

# Chief Executive's Report

April 2023

Eli Lilly Double Limerick Investment to €1 Billion

Riverfest Makes a Splash with Tens of Thousands of Festival Fans

Limerick Women's Caucus Inspire at Embrace Empower Elect Event

Moyross Embraces Limerick Jobs Fair with 200 Attendees

Tonnes of Litter Collected for TLC8 as Good Friday Clean-Up Grows in Popularity

Pilot Dockless Bike Scheme Rolls Out in Castletroy

# Chief Executive's Report



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

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## Economic Development and Enterprise Directorate

### 1. Trade & Investment

#### Jobs and Investments

Eli Lilly and Co. announced it is to double its investment in Limerick to \$1 billion (€927 million) with the development of a medicine manufacturing site, which it said would deliver almost 1,500 new jobs. Lilly said it would increase the amount of money it is putting into the plant and as a result 1,200 temporary construction jobs would now be created, up from a previous estimate of 500.

#### The Future of Retail Seminar

The Future of Retail Seminar, hosted by Limerick City and County Council and Retail Excellence Ireland, was held on 27 April at the Strand Hotel in Limerick City. The event brought together retailers, landlords, and developers of retail units from across the county to discuss the future of the retail sector.

One of the keynote speakers at the event was Retail Futurist, Matthew Brown, the founder of Echochamber, a creative research agency that tracks global retail trends. As a Retail Trend Futurist, Matthew has travelled the world to seek out the latest in retail innovation and consumer trends. He shared his insights on the latest retail trends and how they will shape the future of the sector. Matthew's presentation was well received by the attendees, who were eager to learn about the latest retail innovations and how they could apply them to their own businesses.

The Director of Economic Development and Enterprise also spoke at the seminar, outlining all key developments and investments taking place in the city geared towards increasing the workforce and residents in the city centre. This was an important discussion, as the success of the retail sector is often closely tied to the overall health of the local economy.

The seminar also featured a panel made up of highly successful industry leaders, including Evelyn Moynihan, CEO of the Kilkenny Group, Duncan Graham of Retail Excellence, and Matthew Brown. The panel discussed the changes in the retail sector and shared their thoughts on how retailers can adapt to meet the changing needs of consumers. Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and engage in a lively discussion with the panel.

The Future of Retail Seminar was an important event for the retail sector in Limerick as it provided attendees with valuable insights into the latest retail trends and how they can be applied to their businesses. The event also served as a platform for industry leaders to share their thoughts and engage in meaningful discussions about the future of the sector.

In conclusion, the Future of Retail Seminar was a great success, bringing together key stakeholders in the retail sector to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing the industry. With the insights and knowledge gained from the seminar, attendees will be better equipped to navigate the changing landscape of the retail sector and ensure the long-term success of their businesses.

#### International Relations

In April, the Mayor of New Brunswick City, New Jersey, Jim Cahill, visited Limerick. The purpose of the visit was to strengthen the relationship between the two cities and explore opportunities for collaboration in areas such as economic development, education, and tourism.

During his visit, Mayor Cahill met with elected representatives, business and education leaders, and community members. He also attended a number of cultural events and visited several historical sites around the city and county.

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One of the highlights of the visit was a Mayoral reception, hosted by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, to acknowledge the sister cities partnership between the city of New Brunswick and Limerick which was signed in April 1999. The Sister Cities agreement formalises the commitment of both cities to work together and share knowledge and resources to promote economic growth and cultural exchange.

Overall, the visit was seen as a success and a positive step forward in strengthening the ties between New Brunswick and Limerick.

## 2. Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

### Funding Approved

- One Technical Assistance Grant for Micro Entrepreneurs was approved.
- Five businesses were approved a Trading Online Voucher.

### Several Workshops and Webinars were held during April:

- Researching Your Business Idea Workshop
- Business Planning Workshop
- Start Your Own Business Workshop
- Trading Online Webinar
- Introduction to Tendering – Winning Work through Public Tenders
- Time Management for Busy People Workshop
- Export Programme Spring 2023
- April Meet-Up; Six Steps to engaging effectively in Business Webinar
- Business Advice Clinics

There were 122 participants on the LEO Business Training Workshops and five Business Owners were approved for the LEO Mentoring programme in April.

## 3. Innovate Limerick

Innovate Limerick and Engine Hubs hosted a Limerick Hubs Showcase Day on 26 April. This event was held to highlight five of the 19 Hubs in the Engine Hubs Network, and the benefits of moving business to their locality. The event was held in conjunction with Digital AEC, of which Innovate Limerick is a national pilot project partner. Showcase Day was supported by the Government's Connected Hubs Initiative, which is a national campaign promoting remote work.

### FILM IN LIMERICK

Innovate Limerick, through Film in Limerick, received a nomination for a Global Film Award in the Emerging Location category. The shortlist for the inaugural Global Production Awards, which celebrates outstanding and sustainable work in the world of film and TV production, locations and studios, was unveiled by Screen International.

Variety magazine, the weekly entertainment publication has been confirmed as the official international media partner for Cineposium: Limerick.

### Film in Limerick Film and TV Crew Academy

Our Film and TV Crew Academy delivered three training courses in April and six work placements on productions in the Mid-West:

- **Generator Course** - a City and Guilds accredited course for temporary power systems. This course ensures industry professionals can keep up to date with changes to standards and safety.
- **Travel and Accommodation Coordinating Course**: This course focused on small and large scale, local and international needs for moving cast, crew and execs. Templates to make the work flow easier were shared with participants.

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- **Lighting for Feature Films Course:** with Chief Lighting Technician, Mo Flam (I am Legend, English Patient). This hands-on practical workshop helped participants to understand the variety of ways to light actors and sets in various locations.

## Work Placements

The six work placements were placed across local TV productions – Hidden Assets and Blackshore. Placements had the opportunity to work in various departments, including Production, Assistant Director, Lighting and Camera.

## Film in Limerick Reception at Catalyst Film Festival

Film in Limerick partnered with Catalyst Film Festival to hold a reception during the recent festival at the Belltable. Several Film in Limerick Engine Short films were also screened at the festival and four Engine films received awards:

## Film in Limerick - Da Pictures Podcast - Series 1

Our new Podcast Series, Da Pictures, in association with Wired FM and with support from Screen Ireland, is now available to listen to on Spotify. All 10 episodes are now available online featuring interviews with the local film community and inspiration for aspiring filmmakers who are interested in working in Film and TV. The series is hosted by Wired FM / Mary Immaculate College students and has a particular focus on diversity in the screen industries.

## Engine Short Film Scheme

The 12 short-listed projects for our short film scheme received further training in April to develop their projects and also received continuing support to complete their teams.

## Local Productions

Hidden Assets, Season 2, wrapped filming in Limerick and Clare in April. 'Blackshore,' from the makers of 'Smother,' continued to film in Clare and Tipperary. Film in Limerick

assisted in bringing both series to the region and provided help in securing locations and crew with local support on the ground during pre-production and filming. In April, Film in Limerick assisted several productions with scouting tours of the region.

## 4. Forward Planning

- The Draft Abbeyfeale Local Area Plan was finalised and placed on public display on 15 April for a six-week period. A public consultation event was also held on the evening of 27 April in Abbeyfeale.
- The Caherconlish Local Area Plan 2023-2029 was adopted by the Elected Members at a meeting of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock on 20 April.
- The Castleconnell Local Area Plan 2023-2029 was adopted by the Elected Members at a meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick on 17 April.
- The Chief Executive's Report was prepared and issued to the Elected Members for their consideration on the proposed Variation No. 1 to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, consisting of changes to the text in Chapter 7 to provide clarification regarding access to substandard roads.
- The Forward Planning Team visited the Transition Year students in Scoil Mhuire agus Íde, Newcastle West, to undertake consultation to inform the preparation of the Newcastle West Local Area Plan.

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## 5. Digital Services

Limerick City and County Council is to form a partnership with the University of Limerick in its Research at Immersive Software Engineering (R@ise) programme. The Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris, TD, announced a €3.57 million investment on 05 April in a University of Limerick-led research project investigating low-code/no-code approaches in software engineering. This approach allows developers to design applications with no to minimum knowledge of coding, for solutions in data management, privacy and security. In recent years, Digital Services has been building out Limerick City and County Council's digital capabilities as a service provider for our citizens. As Limerick City and County Council expands its digital services, the insights we will gain from R@ise's low code no code approach will be invaluable.

## 6. Limerick Twenty Thirty

### Opera Square

#### Progress Update

- Sisk progressing well with the Basement contract. Three piling rigs have mobilised onsite with both the piling guide wall and piling installation works progressing.
- Design Development: Library, Four Opera Square, Public Realm, and 4 and 5 Rutland Street. In addition, 14-storey Office of Public Works building is now complete with Stage 3 packs issued to Limerick City and County Council in April. Limerick Twenty Thirty (LTT) assisting Limerick City and County Council with library funding application.
- Planning - An Bord Pleanála issued a request to submit an updated Environmental Impact Assessment Report for 14-storey building and Library. The report was drafted in April.

### Project Communications Update

- Phase Two of hoarding was installed at Opera Square featuring CGIs (computer generated imagery) of the development, showcasing how it will look once complete. LTT collaborated with both Limerick City and County Council and Limerick School of Art and Design, TUS, on this phase.
- A Brand Limerick installation of Atlantic Edge, European Embrace features along Ellen Street.
- An interactive installation by Third Year LSAD Graphic Design and Motion Graphic students spans the length of Michael Street. The artwork images can be animated and brought to life through the Artivive mobile application.
- LTT was proud sponsor of the Catherine Hayes Gala Concert at St. Mary's Cathedral on 27 April. The concert featured sopranos, Jean Wallace and Amy Hewitt, accompanied by pianist, Irina Dernova. The MC on the night was Liz Nolan of RTÉ Lyric FM. The concert celebrated the life and work of Limerick born, world renowned Soprano, Catherine Hayes, who once resided at 4 Patrick Street and was the muse for the naming of LTT's Opera Square. Hayes was a Prima Donna of her time who, in her lifetime, met such historical figures as famous tenor and singing teacher, Manual Garcia, virtuosic pianist and Hungarian composer, Franz Liszt, Queen Victoria, and Giuseppe Verdi. She was a proud Limerick woman, known throughout the world for her talents.

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## Cleeves Riverside Quarter

### Progress Update

- Preparation for the Expression of Interest commenced in April. A draft report on options for engaging with the market and development partners for the Development Zones at Cleeves Riverside Quarter has been prepared. Options that allow expressions of interest for five separate lots are under review.
- A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed and signed between Limerick Twenty Thirty and TUS, initially their requirement is for 10,000 sq.m (107,000 sq. ft).

### Project Communications Update

- The draft Masterplan was presented to several key stakeholders and the public for Cleeves Riverside Quarter. The Masterplan focuses on expediting delivery of residential units, and public realm at the Flaxmill site, ensuring utilisation of the €34.5m Urban Regeneration and Development Fund grant. The public information boards were moved to Gardens International, accessible to members of the public who could not make the public engagement sessions. Submissions on the draft Masterplan were received by LTT until 5 p.m. on 14 April by email, online form and by post. Over 60 submissions were received from the public and stakeholder groups and the LTT team has since acknowledged and collated the feedback for review by the Project Team.

### General LTT Communications Update

- LTT representatives also attended the Jobs Fair in Moyross with John Sisk and Son - the initiative helps people get into work or training.
- LTT also presented to the Environmental, Social, & Governance (ESG) Committee of 'Irish Institutional Property' (IIP) on Circular Economy at Opera Square. The IIP is the voice of institutionally financed investors with significant international backing in the Irish real estate market.



The Mayor of New Brunswick, Mr James M. Cahill, and his delegation, were welcomed for a tour of Gardens International and the Sixth Class students of Scoil Íde, Corbally, visited Cleeves Riverside Quarter in April.

The Vault at Gardens International was promoted in April for meeting and events bookings. Requests can be submitted to [gardens@limerick2030.ie](mailto:gardens@limerick2030.ie) or 061-517430.

