

# Chief Executive's Report

December 2023

Communications provider Verizon announces Global Centre of Excellence at Bishop's Quay

Litter Management Plan aims for cleaner, more attractive communities for all

Active Travel progress multiple projects across Limerick

BoxUp System unlocks potential of new Clare Street Park recreational space

"Visit Limerick: A Different Kind of Energy" promotional video has global reach

Christmas in Limerick festivities take place across the county

# Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick City**  
& County Council

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## Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism Directorate

### 1. Trade and Investment

#### Jobs and Investment

Verizon, one of the world's leading communications providers, announced in December plans to open a global centre of excellence at 1 Bishop's Quay in the heart of the city. The centre of excellence will bring together key functions in a creative, collaborative environment that leverages global talent and maximises Verizon's shared services model to best deliver for their businesses globally.

WP Engine, the Austin Headquartered website hosting platform with offices in Limerick, announced plans to expand further across Europe by creating 20 new roles in its Limerick office. This would bring the numbers employed in the Limerick office to over 200.

Renewable energy firm, Green Rebel, which provides a full range of survey and data services to the offshore renewable energy industry, announced plans to open a new office in Ballysimon, Limerick. The roles on offer include those for oceanographers, geophysicists, data scientists, mechanical engineers, electrical engineers, survey vessel crew, technicians and project leads.

#### International Engagement

The Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Dan McSweeney, was invited by Austin Sister Cities International to represent Limerick at the annual "Passport to the World" festival held in Austin, Texas. The event took place on 09 December and the Deputy Mayor was accompanied on the trip by a member of the Trade and Investment Department. This family-friendly event, which celebrates cultural diversity and global understanding between Austin and its international partners, was the first programme for the Austin-Limerick Friendship City initiative. While in Austin, the Deputy Mayor met with City of Austin Mayor, Kirk Watson, Council Members representing Austin Districts, as well as dignitaries representing Sister City relationships from

Europe, Asia and Latin America. The committee for the Austin-Limerick Friendship City initiative participated, providing visibility for the initiative and encouraging membership and attendance at events planned for the coming year.

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

#### Funding Approved

In December, one business was approved for Lean for Business. Three businesses were approved a Green for Micro Grant. Three businesses were approved a Trading Online Voucher. One Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters Grant was approved.

#### Workshops and Webinars held

- Business Planning Workshops.
- Trading Online Voucher Webinar.
- Lean for Business Programme.
- Negotiation Skills.
- Sustainability in Business.

There were 48 participants on the Local Enterprise Office Business Training Workshops and nine Business Owners were approved for the Local Enterprise Office Mentoring Programme.

47 Teams of Second Level School Students from Limerick City and County took part in a Market Day at the Milk Market on 08 December as part of the Local Enterprise Office Student Enterprise Programme 2023/2024.

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## 3. Tourism

### Festivals and Events

#### Seasonal Street Shows

The month of December was filled with free family fun on the streets of Limerick. Each weekend, performances took place from various entertainers such as Steve Stumbles: Comedy Magic Show, Monsieur Gusto International Escapologist and Aaron the Balloon Man. There was also a kids silent disco, as well as shows from local artists.

#### Christmas Fashion Show

The Festive Fashion show took place 09 December on Thomas Street where the public was treated to the latest trends from Limerick's top Fashion Houses and Designers. In addition, there was advice and there were spot prizes. The Event was organised by the Holman Lee Agency and Celia Holman Lee commented "We're thrilled to be working with Limerick City and County Council and Limerick's retailers to showcase such a wide range of gift ideas for Christmas and provide inspiration for friends and family this festive season." (Quote: <https://www.limerickleader.ie/news/home/985110/in-pictures-models-show-off-christmas-fashion-on-the-streets-of-limerick.html>)

#### Celtic Tenors

The Celtic Tenors performed in St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale on 15 December. The trio played music from their various albums and were also joined by the choir of Coláiste na Trócaire and other performers for festive music. This was a huge event for the area and was the only festive performance from the Celtic Tenors.

#### Toots the Train

Toots the Train was a popular Christmas in Limerick attraction offering trips around Limerick City, stopping at Limerick's festive sights and taking in the city's cheerful lights. The train was in operation throughout the month of December.

#### Boherbuoy Band Concert

The concert took place on 17 December in Limerick's Milk Market. The well respected Band, and one of Ireland's oldest Brass and Reed Ensembles, played some of the Christmas classics.

#### Opera on the Lane

This event was held on the first three Saturdays of December and was performed by the Limerick Opera Festival. The free event brought people out to enjoy various Operatic performances. The event took place in conjunction with Mother Mac's on High Street, Limerick.

#### ROGU Fire Show

Ireland's leading Fire Presentation Company performed on 03 December at Merchant's Quay. ROGU presented a distinctive Christmas-themed show with a fantastic combination of music, fire, sparks with an epic finale.

#### Hula Hoop Workshops

University of Limerick City Centre Campus hosted Hula Hoop workshops on 02 December. Two Workshops for age groups of between 5 to 10 years of age and 10 to 16 years of age took place. Participants were taught numerous tricks and twirls. This was followed up by a light-filled multi-hoop performance.

#### Festive Workshops - FAB Lab

The fully functional Digital Fabrication Laboratory held classes for children between the ages of 8 and 12 on 09 December. The hands-on workshop allowed the participants to build their very own Christmas decorations, putting a festive spin on their usual work.

#### Christmas at the Milk Market

Various events took place at the Milk Market, including the traditional Christmas and Seasonal Food Market as well as the Christmas Vinyl Market, Christmas Antique and Craft Fair and an Outdoor Café.

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## Christmas Night Market

A Christmas Night Market was held on 16 December between 2pm and 10pm on Nicholas Street. People came to shop local for numerous gifts, feast on fantastic food and enjoy live music at Limerick's Medieval Quarter.

## International Christmas

Carried out in conjunction with Creative Ireland, several festive events were organised by Limerick's International Communities and Creative Organisations.

## Limerick Greenway

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

- Posts highlighting the Limerick Greenway "Cycle of Life" Feature on the brand new Examiner Escapes section of the Irish Examiner.
- Promotion of Limerick Greenway as the ideal location to get out there and keep active with the family this winter, as well as highlighting the three market towns and five visitor hubs along the way.
- Extract from the Limerick Leader which boasts Limerick Greenway as a place full of nature and biodiversity, with numerous different species of flora and fauna to find.
- A Happy Christmas message to all from Limerick Greenway.
- Promotion of Limerick Greenway as the place to shake off the post Christmas Day blues on St. Stephen's Day.
- Promotion of Limerick Greenway's extension into Kerry, as part of Kingdom of Kerry Greenways, encouraging the public to travel between both counties along this route.
- Promotion of Limerick Greenway website encouraging the public to plan their New Year's Eve walk, cycle or run.

## Social Media Statistics

01/12/2023 - 31/12/2023

	Facebook	Instagram
Reach	39,937	5,495
New Page Likes	8	0
New Page Followers	11	51

## Google Ads:

01/12/2023 - 31/12/2023

Impressions	47,500
Ad Clicks	1,190
Cost Per Click	€0.16

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## 4. Discover Limerick DAC

### King John's Castle

- Christmas-themed lighting was installed to light up the Castle walls and continued to attract positive feedback in the build-up to Christmas 2023.
- The 'Christmas in Limerick Aerial Extravaganza' Show took place on 16 December (two shows – one at 5 pm and one at 7:30 pm). Sponsored by Limerick City and County Council, and hosted by King John's Castle, in conjunction with Fidget Feet and Dolans, it was well received by the public and made the front page of the Limerick Post newspaper dated 21 December.
- The 'Christmas Giving Tree' initiative, launched in aid of the Children's Ark Unit, University Hospital Limerick, was well supported by the public. The General Manager, King John's Castle, presented and donated toys to University Hospital Limerick staff members on 20 December.
- Three more concert announcements were made in December - Queen Tribute Band, The Coronas and The Stunning.

### Lough Gur

- 'Lough Gur Santa Experience,' ran over four weekends from to 17 December; it was hugely popular with 600 booking slots selling out in just two hours.

### Events

A member of Discover Limerick DAC attended the SITE (Society of Incentive Travel Executives) Ireland event in Dublin on 04 December. The topic was "Putting the S for Sustainability into SITE."

## 5. Regional Enterprise Plan

### Mid-West Regional Enterprise Plan

The Smart Regions Enterprise Innovation Scheme remained open for applications. More details on the scheme can be found here: <https://www.enterprise-ireland.com/en/funding-supports/Smart-Region-Enterprise-Innovation-Scheme/>

The Scheme is being delivered by Enterprise Ireland and has a total value of €145.3 million with the overall objective to drive job creation/retention and enterprise development in each region throughout Ireland. Call 1 has been opened for an extended period.

### Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce Update

On 21 December, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment published its first update on the actions contained in the Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce Report. This first implementation update details progress made on implementing the Taskforce's recommendations since the report's launch.

The independent Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce was established in response to a Programme for Government commitment to support the region in devising an economic development plan based on the Shannon Estuary's comparative strategic advantages. The final report of the independent Taskforce includes an action plan with recommendations relating to offshore wind energy, onshore renewable energy, security of energy supply and cost, transport, logistics and connectivity, and tourism.

The Taskforce proposed that the Department of Enterprise, Trade, and Employment coordinate the Government's response to the report and issue implementation updates bi-annually. This report and annex of actions is the first such six-monthly update. A link to the update can be found here: <https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/publications/publication-files/shannon-estuary-economic-taskforce-report-implementation-update.pdf>

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## Transportation and Mobility Directorate

### 1. Travel and Transport Strategy

A meeting of the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee was held in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle, and online, on 12 December. Presentations were given on the following:

- Road Safety Plan.
- Traffic Calming Policy.
- Control of Car Club/Car Share Bye-Laws.

### 2. Active Travel

**Hyde Road, Limerick:** Project officially launched on 01 December at Our Lady of Lourdes Community Centre.

**Wickham Street to Clare Street, Limerick:** Public Information Session held on 19 December.

**Father Russell Road, Raheen, Limerick:** Installation of drainage and services continuing; radar monitor counters installed at Abbey Court Estate.

**St. Paul's to Ballykeefe, Limerick:** Development of Chief Executive's Report for Part 8 application ongoing.

**South Circular Road, Limerick:** Detailed design continuing to progress.

**TUS, Technological University of the Shannon, Moylish, to Limerick City Centre:** Submissions on Part 8 received and being responded to.

