

Chief Executive's Report

May 2023

Hundreds of new jobs created with investment from Analog, H&MV and Apex

Judges impressed by Limerick as emerging filming location in global awards at Cannes

Limerick's Ukraine response recognised with €1.4M for community projects

Over 600 engage with employers and agencies at Ballinacurra Weston Jobs Fair

Bike Week pushes pedal power message with Limerick events to suit all ages and abilities

Chief Executive's Report



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

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Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism Directorate

1. Trade & Investment

Jobs and Investments

Analog Devices announced a €630m investment in a new R&D facility in Limerick. The investment will create 600 new jobs at its European Headquarters in Raheen, bringing their total workforce in Limerick to more than 2,000.

Global financial services provider Apex Group, which acquired Limerick-based FundRock in 2021, announced its intention to create more jobs in Limerick at the official opening of their new offices in Dooradoyle. Currently employing 100 people in Limerick, the new office will have capacity to accommodate 200 employees.

Limerick headquartered H&MV Engineering announced plans to open a new global headquarters in Castletroy. The new 36,000 square foot facility will include engineering VR facilities as well as relaxation areas, a games room and a gym. 350 jobs will be created as part of this investment. The Limerick company, which was founded in 1997, now has offices in Dublin, Cork, Thurles, the UK, continental Europe and India. H&MV Engineering already employs 700 people at its various bases across the globe.

2. Digital Services

The scoping phase of the CRM (Customer Relationship Management) Migration project was concluded in May, with 14 separate workshops held, gathering requirements from Customer Services, Business Improvement, Digital Services, Housing (Operations and Maintenance, Allocations/Assessments, and Grants), Environment, Data Protection, Archives, Bin Waivers, Roads and Parks. A limited prototype is currently being developed.

On 26 May, Limerick City and County Council hosted its first TAG (Telecommunication Action Group) meeting. TAG meetings were orchestrated by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD). The combined

Telecommunication Action Group (TAG) meets once a month, in a different local authority each month. The group is comprised of all Broadband Officers (BBOs) and is chaired by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD).

The Broadband Officer, Limerick City and County Council, hosted the TAG meeting in the newly launched Engine Hub, *The Pavilion, Manor Fields, Adare*. Over 25 Broadband Officers attended the meeting, each representing their individual Local Authority.

The Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale, Councillor Stephen Keary, opened the event by welcoming all attendees to Limerick and especially to *The Pavilion, Manor Fields, Adare*. The Head of Information Systems - Digital Services and EU Programmes, also welcomed attendees to Limerick.

3. Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Limerick

Funding Approved

- Four Feasibility Study Grants were approved.
- One Technical Assistance Grant for Micro Exporters was approved.
- One Business was approved for a Trading Online Voucher.
- One Business was approved for an IPStart Grant.
- Two Businesses received Green for Micro supports.
- Two Businesses were approved for Micro-Finance loans.

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Workshops and Webinars

- Business Planning Workshop.
- Start Your Own Business Course.
- Social Media for Business.
- Data Protection for Small Business.
- Costing and Pricing Workshop.
- Top tips for Public Relations.
- May Meet-Up: 'Selling your Story.'
- Business Advice Clinics.

There were 109 participants on the LEO Business Training Workshops and 12 Business Owners were approved for the LEO Mentoring Programme.

Awards

LEO Limerick Client Company, Cotter Agritec, won the South-West Region Award at the National Enterprise Awards in the Mansion House in Dublin.

Newcastle West School, Desmond College, won the Innovation Award in the senior category at the LEO National Student Enterprise Awards in Croke Park, Dublin.

4. Regional Enterprise Plan

Building Better Business

On 26 May, the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Simon Coveney, T.D., attended the Building Better Business event held in The Kemmy Business School at the University of Limerick. This event was a joint initiative of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and the Mid-West Regional Enterprise Plan Steering Committee. It was the third and largest such event to be held nationally, with an attendance of over 200 stakeholders from across industry, education and state agencies.

The event featured opening remarks by the Minister, an address from the Chair of the Mid-West Regional Enterprise Plan Steering Committee, Professor Eamonn Murphy, along with panel discussions with experts and local businesses discussing the opportunities and

challenges presented by digital transformation and the transition to a low carbon economy. The event also contained an expo area with experts on hand to talk through the range of business supports available from government.

While at the University, the Minister met with University President, Professor Kirsten Mey, and visited students of UL's industry-focused Immersive Software Engineering programme, as well as meeting staff and academics at the Bernal Institute to discuss some of their ongoing industry collaborations.

5. Tourism

Limerick Greenway

Events

- A Sponsored walk from Abbeyfeale to Barnagh for Down Syndrome Ireland was completed by Castletroy College on 03 May.
- Bike Week -13 to 21 May

So many different groups benefitted from Bike Week on the Limerick Greenway this year such as grandparents, families, couples, National and Secondary Schools, disability groups, mental health groups, and older adults. The initiative supported people who had not been on bikes for 20, 30 and even 60 years and was a great example of how stakeholders can work together. Limerick City and County Council provided merchandise, advertising of events and support during the week and supported the Abbeyfeale Boys' School, which resulted in the video below to close out a very successful Bike Week.

<https://fb.watch/kT6Nmj1cbk/>

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Advertising

- Limerick Greenway featured in the Irish Independent with a *Summer Breaks* piece – 22 May.
- Limerick's Live 95 is currently running Limerick Greenway ads which kicked off for Bike Week on 13 May.
- Limerick Greenway continued to support the Limerick Hurling Team and offered best wishes from Limerick City and County Council in their programmes from the Limerick v Tipperary and Limerick v Cork matches.

Photography

- Photoshoot with a local family was completed on 26 May and focused on Abbeyfeale.

Familiarisation Trips

- Astrid Madsen, Journalist, and currently working with Woman's Way, came to visit the Greenway on 08 and 09 May, starting in Abbeyfeale and making her way along the Greenway experiencing all that it has to offer for their readers.
- Eoghan Corry, Irish Journalist and travel commentator, cycled Limerick Greenway from Abbeyfeale to Barnagh, taking in the sights and meeting with members of the Tourism Team to discuss the continued development of the Greenway, associated hubs and impact for the local economy.

DISCOVER LIMERICK

Discover Limerick brochures and maps continued to be distributed widely to the Tourism and Hospitality Sector through a new ordering service operated by Glance on behalf of Limerick City and County Council.

Tourism Industry and Trade Events

Tourism Department attended CARO (Climate Action Regional Office) Climate Action Workshop for Community and Enterprise in Portlaoise in May.

A meeting of Irish Tourism Officers took place in May with a view to establishing a formal network for Tourism Officers in Ireland. The first meeting was very successful and mapped out a plan for developing the network in 2023.

Procurement

Limerick City and County Council supported Kilmallock Tourism to procure and appoint a tourism consultant to develop a gaps analysis and implementation plan for the Kilmallock visitor experience.

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Riverfest

The summer season kicked off in May. The 19th Riverfest Limerick Festival drew massive crowds of people into Limerick City across the May Bank holiday. Highlights this year included Rogu's fire spectacular on Bedford Row, The Freedrop, Flyboarding displays, and a first time visit of the Irish Air corp helicopter.

The perennial Festival Village, BBQ on the boardwalk and Fireworks display were hugely popular. The festival village alone attracted over 57,000 visitors over the four days. Huge numbers of visitors descended on the Treaty City with An Garda Síochána and City traders indicating a 30% upturn in figures.

The Great Limerick Run

Supported by Limerick City and County Council, The Great Limerick Run attracted over 14,000 participants to walk or run through Limerick City. This added greatly to the vibrancy of the city over the bank holiday weekend.

Fleadh by the Feale

Fleadh by the Feale Traditional Irish Music Festival took place in Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick, on the May bank holiday weekend and is now in its 29th year. The festival attracts traditional musicians, dancers, singers and storytellers from all across Ireland and further afield.

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The Friday night started with a busking competition and featured gig rig entertainment. The weekend continued with workshops, youth sessions, pub trails, bones workshops/ competitions and a ceili in locations across the town.

6. Innovate Limerick DAC

FILM IN LIMERICK

Film in Limerick holds Cineposium Reception at Cannes Film Festival

In partnership with Screen Ireland and AFCI (Association of Film Commissioners International), Film in Limerick held a reception at the Irish Pavillion at the Cannes Film Festival in May to launch registration for our Cineposium event.

Cineposium is a major global film industry event, which will be held in Limerick this year. The week-long event will bring 200 Film Commissions and industry leaders from around the world to Limerick to discuss policy, economic development and screen production. It will serve as an opportunity to showcase Limerick and the west coast of Ireland to major studio executives.

The Reception at Cannes was attended by Irish and international producers and film executives and included a panel discussion moderated by Variety magazine. With the support of Local Enterprise Office Limerick, local company, Foxes Bow Whiskey, was also present at the reception to display its Limerick Whiskey to the international audience.

Film in Limerick wins the Runner-Up Prize at the Global Film Production Awards at the Cannes Film Festival.

Innovate Limerick, through Film in Limerick, won the Runner-Up Award at the inaugural Global Film Production Awards in the Emerging Location category. The awards took place at the Cannes Film Festival in May, celebrating outstanding and sustainable work in the world of film and TV production, locations and studios.

Judges Announced for Engine Short Film Scheme

The Judges for the second edition of the Engine Short Film Scheme have been revealed. Kate McCullough, cinematographer on the OSCAR-nominated *An Cailín Ciúin*, joins Fionnuala Halligan, Screen International's executive editor, and Grainne Humphreys, Director of the Dublin International Film Festival, to decide the six-winning projects for 2023.

Run by Innovate Limerick, through Film in Limerick, Engine Shorts is a partnership between the Local Authorities in Tipperary, Limerick and Clare, and Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board. The new scheme aims to inspire and support up-and-coming writers, directors and producers to create inspiring, engaging world-class short films that resonate with a wide international audience.

Writers' Factory

The third Edition of our popular 22-week 'Writers Factory - Introduction to Screenwriting Course' wrapped in May with an in-person pitch event in Limerick for our cohort of 20 local emerging screenwriters. The programme is supported by Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.

Local Productions

'Blackshore,' from the makers of 'Smother,' continued to film in Clare, Tipperary and Limerick. Film in Limerick also assisted with several scouting trips to the region in May, arranging tours for US producers looking for locations for upcoming feature films and TV series



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Transportation and Mobility Directorate

1. Travel and Transport Strategy

The Draft Newcastle West Transport Plan went on public display on 06 May, along with the Draft Newcastle West Local Area Plan. A public information evening was held at Newcastle West Municipal District Office on 25 May.

National Bike Week - 13 to 21 May

- Bike Week kicked off on 13 May with a Dawn Cycle from the University of Limerick and a Family Cycle along the Limerick Greenway. Families started their cycle from Rathkeale Greenway Car Park.
- A family bike ride and fun day was held in Limerick City on 14 May to mark the beginning of National Bike Week. A parade of almost one hundred cyclists took to the streets of Limerick. Cyclists left Arthur's Quay Park for a 4km Three Bridges loop route that took in King John's Castle, Thomond Bridge, Clancy Strand, O'Callaghan Strand and Shannon Bridge. Along with the bike parade, the crowds also enjoyed an afternoon of entertainment in the park with a pop-up Street Velodrome, music, and face painters. Gardaí from Henry Street station were on hand on the day to provide information on safe cycling and bike theft prevention.
- Bike Clinics were held around Limerick throughout Bike Week. Bike Mechanics were in attendance at various locations, including The People's Park, Castletroy Neighbourhood Park and Arthur's Quay Park. Bike Mechanics provided free bike checks and repairs.
- Community groups, schools and workplaces had the opportunity to apply for funding support to run bicycle related events throughout the city and county. Events included free bicycle repair workshops, organised cycles, and safety promotions.
- A number of workplaces in Limerick got involved in Bike Week by holding cycling promotions.

