

Chief Executive's Report

April 2024

Limerick Road Safety Plan is launched by Limerick City and County Council and An Garda Síochána

Limerick projects receive €1.4M from Community Recognition Fund 2024 in recognition of support for Ukrainians and others

The Limerick Age Friendly Strategy 2024-2028 is officially launched by Limerick Minister, Patrick O'Donovan, T.D.

Archaeological dig unearths 800-year-old City Wall at Sonny's Lands Housing Development Site

Almost 3,000 additions to Limerick's Electoral Register in April

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Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism Directorate

1. Trade and Investment

The Night Time Economy Advisor sought tenders for a 'Night Time Economy Data Collection and Stakeholder Engagement Project.' Karen Thompson Consulting Ltd. has been engaged to support Limerick City and County Council for the Consultation and Research. This will support the Night Time Economy Advisor in analysing available data to establish an evidence base

- Electrotek, located on the Ballysimon Road, was presented with the One to Watch Winner Award.
- Viviprint, from Rathkeale, won Runner-Up One to Watch Award.
- Richardsons Foods in Ballysimon won Winner Green/Sustainability Award.
- Paul Collins Retail, located in Athea, won Runner-Up Green/Sustainability Award.

2. Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Limerick

The Limerick Food and Drink Directory was launched on 22 April in ENGINE by Councillor Olivia O'Sullivan and Chef Tom Flavin of the Limerick Food Group CLG, who produced the Directory.

The Local Enterprise Office Limerick was delighted to have been able to support the creation of the Food and Drink Directory from conception stage. Most of the food and drink producers featured in the Directory have received various supports from LEO Limerick over the years. LEO Limerick recently hosted the National Enterprise Awards Limerick Final at the Engine on Cecil Street. Monarú Limited has been named as Limerick Entrepreneur of the Year 2024 by LEO Limerick and will go on to represent Limerick in the National final in the Mansion House Dublin. Monarú combines modern digital fabrication methods with traditional craftsmanship to design and produce high quality contemporary furniture products from their base at Watchouse Cross Business Complex in Kileely. Michael McLaughlin, on behalf of Monarú, was presented with the award by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell. Awards were also presented to the following companies for their contribution to enterprise in Limerick:

- Precision Utility Mapping in Munget won Runner-Up Entrepreneur of the Year.

3. Tourism

Limerick was named in the top 10 list of most sustainable European cities compiled by car rental booking site, Discover Cars. Factors contributing to the rankings included: access to Electric Vehicle charging stations, number of nature spots, number of vegan restaurants, etc.

Limerick Greenway

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

- Article in the Limerick Post on 01 April encouraging the public to support and participate in Limerick Mental Health Association's upcoming family 5km fun run/walk along Limerick Greenway on 07 April, commencing and finishing at Limerick Greenway Abbeyfeale Hub.
- Print and online articles in The Avondhu Press on 01 and 04 April and Limerick Leader on 06 April, prompted by the Limerick Greenway Spring/Easter 2024 Media Photo Story release.
- Article in Mayo News on 12 April detailing the journalist's trip to Limerick Greenway, with friends, and highlighting specifically the exceptional hospitality received at Barnagh Greenway Hub.

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- Friends of Limerick Football sponsored 8km Walk from Newcastle West to Ardagh on 20 April.
- Abbeyfeale United Soccer Club's Family Fun Cycle held on Limerick Greenway between Barnagh and Abbeyfeale on 21 April.
- Article in Kerry's Eye on 25 April which mentioned the hugely positive impact of Limerick Greenway so far on the local economy, as per one of the Bike Hire providers trading on Limerick Greenway, as well as the Kingdom of Kerry Greenways.
- Post on LinkedIn by Engine Hubs on 25 April promoting Limerick Greenway as the ideal location for an adventure and to enjoy the sunny weather.
- Limerick Greenway competition for Limerick City and County Council employees, in celebration of National Workplace Wellbeing Day 2024, on 26 April.

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

- Some posts encouraging the public to kick off April on the right note and experience a new adventure along Limerick Greenway.
- Some posts promoting Limerick Mental Health Association's upcoming family 5km fun run/walk along Limerick Greenway on 07 April, commencing and finishing at Limerick Greenway Abbeyfeale Hub, with radio coverage on Live 95 Diary.
- A beautiful one-minute 11 seconds video of a member of the public's visit to Limerick Greenway, reshared on Facebook on 03 April, capturing different sections of Limerick Greenway with Barnagh Tunnel featuring predominantly.
- Some posts highlighting the many entry points and numerous services available on Limerick Greenway, making it ideal for a family day out.

- Some posts encouraging Limerick Greenway users to do Limerick Greenway their way and to share their experiences by tagging the Facebook and Instagram pages, with their experiences being reshared on the pages.
- Posts on Hub Spotlights for April which included: Abbeyfeale Town Park, Askeaton Castle and Franciscan Friary.
- A post for World Earth Day, on 22 April, encouraging users to explore all that Limerick Greenway has to offer in terms of supporting the earth and the ecosystems that surround the route.
- A post ahead of National Workplace Wellbeing Day encouraging viewers to organise a work wellness trip on Limerick Greenway with their colleagues and work teams.
- Reshare of post from one of the two Limerick Greenway businesses who teamed up for a fantastic competition which offered the lucky winner, a school or class year in a school, a day trip/school tour involving bike hire and entry to a mini zoo as the prize.

Limerick Greenway Statistics

Social Media Statistics

Statistics for Limerick Greenway socials 01/04/2024 - 30/04/2024

	Facebook	Instagram
Reach	17,000	2,600
Profile Visits	1,000	188
New Page Followers	50	53

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Google Ads - 01/04/2024 - 30/04/2024

Impressions	17,500
Ad Clicks	1,810

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

April Festival of Poetry

This Festival took place over the month of April and was organised by the Limerick Writers' Centre, which is a not-for-profit organisation that supports and promotes writers from or living in Limerick. The festival showcased some of the best from the world of poetry including local, national and international poets. The First Wednesday Series took place at Whitehouse Bar on 03 April, featuring Sandy Yannone from the USA. On 17 April, the Annual Memorial Reading, honouring the late Desmond O'Grady, took place at the Hunt Museum where the winner was Ger Duffy from Waterford. 25 April was Poetry Day 2024 in Ireland and saw a Modernist poetry reading take place at Quay's Books. On 14, 25 and 28 April, The People's Museum of Limerick held various events such as: an audio/visual presentation from Anton Floyd; John W. Sexton presents Sceine and the Hag of beare meet Saint Killian; and a concert from US poets, Patridge Boswell and Los Lorcans. Also during the month, there were various online readings.

Fresh International Film Festival

This Festival took place from 15 - 21 April. This was the 28th edition of the Festival. The first two days of the festival had screenings of 16 Ans and The Iron Giant. On 17 April, the event "Careers in Film Mid-West" took place at The Limerick College of Further Education and the Ireland Junior Young Filmmaker of the Year Awards 2024. On 18 April, Ireland's Young Filmmaker of the Year Screenings and Awards 2024 took place at Omniplex, Limerick. On 19 April, both International Junior Young Filmmakers and Best International Films 2024 were screened online. Also 'Breaking the Mould' took place, which was an International Cinematic Programme that

gets young filmmakers to challenge the status quo and to embrace the path less travelled. 20 April had networking events such as 'Ireland's Young Filmmakers' Forum and Fresh Pitch' and 'National Network for Film and Animation.' Storytelling through film also took place, which was in-service training for school teachers. The final day played host to the Generation Fresh event, where selected films from young filmmakers were shown at the Omniplex cinema. An award ceremony was broadcast on RTE 2 on 29 April. The winner of Ireland's Young Filmmaker of the Year 2024 was Fiachra Cotter O'Culachain from Dublin with the film 'Ivy.'

Top 8 Hip-Hop and Street Dance Festival

This Festival took place between 19 and 21 April. On 19 April, Day 1 kicked off at The Record Room located in the Commercial Bar to Beat Box battles hosted by the Irish Beat Box Association, followed up by 'Don't Flop,' Ireland's Rap Battle League. On 20 April, at St. John's Church, Street Dance battles took place in openstyle and Breaking where dancers from all over Ireland competed. The evening was an over 18s event in the Monk Bar where Belfast Groove Collective, who are a multi-instrumentalist collective, performed, as well as local DJs and Rappers. 21 April started with dance workshops at Dance Limerick Studio, followed by a free family fun day at Wickham Way where there were face painters, graffiti artists and dancers, with DJ, Stevie G, providing the soundtrack.

TOURISM INDUSTRY TRADE EVENTS

- Staff of the Tourism Section of Limerick City and County Council attended Meitheal 2024, the global Travel Trade Fair which took place on 11 and 12 April.
- Staff of the Tourism Section of Limerick City and County Council attended and presented at a "Spotlight on Tourism" event for tourism undergrads, hosted by the Department of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness in Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) Midwest and held at their Moylish Park campus on 16 April. Attendees were encouraged to network with as many other attendees as possible at the event, while

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also listening to presentations from professionals in the Tourism Sector, and were then provided with the opportunity to engage in a Questions and Answers session with other Tourism Sector professionals.

- Staff of the Tourism Section of Limerick City and County Council attended the Local Government Tourism Conference 2024 on 18 and 19 April at Killashee House Hotel in Naas, Co. Kildare. The two-day event consisted of speaker presentations and workshops discussing and engaging with the attendees on the overall theme of Tourism: Leading The Change - and included the following topics: A Time of Change; Sustainable Tourism and Destination Development; Innovation in Tourism; Re-imagining Local Tourism – Importance of Place; EU Just Transition for Tourism; and Global Irish and The Power of Networks.

4. Innovate Limerick DAC

- 18 April – Head of Innovate attended Fresh Film Ireland's Young Filmmaker of the Year 2024 awards at Troy Studios.
- 22 April - ENGINE hosted the launch of the Limerick Food and Drink Producer Directory.
- 25 April – Head of Innovate, along with colleagues from the other Designated Activity Companies (DACs), presented on Innovate Limerick to delegation visiting from Saudi, in the Council Chamber, Merchant's Quay.
- 25 April – Engine hosted the Immersive Future Workshops with Eirmersive.

5. Discover Limerick DAC

The newly appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Discover Limerick DAC commenced in her new role on 08 April. The new CEO brings with her a wealth of experience from her previous senior management roles.

Industry Events

- **Meitheal**, the largest and most important trade event in the Irish tourism calendar, took place in Killarney on 11 and 12 April. More than 450 Irish tourism providers pitched their business to over 200 international buyers and tour operators from 17 countries. The Sales and Marketing Manager, Discover Limerick DAC, attended and held meetings with numerous Tour Operators – both domestic and international based tour providers.
- Discover Limerick DAC attended the Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) “**Spotlight on Tourism**” event held on campus on 16 April, with Kate Harrold, General Manager, Lough Gur, participating in the Question and Answer session held as part of the line-up of events.
- Discover Limerick DAC attended the **Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) Tourism Conference** held in Naas, Co. Kildare, on 18 and 19 April. With a stellar line-up of guest speakers over the two days, it was a well organised conference and there were plenty of learnings for the DAC to consider.

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6. Digital Strategy

The Digital Services Department redeveloped and designed the new All Ireland Smart Cities Forum website. The All Ireland Smart Cities Forum is a community of practice focused on the advancement of cities and communities in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. The Forum is made up of local authorities who have a wealth of knowledge and experience in ICT and digitalisation, and its contribution to placemaking. The website can be found at: www.smartcitiesireland.org

Limerick Broadband Officer, with the support of Age Friendly Limerick, distributed five Tablets to Broadband Connection Points/ Community Centres in Communities - Coolcappa, Askeaton, Abbeyfeale and Cappamore, for use by any member of the community. The aim of this initiative is to encourage community members of all ages to use the free community High Speed Broadband Service. Many day-to-day services are offered online such as Taxing your Car, Shopping, Farm Safety Course, Third Level Education Courses, purchasing Tickets for a Sports Event etc. Any member of these four communities can now avail of online service by using the Tablet and High Speed Broadband Services in their local community centre for free.