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## Transportation & Mobility Directorate

### 1. Travel and Transportation Strategy

A meeting of the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee took place in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle, and Online, on 18 April. The agenda for this meeting was as follows:

- Minutes: To adopt the draft minutes of the Meeting of the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee held on 21 February.
- A Presentation on Universal Access Awareness Project by Step Forward Disability Group.
- A Presentation on World Class Waterfront Urban Regeneration and Development Fund Scheme - Strand 3 – Pedestrian Bridges and Waterfront Infrastructure Works by the Place-Making and Public Realm Team.
- A BusConnects Programme Update by the National Transport Authority

The pilot dockless shared bicycle scheme was launched in Castletroy on 03 April and officially commenced on 12 April. Operated by Nextbike by Tier, the scheme offers electric bicycles as well as push bicycles which can be parked in marked bays or at selected existing bike stands throughout the Castletroy area, as well as at Colbert Bus and Rail Station and Locke Quay in the City.

### Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road Project

Contractor BAM Civil Ltd., under the supervision of MRG/ROD Consulting Engineers, has successfully completed works on Ballygrennan Railway Overbridge.

### 2. Active Travel

#### Projects

##### Metropolitan District of Limerick

**Hyde Road:** Works ongoing on site - works now approximately 75% complete.

**Ennis Road Cycle Scheme:** Options Report complete and currently being reviewed.

**Childers Road (Greenpark to Roxboro Road Roundabout):** Construction tender being finalised.

**Brookville Avenue, Ennis Road:** Additional civil works required at Ivan's Cross. Cycle lane segregation installation to continue once civil works are complete.

**Bike Parking:** Currently compiling a list of potential sites for bike parking in 2023.

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

**TUS Moylish to City Centre:** Engineering drawings to be locked in.

**Patrickswell:** Works ongoing.

##### Municipal District of Cappamore-Killmallock

**Gotoon Bridge, Killmallock, and Millennium Bridge, Caherconlish:** Consideration of option development underway.

**Cappamore and Doon Public Realm:** Progress meeting postponed and to be rescheduled.

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## Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

**Blackabbey Road, Adare:** Draft drawings being reviewed and Part 8 to be progressed.

**Station Road, Askeaton:** Design to be finalised for Section 38.

- A non-statutory public consultation event was held in the Citizen Innovation Lab on 26 April on the Wickham Street-Clare Street Scheme. A press release was distributed to local media, with the Senior Engineer conducting an interview with Live 95 on the event.
- A Press release was distributed on the National Transport Authority's Walking and Cycling Index taking place in Limerick for the first time this year.
- Twitter and LinkedIn updates were posted on the following schemes: Wickham Street-Clare Street, Patrickswell Village Renewal Scheme, and feedback on footpaths outside Scoil An Spioraid Naoimh, Roxboro.



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## Community, Tourism & Culture Directorate

### 1. Urban & Rural Community Development

#### Public Participation Network (PPN) Limerick

- Membership of the PPN continues to grow and stands at 190. The membership registration form is on the Limerick PPN [website](#) and eligible groups in Limerick can register at any time.
- Limerick PPN held a Plenary Meeting in April – the first of its two annual member meetings.

#### Healthy Limerick

- Health and Wellbeing activities have been organised for Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP) across Limerick City and County. These activities are funded by the Healthy Ireland Ukrainian Refugee Fund. Classes have been very popular in certain locations, including the Pery Hotel, Castleconnell and Kilmallock with great numbers of children and adults participating.
- A day trip for Ukrainians to the Cliffs of Moher and Lahinch was organised over the Easter break. 120 individuals travelled from various sites across Limerick with a large concentration of people from Clarina.

#### Team Limerick Clean-Up

- In its eighth year, Team Limerick Clean-Up (TLC) took place on Good Friday, 14th April.
- There has been a growth in popularity as even more people took part, with over 21,500 participants and an increase of schools and businesses getting involved. This included over 250 Ukrainians who volunteered on the day.

- TLC provided 265 individual litter collection points across the City and County on Good Friday where bagged and tied litter was collected.
- 59 tonnes of litter was collected by volunteers, which would equates to approximately 2,400 household wheelie bins of rubbish, and is slightly less than last year.
- Bags of illegal dumping waste, bulky waste such as tyres and illegal fly tipping waste dumped, was cleaned up by Limerick City and County Council as part of the TLC over the weekend that followed.
- A waste characterisation study has been commissioned to quantify the types of waste collected and this will assist in giving a better understanding of how to help prevent litter in the future.

### 2. Tourism

#### LIMERICK GREENWAY

##### Limerick Greenway Marketing and Promotion

- Limerick Greenway's marketing campaign continued throughout April and included the following:
  - Our Co-Op students volunteered to cycle/walk Limerick Greenway and visit Newcastle West as part of the Spring Photoshoot and videos.
  - We had the pleasure of hosting award winning travel journalist, radio and TV presenter, Ed Finn, onto Limerick Greenway and look forward to seeing the results of his trip to Limerick City and County.

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## Limerick Greenway's social media campaign included the following:

- Celebrating National Walking Day and the accessibility of Limerick Greenway.
- Provided updates throughout the month on the current closures due to improvement works and the construction and completion of under/overpasses.
- Easter Promotion of Limerick Greenway as accessible to all - cyclists, dog walkers and those of all abilities.
- Garden Month and Tullig Wood.
- Happy Earth Day.

## Greenway Data Collection Project

Repucon Consulting have been appointed Consultants for a new data collection project for Limerick Greenway, with surveys to be undertaken of Greenway users, local communities and business to gather data and insight on the impact of this amenity.

## Greenway Biodiversity Project

JBA Consulting completed their final survey on Spring flora on Limerick Greenway. This will form part of a Biodiversity Plan for the Greenway to include an action plan and standard operating procedures for maintenance staff. JBA have identified an important species-rich Orchid habitat as part of their surveys, on the route between Rathkeale and Ardagh.

## DISCOVER LIMERICK TOURISM PROMOTION

Springboard Communications have been appointed as Consultants to develop and roll out a marketing campaign to launch a new sightseeing pass for Limerick called the Discover Limerick PASS, and this will be advertised in tandem with other Limerick promotional campaigns.

A new online ordering system has been established by Glance and is funded by Limerick City and County Council. This will allow tourism trade and businesses to order brochures, guides and maps to be delivered to their businesses free of charge. Available to order here: <https://glance.ie/lmk/>

## TOURISM INDUSTRY AND TRADE EVENTS

- The Tourism Department attended the Irish Hotels Federation Midwest Ball in April.
- The Tourism Officer gave a guest lecture to students of Business and Tourism at Griffith College on 18 April.
- The Tourism Department attended the Tourism and Recreation Community Consultation in Adare for the Leader Programme as part of the Council's public stakeholder engagement programme.

## 3. Arts Office

### OPEN CALLS FOR BURSARIES

#### Individual Arts, Dolores O'Riordan Music, and Theatre Bursaries Open Call

Individual Arts, Dolores O'Riordan Music, and Theatre Bursaries Open Call opened on 26 April inviting applications from professional artists who wished to be considered for a Bursary of up to €4,000 for Individual Arts and Dolores O'Riordan Music, and €5,000 for Theatre for the development of work/professional skills. Artists based in the administrative area of Limerick City and County Council, or operating substantially within Limerick City and County, are eligible to apply for a Bursary in any art form, including Visual Arts, Circus, Dance and Literature, Theatre and Music.

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## Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts Scheme 2023

Limerick Arts Office manages 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 April, one letter of support was issued.

## CREATIVE IRELAND

### Cruinníu na nÓg 2023

Cruinníu na nÓg is a national initiative that celebrates and encourages participation in culture and creativity through performance, theatre, art and music workshops, readings, screenings, special events and much more. Cruinníu na nÓg is a flagship initiative funded by Creative Ireland Programme's Creative Youth Plan to enable the creative potential of children and young people. All events are free of charge, child-centred and activity-based. It is a day for lots of doing, making and creating. The deadline for uploading all programme to the Creative Ireland portal was 28 April.

### Creative Ireland Made in Limerick Grants Open Call 2023

The Creative Ireland Made in Limerick Grants Scheme is offered as part of the Limerick Creative Ireland Programme to deliver activities taking place in 2023. This Grants Scheme consists of three strands: Strand 1. Professional, Collective or Organisation, Strand 2. Community Groups, of place or interest and Strand 3. Cultural or heritage organisations. Fifteen applications were awarded the Creative Ireland Made in Limerick Grants 2023. Letters and Grant Agreements issued in April.

### Creativity in Older Age Application

The Creative Ireland Programme developed and implemented the Creativity in Older Age Scheme in 2020 to support specific creative initiatives to support positive ageing and wellbeing programmes for older people, taking account of public health guidance in the community and for healthcare facilities. This initiative has run yearly since its inception and has been renewed for 2023.

Limerick Arts Office prepared an application in partnership with Clare County Council, Tipperary County Council, Health Service Executive (HSE) and Music and Health Ireland. The application was submitted on 12 April to Creative Ireland.

### Restorative Justice, Research and Development - Creative Ireland Strategy and Legacy Project

This is a partnership project with Limerick Children & Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC), Le Chéile Mentoring, Probation Service, Limerick Arts Office and Mary Immaculate College. A mentor has been engaged to support pre-development work for a theatrical production that can capture experiences of Restorative Justice, a means of responding to criminal behaviour by balancing the needs of the community, the victim, and the offender. A Steering Group Meeting was held on 25 April.

### Embedding the Creative Community in the fabric of Limerick's Historic District - Creative Ireland Strategic and Legacy Project

Work began on the Toll Cottages, a Creative Ireland Strategic and Legacy Project to complete a graphic mural project at the Toll Cottages on King's Island, with Limerick City and County Council Arts Office, Placemaking and Public Realm, and Property Departments and Limerick School of Art and Design, TUS (Technological University of the Shannon).

This project will focus on celebrating the local area of King's Island. The aim of this project is to creatively enrich the visual façade and area in front of the Toll cottages. This type of creative intervention has been shown to positively affect social wellbeing and make the potential for economic growth more tangible.

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## ARTS COUNCIL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT PROGRAMME

### Poetry Day Ireland

27 April was Poetry Day Ireland, with events organised all around the country. Limerick's Arts Office organised the event "A Poem within a Poem," hosted by Draíocht, Adare. Poet Edward O'Dwyer hosted the event, with readings from poets, Michael Durack and Breda Spaight, followed by an open-mic style poetry-reading event.

### Sliabh Luachra Music Trail

Limerick Arts Office hosted the Sliabh Luachra Music Trail Stakeholders Get-together meeting on 20 April in Leens Hotel, Abbeyfeale. Sliabh Luachra Music Trail is a project funded through Arts Council Invitation to Collaboration, and the Arts Offices of Limerick City and County, Cork County, and Kerry County, and the three Arts Officers of the respective Councils, met with musicians, festival organisers, and schoolteachers involved in the Sliabh Luachra Music Trail to discuss future plans for the project.

### Culture Night Late Funding Application

Limerick Arts Office applied for Culture Night Late Funding - applications closed on 13 April - to host a flagship event in Limerick for Culture Night 2023. Limerick has hosted two previous flagship events for Culture Night, both in King John's Castle, showcasing emerging talent across Hip-hop and Electronic Dance Music. If successful, Limerick will showcase emerging talent, in the large-scale event, late into the night.

## FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

### Riverfest Weekend

The 19th Riverfest Limerick Festival drew massive crowds of people into Limerick City across the Bank holiday weekend, which commenced on 28 April. Huge numbers of visitors descended on the Treaty City with An Garda Síochána and City traders indicating a 30% upturn in figures. The Festival kicked off when over a thousand people gathered for the free Rogu performance of 'Firestorm,' a street spectacle of fire on Bedford Row on Friday evening.

Over 60,000 people soaked up the atmosphere at the Riverfestival Village at Arthur's Quay Park with live music, good food and vintage amusements all weekend long. The boardwalk BBQ was a flaming success with great food savoured, all in the name of numerous charities.