- Schools from around Limerick city and county took part in Bike Week. A variety of events and promotions with staff and students were held, including cycle to school days, bike parades, cycle skills sessions, bling your bike competitions.
- A number of inclusive cycle events were also held throughout the week with various groups from around Limerick.
- A family bike ride was held along the UL to City Centre riverbank on 20 May.

2. Active Travel

Projects

Metropolitan District

- Wickham Street to Clare Street:** The first phase of non-statutory public consultation ended on 24 May.
- TUS Moylish to City Centre:** Detailed design being progressed – final bus stop arrangements and junction layouts issued to National Transport Authority for review.
- Patrickswell Village Renewal Scheme:** Work ongoing.
- Hyde Road:** Works approximately 80% complete.
- Brookville Avenue, Ennis Road:** Cycle lane segregation and additional footpath works now complete.
- Childers Road (Greenpark to Roxboro Road Roundabout):** Construction tender being published.
- Roxboro Road:** Consultants developing cross section options and gathering data. Meeting held with Irish Rail to feed into options selection.

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- **Ennis Road:** Options Report complete and currently being reviewed.
- **Ballysimon Road:** Tender issued to engage Consultants.
- **City Canal to City Centre (Pathfinder):** Tender issued to engage Consultants.
- **Rosmór, Old Cork Road, Limerick:** Detailed design ongoing.
- **Bike Parking:** Currently compiling a list of potential sites for bike parking in 2023.
- **Bus shelters:** Work ongoing.

Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

- **Gotoon Bridge, Kilmallock, and Millennium Bridge, Caherconlish:** Draft options presented by Consultants.

Municipal District of Newcastle West

- **Abbeyfeale Connectivity:** The Options Report has been submitted to the National Transport Authority for comments.

Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

- **Rathkeale Area:** Grant Application Forms and continuation sheets complete for the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale minor footpaths.
- **Station Road, Askeaton:** Section 38 documentation being finalised for the construction of a new footpath along Station Road (Newbridge Road) to the old Rail Station, including extensive drainage and public lighting on the periphery of Askeaton town.

Safe Routes To School

St. Paul's National School, Dooradoyle: Car free zone trial continuing until end of school term. Feedback to be collated from students, staff and parents before end of trial.

Marketing & Communications

Press releases issued to local media on: air quality monitoring beginning in 15 locations across Limerick; reminder of closing date of first phase of non-statutory public consultation for Wickham Street-Clare Street project; progress of pop-up playgrounds in Kennedy Park, Corbally Baths and Mayorstane Quarry.

Social media updates issued on following projects: Corbally Road Safe Routes To School; St. Paul's National School car-free zone trial; Patrickswell Village Renewal Scheme; Hyde Road; Brookville Avenue; Wickham Street-Clare Street.



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Rural, Community and Culture Development Directorate

1. Culture

Libraries

- Dietician, Aoife McDonald, delivered a talk on 'Nutrition for Healthy Living' in Dooradoyle Library on 04 May. Aoife, who runs The Digestive Health Clinic in Cork, delivered the talk to a group of women from the local Women's Shed. On 10 May, Juliette O'Connell of Breast Cancer Ireland, presented a workshop on Breast Cancer Awareness. Juliette is a Breast Cancer survivor and an indefatigable Outreach Co-Ordinator. Both events were part of the Healthy Ireland at Your Library (HIAYL) events programme.
- Oakleigh Kids Academy, Dooradoyle, visited the library twice during the month for stories, nursery rhymes and songs and each child was gifted a bedtime storybook to take home at the end of their visit. As the children had been learning about libraries at school, they asked lots of questions about books, libraries and the role of a librarian.
- In an unexpected twist, the library turned into a yoga studio for a day. Local yoga teacher, Brid Quinn, guided approximately 90 first-class pupils from St. Paul's National School, Dooradoyle, through an interactive event called 'A Story Around Yoga.' The children embarked on a journey through the enchanting pages of 'Giraffes Can't Dance' by Giles Andreae while learning the art of balancing on one leg. Surely, a story that involves yoga and dancing giraffes is the recipe for a truly unforgettable day.
- In an attempt to combat the stigma surrounding chronic pain, the ASpida Project visited the library for a daylong workshop. The School of Applied Psychology, University College Cork, and Chronic Pain Ireland (CPI), joined forces to provide solace and support to individuals living with this invisible burden. On 13 May, the library became a sanctuary, a safe space for sharing stories and finding comfort in the company of others who understood their plight.
- In celebration of this year's Bealtaine Festival, the branch organised a Healthy Food Demonstration with Anne Gabbett of the Irish Countrywomen's Association. Anne demonstrated to a group of approximately fifty adults how to prepare and serve a selection of healthy recipes. The event was based on a number of recipes from the Safefood Ireland '101 Square Meals' cookbook and each of the attendees received a free copy of the cookbook to recreate some of the recipes at home.
- The first Dooradoyle Board Games Club for adults met on 20 May choosing from a range of games including: Scrabble, Chess, Monopoly Cluedo and Dungeons & Dragons.
- The Dooradoyle branch was delighted to welcome fifty children from Donoughmore National School on 23 May. Juniors, Seniors, and First Class pupils, along with their teachers, arrived for a fun-filled morning of stories and arts and crafts. After the activities, the children spent time in the children's library where library staff were on hand to recommend the most popular reads for their age and reading level.
- Dooradoyle Library's monthly book club met on 25 May where they discussed their latest novel, 'The Lido' by Libby Page.
- Regular visits from Red Hill School, Health Service Executive Training Centre and Crescent College Comprehensive Secondary school continued throughout the month.
- At Adare Library, the Parent, Baby and Toddler group met four times during the month. Junior and Senior Infants from Our Lady's Abbey National School visited Adare Library twice during this month to discover new and interesting titles. In collaboration with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, the branch hosted the first in a series of digital workshops for senior citizens to cover using email, accessing government online services, using apps for personal communication and accessing information online.

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- There were 27 onsite visits by researchers to the Local Studies Department in May. These comprised 20 research sessions on the archives of local and national newspapers, three on the FindMyPast genealogy site, and four on material from the Local Studies and Archives collections. There were 21 remote queries, submitted by email or telephone. The Department's Decade of Centenaries' roundtable discussion on the Civil War in Co. Limerick was held on 16 May in Kilmallock Library and was well attended and successful. The editing of essays for the Department's other Decade of Centenaries project, a collection on Protestant life in Limerick during the revolutionary period, commenced. Work on the new Local Studies website was also progressed through the sourcing of additional images and the writing of copy for the various sections. Some new acquisitions were added to stock.
- Watch House Cross Library held five storytime sessions and four parent and toddler mornings with regular class visits from Thomond Primary, Corpus Christi School and Gaelscoil Sáirséal throughout the month. Corpus Christi pre-school visited on 05 May with 20 children accompanied by their parents and teachers. The branch's partnership with Fighting Words continued with a workshop for Fourth Class from Christ the King National School on 17 May. Their story, Orange, Banana and the Monkey Invasion, was bursting with action and imagination and included their own class mascot, King Stoat. They were thrilled to see their story brought to life with wonderful illustrations and see it published on the Fighting Words website. Fifth and Sixth classes from Christ the King School attended a workshop on the same day. This hurling obsessed group wrote an exciting tale called Squishy Dumpling and the All-Ireland Final. Library staff attended a training workshop with Fighting Words General Manager, Sara Bennett, on 25 May in Watch House Cross Library. This training enables library staff to facilitate creative writing workshops with primary and secondary school pupils in library branches.
- Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB) facilitated English language workshops for residents of Knockalisheen Direct Provision Centre

every Monday morning and Tuesday afternoon. The participants all joined the library and learned about the free facilities available with their new library cards.

- LCETB Driver Theory Support classes continued throughout May on Tuesdays and Fridays. Limerick City Community Development Project Mindfulness Group met every Wednesday morning and classes on Computers through Literacy and Computers Level 2/3 continued throughout May.
- Age Action continued their computer classes every Thursday morning. The Thursday and Friday adult book clubs met on 25 and 26 May and enjoyed Anseo by Úna-Minh Kavanagh. The 9-12 book club met on 31 May. This month, they read Frankenstiltskin by Joseph Coelho. The group discussed some of the unusual vocabulary and added it to their glossary. The 7-9 book club all read a different Dirtie Bertie book and had great fun comparing the different stories they had enjoyed. Inspired by tiny the robot dog in Fetch! everyone designed and drew their own robot pet.
- The Lego Club completed their six-week block with some amazing builds inspired by Marvel characters, Roblox, and their favourite book characters. The Sensory Room had 192 visits in May.
- Rathkeale Library was delighted to welcome First Class from St. Anne's Primary School for a special spring-themed storytime and craft activity on 04 May. In addition, Third Class was invited to a Fighting Words creative writing workshop facilitated by library staff on 18 May. Church Street National School continued with their fortnightly visits to the library to borrow books, and the branch was delighted to welcome the senior classes from St. Joseph's Boys' National School when they called in to become library members during the month.
- Library staff were invited to Kilmeedy National School on 08 May to chat to the pupils about reading, becoming a librarian and the many promotional activities available. Pupils were shown exciting new titles and encouraged to join a library.

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- Local author, Gráinne O'Brien, visited Adare, Watch House Cross and City Library to meet with local primary school children and talk to them about her recently published book 'A Limerick Fairytale' which features many Limerick locations and landmarks. A fun and irreverent re-telling of the classic fairytale, Cinderella, this workshop gave rise to a lively discussion on the children's favourite classic tales and possible alternative plot lines.
- In Newcastle West Library, schools, nursing homes and individuals eager to explore the wide range of equipment acquired to make a visit to this library meaningful and relaxing for all ages and abilities, visited the sensory space. The very popular knitting group met each week to share skills and tips, and class visits continued to visit the library and borrow great books. On 03 and 04 May, over 200 children and adults from six local primary schools enjoyed a talk from Limerick Sports Partnership on the importance of nutrition and exercise for children.
- May began at Kilmallock Library with a visit from 14 of the wonderful children at Abbey Kids who enjoyed some stories, songs and crafting activities. On 10 May, 24 children from Star Kids made a visit to the branch for a fun interactive morning of story, song and craft with all joining in with great enthusiasm.
- The library put out a call for needle crafters to meet on 11 May at the Library and 13 eager crafters answered the call. A new crafting group ensued and decided to meet each Thursday at the Library to chat, craft and share skills over refreshments.
- Sixth class students and teachers from Scoil Mocheallóg also visited on 11 May. In addition to browsing books, the 39 students were eager to learn about the library e-services, in particular the benefits of BorrowBox. The students were shown how to access BorrowBox and the myriad of eBooks and eAudiobooks available.
- On the evening of 16 May, Kilmallock Library was delighted to host a roundtable discussion on "The Inevitable Conflict" – Essays on the Civil War in Limerick, edited by Dr. Séan Gannon. The evening proved extremely popular with the large crowd in attendance and free copies of the book were distributed on the night. Dr. Séan Gannon chaired the event, which included a wonderful line-up of speakers, including John Dorney, Chief Editor/Writer, The Irish Story website, Dr. John O'Callaghan (Atlantic Technological University Sligo), Dr. Brian Hughes (Mary Immaculate College Limerick), and Siobhán English (Mary Immaculate College Limerick) who offered their well-researched insights to this period of Irish history.
- The Little Readers met again on 26 May for a fun, friendly, inclusive session of storytelling, song, rhymes, books and chat! The session was followed by a talk with nutritionist, Helen Stapleton, with some tips on encouraging healthy eating in children under the Healthy Ireland At Your Library Programme.
- On 31 May, the branch screened the acclaimed film "Living" to mark Bealtaine, Ireland's national celebration of the arts and creativity as we age. Led by Bill Nighy's perfect performance, "Living" is a film that leaves you reflecting on the things you appreciate in your own life. The Irish Times gave the film a five star review saying 'The cast is wonderful, and every detail is just perfect'
- To celebrate Europe Day on 09 May, Limerick City Library hosted Dr. Aileen Dillane, Senior Lecturer in Music (UL), for 'All Kinds of Everything,' a special lecture on the Eurovision Song Contest. Aileen gave a talk about Ireland's participation in the Eurovision and how the competition has changed, along with changes in the European Union and elsewhere, that was both entertaining and fascinating. This Europe Direct event was attended by an enthused crowd of Eurovision fans and followed by a lively and informative Q&A discussion.

