1,226 routine transactions.



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Planning, Environment & Place-Making Directorate

1. Place-Making and Public Realm

Project Updates

Limerick Public Realm Strategy

An in-person public engagement took place at the Citizen Innovation Lab, Sarsfield Street, on 24 March. Over 30 participants gave detailed views on the future of Limerick City's Public Realm. Over 800 people have engaged in the consultative process to date, including an online survey, stakeholder engagement and in-person engagement.

Tree Planting

- A landscape contractor was appointed to carry out tree planting across the city.
- 28 trees out of a total of 39 trees have been successfully planted as part of the Street Trees Project.
- Tree locations were selected following cross-departmental consultation, and allowed for trees in various locations across Limerick City.
- The project was a joint-initiative, initiated by Place-Making and Public Realm Department and implemented on site by the Parks and Burial Grounds Department. This is funded from the Development Fund 2022.

Capital Projects

58 O'Connell Street

Elected Members approved Part 8 Application for an eight-unit residential scheme at 58 O'Connell Street.

33 and 34 Thomas Street

Elected Members approved Part 8 Application for a 13-unit residential scheme at 33 and 34 Thomas Street.

Flooding

Limerick City and Environs Flood Relief Scheme

- Completed geotechnical investigations of the existing Office of Public Works embankments.
- Geotechnical investigations of the existing private/non-Office of Public Works embankments are 80% complete.
- Public Realm topographical surveys have been finalised.
- Public Realm Draft Strategy complete.
- Initiated a five-year Invasive Species Management Contract for the Scheme area.
- Finished the Defence Asset Condition Survey.
- Started a two-year Ornithology Survey across the Scheme area.

Adare Flood Relief Scheme

- Completed geophysical survey works (archaeology).
- Geotechnical investigations are 90% complete (awaiting final licencing consent from National Monuments Service).
- Storm Sewer Investigation Contract has been completed.
- Commenced Invasive Species treatment in the Scheme area.
- Ecology Surveys were finalised.

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Athea Flood Relief Scheme

- Completed hydraulic model for River Galey, with additional modelling required for Athea East Stream.
- Finalised Hydrology Report.
- Commenced Options Assessment Report.

Castleconnell Flood Relief Scheme

- Completed Hydraulic Report and Flood Maps, which will be incorporated into the Castleconnell Local Area Plan.
- Finalised Hydrology Report.

2. Planning Development

Planning Applications

A total of 103 new planning applications were received as follows:

Category	Amount
Part 8	1
Housing Developments	3
Domestic Developments	67
Agricultural Developments	9
Commercial Developments/ Change of Use	13
Sporting/ Community and Educational Developments	6
Other Developments	4

The current applications include proposals for:

- Construction of a residential development of 41 dwellings comprising 26 semi-detached dwellings, three detached dwellings, 12 terraced dwellings, entrance, access roads, associated parking, foul and surface water drainage infrastructure and all ancillary site works. Outline Planning Permission for an afterschool childcare facility, associated parking and all ancillary site works at Ballyanrahan East, Patrickswell, Co. Limerick.
- Construction of a facility that comprises a number of structures and sports and playing facilities including a two-storey clubhouse/administration building (1,833 sq. metres) to contain a gymnasium, six dressing rooms, treatment rooms, meeting rooms, kitchen, public toilets, storage spaces, hospitality facilities and function room, an indoor training facility (9,206 sq. metres) to contain a synthetic all-weather playing surface, one floodlit fenced outdoor synthetic all-weather playing surface with an end-goal netting system, one fenced outdoor grass training pitch with an end-goal netting system, bike shed and bin store and all ancillary site works, site development works and landscaping to accommodate access works, connections to public services, associated car/coach parking facilities at John Carew Park Link Road, Rosbrien, Co. Limerick.
- Construction of a development comprising 98 residential units, (38 semi-detached houses, 48 terrace houses and 12 duplex units), a crèche, boundary treatments, ancillary surface car parking, bin storage, bike storage, vehicular and pedestrian access to the proposed development onto the N69 and all associated site development works and landscape works on lands at Rathmale, Munget, Limerick.