**Patrickswell Village Renewal Scheme:** Cleaning and sealing completed.

**Plassey Park Road, Castletroy, Limerick:** Works continuing to progress on site; existing footpath removed; excavation works continuing.

**Abbeyfeale Greenway Connection:** Submissions through non-statutory consultation process continuing to be assessed.

**Rosmór, Old Cork Road, Limerick:** Block laying for structural wall at Mount St. Oliver cemetery commenced; installation of bus stop completed and new footpath poured along Kilmallock Road.

**Childers Road (Greenpark to Roxboro Road Roundabout), Limerick:** Tarmac excavated and prepared for two-way cycle track; new traffic and pedestrian signals swapped for Toucan crossing; five new lampposts erected.



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## Rural, Community and Culture Development Directorate

### 1. Community Development

#### Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

At the December LCDC Meeting held on 05 December, the Local Action Group (LAG) approved funding of €193,677.36 under the LEADER Programme 2014-2022, broken down as follows:

- €136,575.03 - under the LEADER Food Initiative 2023.
- € 25,184.84 - under the European Union Recovery Instrument (EURI) Fund
- € 31,917.49 - from the LEADER\Transitional LEADER Programme.

The deadline for approving LEADER Funding under the LEADER Programme 2014-2022 and European Union Recovery Instrument (EURI) Fund expired on 31 December.

#### Rural Funding Streams

On 01 December, the Department of Rural and Community Development was allocated grants of up to €50,000 for a range of projects including upgrades to spectator stands, astro-turfs, handball alleys, floodlights, clubhouses and dressing rooms in the CLÁR areas throughout the country. Seven Limerick clubs received a total of €263,426: Athea Utd., Ballylanders AFC, Mountcollins AFC, Galtee Gaels GAA Club, Galbally GAA Club, Cappamore GAA Club and Blackrock GAA Club. These projects include improving spectator areas, refurbishing clubhouses and installing outdoor gym equipment.

#### SICAP

The current Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) ended in 2023. In the second half of the year, a process of tendering for the new SICAP Programme, funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the EU, for the period 2024-2028 was completed under the oversight of the Limerick

Community Development Committee (LCDC). The value of the Limerick SICAP 2024-2028 Framework Contract for the five-year period is €19.2 million. In December, the SICAP contracts were awarded to West Limerick Resources CLG for West Limerick rural area, to Ballyhoura Development CLG for East Limerick rural area and to the PAUL Partnership Limerick CLG for Limerick Urban area.

#### Health and Wellbeing

Sláintecare Healthy Communities and Healthy Ireland provided funding for key upgrades to the Active Cities led Clare Street Park project. The upgrades included a full-size basketball court, an outdoor volleyball area, and table tennis tables. Additionally, the Park now features BoxUp equipment lockers, allowing free access to sports equipment. This initiative aims to promote inclusivity and encourage community members to stay active. These developments align with the objectives of Sláintecare Healthy Communities and Healthy Ireland, contributing to the overall wellbeing of our communities.

#### Public Participation Network (PPN) Limerick

- Membership of PPN Limerick continued to grow and now stands at 200 member groups. The membership registration form is on the PPN Limerick [website](#) and eligible groups in Limerick can register at any time.
- PPN Limerick was delighted to launch its five-year Strategic Plan, which was adopted at the end-of-year plenary meeting on 07 December. This strategy will guide the priorities, vision and work plans of PPN Limerick in the years to come; it will ensure that the voices of all member groups are heard and that its influence will be increased in policy decisions at Local Government level. This strategic plan will also help guide work and training plans over the next five years. The vision of PPN Limerick is that it will remain an effective link through which Limerick City and County Council connects with the community and voluntary sector and vice versa, and that it will



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be a route for member groups to receive information regarding capacity building, funding, and consultation opportunities. The plan is available to view at Resources | Limerick Public Participation Network ([limerickppn.ie](http://limerickppn.ie))

- PPN Limerick continued to have an active presence with its regularly updated website, social media and bi-monthly Newsletter distributed to members.

## Bin Waiver Scheme

1,618 Bin Waiver Permits were issued during December.

## Age Friendly

The Draft Age Friendly Strategy was put before the Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee on 04 December and was recommended to go forward as an ancillary document for noting at the next Full Council Meeting.

## Integration Supports

- The Ukrainian Community Support Forum met on 06 and 20 December and the co-ordinated delivery of key supports continued for Ukrainians living in Limerick.
- On 21 December, the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, spoke at a seminar organised by the Sustainable Alliances Against Anti-Muslim Hatred (SALAAM Project) held in the Council Chamber in Dooradoyle.

## 2. Culture

### Library

#### City Library at Barrow House

- Digital Skills classes for absolute beginners on 05 and 11 December provided by Limerick City Library and Europe Direct Limerick, in partnership with the Vodafone Ireland Foundation.

- Claire Glynn from “Clever Little Handies” presented a special family ‘Rhyme & Sign’ storytime using Irish Sign Language.
- A bilingual Polish/English family storytelling session with Justyna Cwojdzńska on 16 December, as part of the International Christmas and Winter in Limerick celebration, featuring lots of fun Christmas crafts, music and even a little bit of dancing.
- Róisín Meaney’s festive story session on 16 December and regular weekly storytime sessions.
- Class visits included fourth class from St. Michael’s National School on 01 December, and three different classes from Coláiste Mhichíl on 07, 08 and 21 December. On 18 December, an adult English language learning class from the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board visited.
- Seven book groups met, including the Phoenix Book Club, First Thursday Book Club, Second Wednesday Book Club, Young Adult Book Club, Children’s Book Club and two Book Clubs from the University of the Third Age.
- Also in December, the City Library hosted the WriteSpace Creative Writing Group on 02 December and Tuesday evening’s regular Sahaja Yoga meditation meetings.

#### Kilmallock Library

- “Hens,” an exhibition of colourful papier-mâché hens created using recycled material by members of Ivy Gate Day Care Centre, led by Rose Hanley, Art Tutor, with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, on 07 and 08 December.
- 15 “Little Acorns” from “Sunshine Kids,” Kilfinane, visited the Library on 01 December for a fun interactive session of Christmas stories and songs.
- Junior Class from Lough Gur National School visited on 12 December for a fun Christmas story and crafting session.

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- Students and teachers from the Scoil Pól Hub visited on 13 December for a tour of the Library and a crafting session.
- 16 Little Readers met for the monthly session on 13 December for a fun, friendly, inclusive hour of storytelling, song, rhymes, books and chat.
- “Family Time At Your Library” continued at Kilmallock Library with a drop-in afternoon of crafting activities on 15 December with children and their grown-ups popping in to create Christmas tree decorations and enjoy a storytime.
- 36 senior class pupils from Scoil Mocheallóg visited on 19 December for Christmas stories, songs and crafts.
- Weekly Bridge classes for beginners continued on each Wednesday with 12 participants at each session.
- A weekly Yoga Community Education Course, led by Ballyhoura Development CLG (Company Limited by Guarantee), continued with two sessions on each Friday throughout December.
- Music Generation Limerick County held three sessions on Thursday evenings throughout December geared towards children aged 7 to 11. These sessions were led by Ballyhoura Development CLG with the workshops aiming to support children to explore music in a fun and creative way.
- Weekly Craft Group sessions continued on Thursday mornings culminating with an exhibition.
- Regular class visits from local National Schools with a special festive visit where children helped to decorate the Library Tree.

## Dooradoyle Library

- The latest edition of the Old Limerick Journal, (Issue 58, Winter 2023) was officially launched on 01 December by the Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Dan McSweeney. Many of the contributors were in attendance, as well as the editorial committee, headed by Tom Donovan.
- On 06 December, a group of pre-school children from St. Anthony's Montessori, Mungret, visited the library and enjoyed a selection of Christmas songs, stories and nursery rhymes.
- The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, officially opened Dooradoyle Library's latest exhibition on 07 December. The exhibition consists of a collection of paintings by the Health Service Executive Training Centre in Dooradoyle.
- Two sessions of Festive Folk Tales with German storyteller, Simone Schuemmelfeder, took place on 09 December.
- Second class pupils from St. Paul's National School, Dooradoyle, took part in a Christmas-themed arts and crafts session on 12 December.
- To celebrate Polish Arts Festival (PAF), a Listening Party and Christmas Drama Workshop took place on 16 December. The Workshop was delivered in both Polish and English.

## Newcastle West Library

- Youth Book Club for ages 10 to 13 continued to meet in the library on the second Tuesday of the month.
- Ongoing use of Sensory Space by classes and individual users.
- Regular visits from The Brothers of Charity and Rathfredagh Cheshire Home residents.

## Watch House Cross

- Storytimes for young children continued on Thursdays at 4pm.
- As a novel idea, the branch organised a Teddy Bear's Christmas Sleepover on 07 December with over seventy children with their adults and their teddies in

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the library for hot chocolate, cookies, a night-time story time and Christmas sing-along. Their teddies stayed for a sleepover and they had the run of the library for the night. The children came back the next day to be reunited with their teddies and find out what mischief they had gotten up to.

- On Saturdays in December, there were Christmas Movies for children in the afternoons, and Crafty Saturday free-play art and craft between 11am-4pm. On 16 December, children enjoyed Festive Folktales from Far-Away, heart-warming tales of winter traditions from around Europe.
- Weekly Parent/Caregiver and Toddler Morning continued during December, with an extra special Christmas Parent and Toddler meeting on 15 December.
- The Children's LEGO Club and Book Clubs finished out the year, meeting in December for their Christmas parties. During December, the 7-9 year olds read the Sherlock Holmes Children's Collection by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and the 9-12 year olds read The Harp of Power by Alex Dunne.
- On 13 December, the branch hosted the annual Christmas Coffee Morning to thank members, community and partners for another busy and wonderful year. Corpus Christi School Choir entertained with Christmas songs, and the staff provided home baked sweet treats.
- To celebrate Libraries Ireland Week on 06 December, Aoife Munn, Horticulturist and Environmentalist, delivered Workshops: a Children's Winter Craft Class with Corpus Christi School, and three events open to the public, a Talk on Winter Gardening, an Eco Cleaning Workshop, and a Christmas Wreath-Making Workshop. These events were made possible by the Economic and Social Intervention Fund.
- The Exhibition, It'll Be Alright On The Night, inspired by the memories and experiences of past members of St. Munchin's Community SIAMSA group, comprising photographs, a short movie and ephemera, remained in

the library over the month of December and continued to be well attended.

