

Chief Executive's Report

November 2023

Limerick City and County Council is named Local Authority of the Year 2023 at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards

No Commercial Rate Increase as Council passes €1.4 Billion Budget for 2024

Adare By-Pass is put on the Fast Track

Killeedy celebrates win as local regeneration projects are recognised at Pride of Place Awards

Lighting up for Christmas in Limerick with events to suit all ages

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

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Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism Directorate

1. Trade and Investment

VITALOGRAPH, a global leader in respiratory diagnostics, announced plans to create 60 new jobs in Limerick and Clare as part of an ambitious expansion plan. Vitalograph already has a significant presence in Limerick where it currently employs over 50 people at its office in ENGINE, Upper Cecil Street. Its Limerick city centre office was opened following the announcement of a €10m investment.

Limerick City and County Council was pleased to sponsor the “Best Emerging Business Award” at this year’s Limerick Chamber Regional Business Awards. At the gala event held in the Strand Hotel in November, Mavarick won the coveted award. Mavarick is an indigenous software company that specialises in providing innovative solutions to enable manufacturers to become more efficient and sustainable. Based in ENGINE, Upper Cecil Street, Mavarick was also recently announced as the overall winner of the InterTrade Ireland Seedcorn Investor Readiness Competition, walking away with a cash prize of €100,000 to invest in its business.

2. Digital Services

EU Programmes

In early November, a delegation from the Council travelled to Trondheim, Norway, to attend the final conference of the Horizon 2020 EU +CityxChange Project. Limerick City and County Council has played a lead role over the past five years on this project.

The delegation took part in a number of events over the course of the conference with the objective of:

- Demonstrating the work carried out in Limerick over the course of the project.
- Deepening the relationship with partner cities and other EU cities who attended the conference.
- Exploring possible future collaboration and funding opportunities.
- Sharing best practice in the development of community grid electrical systems.

Limerick had a stand to demonstrate the work done on the project, which included a series of videos highlighting different elements of the project and two 3D models, printed in the Citizen Innovation Lab, of the proposed Tidal Turbine and of the Innovation Lab itself. Limerick also presented its work on the project to an audience of 120 people, along with the other cities. A number of workshops were held to discuss the main themes of the projects:

1. Creating connected communities.
2. Strategy, Policy - Bold City Vision and City Transformation Strategies.
3. Energy Markets - Energy Flexibility Markets and Technical Details and Regulatory Issues.

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4. Business Models, Scaling - Finance and Partnership Models, Positive Energy District (PED) Income Streams, Scaling.
5. Radical Collaboration Transdisciplinary, Participatory and Co-Creative – Across Sectors, Disciplines, Interests and Geographies (New European Bauhaus).
6. Mobility - eMaaS, V2X, Shared Mobility.
7. Designing and Deploying Integrated Positive Energy Districts (PEDs) - Integrated Development Approach, Connecting Systems, Data, People.
8. Local Generation, Building Measures, Feasibility.

Limerick City and County Council staff led Workshop 2 in respect of Strategy and Policy Development.

3. Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Limerick

Funding Approved

Seven businesses were approved for grant funding in November - two Feasibility Study Grants, two Priming Grants and three Business Expansion Grants. The total value of approvals was €160,790.

Also in November, one business was approved the Energy Efficiency Grant, one business was approved the Digital Start Grant, five businesses were approved the Lean for Business, two businesses were approved a Trading Online Voucher, and four Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters Grants were approved.

Workshops and Webinars held during November:

- Business Advice Clinics – various.
- Business Planning Workshops.
- Start Your Own Business Courses.
- Trading Online Voucher Webinar.
- Managing an Online Business.
- Introduction to Book-keeping and Taxation.
- Website Built – What Next Workshop.

- Costing and Pricing One-Day Workshop.
- Choices We Make When Facing a Challenge – Growth or Fixed Mindset.
- Website Advice One-to-One Clinics.

There were 141 participants on the LEO Business Training Workshops and 18 Business Owners were approved for the LEO Mentoring Programme in November.

4. Tourism

Festivals and Events

Christmas in Limerick 2023 was launched on 20 November and this year sees a host of activities being rolled out to suit all ages and life stages. There is a full itinerary of events happening across the city, including:

- Christmas in Limerick Seasonal Street Shows - Free Family Fun
- Limerick On Ice
- Fossett's Christmas Circus at Cleeves
- Firestorm by Rogu - Free Family Fun
- Christmas in Limerick Aerial Extravaganza at King John's Castle
- Christmas at Limerick Milk Market
- Toots the Train
- International Christmas and Winter in Limerick - A Celebration

Tourism, Festivals and Events have made three submissions for consideration in the Local Authority Members' Association (LAMA) Awards 2023 - the Limerick Greenway Biodiversity Plan has been submitted in the Best Environmental/Ecological Project/Initiative; the International Band Championship has been submitted in the Community Initiatives - Best Irish Festival category; and the Discover Limerick Pass has been submitted in the Collaboration and Leadership Initiatives - Best Tourism Initiative category.

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Limerick Tourism Department supported a number of events in November. National and International events took place in Limerick. This work is carried out to position Limerick as a world-class host of exciting events. The events supported were:

Shannon International Leasing Conference (SILC)

Fifteen local aviation companies joined forces to create this unique event. The conference was formed to display the location and develop Shannon as the hub for technical services to support Ireland's aircraft leasing industry. Matt Cooper (Journalist and Broadcaster) hosted the event. There were talks from the President of the University of Limerick, from Economists, panel discussions on industry topics and a celebrity interview with Paul O'Connell.

Culture through Action Series

This event was hosted by the Limerick Civic Trust and ran until 30 November. It consisted of seven talks from distinguished individuals with superb insights into the chosen field being discussed. Talks were given by - Brigid Laffan on 'Implications for EU of War in Europe'; Brian Wilson (CBE) on 'The Challenges facing Peripheral Communities and Culture'; Stephen Green on 'Is Globalization In Retreat?'; and Shelly McNamara and Yvonne Farrell on 'Architecture Globally' - regarded as co-founders of Grafton Architects, and winners of numerous Architecture awards.

Limerick Greenway

Work is continuing on pre-construction activities and the development of the Limerick Greenway Hubs @ Rathkeale, Ardagh, Abbeyfeale and Newcastle West, as well as the West Limerick Tourism Hub @ Fullers Folly.

Statistics for the Limerick Greenway social media engagement and Google Adverts for the month of November are as follows:

Social Media Statistics

03/11/2023 - 30/11/2023

	Facebook	Instagram
Reach	52,945	13,626
Content Interactions*	178	186
New Followers	11	83
Page Visits	562	161

*Content interactions are reactions, saves, comments, shares and replies on the content

Google Ads:

03/11/2023 - 30/11/2023

Impressions	36,300
Ad Clicks	1,224
Click - Through - Rate	10.14%

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5. Discover Limerick DAC

- A lot of positive feedback received following the 'Parade of Light' Samhain Festival that passed through the Medieval Quarter.
- Christmas-themed lighting and projectors were installed to light up King John's Castle walls from 19 November.
- On 20 November, 'Christmas in Limerick Aerial Extravaganza' show details were launched online.
- King John's Castle team welcomed the Ambassador of the Netherlands, Maaike van Koldam, for a tour on 22 November.
- On 22 November, a Fáilte Ireland-led familiarisation trip to the Castle took place, showcasing King John's Castle to a group of Ireland's leading inbound tourism operators.
- 'Lough Gur Santa Experience' launched on 25 November.
- The 'Christmas Giving Tree' initiative, in aid of the Children's Ark Unit, University Hospital Limerick, launched on 26 November.
- Paul Weller announced to play a concert in Limerick.
- Adare Heritage Centre was transferred into the management of Discover Limerick DAC.



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Transportation and Mobility Directorate

1. Travel and Transport Strategy

Road Safety Plan

In November, the Road Safety Working Group met to review the Draft Road Safety Plan for Limerick. The Road Safety Working Group is comprised of staff from Limerick City and County Council and representatives from An Garda Síochána, Health Service Executive Ambulance Service, Transport Infrastructure Ireland and local stakeholder groups.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Point Pilot Scheme

The Electric Vehicle Charging Point Pilot Scheme progressed with civils works finalised at 14 sites across the city and county.

2. Active Travel

Projects

Hyde Road: Snagging work and planting carried out.

Childers Road (Greenpark to Roxboro Road Roundabout): Works between O'Donoghue Avenue and Roxboro Roundabout ongoing.

Rosmór, Old Cork Road: Contractor commenced on site, site clearance ongoing.

TUS, Technological University of the Shannon, Moylish, to City Centre: Gaelscoil Sáirséal Part 8 process ongoing.

Patrickswell Village Renewal Scheme: Certificate of Substantial Completion issued. Tree planting completed.

Plassey Park: Works continuing to progress on site.

Abbeyfeale Greenway Connection: In-person non-statutory consultation held on 09 November. Non-statutory consultation process ongoing.

Mill Road, Corbally: Contractor appointed. Land acquisition for multiple sites ongoing.

Wickham Street to Clare Street: Businesses on potential routes engaged with via Economic Assessment.

Baggot Estate, Ballinacurra: Non-statutory public consultation report published.

Father Russell Road: Work continuing on installation of footpaths and cycle paths, as well as bus stop kerbing and paving.

3. Mid-West National Road Design Office

Foyne to Limerick Road (including Adare By-Pass)

On 21 November, Mr. Eamon Ryan, TD, Minister for Transport, announced the Government's approval to advance the construction of the Adare By-Pass. The by-pass is one element of the 35km Foyne to Limerick Road project connecting Limerick City to the port of Foyne.

The process of formally taking possession of the lands required for the Scheme commenced in early November and continued during the month.

A number of advance enabling works contracts commenced on site with the contracts for hedge clearance and fencing for the proposed motorway between Attyflyn and Rathkeale being the most notable during the period.

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Tenders for other enabling works contracts were advertised during November, which included tenders for archaeological investigation across the entire extent of the Scheme and fencing and hedge clearance contracts for the remaining sections of the project (those not part of the Attyflyn to Rathkeale contracts).

Work on the detailed design of, among other significant elements, the roads and bridges comprising the project and the preparation of the corresponding main works construction contracts, also continued through November.

N/M20 Cork to Limerick

A project update on the N/M20 Cork to Limerick Project was published on 27 November.

This update included the identification of the reduced road corridor, expanded active travel infrastructure, transport hubs, freight hub, enhanced public transport integration and environmental integration for the N/M20 Cork to Limerick.



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Rural, Community and Culture Development Directorate

1. Rural Development

Town Centre First

Abbeyfeale Town Centre First Plan was noted at a meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West, signed off and finalised by the Abbeyfeale Town Team.

2. Community Development

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

- On 21 November, the Department of Rural and Community Development announced the funding approvals under the Project Development Measure of ORIS 2023. Limerick received total funding of €84,200 for the two approved projects, with €50,000 for Kilteery Pier - Changing Rooms/Shower Facilities and Graded Slipway; and €34,200 for Blackrock Loop, Ballyhoura Way - Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Screening and Management Plan for a 4km section of walking trail in the Ballyhoura Mountains.

Environment Awareness

- Limerick celebrated its 18th birthday as a Fairtrade City and the Limerick Fairtrade Christmas Card Competition results were announced at an event in Istrabraq Hall, Corporate Headquarters, on 28 November. The overall winner in Primary School Category was Ellie Leo, Knockainey National School, with Ariana Obuhova, Laurel Hill FCJ, winning the overall winner in Secondary School Category. Students also received Special Merit Awards, including Trey Carl Brolan, Scoil na Trionóide Naofa, Doon; Conor O'Brien, Milford National School; and Violet Bueno, Donoughmore National School.

- A Sustainable Christmas Presentation in the Limerick City Library, Barrow House, took place on 23 November in collaboration with the Limerick City Libraries and the Council's Community Climate Action Officer.

Health and Wellbeing

- Not Around Us:** The signage continued to be distributed internally within the Council and to external stakeholders also.
- Limerick Food Partnership (LFP):** After a successful recruitment process, a new LFP coordinator took up position this month and will largely be focused on collating localised data on food poverty, of which there is presently very little available. The post is funded by Healthy Ireland, the Redemptorists and Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.
- Ukrainian Refugee Fund (URF):** Limerick Opera Festival hosted an evening of opera and contemporary music, featuring Irish and Ukrainian performers, in the Abundant Life Centre, Henry Street, Limerick, on the evening of 23 November. The event was opened by the Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Dan McSweeney, translation was provided by a member of Council staff and approximately 145 people attended.
- GAA Wellbeing Boards:** The prototype of the GAA Health and Wellbeing Boards was launched at a GAA Health and Wellbeing evening hosted by GAA Healthy Clubs. All Healthy Clubs (15 + one for the Gaelic Grounds) within Limerick city and county will receive a Health and Wellbeing board. The Boards contain numbers to crisis services both nationally and locally. The project is a collaboration between the GAA, Limerick Sports Partnership, Mental Health Ireland, the Health Service Executive's Office of Suicide Prevention and Healthy Limerick.