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3. Environment, Recreation & Climate Change

Cemeteries

Number of Burials in City Cemeteries

Mount St. Lawrence	15
Mount St. Oliver	14
Castlemungret	18
Kilmurry	Nil

Cemetery Works

- The existing footpaths at Lismakeery Graveyard near Askeaton have been completely replaced.
- Damaged sections of the footpaths in Ardagh Graveyard were replaced.
- Stone wall repairs at Cahernorry Graveyard, Cahernorry.
- Stone wall repairs at Athenasey Graveyard in Elton.
- Tree Surgery Works completed in the following Cemeteries:
 - Lisheen Graveyard, Montpellier.
 - Kilmurry (Old), Graveyard, Castletroy.
 - Mt. St Lawrence (New), Cemetery, Limerick City.
 - St. Nicholas (New) Cemetery, Adare.
 - Kilfinane (Old) Graveyard, Kilfinane.
 - Galbally (Old) Graveyard, Galbally.
 - Monagay Graveyard, Monagay, Newcastle West.
 - Grange Graveyard, Grange, Newcastle West.

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

During the month -

- 321 complaints were received.
- A total of 287 inspections were undertaken.
- 183 Warnings were issued.
- 13 Notices were issued.
- 11 Directions were served by the Department.
- One Prosecution was initiated.
- A total of 30 fines were issued.

4. Urban Innovation

Creative Climate Action

In March, Urban Innovation submitted an application to the Creative Climate Action Fund II, in partnership with Limerick Arts Office and a variety of other partners. The application seeks to build on the work completed in 2022 in the Creative Climate project 'Decarbonising Together.' Síolta Glasáa invites seven Limerick community groups identified through an expression of interest to: (i) examine decarbonisation in their communities, (ii) identify an aspect that matters to them (iii) work with a creative partner to explore and enable localised behaviour change. The collaborations support learning and doing together, and use Limerick's Citizen Innovation Lab (CIL) as a collaboration platform to create impact through empowering communities with citizen creativity. Professional creatives and scientists are placed at the core of the process, contributing to a positive cycle of collaboration, which builds capacity in communities, enabling a just transition.

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+CityxChange

On 08 March, members of the +CityxChange Team, which included Limerick City and County Council staff and local Limerick company Gkinetic, held an event in the Citizen Innovation Lab on the deployment of the river turbine in the Shannon as part of the project. Members of the public were updated on the status of planning permission which was approved and on next steps, particularly the foreshore licence process. The future ownership of the river turbine as a community asset owned by a renewable energy community was discussed.

Members of the Team attended a learning and dissemination event in Sestao, Spain, from 26 – 28 March to discuss Energy Communities.

Climate Action Plan

The Minister for the Environment, Climate Action and Communications formally requested that a Climate Action Plan be prepared for Limerick City and County. The plan is to be completed within 12 months. Staff attended training on the preparation of the plan in Castleconnell on 29 March.

Citizen Innovation Lab

On 25 March, students from Technological University of the Shannon (TUS)'s Community Energy Development attended a workshop held by +CityxChange staff. Students learned about the work of the +CityxChange project over the last four years with a particular emphasis on the citizen engagement and participation practices that were implemented, but also on technical aspects such as energy sharing and peer-to-peer trading. The challenges and opportunities of community energy, and the role of communities and the local authority will have in a distributed energy system, were discussed.

5. Veterinary Services

- Seven stray or wandering horses were impounded.
- The Dog Control Unit processed 25 dogs during the month.
- Eleven food samples were submitted for analysis under the National Residues and Microbiological Sampling Programme.



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National and Regional Shared Services Centre Directorate

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

- There were 58,914 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAP SSC at the end of March.
- A weekly average of 164 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2023.
- The March landlord payment run was €55.7 million.
- The weekly tenant charge at the end of March was €3.1 million.
- The Debt Management Unit of the HAP SSC collected a total of €38.9 million in differential rent to end of March.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of March was 99%.
- The Debt Management Unit issued 11,062 HAP debt reminder letters in March.

2. Fire and Emergency

Statistics

	No of Fire Related Calls	No of Non-Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call-outs 01.03.2023 – 31.03.2023	87	59	146
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	66%	50%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	28%	45%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	6%	5%	

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	No. received / assigned	No. validated	No. invalidated / refused	No. granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications March	15	21	0	13	13
Disability Access Cert Applications March	9	11	0	6	6
Licensing Applications March	3		0	5	
Commencement Notice March	43	40	2	0	42
Completion Certificate March	12	9	0	0	9
Planning Referrals March	19	0	0	0	7
Sugar CRM Cases March	8	0	0	2 resolved 5 assigned 1 in progress	0

Fire and Emergency Training Events

During the month, the following training was carried out:

- 95 fire fighters travelled to Bray Fire Station to complete their two-day Breathing Apparatus refresher training.
- 37 fire fighters received Cardiac First Responder – Advanced refresher training.
- 41 fire fighters received Working at Heights training, where new equipment and procedures were introduced.
- 40 fire fighters completed Patient Handling training for the purpose of moving and/or evacuating casualties and patients in emergency or ambulance assistance cases.
- 52 fire fighters travelled to Kilmallock Fire Station to carry out Pump Operator refresher training.
- One officer from Abbeyfeale Fire Station successfully completed the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) Pump Operator Instructor Course.
- On-station training continued as normal.