- The Sensory Room had 100 visitors in 34 sessions during December.

## Local Studies

- 15 onsite visits by researchers – eight comprised research sessions on the archives of local and national newspapers, two on FindMyPast, and five on material from the Local Studies and Archives collections. There were 19 email and telephone queries.
- Hardcopies of the book, Histories of Protestant Limerick, 1912-1923, were received.

## Other Branches

- Family Time At Your Library – this initiative, part of the national Right to Read programme, aims to support a family-focused approach to reading, and to promote reading as a fun, recreational activity for children. Limerick Libraries hosted almost 40 events in branches with over 1,330 people attending.
- Glin Library – bestselling author, Roisin Meaney, visited Glin Library on 13 December to meet with the members of the book clubs. Roisin chatted about life as an author, answered questions and enjoyed festive treats with all who attended.
- Library staff were delighted to be invited on to the 'Limerick Today Show with Joe Nash' on Live95 to recommend books for reading and gifting over Christmas.
- Foynes, Rathkeale and Roxboro Libraries all welcomed pupils from local primary schools for festive-themed storytimes and craft sessions throughout the month of December. All who attended were gifted a book as part of the Little Library at Bedtime initiative.

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- Abbeyfeale Library welcomed Mrs. Moore's second and third classes from Scoil Mháthair Dé on 01 December to help decorate the Library Tree. Many of the decorations were made by the students who also performed Christmas songs and recited poetry.

## Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- The three exhibitions: George Shaw, Nothing Strange or Startling; George Shaw Personal Selection from the Permanent Collection and Screen Dance, all continued through December. The total number of visitors during December was 3,549.
- The Site, by artist Eric O' Sullivan, opened on 18 December. Eric was the recipient of the LCGA award in 2023. The award provides an opportunity for a recent graduate from TUS – Limerick School of Art and Design, to exhibit their work in a professional venue and provide curatorial and technical support.
- The Outreach and Education Coordinator (Shinnors Scholar, Aoife Doherty) continued to lead gallery tours on the current exhibitions for local primary schools. As part of the 2023 International Christmas programme, LCGA ran a drop-in workshop for families to explore international traditions in the visual arts over the Festive Season. 42 persons who had not previously visited the Gallery attended the event.
- An Open Call for artists to apply for the LCGA Test Space residency took place in December.

## Limerick Museum

- On 13 December, the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, performed the Official Opening of Let's go Shopping! A history of retail in Limerick exhibition in Limerick Museum. Curated by the Assistant Curator of the Museum, the exhibition tells the story of shopping in Limerick from the great department stores (originally known as monster houses) to the small corner shops and kiosks. Let's go Shopping! is a celebration of Limerick's rich retailing history, which is 250 years old, dating back to the birth of modern shops in the Georgian era.

The Art of the Stitch: The Enduring Legacy of Maude Kearney, continued in Limerick Museum for the month of December. On 20 December, Maude's granddaughter, Grania McElligott, was interviewed on the RTE 1 Nine O'Clock Show by Brendan Courtney in relation to this exhibition. The Nine O'Clock Show has a daily listenership of 347,000.

As part of Limerick Museum's outreach programme, the Curator gave a tour of the Museum to the Limerick branch of the University of the Third Age (U3A) movement on 07 December. The U3A is a worldwide non-profit making movement for mature people. It provides opportunities for older adults to enjoy a range of activities associated with wellbeing in later life.

## Limerick Arts Office

### OPEN CALLS

#### 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. Applications were assessed by the panel and all applicants were informed of the results.

### CREATIVE IRELAND

#### Síolta Glasa

On 11 December, Limerick Arts Office and Climate Action, working in collaboration, launched an Open Call for Limerick community partners to work with selected creatives on Síolta Glasa: A Creative Climate Action Project, with the aim of exploring creative climate action and enabling localised behaviour change. This project builds on the successful implementation of the Creative Climate Action collaborative project, Decarbonising Together, delivered by lead partner, Limerick City and County Council.

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## International Christmas and Winter in Limerick

International Christmas and Winter in Limerick continued across December and events were held across the City and County. On 02 December, families gathered at Dance Limerick to try out some steps with an afternoon of international dance, featuring Mexican, Chinese, Palestinian, Irish and Indian dance. On 03 December, there was festive spirit at St. Michael's Church with a captivating musical experience showcasing the rich cultural and musical heritage of Poland. Limerick libraries hosted festive folktales from far away with Simone Schuemmfeder across the library network. 09 December brought a chance to share the recipes and stores of neighbours and friends around the world at Limerick Hunt Museum.

International Christmas and Winter in Limerick is funded by Creative Ireland and Limerick City and County Council through Creative Ireland Made in Limerick.

## ARTS COUNCIL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT PROGRAMME

### BLAST

Limerick Arts Office grant supported the Artists in Schools project, which is currently being administered by Limerick Education Centre.

### Invitation to Collaboration

Limerick Arts Office partnered with Cork Arts Office on an Arts Council's Invitation to Collaboration application regarding the Sliabh Luachra Music Trail.

## 3. Property Management

Dereliction, Vacancy and Reuse Team	
Site Inspections Completed	66
Department Notices of Inquiry issued	7
Derelict Sites Cases opened	8
Statutory Notices served under the Derelict Sites Act 1990	48
Derelict Sites Cases closed through engagement	16
Properties entered into the Derelict Sites Register	7
Properties proposed for Compulsory Acquisition (Section 15 Notices)	0
Vesting Orders Made for Properties Acquired Compulsorily (Section 17 Notices)	12
Croí Cónaithe - Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant Applications Approved	13



# Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach  
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**Limerick** City  
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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 for consideration. The Department 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 (ESIF). An implementation proposal for ESIF 2024-2030 was submitted to the Department in December which develops on the principles and objectives outlined in the Draft Status Update 2024-2030.

#### Economic Regeneration

##### Outreach to Employment Programme

A meeting of the Employment Steering Group was held in Merchant's Quay and a review of the 2023 work programme was completed. Updates on the various initiatives were outlined to the Steering Group. An Employment Group meeting also took place in Ballinacurra Weston.

##### Opera Site Visit

The Sisk Group, who are the main contractors of the Opera Site, facilitated a site visit and tour to the learners of the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board 'Pathways to Construction Programme' being run in the Moyross Youth Academy. Learners were provided with a presentation and a guided tour of the construction site.

#### Social Regeneration

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

The drawdown of funding for approved Economic and Social Intervention Fund projects continued. Ongoing evaluation and coordination work continued with ESIF recipients.

#### Community Activities

##### Southside

##### Ballinacurra

- Our Lady of Lourdes Community Services Group held a Christmas Seniors' Party for 100 Senior Citizens from the locality.
- The Our Lady of Lourdes Community Services Group Crèche held a Santa's Grotto for children within their service.

##### Southill

- Tait House continued litter picking.
- Tait House assisted residents with applications for home adaptation and mobility aid grants.
- Music events for local older residents took place during December.
- Christmas Grotto events took place in Southill Hub and Tait House.

# Chief Executive's Report



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## Northside

### Moyross

Corpus Christi Primary School welcomed Santa to the school just before Christmas, with the Parents' Council helping to organise a fun day for all the pupils.

## King's Island

### Christmas Grotto

The annual Community Christmas Grotto was held in King's Island Community Centre. Over 180 children and their parents/carers met Santa and received selection boxes. The over 55s Club also came to visit Santa Claus.

### Christmas Care Packs for Community Members

Care packs for 25 men and 25 women were distributed to older and vulnerable people in the King's Island community on Christmas week.

### Christmas Crafts in King Island Community Centre

The annual Christmas Craft Show was held in King's Island Community Centre. 12 women who met on a weekly basis to share their Christmas Crafts skills presented their work to the attendees.

### King's Island Lego Club

This programme continued to meet in No. 19 Nicholas Street on Thursdays. Lego Club members received a Christmas gift of Lego prior to the Christmas break.

### Midwest Simon Community

Food parcels were distributed from King's Island Community Centre on the third Friday of the month by Midwest Simon Community.

## 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 December.

## Woodwork and Art Class

The weekly class saw participants learn from a Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board tutor and was held in King's Island Community Centre.

## Physical Regeneration

### Housing Developments

- A total of 47 units at Cosgrave Park and Dalgaish Park, Moyross, progressed towards completion.
- The Sheep Street development, comprising of eight social housing units, continued to make progress.
- 11 housing units at Churchfield (Phase 2), Southill, progressed towards completion. The total social housing development comprises 37 units.
- An introductory community consultation evening was hosted by the Regeneration Department for a new 55-unit infill residential development at Pineview Gardens, Moyross.

### Status of Thermal Upgrade Projects

- 47 units at Moyross, Limerick, progressed under Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 121, with contractor, Icarus Properties Limited.
- Alan Hart Construction Ltd. progressed Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 123, in Southill, Limerick.
- Construction of 12 units, under Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 127, Ballinacurra, Weston, continued by contractor, JoeBren Construction.

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- Gathering the specifications of Mop Up-Contracts in Southill and Moyross continued.
- Stage 1 - 3 approval attained from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in relation to Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 130 (55 houses at Pineview Gardens).

## House Refurbishments

### Lot 4a Major Refurbishments – Nine Properties

- Dolmen Construction was appointed for an initial three major refurbishments.
- Approval sought from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on the recommendation to appoint a contractor for the remaining six houses.

### Lot 4b Major Refurbishments – 11 Properties

- Preliminary design continued.

### Minor Refurbishments

- Construction works continued on five houses.
- 17 units at scoping, tender or construction stage.

## Community Facilities

### King's Island Community Centre

- The Regeneration Directorate received tenders in relation to the provision of Integrated Design Team Services, inclusive of Project Supervisor Design Process (PSDP), for the restoration and refurbishment of St. Marys Park Community Centre, inclusive of Public Realm works.

## Turnery Vinery Restoration

In conjunction with the Conservation Section, a Grade One Conservation Architect-Led Design Team has been appointed to progress the restoration and refurbishment of Turnery Vinery, South Hill House. This is supported by the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage through the Historic Structures Fund.