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- Other talks during May included a reading from the book "The Road that Rises," a memoir by Dermot Hayes documenting his experiences as an activist and campaigner across many causes over seven decades. This event, held on 23 May, was organised by The Limerick Writers' Centre, who are also the publishers of the memoir.
- The City Library continued to host a series of Migrant Support Clinics on Monday mornings in May. These drop-in clinics are jointly organised by the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board and PAUL Partnership. Also continuing were the weekly personal development classes for migrants and asylum seekers organised by PAUL Partnership on consecutive Tuesday mornings throughout the month.
- On 03 May, the Library hosted a session of Doras Luimni's weekly employment hubs. These workshops offer career and interview guidance to asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants and supports to access employment opportunities.
- On 26 May, the monthly Aphasia Conversation Group met in the community activity room and was given an introduction to the Library and its services, including how to join and access the range of online services.
- As part of the ongoing Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme, the boys from Scoil Iosagáin CBS Primary School and St. John the Baptist visited for a talk on the importance of exercise, nutrition and fitness, given by Limerick Sports Partnership. The boys were thoroughly engaged and afterwards spent some time at the Library perusing the book collection and playing a selection of board games.
- The monthly book clubs continued to meet and discuss their chosen reads with nine separate meetings in May. The Phoenix Book Club met on 03 May, the First Thursday Book Club on 04 May, the second Wednesday Book Club on 10 May, the U3A (University of the Third Age) book clubs on 08, 15 and 22 May and the Spiral Book Club on 17 May. The children's book club for ages 9-12 years held their meeting on 04 May and the Young Adult book club took place on 11 May.
- Róisín Meaney performed on 20 May with her regular monthly story time full of stories, songs and general good humour and fun. The monthly Spanish language storytelling group, 'Cuenta Cuentos,' met on 25 May with their dedicated audience of toddlers and grown-ups all participating in a lively bilingual session of stories, songs and rhymes. Also, the weekly toddler story time continued to entertain a growing audience of loyal fans every Wednesday morning at 10.30am.
- May was also a busy month for school visits, which saw the branch welcome 14 different class groups from primary and post primary schools. These included Presentation Primary School, CBS Primary School, St. Michael's Infant School and Stella Maris Primary School, Limerick Educate Together Secondary School and English Language Schools, Limerick Student Campus and RightWord.
- In other branches, Roxboro Library organised a mental health talk from Limerick Mental Health Association for the local dementia social club, and Joanne O'Callaghan hosted a yoga session for local school children in Abbeyfeale Library.
- Limerick Libraries were delighted to be contacted by Live 95 and asked to record a piece advising parents on how to encourage their children to read during the summer holidays. The interview was broadcast on the Limerick Today Show with Joe Nash on 29 May.

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Arts

OPEN CALLS

Stony Thursday Book

The Open Call for submissions to the Stony Thursday Book closed on 31 May. The Stony Thursday Book is one of the longest-running literary journals in Ireland and this will be its 45th edition, No.19 in the new series.

Meitheal Summer School

Limerick Arts Office, Limerick City and County Council, is offering one bursary to attend Meitheal Summer School. The bursary will cover five days residential stay, meals and tuition (lectures, workshops etc.), to the value of €770. The purpose of this bursary is to support professional development. The Meitheal Summer School Bursary Award closed for applications at 12 Noon on 24 May.

Individual Arts Bursary, Theatre Bursary and Dolores O'Riordan Music Bursary Awards Schemes

Limerick City and County Council's Open Call for the Individual Arts Bursary, Theatre Bursary and Dolores O'Riordan Music Bursary Awards Schemes 2023 closed for applications at 12 Noon on 24 May. These bursaries grow Limerick's cultural capacity by retaining and attracting creative practitioners to live and work in Limerick. The purpose is to support professional artists to develop their artistic practice.

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 May, ten letters of support were issued.

CREATIVE IRELAND

Cruinniú na nÓg 2023

A national day of free creativity for children and young people, Cruinniú 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. For the sixth year, Limerick Arts Office is partnering with Fresh Film to deliver a programme of film-based activities for children and young people aged 0-18. The full Limerick programme was released for Cruinniú na nÓg in May and the press photocall took place on 24 May with the King's Island Lego Club at The Alms Houses, near King John's Castle on Nicholas Street, Limerick.

Creative Ireland – Musicians on Call 2023

Limerick Arts Office, in collaboration with Age Friendly Limerick and Healthy Limerick, secured €45,000 from the Creative Ireland Creativity in Older Age funding. This delivers Musicians on Call, in partnership with Artistic Partner Music and Health Ireland, the Health Service Executive (HSE) and Clare and Tipperary County Councils. This brings professionally trained musicians from Artistic Partner Music & Health Ireland to work in healthcare settings in the Mid West Community Healthcare Region, to connect music-making opportunities to residents and healthcare staff in Nursing Homes and Community Hospitals. Musicians On Call provides a music sharing experience that puts the residents' interests and choice at the heart of music making, by connecting closely with the setting before each visit and facilitating the residents to curate each visit through a two-way responsive engagement.

Future Creators Sharing Event

On 21 May at the Irish Aerial Creation Centre (IACC), a celebration of the work of the children and young people who have been participating in this intensive programme took place. 2023 is the fifth developmental year of the project, which specifically supports youth and takes a collaborative interdisciplinary approach.

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ARTS COUNCIL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT PROGRAMME

Festivals Makers' Conference

Representatives of Limerick Arts Office Team attended the Festivals Makers' Conference in Galway. Hosted by the Arts Council and Creative Europe Desk Ireland, the conference was themed around the Changing Landscape of Festivals, and focused on sustainability, European and local partnerships, as well as governance, volunteering and measuring impact.

European Projects – Libertalia

Limerick Arts Office is an associate partner in the European Funded Project *Libertalia*. The final LAB took place in May in Veszprém, Hungary (Veszprém/Balaton European Capital of Culture 2023) with two Aerial Artists from the Irish Aerial Creation Centre attending the Lab and participating in the final performance. The Limerick Arts Office participated in the final part of the week for the partners' meeting and final presentation.

The UL Hospital Group Arts Steering Committee

The UL Hospital Group Arts Steering Committee has been renewed and reconvened in 2023. UL Hospital Group recognises that the arts in healthcare, in its various guises, plays a significant role in enriching the lives of service users and staff. The aim of the Arts Committee in UL Hospital Group is to transform the hospital environment into a healing and stimulating space and provide access to contemporary arts and design. Limerick Arts Office participated in the Arts Steering Committee meeting on 31 May and is organising a loans exhibition of the Arts Office collection to the Hospital and participating on the Visual Arts Policy sub-group.

Poetry Jukebox

The People's Park in Limerick City is now home to a new Poetry Jukebox as part of Poetry as Commemoration, an initiative led by UCD Library with support from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the Decade of Centenaries Programme 2012-2023. Working with Limerick Arts Office, a Jukebox was installed in the People's Park for 12 weeks for all to enjoy.

Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- Diana Copperwhite's exhibition, *Onomatopoeia*, continued at LCGA. The exhibition, curated by Aoife Ruane, presented as a national tour with financial support from The Arts Council Touring Award. The artist is from Co. Limerick and has gained a significant national and international profile over her thirty-year career.
- A selection of works from the Permanent Collection formed the basis of a very fine representation from the collection on exhibit in the East Gallery and the first floor galleries - including works by seminal artists from the last century, including Paul Henry, Evie Hone, William Leech and Limerick artist, Walter Verling, who recently died (RIP).
- LCGA continued to collaborate with other national institutions and galleries making artworks available from the Permanent Collections for temporary exhibitions. Over 70 drawing from the National Collection of Contemporary Drawing were on exhibit at An Gailearaí: Ionad Áislann, in Co. Donegal.
- Juliette Morrison, who is currently doing an MA, by practice, at LSAD (TUS Limerick School of Art and Design) exhibited the painting produced during her residency in the LCGA TEST SPACE programme. Visitors to the Gallery had the opportunity to engage with Juliette and observe an artist while she works.
- Planning meetings continued with various artists and organisations.

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- The Shinnors Scholar, a two-year MA by practice was awarded to LSAD graduate, Aoife Doherty. This initiative is a partnership with TUS, which has been in place for 16 years with eight participants to date. The focus of the Shinnors Scholar is on the development of the education programme with primary schools.
- LCGA continued to have notable increase in school groups, foreign visitors from EU, South America (particularly Brazil), USA, and Ukraine, which suggests that there are significant opportunities for LCGA to grow this audience and work across other Directories.
- LCGA continued to collaborate with local community groups, facilitating meetings for U3A (University of the 3rd Age) with meeting held three times each month; and hosting meetings with The Wheel and Helium and a concert/performance with the Irish Chamber Orchestra youth orchestra.
- LCGA hosted a Limerick College of Further Education (LCFE) student photographic exhibition from 19 May. The launch took place on 20 May.

Limerick Museum

- On 03 May, the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, performed the official opening of *Celebrating 130 Years of Local History*, an exhibition marking the 130th anniversary of the Thomond Archaeological and Historical Society. Limerick Museum collaborated with the Thomond Society in curating this exhibition by providing objects and display cases from the Museum's collection. The exhibition was on display from 04 - 31 May inclusive in St. Mary's Cathedral by kind permission of the Dean and Chapter. The Thomond Archaeological and Historical Society is the second oldest such society in Ireland. It traces its origins to the foundation of the Limerick Naturalists' Field Club in 1892 and more directly and specifically to the establishment of its archaeology section in 1897 when its title was shortened to the Limerick Field Club. The Society retains its strong focus on archaeology while continuing to promote the study and enjoyment of history, folklore, folk life, place names, numismatics, architecture, historical geography

and other kindred studies. Many of its members took an active part in the establishment of Limerick Museum in 1907 and its subsequent development in succeeding decades. This magnificent exhibition is truly worthy of the Society's long and rich history. The many exhibition cases display a wide variety of material illustrating the Society's many and varied activities, including books, photographs, objects from Limerick Museum's collection, and many others.

- Limerick Museum hosted an art exhibition from 04 May entitled *Then and Now. Response to the Limerick Lace Collection* by Elizabeth Kinsella and curated by Maurice Quillinan. This exhibition paid tribute to the cultural heritage of Limerick Lace and its women creators. The artist explored the interplay between lace patterns and utilitarian clothing designs, using a range of materials to balance tradition and innovation. Repetitions and process were key themes throughout the exhibition, reflecting on the intricate and delicate nature of lace making, and the poverty and hardship that surrounded its creators. Unconventional materials like unstretched canvas and paper bags were used to create a dialogue between refined beauty and raw, unpolished surfaces. The exhibition also explored boundaries and edges, inspired by small handkerchiefs and flounces of lace. The artist reflected on her personal journey by incorporating parts of paintings and embroidered drawings from earlier exhibitions in her career. The exhibition celebrated Limerick's lace making heritage and the women who played an important role in shaping it and creates a new dialogue between the past and present. Elizabeth Kinsella is a visual artist and academic based in Sligo. She graduated with BA and MFA from the University of Ulster, where she received the Spectrum Painting Prize and a Peter Moore's Foundation Scholarship for Postgraduate Study. She lectures at Atlantic Technological University Sligo Campus, where she is Programme Chair for Fine Art. Exhibitions include: Alchemy at Solstice Art Centre Navan; Confessions of a Celtic Tiger, Brick Lane Gallery, London; Hybrid, Redline Art Centre, Denver; Hybrid 2, Regional Cultural Centre Letterkenny; Unfolding the Archive, (NIVAL Collection), NCAD Gallery and FE Mc William Gallery; Reprising the Archive and The Writing Desk, Bankstreet Galley, Sheffield.

