

# Chief Executive's Report

August 2023

Limerick Regional Athletics Hub on track for official opening in Newcastle West

Regeneration Programme building on success with 2030 strategy

Limerick shows international appeal with Strongman, Tag Rugby and Flag Football competitions

40<sup>th</sup> EVA International draws art lovers to venues across Limerick City

Limerick Council shortlisted for 10 Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards

# Chief Executive's Report



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

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## Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism Directorate

### 1. Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Limerick

#### Funding Approved

- Seven Businesses were approved a Trading Online Voucher.
- One Business was approved for an IPStart Grant.
- Six Green for Business Grants were approved.

#### The following Workshops and Webinars were held:

- Business Planning Workshops.
- Start Your Own Business Courses.
- Trading Online (Voucher) Information Webinar.
- Lean for Micro Programme.

There were 108 participants on the LEO Business Training Workshops and eight Business Owners were approved for the LEO Mentoring Programme.

### 2. Tourism

#### LIMERICK GREENWAY MARKETING

##### Social Media

As part of a data collection programme and to encourage feedback, a competition was held through Limerick Greenway social media channels to win a number of One4All vouchers. Influencer, April Drew, ran a Limerick Greenway competition on Instagram and winners were announced in August.

#### Influencer and Familiarisation Trips

##### 01 and 02 August

We were delighted to welcome Adam King and family to Limerick Greenway in August where the family started their journey in Newcastle West and continued to Barnagh

taking in the sights along the West Limerick countryside, including Ferguson's Viaduct, Barnagh Tunnel and the old station house.

##### 18 August

Irish Times journalist, Conor Capplis, visited Limerick Greenway and cycled the route from Rathkeale to Abbeyfeale. Conor met with some of the Tourism Team who updated him on plans for the Greenway HUBs and biodiversity along the Greenway. Conor took the opportunity to stay in Abbeyfeale, taking in all it has to offer.

#### Social Media Statistics

01/08/2023 - 21/08/2023

- Facebook reach: 142,620
- Instagram reach: 4,724
- Facebook page visits: 2,538
- Instagram page visits: 817
- Facebook new likes: 453
- Instagram new followers: 450

#### Google Ads

01/08/2023 - 25/08/2023

- Impressions: 395,000
- Ad Clicks: 7,820
- Click-Through-Rate: 1.98%

#### DISCOVER LIMERICK DAC

- Down Syndrome Limerick hosted their Abseil Fundraiser at King John's Castle. Participants took in the amazing views of the Treaty City before their descent into the Castle Courtyard. There were fantastic scenes in the courtyard as King John's Castle later welcomed The Tour de Munster, Annual Charity Cycle for a pit stop as they approached day one of their four-day epic cycle. Avid cycling legend, Sean Kelly, joined 110 cyclists who took on the challenge of travelling 600

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km across six counties, raising vital funds for Down Syndrome Ireland's Munster Branches.

- Discover Limerick DAC has been shortlisted in the following category - Supporting Tourism in twentieth annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2023.
- King John's Castle hosted two sell-out concerts, Live at The Castle, Dec Pierces Block Rockin Beats and The Coronas.
- Filming took place in August at both Lough Gur and King John's Castle for RTE Nationwide for future airing.
- Lough Gur celebrated Heritage Week with a selection of events from nature trails, craft markets and storytelling with Eddie Lenihan. King John's Castle hosted medieval fun, courtyard games and live shows.

## FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Limerick Tourism Department supported a number of National and International Sports Events in Limerick during August. Limerick City and County Council's Tourism Department, in partnership with the University of Limerick, Fáilte Ireland and the Shannon Region Conference and Sports Bureau, provides funding and support to joint bids and event organisers hosting largescale sports events in Limerick. This work is carried out to position Limerick as a world class host of international sports events in advance of Ryder Cup 2027. The events supported in August were:

- **International Federation of American Football (IFAF) European Flag Football Championships** was held at University of Limerick from 18 to 20 August. A record total of 33 teams from 20 nations – a 38% increase on the previous edition – were represented in the biggest ever edition of the championship. The sport is experiencing rapid growth in Europe led by the joint development efforts of IFAF and its partners at the National Football League (NFL).

- **Ultimate Strongman** returned to the Markets Field in Limerick on 06 August with men and women competing for the titles of Ireland's Strongest Man and Ireland's Strongest Woman.
- **The Tag Rugby World Cup** took place in Limerick from 02 to 05 August with 2,000 players, coaches, referees, officials and spectators from 17 nations and 85 teams descending on the city for the event which is estimated to be worth over €4million to Limerick. City centre events and hospitality and tourism initiatives led by Limerick City and County Council Tourism, in partnership with the tourism sector and Fáilte Ireland, provided a wraparound programme to encourage attendees to visit the city while competing in the event. This included a closing ceremony festival style event on Nicholas Street on 05 August.

## Tourism, Industry and Trade Events

Limerick was represented at this year's Irish Festival in Milwaukee by Tom Flavin who carried out a number of cooking demonstrations at the Festival promoting Limerick and Limerick food producers. The Festival welcomes over 170,000 people each year to celebrate Irish Culture, making it the largest festival of Irish Culture outside of Ireland.

## 3. Regional Enterprise Plan

On 29 August, the Steering Group of the Mid-West Regional Enterprise Plan met in Limerick's Engine Collaboration Centre in the presence of officials from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. Representatives from the Local Authorities of Limerick, Clare and Tipperary, along with key stakeholders including IDA, Enterprise Ireland and the Region's education and training providers, discussed a wide range of positive recent enterprise activity across the region covering sectors such as manufacturing, film, engineering, bioeconomy, regeneration and renewables.

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Recent Central Statistics Office data has shown the region's economy continued to grow, with record low unemployment now at 4%. The Steering Group again emphasised the necessity to accelerate the delivery of key infrastructure across the region, to service existing demands and allow for growth. Increased investment in transport, water and wastewater, energy, housing and social infrastructure remain critical to the economy of the region.



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## Transportation and Mobility Directorate

### 1. Travel and Transport Strategy

The Electric Vehicle Charging Point Pilot Scheme progressed, with civil works finalised in Castletroy Park, Mungret Park and Doon, and works commenced in Patrickswell.

Works on the Steamboat Quay hand railing progressed during August.

### 2. Active Travel

#### Projects

**Hyde Road:** Works were ongoing on site.

**R510 Quinn's Cross to Raheen:** Tender package issued in August.

**Patrickswell Village Renewal Scheme:** Planning works completed and Surfacing Works underway.

#### Childers Road (Greenpark to Roxboro Road)

**Roundabout:** Works continued at Our Lady Queen of Peace school-front and the junction onto Childers Road.

**Roxboro Road:** Consultant was appointed to develop various cross-section options followed by site investigation.

**Station Road, Askeaton:** Section 38 Report published.

**Plassey Park Road:** Sorensen Civil Engineering was appointed as contractor for the construction of the scheme.



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## Rural, Community and Culture Development Directorate

### 1. Community Development

#### Local Community Development Committee

- The August meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was held on 08 August in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle, and Online.
- The Local Action Group (LAG) approved funding of €29,560.00 under the LEADER Programme 2014-2022.

#### Town and Village Renewal Scheme

- The 2023 Town and Village Renewal Scheme was launched at the start of August and provides funding of €15 million nationally to revitalise and regenerate towns and villages. The types of projects that will help accomplish continued regeneration of rural towns and villages so that they are attractive, vibrant places for people to live, work and visit include - projects to support town and village centre markets e.g. farmers or artisan markets; bringing vacant and derelict buildings back into use; refurbishment of existing community centres; town regeneration projects or enhancing streetscapes.
- On 21 August, Community Development invited Expressions of Interest (EOI), through My Point under the Scheme. A maximum of five EOIs can be selected for progression to full application stage for submission to the Department of Rural and Community Development, with a maximum of four projects up to €250,000 of grant funding and one project up to €500,000 of grant funding.

#### Public Participation Network

- Membership of PPN Limerick continued to grow and stands at 191. The membership registration form is on the Limerick [PPN website](#) and eligible groups in Limerick can register at any time.

- The Secretariat continued to fulfil its function with four Secretariat meetings and the first of its bi-yearly plenary meetings held to date.
- PPN continued to have an active presence with its regularly updated website, social media and bi-monthly Newsletter distributed to members.

#### Environmental Awareness

- The national Gum Litter Task Force's "Chew'in Out – Bin your Gum When You're Done" campaign was launched in Limerick City on 02 August by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, and Limerick City Centre Tidy Towns.
- There was an excellent response to Limerick City and County Council's Food Waste Recycling / Climate Action stand at the Cappamore Show on 19 August. Four hundred Food waste recycling kits and 200 reusable cups were distributed with a good level of engagement from people on the day.
- Limerick City and County Council hosted a Sustainability Tent at the Limerick Show on 27 August. There were nine stands in the tent: Limerick City and County Council Food Waste Recycling/Climate Action; Bat Conservation Ireland/Limerick Bat Group; Ballyhoura Development; Tait Enterprises Relove Paint; Doon Social Farm; The Cloth Nappy Library; The Barn Owl Project; The Urban Coop; and West Limerick Resources. Circa 4,000 plus people were engaged with across the sustainability stand during the day. 1,500 food waste recycling kits, 300 reusable cups and 500 battery-recycling boxes were distributed on the day.