## Sports Partnership

Limerick Sports Partnership installed and launched several new facilities in public parks during December:

- A BoxUp equipment storage locker was installed in Clare Street Park.
- A table tennis table, a teqball table and volleyball posts were also added to the park.
- The basketball court was laid with hoops, also in Clare Street Park.
- The construction of the Trim Trail in Baggot Estate Nature Park, Ballinacurra, progressed.
- Plans for People's Park and Shelbourne Park were progressed.

A full list of programmes offered by Limerick Sports Partnership is available on <https://limericksports.ie/>

## Council Sporting Facilities

- The tender for the Management, Operation and Maintenance of two public swimming pool and leisure centres located in Askeaton, Co. Limerick and Grove Island, Corbally, was published on 06 December.





# Chief Executive's Report



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## Housing Directorate

### 1. Housing Support Services

#### Housing Waiting List

Approved Housing Applicants	2,568
Approved Tenant Transfer Applicants	381

#### Closed Housing Applications

December	Year to Date
60	652

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 December	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	2	18
Newcastle West	4	37
Metropolitan District	21	251
Cappamore-Kilmallock	7	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>378</b>

#### Refusals

	No. of Units December	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	1
Newcastle West	2	4
Metropolitan District	2	29
Cappamore-Kilmallock	2	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>40</b>

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

Total Nominations	Successful Nominations	Nominations Pending	Unsuccessful Nominations
305	169	104	32

#### Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

Private Tenancies	700
Capital Assistance Scheme/Rental Assistance Scheme Tenancies	556
Part V	0
New Private Tenancies	0
New Voluntary Housing Tenancies	13

# Chief Executive's Report



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## Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Limerick

2,090 active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	17
No. of Amendments	227
No. of Cessations	41

## Rent Collection

Rent Collection Limerick City and County Council					
Opening Balance	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing Balance	% Collection
€5,916,167	€19,592,053	€25,508,220	€18,777,207	€6,731,013	74 %

# Chief Executive's Report



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## Home Improvement Schemes

December 2023		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aid Grants	No. Approved	0	1	6	0	7
	MAG Expenditure	€0.00	€3,080.00	€22,300.00	€0.00	€25,380.00
	No. Paid	0	1	7	0	8
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	0	5	29	4	38
	HAG Expenditure	€20,160.10	€29,485.82	€229,344.72	€7,362.50	€286,353.14
	No. Paid	2	5	19	1	27
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	5	13	20	7	45
	HOP Expenditure	€21,110.10	€25,287.50	€80,479.00	€18,130.00	€145,006.60
	No. Paid	5	5	21	5	36
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG Expenditure	€0.00	€0.00	€257,085.93	€0.00	€257,085.93
	No. Paid	0	0	19	0	19

Total No. Approved	90
Total Monies Paid	€713,825.67
Total No. Paid	90

# Chief Executive's Report



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## HOME IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES - Year to Date

January - December 2023		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aid Grants	No. Approved	12	10	57	6	85
	MAG Expenditure	€36,010.85	€73,219.03	€185,768.93	€23,455.00	€318,453.81
	No. Paid	10	15	39	6	70
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	49	77	191	60	377
	HAG Expenditure	€372,777.29	€418,719.20	€1,358,592.27	€387,031.70	€2,537,120.46
	No. Paid	49	47	177	44	317
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	103	141	247	82	573
	HOP Expenditure	€393,239.75	€479,058.00	€853,105.66	€288,725.98	€2,014,129.39
	No. Paid	90	101	211	64	466
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG Expenditure	€55,722.83	€58,687.33	€407,111.21	€62,067.41	€583,588.78
	No. Paid	7	7	29	7	50

YTD Total No. Approved	1,035
YTD Total Monies Paid	€5,453,292.44
YTD Total No. Paid	903

# Chief Executive's Report



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## Community Sustainment Unit

### Tenancy Inductions

No. of Tenancy Inductions	62
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### Repossessions

Repossession of Council properties	9
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### House Visits

No. of House Visits	100
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### Garda Checks

Garda Checks processed	80
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### Sugar CRM (Customer Relationship Management) Cases

Active cases at month-end	294
Cases closed during month	32

Date: 08 December 2023

### Individuals

Location	Description	Beds Used
McGarry House	Low threshold emergency accommodation for single adults	29
Oak Lodge	Adults without children accommodated in low threshold emergency accommodation	67
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	23
St. Joseph Street	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	4
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	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
<b>Total</b>		<b>184</b>

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Families				
Location	Description	Beds Used		
		Adults	Children	Families
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	8	6
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	75	86	54
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	15	13	10
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Adults</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>Families</b>
		<b>96</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>70</b>

Tenant Purchase	
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. received	2
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. approved	0
Local Authority Home Loans	
Loan Applications: No. received	5
Loan Applications: No. approved	0
Deed of Discharge	
Deed of Discharge Applications: No. Received	8
Consent to Sale	
Consent to Sale Applications: No. Received	1
Cottage Purchase Annuity	
No. of Cottage Purchase Annuity Applications	1
Ground Rent	
No. of Ground Rent applications	1
Title	
Title Deeds Received/Requested	5
Title Rectification Received	1
Private Rented Inspections	
No. of Inspections	69

## Freedom of Information, Data Requests and Ombudsman

Freedom of Information requests	2
Ombudsman Query Cases	8
Data Access Requests	2

# Chief Executive's Report



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## 2. Housing Welfare and Traveller Accommodation

### \* Traveller Accommodation

No. of Units offered December	2
Year to Date	34

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

### Housing Welfare Visits

No. of Visits December	30
Year to Date	286

## 3. Local Authority Housing Construction and Maintenance

### Local Authority Housing Construction

House Returns December	
Total	8

House Returns December By Municipal District	
Adare-Rathkeale	1
Cappamore-Kilmallock	1
Newcastle West	2
Metropolitan District	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>

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

Current Working Programme		
	Completed in December	In Progress
Local Authority Construction Team	24	79
Local Authority Maintenance Team	14	91
Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process	0	26
Regeneration Team	0	39
Team to be assigned	N/A	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>244</b>

In December, work on 24 properties were completed by the Local Authority Housing Construction Team and work on 14 properties was completed by the Local Authority Maintenance Team.

There are three teams in Limerick City and County Council assigned to refurbish properties. As of December, the Local Authority Construction Team was in the process of completing works in 79 properties, the Local Authority Maintenance Team was working on 91 properties and the Regeneration Team had 39 properties. Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process - 26 properties. Nine properties were in the process of being assigned to a Team.

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## Project Updates

- Stage 4 application approved for 10 units at Radharc Cillin, Kilfinane, from the <https://www.era-learn.eu/network-information/organisations/department-of-housing-planning-and-local-government> Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- 20 Units at Bank Place, Hospital, fully completed and keys given to tenants.
- Consultant appointed for civil and structural works at New Road Thomondgate Site.
- Four houses fully refurbished and keys given to allocations – one property in Newcastle West, one property in Cappamore, one property in Garryowen and one property in Ballinacurra Weston.

## Finance

- Applications for funding totalling €860,201 issued to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage paid €535,137 in claims made.

## Local Authority Housing Maintenance

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

Housing Maintenance Cases - December	Requests/Cases Created	Cases Dealt With/Closed	Balance of Open Cases at 31.12.2023
Metropolitan District of Limerick	685	656	1,789
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	69	45	330
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	92	133	233
Municipal District of Newcastle West	89	157	689
<b>Total</b>	<b>935</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>3,041</b>



# Chief Executive's Report



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## Grants Inspections

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

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)	1	26	0	12	39
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	24	0	1	25
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	2	2	6	10
<b>Total Inspections by Inspection Type</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>76</b>

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

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	7	0	2	9
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	7	0	2	9
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Inspections by Inspection Type</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>

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

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	0	0	0	0
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	3	0	3	6
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Inspections by Inspection Type</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	0	0	1	1
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	3	0	3	6
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	7	0	2	9
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Inspections by Inspection Type</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>

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## HOUSE INSPECTIONS UNIT

Houses Inspected for Refurbishment Works and Re-Letting - December - Categories	No. of Properties Inspected
Cat 1 - minor repairs needed	0
Cat 2 - moderate repairs needed	4
Cat 3 - substantial repairs needed	0
Cat 4 - major repairs required.	0
<b>TOTAL INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT</b>	<b>4</b>
No. of Properties Awaiting Inspection	9

## DEFECTIVE BLOCKWORK SCHEME APPLICATIONS

Applications Registered December	1
RFI Applications (Request Further Information)	4
Applications Referred to Housing Agency	3
Applications - Damage Threshold Met	6

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

### SOCIAL HOUSING - Delivery for 2023

Buy/Build/Lease as of 31.12.2023 is as follows:

As at 31.12.2023 (01.01.2023 - 31.12.2023)	Complete	In Progress	Overall Complete and In Progress	"Housing for All" 2023 Delivery Target
Build	310	36	346	502
Buy	79	0	79	75
Lease	31	0	31	27
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>456</b>	

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## Social Housing – Project Submissions and Approvals

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

Scheme	Project Details	District
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the CAS Turnkey Construction of two units at Castletroy, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Delegated Sanction Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Raheen, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Delegated Sanction Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Glasgow Park, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Delegated Sanction Approval for the acquisition of one unit at Castletroy, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick

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

Scheme	Project Details	District
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the Acquisition of one house (comprising of five units of accommodation) at Corbally, 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
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Submission for four units in New Road, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Newcastle West

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## Affordable Housing - Delivery for 2023-2026

### Status of Affordable Housing Scheme Proposals as of 31.12.2023

Scheme	District	Type	No. of Units	Proposal Updates in December
Toppins Field Lands	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Affordable Housing Fund	28 (Phase 1)	<p>Options for junction design underway and site investigations contractor appointed.</p> <p>Archaeological Impact Assessment Consultant appointed and underway. Local Heritage Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment underway.</p> <p>Ground penetrating radar and additional topography survey underway.</p> <p>Design Team pre-planning design ongoing for achieving planning for the first westerly phase. Unit design and materiality in focus. Landscape design underway.</p> <p>Liaison with Limerick City and County Council Regeneration Department on the east-west link road continued during December. A capital appraisal was submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for Link Road and site infrastructure.</p> <p>Modern Methods of Construction Pilot Research Project Draft 1 submitted to Housing Agency and Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</p>
Toppins Field Lands	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Affordable Housing Fund	115 (Phases 2-4)	Site investigations procured and underway for Phase 1.

