

Chief Executive's Report

September 2023

European Mobility Week took place from 16-22 September. During this week-long campaign, the Council raised awareness about sustainable mobility and inspiring behavioural change towards active and sustainable travel methods, including walking, cycling, carpooling, and public transport.

Record numbers for Limerick City Gallery of Art at this year's EVA International totalling 5,749 visits.

The new playground at The People's Park, Limerick, was officially opened to the public on 04 September by the Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Dan McSweeney.

Limerick City and County Council opened the Limerick Regional Athletics Hub in Newcastle West on 14 September. The facility was officially opened by An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, T.D., at a launch event held on site.

September saw over 60 free events take place across Limerick City and County for Culture Night.

The third of the Annual Regeneration Community Jobs Fairs took place in King's Island Community Centre. Over 300 were in attendance.

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Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism Directorate

1. Trade and Investment

Jobs

BRITVIC Ireland announced an investment of €6 million in its Ballygowan facility in Newcastle West, Co. Limerick. This investment will grow the site's production capacity by over 20% in order to meet growing consumer demand for Ballygowan mineral water and create 28 new jobs.

Food supplier Sysco also unveiled plans to create 50 new positions in its Newcastle West facility.

Sister Cities

A delegation from the Sister City of Spokane visited Limerick this month. The group was led by Ben Stuckart, former President of the Spokane City Council. The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, welcomed the group to Corporate Headquarters where Elected Members and Council staff were present.

The group also visited Limerick Chamber, King John's Castle and Innovate Limerick as well as the University of Limerick, where a student exchange programme exists with Washington State University.

The Spokane-Limerick relationship officially began when a joint agreement linking the two cities was signed in Spokane by the Mayors of Spokane and Limerick. Foremost among the objectives of the relationship is to foster and encourage bonds of friendship and understanding between the two cities and to bring together events of cultural, educational and economic benefit.

2. Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Limerick

Funding Approved

- Three Businesses were approved a Trading Online Voucher.
- One Business was approved an IPStart Grant.
- One Green for Business Grant was approved.
- Two Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters Grants were approved.

The following Workshops and Webinars were held:

- Social Media Bootcamp
- Business Planning Workshops
- Start Your Own Business Courses
- Trading Online (Voucher) Information Webinar
- Lean for Micro Programme
- Business Advice Clinics
- Thinking of Exporting Introduction
- eTenders Workshop
- Website Advice Workshops
- Student Enterprise Programme Idea Generation Workshop

There were 210 participants on the LEO Business Training Workshops and 17 Business Owners were approved for the LEO Mentoring Programme.

3. Tourism

Limerick Greenway

Limerick Greenway's marketing campaign continued throughout the month and included the following:

- On 23 September, a number of cyclists were welcomed to cycle/walk Limerick Greenway where Autumn images were captured from Barnagh and on towards Abbeyfeale.

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- Work continued on the development of the Limerick Greenway Hub @ Rathkeale.

Limerick Greenway's social media campaign on Facebook and Instagram included the following:

- Sharing visitor experience and feedback on Limerick Greenway.
- Promotion of Rathkeale which welcomed cyclists through the provision of bike stands at various locations.
- European Mobility Week where the aim is to encourage people to explore the many different options for getting from A to B and testing different sustainable transport modes.
- Call to action sharing information for visitors to plan their next trip to Limerick Greenway.
- Promoting the various access points to the Greenway.

Statistics for Limerick Greenway socials 01-30 September:

Facebook

Reach: 123,393

New Page Likes: 25

New Page Followers: 45

Instagram

Reach: 3,159

New Followers: 49

Google Ads

Clicks: 4,940

Impressions: 594,000

Cost Per Click: €0.62

Limerick Greenway Biodiversity Plan

With the popularity of the Limerick Greenway increasing steadily since its opening, Limerick City and County Council is very aware of the need to ensure minimal impact to species, and to enable the rich biodiversity of the Greenway to be both an educational asset and a visitor attraction.

The Limerick Greenway Biodiversity Plan was commissioned by Limerick City and County Council and presents a comprehensive assessment of the Greenway's ecology, combining findings from desktop studies and ecological surveys, over a twelve-month period. The plan collates and presents the results of the surveys, which will inform actions and makes recommendations for future implementation. The Limerick Greenway Biodiversity Plan aims to support, protect, enhance, restore and conserve the flora and fauna of Limerick Greenway, and to plan, manage and maintain the 40km route, placing biodiversity at the heart of this process, with sympathetic management, and retention as a natural corridor.

One of the recommendations contained in the plan is to support education initiatives regarding the Greenway. On 26 September, teachers from Primary Schools located along the Greenway route took part in a three-hour on-site training session delivered by Botanist, Phoebe O'Brien. Teachers were provided with resources to assist them when bringing children on class trips to the Greenway.

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

News

Fáilte Ireland St. Patrick's Regional Festival Scheme 2024-2026

The Festivals and Events Department was successful in its application to Fáilte Ireland for St. Patrick's Regional Festival funding. This funding was secured via a competitive process to select three destinations to support the development of St. Patrick's festival outside of Dublin for the period 2024-2026.

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Festivals and Events 2023/2024 Open Call

The recommendations for Festivals and Events funding for the Limerick City and County Council Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2023/2024 went before the Council at the September Meeting. The following recommendations from the Assessment Panel were approved:

Recommendations: Strand 1: Fund Available: €30,000

- 17 applications were considered under this strand with a total ask of €99,580.
- The Assessment Panel recommended the allocation of funding to 12 successful applicants totalling €30,000.

Recommendations: Strand 2: Fund available: €171,500

- 17 applications were considered under this strand with a total ask of €391,568.47.
- The Assessment Panel recommended the allocation of funding to 16 successful applicants totalling €171,500.

Recommendations: Strand 3: Fund Available: €6,500

This award is intended to support a step change in the ambition and delivery of the festivals.

- 12 applications were received with a total ask of €47,500.
- The Assessment Panel recommended the allocation of funding to two successful applicants totalling €6,500.

The events supported in September were:

- The 40th EVA International, **Ireland's Biennial of Contemporary Art** featuring Irish and international artists across venues in Limerick throughout September. EVA International is a visual arts programme featuring new commissions and existing works from internationally acclaimed artists. Some of the highlights of EVA this year were a guest Programme and Platform Commission and Partnership Project initiatives.

- The **16th Polish Arts Festival (PAF)** ran from 13-17 September. PAF offers a diverse range of events including film, storytelling, drama, music and art with family fun for all ages to enjoy. It embodies the notion of a shared cultural experience with participants from a range of locations and background. Events were mostly presented in both English and Polish.
- **Cannonball Run**, the largest organised road trip in Europe, returned to Limerick from 15-17 September with a largescale spectacle of high-end supercars, all in aid of the Jack and Jill Foundation. There was an electric atmosphere in Limerick's Pery Square on the Saturday evening as the cars rolled, accompanied by live music, Brazilian dancers and family fun, including a fancy-dress competition. The cars parked up there, giving plenty of opportunity for spectators to enjoy them before heading away on the Sunday morning.
- **Limerick Jazz Festival**, now in its 12th year, took place in a number of venues across Limerick City from 20-24 September. This year's festival had a particular focus on female artists from Ireland and the UK and had a very busy schedule of events over the five days.
- **Pigtown Culture and Food Series** celebrates Limerick's food culture, producers, and food heritage and took place from 21-24 September. The weekend's events included fine dining, demonstrations, tours, family fun and an art fair.



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Transportation and Mobility Directorate

1. Travel and Transport Strategy

Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road Project

The Trunk Watermain Contract on the Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road Project was substantially completed by Wills Bros Ltd.

European Mobility Week

European Mobility Week took place from 16-22 September and is an initiative aimed at promoting sustainable and active modes of transport. During this week-long campaign, the Council committed to raising awareness about sustainable mobility and inspiring behavioural change towards active and sustainable travel methods, including walking, cycling, carpooling, and public transport.

- A 'Walk on Wednesday' competition was organised with schools around the city and county on 20 September. The winning school had 94% of their students walking, cycling and scooting on the day.
- A social media competition was held where members of the public were asked to share photos of their sustainable commute.
- A public awareness campaign was organised, and mobility week signage was erected on Patrick Street in the city centre. The signage delivered the key messages of the campaign.
- Internally, within the organisation, a number of promotions were held across the week. The Management Team led the initiative and adopted sustainable modes of travel throughout the week. Throughout Mobility Week, details were shared about the public transport tax saver scheme, bike programmes, and car-share opportunities available throughout Limerick. All staff were encouraged to participate in 'Car Free' commuting during the week.

Motion by Electronomous

On 20 September, Travel and Transport Strategy staff attended the Motion by Electronomous conference in Shannon. On the day, they had the opportunity to meet public and private sector attendees from across the globe who are helping shape future mobility.

Staff from Limerick City and County Council presented some of the great projects happening in Limerick, and participated in panel discussions.

SSMA Training Programme

The Smart and Sustainable Mobility Accelerator (SSMA) Training Programme commenced on 25 September. The programme aims to equip Local Authorities and Stakeholders with the knowledge and skills needed to excel in the realm of sustainable and intelligent mobility.

The programme represents an holistic training and capacity-building workshop series designed to empower Local Authorities and Stakeholders in the execution of smart and sustainable mobility projects. Staff from Limerick City and County Council Transportation and Mobility Directorate are participating in the training which is being hosted by the Southern Regional Assembly.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Pilot Project

Limerick City and County Council has embarked on the development and delivery of a pilot EV charging project. This project will focus on delivering residential home charging solutions and destination charging at a number of locations around the city and county. In September, the Department of Transport, through the Zero Emission Vehicles Ireland (ZEV) Office, committed additional funding to support the delivery of this pilot project.

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This initiative is one of the first of its kind in Ireland and will serve as a valuable learning experience, not only for Limerick but also for other local authorities across the country. As part of this pilot, it is exciting to trial innovative ideas and technologies, which will help shape the future of electric mobility in this region and beyond

2. Active Travel

Projects

Hyde Road: Surfacing works ongoing.

Childers Road (Greenpark to Roxboro Road Roundabout): Line marking was removed and reinstated with centre line offset and new two-way cycle lane accommodated on road where road width allows.

Roxboro Road: Preliminary design ongoing.

Wickham Street to Clare Street: Work commenced on economic assessment.

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

TUS – Technological University of the Shannon, Moylish, to City Centre: Road Safety Audit ongoing.