There was concerted effort this year by Festivals and Events to animate the on-river activity and this was very evident on Saturday with everything from swimmable Limerick, stand-up paddle boarding, kayaking displays to Dragonboat racing. The Fly Boarding stunt performers proved a huge hit with the Public.

The Festival attracted large numbers of families keen to savour the atmosphere and range of events. This was evident throughout the festival offering. The younger audience was catered for with a sold-out Slime Lab and a popular scavenger hunt across the city for little explorers to enjoy. The Freedrop attracted over 1,000 almost exclusively young people to channel their inner daredevil. An Irish Defence Forces transport helicopter touched down at Merchant's Quay to the surprise and delight of all.

Riverfest was also the ideal accompaniment to the Regeneron Great Limerick Run with many of its thirteen thousand participants on Sunday morning.

Hermitage Green lit up King John's Castle providing the perfect backdrop for the Riverfest Fireworks Spectacular which illuminated the night sky on Sunday night. Tens of thousands of people streamed into the city for the display.

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## 4. Property & Community Facilities

Dereliction, Vacancy & Reuse Team	
Site Inspections Completed	100
Property & Community Facilities Department Notices issued	31
Derelict Sites Cases opened	15
Statutory Notices served under the Derelict Sites Act, 1990	34
Derelict Sites Cases closed through engagement	1
Properties entered into the Derelict Sites Register	3
Properties proposed for Compulsory Acquisition (Section 15 Notices)	23
Vesting Orders Made for Properties Acquired Compulsorily (Section 17 Notices)	0
Croí Cónaithe Applications Approved	9
Bin Waiver Applications Approved	0

## 5. Libraries, Gallery & Museum

### Library

- Limerick Libraries have been hopping with activity lately, and not just because of the Easter season! From hosting Spring Into Storytime events to book clubs for all ages, the libraries had it all. Newcastle West Library even had visitors from Mahoonagh National School who travelled by bus for two consecutive days to enjoy crafts, storytelling, and access to a wide range of sensory toys. The City Library hosted Migrant Support Clinics and the monthly book clubs continued with an addition of a new book club for young adults aged twelve to fifteen. The libraries were even host to live music with the Newcastle West Music Trail Festival.

Abbeyfeale Library welcomed local bestselling author, Roisin Meaney, to entertain more than 50 pupils from local primary schools. Meanwhile, Rathkeale Library had an exhibition of visual art and celebrated Poetry Day Ireland. Glin Library started a brand new book club that exceeded all expectations with 25 members, and Dooradoyle Library hosted a Book Review Programme for local primary school children. The libraries were buzzing with activity, and it seems like there was something for everyone.

- The City Library at Barrow House hosted the first in a series of Migrant Support Clinics on 24 April. These drop-in clinics are jointly organised by the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board and PAUL Partnership. On 05 April, the branch welcomed a group from Doras Luimní who visited the Library for a tour and introduction to the services on offer. The monthly book clubs continued with Phoenix Book Club on 05 April; the First Thursday Book Club on 06 April; the second Wednesday Book Club on 12 April; the U3A (University of the Third Age) book clubs on 17 and 24 April and the Spiral Book Club on 19 April. The branch also welcomed a brand new book club for young adults aged twelve to fifteen on 13 April, with a very successful first meeting attended by ten young readers. Continuing throughout the month 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 15 April. The Library was delighted to welcome the boys from CBS Primary School on three occasions - 18, 20 and 21 April. The students are all members of the library and had a great time choosing their new books and playing some classic board games from the in-house collection. April is the month for Spring into Storytime and author, Róisín Meaney, presented her monthly story telling session entertaining her devoted following with a series of stories and songs all delivered in her wonderfully inimitable style. The monthly Spanish language story time 'Cuenta Cuentos' took place on 25 April with a lively group of toddlers and their grown-ups enjoying the interactive bilingual stories, songs and rhymes. Weekly Wednesday morning story time

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for toddlers continued to be a great success with an appreciative audience growing in numbers week by week.

- Spring Into Storytime is one of four initiatives under the national Right to Read programme, and it took place in Libraries across Limerick City and County throughout the month of April. Library staff facilitated storytimes in Adare, Cappamore, Foynes, Glin and Roxboro Libraries and over 160 children from local preschools and primary schools were treated to fun, interactive sessions.
- Rathkeale Library was delighted to host the official launch of 'Outside World,' an exhibition of visual art by students from the Fainleog Campus, Coláiste Na Trócaire, on 25 April. Over ninety students from local primary and secondary school pupils attended the launch along with invited guests, and were enthralled with the stories and songs told to them by travelling folk singer and storyteller, Thomas McCarthy.
- Limerick Libraries celebrated Poetry Day Ireland on 27 April with copies of free Pocket Poems available from all library branches throughout the day.
- Limerick Library's Outreach Programme featured four Tai Chi classes for two Men's Shed groups, Caherdavin and St Patrick's, with instructor, Kevin Kinsella, with an overall attendance of 51 people. Thirty-five members of Dooradoyle Women's Shed attended a talk on nutrition given by Aoife McDonald at Dooradoyle Library on 20 April. Aoife is a Dietician and nutrition expert from The Digestive Health Clinic, Cork. On 27 April, Kilmallock Library hosted the launch of Crafting Connections, a project devised by Limerick Libraries and supported by the Dormant Accounts Fund. The project was a collaboration between four groups with participants from Bruree National School, Scoil Mócheallog, Kilmallock, Beech Lodge Care Facility, Bruree and Maria Goretti Nursing Home, Kilmallock. 30 children and 15 adults used art to promote creativity, learning, expression and a dialogue between the older and younger generations. Their facilitator, Imelda O'Riordan, worked to inspire everyone to access and express their memories, interests and passions to

create the work. All the groups worked separately creating the pieces that blended seamlessly into six wonderful jigsaw art pieces. The launch was a huge success as the groups had the opportunity to come together in Kilmallock Library, enjoy refreshments and finally get to meet, see and celebrate the completed work.

- Dooradoyle Library's 'Book Review Programme' included local primary school children from St. Nesson's National School, Munget, and library members. Approximately 180 children from Fourth and Fifth classes each completed a book review and were invited to an awards day at the library. The children listened to a poetry reading from Gabriel Fitzmaurice and each child was presented with a certificate of participation. The book reviews were displayed in the library. In addition, a number of Spring Into Storytime story-telling events also took place throughout the month, including a visit from Little Wonders Pre-School, Clarina. Twenty boys and girls came to the library for a selection of stories, songs and nursery rhymes and each child left with a goodie bag. Dooradoyle Library also welcomed a group from Daydreams Crèche in Dooradoyle for a story session, colouring and an arts and crafts session. The annual Easter Egg Hunt was a great success again this year. Over 250 children took part and there were fifty prizewinners in total. Each child who finished the egg hunt received a reward for their efforts and the overall winners selected an Easter egg of their choice. Easter themed Arts and Crafts sessions took place during the mid-term break where children learned how to make an Easter wreath. A selection of craft packs were also made available for children to take home. Members of the Limerick Irish Countrywomen's Association (ICA) held their monthly meeting in the library on the last Thursday of the month. The aim of the Association is to teach members new skills, participate in local charity initiatives and get involved in their local communities. The Limerick Federation has a number of Guilds with a combined membership of 550 approx. who meet on a monthly basis. Dooradoyle Library Book Club met on 27 April to discuss 'Noah's Compass' by Anne Tyler. The Mid West Bereavement Social Group Book Club also met in April to discuss their first book choice, 'The

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Librarian of Auschwitz,' by Antonio Iturbe. The branch welcomed Third class pupils from St. Paul's National School on a recent visit. All of the children registered for library membership and enjoyed browsing the children's library and selecting their books. Regular school visits from Red Hill School and Salesian Secondary College, Pallaskenry, also took place throughout the month.

- Kilmallock Library ran a very well attended Easter Craft Drop-In on 04 April. The very enthusiastic children who attended showed wonderful imagination and creativity and went home with some beautiful Easter inspired crafts. Students from Bundesgymnasium Seekirchen, just outside Salzburg, Austria, visited the library with their hosts from the local secondary school, Coláiste Íosaef, on 25 April. The group visited Kilmallock as part of the Erasmus + Project. Erasmus + is the EU's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe. As well as visiting the library, the group enjoyed a talk and tour with local historian, Maureen Lynch. There was a great buzz in the Library as the in-house 'Little Readers' session continued on 28 April with a lively, animated morning of songs, rhymes, stories and even a few poems to mark Poetry Day. The little readers also enjoyed an engaging craft session while the adults mingled and chatted. Demand for the library services - C-Pen and Energy Kit continued to be high with a waiting list for both items. St. Joseph's Foundation continued with its weekly visits for service users to browse, select books and enjoy time on the Magic Table. The local Bridge Club continued its regular meetings, which have now increased to twice a week. The Library's new giant chess set is growing in popularity with people of all ages and abilities playing and practicing on a daily basis. Throughout the month, the branch ran a series of in-house and social media displays promoting and celebrating Poetry Day, Graphic Novels, Young Adult fiction, Sport, new Fiction for Children and the regular Staff Picks.
- At Adare Library, after taking a break over Easter Holidays, Parents, Baby and Toddler group resumed their weekly meetings. The library also hosted the monthly 2020 Book Club meeting. Class visits continued with Junior and Senior Infants from Our

Lady's Abbey Girls' National School and Spring into Storytime was celebrated with class visits and fun activities for Our Lady's Abbey and St. Nicholas National School. Limerick Sports Partnership hosted another interactive workshop about the importance of exercise and healthy diet. Sixth class of Scoil Naomh Íosaf attended this event. The Healthy Ireland at Your Library Programme resumed with Sixth class of Our Lady's Abbey attending a creative mindfulness workshop with Edel Curtis. The aim of this event was to supply pupils with mindfulness tools that will help them with transitioning to Secondary School.

- Two members of staff from Watch House Cross gave a presentation on the Story Seeds Programme to the Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee. Easter Holidays events included a Movie Club with a film for children on the afternoons of 04 and 11 April, an Easter-themed craft session on 05 April, a Fighting Words Creative Writing Workshop for 7-12 year olds on 12 April, where the children created a story called 'The Mysteries and Legends of Mount Halao,' and a Lego Club meet on 14 April with monsters as the theme. Eight events for Spring into Storytime, with story time for Pre-School aged children and also for babies and toddlers, were held. The 'Planting Pride in the Community' project, which is funded by Limerick's Social Intervention Fund, is well underway and an exhibition of art work inspired by the project from 13 of the classes at Corpus Christi Primary School was on display in the children's library. Two workshops with artist, Lulu Keeley, were held on 17 April, one for the Corpus Christi Green School Committee from Corpus Christi, and the second with students from Moyross Youth Academy and local residents. This project focuses around providing a pollinator flowerbed in the green space at Watch House Cross Shopping Centre. Digging out of the bed was done in collaboration with Moyross Youth Academy and The Hub on 19 April and the planting was completed the following day with the advice of horticulturalist, Aoife Munn. Fairy doors and bird boxes were made by Brian, a woodwork tutor working with parents and children in Corpus Christi, and these were painted by students at The Moyross Academy and then placed on the trees near the flowerbed. A

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series of workshops was facilitated by Aoife Munn, horticulturalist and environmentalist, who works to improve community areas for biodiversity purposes. Both Second classes Thomond Primary and the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Classes from Corpus Christi attended a soap-making workshop, where the children used natural herbal flowers and scents to create their own soap. The children then made and decorated packaging from recycled materials to wrap the soap. There were two public events, firstly Sustainable Living, a two-hour workshop incorporating three crafts, including making your own wax wrap, soap-making and a biodegradable pot of pollinator seed and, secondly, a public talk on Bioscaping. Watch House Cross staff made a presentation on the autism friendly library services in Limerick to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Autism on 18 April. Fourth Class from Christ the King Primary School in Caherdavin visited for a tour of the children's library, and to learn about the children's collection and to borrow. Helium Arts continued their monthly art and crafts workshops for children and young adults living with lifelong health conditions on 22 April. Limerick College of Further Education completed a two-day programme of Excel training on 19 and 26 April. The 9-12 age group Junior Book Clubs read 'The Book of Secrets' by Alex Dunne, which is nominated for KPMG Children's Books Ireland Awards 2023. The children were delighted to hear the author, Alex Dunne, who joined online for the Book Clubs. They had many questions for Alex and, in particular, they were wondering if she would be writing a sequel. The children will be part of the Junior Juries who vote for the awards. The 7- 9 year olds enjoyed reading Frankenstiltskin by Joseph Coelho, the children watched a video of the author and drew their own picture of Frankenstiltkin. The Adult book clubs met on last Thursday and Friday of the month reading Shrines of Gaiety by Kate Atkinson which proved to be a very popular choice.