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Scheme	District	Type	No. of Units	Proposal Updates in December
Guinness Site	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Cost Rental Affordable Housing Fund	270	A Project Team meeting was held in December. A review of capacity and viability analysis for Carey's Road against Framework Infrastructure Phasing is underway.  Site purchase negotiations and work on the procurement of a Design Team continued during December. The route and programme for Foynes Passenger Line was also reviewed.
Clonmacken Lands	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Affordable Housing Fund	22	Viability Study work continued during December. A new application under Affordable Housing Fund being considered.
Sonny's Lands	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Cost Rental Affordable Housing Fund	19	Stage 1 shortlisting of framework participants for Design Team Consultants was completed during December and consisted of six lots of different consultant types.  The contract tender package was subsequently issued to shortlisted participants.
Curragower	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Affordable Housing Fund	7	Work continued on pre-planning design. Engagement with neighbours and stakeholders also continued during December. Materiality and 3D contextual visualisation completed.
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	Work continued on the progression of this proposal during December.

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Scheme	District	Type	No. of Units	Proposal Updates in December
Ballygrennan Lands	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Expression of Interest Site with Approved Housing Body	73	Work continued on the progression of this proposal during December.
Mungret Site	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund	181	Public consultation regarding the proposed development, Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening Report opened for submissions on 22 December.
Thomas Street and O'Connell Street	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Urban Regeneration and Development Fund	21	Work continued on the progression of this proposal during December.
Adare	Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	Affordable Purchase Self-build plots	8	Work continued on the progression of this proposal during December.
Advance Purchase Turnkey – Campaign 1	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase	25	Processing of applications and the issuing of letters of offer continued throughout December for the 25 unit Brú na Gruadán, Castletroy, Affordable Purchase Scheme. A proposed 10 unit affordable housing scheme in Abbeyfeale was also progressed during December.
	Municipal District of Newcastle West	Affordable Purchase	10	

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Scheme	District	Type	No. of Units	Proposal Updates in December
Advance Purchase Turnkey - Campaign 2	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase	145	Processing of applications and the issuing of letters of offer continued throughout December for Phase 1 (21 units) of the Woodfield Manor, Newcastle West Affordable Purchase Scheme.  Work continued on the progression of the other two proposals during December.
	Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	Affordable Purchase	6	
	Municipal District of Newcastle West	Affordable Purchase	42	
Advance Purchase Turnkey - Campaign 3	Municipal District of Newcastle West	Affordable Purchase	33	Discussions on an agreement for a proposed Affordable Purchase Scheme of 98 units in Patrickswell completed in December with the scheme no longer proceeding as an Affordable Purchase Scheme. Discussions also continued during December to progress a proposed 33 unit Affordable Purchase Scheme in Abbeyfeale.
Advance Purchase Turnkey - Campaign 4	Municipal District of Newcastle West	Affordable Purchase	9	An application for Affordable Housing Funding was submitted for a proposed nine unit Affordable Purchase Scheme in Rathnaneane, Newcastle West.
Advance Purchase Turnkey - Campaign 5	Municipal District of Newcastle West	Affordable Purchase	101	Discussions continued during December with the developers of the three expressions of interest received in order to progress these proposed developments.
Large-Scale Residential Sites	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Cost Rental/ Affordable Purchase	303	Discussions continued during December with regard to the delivery of affordable housing on large-scale residential sites.

## Affordable Housing - Project Submissions and Approvals

### Project Submission to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in December

Scheme	Project Details	District
Affordable Housing Fund (AHF)	An Affordable Housing Fund Application was submitted for nine units of Affordable Housing in Rathnaneane, Newcastle West.	Newcastle West



# Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick City**  
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## Finance

- Claims totalling €10,205,965.71 were sent to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in December.
- Claims totaling €8,643,709.67 were paid by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in December.

## 5. Municipal District Offices

### Metropolitan District of Limerick

#### Meetings

The December Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick took place on 11 December.

#### Briefings/Workshops

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

- Safe Routes To Schools;
- St. Paul's Ballykeefe Active Travel Scheme

#### Operational Area Briefings

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

#### Road Related Upgrade/Refurbishment Works

##### Description of Project: Mountshannon Road Overlay

Location: Mountshannon Road, Lisnagry;  
Cost of project: €200,000;  
Contractor: Lynkeo Civil Engineering.

##### Description of Project: Golf Links Road/Kilbane Junction Table-Top

Location: Castletroy;  
Cost of project: €41,000;  
Contractor: Lynkeo Civil Engineering / Direct Labour.

##### Description of Project: Drombanna Footpath Scheme;

Location: Drombanna;  
Cost of project: €125,000;  
Contractor: Tallybrooke Civil Engineering.

##### Description of Project: St. Patrick's Road Footpath Scheme

Location: Garryowen;  
Cost of project: €90,000;  
Contractor: Tallybrooke Civil Engineering.

##### 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: College Park Footpath Refurbishment

Location: Corbally;  
Cost of project: €17,000;  
Contractor: Maramba.

##### Description of Project: Junction tightening Mallow Street / Pery Square - Active Travel Scheme

Location: Mallow Street/Pery Square;  
Cost of project: €120,000;  
Contractor: Neville Civil Engineering.

##### Description of Project: R511 Roxborough Junction Improvement

Location: Roxborough;  
Cost of project: €40,000;  
Contractor: Maramba.

##### Description of Project: R511 Spellacy's Cross Junction Improvement

Location: Ballysheedy;  
Cost of project: €40,000;  
Contractor: Peter Ryan Civil Engineering.

##### Description of Project: Danesfort Restoration Improvement

Location: Corbally;  
Cost of project: €30,000;  
Contractor: Roadstone.

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## Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

The December Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale took place on 12 December in Árás Séan Finn, Rathkeale.

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

- 66 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team
- 87 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team

## Schedule of Municipal District Works

### Active Travel

- Footpath Improvement Works completed at Castlematrix, Rathkeale.

## Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works

- Ballingarry Low Road Verge Stabilisation Works.

## Macadam Overlay Works

- R519 Graigue Bend (Adare to Ballingarry).
- R523 Kilscanell (Ardagh to Reens Pike).

## Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

### December Municipal District Meeting

The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock was held in Árás Mainchín Seoighe, Kilmallock, on 14 December.

A Municipal District Reception was held on 07 December to acknowledge the achievements of a number of local individuals and groups as follows:

#### **Coláiste Iósaef, Kilmallock - Senior Ladies Soccer Team:**

Winners of FAI (Football Association of Ireland) Schools Junior B Girls National Cup against CBS New Ross, Co. Wexford.

**Róisín Wiley:** Róisín represented New York in the Rose of Tralee Competition 2023. Her parents, Eddie and Majella, were born and raised in Templeglantine and Kilmallock and emigrated to New York in their 20s, building a life in Westchester, New York. Róisín was crowned 2023 Rose of Tralee.

**Kieran Earls:** Member of the Bruff Pitch and Putt Club and Winner of the European Pitch and Putt Championships in 2022 and World Pitch and Putt Tour 2023.

**Limerick Pitch and Putt Club:** Shaun Donegan (Captain), Kieran Donegan, Mick O'Donnell, Peader McCarthy and Aidan O'Sullivan from Bruff were part of the victorious Limerick Junior Inter County Team that won the 2022 National Pitch and Putt Junior Inter-County Challenge Cup. The team also included Ralph Fitzgerald and Rick Harty from Ardnacrusha.

**Mike O'Hara:** Principal of Scoil Pól, Kilfinane, in recognition of his contribution not only to the school, but also to the wider area/community through the recent expansion of the school and the development of a dedicated Autism Room and Unit.

**PJ "Dasher" Cronin, Kilmallock:** Lifetime achievement award for contribution to Athletics and the community.

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## Housing and Road Maintenance

- 81 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
- 99 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

## Housing Grants

- Seven Private Housing Grants were paid in December, totalling €25,492.50.
- 14 initial inspections and four final inspections were undertaken in relation to Private Housing Grants.

## Road Works

- In the Cappamore area, the crews were focusing on general maintenance works, mainly drainage issues and clearing inlets.
- National Transport Authority Bus Shelter works took place in Kilmallock.

## National Transport Authority Active Travel Works included:

- Knockainey Road, Hospital - Public Lighting Works.
- Kilmallock Industrial Estate - Public Lighting and Footpaths.
- Hospital, Bruff and Kilmallock - Pedestrian Crossings.
- Ballylanders - Footpath Works.

## Municipal District of Newcastle West

### Meetings and Workshops

- 06 December - Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West.
- 06 December - West Limerick Sports Complex Workshop to Newcastle West Councillors.

### Housing Grants

- 19 grant applications were approved under the Private Housing Grant Schemes during the month. The total value of approvals was €109,769.84.
- Payments of €25,287.50 were made to five applicants who completed works under the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.
- Payments of €29,485.82 were made to five applicants who completed works under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme.
- Payments of €3,080.00 were made to one applicant who completed works under the Mobility Aids Housing Grant.

### Housing Maintenance

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

### Transportation and Mobility

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

### Motor Tax

- During the month, the Motor Tax Section at the Newcastle West Office processed 990 routine transactions, generating an income of €155,957.

# Chief Executive's Report



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## Planning, Environment & Place-Making Directorate

### 1. Forward Planning and Public Realm

#### Forward Planning

- The Newcastle West Local Area Plan - and associated Local Transport Plan and Environment Assessments - was adopted by the Elected Members of the Municipal District of Newcastle West on 06 December.
- The Proposed Material Alterations, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report, Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report and Determinations for the Draft Adare Local Area Plan 2024-2030, were placed on public display for a four-week period.
- The Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Patrickswell Local Area Plan 2024-2030, accompanied by a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report, Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report and Determinations, were placed on public display for a four-week period.
- The final Residential Zoned Land Tax Maps for 2024 were published.

#### Archaeology

- The final drawdown of €100,000 under Stream 1, Capital Works, of the Community Monuments Fund, occurred in December. This project is Phase 2 of consolidation at the Council's Tower House in the graveyard at Ballynoe, Bruree.