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- The Healthy Limerick Coordinator attended the **World Health Organisation Healthy Cities/Counties Conference** celebrating 35 years of the Healthy Cities Movement, held in Utrecht, Netherlands. The possibility of Limerick joining this network is being explored. The value of being part of a network like this would be to place Health and Wellbeing at the centre of social, economic and political agendas at the local (and national) level.

INTEgreat

- Information Hub** for new communities making Limerick their new home was launched on Limerick.ie website - [here](#). Page includes information on: housing and accommodation, childcare and schools, health services, further education and training, employment and more. Information is provided in English with other languages to be provided.
- Limerick Migrant Integration Forum:** Inaugural meeting was opened by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, on 22 November. The Forum aims to empower migrant communities to collaborate, network and represent a migrant voice towards achieving social inclusion, integration and participation in the decision-making process.
- Project Manager and Director of Services attended general assembly and project meeting in Barcelona, Spain, to discuss progress in five participating countries. During the meeting, a decision was made to hold the next in-person meeting in Limerick.

Public Participation Network (PPN)

- Membership of PPN Limerick continued to grow and stands at 200. The membership registration form is on the PPN Limerick [website](#) and eligible groups in Limerick can register at any time.
- The PPN Limerick Secretariat continued to fulfil its function with a meeting held on 27 November.

- The PPN Resource Worker attended and delivered a presentation at the launch of Limerick Migrant Integration Forum (an EU InteGreat project) on 22 November. A stated goal of the Forum is facilitating Members to participate in local government decision-making. The PPN is the formal route for this engagement.
- PPN Limerick continued to have an active presence with its regularly updated website, social media and bi-monthly Newsletter distributed to members.

Pride of Place

Limerick community groups triumphed at the prestigious Pride of Place community awards on 10 November at a gala ceremony in Armagh city.

- Killeedy Community Projects took joint first place in the Village with a population between 0-500 category, with judges particularly impressed with the efforts they saw to regenerate the area.
- Southill HUB came runner-up in the Urban Neighbourhood/Village with a population under 3,000 category.
- CareBright Limerick received a nomination but was to come away empty-handed on the night.
- For further details, please click [here](#) to read the press release.

Age Friendly

Draft Age Friendly Strategy

The draft Age Friendly Strategy went before the Senior Forum and Management Team in November for consideration and approval to go before the December Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee.

Age friendly Housing and Public Realm Training was provided on 07 and 14 November online for Local Authority staff.

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Dementia Conference

On 20 November, Age Friendly was delighted to attend the Dementia Conference in Limerick, hosted by Family Carers Ireland. The well-attended event was a day full of very useful information and workshops aimed at family carers caring for a loved one with dementia.

Information and advice were provided on the day by several service providers including Family Carers Ireland, Alzheimer Society, TASK Community Care, Sage Advocacy, The Decision Support Service, Limerick Memory Technology Room, ALONE and Limerick Libraries.

The workshops included a presentation and Q&A by the Decision Support Service on The Assisted Decision-Making Capacity Act.

There was also an interactive dance session (Some Dance to Remember) by Carmel McKenna and Sean Donal O'Shea.

Some of the other workshops included Leaning into Love: Grief for the Dementia Caregiver, by Jennifer Stritch; Managing Behaviours that Challenge, by Fiona Staunton; 5 Ways to Wellbeing for Family Carers, by Anna De Siun; and Down Syndrome and Dementia: A Family Carers Experience, by David Kieran.

Mini Walkability Audit – CareBright Bruff

TrinityHaus Research Centre in Trinity College Dublin, and Medical Gerontology TCD, are conducting research titled "Planning and Design for Quality of Life and Resilience in Residential Long-Term Care Settings for Older People in Ireland." Its aim is to produce a set of universal Design Guidelines for New Build, Adaptation and Retrofit of Residential Long-Term Care Settings for Older People in Ireland.

To achieve this, the research centre is conducting case studies in settings in Ireland so that the experiences and expertise gained within Irish settings informs and underpins this project. This project involves diverse and representative partners including: Health Service Executive Capital and Estates, Age Action, Age Friendly Ireland,

Nursing Homes Ireland, and the Centre for Excellence in Universal Design at the National Disability Authority, providing diverse perspectives across the public, private and voluntary sectors.

On 22 November, Limerick Age Friendly was delighted to meet with the researchers to carry out a mini walkability audit at CareBright Dementia Centre in Bruff on access to, and egress from, the Centre. An area of 500 metres from the Centre to the Post Office in Bruff was walked on both sides of the road, taking into account the condition of footpaths, road user behaviour, facilities and services.

One of the researchers joined the Age Friendly Programme Manager and three members of our Old Persons' Executive on the walkability audit, which is one of the components of the research.

National Age Friendly Recognition Awards

The National Age Friendly Recognition Awards took place on 30 November in Wexford. It began earlier in the year with 160 entries showcasing Age Friendly Initiatives from around the country contributing to making Ireland a great place in which to grow old. 27 entries were shortlisted, with nine receiving awards on the night, demonstrating the positive and meaningful impact the work of Age Friendly, in all Local Authorities, is having on the lives of older people in Ireland.

Comhairle na nÓg

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, opened Limerick Comhairle na nÓg annual youth conference on 30 November. Over 120 young people from Limerick attended on the day to voice their opinions on the issues that are important to them and to potentially become new members. The delegates at this year's Youth Conference chose the issue of 'Vaping, Drugs and Smoking' as the theme to address in 2024.

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3. Culture

Library

City Library at Barrow House

- Europe Direct at the City Library participated in the Annual Europe Direct Soapbox Public Speaking Competition on 08 November in Limerick. Erin Hayes (16 and under) and Molly Flanagan (17 and over) were winners, and Molly was the runner-up in the National Final in Dublin on 27 November.
- Europe Direct supported talks on A Sustainable Christmas (23 November) and a Careers Showcase in Science and Technology (30 November).
- Digital Skills classes for beginners, funded by Europe Direct, started on 20 November, providing participants with tablet PCs for practice at home, aiming to bridge the digital divide.
- On 16 November, the City Library hosted a History Lecture on 'Lines of Desire - Limerick's Queer History,' presented by Dr. El Reid-Buckley and Dr. John Logan.
- Doras, in partnership with the EU-funded INTEgreat project, offered a CV (curriculum vitae) and Employment Workshop for 18-21-year-olds on 21 November. INTEgreat project aims to build a stronger integration strategy and ecosystem for migrants and asylum seekers (women, men, families, LGBTQAI+) in Europe.
- Various events at the City Library included creative writing, Sahaja Yoga meditation meetings, and the Aphasia Conversation Group.
- In the children's library on 07 November, Éanna Ní Lamhna, biologist, environmental consultant, radio and television presenter, author and educator spoke to classes from Presentation Primary School, St. Michael's National School and St. Patrick's Boys' National School. Yoga for Kids, Róisín Meaney's story session, and 'Cuenta Cuentos' Spanish Storytelling sessions continued.
- Schools visiting the City Library in November included Scoil Íosagáin, St. Patrick's Girls' National School and St. Michael's Infant School.
- The City Library hosted numerous book clubs, including the Phoenix Book Club, First Thursday Book Club, Second Wednesday Book Club, Young Adult Book Club, Spiral Book Club, Children's Book Club, and three book clubs from the University of the Third Age.

Kilmallock Library

- Music Generation, Limerick County, organised a two-day song-writing workshop for young readers aged 9 to 12 on 01 and 02 November, with 12 participants and two Thursday evening sessions exploring music in a fun way throughout November for children aged 7 to 11. Ballyhoura Development CLG supports this group.
- Weekly bridge classes for beginners continued every Wednesday with 12 participants at each session.
- A weekly Yoga Community Education Course, led by Ballyhoura Development CLG, continued on Fridays throughout November, suitable for all ages and fitness levels.
- Weekly Craft Group sessions occurred every Thursday morning in November, bringing crafters together to work on various projects.
- A seven-week programme covering various crafting and artistic activities started on 07 November, led by Ballyhoura Development CLG.
- Mid West Advancing Recovery in Ireland Education Service (ARIES) hosted the last of three wellbeing workshops on 09 November, with 45 participants exploring resilience and self-care routines.

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- Little Readers met for a monthly session on 15 November, featuring storytelling, songs, rhymes, books and chat.
- On 20 November, primary students and Transition Year students celebrated Science Week at Kilmallock Library with Animal Magic, supported by the Stem Department at Mary Immaculate College, attracting over 70 participants.
- “Family Time at Your Library” on 25 November embraced the festive spirit with two sessions of “Festive Folktales from Far Away” with StoryGate, promoting a family-focused approach to reading and recreational activities for children.

Newcastle West Library

- Youth Book Club for ages 10 to 13 continued to meet in the library.
- Ongoing use of Sensory Space.
- Regular visits from The Brothers of Charity and Rathfredagh Cheshire Home residents.
- Regular class visits from local National Schools.
- Family time at the library event: Senior Infants from Courtenay Boys’ National School decorated the library Christmas tree, sang festive songs and enjoyed a story time with Santa’s helpers.

Dooradoyle Library

- Autumn Arts and Crafts workshop for children on 01 November, with 20 children making seasonal wreaths.
- Science Week story-time took place on 18 November with the theme ‘Human? - What it means to be Human in Today’s World.
- As part of the Decade of Centenaries, Limerick Libraries and Limerick Museum held an in-person symposium entitled ‘Decade of Centenaries: Retrospect and Legacy’ on 25 November.

- Limerick Women’s Shed hosted their annual Christmas gathering in Dooradoyle on 28 November. Approx. 50 members attended this event.
- Knitting Group ‘Close-Knit Friends’ held a Christmas wreath-making workshop on 29 November.
- Dooradoyle Book Club met on 30 November to discuss ‘Pachinko,’ by Min Jin Lee.

Watch House Cross

- Schools’ mid-term break activities continued in November.
- Table Quiz for 7-12-year-olds on 01 November.
- Spooky Storytime for 2-6-year-olds on 02 November.
- Weekly Storytimes for young children on Thursday afternoons.
- Special Science Week Storytime with Experiments on 16 November.
- Parent/Caregiver and Toddler Morning with 32 attendees.
- LEGO Club for 7-12-year-olds started on 10 November with 20 children.
- Children’s Book Clubs met on 29 November for discussions.
- Class visits from Thomond College Secondary School, Corpus Christi, and Thomond Primary Schools.
- Crafty Saturday’s free-play art and craft sessions started in November.
- Helium Arts workshops for children with lifelong physical health conditions on Saturdays.

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- A new Story Seeds Creative Writing Project commenced for seven schools, involving 270 children from Second to Sixth Classes. Each class contributed to an epic tale, culminating in a published book. The aim is to encourage, inspire, and empower primary school children in creative expression.
- Tuesday afternoon's Pop-up Printmaking workshops were held in November with PrintVanGo's Limerick Road Show. Printmaking techniques included PosterType, Foam Printmaking, Litho, and Stencilling.
- Exhibition launch of "It'll Be Alright On The Night" inspired by St. Munchin's Community SIAMSA group. The exhibition features a short film with footage of previous shows, as well as photographs and images of rehearsals, backstage dressing rooms and awards nights, and tells the story of how Community Siamsa fostered a deep sense of community spirit and neighbourhood. It'll be Alright on the Night is the third iteration of The GAFF's TinyLittleHistories programme for 2023.
- Sister Helen Culhane, from The Children's Grief Centre, gave a talk to a small intimate gathering in the library on 30 November on "Navigating Bereavement, Grief, and Loss."
- Inclusive Storytime for adults with the Brothers of Charity service.
- Adult book clubs discussed "The Magician" by Colm Tóibín.
- Northside Family Resource Centre started Baby Yoga classes.
- Age Action's Getting Started Digital Literacy Programme resumed with 14 new pupils.
- The Sensory Room had 216 visitors in 73 sessions during November.

Local Studies

- 28 onsite visits by researchers in November.
- Research sessions on archives, genealogical websites, and Local Studies collections.
- Two advice sessions on Family History research.
- 15 email and telephone queries.
- E-book version of "Histories of Protestant Limerick, 1912-1923" made available online.
- Printing of hardcopies commenced.
- Progress on the new Local Studies website.