#### Healthy Ireland

Art and Craft class, supported by the Healthy Ireland Ukrainian Refugee Fund, continued in the Hunt Museum throughout August. This included classes for families on every Saturday morning and adult class on every Thursday morning.

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## 2. Culture

### Library

#### City Library at Barrow House

- Yoga sessions for children aged 5 to 12, with tutor Sarah Ryan, under the Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme.
- Creative art and craft workshop with make your own notebook theme.
- Poppins Preschool visit with 20 children enjoying library activities.
- St. Brigid's National School visit with 25 children as part of DEIS (Educational disadvantage - Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) summer camp.
- Weekly toddler story time every Wednesday at 10.30 a.m.
- Weekly series of self-development and employment support clinics for asylum seekers and immigrants run by PAUL Partnership. The workshops include support for communication, CV (Curriculum Vitae) support, and confidence building.
- Orchard Fostering information stand on 14 August.
- Monthly Health Service Executive (HSE) Aphasia Conversation Group meeting on 25 August.
- English language students' Library tour and membership registration on 17 August.
- Weekly Sahaja yoga and meditation sessions on Tuesday evenings.
- Spiral Book Club met on 16 August, Young Adult Book Club on 10 August.

#### Kilmallock Library

- "Cruinniú" Group exhibition of Art held throughout August, featuring various creative mediums to highlight local talent.
- Lego Club workshop on 23 August for ages 7 to 12, where 15 participants engaged in imaginative building.
- Story-Writing Workshop led by Fighting Words on 24 August for ages 7 to 12, fostering creative writing skills and storytelling.
- "Little Readers" session on 25 August for inclusive rhymes, stories, songs, and crafting.
- Weekly Bridge Club meetings for tips and stories on Wednesdays.
- Young readers' visits to prepare for school, collecting "My Little Library" bags containing three books as part of the First 5 Strategy initiative.
- Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board exhibited work created by Level 4, QQI Drawing Course students under the guidance of facilitator and artist, Robert Ryan.

#### Watch House Cross Library

- Toddler Messy Play on 02 August engaged 12 toddlers in creative and sensory play.
- Craft workshop for 7-12 year olds on 18 August, Tie-dye and Soap-making, attracted 20 participants.
- Two Lego Stop-Motion Workshops for 7-12 year olds on 09/10 August and 23/24 August had 32 children creating animation mini-movies.
- Storytimes for young children and their grown-ups continued on Thursday afternoons and Friday mornings.

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- Weekly Kids Movie Club screened Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs, Fantastic Mr. Fox, Shark Tale, and Big Hero Six.
- Thomond Primary Literacy and Numeracy Summer Camp brought 25 children for storytime and craft on 15 August.
- Summer Stars National Summer Reading challenge saw over 230 children signing up.
- 'We are Cantonese Irish' Childhood Photo Exhibition showcased childhood photos of Cantonese Irish children.
- Dietician, Aoife McDonald, gave a talk on Nutrition for Gut Health and Wellbeing under the Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme.
- The Sensory Room hosted 150 visitors in 70 sessions during August.

## Local Studies Department

- 35 onsite visits by researchers.
- 18 research sessions on the archives of local and national newspapers.
- Six research sessions on the FindMyPast site.
- Six research sessions on material from the Local Studies and Archives collections.
- Five advice sessions on genealogical research.
- 20 remote queries, submitted by email or telephone.
- Editing of essays and selection of images for the Department's Decade of Centenaries' volume, Protestants in Limerick, 1912-1923.
- Work on the new Local Studies website progressed.

## Dooradoyle Library

- The branch's Summer Stars Awards Day on 26 August attracted over 1,000 visitors. The event featured three puppet shows by Julie-Rose from McCormick Puppets, and each child received a certificate, medal, and goody bag for completing the Summer Reading Challenge.
- For Heritage Week (12-20 August) a 'Meet the Maker' event with local quilter, Frances Shanahan, on 17 August. Frances showcased decade-spanning quilts and discussed their inspiration and creation.
- Monthly board games club for Adults met on 19 August playing Chess, Scrabble, Cluedo, and Monopoly.
- A solo exhibition of eighteen paintings by artist, musician and journalist, Louise Harrison, mostly featuring images of Limerick City and County in acrylics, oils and watercolours.
- Our Lady of Lourdes National School Summer Camp visited on 23 August where children made bookmarks in an art activity, explored the children's library, and enjoyed browsing.

## Newcastle West Library

- Conclusion of The Summer Stars Reading Challenge and the awarding of medals and certificates to those who completed the challenge.
- Ongoing use of Sensory Space.
- Regular visits from The Brothers of Charity and Rathfredagh Cheshire Home residents.

## Other Branches

- Rathkeale Library hosted a summer camp for St. Anne's Primary School girls, featuring a scavenger hunt, library tour, art, and storytime. Organised a creative writing workshop for young borrowers. Presented medals and certificates to participants of the Summer Stars reading programme. On 31 August, Limerick City and County Council Community Climate Action Officer hosted a

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drop-in session for all those interested in climate action and those who may have ideas for future community action projects.

- Glin Library celebrated its young readers on 24 August when all those who registered for this year's Summer Stars reading programme were presented with their medals and certificates of achievement. A Creative Writing workshop for adults, facilitated by the Listowel Writers' Group, was held on 23 August and attended by ten local budding authors. Two book clubs held their monthly meetings in the library on 30 and 31 August.

## Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- **NIGHT PAINTING** featuring Gerry Davis, Paddy Critchley and Stephen Murphy closed on 20 August with visitor numbers of 8,329 bringing the attendance figure back to pre-COVID numbers. The exhibition featured three Limerick based artists, all graduates of Limerick School of Art and Design (LSAD). An exhibition guide featuring an essay by Cristin Leach, broadcaster, art critic and writer, accompanied the exhibition.
- Installation of work for the 40th edition of **EVA International** commenced on 22 August, curated by Sébastien Cichocki. In total, there are 15 artists exhibiting in LCGA, which is the main venue for the exhibition. Artists included in the exhibition are from Japan, Ukraine, Belgium and Ireland. EVA International has 16 other venues throughout the city. EVA International opened to the public on 31 August with the opening remarks made by the Chair of the Arts Council, Kevin Rafter.
- LCGA continued to exhibit selected works from the Permanent Collection, which appeal to visitors and tourists. Works in the exhibitions include paintings by seminal artists from the last century including Jack B. Yeats, Paul Henry, Evie Hone, William Leech and Limerick artists including Kate Hennessy and Walter Verling.
- LCGA continued to collaborate with other national institutions and galleries making artworks available

from the Permanent Collections for temporary exhibitions and most recently loaned work to The Model in Sligo. Talks continued with the Crawford Gallery in Cork to ensure that the public still has access to works from their significant Permanent Collection during planned renovations.

- LCGA continued to prepare its application to the Arts Council for the 2024 Strategic Funding. The application to the Arts Council supports LCGA's programme of temporary exhibition and events.
- The Shinnors Scholar, Aoife Doherty, continued in her position for a two-year MA by practice at LCGA. This initiative is a partnership with TUS, which has been in place for 16 years with eight participants to date. The focus of the Shinnors Scholar will be on the development of learning and engagement with primary schools.
- Throughout the month of August, LCGA partnered with PAUL Partnership in offering a series of workshops for socially disadvantaged adults. It is hoped to continue developing this important initiative
- LCGA continued to have a notable increase in foreign visitors from the 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 Directorates.

## ARTS

### Limerick Arts Office

#### OPEN CALLS

#### 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 August, three letters of support were issued.

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## Creative Ireland

Two applications from Limerick for the Creative Youth Nurture Fund were successful: Building Bridges - Ballyhoura Development CLG, and Creative Aftercare Communities - Limerick Learning Hub. Limerick Arts Office is a partner on these projects.

## ARTS COUNCIL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT PROGRAMME

### Castleconnell Autumn Concerts

A fully live programme of enchanting and beautiful music and song returned to All Saints Church in Castleconnell. Castleconnell Autumn Concert Series is programmed by Limerick Arts Office, with financial support from the Arts Council and Creative Ireland. The concerts are presented in partnership with Love Castleconnell. The first concert took place on 29 August with Irish mezzo-soprano, Aebh Kelly, and the prize-winning international pianist, Dearbhala Collins. It was presented by Liz Nolan on the night and recorded for broadcast on RTE Lyric FM, The Full Score Programme with Liz Nolan, at a later date.