- There were 30 onsite visits by researchers to the Local Studies Department at Watch House Cross Community Library in April. These comprised eight research sessions on the microfilm archives, and 12 on the databases to which the Department subscribes. Ten researchers worked on material from the Local

Studies and Archives collections, and one advice session on family history was provided. There were 17 remote queries, submitted by telephone or email. Work continued on the Department's 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.

- A group of Third and Fourth class pupils from Scoil Chaitríona, Cappamore, were treated to a "Nutrition and Healthy Eating" talk by Helen Stapleton at Cappamore library as part of the Healthy Ireland At Your Library programme. The event went very well and the students asked many questions. Two more groups from Scoil Chaitríona also enjoyed mindfulness sessions with Creative Mindfulness and the children responded very positively to the workshops. Abbeyfeale library hosted the local active retirement group at a talk by Pius Murray about the "Hidden Benefits of Walking and the Pilgrim Paths of Ireland."

## Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- Diana Copperwhite's exhibition, *Onomatopoeia*, opened on 27 April. The exhibition is curated by Aoife Ruane and presented as a national tour with financial support from The Arts Council Touring Award. The "painter to painter" series opened proceedings with UK artist, Erin Lawlor, in conversation with Diana. Copperwhite is from Co. Limerick and has gained a significant national and international profile over her thirty-year career
- Two exhibitions: *Mammalia and Psyche*, a collaborative project with artists, Mel French and Celine Sheridan, curated by Catherine Marshall; and *Come on baby*, the first solo institutional exhibition by Casey Walshe, both closed on 16 April. Visitor numbers for the period of the exhibitions were 7,579.
- A selection of works from the Permanent Collection forms the basis of a very fine representation from the Collection - including works by seminal artists from the last century, including Paul Henry, Evie Hone, William Leech and Limerick artists, Walter Verling, Thomas Ryan and Lorraine Wall.

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- The first Test Space residency finished on 28 April. The recipient of the residency was Juliette Morrison who is currently doing an MA, by practice, at LSAD (Limerick School of Art and Design). Visitors to the Gallery had the opportunity to engage with Juliette and observe an artist while she works. Juliette made a presentation of work completed during the residency, which opened on 27 April, to coincide with the Copperwhite opening.
- Planning meetings continued with various artists and organisations.
- The recruitment of the Shinnors Scholar, a two-year MA by practice, was awarded to LSAD graduate, Aoife Doherty. Aoife will take up her position for a two-year period. This initiative is a partnership with TUS (Technological University of the Shannon), which has been in place for 16 years with eight participants to date. The focus of the Shinnors Scholar is on the development of the education programme with primary schools.
- A number of school groups visited the exhibitions during the month. There was a notable increase in foreign visitors from EU, South America (particularly Brazil), USA, and Ukraine, which suggests that there are significant opportunities for LCGA to grow this audience.

## Limerick Museum

- In April, Limerick Museum hosted an exhibition, *Sionann*, by Trudi van der Elsen, which was curated by Maurice Quillinan. Trudi van der Elsen is a visual artist based in Ireland since 2004. Her practice includes painting, drawing, installation work, performance and lens-based media. She exhibits regularly both nationally and internationally. Her work has been supported by the Arts Councils of Holland and Ireland, as well as Culture Ireland and Clare County Council. Her work is in private and public collections internationally, and in Ireland collected by the Office of Public Works and Clare County Council. Recently, her perception has altered to the natural environment, the land and landscape surrounding her studio on the Shannon Estuary in South West Clare. In particular, the

River Shannon, the mythology of the river goddess Sionainn and Connla's Well, resonates with her and inspires her to expand in the process of creative expression. Her paintings investigate the river in its multi-dimensionality, not as a representation, rather a distillation of an essence, a re-creation and transformation into a new visibility of the outlook and inner look simultaneously. The river transports her to another world, back to the ancient source and back to her own source, before time, an undefined place, the place of not-knowing, the place of nothingness, a pause, followed by a continuation, filling up endlessly – energising.

- Limerick Museum also held an exhibition, *Lyrical Speaking: A History of the Opera in Limerick*, which opened on 20 April. This exhibition was curated by the Assistant Curator of Limerick Museum and Ger Reidy, Director of the Limerick Opera Festival of which it forms part. It featured objects from the permanent collection of Limerick Museum and items on loan from private collectors. They demonstrated the high quality of Limerick's musical life over the past two centuries and reminded us of some of the great venues that the city boasted such as the Theatre Royal on Mallow Street, which flourished for eighty years from 1840 to 1920, and the Savoy Theatre on Bedford Row, one of Ireland's greatest cinemas and theatres for most of the twentieth century. The exhibition showed how Limerick punched above its weight in the world's musical culture in the past 200 years. The Friends of Lace held their monthly meeting in the Museum on 22 April. Friends of Lace is a local group of lace makers and experts formed in 2017 in Limerick with the mission to bring Limerick Lace to public attention by contributing to the preservation, documentation and research on existing artefacts in museum and private collections, creating teaching resources and supporting novel interpretations and uses of Limerick Lace.
- As part of the successful collaboration between the Museum and the Limerick Women's Caucus, the Assistant Curator attended the Embrace Empower Elect event in Istabraq Hall on 19 April.

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- On 24 April, Ed Finn, presenter of the well-known travel show on Virgin Media, filmed a package on Limerick Museum as part of a forthcoming episode of his series dealing with Limerick city.



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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 met with the Regeneration Team with regard to the emerging draft report and to plan for feedback sessions to the key stakeholders.

#### Economic

##### Outreach to Employment Programme

**Jobs Fair Moyross** - The first of the Jobs Fairs for 2023 took place in Moyross Youth Academy with over 200 attending the event. Over 20 employers and agencies were present on the night to engage directly with the local community. Takumi Precision Engineering, STL Logistics, Lidl and An Garda Síochána were some of the employers who were in attendance. The event received very positive coverage on local media and was welcomed by the community.

**Employment Activation Leader** - Peter McVerry has assigned an Employment Activation Leader to work with the Outreach to Employment Coordinator. This welcome assignment from Peter McVerry Trust will enable the programme to extend its reach deeper into the communities and enhance its engagement with employers on the initiative.

Any enquiries can be made to  
[outreachtoemployment@limerick.ie](mailto:outreachtoemployment@limerick.ie)

#### Social

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

The Directorate continues to support organisations with their drawdown of the Economic and Social Intervention Fund (ESIF) Grants 2023. Ongoing evaluation and coordination work continues with the ESIF recipients. Significant work has been done in configuring five Sub-Committees under the five Regeneration themes of -

- Community
- Employability and Work
- Health, Wellbeing and Ageing Well
- Education and Learning
- Families and Youth at Risk

These Sub-Committees are striving to ensure that a robust social infrastructure underpins the Regeneration areas post 2023. Meetings of three of the Sub-Committees were held during the month of April.

As part of the Directorate's efforts to strengthen agency and organisational understanding of the current funding and organisational structures within the City, recipients of the largest ESIF grants have been requested to deliver presentations on their post 2023 funding strategies. Nine of these presentations were held during the month of April. These presentations are a key element of the Directorate's ongoing efforts to consolidate gains made over the course of the LRFIP and to ensure the durability of services and social structures deemed to be necessary to the expansion of social and economic regeneration across Limerick City.

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## Community Activities

### Southside

- Our Lady of Lourdes Estate Management participated in Team Limerick Clean-Up with 80 volunteers from the community helping out on the day to clean their area. Planters were filled with flowers outside the community centre in conjunction with Second Class pupils from Our Lady of Lourdes National School and Sr. Delia O'Connor, the FairTrade ambassador.
- Southill's Team Limerick Clean-Up was a huge success with 196 attendees. The litter picking team continues to keep the estate clean on a daily basis.
- The Southside Women's Group and members of the Hospital Family Resource Centre held a music and dance morning with former Southill resident, Peter Campbell, in Tait House.
- Wildflower projects are well underway in the estate with new beds placed in the Grotto in O'Malley Park, at the Southill Afterschools Club premises, in the Southill allotments, at the entrance to O'Malley Park and in Le Chéile and Our Lady Queen of Peace School.
- The launch of Project ECCO took place on 26 April. Project ECCO is a two-year project focused on helping people and groups that are interested in developing new projects in the circular economy that will assist in the upcycling and recycling of existing materials in order to assist the environment. The Open Day consisted of a showcase of projects in these areas, along with speeches from experts in the sector and an opportunity for people to learn more about the programme.

### Northside

- A community-led Art Mural at the Handball Alley in St. Mary's Park commenced on 19 April. The Mural is nature-themed featuring art work that was created by the students at St. Mary's National School. The Regeneration Directorate engaged with our artists, Louise Keeley and Rachel Moloney, to work with the residents and St. Mary's National School children to create a mural in their area. A designated community day was held on 20 April. The school children and youth members were actively involved in painting on this day. It was a fun day for all involved. The community of St. Mary's Park have welcomed this initiative in their area.
- Moyross Residents' Forum took part in Team Limerick Clean-Up Limerick with 67 adults and 98 children taking part.
- The joint project "Planting Pride in our Community," with the Watch House Cross Library and Moyross Residents' Forum to paint a mural on the outside wall of the library, is going well. €20 vouchers were presented to 13 children from the school who were the winners of the colouring competition as part of this project. They attended a workshop with the artist, Lulu, along with members of Moyross Youth Academy and a number of residents, on 17 April to discuss the design of the mural. At the workshop, it was agreed it would be a library book opening with all the ideas incorporated into the design. Tidy Towns money sponsored the book tokens as prizes for the children.

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## Physical

### Housing Developments

- Roof works to Colivet Court in Southill are ongoing.
- 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.
- 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) – preparation work ongoing.
  - Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 121A, Moyross (18 units) – preparation work ongoing.

- 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) – awaiting clearance of selected contractor's insurance.
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 126, Southill (50 units) Phase 1 works nearing completion.
- 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) - Selected contractor about to be appointed following insurance clearance.
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 130 – scoping in Pineview Gardens is nearing completion which will facilitate Stage 3 submission to Department.

### House Refurbishments

- Following Department approval, Consultant appointed to scope nine major refurbishment properties (Lot 4a) in Southill, St. Mary's Park and Ballinacurra Weston and issue tender documents to procure a contractor.
- Tender has issued to procure a consultant to scope 11 major refurbishment properties (Lot 4b) in all four areas and issue tender documents to procure a contractor.

### Environmental Works

- Environmental improvement works and barrier removals at Avondale Court, O'Malley Park, have commenced.
- Contractor has been appointed to undertake various environmental works to the front of the Rathbane Maintenance Depot in Roxboro.

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## Demolitions

- Demolition of 17 Whitecross Gardens -
  - Works completed, including the access road removal and reinstatement.
- Contractor appointed for the demolition of -
  - 48 Craeval Park, Moyross.
  - 6 and 9 Pineview Gardens.