Plassey Park: Contractor commenced, with tree removal works ongoing. Drop-in information session held for stakeholders.

St. Paul's Roundabout to Ballykeeffe: Part 8 planning application lodged.

Baggot Estate, Ballinacurra: Non-statutory consultation conducted for period of two weeks.



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Rural, Community and Culture Development Directorate

1. Community Development

Official Opening of Broadford Community Centre by Minister Heather Humphries

Minister Heather Humphries visited Broadford on 14 September to officially open the newly refurbished Broadford Community Centre. The refurbishment of the community centre was undertaken in two phases - the first phase was part-funded through the Town and Village Renewal Scheme (2019) and included new roof and internal upgrades; the second phase was funded through the LEADER programme (2021) and included a single-storey extension to the rear providing upgraded kitchen, toilets and stage support area. Broadford Development Association oversaw and managed the project and undertook a huge amount of fundraising for this project in addition to the grant funding.

Environmental Awareness

National Sustainable Development Goals Week Events

- Limerick City and County Council marked National Sustainable Development Goals Week with the launch of three new CLÁR public drinking water fountains by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, on 25 September. The new fountains are in Kilfinane, Galbally and Doon.
- Two reusable cup promotions took place in the public offices of Dooradoyle on 27 September, and Merchant's Quay on 26 September, during National Sustainable Development Goals Week, with 200 reusable cups distributed to Limerick City and County Council staff and public.
- A Food Waste Recycling Promotion took place in the Square, Newcastle West, on 29 September.

Public Participation Network (PPN) Limerick

- Membership of PPN Limerick continued to grow and stands at 195. The membership registration form is on the Limerick PPN [website](#) and eligible groups in Limerick can register at any time.
- Two linkage group meetings were held: Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning on 18 September and Home and Social Development on 25 September.
- The PPN Resource Worker presented at the launch of URBACT IV on 07 September. Limerick City and County Council is leading two projects: BiodiverCity and GreenPlace. The Resource Worker spoke about the PPN's previous engagement with URBACT and the benefits of collaborating with PPN Limerick.
- PPN Limerick continued to have an active presence with its regularly updated website, social media and bi-monthly Newsletter distributed to members.

Lifelong Learning

A Learning for Inclusion event was held in the ENGINE Offices on 29 September. Limerick City and County Council had a number of stands at the event.

The Opening Address was by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell.

The Keynote Speaker was Ailbhe Smyth and there was a panel discussion consisting of six panellists.

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Healthy Limerick

- Social Health & Education Project: The Autumn programme delivery got underway and five programmes commenced in County Limerick. These programmes directly support actions within Connecting for Life – Ireland's National Strategy to Reduce Suicide 2015-2024. The programmes running include:
 - Caring for Your Wellbeing - Croom Family Resource Centre - commenced on 08 September.
 - Introduction to Personal Development - Galbally Community Centre - commenced on 20 September.
 - Introduction to Personal Development for Parents - Abbeyfeale - commenced on 21 September.
 - Caring for Your Wellbeing - Millennium Centre, Caherconlish - commenced on 22 September.
 - Connecting from the Heart - Hospital Family Resource Centre - commenced on 26 September.
- Healthy Limerick had a presence at the Health & Wellbeing Fair in King's Island on 26 September.
- Healthy Limerick is collaborating with Limerick Sports Partnership in the provision of funding towards inclusion programmes targeting people with disabilities across Limerick city and county. Some programmes that commenced in September include:
 - Inclusive Rowing at Castleconnell Boat Club on Mondays at 11.30 a.m. and on Fridays at 12.30 p.m.
 - Adapted Physical Activity Programme, Brothers of Charity, Rathkeale, on Fridays at 2 p.m.
 - Badminton Programme supporting the integration of international protection applicants, St. John's Pavilion, on Wednesdays, from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
 - Adapted Physical Activity Programme, Daughters of Charity, Lisnagry, on Wednesdays at 11 a.m.

2. Culture

Library

City Library at Barrow House

- Summer Stars Celebration Day was held on 16 September. Over 600 children took part in the 2023 challenge in the City Library.
- Class visits from Scoil Íosagáin included both of their Sixth classes, ASD class, and two Fourth class groups.
- Laurel Hill's new First Year classes visited on 18, 20, 22 and 26 September and Fifth Year history students from Coláiste Mhichíl (CBS Sexton Street) visited on 21 September.
- Róisín Meaney resumed her monthly children's story time sessions.
- Scéalta agus Rannta for bilingual little ones took place on 18 and 25 September.
- Weekly toddler story time continued every Wednesday.
- On Mondays, the Library hosted Employment Support Workshops for asylum seekers and recent immigrants with PAUL Partnership.
- 05 September saw the final session of PAUL Partnership's Personal Development Workshops.
- Limerick Mental Health Association commenced a new series of Confidence Building classes, starting from 26 September.
- Limerick Writers' Centre began a four-week oral communication skills course on 01 September with the support of the MWRDAF (Mid-West Regional Drugs & Alcohol Forum).
- On 14 September, the Health Service Executive (HSE) Mid-West Speech and Language Therapy Podcast Discussion Group met in the Library's activities' Room.

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- Weekly Sahaja yoga and meditation sessions continued on Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m.
- On 28 and 29 September, the Library hosted an information stand from ALONE.
- Eight monthly Book Clubs met in September.
- On 29 September, the City Library attended the Learning Limerick 'Learning for Inclusion' event at the ENGINE Collaboration Centre. As one of the Learning Limerick partners, the Library presented an information stand at the start of the event.
- Limerick City Community Development Project provided classes in Literacy through computers, Computers Levels 2 and 3, and Coping with Stress and Anxiety.
- Age Action offered Beginner Computer classes.
- Free weekly meditation classes were held on Saturday afternoons.
- First Inclusive Storytime for Adults for Brothers of Charity group offered by library staff.

Kilmallock Library

- Drop-In Information Session on 01 September on the Community Climate Action Programme, led by Dr. Darren Barry, Community Climate Action Officer.
- Weekly Bridge classes for beginners commenced on 06 September.
- Weekly Yoga Community Education Course, led by Ballyhoura Development CLG, commenced on 15 September.
- Weekly Parent and Child Yoga Course, led by Ballyhoura Development CLG, commenced on 19 September for children aged 18 months to four years.
- Leaving Cert Applied (LCA) students visited from Scoil Pól, Kilfinane, on 20 September.
- Weekly Craft Group sessions started on 28 September.
- Little Readers met for the library's monthly session on 29 September for a fun, friendly, inclusive hour of storytelling, songs and rhymes.
- A Healthy Ireland at Your Library event involved a free talk by Dr. Mary Ryan, Consultant Endocrinologist, Physician, and author of the book, "It's Probably Your Hormones."
- Culture Night returned to Watch House Cross Library for the first time in 15 years with the screening of two films: Falling Forward, made in association with TUS - Technological University of the Shannon, and Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (O'Connell Avenue Campus) and First Date, an award winning comedy short directed by Clara Planelles, produced by Pete Moles and written by Áine Ryan.
- Two adult Book Clubs returned on the last Thursday and Friday mornings of September discussing Borstal Boy by Brendan Behan.
- The Sensory Room had 157 visitors in 65 sessions during September.
- Weekly Parent/Caregiver and Toddler morning started back on 01 September, and Storytimes for young children continued on Thursday afternoons at 4pm.
- LEGO Club for 7-12 year-olds resumed on 22 September.

Watch House Cross Library

- Adult Education classes resumed with The Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, in partnership with the Knockalisheen Accommodation Centre, offering classes in English and Driver Theory test.
- Two Children's Book Clubs met on 27 September.
- Summer Stars closing ceremony took place on 16 September. 238 children participated and many came to the library along with their grown-ups to walk the

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red carpet, receive certificates and gold medals for their participation, while enjoying face painting and Summer Stars treats.

- Sixth class pupils from Corpus Christi Primary School and fifth class pupils from Thomond Primary visited on 13 September.

Local Studies Department

- 39 onsite visits by researchers, comprising 13 research sessions on the archives of local and national newspapers, 17 on the FindMyPast and other genealogical website, and nine on material from the Local Studies and Archives collections.
- Three advice sessions on Family History research and 24 remote queries.
- Visit from eighteen Fifth Year History pupils from Mungret College on 14 September to the Local Studies Department for a demonstration on local studies resources to assist them as they begin researching their final year history projects.

Dooradoyle Library

- An exhibition by local artist, Virginia Jordan, opened on 12 September in support of Sr. Miriam Duggan, an Irish African missionary and native of Limerick.
- Eighteen students from Mungret Community College visited the library on 14 September as part of their Leaving Certificate History programme. The students were given an insight into available research sources.
- TRANSLIT Limerick hosted a 'Community Interpreting Skills' Workshop for beginners on 15 September. The Workshop was facilitated by TRANSLIT Training Manager, Svetlana O'Farrell, and focused on core interpreting skills and principles.
- Two Book Clubs met to discuss 'A Man Called Ove,' by Fredrik Backman, and 'Girl With a Pearl Earring,' by Tracy Chevalier.

- The library welcomed back Sixth classes from Scoil Mháthair Dé on 21 September.
- A further eighty children completed the Summer Stars Reading Programme during the month of September and each child received a reading certificate, medal and goodie bag for their efforts.

Newcastle West Library

- Ongoing use of Sensory Space.
- Regular visits from The Brothers of Charity and Rathfredagh Cheshire Home residents.
- Scheduled class visits from local National Schools.
- Orchard Fostering information day in the library.

Other Branches

- **Rathkeale Library** – two visits from Church Street National School with over 40 pupils. On 14 September, the Senior Infants attended 'Scéalta agus Rannta le Joanne' from St. Anne's Primary School, and the junior classes from Church Street National School with over 50 pupils enjoying this storytime As Gaeilge. Many thanks to Glór na nGael and Comhluadar Luimnigh for facilitating this event.
- **Limerick Libraries** renewed their subscription to Reading Eggs this month. Reading Eggs is an online reading programme designed to help children aged 2-13 years build and improve their reading skills in a highly engaging and motivating way. These licences are offered to DEIS schools free-of-charge by Limerick Libraries.
- **Adare Library** welcomed four visits from the Parent & Toddler Group and a Book Club meeting with the Adare 2020 Group.
- **Glin Library** hosted three sessions of chair yoga supported by West Limerick Resources and also welcomed their regular Book Club groups.

