

# Chief Executive's Report

February 2024

One Opera Square on Solid Footing with Basement Level Completion

Limerick's FDI Strategy Once Again Takes Top Spot in European Ranking

Council Appoints Night-Time Economy Advisor for Limerick City

Adare Heritage Centre Operations Transferred to Discover Limerick DAC

New Patrickswell Community Centre is Officially Opened

Award Winning Limerick on Foot Campaign Steps Up a Gear for 2024

# Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick** City  
& County Council

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## Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism Directorate

### 1. Trade and Investment

#### Jobs and Investments

Carelon Global Solutions announced a further 100 jobs at its Irish R&D hub in Limerick. Positions available across product management, data analysis, data science, data engineering, development operations, cyber security, agile operations, quality engineering, architecture, front end and back-end engineering.

#### FDI European Cities and Regions Award

For the second year running, Limerick ranked first for FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) Strategy in the Micro European Cities of the Future category, which looks at urban areas with an immediate population below 100,000. The city was also once again the overall runner-up in the category, with the Swiss town of Zug retaining the top ranking.

Limerick City ranked highly in three other awards, Human Capital and Lifestyle, Business Friendliness and Economic Potential. The awards are hosted by FDI magazine, an international news and foreign direct investment magazine published by FDI Intelligence, a specialist division from The Financial Times Ltd. The awards benchmark European cities and regions according to their economic, financial, and business strengths.

#### Asia Matters

Ireland's only Asian think-tank, Asia Matters, hosted a business summit in Limerick to discuss the Mid West's influence on China, as well as helping local businesses to target customers in the region. A collaboration between the University of Limerick and Limerick City and County Council, the two-day event took place in the city centre's Engine building and the Universities Pavilion centre. The theme of the Limerick summit was "Driving digital innovation to grow global business." Among the speakers were local TDs and business leaders.

### Night-Time Economy Advisor

Limerick City and County Council was pleased to announce the appointment of a Night-Time Economy (NTE) Advisor. Part of the Trade and Investment Team, this strategic role is a two-year pilot initiative developed and funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. Inspired by similar appointments in European cities, this initiative stems from a recommendation by the national NTE Taskforce.

Limerick City and County Council's proactive approach to enhancing the night-time experience involves collaborating with key stakeholders.

The role encompasses various interventions such as venue adaptation, public realm safety enhancements, cultural event management, and incentives for late-night retail.

The NTE Advisor reports back to the national Implementation Group, contributing insights and best practices for consideration beyond the pilot period.

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## 2. Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Limerick

### Funding Approved

Eight Businesses were approved funding at the February Evaluation and Approvals meeting to a total of €330,210. There was one Priming/Start-Up Grant and seven Business Expansion Grants with the creation of 20 direct jobs.

### Other Approvals

- One Green for Energy Grant was approved.
- Two Energy Efficiency Grants were approved.
- One Technical Assistance for Exporters Grant was approved.
- Seven businesses were approved for a Trading Online Voucher.
- Three Digital for Business projects were approved.

### LEO Workshops, Webinars and Training Sessions Held

- Start Your Own Business Introductory Workshop and Course.
- Business Advice Clinics.
- Social Media Marketing Bootcamp.
- Trading Online Voucher Seminar.
- Advanced Management Development Programme.
- Managing an Online Business.
- Costing and Pricing Workshop.
- Using Canva to design Graphics.
- Introduction to Book-Keeping and Taxation Workshop.
- Search Engine Optimisation.
- Microfinance Webinar.

There were 214 participants on the LEO Business Training Workshops and 10 Business Owners were approved for the LEO Mentoring Programme in February.

## 3. Tourism

### Limerick Greenway

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

- Barnagh Health Kick Programme Walk/Run, which took place each Saturday for a six-week period and finished on 24 February.
- Limerick Greenway featured on RTÉ Radio One's 'The County Measure' on 05 February.
- Limerick Greenway featured in an article by Limerick's Live95 on 14 February, highlighting the plans submitted by Limerick City and County Council to develop a Hub at Abbeyfeale, transforming the former Abbeyfeale Goods Shed into a Visitor Experience and Service Centre Hub.
- Familiarisation Trip on 16 February with Japhet Ogu, TikTok star, who is a member of the Irish Deaf Community, and summary promotional video on Japhet's TikTok page after the trip.
- Social Media Competition from 21 to 28 February, with the winner receiving a two-night stay at the Glamping Pods on Limerick Greenway at Templeglantine, to the value of €300.

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

- A Happy St. Brigid's Day post to all from Limerick Greenway.
- A post on Sarah Slattery's, also known as 'The Travel Expert,' piece that featured on The Irish Examiner where she teamed up with *thestruggleiswheel* duo to uncover the best wheelchair accessible holidays in Ireland and where to stay nearby, with Rathkeale and Limerick Greenway being one of the chosen locations.

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- Hub Spotlights on the following hubs along Limerick Greenway: Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale.
- Valentine's Day post.
- A Random Acts of Kindness Day post on 17 February, encouraging Limerick Greenway users to perform a random act of kindness.
- A post on how Limerick Greenway and Kingdom of Kerry Greenways connect to create an extended Greenway experience.
- Some posts encouraging users to get out and explore Limerick Greenway this Spring and to meet the people and places that make Limerick unique.
- Re-post of Bike Hire Company's post on upcoming Mother's Day weekend offerings along Limerick Greenway and at Platform 22 at Barnagh.
- A post on Leap Day 2024, and some history on the Irish tradition on Leap Day.

## Limerick Greenway Statistics

### Social Media Statistics

Statistics for Limerick Greenway socials 01/02/2024 – 29/02/2024

	Facebook	Instagram
Reach	41,300	26,000
Profile Visits	2,700	2,100
New Page Followers	344	954

### Google Ads

01/02/2024 – 29/02/2024

Impressions	23,500
Ad Clicks	1,490

## FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

### Cruthú Ó Mhná

Cruthú Ó Mhná (creations from women), a celebration of the ritual of female creation and art making, was showcased in the Limerick Museum from 01-05 February to mark St. Brigid's Day. This was exhibited by Mná na nEalaín, a collective of Irish Women professional artists and creatives based across Ireland. The group was created from a revolutionary Creative Europe Training Programme. There was a diverse range of mediums on display including embroidery, drawing, print, embossment and paint.

### Kite Power Hunt Museum

The Kite Power Festival was held on 11 February, with people flying kites in different locations around the county. The prizes were awarded on the best flyer, the best use of recycled Christmas packaging and decoration and the best artistic design. The kites were borrowed by the Hunt Museum for a post event exhibition to be viewed by the Public. The premise of the festival was to highlight the power of wind as an energy source as part of the Hunt Museum's Climate Change Exhibition: "Nights Candles are burnt out: Climate, Culture, Change and Community."

### Limerick Literary Festival

The Limerick Literary Festival is now in its 40<sup>th</sup> year and took place from 23-25 February. The festival is run in honour of the famous Limerick writer, Kate O'Brien. The event had ticketed and free events and was held in Limerick's Belltable. It had a wide range of writers such as Claire Keegan who is a multi-award winning Irish

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Author, Francis Spufford who's book "Light Perpetual" was shortlisted for the International Booker Prize in 2021. In addition, the launch event was opened by a performance from Denise Chaila; Irish rapper, singer and composer. The winner of the Kate O'Brien Award 2024 was Aoife Fitzpatrick with her debut novel "The Red Bird Sings."

## 4. Innovate Limerick DAC

**01 February:** The Head of Innovate presented to Minister Simon Coveney, TD, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, on plans for the Digital Accelerator Building at the Midwest Steering Committee Meeting at TUS.

**21 February:** Hosted at ENGINE, Limerick Ecosystem and Start-up/Scale-up Meeting pre-Regional Scale Summit at the University of Limerick. The event was attended by local start-ups and visiting National Digital Research Centre (NDRC) Hub CEOs.

**27 February:** Day 2 of the Asia Matters Business Summit "Driving Digital Innovation to Grow Global Business," was hosted at ENGINE. The Head of Innovate took part in the roundtable discussion on Funding and Venture Capital (VC) investment priorities.

## Film in Limerick

### European Film Market, Film in Limerick Delegation in Berlin

Film in Limerick, in partnership with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, brought a Delegation of three local producers to the film market, plus 14 new producers from our Introduction to Creative Producing Programme. 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.

## Dublin Film Festival - First Take Event at TUS

Regional Film Manager, Paul C. Ryan, took part in a panel event at TUS as part of Dublin Film Festival's First Take event at TUS in Limerick. Paul also delivered a talk to final year Creative Broadcast students on finding work in the screen industries after graduation.

### The following Crew Academy Training Courses were held in February:

#### Sound Trainee Course

A hands-on training experience for participants to develop an understanding of working as a trainee sound recordist in film and TV.

#### Wig Application and Maintenance Course

Participants learnt the techniques involved in prepping hair for wig applications and blocking fine lace wigs for film and TV.

#### Understanding Human Resources for Crew

Participants gained an understanding of employment law and how it relates to the screen industries.

#### Mentoring Webinar

Innovate ran a mentoring webinar to discuss options for crew stepping into senior roles with support from mentors.

#### Passport to Production

Our new entrants programme ran a six-day programme at Troy Studios and at Engine.

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## 5. Discover Limerick DAC

### Awards

**06 February - Dublin Royal Convention Centre:** CIE Tours presented its annual awards of excellence to the hoteliers and tourism experiences which achieved approval ratings of over 92% from the 25,000 tourists who travelled to Ireland with the company in 2023. King John's Castle was delighted to be listed as one of these award winners for the Munster region. A member of Discover Limerick DAC attended the awards ceremony to accept the award for King John's Castle.

### Visits

We were delighted to welcome **Alice Mansergh, Chief Executive designate of Tourism Ireland**, to King John's Castle on 12 February for a "familiarisation trip." She met with delegates from Discover Limerick DAC and was very complimentary and impressed with the castle experience.

### Industry Events

The **Inbound Tour Operators' Association Ireland (ITOAI) Workshop 2024** took place in the Radisson Hotel, Limerick, on 27 February. Discover Limerick DAC was represented at this important industry event. A member of Discover Limerick DAC had meetings with the tour operators with a view to strengthening business relationships for the season ahead.

### Adare Heritage Centre

A lunch was held at the Dunraven Arms Hotel, Adare, on 20 February to mark the transfer of Adare Heritage Centre over to Discover Limerick DAC. The Board was thanked for all its efforts spanning the past 30 years and it was an opportunity for Discover Limerick DAC to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the outgoing Board of Adare Heritage Centre.