### County Limerick Youth Theatre

Members of the County Limerick Youth Theatre rehearsed for *Pride & Prejudice*, their summer collaboration with Limerick Youth Theatre. This production has been made possible through the support of The Arts Council's Youth Ensemble Scheme and continued support of the Limerick Arts Office. It was performed in The Hunt Museum Garden, Limerick City, from 16 to 18 August. It featured a creative team made up of professional artists from Limerick City and County, as well as twenty-five members from both the County Limerick Youth Theatre and the Limerick Youth Theatre members aged 15-19. Members rehearsed daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Limerick City.

## LIMERICK MUSEUM

- On 10 August, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, performed the official opening of *History in the Making*, an exhibition of photographs from the Patrick Hennessy Collection organised by Limerick Camera Club as part of its 80th anniversary celebrations and held in Limerick Museum. Limerick Camera Club is the oldest camera club in Ireland having been founded in 1943 as a social club for photography enthusiasts in the city. It is an IPF ([Irish Photographic Federation](#)) affiliated club whose members range in skills from expert to beginner. The photographs on display in this exhibition were part of a much larger archive that Patrick Hennessy has been compiling for over thirty years. By sharing the richness of his archive in this exhibition, Patrick did the people of Limerick a great service.
- On 17 August, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, performed the official opening of *Postcards From Limerick*, in Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick. This is an exhibition organised by Limerick Museum marking the 1,100th anniversary of the foundation of Limerick City. In 922AD, the Viking leader, Tomar Helgason, established a permanent base on Inis Sibhton, later to be called King's Island. It was from this settlement that Limerick city developed. *Postcards From Limerick* explores the rich history of Limerick via the Museum's postcard collection, probably the largest collection of Limerick-related postcards in existence. It brings us on a journey through the city's eleven centuries in an engaging, yet informative manner. All the major milestones are covered: the Normans, the multiple Sieges of the seventeenth century, the Georgian golden age, trade and industry and, of course, Sporting Limerick. The exhibition has been funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the Regional Museums' Exhibition Scheme.
- On 17 and 18 August, as part of Heritage Week, Limerick Museum hosted a [Bring Out Your Lace](#) event organised by the Friends of Lace. A large number of people brought in their lace on both days and some donations were made to the Museum. [Bring Out Your](#)

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[Lace](#) also included a pop-up exhibition in the same room featuring lace, books and leaflets. On the second day of [Bring Out Your Lace](#), the Curator gave a talk on the famed Limerick lace manufacturer, Maude Kearney (1873-1963), whose collection of Limerick lace was recently donated to the Museum.

- On 19 August, the Friends of Lace hosted a one-day lace-making beginner workshop by Toni O'Malley in the Museum.
- As part of the Museum's very successful collaboration with the Limerick Show Society, Limerick Museum sponsored the Crafts Section of Limerick Show, which was held on 27 August.
- The Museum received a donation of a banner and framed document relating to the Limerick Branch of the Irish National Foresters, a fraternal organisation which flourished in Limerick from 1864 to the 1960s.

## 3. Property Management

Dereliction, Vacancy and Reuse Team	
Site Inspections Completed	154
Department Notices of Inquiry issued	23
Derelict Sites Cases opened	4
Statutory Notices served under the Derelict Sites Act 1990	24
Derelict Sites Cases closed through engagement	3
Properties entered into the Derelict Sites Register	14
Properties proposed for Compulsory Acquisition (Section 15 Notices)	0
Vesting Orders Made for Properties Acquired Compulsorily (Section 17 Notices)	0
Croí Cónaithe Applications Approved	26



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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). 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 across the social, economic and physical objectives. A working draft has been finalised and submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for discussion.

#### Economic Regeneration

#### Outreach to Employment Programme

The Programme continued with 16 new employers engaged for 2023 and 85 participants currently across the four Regeneration areas.

Preparations were being advanced for Job Fairs in Southill and St. Mary's Park.

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

#### Social Regeneration

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

The Directorate continued to support organisations with their drawdown of the Economic and Social Intervention Fund (ESIF) Grants 2023. Ongoing evaluation and coordination work continued with the ESIF recipients.

#### Community Activities

##### Southside

###### **Southill Hub a Contender for a Pride of Place Award**

**2023** - Judges were welcomed at Southill Hub in August to assess the broad range of activities and services on offer.

**Our Lady of Lourdes Family Day** - took place on 16 August with a range of activities for all ages. This included a BBQ, light refreshments and fun and games for the attendees.

##### Northside

**Community Festival in King's Island** - took place on 26 August. This included local band, The Rogues, as well as food and facepainting.

#### Physical Regeneration

##### Housing Developments

- Roof works to Colivet Court in Southill were nearing completion.
- 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, was nearing completion.
- Tenders were invited for a civil contractor and supervising archaeologist for an advanced archaeological excavation for the 27-Unit Orchard Site King's Island.

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- Design of Cliona Park Phase 4 in Moyross was ongoing by Deaton Lysaght / JFOC.
- Tender issued to procure an integrated Design Team for Cosgrave Park Phase 2 housing in Moyross.
- 

## **The status of the thermal upgrade projects was as follows:**

- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 121, Moyross (47 units) - Icarus appointed, awaiting mobilisation.
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 122, St. Mary's Park - construction works nearing completion.
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 123, Southill - Alan Hart appointed, awaiting mobilisation.
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 125A, St. Mary's Park (26 units) - pre-contract process ongoing.
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 126, Southill (50 units) - Phase 4 of works was nearing completion by Alan Hart.
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 127, Ballinacurra Weston (12 units) - JoeBren commenced on site.
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 128/129, St. Mary's Park (25 units) - pre-contract process ongoing.
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 130 - Stage 3 submission issued to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- Work on the preparation of Mop-Up Contracts was ongoing in all Four Regeneration areas.

## **House Refurbishments**

### **Lot 4a Major Refurbishments - 9 Properties**

- Tender assessment ongoing on Batch No. 1 (three properties).
- Batch No. 2 (three properties) - tender being prepared.
- Batch No. 3 (three properties) - tender being prepared.

### **Lot 4b Major Refurbishments - 11 Properties**

- Scoping ongoing on all properties.
- Three tender packs being prepared.

### **Minor Refurbishments**

- 22 refurbishments completed to date.
- 20 units at scoping, tender or construction stage.

## **Other Infrastructure Projects**

### **Southside Connectivity Project**

- Awaiting final National Transport Authority comments.
- Finalising planning document for Part 8 submission.

### **Moyross Avenue Upgrade**

- Preliminary design continued during the month.

## **Community Facilities**

### **Southill Play Area and Associated Landscaping**

The plans and particulars of the above proposal were on public display via My Point and submissions were invited up to 08 August. No written submissions/observations were received.

### **King's Island Community Centre**

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage authorised the Stage 1 Approval of the King's Island Community Centre, St. Marys Park, Limerick.

Development of the proposal evolved through the formation of a King's Island Community Centre Working Group and extensive engagement with the community of St. Mary's Park and King's Island stakeholders, culminating in a Stage 1 Scheme endorsed by the St. Mary's Park Regeneration Committee. The proposal incorporates retention of an element of the existing community building and a proposed new build and associated public realm along Verdant Place and the River Shannon.

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This approval enables the project to move forward to the next stage of procuring a Design Team followed by preparation of a scheme design for further engagement with the local community prior to submission of a statutory planning application.

## **Southside Boxing Academy**

Tenders were received for the upgrade to the Southside Boxing Academy building, located in the Galvone Industrial Estate - currently being assessed.

## **Sports Partnership**

During the month, Limerick Sports Partnership continued the following activities:

- Park Life - Shelbourne Park and Baggot Estate, Limerick City.
- Aqua Aerobics - Newcastle West.
- Let's Play - Limerick People's Park.
- Active Cities Walks - Limerick City.
- Men on the Move - Multiple locations across Limerick.
- Come and Try Archery - Ashroe, Limerick.
- Come and Try Mountain Biking - Ballyhoura.
- MoveWell: Breathe Well - Moyross, Limerick.
- Learn to Love Fitness - Newcastle West.
- Come and Try Climbing Wall - University of Limerick
- Buggy Buddies - Loughill.
- Activator Walking - Loughill.
- CricHITT - Mulgrave Street, Limerick City.
- Hiking - Ballyhoura.
- Kids' Inclusion Summer Camp - University of Limerick.
- Outdoor Yoga - Lough Gur.
- Come and Try Kayaking - Hunt Museum, Limerick City.