### 2. Development Management and Place-Making

#### Development Management

A total of 89 new planning applications were received as follows:

Category	Amount
Part 8	0
Housing Developments	3
Domestic Developments	65
Agricultural Developments	8
Commercial Developments/ Change of Use	7
Sporting/ Community and Educational Developments	5
Other Developments	1

The current applications include proposals for:

- Construction of 73 no. residential units, a 4 storey neighbourhood centre with 42 no. 2 bed elderly housing apartment units, pharmacy, coffee shop, retail unit, day centre and a 3 storey 90-bed nursing home. Vehicular/pedestrian entrance and access roads from the proposed Moyross Link Road part of the Coonagh/ Knockalisheen Distributor Road and all associated site development works. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been prepared in respect of the proposed development at Ballygrennan, Moyross Avenue, Moyross, Limerick.

# Chief Executive's Report



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- Construction of a new four-storey library and learning and resources centre (4,955 sq. metres) over a one-storey basement and all associated teaching and pupil facilities. The development includes substantial demolition of the existing library and educational complex building with the lecture theatre to be integrated into the new complex. The development will also include the provision of a refurbished public plaza to the south-west of the proposed library, tree removal and replacement, hard and soft landscaping. The proposed development is within the curtilage of a number of protected structures at Mary Immaculate College Campus, South Circular Road, Limerick.
- Construction of a surgical hub building with 2nd floor plant enclosure and roof level PV panels, 2 no. generator buildings, diesel tank, exhaust scrubber building, VIE (Vacuum Insulated Evaporator) compound, an ESB substation, a totem sign, a new gated vehicle access onto O'Connell Avenue, and all associated car parking, signage, footpaths, drainage, landscaping and the demolition and removal of existing structures on site at the former Scoil Carmel, O'Connell Avenue, Ballinacurra, Limerick.

**Planning Staff** – Limerick City and County Council received approval from Government to recruit an additional five staff for the Planning Department. Under the National Development Plan and Housing for All, the Government has committed to the allocation of funding to support the provision of additional permanent Planning Department resources to strengthen the capacity of local authorities in carrying out their functions and to deal with the increased workload arising from the new Planning and Development Bill, 2023. Recruitment has commenced for these positions which are fully funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. 100 new planning positions were approved nationally.

## Place Making

### Limerick Wayfinding and Orientation Signage Project

- Tender evaluation completed and Letters of Intent and Regret issued to Signage Contractors.
- Extension to date for drawdown of Fáilte Ireland funding agreed.

### Decluttering Project

- Contractor completed removal of unnecessary signage.

## Urban Regeneration and Development Fund

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

- Preliminary Business Case being reviewed by Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- Emergency stabilisation works under Section 179 (6) (b) have been approved at 33 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.

### 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

### Cemeteries

Number of Burials in City Cemeteries

Mount St. Lawrence	11
Mount St. Oliver	16
Castlemungret	4
Kilmurry	3

### Environment Enforcement and Litter Management

SUGAR CRM (Customer Relationship Management) cases received	206
Inspections undertaken CRM	181
Warnings issued	36
Directions of Authorised Officer issued	2
Statutory Notices issued	5
Prosecutions initiated	12
Fines issued	7
Authorisations issued/reviewed	3

### Litter Management Plan 2023-2026

Limerick City and County Council has published the Draft Litter Management Plan 2023-2026 Under Section 12 of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997. The Plan is committed to combat litter in Limerick City and County through the Litter Management Plan 2023-2026 and to get community involvement with all sectors of society. This plan encourages businesses to take ownership of their surroundings, contributing to a cleaner, more attractive community for all. The draft plan outlines the objectives and actions to awareness, prevention, control and enforcement of littering from 2023 to 2026.

Observations and Submissions have been invited for consideration in the Draft Litter Management Plan which is accessible at all Council Offices and can also be found on the official website <https://mypoint.limerick.ie/en>.

### Climate Action

#### Launch of Community Climate Action Funds

The launch of the Community Climate Action Programme took place on 11 December. The 100% funding opportunity is for capital investment in small, medium and large-scale community climate action projects.

Síolta Glasa, supported by Creative Ireland, uses creativity to empower seven communities to work creatively and collaboratively to examine decarbonisation in their communities, identify an aspect that matters to them and explore and enable localised behaviour change, and was launched on 11 December.

Applications to both funds can be found on <https://mypoint.limerick.ie/en>

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## Local Authority Climate Action Plan

Limerick City and County Council published the Draft Climate Action Plan 2024-2029, as required pursuant to Section 16 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act, 2021. The draft plan aims to position Limerick as a national leader in climate action and strengthen the delivery of effective climate action at local and community levels, through place-based climate action. The plan sets out key actions that will support Limerick in its transition to becoming a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy by 2050. The actions of the plan not only look at how Limerick City and County Council can transform its own operations and services, but also addresses what other organisations the Council can partner with and what supports it can give to local communities and individuals.

Submissions to the plan can be made via email to [climateaction@limerick.ie](mailto:climateaction@limerick.ie), in writing or on <https://mypoint.limerick.ie/en/consultation/limerick-city-and-county-council-local-authority-climate-action-plan-2024-2029>

## Veterinary

No. of dogs processed in the Dog Shelter	9
No. of horses seized	20
No. of samples taken	0

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

### Adare Flood Relief Scheme

- Feedback questionnaires were received up until 12 December following the second Public Participation Day.
- Key stakeholder meetings were held in December.
- Topographic survey of key areas within Adare completed.
- Completion of ecology studies, including an otter report.
- Landscape architect appointed to develop elements of the emerging preferred option.

### Castleconnell Flood Relief Scheme

- The draft Castleconnell Flood Relief Scheme Options Report and Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) were received for client review.
- The draft Detailed Design Site Investigation Contract Documents were received for client review.
- Steering Group meeting held on 05 December to assess project progress.

### Athea Flood Relief Scheme

- Further development of the preferred scheme option following a site walkover to confirm viable flood defence options within Athea.
- Landscape Architect appointed to develop public realm around the public park.

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## Limerick City and Environs Flood Relief Scheme

- Review of the ongoing coastal modelling results to inform client decision.
- Steering Group Meeting held on 18 December to assess project progress.
- Ongoing liaison continued with Limerick 2030 and other key stakeholders to assess separate project interactions.
- Commenced tendering process for detailed design site investigation.

## King's Island Flood Relief Scheme

- Approval has been granted by the Office of Public Works for the King's Island Flood Relief Scheme to proceed to tender. Final checking of the Tender Documents continued in December.

In December, €1,783,275 was recouped from the Office of Public Works across the five flood relief schemes.

## 5. Limerick Twenty Thirty (LTT) DAC

### Opera Square

#### Project Update

- John Sisk & Son progressed well with the Basement Contract in December with the basement pile wall fully completed, capping beam installation at 90%, and 70% of excavations work undertaken to date.
- The basement slab for One Opera Square is now fully constructed, following the final 600m<sup>3</sup> pour completed on 18 December.

#### Project Media Engagement

- Two tower cranes were operational on site and were lighting up the cityscape at night with coloured festive lighting.
- Drone footage of progress was captured and edited for future release.

## Cleeves Riverside Quarter

### Project Update

- The Design Team and Planning Consultant began work on the planning application following publication of the Masterplan. Work commenced 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 December with fortnightly meetings taking place.
- LTT is making available, on a temporary basis to the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the vacant former secondary school at Fernbank, North Circular Road, to accommodate Ukrainian families fleeing the war in their homeland. Work progressed well in December on the fit-out of the temporary accommodation.



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## Project Media Engagement

- Details of Team Hope's 2023 National Shoebox Appeal were shared to LTT social media in December. They returned to the Flaxmill building at Cleeves Riverside Quarter and collected an impressive 7,587 shoeboxes which were sent to children in need in East Swahili and Albania.
- Fossett's Circus brought a Festive Christmas Circus to Cleeves Riverside Quarter running from 15 December.
- A festive video was created and released by LTT to show the joy of light at Christmas. The video showcased Otto the Clown's joy on catching sight of the festive snowflake illumination on the Cleeves chimney stack.
- The chimney stack was lit up green for 24 hours to mark the Winter Solstice on 21 December in support of the Samaritans' Longest Night campaign.

## Gardens International

### Project Media Engagement

- Limerick School of Art and Design, TUS, commenced set-up of an artwork exhibition in the corner retail unit.
- The Vault at Gardens International was promoted in December for meeting and events bookings. Requests for bookings can be submitted to [gardens@limerick2030.ie](mailto:gardens@limerick2030.ie) or 061-517430.

## Other Projects

### Expressions of Interest (EOI) – Ballygrennan

#### Project Update

- Following submission of a planning application for the Phase 1 Medical Campus, the planning application has been finalised for Phase 2 (Residential/Nursing Home/Commercial) and the draft application has been issued to Limerick City and County Council's Planning Department for pre-validation.

- Phase 2 of the Ballygrennan development comprises of a €20million, three-storey nursing home employing 90 full-time and part-time staff. The 90-bed nursing home will be run by Mowlam Healthcare. The Phase 2 application will also include 115 residential units, comprising 73 three and four-bedroom houses and 42 two-bedroom apartments. The residential element of the second phase will see a further €40million investment and 30 full and part time staff. The development consortium, Whitebox Ltd., including Clúid Housing, formally lodged their application with Limerick City and County Council on 20 December.

### Askeaton and Grove Island Swimming Pools

- On 06 December, LTT published a Call for Tender for the Management, Operation and Maintenance of both Askeaton Pool and Leisure Centre and Grove Island Pool and Leisure Centre, Corbally, on behalf of Limerick City and County Council.
- Separately, tenders for the flood defence works and energy upgrade works at Askeaton Pool and Leisure Centre were published.

### Mungret Housing Development

- Mungret Housing Development - LTT co-ordinated the amended planning application (Section 179a) for 250 units on behalf of Limerick City and County Council. The Section 179a planning application went on public display on 21 December. This concludes LTT's role on the Mungret development.



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## National and Regional Shared Services Centre Directorate

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

- There were 56,848 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAP SSC at the end of December.
- A weekly average of 159 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2023.
- The December landlord payment run was €54.855 million.
- The weekly tenant charge at the end of December was €3.079 million.
- The Debt Management Unit of the HAP SSC collected a total of €157.872 million in differential rent to end of December.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of December was 99%.
- The Debt Management Unit issued 3,836 HAP debt reminder letters in December and 115,985 HAP debt reminder letters in total for 2023.