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## Transportation and Mobility Directorate

### 1. Travel and Transport Strategy

#### Limerick Road Safety Working Together Group Quarterly Meeting

The Limerick Road Safety Working Together Group is an interagency group led and chaired by Limerick City and County Council. The group meet four times a year and has representatives from the following organisations: Limerick City and County Council, An Garda Síochána, Road Safety Authority, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Health Service Executive – Ambulance Service, Limerick City and County Council – Fire and Emergency Services, Limerick Cycling Campaign and Limerick Pedestrian Network.

The group met on 27 February and there were presentations on the following:

- Updates from the recent National Road Safety Strategy meeting
- The proposed Limerick City Transport Plan
- Current and proposed Active Travel Schemes
- The safety issues with the new infrastructure
- The 30km/h Speed Limit in the City
- The Think Before You Park campaign
- Road Safety Education
- National Bike Week

### 2. Active Travel

#### Childers Road (Greenpark to Roxboro Road Roundabout), Limerick:

Works continued to progress on site. All tarmac works of the bidirectional cycle track outside Roxboro and Le Chéile National School on Roxboro Road were completed, with further works being concentrated at Roxboro Roundabout.

**Father Russell Road, Raheen, Limerick:** Works continued to progress on site. Removal of existing roundabout at Racefield was ongoing.

**Rósmor, Old Cork Road, Limerick:** Works continued to progress on site. Mount St. Oliver Cemetery wall was 30% complete, retaining wall for roundabout was 90% complete.

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

**Mill Road, Corbally, Limerick:** Works continued to progress on site. Land acquisition for some sites progressed.

**St. Paul's Roundabout to Ballykeefe Roundabout, Dooradoyle, Limerick:** Part 8 passed by Elected Members, with amendment, on 19 February. Detailed Design was in progress.

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

**Ennis Road, Limerick:** Options report was being finalised.

**Blackabbey Road, Adare, Co. Limerick:** Screening reports were being progressed.

**Cappamore and Doon Public Realm, Co. Limerick:** Review of layouts was completed.

**Micro Radars/Mobility Counters:** 21 live, installed and active monitors across Metropolitan District as of 26 February.





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## Rural, Community and Culture Development Directorate

### 1. Rural Development

- Minister Heather Humphreys, TD, officially opened Patrickswell Community Centre on 28 February. The community centre was funded under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2021 and a number of other funding sources.
- Minister Heather Humphreys, TD, announced Rathkeale as the second Limerick town to receive funding under the Town Centre First Initiative, to prepare a Town Centre First Plan, at the Town Centre First Day held in the Woodlands Hotel, Adare, on 28 February. Abbeyfeale in County Limerick was selected in the pilot phase of the initiative and the community there have worked tirelessly with Limerick City and County Council to complete their Town Centre First Plan.

implements the programme; and Limerick East Rural, where Ballyhoura Development CLG implements the programme. The budget for SICAP in Limerick in 2024 is €2,929,883.00.

#### Public Participation Network (PPN)

- Membership of PPN Limerick continued to grow and stands at 219. The membership registration form is on the Limerick PPN [website](#) and eligible groups in Limerick can register at any time.
- The Secretariat continued to fulfil its function with a meeting held in February.
- PPN Limerick continued to have an active presence with its regularly updated website, social media and bi-monthly Newsletter distributed to members.

### 2. Community Development

#### Local Community Development Committee

- A meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was held on 05 February in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle, and Online. Some of the items discussed included the SICAP (Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme) Annual Report for 2023, Local Enhancement Programme 2024, Children and Young People's Service Committee (CYPSCC)/LCDC Local Area Child Poverty Pilot Programme and the LEADER Rural Development Programme.
- The new SICAP Programme, funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the European Union, for the period 2024-2028, continued in February. The Local Community Development Committee oversees the programme. The three areas are: Limerick West Rural, where West Limerick Resources CLG implements the programme; Limerick Urban, where the PAUL Partnership Limerick CLG

#### Integration Supports

##### Ukrainian Community Forum

- During February, Meeting Forum Members decided to change the frequency of meetings from fortnightly to monthly.

##### INTEgreat- Limerick Migrant Integration Forum

- The Migrant Integration Forum, whose membership consists of over 40 members from 20 diverse backgrounds, held one online and two in-person meetings in February.
- Members decided to enter this year's St. Patrick's Parade.

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## Sláintecare Healthy Communities

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

## Bin Waiver Scheme

- The Household Waste Collection Subsidy Scheme applications continued to be assessed during February. Out of the total 4,142 received, 3,848 were issued during the scheme's open period, with a number of applications still in progress.

## AGE FRIENDLY

A presentation was given by the Mid-West Regional Programme Manager of the Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme at a meeting of the Community, Leisure and Culture, Strategic Policy Committee on 12 February.

At this meeting, the national rollout of this programme was outlined after the success of the Pilot Scheme. Limerick will now have two Healthy Age Friendly Homes Co-Ordinators. The concept behind this programme is to assist older people to continue to live as independently as possible in their own homes for as long as possible. They can avail of the service by sending in a referral application seeking a visit from the Co-Ordinator to their home to assist them to make changes to make their home more suitable to their needs and to assist them in completing application forms for grants etc.

On 16 February, there was a National launch of all Libraries becoming Age Friendly. Minister Heather Humphreys, TD, presented Age Friendly charters to all of Ireland's public Libraries.

## 3. Culture

### LIBRARY

#### City Library at Barrow House

- 01 February: Limerick Mental Health Association hosted an event for women for St. Brigid's Day.
- 08 February: Energy Clinic supported by The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, in collaboration with the Local Government Management Agency and Libraries Ireland.
- 24 February: National "Ireland Reads" Day, marked with family story time with local author, Róisín Meaney, and a discussion hosted by Writepace, the Limerick Writers' Group.
- Ongoing Digital Skills classes for beginners by Limerick City Library, Vodafone Ireland Foundation and Europe Direct Limerick.
- Children's Library Events: Arts and Crafts session for mid-term, children's yoga classes funded by Healthy Ireland at Your Library, and a sensory workshop funded by Creative Ireland.
- Visiting classes from various schools and language students, including Scoil Iosagáin, St. John the Baptist National School, Presentation Primary School, Villiers School, St. Patrick's Girls, Scoil Íde, Limerick Student Campus, and Rightword Language School.
- Nine book club meetings, including the First Thursday Book Club, Second Wednesday Book Club, Phoenix Book Club, Spiral Book Club and three Book Clubs from the University of the Third Age.
- February Young Adult Book Club and Children's Book Club meetings featuring author, Alex Dunne, for an online chat with children.

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## Kilmallock Library

- Visits in February: Scoil Pól Hub, Kilfinane, visited twice, and eighteen students from Coláiste Íosaef, Transition Year, visited on 01 February.
- St. Joseph's Foundation members regularly visited to browse books and use the Happiness Programme Magic Table.
- Twelve Little Readers met on 14 February for storytelling, song, rhymes, books, and chat.
- Cruinniú na nÓg facilitator met with twenty-seven Scoil Mocheallóg 4th class pupils on 20 February to discuss event preferences.
- Weekly "Walk and Talk" sessions started from the Library on 07 February, led by Limerick Sports Partnership, promoting health and socialisation.
- Weekly Bridge classes for beginners continued on Wednesdays.
- Weekly Yoga Community Education Course, led by Ballyhoura Development CLG, continued with two sessions each Friday.
- Weekly Kilmallock Library Craft Group sessions continued on Thursdays, fostering connections over crafts.
- "Introducing Community Craft Workshops" programme, led by Ballyhoura Development CLG, continued on Tuesdays.

## Newcastle West Library

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

- Regular class visits from local national schools, which included ASD class visits to the Sensory Space - 15 in total per week.
- Headway Ireland meeting every Friday morning 10am to 11am.
- Knitting Club continued every Friday morning from 11am to 1pm.
- Sock Puppet Workshop and Storytime for Autism Spectrum Disorder class on 24 February.

## Dooradoyle Library

- Dooradoyle Book Club and the First Friday Book Club held meetings.
- Class visits included sixth class from Scoil Mháthair Dé on 01 February and students from Catherine McAuley School on 07 February.
- Author and storyteller, Simone Schuemmelfeder, delivered two workshops on 09 February. The workshops consisted of a mixture of storytelling and sock-puppet making. Autism Spectrum disorder classes from St. Paul's National school and Scoil Mháthair Dé attended.
- On 10 February, an Irish language story-time for children, a mix of scéalta agus rainn.
- Members of the ICA Limerick Federation held their monthly meeting on 14 February.
- St. Valentine's Day book displays included 'Blind Date with a Book' for adults and 'Books Under Wraps' for the younger readers.
- Weekly 'Himalayan Meditation' began on 16 February.
- 'Saturday Story-time' took place on 17 February.
- Approx. 120 third class pupils from Monaleen National School visited the library on 20 and 22 February.

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- Limerick Literary Festival, in honour of Kate O'Brien, held its opening event in Dooradoyle on 23 February, 'A Poetry Reading with Jane Clarke.' Jane read poems from her latest collection, 'A Change in the Air.'
- Students from the Autism Spectrum Disorder Class, Salesian Secondary College, Pallaskenry, visited the library on 27 February. Students were given a tour of the library and a brief introduction to the range of online services available.

## Watch House Cross Library

- Weekly Thursday afternoon Storytime for young children, and Friday morning Parent/Caregiver and Toddler Group, continued with a bumper attendance, approx. 100 children and adults during the month.
- Scéalta agus Rannata, Storytime and Rhymes for 0-5 year olds 'as Gaeilge,' on the morning of 17 February.
- 25 pre-schoolers from Little Seeds, Moyross, visited once in the month while Thomond Primary School's 5th and 6th classes, and Corpus Christi Primary School's 1st class, all attended the library for weekly visits. Thomond Primary's 5th class participated in a Cruinniú na nÓg focus group on one of their visits, providing valuable feedback.
- Eighty participants attended Crafty Saturdays free-play art and craft sessions.
- Children's book clubs met on 28 February, the 7-9 year olds read and discussed 'The Dog Who Lost His Bark,' by Eoin Colfer, and the 9-12 year olds read 'Adam Wins the Internet,' by YouTube star, Adam B.
- Two adult book clubs met in February, on the last Thursday and Friday mornings of the month, to discuss 'As Music and Splendour,' by Limerick writer, Kate O'Brien, in honour of the annual Kate O'Brien Limerick Literary Festival.
- Weekly classes; Needlepoint felting held by the Northside Family Resource Centre, Baby Incredible Years Programme run by ABC StartRight, St. Munchins

Community Development Programme's Dealing with Stress and Anxiety, Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board's Computers Levels 1 and 2, Driver Theory Test Support and English Language classes.

- Age Action completed one course of their one-to-one computer and smartphone training workshops.
- The evening meditation class, Sahaja Yoga Meditation, free and open to the public, continued fortnightly on Tuesday evenings.
- The Sensory Room had 185 visitors in 67 sessions during February.