# Chief Executive's Report



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## Housing Directorate

### 1. Housing Support Services

#### Housing Waiting List

Approved Housing Applicants	2,594
Approved Tenant Transfer Applicants	359

#### Closed Housing Applications

	August	Year to Date
Closed Applications	46	393

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 August	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	8
Newcastle West	2	17
Metropolitan District	21	147
Cappamore-Kilmallock	3	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>195</b>

#### Refusals

	No. of Units August	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	1
Newcastle West	0	1
Metropolitan District	2	20
Cappamore-Kilmallock	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>25</b>

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

Total Nominations	Successful Nominations	Nominations Pending	Unsuccessful Nominations
138	112	18	8

#### Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

Private Tenancies	697
Capital Assistance Scheme/Rental Accommodation Scheme Tenancies	530
Part V	1
New Private Tenancies	0
New Voluntary Housing Tenancies	6

# Chief Executive's Report



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## Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Limerick

2,118 active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	23
No. of Amendments	313
No. of Cessations	35

## RENT COLLECTION

Rent Collection Limerick City and County Council					
Opening Balance	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing Balance	% Collection
€5,916,167	€13,159,375	€19,075.542	€12,411,974	€6,663,568	66%

# Chief Executive's Report



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## HOME IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

Aug-2023		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aid Grants	No. Approved	1	0	4	0	<b>5</b>
	MAG Expenditure	€5,865.85	€6,000.00	€17,195.00	€2,300.00	<b>€31,360.85</b>
	No. Paid	1	1	4	1	<b>7</b>
<hr/>						
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	5	8	23	10	<b>46</b>
	HAG Expenditure	€20,075.62	€28,134.50	€122,321.70	€34,436.00	<b>€204,967.82</b>
	No. Paid	3	4	12	4	<b>23</b>
<hr/>						
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	9	26	26	5	<b>66</b>
	HOP Expenditure	€39,625.00	€47,428.25	€42,144.75	€37,962.50	<b>€167,160.50</b>
	No. Paid	9	10	15	8	<b>42</b>
<hr/>						
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG Expenditure	€0.00	€0.00	€40,042.90	€27,224.11	<b>€67,267.01</b>
	No. Paid	0	0	5	3	<b>8</b>

Total No. Approved	117
Total Monies Paid	<b>€470,756.18</b>
Total No. Paid	80

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## HOME IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES - Year to Date

Jan - Aug 2023		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aid Grants	No. Approved	9	6	35	6	<b>56</b>
	MAG Expenditure	€29,710.85	€40,417.03	€108,664.00	€23,455.00	<b>€202,246.88</b>
	No. Paid	7	8	22	6	<b>43</b>
<hr/>						
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	35	49	112	51	<b>247</b>
	HAG Expenditure	€217,232.77	€311,404.95	€828,221.32	€306,109.50	<b>€1,662,968.54</b>
	No. Paid	30	31	115	35	<b>211</b>
<hr/>						
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	76	90	143	57	<b>366</b>
	HOP Expenditure	€182,940.48	€288,839.35	€581,043.57	€178,689.25	<b>€1,231,512.65</b>
	No. Paid	43	61	139	40	<b>283</b>
<hr/>						
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG Expenditure	€2,150.83	€2,434.58	€78,292.49	€52,556.11	<b>€135,434.01</b>
	No. Paid	1	1	7	6	<b>15</b>

YTD Total No. Approved	<b>669</b>
YTD Total Monies Paid	<b>€3,232,162.08</b>
YTD Total No. Paid	<b>552</b>

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## Community Sustainment Unit

### Tenancy Inductions

No. of Tenancy Inductions	23
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### Repossessions

Repossession of Council properties	22
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### House Visits

No. of House Visits	327
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### Garda Checks

Garda Checks processed	97
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### Sugar CRM (Customer Relationship Management) Cases

Active cases at month-end	309
Cases closed during month	44

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

Date: 14 August 2023		
Individuals		
Location	Description	Beds Used
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	37
Oak Lodge	Adults without children accommodated in low threshold emergency accommodation	61
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	24
St. Joseph Street	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	4
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	20
Temporary Emergency Provision TEP 1 (Edenvilla)	Low threshold, night-by-night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	17
Phoenix Lodge	Low threshold emergency accommodation for single adults	8
<b>Total</b>		<b>171</b>

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Families				
Location	Description	Beds Used		
		Adults	Children	Families
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	7	6
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	68	82	51
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	13	11	9
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Adults</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>Families</b>
		87	100	66

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

<b>Tenant Purchase</b>	
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. received	7
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. approved	0
<b>Local Authority Home Loans</b>	
Loan Applications: No. received	8
Loan Applications: No. approved	1
<b>Deed of Discharge</b>	
Deed of Discharge Applications: No. Received	11
<b>Consent to Sale</b>	
Consent to Sale Applications: No. Received	5
<b>Cottage Purchase Annuity</b>	
No. of Cottage Purchase Annuity Applications	0
<b>Ground Rent</b>	
No. of Ground Rent applications	7
<b>Title</b>	
Title Deeds Received/Requested	8
Title Rectification Received	3
<b>Private Rented Inspections</b>	
No. of Inspections	111

## Freedom of Information, Data Requests and Ombudsman

<b>Freedom of Information requests</b>	4
<b>Ombudsman Query Cases</b>	2
<b>Data Access Requests</b>	1

# Chief Executive's Report



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## 2. Housing Welfare and Traveller Accommodation

### \* Traveller Accommodation

No. of Units offered August	2
Year to Date	22

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

### Housing Welfare Visits

No. of Units offered August	15
Year to Date	201

## 3. Local Authority Housing Construction and Maintenance

### Local Authority Housing Construction

House Returns August	
Total	13

House Returns August By Municipal District	
Adare-Rathkeale	2
Cappamore-Kilmallock	3
Newcastle West	1
Metropolitan District	7
Total	13

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

Current Working Programme		
	Completed in August	In Progress
Local Authority Construction Team	1	86
Local Authority Maintenance Team	8	113
Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process	0	26
Regeneration Team	1	40
Team to be assigned	N/A	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>265</b>

In August, work on one property was completed by Local Authority Housing Construction Team, work on eight properties was completed by Local Authority Maintenance Team and work on one property was completed by Regeneration Team.

There are three teams in Limerick City and County Council assigned to refurbish properties. As of August, the Local Authority Construction Team was in the process of completing works in 86 properties, the Local Authority Maintenance Team was working on 113 properties and the Regeneration Team had 40 properties. Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process - 26 properties. There were no properties in the process of being assigned to a team.

# Chief Executive's Report



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## Project Updates

- Contractor appointed for refurbishment of property in Newcastle West.
- Consultant appointed for site clearance at site in Convent Street, Limerick.
- Consulting Engineers appointed for mechanical and electrical consultancy services for housing development in Newcastle West.

## Finance

- Applications for funding totaling €1,228,422.00 issued to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage paid €1,534,717.00 in claims made.

## Local Authority Maintenance

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

Housing Maintenance Cases - August	Requests/Cases Created	Cases Dealt With/Closed	Balance of Open Cases at 31/08/2023
Metropolitan District of Limerick	726	637	1,664
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	61	52	270
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	119	110	227
Municipal District of Newcastle West	99	106	666
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,005</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>2,827</b>

# Chief Executive's Report



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## Grants Inspections

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	1	0	2	3
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	2	17	1	16	36
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	15	0	8	23
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	3	2	3	8
<b>Total Inspections by Inspection Type</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>70</b>

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

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	11	1	2	14
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	8	0	8	16
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Inspections by Inspection Type</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>32</b>

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

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	4	0	2	6
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	8	0	6	14
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	5	0	0	5
<b>Total Inspections by Inspection Type</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>26</b>

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

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	1	1
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	5	0	4	9
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	18	0	10	28
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Inspections by Inspection Type</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>38</b>

# Chief Executive's Report



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## HOUSE INSPECTIONS UNIT

Houses Inspected for Refurbishment Works and Re-Letting – August - Categories	No. of Properties Inspected
Cat 1 – minor repairs needed	3
Cat 2 – moderate repairs needed	3
Cat 3 – substantial repairs needed	6
Cat 4 – major repairs required.	0
<b>TOTAL INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT</b>	<b>12</b>
No. of Properties Awaiting Inspection	0

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

### SOCIAL HOUSING – Delivery for 2023

Buy/Build/Lease as of 31.08.2023 is as follows:

As at 31.08.2023 (01.01.2023 – 31.08.2023)	Complete	In Progress	Overall Complete and In Progress	“Housing for All” 2023 Delivery Target
Build	6	389	395	502
Buy	25	238	263	75
Lease	10	83	93	27
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>751</b>	

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

# Chief Executive's Report



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## Social Housing - Project Submissions and Approvals

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

Scheme	Project Details	District
Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP)	Approval for one unit at Patrickswell, Co. Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP)	Approval for one unit at Fr. Russell Road, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP)	Approval for budget uplift in purchase price for one unit at North Circular Road, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Approval for six units at Davin Gardens, Redgate Road, Caherdavin, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Social Housing Capital Expenditure Programme - Long Term Leasing	Approval for the leasing of four units on Main Street, Abbeyfeale, Co Limerick.	Municipal District of Newcastle West
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Delegated Sanction approval for the acquisition of one unit at Cappamore, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Delegated Sanction approval for the acquisition of one unit at Dooradoyle, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Delegated Sanction approval for the acquisition of one unit at Upper William Street, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Combined Stage 1/2/3 approval for CAS Renewal of five units at Doon, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the acquisitions of three individual units at Dock Road, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the CAS Turnkey Acquisition of one unit at Garryowen, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick

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

Scheme	Project Details	District
Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP) - Turnkey	Submission for the purchase price and associated fees for two units at Knocklong, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock
Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP) - Turnkey	Submission of Capital Appraisal for the acquisition of five units at Ballylanders Limerick.	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock
Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP) - Part V	Submission of Capital Appraisal for the acquisition of two units at Castletroy, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP) - NTQ	Submission for Budget Uplift in purchase price for one unit at North Circular Road, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Social Housing Capital Expenditure Programme - Long Term Leasing	Submission for the leasing of four units on Main Street, Abbeyfeale, Co Limerick.	Municipal District of Newcastle West
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the acquisition of one unit at Castletroy, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the acquisition of one unit at Dooradoyle, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Combined Stage 1/2/3/4 submission for the CAS Renewal of one unit at Dromcollogher, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Newcastle West

# Chief Executive's Report



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## Affordable Housing - Delivery for 2023-2026

Status of Affordable Housing Scheme proposals as of 31.08.2023 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. Work continuing on preplanning design. Engagement with neighbours and site investigation procured and underway. Archaeological dig licence applied for and received. Bat and tree survey complete.
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. Development and finance strategy now agreed. Framework for Design Team consultants is being procured. Extended archaeological testing necessary is being reviewed.
Toppins Field Lands (Phase 1)	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Affordable Housing Fund	28	Affordable Housing Fund application approved. Traffic and transportation assessment complete. Design Team procured and in place. Site investigations being procured. Preplanning design and coordination of first phase development underway.
Toppins Field Lands (Phases 2-4)	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Affordable Housing Fund	115	Design Team procured and in place for next phases.
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	Affordable Purchase 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.

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Scheme	District	Type	No. of Units	Status
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	22	Planning application has been submitted.
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	181	252 residential units with Part 8 adopted of which 181 units are earmarked for affordable.
Thomas Street and O'Connell Street	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Urban Regeneration and Development Fund	21	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.

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Scheme	District	Type	No. of Units	Status
Advance Purchase Turnkey - Campaign 1	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase	25	Campaign 1 resulted in five submissions from private developers, of which three have withdrawn from the Affordable Purchase process. An Affordable Housing Fund application was approved for a proposed scheme of 25 units in Brú na Gruadán, Castletroy and the online application portal for this scheme closed on 14 July 2023. An Affordable Housing Fund application was also approved for a proposed development of 10 units in Abbeyfeale.
	Municipal District of Newcastle West	Affordable Purchase	10	
Advance Purchase Turnkey - Campaign 2	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase	145	Campaign 2 resulted in six submissions from private developers, of which three have withdrawn from the process. Affordable Housing Fund applications have been approved for a proposed scheme of 11 units in Croom, and for a proposed scheme of 42 units in Newcastle West. The remaining application is being progressed.
	Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	Affordable Purchase	11	
	Municipal District of Newcastle West	Affordable Purchase	42	
Advance Purchase Turnkey - Campaign 3	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase	98	Campaign 3 resulted in two submissions from private developers. An Affordable Housing Fund application has been submitted for 98 units in Patrickswell and is awaiting approval. Remaining application is being progressed.
	Municipal District of Newcastle West	Affordable Purchase	33	
Advance Purchase Turnkey - Campaign 4	Municipal District of Newcastle West	Affordable Purchase	9	Campaign 4 resulted in one submission from a private developer and this application is being progressed.

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Scheme	District	Type	No. of Units	Status
Advance Purchase Turnkey - Campaign 5	Municipal District of Newcastle West	Affordable Purchase	101	Campaign 5 resulted in three submissions from private developers and these applications are being progressed.
Large Scale Residential Sites	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Cost Rental	265	In discussions to deliver affordable on large-scale residential sites.

## Affordable Housing - Project Submissions and Approvals

Scheme	Project Details	District
Affordable Housing Fund (AHF)	Approval received for 10 units of affordable housing at Killarney Road, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick	Municipal District of Newcastle West

## Finance

Claims totaling €2,299,341.24 were sent to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in August.

Claims totaling €5,883,283 were paid by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in August.

# Chief Executive's Report



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## 5. Municipal District Offices

### Metropolitan District of Limerick

#### Road Related Upgrade/Refurbishment Works

##### Description of Project: R857 Ennis Road Restoration Improvement

Location: Ennis Road (near Gaelic Grounds);  
Cost of project: €200,000;  
Contractor: Roadstone.

##### Description of Project: R526 Patrick Street and Rutland Street Restoration Improvement

Location: Limerick City Centre (Arthur's Quay Shopping Centre);  
Cost of project: €150,000;  
Contractor: Roadstone.

##### Description of Project: L-1115 School House Road Restoration Improvement

Location: Monaleen;  
Cost of project: €250,000;  
Contractor: Roadstone.

##### Description of Project: R512 Old Cork Road Surface Dressing

Location: Inchmore;  
Cost of project: €53,000;  
Contractor: Limerick City and County Council Direct Labour crew.

##### Description of Project: R512 Fedamore Road Surface Dressing

Location: Kelleher's Cross to M7 flyover;  
Cost of project: €118,000;  
Contractor: Limerick City and County Council Direct Labour crew.

##### Description of Project: Woodlawn Storm Water Drainage Improvements

Location: Childers Road;  
Cost of project: €20,000;  
Contractor: Tallybrook.

##### Description of Project: South Circular Road Footpath Improvements

Location: South Circular Road and Ashbourne Avenue;  
Cost of project: €50,000;  
Contractor: Peter Ryan Civil Engineering.

##### Description of Project: Mountshannon Road New Footpaths - Active Travel Scheme

Location: Annacotty;  
Cost of project: €125,000;  
Contractor: Neville Civil Engineering.

##### Description of Project: Scanlan Park Upgrade - Active Travel Scheme

Location: Castleconnell;  
Cost of project: €75,000;  
Contractor: Tallybrook.

##### Description of Project: Hilltop Footpath Upgrade - Active Travel Scheme

Location: St. Patrick's Road;  
Cost of project: €60,000;  
Contractor: Maramba.

##### Description of Project: Bruach Na Sionna Estate; Roads Restoration Improvement

Location: Castleconnell;  
Cost of project: €290,000;  
Contractor: Tallybrook.

##### Description of Project: Caisleán na hAbhainn Drainage Improvements

Location: Kilbane;  
Cost of project: €80,000;  
Contractor: Tallybrook.

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## Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

There were no meetings of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale during August.

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

- 68 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
- 70 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

## Active Travel

- Works complete at Adare - Riverbank Macadam Works.
- Contractor commenced works at St. Senan's Terrace, Croom.
- New Bus Shelter constructed on the N21 at Croagh.

## Schedule of Municipal District Works

### Road Reconstruction Works were carried out at the following locations:

- Banogue Church to N20.
- New Line, Rathkeale.
- Coole Road West, Ballyhahill.
- Curraghchase Back Gates to Longs.

### Surface Dressing was completed at the following locations:

- R516 - Ballintaw Junction to Tullovin.
- Tullovin towards Mainister.
- Kilmacow Junction towards Chawke's Cross.
- Killeen, Patrickswell.

## Low Cost Safety

- Works under construction at Morenane Cross, Banogue.

## Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works

- Ballingarry Low Road Verge Stabilisation works commenced.

## Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

### Housing and Road Maintenance

- 112 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
- 52 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

### Housing Grants

- Five Private housing grants were paid, totalling €32,438, and 15 were approved.
- 20 initial inspections, one re-inspection and 11 final inspections were undertaken in relation to Private Housing Grants.
- 32 housing inspections were undertaken.

### Road Works

The following works were completed:

### Restoration Improvement Works

- R505 - Eyon to Egan's Bridge, Cappamore.
- L1137 - Cahill's Cross to Towerhill.
- L5013 - Annagh Cemetery Road.
- L5020 - Glenstal Upper.
- L5089 - Newtown, Caherconlish.
- L50962 - The Cut towards Boher.
- R662 - Garnalyna, Galbally.
- R663 - Newtown, Garryspillane.
- L1504 - Malley's Cross, Bulgaden.
- L1505 - Baggotstown, Bruff.
- L1508 - Elton to Cooke's Cross, Elton.
- L1518 - Ballyferode.
- L8542 - Cullane, Ballylanders.
- L8556 - Ruppulagh.
- L8576 - Bresheen.

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## Restoration Maintenance

- R507 - Toher, Doon.
- L5032 - Cliggin, Doon.
- L5043 - Oola to Boterdotia.
- L5045 - Newtown, Oola.
- L5050 - Barna.
- R505 - Kilmoylan to Cooga.
- L5043 - Ballybeg to Monahila.
- L51308 - Black Ditch, Hospital.
- L5150 - Idler Bar, Knockane.
- R662 - Garnalyna to Galbally.
- L1525 - Mountainfoot Road, Galbally.
- L1511 - Kilfinane to Garryspillane.
- L51202 - Glensheen.
- L8542 - Cullane.