Health and Safety Excellence Awards

- The Fire Service River Rescue Pontoon Project was shortlisted in the Public Sector category of the Health and Safety Excellence Awards 2023.

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Civil Defence attendance at Events

The following activity took place in March:

- Wexford Hospital - Major Emergency Callout - 1 day.
- Patient Transfer - Limerick Residence to Bon Secours Hospital, Tralee, Co. Kerry - 1 day.
- Ukrainian Displaced Persons Emergency Rest Centre Transfer - 1 day.
- Patient Transfer - Thomondgate, Limerick, to Croom Hospital - 1 day.
- Patient Transfer Monaleen, Limerick, to The Integrated Care Programme for Older Persons (ICPOP) Limerick - 1 day.
- Transfer from Limerick Bike Hub to Mungrange Recycling Centre - 1 day.
- Patient Transfer - Kildimo, Limerick, to University Hospital Limerick - 1 day.
- Voluntary Emergency Services (VES) Seminar, Radisson Blu Hotel, Limerick - 1 day.

Major Emergency Management

- Two Information Management Courses and one Controller of Operations Course were held during the month.

Water Safety

No. of Lifebuoy Replacements	January-February	March	Total 2023
Metropolitan District	1	1	2
Municipal District	1	2	3



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Support Services Directorate

1. Finance

Commercial Rates and Loans

Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2023	
As at 31 March 2023	
Opening Balance - 01 Jan €	5,888,292
Accruals €	64,112,469 **
Vacant Property Adjustment €	131,449
Writes offs/ Waivers €	641,228
Total for Collection €	69,228,084
Amount Collected €	11,056,601
Arrears €	58,171,483
Specific Doubtful Arrears €	1,597,287
% Collected	16%

Debtors Loans	
As at 31 March 2023	
Opening Balance - 01 Jan €	300,639
Accruals €	303,001 ^
Writes offs €	-
To Collect €	603,640
Receipts €	491,402
Arrears €	112,238
% Collected	81%