## Local Studies

- The Decade of Centenaries publication, Histories of Protestant Limerick 1912-1923, was officially launched by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, on 08 February in St. Mary's Cathedral. A public talk based on the book was delivered on 13 February as part of the City Library's evening lecture series.
- 29 onsite visits by researchers to the Local Studies Department.
- 16 queries comprised research sessions on the archives of local and national newspapers.
- Eight queries on material from the Local Studies and Archives collections.
- Three queries on FindMyPast; and two family history advice sessions.
- 23 remote queries.

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## Other Branches

- Glin Library Events: community singing classes, craft club meetings, book club meetings and an author talk, all of which attracted 129 attendees.
- Roxboro Library welcomed pupils from Junior Infants Gaelscoil Sheorse Clancy as part of the Little Voices speech and language development programme on 28 February.
- Rathkeale Library facilitated a storytime for children on 20 February – all the children who attended were gifted their own bedtime story book to keep.
- Limerick Libraries donated a selection of large print books to the Dementia Ward in University Hospital Limerick.

## Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- All exhibitions were de-installed and returned to London at the beginning of February.
- On 15 February, three exhibitions including COSMUS: Brigid McLeer, Searching in the Dark: Eddie Cahill and 100 Years of Giving - The Friends of the National Collections of Ireland, (FNCI) were launched. There was a good turnout for the opening with the opening remarks made by the Chancellor of the University of Limerick, Professor Brigid Laffan. The President of the FNCI, John Turpin, spoke of the importance of the FNCI and its contributions over the years to Limerick's permanent collection, including the important portrait of Michael Hartnett and a piece by Thomas Ryan. Eddie Cahill's exhibition was very well received, partly due to his interesting back story having spent time in Limerick Prison in the 1980s. There was significant media interest, including an article in the Sunday Independent and a piece on the John Bowman show on RTE 1. An interview with artist, Brigid McLeer, appeared in the Irish Examiner on 26 February.
- The total number of visitors in February was 4,512.

- Two residencies were announced in February for TEST SPACE. The first, awarded to Michella Perera, a Sri Lankan artist, who moved to Ireland at the age of 10. Michella is a graduate of Limerick School of Art and Design. She is interested in working with migrant groups, has already established links with PAUL Partnership and Doras. The second residency was awarded to CreAut, a project established by artist, Gala Tomasa, and academic, Diarmuid Heffernan, focused on working with neurodivergent people.
- The Shinnors Scholar, Aoife Doherty, has designed a comprehensive Learning and Outreach programme, including a tour for University of the Third Age (U3A) participants on 29 February.
- Research and meetings continued, including site visits by artists and curators.
- Various community groups continued to use the Gallery for meetings and events. These include University of the Third Age (U3A) who regularly hold their poetry and music meetings in the Gallery.

## Limerick Museum

- On 01 February, the Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, Councillor Azad Talukder, performed the official opening of 'Cruthú Ó Mhná,' an exhibition curated by members of the female collective, Mná na nEalaín, in collaboration with Limerick City and County Council and Limerick Museum, in recognition of the national holiday for the Irish Patron Saint, Brigid.
- On 15 February, the Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, Councillor Azad Talukder, performed the official opening of 'She Summoned a Storm,' an exhibition of works by Síle Walsh. From Tramore, Co. Waterford, Síle was a heat contestant with Sky Portrait Artist of the Year in 2019 and Sky Landscape Artist of the Year in 2022.
- On 20 February, the Curator and Assistant Curator represented Limerick Museum at the Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MPSI) Orientation

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Day in the Heritage Council Headquarters in Kilkenny City. Speakers included Brian Crowley, Curator, OPW (Kilmainham Gaol and Pearse Museum), and Marie McMahon, Curator, Tipperary Museum of Hidden History.

- The Museum continued its very active outreach programme. On 02 February, the Assistant Curator gave a public lecture in Kilcornan on Ellen Mary Toomey (1864-1933), a local woman who survived the sinking of the Titanic. On 07 February, the Curator appeared on the *Today Show* on RTE One television, presented by Daithí Ó Sé and Maura Derrane, and displayed ten iconic objects from the Museum's collection. The *Today Show* has a viewership of between 150,000 and 200,000. On 27 February, the Assistant Curator and one of the Museum Assistants delivered a school workshop to first year students in the Salesian Secondary School, Pallaskenry, on the subject of Viking Limerick. On the same day, the Curator gave a talk on the Mayors of Limerick in St. Mary's Cathedral to the Evergreens (a Senior Citizens group).
- Among the artefacts acquired by Limerick Museum in February was a traditional black woollen shawl, reputedly belonging to the last woman in Limerick city to wear this type of garment.

## 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 February 14 letters of support were issued.

#### Grants Under the Arts Act

The Grants under the Arts Act closed for applications on 28 February. 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 average between €150 - €500, with a maximum of €1,000 being offered in exceptional circumstances. A total of 52 applications were received.

#### Coordination Services for Limerick Culture Night 2024

Limerick Arts Office issued a public call-out for quotes for Event Coordination Services to support the running of Culture Night Limerick 2024. The successful applicant/candidate will work in partnership with the national Culture Night coordinators, Limerick Arts Team and local creative and cultural stakeholders to deliver a programme of events in Limerick city and county locations. National and local resources and supports will be in place to assist in the guiding and delivery of the project for both the appointed coordinator and local stakeholders.

#### Irish Writers' Centre National Mentoring Programme 2024

Applications for the Irish Writers' Centre National Mentoring Programme 2024 opened on 01 February. This opportunity is for writers living in Ireland to receive sustained mentoring from an acclaimed Irish writer. Limerick Arts Office is supporting a Limerick writer to take part in this national professional development scheme for writers.

Each year, the Irish Writers' Centre sets up over 30 mentorships across the island of Ireland. Writers receive sustained creative and professional mentoring from an acclaimed Irish writer of their choosing. Writers living in all thirty-two counties can apply. Accepted genres/forms: literary fiction, creative non-fiction, children's / young adult fiction and poetry. This initiative is supported by Limerick City and County Council, and the Arts Council of Ireland. For further information: <https://irishwriterscentre.ie/national-mentoring-programme/>



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## Creative Ireland – Creative Climate Action

The Creative Climate Action - Síolta Glasa closed for applications on 09 February. This Open Call was open to creatives and community groups interested in participating in the Limerick City and County Council-led creative climate action project - Síolta Glasa. This project builds on the successful implementation of the Creative Climate Action collaborative project, Decarbonising Together, delivered in Limerick by lead partner, Limerick City and County Council.

## 4. Property Management

Dereliction, Vacancy and Reuse Team	
Site Inspections Completed	98
Department Notices of Inquiry issued	8
Derelict Sites Cases opened	2
Statutory Notices served under the Derelict Sites Act 1990	113
Derelict Sites Cases closed through engagement	7
Properties entered into the Derelict Sites Register	0
Properties proposed for Compulsory Acquisition (Section 15 Notices)	0
Vesting Orders Made for Properties Acquired Compulsorily (Section 17 Notices)	0
Croí Cónaithe – Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant Applications Approved	14



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## Regeneration, Sports and Recreation Directorate

### 1. Regeneration and Sports

#### Regeneration

##### Economic Regeneration

##### Outreach to Employment Programme

Initiatives on the Outreach to Employment Programme continued in each of the Regeneration communities. A meeting of the Moyross Employment Project Team was held on 09 February in Moyross Youth Academy.

Personal Development Pilot Programme – This programme is a multi-agency initiative which was developed by the Outreach to Employment Programme to work with people in the Regeneration Communities who have completed addiction programmes and who want to progress towards further education/training. Ms. Lynn Collopy has been appointed as Personal Development Tutor and the role is funded by Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.

##### Social Regeneration

Mr. Tommy Barrett and Dr. Katie Sheehan commenced their respective positions as Social Regeneration Officer and Social Researcher during February. The role of the Social Regeneration Officer involves engaging with the local communities and statutory bodies/state agencies with the objective of promoting the Economic and Social pillars of Regeneration. The role of Researcher will support the overall function of the Regeneration programme through data collection, information and analysis.

##### 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.

- Work continued through the ESIF Sub-Committees with a particular focus on the Call for Funding for Community Centres.

#### Community Activities

##### Moyross

##### Community 5k Walk

The annual 5k Community Walk/Run, which was organised by the Community Companions, took place on 01 February in Moyross with various agencies and stakeholders joining the pupils of Corpus Christi Primary School and the local Community.

In conjunction with the Limerick Sports Partnership, several weekly activities took place in Moyross during February including:

- Moyross United FC Ladies began a 10-week Strength and Conditioning Programme, coached by a local, fully qualified personal trainer.
- 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

##### St Brigid's Day

To mark the event, St. Brigid's Crosses were made at various community events, including the Crafty Monday's Group, Family Learning Group and St. Mary's National School Kite Flying event

##### Kite Flying Event

Families from King's Island gathered at Limerick Learning Hub to fly the kites that they created at a workshop. This event was facilitated by the Hunt Museum, and supported by Empowering Communities.



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## Community Health Day

A Community Health Day was held on 14 February in conjunction with the Body Tree Community Clinic. The Primary Care Team from King's Island Primary Care was also present, including the Diabetes Nurse Specialist and the Cardiology Nurse Specialist, completing Blood Pressure Checks and Blood Sugar Checks.

## St. Marys National School Parents' Study Group

A weekly study group commenced for parents in the community completing the Care Skills Course with St. Mary's Adult Education. This group is facilitated by Empowering Communities and St. Mary's National School.

## Lego Convention

20 children and their parents/carers were given the opportunity to attend a Brick Convention in Castletroy Park Hotel where the Lego Club members participated in speed builds.

## Southill

### Project ECCO

The delivery of Project ECCO continued. This is a programme to support the development of circular economy projects as a response to climate change.

### Gardening and Crafts

Community education classes in gardening and crafts were held throughout the month of February.

## 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, progressed towards completion this Summer.
- 11 housing units at Churchfield (Phase 2), Southill, progressed towards handover. The total social housing development comprises 37 units.
- Preliminary design was progressed for a new 55-unit infill residential development at Pineview Gardens, Moyross.
- Initial public consultation undertaken for a 20-unit housing scheme at Cliona Park Phase 4.

### 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, which encompasses 53 properties.
- Work on 12 units, under Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 127, in Ballinacurra Weston, Ballinacurra, was continued by contractor, JoeBren Construction Ltd.
- The detailed design for 55 housing units in Pineview Gardens, Moyross, under Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 130 continued.

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## House Refurbishments

### Lot 4a Major Refurbishments – Nine Properties

- Dolmen Construction progressed with works to three properties.

### Lot 4b Major Refurbishments – 11 Properties

- Preliminary design continued to support a Stage 1-3 applications to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the second tender for 5 of 11 houses.