Other Branches

- Library staff attended Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards in relation to Crafting Connections, which was shortlisted in the category of Age Friendly Initiative.
- Limerick Libraries continued to invite parents/guardians of young children to collect The First 5 Little Book at Bedtime initiative gift bags.
- Library staff attended the Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival Information and Networking Event in the Southill Hub on 10 November.
- Library staff hosted an information stand at the Family Carers Ireland Dementia Conference in Limerick on 20 November.
- Library branches celebrated the W. B. Yeats Nobel Prize Centenary on 14 November with displays of information leaflets, maps and cut-out masks that children could take away. This day, part of the official Decade of Centenaries, commemorated the day in 1923 that Yeats discovered he had won the Nobel Prize in Literature.

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- Cappamore Library celebrated Science Week on 17 November when over 90 primary school pupils were invited to take part in interactive workshops. These workshops were funded by Mary Immaculate College STEM Department and facilitated by Nutty Scientists.
- Glin Library welcomed the pupils from Junior Infants St. Fergus National School on 07 November for an autumn themed storytime and craft session. The monthly Book Club meetings were attended by 20 members and the newly formed singing group held three sessions in the library throughout the month with 104 attendees.

Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA) opened three new exhibitions on 09 November – The first was Nothing Strange or Startling, an exhibition of new and recently made work by Turner nominated artist, George Shaw. The second exhibition was a personal selection from the Permanent Collection made by Shaw to reflect his admiration for the breadth of works included in the Collection. It also marked the 75th anniversary of the opening of the extension to the building to provide a permanent home for the Collection. ScreenDance, an exhibition of dance on film, was launched on the same evening. This is a collaboration with Light Moves Festival and Dance Limerick and the exhibition features several international artists. Dr. Caroline Campbell, Director of the National Gallery of Ireland, spoke at the Opening.
- The Learning and Engagement Coordinator, Aoife Doherty, (Shinnors Scholar) worked closely with Mary Immaculate College to deliver several workshops and group tours for primary schools in the month of November.
- Work was completed on the Open Call for Test Space 2024. This initiative was introduced to support artists from different disciplines to interact with the Gallery and programme with particular reference to the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). This programme is supported by Arts Council funding.

- Interviews took place in November to fill the vacant positions in the Community Employment (CE) Scheme.
- Helium Arts used the Gallery to present their annual Exhibition. Helium works with children with long-term illnesses and LCGA has developed a close working relationship with the organisation.
- Various community groups continued to use the Gallery for meetings and events. These included University of the Third Age (U3A) who regularly hold their poetry and music meetings in the Gallery.

Limerick Museum

- On 10 November, the Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Dan McSweeney, performed the Official Opening of Laced Inspirations, an exhibition of calligraphy prints by renowned Limerick artist, Gavin Hogg. The exhibition was inspired by Limerick Museum's collection of Limerick lace. Gavin Hogg has exhibited widely, won numerous awards and achieved wide critical appreciation for his work. The Exhibition continued until 23 November.
- On 25 November, as part of the Decade of Centenaries, Limerick Libraries and Limerick Museum held an in-person symposium in Dooradoyle Branch Library, entitled Decade of Centenaries: Retrospect and Legacy. The distinguished panel of speakers consisted of Tanya Higgins-Carey, Brian Hughes, Angus Mitchell, Caoilfhionn Ní Bheacháin, John O'Callaghan, Sharon Slater and Tom Toomey. The symposium also included a showing of Remembering Bulmer Hobson, a short film directed by Angus Mitchell, and a panel discussion, which examined the Decade's impact, both nationally and in Limerick.
- On 30 November, the official handover of the Maude Kearney Lace Collection to Limerick Museum by Maude's granddaughter, Grania McElligott, and the launch The Art of the Stitch: The Enduring Legacy of Maude Kearney, an exhibition of lace from the Maude Kearney Collection, took place in Limerick Museum. One of the greatest figures in the history

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of Limerick lace, Maude Kearney (1873-1963) opened her lacemaking business in Limerick in 1904, which provided a source of employment for at least fifty local women. The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, accepted the collection on behalf of the people of Limerick and performed the opening of the exhibition. This is one of the most significant donations to Limerick Museum as it is one of the biggest collections of Limerick lace in private ownership; it is of very high quality with many unique and rare items; and it has a very historic provenance in that the collection belonged to Maude Kearney.

- As part of Limerick Museum's outreach programme, the Curator gave a lecture on 08 November to the Classical Association of Ireland as part of the Museum's long-standing partnership with the Association.
- The 'Postcards from Limerick' exhibition, marking the 1,100th anniversary of the foundation of Limerick City, continued until 17 November. It was organised by Limerick Museum and held in Saint Mary's Cathedral.

Limerick Arts Office

PUBLIC ART POLICY

The Public Art Policy consultation opened for responses from the public on 01 November. In-person sessions were held on 20 November in Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay, Limerick, 27 November in the Municipal District Offices in Newcastle West and online on 21 November. The survey closed on 30 November.

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 November, 14 letters of support were issued. At November's Council Meeting, 10 Strategic Applications were approved awarding €24,489.50 of grants and leveraging in €359,895 of national funding into Limerick City and County.

Call out for Artists' Residential Apartments, John's Square Limerick

Limerick Arts Office's Artists' Apartments recognise cultural practitioners, across all art forms, by providing subsidised residential apartments in John's Square, Limerick. A competitive Open Call was announced for three apartments on 09 November. The Artists' Apartments create conditions for affordable living spaces for individual artists and keep artists living and working in Limerick City by encouraging living and working within the urban context. The apartments provide subsidised living spaces in recognition that artists and many individuals working in the Arts are on modest income levels. The closing date for applications was 12 Noon on 29 November.

Tyrone Guthrie Bursary

Limerick Arts Office announced an Open Call on 09 November for two Bursaries for the Tyrone Guthrie Centre. The Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig, Co. Monaghan, is a residential workplace and residency programme in Ireland for artists of all disciplines. This Open Call to recognise cultural practitioners across all art forms, residing within Limerick City and County, will allow successful applicants to undertake a short residency at the Centre. These bursaries cover all board and lodging expenses for one week, plus the use of a studio if necessary. The closing date for applications was 12 Noon on 29 November.

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CREATIVE IRELAND

International Christmas and Winter in Limerick

International Christmas and Winter in Limerick began on 25 November with festive storytelling in Kilmallock Library. Events will be spread across the winter season, across a range of creative art forms, and across the city and county. Creative Ireland and Limerick City and County Council, through Creative Ireland Made in Limerick, fund International Christmas and Winter in Limerick, which is delivered in partnership with Limerick's international communities and creative organisations.

Decarbonising Together shortlisted for Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards

Decarbonising Together was shortlisted in the category of sustaining the arts for the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards. Decarbonising Together invited five communities from the Limerick Metropolitan District to examine how meaningful climate action can become part of their lives. Each group explored an aspect of Decarbonisation through a creative collaboration with arts and creative industry partners resulting in five creative outputs. Decarbonising Together was a joint cross-Directorate collaborative project between Limerick City and County Council's Urban Innovation Department (Project Management and implementation) and Arts Office. Delivery was through the Citizen Innovation Lab and supported by Limerick City and County Council, University of Limerick Department of Economics and School of Architecture/Fab Lab Limerick, Colaborativa.eu and Space Engagers.

Hub na nÓg Training and Creativity for Wellbeing Networking Event

The Creative Communities Engagement Officer participated in 'voice of the child's training' with Hub na nÓg on 28 and 30 November. The purpose of this training is to ensure that the voice of the child is heard and considered in the development and delivery of Limerick's Creative Ireland programme.

The Creative Ireland Coordinator and the Creative Communities Engagement Officer participated in Creativity for Wellbeing, a Creative Ireland Health and Wellbeing Networking Event on 08 November.

ARTS COUNCIL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT PROGRAMME

Castleconnell Autumn Concert Series (2023)

A fully live programme of enchanting and beautiful music and song returned to All Saints Church in Castleconnell this Autumn. Castleconnell Autumn Concert Series is programmed by Limerick Arts Office, with financial support from the Arts Council and Creative Ireland. The concerts are presented in partnership with Love Castleconnell. The fourth and final concert took place on 28 November with The Vanbrugh and Friends. It was recorded for a future broadcast on RTE Lyric FM, The Full Score Programme with Liz Nolan.

Arts and Disability Ireland Training

The Arts Office, in partnership with Arts and Disability Ireland, provided training to organisations in the arts sector in Limerick to upskill them in the area of Arts and Disability. This training took place on 30 November in Merchant's Quay. This training was offered as part of our professional development strand of supports.

Stony Thursday Launch

Stony Thursday was launched in the Belltable on 21 November. Stony Thursday is a collection of contemporary poetry published through the Arts Office. This year is the 19th edition of the current format. The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, officially opened the event which was followed by a speech from this year's editor, Christodoulos Makris. The evening continued with poets reading works of theirs included in this year's edition.

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4. Property Management

Dereliction, Vacancy and Reuse Team	
Site Inspections Completed	123
Department Notices of Inquiry issued	13
Derelict Sites Cases opened	14
Statutory Notices served under the Derelict Sites Act 1990	6
Derelict Sites Cases closed through engagement	16
Properties entered into the Derelict Sites Register	0
Properties proposed for Compulsory Acquisition (Section 15 Notices)	0
Vesting Orders Made for Properties Acquired Compulsorily (Section 17 Notices)	0
Croí Cónaithe – Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant Applications Approved	15



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Regeneration, Sports and Recreation Directorate

1. Regeneration and Sports

Regeneration

The draft status update of the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan (LRFIP 2014-2023), prepared by consultants KPMG, has been submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) for consideration. The DHLGH has confirmed that, while detailed consideration of the broader request under the Draft LRFIP Status Update was ongoing, funding will be available in 2024 for the continuation of ongoing projects and for applications under the Economic and Social Intervention Fund.

Economic Regeneration

Outreach to Employment Programme

Employment Group meetings were held in Ballinacurra Weston and St. Mary's Park.

A Junior Careers Fair, in conjunction with Junior Achievement Ireland, was held in St. Mary's National School and Corpus Christi Primary School. Analog Devices, Johnson & Johnson, H&F Electrical, Irish Rail and Takumi Precision Engineering participated in this initiative which involved Fifth and Sixth class pupils, along with their parents, to engage with the employers and to learn all about what each company does. The initiative, which was piloted in these schools, was a great success with significant engagement from the pupils, parents and the employers.

Social Regeneration

Economic and Social Intervention Fund (ESIF) Update

Funding for Economic and Social Intervention Fund led projects was drawn down again, with the assistance of the Regeneration Directorate. Ongoing evaluation and coordination work continued with the ESIF recipients.

Mayoral Visit

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, visited each of the four Regeneration areas on 16 November. He heard from residents, volunteers and workers in the areas on the various activities and new developments. Moyross Community Enterprise Centre, King's Island Community Centre, Southill Hub and Our Lady of Lourdes Community Centre were among the locations visited.

Community Activities

Southside

- The Southill Stronger Together Committee completed its third edition of the Southill Community Newsletter - this is a joint project between Southill Hub and partners in Tait House and Southill Family Resource Centre (FRC).
- Stronger Together Community Grotto - had 116 families visit on the weekend of 25 and 26 November. Staff from the three organisations - Tait House Community Enterprise, Southill Family Resource Centre and Southill Hub ran a successful event on the day.
- Tait House supported Regeneron and Volunteer Ireland in their recent #RegeneronD4DG initiative at Northside Family Resource Centre by supplying paint from our Relove Paint project.

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- Southill's elderly groups enjoyed music and movie days in Colivet Court. On 27 November, music was provided by Peter Campbell, a former resident. The Women's Shed from Hospital, Co. Limerick were guests on the day.
- The Southill Residents' Association continue to meet on a monthly basis to discuss issues in the estate. The group is currently recruiting for new members for the Residents' Association and the Tidy Towns Committee.
- Proposed new signage for the entrance to O'Malley Park and Carew Park under review following consultation with residents.
- Tait House hosted "Fresh Film," a film workshop for teenagers, to give them a better understanding of this industry.
- Tait House continued to work alongside Mid-West Simon foodbank delivering 300 food parcels to families in November.
- November saw Tait Household craft classes for residents. These included wreath making, festive crafts and flower arranging.

Northside

King's Island

Monday Christmas Crafts in King's Island Community Centre

PAUL Partnership hosted a series of Christmas Arts and Crafts workshops to bring people together and to learn something new with a seasonal focus. There were 12 participants during the month of November.