^ Accruals not updated for loans for March 2023

** The Date for Making the 2023 Rate was 02 February 2023

Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No. of days in overdraft 0

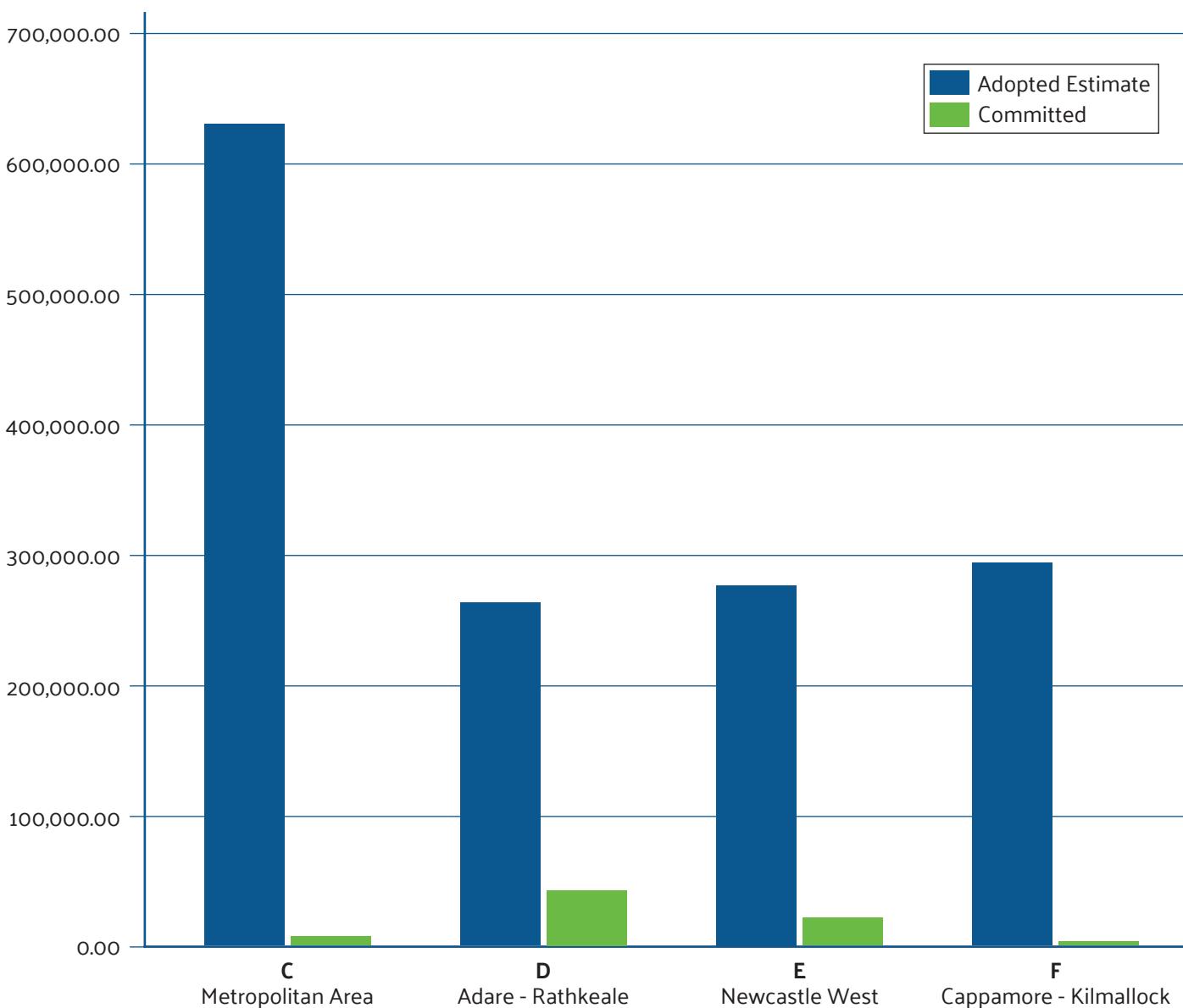
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General Municipal Allocation 2023 Adopted Estimate €1.463 Million

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



Municip (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate (€)	Value Committed (€)
C Metropolitan Area	628,000.00	8,259
D Adare - Rathkeale	269,500.00	44,135
E Newcastle West	270,500.00	22,990
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	295,000.00	3,231

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2. Business Improvement

- Staff Liaison Network Meeting was held in person on 21 March.
- Rates payments are now live on <https://payments.limerick.ie/>
- MyPoint Survey/Application form training was provided on 09 March.
- Cyber training was completed by the Business Improvement Team.
- A total of 921 active users are now live on the Employee App.
- Services on Service Catalogue = 703.
- There are 376 capital projects now managed through Cora, our cloud-based project management system.

3. Corporate, Governance and Customer Services

Office of the Mayor

Mayoral Reception was held for the following:

- West End Youth Centre at Our Lady of Lourdes, in recognition of their achievement in winning the National Pride of Place Community Award 2022 in the Community-Led Youth Initiative Category.
- Limerick Celtics Basketball Club U18 Men's Team, in recognition of their achievement in winning the Billy Coffey National Cup Final 2023.

The Mayor hosted the following in Corporate Headquarters in March:

- Courtesy Visit of the Estonian Ambassador to Ireland.

The office of the Mayor co-ordinated and arranged for the Mayor to attend the following functions/events during month of March:

- Children's Book Launch, collection of stories 'Story Seeds: Adventures Across Limerick and Beyond,' at Thomond Park, Limerick.
- Reception to celebrate Dr. Charles (Chuck) Feeney contribution and generosity to the University of Limerick.
- Book Launch 'By the Left, Quick March, Limerick's Marching Band Tradition' By Derek Mulcahy at Limerick City and County Council, Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay, Limerick. Before the launch, a short parade and performance by Limerick city bands took place at Merchant's Quay.
- Shared Island Event, The Launch of the Economic and Social Research Institute new Shared Island report 'Comparing migrant integration in Ireland and Northern Ireland' at the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.
- University of Limerick (UL) anniversary celebrations, planting an avenue of 50 trees, by a different section of the campus community, to leave a permanent legacy of UL Jubilee Year.
- Visited the following national schools:-
 - Athea National School, Athea, Co. Limerick.
 - Killoughteen National School, Killoughteen, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.
 - Dromtrasna National School, Dromtrasna, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.
 - Mountcollins National School, Caherlevoy, Mountcollins, Co. Limerick.
 - Scoil Mháthair Dé, Convent Street, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.
 - St. Mary's Boys' National School, Church Street, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.
 - Knocknasna National School, Knocknasna, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.

