

Chief Executive's Report

January 2024

Limerick chosen as location for World Rally Championship

LEO Limerick Leads the Way on Job Creation Nationally

€2.9m for Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) in Limerick in 2024

Limerick City and County Council and An Garda Síochána Urge Motorists to “Think Before You Park”

Limerick Filming Locations Feature on Big and Small Screens

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Contents

Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism Directorate

1. Trade and Investment	3
2. Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Limerick	3
3. Tourism	3
4. Innovate Limerick DAC	5
5. Discover Limerick DAC	6

Transportation and Mobility Directorate

1. Travel and Transport Strategy	7
2. Active Travel	7

Rural, Community and Culture Development Directorate

1. Rural Development	8
2. Community Development	8
3. Culture	9
4. Property Management	13

Regeneration, Sports and Recreation Directorate

1. Regeneration and Sports	14
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Housing Directorate

1. Housing Support Services	17
2. Housing Welfare and Traveller Accommodation	21
3. Local Authority Housing Construction and Maintenance	22
4. Strategy & Non-Local Authority Housing Construction	26
5. Municipal District Offices	31

Planning, Environment & Place-Making Directorate

1. Forward Planning and Public Realm	34
2. Development Management and Place-Making	34
3. Environment and Climate Action	35
4. Limerick Twenty Thirty (LTT) DAC	38

National and Regional Shared Services Centre Directorate

1. Housing Assistance Payment Shared Services Centre (HAP SSC)	40
2. Fire and Emergency	40

Support Services Directorate

1. Finance	43
2. Business Improvement	45
3. Corporate, Governance and Customer Services	45
4. Marketing & Communications	49
5. National Mobilisation and Communication System / Munster Regional Communications Centre (NMACS/MRCC)	51

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism Directorate

1. Trade and Investment

Customer Care firm, Everise, announced 100 new positions for its city centre office. Located in Limerick since 2016, the Florida headquartered company operates from a 5,800 square foot office on Thomas Street where 130 are presently employed. The new positions available include customer service representatives, IT support specialists and other support staff. The new roles involve providing support to healthcare customers with insurance plans based in the USA. Everise provides back-office support to a huge number of blue-chip firms from across the world.

2. Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Limerick

The national LEO Employment Survey 2023 results were published in January showing LEO Limerick ranking 1st nationally with net jobs created and supported in 2023.

The results summary at 01 January for LEO Limerick is as follows:

- Number of Clients - 313
- Net Employment gain of Jobs - 238 (2023)

2023 was the 10th year showing year-on-year growth for LEO Limerick supported businesses and puts Limerick as the top performing county for job creation by LEO clients in the country in 2023.

Funding Approved

- One Green for Micro Grant approved.
- One Technical Assistance for Exporters Grant approved.
- Seven businesses were approved for a Trading Online Voucher.
- One IPStart Grant approved.

LEO Workshops, Webinars and Training Workshops Held

- Start Your Own Business Introductory Workshop and Course.
- Business Advice Clinics.
- Cyber Threats and Data Breaches Training.
- Marketing Workshop.
- Social Media Marketing Bootcamp.
- Trading Online Voucher Seminar.
- Advanced Management Development Programme.

There were 128 participants on the LEO Business Training Workshops and 20 Business Owners were approved for the LEO Mentoring Programme in January

3. Tourism

Limerick Greenway

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

- Limerick Greenway, along with Kingdom of Kerry Greenways, featured in an article in the Kerryman and Irish Independent on 05 January, showcasing Limerick Greenway as an ideal location to get out and about for a walk or cycle this winter and starting the New Year off on the right note.
- Limerick Greenway, along with the town of Rathkeale and Rathkeale House Hotel, featured at No. 3 on a list of 20 Wheelchair Accessible Holidays in Ireland, compiled by The Travel Expert.
- Barnagh Health Kick Programme Walk/Run commenced on 20 January for a six-week period.
- Familiarisation Trip on 20 January with Bianca Luykx, Editor of VIP Magazine.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

- Winter/Spring Photoshoot on Limerick Greenway on 27 January.

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

- A Happy New Year post to all from Limerick Greenway.
- A post on the various sections to choose from on Limerick Greenway, whether it be 4km or 40km, or extending a trip to 50km by traveling on to Listowel via the Kingdom of Kerry Greenways.
- Hub Spotlights on each of the hubs along Limerick Greenway, and the towns and villages at each location, including Rathkeale, Ardagh and Barnagh.
- Three health benefits that being out on Limerick Greenway can bring everyone in January, particularly on 15 January, Blue Monday.
- A post on how Limerick Greenway is equally suitable for the most experienced cycling enthusiast to a leisurely rider looking to do something different.

Limerick Greenway Statistics

Social Media Statistics

Statistics for Limerick Greenway socials 01/01/2024 – 31/01/2024

	Facebook	Instagram
Reach	36,878	2,338
Profile Visits	660	143
New Page Followers	38	42

Google Ads:

01/01/2024 – 31/01/2024

Impressions	37,400
Ad Clicks	1,530
Cost Per Click	€0.16

FESTIVAL AND EVENTS

The Hunt Museum - Kite Power Festival

In conjunction with the Kite Power Festival facilitated by the Hunt Museum, workshops took place in the city and county throughout January. The workshops enabled participants to create kites in a visually captivating and eco-friendly manner. The theme was to explore ways to encourage participants to recycle, by reusing their paper waste from the holiday period.

World Rally Championship (WRC) Limerick

Limerick has been chosen as one of three locations to be included in Motorsport Ireland's bid to host a round of the World Rally Championship. Limerick, along with its neighbours, Kerry and Waterford, were shortlisted to be the venues to host the Fan Zone, Service and Media areas for the event. With the judges not being able to decide on one winning location, the decision was made to have each location host one year from 2025 to 2027.

Limerick Racecourse has been identified as the venue to stage Limerick's event. The World Rally Championship has a global audience of 80 million in media viewership and the event will potentially bring up to 250,000 spectators and millions of euro in revenue to the Limerick economy during the event. The success of the Motorsport Ireland's application to Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) now rests with the Irish Government who have been asked to commit the necessary funding to ensure the event comes to Ireland for the next three years. A decision on the success of the application is awaited.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

4. Innovate Limerick DAC

Film in Limerick

Film in Limerick wins Film Commission of the Year in London

Innovate Limerick, through Film in Limerick, won the prestigious Film Commission of the Year Award at the international Makers & Shakers Awards, at BAFTA London. The awards celebrate excellence across screen content production worldwide and shine a spotlight on the work of film industry support services who have made a significant impact on the industry through creativity, innovation and ground-breaking initiatives in the past year.

Blackshore TV Series screening on RTE 1

The six-part TV drama series, Blackshore, attracted to the region and supported by the Film in Limerick office, is now screening on Sunday nights on RTE 1. Filmed entirely in Killaloe, Ballina and in Limerick City, Blackshore, from the makers of Smother (also filmed in the region), tells the story of a missing person, with an investigating detective bruised by a traumatic past, in a pretty town with dark secrets. Produced by Treasure Entertainment, the production worked with Film in Limerick creating local employment and supporting local businesses in the area.

Double-Blind Feature Film in Cinema

The feature film, Double-Blind, 100% filmed in Limerick at the Innovate Limerick managed Rathkeale Industrial Estate and at the University of Limerick, is now playing at all Limerick cinemas. Double-Blind tells the story of an experimental drug trial that goes horribly wrong, with the surviving test subjects fighting off sleep, and each other, to stay alive. The film has received excellent reviews and is now playing nationwide.

Engine Shorts

The second edition of Film in Limerick's short film scheme, Engine Shorts, has commissioned and produced six new short films from local new writers, producers, directors and crews. The films are now in post-production and will be

premiered at film festivals and at a screening in Limerick later this year. Engine Shorts is funded by the Local Authorities in Limerick, Clare, Tipperary, Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board and Creative Ireland.

European Film Market at Berlinale

Three local producers have been selected to join the annual Film in Limerick Delegation to the European Film Market in Berlin in partnership with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board. Melissa Collins, Grainne Carroll and Stephen Hall are the selected producers. The European Film Market (EFM) is the business centre of the Berlin Film Festival and one of the top international film markets in the world attended by over 8,300 international industry professionals.

Marketing

Film in Limerick marketing activity in January included Regional Film Manager, Paul C. Ryan, doing an interview on the Pat Kenny Show on Newstalk, an interview/article for the Limerick Leader and an interview for the Joe Nash Show on Live95.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

5. Discover Limerick DAC

King John's Castle Updates

Another concert announcement in January - Johnny Marr will play Live at the Castle, this brings the total to six concerts confirmed so far for 2024.

Munster Rugby public relations photoshoot took place in King John's Castle on 17 January to highlight the upcoming Munster -v- Crusaders match taking place in Páirc Uí Chaoimh, Cork. Oli Jager, Munster Rugby player, was in attendance on the day.

Ben Aitken, British author and travel writer, visited the Castle on 23 January in advance of a travel piece he is doing on Limerick. He was given a guided tour of the Castle and access to DAC Sales and Marketing Manager to answer any questions he had.

Industry Events

A member of Discover Limerick DAC attended the Tourism Ireland Marketing Plans 2024 briefing day in Dublin on 09 January.



Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Transportation and Mobility Directorate

1. Travel and Transport Strategy

Limerick City and County Council and An Garda Síochána launched the “Think Before You Park” Awareness Campaign on 29 January.

The aim is to inspire motorists, across the city and county, to reflect on the repercussions of obstructive parking. Whether it is impeding footpaths, bus corridors, cycle lanes, or access points, badly parked vehicles can pose challenges for various road users, including people with disabilities, cyclists, parents pushing buggies and other pedestrians. Bad parking affects the flow of our public transport services and causes traffic congestion. As part of the Think Before You Park campaign, for a limited period, members of the Garda Roads Policing Unit in Limerick have commenced placing information stickers on vehicles that have been issued with fixed charge notices for parking offences. A QR Code on the sticker directs the motorist to the Think Before You Park campaign webpage on [Limerick.ie](https://limerick.ie) where they can find out more about the impact of bad parking.

2. Active Travel

Childers Road (Greenpark to Roxboro Road Roundabout), Limerick: Works now being concentrated from Service Station entrance to Roxboro Roundabout.

Rosmór, Old Cork Road, Limerick: Works continuing to progress on site. Mount St. Oliver boundary wall construction ongoing. Excavation for retaining wall at Rosmór underway.

Father Russell Road, Raheen, Limerick: Works progressing on site. Installation of drainage and utility services continuing.

TUS, Technological University of the Shannon, Moylish, to Limerick City Centre: Chief Executive's Report for proposed Gaelscoil Sáirséal Shelbourne Road Part 8 signed and distributed to Elected Members.

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

Plassey Park Road, Castletroy, Limerick: Works continuing to progress on site.

Patrickswell Village Renewal Scheme: Launch held on 26 January.

Wickham Street to Clare Street, Limerick: Public Information Session held on 18 January.

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

Roxboro Road, Limerick: Traffic modelling for Roxboro Road/Music Street junction now complete.

Ballysimon Road, Limerick: Draft cross-section options under review.

Our Lady of Lourdes School, Rosbrien, Limerick: Section 38 published.

Laurel Hill Avenue, Limerick: Section 38 published.



Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Rural, Community and Culture Development Directorate

1. Rural Development

On 12 January, the Department of Rural and Community Development awarded €280,541 in funding for a range of projects to be delivered through the CLÁR 2023 Programme. Seven Limerick community groups were successful: Doon Community Centre, Feenagh Old Schoolhouse CLG, Mountcollins Community Centre, Tournafulla Development Association, Templeglantine Community Development Association, Galbally Community Council and Rathkeale District Office. Projects include car park developments, upgrading of community centres, access road improvements and outdoor gym equipment for adults. This announcement brings the total of CLÁR 2023 funding awarded to Limerick under this programme to €543,967, with a previous allocation awarded in December 2023.

2. Community Development

Local Community Development Committee

- A meeting of the Local Community Development Committee was held on 09 January in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle, and Online. Some of the items discussed included the new Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme 2024-2028, Local Enhancement Programme 2024 and closure of the 2014-2022 LEADER Programme.
- The Local Enhancement Programme was advertised on 19 January. This Grant Scheme is a small capital grant scheme for community groups. The maximum grant is €4,999.

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

- The Annual Performance Reviews for the 2023 SICAP Programme delivery took place, with a budget for SICAP in Limerick in 2024 of €2,929,883.00.

- The new SICAP Programme, funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the EU, for the period 2024-2028, began in January. The Local Community Development Committee oversees the programme. The three Limerick LOTS or areas are: LOT 21-1 Limerick West Rural where West Limerick Resources CLG implements the programme, LOT 21-2 Limerick Urban where the PAUL Partnership Limerick CLG implements the programme, and LOT 21-3 Limerick East Rural where Ballyhoura Development CLG implements the programme.

Public Participation Network (PPN) Limerick

- Membership of PPN Limerick continued to grow and stands at 204. The membership registration form is on the Limerick PPN [website](#) and eligible groups in Limerick can register at any time.
- Nominations were opened to fill vacant Seats on the Secretariat and Strategic Policy Committees.
- Two Linkage Group meetings were held in January - Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment; and Home and Social Development.

Integration Supports

Ukrainian Community Forum

On 30 January, the Ukraine Community Forum held a workshop to review 2023 activities, identify emerging issues and agree actions to assist the Forum in the co-ordination and facilitation of support services for the Ukrainian community in 2024.

Migrant Support Forum

The Migrant Support Forum, whose membership consists of members of the Migrant Community only, held a meeting on 25 January. Elections were held on the night for positions on the Executive Committee, Chair and Vice-

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Chairperson, Secretary and Vice- Secretary. The Forum is supported by Limerick City and County Council.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

A number of MoveWell Programmes took place during the month, including Aqua Aerobics for Chronic Pain and Arthritis (St. Gabriel's Hydrotherapy Pool); Activator Walking for Neuro Conditions (Southill Hub).

Venture Out events took place, including a weekly Singing for Lung Health Group, initiated at Moyross Community Hub, focusing on individuals with chronic lung conditions in Northside Limerick City.

Bin Waiver Scheme

The Household Waste Collection Subsidy Scheme closed to applications on 31 January. Out of the total of 3,708 received, 2,094 permits have been issued during the scheme's open period, with a number of applications still in progress.

Age Friendly

The Draft Age Friendly Strategy went before the Plenary Council on 22 January for noting, following which it went to the National Age Friendly Ireland Shared Service for final sign-off. The Shared Service supports all the local Age Friendly programmes hosted in the Local Authorities.

3. Culture

Library

City Library at Barrow House

- On 16 January, the branch hosted one of a series of drop-in information sessions from Limerick Arts Office on funding grants and opportunities available in 2024. An audience of 30 received expert advice on how to apply, what grants are available, and how applications are assessed and allocated.

- Emerging Limerick Filmmakers (ELF), the organisation for young filmmakers in Limerick, held three training sessions on 05, 20 and 27 January for filmmakers wishing to learn more about the editing process involved in exploring their cinematic voices.
- A new course of digital skills classes for absolute beginners began on 30 January organised by Limerick City Library and Europe Direct Limerick, in partnership with the Vodafone Ireland Foundation. Addressing the digital divide, tablets were made available for home use.
- In the Children's Library, events included Róisín Meaney's regular monthly story session 27 January, Scéalta agus Rannata with Joanne from Comhlúadar Luimnigh on 20 January, while the library's own weekly toddler storytime continued on Wednesdays.
- Eight classes from Coláiste Mhichíl (CBS Sexton Street) visited across the month on 11, 12, 18, 19 and 26 January. St. John the Baptist National School attended on 31 January.
- Also visiting the City Library on 08 January were students of Equine Science from the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, and two groups of English language students from Rightword Language School on 12 January, and Limerick Language Centre on 26 January.
- The Phoenix Book Club met on 03 January, the Children's Book Club met on 11 January, the Spiral Book Club had their meeting on 17 January and three Book Clubs from the University of the Third Age met on consecutive Mondays on 08, 15 and 22 January.
- Sahaja Yoga meditation meetings continued during the month with sessions taking place on 09 and 23 January.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Kilmallock Library

- Weekly Bridge classes for beginners each Wednesday.
- Weekly Yoga Community Education Course, led by Ballyhoura Development CLG (Company Limited by Guarantee), with two sessions each Friday.
- Weekly Kilmallock Library Craft Group sessions on Thursdays.
- Community Craft Workshops hosted in the library on Tuesdays by Ballyhoura Development CLG.
- 18 Little Readers met for the monthly session on 17 January for a fun, friendly, inclusive hour of storytelling, song, rhymes, books and chat.
- Mid-West ARIES (Advancing Recovery in Ireland Education Service) held two workshops for adults on 24 and 31 January. The workshops examined types of anxiety, causes and responses, including available supports and a recovery toolkit.

Newcastle West Library

- Youth Book Club for ages 10 to 13 continued to meet in the library on the 2nd 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.
- Regular class visits from local national schools which included Autism Spectrum Disorder class visits to the Library's Sensory Space.
- Headway Ireland meeting every Friday morning from 10am to 11am.
- Knitting Club continued every Friday morning from 11am to 1pm.

Dooradoyle Library

- The First Friday Book Club met on 05 January to discuss 'Apeirogon' by Colum McCann. Dooradoyle Book Club met at the end of the month to discuss 'The Heart's Invisible Furies,' by John Boyne.
- The library weekly knitting group 'Close-Knit Friends' resumed on 10 January.

Watch House Cross Library

- Twice weekly storytime sessions for young children with Parents/Caregivers continued during January, with approximately 50 attendees during the month.
- Children's Book Clubs met on 31 January with 7-9-year-olds discussing 'Hilda and the Hidden People,' by Stephen Davies, and the 9-12-year-olds read 'Sally and the City of Dreams,' by local author, Judi Curtin.
- Pupils from Corpus Christi Primary School visited weekly to avail themselves of the Sensory and Craft rooms.
- Crafty Saturday free-play art and craft was well attended in January, with 115 children with their parents participating over the month.
- Fighting Words creative writing project, Story Seeds: Adventures across Limerick and Beyond, Volume 2, was distributed to participants and library branches.
- Extern Support Service for children was welcomed to the branch to avail themselves of the Craft Room and other facilities.
- Two adult book clubs met in January, on the last Thursday and Friday mornings of the month. They discussed 'The Herd,' by Emily Edwards.
- Area-Based Childhood (ABC) programme, funded by Tusla, began a nine-week block of their Incredible Years Programme in the library this month. The Start

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Right initiative is an early intervention and prevention programme for parents and children from pre-birth to six years.