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- Two poetry workshops were held in the Museum on 06 and 13 May as part of the Poetry as Commemoration programme. Moderated by David McLoughlin, participants in the workshops engaged creatively with the material culture of the War of Independence and Civil War, using objects from Limerick Museum's rich collection of material from the period.
- As part of the Museum's new partnership with Askeaton Civic Trust, the Curator and Assistant Curator attended a ceremony on 24 May to commemorate the anniversary of the 1798 rebellion at Pairc na Saoirse, Askeaton, with particular reference to local United Irishman, Paddy O'Neill, who was executed by the Crown Forces in 1798.

2. Community Development

Public Participation Network (PPN) Limerick

- Membership of Limerick 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.
- The Secretariat continues to fulfil its function with three Secretariat meetings and the first of its bi-yearly Plenary meetings held to date.
- Limerick PPN was delighted to partner with the University of Limerick (UL Engage) for a Citizens' Assembly in Limerick, held on 25 May. This Assembly had 12 UL academics with research projects linked to the Sustainable Development Goals presenting to 100 members of the public who voted for four of these projects to receive €10,000 implementation funding each.
- Limerick PPN has circulated a survey to Members requesting input to the ongoing development of its Strategic Plan.

Age Friendly Limerick

Age Friendly Limerick purchased two Property Marking machines. Limerick City and County Council has run many events to date in association with local community groups and An Garda Síochána. In May, Limerick City and County Council partnered with the Gardaí for National Community Engagement Week from 22-27 May. There were three property marking events held during Community Engagement Week - Dromcollogher Mart, Kilmallock Mart and Dairygold Co-Op, Old Pallas. Due to the huge demand and interest in these events, the Gardaí organised three further events in the week beginning 29 May in Oola, Doon and Bruff.

National Older People's Council Convention

The National Older People's Council annual convention was held in Kerry in May with Age Friendly representatives from all around the country attending, including the Local Age Friendly Programme Managers from all 31 local authorities.

The Theme this year reflected the National campaign encouraging older people to reengage - "Reconnecting / Fáilte ar Ais."

LifeLong Learning

Learning Limerick is a multi-sectoral partnership group promoting Lifelong Learning as a critical tool for the development of people, communities and workplaces in Limerick. Learning Limerick hosted a 'Shared Island' learning city exchange programme from 15-17 May for the Irish Network of Learning Cities (INLC). The INLC includes Limerick, Dublin, Cork, Derry Strabane, and Belfast. The three-day programme included a welcome reception in Shannon Rowing Club, a conference and site visits to centres of learning in Limerick.

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Integration

Africa Day was held on 28 May at The Limerick Milk Market. It was a family fun day of traditional African music and dance performances, a fashion show and food sampling which allowed participants and attendees to gain a richer understanding of the cultural significance of African and other new communities in Limerick. African indigenous arts and crafts, drumming, storytelling, face painting and clown appearances were also part of the activities.

The Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, Councillor Olivia O Sullivan, attended and acknowledged all involved for making the event possible.

Community Recognition Fund

Limerick communities, who have welcomed Ukraine families and citizens, have been granted funding totalling almost €1.4 million from the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) for local projects under the first ever Community Recognition Fund (CRF). Ninety projects put forward by Limerick City and County Council from across the city and county, based on direct engagement with local communities, were successful. The funding of €1,389,505 will contribute to upgrade and improvement works for sports and community facilities, energy efficiency upgrades, purchasing of equipment for festivals, clubs and community projects and the construction of a childcare facility among other projects. Proposals were required to be consistent with the Local Economic and Community Plan for Limerick.

Currently, there are some 2,600 Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP) in Limerick City and County. They are being accommodated in a variety of settings, including privately sourced accommodation, multi-occupation centres, tourist accommodation, student accommodation, pledged rooms with host families and pledged houses through the 'Offer a Home Programme.'

Health and Wellbeing

Healthy Limerick

The "Not Around Us" campaign was relaunched by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Francis Foley, on 31 May, marking World No Tobacco Day. It aims to de-normalise smoking and vaping for the next generation. The campaign was first created, established and launched in Limerick. Given that the prevalence of smoking is on the rise again, (18% nationally) and vaping - especially among young people and in schools - is a big issue at the moment, it was deemed timely to re-launch and re-energise the campaign. A QR code linking to a newly created partner pack was developed increasing the accessibility of the campaign.

Health and wellbeing support to migrants, including Ukrainian refugees, continues under the Healthy Ireland Ukrainian Refugee Fund in collaboration with Limerick City and County Council's INTEGreat project. Family (Saturdays) and adult (Thursdays) art and craft workshop commenced at the Hunt Museum in May.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Key Events

The completion of the Community Garden in St. Mary's Park has successfully provided a vibrant space where people can come together, fostering community cohesion and promoting environmental awareness. The garden represents a symbol of unity and collaboration between Healthy Communities, Limerick City and County Council and the local residents showcasing the power of community-driven initiatives.

Local fishermen in the King's Island area were supported to revive a fishing competition. The event proved to be an effective means of engaging the local community with their natural environment and fostering a sense of pride and ownership. Supports and resources were provided under the Healthy Communities Programme.

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Town and Village Renewal Scheme

On 19 May, Feenagh Community Park was officially opened by the Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Newcastle West, Councillor Michael Collins. The Feenagh Community Park project was part-funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development under the 2020 Town and Village Renewal Scheme. The Community Park was created on a two-acre site in Feenagh village adjacent to the Community Centre. It includes walkways with public lighting throughout the park, a contemplation area and a space for holding outdoor events. The park provides an accessible, social meeting space for the local community and visitors to the village and a safe environment for the residents of Feenagh to exercise. It has also created an outdoor space where people can relax and contemplate within a nature setting.

3. Property Management

Dereliction, Vacancy and Reuse Team	
Site Inspections Completed	222
Department Notices of Inquiry issued	53
Derelict Sites Cases opened	31
Statutory Notices served under the Derelict Sites Act 1990	40
Derelict Sites Cases closed through engagement	3
Properties entered into the Derelict Sites Register	8
Properties proposed for Compulsory Acquisition (Section 15 Notices)	0
Vesting Orders Made for Properties Acquired Compulsorily (Section 17 Notices)	0
Croí Cónaithe Applications Approved	11
Bin Waiver Applications Approved	6



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Regeneration, Sports and Recreation Directorate

1. Regeneration and Sports

Regeneration

The Council has appointed KPMG to prepare a status update of the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan (LRFIP 2014-2023). KPMG met with the relevant key stakeholders in May to discuss the draft findings and recommendations for the four communities. The Limerick Regeneration Status Update will assess the current position and make recommendations for the future strategic direction of Limerick's Regeneration Programme to 2030.

Economic Regeneration

Outreach to Employment Programme

A review of the programme in May showed that good progress is being made with engagement from the communities:

- 10 new employers engaged for 2023 Jobs Fairs - Moyross and Ballinacurra Weston
- Attendees at Moyross Jobs Fair - 190
- Attendees at Ballinacurra Weston Jobs Fair - 630
- Employers and Agencies - Moyross - 20
- Employers and Agencies - Ballinacurra Weston - 24
- 78 Participants - Outreach to Employment Programme

Any enquiries can be made to

outreachtoemployment@limerick.ie

Social Regeneration

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.

Thirty site visits to fund recipients were conducted throughout the month of May, which served to highlight the scale and breadth of work that the Economic and Social Intervention Fund currently supports in the city.

Meetings of three of the Local Strategic Advisory Monitoring Committees Sub-Committees were also held during the month of May. At these meetings, organisations and funding streams under the following themes were discussed-

- Community Development and Safety
- Education and Learning
- Employability and Work

As part of the Directorate's efforts to strengthen agency and organisational understanding of the current funding and organisational structures within the city, a process is completing whereby recipients of the largest ESIF grants have been requested to deliver presentations on their post-2023 funding strategies. Four of these presentations were held during the month of May. These presentations are a key element of the Directorate's ongoing efforts to consolidate gains made over the course of the LRFIP and to support the sustainability of any services and social structures deemed necessary for social and economic regeneration in Limerick City.

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Community Activities

Southside

The second of the year's Jobs Fairs was held at Our Lady of Lourdes National School on 24 May where there were twenty-four employers and agencies in attendance. It was recorded that over 630 people attended the Jobs Fair on the evening to meet with local employers. The events put residents in direct contact with companies and provided information on further education and training opportunities.

Our Lady of Lourdes National School held a 'Have Your Summer Say' Workshop with children, parents and some service providers. There was a great attendance and contribution from all.

Northside

The AGM for St. Mary's Park Community Group (Residents) welcomed three new members to the Group.

Handball Alley Art Mural on King's Island was completed in May and has been well received by the community.

Care & Repair Scheme in St. Mary's Park saw a Spring drive in May with over 20 jobs completed in various homes, including painting, assembly of blinds/curtains, washing lines erected and information disseminated to older people.

Physical Regeneration

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.
- An Architect-led Integrated Design Team was appointed for the design of the proposed 20-unit Cliona Park Phase 4 social housing development in Moyross.
- The status of the thermal upgrade projects is as follows:
 - Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 122, St. Mary's Park construction works are completing.
 - Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 126, Southill (50 units) Phase 2 of works nearing completion.
 - Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 130 – scoping in Pineview Gardens completed and currently compiling information for the Stage 3 submission to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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Preparation works are ongoing for the following contracts:

- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 121, Moyross (47 units).
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 121A, Moyross (18 units).
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 123, Southill (53 units).
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 125A, St. Mary's Park (26 units).
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 127, Ballinacurra Weston (12 units).
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 128/129, St. Mary's Park (25 units).

House Refurbishments

- Following Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage approval, Consultant appointed to scope nine major refurbishment properties (Lot 4a).
- Following Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage approval, Consultant appointed to scope 11 major refurbishment properties (Lot 4b).