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- Templeglantine National School, Templeglantine, Co. Limerick.
- Tournafulla National School, Glengurt, Tournafulla, Co. Limerick.
- Meenkilly National School, Meenkilly, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.
- UL Global, TUS (Technological University of the Shannon) and Mary Immaculate College, Launch of Diversity Photo Exhibition, Muintir. Photo Exhibition as part of the Global Festival to celebrate the diversity of international students studying in Limerick at the Limerick School of Art and Design, Clare Street, Dublin Road, Limerick.
- Welcome Maltese Delegation to Merchant's Quay, who are inspired by Limerick Regeneration Projects, and visited Limerick to learn about social and economic initiatives in Regeneration areas.
- LEO Limerick, trophy award ceremony for the four finalists of the Local Enterprise Office Limerick National Enterprise Awards at The Engine, Cecil Street, Limerick.
- Launch of the Inaugural TUS Strategic Plan 2023-2026 at the Millennium Theatre, Moylish Campus, Limerick.
- Launch of the Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival 2023 at Istabraq Hall, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Launch event for the World Archery Youth Championships 2023 at Plassey House, University of Limerick, Limerick.
- Commemorate National Flag Day with a flag raising ceremony at Laurel Hill Coláiste FCI, Laurel Hill Avenue, South Circular Road, Limerick.
- Opening of 'Life and Legacy of St. Patrick,' an exhibition to mark St. Patrick's Day, in the Limerick Museum, Old Franciscan Friary, Henry Street, Limerick.
- 12 Infantry Battalion and Sarsfield Barracks, Limerick, St. Patrick's Day Mass in The Garrison Church, Sarsfield Barracks, Limerick.
- View St. Patrick's Day Parade at the Grandstand on Henry Street, Limerick.
- View the 51st Limerick International Band Championship at the Grandstand on Henry Street followed by presentation of trophies at the Jamboree at Arthur's Quay.
- Meet and greet German students visiting from Schlossgymnasium in Kunzelsau at Áras William Smith O'Brien, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.
- The unveiling of a commemorative plaque of James D. Bourchier at Bruff Post Office, Bruff, Co. Limerick.
- Official Launch of three public drinking water fountains at Lough Gur Nature Park, the Milk Market in Limerick City and the Newcastle West Demesne.
- Book Launch for UL50 project titled DREAMS: Fifty Years of Creativity, Culture and Community at the University of Limerick. Book presents fifty contributions from or about people associated with the University at Plassey House, University of Limerick.
- Launch of the Moldovan National Costumes Exhibition at the Hunt Museum, Limerick.
- Construction Industry Federation (CIF) Mid West Construction Dinner at the Strand Hotel, Limerick.
- Limerick Early Music Festival, opening choral concert, Roots and Branches: Music of the Bach Family Tree at St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick.
- United Rugby Championship match Munster v Glasgow at Thomond Park, Limerick.
- Announcement that Eli Lilly, the US bio-pharma company, is to increase its investment of nearly \$1 billion at its new medical manufacturing facility in Raheen, Limerick.
- Launch of Limerick Musical Society, Titanic, at South's Bar, Limerick.