- The Northside Family Resource Centre began a nine-week craft class.
- St. Munchin's Community Development Project began a block of their Wellbeing and Self-Care classes in the library in early January titled 'Coping with Stress and Anxiety.'
- Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board classes resumed, including Computers Levels 1 and 2, Driver Theory Test Support and English Language classes.
- Age Action resumed their one-to-one computer and smartphone training workshops in the library with 14 new pupils.
- An evening meditation class, Sahaja Yoga Meditation, free and open to the public, began in January on every second Tuesday evening, 6-7pm.
- The Sensory Room had 244 visitors in 85 sessions during January.

Local Studies

- 28 onsite visits by researchers to the Local Studies Department in January.
- 17 research sessions on the archives of local and national newspapers.
- Four sessions on FindMyPast.
- Six sessions on material from the Local Studies and Archives collections.
- One family history advice session.
- 20 remote queries.

Other Branches

- Cappamore Library hosted an exhibition 'Into Europe: Ireland and the EU 1973-2023.' The Exhibition was curated by Historian, Dr. Miriam Nyhan Grey, and presented under the auspices of the Royal Irish Academy, the Department of Foreign Affairs and the National Archives.
- Rathkeale Library hosted 'Scéalta agus Rannata le Joanne' on 25 January, attended by Junior Infants from St. Anne's Primary School.
- Glin Library welcomed back the members of their Craft Club, two Book Clubs and the Community Singing Group during the month. On 30 January, a talk on community funding opportunities was facilitated by West Limerick Resources and attended by 22 members of the public.

Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- George Shaw, Nothing Strange or Startling, George Shaw, Personal Selection from the Permanent Collection, Screendance, The Site by Eric O'Sullivan, and Limerick School of Art and Design, and graduate award exhibition, all continued until 28 January.
- Preparatory work continued for the next cohort of Exhibitions.
- The Test Space residency Open Call had 48 applicants and on 26 January, the Selection Panel chose recipients.
- Various community groups continued to use the Gallery for meetings and events. These include University of Third Age (U3A) who regularly hold their poetry and music meetings in the Gallery.
- LCGA hosted a musical event on 11 January in association with First Fortnight, Narrative 4 and Sing Out with Strings, with an attendance of 15 musicians and 40 audience members.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Limerick Museum

- Limerick Museum was accepted into the Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MPSI). The purpose of the MPSI is to benchmark and promote professional standards in collections' care and to recognise the achievement of those standards within the Irish museum sector. The programme recognises the achievement of those standards through accreditation. It is used to set a baseline for management of collections in not-for-profit institutions that collect, safeguard, hold in trust, research, develop and interpret collections of original objects and items on loan, for the public benefit.
- The Exhibitions - Let's go Shopping! A History of Retail in Limerick, and The Art of the Stitch: The Enduring Legacy of Maude Kearney - continued in Limerick Museum for the month of January.
- The Curator was interviewed on the history of Limerick's Mayoralty by Limerick Journalist, Petula Martyn, as part of a package on the Directly Elected Mayor that was broadcast on Morning Ireland on RTE Radio One, and by a Researcher from Trinity College, Dublin, on the same topic.
- The Museum acquired a framed tapestry commemorating a local veteran of the First World War from one of his relatives; and a fine collection of memorabilia relating to the Treaty 300 celebrations of 1991 and other events in Limerick's public life, from Elenora Hogan.
- The Friends of Lace met in Limerick Museum on 27 January.

Limerick Arts Office

OPEN CALLS

Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts Scheme 2024

Limerick Arts Office manages the 2024 Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts Scheme. The purpose of the Scheme is to support the maximising of the leveraging of funding into Limerick from national and international sources and to support a vibrant creative culture. In January, three letters of support were issued.

Grants under the Arts Act

The Grants under the Arts Act opened on 29 January. These grants are open to artists, community and voluntary groups to promote the arts and provide access to arts for Limerick. The total grant budget is €20,000 and grants offered are usually between €150-500, with €1,000 being offered in exceptional circumstances.

Funding and Grants Roadshow

The Arts Office held a series of sessions in Libraries around the county, and online, advising on the various grants and funding opportunities available through the Arts Office. On 16 January, a morning session was held in the City Library and an afternoon session was held in Kilmallock Library. On 17 January, a morning session was held in Newcastle West Library, and an afternoon session was held in Adare Library. An online session was held on 19 January. Sixty-eight people attended these sessions.

ARTS COUNCIL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT PROGRAMME

Visual Artists Ireland

Limerick Arts Office, in partnership with Clare and Tipperary Arts Offices and Visual Artists Ireland, support a series of professional development opportunities for those living in the Mid-West. The first of this series for 2024 took place online on 25 January and was titled "An Artist's Guide to Accessing Funding." Marianne O'Kane Boal presented the session.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Sliabh Luachra Music Trail

Limerick Arts Office presented the next steps in the Sliabh Luachra Music Trail Stakeholder at a meeting in The River Island Hotel, Castleisland, Co. Kerry, on 29 January. Limerick Arts Office is partnering with Cork County Council's Arts Office and Kerry County Council's Arts Office to deliver a range of supports to promote and grow the unique music from the Sliabh Luachra Region.

Creative Ireland

CREATIVE IRELAND FUNDED PROJECTS

Creative Ireland Limerick secured a total funding allocation of €207,419 (€177,419 Core funding + €30,000 Cruinniú na nÓg funding) to support Limerick creatives and to bring creativity to our communities.

Creative Ireland Made in Limerick Grants Open Call

On 26 January, Limerick Arts Office announced an Open Call seeking applications for Limerick-based creative practitioners, organisations and communities of place and interest to submit applications for Made in Limerick Grants 2023. These grants are offered as part of Limerick Creative Ireland Programme to deliver activities taking place in 2024.

4. Property Management

Dereliction, Vacancy and Reuse Team	
Site Inspections Completed	117
Department Notices of Inquiry issued	11
Derelict Sites Cases opened	9
Statutory Notices served under the Derelict Sites Act 1990	20
Derelict Sites Cases closed through engagement	13
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)	0
Croí Cónaithe – Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant Applications Approved	9



Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

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). Consultation meetings were continuing with the officials from the Department to clarify any queries arising from the review document.

Economic Regeneration

Outreach to Employment Programme

Initiatives on the Outreach to Employment Programme continued in each of the Regeneration communities. A meeting of St. Mary's Park Employment Group was held where the work programme for 2024 was discussed.

Community Mentors – Expansion of the Community Mentor Network is ongoing and recruitment for the position of a Southside Community Mentor, to be hosted by Southill Hub, commenced with interviews for this position held.

Personal Development Pilot Programme – This programme is a multi-agency initiative which was developed by the Employment Project Team to work with people in the Regeneration Communities who have experienced addiction. The Programme has commenced, and a Personal Development Tutor has been recruited by Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board. This Programme is hosted on site in The Learning Hub, Kileely.

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

Moyross

In conjunction with the Limerick Sports Partnership, a number of weekly activities took place in Moyross during January:

- Functional Fitness had 10-15 participants each Wednesday in Moyross Community Centre.
- Two local fully qualified instructors ran classes four days per week with an average of 12 attendees at the Moyross Community Centre.
- An adapted physical activity programme/social outlet for older adults in Moyross and surrounding areas was also held at Moyross Community Centre.

King's Island

- An event was held to celebrate Nollaig na mBan in King's Island Community Centre. Residents of St. Mary's Park were treated to complementary therapies from the Body Tree Community Clinic with 30 women in attendance.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Return of Crafty Mondays

- 10 women meet each Monday afternoon to do crafts over a tea and coffee between 2pm and 4pm in King's Island Community Centre.

Return of Family Learning

- This is a collaborative piece of work involving Limerick and Clare Education Training Board (LCETB), Paul Partnership Empowering Communities and Limerick Island Community Partners (LICP) held each Wednesday from 3-5pm.

King's Island Lego Club

- This is supported by Empowering Communities, LICP and St. Mary's National School, each Thursday for one hour, in 19 Nicholas Street. The growth of the Club has seen this moved to St. Mary's National School.
- Bingo Hip-Hop Dancing and Boxercise continued during the month in King's Island Community Centre.
- The Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board held afterschool woodwork and art each Wednesday.

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 handover. The total social housing development comprises 37 units.
- Preliminary design and further stakeholder consultation was undertaken for a new 55-unit infill residential development at Pineview Gardens, Moyross.

- Preliminary level design continued for a 20-unit housing scheme at Cliona Park, Moyross, Phase 4.
- The novation of the Peter McVerry infills (24 units) in Moyross and Carew Park, to Limerick City and County Council, was completed.