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Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- Record numbers for EVA International totalling 5,749 visits.
- A Walk along the banks of the Shannon took place on 27 September with artist, Seodín O'Sullivan, who is exhibiting her work in LCGA.
- In consultation with the curator of EVA International, the Permanent Collection was folded into contemporary exhibits. This innovation met with approval from the Irish Times critic, Gemma Tipton.
- Gallery staff were involved in significant preparatory work in advance of the George Shaw exhibition, Nothing Strange or Startling. Work progressed for the Screen Dance exhibition. Screen Dance is part of Light Moves festival, a Limerick-based initiative, which has been running since 2014.
- LCGA continued to collaborate with other local and national institutions and galleries making artworks available from the Permanent Collections for temporary exhibition.
- LCGA submitted its application to the Arts Council for the 2024 Strategic Funding.
- LCGA Shinnors Scholar continued to deliver the schools' programme.
- Throughout the month of September, LCGA worked with EVA International, Helium Arts (providers of visual art experiences for children with long-term illnesses), and University of the Third Age (U3A) who meet on a fortnightly basis in the Gallery.
- LCGA hosted the North South Network planning meeting with neuro diverse artist, Anna Farley.

Limerick Museum

- On 07 September, the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, performed the Official Opening of Limerick's All-Ireland Glory 1887-2023, an exhibition curated by Limerick Museum and Limerick Libraries in association with the GAA.
- As part of Culture Night on 22 September, the Assistant Curator and other staff conducted three tours of the Museum attracting over 200 visitors. On the same night, Limerick Museum and Limerick Libraries jointly hosted an illustrated lecture entitled Brick Upon Brick, Stone Upon Stone: Jim Kemmy and the Cultural Life of Limerick City, by Professor Eoin Devereux of the University of Limerick. The event was organised by the Kemmy Family and held in the Council Chamber, Merchant's Quay.
- On 25 September, Limerick Museum featured on the television programme, Nationwide, on RTE 1. The programme was dedicated to Limerick City's 1,100th anniversary.
- The Postcards From Limerick Exhibition, marking the 1,100th anniversary of the foundation of Limerick City, continued in September. It was organised by Limerick Museum and held in Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick.
- On 23 September, the Friends of Lace held a meeting in the Museum.

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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 September, five letters of support were issued. At the September Council Meeting, nine Strategic Applications were approved awarding €25,375 of grants - leveraging in €462,532 of national funding into Limerick City and County.

CREATIVE IRELAND

The recently appointed Creative Communities Engagement Officer participated in a national training and networking event, organised by Creative Ireland, at the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media Headquarters in Dublin, on 27 September.

Future Creators

The Irish Aerial Creation Centre (IACC), in a partnership with Limerick City and County Council, delivers Limerick Future Creators 2023. The Creative Ireland collaborative youth project, led by the IACC, has only just begun to uncover the potential of what could be, and the time has come for Limerick to step up and take its place as a European Capital for Young Creators. The young people began their new Creative project on 29 September.

Creative Aftercare Communities

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 participated in the first project steering meeting for Creative Aftercare Communities on 08 September.

ARTS COUNCIL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT PROGRAMME

Castleconnell Autumn Concerts

A live programme of enchanting and beautiful music and song returned to All Saints Church in Castleconnell this Autumn. Limerick Arts Office programmes Castleconnell Autumn Concert Series, with financial support from the Arts Council and Creative Ireland. The concerts are presented in partnership with Love Castleconnell. The second concert took place on 26 September with British classical pianist, Leon McCawley, who has been delighting audiences worldwide winning in 1993 first prize in the international Beethoven Piano Competition in Vienna and second prize in the Leeds International Piano Competition. It was presented by Liz Nolan on the night and recorded for future broadcast on RTE Lyric FM, The Full Score Programme, with Liz Nolan.

Culture Night 2023

22 September saw over 60 free events take place across Limerick City and County for Culture Night. This national celebration invites people to join in and explore the many different cultural offerings. Limerick people could enjoy dance, music, street art, theatre, parade, printmaking, exhibitions, talks, and tours with events taking place from 4 p.m. until 2 a.m.

Limerick was also featured, along with Kerry and Wexford, on RTÉ's Culture Night: Live from Dún Lúiche, as locations for events happening around the country. Fidget Feet's performance in Robert Byrne Park, with views of King John's Castle, was aired on the night.

This year, Limerick was successful in three Culture Night Late events - two large projects and one smaller grant project. Limerick Arts Office led on Sionna Music and Arts Festival at King John's Castle; Top 8 and Dance Limerick presented an evening of Hip Hop in the Church on John's Square before moving to Catherine Street; and the Belltable, with Limerick Jazz, had a late evening event in the Belltable foyer.

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Éigse Michael Hartnett Festival

Éigse Michael Hartnett launched its 2023 festival on 07 September in Newcastle West.

Invitation to Collaboration

Limerick Arts Office, led by the Arts Council of Ireland, submitted an application for Invitation to Collaboration, in partnership with Tipperary Arts Office, Honest Arts, and Lime Tree Theatre/Belltable. This programme supports partnerships that focus on developing projects and resources that are ambitious and testing new ground.

3. Property Management

Dereliction, Vacancy and Reuse Team	
Site Inspections Completed	146
Department Notices of Inquiry issued	18
Derelict Sites Cases opened	15
Statutory Notices served under the Derelict Sites Act 1990	51
Derelict Sites Cases closed through engagement	9
Properties entered into the Derelict Sites Register	6
Properties proposed for Compulsory Acquisition (Section 15 Notices)	29
Vesting Orders Made for Properties Acquired Compulsorily (Section 17 Notices)	3
Croí Cónaithe Applications Approved	12



Chief Executive's Report



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Regeneration, Sports and Recreation Directorate

1. Regeneration and Sports

Regeneration

A working draft of the Status Update prepared by Consultants, KPMG, has been submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for consideration.

The Department indicated that detailed consideration would be required given the extensive nature of the proposals and, in the interim, has confirmed that there will be a Regeneration budgetary allocation for 2024.

No decision has been made on the extent and structure of the 2024 budget at the time of going to print on this report, but it has been agreed that funding will be available in 2024 for the continuation of ongoing projects and the Department will consider a specific submission for the 2024 Economic and Social Intervention Fund (ESIF). 2024 funding will need to reflect the proposals contained within the working draft of the Status Update rather than simply act as an extension of the current fund.

Economic Regeneration

Outreach to Employment Programme

The third of the Annual Regeneration Community Jobs Fairs took place in King's Island Community Centre on 16 September. Over 22 employers and agencies were in attendance to meet with local residents and the wider King's Island community. Over 300 were in attendance.

Employment Project Team meetings took place in St. Mary's Park and Southill.

Enquiries can be made to 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

King's Island Community Health and Wellbeing Day

King's Island Community Health and Wellbeing Day took place on 26 September. 20 organisations were in attendance to provide health and wellbeing services to the community of King's Island. The Community availed of the following activities and services:

- Blood Pressure Checks
- Complementary Therapies
- Goodie Bags
- Tips on Self-Care
- Talks and information from the various service providers
- Spot Prizes
- Pop Quizzes

King's Island Community Allotments and Greenhouse

Pupils of St. Mary's National School planted herbs such as mint, oregano, basil, lemon balm, chillies in the Greenhouse and took radishes that had already been growing in the Greenhouse home for their families.

The children learned what is needed for plants to grow, what various herbs smell and taste like and took home living plants to care for and eat when ready for harvesting.

Work continued on the King's Island Allotments and the transfer of plants from the Greenhouse to King's Island allotments was completed. Radishes were also transplanted into the allotments and rocket was harvested.

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Return of King's Island Lego Club in No. 19 Nicholas Street

Pupils from St. Mary's National School and children living in the King's Island area recommenced at the King's Island Lego Club. The club is supported by Transition Year students from Ard Scoil Mhuire, Corbally, who are using this opportunity to go towards their Gaisce Award.

Physical Regeneration

Housing Developments

- Roof works to Colivet Court in Southill 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.
- Snagging of the 18-unit social housing development at Cliona Park Phase 3, Moyross, got underway.
- Tenders were returned for a civils contractor and supervising archaeologist for an advanced archaeological excavation for the 27-Unit Orchard Site King's Island.
- Design of Cliona Park Phase 4 in Moyross was ongoing by Deaton Lysaght / JFOC.
- Tender has issued to procure an integrated Design Team for Cosgrave Park Phase 2 housing in Moyross. Submission date extended beyond September.

Status of Thermal Upgrade Projects

- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 121, Moyross (47 units) - Icarus have now mobilised.
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 122, St. Mary's Park - construction works nearing completion.
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 123, Southill - ESB enabling works commenced.
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 125A, St. Mary's Park (26 units) - Contractor under review before appointment.
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 126, Southill (50 units) - Phase 4 of works 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) - Contractor under review before appointment.
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 130 - Stage 3 approval awaited from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- Work on the specifications on the Mop-Up Contracts continued.
- Lot 4a Refurbishments - tenders returned for Pack 2 (three houses).
- Contractor appointed for Year 2 treatment of Japanese knotweed in O'Malley Park and St. Mary's Park.

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House Refurbishments

- **Lot 4a Major Refurbishments – Nine Properties**
 - Batch 1 (three properties) - tender assessment ongoing.
 - Batch 2 (three properties) - tender being prepared.
 - Batch 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 in 2023.
 - 20 units at scoping, tender or construction stage.

Other Infrastructure Projects

Southside Connectivity Project

- Preliminary design complete with a view to upcoming public consultation event.

Moyross Avenue Upgrade

- Preliminary design continuing.

Moylish Avenue Ballynanty to Moyross

- Preliminary design ongoing.

University Avenue

- Public Consultation Forum was held on 07 September. Feedback forms being reviewed.

Community Facilities

Southill Play Area and Associated Landscaping

Part 8 planning report for the playground in Southill noted at September Meeting of the Metropolitan District.

King's Island Community Centre

Consultants Procurement process commenced for approved Community Centre.