Christmas Crafts with the Parents of St. Mary's National School

Parents of children in the school engaged in Christmas Crafts workshops on Friday mornings during November.

Lego Club

The Lego Club continued to prove popular, each Thursday afternoon, with 12 children from St. Mary's School, and children living in the area, in attendance.

King's Island Community Storytelling Event

07 November saw a huge crowd turn up for the storytelling event held in collaboration with the Hunt Museum.

Willow Project

An Muc Dubh paid a visit to King's Island, inspiring the community to create a willow sculpture of their own.

Limerick Island Community Partners (LICP) Beehives

In collaboration with LICP, a local young artist took time to add some artwork to the beehives at the Widows Alms.

Physical Regeneration

Housing Developments

- Residential Blocks A and C within the Cosgrave Park and Dalgaish Park social housing developments in Moyross, comprising 10 units, were completed and in the process of occupation by tenants.
- Construction on the remaining 47-units at Cosgrave Park and Dalgaish Park, Moyross, continued to progress.
- Construction of the new eight-unit social housing development at Sheep Street continued to make progress.
- Construction of the new 37-unit social housing development at Churchfield (Phase 2), Southill, progressed.

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- The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, visited the new 18-unit social housing development at Cliona Park, Phase 3, Moyross, and met with the new tenants who have taken up occupation.
- Paul Keogh Architects were appointed to lead the new 55-unit infill residential development at Pineview Gardens, Moyross.

Status of Thermal Upgrade Projects

- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 121, Moyross (47 units) - construction works continuing by Icarus Properties Limited.
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 122, St. Mary's Park - construction works continuing towards completion.
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 123, Southill - construction works continuing by Alan Hart.
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 127, Ballinacurra Weston (12 units) - construction works continuing by JoeBren Construction.
- Work on the specifications on the Mop Up-Contracts in Ballinacurra Weston and St Mary's Park completed.
- Work on the specifications on the Mop Up-Contracts in Southill and Moyross continued.

House Refurbishments

Lot 4a Major Refurbishments – Nine Properties

- Approval received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to appoint Dolmen Construction on the initial three major refurbishments.
- Recommendation to appoint a contractor for the remaining six houses is with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for approval.

Lot 4b Major Refurbishments – 11 Properties

- Scoping continued across 11 properties.

Minor Refurbishments

- Contractor appointed to one house.
- 16 units at scoping, tender or construction stage.

Demolitions

Houses 193, 194 and 195 Valley View, O'Malley Park, Southill, were demolished.

Community Facilities

St. Mary's Park MUGA

Tenders invited for Integrated Design Team Services, inclusive of Project Supervisor Design Process (PSDP), for the design and construction of a new Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) and associated public realm in St. Mary's Park.

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Sports Partnership

Limerick Sports Partnership hosted its Sports Ability Day in November. 235 adults and children with a disability sampled sports and activities like cycling, rugby, chair yoga, tennis, climbing, dance, rowing and activator walking.

1,100 participants engaged in the following community-based initiatives:

- Aqua Aerobics
- Swimming
- Cool Movers Kids Club
- Inclusion Club
- Men on the Move
- Discover Fitness for Teenagers
- Active Cities Walks
- Mum on the Move
- Over 55 Functional Fitness
- Activator Walking
- Education Courses for Safeguarding and Sports First Aid

A full list of programmes is available on

<https://limericksports.ie/>

Council Sporting Facilities

- The tender for the refurbishment works of Askeaton Pool and Leisure was published on 14 November.



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Housing Directorate

1. Housing Support Services

Housing Waiting List

Approved Housing Applicants	2,517
Approved Tenant Transfer Applicants	383

Closed Housing Applications

	November	Year to Date
Closed Applications	40	592

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 November	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	7	16
Newcastle West	8	33
Metropolitan District	41	230
Cappamore-Kilmallock	32	65
Total	88	344

Refusals

	No. of Units November	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	1
Newcastle West	0	2
Metropolitan District	3	27
Cappamore-Kilmallock	0	4
Total	3	34

Approved Housing Body Allocations 2023 (year to date)

Total Nominations	Successful Nominations	Nominations Pending	Unsuccessful Nominations
276	137	112	27

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Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

Private Tenancies	707
Capital Assistance Scheme/Rental Accommodation Scheme Tenancies	547
Part V	0
New Private Tenancies	3
New Voluntary Housing Tenancies	9

Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Limerick

2,109 active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	25
No. of Amendments	291
No. of Cessations	19

Rent Collection

Rent Collection Limerick City and County Council					
Opening Balance	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing Balance	% Collection
€5,916,167	€18,105,624	€24,021,791	€17,151,082	€6,870,709	72%

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Home Improvement Schemes

November 2023		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aid Grants	No. Approved	2	0	7	0	9
	MAG Expenditure	€1,900.00	€18,005.00	€35,713.50	€0.00	€55,618.50
	No. Paid	1	4	6	0	11
<hr/>						
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	2	13	14	3	32
	HAG Expenditure	€42,071.44	€36,127.20	€92,872.50	€50,307.20	€221,378.34
	No. Paid	6	6	27	3	42
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Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	8	27	34	10	79
	HOP Expenditure	€16,077.50	€91,143.90	€110,489.97	€30,887.50	€248,598.87
	No. Paid	5	19	36	6	66
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Disabled Person's Grant	DPG Expenditure	€53,572.00	€56,352.75	€39,210.50	€0.00	€149,135.25
	No. Paid	6	6	2	0	14

Total No. Approved	120
Total Monies Paid	€674,730.96
Total No. Paid	133

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Home Improvement Schemes - Year to Date

January - November 2023		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aid Grants	No. Approved	12	9	51	6	78
	MAG Expenditure	€36,010.85	€70,139.03	€163,468.93	€23,455.00	€293,073.81
	No. Paid	10	14	32	6	62
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Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	49	72	162	56	339
	HAG Expenditure	€352,617.19	€389,233.38	€1,129,247.55	€379,669.20	€2,250,767.32
	No. Paid	47	42	158	43	290
<hr/>						
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	98	128	227	75	528
	HOP Expenditure	€372,129.65	€453,770.50	€772,626.66	€270,595.98	€1,869,122.79
	No. Paid	85	96	190	59	430
<hr/>						
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG Expenditure	€55,722.83	€58,687.33	€150,025.28	€62,067.41	€326,502.85
	No. Paid	7	7	10	7	31

YTD Total No. Approved	945
YTD Total Monies Paid	€4,739,466.77
YTD Total No. Paid	813

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Community Sustainment Unit

Tenancy Inductions

No. of Tenancy Inductions	39
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Repossessions

Repossession of Council properties	11
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House Visits

No. of House Visits	211
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Garda Checks

Garda Checks processed	143
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Sugar CRM (Customer Relationship Management) Cases

Active cases at month-end	330
Cases closed during month	41

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

Date: 30 November 2023		
Individuals		
Location	Description	Beds Used
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	22
Oak Lodge	Adults without children accommodated in low threshold emergency accommodation	69
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	24
St. Joseph Street	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	6
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	34
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	11
Total		182

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Families				
Location	Description	Beds Used		
		Adults	Children	Families
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	8	6
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	72	94	57
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	14	14	10
Totals		Adults	Children	Families
		92	116	73

Tenant Purchase	
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. received	2
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. approved	1
Local Authority Home Loans	
Loan Applications: No. received	8
Loan Applications: No. approved	3
Deed of Discharge	
Deed of Discharge Applications: No. Received	22
Consent to Sale	
Consent to Sale Applications: No. Received	8
Cottage Purchase Annuity	
No. of Cottage Purchase Annuity Applications	1
Ground Rent	
No. of Ground Rent applications	4
Title	
Title Deeds Received/Requested	6
Title Rectifications Received	1
Private Rented Inspections	
No. of Inspections	161

Freedom of Information, Data Requests and Ombudsman

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

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2. Housing Welfare and Traveller Accommodation

* Traveller Accommodation

No. of Units offered November	5
Year to Date	32

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

Housing Welfare Visits

No. of Visits November	17
Year to Date	256

3. Local Authority Housing Construction and Maintenance

Local Authority Housing Construction

House Returns November	
Total	11

House Returns November By Municipal District	
Adare-Rathkeale	1
Cappamore-Kilmallock	2
Newcastle West	1
Metropolitan District	7
Total	11

During November, the Local Authority Housing Construction Team was notified of one house returned in Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale, two in the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock, one in the Municipal

District of Newcastle West and seven in the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

Current Working Programme		
	Completed in November	In Progress
Local Authority Construction Team	4	82
Local Authority Maintenance Team	14	102
Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process	0	26
Regeneration Team	2	39
Team to be assigned	N/A	4
Total	20	253

In November, work on four properties were completed by the Local Authority Housing Construction Team, work on 14 properties was completed by the Local Authority Maintenance Team and work on two properties was completed by the Regeneration Team.

There are three teams in Limerick City and County Council assigned to refurbish properties. As of November, the Local Authority Construction Team was in the process of completing works in 82 properties, Local Authority Maintenance was working on 102 properties and the Regeneration Team had 39 properties. Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process - 26 properties. Four properties were in the process of being assigned to a Team.

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Project Updates

- Contractor appointed for refurbishment works at property in Kylefea, Croom.
- Contractor appointed for site investigation works at site on Convent Street, Limerick.
- Contractor appointed for refurbishment works at property on Hyde Road, Limerick.
- Two properties in County Limerick have been refurbished and keys given to allocations.
- Stage 1 approval received for four units on Crawford Street, Bruff.

Finance

- Applications for funding totalling €913,262, issued to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage paid €800,459 in claims made.

Local Authority Housing Maintenance

Local Authority Houses: Maintenance Complaints dealt with during November

Housing Maintenance Cases - November	Requests/Cases Created	Cases Dealt With/Closed	Balance of Open Cases at 30/11/2023
Metropolitan District of Limerick	994	1,024	1,783
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	87	96	307
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	139	105	272
Municipal District of Newcastle West	128	128	756
Total	1,348	1,353	3,118

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Grants Inspections

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	9	0	0	9
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	44	0	18	62
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	59	0	0	59
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	2	2	4	8
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	114	2	22	138

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

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	2	8	13
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	9	0	11	20
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	6	0	0	6
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	18	2	19	39

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	1	0	1	2
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	7	0	1	8
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	7	0	7	14
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	0	0	0	0
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	15	0	9	24

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	0	0	2	2
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	9	0	7	16
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	21	0	12	33
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	0	0	0	0
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	30	0	21	51

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HOUSE INSPECTIONS UNIT

Houses Inspected for Refurbishment Works and Re-Letting – November - Categories	No. of Properties Inspected
Cat 1 – minor repairs needed	0
Cat 2 – moderate repairs needed	4
Cat 3 – substantial repairs needed	1
Cat 4 – major repairs needed	2
TOTAL INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT	7
No. of Properties Awaiting Inspection	4

DEFECTIVE BLOCKWORK SCHEME APPLICATIONS

Applications Registered November	4
RFI Applications (Request Further Information)	0
Applications Referred to Housing Agency	6
Applications – Damage Threshold Met	6

4. Strategy & Non-Local Authority Housing Construction

SOCIAL HOUSING – Delivery for 2023

Buy/Build/Lease as of 30.11.2023 is as follows:

As at 30.11.2023 (01.01.2023 – 30.11.2023)	Complete	In Progress	Overall Complete and In Progress	“Housing for All” 2023 Delivery Target
Build	84	274	358	502
Buy	53	48	101	75
Lease	24	22	46	27
TOTAL	161	344	505	

*Please note 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 November

Scheme	Project Details	District
Social Housing Public Private Partnership Programme	Approval of 67 new homes (mix of one and two bed houses, including universally designed units) at Toppins Field Lands, Limerick, to be included in Bundle 7 of the Social Housing Public Private Partnership (PPP) Programme.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Part V Acquisition	Approval for nine units.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Stage 2 approval for the Construction of seven units at Broadford, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Newcastle West
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Stage 2 approval for the Construction of 10 units at Glin, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Newcastle West
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Stage 4 approval for the Construction of one unit at Dromcollogher, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Newcastle West
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the CAS Turnkey Construction of five units at Cecil Street, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the CAS Turnkey Construction of five units at Lower Mallow Street, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Delegated Sanction approval for the acquisition of one unit at Old Cratloe Road, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the Acquisition of one unit at Pery Street, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the Acquisition of one unit at Ennis Road, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Delegated Sanction approval for the Acquisition of one unit at Upper William Street, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Delegated Sanction approval for the Acquisition of one unit at Dooradoyle, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Social Housing Capital Expenditure Programme - Long Term Leasing	Approval for the Leasing of two units in various locations in Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick

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

Scheme	Project Details	District
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the Buy and Renew Acquisition of five units at Lisnagry, Co. Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the Buy and Renew Acquisition of four units at Janesboro, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the Acquisition of one unit at Pery Street, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Revised submission for six units in various locations in Limerick - Focus Stock Transfer Phase 2.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Revised submission for six units in various locations in Limerick - Focus Stock Transfer Phase 3.	Metropolitan District of Limerick

Affordable Housing - Delivery for 2023-2026

Scheme	District	Type	No. of Units	Status
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. Traffic counts complete. Design Team 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. Capital appraisal underway for Link Road. Site investigations/surveys/Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) being procured. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) underway. Unit design underway. Modern Methods of Construction Pilot Research Project underway.
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.