### Minor Refurbishments

Refurbishment works completed on two properties.

- Construction works continued with five houses across the four Regeneration areas.
- 16 units were at scoping, tender or pre-construction stage.

### Demolitions

- O'Kelly Bros. demolished 525-528 Castle Oaks View, O'Malley Park, Southill (four houses).
- Smith Demolition demolished 121 Mountain View, O'Malley Park, Southill.

## Infrastructure Projects

### Southside Connectivity Project

- Tender to procure a Consultant for detailed design and construction was issued.

### Southside Boxing Academy

- Contractor commenced improvement works to the building used by Southside Boxing Academy in the Galvone Industrial Estate. This is being supported by the Economic and Social Intervention Fund (ESIF).

## Moyross Avenue

- A Part 8 planning application was submitted for the upgrade of section of the Avenue between Corpus Christi Parish Church and the Health Centre.

## Thomond Rugby Football Club Extension

- A Part 8 planning application was submitted for extension of Thomond Rugby Football Club facilities towards Moyross Avenue.

## Environmental Works

- Removal of redundant hardstanding areas in Salvia Court, Keyes Park, Limerick - which was a source of flooding to Rose Court, Keyes Park, properties - commenced.

## Community Facilities

### Southill Play Space and Associated Landscape

- The works contract for the Southill Play Space and associated landscape was issued via eTenders.

### Limerick Sports Partnership

- Limerick Sports Partnership (LSP) secured €156,000 under the Education and Training Board's UBU – Your Place Your Space Youth Programme, to support the workings of the LSP with this target group. The LSP has numerous programmes supporting youths of 10-24 years.
- LSP placed 65 Fourth Year Physical Education students in local community groups for an eight-week period to deliver Physical Activity initiatives. Groups supported included Youth Services, Older Adult Groups, Mental Health Support Groups, Desk to 5K Programmes, Inclusion Programmes, and Sports Clubs. This is in partnership with the University of Limerick's Physical Education and Sport Science Department.

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- Staff from LSP completed the HSE Make Every Contact Count (MECC) Programme. In doing so, they became the first community group outside of the HSE to complete the programme. This programme provides anti-smoking, mental health, drug and alcohol addiction support, healthy eating and physical activity.
- Over 3,000 participants engaged in our suite of physical activity programmes and educational initiatives during February. This included schools, community and sports Hubs activities.
- A full list of programmes offered by Limerick Sports Partnership is available on <https://limericksports.ie/>

## Council Sporting Facilities

- Local athletics clubs, nearby schools and members of the community continued to use the Limerick Regional Athletics Hub, located in Newcastle West. So far in 2024, 23 clubs have used the facility for training groups.
- The Limerick Regional Athletics Hub was featured in the Limerick on Foot campaign, which saw a number of current users, from the local area, participate in a video showcasing the facility.



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## Housing Directorate

### 1. Housing Support Services

#### Housing Waiting List

Approved Housing Applicants	2,673
Approved Tenant Transfer Applicants	388

#### Closed Housing Applications

	February	Year to Date
Closed Applications	85	135

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 February	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	1
Newcastle West	0	4
Metropolitan District	39	51
Cappamore-Kilmallock	1	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>62</b>

#### Refusals

	No. of Units February	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	0
Newcastle West	0	0
Metropolitan District	4	4
Cappamore-Kilmallock	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>

#### Approved Housing Body Allocations 2024 (year to date)

Total Nominations	Successful Nominations	Nominations Pending	Unsuccessful Nominations
50	17	33	0

#### Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

Private Tenancies	688
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

2,039 active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	15
No. of Amendments	233
No. of Cessations	43

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## Rent Collection

Rent Collection Limerick City and County Council					
Opening Balance	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing Balance	% Collection
€6,731,013	€3,579,855	€10,310,868	€3,176,215	€7,134,653	31%

## Home Improvement Schemes

February 2024		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aid Grants	No. Approved	1	0	5	1	7
	MAG Expenditure	€13,379.00	€5,250.00	€0.00	€0.00	€18,629.00
	No. Paid	3	2	0	0	5
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	5	6	26	5	42
	HAG Expenditure	€29,108.86	€35,167.50	€236,420.91	€30,295.00	€330,992.27
	No. Paid	3	5	6	4	18
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	14	22	41	13	90
	HOP Expenditure	€41,717.50	€67,106.39	€158,285.27	€14,326.00	€281,435.16
	No. Paid	9	17	23	3	52
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	139
Total Monies Paid	€631,056.43
Total No. Paid	75

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## HOME IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES - Year to Date

Jan-Feb-2024		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aid Grants	No. Approved	2	0	7	1	10
	MAG Expenditure	€13,379.00	€5,250.00	€13,515.00	€0.00	€32,144.00
	No. Paid	3	2	3	0	8
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	6	12	76	7	101
	HAG Expenditure	€43,833.86	€64,298.22	€386,143.51	€87,687.38	€581,962.97
	No. Paid	5	11	26	12	54
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	16	23	125	19	183
	HOP Expenditure	€49,367.50	€108,094.39	€297,802.21	€36,522.24	€491,786.34
	No. Paid	11	25	57	8	101
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG Expenditure	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
	No. Paid	0	0	0	0	0

YTD Total No. Approved	294
YTD Total Monies Paid	€1,105,893.31
YTD Total No. Paid	163

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## Community Sustainment Unit

### Tenancy Inductions

	Feb	YTD
No. of Tenancy Inductions	35	67

### House Visits

	Feb	YTD
No. of House Visits	312	599

### Sugar CRM (Customer Relationship Management) Cases

	Feb	YTD
Active cases at month-end	251	251
Cases closed during month	46	179

### Repossessions

	Feb	YTD
Repossession of Council properties	11	29

### Garda Checks

	Feb	YTD
Garda Checks processed	97	201

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

Date: 13.02.2024		
Individuals		
Location	Description	Beds Used
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	25
Oak Lodge	Adults without children accommodated in low threshold emergency accommodation	67
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	21
St. Joseph Street	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	5
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	47
Temporary Emergency Provision TEP 1 (Edenvilla)	Low threshold, night-by-night (9pm-9am) emergency accommodation. Mixed	19
Phoenix Lodge	Low threshold emergency accommodation for single adults	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>193</b>

Families				
Location	Description	Beds Used		
		Adults	Children	Families
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	8	6
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	65	90	53
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	14	13	10
<b>Totals</b>		<b>Adults</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>Families</b>
		<b>85</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>69</b>



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	Feb	YTD
<b>Tenant Purchase</b>		
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. received	8	20
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. approved	5	11
<b>Local Authority Home Loans</b>		
Loan Applications: No. received	7	12
Loan Applications: No. approved	4	4
<b>Deed of Discharge</b>		
Deed of Discharge Applications: No. Received	20	39
<b>Consent to Sale</b>		
Consent to Sale Applications: No. Received	3	9
<b>Cottage Purchase Annuity</b>		
No. of Cottage Purchase Annuity Applications	4	7
<b>Ground Rent</b>		
No. of Ground Rent applications	2	6
<b>Title</b>		
Title Deeds Received/Requested	12	25
Title Rectification Received	1	1
<b>Private Rented Inspections</b>		
No. of Inspections	122	1,189

## Freedom of Information, Data Requests and Ombudsman

Freedom of Information requests	6
Ombudsman Query Cases	1
Data Access Requests	1

## 2. Housing Welfare and Traveller Accommodation

### \* Traveller Accommodation

No. of Units offered February	5
Year to Date	6

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

### Housing Welfare Referrals/Visits

No. of Visits February	21
Year to Date	39

## 3. Local Authority Housing Construction and Maintenance

### Local Authority Housing Construction

House Returns February	
Total	12

House Returns February By Municipal District	
Adare-Rathkeale	1
Cappamore-Kilmallock	4
Newcastle West	0
Metropolitan District	7
Total	12

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During February, the Local Authority Housing Construction Team was notified of one house returned in the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale, four in the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock, none in the Municipal District of Newcastle West and seven in the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

Current Working Programme		
	Completed in February	In Progress
Local Authority Construction Team – Major Refurbishments	15	83
Local Authority Construction Team – Minor Refurbishments	1	5
Local Authority Maintenance Team	10	101
Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process	0	26
Regeneration Team	0	41
Team to be assigned	N/A	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>276</b>

In February, work on 16 properties was completed by the Local Authority Housing Construction Team and work on 10 properties was completed by the Local Authority Maintenance Team.

There are three teams in Limerick City and County Council assigned to refurbish properties. As of February, the Local Authority Construction Team was in the process of completing works in 88 properties, Local Authority Maintenance was working on 101 properties and the Regeneration Team had 41 properties. Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process - 26 properties. 20 properties were in the process of being assigned to a Team.

## Project Updates

- Stage 3 application was submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for 10 new units at O'Connor Park, Ardagh.
- Ship Renew applications were made for refurbishment works at former Garda Stations in Shanagolden and Galbally.
- Contractors appointed for refurbishment works at properties in Ballinacurra, Keyes Park and Janesboro.
- Mechanical and Electrical Consultant was appointed for new units in Bruff.
- Contractor appointed for refurbishment works at property in Feoghanagh.
- Contractor appointed for refurbishment works at property in Rathbane, Limerick.
- Contractor appointed for refurbishment works at property in Georgian Village, Limerick.
- Contractor appointed for refurbishment works at property in Foynes.
- Structural and Civil Engineer appointed for two new units in Bruff.
- Planning Application was approved for four new units in Mountcollins.

## Finance

- Applications for funding totalling €1,828,470.00 issued to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage paid €1,544,430.00 in claims made.