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Housing Directorate

1. Housing Support Services

Housing Waiting List

Approved Housing Applicants	2,409
Approved Tenant Transfer Applicants	356

Closed Housing Applications

	May	Year to Date
Closed Applications	68	249

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 May	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	1	5
Newcastle West	3	10
Metropolitan District	21	92
Cappamore-Kilmallock	7	14
Total	32	121

Refusals

	No. of Units May	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	1
Newcastle West	0	1
Metropolitan District	2	12
Cappamore-Kilmallock	1	1
Total	3	15

Approved Housing Body Allocations 2023 (year to date)

Total Nominations	102
Successful Nominations	52
Nominations Pending	43
Unsuccessful Nominations	7

Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)

Private Tenancies	716
Capital Assistance Scheme/Rental Assistance Scheme Tenancies	526
Part V	0
New Private Tenancies	12
New Voluntary Housing Tenancies	7

Housing Assistance Payments Limerick (HAP)

2,165 active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	23
No. of Amendments	417
No. of Cessations	42

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RENT COLLECTION

Rent Collection Limerick City and County Council					
Opening Balance	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing Balance	% Collection
€5,916,167	€8,262,215	€14,178,382	€7,642,217	€6,536,165	54%

HOME IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

May 2023		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aid Grants	No. Approved	1	2	6	2	11
	MAG Expenditure	€0.00	€0.00	€18,542.50	€3,700.00	€22,242.50
	No. Paid	0	0	6	1	7
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	6	6	16	5	33
	HAG Expenditure	€6,068.29	€55,415.30	€105,016.30	€66,221.95	€232,722.00
	No. Paid	1	7	16	7	31
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	9	7	24	9	49
	HOP Expenditure	€36,008.98	€47,399.85	€108,705.30	€16,535.00	€208,649.00
	No. Paid	7	10	16	4	37
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG Expenditure	€0.00	€2,434.58	€38,249.50	€23,181.24	€25,616.00
	No. Paid	0	1	1	3	

Total No. Approved	93
Total Monies Paid	€489,229.50
Total No. Paid	75

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HOME IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES - Year to Date

Jan - May 2023		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aid Grants	No. Approved	6	5	22	4	37
	MAG Expenditure	€16,345.00	€18,549.50	€74,319.00	€9,125.00	€118,339.00
	No. Paid	4	4	15	2	25
<hr/>						
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	23	30	64	33	150
	HAG Expenditure	€108,900.96	€209,218.00	€559,281.07	€237,612.00	€1,115,012.00
	No. Paid	18	19	80	25	142
<hr/>						
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	46	44	104	41	235
	HOP Expenditure	€133,262.98	€192,065.00	€466,210.62	€108,984.00	€900,523.00
	No. Paid	30	40	93	25	188
<hr/>						
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG Expenditure	€2,150.83	€2,434.58	€38,249.50	€25,332.00	€68,167.00
	No. Paid	1	1	1	4	7

YTD Total No. Approved	422
YTD Total Monies Paid	€2,202,041.00
YTD Total No. Paid	362

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Community Sustainment Unit

Tenancy Inductions

No. of Tenancy Inductions	11
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Repossessions

Repossession of Council properties	6
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House Visits

No. of House Visits	433
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Garda Checks

Garda Checks processed	122
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Sugar CRM (Customer Relationship Management) Cases

Active cases at month-end	282
Cases closed during month	31

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

Date: 22.05.2023		
Individuals		
Location	Description	Beds Used
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	36
Oak Lodge	Adults without children accommodated in low threshold emergency accommodation	60
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	24
St. Joseph Street	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	6
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	18
Temporary Emergency Provision TEP 1 (Edenvilla)	Low threshold, night-by-night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	15
Phoenix Lodge	Low threshold emergency accommodation for single adults	10
Total		169

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Families					
Location	Description	Beds Used			Families
		Adults	Children		
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	8		6
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	74	91		56
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	13	13		10
Totals		Adults	Children	Families	
		93	112		72

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

Tenant Purchase	
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. received	3
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. approved	6
Local Authority Home Loans	
Loan Applications: No. received	14
Loan Applications: No. approved	2
Deed of Discharge	
Deed of Discharge Applications: No. Received	24
Consent to Sale	
Consent to Sale Applications: No. Received	9
Cottage Purchase Annuity	
No. of Cottage Purchase Annuity Applications	5
Ground Rent	
No. of Ground Rent applications	5
Title	
Title Deeds Received/Requested	10
Title Rectification Received	1
Private Rented Inspections	
No. of Inspections	105

Freedom of Information, Data Requests and
Ombudsman

Freedom of Information requests	5
Ombudsman Query Cases	4
Data Access Requests	1

2. Housing Welfare and Traveller Accommodation

* Traveller Accommodation

No. of Units offered May	7
Year to Date	13

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

Housing Welfare Visits

No. of Visits May	16
Year to Date	141

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3. Local Authority Housing Construction and Maintenance

Local Authority Housing Construction

House Returns May	
Total	6

House Returns May By Municipal District	
Adare-Rathkeale	0
Cappamore-Kilmallock	2
Newcastle West	0
Metropolitan District	4
Total	6

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

Current Working Programme		
	Completed in May	In Progress
Local Authority Construction Team	3	99
Local Authority Maintenance Team	2	103
Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process	0	26
Regeneration Team	1	38
Team to be assigned	NA	8
Total	6	274

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

There are three teams in Limerick City and County Council assigned to refurbish properties. As of May, the Local Authority Construction Team was in the process of completing works in 99 properties, Local Authority Maintenance was working on 103 properties and the Regeneration Team had 38 properties.

Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process - 26 properties. Eight properties were in the process of being assigned to a Team.

Project Updates

- Contractor appointed for refurbishment works on five properties in Lot 3A - one in Co. Limerick and the remaining 4 in Limerick City.
- Contractor appointed for ground investigations and soil testing at site in Thomondgate.
- Contractor appointed for refurbishment works on property in Shanagolden.
- Consultants appointed for project architect / lead consultant and assigned certifier for works at site in Ardagh.
- Contractor appointed for refurbishment works at property in Sharwood Estate, Newcastle West.
- Design Team services consultant appointed for construction of 55 social housing scheme in Patrickswell and Newcastle West.
- Refurbishment works complete and keys given to allocations for property at Galtee Close, Caherdavin.
- Contractor appointed for refurbishment works on eight properties in Lot 3B - all properties in Limerick City.

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- Consulting mechanical and electrical engineers appointed for works at property in Meagher Close, Prospect.
- Consulting civil and structural engineers appointed for works at property in Meagher Close, Prospect.

Finance

- Applications for funding totalling €1,162,678, issued to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage paid €318,843 in claims made.

Local Authority Maintenance

Local Authority Houses: Maintenance Complaints dealt with during May

Housing Maintenance Cases - May	Requests/Cases Created	Cases Dealt With/Closed	Balance of Open Cases at 31.05.2023
Metropolitan District of Limerick	707	621	1,555
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	75	75	286
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	111	121	229
Municipal District of Newcastle West	93	44	655
Total	986	861	2,725

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Grants Inspections

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	0	0	2	2
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	6	0	14	20
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	6	0	4	10
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	0	0	0	0
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	12	0	20	32

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

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	10	1	5	16
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	12	0	8	20
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	0	0	3	3
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	23	1	17	41

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	1	0	0	1
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	6	0	2	8
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	10	0	6	16
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	0	0	0	0
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	17	0	8	25

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	0	0	2	2
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	6	0	14	20
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	6	0	4	10
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	0	0	0	0
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	12	0	20	32

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HOUSE INSPECTIONS UNIT

Houses Inspected for Refurbishment Works and Re-Letting – May - Categories	No. of Properties Inspected
Cat 1 – minor repairs needed	3
Cat 2 – moderate repairs needed	8
Cat 3 – substantial repairs needed	3
Cat 4 – major repairs required.	1
TOTAL INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT	15
No. of Properties Awaiting Inspection	7

4. Strategy & Non-Local Authority Housing Construction

SOCIAL HOUSING - BUILD, BUY AND LEASE

Buy/Build/Lease as of 31.05.23 is as follows:

As at 31.05.2023 (01.01.2023 - 31.05.2023)	Complete	In Progress	Overall Complete and In Progress	“Housing for All” 2023 Delivery Target
Build	0	448	448	502
Buy	8	258	266	75
Lease	2	91	93	27
TOTAL	10	797	807	

*Please note the majority of units in progress under the ‘Buy’ Stream are Notices to Quit.

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AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Status of Affordable Housing Scheme proposals as of 31.05.23 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. Engagement with neighbours and site investigation procured and under way.
Sonny's Lands	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Cost Rental Affordable Housing Fund	19	Affordable Housing Fund application has been submitted and is awaiting approval. Serviced Sites Funding approval in principle has already been 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 and is being progressed. Design Team is being procured.
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. Design Team procured and in place.
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.
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.
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.
New Road, Thomondgate	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Cost Rental Expression of Interest Site with Approved Housing Body	23	Planning application has been submitted.

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Scheme	District	Type	No. of Units	Status
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.
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.
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.
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.
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 was approved for a proposed development of 25 units in Brú na Gruadán, Castletroy, and the advertising campaign for this scheme commenced on 30/05/2023. Remaining applications are being progressed.
	Municipal District of Newcastle West	Affordable Purchase	10	
Advance Purchase Turnkey - Campaign 2	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase	145	Campaign 2 resulted in six submissions from private developers, of which three have withdrawn from the process. An Affordable Housing Fund application was approved for a proposed development of 11 units in Croom. An Affordable Housing Fund application has been submitted for a proposed development of 42 units in Newcastle West and is awaiting approval. Remaining application is being progressed.
	Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	Affordable Purchase	11	
	Municipal District of Newcastle West	Affordable Purchase	42	

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Scheme	District	Type	No. of Units	Status
Advance Purchase Turnkey – Campaign 3	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase	93	Campaign 3 resulted in two submissions from private developers. Applications are currently under review and are being progressed.
	Municipal District of Newcastle West	Affordable Purchase	33	
Large Scale Residential Sites	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Cost Rental	132	In discussions to deliver up to 50% affordable on large-scale residential sites.

CURRENT SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

Project Approvals and Submissions

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

Scheme	Project Details	District
Buy and Renew	Submission for the acquisition of one unit at Barrack Hill, Wolfe Tone Street, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the acquisition of one unit at Fr. Russell Road, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the acquisition of one unit at Carew Park, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the acquisition of one unit at Lelia Street, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the acquisition of one unit at Ardagh, Co. Limerick	Municipal District of Newcastle West
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the acquisition of one unit at Bengal Terrace, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the acquisition of one unit at Bengal Terrace, Limerick (not duplicate of above)	Metropolitan District of Limerick

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Scheme	Project Details	District
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the acquisition of one unit at Newcastle West Co. Limerick	Municipal District of Newcastle West
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Submission for 17 units at Turagh Crescent, Cappamore, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock
Social Housing Capital Expenditure Programme - Short Term Leasing	Submission for the leasing of one unit at Abbeyvale, Corbally Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Social Housing Capital Expenditure Programme - Long Term Leasing	Submission for the leasing of six units in Limerick City	Metropolitan District of Limerick

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

Scheme	Project Details	District
Turnkey	Approval for four units at Mill Road, Corbally, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Affordable Housing Fund (AHF)	Approval for 11 units of affordable housing in Croom, Co. Limerick	Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Upper William Street, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Upper William Street, Limerick (not duplicate of above)	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Shannonvale, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Rhebogue, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Thomondgate, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Murroe, Co. Limerick	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Kilteragh, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick

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Scheme	Project Details	District
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Broad Street, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Patrickswell, Co. Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Castletroy, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Social Housing Capital Expenditure Programme - Short Term Leasing	Approval for the leasing of one unit at Abbeyvale, Corbally Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Social Housing Capital Expenditure Programme - Long Term Leasing	Revised approval for the leasing of seven units in Limerick City	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Social Housing Capital Expenditure Programme - Long Term Leasing	Revised approval for the leasing of one unit in Abbeyfeale.	Municipal District of Newcastle West

Finance

- Claims totalling €5,121,503 were sent to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- Claims totalling €3,064,385 were paid by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Staff from Strategy and Non-Local Authority Housing Construction attended the Irish Council for Social Housing (ICSH) Regional Workshop on 10 May. The event focused on the housing delivery action plans in the region and other key issues around delivery and management in the areas such as disability, age friendly housing and estate management issues.

Staff from Strategy and Non-Local Authority Housing Construction attended the Local Government Management Agency's Approved Housing Body Allocation Process - Code of Practice Webinar' on 24 May. The Code of Practice aims to foster a collaborative approach to housing allocations between Local Authorities and Approved Housing Bodies.

UPDATES

Conferences and Workshops

Staff from Strategy and Non-Local Authority Housing Construction attended the Housing Practitioners' Conference on 11 and 12 May. The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien, TD, opened the Conference which involved a day and a half of expert speakers and workshops discussing best practice and policy on housing, under the umbrella of Housing for All: Lessons from Practice.