## Drainage Works

- L8566 - Martinstown Drainage Scheme.
- R513 - Knocklong Drainage Scheme.

## Community Involvement Scheme

- L8518 - Hammondstown, Knocklong.

## Municipal District of Newcastle West

### Briefings

The following Briefings were held in Áras William Smith O'Brien, Newcastle West:

- 22 August - Briefing to discuss Newcastle West Local Improvement Schemes.
- 31 August - Briefing to discuss Newcastle West Local Area Plan.
- 31 August - Briefing to discuss Dromcollogher Public Realm Plan.

## Housing Grants

- 34 grant applications were approved under the Private Housing Grant Schemes. The total value of approvals was €183,838.05.
- Payments of €47,428.25 were made to 10 applicants who completed works under the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.
- Payments of €28,134.50 were made to four applicants who completed works under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme.
- Payments of €6,000.00 were made to one applicant who completed works under the Mobility Aids Housing Grant.

## Housing Maintenance

- 99 CRM (customer relationship management) cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.

## Transportation and Mobility

100 CRM cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

## Motor Tax

- The Motor Tax Section at the Newcastle West Office processed 1,267 routine transactions.



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## Planning, Environment & Place-Making Directorate

### 1. Forward Planning and Public Realm

#### Forward Planning

- The statutory public consultation for the Draft Adare Local Area Plan, Public Realm Plan and Associated Environmental Reports commenced on 19 August.
- Work continued on the preparation of the Draft Patrickswell Local Area Plan.
- Briefing meetings were held with the Elected Members in relation to the Chief Executive's Report, which outlined the submissions received on the Draft Newcastle West Local Area Plan.
- Following a four-week period, the public consultation closed on the proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Abbeyfeale Local Area Plan.

### 2. Development Management and Place-Making

#### Development Management

A total of 74 new planning applications were received as follows:

Category	Amount
Part 8	0
Housing Developments	4
Domestic Developments	45
Agricultural Developments	4
Commercial Developments/Change of Use	10
Sporting/Community and Educational Developments	5
Other Developments	6

The current applications include proposals for:

- Construction of a residential development of 53 dwelling houses and all ancillary site works, including landscaping, surface car parking and site services at Carrig Desmond, Churchtown Road, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.
- Construction of 66 dwellings, provision of one access point from the existing internal street at Slí na Manach Road, pedestrian/cyclist access via an existing entrance off the R859, connection of all services, including foul and surface water drainage, provision of streets, parking, private open space, public open space, ESB substation, street lighting, landscaping, boundary treatments and all ancillary site development works at Skehacreggan, Mungret.

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- 10-year planning permission for a change of use of an existing building from industrial to office use, provision of new mezzanine level within the existing building, façade improvements, the construction of a new two/three storey extension to the rear and side of the building comprising offices and high tech laboratory/research space, closure of the northern part of the Ballynoe Road with provision for a new access road on the southern site boundary, provision of public realm absorbing the closed part of the Ballynoe Road and the creation of a new pedestrian plaza with bicycle parking and all ancillary site development works including signage, delivery bay on the Derrybeg Road, bin stores, plant rooms and Solar PV panels. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is included in the application at Ballynoe Road, Derrybeg Road and Ballycummin Avenue adjoining the existing Analog Devices Campus, at Raheen Business Park, Raheen, Limerick.
- Permission for the construction of one high technology logistics warehouse unit with ancillary office use at ground and first floor level, one security kiosk, one waste management compound and all associated site works including raising of land, two totem signage units, elevational signage, PV panels, external mechanical plant area. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been prepared in respect of the proposed development and accompanies the planning application at Alandale Road, Courtbrack, Limerick.

## Place-Making

### Limerick Wayfinding and Orientation Signage Project

- Preparation of a Part 8 Planning Application continued.

### Decluttering Project

- Consultation on signs to be removed progressed.

## Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF)

### Urban Regeneration and Development Fund - 58 O'Connell Street and 33 & 34 Thomas Street

- Fitzpatrick Associates appointed as Consultants for Preliminary Business Case preparation. Initial meeting, site visit and information issue completed.

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

- Multi-disciplinary team, led by AECOM, preparing a Preliminary Business Case under the Public Spending Code. Initial meeting, site visit and information issue completed.

## Arthur's Quay Area Framework Plan

- Architects, Metropolitan Workshop, are leading a Multi-disciplinary team preparing the Arthur's Quay Area Framework Plan. Preparation of Options continued together with Public and Stakeholder engagement.

## Capital Projects

### Newcastle West Athletics Hub

- The laying of the final track surface is completed. Snagging and final work items continued in preparation for the Official Opening.

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## 3. Environment and Climate Action

### Environment Strategy

- Environment Strategy has received funding under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund 2023 for two projects, the River Loobagh Hogweed removal and a hedgerow survey which is an action under the Limerick City and Environs Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy. The Hedgerow survey is being undertaken by Veon. The Loobagh Hogweed project is being undertaken by Knotweed Services Limited.
- Strategic Noise Action Plan - strategic noise mapping was completed in August for major roads (vehicle passages greater than three million vehicles per year) in County Limerick. The strategic noise maps for the County and for the Agglomeration of Limerick are available at:  
<https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/environment/environmental-control/strategic-noise-mapping-and-noise-action-plans>
- Air Monitoring - air monitoring was undertaken at several location in the city and environs. Monitoring reports and up-to-date data can be accessed on the Limerick website at the following link:  
<https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/environment/environmental-control/air-quality#Reports>
- The Water Framework Directive Farm Team continued with river basin management plan and farm inspections. In August, 30 farms were inspected, 20-plus desktop assessments for planning were undertaken and 147 poultry farmers were written to. The poultry farmers were requested to submit detail of where they disposed of the waste litter generated. Limerick City and County Council has a docket system which is used to monitor poultry litter movements in and out of the county. As well as the planned inspections, two farm-related pollution complaints were responded to.

- Environment Strategy has produced a booklet "*Building Resilience into Your Farming System*" for distribution to farmers throughout the county. This booklet details all the environmental requirements which the farmer is obliged to comply with, and additional information on best practices; sustainable farming, habitat protection and biodiversity enhancement.
- The Westfields Management Plan, which is an all encompassing management document for urban wetland habitat, was completed in August.

### Parks

- New flower planters were provided along Park Canal from Lock Quay to Lelia Street.
- A contractor has been appointed for landscape design works in Ballynancy.
- Tree survey work was underway in Baggott Estate to assist in identifying trails and tree maintenance.
- The Mobile Tree Forest/Nursery was shortlisted for the national Green Cities awards.
- The Council was successful in its application to be a partner in "Green Place" URBACT 4 project which kicked off in Malmo, Sweden, at the end of August. Limerick is one of 10 partner cities who will collaborate on urban regeneration plans in respective specified areas. The output from the project will be an Integrated Action Plan for these areas.
- Works commenced on the Community Park in Castleconnell.
- Consultant progressed design works for replacement of two pedestrian bridges in Clare Glens.
- The masterplan for the Demesne parklands in Newcastle West was presented to the Elected Members.

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## Cemeteries

### Number of Burials in City Cemeteries

Mount St. Lawrence	18
Mount St. Oliver	23
Castlemungret	12
Kilmurry	3

- A site identification/selection was underway for new cemeteries in locations including the eastern part of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, Cappamore/Murroe and Adare.
- Stabilisation works to boundary wall of Old Kilmurry Cemetery were completed.
- The Council completed the land acquisition for an extension to Calvary burial ground in Newcastle West.

## Environment Enforcement and Litter Management

CRM (customer relationship management) - cases received	250
CRM - Inspections recorded	543
Warnings issued	24
Directions of Authorised Officer issued	4
Statutory Notices issued	8
Prosecutions initiated	6
Fines issued	25
Authorisations issued/reviewed	11

## Climate Action

- The initial consultation on the Local Authority Climate Action Plan closed on 04 August with four submissions received.
- The Climate Action Team hosted a number of online information sessions in advance of the launch of the Community Climate Action Fund, as well as attending the Cappamore and Limerick Shows.
- The project group for the Technical Support Instrument (TSI) was reconvened to begin the examination of the potential to establishing a sustainable investment fund to support historic building retrofitting in Limerick.

## Veterinary

No. of dogs processed in the Dog Shelter	33
No. of horses seized	4
No. of samples taken	6

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## 4. Limerick Twenty Thirty (LTT) DAC

### Opera Square

#### Progress Update

- Contract B: Basement and One Opera Square – John Sisk & Son progressed well with the Basement contract in August. Piling for the perimeter wall is 97% complete.
- Bulk excavation works well underway with 50% of the bulk dig completed.