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- Launch of NOVAS Art Studio for clients in Brother Russell House, Mulgrave Street, Limerick. The Art Studio is a dedicated art space for clients that was funded through a partnership between Cook Medical and NOVAS.
- Visit from Katelyn Ryan, Scoil Uí Ruairc, and Kate Phelan, Flynn O’Kane Academy of Dance, participants in the World Irish Dancing Championship 2023 in Montreal, Canada.
- Wild Atlantic Alliance - Formal Opening of the Inaugural Research and Teaching Symposium on board L’Armorique, a Brittany Ferries’ Ship that connects Roscoff and Cork at Cork Harbour (Ringaskiddy Ferry Port).
- The Official Transfer of Lough Gur Visitor Centre from Lough Gur Development to Discover Limerick DAC at Lough Gur Visitor Centre, Lough Gur, Co. Limerick.
- Sod turning event to mark the construction of the new state-of-the-art Uisce Éireann National Laboratory in Ballysimon, Limerick.
- Centenary AGM for the Irish Council of Churches at St. Mary’s Cathedral, Limerick.
- Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at the University of Limerick, in partnership with Doras Luimní, Irish World Music Café, social and cultural event where new migrants can meet other people living in Ireland at UL City Campus.
- Official Launch of the Safe Routes to School at Gaelscoil Sáirséal, Shelbourne Road, Limerick.
- Official Opening of the inaugural One-Zero Sports Tech Conference ‘Where Sports, Business and Technology Collide’ to show the best in sports technology at The Engine Collaboration Centre, Cecil Street, Limerick.
- Attendance at the Annual Queens County St. Patrick’s Day Parade, Rockaway Beach, Queens, New York.

- Attendance at the Annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Savannah, Georgia.
- Attendance at the Annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade New York City 2023.
- The Mayor travelled to Los Angeles, USA, for the announcement that Limerick had been chosen to host Cineposium, AFCI’s (Association of Film Commissioners International) 2023 Global Film Industry Summit in September 2023.

Register of Electors

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

- Additions to the Electoral Register – 112
- Deletions from the Electoral Register – 79
- Modifications to the Electoral Register – 83
- 159 requests were received through the updated checktheegister.ie website for updating details of electors.

The Register Team published a copy of the Rolling Register at 10 March and distributed copies to Elected Members and Local TDs and Senators.

Registers were distributed by staff to Local Area Offices and Libraries. New Application Forms and Marketing material was also distributed.

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Health and Safety Training

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

Course Name	Numbers Trained
Safe Pass	19
Drivers' Certificate of Professional Competence Training	41
Fire Warden	15
First Aid Response	2
Working at Heights	9
Abrasive Wheels	45
Manual Handling	47
Institute of Occupational Safety and Health - Managing Safety in Construction	10
Total Staff Trained	188

Month	Approved	Rejected	Total Requisitions Actioned
March	1,537	174	1,711

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

Rejection Reason	March
Procurement Reference - omitted/incorrect	48
Memo - Requisition not raised in advance	38
Quotes - omitted/incorrect copy provided	18
Quotation Form - incomplete/unsigned/missing	18
Justification for Supplier Selection - omitted/insufficient detail	13

Procurement Department

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

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

New Procurement References set up	51
Procurement References extended as per signed contract/arrangement	16

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

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Schedule of Meetings for March

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Full Council Bi-Monthly Meeting of Limerick City and County Council	27.03.2023	Dooradoyle and Online
Operational Briefings Limerick City East Limerick City North Limerick City West	07.03.2023 07.03.2023 08.03.2023	Merchant's Quay and Online Merchant's Quay and Online Merchant's Quay and Online
Municipal District of Newcastle West Monthly Meeting	01.03.2023	Newcastle West
Adare-Rathkeale Monthly Meeting	14.03.2023	Coláiste Chiaráin, Croom
Cappamore-Kilmallock Monthly Meeting	23.03.2023	Deebert House Hotel, Kilmallock
Metropolitan District of Limerick Monthly Meeting	20.03.2023	Dooradoyle and Online
Joint Policing Committee Meeting	03.03.2023	Dooradoyle and Online
Audit and Risk Committee Meeting	03.03.2023	Newcastle West and Online
Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Meeting	07.03.2023	Dooradoyle
Corporate Policy Group Meeting	20.03.2023	Online
Party Leaders' Meeting	24.03.2023	Online
Protocol Committee Meeting	24.03.2023	Online
Housing Action Plan Monitoring Group Meeting	28.03.2023	Merchant's Quay and Online
Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee Meeting	31.03.2023	Dooradoyle

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Access to Information

	March	2023 (January to March)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	13	41
Freedom of Information Internal Appeals	0	1
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	0
Total Ombudsman Requests	6	16
Total Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) Requests	5	9

Customer Services

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

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

- Customer Services Call Centre answered 11,359 calls. This represents an average of 516 per day, with the number of calls reaching as high as 591. 70% of calls were handled at first point of contact.
- A total of 3,206 emails were processed through the Customer Services email platform.
- 3,187 cases were created, with 753 of these logged

on behalf of Public Representatives. 2,992 cases were closed, with 618 of these being cases logged by Public Representatives.