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5. Municipal District Offices

Metropolitan District of Limerick

Metropolitan District Meetings

Monthly Meeting

The Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick took place on 15 May in the Council Offices, Dooradoyle, and Online.

Workshop

The following Workshop was held for the Elected Members of the Metropolitan District of Limerick during May:

- Workshop on Property Disposals.

Operational Area Briefings

Operational Area Briefings were held in early May for Limerick City North, Limerick City East and Limerick City West Local Electoral Areas.

Road Related Upgrade/Refurbishment Works

Description of Project: Rosmór Estate Local Roads Reconstruction

Location: Rosmór, Old Cork Road, Limerick;
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: Oakland Drive Local Roads Reconstruction

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

Description of Project: Quarry Road/DeValera Park Local Roads Reconstruction

Location: Kileely;
Cost of project: €200,000;
Contractor: Roadstone.

Description of Project: Abbeycourt Local Roads Reconstruction

Location: Gouldavoher;
Cost of project: €85,000;
Contractor: Roadstone / Tallybrooke.

Description of Project: Rhebogue Avenue Reconstruction

Location: Irish Estates, Corbally;
Cost of project: €55,000;
Contractor: Roadstone / Peter Ryan.

Description of Project: Garryowen Green - New Footpath Lighting- Active Travel Scheme

Location: Garryowen Green;
Cost of project: €22,000;
Contractor: Maramba.

Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

Monthly Meeting

The May Meeting of Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale took place on 16 May in Rathkeale Municipal District Office.

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

- 72 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
- 74 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

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Askeaton Undergrounding of Overhead Utilities Project

- Main Contract complete

Active Travel

- Active Travel works Castlematrix Area, Rathkeale, ongoing.
- Active Travel works commenced at Fedamore.

Schedule of Municipal District Works

Road Reconstruction Works ongoing at following locations:

- Glenogra, Fedamore.
- Kilgrogan Junction to Clonshire, Adare.
- Killea to Milltown Link Road.
- Rathmore North – Croom/Fedamore Road.
- Jobbers Cross to Shanid, Shanagolden.

Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

Municipal District Meetings

The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock was held in Deebert House Hotel, Kilmallock, on 18 May.

A Joint Policing Sub-Committee Meeting of the Municipal District was also held on 18 May.

Housing and Road Maintenance

- 111 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
- 137 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

Housing Grants

- 12 Private Housing Grants were paid totalling €86,456.95, and 16 were approved.

- 23 initial inspections, one re-inspection and 17 final inspections were undertaken in relation to Private Housing Grants.
- Three Disabled Persons Grants were completed and paid totalling €23,181.24.

Road Works

The following works were completed in May:

- Greenane Drainage Scheme.
- R512 Grange Reconstruction Works.

Municipal District of Newcastle West

Meetings and Workshops

- The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West took place on 03 May in Áras William Smith O'Brien, Newcastle West.
- A Special Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West took place on 19 May in Áras William Smith O'Brien, Newcastle West.
- A Private Workshop in connection with the Abbeyfeale Greenway Connectivity took place on 03 May.
- Private Briefings on the Local Area Plan for Newcastle West were held on 03 and 12 May.

Housing Grants

- 15 grant applications were approved under the Private Housing Grant Schemes during the month. The total value of approvals was €88,719.69.
- Payments of €47,399.85 were made to 10 applicants who completed works under the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.

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- Payments of €55,415.30 were made to seven applicants who completed works under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme.

Housing Maintenance

- 93 CRM (Customer Relationship Management) cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.

Transportation and Mobility

- The 2023 Surface Dressing commenced in the Municipal District of Newcastle West on 23 May.
- 85 CRM cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

Motor Tax

- The Motor Tax Section at the Newcastle West Office processed 1,327 routine transactions.



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Planning, Environment & Place-Making Directorate

1. Forward Planning and Public Realm

Forward Planning

- Adoption of Variation No. 1 to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 - which relates to clarification of text changes in Chapter 7, comprising an amendment to Policy TR P11 Road Safety and Carrying Capacity of the non-national Road Network and Objective TR O37 Land Uses and Access Standards.
- The Draft Newcastle West Local Area Plan was finalised and placed on public display on 06 May for a six-week period. A public consultation event was also held on the evening of 25 May in Newcastle West.

Archaeology

Grant funding for archaeology projects was received as follows:

- Community Monuments Fund - €100,000 grant for Phase 2 Capital works to Ballynoe Tower House, Bruree.
- Community Monuments Fund - €30,000 grant for advance works at Galbally Church.
- Irish Walled Towns Network (Heritage Council) - €60,000 grant for works to the City Wall Linear Park, Irishtown.
- Irish Walled Towns Network (Heritage Council) - €65,000 grant for works to the Town Wall, Kilmallock.

2. Development Management and Place-Making

Development Management

A total of 106 new planning applications were received as follows:

Category	Amount
Part 8	0
Housing Developments	2
Domestic Developments	71
Agricultural Developments	10
Commercial Developments/Change of Use	7
Sporting/Community and Educational Developments	7
Other Developments	9

The current applications include proposals for:

- Development comprising demolition of an existing two storey residential dwelling located on James' Street, construction of an eight-storey building, over basement level, comprising of 21 no. residential units, communal areas and commercial space, including: basement level communal area and ground level communal area, ground floor commercial space, 3 no. Studio apartments, 15 no. 1-bed apartments and 3 no. 2-bed apartments from first to eight storeys, the provision of internal cycle storage, bin storage, plant room, and lighting and heating system, the provision of external visitor cycle parking, the provision of foul and surface water drainage, attenuation, blue roof, all other associated and ancillary works at No. 1-4 James Street and 6 and 7 Upper Mallow Street, Limerick City.

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Place-Making

Limerick Wayfinding & Orientation Signage Project

- Preparation of a Part 8 Planning Application underway.

Decluttering Project

- Consultation on signs to be removed is progressing.

Urban Innovation

SMARTLAB

The SmartLabs Team met again in May to review works to date. Over 50 buildings in Limerick have been selected for the installation of energy sensors so far. This energy research project is offering the opportunity for people in Limerick to install free smart sensors to monitor and reduce building energy use.

SmartLabs is open for application on the following link www.smartlablimerick.ie.

+CityxChange

Members of the Urban Innovation Department travelled to Alba Lulia in Romania in May to attend a +CityxChange project Partner Meeting. The purpose of the meeting was for Alba Lulia to share their demonstrators and learnings and share their accomplishments and lessons learned over the project period.

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF)

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund - Strand 3 - Pedestrian Bridges and Waterfront Infrastructural Works

- Tenders were received on eTenders to procure a multi-disciplinary team to prepare a Preliminary Business Case under the Public Spending Code.

Arthur's Quay Area Framework Plan

Architects Metropolitan Workshop are leading a Multi-disciplinary team preparing the Arthur's Quay Area Framework Plan. Stage 1 – Inception and Analysis is underway.

Capital Projects

Newcastle West Athletics Hub

- The laying of the final track surface has commenced and snagging was underway in May.

3. Environment and Climate Action

Parks

- The Parks and Active Travel Departments collaborated on creating three natural play sites at Corbally Baths, Kennedy Park and Mayorstone Quarry. Trees that were felled as part of the Mill Road active travel routes were repurposed for natural play. A consultation process is underway requesting feedback from the public on this initiative.
- The month of May is one of the busiest months in Corbally Nursery with the flower tiers, planters and flower baskets for the city being assembled for distribution, all grown from plugs in the Nursery.
- A Gardener has been appointed for the city centre which has seen increased planting around the popular sites, the most recent being the floral displays for the opening of the International Rugby Experience Museum.

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EU funded Projects

"GoGreenRoutes" - target area - [Castletroy Greenway](#)

- Tree Sculptures - A number of Ash stumps (felled due to Ash dieback) have been chainsaw sculpted by Will Fogerty. They display insects, mammals and birds that people can see along the Greenway. They are tactile, educational pieces that also promote environmental awareness for both school-goers and passers-by.
- Community-led Bioblitz - 27 May between 11-1pm. Approximately 25 people attended and 200 species were recorded. A bioblitz is an event that focuses on finding and identifying as many species as possible in a specific area over a short period of time. This data baseline can inform how, and in what way, the community and Limerick City and County Council can enhance existing biodiversity along the Greenway and invite more in!

Cemeteries

Number of Burials in City Cemeteries

Mount St. Lawrence	11
Mount St. Oliver	9
Castlemungret	13
Kilmurry	1

Environment Enforcement and Litter Management

Complaints received	316
Inspections undertaken	517
Warnings issued	64
Directions issued	8
Statutory Notices issued	36
Prosecutions initiated	20
Fines issued	14

Climate Action

Four Local Authority Climate Action Plan Sectoral Engagement Workshops were hosted by the Climate Action Regional Office. These were well attended by Limerick City and County Council personnel.

Veterinary

- Five stray or wandering horses were impounded.
- The Dog Control Unit processed 19 dogs during the month.
- Six food samples were submitted for analysis under the National Residues and Microbiological Sampling Programme.

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4. Limerick Twenty Thirty (LTT) DAC

Opera Square

Progress Update

- Contract B: Basement and One Opera Square - Sisk is progressing well with the Basement contract. Three piling rigs have mobilised onsite with piling for the perimeter wall of the basement now 63% complete.
- Contract C: A revised funding application for the Library was submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development on 05 May.
- Stage 1 Tender Documentation completed, including the suitability assessment, and published on E-Tenders on 10 May.
- Contract D: 14-storey Landmark Building and Granary - Stage 1 Tender Documentation completed, including the suitability assessment, and published on E-Tenders on 11 May.

Project Communications Update

- LTT announced its new hoarding installations along Michael Street and Ellen Street in a joint press release with collaborators Limerick School of Art and Design (LSAD, TUS) and Limerick City and County Council. Our partners in Limerick City and County Council used space on Ellen Street to promote the city and showcase the dynamic 'Atlantic Edge European Embrace' brand. The collaboration with Graphic Design Communication and Animation Motion Design students of LSAD, TUS, showcased an interactive artwork installation along Michael Street. The range of interactive displays come alive through use of the free 'Artivive' mobile app. See the video here: <https://limerick2030.ie/story-telling-21st-century-style-as-students-visualise-future-of-opera-square-with-animation-graphic-display-on-michael-street-hoardings/>

- LTT presented a special session on Circularity in the Built Environment at the Circular Economy Hotspot, in Wood Quay, Dublin, on 31 May. LTT highlighted the achievements of the Opera Square Demolition and Enabling Works and outlined plans for implementing best practice approaches in the construction phases. With a staggering 99.3% of waste diverted from landfill, it is a remarkable example for sustainable practices in construction.

Cleeves Riverside Quarter

Progress Update

- Masterplan - The Masterplan has been completed, subject to final review following engagement with Key Stakeholders, Public Consultations and Observations submitted.
- Expression of Interest - A 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 is under review.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) - A MoU has been agreed and signed between LTT and Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest (TUS). Initially, their requirement is for 10,000 sq. m (107,000 sq.ft).

General LTT Communications Update

- LTT attended the PwC Business Post Sustainable Business Awards on 24 May. LTT was nominated for Innovation Project Waste and Circular Economy for Opera Square.
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant funding has been secured for a MSc Postgraduate Research Opportunity with Atlantic Technological University (ATU), for a LTT Circular Economy 'Lighthouse' Demonstrator Project. ATU applications closed on 24 May.