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Scheme	District	Type	No. of Units	Status
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	Viability Study underway. A new application under Affordable Housing Fund will be required.
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 Phase 1 is complete. Call of contract for shortlisted consultants being prepared. Need for extended archaeological testing confirmed.
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 continuing and site investigations complete. Archaeological test trenching and digs completed. Bat and tree survey complete.
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 appealed to An Bord Pleanála.
Ballygrennan Lands	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Expression of Interest Site with Approved Housing Body	73	Part of a wider strategy to deliver a hospital, commercial units, and a nursing home, in addition to residential units.

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Scheme	District	Type	No. of Units	Status
Mungret Site	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund	181	250 residential units which will be applied for under Section 179A, of which 181 units are earmarked for affordable.
Thomas Street and O' Connell Street, Limerick	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.
Advance Purchase Turnkey – Campaign 1	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase	25	Campaign 1 resulted in five submissions from private developers, of which three have withdrawn from the process. An Affordable Housing Fund application was approved for a proposed scheme of 25 units in Brú na Gruadán, Castletroy, and the online application portal for this scheme has closed. An Affordable Housing Fund application was also approved for a proposed development of 10 units in Abbeyfeale.
	Municipal District of Newcastle West	Affordable Purchase	10	
Advance Purchase Turnkey – Campaign 2	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase	145	Campaign 2 resulted in six submissions from private developers, of which three have withdrawn from the process. An Affordable Housing Fund application was approved for a proposed scheme of 42 units in Woodfield Manor, Newcastle West, and the online application portal for Phase 1 of this scheme (21 units) has opened. An Affordable Housing Fund application has also been approved for a proposed scheme in Croom. The remaining application is being progressed.
	Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	Affordable Purchase	6	
	Municipal District of Newcastle West	Affordable Purchase	42	

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Scheme	District	Type	No. of Units	Status
Advance Purchase Turnkey – Campaign 3	Municipal District of Newcastle West	Affordable Purchase	33	Campaign 3 resulted in two submissions from private developers, one of which is continuing to be progressed.
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/Affordable Purchase	303	In discussions to deliver affordable on large-scale residential sites.

Finance

Claims totalling €6,396,921.46 were sent to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in November.

Claims totalling €4,903,547.50 were paid by the Department of Housing, Local Government and heritage in November.

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5. Municipal District Offices

Metropolitan District of Limerick

Meetings

The November Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick took place on 20 November.

Briefings/Workshops

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

- Road Closures;
- Christmas in Limerick 2023;
- Limerick Urban Regeneration and Development Fund and Project Opera;
- Property Disposals.

Operational Area Briefings

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

Road Related Upgrade/Refurbishment Works

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: Pearse Road Restoration Improvement

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

Description of Project: Hyde Road Restoration Improvement

Location: Prospect;
Cost of project: €190,000;
Contractor: Tallybrooke / Roadstone.

Description of Project: Elm Park Restoration Improvement

Location: Ennis Road;
Cost of project: €93,000;
Contractor: Roadstone.

Description of Project: Ballyclough Avenue Restoration Improvement

Location: Ballyclough;
Cost of project: €245,000;
Contractor: Roadstone.

Description of Project: Clancy Strand Flood Defence Wall Repair

Location: Clancy Strand;
Cost of project: €25,000;
Contractor: Tallybrooke.

Description of Project: Ballyneety to Caherconlish Drainage Scheme

Location: Ballyneety;
Cost of project: €55,000;
Contractor: Limerick City and County Council Direct Labour.

Description of Project: Kilmurry Road Pedestrian Crossing Upgrade

Location: Kilmurry Road, Castletroy;
Cost of project: €25,000;
Contractor: Tallybrooke / Traffic Solutions.

Description of Project: St. Patrick's Road Footpath Refurbishment - Active Travel Scheme

Location: Singland;
Cost of project: €90,000;
Contractor: Tallybrooke.

Description of Project: College Park/Janemount Park Footpath Refurbishment - Active Travel Scheme

Location: Corbally;
Cost of project: €75,000;
Contractor: Maramba.

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Description of Project: Walnut Drive Footpath

Refurbishment - Active Travel Scheme

Location: Caherdavin;

Cost of project: €100,000;

Contractor: Peter Ryan Civil Engineering.

Description of Project: Junction Tightening Mallow

Street / Pery Square - Active Travel Scheme

Location: Prior's Land;

Cost of project: €100,000;

Contractor: Neville Civil Engineering.

Description of Project: Drombanna New footpath - Active Travel Scheme

Location: Prior's Land;

Cost of project: €125,000;

Contractor: Neville Civil Engineering.

Description of Project: Golf Links Road / Kilbane Road Junction Improvement Scheme

Location: Kilbane;

Cost of project: €28,000;

Contractor: Limerick City and County Council Direct Labour.

Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

The November Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale, scheduled for 14 November, was adjourned. The rescheduled Meeting took place on 23 November in Arás Séan Finn, Rathkeale.

A Joint Policing Sub-Committee Meeting of the District took place on 28 November in Arás Séan Finn, Rathkeale.

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.
- 151 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

Schedule of Municipal District Works

Community Involvement Schemes

- Ballymacstradeen, Manister.
- Caherass, Croom.

Local Improvement Schemes

- Glenogra, Fedamore.
- Kilmacow, Kilfinny.
- Cherrygrove, Croom.

Active Travel

- Works completed at Church Street, Rathkeale.

Low-Cost Safety Works completed at Morenane Cross, Banogue.

Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

November Municipal District Meeting

The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock was held in Áras Mainchin Seoighe, Kilmallock, on 23 November.

A Special Meeting of the Municipal District was held on 03 November to pass a vote of sympathy on the passing of former Member of the Castleconnell Area Committee, Joe Meagher, RIP.

Housing and Road Maintenance

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

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Housing Grants

- Nine Private Housing Grants were paid in November, totalling €81,194.70.
- 18 initial inspections, two re-inspections and 19 final inspections were undertaken in relation to Private Housing Grants.

Road Works

General Municipal Allocation Works

- Public Lighting from Hospital to Tennis Club.

Restoration Improvement Works

- L1511 Laught Street / Mill Road Overlay, Kilfinane.
- R505 Kilmoylan.

CLÁR Works

- Kilteely Church Car Park Resurfacing and Marking.

Community Involvement Scheme Works

- L8632 Ballinanama Drainage Works, Kilfinane.
- L1528 Castlequarter Drainage Works, Kilbeheny.

General Maintenance Safety Works

- Installation of Road Studs on R512, R514, R662 and R663.
- Installation of Additional Signage and Tree Surgery Works on R513 Ballylanders.

Climate Change Works

- L1527 Geeragh Road Drainage Improvement Works, Kilbeheny.
- L5070 Dromkeen.

Low-Cost Safety Scheme Works

- R515 Pender's Bend, Kilmallock.
- R513 Pinker's Cross, Ballylanders.
- L1511 Laught Street, Kilfinane.
- R506 / L1511 Rath, Murroe.
- R505 Hickey's Bend, Eyon, Caherconlish.

Storm Babet Repair Works

- R514 and L8664 Rawleystown Drainage Repairs, Lough Gur.
- L1535 Effin Drainage Repairs.
- L1549 Athlacca Drainage Repairs.

Municipal District of Newcastle West

Meetings and Workshops

- **01 November** - Draft Budgetary Plan Workshop.
- **08 November** - Part 8 Briefings for the Limerick Greenway Hub at Ardagh, Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale and West Limerick Tourism Hub at Fullers Folly.
- **30 November** - Briefing on the Draft Newcastle West Local Area Plan.

Housing Grants

- 40 grant applications were approved under the Private Housing Grant Schemes during the month. The total value of approvals was €206,432.87.
- Payments of €91,143.90 were made to 19 applicants who completed works under the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.
- Payments of €36,127.20 were made to six applicants who completed works under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme.
- Payments of €18,005.00 were made to four applicants who completed works under the Mobility Aids Housing Grant.

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Housing Maintenance

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

Transportation and Mobility

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

Motor Tax

During the month, the Motor Tax Section at the Newcastle West Office processed 864 routine transactions generating an income of €170,258.



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Planning, Environment & Place-Making Directorate

1. Forward Planning and Public Realm

Forward Planning

- The Forward Planning Team won an award under the 'Sustainable Communities' category at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2023 for their project Student Planners: Inspiring Future Generations which actively engaged young people in the preparation of the development plan and local area plan processes.
- Following adoption of the Abbeyfeale Local Area Plan by the Elected Members, the Plan came into effect on 15 November.
- The Chief Executive's Report to Elected Members on the submissions received as part of the public consultation on the Material Alterations to the Draft Newcastle West Local Area Plan 2023-2029 was prepared and issued to Members for their consideration.
- Following consideration of the Chief Executive's Report on the submissions received as part of the public consultation on the Draft Patrickswell Local Area Plan 2024-2030, the Proposed Material Alterations, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Determination, Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Determination were completed.
- Following consideration of the Chief Executive's Report on the submissions received as part of the public consultation on the Draft Adare Local Area Plan 2024-2030, the Proposed Material Alterations, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Determination, Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Determination were completed.
- Survey work was completed on the Residential Zoned Land Tax Final Map.
-

Conservation

- Three Historic Structure Fund Projects came to completion in recent weeks with the payments totalling €66,000.
- 24 Built Heritage Investment Scheme Projects were completed with overall payments amounting to €264,323 made to the Protected Structures property owners.
- Other owners of historic properties availed of the Croí Cónaithe Scheme to assist them bring vacant dwellings back into residences for themselves and their families. Two large-scale projects were awarded €140,000, with others receiving up to €50,000 towards the costs of their conservation and restoration works.

Archaeology

- Irish Walled Town Network Grant of €73,000 for the works to the Town Wall in Kilmallock was drawn down from the Heritage Council.
- Irish Walled Town Network Grant of €70,000 for the works to the City Wall at Johnsgate/Grattan Court in Limerick was drawn down from the Heritage Council.
- The Community Monuments Grant under Stream 2 for advance works at Galbally Church (€20,000) was drawn down from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- The Community Monuments Grant under Stream 2 for a Conservation and Management Plan for Ballingarry Tower House by Ballingarry Development Association was drawn down from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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- The Irish Walled Towns Network held its annual conference in Limerick City on 24 and 25 November. Delegates from many of the 32 member towns attended the conference on the theme of 'Early Buildings in our Historic Towns,' which featured two papers on Kilmallock.

2. Development Management and Place-Making

Development Management

A total of 112 new planning applications were received as follows:

Category	Amount
Part 8	4
Housing Developments	13
Domestic Developments	69
Agricultural Developments	6
Commercial Developments/Change of Use	12
Sporting/Community and Educational Developments	1
Other Developments	7

The current applications include proposals for:

- Large-Scale Residential Development (LRD) on an application site area of 2.19 hectares for the construction of 167 new residential units in five new residential buildings ranging in height from three-storeys to five-storeys (Blocks 01, 02, 03, 04 and 05), a crèche, the refurbishment of Ardhu House (Protected Structure) to provide ancillary residential amenity uses, and the refurbishment of the Ardhu Bar licenced premises. The refurbishment of Ardhu House and Ardhu Bar will entail the demolition of modern extensions to each building and the construction of

a new single-storey glazed extension to provide an accessible entrance to the front of Ardhu House and the construction of a new ground floor single-storey glazed addition to the south of the side wing of Ardhu House.

- Block 01 is a five-storey building comprising 46 apartments.
- Block 02 is a part four, part five-storey building comprising a crèche (193 square metres) at ground floor level with an outdoor play area, and 26 apartments.
- Block 03 is a five-storey building comprising 24 apartments.
- Block 04 is a part-four, part five-storey building comprising 44 apartments.
- Block 05 is a part three to part five-storey building comprising 25 apartments.