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## Local Authority Housing Maintenance

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

Housing Maintenance Cases - February	Requests/Cases Created	Cases Dealt With/ Closed	Balance of Open Cases at 29.02.2024
Metropolitan District of Limerick	941	1,212	1,644
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	81	128	326
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	143	150	300
Municipal District of Newcastle West	111	263	627
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,276</b>	<b>1,753</b>	<b>2,897</b>

## Grants Inspections

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	1	0	2	3
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	1	12	0	12	25
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	25	0	0	25
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	8	4	2	14
<b>Total Inspections by Inspection Type</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>67</b>

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

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	6	0	3	9
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	12	1	9	22
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Total Inspections by Inspection Type</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>33</b>

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	1	0	3	4
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	3	0	2	5
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	14	0	9	23
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Inspections by Inspection Type</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>32</b>

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	1	0	1	2
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	5	0	5	10
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	14	0	16	30
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Inspections by Inspection Type</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>42</b>

### HOUSE INSPECTIONS UNIT

Houses Inspected for Refurbishment Works and Re-Letting – February - Categories	No. of Properties Inspected
Cat 1 – minor repairs needed	0
Cat 2 – moderate repairs needed	3
Cat 3 – substantial repairs needed	3
Cat 4 – major repairs needed	1
<b>TOTAL INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT</b>	<b>7</b>
No. of Properties Awaiting Inspection	16

### DEFECTIVE BLOCKWORK SCHEME APPLICATIONS

Applications Registered February	5
RFI Applications (Request Further Information)	4
Applications Referred to Housing Agency	2
Applications – Damage Threshold Met	3

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

### SOCIAL HOUSING – Delivery for 2024

Buy/Build/Lease as of 29.02.2024 is as follows:

As at 29.02.2024 (01.01.2024 - 29.02.2024)	Complete	In Progress	Overall Complete and In Progress	“Housing for All” 2024 Delivery Target
Build	0	421	421	513
Buy	7	197	204	TBC
Lease	1	41	42	44
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>667</b>	

### Social Housing – Project Submissions and Approvals

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

Notice to Quit - Acquisition	Approval for the Acquisition of one unit in Dooradoyle, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Approval for six units in various locations in Limerick - Focus Stock Transfer Phase 2.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Approval for six units in various locations in Limerick - Focus Stock Transfer Phase 3.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	Approval for three units in New Road, Abbeyfeale.	Municipal District of Newcastle West

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

Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the Acquisition of one unit at Crossagalla, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Submission for the Acquisition of six units at Cathedral Place, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Stage 4 submission for the Construction of eight units at Bruree, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock
SHIP (Social Housing Investment Programme) Turnkey	Submission for the Construction of one unit at Castletroy, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Notice to Quit - Acquisition	Submission for the Acquisition of one unit in Dooradoyle, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick

## Affordable Housing – Delivery for 2023-2026

Scheme	District	Type	No. of Units	Proposal Updates in February
Toppins Field Lands	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase  Affordable Housing Fund	28 (Phase 1)	<p>The report with options for junction design was finalised to include comments and input by the Limerick City and County Council Roads Department.</p> <p>The archaeological impact assessment and local heritage reports were completed in February.</p> <p>The pre-planning design for the first westerly phase continued during February, with the assessment of plans against new compact settlement guidelines.</p> <p>The Modern Methods of Construction Pilot Research Project report was finalised with final input from the Housing Agency and Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</p> <p>Public Private Partnership Social Lot 7 Scheme in the easterly part of the site has received Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage funding, and a start-up introduction meeting was held with the Department Team, and Dublin City Council as Lead Local Authority, on the bundle.</p>

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Scheme	District	Type	No. of Units	Proposal Updates in February
Toppins Field Lands	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Affordable Housing Fund	115 (Phases 2-4)	Site investigations for Phase 1 continued during February.
Guinness Site	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Cost Rental Affordable Housing Fund	270	<p>A review of capacity and viability analysis for Carey's Road against Framework infrastructure phasing continued during February.</p> <p>Site purchase negotiations and work on the procurement of a Design Team continued during February.</p> <p>Project Working Group monthly meeting was held.</p>
Clonmacken Lands	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Affordable Housing Fund	22	<p>Density and height options for this proposed development were explored, and an initial volume study was finalised for a workshop with the Limerick City and County Council Planning Department.</p> <p>A new application under the Affordable Housing Fund under consideration.</p>
Sonny's Lands	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Cost Rental Affordable Housing Fund	19	<p>Stage 2 Tender assessment for the appointment of framework participants for Design Team Consultants was conducted throughout February.</p> <p>Tender review underway for all six lots of consultancy types.</p> <p>Archaeological Dig Phase 2 licence application submitted and road closure licence preparation underway.</p> <p>Meetings with local stakeholder groups commenced.</p>
Curragower	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Affordable Housing Fund	7	<p>Work continued on the pre-planning design.</p> <p>The public realm, traffic and vehicular access, materiality and 3D contextual visualisation update continued during February.</p>



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Scheme	District	Type	No. of Units	Proposal Updates in February
Speaker's Corner	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Cost Rental Expression of Interest Site with Approved Housing Body	18	Approved Housing Body undertook Quantity Surveyor costings. Work continued on the progression of land transfer.
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 February.
Ballygrennan Lands	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Expression of Interest Site with Approved Housing Body	73	Notification of planning grant received on 22 February.
Mungret Site	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund	181	Affordable Housing Fund application submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the development of 181 units at Mungret, Limerick, on 22 February.
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 February.
Adare	Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	Affordable Purchase Self-build plots	8	Work continued on the progression of this proposal during February.

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Scheme	District	Type	No. of Units	Proposal Updates in February
Advance Purchase Turnkey – Campaign 1	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase	25	<p>Processing of applications and the issuing of letters of offer continued throughout February for the 25-unit Brú na Gruadán, Castletroy Affordable Purchase Scheme.</p> <p>A proposed 35-unit affordable housing scheme at Knockhill, Ennis Road and a 10-unit affordable housing scheme in Abbeyfeale were also progressed during February.</p>
	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase	35	
	Municipal District of Newcastle West	Affordable Purchase	10	
Advance Purchase Turnkey – Campaign 2	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase	145	<p>Processing of applications and the issuing of letters of offer continued throughout February for Phase 1 (21 units) of the Woodfield Manor, Newcastle West, Affordable Purchase Scheme.</p> <p>Work continued on the progression of the other two proposals during February.</p>
	Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	Affordable Purchase	8	
	Municipal District of Newcastle West	Affordable Purchase	42	
Advance Purchase Turnkey – Campaign 3	Municipal District of Newcastle West	Affordable Purchase	0	Discussions continued 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 February.
Advance Purchase Turnkey – Campaign 5	Municipal District of Newcastle West	Affordable Purchase	99	Discussions continued during February with the developers of the three expressions of interest in order to progress these proposed developments.
Large Scale Residential Sites	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Cost Rental/ Affordable Purchase	303	Discussions continued during February with regard to the delivery of affordable housing on large-scale residential sites.

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## Affordable Housing – Project Submissions

Affordable Housing Fund (AHF)	Submission for 181 affordable units at Mungret, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
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## Finance

- Claims totaling €12,955,203.63 were sent to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in February.
- Claims totaling €9,249,525.28 were paid by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in February.

## 5. Municipal District Offices

### Metropolitan District of Limerick

#### Meetings

The February Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick took place on 19 February.

#### Briefings/Workshops

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

- Part 8 proposal - St.Paul's to Ballykeefe Active Travel Scheme.
- Arthur's Quay Framework Plan.
- Christmas in Limerick 2024.

#### Operational Area Briefings

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

## Road Related Upgrade/Refurbishment Works

### Description of Project: Footpath Upgrades Clarina Village (completed)

Location: Clarina.

Cost of project: €50,000.

Contractor: Peter Ryan Civil Engineering.

### Description of Project: Augustine Lane Road Improvement Scheme (completed)

Location: Augustine Lane (off Roches Street), City Centre.

Cost of Project: €24,000.

Contractor: Tarstone.

### Description of Project: Mungret Speed Ramps Upgrade (completed)

Location: Mungret Village.

Cost of project: €25,000.

Contractor: Tarstone.

### Description of Project: Drombanna New Footpath Works (completed)

Location: Drombanna.

Cost of project: €125,000.

Contractor: Tallybrooke.

### Description of Project: Minor Pavements Upgrade William Street, Augustinian Lane and Sarsfield Street

Location: Limerick City Centre.

Cost of project: €10,000.

Contractor: Limerick City and County Council's City Centre Response Team.

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## Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

The February Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale took place on 13 February in Árás Séan Finn, Rathkeale.

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

- 77 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
- 163 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

Bridge Rehabilitation - repair works carried out to damaged parapet wall at Kilcoole Bridge, Rathkeale.

Drainage Works at Bog Garden/Kyletaun, R518 Askeaton Road, Rathkeale.

Drainage Works on N69 Shanagolden to Ferry Bridge.

## Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

### February Municipal District Meeting

The Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock was held in Árás Mainchín Seoighe, Kilmallock, on 21 February.

Three Special Meetings of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock were held, namely:

- To consider the Part 8 for the Market House in Kilfinane (01 February).
- To discuss the allocation of Active Travel/National Transport Authority funding 2024. (21 February).
- To approve the General Municipal Allocation 2024 (28 February).

A Workshop to discuss the General Municipal Allocation also took place (21 February).

## Housing and Road Maintenance

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

## Housing Grants

- Seven Private Housing Grants were paid, totalling €44,621.
- 20 initial inspections, one re-inspection and 12 final inspections were undertaken in relation to Private Housing Grants.

## Road Works

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

### General Municipal Allocation Works

- Knocklong Footpath Works on R513.
- Ardpatrick Footpath Works.

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## Municipal District of Newcastle West

### Meetings and Briefings

- 07 February - Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West.
- 21 February - Briefing to Councillors on the Athea Flood Relief Scheme.
- 28 February - Briefing to Councillors on the Abbeyfeale and Newcastle West Road Schemes.

### Housing Grants

- 28 grant applications were approved under the Private Housing Grant Schemes during the month. The total value of approvals was €130,295.95.
- Payments of €67,106.39 were made to 17 applicants who completed works under the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.
- Payments of €35,167.50 were made to five applicants who completed works under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme.
- Payments of €5,250 were made to two applicants who completed works under the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme.

### Housing Maintenance

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

### Transportation and Mobility

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

### Motor Tax

During the month of February, the Motor Tax Section at the Newcastle West Office processed 1,216 routine transactions generating an income of €201,123.



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## Planning, Environment & Place-Making Directorate

### 1. Forward Planning and Public Realm

#### Forward Planning

- Forward Planning has prepared the Annual Draft Maps for the Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) for the Tax Year 2025. Annual Draft Maps have been prepared for 17 settlements across the City and County identifying lands considered to be "in-scope" for the purposes of the tax to activate residential development. The Maps were published on 01 February and submissions invited.
- Pursuant to Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), notice was given that Limerick City and County Council proposes to make an amendment to the Kilmallock Local Area Plan 2019-2025.
- The Adare Local Area Plan 2024-2030, including associated Public Realm Plan and Environment Assessments, was adopted by the Elected Members of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale on 13 February.
- The Patrickswell Local Area Plan 2024-2030, including Environment Assessments, was adopted by the Elected Members at a Special Meeting of Limerick City and County Council on 26 February 2024.

#### Archaeology

- Two Community Monuments Fund Stream 1 applications for Capital Works were submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, one for Phase 3 of the Tower House in Ballynoe graveyard, Bruree, and one for the medieval parish church in Galbally. A third Community Monuments Fund application was made under Stream 2 for advance studies at Mahoonagh Church.

- Three Community Monuments Fund applications were submitted from private and community groups under Streams 2 (Conservation Management Plans) and 3 (Access and Emergency Works).
- The final report on Phase 2 2023 works on Ballynoe Tower House was submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.