Sports Partnership

During the month, Limerick Sports Partnership (LSP) engaged in the following activities:

- Successful in securing €77,873 in funding to recruit a Social Innovation in Sport Officer. This funding will provide salary and programme costs.
- Recruited three new staff in September and now has a team of 15 supporting communities across Limerick.
- Hosted a two-day Workshop with its EU partners on Active Governance as part of the PACTE+ Active Cities Programme. These Workshops had 35 in-person and online attendees from seven different countries. Examples of good collaboration and examples of best practice were shared.
- Hosted the VIP Youth Leadership and Graduation ceremony where 70 Transition Year Students were inducted or graduated from the yearlong Leadership programme.
- Conducted LSP programmes, initiatives and education programmes across the city and county. See link for more details <https://limericksports.ie/>

Council Sporting Facilities

- Limerick City and County Council opened the Limerick Regional Athletics Hub in Newcastle West on 14 September.
- The facility was officially opened by An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, T.D., at a launch event held on site.
- Local and national politicians, international athletes, key stakeholders in the region and members of the public also attended the event.
- The facility was opened to the public for booking on 15 September.

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Housing Directorate

1. Housing Support Services

Housing Waiting List

Approved Housing Applicants	2,696
Approved Tenant Transfer Applicants	369

Closed Housing Applications

	September	Year to Date
Closed Applications	46	439

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 September	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	8
Newcastle West	4	21
Metropolitan District	11	158
Cappamore-Kilmallock	7	30
Total	22	217

Refusals

	No. of Units September	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	1
Newcastle West	1	2
Metropolitan District	3	23
Cappamore-Kilmallock	0	3
Total	4	29

Approved Housing Body Allocations 2023 (year to date)

Total Nominations	Successful Nominations	Nominations Pending	Unsuccessful Nominations
185	120	46	19

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

Private Tenancies	710
Capital Assistance Scheme/Rental Accommodation Scheme Tenancies	535
Part V	0
New Private Tenancies	18
New Voluntary Housing Tenancies	7

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Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Limerick

2,126 active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	37
No. of Amendments	224
No. of Cessations	31

RENT COLLECTION

Rent Collection Limerick City and County Council					
Opening Balance	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing Balance	% Collection
€5,916,167	€14,650,181	€20,566,348	€13,964,949	€6,601,399	68 %

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HOME IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

September 2023		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aid Grants	No. Approved	0	1	7	0	8
	MAG Expenditure	€2,300.00	€5,967.00	€16,250.00	€0.00	€24,517.00
	No. Paid	1	1	2	0	4
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	1	4	23	0	28
	HAG Expenditure	€7,125.00	€34,576.23	€86,056.51	€9,240.00	€136,997.74
	No. Paid	1	4	7	1	13
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	3	5	37	0	45
	HOP Expenditure	€37,564.05	€38,667.75	€38,291.25	€26,517.75	€141,040.80
	No. Paid	6	9	6	5	26
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG Expenditure	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€9,511.30	€9,511.30
	No. Paid				1	1

Total No. Approved	81
Total Monies Paid	€312,066.84
Total No. Paid	44

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HOME IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES - Year to Date

January - September 2023		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aid Grants	No. Approved	9	7	42	6	64
	MAG Expenditure	€32,010.85	€46,384.03	€124,914.00	€23,455.00	€226,763.88
	No. Paid	8	9	24	6	47
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	36	53	135	51	275
	HAG Expenditure	€224,357.77	€345,981.18	€914,277.83	€315,349.50	€1,799,966.28
	No. Paid	31	35	122	36	224
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	79	95	180	57	411
	HOP Expenditure	€276,758.79	€327,907.10	€619,334.82	€205,207.00	€1,429,207.71
	No. Paid	61	70	145	45	321
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG Expenditure	€2,150.83	€2,434.58	€78,292.49	€62,067.41	€144,945.31
	No. Paid	1	1	7	7	16

YTD Total No. Approved	750
YTD Total Monies Paid	€3,600,883.18
YTD Total No. Paid	608

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Community Sustainment Unit

Tenancy Inductions

No. of Tenancy Inductions	25
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Repossessions

Repossession of Council properties	16
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House Visits

No. of House Visits	231
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Garda Checks

Garda Checks processed	101
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Sugar CRM (Customer Relationship Management) Cases

Active cases at month-end	318
Cases closed during month	23

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

Date: 08 September 2023		
Individuals		
Location	Description	Beds Used
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	33
Oak Lodge	Adults without children accommodated in low threshold emergency accommodation	59
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	23
St. Joseph Street	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	4
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	22
Temporary Emergency Provision TEP 1 (Edenvilla)	Low threshold, night-by-night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	16
Phoenix Lodge	Low threshold emergency accommodation for single adults	10
Total		167

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Families				
Location	Description	Beds Used		
		Adults	Children	Families
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	7	6
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	67	86	52
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	14	12	10
Totals		Adults	Children	Families
		87	105	68

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	0
Local Authority Home Loans	
Loan Applications: No. received	1
Loan Applications: No. approved	3
Deed of Discharge	
Deed of Discharge Applications: No. Received	19
Consent to Sale	
Consent to Sale Applications: No. Received	6
Cottage Purchase Annuity	
No. of Cottage Purchase Annuity Applications	1
Ground Rent	
No. of Ground Rent applications	3
Title	
Title Deeds Received/Requested	9
Title Rectification Received	0
Private Rented Inspections	
No. of Inspections	93

Freedom of Information, Data Requests and Ombudsman

Freedom of Information requests	6
Ombudsman Query Cases	4
Data Access Requests	2

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2. Housing Welfare and Traveller Accommodation

* Traveller Accommodation

No. of Units offered September	5
Year to Date	27

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

Housing Welfare Visits

No. of Visits September	20
Year to Date	221

3. Local Authority Housing Construction and Maintenance

Local Authority Housing Construction

House Returns September	
Total	13

House Returns September By Municipal District	
Adare-Rathkeale	2
Cappamore-Kilmallock	3
Newcastle West	2
Metropolitan District	6
Total	13

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

Current Working Programme		
	Completed in September	In Progress
Local Authority Construction Team	6	79
Local Authority Maintenance Team	8	121
Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process	0	26
Regeneration Team	3	37
Team to be assigned	N/A	0
Total	17	263

In September, work on six properties was completed by Local Authority Housing Construction Team, work on eight properties was completed by Local Authority Maintenance Team and Work on three properties was completed by Regeneration Team.

There are three teams in Limerick City and County Council assigned to refurbish properties. As of September, the Local Authority Construction Team was in the process of completing works in 79 properties, Local Authority Maintenance were working on 121 properties and the Regeneration Team had 37 properties. Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process - 26 properties. There were no properties in the process of being assigned to a Team.

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Project Updates

- Contractor appointed for enabling works for foul and storm water at Deerpark, Adare.
- Consultant appointed for site investigation works at Ros Mór, Kilmallock Road, Limerick.
- Tender out to establish a Multi-Party Consultancy Framework for Design Team Consultancy Services which will be on the basis of a two-stage process. The framework will incorporate both employer design and contractor design procedures.
- Two houses in County Limerick and one in Limerick City were completed, refurbished and keys given to allocations.
- Tender currently out for the construction stage of a ten-unit social housing scheme located at Radharc

Cillín, Kilfinane. The proposed works will include the construction of ten new housing units built in two separate terraced blocks and will be made up of two two-bed, two-storey units; four three-bed, two-storey units; two four-bed, two-storey units; and two one-bed apartments.

- Site clearance, topographical and utility surveys completed on a site on Ballycummin Road and design being advanced on foot of information obtained from these surveys.

Finance

- Applications for funding totalling €1,385,096.00, issued to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage paid €1,125,876.00 in claims made.

Local Authority Housing Maintenance

Local Authority Houses: Maintenance Complaints dealt with during September

Housing Maintenance Cases - September	Requests/Cases Created	Cases Dealt With/Closed	Balance of Open Cases at 30/09/2023
Metropolitan District of Limerick	802	808	1,661
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	87	77	282
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	115	72	274
Municipal District of Newcastle West	148	72	742
Total	1,152	1,029	2,959

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Grants Inspections

Metropolitan District of Limerick - Inspections and Recommendations for Home Improvement Schemes/Disability Adaptations - September

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	3	4
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	4	7	0	10	21
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	16	0	9	25
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	1	0	3	1	5
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	5	24	3	23	55

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	0	0	0	0
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	3	0	1	4
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	2	0	2	4
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	0	0	1	1
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	5	0	4	9

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

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	3	8
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	4	0	6	10
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	5	0	0	5
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	14	0	10	24

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	2	0	1	3
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	7	0	4	11
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	3	0	6	9
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	6	0	0	6
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	18	0	11	29

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HOUSE INSPECTIONS UNIT

Houses Inspected for Refurbishment Works and Re-Letting - September - Categories	No. of Properties Inspected
Cat 1 - minor repairs needed	0
Cat 2 - moderate repairs needed	4
Cat 3 - substantial repairs needed	5
Cat 4 - major repairs required.	1
TOTAL INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT	10
No. of Properties Awaiting Inspection	4

DEFECTIVE BLOCKWORK SCHEME APPLICATIONS

Applications Registered September	2
RFI Applications (Request Further Information) September	10
Applications Referred to Housing Agency	0

4. Strategy & Non-Local Authority Housing Construction

SOCIAL HOUSING - Delivery for 2023

Buy/Build/Lease as of 30.09.2023 as follows:

As at 30.09.2023 (01.01.2023 - 30.09.2023)	Complete	In Progress	Overall Complete and In Progress	"Housing for All" 2023 Delivery Target
Build	7	350	357	502
Buy	28	134	162	75
Lease	10	58	68	27
TOTAL	45	542	587	

* The majority of units in progress under the 'Buy' Stream are Notices to Quit

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Social Housing – Project Submissions and Approvals

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

Scheme	Project Details	District
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Revised Approval for 31 units at Newtown Meadows, Castletroy, Co. Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Revised Approval for eight units at Woodfield Manor, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick .	Municipal District of Newcastle West
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Revised Approval for 56 units at The Mills, Newcastle, Castletroy, Co. Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Revised Approval for one unit at Carrowkeel, Woodhaven, Castletroy, Co Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Social Housing Capital Expenditure Programme - Short Term Leasing	Approval for the leasing of one unit on Flood Street, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Social Housing Capital Expenditure Programme - Long Term Leasing	Approval for the leasing of three units in various locations in Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Delegated Sanction approval for the acquisition of one unit at Caherdavin, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Castletroy, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Delegated Sanction approval for the acquisition of one unit at Corbally, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Delegated Sanction approval for the acquisition of one unit at Brennans Row, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Delegated Sanction approval for the acquisition of four individual units at Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Newcastle West
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Delegated Sanction approval for the acquisition of one unit at Kilmallock, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Delegated Sanction approval for the acquisition of one unit at Lelia Street, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick

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Scheme	Project Details	District
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Delegated Sanction approval for the acquisition of two individual units at Rhebogue, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Delegated Sanction approval for the acquisition of one unit at Garryowen, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Delegated Sanction approval for the acquisition of two individual units at Raheen, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Delegated Sanction approval for the acquisition of one unit at Annacotty, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Delegated Sanction approval for the acquisition of two individual units at St. Mary's Park, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Delegated Sanction approval for the acquisition of one unit at Bowman Street, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Delegated Sanction approval for the acquisition of one unit at Lelia Street, Pennywell, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Delegated Sanction approval for the acquisition of one unit at Clare Street, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Delegated Sanction approval for the acquisition of one unit at Castletroy, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Delegated Sanction approval for the acquisition of one unit at Hyde Road, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Stage 4 approval for CAS Renewal of one unit at Hyde Road, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Stage 4 approval for CAS Renewal of one unit at Old Cork Road, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Stage 4 approval for CAS Renewal of five units at Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Newcastle West
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the turnkey acquisition of eight units at Newenham Street, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick

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

Scheme	Project Details	District
Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP) – Notice to Quit	Submission for the purchase price and associated fees for one unit at Bruff, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock
Social Housing Capital Expenditure Programme - Short Term Leasing	Submission for the leasing of one unit on Flood Street, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Social Housing Capital Expenditure Programme - Long Term Leasing	Submission for the leasing of three units in various locations in Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Submission for six units in various locations in Limerick - Focus Stock Transfer Phase 2.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Submission for six units in various locations in Limerick - Focus Stock Transfer Phase 3.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
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 Ennis Road, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP) – Notice to Quit	Submission for the acquisition of one unit at Ennis Road, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP) - Part V	Submission of Capital Appraisal for the acquisition of one unit at Raheen, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP) - Part V	Submission of Capital Appraisal for the acquisition of three units at Castletroy, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick

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Affordable Housing - Delivery for 2023-2026

Status of Affordable Housing Scheme proposals as of 30.09.2023 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 pre-planning 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 approved. Development and finance strategy now agreed. Framework for Design Team consultants published on e-tenders and is being procured. Need for extended archaeological testing is being reviewed. Project submitted for the Housing Finance Agency "Social Investment Fund 2024."
Toppins Field Lands	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Affordable Housing Fund	28 (Phase 1)	Affordable Housing Fund application approved. Traffic and transportation assessment complete. Design Team appointed and underway for achieving planning for the first westerly phase. Continuous liaison with Limerick City and County Council Regeneration Department on the east-west Link Road. Site investigations/surveys being procured.
Toppins Field Lands	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Affordable Housing Fund	115 (Phases 2-4)	Design Team procured and in place for next phases. Site investigations being procured for Phase 1.
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	67	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 scheme of 25 units in Brú na Grudán, Castletroy. An Affordable Housing Fund application was also approved for a proposed development of 10 units in Abbeyfeale. Remaining application is 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 scheme of 42 units in Woodfield Manor, Newcastle West. An Affordable Housing Fund application has also been approved for a proposed scheme of 11 units in Croom. 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 approved for 98 units in Patrickswell. The 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.
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.

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Affordable Housing - Project Submissions and Approvals

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

Scheme	Project Details	District
Affordable Housing Fund (AHF)	Approval received for 19 units of cost rental housing at Sonny's Lands, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Affordable Housing Fund (AHF)	Approval received for 98 units of affordable purchase housing at Ballyanrahan East, Patrickswell	Metropolitan District of Limerick

Finance

Claims totaling €2,800,438.25 were sent to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Claims totaling €6,932,315.62 were paid by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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5. Municipal District Offices

Metropolitan District of Limerick

Meetings

The September Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick took place on 18 September.

A Special Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick with An Garda Síochána took place on 07 September.

Special Briefings/Workshops

Special Briefings/Workshops were held during September for the Elected Members of the Metropolitan District on:

- Land Development Agency;
- Housing;
- Active Travel;
- Taking-in-Charge of Estates;
- Property Disposals.

Operational Area Briefings

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

Road Related Upgrade/Refurbishment Works

Description of Project: R527 Ballysimon Road Restoration Improvement

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

Description of Project: R445 Old Dublin Road Restoration Improvement

Location: Sections of Groody Roundabout to Parkway Roundabout and Annacotty Roundabout to Mackey Roundabout;
Cost of project: €350,000;
Contractor: Roadstone Ltd.

Description of Project: L-8076 Blackthorn Drive Restoration Improvement

Location: Caherdavin;
Cost of project: €60,000;
Contractor: Roadstone Ltd.

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: Corbally side of the Canal Bank Urban Greenway from Lock Quay to Park Road - Active Travel Scheme

Location: Corbally;
Cost of project: €150,000;
Contractor: Maramba.

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

The September Meeting of Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale took place on 12 September in Áras Seán Finn, Rathkelae.

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

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

Schedule of Municipal District Works

Road Reconstruction works were carried out at the following locations:

- Kilcool, Rathkeale.
- Kilcoleman, Rathkeale.
- Kilaculla, Ballyagran.

Surface Dressing was completed at the following locations:

- Bonds Cross Dunmoylan.
- Morenane, Askeaton.
- Galway Road to Moig Junction.
- Pallaskenry to Ringmoylan Road.
- Shanpallas to Ballydoole Road.
- Lurriga, Adare.
- Ballyvockogue, Adare.
- Stoneyman Road, Rathkeale.

Low Cost Safety Works

- Works at Morenane Junction East completed.

Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works

- Ballingarry Low Road Verge Stabilisation works commenced.

Local Improvement Schemes

- Old Court, Croagh.
- Fedamore.

Community Involvement Schemes

- Ballyhomack, Cappagh.
- Faha, Kildimo.

Drainage Works

- Ballyhahill Village.
- St. Senan's Terrace, Croom.

Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

Meetings

The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock was held in Áras Maincín Seoighe, Kilmallock, on 21 September.

The Joint Policing Committee was also held on 21 September.

Housing and Road Maintenance

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

Housing Grants

- Six Private housing grants were paid, totalling €35,757.75.
- Five initial inspections and four final inspections were undertaken in relation to Private Housing Grants.
- One Disabled Persons Grant was completed and paid, totalling €9,511.30.

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Road Works

The following works were completed:

Climate Adaptation Scheme

- Dromkeen.

Restoration Improvement

- L1533 - Coombs, Ardpatrick.
- L15351 - Kilmihill, Kilmallock.
- L8550 - Monine, Kilfinane.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland Geo App Scheme

- N20 Hynes's Cross Drainage Works.

Community Involvement Scheme

- L8505 - Drainage, Knockainey Village.
- R515 - Bresheen Drainage Works.

National Transport Authority Scheme Works

- Bruff Bus Shelters.

General Municipal Allocation Scheme Works

- Access path into Sycamore Drive Estate, Kilmallock, off Greenfield Road.
- Bruff Pitch and Putt Boundary Wall.
- Kilmallock Public Toilet Repairs.
- Ballyloundash Drainage Works.
- Forest View Greenway Macadam, Forest View Estate, Kilfinane.
- Forest View Footpath Works, Forest View Estate, Kilfinane.

Municipal District of Newcastle West

Meetings/Briefing/Workshop

The following Meetings/Briefing/Workshop were held in Áras William Smith OBrien, Newcastle West:

- 06 September - Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West.
- 06 September - Joint Policing Sub-Committee Meeting.
- 26 September - Briefing to discuss the Abbeyfeale Local Area Plan.
- 26 September - Workshop to discuss the taking-in-charge of housing estates.

Housing Grants

- 10 grant applications were approved under the Private Housing Grant Schemes during the month. The total value of approvals was €59,401.25.
- Payments of €38,667.75 were made to nine applicants who completed works under the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.
- Payments of €34,394.23 were made to four applicants who completed works under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme.
- Payments of €5,967.00 were made to one applicant who completed works under the Mobility Aids Housing Grant.

Housing Maintenance

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

Transportation and Mobility

- 102 CRM cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

Motor Tax

- The Motor Tax Section at the Newcastle West Office processed 1,033 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 Patrickswell Local Area Plan, and Associated Environmental Reports, commenced on 02 September. As part of this process, Members of the public and interest groups were invited to attend a drop-in public information evening on 14 September in the Community Resource Centre, Patrickswell.
- The Chief Executive's Report, which outlined the submissions received on the Material Amendments to the Draft Abbeyfeale Local Area Plan, was finalised and issued to the Elected Members of the Municipal District of Newcastle West for their consideration.
- The Proposed Material Alterations, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Determination, Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Determination, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report and AA Natura Impact Report for the Material Alterations, an updated Local Transport Plan and an updated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for the Draft Newcastle West Local Area Plan 2023-2029 were placed on public display for a four-week period from 23 September.
- Members of the Forward Planning Team, along with the Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Dan McSweeney, attended the Irish Planning Institute Awards where Limerick City and County Council's nominated project "Young Person Participation in Land Use Planning" won the President's Award. The project, which formulated, trialed and implemented a school consultation programme to engage young people in the preparation of the Development Plan and Local Area Plan processes, was selected as it highlighted an example of excellent public participation and best practice. The Award was

presented by Kieran O'Donnell, T.D., Minister of State with responsibility for Local Government and Planning.

Public Realm Strategies and Projects

- As part of the statutory consultation period for the Draft Adare Local Area Plan, Public Realm Plan and Associated Environmental Reports, the Forward Planning and Public Realm Team held a public information evening on 07 September where members of the public and interest groups were invited to attend.