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Transportation and Mobility Directorate

1. Travel and Transport Strategy

Launch of Limerick Road Safety Plan

Limerick City and County Council, in partnership with An Garda Síochána, launched the Limerick Road Safety Plan - a comprehensive initiative aimed at enhancing road safety throughout the community.

Developed in collaboration with the Limerick Road Safety Working Together Group, the plan outlines strategic actions to reduce collisions and fatalities on Limerick's roads.

The Limerick Road Safety Plan, spanning the period to 2030, is aligned with the Government's Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030, with a commitment to 'Vision Zero,' ultimately striving for zero deaths and serious injuries on the roads by 2050. The strategy is led by a Safe System approach, which is viewed as best practice globally in the delivery of road safety strategies.

Key aims of the Limerick Road Safety Plan include creating safer road environments, improving cooperation among agencies, promoting responsible road user behaviour through education and awareness, and supporting national road safety objectives.

The Road Safety Working Together Group, comprising representatives from Limerick City and County Council, An Garda Síochána, Emergency Services, and Community Organisations, played a pivotal role in developing the plan. Their collective dedication reflects a shared commitment to fostering positive change and enhancing road safety in Limerick.

Transport Research Arena (TRA) Conference in Dublin

Members of the team attended the TRA Conference in April. The theme for TRA2024 was "Transport Transitions: Advancing Sustainable and Inclusive Mobility."

Bloodmill Road Extension Scheme

Regarding temporary access to the new Educate Together Secondary School at Towlerton, Ballysimon, a temporary bridge crossing and segregated active travel route through lands to the west of the existing Kirkland Development Road were constructed. Segregation has been provided from the end of the existing footpath on Bloodmill Road to the entrance to the lands.

2. Active Travel

Projects on Site

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

Works outside Our Lady of Lourdes National School on Griffith Avenue completed. Traffic signals being upgraded at Roxboro Roundabout. Official project launch held on 19 April.

Rósmor, Old Cork Road, Limerick: Works continued to progress on site. Cemetery wall blockwork 80% completed. Works on the roundabout commenced and kerbing ongoing.

Plassey Park Road, Castletroy, Limerick: Works continued to progress on site. Construction of new stone wall to Kilmurry Lodge Hotel completed; bus shelter island works completed.

Father Russell Road, Raheen, Limerick: Works continued to progress on site. Works ongoing at Racefield roundabout and at junctions throughout Scheme.

Mill Road, Corbally, Limerick: Works continued to progress on site. Further progression with ducting, drainage and kerbing took place.

Laurel Hill Avenue, South Circular Road, Limerick:

Signage completed with road marking installation at an advanced stage.

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Other Projects

St Paul's Roundabout to Ballykeefe Roundabout, Dooradoyle, Limerick: St. Nessan's Road Section 38 process closed.

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

Ballycummin Road and Church Hill Meadows, Raheen, Limerick: Traffic count survey completed.

Ballysimon Road, Singland, Limerick: Draft Options Report completed.

Cappamore and Doon Public Realm: Review of layouts completed.

St. Patrick's Road, Singland, Limerick: Section 38 report being drafted.

Corbally Road, Limerick: Tender assessments ongoing.



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Rural, Community and Culture Development Directorate

1. Community Development

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2023

The Department of Rural and Community Development announced the successful applications under Measure 1 of the 2023 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS). Limerick City and County Council was successful in securing funding of €146,874 for six projects under this Measure. The projects selected for funding are:

- Castleconnell Village - Installation of steps to provide safe access into the Shannon (€30,000);
- Broadford-Ashford Walking Trails - Improvement works to Gleann Beag Loop Walking Trail (€10,098);
- Marketing and Promotion of Three Walking Trails at Glin, Kilfinane and Broadford/Ashford (€17,712);
- New Link between Darragh Creamery Carpark and the Molanna Loop (Keale River) Trail (€30,000);
- Ahnagurra Trail and Griston Bog - Enhancement works (€29,064);
- Reinstatement of Castle Oliver Loop, Ballyorgan (€30,000).

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2023

Three towns and villages in County Limerick are to benefit after Limerick City and County Council was successful in the latest round of funding announced under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. Projects in Garrienderk, Kilcornan and Rathkeale will share funding of €680,805 under the 2023 Scheme, which focuses on projects that can help to enhance rural towns and villages, with a particular emphasis on addressing dereliction and vacancy.

The Limerick projects selected for funding by the Department of Rural and Community Development are:

Garrienderk - Renovation and Refurbishment of derelict property in village centre into community centre and meeting space (€250,000);

Kilcornan - Accessible community walking trail with lighting, railings, benches, bollards and ballsports wall at Kilcornan community fields (€223,805);

Rathkeale - Facilities upgrade of key community buildings in Rathkeale, including internal works to the Community Centre and building roof repairs to the local youth space (€207,000).

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2024

In April, Limerick City and County Council made two submissions to the Department of Rural and Community Development for project proposals under the Project Development Measure of the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. The scheme was launched by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, T.D., as part of the Town Centre First Suite of Supports 2024.

Local Community Development Committee

A meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was held on 02 April in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle, and Online. Some of the items discussed included the Approval of SICAP (Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme) 2024 Annual Plans, Pride of Place 2024 and Local Enhancement Programme 2024. A Presentation was given to the members by Ballyhoura Development CLG on CITICESS - Citizen Centred Social Services Programme.

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SICAP (Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme)

The budget for SICAP in Limerick in 2024 is €2,929,883.00.

The 2024 Annual Plans of the three Limerick LOTS were approved at the April meeting of the LCDC as follows:

- LOT 21-1 Limerick West Rural where West Limerick Resources CLG implements the programme.
- LOT 21-2 Limerick Urban where the PAUL Partnership Limerick CLG implements the programme.
- LOT 21-3 Limerick East Rural where Ballyhoura Development CLG implements the programme.

Public Participation Network

- Membership of PPN Limerick (PPNL) 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 April.
- A Public Participation Network District Meeting for the Metropolitan area was held at the Strand Hotel for Representatives and Linkage Group Members on 10 April.
- PPNL held an update meeting for the Plenary at the South Court Hotel on the 25 April.
- PPNL continued to have an active presence with its regularly updated website, social media and Newsletter distributed to members.

Integration Supports

Ukrainian Community Response Forum

A meeting of the Ukrainian Community Response Forum was held on 10 April in-person to discuss new Integration Structures and expansion of its remit.

The new Local Authority Integration Team was established in April.

Community Recognition Fund 2024

The Department of Rural and Community Development announced the launch of the 'Community Recognition Fund 2024' to support communities that have welcomed people from Ukraine and other countries. Limerick City and County Council has been awarded €1,400,378 for this fund.

Projects to be funded will be capital in nature, deliver medium-long term benefits for the communities in which they are located, and be capable of being delivered over the course of 2025 and 2026. The minimum level of funding for an individual project is €50,000.

Six information meetings took place across Limerick City and County to engage with local communities in providing information on available funding and answer any questions that groups might have. Meetings were located in Municipal District Offices in Newcastle West, Adare-Rathkeale, and Kilmallock, as well as in Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle, and were attended by a wide range of community groups and sporting organisations.

Healthy Limerick

We are Breastfeeding Friendly Limerick: A new steering group was formed early in 2024 and there is voluntary, community-based, statutory, University Hospital Limerick and academic representation currently on this group. This group has selected three priorities for delivery between here and National Breastfeeding Week. One of these priorities is the development and delivery of a participatory arts project, exploring the topic of breastfeeding with young families, culminating

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in an exhibition. This project is a collaboration between Healthy Limerick, the Arts Office and Limerick Libraries, as well as the other partners on the steering group. An RFQ (Request for Quotation) for participatory artists was circulated in April via the Arts office.

GAA Wellbeing Boards: The GAA Health and Wellbeing Boards initiative was launched on 22 April with the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, in attendance.

Limerick Food Partnership

The desk research piece (scoping and reviewing), as part of a wider piece of research funded by Healthy Ireland Limerick, is complete.

Separately, Limerick Food Partnership's project, The Food Finder: Mapping Limerick's Food Environment, is one of nine shortlisted projects advancing to the Citizens' Assembly. This project proposal is seeking funding of €10,000 to develop a detailed map of Limerick City and County's food environment which will be available on a publicly accessible GIS platform featuring interactive food environment maps and data.

Creative Ireland: Creative Health and Wellbeing in the Community: The Healthy Ireland Co-Coordinator, along with the Age friendly Programme Manager, collaborated with the Creative Ireland Office and the HSE to submit a proposal to the Creative Ireland: Creative Health and Wellbeing in the Community, funding stream. Three proposals were received and it was recommended that the proposal from Helium Arts go forward from this region. There is €70,000 available across Community Healthcare Organisation 3 (CHO 3) and the administration of the initiative is led by the Tipperary Arts office. If successful, this project will benefit children aged 8-12 and 13+ with chronic health conditions located in the Mid-West through their participation in creative activities.

Bin Waivers Scheme

Applications: The Household Waste Collection Subsidy Scheme applications continued to be assessed during April. Out of the total applications 4,168 received, 3,873 have been issued, with a small number of applications still in progress.

Audit 2024: An audit of the 2024 Household Waste Collection Subsidy Scheme renewals commenced during April.

Community Playgrounds

Nineteen community playgrounds are currently availing of the Scheme of Assistance for Community Playgrounds. During April, community playground groups actioned the Quarter 1 Inspection Report recommendations.

IPB Pride of Place Competition

Limerick City and County Council sought expression of interest from community groups interested in being nominated in this year's All island IPB Pride of Place Competition

Age Friendly

Strategy Launch

The Limerick Age Friendly Strategy 2024-2028 was officially launched on 29 April by the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Patrick O'Donovan, T.D., and builds on the success of the First Strategy. The official launch was held in the Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick, in the presence of the Minister, the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, the Chief Executive of Limerick City and County Council, who is also the Chair of the Age Friendly Alliance, members of the Alliance, the Chair of the Older Persons' Executive (OPE), together with members of the OPE, the Regional West Manager, the Age Friendly Ambassador and the Age Friendly Programme Manager, together with community groups and elected representatives.

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Seenager Information Morning

The Healthy Age Friendly Homes Mid-West Team attended the 'Seenager Information Morning' hosted by West Limerick Resources on 18 April. The purpose of this event was to target older adults in West Limerick and provide them with information talks and information brochures from the various stakeholders.

The event was held in the Longcourt Hotel in Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, and attended by the Regional Programme Manager for the Mid-West, Karen Fennessy, and Limerick Coordinator, Jillian Robinson. There was a good attendance by older people living in the area and lots of interest at the Healthy Age Friendly Homes stand.

At the event, there were some great information talks on the following subjects, which were beneficial to all:

- Claire Flynn - Mental Health Ireland 'Continuing Positive Mental Health throughout our Life.'
- Michelle Gilbourne, Solicitor - 'Getting legal ready for the 3rd Act.'
- Karen Fennessy - Regional Programme Manager Mid-West 'Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme.'
- Marie O'Connor - Local Link Limerick - 'Rural Transport Limerick - Keeping you connected.'

Comhairle na nÓg

A presentation was given to the Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee on 10 April by three members of Limerick Comhairle na nÓg. It was agreed that some of the issues covered in the presentation were applicable across all age groups and highlighted the need to listen to the voice of young people, taking on board their concerns.