Vehicular, pedestrian and cyclist access to the development is proposed via the re-located vehicular entrance on Ennis Road, provision of 94 surface car parking spaces allocated to the new residential development and the apartments (61) in the existing apartment block, including five accessible spaces, 10 visitor spaces and 19 EV charging spaces; two single-storey bicycle store buildings and one single-storey bike and bin store building providing bin stores and 313 cycle spaces; five motorcycle parking spaces, new ESB substation and switch, crèche outdoor play area, public open space including children's play area, internal access roads, set-down areas, landscaping, lighting, green roofs, Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and all associated site works. The planning application is accompanied by a Natura Impact Statement at Ardhu House, Ennis Road, Roses Avenue and North Circular Road, Limerick.

- Large-Scale Residential Development (LRD) for a proposed development which will provide as follows: demolition of existing agriculture buildings, construction of 65 housing units comprising a variety

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of forms to include detached, semi-detached and terraced houses, all two storeys in height. The mix of proposed houses include six four-bedroom units and 59 three-bedroom units, 57 apartment units across seven three-storey blocks throughout the development. The apartment units provide a mix of one, two and three bedroom units, comprising 29 one-bedroom units, 26 two-bedroom units, and two three-bedroom units, childcare facility providing 58 childcare places, provision of 114 car parking spaces within the curtilage of the proposed dwelling houses and 89 public car parking spaces and 311 bicycle parking spaces, ESB sub-station, ancillary services and infrastructure works including foul and surface water drainage, landscaped public open space, lighting, internal roads, cycle paths, footpaths. A Natura Impact Statement has been submitted as part of the planning application at Golf Links Road, Newtown, Monaleen, Co. Limerick.

- Construction of 28 residential units and a crèche comprising: 13 houses and 12 apartments, crèche with three apartments at first floor, connection to roads and services proposed under the neighbouring scheme (reg. ref 22/990), landscaping and all associated site development works at Rathkeale Road, Adare, Co. Limerick.
- Construction of 22 residential units, new vehicular entrance, storm and surface water sewers including attenuation system, public lighting, boundary walls, footpaths, open spaces, new entrance to existing dwellinghouse to the northwest together with all other ancillary site works at Moore Street, Turagh, Cappamore, Co. Limerick.
- Construction of 74 residential units, new estate link road with dedicated cycle lane as an extension to the existing access road serving Coolbawn Estate, off and on street car parking and bicycle stands and all associated site works including pumping station and emergency storage; and two attenuation tanks. The existing temporary construction access from Station Road / Railway Road shall continue to be used to facilitate construction of the development. A Natura Impact Statement has been prepared in respect of the

proposed development and accompanies the planning application at Coolbane and Coolreiry, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick.

- Construction of a new Ambulatory Medical Facility. The development will consist of two phases of development including Phase 1: Medical Unit – a single-storey medical unit with a floor area of 3,297 square metres comprising of medical consulting, diagnostic and treatment rooms, and associated ancillary plant rooms including louvred screened plant area at roof level for plant equipment and solar PV panels; a secure service yard; covered bin storage compound; and gas skid enclosure and Phase 2: Medical Unit – a four-storey medical unit with a floor area of 9,132 square metres comprising of medical consulting, diagnostic and treatment rooms, ancillary restaurant/coffee shop, and associated ancillary rooms including louvred screened plant area at roof level for plant equipment and solar PV panels, service yard and covered bin storage compound. Phase I development shall include all associated site infrastructure including construction of a temporary access road from Moyross Avenue to the site, vehicular/pedestrian entrance and access roads from the proposed Moyross Link Road part of the Coonagh/Knockalisheen Distributor Road currently under construction, signage, including building mounted signage, two totem signs, and two directional signs, car and bicycle parking including cycle shelters, landscaping and boundary treatment, foul and surface water drainage works including foul pumping station, water mains, public lighting and all associated site works. A Natura Impact Statement has been prepared in respect of the proposed development and accompanies the planning application at Ballygrennan, Moyross Avenue, Moyross, Limerick.

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Place Making

Limerick Wayfinding and Orientation Signage Project

- Part 8 Planning approved at the Metropolitan District Meeting on 20 November.
- Tenders received from Signage Contractors.

Decluttering Project

- Contractor progressed removal of unnecessary signage.

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF)

58 O'Connell Street and 33 and 34 Thomas Street, Limerick

- Preliminary Business Case submitted to Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- Emergency works required at 58 Thomas Street following partial collapse of gable wall.

Strand 3 - Pedestrian Bridges and Waterfront Infrastructural Works

- Multi-Disciplinary Team, led by AECOM, continued the preparation of a Preliminary Business Case under the Public Spending Code.
- Bollards installed at Honan's Quay to restrict vehicular access.

Arthur's Quay Area Framework Plan

- Architects, Metropolitan Workshop, are leading a multi-disciplinary team preparing the Arthur's Quay Area Framework Plan. Preparation of Options continued.

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3. Environment and Climate Action

Environment Strategy

NOVEMBER - Activity Tracker

Inspection Type	Number of Inspections	Inspection Details
Farm Inspections (Local Catchment Assessment)	5	Arra River Catchment
Farm Re-Inspection	66	Follow-Up to see programmed works completed – Numbers Catchments
Sugar CRM (Customer Relationship Management) Complaints	5	Respond/Follow-Up to Complaints from members of the public
Investigative Assessment Update	1	Environmental Data Exchange Network (EDEN), Update plus Report to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – Inch/Bilboa, Tipperary (samples for Mulkear European Innovation Partnership (EIP) and found very heavy siltation)
Poultry Surveys	26	Phone calls to Poultry Producers – Update Database
Domestic Wastewater Treatment System	-	-
Invasive Species	4	Follow-Up on queries received – Limerick City and County Council's webpage
Planning Files	12	Desktop (eight) and on-the-ground inspection (four)
Forestry	12	Desktop – review applications received from Forest Service
River Monitoring	-	-
Review Farmyard Management Plans and Farm File Reviews	38	Review Farmyard Management Plans and discuss further action to be taken following farm re-inspections
Agricultural Contractors	-	-
Public Meetings	2	Doon (Mulkear EIP)/Maigue Rivers Trust
Cross Reports	9	Reports to Department of Agriculture – Breaches of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Regulations.

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Parks

O'Brien Park Playground

The new playground at O'Brien Park, Clare Street, Limerick, was officially opened to the public on 10 November by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell. Also in attendance were Limerick City North Members who provided funding for the project. The works were completed by Browne Brothers Site Services.

O'Brien Park

The installation of Physical Activity Play Equipment, funded by Limerick Sports Partnership Active Cities Project, commenced. The equipment includes Table Tennis, Teqball tables, Volleyball Nets and a Basketball Court.

Newcastle West Demesne Playground

The upgrade of the walkways surrounding the playground and connecting to the Multi-Use-Games-Area were completed to connect the play facilities together.

Masterplan of Castle Demesne Parklands in Newcastle West

A public information evening was held in the Newcastle West District Offices on the proposed masterplan for the Demesne parklands. The public was invited to provide feedback on the draft proposals for playground, games, sports, dog park and biodiversity areas with the purpose of increasing the amenity value.

Baggot Estate

A masterplan has been prepared for the Baggot Estate, Ballinacurra, and presented to Limerick City West Members for feedback on the plan. The masterplan provides for natural play, walkways, biodiversity, dog park. A Woodland Management Plan has also been prepared for Baggot Estate and has been presented to Limerick City West Members. It provides a framework, including timelines, for managing the woodland.

URBACT 4 - Green Place

The URBACT 4 Green Place project commenced. It is a European project comprising an Action Planning Network of 10 European partners. The objectives of the Green Place project are:

- Urban regeneration of forgotten places.
- Changing urban spaces that have lost their current functionality to be friendly to residents, the environment and the city.

The focus area for the project is on the line of the City Wall, where visible, and proximity of green spaces to the City Wall. A number of meetings have been held with all the partners and a local group is in the process of being set up to discuss issues and challenges for the project.

LAMA (Local Authority Members' Association) Awards

The Parks and Open Spaces Unit submitted five projects for the LAMA Awards as follows:

- **Most Inclusive Awards** – Upgrade of People's Park Playground.
- **Best Green Sustainable Initiative** – Go Green Routes Castletroy.
- **Best Community Health Initiative** – Go Green Routes Castletroy.
- **Best Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiative in a community** – Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme.
- **Best Mental Health Initiative** – Development of Mini Parks and Natural Play Areas (Caherdavin, Raheen, Janesboro, Mayorstone, Kennedy Park and Corbally Baths).

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Cemeteries

Number of Burials in City Cemeteries

Mount St. Lawrence	26
Mount St. Oliver	9
Castlemungret	6
Kilmurry	2

Environment Enforcement and Litter Management

SUGAR CRM (Customer Relationship Management) cases received	288
Inspections undertaken CRM	261
Warnings issued	44
Directions of Authorised Officer issued	5
Statutory Notices issued	36
Prosecutions initiated	3
Fines issued	9
Authorisations issued/reviewed	28

Climate Action

Energy Management Team

The Energy Management Team held its quarterly meeting to review the energy performance across the organisation.

Citizen Innovation Lab

This month in the Citizen Innovation Lab:

- The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) held an event for members of Sustainable Energy Communities in the region to meet and share projects.
- The SMARTLAB Team, including Carrig Conservation, University of Limerick and Limerick City and County Council, held an information event for all SMARTLAB participants. The purpose of the event was to:
 - Answer questions about sensor data and buildings.
 - Help participants with their dashboards.
 - For participants to meet.

Throughout November:

- Limerick's Community Climate Action Officer attended several events, including the Showcase for the Community and Voluntary Sector on Climate Action in Dublin Castle. As part of GeoWeek, he presented at an event in the University of Limerick on the role of Limerick City and County Council and Climate Action. He also continued meeting with a number of community groups regarding their plans around reducing their carbon footprint through some proposed projects.
- On 23 November, the Community Climate Action Officer and the Environmental Awareness Officer held a public event in association with Limerick City Library entitled 'A Sustainable Christmas,' where attendees got some tips and tricks on how to reduce their waste and energy usage over the coming months.

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- The Climate Action Coordinator participated in the Intelligent Cities Challenge in Brussels on 23 and 24 November. The programme aims to support Limerick in developing a local green deal as a partnership model to deliver effective climate action.

Veterinary

No. of dogs processed in the Dog Shelter	19
No. of horses seized	11
No. of samples taken	4

4. CFRAMS (Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study)

Adare Flood Relief Scheme

A Public Consultation Day event was held in The Dunraven Arms in Adare on 28 November at which the emerging technically viable options for the scheme were on display. The feedback on the day was positive.

5. Limerick Twenty Thirty (LTT) DAC

Opera Square

Progress Update

- John Sisk & Son progressed well with the Basement contract in November with 75% of the basement slab beneath One Opera Square poured and lift shafts, drainage tanks and crane bases in-situ.
- Secant piling is 100% complete with capping beam installation at 80% and bulk excavation at 70% complete.
- John Sisk & Son completed a 900m³ concrete pour consisting of 104 concrete trucks, beginning at 5 a.m. on 14 November through until 2 a.m. on 15 November.

- A second tower crane was erected onsite on 23 November.

Project Media Engagement

- Drone footage of progress was captured and edited for future release.
- Design work was completed in November on branding for LTT's Joint Venture with ISIF (Ireland Strategic Investment Fund) for the governance of One Opera Square.

Cleeves Riverside Quarter

Project Update

- The Design Team and Planning Consultant were instructed to begin compiling the planning application following publication of the Masterplan. Work commenced in November on planning permission for all residential elements, historic buildings, and public realm, which is approx. 75% of the site.
- Negotiations with TUS (Technological University of the Shannon) progressed well in November with fortnightly meetings taking place.
- LTT is making available, on a temporary basis to the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY), the vacant former secondary school at Fernbank, North Circular Road, to accommodate Ukrainian families fleeing the war in their homeland.

Project Media Engagement

- The Masterplan, along with a report in response to submissions received during the public engagement process, has been published to the LTT website. A press release then issued on 28 November to inform the public of the finalised Masterplan. [Link to the Press Release](#). This was followed by a short feature on Limerick's Live 95.

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- Team Hope returned to the Flaxmill Building on 06 November for its annual shoebox appeal. Team Hope's dedicated volunteers, alongside the local community, diligently checked and organised gift-filled shoeboxes. A total of 7,587 shoeboxes were loaded for transit on 23 November, this year going to children in East Swahili and Albania.
- The chimney stack at Cleeves Riverside Quarter has been lit up with a festive snowflake illumination once again for Christmas 2023.