2. Development Management and Place-Making

Development Management

A total of 88 new planning applications were received as follows:

Category	Amount
Part 8	5
Housing Developments	3
Domestic Developments	51
Agricultural Developments	3
Commercial Developments/Change of Use	9
Sporting/Community and Educational Developments	11
Other Developments	6

The current applications include proposals for:

- Part 8 for the removal of 45 existing pedestrian wayfinding and information signs and the installation

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of 70 new pedestrian wayfinding and orientation signs comprising 18 Map Totems, 19 Route Markers and 33 Finger Posts and all associated site works in the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

- Part 8 for the creation of a new riverside amenity area at the junction of Wolfe Tone Street and the River Loobagh, adjacent to the River Loobagh Riverside Park. The amenity area will consist of areas of planting, grassland and natural play areas, installation of new footpaths to provide improved access to the Riverside Park from Wolfe Tone Street. The works will also include upgrade to surface of existing Loobagh riverside walk, installation of benches and signage. New amenity lighting is proposed local to the riverside amenity area at the River Loobagh Riverside Park, Kilmallock.
- Part 8 for the construction of dedicated cycle track facilities on both sides of the R526 St. Nessan's Road over an approximate length of 600m between the St. Nessan's Park entrance road (south of St. Paul's Roundabout) and the Crescent Shopping Centre entrance road (north of Ballykeeffe Roundabout) to encompass St. Paul's Roundabout and Ballykeeffe Roundabout at the R526 St. Nessan's Road commencing to the south of St. Paul's Roundabout and extending to the north of Ballykeeffe Roundabout, Dooradoyle.
- Permission for a development that will consist of the partial demolition of 1,895 sq.m of a building currently in use as the South Court Hotel and the construction of a seven-storey, two basement (a total of nine levels) mixed use development on a 0.935ha site, which will be comprised of the following: 104 residential apartments, one Childcare facility, provision of internal residential amenity areas at first floor level which includes a gym and library, two retail units (Unit A: 1602m², Unit B: 45 m²) with customer and staff carparking, development of a new one-storey and one basement 'Hotel Link' between the South Court Hotel and the proposed mixed-use development and an extension to the existing 'Cream Room' Bar. The provision of 149 car parking spaces, provision of bike parking for 170 residential and customer bicycles, site

landscaping including communal open space and play equipment, road upgrades to the existing site entrance and upgrades to the footpath along the R510, R526, erection of signage on building façade and all ancillary site development works. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been prepared in respect of the proposed development at the Southcourt, Raheen, Dooradoyle, Co. Limerick.

Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF)

Nos. 58 O'Connell Street and 33 & 34 Thomas Street, Limerick

- Preliminary Business Case progressing well for Nos. 58 O'Connell Street and 33 & 34 Thomas Street.
- Fire Safety Certificate for No. 33, Thomas Street, granted by Building Control Authority.
- Disability Access Certificate for No. 33, Thomas Street, granted by Building Control Authority.
- Fire Safety Certificate for No. 34, Thomas Street, granted by Building Control Authority.
- Disability Access Certificate for No. 34, Thomas Street, granted by Building Control Authority.

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3. Environment and Climate Action

Environment Strategy

- Installation of six new environmental sensors, monitoring both air quality and noise, completed around Limerick City at Park Canal, Childers Road, Ballinacurra Road, South Circular Road, Dublin Road and the Old Cratloe Road in support of Active Travel projects (awaiting completion of the power supply for two of the six sensors).
- Presentation of the paper “A Citizen Science and Soundscape Approach to the Investigation of Quiet Areas for Limerick City” on 11 September at the Forum Acusticum 2023 Conference, hosted by the European Acoustics Association, in Turin, under the session on “Soundscape and Restoration, Quiet Areas.”

Environment Strategy - Water Framework Directive/Agriculture Team

Inspections - 01 to 27 September

Inspection Type	Number of Inspections	Inspection Details
Farm Inspections (Local Catchment Assessment)	23	Ara and Owenskaw Rivers
Farm Re-Inspections (Follow-up to see programmed works completed)	15	
Investigative Assessment Update	26	Waterbodies (Local Catchment Assessment Updates). Information uploaded to the Environmental Protection Agency Inspections Database.
Poultry Surveys	48	Poultry producers contacted and follow-up contacts.
Domestic Waste Water Treatment System	25	Properties identified for 2023 Septic Tank Inspection Programme.
Invasive Species	1	Meeting with Loobagh Giant Hogweed Contractors.
Planning Files	15	Further information reviews which requested Farmyard Management Plans.
	8	On-site inspections.
Forestry	6	Forestry application reviews.
Agricultural Contractors	53	Contacts with agricultural contractors reminding them of closing date for slurry spreading in 2023 and that Limerick City and County Council will be following up activities.

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URBACT IV

- URBACT is a European exchange and learning programme that promotes integrated sustainable urban development. It enables cities to work together to develop solutions to major urban challenges.
- Limerick is one of nine partner cities in the URBACT GreenPlace Project, and the objective of the URBACT GreenPlace Project is to support and enhance the provision of quality green spaces in derelict urban settings.
- The output from the project is an Integrated Action Plan (IAP) for areas of Limerick's city walls. It is a policy instrument that will be used to respond in a concrete way to the specific challenge of dealing with the challenges associated with derelict areas in urban settings.
- The Project Kick-off meeting took place in Wroclaw, Poland, on 26 and 27 September.
- GreenPlace Lead Expert City Visit to Limerick took place on 06 and 07 September.

GoGreenRoutes (Horizon 2020)

- GoGreenRoutes is a €10.5m EU-funded project sowing the seeds for increased nature-connectedness across Europe, Latin America and China.
- It focuses on physical activity, nature connection and nature-based solutions.
- Limerick City and County Council's target area is the Castletroy Urban Greenway.
- Eight community workshops took place on co-creating and co-designing greening opportunities and enhancing biodiversity on the Castletroy Greenway.
- A Consortium meeting took place in Tallinn, Estonia, in September.

- GoGreenRoutes webpage here: <https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/business-and-economy/eu-programmes/gogreenroutes>

Parks

- The new playground at The People's Park, Limerick, was officially opened to the public on 04 September by the Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Dan McSweeney.
- Refurbishment works on the new playground at O'Brien Park, Clare Street, Limerick, commenced on 04 September.
- The People's Park and Lough Gur retained their Green Flag Status for 2023/2024.
- There was a public consultation on the Masterplan for the Green in Patrickswell on 14 September. The Plan was well received by the community.
- A Public Information Evening was held in the Adare Village Hall on 21 September in relation to proposals for the Sensory Garden in Adare Park. The public was invited to provide input and feedback on the initial proposals for the project.
- Topographical surveys were underway for the pedestrian bridges replacement in Clare Glens.
- Equipment for the Trim Trail for The Baggot Estate, Ballinacurra, was delivered to site.
- Tenders received for the basketball court in O'Brien Park were being assessed.
- Works commenced on resurfacing the access pathway in Adare Park.
- The Alzheimer Society of Ireland Annual Memory Walk took place at Mungret Park on 24 September.

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Cemeteries

Number of Burials in City Cemeteries

Mount St. Lawrence	17
Mount St. Oliver	9
Castlemungret	10
Kilmurry	1
Castleconnell	1

Askeaton Burial Ground Extension Works ongoing.

Environment Enforcement and Litter Management

CRM (customer relationship management) - cases received	229
Inspections undertaken CRM	346
Warnings issued	63
Directions of Authorised Officer issued	1
Statutory Notices issued	10
Prosecutions initiated	6
Fines issued	12
Authorisations issued/reviewed	31

Farm Plastics Collection Points (www.farmplastics.ie)

The annual programme of collection points authorised by Limerick City and County Council concluded with the final collection point held at GVM Abbeyfeale Mart on 18 September. A range of farm plastics was collected for recycling, including Farm Film, Twine/Netting and Plastic Drums (triple rinsed to ensure non-hazardous). See www.farmplastics.ie.

Climate Action

+CityxChange

In September, members of the +CityxChange Team travelled to Voru in Estonia for a learning session which covered topics such as:

- Sharing the Võru Bold City Vision as a “roof” strategy - positive spillover effects (Päkapikk, PV, Bolt).
- Renovating buildings in Võru - issues of renovation debt, financial models.
- Presentation and discussion of e-mobility.

Citizen Innovation Lab

This month in the Citizen Innovation Lab:

- Limerick City and County Council's Environment and Climate Action Department hosted a meeting of the South West Regional Water and Environment Committee.
- Limerick Cycling Campaign held a meeting of its members.

Community Climate Action Fund

The engagement activities for the launch of the Community Climate Action Programme continued throughout September. A number of Pop-Up information sessions were held in Rathkeale, Killmallock and The Citizen Innovation Lab. Furthermore, additional online events were facilitated with attendees from

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a large number of tidy towns committees. Other in-person meetings were held with communities such as Patrickswell, Abbeyfeale, Annacotty and Southhill among others. Weekly meetings were also attended with all the other Community Climate Action Officers and members of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications to further the delivery of the fund.

Veterinary

No. of dogs processed in the Dog Shelter	11
No. of horses seized	4
No. of samples taken	0

4. Limerick Twenty Thirty (LTT) DAC

Opera Square

Progress Update

- John Sisk & Son progressed well with the Basement contract in September.
- 100% of the perimeter secant piling complete.
- Bulk excavation works were well underway with 60% of the bulk excavation dig completed.
- Formation level was reached at One Opera Square.
- A substantial Tower crane was erected on site; standing at 42.4 metres, it is one of the largest luffing cranes in the country.

Project Communications Update

- A drone video was shared to LTT social media capturing the tower crane being erected on site.
- A fly-over drone video, created by contractors John Sisk and Son, was also shared on LTT social media detailing the progress to date on Contract B, basement and One Opera Square works.

- The Irish Green Building Council offered a tour of Opera Square to its members on 13 September as part of World Green Building Week. A positive turnout was received, the group learned from LTT and John Sisk and Son about the circularity principles at the core of Opera Square where 99.3% of waste was diverted from landfill within the Contract A, Enabling Works. Opera Square is Circular Economy Lighthouse Demonstrator project through the Environmental Protection Agency's Green Enterprise Programme.

Cleeves Riverside Quarter

Progress Update

- A report in response to submissions received during the Masterplan process was finalised for publishing.
- A site visit to Shrewsbury Flaxmill, UK, was organised by Feildin Clegg Bradley Design Team and took place on 15 September. The visit to Shrewsbury was very insightful as it has many similarities to the historical Flaxmill at Cleeves Riverside Quarter. Representatives from TUS - Technological University of the Shannon, took part in the trip and negotiations on their Memorandum of Understanding for Cleeves Riverside Quarter progressed well in September.
- Work commenced in September on modelling for residential scenarios for Cost Rental, Croí Cónaithe and Models for Secure Tenancy Affordable Rental (STAR) and Purpose-Built Student Accommodation (PBSA). A special workshop was arranged to discuss the financial model in more detail.