#### Conservation

- 30 projects were nominated for assistance under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and a further seven larger-scale projects under the Historic Structures Fund were nominated to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for consideration.

### 2. Development Management and Place-Making

#### Development Management

A total of 90 new planning applications were received as follows:

Category	Amount
Part 8	3
Housing Developments	0
Domestic Developments	51
Agricultural Developments	9
Commercial Developments/Change of Use	9
Sporting/Community and Educational Developments	4
Other Developments	14

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The current applications include proposals for:

- Part 8 for the refurbishment, extension and renovation of the Abbeyfeale goods shed and a change of use to commercial, community and tourism to include toilets, coffee dock, bike hire and public realm at the Limerick Greenway, Knockbrack, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.

## Place Making

### Limerick Wayfinding and Orientation Signage Project

- P&D Lydon appointed to this project. Survey work and sign design progressed.

### Cruise's Street Meanwhile Uses

Continued with Meanwhile Use preparatory works such as:

- Appropriate Planters and seating identified.
- Quotes received for proposed ground mural and lighting.
- Update on proposed works provided to Traders.

## Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF)

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

- Preliminary Business Case approved 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 and Waterfront Infrastructural Works

- Draft Preliminary Business Case received from AECOM for Limerick City and County Council review.

## Arthur's Quay Area Framework Plan

- Architects, Metropolitan Workshop, leading a Multi-Disciplinary Team preparing the Arthur's Quay Area Framework Plan. Draft Stage 2 report on Options received for Limerick City and County Council review.

## Milk Market Food Hub

- Preliminary Business Case queries received from Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and responded to.

## Capital Projects

### O'Connell Street Phase 1

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

## 3. Environment and Climate Action

### Environmental Awareness

- The Annual Limerick Tidy Towns Seminar took place in the Woodlands Hotel, Adare, on 01 February. Battery Recycling Boxes (household and retail) were distributed to the groups, in addition to information on Greener Cleaning, Dog Fouling, Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (Septic Tanks) Biodiversity and Food Waste.

### Biodiversity

- Limerick City and County Council hosted the annual Tidy Towns Seminar with a focus on Wetland for World Wetland Day in the Woodlands Hotel, Adare, on 01 February. The audience was treated to insightful presentations delving into the international, national, and local importance of wetlands, the risk to them, and nature-based solutions. Solutions discussed during the evening, advocate for mimicking wetland functions as

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alternatives to traditional hard engineering solutions for surface water and drainage management. All speakers emphasised the pivotal role wetlands play in sustaining overall health. The presentations culminated in a dynamic question and answer session, fostering networking opportunities late into the evening.

- There was a wonderful turnout on a soft grey day on 03 February for Limerick City and County Council's World Wetland Day Outing to Lough Gur to see the Lough's wintering wildfowl. The outing was led by ornithologist, Tom Tarpey, assisted by Maura Turner from the Limerick Branch of Bird Watch Ireland.

## Activity Tracker - February

Inspection Type	Number of Inspections	Inspection Details
Farm Inspections (Local Catchment Assessment)	1	River Arra
Farm Re-Inspection	33	Follow-Up to see programmed works completed – Numbers Catchments
Sugar CRM (Customer Relationship Management) Complaints	4	Respond/Follow-Up Complaints from members of the public.
Domestic Wastewater Treatment System (DWWTS)	160	Selection of DWWTS for 2024/2025 survey
Invasive Species	4	Follow-Up on queries received – Limerick City and County Council's webpage
Planning Files	22	Desktop (eighteen) and on-the-ground inspection (four)
Forestry	8	Desktop – review applications received from Forest Service
River Monitoring	1	-
Review Farmyard Management Plans and Farm File Reviews	37	Review Farmyard Management Plans and discuss further action to be taken following farm re-inspections
Agricultural Contractors	0	-
Public Meetings	3	(i) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Meeting in Tullamore; (ii) Meeting with Castleconnell Fisheries in Council Offices; and (iii) Agricultural Sustainability and Support Advisory Programme (ASSAP) Meeting in Council Offices.
Cross Reports	3	Reports to Department of Agriculture – breaches of GAP Regulations



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## Parks

### Tree Surgery Works

Tree surgery works were completed in the following locations within the Metropolitan District:

- Carabullawn, Dromdarrig Mungret Woods, Glantán, Bloomfield, Roundwood, Fitzgerald Place, Courbrack, Castlewell, Castlecourt, Fitzhaven Square, St. Lawrence's Park, Lynwood Park, Woodlawn Park and Canon Breen Park Housing Estates, Caragh Avenue, Elm Drive, Fitzgerald Street, Upper and Lower Carey's Road, Galvone Road, Childers Road, Corbally Road.

Tree surgery works were completed in the following locations within the Municipal Districts:

- Church View Askeaton, Ardkeohane and Sycamore Drive Bruff, Oliver Plunkett Terrace Ballylanders, Castleview, Newcastle West.

The tree surgery works listed above were completed by Dermot Casey Tree Care, Pakie Ryan Forestry and Elm Landscaping and Tree Surgery Services.

Tree Surgery works were also completed in the following locations within the Metropolitan District by Limerick City and County Council Direct Labour Crews:

- Beechfield, Thornfields, Rosskeen, Carrigeen, College Court, Mount Green Castletroy, Bracken Gardens, Knocklyon, Creagh Avenue, Derrynane Old Cork Road.

### Castleconnell Community Park

- Works commenced in the Community Park in Castleconnell with the laying of stone for perimeter pathways.

### Grass Cutting Contract 2024

- The 2024 grass cutting contract was awarded to Eire Landscapes.

## Corbally Nursery

Drainage works were carried out as part of the expansion works in Corbally Nursery.

## Cemeteries

Number of Burials in City Cemeteries

Mount St. Lawrence	12
Mount St. Oliver	11
Castlemungret	6
Kilmurry	2

## Environment Enforcement and Litter Management

(Litter, Waste, Air, Noise, Water/Waste Water and Public Health)

ENVIRONMENT ENFORCEMENT	
SUGAR CRM (Customer Relationship Management) cases received	229
Inspections undertaken CRM	579
Warnings issued	115
Directions of Authorised Officer issued	4
Statutory Notices issued	26
Prosecutions initiated	5
Fines issued	24
Authorisations issued/reviewed	2

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## DOMESTIC WASTE AND LITTER TEAM

SUGAR CRM (Customer Relationship Management) cases received	90
Inspections undertaken	533
Warnings issued	112
Directions of Authorised Officer issued	3
Fines issued	24
Statutory Notices issued	20
Prosecutions initiated	5

## Climate Action

### Local Authority Climate Action Plan

- Limerick City and County Council's Climate Action Coordinator and the Community Climate Action Officer presented at 'Night Candles are Burnt Out,' a seminar run by the Hunt Museum on 01 February as part of its Culture and Climate Action Conference.
- The Climate Action Coordinator presented to the Older Persons Council on 26 February.
- The Community Climate Action Officer ran a half-day sustainability course for secondary school students from Thomond College in the Technological University of the Shannon on 22 February.
- The consultation period for Limerick City and County Council's Local Authority Climate Action Plan closed on 05 February. Thirteen submissions were received.

## Community Climate Action Funds

- Applications for the Creative Ireland Funded project, Síolta Glasra, closed on 09 February, with evaluation of applications ongoing.

## Energy Management

### (ISO5001 Audit)

- The Energy Management Team successfully completed ISO5001 surveillance audit on 23 February.
- The Quarterly Energy Management Team Meeting for Limerick City and County Council was held on 26 February.

## Veterinary

No. of dogs processed in the Dog Shelter	14
No. of horses seized	19
No. of samples taken	2

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

### Athea Flood Relief Scheme

- A Public Consultation Day was held in Con Colbert Community Hall, Athea, on 21 February between 5pm-8pm. The event was well attended and the feedback received was very positive. Questionnaires were issued on the day and are also available online on MyPoint.

### Castleconnell Flood Relief Scheme

- Productive dialogues were initiated with landowners impacted by the project, setting the stage for completing the planning design and advancing the scheme.

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- An archaeologist was appointed to conduct thorough pre-planning archaeological investigations.
- The draft planning pack was received and a review of the pack began in February.

## Adare Flood Relief Scheme

- A Steering Group meeting was held on 13 February to assess the project's progress and this was followed by a Multi-Criteria Analysis Options Selection Workshop at which the project consultants, Ryan Hanley, gave detailed presentations on the technically viable emerging options.
- Engagement with landowners affected by the scheme commenced, facilitating the completion of the planning design and moving the project forward.
- The design for the Public Realm at Turf Quay and along the N21 began, enhancing the community's environmental and aesthetic value.

## Limerick Flood Relief Scheme

- RPS were finalising their hydraulic modelling and the development of flood mapping.
- IGSL was appointed to start detailed site investigations around the Annacotty Mountshannon area.
- The second package for detailed site investigation was tendered.
- Tenders for two-year detailed ecological studies were successfully uploaded to eTenders, laying the groundwork for an informed options assessment.

## Kings Island Flood Relief Scheme

- The tender notice for the construction of the King's Island Flood Relief Scheme was published on eTenders.gov.ie.

## 5. Limerick Twenty Thirty (LTT) DAC

### Opera Square

#### Project Update

- John Sisk & Son completed the basement level of One Opera Square and this marks the mid-point of the project's Six-Year Programme. One Opera Square has been developed to the highest international standards of sustainability. One Opera Square is being developed by Treaty Stone Partnership DAC. This is a unique joint venture between Limerick Twenty Thirty DAC and Ireland Strategic Investment Fund.

#### Project Media Engagement

- A celebration was held at Opera Square with key stakeholders on 19 February to mark the completion of the basement slab at One Opera Square.
- A press release was drafted for issue on 28 February and video footage was captured interviewing the following key stakeholders:

The Limerick Twenty Thirty DAC CEO; The Chief Executive of Limerick City and County Council; The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick; The Minister of State for Local Government and Planning; The Chairman of Treaty Stone Partnership DAC.

- On 28 February, the press release was posted on Facebook, X and LinkedIn as well as published in The Limerick Leader and The Limerick Post. [See Link](#)
- A group of 4th Year Civic Engineering students from The Atlantic Technological University visited the site at Opera Square on 09 February and they were given a presentation by Limerick Twenty Thirty DAC and John Sisk & Son Ltd, followed by a tour around the site.

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## Cleeves Riverside Quarter

### Project Update

- The design team and planning consultant began work on the planning application following publication of the Masterplan. Work commenced on planning permission for all residential elements, historic buildings and public realm, which is circa 75% of the site.
- Negotiations with the Technological University of the Shannon progressed well in February with fortnightly working group meetings taking place. The Technological University of the Shannon issued their Strategic Brief and Schedule of Accommodation at the start of February.
- Limerick Twenty Thirty is making available, on a temporary basis to the Department of Children, Equality, Disability and Integration and Youth, the vacant former secondary school at Fernbank, North Circular Road to accommodate Ukrainian families fleeing the war in their homeland. Work progressed well in February.