Lifelong Learning

The 14th Annual Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival ran from 15 - 21 April. The theme for 2024 was 'Learn, Grow, Explore in 2024.' There were 150 events - all free - during

the festival, including in-person and online events. The Libraries hosted lunchtime events covering wellbeing, heart health and living well at home. The flagship project was held on 18 April and included short interactive learning experiences such as painting, singing, music, games, line dancing, chair yoga, poetry and crafts.

Healthy Limerick and partners organised a series of free lunchtime health information talks as part of the Lifelong Learning festival. The talks centred on the key areas of work within the Healthy Ireland framework and were delivered at four locations across the city and county.

As a participant in the Irish Network of Learning Cities Shared Island programme, Limerick City and County Council was represented at a series of events in Cork on 11 April during the Lifelong Learning festival to build on the strong cooperation that exists between the UNESCO Learning Cities of Cork, Derry/Strabane, Belfast, Limerick, Dublin and Waterford

2. Culture

Library

City Library at Barrow House

- As part of the Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival, the City Library was delighted to offer the following five events:
 - 15 April: 'Heart Health: Keeping your Heart Healthy,' with guest speaker, Ciara Cahill, Clinical Nurse Specialist from the Health Service Executive (HSE).
 - 16 April: 'Get Appy with the Library,' a drop-in information session on getting the most out of the suite of free library applications for phone or tablet.
 - 17 April : 'The Mainstreaming of Extreme Ideas,' - A talk by author and senior analyst at the Institute for Strategic Dialogue, Aoife Gallagher, focusing on the intersection between far-right extremism, disinformation and conspiracy theories.

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- 18 April: 'Breathing for Stress Release,' - A workshop led by Kelly Larkin Angley from Breathe Better Yoga, about how to use breathing techniques to relieve stress and anxiety.
- 19 April: 'Historical Walking Tour of Limerick City,' - A guided walking tour led by local historian, Sharon Slater, showcasing the history and heritage of the city in an informative and entertaining way.
- On 04 April, a drop-in information session was held by Dance Limerick on 'Creating a Climate for Change in Limerick' project.
- On 09 April, a Healthy Ireland at your Library special event with Professor Anne-Marie O'Dwyer took place and focused on how to nurture wellbeing through and beyond a cancer diagnosis. Professor O'Dwyer is the author of a new book, 'The Cancer Guide,' on this topic and she shared valuable tips and strategies to improve overall wellbeing both during and after treatment.
- Limerick Mental Health Association held its monthly Women's Group meeting on 09 April. Other meetings were held by the Irish and Spanish Language Conservation Groups, a Crafting Group from the University of the Third Age (U3A), the Writepace Creative Writing Group and a Peer Support Group for Parents of Neurodivergent Children.
- 24 April saw the first in a series of 'Gentle Touch - Happy Feet' reflexology workshops for parents and babies organised by ABC Start Right.
- A group from an English Conversation Club for parents with children in Scoil Iosagáin (CBS Primary School) attended on 30 April to learn more about what the Library can offer them in developing their language skills.
- There were nine separate class visits in April from primary schools Scoil Iosagáin (CBS Primary School), St. John the Baptist National School, Scoil Íde, St. Michael's Infant School and St. John's Girls and Infant Boys School (Scoil Eoin Naofa).

- Local English language learning schools, Student Campus and Rightword continued to send groups to join the Library and borrow books to improve their language skills with organised visits on 10, 11 and 16 April.
- There were nine book club meetings in April.
- Younger audiences were also entertained by the weekly toddler storytime sessions, Róisín Meaney's monthly Saturday morning story session on 20 April and a special Easter-themed arts and craft session was fully booked on 05 April.

Kilmallock Library

- "Inspirations," an art exhibition by Kate Harrold, opened on 02 April as part of a project to bring creative people in the Lough Gur and the wider Limerick area together.
- The Irish Conversation Circle met on 09 and 23 April from 6.30 p.m. – 7.30 p.m.
- Music Generation led two workshops on each Tuesday throughout April for children with additional needs, accompanied by their parent / carer.
- On 17 April, a workshop on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) facilitated by Ballyhoura Development was attended by 30 Transition Year students from Colaiste Iosaeif, Kilmallock. This was held as part of the [Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival](#).
- On 19 April, Healthy Limerick and partners presented a lunchtime talk as part of the Lifelong Learning Festival. Guest speaker, Jillian Robinson, spoke about 'Living well at home,' explaining the Healthy Age Friendly Homes programmes.
- The first session of a six- week mindfulness-based programme, aimed at those working in any Arts related area, led by Trisha O'Callaghan, took place on 23 April.
- A Biodiversity Action Plan information session, led by the Biodiversity Officer, Environment Awareness and Education Department, took place on 24 April.

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- An Open Mic Night to mark Poetry Day welcomed poets and poetry lovers on 30 April.
- Weekly Bridge classes for beginners continued on each Wednesday.
- Weekly Yoga Community Education Course, led by Ballyhoura Development CLG, continued with two sessions on each Friday with an average of 14 participants per session.
- Weekly Kilmallock Library Craft Group sessions continued on each Thursday morning during March with crafters connecting over a cuppa and working on various projects from needlework to weaving, with an average of 18 crafters at each session.
- “Spring Into Storytime” included Our Little Readers session of storytelling, song, rhymes, books and chat on 24 April with 22 in attendance and story times with pupils from Kilbehenny National School and Lough Gur National School with 61 pupils attending.

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 Rathfridagh Cheshire Home residents.
- Regular class visits from local national schools, which includes Autism Spectrum Disorder class visits to the Sensory Space. Fifteen in total per week.
- Headway Ireland meeting every Friday morning from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
- Knitting Club continued every Friday morning from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Spring into Storytime event with the children from Little Wonders Crèche – 10 April.

- Lunchtime Talk with Claire Flynn from Mental Health Ireland – 18 April.
- Launch of new Book Club for Adults – 25 April.
- Public Information Session on the drafting of the Limerick City and County Council Biodiversity Action Plan with Biodiversity Officer – 30 April.

Dooradoyle Library

- Dooradoyle Library welcomed First Year students from St. Clements College on a series of visits during April. The students registered for membership and were given a tour of the library with a brief introduction to the range of in-house and online services on offer.
- On 16 and 30 April, Ballybrown National School brought Junior and Senior Infants classes to the library for storytelling, rhymes and arts and crafts.
- A four-week course ‘Discover Diabetes - Type 2,’ commenced on 05 April. Sinead Mulcahy, Senior Community Dietitian with the Health Service Executive, delivered the course.
- Helium Arts, the National Children’s Art and Health Charity, began a five-week series of ‘Spring Saturdays’ workshops on 13 April. These are free creative art workshops, led by artist, Emma Fisher. The aim is to help children, aged 6-12, with lifelong physical health conditions, to live life to the full.
- Limerick’s annual Lifelong Learning Festival took place from 15-21 April. Events included a talk by art historian, Dr. Deirdre Kelly, on 16 April about Irish stained-glass artist, Harry Clarke. On 17 April, Dr. Eimear Farrell, senior clinical psychologist, delivered an information session called ‘Minding Ourselves: Coping with Stress and Developing Resilience.’
- Weekly story-telling sessions took place on Saturday mornings throughout April to celebrate ‘Spring into Storytime.’

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- Dooradoyle Book Club held their monthly meeting on 25 April.
- Dooradoyle Library's most recent exhibition, 'Eye on Nature,' is a collection of paintings by Bernie Collins. The exhibition ran for the month of April.

Watch House Cross Library

- Spring Into Storytime was marked with multiple storytime sessions, with a special invitation to local crèches, Little Seeds Crèche and Distillery View Preschool.
- Weekly Friday morning Parent/Caregiver and Toddler Group continued.
- First Class from Corpus Christi Primary School visited every Friday afternoon for storytime sessions, and fifth class from Thomond Primary School visited twice in the month.
- LEGO Club for children aged seven and older resumed with 12 new budding LEGO experts.
- Crafty Saturday free-play art and craft had a great attendance in April, with 105 children participating over the month.
- Children's Book Clubs met on 24 April where the 7-9 year olds reviewed Kevin's Great Escape by Philip Reeve, and the 9-12 year olds, Flora & Ulysses, by Kate DiCamillo.
- Events for Limerick's Lifelong Learning Festival from 15 – 21 April.
- Dr Ray O'Connor gave a Healthy Ireland talk on The Six Pillars of Lifestyle Medicine.
- The Northside Family Resource Centre held an Art Exhibition in the library for a week, after a well-attended launch.

- The library also hosted the Northside Family Resource Centre's Mindfulness for Children workshop where the children practiced breathing techniques to calm their 'busy minds' and affirmations to encourage positive thinking.
- Adult book clubs met in April, on the last Thursday and Friday mornings of the month, to discuss On Chapel Sands by Laura Cumming.
- Northside Family Resource Centre began a number of weekly courses in the library during April - Yoga for Adults, and a Parent and Toddler Music Group.
- Age Action began the final course of this term of their one-to-one computer and smartphone training workshops in the library, with 12 new pupils, learning to get online, or use their smart device with confidence.
- The fortnightly evening Sahaja Yoga Meditation class met twice in April.
- The Sensory Room had 253 visitors in 87 sessions during April.

Local Studies

- Limerick Local Studies dealt with 39 remote queries in April.
- There were 47 onsite visits by researchers to the Local Studies Department in April: 21 comprised research sessions on the archives of local and national newspapers, 12 on material from the Local Studies archives collections and 14 relating to family research.
- Participants in a Genealogy Course run by Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board were given a talk on resources offered by Limerick Local Studies Department.

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- The Local Studies Department delivered a number of events for Limerick's Lifelong Learning Festival:
- The Limerick Soviet Exhibition was on display in the library for a fortnight. It tells the story of mid-April 1919, when Limerick Trade Unions and workers protested the imposition of martial law in the city by calling a general strike and establishing a 'Soviet' to manage the city's affairs, even issuing its own currency.
- A public talk on the 1904 Limerick Boycott was very well attended. The talk examined the events that followed two anti-Semitic sermons by a Redemptorist priest in January 1904, and considered how this relatively minor episode came to be remembered in Irish Jewish and non-Jewish memory as a Russian-style pogrom which all but destroyed Limerick's Jewish community. There were 45 attendees on the night.
- Researching Your Family History Online, an afternoon workshop with the Local Studies Librarian, was well received. With a focus on Limerick, the workshop took participants through the available online resources for Irish genealogical research, including census returns, civil and ecclesiastical records, burial records, and land records, registers of electors, trades' directories, and local newspapers.
- Work on of the Department's 'Centenaries' project for 2024, Limerick in the 1920s: A Documentary History, progressed.

Other Branches

- Abbeyfeale - On 12 April, 35 pupils from Scoil Mháthair Dé joined author, Emma Larkin, for a creative writing workshop, and Emma answered questions about life as an author. A new craft group met for the first time on 17 April with members working on various knitting, embroidery and crochet projects.
- Adare - On 24 April, author, Sheila Quealey, facilitated a creative writing workshop in Adare Library attended by 17 members of the Adare Women's 2020 Club. Edel Curtis gave a talk on transitioning to secondary school for children from the local Scoil Naomh Iósaf as part of the Healthy Ireland At Your Library programme.
- Mid-West Advancing Recovery in Ireland Education Service (ARIES) facilitated Foynes - as part of Limerick's Lifelong Learning Festival, a 'Journaling for Wellbeing' workshop on 17 April.
- Rathkeale - On 03 April, Rathkeale Library hosted a morning of stories and crafts for children attending the Easter Camp organised by West Limerick Resources. Throughout the month, the library hosted an exhibition by local artist, Gina O'Connor. On 09 April, 30 pupils from St. Joseph's Boys' School and Church Street National School attended a workshop on nutrition and physical activity facilitated by Limerick Sports Partnership.
- Glin - On 18 April, well-known media presenter and meditation expert, Dermot Whelan, called in to Glin Library to meet with over 50 library users. His visit included an impromptu meditation session. Over 230 library users attended various events throughout the month including Book Clubs, Craft Clubs, Community Singing and Chair Yoga. Glin Montessori called in twice during the month with 24 of their pupils.
- Roxboro - Roxboro Library enjoyed visits from 217 pupils from Gaelscoil Sheoirse Clancy, Our Lady Queen of Peace, and both Le Cheile Early Start and the Le Cheile autism class. Visiting the Library was a new adventure for many of these children.
- Local school children from Scoil Chaitríona (Third and Fourth Classs) attended a Nutrition talk in Cappamore Library on 26 April.
- Spring Into Storytime, a National initiative that runs in public libraries throughout the month of April, attracted 75 children to storytime events held in Adare, Cappamore, Dromcollogher, Foynes and Roxboro libraries.