Gardens International

Communications Update

- Opera Workshop, a Limerick-based opera group, held the official launch of their website at a drinks reception in the foyer of Gardens International on 28 September. Limerick Twenty Thirty sponsored the event. A social media post with official photographs taken from the night followed. For more information about this group, please visit operaworkshop.ie.

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- The EVA International Showcase at Gardens International continued in September with over four areas of the building in use, featuring the artwork of artists, Sarah Durcan, Frank Sweeney, Clíodhna Timoney, Amna Walayat, and Bea McMahon. The Showcase remains open to the public. For more information, see <https://www.eva.ie/>.
- The Vault at Gardens International was promoted in September for meeting and events bookings. Requests for bookings can be submitted to gardens@limerick2030.ie or 061-517430.

Other LTT Projects

Project Update

- **Ballygrennan** - The developer is progressing a planning application for Phase 1 of the Medical Campus. Phase 1 of the Medical Campus development comprises circa 12,000m² and will provide diagnostic and surgical facilities.

The Executive is liaising with Limerick City and County Council and the development consortium in relation to finalising Heads of Terms and disposal of the development lands. A pre-planning meeting with Limerick City and County Council has been requested and confirmation of date for same is awaited.

- **Mungret Park Development** - The Design Team was instructed in September to commence an updated planning application for Mungret Park development and a review of remaining Limerick City and County Council-owned lands in Mungret was underway

Communications Update

- The LTT CEO opened the Bisnow Future of Office in Ireland Conference in Dublin on 27 September. The presentation focused on Limerick as a “Destination for the New World of Work” where sustainability, design, and affordability meet. A corporate video was shared and was followed by a detailed overview on LTT projects, which received very positive feedback.



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National and Regional Shared Services Centre Directorate

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

- There were 576 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAP SSC at the end of September 2023.
- A weekly average of 160 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2023.
- The September landlord payment run was €55.01 million.
- The weekly tenant charge at the end of September was €3.09 million.
- The Debt Management Unit of the HAP SSC collected a total of €118.8 million in differential rent to end of September.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of September was 99%.
- The Debt Management Unit issued 8,833 HAP debt reminder letters in September.

2. Fire and Emergency

Statistics

	No. of Fire Related Calls	No. of Non-Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of call-outs 01.09.2023 - 30.09.2023	80	78	158
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	68%	51%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	23%	29%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	9%	20%	

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	No. Received / Assigned	No. Validated / Acknowledged	No. Invalidated / Refused	No. Granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications September	17	17	0	23	23
Disability Access Cert Applications September	10	10	0	13	13
Licensing Applications September	18	28			
Commencement Notice September	57	50	6	50	56
Completion Certificate September	5	5	0	5	5
Planning Referrals September	23				14
Sugar CRM Cases September	3	0	0	0	

Fire and Emergency Training Events

- Seven firefighters were refreshed in Emergency First Responder training.
- A firefighter attended a National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) Managing Fire Service Incident - Module 1 course - in Bray, Co. Wicklow.
- On-Station training continued as usual.

Civil Defence attendance at Events

The following activity took place:

- Medical cover and participation at the Emergency Services Parade, Barrington Street, Limerick - 1 day.
- Patient Transfer - Limerick residence to Integrated Care Programme for Older People (ICPOP) and back to the residence - 1 day.
- Patient Transfer - Limerick residence to Doctor and back to residence - 1 day.
- Medical cover and assistance at the King's Island Swim, King's Island, Limerick - 1 day.
- Medical cover at the Official Opening of the Limerick Regional Athletics Hub, Newcastle West - 1 day.

Chief Executive's Report



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Water Safety

No. of Lifebuoy Replacements	January - August	September	Total 2023
Metropolitan District	6	3	9
Municipal District	15	0	15

No. of Lifebuoy Sensor Activations	Total February - August	September	Total 2023
Metropolitan District	66	12	78
Municipal District	39	3	42



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Support Services Directorate

1. Finance

Commercial Rates and Loans

Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2023	
As at 30 September 2023	
Opening Balance - 01 Jan €	5,888,292
Accruals €	64,099,585 **
Vacant Property Adjustment €	445,077
Writes offs/ Waivers €	1,958,353
Total for Collection €	67,584,447
Amount Collected €	54,756,832
Arrears €	12,827,615
Specific Doubtful Arrears €	1,059,020
% Collected	82%

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

Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No. of days in overdraft 0

Debtors Loans	
As at 30 September 2023	
Opening Balance - 01 Jan €	300,639
Accruals €	1,253,274 ^
Writes offs €	-
To Collect €	1,553,913
Receipts €	1,423,259
Arrears €	130,654
% Collected	92%

^ Accruals not updated for loans for September 2023

Chief Executive's Report

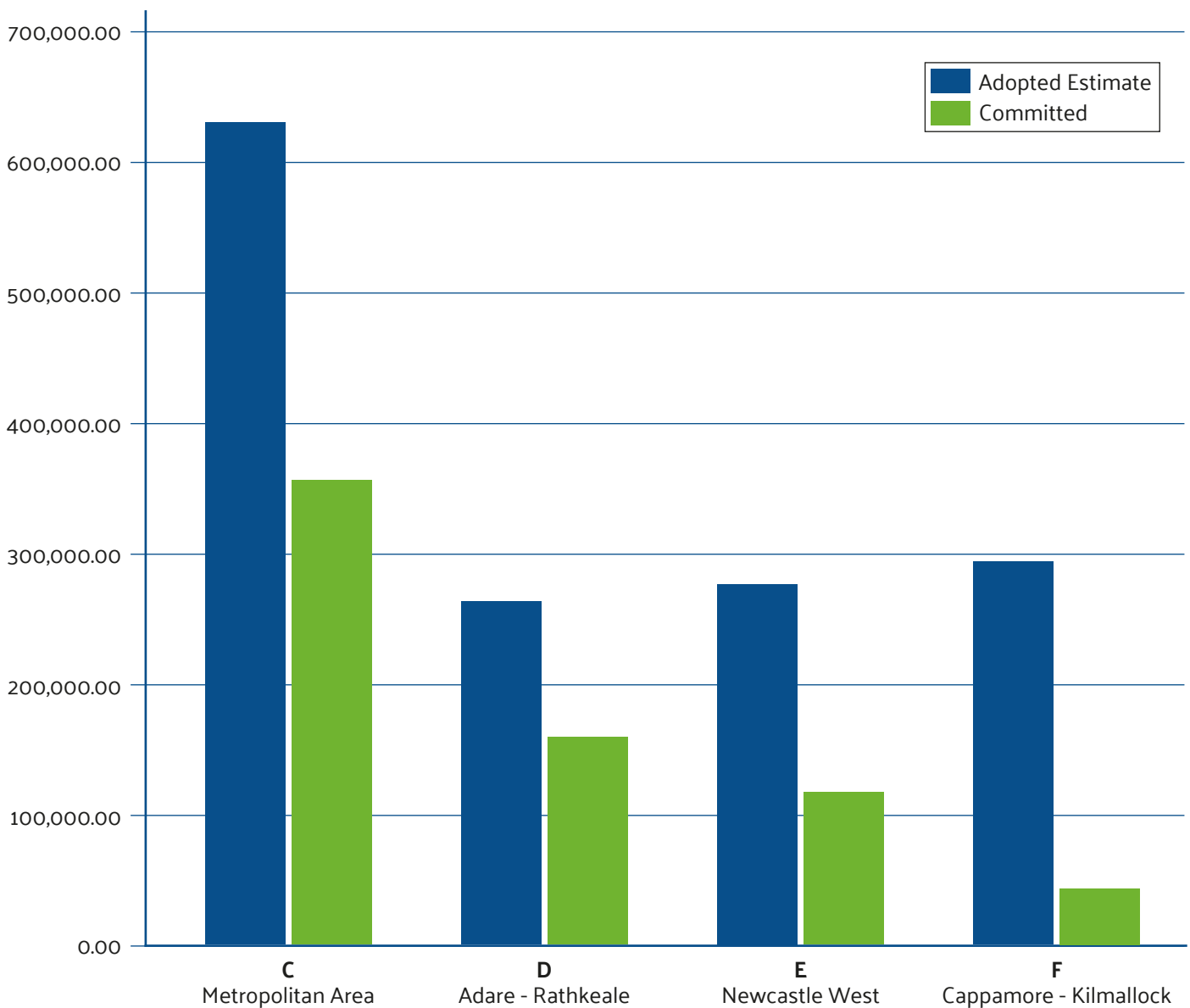


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Limerick City & County Council

General Municipal Allocation 2023 Adopted Estimate €1.463 Million

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



Municip (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate (€)	Value Committed (€)
C Metropolitan Area	628,000.00	350,506
D Adare - Rathkeale	269,500.00	158,359
E Newcastle West	270,500.00	118,647
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	295,000.00	43,056

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2. Business Improvement

- A Staff Liaison Network Meeting was held on 26 September.
- A total of 901 active users now live on the Employee App.
- Services on Service Catalogue = 699.
- 457 capital projects now managed through Cora, the Council's cloud-based project management system.

3. Corporate, Governance and Customer Services

The Mayor hosted the following in Corporate Headquarters:

- Courtesy Visit of the Ambassador from the Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.
- Courtesy Visit of the Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa.
- Visit of Group from Spokane, Washington, USA.
- Visit of Group from Hohenlohe, Germany.

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

- University of Limerick Conferring Ceremony at University Concert Hall, Limerick.
- Launch of 'Show Me I.D. – Be Age OK' campaign promoting training initiative for retailers to ask for proper identification if a minor attempts to purchase age-restricted projects such as alcohol, tobacco products and lottery tickets, at Roche's MACE store on Thomas Street, Limerick.