Status of Thermal Upgrade Projects

- 47 units at Moyross, Limerick, were 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.
- Work on 12 units, under Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 127, in Ballinacurra Weston, was continued by contractor, JoeBren Construction.
- The detailed design for Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 130 at Pineview Gardens, Moyross, continued.
- The outstanding certification/documentation was received from Henry Connolly Builder in relation to two (of four) historical Thermal Upgrade contracts.

House Refurbishments

Lot 4a Major Refurbishments – Nine Properties

- Dolmen Construction progressing with works to three properties. Approval was received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to appoint Martins Construction for the remaining six houses.

Lot 4b Major Refurbishments – 11 Properties

- Stage 1 – 3 application was submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the initial three of 11 houses.

Chief Executive's Report



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Limerick City
& County Council

Minor Refurbishments

- Construction works continued on six houses across the four Regeneration areas.
- 19 units were at scoping, tender or pre-construction stage.

Demolitions

- 35 Hartigan Villas, Moyross, was demolished.
- 553 Castle Oaks View, O'Malley Park, Southill, was demolished.
- O'Kelly Bros. were being mobilised to demolish 525 – 528, Castle Oaks View, O'Malley Park, Southill (four houses).
- Smith Demolition was appointed to demolish 121 Mountain View, O'Malley Park.

Infrastructure Projects

Southside Connectivity Project

- Preparation of Section 38 application progressed.
- Tender for topographic survey issued.
- Tender to procure a consultant was progressed.

Southill Boxing Club

Contractor appointed on 31 January to progress upgrade of the building used by Southill Boxing Club in the Galvone Industrial Estate.

Community Facilities

Sports Partnership

- Limerick Sports Partnership secured €582,000 in funding from Sport Ireland for 2024. This will go towards Administration, Programme funding and Women in Sports support.

- Limerick Sports Partnership secured funding for a Youth Officer position.
- The recently installed BoxUp at Clare Street Park has resulted in 120 registered users. This has facilitated approximately 150 uses in the month of January.
- A full list of programmes offered by Limerick Sports Partnership is available on <https://limericksports.ie/>

Council Sporting Facilities

- Limerick Regional Athletics Hub continued to welcome local athletics clubs and new users to the new eight-lane running track in Newcastle West, with participants availing of the additional equipment, including the high jump, javelin and long jump.



Chief Executive's Report



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Limerick City
& County Council

Housing Directorate

1. Housing Support Services

Housing Waiting List

Approved Housing Applicants	2,649
Approved Tenant Transfer Applicants	388

Closed Housing Applications

	January	Year to Date
Closed Applications	50	50

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 January	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	1	1
Newcastle West	4	4
Metropolitan District	12	12
Cappamore-Kilmallock	5	5
Total	22	22

Refusals

	No. of Units January	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	0
Newcastle West	0	0
Metropolitan District	0	0
Cappamore-Kilmallock	2	2
Total	2	2

Approved Housing Body Allocations 2024 (year to date)

Total Nominations	Successful Nominations	Nominations Pending	Unsuccessful Nominations
19	0	19	0

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

Private Tenancies	698
Capital Assistance Scheme/Rental Accommodation Scheme Tenancies	547
Part V	0
New Private Tenancies	0
New Voluntary Housing Tenancies	2

Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Limerick

2,063 active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	14
No. of Amendments	298
No. of Cessations	38

Chief Executive's Report



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Limerick City
& County Council

Rent Collection

Rent Collection Limerick City and County Council					
Opening Balance	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing Balance	% Collection
€5,916,167	€1,974,714	€7,890,881	€1,598,059	€6,292,822	19%

Home Improvement Schemes

Jan-2024		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aid Grants	No. Approved	1	0	2	0	3
	MAG Expenditure	€0.00	€0.00	€13,515.00	€0.00	€13,515.00
	No. Paid	0	0	3	0	3
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	1	6	50	2	59
	HAG Expenditure	€14,725.00	€29,130.72	€149,722.60	€57,392.38	€250,970.70
	No. Paid	2	6	20	8	36
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	2	1	84	6	93
	HOP Expenditure	€7,650.00	€40,988.00	€139,516.94	€22,196.24	€210,351.18
	No. Paid	2	8	34	5	49
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG Expenditure	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
	No. Paid	0	0	0	0	0

Total No. Approved	155
Total Monies Paid	€474,836.88
Total No. Paid	88

Chief Executive's Report



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Limerick City
& County Council

Community Sustainment Unit

Tenancy Inductions

	January	Year to Date
No. of Tenancy Inductions	32	32

House Visits

	January	Year to Date
No. of House Visits	287	287

Sugar CRM (Customer Relationship Management) Cases

	January	Year to Date
Active cases at month-end	269	269
Cases closed during month	133	133

Repossession

	January	Year to Date
Repossession of Council properties	18	18

Garda Checks

	January	Year to Date
Garda Checks processed	104	104

Chief Executive's Report



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Limerick City
& County Council

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

Date: 09.01.2024		
Individuals		
Location	Description	Beds Used
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	26
Oak Lodge	Adults without children accommodated in low threshold emergency accommodation	68
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	21
St. Joseph Street	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	4
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	39
Temporary Emergency Provision (TEP) - Edenvilla	Low threshold, night-by-night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	14
Phoenix Lodge	Low threshold emergency accommodation for single adults	9
Total		181

Families				
Location	Description	Beds Used		
		Adults	Children	Families
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	8	6
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	75	82	51
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	14	13	10
Totals		Adults	Children	Families
		95	103	67

Chief Executive's Report



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Limerick City
& County Council

Tenant Purchase		
	January	Year to Date
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. Received	12	12
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. approved	6	6
Local Authority Home Loans		
Loan Applications: No. received	5	5
Loan Applications: No. approved	0	0
Deed of Discharge		
Deed of Discharge Applications: No. Received/Processed	19	19
Consent to Sale		
Consent to Sale Applications: No. Received/Processed	6	6
Cottage Purchase Annuity		
No. of Cottage Purchase Annuity Applications	3	3
Ground Rent		
No. of Ground Rent applications	4	4
Title		
Title Deeds Received/Requested	13	13
Title Rectifications Received	0	0
Private Rented Inspections		
No. of Inspections	1,067	1,067

Freedom of Information, Data Requests and Ombudsman

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

2. Housing Welfare and Traveller Accommodation

* Traveller Accommodation

No. of Units offered January	1
Year to Date	1

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

Housing Welfare Visits

No. of Visits January	18
Year to Date	18

Chief Executive's Report



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Limerick City
& County Council

3. Local Authority Housing Construction and Maintenance

Local Authority Housing Construction

House Returns January	
Total	23

House Returns January By Municipal District	
Adare-Rathkeale	1
Cappamore-Kilmallock	6
Newcastle West	3
Metropolitan District	13
Total	23

During January, the Local Authority Housing Construction Team was notified of one house returned in the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale, six in the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock, three in the Municipal District of Newcastle West and 13 in the Metropolitan District.

Current Working Programme		
	Completed in January	In Progress
Local Authority Construction Team	0	80
Local Authority Maintenance Team	0	104
Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process	0	26
Regeneration Team	1	40
Team to be assigned	N/A	17
Total	1	267

In January, work on one Regeneration property was completed.

There are three Teams in Limerick City and County Council assigned to refurbish properties. As of January, the Local Authority Construction Team was in the process of completing works in 80 properties, Local Authority Maintenance was working on 104 properties and the Regeneration Team had 40 properties. Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process - 26 properties. 17 properties were in the process of being assigned to a Team.

Project Updates

- Structural Consultants appointed for housing scheme at Mulcair Drive, Annacotty, Co. Limerick.
- Consultant Engineers appointed for housing scheme at Church Glen, Ballylanders, Co. Limerick.
- Contractors appointed for refurbishment works at property in North Road, Dromcollogher, Co. Limerick.
- Stage 2 approval received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for seven units at Mill Road, Corbally, Limerick.
- Stage 4 approval received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for properties at Georgian Villas, Limerick; Cathedral Place, Limerick; and Marine Cove, Foynes, Co. Limerick.
- Stage 1 – 3 application submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for properties at Main Street, Oola, Co. Limerick; Martin Street, Croom, Co. Limerick; Collinstown, Bruff, Co. Limerick; and Deebert Place, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick.
- Planning Application submitted for four units in Mountcollins, Co. Limerick.
- Stage 3 application submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for new housing scheme of nine units in Ballylanders, Co. Limerick.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
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Limerick City
& County Council

- Stage 2 application submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for six units at New Road, Thomondgate, Limerick.