### Cleeves Riverside Quarter

#### Progress Update

- A report in response to submissions received during the Masterplan process has been drafted and is being finalised for publishing.
- Negotiations with TUS (Technological University of the Shannon) on a Memorandum of Understanding for Cleeves Riverside Quarter progressed well in August.
- Financial Modelling was updated to run scenarios with housing grants such as Croí Cónaithe, Cost Rental and STAR.
- Urban Regeneration and Development Fund Team from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage was provided with progress update.

### Gardens International Communications Update

- LTT hosted a reception for the launch of the 40th EVA International Ireland's Biennial of Contemporary Art on 31 August at Gardens International. Over 300 guests saw a welcome address from the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, David Conway, Chief Executive Officer of LTT and Con Quigley, Chair of EVA International. The showcase at Gardens International is one of the largest in Limerick and spans over four areas of the building, featuring

the artwork of artists Sarah Durcan, Frank Sweeney, Cliodhna Timoney, and Amna Walayat. The exhibition also features new work by Bea McMahon following the recent fire at the Sailors' Home where the artwork was originally scheduled to be shown. The showcase remains open to the public. For more information, see [eva.ie](http://eva.ie).

- It was announced on social media that LTT achieved alignment with EU Taxonomy which is regarded as best practice ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) at Gardens International.
- The Vault at Gardens International was promoted in August for meeting and events bookings. Several organisations booked the space within August. Requests for bookings can be submitted to [gardens@limerick2030.ie](mailto:gardens@limerick2030.ie) or 061-517430.



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## National and Regional Shared Services Centre Directorate

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

- There were 57,759 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAP SSC, at the end of August.
- A weekly average of 160 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2023.
- The August landlord payment run was €55.2 million.
- The weekly tenant charge at the end of August was €3.09 million.
- The Debt Management Unit of the HAP SSC collected a total of €105.7 million in differential rent to end of August.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of August 2023 was 99%.
- The Debt Management Unit issued 11,465 HAP debt reminder letters in August.

### 2. Fire and Emergency

#### Statistics

	No. of Fire Related Calls	No. of Non-Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call-outs 01.08.2023 - 31.08.2023	87	50	137
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	75%	46%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	19%	43%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	6%	11%	

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	No. Received / Assigned	No. Validated	No. Invalidated / Refused	No. Granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications August	14	9	2	28	30
Disability Access Cert Applications August	13	9	1	19	20
Licensing Applications August	71	70			
Commencement Notice August	58	49	6	0	55
Completion Certificate August	12	7	0	0	7
Planning Referrals August	18	0	0	0	11
Sugar CRM Cases August	8	0	0	0	4 Received 3 Resolved 1 Closed with Commitment

## Fire and Emergency Training Events

There were no scheduled training courses during August. On-station training at retained stations is currently on hold due to industrial action. On-station training is ongoing at the whole-time station.

## Civil Defence attendance at Events

The following activity took place in August:

- Patient Transfer - Limerick residence to University Hospital Limerick and returned to residence (3 days).
- Cappamore Show, Cappamore, Co. Limerick - Medical cover (1 day).
- Patient Transfer - Limerick residence to St. Camillus's Integrated Care Programme for Older Persons (ICPOP) (2 days).
- Ukrainian Displaced Person - family moved between Limerick residences (1 day).

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## Water Safety

No. of Lifebuoy Replacements	January - July	August	Total 2023
Metropolitan District	6	0	6
Municipal District	13	2	15

No. of Lifebuoy Sensor Activations	Total February - July	August	Total 2023
Metropolitan District	57	9	66
Municipal District	32	7	39



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## Support Services Directorate

### 1. Finance

#### Commercial Rates and Loans

##### Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2023	
As at 31 August 2023	
Opening Balance - 01 Jan €	5,888,292
Accruals €	64,097,698 **
Vacant Property Adjustment €	367,629
Writes offs/ Waivers €	1,837,499
Total for Collection €	67,780,862
Amount Collected €	50,646,043
Arrears €	17,134,819
Specific Doubtful Arrears €	1,109,937
% Collected	76%

Debtors Loans	
As at 31 August 2023	
Opening Balance - 01 Jan €	300,639
Accruals €	1,092,769 ^
Writes offs €	-
To Collect €	1,393,408
Receipts €	1,256,165
Arrears €	137,243
% Collected	90%

^ Accruals not updated for loans for August 2023

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

#### Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No. of days in overdraft 0

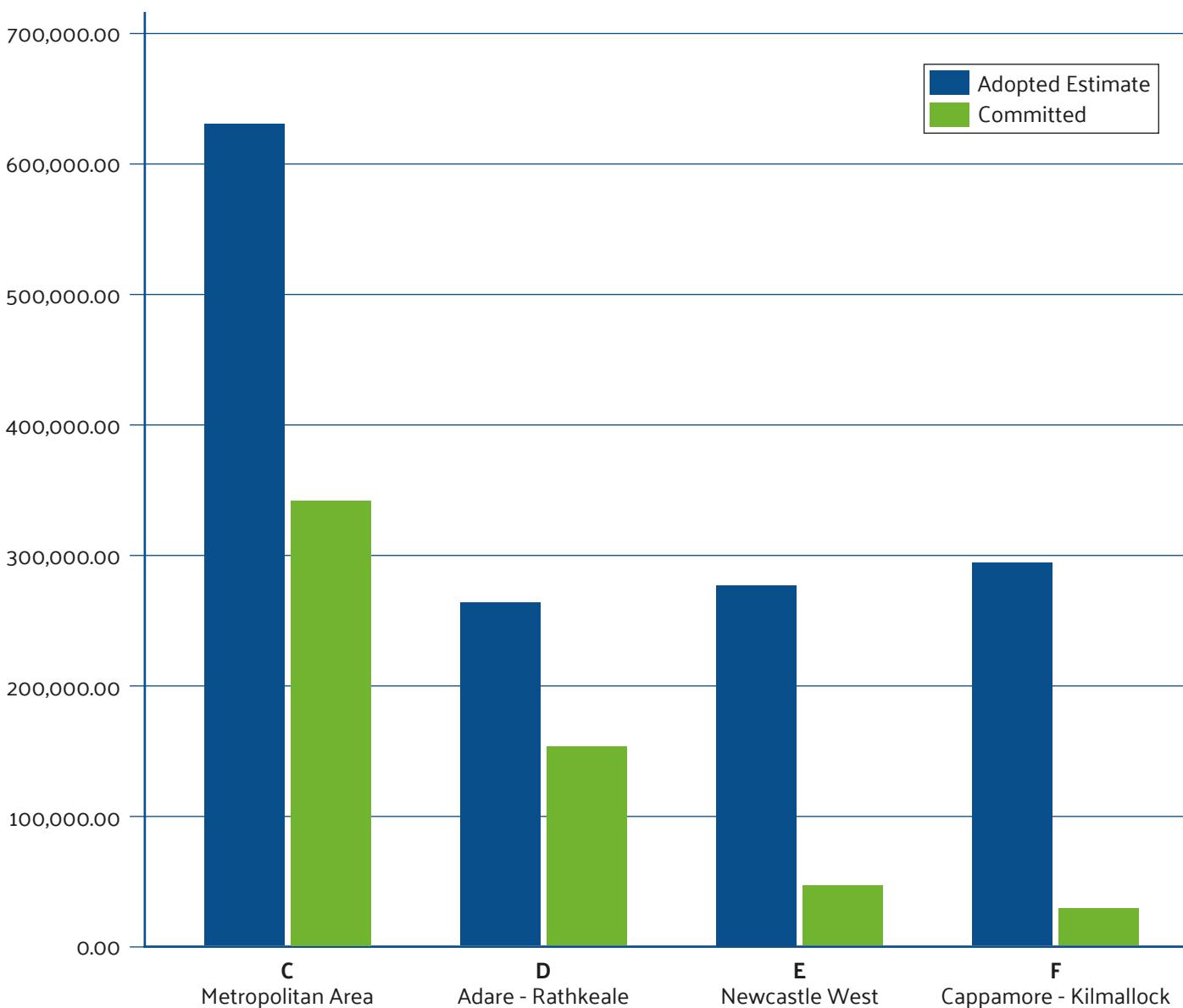
# Chief Executive's Report



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## General Municipal Allocation 2023 Adopted Estimate €1.463 Million

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



### Municip (Code) + (Text)

- C** Metropolitan Area
- D** Adare - Rathkeale
- E** Newcastle West
- F** Cappamore - Kilmallock

### Value Adopted Estimate (€)

- 628,000.00
- 269,500.00
- 270,500.00
- 295,000.00

### Value Committed (€)

- 341,214
- 157,359
- 57,873
- 27,308

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## 2. Business Improvement

- We have now upgraded and added payments for Limerick City and County Council Traffic Fines to our online payments portal <https://www.fines.ie/traffic>
- Business Improvement worked with Regeneration to launch their Public Consultation Forum for University Avenue on MyPoint.
- A total of 903 active users are now live on the Employee App.
- Services on Service Catalogue = 699.
- There are 436 capital projects now managed through Cora, our cloud-based project management system.
- Limerick City and County Council has been shortlisted for 10 awards in the twentieth annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2023.