### 2. Fire and Emergency

#### Statistics

	No of Fire Related Calls	No of Non-Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of callouts 01.12.2023 - 31.12.2023	89	84	173
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	76%	38%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	17%	37%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	7%	25%	

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	No. received / assigned	No. validated/ acknowledged	No. invalidated / refused	No. granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications December	15	17	0	13	0
Disability Access Cert Applications December	13	13	0	8	0
Licensing Applications December	5	11		8	
Commencement Notice December	28	24	4	0	24
Completion Certificate December	9	8	0	0	8
Planning Referrals December	18				8
Sugar CRM Cases December	1	0	0	0	0

## Fire and Emergency Training Events

- Six officers from Limerick Fire Service travelled to Exeter in the UK to attend a Positive Pressure Ventilation Instructor Course, with the aim of these officers delivering this training to the crews of Limerick Fire Service. Positive Pressure Ventilation (PPV) allows for buildings to be ventilated of dangerous hot gases making it safer for firefighters and the occupants of the building.
- 20 firefighters received refresher training in Working at Heights, including the introduction of new equipment to make rescues from roofs and embankments safer.
- Further VHF Marine Band Radio training was delivered to personnel from Limerick City and Foynes Fire Stations.
- A number of officers attended Tactical and Effective Decision-Making Courses in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, using their virtual and immersive training suite.
- On-station training continued as normal.

## Civil Defence attendance at Events

The following activity took place in December:

- Patient Transfer to and from Integrated Care Programme for Older Persons in St. Camillus' Hospital, Limerick - (8 days).
- Patient Transfer to and from Nenagh Hospital, Co. Tipperary - (1 day).
- Patient Transfer to and from University Hospital Limerick - (2 days).
- Avian Influenza Workshop - Mallow, Co. Cork - (1 day).
- Civil Defence Officers' Training Seminar and Trade Show, Cavan - (1 day).
- Attended Limerick Fire Brigade Deceased Members' Mass, Limerick City - (1 day).
- Certificate Presentation and Deceased Members' Memorial Night, Limerick City - (1 day).

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## Water Safety

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

No. of Lifebuoy Sensor Activations	Total February - November	December	Total 2023
Metropolitan District	90	3	93
Municipal District	47	1	48



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## Support Services Directorate

### 1. Finance

#### Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2023	
As at 31 December 2023	
Opening Balance - 01 Jan €	5,888,292
Accruals €	64,092,283 **
Vacant Property Adjustment €	1,069,584
Writes offs/ Waivers €	2,372,972
Total for Collection €	66,538,019
Amount Collected €	61,614,510
Arrears €	4,923,509 *
Specific Doubtful Arrears €	663,700
% Collected	94%

Debtors Loans	
As at 31 December 2023	
Opening Balance - 01 Jan €	300,639
Accruals €	1,748,590 ^
Writes offs €	-
To Collect €	2,049,229
Receipts €	1,961,809
Arrears €	87,420 *
% Collected	96%

^ Accruals not updated for loans for December 2023  
\* subject to finalisation of year end accounts for 2023

\*\* The Date for Making the 2023 Rate was 02 February 2023  
\* subject to finalisation of year end accounts for 2023

#### Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No. of days in overdraft 0

# Chief Executive's Report

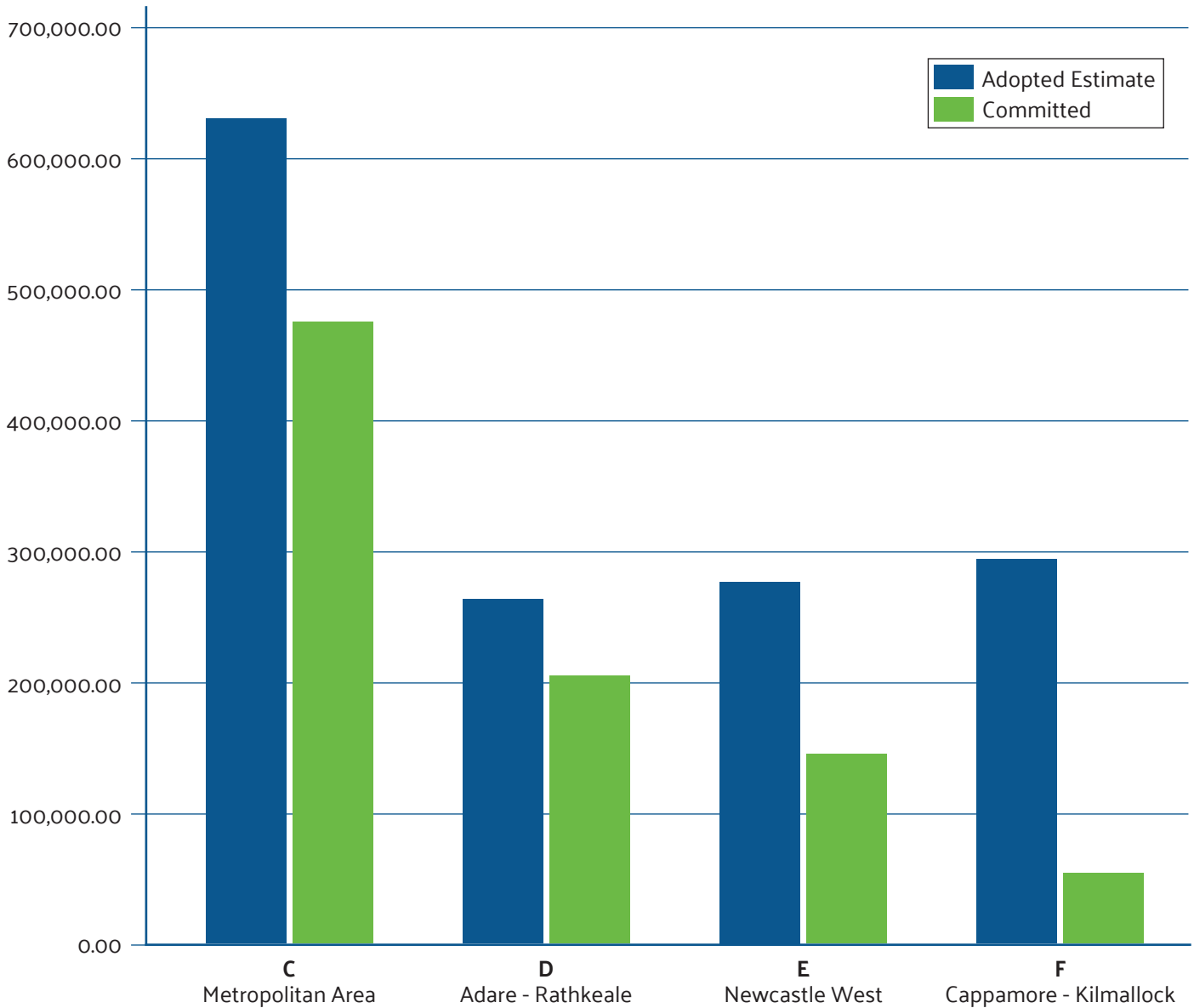


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## General Municipal Allocation 2023 Adopted Estimate €1.463 Million

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



Municip (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate (€)	Value Committed (€)
C Metropolitan Area	628,000.00	475,485 ^
D Adare - Rathkeale	269,500.00	205,302 ^
E Newcastle West	270,500.00	147,795 ^
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	295,000.00	53,523 ^

^ subject to finalisation of year end accounts for 2023

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## 2. Business Improvement

- Staff Liaison Network meeting held on 05 December in Council Chamber, Dooradoyle.
- Car Park Policy passed by Management Team.
- Thank You cakes delivered to all staff for winning Local Authority of the Year.
- A total of 918 active users now live on the Employee App.
- Services on Service Catalogue = 700.
- 550 capital projects now managed through Cora, our cloud-based project management system.
- Business Improvement assisted Climate Action to launch five separate grant/funding application forms on MyPoint.
- Business Improvement worked with Strategy and Non-Local Authority Housing Construction to roll out their Notice of Public Consultation for Dromdarrig (Mungret) on MyPoint.
- Business Improvement partnered with Environment to upload their Litter Management Plan 2023-2026 consultation on MyPoint.
- Staff Portal updates were completed.

## 3. Corporate, Governance and Customer Services

### Mayoral Reception was held for the following:

- Limerick Ladies Football Club, in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of winning the inaugural Ladies Football Association of Ireland Ladies League of Ireland in 1973.

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

- Met visiting educational group from the city of Fortaleza, in the state of Ceará, Brazil, who attended Mary Immaculate College for a two-week professional development academic programme.
- Courtesy Visit from the Finnish Ambassador to Ireland.

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

- Official Launch of the Hyde Road Active Travel Scheme at Our Lady of Lourdes Community Centre, Childers Road, Rosbrien, Limerick.
- Fairtrade Ireland Supporter Gathering at King John's Castle, Nicholas Street, Limerick.
- Limerick Civic Trust, Christmas Business Lunch.
- Cumann Lúthchleas Gael Luimnigh, The 4 in a Row All Ireland and Munster Senior Hurling Championship Medal Presentation Ceremony for The Limerick Senior Hurling Panel 2023.
- Launch of the Old Limerick Journal at Dooradoyle Library, Dooradoyle, Limerick.
- Mungret Village Christmas Tree Lighting at Mungret Church Grounds, Mungret, Co. Limerick.