- Of these 3,187 cases, Customer Services staff logged 68% of same.
- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued, with a total of 286 cases being logged. Of these, 254 were submitted by Public Representatives.
- Customer Services continued to support the Housing Maintenance Department in creating service requests, with 87% of Housing Maintenance cases for the Limerick Metropolitan District being logged by Customer Services staff in the Dooradoyle and Merchant's Quay Offices.
- A total of 106 out-of-hours cases were created.
- Customer Services continued to provide other frontline services to the general public, such as processing applications for Residential Parking Permits, of which 79 were applied for and 61 issued.
- Customer Services staff welcomed a total of 2,273 customers at both the Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle offices.

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4. Marketing & Communications

Marketing

Limerick St. Patrick's Festival 2023

- Managed a three-week multimedia marketing campaign up to 19 March across social, digital, radio and print media targeting local and regional audiences.
- Coordinated three social media competitions to increase awareness, engage audiences and promote local businesses.
- Issued Limerick St. Patrick's Festival kits to a number of high profile Limerick personalities with the aim of reaching wider audiences. The initiative proved successful with many key personalities promoting Limerick St. Patrick's Festival on their social media platform. Limerick St. Patrick's Festival also featured on Today FM's Dermot and Dave Show as a result of the initiative.
- Provided live social coverage of events across the three-day festival from 17 to 19 March.
- Commissioned festival photography and videography for future promotion.
- Limerick's St. Patrick's Day parade featured on RTÉ News and Virgin Media News, while Limerick International Band Championship featured stateside with coverage on KOKO 5 Oklahoma City News, Fox 23, Ponca City Now and KOKH, USA.

Other Marketing Activities

- Developed and produced Discover Limerick Activity Pack containing a series of fun and engaging Limerick-themed activities. The bespoke pack invites mini-explorers to discover Limerick in their own way on the Limerick City scavenger hunt, 'Limerick International Band Championship style' spot the difference, and a mindfulness colouring Lough Gur scene.
- Commenced campaign development for Riverfest Limerick ahead of the launch.
- Supported UL Global at the University of Limerick in its Spring Global Festival.
- Supported our Corporate Services colleagues in the development of collateral for the Limerick Women's Caucus.
- Supported our Tourism colleagues in the production of a Discover Limerick DAC logo.
- Continued engagement with the cross-departmental Ryder Cup committee.
- Managed a 'Springtime in Limerick' promotion, with dedicated content created for [Limerick.ie](#) and our social channels. Advertising and editorial secured for Spring Staycation supplement with the Irish Times and the Irish Examiner in both print and digital formats. Radio slot on the Today programme with the Head of Marketing and Communications to discuss the promotion and press release circulated to media regarding same.
- Revised version of Limerick Invest brochure printed and digital version now also available.
- Branded merchandise provided to Maltese delegation, St. Patrick's Day delegations to the US, German delegation visit to Adare, One Zero event organisers and VIPs.
- Continued engagement with stakeholders across Tourism, Business and Education pillars. Pillar representative groups met with our Strategic and Creative partners, M&C Saatchi, to discuss the development of the next phase of the Brand Limerick strategy.
- Dedicated Brand Limerick hoarding, for installation at the Opera Site, now finalised.

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- Submitted an awards application for the Social Media Awards 2023 (Sockies) for the Limerick 11 Tourism promotion campaign.
- Engaged third level students to collaborate with on a spring Limerick Student City social media campaign.
- Created and issued five Limerick.ie e-newsletters.

Social Media

- Continued to monitor, schedule and update social media channels with creative content to utilise our engagement with the public and put Limerick in people's minds.

Limerick.ie

In March, there were 197,215* unique site visits to Limerick. ie, a 14% increase on the same period in 2022. (*Fathom Analytics)

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

- www.limerick.ie/stpatricksfestival
- www.limerick.ie
- www.limerick.ie/discover/whats-on/festivals/limerickst-patricks-day-parade
- www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning
- www.limerick.ie/stpatricksfestival/limerick-international-band-championship

Content Report: 111 articles and 356 events were added to Limerick.ie in March.

Communications

Issued 36 news releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and researched and wrote 22 speeches for the Office of the Mayor.

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

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5. Munster Regional Communications Centre

	No of Calls mobilised to an emergency incident by MRCC	Other Calls	Average call processing time in minutes and seconds	Total No. of calls in March
No. of call-outs 01.03.2023 – 31.03.2023	929	243	102.79	1,172