### Project Media Engagement

- The Executive monitored social media and public feedback in order to address any issues arising in relation to the Ukrainian Temporary Rest Centre.
- Big Boss Events held music performances in the Fossett's Big Top on 02, 03 and 04 February which Limerick Twenty Thirty DAC promoted on its social media sites.

## Gardens International

### Project Media Engagement

- James Skerritt, artist and past-Graduate of The Limerick School of Art and Design, commenced his exhibition on 03 February. The 15-piece display was open for viewing on weekends throughout the month of February. A press release was issued by Limerick Twenty Thirty DAC, in connection with The Limerick School of Art and Design and the artist. This press release performed well on social media. [See Link.](#)
- On 22 February, the first and second-year Property Valuation and Management Students from The Technological University of the Shannon visited Gardens International. This is Limerick's only Environmental, Social and Governance building. The students were given a tour of Gardens International and a brief overview of its two sites, Opera Square Limerick and Cleeves Riverside Quarter.



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## National and Regional Shared Services Centre Directorate

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

- There were 56,027 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAP SSC at the end of February.
- A weekly average of 159 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2024.
- The February landlord payment run was €54.173 million.
- The weekly tenant charge at the end of February was €3.067 million.
- The Debt Management Unit of the HAP SSC collected a total of €26.462 million in differential rent to end of February.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of February was 99%.
- The Debt Management Unit issued 8,341 HAP debt reminder letters in February.

### 2. Fire and Emergency

#### Statistics

	No. of Fire Related Calls	No. of Non-Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of callouts 01.02.2024 – 29.02.2024	58	69	127
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	67%	38%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	24%	41%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	9%	21%	

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	No. Received/ Assigned	No. Validated/ Acknowledged	No. Invalidated/ Refused	No. Granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications February	27	25	1	15	15
Disability Access Cert Applications February	20	20	0	12	12
Licensing Applications February	2	2			2
Commencement Notice February	44	39	4	39	43
Completion Certificate February	8	8	0	8	8
Planning Referrals February	16				10
Sugar CRM Cases February	4	0	0	0	4

## Fire and Emergency Training Events

- 36 Firefighters completed a working at heights refresher in Cappamore Fire Station.
- An Officer attended a 'Managing Fire Service Incidents - Module 3' course in Bray Fire Station. This is a national course run by the Department of Fire and Emergency Management. An officer from Limerick also instructed on this course.
- Block training began in February where all wholetime Fire personnel undergo training in a number of disciplines including, Emergency First Responder training, Abrasive Wheels, Compartment Fire Behaviour Training and Positive Pressure Ventilation.
- Personnel from Limerick City Fire Station received a familiarisation visit to learn of the safety precautions with the newly introduced fully electric bus range from Bus Éireann.

- Fire Fighters visited Wastewater Treatment Plants to learn of the specific risks and hazards at these sites.

- On-Station Training continued as normal.

## Civil Defence attendance at Events

The following activity took place in February:

- Milford Hospice 10K Run/Walk (medical cover) – (one day).
- Assisting Clare Civil Defence in search for missing person in Co. Clare - (one day).

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Water Safety

No. of Lifebuoy Replacements	January	February	Total 2024
Metropolitan District	0	1	1
Municipal Districts	1	4	5

No. of Lifebuoy Sensor Activations	January	February	Total 2024
Metropolitan District	3	5	8
Municipal Districts	1	2	3



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## Support Services Directorate

### 1. Finance

#### Commercial Rates and Loans

##### Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2024	
As at 29 February 2024*	
Opening Balance - 1 Jan €	4,795,755 *
Accruals €	64,291,685 **
Vacant Property Adjustment €	-
Writes offs/ Waivers €	24,618
Total for Collection €	69,062,822
Amount Collected €	6,861,559
Arrears €	62,201,263
Specific Doubtful Arrears €	1,226,366
% Collected	10.1%

\*\* The Date for Making the 2024 Rate was 02 February 2024

\* subject to finalisation of year end accounts for 2023

#### Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No. of days in overdraft 0

Debtors Loans	
As at 29 February 2024*	
Opening Balance - 1 Jan €	295,007 *
Accruals €	- ^
Writes offs €	-
To Collect €	295,007
Receipts €	370,219
Arrears €	- 75,212
% Collected	125%

\* subject to finalisation of year end accounts for 2023

^ Accruals not updated for loans for January and February 2024



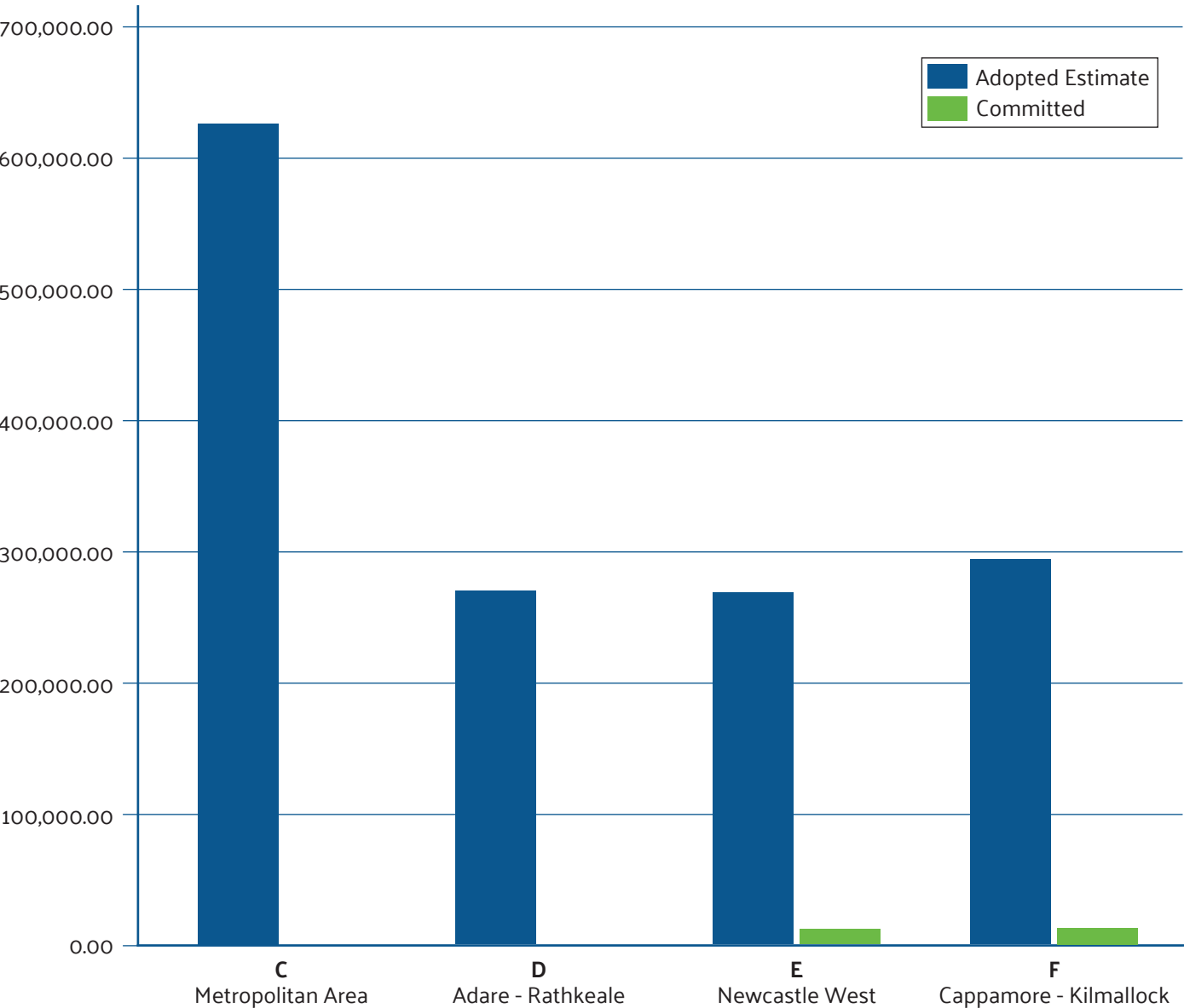
# Chief Executive's Report



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

General Municipal Allocation 2023 Adopted Estimate €1.463 Million

Graph outlining adopted budget and draft committed expenditure up to 29 February 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	11,318
F Cappamore - Kilmallock	295,000.00	12,022
	1,463,000.00	

# Chief Executive's Report



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**Limerick City**  
& County Council

## 2. Business Improvement

- Business Improvement engaged with Environment and Climate Action to build the “Limerick City and County Tree Policy 2024 - 2030” consultation on MyPoint and assisted Human Resources to launch the “Staff Disability Census Form 2023” on MyPoint.
- The Local Authority Members’ Association (LAMA) Awards were held in Dublin where Limerick City and County Council won three awards.
- A total of 915 active users now live on the Employee App.
- Services on Service Catalogue = 694.
- There are 578 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:

- John MacNamara, in recognition of his four Farming National Titles, namely FBD Young Farmer of the Year 2005, Farmyard of the Year 2009, Grassland Farmer of the Year 2018, and the winner of the 2023 National Dairy Council and Kerrygold Quality Milk Awards; also, in acknowledgement of his tremendous contribution and voluntary work for his local community of Knockainey, Macra na Feirme, Schools and Ladies Football at both club and county level.
- Hub Martial Arts, in recognition of their achievement in kickboxing at the Unified World Kickboxing Championship in Italy in October 2023, winning 35 gold medals, 9 silver medals and five bronze medals in multiple disciplines of Martial Arts.
- Newcastle West GAA, in recognition of their achievement in winning three-in-a row County Senior Football Titles 2021, 2022 and 2023.

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

- Courtesy Visit from the Belgian Ambassador to Ireland.

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

- Six Nations Preview, Breakfast Fundraiser for Down Syndrome Limerick and UL Bohemian RFC.
- Opening of St. Brigid’s Art Exhibition at the Limerick Museum, Old Franciscan Friary, Henry Street, Limerick.
- World Wetland Day, Workshop to celebrate World Wetlands Day.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, Annual AA Convention.
- Davis Cup, The World Cup of Tennis, Davis Cup Match Ireland V Austria at UL Sports Arena, University of Limerick, Limerick.
- Davis Cup Reception at Limerick Lawn Tennis Club, Ennis Road, Limerick.
- Photoshoot to announce the approval by the Office of Public Works (OPW) to Limerick City and County Council to proceed with issuing tenders for the construction of the King’s Island Flood Relief Scheme, at the Community Centre in King’s Island, Limerick.
- Book Launch ‘Histories of Protestant Limerick 1912-1923,’ at St. Mary’s Cathedral, Limerick.
- Concert performance, Jewish and Secular Music from Late Medieval Italy, at Redemptorist Church, Limerick.
- Official ribbon cutting ceremony at The Mills Castletroy, Limerick. 113 homes, consisting of 57 cost rental and 56 social homes, collaboration between approved Housing Body Circle Voluntary Housing Association (VHA) and Cairn Homes.