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- Moyross Youth Academy - LTT representatives joined John Sisk and Son in participation in an Employment Pathways Job Fair for Moyross Youth Academy in May. This collaborative initiative aims to support individuals in obtaining employment or training opportunities. Additionally, the Clare Educational Training Board and the Pathway to Construction programme group visited Opera Square on 05 May for a presentation. The youth academy offers training in various construction trades over a 40-week period, with the goal of enabling participants to enter the construction sector.
- The LTT Board joined the Executive Team on site at the Opera Square development for their May Board Meeting to see the progress being undertaken with piling work.
- The Vault at Gardens International was promoted in May for meeting and events bookings. Requests can be submitted to gardens@limerick2030.ie or 061517430.



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National and Regional Shared Services Centre Directorate

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

- There were 58,534 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAP SSC at the end of May.
- A weekly average of 166 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2023.
- The May landlord payment run was €5.55 million.
- The weekly tenant charge at the end of May was €3.1 million.
- The Debt Management Unit of the HAP SSC collected a total of €65.1 million in differential rent to end of May.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of May was 99%.
- The Debt Management Unit issued 8,993 HAP debt reminder letters in May.

2. Fire and Emergency

Statistics

	No. of Fire Related Calls	No. of Non-Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call-outs 01.05.2023 – 31.05.2023	80	64	144
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	73%	54%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	16%	29%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	11%	17%	

	No. received / assigned	No. validated	No. invalidated / refused	No. granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications May	18	16	0	13	13
Disability Access Cert Applications May	8	9	0	9	9
Licensing Applications May	5		0	2	
Commencement Notice May	59	45	10	0	45
Completion Certificate May	8	7	0	0	7
Planning Referrals May	18	13	0	0	13
Sugar CRM (Customer Relationship Management) Cases May	5	0	0	3 assigned 1 cancelled 1 resolved	1

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Fire and Emergency Training Events

During the month, the following training was carried out:

- A Station Officer attended a National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) Road Traffic Collision Instructor course in Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.
- 67 retained fire fighters completed Cardiac First Responder training.
- 67 retained fire fighters completed Patient Handling training.
- A number of Working at Heights instructors completed a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Upskilling Day.

Water Safety

No. of Lifebuoy Replacements	January - April	May	Total 2023
Metropolitan District	5	1	6
Municipal District	6	5	11

No. of Lifebuoy Sensor Activations	Total February - April	May	Total 2023
Metropolitan District	36	7	43
Municipal District	14	0	14

Civil Defence attendance at Events

The following activity took place in May:

- Patient Transfer – residence to St. Camillus' Hospital, Shelbourne Road, Limerick - Integrated Care Programme for Older Persons (ICPOP) – 1 day.
- Medical cover for Darkness Into Light, Limerick City – 1 day.
- Patient Transfer – residence to Temple Street Children's Hospital, Dublin - 2 Days.
- Patient Transfer – Milford, Charleville, Co. Cork, to Croom Nursing Home, Croom, Co. Limerick – 1 day.
- Medical cover for Family Bike Parade and Fun Day, Limerick City – 1 day.
- Medical cover for the Primary Schools' Athletics in University of Limerick, Castletroy, Limerick – 1 day.



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Support Services Directorate

1. Finance

Commercial Rates and Loans

Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2023	
As at 31 May 2023	
Opening Balance - 01 Jan €	5,888,292
Accruals €	64,097,688 **
Vacant Property Adjustment €	251,615
Writes offs/ Waivers €	1,485,490
Total for Collection €	68,248,875
Amount Collected €	25,716,209
Arrears €	42,532,666
Specific Doubtful Arrears €	1,374,054
% Collected	38%

Debtors Loans	
As at 31 May 2023	
Opening Balance - 01 Jan €	300,639
Accruals €	615,434 ^
Writes offs €	-
To Collect €	916,073
Receipts €	777,738
Arrears €	138,335
% Collected	85%

^ Accruals not updated for loans for May 2023

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

Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No. of days in overdraft 0

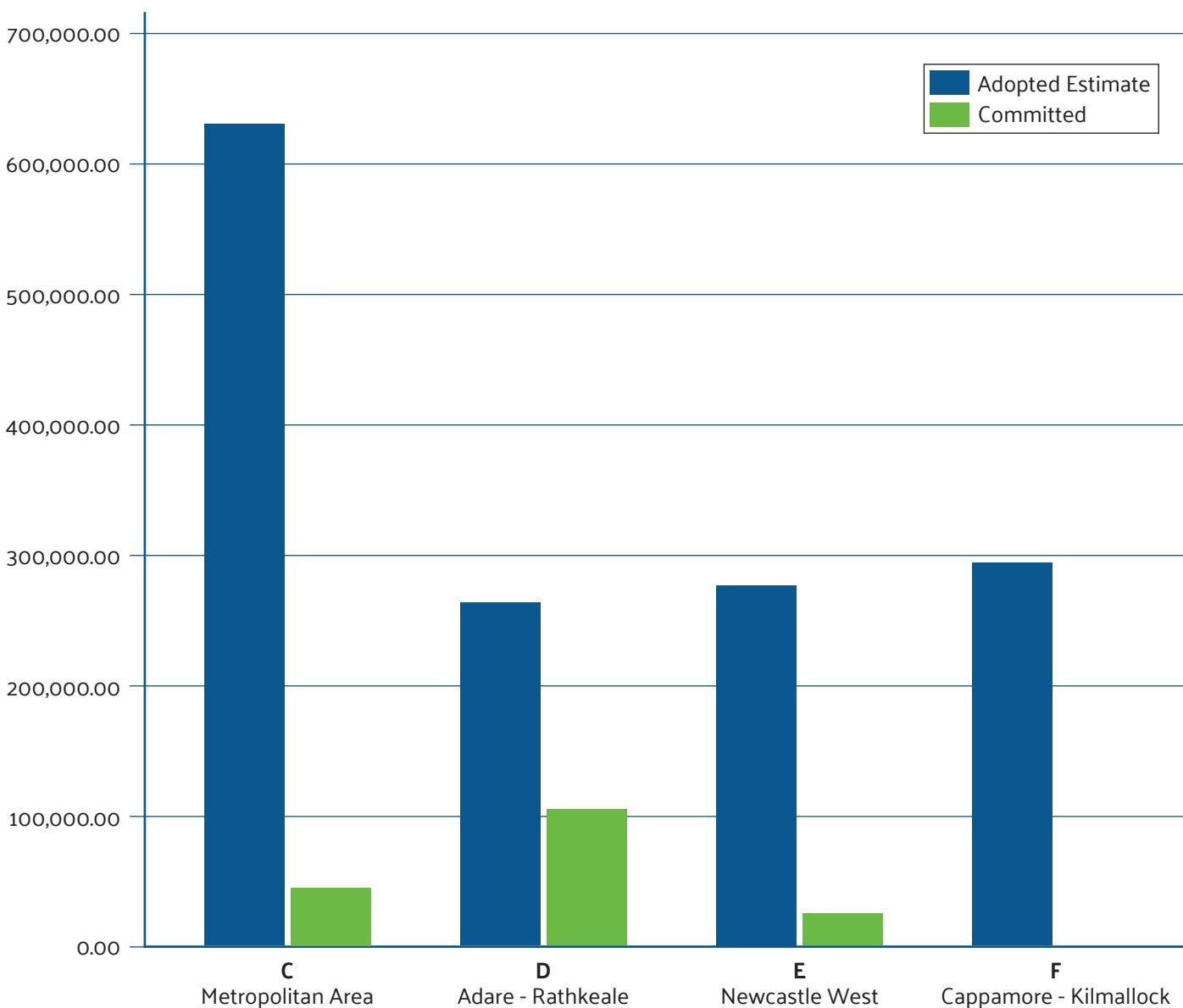
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General Municipal Allocation 2023 Adopted Estimate €1.463 Million

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



Municip (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate (€)	Value Committed (€)
C Metropolitan Area	628,000.00	44,153
D Adare - Rathkeale	269,500.00	105,810
E Newcastle West	270,500.00	20,724
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	295,000.00	0

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2. Business Improvement

- Business Improvement coordinated and submitted all entries for the 2023 Excellence in Local Government Awards.
- Business Improvement assisted Water Services to launch its “Grant for the provision or necessary improvement of an individual water supply to a house (Well Grant)” application form on MyPoint.
- Business Improvement published the new Organisational Structure in conjunction with Human Resources, which came into effect on 08 May.
- Business Improvement reconfigured Online Forms to reflect the revised Directorates, Departments and Units required for the new Organisational Structure.
- A total of 919 active users are now live on the Employee App.
- Services on Service Catalogue = 703.
- There are 398 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:

- Order of Malta Ambulance Corps Limerick Unit, in recognition of its members, past and present, who have given truly magnificent, selfless and dedicated service as volunteer paramedics to the people of Limerick and to the wider community since 1948.
- Thomas Hanly, in recognition and appreciation of his outstanding dedicated and generous service, as a volunteer with the Limerick Unit of the Order of Malta Ambulance Corps, over the past sixty-four years.

- Music Generation Limerick City, in recognition of ten years running pioneering creativity, self-expression and skills building programmes with over 20,000 young people across Limerick.
- Bruff RFC Under 16 Girls' Team, in recognition of their achievements throughout the season and winning the Munster Development Cup 2022/2023.
- Ennis Road Community First Responders, in recognition of their contribution, commitment and hard work in their community, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Miriam Dawson, in recognition of her outstanding commitment as Musical Director and founder of City Rhythm Band, formerly Southside Marching Band, giving the gift of music and sharing a life-lasting skill with so many people.
- David O' Connell, in recognition of his dedicated service to music education in Limerick - firstly through his role as violin teacher, then as Principal with Limerick School of Music from 1999-2022, and as a leader of the Music Generation Programmes with the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board. David has worked tirelessly to promote a love of learning music among young people of all backgrounds in Limerick and its surrounds.

The Mayor hosted the following in Corporate Headquarters:

- Courtesy Visit from the New Zealand Ambassador to Ireland.
- Courtesy Visit from the Lord Mayor of Birmingham.
- Welcome Reception for Munster Rugby to celebrate their United Rugby Championship (URC) title win.

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

- Avista Training, Enterprise and Employment Services (TEES), Official Opening of its new day service at Holland Road, Castletroy, Limerick.
- Official Opening of the International Rugby Experience at 40 O'Connell Street, Limerick.
- Graduation Ceremony for graduates of the NOVAS TOPPLE (The Overdose Prevention Peer Learning Experience) Training Programme, in the Council Chamber, Limerick City and County Council, Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Limerick Suicide Watch (LSW), Official Launch of new life-saving equipment, remote-controlled lifebuoys which are known as Hover Arks, which will be used by its volunteers who patrol the River Shannon.
- The Thomond Archaeological and Historical Society, Official Opening of Exhibition to mark its 130th anniversary, at St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick.
- Irish Defence Forces, Ministerial Review of 122nd Infantry Battalion, for duty with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), in Sarsfield Barracks, Limerick.
- Launch of the Limerick Clothing Factory Exhibition at the People's Museum, Pery Square, Limerick.
- Visit to the Urban Co-Op at Eastway Business Park, Ballysimon Road, Limerick.
- Inaugural Lecture of Professor Michael Walsh, Professor of Biomedical Device Engineering 'Perspective and Mechanics in a tubular journey' at the University of Limerick.
- Pieta, Darkness Into Light Walk.
- The Cecilian Musical Society, Press Launch for An Evening of Short Plays, at Gaelscoil an Ráithín, Mungret, Co. Limerick.
- Visit of Group from St. Lelia's Age Friendly Campus, in the Council Chamber, Limerick City and County Council, Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- The Housing Agency Housing Practitioners' Conference at the Strand Hotel, Limerick.
- Decathlon Ireland, Official Opening of Limerick Store, at Parkway Shopping Centre, Dublin Road, Limerick.
- Presentation of the findings of the Sarsfield Homecoming Project at the Residence de France, 53, Ailesbury Road, Dublin 4.
- University of Limerick President's Annual Dinner at Adare Manor, Adare, Co. Limerick.
- Analog Devices International (ADI) investment announcement of proposed expansion of state-of-the-art, cutting-edge campus at Raheen Business Park, Limerick.
- Guest Lecture by Dr. Vincent Roche, CEO and Chair of the Board of Directors of Analog Devices, at the Main Lecture Theatre, Analog Devices Building, University of Limerick.
- Opening of Seminar for Learning Limerick who hosted a 'Shared Island' Learning City Exchange Programme for the Irish Network of Learning Cities (INLC). The INLC includes Limerick, Dublin, Cork, Derry Strabane, and Belfast. The three-day programme included a welcome reception in Shannon Rowing Club, a conference and site visits to centres of learning in Limerick.
- Visit to Limerick East Educate Together, Dromdarrig, Mungret, Co. Limerick.