Local Authority Housing Maintenance

Local Authority Houses: Maintenance Complaints dealt with during January

Housing Maintenance Cases - January	Requests/ Cases Created	Cases Dealt With/Closed	Balance of Open Cases at 31. 01.2024
Metropolitan District of Limerick	1,145	1,090	1,872
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	134	96	366
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	209	146	302
Municipal District of Newcastle West	194	109	774
TOTAL	1,682	1,441	3,314

Grants Inspections

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

Inspection Types	Pre- application	Initial Inspection	Re- inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	4	0	0	4
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	26	1	8	35
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	44	0	2	46
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	9	2	2	13
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	83	3	12	98

Chief Executive's Report



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Limerick City
& County Council

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	1	0	0	1
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	9	0	6	15
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	13	1	5	19
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	7	0	0	7
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	30	1	11	42

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	2	0	0	2
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	2	0	3	5
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	3	0	4	7
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	0	0	3	3
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	7	0	10	17

Chief Executive's Report



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Limerick City
& County Council

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	0	0	2	2
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	10	0	6	16
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	4	0	15	19
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	0	0	1	1
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	14	0	24	38

HOUSE INSPECTIONS UNIT

Houses Inspected for Refurbishment Works and Re-Letting – January - Categories	No. of Properties Inspected
Cat 1 – minor repairs needed	1
Cat 2 – moderate repairs needed	5
Cat 3 – substantial repairs needed	7
Cat 4 – major repairs needed	0
TOTAL INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT	13
No. of Properties Awaiting Inspection	15

DEFECTIVE BLOCKWORK SCHEME APPLICATIONS

Applications Registered January	4
RFI Applications (Request Further Information)	3
Applications Referred to Housing Agency	3
Applications – Damage Threshold Met	3

Chief Executive's Report



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Limerick City
& County Council

4. Strategy & Non-Local Authority Housing Construction

SOCIAL HOUSING – Delivery for 2024

Buy/Build/Lease as of 31.01.2024 is as follows:

As at 31.01.2024 (01.01.2024 – 31.01.2024)	Complete	In Progress	Overall Complete and In Progress	“Housing for All” 2024 Delivery Target
Build	0	439	439	513
Buy	5	215	220	TBC
Lease	1	43	44	29
TOTAL	6	697	703	

Social Housing – Project Submissions and Approvals

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

Social Housing Capital Expenditure Programme - Long Term Leasing	Approval for the leasing of one unit in Limerick City.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the Acquisition of one house (comprising of five units of accommodation) at Corbally, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the Acquisition of one unit at Ennis Road, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the Acquisition of one house (comprising of four units of accommodation) at Janesboro, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the Acquisition of one house (comprising of five units of accommodation) at Lisnagry, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

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

Social Housing Capital Expenditure Programme - Long Term Leasing	Submission for the leasing of one unit in Limerick City.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the Acquisition of one house at Castletroy, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the Acquisition of one unit at Ennis Road, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick

Affordable Housing – Delivery for 2023-2026

Status of Affordable Housing Scheme Proposals as of 31.01.2024

Scheme	District	Type	No. of Units	Proposal Updates in January
Toppins Field Lands	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Affordable Housing Fund	28 (Phase 1)	<p>A draft report on the options for junction design was submitted by the Design Team and was reviewed by Limerick City and County Council.</p> <p>The first phase of the site investigation and archaeological impact assessment digs were completed in January.</p> <p>The local heritage assessment, ground penetrating radar and additional topography survey were also completed.</p> <p>The preplanning design for the first westerly phase continued during January. Landscape design and sustainable urban drainage and utilities design also commenced.</p> <p>Liaison with Limerick City and County Council Regeneration Department on the east-west Link Road continued during January.</p> <p>A final draft of the Modern Methods of Construction Pilot Research Project Report was submitted to the Housing Agency and Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</p>

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
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Limerick City
& County Council

Scheme	District	Type	No. of Units	Proposal Updates in January
Toppins Field Lands	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Affordable Housing Fund	115 (Phases 2-4)	Site investigations for Phase 1 continued during January.
Guinness Site	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Cost Rental Affordable Housing Fund	270	A review of capacity and viability analysis for Carey's Road against Framework Infrastructure Phasing continued during January. Site purchase negotiations and work on the procurement of a Design Team also continued during January.
Clonmacken Lands	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Affordable Housing Fund	22	Density and height options for this proposed development were explored during January. A new application under Affordable Housing Fund is being considered.
Sonny's Lands	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Cost Rental Affordable Housing Fund	19	Stage 2 of the appointment of framework participants for Design Team Consultants was completed with tenders received in mid-January. Tender review commenced for all six lots of consultancy types. Archaeological dig Phase 2 appointment completed in January and the application for a licence commenced.
Curragower	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Affordable Housing Fund	7	Work continued on pre-planning design. Engagement with neighbours and stakeholders continued in January with feedback incorporated into the project design. Public realm, traffic and vehicular access, materiality and 3D contextual visualisation update continued during January. The site investigation soil report was completed by the contractor and was reviewed by the Design Team.
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 concluded and the tender/detailed design stage continued during January.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
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Limerick City
& County Council

Scheme	District	Type	No. of Units	Proposal Updates in January
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 January.
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 January.
Mungret Site	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund	181	A public consultation regarding the proposed development, Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening Report closed for submissions on 30 January.
Thomas Street and O'Connell Street, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Urban Regeneration and Development Fund	21	Work continued on the progression of this proposal during January.
Adare	Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	Affordable Purchase Self-build plots	8	Work continued on the progression of this proposal during January.
Advance Purchase Turnkey – Campaign 1	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase	25	Processing of applications and the issuing of letters of offer continued throughout January for the 25-unit Brú na Gruadán, Castletroy Affordable Purchase Scheme.
	Municipal District of Newcastle West	Affordable Purchase	10	A proposed 10-unit affordable housing scheme in Abbeyfeale was also progressed during January.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
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Limerick City
& County Council

Scheme	District	Type	No. of Units	Proposal Updates in January
Advance Purchase Turnkey – Campaign 2	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase	145	Processing of applications and the issuing of letters of offer continued throughout January 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 January.
	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 continued during January to progress a proposed 33-unit Affordable Purchase Scheme in Abbeyfeale.
Advance Purchase Turnkey – Campaign 4	Municipal District of Newcastle West	Affordable Purchase	9	Work continued on the progression of this proposal during January.
Advance Purchase Turnkey – Campaign 5	Municipal District of Newcastle West	Affordable Purchase	99	An Expression of Interest Survey in Affordable Housing was launched for a proposed development in Churchtown, Newcastle West. Work continued on the progression of the other proposals during January.
Large-Scale Residential Sites	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Cost Rental/ Affordable Purchase	303	Discussions continued during January with regard to the delivery of affordable housing on large-scale residential sites.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Finance

- Claims totalling €8,197,628 were sent to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in January.
- Claims totaling €1,155,000 were paid by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in January.

Conferences and Workshops

Staff attended an online seminar hosted by the Housing Agency on the launch of new guidance on Multi-Unit Developments – A Guide to Insurance Multi-Unit Developments.

The Office of the Ombudsman gave an online presentation to staff. The presentation gave an overview of the Office of the Ombudsman, including the type of complaints they receive as well as an outline on how they process these complaints.

Staff attended an online seminar hosted by the National Building Control Office on Building Control and Modern Methods of Construction.

5. Municipal District Offices

Metropolitan District of Limerick

Meetings

The January Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick took place on 15 January.

Briefings/Workshops

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

- Briefing on Part 8 planning proposal for Fire Station, Mulgrave Street, Limerick;

- Briefing from Iarnród Éireann on upgrade works on the Limerick Foynes Railway Line;
- Briefing on proposed Active Travel Scheme at Gaeilscoil Sairseál, Shelbourne Road, Limerick.

Operational Area Briefings

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

Road Related Upgrade/Refurbishment Works

Description of Project: R511 Roxborough Junction Improvement (completed)

Location: Roxborough, Ballysheedy;
Cost of project: €60,000;
Contractor: Maramba Ltd.

Description of Project: R511 Spellacy's Cross Junction Improvement (completed)

Location: Ballysheedy;
Cost of project: €60,000;
Contractor: Peter Ryan Civil Engineering.

Description of Project: Belfry Drainage and Footpath Improvements

Location: Ballyclough;
Cost of project: €30,000;
Contractor: Peter Ryan Civil Engineering.

Description of Project: Minor Pavements Upgrade Little Catherine Street, Catherine Street and Thomas Street

Location: Limerick City Centre;
Cost of project: €10,000;
Contractor: Limerick City and County Council's new City Centre Maintenance Team.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

The January Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale took place on 09 January in Arás Séan Finn, Rathkeale.

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

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

General Maintenance

To alleviate flooding at various locations, extensive drainage works were carried out throughout the District, opening inlets on a prioritised road classification basis, following an extensive prolonged rainfall period.

In the aftermath of storms, clean-ups including tree removals were carried out at a number of locations in the District.

Rathkeale Task Force

Significant clean-ups and litter picking continued throughout Rathkeale town and on approach roads during the month of January.

Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

January Municipal District Meeting

The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock was held in Scoil Pól, Kilfinane, on 18 January.

Housing and Road Maintenance

- 209 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
- 229 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

Housing Grants

- 13 Private housing grants were paid, totalling €79,588.62.
- 30 initial inspections, one re-inspection and 11 final inspections were undertaken in relation to Private Housing Grants.
- Four Disabled Persons Grants were tendered.

Road Works

The Following works were undertaken in the Cappamore-Kilmallock Roads Area:

General Municipal Allocation Works

- Surfacing of car parking area at Effin National School.
- Public Lighting at Effin GAA Field.
- Footpaths at Galbally Church.

Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Grant

- L5030 Reenavanna, Embankment - stabilisation works.