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## Housing Directorate

### 1. Housing Support Services

#### Housing Waiting List

Approved Housing Applicants	2,365
Approved Tenant Transfer Applicants	356

#### Closed Housing Applications

	April	Year to Date
Closed Applications	46	181

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 April	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	2	4
Newcastle West	1	7
Metropolitan District	12	71
Cappamore-Kilmallock	2	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>89</b>

#### Refusals

	No. of Units April	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	1
Newcastle West	0	1
Metropolitan District	5	10
Cappamore-Kilmallock	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>

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

Total Nominations	Successful Nominations	Nominations Pending	Unsuccessful Nominations
91	31	57	3

#### Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)

Private Tenancies	709
Capital Assistance Scheme/Rental Assistance Scheme Tenancies	526
Part V	0
New Private Tenancies	0
New Voluntary Housing Tenancies	12

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## Housing Assistance Payments Limerick (HAP)

2,176 active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	21
No. of Amendments	252
No. of Cessations	38

## RENT COLLECTION

Rent Collection Limerick City and County Council					
Opening Balance	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing Balance	% Collection
€5,916,167	€6,378,542	€12,294,709	€6,174,426	€6,120,283	50%

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## HOME IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

April 2023		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aid Grants	No. Approved	2	0	2	0	4
	MAG Expenditure	€4,600.00	€4,599.50	€10,800.00	€0.00	€19,999.50
	No. Paid	2	1	3	0	6
<hr/>						
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	3	5	9	10	27
	HAG Expenditure	€33,690.27	€30,000.00	€113,279.27	€81,740.82	€258,710.36
	No. Paid	5	1	15	8	29
<hr/>						
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	7	11	6	12	36
	HOP Expenditure	€42,347.50	€2,700.00	€95,424.50	€27,875.38	€168,347.38
	No. Paid	10	1	26	5	42
<hr/>						
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG Expenditure	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
	No. Paid	0	0	0	0	0

Total No. Approved	67
Total Monies Paid	€447,057.24
Total No. Paid	77

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## HOME IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES - Year to Date

Jan - Apr 2023		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aid Grants	No. Approved	5	3	13	2	<b>23</b>
	MAG Expenditure	€16,345.00	€18,549.50	€55,776.50	€5,425.00	<b>€96,096.00</b>
	No. Paid	4	4	9	1	<b>18</b>
<hr/>						
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	17	24	48	28	<b>117</b>
	HAG Expenditure	€107,867.67	€153,803.08	€454,264.77	€171,390.32	<b>€887,325.84</b>
	No. Paid	17	12	59	18	<b>106</b>
<hr/>						
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	37	37	77	32	<b>183</b>
	HOP Expenditure	€97,254.00	€144,664.93	€357,505.32	€92,449.13	<b>€691,873.38</b>
	No. Paid	23	33	77	21	<b>154</b>
<hr/>						
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG Expenditure	€2,150.83	€0.00	€0.00	€2,150.83	<b>€4,301.66</b>
	No. Paid	1	0	0	1	<b>2</b>

YTD Total No. Approved	<b>323</b>
YTD Total Monies Paid	<b>€1,679,596.88</b>
YTD Total No. Paid	<b>280</b>

# Chief Executive's Report



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## Community Sustainment Unit

### Tenancy Inductions

No. of Tenancy Inductions	18
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### Repossessions

Repossession of Council properties	10
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### House Visits

No. of House Visits	247
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### Garda Checks

Garda Checks processed	105
------------------------	-----

### Sugar CRM (Customer Relationship Management) Cases

Active cases at month-end	261
Cases closed during month	17

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

Date: 14.04.2023		
Individuals		
Location	Description	Beds Used
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	34
Oak Lodge	Adults without children accommodated in low threshold emergency accommodation	60
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	22
Phoenix Lodge	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	10
St. Joseph Street	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	6
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	15
Temporary Emergency Provision (TEP) - Edenvilla	Low threshold, night-by-night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	15
<b>Total</b>		<b>162</b>

# Chief Executive's Report



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Families					
Location	Description	Beds Used			Families
		Adults	Children		
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	8		6
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	66	86		54
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	14	13		10
<b>Totals</b>		<b>86</b>	<b>107</b>		<b>70</b>

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

<b>Tenant Purchase</b>	
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. received	3
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. approved	1
<b>Local Authority Home Loans</b>	
Loan Applications: No. received	8
Loan Applications: No. approved	0
<b>Deed of Discharge</b>	
Deed of Discharge Applications: No. Received	17
<b>Consent to Sale</b>	
Consent to Sale Applications: No. Received	4
<b>Cottage Purchase Annuity</b>	
No. of Cottage Purchase Annuity Applications	3
<b>Ground Rent</b>	
No. of Ground Rent applications	1
<b>Title</b>	
Title Deeds Received/Requested	3
Title Rectification Received	3
<b>Private Rented Inspections</b>	
No. of Inspections	101

## Freedom of Information, Data Requests and Ombudsman

<b>Freedom of Information requests</b>	2
<b>Ombudsman Query Cases</b>	1
<b>Data Access Requests</b>	0

## Housing Welfare and Traveller Accommodation Unit

### \* Traveller Accommodation

<b>No. of Units offered April</b>	3
<b>Year to Date</b>	6

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

## Housing Welfare Visits

<b>No. of Visits April</b>	35
<b>Year to Date</b>	125

# Chief Executive's Report



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## 2. Local Authority Housing Construction and Maintenance

### Local Authority Housing Construction

House Returns April	
Total	12

House Returns April By Municipal District	
Adare-Rathkeale	2
Cappamore-Kilmallock	1
Newcastle West	2
Metropolitan District	7
Total	12

During April, 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, two in the Municipal District of Newcastle West and seven in the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

Current Working Programme		
	Completed in April	In Progress
Local Authority Construction Team	3	117
Local Authority Maintenance Team	11	81
Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process	0	26
Regeneration Team	0	28
Team to be assigned	N/A	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>276</b>

In April, works on 11 properties were completed by Local Authority Maintenance and works on three properties were completed by Local Authority Construction.

There are three teams in Limerick City and County Council assigned to refurbish properties. As of April, the Local Authority Construction Team was in the process of completing works in 117 properties, Local Authority Maintenance were working on 81 properties and the Regeneration Team had 28 properties. Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process - 26 properties. 24 properties were in the process of being assigned to a Team.

### Project Updates

- One property from Lot 2A, Killalee, one property from Lot 9, Corbally, and one Property from Lot 9A, Murroe, substantially refurbished and keys given to Allocations.
- Architect-Led Integrated Design Team appointed for the provision of social housing on Ballycummin Road.
- Contractor appointed for construction of a shared access road at Deerpark, Adare.
- Contractor appointed for Lot 10B for refurbishment works at two properties - Wolfe Tone Street and St. Patrick's Road.

### Finance:

- Applications for funding totalling €347,429, issued to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage paid €196,610.46 in claims made.

# Chief Executive's Report



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## Local Authority Maintenance

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

Housing Maintenance Cases - April	Requests/Cases Created	Cases Dealt With/Closed	Balance of Open Cases at 30.04.2023
Metropolitan District of Limerick	658	720	1,547
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	73	50	277
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	93	90	237
Municipal District of Newcastle West	102	134	622
<b>Total</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>994</b>	<b>2,683</b>

## Grants Inspections

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	2	0	5	7
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	2	16	1	19	38
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	14	1	19	34
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	1	0	2	0	3
<b>Total Inspections by Inspection Type</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>82</b>

# Chief Executive's Report



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

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	1	2
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	3	1	10	14
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	8	0	3	11
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Inspections by Inspection Type</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>27</b>

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	2	0	0	2
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	3	0	0	3
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	10	0	2	12
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Total Inspections by Inspection Type</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>

# Chief Executive's Report



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

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	2	3
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	7	0	2	9
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	7	0	7	14
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Inspections by Inspection Type</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>26</b>

## HOUSE INSPECTIONS UNIT

Houses Inspected for Refurbishment Works and Re-Letting – April - Categories	No. of Properties Inspected
Cat 1 – minor repairs needed	2
Cat 2 – moderate repairs needed	5
Cat 3 – substantial repairs needed	1
Cat 4 – major repairs required.	0
<b>TOTAL INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT</b>	<b>8</b>
No. of Properties Awaiting Inspection	16

# Chief Executive's Report



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

### BUILD, BUY AND LEASE

Buy/Build/Lease as of 30.04.23 is as follows:

As at 30.04.2023 (01.01.2023 - 30.04.2023)	Complete	In Progress	Overall Complete and In Progress	“Housing for All” 2023 Delivery Target
Build	0	448	448	502
Buy	4	309	313	75
Lease	1	88	89	27
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>850</b>	

### CURRENT OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

#### Finance

- Claims totalling €289,487 were sent to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in April.
- Claims totalling €576,202 were paid by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in April.

# Chief Executive's Report



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## Project Approvals and Submissions

### Project Submissions to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in April

Scheme	Project Details	District
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Submission for 56 units at The Mills, Newcastle, Castletroy, Co. Limerick. This is a mixed-tenure site. Remainder to be affordable.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Submission for 15 units at Coolbane, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick. This is a mixed-tenure site. Remainder to be affordable.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the CAS acquisition of one unit at Shannonvale, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the CAS acquisition of one unit at Upper William Street, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the CAS acquisition of one unit at Upper William Street, Limerick (not duplicate of above)	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the CAS acquisition of one unit at Rhebogue, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the CAS acquisition of one unit at Thomondgate, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the CAS acquisition of one unit at Murroe, Co. Limerick	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the CAS acquisition of one unit at Murroe, Co. Limerick (not duplicate of above)	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the CAS acquisition of one unit at Kilteragh, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the CAS acquisition of one unit at Broad Street, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the CAS acquisition of one unit at Newcastle West, Co. Limerick	Municipal District of Newcastle West
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the CAS acquisition of one unit at Patrickswell, Co. Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for revised refurbishment budget on the acquisition of three units at Raheen, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick

# Chief Executive's Report



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## Project Approvals received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in April

Scheme	Project Details	District
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Approval for 15 units at Coolbane, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick. This is a mixed-tenure site. Remainder to be affordable.	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 Tara Crea, Kilteragh, Dooradoyle, 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 Pearse Avenue, Janesboro, 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 Raheen, Limerick (not duplicate of above)	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Dooradoyle, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Dooradoyle, Limerick (not duplicate of above)	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Combined Stage 1 and 2 approval for the CAS Construction of three units at Doon, Co. Limerick	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

# Chief Executive's Report



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## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Status of Affordable Housing Scheme proposals as of 27.04.23 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. The raising of a loan from the Housing Finance Agency to fund the delivery of this cost rental scheme has been approved by Council. Affordable Housing Fund application has been submitted. Design Team is being procured. 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 complete. 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.
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.
	Municipal District of Newcastle West	Affordable Purchase	10	Expected delivery 2024 to 2025.

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Scheme	District	Type	No. of Units	Status
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	34	
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.

## Update on Notices to Quit

Limerick City and County Council is currently working with households in Limerick who may have received a Notice to Quit. Our first response is to support households to try to prevent homelessness. The table below is a status update at 28/04/23:

Notices to Quit at 28/04/23	
Proposals (by tenants and Landlords)	188
Sale Agreed	25
Withdrawn (various reasons)	39
Purchase Completed	12
Owner Reoccupying	17
Income above Limit - Opportunity for Cost Rental in Situ with Housing Agency as lead	9
<b>Total Case Load</b>	<b>290</b>

Information for Tenants in Limerick who Receive a Notice to Quit can be found on our website [here](#).

# Chief Executive's Report



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## Conferences and Workshops

- The Housing Agency held an online information session on the Housing for All Land Acquisition Fund for Local Authority teams on 21 April. The Housing for All Land Acquisition Fund is a dedicated land acquisition fund managed by the Housing Agency to support local authorities to acquire land to deliver new build social housing schemes.
- The Housing Delivery Co-ordination Office held an online training session on their solution for tracking and reporting on Social Housing Delivery Tracker and TRABIS (Business Intelligence Solution).

## 4. Municipal District Offices

### Metropolitan District of Limerick

#### Metropolitan District Meetings

##### Monthly Meeting

The April Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick took place on 17 April in the Council Offices, Dooradoyle, and Online.

##### Briefings

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

- Briefing on Castleconnell Local Area Plan.
- Briefing on Corbally Road Active Travel Project.