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- Photoshoot for the Decade of Centenaries project entitled Poetry as Commemoration. For a period of twelve weeks, the Poetry Jukebox allows members of the public to listen to up to twenty poems commemorating the centenaries of the War of Independence and the Civil War in The People's Park.
- Community Substance Misuse Team event to recognise the 10-year anniversary of service delivery in the Mid-West, in Corporate Headquarters, Limerick City and County Council, Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Extern Outreach Support Service 'Open Afternoon' at Watchhouse Cross Retail Park, Parteen Road, Limerick.
- Launch of the 4th Limerick Garden Festival at the Milk Market, Mungrit Street, Limerick.
- Official Opening of Feenagh Community Park at Gortmore, Feenagh, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick.
- National Commemoration of the Great Famine in the presence of The President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, at Milford, Co. Donegal.
- 2023 Munster GAA Hurling Championship, Limerick v Tipperary at FBD Semple Stadium, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.
- Breakfast at Thomond Park, Limerick, with Rugby Legend, Rory Best, as part of his *Rory's Miles 2 Mayo* challenge, a 330km walking trek from Aviva Stadium in Dublin to Cong, Co. Mayo (via Kildare, Tipperary, Limerick and Galway), in aid of children's cancer charity Cancer Fund for Children.
- Visited the following National Schools:
 - St. Molua's National School, Ardagh, Co. Limerick.
 - Feenagh National School, Feenagh, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick.
 - Monagea National School, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.
 - Ashford National School, Ballagh, Co. Limerick.
 - Ahalin National School, Knockaderry, Co. Limerick.

- Naomh Iosef, Dromcollogher National School, Dromcollogher, Co. Limerick.
- Scoil Mhuire National School, Broadford, Charleville, Co. Limerick.
- Healthy Limerick, Re-Launch of 'Not Around Us' Campaign at St. Mary's National School, Bishop Street, Limerick City.
- A major multi-agency exercise on the River Shannon to test responses to emergency situations. Organisations involved included: An Garda Síochána, Irish Coast Guard, Limerick City Fire and Rescue Service, Limerick Marine Search and Rescue and Limerick Civil Defence. The Exercise was based out of Limerick Marine Search and Rescue premises on the Dock Road, Limerick.
- ESB Science Blast Showcase event, delivered by the Royal Dublin Society (RDS), at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick.
- Photoshoot for Cruinniú na nÓg, a national day of free creativity for children and young people at The Alms Houses, Nicholas Street, Limerick.
- Regeneration Jobs Fair at Our Lady of Lourdes National School, Ballinacurra Weston, Limerick.
- UL50 and Limerick City and County Council's Citizens' Assembly at Engine, Upper Cecil Street, Limerick.
- Sports Ability Day, Athletics Day for children with additional needs, at the University of Limerick.
- Apex Group Limerick, Official Opening, expansion announcement at its new Limerick office in County Buildings, Dooradoyle, Limerick.
- Welcome Delegation attending Telecommunication Action Group (TAG) Meeting, hosted by Limerick City and County Council, in The Pavilion, Adare, Co. Limerick.
- Mental Health Reform, Members' Showcase to mark European Mental Health Week 2023, opportunity for member organisations in the Mid-West to showcase their invaluable work in the mental health sector and

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speak directly to Elected Representatives, at Corporate Headquarters, Limerick City and County Council, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.

- H&MV Engineering, Jobs Announcement, at Hamilton House Block 2, Plassey Business Park, Castletroy, Limerick.
- Unity Gospel Choir, 10th Anniversary Concert 'The Journey' at Dance Limerick, John's Square, Limerick.
- Fiftieth Anniversary of the University of Limerick, memorial event, to remember members of staff and students who died over the last fifty years. The University has created a dedicated garden of remembrance as a permanent memorial to them. Lawn at Plassey House, University of Limerick.
- UL Bohemian RFC, Centenary Ball at the Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick.
- Irish United Nations Veterans' Association, Wreath Laying ceremony to mark UN Peacekeepers' Day, in the Grounds of St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick.
- Africa Day Celebrations 2023 at The Milk Market, Limerick.
- 2023 Munster GAA Hurling Championship, Limerick v Cork, at TUS Gaelic Grounds, Limerick.
- Launch Event to announce the 2024 European School Chess Championships to be held at the University of Limerick, at Plassey House, University of Limerick.
- Limerick City Vintners' Charity Ball at The Strand Hotel, Limerick.
- Launch of Limerick Panto Society's Production 'Snow White' at TUS Millennium Theatre, Moylish Park, Limerick.
- The Mayor travelled to Huy, Belgium, from 30 May to 1st June to access site that has been identified as the likely place of Patrick Sarsfield's burial in the quest to repatriate his remains back to Limerick.

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 May:

New Procurement References set up	35
Procurement References extended as per signed contract/arrangement	5

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.

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 May:

- Approved requisitions account for 90% of the total requisitions actioned for this given month.
- Rejected requisitions account for 10% of the total requisitions actioned for this given month.

Month	Approved	Rejected	Total Requisitions Actioned
May	1,432	161	1,593

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

Rejection Reason	May
Procurement Reference omitted/incorrect	37
Memo – Requisition not raised in advance	30
Quotes – omitted/incorrect copy provided	19
Signature required – omitted/incorrect	16
Incorrect amount raised on the Requisition	12

Register of Electors

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

- Additions to the Electoral Register - 123
- Deletions from the Electoral Register - 133
- Modifications to the Electoral Register - 123
- 170 requests were received through the updated checktheegister.ie website for updating details of electors.

Staff from the Electoral Register Team attended a meeting in Athlone on 04 May, hosted by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage where an update was given on the modernisation project.

Staff from the Electoral Register Team joined a meeting online on 30 May, hosted by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, which focused on media actions/plans at local and national level.

Health and Safety Training

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

Course Name	Numbers Trained
Safe Pass	9
First Aid Response	13
CPC (Certificate of Professional Competency) Training	21
Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) Locating Underground Services	4
Fire Warden	18
Manual Handling	44
Safety Rep	2
Signing, Lighting and Guarding (SLG)	6
Total Staff Trained	117

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Schedule of Meetings for May

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Full Council		
Bi-Monthly Meeting of Limerick City and County Council	22/05/2023	Dooradoyle and Online
Special Meeting of Limerick City and County Council to pass a Vote of Sympathy on the passing of former Member and Cathaoirleach of Limerick County Council, Eddie Creighton, RIP	26/05/2023	Dooradoyle and Online
Special Meeting of Limerick City and County Council to discuss housing	29/05/2023	Dooradoyle and Online
Operational Briefings		
Limerick City East	02/05/2023	Merchant's Quay and Online
Limerick City North	02/05/2023	Merchant's Quay and Online
Limerick City West	03/05/2023	Merchant's Quay and Online
Municipal District of		
Newcastle West		
Monthly Meeting	03/05/2023	Newcastle West
Special Meeting	19/05/2023	Newcastle West
Adare-Rathkeale		
Monthly Meeting	16/05/2023	Rathkeale
Special Meeting	26/05/2023	Rathkeale
Cappamore-Kilmallock		
Joint Policing Sub-Committee Meeting	18/05/2023	Deebert House Hotel, Kilmallock
Monthly Meeting	18/05/2023	Deebert House Hotel, Kilmallock
Metropolitan District of Limerick		
Special Meeting	05/05/2023	Online
Monthly Meeting	15/05/2023	Dooradoyle and Online

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Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Meeting	02/05/2023	Dooradoyle and Online
Meeting of Limerick Women's Caucus	04/05/2023	Online
Meeting of Rural Water Monitoring Committee	10/05/2023	Dooradoyle
Corporate Policy Group Meeting	15/05/2023 19/05/2023	Online Online
Party Leaders' Meeting	19/05/2023	Online
Protocol Committee Meeting	19/05/2023	Online

Access to Information

	May	2023 (January to May)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	40	110
Freedom of Information Internal Appeals	3	5
Information Commissioner Appeals	1	2
Total Ombudsman Requests	5	25
Total Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) Requests	2	12

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 May:

- Customer Services Call Centre answered 10,528 calls. This represents an average of 479 per day, with the number of calls reaching as high as 633. A total of 69% of calls were handled at first point of contact.
- A total of 3,615 emails were processed through the Customer Services email platform.
- 2,854 cases were created, with 608 of these logged on behalf of Public Representatives. 2,502 cases were closed, with 599 of these being cases logged by Public Representatives.
- Of the 2,854 cases created, 70% were logged by the Customer Services Team.

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- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued, with a total of 156 cases being logged. Of these, 130 were submitted by Public Representatives.
- Customer Services continued to support the Housing Maintenance Department in creating service requests and, throughout the month, 89% of Housing Maintenance cases for the Metropolitan District of Limerick were logged by Customer Services staff in the Dooradoyle and Merchants Quay offices.
- A total of 101 out-of-hours cases were created.
- Customer Services continued to provide other frontline services to the general public, such as processing applications for Residential Parking Permits, of which 78 were applied for and 61 issued.
- Customer Services staff welcomed a total of 2,039 customers at both the Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle offices.

4. Marketing & Communications

Marketing

- Riverfest Limerick media book and campaign report produced detailing a performance overview of marketing and Public Relations activities throughout the three-week multimedia marketing campaign. Topline figures include:
 - **Total impressions:** 9 million | **Video views:** 1.7 million | **Engagements:** 43,927 | **Link clicks:** 65,121 | **Website views:** 192,909.
- Brand Limerick merchandise created.
- Updated Brand Limerick / Limerick City and County Council Brand Guidelines, Social Media Toolkit and Social Media Policy created for organisation-wide rollout over the summer months.

- Social media promotional video created in collaboration with Limerick Twenty Thirty to explain the creative process behind the Brand Limerick installation at Opera Square.
- Redesign of internally branded spaces at Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle Council offices progressed in collaboration with Facilities Department.
- Desktop plaques linking to Limerick.ie via a QR code, produced for distribution to our tourism and hospitality stakeholders.
- Finalised Discover Limerick Activity Pack containing a series of fun and engaging Limerick-themed activities inviting mini-explorers to discover Limerick.
- Marketing support provided to colleagues in Human Resources, Ukrainian Response, and Trade and Investment.

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 now as follows:
 - Limerick.ie Facebook: 33,716
 - Limerick.ie Twitter: 21,485
 - Limerick.ie Instagram: 27,922
 - Limerick City and County Council Twitter: 18,136
 - Limerick City and County Council LinkedIn: 10,619

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Limerick.ie

In May, there were 155,703* unique site visits to Limerick.ie, ie, a 3.5% increase on the same period in 2022. (*Fathom Analytics)

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

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

Content Report: 120 articles and 147 events were added to Limerick.ie in May.

Communications

- Issued 27 news releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and researched and wrote 27 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.

5. National Mobilisation and Communication System/Munster Regional Control Centre (NMAC/MRCC)

	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 May
No. of call-outs 01.05.2023 – 31.05.2023	816	202	115	1,018