Chief Executive's Report



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Limerick City
& County Council

Municipal District of Newcastle West

Meetings

- 10 January - Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West.
- 31 January - Special Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West.

Housing Grants

- Seven grant applications were approved under the Private Housing Grant Schemes during the month. The total value of approvals was €59,284.45.
- Payments of €40,988.00 were made to eight applicants who completed works under the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.
- Payments of €29,130.72 were made to six applicants who completed works under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme.

Housing Maintenance

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

Transportation and Mobility

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

Motor Tax

- The Motor Tax Section at the Newcastle West Office processed 1,271 routine transactions, generating an income of €219,614.



Chief Executive's Report



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Limerick City
& County Council

Planning, Environment & Place-Making Directorate

1. Forward Planning and Public Realm

Forward Planning

- The Newcastle West Local Area Plan, associated Local Transport Plan and Environment Assessments, which came into effect on 25 January, were published.
- The Chief Executive's Report to Elected Members on the submissions received as part of the public consultation on the Material Alterations to the Draft Adare Local Area Plan, 2024-2030, was prepared and issued to Members for their consideration.
- The Chief Executive's Report to Elected Members on the submissions received as part of the public consultation on the Material Alterations to the Draft Patrickswell Local Area Plan, 2024-2030, was prepared and issued to Members for their consideration.
- Under Section 25A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, a report was prepared and submitted to the Southern Regional Assembly setting out progress made in Limerick City and County in supporting objectives of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) over the period 2022-2024. This report will be used by the Regional Assembly to complete the Section 25A (2) Monitoring Report to be submitted to the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) and which will focus on progress made in securing the overall objectives of the RSES.

Public Realm Strategies and Projects

- Work continued on drafting the Public Realm Plan for the City.

Archaeology

- The Archaeological Unit made an application for work to the City Walls in Englishtown under the Irish Walled Towns Network Capital Grant Scheme.

2. Development Management and Place-Making

Development Management

A total of 75 new planning applications were received as follows:

Category	Amount
Part 8	0
Housing Developments	4
Domestic Developments	54
Agricultural Developments	6
Commercial Developments/Change of Use	5
Sporting/Community and Educational Developments	1
Other Developments	5

The current applications include proposals for:

- Construction of 99 residential units, together with all associated drainage connection works and all ancillary site works. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) and Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) accompanies this application at Clonconane, Old Cratloe Road, Limerick.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
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Limerick City
& County Council

Place Making

Limerick Wayfinding and Orientation Signage Project

- Pre-contract meeting held with preferred tenderer.

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF)

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

- Preliminary Business Case continued to be reviewed by Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- Emergency stabilisation works under Section 179 (6) (b) continued at 33 Thomas Street following partial collapse of gable wall.

Strand 3 - Pedestrian Bridges & 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 and landowner engagement continued.

Capital Projects

O'Connell Street Limerick Phase 1

- Project progressed through its defect's liability period.
- Preparation of the principal contractor's final account continued.

3. Environment and Climate Action

Environment Strategy

During January, there was ongoing preparation of the fourth round of Draft Noise Action Plans 2024-2028, for completion shortly. For the first time, two Plans are required for Limerick under the Environmental Noise Regulations 2018 - one for the Limerick Agglomeration (Limerick City and Environs and part of Co. Clare (Parteen and Ardnacrusha)) and one for County Limerick. The Draft Plans provide the results of the strategic noise maps from all roads, rail and Environmental Protection Agency selected industrial sites (with an Industrial Emission licence) in the Agglomeration and major roads (>3 million vehicle passages per year) in the County. The Plans provide an assessment of the exposure to noise and its harmful effects on the population and based on the results address long-term strategic management through measures targeting mitigation, prevention and preservation.

Parks

O'Brien Park, Clare Street, Limerick

The installation of Physical Activity Play Equipment, funded by Limerick Sport Partnership Active Cities Initiative Project has completed, which include Table Tennis, Teqball tables and Volleyball Nets. Also, part of the installation is a BoxUp equipment locker, stocked with Table Tennis Rackets, Teqball, Soccer Ball, Basketball, dumbbells and skipping robes. These lockers are free to use and can be accessed through the BoxUp app.

These amenities, aimed at promoting active lifestyles and fostering community engagement, are made possible through the Active Cities Project. Funded by Sport Ireland through the Dormant Accounts Fund, this project aims to help shape recreational spaces across the city, encouraging participation and improving accessibility

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Cemeteries

Number of Burials in City Cemeteries

Mount St. Lawrence	21
Mount St. Oliver	15
Castlemungret	12
Kilmurry	1

Burial Ground Awards 2023

On 17 January, the 14th annual Burial Grounds Awards were held. This awards ceremony is a way for Limerick City and County Council to recognise the commitment and dedication of groups, associations, and individuals in their respective communities.

The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, and the Director of Services for Planning, Environment and Place-Making, were in attendance to congratulate all involved.

There are two categories of awards with Mahoonagh Beg Burial Ground being named overall winner in the Ancient Category, while Glenroe Burial Ground took the overall winner title in the Modern Category.

Full List of Winners

Winners in Modern Category

Metropolitan District

1st: Kilkeedy/Ballybrown Burial Ground.

Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

1st: Kilcornan New Burial Ground.
2nd: Relig Mhuire Burial Ground, Askeaton.
3rd: Granagh Burial Ground.

Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

1st: Glenroe Burial Ground.
2nd: Kiltelly Burial Ground.
3rd: Knockainey New Burial Ground.
4th: St. Anthony's Burial Ground, Oola.

Municipal District of Newcastle West

1st: Templeglantine Burial Ground.
2nd: Feenagh Burial Ground.
3rd: Calvary Burial Ground.

The Overall winner in the Modern Category was **Glenroe Burial Ground**.

Winners in Ancient Category

Metropolitan District

1st: St. Munchin's, Old Church Street.

Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

1st: Clonagh.
2nd: Beagh.
3rd: Drehidtrasna.

Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

1st: Ballingaddy.
2nd: Howardstown (Templemary).
3rd: Galbally.
4th: Abbey.

Municipal District of Newcastle West

1st: Mahoonagh Beg, Castlemahon.
2nd: Templeathea.
3rd: Kilfergus.

The Overall winner in the Ancient Category was **Mahoonagh Beg Burial Ground**.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
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Limerick City
& County Council

Environment Enforcement and Litter Management

SUGAR CRM (Customer Relationship Management) cases received	278
Inspections undertaken CRM	575
Warnings issued	42
Directions of Authorised Officer issued	2
Statutory Notices issued	6
Prosecutions initiated	5
Fines issued	15
Authorisations issued/reviewed	2

Litter Management Plan 2023-2026

The Draft Litter Management Plan 2023-2026 has been published for public consultation as required under Section 12 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997. The date for submissions and observations was extended to 26 January.

IBAL Report

The IBAL (Irish Business Against Litter) Litter Survey of 2023 was released in January, with a disappointing outcome. There was improvement in several areas of the city and an A rating for high profile sites such as O'Connell Street, Condell Road and Colbert Station. However, other sites were found to be significantly littered, many of these are privately owned sites. On foot of the report, the Domestic Waste and Litter Team carried out inspection on all sites reported. A multidisciplinary team has been established, which includes the Dereliction and Vacancy Team, the Domestic Waste and Litter Team, Communications and the Cleansing Team to address the Litter Black Spots identified in the report.

Clean-Ups

Following a serious dumping incident in January, a large clean-up was undertaken at Michael Pass Road, Coonagh, Limerick.

Climate Action

Local Authority Climate Action Plan

- 4 drop-in sessions were held in the public libraries.

Community Climate Action Funds

Applications for both Siolta Glasa and the Community Climate Action Programme were open; an online information session was held for perspective applicants to both programmes.

+CityxChange

- The final report meeting with the European Commission was held online on 18 January.
- A pre-planning meeting was held with the Marine Area Regulatory Authority in respect of the installation of the tidal turbines in Limerick.

Veterinary

No. of dogs processed in the Dog Shelter	16
No. of horses seized	8
No. of samples taken	0

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

4. Limerick Twenty Thirty (LTT) DAC

Opera Square

Project Update

- John Sisk & Son progressed well in January with 100% of the basement slab and rising elements including lift, stairs, structural walls/columns complete. Nearing a significant milestone on One Opera Square for LTT and our JV Treaty Stone Partnership.
- In January, secant piling was 100% complete with the capping beam installation at 90% and bulk excavation 70% complete.

Project Media Engagement

- A 2023 Recap video was issued on social media on 15 January showing the vast progress made on site in the last 12 months and capturing the key milestones within that period.

Cleeves Riverside Quarter

Project Update

- The Design Team and Planning Consultant continued work on the planning application for Cleeves Riverside Quarter in January.
- The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth continued work on the former secondary school at Fernbank, North Circular Road, to accommodate Ukrainian families fleeing the war in their homeland. Work progressed well in January on the fit-out of the temporary accommodation and a full-time operator is now in place.

Project Media Engagement

- Fossett's Circus had a very successful time at Cleeves Riverside Quarter running to 07 January, generating significant footfall in the city.

- The chimney stack continued to be lit up in a clear light throughout the month of January.