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Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- The exhibitions, **COSMUS** by Brigid McLeer, the collaboration with Crawford Art Gallery to mark the 100th anniversary of the Friends of the National Collections of Ireland (FNCL) and, **Searching in the Dark**, by Eddie Cahill, all finished on 07 April. The exhibitions continued to attract significant numbers for the run of the exhibition of around 9,394. The figures have increased on last year.
- The **2024 TEST SPACE** Residency artist, Michella Perera, started her onsite residency in the Herbert Gallery at LCGA and continued her plans for a series of free workshops which she will be giving during her time at LCGA. In particular, she has reached out to Mary Immaculate College and PAUL Partnership who have been very responsive and co-operative.
- Mountains Fall on Us** by Austin McQuinn opened on 25 April with a live performance from Austin launching the exhibition, which was very successful. This exhibition is a reclamation and revisiting of important materials that McQuinn has employed in his long practice, living and working in Ireland. McQuinn is a visual artist and live art performance expert and his studio practice is supported with major awards from the Arts Council and the acquisition of work for public and private collections in Ireland and the United States. His recent book on sound, animality and performance was reissued this year by Penn State University Press.
- LCGA continued to exhibit selections from the Permanent Collection on a rotation basis to expand the use of separate exhibition galleries within the building.
- LCGA negotiated with The Arts Council and The Model Gallery, Sligo, in relation to loaning a number of artworks from the Permanent Collections for inclusion in an exhibition to include *Rising Swan* by Patrick Collins and *Chairoplanes* by Jack B. Yeats. LCGA also received a request to loan artworks by Walter Osborne to a US-based institution/gallery scheduled for 2025.

- Research and meetings continued with future programme participants, 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.
- LCGA, in collaboration with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, hosted an exhibition by Brandon Hanley which was part of its Arts Festival Week 2024.

Limerick Museum

- On 04 April, the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, performed the official opening of Unboxing, an exhibition of works by Wilma Vissers. For the Exhibition, Wilma created a series of artworks that respond to the artefacts in the Museum. Visitors were able to walk through the Museum and see the connection made between the Museum collection and art works. Unboxing was one of several art exhibitions that the Museum has hosted based on responses to the Museum's large and eclectic collection, accumulated over the past 117 years.
- In preparation for the forthcoming exhibition on the large and significant Krups Engineering firm which Limerick Museum will be holding in partnership with Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership (LEDP), three very successful open days were held at the LEDP offices in Roxboro, on 09, 10 and 11 April for those who wished to loan or donate objects and memorabilia for the exhibition. Many former Krups staff members attended and the Museum harvested a large amount of relevant objects, while several oral history interviews were also recorded.
- As part of the Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival, the Museum staff gave well-attended tours of the Museum on 15 and 18 April. In addition, the Friends of Lace, Limerick, hosted a lace demonstration in the Museum on 18 April.

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- The Museum continued its very active outreach programme. On 05 April, the Curator gave a public lecture in Adare Golf Club on Limerick's history between 1921 and 1942 as part of an event commemorating Harry Wilson, the first Adare man to win an All-Ireland hurling medal with Limerick. On 21 April, the Curator appeared on the Ireland's Hidden Treasures documentary series on RTE One television, discussing the Limerick Meteorite, the largest meteorite that ever fell in Ireland, pieces of which are kept in museums all over the world. Limerick Museum has a piece of this meteorite, which is 4.6 billion years old, on display in Limerick Museum.
- On 27 April, the Friends of Lace, Limerick, held a meeting and hosted a talk in the Museum.

Limerick Arts Office

Creative Ireland Made in Limerick Grants Open Call 2024

The Made in Limerick Grants Scheme forms part of the Limerick Creative Ireland Programme to deliver creatives projects and events. Offers of grant-aid totalling €50,000 were made to 19 applicants in April.

Individual Arts Bursary, Theatre Bursary, and Dolores O'Riordan Music Bursary Awards Schemes 2024

Limerick Arts Office invited applications from professional artists based in or operating substantially within Limerick City and County Council's administrative area who wished to be considered for a Bursary of up to €4,000 for Individual Arts and Dolores O'Riordan Music, and €5,000 for Theatre for the development of work/professional skills, in any art form, including Visual Arts, Circus, Dance and Literature, Theatre and Music. The closing date for applications was 24 April.

Blas International Summer School for Traditional Irish Music and Dance Bursary Award 2024

Limerick Arts Office invited applications for a bursary to attend the Blas International Summer School for Traditional Irish Music and Dance at the University of Limerick. The Blas International Summer School 2024 provides young performers aged 16+ with the opportunity to train with leading professionals during a summer course. The closing date for bursary applications was 26 April.

Poetry Day Ireland

Poetry Day Ireland 2024 took place on 25 April. Celebrating its 10th birthday this year, Poetry Day Ireland is an annual island-wide celebration of poetry which invites the nation to read, write, and share a poem on the day. Limerick Poet, Edward O'Dwyer, hosted a poetry event in Draíocht, Adare, from 2 p.m. – 3 p.m., a celebration of Poetry Day, and of Shakespeare's birthday. Six poets, D'or Seifer, Michael Durack, Marie Studer, Thomas Collins, Breda Spaight and Edward O'Dwyer took part in the event. They performed a sonnet of choice from Shakespeare's collection and expounded on the reasons for their choice. They also each read an original poem influenced by 'Will the Thrill' and talked about their process for writing it.

Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts Scheme 2024

Limerick Arts Office manages the 2024 Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts Scheme, which was developed by Limerick City and County Council to facilitate culture and arts organisations and practitioners, in leveraging funds from national and international sources. This, in turn, helps support a vibrant creative culture in Limerick. In April, seven practitioners were given letters of support.

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3. Property Management

Dereliction, Vacancy and Reuse Team	
Site Inspections Completed	118
Department Notices of Inquiry issued	16
Derelict Sites Cases opened	5
Statutory Notices served under the Derelict Sites Act 1990	185
Derelict Sites Cases closed through engagement	14
Properties entered into the Derelict Sites Register	8
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	25



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Regeneration, Sports and Recreation Directorate

1. Regeneration and Sports

Regeneration

Economic Regeneration

Outreach to Employment Programme

The Community Mentors and Employment Co-ordinator attended a city-wide Networking Event which was held in conjunction with PAUL Partnership and Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board on 10 April. The event was attended by staff who are working in the field of training, further education and employment.

Targeted Youth Employment Initiative

Southill Hub launched its Targeted Youth Employment Support research on 12 April. The project is funded by Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board and supported by Limerick City and County Council, which is represented on the Steering Group.

Social Regeneration

Economic and Social Intervention Fund (ESIF) Update

- The Families & Youth at Risk Call was launched on MyPoint on 24 April. The Education & Learning Call closed for applications on 26 April. The relevant ESIF sub-committees were evaluating all applications received with a view to making recommendations for funding allocations under the criteria for each theme.
- The Social Regeneration Officer attended the event held by Bedford Row Family Project marking their 25-year anniversary celebrations.
- PAUL Partnership hosted a consultation workshop to help with informing its new Strategic Plan. Members of the Social Regeneration Team attended and participated in this workshop.

Community Activities

King's Island

- **Community Volunteer of the Year**

Community Volunteer of the Year, Anthony O'Donnell, was honoured with a Mayoral Reception in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle, on 16 April. The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, acknowledged the voluntary work that Mr. O'Donnell has done over the years and the positive contribution he continues to make on behalf of his community.

- **Award for the Community**

The King's Island Community received the "A Different Kind of Energy" award for their participation in the St. Patrick's Day parade. 25 Community members attended the Mayoral awards ceremony on 15 April in the Council Offices in Dooradoyle.

- The weekly study group continued to support parents of pupils in St. Mary's National School completing the Care of the Older Persons programme in St. Mary's Adult Education Centre.
- Weekly events took place, including Crafty Monday's Women's Group and Wednesday's Lego Club
- On 19 April, John Sisk & Son Group facilitated a site visit of the Opera Site for Fifth and Sixth Class pupils of St. Mary's National School. Attendees were given a guided tour of the site and took the opportunity to speak with the Engineers on site to develop their understanding of this large-scale civil engineering project.

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Moyross

- The 'Girls Get Active' classes took place each Tuesday in Moyross Community Enterprise Centre, in conjunction with Limerick Sports Partnership.
- Limerick Sports Partnership, Couch to 5K programme, continued with some attendees working towards participating in the 2024 Great Limerick Run.

Southill

- Tait House continued to engage locals with community education programmes in crafts and gardening.
- The Book and Film Club continued with events during April.
- Sewing classes were delivered by 'Project Fashion' aimed at children aged 7 – 15. This was a hands-on, fun event which was also educational.
- A free gardening workshop event, in partnership with Limerick Garden Festival, PAUL Partnership and Sláinte Care, was held on 20 April.

Physical Regeneration

Housing Developments

- A contract signing was completed on 30 April for 24 infills at Carew Park in Southill, Delmege Park in Moyross and Hartigan Villas in Moyross. This was enabled following the approval from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to proceed with the appointment of M. Fitzgibbon Contractors Ltd.
- An additional five units (Block D) were handed over as part of the Dalgaish-Cosgrave housing project in Moyross.
- A total of 42 units at Cosgrave Park and Dalgaish Park, Moyross, progressed towards projected phased handover in Q2/Q3 2024.

- Construction works on the Sheep Street development, comprising of eight social housing units, continued.
- Work on 37 housing units at Churchfield, Southill (Phase 2), continued towards completion. 11 units nearing completion for a phased handover.
- Paul Keogh Architects completed their design review of the Moyross Development, Cosgrave Park, Phase 2.
- Preliminary design and follow-up public consultation sessions were undertaken for a new housing project being advanced at Pineview Gardens, Moyross - this infill development providing up to approximately 67 residential units within the area.
- Engagement with the residents of 149 – 156 Cliona Park, Moyross, continued and a formal public consultation session was held in the Moyross Community Enterprise Centre building. Associated feedback being incorporated into the Stage 2 application to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage seeking approval to proceed with Part 8 planning.

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, which encompasses 53 properties.
- Work on 12 units, under Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 127, in Ballinacurra Weston, Ballinacurra was continued by the contractor, JoeBren Construction Ltd.
- The detailed design for 55 housing units in Pineview Gardens, Moyross, under Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 130 continued.
- Final certification received in relation to Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 112 which has been closed out.

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House Refurbishments

Lot 4a Major Refurbishments – Nine Properties

- Dolmen Construction progressed with works to three properties.
- Martins Construction Ltd. was appointed for the remaining six properties.

Lot 4b Major Refurbishments – 11 Properties

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

Minor Refurbishments

- Refurbishment works were completed on one property.
- Construction works continued to five houses across the four Regeneration areas.
- 19 units at scoping, tender or pre-construction stage.

Demolitions

- Tender returned for the demolition of 466 and 467 Roseview Drive, O'Malley Park. Tender assessment ongoing.