## 3. Corporate, Governance and Customer Services

### Mayoral Reception was held for the following:

- Limerick Junior Ladies Football All-Ireland Finalist 2023, in recognition of their outstanding achievements this season on reaching an All-Ireland Junior Final in Croke Park 2023.

### The Mayor hosted the following in Corporate Headquarters:

- Welcome Reception for the Bristol County Fife and Drum Corp from Bristol, Rhode Island, USA, in Merchant's Quay, Limerick.

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

- Opening Ceremony for Tag World Cup at the University of Limerick.
- Photoshoot to highlight the Gum Litter Task Force's (GLT) national awareness campaign 'Chew'in Out - Bin your Gum When You're Done.'
- Irish Youth Wind Ensemble 2023 Summer Tour at the Redemptorist Church, Mount St. Alphonsus, South Circular Road, Limerick.
- Limerick Ladies Football Team Fundraising Breakfast at the Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, Co. Limerick.
- Launch of Exhibition to mark the 80th Anniversary of Limerick Camera Club at Limerick Museum, Henry Street, Limerick.
- Special celebration to mark six months since a temporary accommodation centre first received Ukrainian residents at Tara House, Clarina, Co. Limerick.
- Launch of Limerick Show 2023 at AMCS Offices, City East Plaza, Ballysimon, Castletroy, Limerick.
- Reception on the occasion of the 76th Anniversary of the Independence Day of India at India House, Knocksinna, Foxrock, Dublin.
- Official Opening of Exhibition 'Postcards from Limerick,' A Limerick Museum exhibition marking the 1,100th anniversary of the foundation of Limerick City at St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick.
- Official Opening of the European Flag Football Championships at Kilmurry Village Campus, University of Limerick, Limerick.
- Cappamore Agricultural Show.

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- Photoshoot with Steve Spade, magician/escape artist, winner of the International Merlin Award for Magic and Escapology Las Vegas 2023, in the grounds of King John's Castle, Limerick.
- Launch of Laura Ashley Gallagher's fourth book 'It Should Have Been You' at Fitzgeralds Bar, Thomondgate, Limerick.
- Opening of Charity Event, Lauren's Memorial Celebration, in memory of Lauren McGrath. The event raised funds for Cliona's Foundation and Little Blue Heroes and took place in Askeaton, Co. Limerick.
- Celebration of Ukraine's Independence Day.
  - Ceremonial flag raising at Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
  - Launch of exhibition 'The Art of Ukraine: A celebration of Craft, Music and Culture' at the Hunt Museum, Limerick.
  - Mini festival and public celebration in Arthur's Quay Park, Limerick.
- American Irish State Legislator Caucus dinner to mark the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, in the Round Room of the Mansion House in Dublin.
- Homecoming Gathering for Derek Mackessy to celebrate his 1200km Charity Run, in aid of The Irish Heart Foundation and Irish Cancer Society, at Charlie Malones Pub, Wolf Tone Street, Limerick.
- Limerick Show 2023 at Limerick Racecourse, Patrickswell, Co. Limerick.
- Aviation Gallery Opening, Official Opening of Shannon Airport's new Aviation Gallery at the Arrival Hall, Terminal Building, Shannon Airport, Co. Clare.
- Photocall for Culture Night at Dance Limerick, John's Square, Limerick.
- Launch of the 40th EVA International Biennial of Contemporary Art at Limerick City Gallery of Art, Carnegie Building, Pery Square, Limerick, and Gardens International, Henry Street, 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 August:

New Procurement References set up	43
Procurement References extended as per signed contract/arrangement	6

The Unit continued to work with staff of all Departments to ensure procurement to pay cycle was 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 August:

- Approved requisitions accounted for 87% of the total requisitions actioned for this given month.
- Rejected requisitions accounted for 13% of the total requisitions actioned for this given month.

Month	Approved	Rejected	Total Requisitions Actioned
August	1,181	183	1,364

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

Rejection Reason	August
Quotes – omitted/incorrect copy provided	41
Memo – Requisition not raised in advance	35
Procurement Reference omitted/incorrect	35
Quotation Form - omitted/incomplete	17
CAPA (Corrective Action, Preventative Action form) – omitted/not signed/insufficiently completed	16

## Register of Electors

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

- Additions to the Electoral Register - 140.
- Deletions from the Electoral Register - 110.
- Modifications to the Electoral Register - 153.
- 251 requests were received through the updated [checktheegister.ie](http://checktheegister.ie) website for updating details of electors.

## Health and Safety Training

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

Course Name	Numbers Trained
Safe Pass	10
First Aid Response	4
Drivers' CPC (Certificate of Professional Competence) Module 1	1
Drivers' CPC (Certificate of Professional Competence) Module 2	1
Manual Handling	39
Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) – Telescopic Handler	4
<b>Total Staff Trained</b>	<b>59</b>

## Schedule of Meetings for August

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Meeting	08/08/2023	Dooradoyle and Online

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## Access to Information

	August	2023 (January to August)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	25	193
Freedom of Information Internal Appeals	7	15
Information Commissioner Appeals	1	4
Total Ombudsman Requests	3	34
Total Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) Requests	0	17
OEIC Appeals (Office Environment Information Commissioner)	0	1

## 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 during August:

- Customer Services Call Centre answered 10,071 calls. This represents an average of 458 per day, with the number of calls reaching as high as 579. A total of 75% of calls were handled at first point of contact.
- A total of 3,520 emails were processed through the Customer Services email platform.

- 2,935 cases were created on Sugar CRM (customer relationship management), with 746 of these logged on behalf of Public Representatives. 2,663 cases were closed, with 702 of these being cases logged by Public Representatives.
- Of the 2,935 cases created, 71% were logged by the Customer Services Team.
- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued, with a total of 207 cases being logged. Of these, 193 were submitted by Public Representatives.
- Customer Services continued to support the Housing Maintenance Department in creating service requests and, throughout the month, 93% of Housing Maintenance cases for the Limerick Metropolitan District were logged by Customer Services staff in the Dooradoyle and Merchant's Quay Offices.
- A total of 81 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 140 were applied for and 103 issued.
- Customer Services staff welcomed a total of 2,265 customers at the Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle Offices.

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## 4. Marketing & Communications

### Marketing

#### Limerick Student City

- Produced Limerick City map and Top 10 Insta Spots Z card highlighting the range of off-campus activities on offer to Limerick's student population.
- Distributed Limerick Student City map to incoming international students across University of Limerick, Mary Immaculate College, Technological University of the Shannon, and Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.
- Display signage created for campus visits.
- Recent Marketing and Communications initiatives Limerick Student City (Communications) and Limerick on Foot (Health and Wellbeing) were named among ten Limerick City and County Council projects shortlisted in the twentieth annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards.
- Created and issued four Limerick.ie e-newsletters.

### Social Media

- Management of Marketing and 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 are now as follows:
  - Limerick.ie Facebook: 34,171
  - Limerick.ie Twitter: 21,513
  - Limerick.ie Instagram: 28,213
  - Limerick City and County Council Twitter: 18,210
  - Limerick City and County Council LinkedIn: 11,129

### Limerick.ie

In August, there were 167,805\* unique site visits to Limerick.ie, an 8.2% increase on the same period in 2022. (\*Fathom Analytics)

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

- <https://www.limerick.ie/>
- <https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/apply-or-search-planning-application/search-planning>
- <https://www.limerick.ie/discover/whats-on/browse>
- <https://www.limerick.ie/greenway/sections>
- <https://www.limerick.ie/greenway>

Content Report: 147 events, 64 articles and 21 amenities were added to Limerick.ie in August.

### Communications

- Issued 18 news releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and researched and wrote 25 speeches for the Office of the Mayor.
- Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter.
- Responded to media queries from local, national and international outlets.

# Chief Executive's Report



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

## 5. National Mobilisation and Communication System / Munster Regional Communications 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 August
No. of call-outs 01.08.2023 – 31.08.2023	841	294	116	1,090

## 6. Corporate Buildings and Estates

On 01 August, a new Department titled “Corporate Buildings and Estates” was established. This Department sits within the Support Services Directorate and a Senior Architect has been appointed as Head of Corporate Buildings and Estates.

There are two Sections in the Department as follows:

- Corporate Capital Projects; and
- Facilities Management.

The focus of the Corporate Capital Projects Team will be the delivery of capital works projects to enhance buildings for the citizen, and staff of Limerick City and County Council. The upgrade of our buildings will also focus on the challenges associated with Climate Change.

The Facilities Management Team manage the Corporate Buildings portfolio of:

- Corporate Headquarters, Merchant’s Quay;
- Civic Offices, Dooradoyle;
- Lissanalta House, Dooradoyle;
- Barrow House, Michael Street;
- Carlton House, Henry Street;
- Limerick Museum, Henry Street; and
- Limerick Regeneration Southside Office, Roxboro.



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