Gardens International Communications Update

Project Media Engagement

- Limerick Youth Service held a weeklong exhibition in the retail unit at Gardens International in early November. It was a photography exhibition in celebration of its 50th year.
- LTT entered into a Licence Agreement with LSAD (Limerick School of Art and Design), TUS - Technological University of the Shannon, for the use of the corner retail unit for several artwork exhibitions.
- The Vault at Gardens International was promoted in November for meeting and events bookings. Requests for bookings can be submitted to gardens@limerick2030.ie or 061-517430.

Other Projects

Project Media Engagement

A press release issued by LTT on the lodgement of the planning application for the Ballygrennan Regeneration Project. [Link to the Press Release](#).

Other Activity

LTT provided a presentation at the CIF (Construction Industry Federation) Mid-West Construct Conference on 24 November.



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National and Regional Shared Services Centre Directorate

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

- There were 57,160 active HAP tenancies nationally managed by the HAP SSC at the end of November.
- A weekly average of 163 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2023.
- The November landlord payment run was €54.754 million.
- The weekly tenant charge at the end of November was €3.09 million.
- The Debt Management Unit of the HAP SSC collected a total of €145.23 million in differential rent to end of November.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of November was 99%.
- The Debt Management Unit issued 10,787 HAP debt reminder letters in November.

2. Fire and Emergency

Statistics

	No. of Fire Related Calls	No. of Non-Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of callouts 01.11.2023 - 30.11.2023	88	55	143
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	61%	50%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	30%	28%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	9%	22%	

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	No. Received / Assigned	No. Validated / Acknowledged	No. Invalidated / Refused	No. Granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications November	22	18	2	17	17
Disability Access Cert Applications November	11	10	1	4	4
Licensing Applications November	4	3		1	
Commencement Notice November	27	24	3	0	27
Completion Certificate November	25	20	0	0	20
Planning Referrals November	28	16			16
Sugar CRM Cases November	2	0	0	0	1

Major Emergency Management

- On-Site Coordination Centre Training – Hydra Suite, Clonmel Fire Station, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.
- Media Liaison Officer Training.
- Goulding Soil Nutrition External Emergency Plan Tabletop Exercise held in Askeaton, Co. Limerick.

Fire and Emergency Training Events

- 30 people were certified/re-certified in Swift Water Rescue (five separate two-day courses).
- 26 people completed and were assessed in Emergency Service Driving Standard (ESDS).
- Nine people attended three separate training courses in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, for Effective Decision-Making and Tactical Decision-Making (three separate two-day courses).
- 11 officers attended IT up-skilling training courses on new IT systems in the Fire Service (two separate one-day training courses).
- On-station training continued in all Fire Stations.

Civil Defence attendance at Events

The following activity took place in November:

- Eight patient transfers to and from Integrated Care Programme for Older Persons in St. Camillus' Hospital, Limerick – (8 days).
- Patient transfer to and from Nenagh Hospital, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary - (one day).
- Two patient transfers to and from University Hospital Limerick – (one day).
- Avian Influenza Workshop in Mallow, Co. Cork – (one day).
- Civil Defence Officers' Training Seminar and Trade Show held in Cavan – (three days).
- Attended Limerick Fire Brigade Deceased Members' Mass, Limerick City – (one day).
- Certificate Presentation and Deceased Members' Memorial Night, Civil Defence Headquarters, Dock Road, Limerick – (one day).

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Water Safety

No. of Lifebuoy Replacements	January - October	November	Total 2023
Metropolitan District	9	0	9
Municipal District	16	1	17

No. of Lifebuoy Sensor Activations	Total February - October	November	Total 2023
Metropolitan District	82	8	90
Municipal District	43	4	47

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Support Services Directorate

1. Finance

Limerick City and County Council Budget 2024

Limerick City and County Council's Elected Members voted on 17 November in favour of a balanced annual budget for 2024. The budget, which does not include a commercial rate increase, is being delivered to fund growth and expand Council services.

The draft Annual Budget for 2024, totalling €1.4bn, underscores the commitment to maintaining service levels from the previous year while focusing on critical areas to stimulate economic growth. The total estimated expenditure included in the Revenue Budget for 2024 amounts to €943million, an increase of €37million on the adopted figure for 2023. The majority of the budget, €694 million (74%) is for HAP Shared Services, which Limerick runs on behalf of the 31 local authorities, with the remaining €249 million allocated to day-to-day services for the citizens of Limerick.

The total estimated expenditure from the Capital Budget for 2024 amounts to €460million, with key areas to include housing, roads, flood relief and economic development.

The amount allocated to day-to-day services reflects an increase of €18million to maintain services at current levels while also enhancing resources in key priority areas. These key priority areas will bring focus on local service improvement with the aim to stimulate local economic boosts.

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Commercial Rates and Loans

Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2023	
As at 30 November 2023	
Opening Balance - 01 Jan €	5,888,292
Accruals €	64,092,283 **
Vacant Property Adjustment €	842,203
Writes offs/ Waivers €	2,278,286
Total for Collection €	66,860,086
Amount Collected €	59,533,896
Arrears €	7,326,190
Specific Doubtful Arrears €	827,273
% Collected	90%

Debtors Loans	
As at 30 November 2023	
Opening Balance - 01 Jan €	300,639
Accruals €	1,582,427 ^
Writes offs €	-
To Collect €	1,883,066
Receipts €	1,751,798
Arrears €	131,268
% Collected	93%

^ Accruals not updated for loans for November 2023

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

Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No. of days in overdraft 0

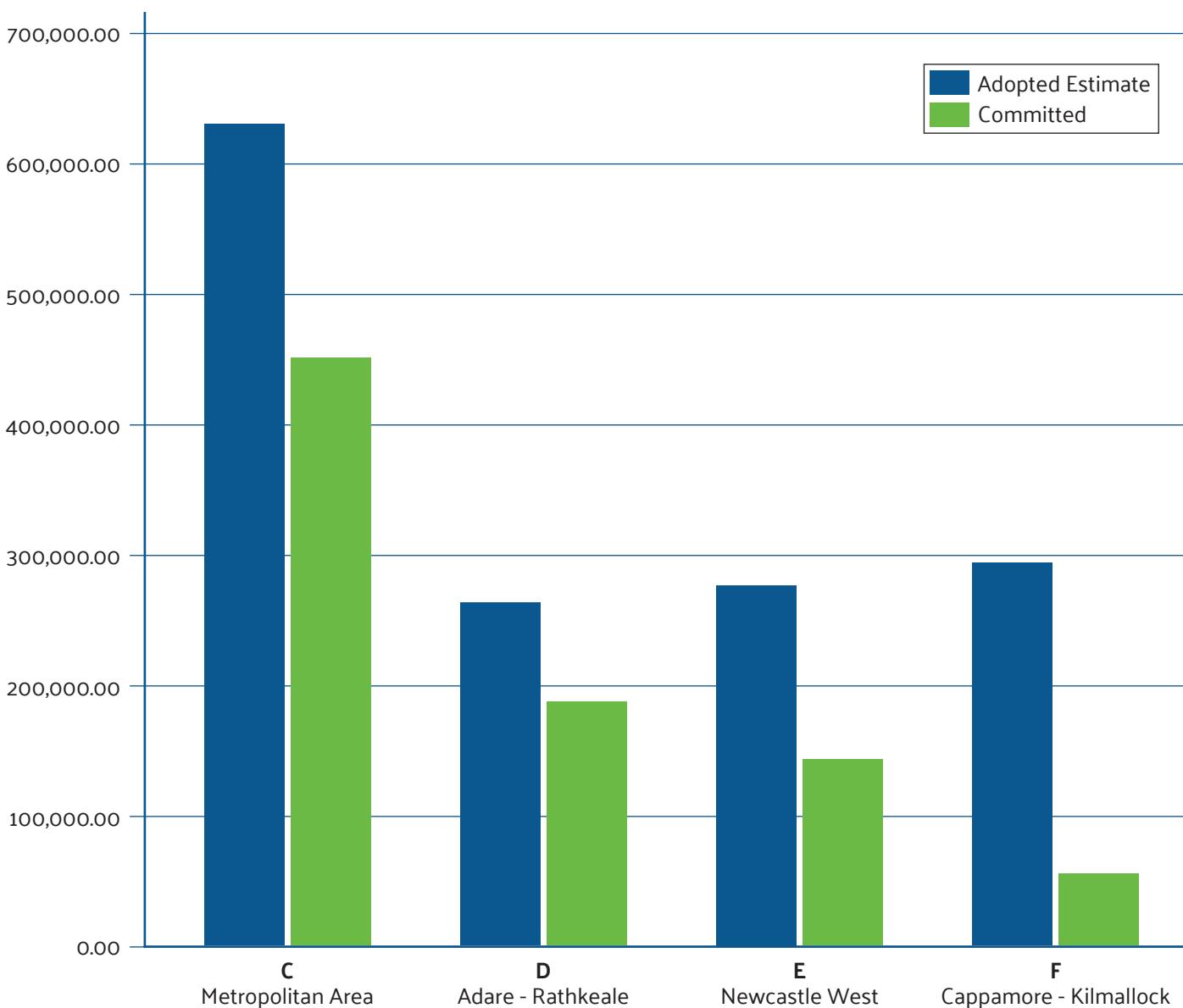
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General Municipal Allocation 2023 Adopted Estimate €1.463 Million

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



Municip (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate (€)	Value Committed (€)
C Metropolitan Area	628,000.00	447,006
D Adare - Rathkeale	269,500.00	194,302
E Newcastle West	270,500.00	145,795
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	295,000.00	53,523

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2. Business Improvement

Excellence in Local Government Awards

Business Improvement co-ordinated the submission of applications for Limerick City and County Council to compete in the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2023. Limerick City and County Council was named Local Authority of the Year 2023. This overall award recognised the Council's work in promoting Limerick as a positive, inclusive and sustainable place to live, work, visit and invest.

Two Limerick City and County Council projects also won awards: Student Planners: Inspiring Future Generations and Limerick on Foot. Eight more projects were shortlisted.

- A total of 919 active users are now live on the Employee App.
- Services on Service Catalogue = 700.
- There are 492 capital projects now managed through Cora, our cloud-based project management system.
- Contact list was finalised and sent to all staff.
- Design Thinking Workshop held by the Local Government Management Agency was attended by Business Improvement.
- Business Improvement worked with Human Resources to launch its Blended Working Employee Survey on MyPoint.
- Business Improvement assisted Corporate Services to roll out its Canteen Services Survey on MyPoint.
- Staff Portal updates were completed.

3. Corporate, Governance and Customer Services

Mayoral Receptions were held for the following:

- Limerick Choral Union, in recognition of their 60th anniversary and their contribution to the cultural life of Limerick since 1964.
- Limerick Gaelic Masters Association, in recognition of their achievement in winning the All-Ireland Spirit Cup 2023.
- Castleconnell Ahane Herbertstown CCÉ, in recognition of their outstanding success at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2023, representing Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Castleconnell Ahane Herbertstown, Limerick and Munster.

The Mayor hosted the following in Corporate Headquarters:

- Courtesy Visit of the Ambassador of India.
- Courtesy Visit of the Ambassador of Spain.
- Courtesy Visit of the Ambassador of the Netherlands.

The Office of the Mayor coordinated and arranged for the Mayor to attend the following functions/ events during the month:

- Carelon Global Solutions Ireland, 2nd Anniversary in Business Celebration at Troy Studios, National Technology Park, Limerick.
- Celebration of 50 years of the Crescent Shopping Centre.
- University of Limerick Alumni Awards on three UL Graduates and induct three UL Alumni into the UL Sports Hall of Fame.