Infrastructure Projects

Southside Connectivity Project

- Period for Section 38 application submissions closed on 18 April and submissions being reviewed.
- Tender returns for detailed design were being assessed.

Southside Boxing Academy

- Contractor continued improvement works to the building used by Southside Boxing Academy in the Galvone Industrial Estate. The old roof has now been fully removed, with the installation of new cladding awaited.

Moyross Avenue

- Period for Section 38 application submissions closed on 18 April. Submissions being reviewed.

Thomond Rugby Football Club Extension

- Period for Part 8 planning application submissions closed on 11 April.
- Chief Executive's Report being prepared for review.

Cliona Park Apartments

- Remedial Works on electronic gates at Cliona Park Apartments, Moyross, were undertaken.

Colivet Court Apartments

- Remedial Works on vehicular access gates at Colivet Court, Carew Park, were completed.

Environmental Works

- The removal of redundant hardstanding areas in Salvia Court, Keyes Park, Southill, continued.

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Limerick Sports Partnership

- 15 schools participated in the National Initiative, Marathon Kids, an eight-week, in-school programme. This focused on nutrition, health, wellbeing and general fitness. It concluded with two training sessions facilitated by Olympian, David Gillick - one session was held in the Limerick Regional Athletics Hub, Newcastle West and the second session was held in the Boro Park, Janesboro, Limerick. Over 200 pupils attended these sessions, with over 500 completing the programme throughout the city and county.
- In April, two programmes were delivered aimed at improving fitness amongst female teenagers. The HERMOVES and Girls Get Active Initiative ran during the month. Fitness sessions were hosted at 10 sites throughout the City and County. Focus groups were conducted with participants, the purpose of which was to help inform future activity programmes that would appeal to teenage girls.
- Limerick Sports Partnership commenced research, in partnership with the School of Allied Health, University of Limerick, examining solutions to encourage those living with chronic pain to engage in regular physical activity. The aim of the research is to design supports for exercise professionals to encourage meaningful physical activity for those suffering chronic pain.
- Limerick Sports Partnership had over 2,989 participants engage in their suite of physical activity programmes and educational initiatives during April. This included schools, community, and Sports Hubs activities.

For more information on programmes and activities visit
www.limericksports.ie

Council Sporting Facilities

The Limerick Regional Athletics Hub

- During April, there were over 600 users of the Limerick Regional Athletics Hub.
- On 11 April, seven post-primary schools participated in a Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board event.
- On 25 April, the 'Marathon Kids' event welcomed Olympian David Gillick to the HUB, with local primary schools meeting and training with him.
- National Long Jump champion, Sophie Meredith, carried out three long-jump sessions with young members of West Limerick Athletics Club.
- Athletics Ireland held training days in the Limerick Regional Athletics Hub during April to enhance coaching skills and development amongst local volunteers throughout the region.



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Housing Directorate

1. Housing Support Services

Housing Waiting List

Approved Housing Applicants	2,744
Approved Tenant Transfer Applicants	402

Closed Housing Applications

	April	Year to Date
Closed Applications	36	226

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 April	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	3	4
Newcastle West	2	6
Metropolitan District	10	85
Cappamore-Kilmallock	3	13
Total	18	108

Refusals

	No. of Units April	Year to Date
Adare-Rathkeale	0	0
Newcastle West	0	0
Metropolitan District	1	6
Cappamore-Kilmallock	0	4
Total	1	10

Approved Housing Body Allocations 2024 (year to date)

Total Nominations	Successful Nominations	Nominations Pending	Unsuccessful Nominations
90	28	59	3

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Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

Private Tenancies	679
Capital Assistance Scheme/Rental Accommodation Scheme Tenancies	571
Part V	0
New Private Tenancies	1
New Voluntary Housing Tenancies	13

Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Limerick

2,024 active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

No. of HAP tenancies set up this month	25
No. of Amendments	527
No. of Cessations	40

Rent Collection

Rent Collection Limerick City and County Council					
Opening Balance	Accrued Income	Total for collection	Receipts	Closing Balance	% Collection
€6,731,013	€7,142,043	€13,873,056	€6,491,864	€7,381,192	47%

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HOME IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

April 2024		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aid Grants	No. Approved	1	0	3	0	4
	MAG Expenditure	€6,900.00	€0.00	€19,716.43	€3,506.48	€30,122.91
	No. Paid	3	0	7	1	11
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	9	9	22	2	42
	HAG Expenditure	€42,820.71	€58,797.54	€183,327.64	€22,233.00	€307,178.89
	No. Paid	4	7	22	2	35
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	9	16	38	9	72
	HOP Expenditure	€31,140.00	€55,296.65	€119,102.70	€46,187.50	€251,726.85
	No. Paid	9	13	29	13	64
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG Expenditure	€2,604.83	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€2,604.83
	No. Paid	1	0	0	0	1

Total No. Approved	118
Total Monies Paid	€591,633.48
Total No. Paid	111

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HOME IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES - Year to Date

January - April 2024		Adare-Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Total
Mobility Aid Grants	No. Approved	4	2	11	1	18
	MAG Expenditure	€20,279.00	€7,550.00	€40,471.43	€3,506.48	€71,806.91
	No. Paid	6	3	13	1	23
<hr/>						
Housing Adaptation Grants	No. Approved	17	24	105	11	157
	HAG Expenditure	€89,332.07	€153,251.59	€692,200.34	€134,192.88	€1,068,976.88
	No. Paid	10	21	65	17	113
<hr/>						
Housing Aid for Older People	No. Approved	30	47	183	37	297
	HOP Expenditure	€95,480.00	€206,240.54	€523,665.91	€118,823.24	€944,209.69
	No. Paid	25	49	113	29	216
<hr/>						
Disabled Person's Grant	DPG Expenditure	€2,604.83	€0.00	€92,051.34	€0.00	€94,656.17
	No. Paid	1	0	3	0	4

YTD Total No. Approved	472
YTD Total Monies Paid	€2,179,649.65
YTD Total No. Paid	356

Chief Executive's Report



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Community Sustainment Unit

Tenancy Inductions

	April	Year to Date
No. of Tenancy Inductions	14	105

Repossessions

	April	Year to Date
Repossession of Council properties	13	51

House Visits

	April	Year to Date
No. of House Visits	308	1,150

Sugar CRM (Customer Relationship Management) Cases

	April	Year to Date
Active cases at month-end	259	259
Cases closed during month	34	283

Garda Checks

	April	Year to Date
Garda Checks processed	82	378

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

Date: 10.04.2024		
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	59
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	22
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	16
Phoenix Lodge	Low threshold emergency accommodation for single adults	9
Total		183

Families				
Location	Description	Beds Used		
		Adults	Children	Families
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency accommodation	6	8	6
B&B/Hotel Accommodation	Families	94	99	56
Twin Oaks Family Hub	Family Hub	13	14	9
Totals		113	121	71

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	April	YTD
Tenant Purchase		
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. received	8	37
Tenant Purchase Applications: No. approved	1	16
Local Authority Home Loans		
Loan Applications: No. received	11	28
Loan Applications: No. approved	1	7
Deed of Discharge		
Deed of Discharge Applications: No. Received	17	77
Consent to Sale		
Consent to Sale Applications: No. Received	4	17
Cottage Purchase Annuity		
No. of Cottage Purchase Annuity Applications	2	14
Ground Rent		
No. of Ground Rent applications	4	21
Title		
Title Deeds Received/Requested	16	51
Title Rectifications Received	0	2
Private Rented Inspections		
No. of Inspections	151	1,406

Freedom of Information, Data Requests and Ombudsman

Freedom of Information requests	3
Ombudsman Query Cases	0
Data Access Requests	0

2. Housing Welfare and Traveller Accommodation

* Traveller Accommodation

No. of Units offered April	1
Year to Date	7

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

Housing Welfare Referrals/Visits

No. of Referrals/Visits April	9
Year to Date	74

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3. Local Authority Housing Construction and Maintenance

Local Authority Housing Construction

House Returns April	
Total	9

House Returns April By Municipal District	
Adare-Rathkeale	2
Cappamore-Kilmallock	2
Newcastle West	0
Metropolitan District	5
Total	9

During April, the Local Authority Housing Construction Team was notified of two houses returned in the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale, two in the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock, none in the Municipal District of Newcastle West and five in the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

Current Working Programme

	Completed in April	In Progress
Local Authority Construction Team		
Major Refurbishments	3	76
Tenant in Situ Works	0	22
Local Authority Maintenance Team		
Minor Refurbishments	4	114
Regeneration Team		
Major Refurbishments	5	19
Minor Refurbishments	0	22
Total	12	253
Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process	3	23

In April, work on three properties was completed by the Local Authority Housing Construction Team, work on four properties was completed by the Local Authority Maintenance Team and Work on five properties was completed by the Regeneration Team.

There are three Teams in Limerick City and County Council assigned to refurbish properties. As of April, the Local Authority Construction Team was in the process of completing works on 98 properties, Local Authority Maintenance was working on 114 properties and the Regeneration Team are working on 41 properties.

Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process - 23 properties.

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Project Updates

- Contractor appointed for refurbishment works at two properties in The Orchard, Castletroy, Limerick.
- Contractor appointed for refurbishment works at three properties in Hyde Road, Limerick.
- Contractor appointed for refurbishment works at two properties in Carrowkeel, Castletroy, Limerick.
- Contractor appointed for roof works at two properties in Dooradoyle and Ballycummin, Limerick.
- Contractor appointed for refurbishment works at property in Meadowsprings, Clareview, Limerick.
- Contractor appointed for underpinning works and Structural and Civil Engineering Consultancy for property in Main Street, Ballingarry, Co. Limerick.

Local Authority Housing Maintenance

Local Authority Houses: Maintenance Complaints dealt with during April

Housing Maintenance Cases - April	Requests/Cases Created	Cases Dealt With/Closed	Balance of Open Cases at 30.04.2024
Metropolitan District of Limerick	863	787	1,592
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	88	74	340
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	158	103	328
Municipal District of Newcastle West	122	168	488
TOTAL	1,231	1,132	2,748

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Grants Inspections

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	5	0	0	5
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	26	0	17	43
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	37	0	5	42
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	0	2	6	8
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	68	2	28	98

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

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	9	14
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	11	1	14	26
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	1	0	0	1
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	18	1	24	43

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

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	5	0	4	9
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	17	0	11	28
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	2	0	0	2
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	25	0	18	43

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

Inspection Types	Pre-application	Initial Inspection	Re-inspection	Final Inspections after Works completed	Total Inspections by Grant Type
MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	0	0	0	0
HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme)	0	7	0	3	10
HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme)	0	20	0	8	28
DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant)	0	3	0	0	3
Total Inspections by Inspection Type	0	30	0	11	41

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HOUSE INSPECTIONS UNIT

Houses Inspected for Refurbishment Works and Re-Letting - April - Categories	No. of Properties Inspected
Cat 1 - minor repairs needed	2
Cat 2 - moderate repairs needed	5
Cat 3 - substantial repairs needed	7
Cat 4 - major repairs needed	0
TOTAL INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT	14
No. of Properties Awaiting Inspection	10

DEFECTIVE BLOCKWORK SCHEME APPLICATIONS

Applications Registered April	1
RFI Applications (Request Further Information) April	3
Applications Referred to Housing Agency	2
Applications - Damage Threshold Met	6

4. Strategy & Non-Local Authority Housing Construction

SOCIAL HOUSING - Delivery for 2024

Buy/Build/Lease as of 30.04.2024 is as follows:

As at 30.04.2024 (01.01.2024 – 30.04.2024)	Complete	In Progress	Overall Complete and In Progress	“Housing for All” 2024 Delivery Target
Build	0	391	391	513
Buy *	24	175	199	100
Lease	1	20	21	44
TOTAL	25	586	611	

*Majority under the ‘Buy’ stream are Notice of Termination properties.