Gardens International

Project Media Engagement

- Limerick School of Art and Design (LSAD), TUS, continued hosting a series of artwork exhibitions in the corner retail unit and foyer. James Skerritt, an artist, and graduate of LSAD, set up the exhibition titled 'A Love Letter to Life, the World and to you my New Friend,' in the retail unit at Gardens International in January and a video was shot for release.
- Bookings were confirmed in January for several upcoming events in Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 2024.
- The Vault at Gardens International was promoted in January for meeting and events bookings. Requests for bookings can be submitted to gardens@limerick2030.ie or 061-517430.

Other Projects

Expression of Interest - Ballygrennan

Project Update

- Speakers Corner: LTT's involvement in the Speakers Corner site concluded.
- Thomondgate: LTT involvement in the Thomondgate site concluded.
- Ballygrennan Phase 1: Whitebox's planning application for Phase 1 of the development, the Medical Campus, was approved by Limerick City and County Council on 19 January.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Askeaton and Grove Island Swimming Pools

Project Update

- Capital Works at Askeaton Pool and Leisure Centre: Following a 'Call for Tender' (CFT) for flood relief and energy upgrade works on E-tenders, two tender submissions were received by the closing date of 19 January.
- Operator at Askeaton and Grove Island Corbally Pool and Leisure Centres: Following a 'Call for Tender' (CFT), no tender submissions were received by the return deadline on 17 January. A report then issued to Limerick City and County Council outlining options for engaging an operator. This saw the completion of LTT's element of the scope.

Mungret Housing Development

Project Update

- Phase 1 – 250 Units at Dromdarrig: Following the Section 179a planning application for 250 units been on public display in Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle, nine submissions were received by the closing date of 31 January.
- Phase 2 – Proposal for LTT to develop up to 800 additional homes: LTT continued preparations in January on a proposal to Limerick City and County Council in relation to the development of circa 600-800 additional units, on the remaining Limerick City and County Council owned lands in Mungret.



Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

National and Regional Shared Services Centre Directorate

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

- There were 56,350 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAP SSC at the end of January.
- A weekly average of 142 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2024.
- The January landlord payment run was €54.401 million.
- The weekly tenant charge at the end of January was €3.076 million.
- The Debt Management Unit of the HAP SSC collected a total of €13.302 million in differential rent to end of January.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of January was 96%.
- The Debt Management Unit issued 11,648 HAP debt reminder letters in January.

2. Fire and Emergency

Statistics

	No. of Fire Related Calls	No. of Non-Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of callouts 01.01.2024 – 31.01.2024	82	92	
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	64%	47%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	26%	33%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	10%	20%	

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

	No. Received/ Assigned	No. Validated/ Acknowledged	No. Invalidated/ Refused	No. Granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications January	15	14	2	19	0
Disability Access Cert Applications January	12	11	1	19	0
Licensing Applications January	2	2		0	
Commencement Notice January	45	39	6	0	39
Completion Certificate January	16	14	0	0	14
Planning Referrals January	23				14
Sugar CRM Cases January	3	0	0	0	2

Fire and Emergency Training Events

- Five two-day Swift Water Rescue Training courses were held for 40 staff in Limerick City Fire Station.
- A Station Officer attended the Effective Decision-Making course in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.
- Three staff attended a one-week Emergency Driving course and successfully completed the assessment by the Road Safety Authority (RSA).
- One firefighter attended a two-day Breathing Apparatus refresher course in Bray, Co. Wicklow.
- A number of Power Boat upskilling courses were held to train staff in the use of the new power boat being used for water rescues in Limerick City.
- On-Station training continued throughout January.

Civil Defence attendance at Events

The following activity took place in January:

- Patient Transfer – Kildimo, Co. Limerick, to University Hospital Limerick (UHL) - 1 day.
- Search for Missing Person in Athea, Co. Limerick, assisted by the Clare Civil Defence Drone Team and Dublin Civil Defence K9 Unit – 7 days.
- Patient Transfer – Pallaskenry, Co. Limerick, to Integrated Care Programme for Older People (ICPOP) in St. Camillus' Hospital, Shelbourne Road, Limerick, and return to residence - 1 day.
- Patient Transfer – Kildimo, Co. Limerick, to University Hospital Limerick (UHL) and return to residence - 1 day.
- Major Emergency Management (MEM) Exercise at University of Limerick Medical School, Castletroy, Limerick - 1 day.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Water Safety

No. of Lifebuoy Replacements	January 2024	Total 2024
Metropolitan District	0	0
Municipal District	1	1

No. of Lifebuoy Sensor Activations	January 2024	Total 2024
Metropolitan District	3	3
Municipal District	1	1



Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Support Services Directorate

1. Finance

Commercial Rates and Loans

Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2024	
As at 31 January 2024*	
Opening Balance - 1 Jan €	4,795,480 *
Accruals €	64,291,685 **
Vacant Property Adjustment €	-
Writes offs/ Waivers €	- 90
Total for Collection €	69,087,255
Amount Collected €	340,582
Arrears €	68,746,673
Specific Doubtful Arrears €	643,497
% Collected	0.5%

Debtors Loans	
As at 31 January 2024*	
Opening Balance - 1 Jan €	295,007 *
Accruals €	- ^
Writes offs €	-
To Collect €	295,007
Receipts €	225,066
Arrears €	69,941
% Collected	76%

* subject to finalisation of year end accounts for 2023

^ Accruals not updated for loans for January 2024

** The Date for Making the 2024 Rate was 2nd February 2024

* subject to finalisation of year end accounts for 2023

Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No. of days in overdraft 0

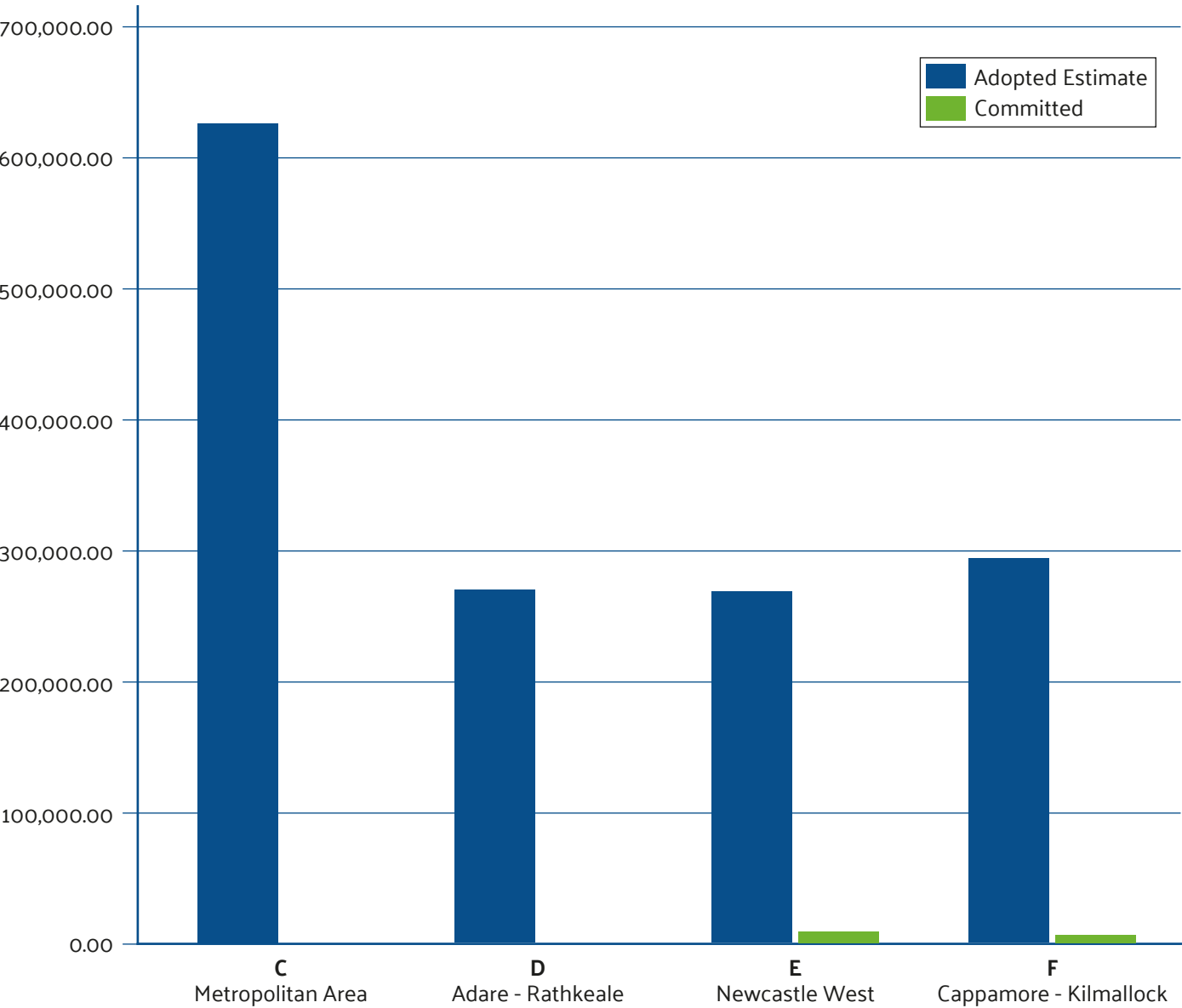
Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
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Limerick City
& County Council

General Municipal Allocation 2024 Adopted Estimate €1.463 Million

Graph outlining adopted budget and draft committed expenditure up to 31 January 2024



Municip (Code) + (Text)	Value Adopted Estimate (€)	Value Committed (€)
C Metropolitan Area	628,000.00	0
D Adare - Rathkeale	269,500.00	0
E Newcastle West	270,500.00	9,818
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	295,000.00	6,438
	1,463,000.00	

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

2. Business Improvement

- Business Improvement confirmed with staff if they wished to be added to the Car Park Waiting List.
- Healthy Limerick was added to the Staff Portal.
- Business Improvement assisted Community Development to launch the Local Enhancement Programme 2024 Application Form on MyPoint.
- A total of 916 active users now live on the Employee App.
- Services on Service Catalogue = 705
- 577 capital projects now managed through Cora, our cloud-based project management system.