#### Operational Area Briefings

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

### Road Related Upgrade/Refurbishment Works

#### Description of project: Woodlawn Park Local Roads Reconstruction

Location: Woodlawn Park, Ballysimon;

Cost of project: €100,000;

Contractor: Roadstone.

#### Description of project: Galvone Road Local Roads Reconstruction

Location: Galvone Road, Kennedy Park;

Cost of project: €100,000;

Contractor: Roadstone.

#### Description of project: Commons Road Local Roads Reconstruction

Location: Commons Road, Ballysimon;

Cost of project: €240,000;

Contractor: Roadstone.

#### Description of project: R445 Road Lining Castleconnell to Gooig

Location: Castleconnell;

Cost of project: €50,000;

Contractor: MacLochlainn (Roadmarkings).

#### Description of project: Footpath Upgrade Scheme Garryglass Avenue

Location: Ballinacurra Weston;

Cost of project: €100,000;

Contractor: Maramba Road Services.

#### Description of project: Cycle Lane Extension Groody Road

Location: Groody Roundabout, Castletroy;

Cost of project: €12,000;

Contractor: Limerick City and County Council Direct Labour / Tallybrooke Civil Engineering.

#### Description of project: Footpath Upgrade Scheme Georgian Village

Location: Georgian Village Old Cork Road;

Cost of project: €11,000;

Contractor: Limerick City and County Council Direct Labour.

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## Description of project: Lissadell Drive Local Roads Reconstruction

Location: Lissadell Drive, Greystones;  
Cost of project: €65,000;  
Contractor: Roadstone.

## Description of project: Oakland Drive Local Roads Reconstruction

Location: Oakland Drive, Greystones;  
Cost of project: €85,000;  
Contractor: Roadstone.

## Description of project: Crescent Court Local Roads Reconstruction

Location: Crescent Court, Dooradoyle;  
Cost of project: €40,000;  
Contractor: Roadstone.

## Description of project: St. John's Hospital New Raised Table Top and Pedestrian Crossing Active Travel Scheme;

Location: St. John's Hospital;  
Cost of project: €150,000;  
Contractor: ShareRidge.

## Description of project: Footpath Upgrade Scheme Kickham Avenue

Location: Rosbrien;  
Cost of project: €30,000;  
Contractor: Peter Ryan Construction.

## Description of project: Fernhill Fencing Scheme

Location: Fernhill, Condell Road;  
Cost of project: €11,000;  
Contractor: James O'Sullivan Fencing & Agri Services.

## 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 (First Phase complete)

Location: Corbally;  
Cost of project: €100,000;  
Contractor: Maramba.

## Horticultural Works

### Mungret Park

Planting and adding more fruit trees, as well as more colourful flowers, at Park.

### Monaleen

Planted 16 trees at the Fairways in Monaleen at the request of the residents. Type of trees - Birch, Oak, Beech.

### Castletroy Park

Also planting fruit trees in Castletroy Park and a stumpery similar to Adare Park is in progress.

All these projects were/are being completed by the Council's own Parks and General Operations and Maintenance Teams - no external contractors were engaged.

## Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

The April meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale took place on 11 April in the Rathkeale District Office, Rathkeale.

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

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

## Askeaton Undergrounding of Overhead Utilities Project

Phase 2 works on eastern approach to East Square ongoing.

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## Active Travel

- Footpath works complete at Ballycullen Road, Askeaton.
- Footpath Works commenced at Castlematrix Area, Rathkeale.

## 2023 Schedule of Municipal District Works

Road Reconstruction Works commenced at the following locations:

- Rintulla, Adare.
- Bansha, Askeaton, to Ballynamona, Kilcornan.
- Churchville Estate, Banogue.

## Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

### April Municipal District Meeting

The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock was held in Deebert House Hotel, Kilmallock, on 20 April.

The Chief Executive's Report on submissions for the Draft Local Area Plan for Caherconlish was presented to the Elected Members for consideration and agreed at the Meeting.

The General Municipal Allocation Roads/Tourism and Community Grants for the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock were also agreed at the Meeting.

### Housing and Road Maintenance

- 95 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
- 146 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

### Housing Grants

13 Private housing grants were paid in April, totalling €109,616.20, and 22 were approved.

12 initial inspections, one re-inspection and 14 final inspections were undertaken in relation to Private Housing Grants.

### Road Works

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

- GMA footpath works Hospital.
- GMA footpath works Fairyfield Estate, Kilmallock.
- Drainage Works on L1552 Goatsisland.
- Restoration Improvement Scheme Farnane, Morroe.

## Municipal District of Newcastle West

### Meetings and Workshops

- The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West took place on 05 April in Áras William Smith O'Brien, Newcastle West.
- A Workshop with Clúid Housing was held prior to the Municipal District Meeting.
- A Workshop on the Local Area Plan for Abbeyfeale was held following the Municipal District Meeting.

### Housing Grants

- 16 grant applications were approved under the Private Housing Grant Schemes during the month. The total value of approvals was €105,117.99.
- Payments of €2,700.00 were made to one applicant who completed works under the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.
- Payments of €30,000.00 were made to one applicant who completed works under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme.
- Payments of €4,599.50 were made to one applicant who completed works under the Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme.

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## Housing and Road Maintenance

- 80 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.
- 103 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.

## Motor Tax

- During the month of April, the Motor Tax Section at the Newcastle West Office processed 1,109 routine transactions.



# Chief Executive's Report



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## Planning, Environment & Place-Making Directorate

### 1. Place-Making and Public Realm

#### Project Updates

##### Urban Regeneration & Development Fund – Strand 3 – Pedestrian Bridges and Waterfront Infrastructural Works

- A request for Tenders is live on eTenders to procure a multi-disciplinary team to prepare a Preliminary Business Case under the Public Spending Code for these works.

##### Arthur's Quay Area Framework Plan

- Architects, Metropolitan Workshop, have been appointed to lead a multi-disciplinary team to prepare the Arthur's Quay Area Framework Plan.

##### Limerick Wayfinding and Orientation Signage Project

- Consultation on the proposals has been completed.

##### Decluttering Project

- A survey of existing city centre signage has been completed.

##### Nicholas Street Rejuvenation Works

- In collaboration with EVA, the Public Realm & Place-Making Department has designated the Fireplace site as a venue for the upcoming 40th EVA International, a biennial exhibition showcasing contemporary art.
- Contractor appointed to carry out treating of invasive vegetation to historic walls and sites.

#### Meanwhile use – Toll Cottages

The Limerick School of Art & Design has partnered with Limerick City and County Council's Place-Making & Public Realm, Arts, and Property Departments to undertake a graphic mural project at the Toll Cottages on King's Island. Work on the project commenced in April. The aim of this project is to creatively enrich the visual façade and area in front of the Toll cottages. Four students and recent graduates with differing backgrounds have been engaging with themes and concepts that connect with local communities and the rich historical and social heritage of the adjacent area.

#### O'Connell Street:

- The surfacing works at all the junctions have been completed, ensuring a smooth and safe driving experience. Additionally, cabling has been completed for streetlights in all blocks, illuminating the area for pedestrians and drivers alike.
- The ESB has pulled its new cables throughout the site. Following the ESB connection of new supplies in Block 1, necessary reinstatement works to surfacing have been completed. Cabling and associated works required for the traffic signals at the William Street junction have been completed, enhancing the flow of traffic through the intersection.
- Paving of the carriageway and footpath in Patrick Street West and Block 4 outside Hale is continuing. This will greatly improve accessibility for pedestrians and make the area more aesthetically pleasing.
- A Public stakeholder clinic was held in the Regis Centre on 13 April.

# Chief Executive's Report



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## 2. Planning Development

### Planning Applications

A total of 84 new planning applications were received as follows:

Category	Amount
Part 8	1
Housing Developments	3
Domestic Developments	53
Agricultural Developments	8
Commercial Developments/ Change of Use	12
Sporting/ Community and Educational Developments	1
Other Developments	6

The current applications include proposals for:

- Part 8 for proposed improvement works that will comprise of 550 metres of revised road layout on the N69 and 90 metres of realigned side road L1403 and will provide for the following but not limited to the installation of three-metre and four-metre wide raised shared use active travel facilities between Boland's Cross and Mungret Cross, a section of two-metre wide footway east of Mungret Cross, modification of traffic layout in the vicinity of Mungret Cross, the installation of signal-controlled pedestrian crossings, the installation of kerbing and hardscaping, relocation of services, traffic signs and road markings, pavement resurfacing, surface water drainage, accommodation works and associated site works at Loughanleagh, Rathmale and Castlemungret, Limerick.

- Construction of a residential development comprising fourteen residential units, (one detached house, two semi-detached houses and 11 Terrace houses), boundary treatments, ancillary surface car parking, site services, bin storage, bike storage, vehicular and pedestrian access to the proposed development and all associated site development works and landscape works at Monaleen Heights, Newcastle, Castletroy, Limerick.

## 3. Environment, Recreation & Climate Change

### Cemeteries

Number of Burials in City Cemeteries

Mount St. Lawrence	17
Mount St. Oliver	12
Castlemungret	16
Kilmurry	1

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

During the month -

- 256 complaints were received.
- A total of 311 inspections were undertaken.
- 13 Warnings were issued.
- 11 Notices were issued.
- 10 Directions were served by the Department.
- Four Prosecutions were initiated.
- A total of seven fines were issued.

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## 4. Urban Innovation

### SMARTLAB

On 26 April, SmartLab held a UL Research Week event talking about smart buildings, the clean energy transition and how the Citizen Innovation Lab and FabLab Limerick are helping us to engage with stakeholders. Attendees also heard about our work testing strategies of the energy transition here in Limerick city. The event was hosted by Dr. Stephen Kinsella, Professor of Economics at the University of Limerick, and speakers included Helena Fitzgerald, SmartLab coordinator and Research Fellow, Citizen Innovation Lab Manager with Limerick City and County Council, Dr. Madeleine Lyes, SmartLab Project Manager, Cian O'Flaherty, SmartLab Partner and CEO of the Convex Lens Ltd., Dr Miguel-Angel Trejo Rangel, Postdoctoral Fellow with SmartLab and Ger Walsh, coordinator of FabLab Limerick.

SmartLabs is open for application on the following link  
[www.smartlablimerick.ie](http://www.smartlablimerick.ie)

### Citizen Innovation Lab

Urban Innovation was delighted to welcome Academy of the Near Future, a smart city education programme for students offered by CONNECT and Dublin City Council, to the Citizen Innovation Lab in April. Students from the Presentation Secondary School took part in a Smart Technology Workshop. Academy of the Near Future programmes are a combination of interactive workshops, online learning and “hands on” activities with sensor kits that provide learners with an understanding of how technologies such as the Internet of Things and Big Data can help cities deal with traffic congestion, air pollution, extreme weather events and more. Committed to demystifying smart cities to groups who are underserved in STEM, 50% of our workshops take place in DEIS schools (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) with 50% female participation. In doing so, the Academy of the Near Future equips change-makers to tackle 21st century city challenges, and work towards a world where smart city technology improves the sustainability and liveability of cities across the world. As the practice of public participation in scientific research, citizen

science drives behavioural changes at the individual and community level and plays a central role in creating a more sustainable future for all. Focusing on the theme of ‘Active Travel,’ the Academy of the Near Future is running a three-part workshop series in the Citizen Innovation Lab where Transition Year students set up air quality sensors and traffic counters to capture local environmental data for the city of Limerick.

Limerick City and County Council's Active Travel team held a non-statutory public consultation event on the proposed Wickham Street-Clare Street Active Travel Scheme in the Citizen Innovation Lab at the end of April.

## 5. Veterinary Services

- Eight stray or wandering horses were impounded.
- The Dog Control Unit processed 10 dogs during the month.
- Four food samples were submitted for analysis under the National Residues and Microbiological Sampling Programme.