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Notice of Termination Figures

The following outlines the number of cases received in April in relation to Notice of Termination properties:

Tenant Notification to Council - where a tenant contacts Limerick City and County Council before the Council engages with the landlord. It moves to 'Proposal' stage once the landlord consents to engaging with Limerick City and County Council to purchase	5
Proposals being reviewed	7
Sale Agreed	7
Purchase Completed	9
Withdrawn - e.g., main reasons - vendor not accepting offer based on independent valuation or presence of deleterious material in property (e.g., pyrite) or Fire Safety issues	12
Owner Reoccupying - Notice of Termination comes into the Council – however, owner or family member wishes to reside in property	1
Income above Social Housing limit (i.e., Cost Rental Tenant in Situ)	1
Grand Total	42

Social Housing – Project Submissions and Approvals

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

Notice to Quit - Acquisition	Approval for Notice to Quit Acquisition in Dooradoyle, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Notice to Quit - Acquisition	Approval for Notice to Quit Acquisition in Dooradoyle, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Local Authority Turnkey	Approval for Local Authority Turnkey Acquisition in Castletroy, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
SHIP (Social Housing Investment Programme) Buy and Renew	Approval for SHIP Buy and Renew Acquisition in Garryowen, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Notice to Quit - Acquisition	Approval for Notice to Quit Acquisition on Fr. Russell Road, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Notice to Quit - Acquisition	Approval for Notice to Quit Acquisition in Annacotty, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick

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Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Revised Stage 4 approval for the Construction of five units at Croom, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Approval for the Turnkey delivery of one unit at Crossagalla, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Delegated Sanction approval for the acquisition of one unit at Gerald Griffin Street, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Social Housing Capital Expenditure Programme - Long Term Leasing	Approval for the leasing of one unit in Limerick City.	Metropolitan District of Limerick

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

Notice to Quit - Acquisition	Submission for the Acquisition of one unit on Shelbourne Road, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Notice to Quit - Acquisition	Submission for the Acquisition one unit in South Circular Road, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Notice to Quit - Acquisition	Submission for the Acquisition one unit in Dooradoyle, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Notice to Quit - Acquisition	Submission for the Acquisition one unit in Dooradoyle, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Notice to Quit - Acquisition	Submission for the Acquisition one unit in Castletroy, Limerick	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Notice to Quit - Acquisition	Submission for the Acquisition one unit in Corbally, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Turnkey submission for the delivery of one Community Dwellinghouse (supporting four Service Users and one Carer) at Knocklong, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Turnkey submission for the delivery of four units at Clare Street, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	Stage 1 submission for the Construction of 20 units at Doon, Co. Limerick.	Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock
Social Housing Capital Expenditure Programme - Long Term Leasing	Submission for the leasing of one unit in Limerick City.	Metropolitan District of Limerick
Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)	CALF Turnkey submission for 24 units at Windmill House, Dock Road, Limerick.	Metropolitan District of Limerick

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Affordable Housing - Delivery for 2023-2026

Scheme	District	Type	No. of Units	Proposal Updates in April
Toppins Field Lands	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Affordable Housing Fund	28 (Phase 1)	<p>Transport Infrastructure Ireland comments received and under review.</p> <p>Site wide vegetation plan and strategy complete and under review. Alternative layouts for access and tree retention underway.</p> <p>Tree and bat survey undertaken.</p> <p>The pre-planning design for the first westerly phase continued during April, and pre-planning meetings were held internally with several Limerick City and County Council Departments.</p>
Toppins Field Lands	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Affordable Housing Fund	115 (Phases 2-4)	<p>Site investigations for Phase 1 completed during April. Ongoing liaison with Regeneration Department regarding funding of East-West link road.</p>
Guinness Site	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Cost Rental Affordable Housing Fund	255	<p>Limerick City and County Council undertook a review of capacity and viability analysis for Careys Road against Framework infrastructure phasing with a focus on the taking in charge strategy. Limerick City and County Council comments were issued to Land Development Agency.</p> <p>Site negotiations: a draft development agreement being finalised. Project Charter* to be prepared jointly with Land Development Agency.</p> <p>*Project Charter covers: Development and planning strategy, initial design brief, to include use, tenure mix, density, number of units etc., budget and timeframe. Land Development Agency and Limerick City and County Council Chief Executive sign-off required.</p> <p>Project Working Group monthly meeting was held.</p>
Clonmacken Lands	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Affordable Housing Fund	22	<p>Viability Study complete.</p> <p>A site-specific Flood Risk justification test required due to the update in flood mapping in the area.</p>

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Scheme	District	Type	No. of Units	Proposal Updates in April
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 completed in April and Chief Executive Orders to appoint winning consultants were signed.</p> <p>There are six separate frameworks for each design consultancy needed for delivering social and affordable housing units for the next 2 – 4 years. It will also service Clare County Council and Kerry County Council and will greatly speed up the procurement of design teams.</p> <p>The final process to appoint the six framework lots on e-tenders was begun, and contract packs were prepared to be signed by all parties.</p> <p>Current activity on site: The initial archaeological dig necessitated a second more detailed exploration. Archaeologists commenced work on site in April. This second stage dig will follow the line of the city wall in its entirety across the site, and establish the exact location of the opening of the Little Island gate believed to be in this location. It will also clarify the extent of other extensions from the wall, found in the first stage dig, facing Island road. The dig will also establish whether there are any remnants of the earlier circuit of the city wall at the interface between Exchange Street and Bishop Street. The dig will inform the pre-planning design work starting in parallel.</p>
Curragower	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Affordable Housing Fund	7	Work continued on the pre-planning design, with the input from local stakeholder meetings being integrated into a planning application. There is ongoing liaison with stakeholders on the design of the rear courtyard which is under review.
Speaker's Corner	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Cost Rental Expression of Interest Site with Approved Housing Body	18	Work continued on the progression of the land transfer during April.

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Scheme	District	Type	No. of Units	Proposal Updates in April
New Road, Thomondgate	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Cost Rental Expression of Interest Site with Approved Housing Body	22	This project is currently with An Bord Pleanála.
Ballygrennan Lands	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Expression of Interest Site with Approved Housing Body	73	Work continued on the progression of this proposal during April.
Mungret Site	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund	181	Work continued on the progression of this proposal during April.
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 April.
Adare	Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	Affordable Purchase Self-build plots	8	Work continued on the progression of this proposal during April.
Advance Purchase Turnkey – Campaign 1	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase at Brú na Gruadán, Castletroy, Limerick city	25	Processing of applications and the issuing of letters of offer continued throughout April for the 25-unit Brú na Gruadán, Castletroy, Affordable Purchase Scheme.
	Municipal District of Newcastle West	Affordable Purchase in Abbeyfeale	10	A 10-unit affordable housing scheme in Abbeyfeale was also progressed during April.

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Scheme	District	Type	No. of Units	Proposal Updates in April
Advance Purchase Turnkey – Campaign 2	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase at Raheen	145	
	Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	Affordable Purchase at Croom	7	Processing of applications and the issuing of letters of offer continued throughout April for Phase 1 and 2 (42 units) of the Woodfield Manor, Newcastle West, Affordable Purchase Scheme.
	Municipal District of Newcastle West	Affordable Purchase at Woodfield Manor, Newcastle West	42	Work continued on the progression of the other two proposals during April.
Advance Purchase Turnkey – Campaign 4	Municipal District of Newcastle West	Affordable Purchase at Rathnaneane in Newcastle West	9	Work continued on the progression of this proposal during April. An email indicating approval was received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on 12 April.
Advance Purchase Turnkey – Campaign 5	Municipal District of Newcastle West	Affordable Purchase at Castle Place, Newcastle West	57	Discussions regarding costings and independent valuations continued during April with the developer in order to progress these proposed developments.
Advance Purchase Turnkey – Campaign 7	Municipal District of Cappamore Killmallock	Affordable Purchase in Knocklong	4	Expression of Interest received for four dwellings. Work continued on the progression of this proposal during April with a review of costings proposed.
	Metropolitan District of Limerick	Affordable Purchase at Newtown Meadows, Castletroy	36	Work continued on the progression of this proposal during April. It involves an apartment scheme and costs are being looked at to ascertain suitability for Affordable Sale.

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Finance (all funding streams)

- Claims totaling €1,411,074 were sent to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- Claims totaling €4,623,992.34 were paid by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Conferences and Workshops

- Representatives from the Housing Directorate attended the Housing Conference in Mullingar on 25 and 26 April.
- Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee members, and staff from the Housing Directorate, attended a site visit of the Modular Homes in Backweston, Lucan, Co. Dublin, on 19 April.

5. Municipal District Offices

Metropolitan District of Limerick

Meetings

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

Briefings/Workshops

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

- Briefing on proposed Property Disposals;
- Briefing from Uisce Éireann.

Operational Area Briefings

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

Road Related Upgrade/Refurbishment Works

Description of Project: Lower Park Road Footpath Improvements (Completed)

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

Description of Project: Janemount Park Footpath Improvements (Commenced)

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

Description of Project: Learning Hub Road Surfacing Scheme

Location: Thomondgate;
Cost of project: €11,000;
Contractor: Tallybrook Civil Engineering.

Description of Project: Cahernorry Drainage Scheme

Location: Cahernorry;
Cost of project: €16,500;
Contractor: Direct Labour.

Description of Project: Scanlon Park Footpaths

Location: Scanlon Park, Castleconnell;
Cost of project: €50,000;
Contractor: Direct Labour.

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Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

The April Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale took place on 09 April in Áras Seán Finn, Rathkeale.

A Civic Reception was held in the Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, on 16 April to acknowledge Councillor Kevin Sheahan's service as an Elected Representative of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale for almost four decades.

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

- 73 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
- 135 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

Active Travel

Ballysteen Footpath works completed.

Bridge Rehabilitation

Works completed to Graigeen Bridge, Cappagh, Askeaton, where crown of bridge collapsed in early April.

Restoration Improvement Works

Works carried out at Summerville, Pallaskenry; Tallyho and Gortroe, Rathkeale; Ballyhibbin and Lurriga, Cappagh.

Low Cost Safety/ Junction Improvement Works

Safety works carried out at Top of Town Junction, Main Street, Askeaton.

Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

March Municipal District Meeting

The Joint Policing Sub-Committee Meeting and the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock were held in Áras Mainchin Seoighe, Kilmallock, on 18 April.

Housing and Road Maintenance

- 158 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
- 312 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

Housing Grants

- 16 Private Housing Grants were paid, totalling €71,926.98.
- 11 Private Housing Grants were approved.
- 18 initial inspections, one re-inspection and 24 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

- Sightlines from Newtown Hill, Caherconlish, onto R513 (tree removal).
- Caherconlish section of Footpath near the Church going into the Graveyard.

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Municipal District of Newcastle West

Meetings and Briefings

03 April - Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West.

Housing Grants

- 25 grant applications were approved under the Private Housing Grant Schemes during the month. The total value of approvals was €157,664.14.
- Payments of €55,296.65 were made to 13 applicants who completed works under the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.
- Payments of €58,797.54 were made to seven applicants who completed works under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme.

Housing Maintenance

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

Transportation and Mobility

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

Motor Tax

During the month, the Motor Tax Section at the Newcastle West Office processed 1,336 routine transactions generating an income of €213,602.



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Planning, Environment & Place-Making Directorate

1. Forward Planning and Public Realm

Forward Planning

- As per the provisions of Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the Members of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock considered the Chief Executive's report and adopted Amendment No. 1 of the Kilmallock Local Area Plan 2019-2025 on 18 April.
- The adopted Patrickswell Local Area Plan 2024-2030, including Environment Assessments, was formatted and published.
- Six submissions were received on the Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) in relation to compliance with criteria/ date of servicing for land identified in the Draft Maps.