3. Corporate, Governance and Customer Services

Mayoral Receptions were held for the following:

- Hospital Herbertstown GAA Club, to acknowledge the 40th anniversary of the Limerick County Junior Hurling and Football Championship titles in 1983.
- Pauline Hynan, in recognition of her lifetime achievement of fostering and sharing a love and knowledge of dance, in particular, her voluntary contribution to Scór and the many successes she has enjoyed with Cappamore GAA and Camogie Club.
- Ger O'Connell, in recognition and appreciation of his voluntary contribution to his club, Pallasgreen GAA Club, and his tremendous contribution as kit man to the very successful Limerick Senior Hurling Team.
- Fr. Séamus Enright, in recognition of his trojan work and contribution to Mount St. Alphonsus Church in Limerick City and the community in the fourteen years

he was in situ there as the Rector of the Redemptorists and also in recognition and appreciation of his huge contribution to the success of the Redemptorist Christmas Hamper Appeal which ensures that families have food on the table for Christmas. Also, in recognition of his involvement in the international effort to help those who have been displaced by the war in Ukraine.

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

- Presentation to Motorsport Ireland, showcasing the site for Limerick's bid to host the World Rally Championships, Rally Service Area and Media Centre at the Limerick Racecourse, Patrickswell, Co. Limerick.
- Captains Drive-in Ceremony at Ballyneety Golf Club, Ballyneety, Co. Limerick.
- Visit to Coláiste Chiaráin, Croom, Co. Limerick - Celebration for Seán O'Sullivan, the overall winner at the 60th BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition 2024 and Coláiste Chiaráin award as Best School Republic of Ireland.
- Burial Ground Awards Ceremony at the Millennium Centre, Caherconlish, Co. Limerick.
- Investec Champions Cup Match, Munster Rugby.v. Northampton Saints at Thomond Park, Limerick.
- Launch of the 2024 Regeneron Great Limerick Run.
- Cliona's Foundation, Networking Breakfast.
- Robert Burns Night at Dolan's, Dock Road, Limerick.
- Launch of the Patrickswell Village Renewal Scheme at Patrickswell Community Centre, Limerick.
- Launch of Think Before You Park Campaign at Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Limerick Chamber, Business Luncheon.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

- Launch of the Team Limerick Clean-Up Podcast Series 'Cut the Rubbish!'

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 January:

New Procurement References set up	52
Procurement References extended as per signed contract/arrangement	24

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 January:

Month	Approved	Rejected	Total Requisitions Actioned
January	1,458	224	1,682

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

Rejection Reason	January
Procurement Reference - omitted/incorrect	62
Memo Requisition not raised in advance - omitted/insufficient detail	39
Contract Expiration - Procurement of the service/goods expired	28
Quotes - Omitted/Incorrect copy provided	25
Quotation Form - Omitted/Incomplete	15

Register of Electors

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

- Additions to the Electoral Register - 965.
- Deletions from the Electoral Register - 463.
- Modifications to the Electoral Register - 1,794.
- 3,193 requests were received through the updated Check the Register [website](#) for updating details of electors.
- The Register Team attended a Local Government Management Agency Workshop on 16 January in preparation for the forthcoming Referendum.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Health and Safety Training

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

Course Name	Numbers Trained
Safe Pass	21
Driver CPC Module 4 (Certification of Professional Competency)	1
Manual Handling	44
Construction Skills Certification Scheme – Signing, Lighting and Guarding	4
Total Staff Trained	70

Schedule of Meetings for January

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Full Council		
Bi-Monthly Meeting of Limerick City and County Council.	22/01/2024	Dooradoyle and Online
Operational Briefings		
Limerick City East	09/01/2024	Merchant's Quay and Online
Limerick City North	09/01/2024	Merchant's Quay and Online
Limerick City West	10/01/2024	Merchant's Quay and Online

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Municipal District of		
Adare-Rathkeale Monthly Meeting	09/01/2024	Rathkeale
Newcastle West Monthly Meeting Special Meeting	10/01/2024 31/01/2024	Newcastle West Newcastle West
Cappamore-Kilmallock Monthly Meeting	18/01/2024	Scoil Pól, Kilfinane
Metropolitan District of Limerick Monthly Meeting Joint Policing Sub-Committee Meeting	15/01/2024 29/01/2024	Dooradoyle and Online Merchant's Quay and Online
Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Meeting	09/01/2024	Dooradoyle and Online
Corporate Policy Group Meeting	15/01/2024	Online
Party Leaders' Meeting	19/01/2024	Online
Protocol Committee Meeting	19/01/2024 22/01/2024	Online Dooradoyle and Online
Meeting of Limerick Women's Caucus	31/01/2024	Online

Access to Information

	January	2024 (January to January)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	26	26
Freedom of Information Internal Appeals	4	4
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	0
Total Ombudsman Requests	4	4
Total Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) Requests	2	2

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Customer Services

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

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

- Customer Services Call Centre answered 12,140 calls. This represents an average of 552 per day, with the number of daily calls exceeding 700 on several occasions and reaching as high as 777. 71% of calls were handled at first point of contact.
- A total of 4,455 emails were processed through the Customer Services email platform.
- 3,918 cases were created, with 856 of these logged on behalf of Public Representatives. A total of 3,350 cases were closed, with 741 of these being cases logged by Public Representatives.
- Of these 3,918 cases, Customer Services staff logged 86% of same.
- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued, with a total of 283 cases being logged. Of these, 248 were submitted by Public Representatives.
- Customer Services continued to support the Housing Maintenance Department in creating service requests and, throughout January, 96% of housing maintenance cases for the Limerick Metropolitan District were logged by Customer Services staff in the Dooradoyle and Merchant's Quay Offices.
- A total of 143 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 110 were applied for and 95 issued.

- Customer Services staff welcomed a total of 2,595 customers at both the Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle Offices.

4. Marketing & Communications

Marketing

Limerick Student City

- Launched a three-week social and digital campaign for Limerick Student City, in partnership with the higher education institutes: University of Limerick, Technological University of the Shannon and Mary Immaculate College, to promote Limerick as a leading university city ahead of the CAO application deadline 2024.

Limerick on Foot

- Created a series of new photographic and videographic assets and new print and digital assets for the award-winning Limerick on Foot campaign ahead of the 2024 Launch.

Other Activity

- Produced Christmas in Limerick 2023 report detailing a performance overview of marketing and communications activities throughout the six-week multimedia campaign. Topline figures include:
 - **Total impressions:** 3.3 million | **Video views:** 682,488 | **Engagements:** 180,357 | **Link clicks:** 37,010 | **Website views:** 105,827
- Created a new brand identity for Riverfest Limerick, which aligns well with its parent brand, Brand Limerick, as well as reflecting the core elements of the festival.
- Preparations began for Limerick St. Patrick's Day marketing campaign ahead of its launch.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

- Brand Limerick feature advert secured in 'Your Daily Adventure' Visitor Guide 2024.
- Created and issued five Limerick.ie e-newsletters.

Social Media

- Management of Marketing & Communications' 14 social media channels, including [Limerick.ie](https://www.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: 34,746
 - Limerick.ie Twitter: 21,540
 - Limerick.ie Instagram: 29,463
 - Limerick.ie TikTok: 987
 - Limerick City and County Council Twitter: 18,392
 - Limerick City and County Council LinkedIn: 11,671

Limerick.ie

In January, there were 155,063* unique site visits to Limerick.ie, a 1% increase on the same period in 2023. (*Fathom Analytics)

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

1. www.limerick.ie
2. www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-placemaking/search-for-a-planning-application/search-for-a-planning
3. www.limerick.ie/council
4. www.limerick.ie/discover/whats-on/browse
5. www.limerick.ie/council/your-council/jobs

Content Report: 60 articles, 284 events and 17 Council Services were added to [Limerick.ie](https://www.limerick.ie) in January.

Communications

Issued 13 news releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and researched and wrote 13 speeches for the Office of the Mayor.

Handled all media queries, which come into communications@limerick.ie and continued to offer Communication support to all Directorates of Limerick City and County Council.

Chief
Executive's
Report



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

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 January
No. of callouts 01.01.2024 - 31.01.2024	1,195	286	98.88	1,481