## 6. Limerick Sports Partnership

- Limerick Sports Partnership secured €61,000.00 to recruit a Physical Activity for Health Officer. The role will support individuals with chronic conditions to be active.
- Limerick Sports Partnership secured funding from Sport Ireland for core and operational supports to the value of €493,897.00.
- The Limerick Sports Partnership interviewed 407 Transition Year students for the 2023-2024 Limerick Sports Partnership VIP Programme. 35 students were successful after two rounds of interviews.

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- The Limerick Sports Partnership held a suite of Physical Activity Programmes in-person across the City and County on a weekly basis. 500+ participants engaged. Programmes included:

- Men on the Move
- Women in Sport
- Aqua Aerobics/Swim lessons
- Youth Leadership
- Ukrainian and Migrants Physical Activity sessions
- Cool Movers and Inclusion Club
- Engaging Youths from Disadvantaged Communities
- Community Leadership Education courses
- Older Adult Good2Go Hubs at eight sites

For more information on programmes and activities visit  
[www.limericksports.ie](http://www.limericksports.ie)



# Chief Executive's Report



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## National and Regional Shared Services Centre Directorate

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

- There were 58,595 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAP SSC at the end of April.
- A weekly average of 164 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2023.
- The April landlord payment run was €55.5 million.
- The weekly tenant charge at the end of April was €3.1 million.
- The Debt Management Unit of the HAP SSC collected a total of €52.4 million in differential rent to end of April 2023.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of April was 99%.
- The Debt Management Unit issued 10,000 HAP debt reminder letters in April.

### 2. Fire and Emergency

#### Statistics

	No of Fire Related Calls	No of Non-Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call-outs 01.04.2023 – 30.04.2023	80	42	122
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	68%	57%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	24%	32%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	8%	11%	

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	No. received / assigned	No. validated	No. invalidated / refused	No. granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications April	8	6	2	7	9
Disability Access Cert Applications April	9	9	0	1	1
Licensing Applications April	5		0	3	
Commencement Notice April	22	21	1	0	22
Completion Certificate April	11	10	0	0	10
Planning Referrals April	18	11	0	0	11
Sugar CRM Cases April	4	0	0	2 Resolved 4 Assigned 1 in progress	0

## Fire and Emergency Training Events

During the month, the following training was carried out:

- Six staff completed a one-week Emergency Services Driving Standard (ESDS) course for driving under blue light conditions.
- One officer completed a one-week National Directorate course in dealing with Heavy Goods Vehicles.
- One officer completed a one-week Trainer Development course run by the National Directorate.
- Ongoing on-station training continued in all seven Fire Stations.

## Civil Defence attendance at Events

The following activity took place in April:

- 2 x Patient transfer from University Hospital Limerick to Limerick Residence - 1 day.
- 2 x Patient transfer from Limerick Residence to University Hospital Limerick - 1 day.
- University Hospital Limerick Staff cycle - Medical cover - 1 day.
- Ukrainian Displaced Persons Transport - transport between Limerick Residences - 1 day.
- Demonstration of Pollution control, equipment and techniques (Medical and boat cover at Glin pier) - 1 day.
- 3 x Patient Transfer from Limerick Residences to St. Camillus's, Shelbourne Road, Limerick - 1 day.
- Darkness into Light Briefing - 1 day.
- Patient Transfer from Temple Street Children's Hospital, Dublin, to residence - 1 day.

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- Ukrainian Displaced Persons – Equipment dropped to Emergency Rest Centre - 1 day.
- Riverfest BBQ, Limerick City – Medical Cover – 1 day.
- Great Limerick Run, Limerick City – Medical Cover – 1 day.
- Riverfest Fireworks, Limerick City – Medical and boat cover – 1 day.

## Major Emergency Management

- Limerick City and County Council chaired a seminar for the Mid-West Region Voluntary Emergency Services.
- Limerick City and County Council attended a meeting to review the Mid-West Regional Communications Plan.
- Limerick City and County Council attended a Regional Working Group meeting held in the National Emergency Co-ordination Centre, Kildare Street, Dublin.

## Water Safety

No. of Lifebuoy Replacements	January-March	April	Total 2023
Metropolitan District	2	3	5
Municipal District	3	3	6

## 3. Ukrainian Accommodation Response

Limerick City and County Council has secured €585,040 from the Emergency Refurbishment (Ukraine) Project funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the refurbishment of the former bank branch properties in Abbeyfeale and Askeaton. Following the 12-week refurbishment programme, the properties will operate as temporary multi-occupancy accommodation centres for families fleeing Ukraine, for a period of two years. The centres will be operated on behalf of Limerick City and County Council for the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. The two centres combined will offer temporary accommodation for 44 Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection. The contract for Refurbishment and Operation was awarded on 26 April to Property Management Ireland (PMI) following a procurement competition on eTenders.



# Chief Executive's Report



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## Support Services Directorate

### 1. Finance

#### Commercial Rates and Loans

##### Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2023	
As at 30 April 2023	
Opening Balance - 01 Jan €	5,888,292
Accruals €	64,113,408 **
Vacant Property Adjustment €	173,863
Writes offs/ Waivers €	999,853
Total for Collection €	68,827,984
Amount Collected €	19,027,305
Arrears €	49,800,679
Specific Doubtful Arrears €	1,518,598
% Collected	28%

Debtors Loans	
As at 30 April 2023	
Opening Balance - 01 Jan €	300,639
Accruals €	456,074 ^
Writes offs €	-
To Collect €	756,713
Receipts €	637,915
Arrears €	118,798
% Collected	84%

^ Accruals not updated for loans for April 2023

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

#### Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No. of days in overdraft 0

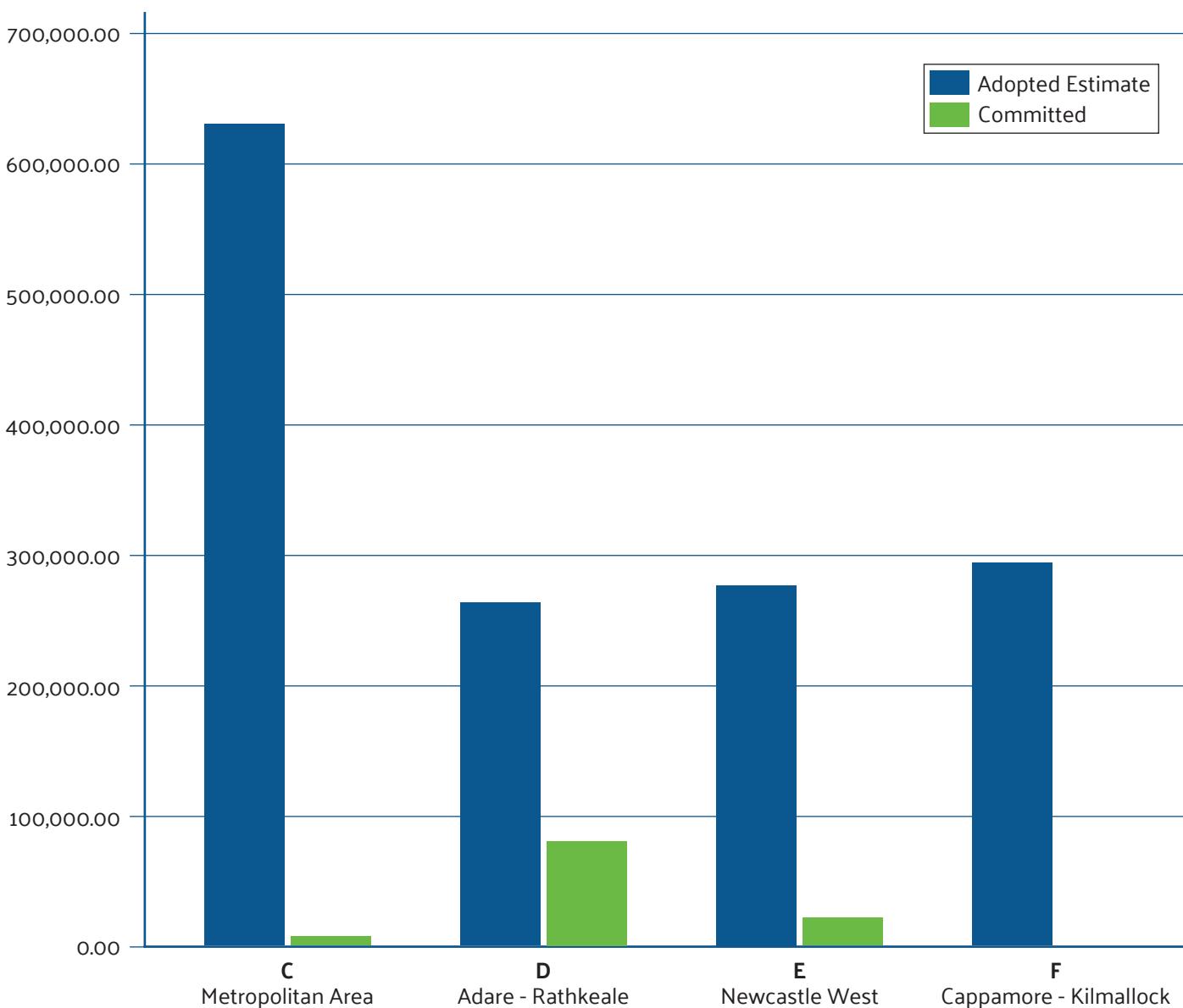
# Chief Executive's Report



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## General Municipal Allocation 2023 Adopted Estimate €1.463 Million

Graph outlining adopted budget and draft committed expenditure up to 30 April 2023



Municip (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate (€)	Value Committed (€)
C Metropolitan Area	628,000.00	9,492
D Adare - Rathkeale	269,500.00	80,135
E Newcastle West	270,500.00	20,113
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	295,000.00	0

# Chief Executive's Report



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## 2. Business Improvement

- Business Improvement launched the SF42 Monthly Health and Safety Summary Report, as a digitised online form.
- Business Improvement published the “Limerick City and County Council City Staff Car Park Survey” for city-based staff on MyPoint.
- Business Improvement assisted Urban and Rural Community Development to launch its “EU Leader 2023-2027 Consultation for Limerick County” on MyPoint.
- A total of 917 active users are now live on the Employee App.
- Services on Service Catalogue = 703.
- There are 383 capital projects now managed through Cora, our cloud-based project management system.

## 3. Corporate, Governance and Customer Services

### Office of the Mayor

#### Mayoral Receptions were held for the following:

- Jack Cotter and Nick Cotter, in recognition of their outstanding serial entrepreneurship in the biomass, agri-food and agri-tech sectors from a young age, and their various national and international achievements representing Abbeyfeale, Limerick and Rural Ireland on the global stage.
- Limerick Marine Search and Rescue Service, in recognition of their achievement in the rescue and recovery of persons from the River Shannon and surrounding area.
- James M. Cahill, Mayor, and Delegation from The City of New Brunswick, New Jersey, U.S.A.

- County Limerick Civil Defence Active Retirement Association, in celebration of 20 years of the Association.

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

- Celebration to mark the one-year anniversary of St Lelia's Age Friendly Campus being stood up as Limerick City and County Council's emergency rest centre at St. Lelia's Age Friendly Campus, Kileely, Limerick.
- Launch of Limerick City and County Council's pilot dockless bicycle share scheme in Limerick.
- Official launch of R@ISE - Research at Immersive Software Engineering at University of Limerick.
- Launch of Limerick Opera Festival at St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick.
- Limerick City Special Olympics Sports Club, medal presentation ceremony, presentation of medals to participants in the 'Swim for a Mile' event at UL Sports Arena, University of Limerick, Limerick.
- Official Re-Opening of the Limerick Dementia Social Club at Our Lady of Lourdes Community Cafe, Rosbrien, Limerick.
- Team Limerick Clean-Up.
- Road Safety Reimagined Showcase and LifeSaver Awards in the University of Limerick's National Concert Hall. Students from the University of Limerick developed posters promoting road safety and the event displayed the top posters as selected through competition, with three awards presented to the winning showcase posters.
- Lunch with the Japanese Ambassador.
- Limerick Musical Society, Titanic The Musical, at the University Concert Hall, Castletroy, Limerick.