Archaeology

- Limerick City and County Council was successful in its application under Stream 1 of the Community Monuments Fund 2024 for the third phase of works to Ballynoe Tower House, Bruree.
- Limerick City and County Council was successful in its application under Stream 1 of the Community Monuments Fund for works to Galbally Church.
- Limerick City and County Council was successful in its application under Stream 2 of the Community Monuments Fund for advance works to Mahoonagh Church.
- Limerick City and County Council's Archaeologist presented at the annual Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland Conference on Limerick's Burial Ground Strategy and the contribution towards achieving the objectives of the Community Monuments Fund.

2. Development Management and Place-Making

Development Management

A total of 115 new planning applications were received as follows:

Type	Amount
Part 8	0
Housing Developments	3
Domestic Developments	72
Agricultural Developments	12
Commercial Developments/Change of Use	10
Sporting/Community and Educational Developments	7
Other Developments	11

The current applications include proposals for:

- Construction of 25 residential units and all associated site development works at Rathkeale Road, Adare, Co. Limerick.
- Construction of 10 residential units at Cois Sruthain, Croom, Co. Limerick.
- Construction of a solar farm on a site of 63.4 hectares for an operational period of 40 years at Ardgoulbeg, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick.

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Place-Making

Limerick Wayfinding and Orientation Signage Project

- P&D Lydon continued to carry out survey work and sign design. Fabrication of signs and sign-off on text continued.

Cruises Street Meanwhile Uses

- Planters and seating delivered to site and positioned on Cruises and Chapel Streets ahead of Bank Holiday Weekend.

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF)

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

- Emergency stabilisation works under Section 179 (6) (b) continued at 33 Thomas Street following partial collapse of gable wall.
- Suitability Assessment Questionnaires for Contractors uploaded to eTenders.
- Detailed design works continued.

Strand 3 - Pedestrian Bridges and Waterfront Infrastructural Works

- Work to Preliminary Business Case for submission to National Transport Authority continued.

Arthur's Quay Area Framework Plan

- Architects, Metropolitan Workshop, are leading a Multi-Disciplinary Team preparing the Arthur's Quay Area Framework Plan. Stakeholder engagement and preparation for Public Consultation continued.

Milk Market Food Hub

- Approval in principle received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the Preliminary Business Case under the Infrastructure Guidelines.

Market Quarter and Cruises Street Public Realm Upgrade

- Preparing Draft Preliminary Business Case and Scoping Document for associated Financial and Economic Consultants.
- Technical Working Group Meeting No. 1 held.

Capital Projects

O'Connell Street Phase 1

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

3. Environment and Climate Action

Environmental Awareness

The following events were attended by the Environmental Awareness Officer:

- Adare Green Hub Project – Business visits and introductory meeting in association with Adare Tidy Towns. Regional Waste Management Planning Offices Green Hubs update meeting in Portlaoise.
- Public engagement event at Stryker Howmedica "sustainability event."
- Re-Love Paint Regional update meeting in Cork.
- Liaison meeting with Thomond Park/MCD re upcoming concerts and waste minimisation/management.

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Activity Tracker for April

Inspection Type	Number of Inspections	Inspection Details
Farm Re-Inspections	15	Follow-up to see programmed works completed.
Sugar CRM (customer relationship management) Complaints	6	Respond / Follow-up to complaints from members of public
Invasive Species	3	Follow-up on queries received – Limerick City and County Council's Web-Page
Planning Files	5	Review agricultural planning applications and comment back to Planning.
Forestry	13	Desktop – review applications received from Forest Service
Local Catchment Assessments	4	Morningstar River at Ballylanders.
Farm File Reviews	46	Review farm files, Farmyard Management Plans and write out advisory/warning letters accordingly.
Meetings	1	Meeting with Water Services, Cork and Kerry County Councils to discuss water quality issue impacting on the Abbeyfeale Water Treatment Plant.
Cross Reports	1	Reports to Department of Agriculture – Breaches of Good Agricultural Practice Regulations

Biodiversity

- 04 April - facilitated fifty stakeholders from wide range of sectoral interests to come together to begin the process of developing a Limerick Biodiversity Forum.
- 09 April - the Discussion Document for drafting the Limerick Biodiversity Action Plan was presented to the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee. The document is currently available on [My point/Limerick](#) and open for public consultation.

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Parks

Castleconnell Community Park

- Castleconnell Community Park, adjacent to Scanlon Park, has been completed. This includes two gated access ways linking the estates of Scanlon Park and Bruach na Sionna with a tarmacadam surfaced walkway planted with native trees and hedging.

Clare Glens

- The tender for the manufacture and supply of two footbridges at Clare Glens was awarded.
- The tender for the main contractor for the replacement of two footbridges at Clare Glens at tender assessment stage.

Lough Gur

- The tender for the main contractor for installing a waste water holding tank and other waste water ancillary works at tender assessment stage.

GoGreenRoutes

- GoGreenRoutes (2020-2024) is a €10.5m EU-funded project sowing the seeds for increased nature-connectedness across Europe, Latin America and China. It focuses on physical activity, nature connection and nature-based solutions. Limerick City and County Council's target area is the Castletroy greenway.
- GoGreenRoutes and the Castletroy Greenway was the subject matter for ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, the world's leading network of local and regional governments committed to sustainable development, podcast entitled; 'What happens when you involve communities in the creation of new green space?'
- GoGreenRoutes submitted an application for the Local Government Awards under the heading 'Supporting Sustainable Communities.'

- GoGreenRoutes free Citizen Science 'train the trainer' Workshop took place on 23 April.

URBACT IV Green Place

- Limerick is one of ten partner cities in the URBACT GreenPlace Project who will collaborate on urban regeneration plans in respective specified areas. The objective of the Green Place project is the urban regeneration of forgotten places, changing urban spaces that have lost their current functionality to be friendly to residents, the environment and the city and to support and enhance the provision of quality green spaces in derelict urban settings.
- The focus area for the project is the City Wall and proximity of green spaces to the City Wall. It includes the green areas of Johnsgate, St. Michael's cemetery and Watergate Flats.
- The project progressed further in April with the third meeting of the URBACT local group, comprising of a number of stakeholders including various departments in the Council, resident groups, Tidy Towns, Gardaí, Mary Immaculate College and Limerick Civic Trust, to discuss issues and challenges for the project.
- A landscape plan has been prepared for the project area and feedback was sought at the meeting from the URBACT local group.
- The output from the project is an Integrated Action Plan (IAP). It will be a policy instrument that will be used to respond in a concrete way to the specific challenge of dealing with the challenges associated with derelict areas in urban settings.

Cemeteries

Number of Burials in City Cemeteries

Mount St. Lawrence	22
Mount St. Oliver	19
Castlemungret	7
Kilmurry	2

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Environment Enforcement and Litter Management

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

ENVIRONMENT ENFORCEMENT	
SUGAR CRM (Customer Relationship Management) cases received	191
Inspections undertaken CRM	738
Warnings issued	124
Directions of Authorised Officer issued	13
Statutory Notices issued	30
Prosecutions initiated	9
Fines issued	18
Authorisations issued/reviewed	4
DOMESTIC WASTE AND LITTER TEAM	
SUGAR CRM (Customer Relationship Management) cases received	99
Inspections undertaken CRM	686
Warnings issued	118
Directions of Authorised Officer issued	2
Statutory Notices issued	17
Prosecutions initiated	5
Fines issued	18

Climate Action

Climate Action

- Local Authority Climate Action Plan was published on 22 April following the official launch of all 31 Local Authority Climate Action Plans by the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D., in Ennis on 11 April.
- The Climate Action Unit organised a workshop for staff on Lifecycle Cost Assessment as part of its financing the Renovation Wave initiative with DGREORM on 25 April.
- The Climate Action Unit presented (online) to the Small and Medium Sized Cities for Nett Zero EU project on Digital Twin Technology.
- The Community Climate Action Officer attended the PAUL Partnership Strategy Day and took Part in a Citizen Science workshop for the GoGreen Routes Project.

Citizen Innovation Lab

- The Citizen Innovation Lab hosted several events for Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival, including Road Safety for Cyclists Young and Younger, Unlocking Potential: Mastering your Learning Pathway and Understanding Intelligence.

Veterinary

No. of dogs processed in the Dog Shelter	23
No. of horses seized	2
No. of samples taken	12

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

Castleconnell Flood Relief Scheme

- A steering group meeting was held on 30 April to monitor and assess project progress.
- Productive dialogues continued with the landowners impacted by the project, setting the stage for completing the planning design and advancing the scheme.
- The draft planning pack was received and continued to be reviewed.
- Archaeology investigations commenced.
- Detailed Site Investigation tendered to inform detailed design.

Adare Flood Relief Scheme

- A Steering Group meeting was held on 09 April to assess the project progress.
- Engagement with landowners affected by the scheme continued, facilitating the completion of the planning design and moving the project forward.
- Public realm design at Turf Quay and N21 at final draft stage.

Limerick Flood Relief Scheme

- Tenders for two-year detailed ecological studies were received and continued to be under evaluation.
- A Steering Group meeting was held on 22 April to assess the project progress.
- IGSL appointed to carry out detailed Site investigation at Annacotty / Mountshannon.

- Flood level agreed for Limerick Flood Relief Scheme, and flood maps under development.

Athea Flood Relief Scheme

- A Steering Group meeting was held on 23 April to assess the project progress.
- Engagement with landowners affected by the scheme continued, facilitating the completion of the planning design and moving the project forward.
- Public realm design at Park at final draft stage.

King's Island Flood Relief Scheme

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

5. Limerick Twenty Thirty (LTT) DAC

Opera Square

Project Update

- John Sisk & Son was progressing with works on One Opera Square with the basement, ground floor and first floor complete. The second-floor slab works were well underway and visible from beyond the hoarding. The wider development works continued, including the overall basement excavation reaching 95% completion and the first concrete pour for the new public realm podium slab.
- Excavation works for the ESB power main upgrade from William Street to Michael Street via little Ellen Street were 90% complete and Limerick Twenty Thirty was continuing to engage with Sisk, Limerick City and County Council and business owners to minimise impact.

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Project Media Engagement

- Limerick Twenty Thirty was asked to assist Treaty Stone Partnership DAC in the creation of marketing aids for One Opera Square development. These marketing aids include a 3D Video, a brochure and a website.
- Limerick Twenty Thirty invited the Urban Land Institute to visit Limerick City, one element of their trip was a visit to Opera Square. Limerick Twenty Thirty staff gave them an overview of the Opera Square development and progress updates.

Cleaves Riverside Quarter

Project Update

CRQ Designs and Planning Application

- Market Feedback received during Q1 was relayed to the Design Team and incorporated into the Design Brief where appropriate.

Heritage Works

- A suite of Building Fabric Condition Surveys of the heritage buildings was completed. Additional consultants for the Heritage Works project being procured.

Gardens International

Project Media Engagement

- Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board launched an exhibition as part of the Arts Festival in the retail unit at Gardens International on 23 April. The exhibition's Official Opening Day was 23 April, with the Exhibition open on weekdays from 10am to 3pm.
- Limerick Twenty Thirty hosted the Limerick School of Music for its 'Black-Tie Gala Concert,' the concert was held in the foyer at Gardens International on 26 April.

- On 18 April, Gardens International was promoted in the Limerick Leader, which was in conjunction with the Limerick School of Music Black-Tie Gala Concert.

Other Projects

Progress Update

Mungret Housing

- Phase 1 – 250 Units at Dromdarrig.
- Limerick Twenty Thirty (LTT) submitted all planning documentation for the Section 179a planning process to Limerick City and County Council, as requested.
- Holmes O'Malley Sexton engaged with the Land Development Agency (LDA) on the Design Teamnovation, for the delivery stage of the project. This concluded Limerick Twenty Thirty's role on the Mungret development.