# Chief Executive's Report



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**Limerick City**  
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- Tom Duffy's Circus at Circus Site, Groody Road, Castletroy Limerick.
- Opening of Exhibition, 'She Summoned a Storm,' an exhibition of works by Síle Walsh, at Limerick Museum, Old Franciscan Friary, Henry Street, Limerick.
- Limerick Central Rotary Club, Launch of the Don Reddan Charity Golf Classic at Ballyneety Golf Club, Ballyneety, Co. Limerick.
- Local Authority Members' Association (LAMA), All Ireland Community and Council Awards, at the Dublin Royal Convention Centre, Dublin.
- Book Launch, Frank O'Mara, 'Bend Don't Break,' at The Strand Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick.
- Limerick Twenty Thirty DAC, video to mark completion of stage 1 works, completion of the basement structure for the One Opera Square building on the corner of Michael Street and Ellen Street.
- Reception to celebrate Callan Tansey Solicitors LLP three years in Limerick at Theatre Court, 15 Lower Mallow Street, Limerick.
- Reception to celebrate the Birthday of His Majesty, the Emperor of Japan, at the Residence of the Ambassador of Japan, 'Oakfield,' Brighton Road, Foxrock, Dublin.
- Doras, Standing for Peace in Ukraine Gathering, at Arthur's Quay, Limerick.
- Asia Matters Business Summit 2024 Limerick.
- Official Opening of Patrickswell Community Centre.
- The National Town Centre First Day, Launch Event in Adare, Co. Limerick.
- Launch of the Conservation Management Plan for Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick.
- Public Hearing of the Seanad Public Consultation Committee on 'The Future of Local Democracy,' at Seanad Chamber, Leinster House, Dublin.
- Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership (LEDP), established in 1998 after the closure of Moulinex-Krups, celebrating 25 years this year - Photoshoot to announce 'Krups Expo' in September 2024 and a call-out to past employees/customers to temporarily donate memorabilia for the exhibition at Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership (LEDP), Roxboro Road, Roxboro, Limerick.
- Alliance Francaise Limerick, celebration of the 80th anniversary of Alliance Francaise Limerick.

## Procurement Department

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

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

<b>New Procurement References set up</b>	36
<b>Procurement References extended as per signed contract/arrangement</b>	23

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.

# Chief Executive's Report



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## 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 February:

Month	Approved	Rejected	Total Requisitions Actioned
February	1,364	218	1,582

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

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

Rejection Reason	February
Procurement Reference - omitted/incorrect	44
Memo Requisition not raised in advance - omitted/insufficient detail	43
Justification for Supplier Selection - omitted/insufficient detail	22
Quotes - Omitted/Incorrect copy provided	19
Documentation uploaded not relevant to Requisition/nothing uploaded	17

## Register of Electors

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

- Additions to the Electoral Register - 3,037.
- Deletions from the Electoral Register - 137.
- Modifications to the Electoral Register - 4,014.
- 5,680 requests were received through the updated Check the Register [website](#) for updating details of electors.

## Health and Safety Training

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

Course Name	Numbers Trained
Safe Pass	5
First Aid Response Refresher	5
Manual Handling	39
<b>Total Staff Trained</b>	<b>49</b>

# Chief Executive's Report



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**Limerick City**  
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## Schedule of Meetings for February

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
<b>Full Council</b>		
Special Meeting of Limerick City and County Council to discuss the Draft Patrickswell Local Area Plan 2024-2030	26/02/2024	Dooradoyle and Online
Special Meeting of Limerick City and County Council to discuss the 2024 Active Travel allocations	26/02/2024	Dooradoyle and Online
<b>Operational Briefings</b>		
Limerick City East	06/02/2024	Merchant's Quay and Online
Limerick City North	06/02/2024	Merchant's Quay and Online
Limerick City West	07/02/2024	Merchant's Quay and Online
<b>Municipal District of</b>		
<b>Newcastle West</b> Monthly Meeting	07/02/2024	Newcastle West
<b>Adare-Rathkeale</b> Monthly Meeting	13/02/2024	Rathkeale
<b>Cappamore-Kilmallock</b> Special Meeting Monthly Meeting Special Meeting Special Meeting	01/02/2024 21/02/2024 21/02/2024 29/02/2024	Kilmallock Kilmallock Kilmallock Online
<b>Metropolitan District of Limerick</b> Monthly Meeting	19/02/2024	Merchant's Quay and Online
<b>Strategic Policy Committee Meetings</b> Community, Leisure and Culture Travel & Transportation Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Home and Social Development	12/02/2024 13/02/2024 19/02/2024 20/02/2024 22/02/2024	Dooradoyle and Online Dooradoyle and Online Dooradoyle and Online Dooradoyle and Online Dooradoyle and Online
<b>Limerick Women's Caucus Meeting</b>	01/02/2024	Online
<b>Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Meeting</b>	06/02/2024	Dooradoyle and Online

# Chief Executive's Report



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## Access to Information

	February	2024 (January to February)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	31	57
Freedom of Information Internal Appeals	1	5
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	0
Total Ombudsman Requests	4	8
Total Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) Requests	3	5

## 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 February:

- Customer Services Call Centre answered 11,372 calls. This represents an average of 567 per day, with the number of daily calls exceeding 600 on several occasions and reaching as high as 723. 72% of calls were handled at first point of contact.
- February saw a total of 4,149 emails processed through the Customer Services email platform.
- 3,475 cases were created, with 904 of these logged on behalf of Public Representatives. A total of 3,695 cases were closed, with 796 of these being cases logged by Public Representatives.

- Of these 3,475 cases, Customer Services staff logged 68% of same.
- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued, with a total of 328 cases being logged. Of these, 281 were submitted by Public Representatives.
- Customer Services continued to support the Housing Maintenance Department in creating service requests and, throughout February, 93% of housing maintenance cases for the Limerick Metropolitan District were logged by Customer Services staff in the Dooradoyle and Merchant's Quay offices.
- February saw a total of 127 out-of-hours cases being created.
- Customer Services continued to provide other frontline services to the general public, such as processing applications for Residential Parking Permits, of which 105 were applied for and 84 issued.
- Throughout February, Customer Services staff welcomed a total of 2,361 customers at both the Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle offices.

# Chief Executive's Report



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## 4. Marketing & Communications

### Marketing

#### Limerick on Foot 2024

- Launched 'Limerick on Foot 2024,' an award-winning, multi-media campaign, encouraging visitors and locals alike to get outdoors and explore the tracks and trails throughout Limerick city and county.
- Created brand new collateral in the Limerick City Loop Map and Guide in both print and digital formats, along with new banks of static imagery and videography for this walk, as well as the Castletroy Loop Walk, Curraghchase Forest Park Walks and the Newcastle West Athletics Hub. Updates were also made to existing collateral: the Limerick: Walk it- Run it- Love it Guide and the Three Bridges Walk Map and Guides. Print versions of these were distributed to Limerick city and county stakeholders.
- A hub featuring all Limerick walking routes, information, maps and playlists was developed on [Limerick.ie/Walking](https://limerick.ie/Walking) and dedicated organic content and paid advertising, promoted routes, trails, hikes and walks across all Limerick.ie social media channels.
- Engaged a number of prominent influencers to collaborate in the promotion of the campaign, including chef [Eoin Sheehan](#), blogger [Michelle McNulty](#), family influencer [Lisa Daly](#) and Olympic athlete and GP [Carolyn Hayes](#).

#### Limerick St. Patrick's Festival 2024

- Officially launched Limerick St. Patrick's Festival 2024, multi-media marketing campaign.
- Developed a suite of digital and social marketing assets, video content, dedicated e-newsletters, print and radio advertisements for rollout throughout the three-week campaign.

- Developed a dedicated hub on [Limerick.ie/StPatricksFestival](https://limerick.ie/StPatricksFestival) promoting a full event listing, parade routes, theme information and festival playlist featuring Limerick bands and musicians.
- Created a [Limerick St. Patrick's Festival digital event guide](#) and a print format with a distribution run of 5,000, which were circulated to businesses across the city and county.
- Managed the installation of branded street banners to create visual impact and further promote the festival throughout the city.

### Other Marketing Activities

- Commenced the collation of content for Riverfest Limerick 2024 (May Bank Holiday Weekend), as well as the creation of new assets and collateral.
- Advertisement created and placed in fDi Magazine, reflecting Limerick's position in the 2024 awards.
- 'Brand Limerick' was shortlisted at the All Ireland Community and Council Awards for Best Tourism Initiative.

### Social Media

- Management of Marketing and Communications' 14 social media channels, including Limerick.ie and Limerick City and County Council accounts, to engage with citizens and promote Limerick to locals, visitors, students, and the business community.
- Followers across our five main social media platforms are now as follows:

**Limerick.ie Facebook:** 34,848

**Limerick.ie X:** 21,561

**Limerick.ie Instagram:** 29,838

**Limerick.ie TikTok:** 1,019

**Limerick City and County Council X:** 18,455

**Limerick City and County Council LinkedIn:** 11,872

# Chief Executive's Report



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## Limerick.ie

In February, there were 166,666\* unique site visits to Limerick.ie, a 22% increase on the same period in 2023. (\*Fathom Analytics)

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

- 1. [www.limerick.ie](http://www.limerick.ie)
- 2. [www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-placemaking/search-for-a-planning-application/search-for-a-planning](http://www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-placemaking/search-for-a-planning-application/search-for-a-planning)
- 3. [www.limerick.ie/discover/whats-on/browse](http://www.limerick.ie/discover/whats-on/browse)
- 4. [www.limerick.ie/council](http://www.limerick.ie/council)
- 5. [www.limerick.ie/discover/eat-see-do/sports-recreation/activities/walking](http://www.limerick.ie/discover/eat-see-do/sports-recreation/activities/walking)

**Content Report:** 89 articles, 175 events and eight new amenities were added to Limerick.ie in February.

## Communications

Issued 30 news releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and researched and wrote 15 speeches for the Office of the Mayor.

Posted 165 times on Limerick City and County Council's X account, @limerickcouncil, with total followers now 18,455. Our tweets earned 128,400 impressions (number of times users saw our post).

Handled all media queries, which come into [communications@limerick.ie](mailto:communications@limerick.ie) and continued to offer Communication support to all directorates of Limerick City and 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 February
No. of callouts 01.02.2024 – 29.02.2024	869	157	97.00	1,026