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- Royal British Legion, ROI, Remembrance Ceremonies, Laying of Poppy Crosses, Commemoration Service and Wreath Laying Ceremony for the Limerick Fallen in World War 1 at King's Island Cemetery, St. Mary's Cathedral and Limerick War Memorial, Pery Square, Limerick.
- Book launch, Keeping the Dream Alive 1973 The Story of Limerick's Historic All Ireland Success 50 years on.
- Press Launch for Limerick Panto Society's production 'Snow White.'
- Unveiling of plaque for the Algerian Oak Tree at the University of Limerick.
- Charity Coffee Morning for the Irish Heart Foundation.
- Presentation of the Limerick Netwatch Family Carer of the Year 2023 to Aisling Sexton.
- Limerick Camera Club, publication of 'Framed Through Time - A Celebration of Limerick Camera Club 1943-2023' at O'Mahony's Bookshop, 120, O'Connell Street, Limerick.
- Upgrade of O'Brien's Park Playground in Clare Street, Dublin Road, Limerick.
- Launch of the Shannon Airport Group Economic Impact Study conducted by Oxford Economics at Shannon Airport Viewing Gallery, Shannon Airport, Co. Clare.
- National Learning Network, Awards Ceremony at Thomond Park, Limerick
- Opening of 'Laced Inspirations' an exhibition of collagraphy prints by Gavin Hogg, at Limerick Museum, Old Franciscan Friary, Henry Street, Limerick.
- IPB Pride of Place Community Awards 2023 in Armagh city.
- Villiers School, Annual Prize Day Ceremony at Villiers School, North Circular Road, Limerick.
- Limerick Twenty Thirty DAC, afternoon at the Vault to celebrate and meet the Limerick community on the proposed development by UPMC in Limerick at The Vault, Gardens International, Henry Street, Limerick.
- Visited the new development in Cliona Park, Moyross, and presented tenants with the keys to their new homes.
- Limerick Chamber President's Dinner and Regional Business Awards.
- Annual Mass for the deceased members of the Fire Brigade and the Munster Regional Communications Centre at St. John's Cathedral, Limerick.
- Munster v Stormers at Thomond Park, Limerick.
- UL GAA Fundraising Breakfast.
- Launch Event for the GAA World Wallball Championships 2024 at Plassey House, University of Limerick.
- Book Launch, Stony Thursday Poetry Book at the Belltable, O'Connell Street, Limerick.
- Griffith College Limerick, Graduation Ceremony at Thomond Park, Limerick.
- Visit to Raheen Active Retired Group at the Millennium Centre, Raheen, Limerick.
- Limerick Migrant Integration Forum, Inauguration Meeting in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle, Limerick.
- Vicky Phelan Campaign and Portrait Tour at the Analog Devices Building, University of Limerick.
- Thanksgiving Lunch for international students studying at Mary Immaculate College, in Mary Immaculate College, South Circular Road, Limerick.

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- Live Concert, hosted by Limerick Opera Festival. An Evening of Opera and Contemporary Music featuring Irish and Ukrainian performers at Life Centre, Henry Street, Limerick.
- Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2023 in Dublin.
- Construction Industry Federation (CIF) Mid-West Construction Summit.
- The Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN) Annual Conference.
- Turning on of the Christmas Lights at the Crescent Shopping Centre, Dooradoyle, Limerick.
- Limerick Civil Defence, Certificate and Long Service Medals Award Ceremony at Limerick City and County Council Civil Defence Headquarters, Docklands Business Park, Dock Road, Limerick.
- Greyhound Racing Ireland, final of the Will-We-Go.com Irish St. Leger at Limerick Greyhound Stadium, Greenpark, Dock Road, Limerick.
- Celebrate Fairtrade City's 18th Birthday and presentation of prizes for the schools' Fairtrade Christmas Card competition in Limerick City and County Council Headquarters, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Mary Immaculate College Awards Ceremony 2023 in the Lime Tree Theatre, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick.
- Lunchtime Gathering, hosted by Helium Arts, drop-in reception to welcome Limerick donors and friends to celebrate the Helium Arts Limerick Youth Showcase (artworks by teenagers aged 13-15, participants in the 2023 programme) at Limerick City Gallery of Art, Carnegie Building, Pery Square, Limerick.
- Limerick Comhairle na nÓg, opening of the Annual Limerick Youth Conference in Limerick City and County Council Headquarters, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.

- Official handover of The Maude Kearney Collection of Limerick Lace to Limerick Museum and the opening of The Art of the Stitch: The Enduring Legacy of Maude Kearney, An exhibition of lace from the Maude Kearney Collection at Limerick Museum, Old Franciscan Friary, Henry Street, Limerick

Procurement Department

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

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

New Procurement References set up	36
Procurement References extended as per signed contract/arrangement	18

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 applied for November:

Month	Approved	Rejected	Total Requisitions Actioned
November	1,769	276	2,045

- Approved requisitions accounted for 86% of the total requisitions actioned for this given month.
- Rejected requisitions accounted for 14% of the total requisitions actioned for this given month.

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

Rejection Reason	November
Memo – Requisition not raised in advance	59
Procurement Reference omitted/incorrect	51
Quotes – omitted/incorrect copy provided	37
Approved Officer's Order – omitted/incorrect copy provided	33
Award Notice – omitted/incorrect copy provided	27

Register of Electors

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

- Additions to the Electoral Register – 338.
- Deletions from the Electoral Register – 62.
- Modifications to the Electoral Register – 399.
- 1,550 requests were received through the updated checktheegister.ie website for updating details of electors.

Health and Safety Training

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

Course Name	Numbers Trained
Safe Pass Training	23
Sharps and Biohazard Training	53
Driver CPC Module 4 (Certificate of Professional Competency)	33
Driver CPC Module 3 (Certificate of Professional Competency)	1
First Aid Response Training	6
First Aid Response Recertification Training	12
Abrasive Wheel Training	17
Banksman Training	10
Manual Handling	32
Fire Warden Training	22
MEWP (Mobile Elevated Work Platform) Training	8
Total Staff Trained	217

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Schedule of Meetings for November

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Full Council		
Special Meeting of Limerick City and County Council to discuss the Average Speed Camera Safety System on Regional and National Roads.	02/11/2023	Dooradoyle and Online
Special Meeting of Limerick City and County Council to discuss boil water notices.	02/11/2023	Dooradoyle and Online
Special Meeting of Limerick City and County Council to pass a Vote of Sympathy on the passing of John O'Brien, RIP, father of Councillor Emmett O'Brien.	17/11/2023	Dooradoyle and Online
Statutory Budget 2024 Meeting of Limerick City and County Council.	17/11/2023	Dooradoyle and Online
Bi-Monthly Meeting of Limerick City and County Council.	27/11/2023	Dooradoyle and Online
Operational Briefings		
Limerick City East	07/11/2023	Merchant's Quay and Online
Limerick City North	07/11/2023	Merchant's Quay and Online
Limerick City West	08/11/2023	Merchant's Quay and Online
Municipal District of		
Newcastle West		
Monthly Meeting	01/11/2023	Newcastle West
Cappamore-Kilmallock		
Special Meeting	03/11/2023	Pallasgreen Community Centre
Monthly Meeting	23/11/2023	Kilmallock
Adare-Rathkeale		
Monthly Meeting	14/11/2023	Rathkeale
Adjourned Monthly Meeting	23/11/2023	Rathkeale
Joint Policing Sub-Committee Meeting	28/11/2023	Rathkeale

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Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Metropolitan District of Limerick Monthly Meeting	20/11/2023	Dooradoyle and Online
Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Meeting	07/11/2023	Dooradoyle and Online
Corporate Policy Group Meeting Corporate Policy Group Meeting	13/11/2023 20/11/2023	Dooradoyle and Online Online
Party Leaders' Meeting	24/11/2023	Online
Protocol Committee Meeting	24/11/2023	Online
Meeting of Limerick Women's Caucus	29/11/2023	Online

Access to Information

	November	2023 (January to November)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	18	255
Freedom of Information Internal Appeals	1	17
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	6
Total Ombudsman Requests	6	55
Total Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) Requests	2	35
Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) Internal Appeals	2	2
OCEI (Office of the Commissioner for Environmental Information) Appeals	0	1

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Customer Services

November saw Customer Services assist the Mayor's Office with the administration of hampers for those living in the city environs. Customer Services fielded over 200 phone calls for the department, logging the details of 195 residents who will receive hampers this year.

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

The following figures highlight the activity within the Contact Centre in November:

- Customer Services Call Centre answered 12,507 calls. This represents an average of 568 per day, with the number of calls reaching as high as 736. A total of 67% of calls were handled at first point of contact.
- A total of 4,149 emails were processed through the Customer Services email platform.
- 3,493 cases were created on Sugar CRM (Customer Relationship Management), with 897 of these logged on behalf of Public Representatives. 3,557 cases were closed, with 890 of these being cases logged by Public Representatives.
- Of the 3,493 cases created, 73% were logged by the Customer Services Team.
- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued, with a total of 295 cases being logged. Of these, 282 were submitted by Public Representatives.
- Customer Services continued to support the Housing Maintenance Department in creating service requests and, throughout November, 96% of Housing Maintenance cases for the Limerick Metropolitan District were logged by Customer Services staff in the Dooradoyle and Merchant's Quay offices.

- A total of 125 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 102 were applied for and 92 issued.
- Customer Services staff welcomed a total of 2,502 customers at the Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle offices.

4. Marketing & Communications

Marketing

Christmas in Limerick

- Launched a five-week, multi-media marketing campaign for 'Christmas in Limerick 2023,' across social, digital, radio and print media channels.
- Developed a dedicated online campaign hub in Limerick.ie/Christmas, the official online guide to Christmas in Limerick, promoting a full seasonal event and activity schedule, as well as special offer listings from our local hotel stakeholders.
- The campaign includes a five-week paid and organic social media schedule, including live content capture, social media influencer engagement to increase reach, social media competitions to increase engagement and the creation of dedicated Christmas in Limerick content and graphics creation.
- Produced a Christmas in Limerick event guide, in digital and print format, and distribution of 10,000 print guides began to venues and locations across Limerick city and county.
- Issued weekly Christmas in Limerick e-newsletter content to all Limerick.ie newsletter subscribers.

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- Adverts scheduled in local press, including the Limerick Leader and Limerick Post and nationally via the Irish Examiner. The campaign includes digital display advertising, sponsored content creation and digital listings management across popular national events guides and sites including entertainment.ie, familyfun.ie etc.
- Radio advertisements were produced and scheduled at regular intervals across local station, Live 95, and regional station, Spin Southwest.
- Videography and photography services were engaged so as to capture the atmosphere and vibrancy of the Christmas in Limerick offering and to ensure all communications reflect this for both the 2023 campaign and future campaigns.

Other Marketing Activities

- Attended the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2023 where the Marketing and Communications Department won an award in the Health and Wellbeing category for the Limerick on Foot campaign. The social, digital and print campaign encouraged Limerick people and visitors to get outdoors and explore. Marketing and Communications were also nominated in the Communications category for the Limerick Student City campaign.
- Produced a dynamic, new tourism film for Limerick, highlighting the vibrancy and rich culture, warm hospitality, top-tier experiences and lively nightlife on offer in the city and county. The film's narrative thread hangs on Limerick's different kind of energy, leaving every visitor revitalised and refreshed.
- Work was ongoing on the 'A Different Kind of Energy' positioning, which will be used to refocus our brand strategy, re-energise our message and refresh our communications.
- Increased still photography asset bank with a dedicated evening economy, city-centre photoshoot; incorporating imagery from restaurants, bars and musical events in the city.

- Continued asset development for the 'Limerick Walk it Run it Love it' campaign, in preparation for campaign launch.
- Work ongoing on the 'International Student Audience: There's no Place like Limerick' video asset, in collaboration with the University of Limerick, Mary Immaculate College and TUS - Technological University of the Shannon, partners.
- Commenced the creation of an updated visual identity for Riverfest Limerick.
- Created and issued four Limerick.ie e-newsletters

Social Media:

- Management of Marketing and Communications' 14 social media channels, including Limerick.ie and Limerick City and County Council accounts, to engage with citizens and promote Limerick to locals, visitors, students, and the business community.
- Followers across our five main social media platforms is now as follows:
 - Limerick.ie Facebook: 34,567
 - Limerick.ie Twitter: 21,528
 - Limerick.ie Instagram: 29,067
 - Limerick.ie TikTok: 946
 - Limerick City and County Council Twitter: 18,333
 - Limerick City and County Council LinkedIn: 11,452

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnígh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Limerick.ie

In November, there were 162,498* unique site visits to Limerick.ie, a 1% increase on the same period in 2022.
(*Fathom Analytics)

The most popular pages on Limerick.ie in November 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/christmas
4. www.limerick.ie/council
5. <https://www.limerick.ie/discover/whats-on/browse>

Content Report: 82 articles and 155 events were added to Limerick.ie in November.

Communications

- Issued 29 news releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and researched and wrote 26 speeches for the Office of the Mayor.
- Produced and distributed the monthly Council Connect staff e-newsletter.
- Responded to media queries from local, national and international outlets.

5. National Mobilisation and Communication System / Munster Regional Communications Centre (NMACS/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 November
No. of callouts 01.11.2023 – 30.11.2023	914	499	101.00	1,413