- Celebration of Rathbane Golf Club and Course 25th Anniversary at Rathbane Golf Course, Limerick.
- Voyage Property Limited, ceremonial sod turning to mark commencement of housing development of 371 residential units in Greenpark, South Circular Road, Limerick.
- Official reopening of the new playground at the People's Park, Pery Square, Limerick.
- Opening of Exhibition, Limerick's All-Ireland Glory 1887-2023, at Limerick Museum, Old Franciscan Friary, Henry Street, Limerick.
- Patrol with Limerick Suicide Watch.
- Limerick Island Swim at the Hunt Museum, Limerick.
- Centenary Commemoration for General Liam Lynch in Fermoy, Co. Cork.
- Presentation of South West and Mid-West Regional Awards of the 2023 SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition at Fernhill House Hotel & Gardens, Clonakilty, West Cork.
- Reception to celebrate Polyphonic Textures, the inaugural Exhibition of the MA in Fine Art at Limerick School of Art and Design, TUS (Technological University of the Shannon), Clare Street, Limerick.
- Official Opening of the new Children's Grief Centre at John Henry Newman Campus, Mount St. Vincent, O'Connell Avenue, Limerick.
- Limerick Sports Partnership, opening of The PACTE+ (Promoting Active Cities Throughout Europe) Active Governance Workshop, designed to promote, explore and share best practice from a governance perspective in creating and facilitating the Active City concept.
- Regeneration Jobs Fair at King's Island Community Centre, Limerick.

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- Official Opening of redeveloped and expanded Foynes Flying Boat and Maritime Museum in Foynes, Co. Limerick.
- Official Opening of Limerick Regional Athletics Hub in Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.
- Britvic Ireland announcement of €6 million investment in Ballygowan Facility in Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.
- Official Opening of Broadford Community Centre at Broadford, Co. Limerick.
- Official Opening of the 16th Polish Arts Festival in Limerick “Embracing The Elements” at the Hunt Museum, Limerick.
- Launch of the 27th Ballyhoura Walking Festival 2023 and Joyce Brothers Music Festival at Ballyhoura Centre, Main Street, Kilfinane, Co. Limerick.
- Launch of Coolmine Strategic Plan 2023 -2026, titled ‘Responsive Sustainable Recovery’ at Coolmine Therapeutic Community, Convent of Mercy Westbourne, Ashbourne Avenue, South Circular Road, Limerick.
- TUS, Technological University of the Shannon, an induction/orientation for incoming International Students at Thomond Park, Limerick.
- Inaugural Brazilian Day in Limerick, a celebration of Brazilian culture and promotion of community unity, in the Garden at the Hunt Museum, Limerick
- 2023 All Ireland Scholarships Awards Ceremony at University Concert Hall, Limerick.
- Opening of the Southill Community Festival ‘A Stronger Together Event’ Joint Initiative between Southill Hub, Tait House Community Enterprise and Southill Family Resource Centre in the Grounds of Tait House, Southill, Limerick.
- Cannonball Ireland, Supercar Event, at Pery Square, Limerick, and Gala Dinner at the Strand Hotel, Limerick.
- Active Travel Department, Limerick City and County Council, Photocall to mark the installation of rural bus shelters in Hospital and Bruff, Co. Limerick.
- Visit to Bruff Accommodation Centre, Bruff, Co. Limerick
- GKinetic Energy Ltd. live demonstration of unique renewable energy generation device and company showcase at Shannon Rowing Club, Sarsfield Bridge, Limerick.
- Limerick Opera Festival, Opera on the Hill, at Southill Hub, Limerick.
- Opening of the Tusla Child and Family Agency building at St. Joseph’s Health Campus, Mulgrave Street, Limerick.
- Culture Night Limerick.
- Launch of the CLÁR-funded public drinking water fountain at The Square, Kilfinane, Co. Limerick.
- Headway Limerick, Graduation Ceremony for clients who participated in their Vocational Programme.
- Reception on the occasion of the 74th Anniversary of the Founding of the People’s Republic of China at Shrewsbury Room, InterContinental, Simmons Court Road, Dublin.
- The Irish Planning Institute, 2023 Irish Planning Awards Gala Ceremony, at Clontarf Castle Hotel, Dublin.
- Learning Limerick, Conference ‘Learning for Inclusion’ at ENGINE Collaboration Centre, Cecil Street, Limerick.
- Mid West Simon Community Annual Charity Ball 2023 at Limerick Strand Hotel, Limerick.
- Mid-Western Cancer Foundation, Butterfly Ball at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Limerick.
- Munster v Barbarians at Thomond Park Stadium, Limerick.

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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 September:

New Procurement References set up	42
Procurement References extended as per signed contract/arrangement	17

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 September:

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
September	1,347	203	1,550

The Top five requisition rejection reasons for September were identified as follows:

Rejection Reason	September
Memo – Requisition not raised in advance	51
Procurement Reference omitted/incorrect	40
Documentation uploaded not relevant / nothing uploaded	23
Quotes - omitted/incorrect copy provided	18
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 – 210.
- Deletions from the Electoral Register – 135.
- Modifications to the Electoral Register – 134.
- 361 requests were received through the updated checktheregister.ie website for updating details of electors.

Members of the Electoral Register Team attended online meetings with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on 07 and 19 September to discuss updates and further developments with the electoral register.

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Health and Safety Training

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

Course Name	Numbers Trained
Safe Pass	14
Pole Saw Training	6
Safety Rep Training	1
First Aid Response Training	5
First Aid Response Refresher Training	2
Manual Handling	45
Dealing with Aggressive Customers	34
Evacuation Chair Training	5
Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) - Telescopic Handler	4
Confined Space Medium Risk	8
Driver CPC (Certificate of Professional Competence) Module 2	1
Driver CPC Module 3	11
Driver CPC Module 4	23
Driver CPC Module 5	1
Total Staff Trained	160

Access to Information

	September	2023 (January to September)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	17	210
Freedom of Information Internal Appeals	0	15
Information Commissioner Appeals	1	5
Total Ombudsman Requests	4	38
Total Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) Requests	2	19
OCEI Appeals (Office Environment Information Commissioner)	0	1

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Schedule of Meetings for September

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Full Council Bi-Monthly Meeting of Limerick City and County Council	25/09/2023	Dooradoyle and Online
Operational Briefings Limerick City East Limerick City North Limerick City West	05/09/2023 05/09/2023 06/09/2023	Merchant's Quay and Online Merchant's Quay and Online Merchant's Quay and Online
Municipal District of		
Adare-Rathkeale Special Meeting Monthly Meeting	04/09/2023 12/09/2023	The Manor Fields, Adare Rathkeale
Newcastle West Monthly Meeting Joint Policing Sub-Committee Meeting	06/09/2023 06/09/2023	Newcastle West Newcastle West
Cappamore-Kilmallock Monthly Meeting Joint Policing Sub-Committee Meeting	21/09/2023 21/09/2023	Kilmallock Kilmallock
Metropolitan District of Limerick Special Meeting Monthly Meeting	07/09/2023 18/09/2023	Dooradoyle and Online Dooradoyle and Online
Meeting of Limerick Twenty Thirty Strategic Development DAC	05/09/2023	Gardens International, Henry Street, and Online
Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Meeting	05/09/2023	Dooradoyle and Online
Strategic Policy Committee Meeting Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment	12/09/2023	Dooradoyle and Online
Corporate Policy Group Meeting	18/09/2023	Online
Meeting of Innovate Limerick	20/09/2023	Engine Collaboration Centre, Cecil Street and Online

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Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Party Leaders' Meeting	21/09/2023	Online
Protocol Committee Meeting	21/09/2023	Online
Joint Policing Committee Meeting	22/09/2023	Dooradoyle and Online
Meeting of Audit and Risk Committee	22/09/2023	Merchant's Quay and Online
Meeting of Limerick Women's Caucus	29/09/2023	Merchant's Quay and Online
Meeting of Rural Water Monitoring Committee	29/09/2023	Dooradoyle

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 in September.

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

- Customer Services Call Centre answered 10,418 calls. This represents an average of 496 per day, with the number of calls reaching as high as 586. A total of 71% of calls were handled at first point of contact.
- A total of 3,354 emails were processed through the Customer Services email platform.
- 3,161 cases were created on Sugar CRM (customer relationship management), with 773 of these logged on behalf of Public Representatives. 2,641 cases were closed, with 581 of these being cases logged by Public Representatives.
- Of the 3,161 cases created, 67% were logged by the Customer Services Team.
- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued, with a total of 254 cases being logged. Of these, 231 were submitted by Public Representatives.
- Customer Services continued to support the Housing Maintenance Department in creating service requests. 90% of Housing Maintenance cases for the Metropolitan District of Limerick were logged by Customer Services staff in the Dooradoyle and Merchant's Quay offices.
- A total of 119 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 117 were applied for and 86 issued.
- Customer Services staff welcomed a total of 2,464 customers at the Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle offices.

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4. Marketing & Communications

Marketing

Limerick Student City

- Commenced marketing campaign to promote Limerick Student City and encourage third level and further education students to engage with Limerick city and experience life off-campus.
- Created Limerick Student City merchandise for on-campus distribution and promotional display signage.
- On-campus promotion at Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick and Technological University of the Shannon, Moylish, to distribute Limerick Student City map and guide and increase engagement through iPad student giveaway.
- Developed dedicated digital content to reach wider audiences through a series of reels and social media posts.
- Distributed Limerick Student City collateral including Z card map and guides to our Tertiary Education Institutions for inclusion in Freshers' packs.
- Continued collaboration with Third Level partners in the promotion of Limerick as a destination of choice for study.

Halloween in Limerick Promotional Campaign

- Commenced the collation of content and asset creation for a Halloween in Limerick promotional campaign, including a dedicated digital guide and social asset creation to promote events and activities ahead of the festival launch.

Autumn in Limerick Promotion

- Created dedicated section on Limerick.ie to promote events, activities and autumn breaks in Limerick, with dedicated content created for social reflecting the autumnal themes on Limerick.ie

- Autumn breaks in Limerick content feature secured in the Irish Times and Irish Examiner Staycations supplement on 21 September.
- Created and issued four Limerick.ie e-newsletters

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 are now as follows:
 - Limerick.ie Facebook: 34,363
 - Limerick.ie Twitter: 21,514
 - Limerick.ie Instagram: 28,476
 - Limerick City and County Council Twitter: 18,243
 - Limerick City and County Council LinkedIn: 11,282

Limerick.ie

In September, there were 166,621* unique site visits to Limerick.ie, a 4% increase on the same period in 2022. (*Fathom Analytics)

The most popular pages on Limerick.ie 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/discover/whats-on/browse
4. www.limerick.ie/discover/whats-on/festivals/culture-night-2023
5. www.limerick.ie/council

Content Report: 92 articles, 361 events and four amenities were added to Limerick.ie.

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Communications

Issued 21 News Releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and researched and wrote 22 speeches for the Office of the Mayor.

Responded to media queries from local, national and international outlets.

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 September
No. of call-outs 01.09.2023 – 30.09.2023	986	450	105.00	1,436