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- University of Limerick, the 13th Annual President's Volunteer Award Ceremony at the University of Limerick, Castletroy, Limerick.
- Limerick North Munster Rotary Club, Launch of the Annual Remembrance Tree at Bedford Row, Limerick.
- Gathering of voluntary groups from Killeedy following their recent award of joint first place in the IPB 2023 Pride of Place Community Awards at Ashford, Ballagh, Co. Limerick.
- Training Services Limerick (HSE), Official Opening of Art Exhibition at Dooradoyle Library, Crescent Shopping Centre, Dooradoyle, Limerick.
- Winter Craft Fair at the College of Further Education and Training (FET), O'Connell Avenue Campus, Technical Institute, O'Connell Avenue, Limerick.
- Launch of Book celebrating 150 years of Knockcarron School and Community Centre at Knockcarron, Knocklong, Co. Limerick.
- Launch of the NOVAS Christmas Sleep Out, fundraiser and awareness building campaign, sleeping out as a symbolic gesture to people experiencing homelessness outside Brown Thomas, O'Connell Street, Limerick.
- International Christmas Recipe Swap at the Hunt Museum, Limerick.
- Organisation of National Ex-Service Personnel (ONE) wreath laying ceremony, in memory of members of the Irish Air Corps killed in a crash during the emergency at Wilmots Hollow, Dublin Road, Limerick.
- IDA Ireland, company announcement for Verizon expansion into the Mid-West with a global Centre of Excellence in Limerick City.
- Focus Ireland Christmas Charity Concert at St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick.
- Launch of Exhibition 'Let's Go Shopping,' A History of Retail in Limerick, at Limerick Museum, Old Franciscan Friary, Henry Street, Limerick.
- Presentation of the Bruff Fitzgerald Bible Award to Fr. Peter McVerry at the Thomas Fitzgerald Centre, Bruff, Co. Limerick.
- Fossett's Christmas Circus at Cleeves Factory Yard, Off O'Callaghan Strand and Condell Road, Limerick.
- Curraghgower Singers, Dickensian Festival of Carols, Lessons and Poetry at the Holy Trinity Abbey Church, Adare, Co. Limerick.
- Civic Carol Service at St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick.
- Launch of Limerick City and County Council's Learning and Wellbeing Strategy in Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Photoshoot at the distribution of over 300 Christmas hampers to Limerick families, through the Mayor's Fund, at the Milk Market Limerick. The hampers were obtained from the NeighbourFood Unit at the Limerick Milk Market and the Urban Co-Op.
- Christmas Prayer Service in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle, Limerick.
- Turning on of the Christmas Lights in Bruff, Co. Limerick.
- Meeting with Sustainable Alliances Against Anti-Muslim Hatred (SALAAM) Community Engagement Platform Members in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle, Limerick.
- Opening of the Head School Cottage in Newtown, Clarina, Co. Limerick.
- Unveiling of the Caherguillamore Ambush Memorial at Bruff GAA Grounds, Bruff, Co. Limerick.



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- United Rugby Championship Match, Munster Rugby .V. Leinster Ruby at Thomond Park Stadium, Limerick.
- Attendance at the 'Passport to the World,' hosted by Austin Sister Cities International, which celebrates cultural diversity and fosters global understanding in Austin, Texas.

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

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

Rejection Reason	December
Memo – Requisition not raised in advance	49
Procurement Reference omitted/incorrect	39
Quotes – omitted/incorrect copy provided	19
Documentation not applicable – documentation uploaded not relevant/ nothing uploaded	18
Signature required – omitted/incorrect	14

## 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 December:

<b>New Procurement References set up</b>	35
<b>Procurement References extended as per signed contract/arrangement</b>	9

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 December:

Month	Approved	Rejected	Total Requisitions Actioned
December	1,124	172	1,296

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

## Register of Electors

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

- Additions to the Electoral Register – 654
- Deletions from the Electoral Register – 60
- Modifications to the Electoral Register – 789
- The Register Team continued to work through the large volume of requests from [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie) brought about by the most recent advertising campaign.
- Staff from the Register Team attended the Online Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage End-of-Year Information Session on 07 December.

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## Health and Safety Training

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

Course Name	Numbers Trained
Safe Pass Training	2
First Aid Response Training	5
First Aid Response Refresher Training	4
Working at Heights Training	20
Asbestos Awareness Training	26
Winter Service Operators' Training	7
<b>Total Staff Trained</b>	<b>64</b>

## Schedule of Meetings for December

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
<b>Full Council</b> Special Meeting of Limerick City and County Council to pass a Vote of Sympathy on the passing of former Member and Mayor of Limerick, Patrick (Paddy) Madden.	29/12/2023	Dooradoyle and Online
<b>Operational Briefings</b>		
Limerick City East	05/12/2023	Merchant's Quay and Online
Limerick City North	05/12/2023	Merchant's Quay and Online
Limerick City West	06/12/2023	Merchant's Quay and Online

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Name of Meeting	Date	Location
<b>Municipal District of</b>		
<b>Newcastle West</b> Monthly Meeting	06/12/2023	Newcastle West
<b>Adare-Rathkeale</b> Monthly Meeting	12/12/2023	Rathkeale
<b>Cappamore-Kilmallock</b> Joint Policing Sub-Committee Meeting	14/12/2023	Kilmallock
Monthly Meeting	14/12/2023	Kilmallock
<b>Metropolitan District of Limerick</b> Monthly Meeting	11/12/2023	Dooradoyle and Online
<b>Strategic Policy Committee Meetings</b>		
Community, Leisure and Culture	04/12/2023	Dooradoyle and Online
Home and Social Development	07/12/2023	Dooradoyle and Online
Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning	11/12/2023	Dooradoyle and Online
Travel and Transportation	12/12/2023	Dooradoyle and Online
Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment	13/12/2023	Dooradoyle and Online
<b>Limerick Twenty Thirty Strategic Development DAC Meeting</b>	05/12/2023	Gardens International, Henry Street, and Online
<b>Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Meeting</b>	05/12/2023	Dooradoyle and Online
<b>Joint Policing Committee Meeting</b>	08/12/2023	Dooradoyle and Online
<b>Audit and Risk Committee Meeting</b>	08/12/2023	The Granary, Michael Street
<b>Rural Water Monitoring Committee Meeting</b>	13/12/2023	Dooradoyle and Online
<b>Discover Limerick DAC Meeting</b>	15/12/2023	King John's Castle, Nicholas Street
<b>Party Leaders' Meeting</b>	19/12/2023	Merchant's Quay and Online

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## Access to Information

	December	2023 (January to December)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	8	263
Freedom of Information Internal Appeals	1	18
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	6
<b>Total Ombudsman Requests</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>60</b>
Total Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) Requests	0	35
Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) Internal Appeals	0	2
OCEI (Office of the Commissioner for Environmental Information) Appeals	0	1

## Customer Services

Once again, the Council adopted the Refuse Waiver Scheme in its 2024 budget, facilitating access to a refuse collection service to citizens on certain Social Welfare payments. Customer Services aided the Urban, Rural and Community Department in providing this service through a number of access points. Customer Services staff fielded 346 calls, issued 243 new applications, and processed 65 new applications received at the Dooradoyle and Merchant's Quay counters.

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 the general facilitation of applications for all Council services also continued throughout the month.

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

- Customer Services Call Centre answered 7,443 calls. This represents an average of 438 per day, with the number of calls reaching as high as 598. A total of 72% of calls were handled at first point of contact.
- A total of 2,972 emails were processed through the Customer Services email platform.
- 2,207 cases were created on Sugar CRM (customer relationship management), with 447 of these logged on behalf of Public Representatives. 2,374 cases were closed, with 522 of these being cases logged by Public Representatives.
- Of the 2,207 cases created in December, 71% were logged by the Customer Services Team.
- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued, with a total of 142 cases being logged. Of these, 115 were submitted by Public Representatives.
- Customer Services continued to support the Housing Maintenance Department in creating service requests and, throughout the month, 97% 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 176 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 74 were applied for and 57 issued.
- Customer Services staff welcomed a total of 1,790 customers at the Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle Offices.

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## 4. Marketing & Communications

### Marketing

#### Christmas in Limerick 2023

- Concluded a six-week, multi-media campaign promoting Christmas in Limerick to local and regional audiences across social, digital, print and radio.
- Engaged two prominent local social media influencers to promote the campaign: Jessica Brogan to promote the family-fun element and Aoife Walsh to promote the vibrancy of the Christmas in Limerick offering.
- Created and promoted dedicated video and still photography content, celebrating the festive season in Limerick across digital and social media.
- Ran six competitions across [limerick.ie](http://limerick.ie) and Christmas in Limerick social media, featuring themed and festive prizes to increase followers and engagement with audiences.
- Created and distributed a Christmas in Limerick event guide in print and digital formats, highlighting the range of events taking place over the Christmas period.

#### Limerick Tourism Video

- Created and launched a tourism promotional video, "Visit Limerick: A Different Kind of Energy" as well as a suite of still photography to engage local, national and international audiences in a B2B and B2C capacity and to attract increased investment, visitors and students to Limerick.
- The video was cut down and promoted as an advertisement across social media and promoted extensively across TG4 (Irish version) and across the Sky portfolio of channels (English version).
- Continued interdepartmental collaboration in advance of the Ryder Cup.

- Continued collaboration with our Tertiary Education Sector partners regarding the promotion of Limerick as a destination of choice for study, including preparation for the CAO Deadline Campaign and the production of a Limerick Student City promotional video asset to attract international students to the city.
- Continued development of Brand Limerick's new positioning platform.
- Commenced content preparation and asset creation for the award winning 'Limerick on Foot' campaign.
- Created and issued three Limerick.ie e-newsletters.

### Social Media

- Management of Marketing and Communications' 14 social media channels including Limerick.ie and Limerick City and County Council accounts, to engage with citizens and promote Limerick to locals, visitors, students, and the business community.
- Followers across our five main social media platforms are now as follows:
  - Limerick.ie Facebook: 34,653
  - Limerick.ie Twitter: 21,547
  - Limerick.ie Instagram: 29,325
  - Limerick.ie TikTok: 941
  - Limerick City and County Council Twitter: 18,347
  - Limerick City and County Council LinkedIn: 11,563

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## Limerick.ie

In December, there were 160,885 unique site visits to Limerick.ie, a 6.7% decrease on the same period in 2022. (\*Fathom Analytics)

The most popular pages on Limerick.ie were:

1. [www.limerick.ie/christmas](http://www.limerick.ie/christmas)
2. [www.limerick.ie](http://www.limerick.ie)
3. [www.limerick.ie/christmas/events/all](http://www.limerick.ie/christmas/events/all)
4. [www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-placemaking/search-for-a-planning-application/search-for-a-planning](http://www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-placemaking/search-for-a-planning-application/search-for-a-planning)
5. [www.limerick.ie/discover/whats-on/christmas/toots-christmas-train-1](http://www.limerick.ie/discover/whats-on/christmas/toots-christmas-train-1)

**Content Report:** 87 articles and 128 events were added to Limerick.ie in December.

## Communications

- Issued 30 news releases from the Marketing and Communications Department, researched and wrote 15 speeches for the Office of the Mayor.
- Produced and distributed the December 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 December
No. of callouts 01.12.2023 - 31.12.2023	1,057	227	96.00	1,284