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- St. Mary's Syro Malabar Catholic Church, Indian Catholic Community Limerick, Parish Feast (Perunnal) Annual Day Celebration 2023 at Newport Community Hall, Newport, Co. Tipperary.
- Local Authority Members' Association (LAMA) Awards at Manilla Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.
- Patrickswell GAA Club, draw for car raffle fundraiser at Patrickswell Clubhouse, Patrickswell, Co. Limerick.
- Irish Hotel Federation Mid West Tourism Ball 2023 at Limerick Strand Hotel, Limerick.
- Announcement that Limerick has been nominated in The All-Island Best Kept Town competition.
- Limerick Women's Caucus 'Embrace Empower Elect' Event, Celebrating Women's achievements and encouraging increased female participation in leadership roles, held in the Offices of Limerick City and County Council, Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Jobs Fair at Moyross Youth Academy.
- Con and Annie Kirby Memorial Stake Final 2023 at the Limerick Greyhound Stadium, Greenpark, Dock Road, Limerick.
- Hyde Rangers A.F.C., Celebrating 50 Years in Soccer, Gala Dinner in the Castletroy Park Hotel, Castletroy, Limerick.
- 2023 Munster GAA Senior Hurling Championship, Limerick v. Waterford, at FBD Semple Stadium, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.
- Visit by the Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Neale Richmond, TD, at the LEO Offices, The Engine, Upper Cecil Street, Limerick.
- TUS Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest, Scholarship Awards Ceremony at the Millennium Theatre, TUS, Moylish Campus, Limerick.

- Launch Event, European Ultimate Championships 2023, at Plassey House, University of Limerick, Castletroy, Limerick.
- Limerick Educate Together Erasmus Programme, Welcome Reception for a visiting delegation of teachers and students in the Council Chamber, Limerick City and County Council, Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Sod Turning for the new GAA pitch at Ardagh, Co. Limerick.
- Presentation of awards to the winners of the St. Patrick's Day Parade at Istabraq Hall, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Limerick School of Art and Design, Opening of Art Exhibition at the People's Museum, Pery Square, Limerick.
- Visit from The Innovation Group, Daughters of Charity, in the Council Chamber, Limerick City and County Council, Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Award of an Honorary Doctorate of the University of Limerick on Professor Roy Hayhurst, Mr Michael Houlihan, Professor Evan Petty (posthumously), and Ms. Terry Prone at the University of Limerick.
- Visit from National Learning Network, Raheen, in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle, Limerick.
- Limerick Person of the Year Gala Awards Lunch at the Clayton Hotel, Steamboat Quay, Limerick.
- The Future of Retail Seminar, hosted by Limerick City and County Council and Retail Excellence Ireland, at the Strand Hotel, Limerick.
- Mayor's Charity Ball in the Strand Hotel, Limerick.
- Attendance at the 19th Riverfest Limerick Festival.

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- 2023 Munster GAA Senior Hurling Championship, Limerick V. Clare at TUS Gaelic Grounds, Limerick.
- Regeneron Great Limerick Run.
- Sanctuary Runners, Medal Presentation to participants of the Great Limerick Run, a post race celebration for participants and supporters at GROW, 33, Henry Street, Limerick.
- Attendance at the Opening Ceremony for the 50th Anniversary of the Hohenlohekreis on 21 April in Hohenlohe, Germany.

## Limerick Women's Caucus

Limerick Women's Caucus is a cross-party forum comprising nine Limerick female Councillors who come together collectively to inspire women to participate in local politics.

- On 19 April, Limerick Women's Caucus, in partnership with Women for Election and supported by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, organised and hosted the 'Embrace Empower Elect' Conference in Istabraq Hall, Merchant's Quay, Limerick. This conference recognised and celebrated the achievements of women in leadership roles and discussed the need for more women and more diversity in local government.
- The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, the Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Kieran O'Donnell, TD, and the Chief Executive of Limerick City and County Council, addressed the conference and supported the need for more inclusivity and gender balance in the Council Chamber.
- Embrace Empower Elect featured a series of discussion panels chaired by multi-media presenter, Meghann Scully, covering areas including politics, health, education, sport and community.

- Those who attended heard inspiring stories from female leaders, and leaders from diverse backgrounds who encouraged women to get involved in local politics. This conference raised publicity and awareness for the need to make politics more inclusive, accessible and equal, both locally and at a national level.

## Register of Electors

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

- Additions to the Electoral Register - 194.
- Deletions from the Electoral Register - 75.
- Modifications to the Electoral Register - 198.
- 257 requests were received through the updated [checktheegister.ie](http://checktheegister.ie) website for updating details of electors.

## Health and Safety Training

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

Course Name	Numbers Trained
Safe Pass	1
First Aid Response	15
CPC (Certificate of Professional Competency) Training	2
Confined Spaces Medium Risk	5
<b>Total Staff Trained</b>	<b>23</b>

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## Requisitions Oversight Unit

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

- Approved requisitions account for 93% of the total requisitions actioned for this given month.
- Rejected requisitions account for 7% of the total requisitions actioned for this given month.

Month	Approved	Rejected	Total Requisitions Actioned
April	1,206	92	1,298

The Top six requisition rejection reasons for April are identified as follows:

Rejection Reason	April
Memo – Requisition not raised in advance	28
Procurement Reference omitted/incorrect	21
Quotes – omitted/incorrect copy provided	9
Award Notice – omitted/incorrect copy provided	9
Justification for Supplier Selection – omitted/insufficient detail	7
Approved Officer's Order – omitted/incorrect copy provided	7

## 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 April:

New Procurement References set up	34
Procurement References extended as per signed contract/arrangement	6

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 April

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
<b>Full Council</b> Special Meeting to discuss housing Special Meeting in relation to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028	05.04.2023 05.04.2023	Dooradoyle and Online Dooradoyle and Online
<b>Operational Briefings</b> Limerick City East Limerick City North Limerick City West	04.04.2023 04.04.2023 05.04.2023	Merchant's Quay and Online Merchant's Quay and Online Merchant's Quay and Online
<b>Municipal District of Newcastle West</b> Monthly Meeting	05.04.2023	Newcastle West
<b>Adare-Rathkeale</b> Monthly Meeting	11.04.2023	Rathkeale
<b>Cappamore-Kilmallock</b> Monthly Meeting	20.04.2023	Deebert House Hotel, Kilmallock
<b>Metropolitan District of Limerick</b> Monthly Meeting	17.04.2023	Dooradoyle and Online
<b>Strategic Policy Committee Meetings</b> Community, Leisure and Culture Home and Social Development Travel and Transportation Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning	03.04.2023 12.04.2023 18.04.2023 24.04.2023	Dooradoyle and Online Dooradoyle and Online Dooradoyle and Online Dooradoyle and Online
Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Meeting	04.04.2023	Dooradoyle and Online
Women's Caucus Event for International Women's Day – Embrace Equality	19.04.2023	Merchant's Quay

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## Access to Information

	April	2023 (January to April)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	29	70
Freedom of Information Internal Appeals	1	2
Information Commissioner Appeals	1	1
Total Ombudsman Requests	4	20
Total Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) Requests	1	10

## 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 April:

- Customer Services Call Centre answered 9,254 calls. This represents an average of 514 per day, with the number of calls reaching as high as 622. 70% of calls were handled at first point of contact.
- A total of 2,698 emails were processed through the Customer Services email platform.

- 2,477 cases were created, with 587 of these logged on behalf of Public Representatives. 2,658 cases were closed, with 707 of these being cases logged by Public Representatives.
- Of these 2,477 cases, Customer Services staff logged 70% of same.
- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued, with a total of 210 cases being logged. Of these, 192 were submitted by Public Representatives.
- Customer Services continued to support the Housing Maintenance Department in creating service requests. 91% of Housing Maintenance cases for the Limerick Metropolitan District were logged by Customer Services staff in the Dooradoyle and Merchant's Quay offices.
- A total of 57 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 92 were applied for and 66 issued.
- Customer Services staff welcomed a total of 1,986 customers at both the Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle offices.

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## 4. Marketing & Communications

### Marketing

#### Riverfest Limerick

- Launched Riverfest Limerick marketing campaign on 13 April.
- Developed a suite of digital and social marketing assets, video content and print and radio advertisements for rollout throughout the multimedia campaign.
- Created a comprehensive print and digital event guide showcasing both flagship and fringe festival events.
- Extensive promotion across local and regional media platforms – Limerick Leader, Limerick Post, Live 95, Spin Southwest and Ireland's Classic Hits, including traditional, social and digital coverage across all platforms.
- Created promotional content for a digital billboard on the approach to the city.
- Coordinated four social media competitions to increase engagement, heighten awareness and promote events and local businesses.
- Created a range of publicity pieces to gain additional coverage through sponsored content.
- Engaged content creators to promote the campaign to wider audiences across their social media channels: [Styled by Sharon](#), [Valerie Wheeler](#) and [April Drew @GetawaysWithKids](#)
- Commissioned festival photography and videography for future promotion.

### Other Marketing Activity

- Brand Limerick hoarding now in situ on the Opera site on Ellen Street. Showcasing the dualities in Limerick's character, our latest Out of Home advertising project brings to life elements of Limerick's offering through pairs of words and images, which together make something more.
- Limerick 11 tourism promotional campaign nominated for a Sockie 2023 Award (Social Media Awards) for 'Best Multi-Platform Campaign (in-house).'
- Collaboration with Limerick Chamber of Commerce on its Living Limerick website and upcoming promotion of same.
- Continued development of the Discover Limerick Activity Pack – a bespoke pack containing a series of fun and engaging Limerick-themed activities inviting mini-explorers to discover Limerick in their own way.
- Merchandise provided to Mary Immaculate College and New Brunswick delegation.
- Produced Limerick St. Patrick's Festival 2023 report detailing a performance overview of marketing and PR activities throughout the three-week multimedia marketing campaign. Topline figures include:
  - Total impressions:** 2.79 million | **Video views:** 866,042 | **Engagements:** 120,739 | **Link clicks:** 13,393 | **Website views:** 99,291.
- Produced Limerick Walk It Run It Love It 2023 report detailing a performance overview of marketing and PR activities throughout the four-week multimedia marketing campaign. The campaign received funding by the Department of Rural and Community Development, Fáilte Ireland and Limerick City and County Council under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme. Topline figures include:
  - Reach:** 719,723 | **Total impressions:** 1.4 million | **Video views:** 499,002 | **Engagements:** 155,492 | **Link clicks:** 9,435 | **Website views:** 17,285

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## Social Media

- Management of Marketing & Communications' 14 social media channels, including Limerick.ie and Limerick City and County Council accounts, to engage with citizens and promote Limerick to locals, visitors, students, and the business community.
- Followers across our five main social media platforms is now as per below:
  - Limerick.ie Facebook: 33,637
  - Limerick.ie Twitter: 21,482
  - Limerick.ie Instagram: 27,784
  - Limerick City and County Council Twitter: 18,118
  - Limerick City and County Council LinkedIn: 10,478

## Limerick.ie

In April, there were 236,817\* unique site visits to Limerick.ie, a 17% increase on the same period in 2022. (\*Fathom Analytics)

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

- [www.limerick.ie/riverfest](http://www.limerick.ie/riverfest)
- [www.limerick.ie](http://www.limerick.ie)
- <https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning>
- <https://www.limerick.ie/discover/eat-see-do/festivals/riverfest/riverfestival-village-0>
- <https://www.limerick.ie/discover/eat-see-do/festivals/riverfest/irish-naval-vessel-0>

**Content Report:** 71 articles and 162 events were added to Limerick.ie in April.

## Communications

- Issued 33 news releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and researched and wrote 17 speeches for the Office of the Mayor.
- Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter.
- Responded to media queries from local, national and international outlets.

# Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnígh**

**Limerick** City  
& County Council

## 5. Munster Regional Communications Centre

	No of Calls mobilised to an emergency incident by MRCC	Other Calls	Average call processing time in minutes and seconds	Total No. of calls in April
No. of call-outs 01.04.2023 – 30.04.2023	816	218	103.68	1,034