Askeaton and Grove Island Corbally Swimming Pools

Tender for Capital Works at Askeaton Pool and Leisure Centre

- Limerick City and County Council sought Office of Public Works (Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund) approval to proceed to award the contract to the most economically advantageous tenderer. Approval in principle, subject to submission of Final Business Case, has been given by the Office of Public Works.

Tender for Operator for Askeaton and Grove Island Corbally Pool and Leisure Centres

- Following a call for tender for an Operator for both Askeaton and Grove Island Corbally Pool and Leisure Centres, no responses were received. The Executive issued a report outlining the options available to Limerick City and County Council and Askeaton Pool and Leisure DAC to secure an Operator.

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- Limerick City and County Council requested Limerick Twenty Thirty to prepare and publish two separate Expressions of Interest for operators for the Askeaton and Grove Island Facilities.

Expressions of Interest

Speakers Corner and Thomondgate

- LTT involvement concluded.

Other Media Engagement

- Staff at Limerick Twenty Thirty gave a presentation to students and staff from The Honours College at Georgia Southern University. The presentation was given in The Vault at Gardens International.
- Limerick Twenty Thirty promoted the video of the Ballygrennan site on social media.
- The CEO of Limerick Twenty Thirty spoke at the 'Irish Planning Institute Conference.' A photo of this was promoted on Limerick Twenty Thirty social media.



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National and Regional Shared Services Centre Directorate

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

- There were 55,521 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAP SSC at the end of April.
- A weekly average of 166 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2024.
- The April landlord payment run was €53.9 million.
- The weekly tenant charge at the end of April was €3.063 million.
- The Debt Management Unit of the HAP SSC collected a total of €52.06 million in differential rent to end of April.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of April was 96%.
- The Debt Management Unit issued 8,928 HAP debt reminder letters in April.

2. Fire and Emergency

Statistics

	No. of Fire Related Calls	No. of Non-Fire Related Calls	Total
No. of callouts 01.04.2024 – 30.04.2024	83	67	150
% of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call	62%	43%	
% of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call	19%	43%	
% of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call	19%	14%	

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	No. Received/ Assigned	No. Validated/ Acknowledged	No. Invalidated/ Refused	No. Granted	No. Completed
Fire Certificate Applications April	36	33	2	19	19
Disability Access Cert Applications April	17	17	0	15	15
Licensing Applications April	3	5			
Commencement Notice April	110	121	4	0	121
Completion Certificate April	20	17	0	0	17
Planning Referrals April	21				19
Sugar CRM Cases April	8				2

Fire and Emergency Training Events

- 45 Fire Fighters completed their Compartment Fire Behaviour Refresher Training in Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo.
- 25 Fire Fighters completed an Abrasive Wheels Course.
- 25 Fire Fighters attended a two-day Emergency First Responder Refresher Course.
- 25 Fire Fighters completed a one-day Positive Pressure Ventilation Course in Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.
- A number of Senior Officers attended a Critical Incident Stress Management Information Session.
- Building Control Officers attended a HomeBond Right on Site Information Session on Modern Building Techniques.
- Rathkeale Fire Station ran a very successful week-long training course for Transition Year students. This course introduces Transition Year students to some of the key skills of the Fire Service giving them practical hands-on skills, such as manual handling, first aid training, fire extinguisher training, as well as participation in dealing with actual fire service training.

Civil Defence attendance at Events

The following activity took place in April:

- Abbeyfeale Family Fun Run and Walk5K – Medical cover – one day.
- Patient Transfer - Thomondgate, Limerick, to Integrated Care Programme for Older Persons (ICPOP) and returned to residence – one day.
- Patient Transfer – Shanagolden, Co. Limerick, to Integrated Care Programme for Older Persons (ICPOP) and returned to residence – one day.
- Patient Transfer - Murroe, Co. Limerick, to Integrated Care Programme for Older Persons (ICPOP) and returned to residence – one day.
- UHL Hospital Group Cycle – Medical cover – one day.

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Water Safety

No. of Lifebuoy Replacements	January - March	April	Total 2024
Metropolitan District	1	2	3
Municipal Districts	6	0	6

No. of Lifebuoy Sensor Activations	January - March	April	Total 2024
Metropolitan District	15	3	18
Municipal Districts	5	11	16



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Support Services Directorate

1. Finance

Commercial Rates and Loans

Draft Collection Figures

Commercial Rates 2024	
As at 30 April 2024	
Opening Balance - 1 Jan €	4,949,138
Accruals €	64,120,359 **
Vacant Property Adjustment €	209,832
Writes offs/ Waivers €	668,040
Total for Collection €	68,191,625
Amount Collected €	31,225,801
Arrears €	36,965,824
Specific Doubtful Arrears €	1,284,480
% Collected	46.7%

Debtors Loans	
As at 30 April 2024	
Opening Balance - 1 Jan €	295,007
Accruals €	488,108
Writes offs €	-
To Collect €	783,115
Receipts €	664,636
Arrears €	118,479
% Collected	85%

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

Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No. of days in overdraft 0

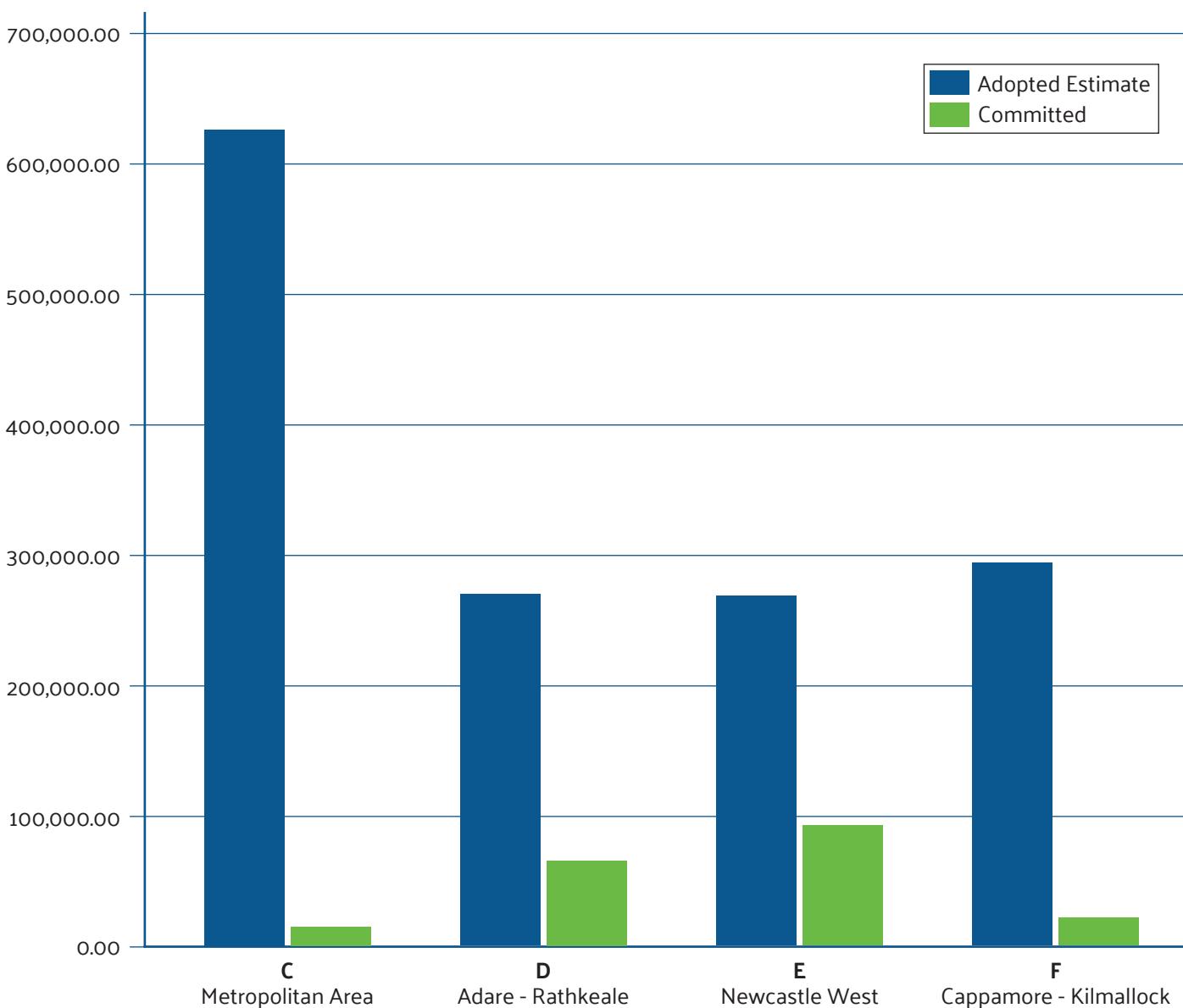
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General Municipal Allocation 2024 Adopted Estimate €1.463 Million

Graph outlining adopted budget and draft committed expenditure up to 30 April 2024



Municip (Code) + (Text)

- C** Metropolitan Area
- D** Adare - Rathkeale
- E** Newcastle West
- F** Cappamore - Kilmallock

Value Adopted Estimate (€)

- 628,000.00
- 269,500.00
- 270,500.00
- 295,000.00
- 1,463,000.00**

Value Committed (€)

- 15,283
- 65,790
- 92,118
- 14,022

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2. Business Improvement

- Stakeholder Meeting was held for the CAPGOV system, which will be replacing Cora, our cloud-based project management system.
- Business Improvement engaged with Environment and Climate Action to launch a MyPoint consultation about the “Draft Discussion Paper to begin the process of drafting the Limerick City and County Council Biodiversity Action Plan 2024/5-2030.”
- Business Improvement aided Regeneration to build two Economic and Social Intervention Fund (ESIF) application forms on MyPoint – “Families and Youth At Risk Call” and “Employability and Work Call.”
- Business Improvement worked with Tourism to launch an application form on MyPoint for “Permission Request Form for Events on Limerick Greenway.”
- Business Improvement updated the Work Sharing Online Form, Parental Leave Online Form and Shorter Working Year Online Form to facilitate a Human Resources improvement.
- A total of 923 active users now live on the Employee App.
- Services on Service Catalogue = 694.
- 485 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:

- Limerick Lawn Tennis Club, in recognition of their contribution to Limerick city sporting life for almost one hundred and fifty years.
- Patrick English, in appreciation of his extensive years of service in various leadership positions within the community, showcasing remarkable dedication and foresight, along with his exceptional commitment to Galtee Gaels and Limerick GAA.
- Anthony O'Donnell, in recognition of his unwavering commitment to the community of St. Mary's Park, Limerick, as an activist and volunteer on various committees working for the betterment of the people of King's Island, Limerick.
- Marguerite Quinn, in recognition of her outstanding achievement representing Ireland at the Blind Sports World Games 2023.
- Alliance Française Limerick, in celebration of their 80th anniversary and in recognition of their promotion of the French language and culture in Limerick since 1944.
- Loïc Guyon, in appreciation and recognition of his contribution, as founder of the Limerick Wild Geese Festival launched in 2019 and as Initiator/Director of the Sarsfield Homecoming Project launched in 2020. Both the festival and project have been facilitated by Alliance Française Limerick since 2023.
- Niall Deegan, James Lundon and Liam O'Brien, in recognition and appreciation of their voluntary contribution to Gaelic Games in Limerick, particularly for their historic book “1973 – Keeping the Dream Alive,” the net profits from which were donated to the Limerick Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) and the Children's Ark Unit at University Hospital Limerick.

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

- Official Opening of Unboxing, an art exhibition by Wilma Vissers, in the Limerick Museum, Old Franciscan Friary, Henry Street, Limerick.
- Limerick GAA, Launch of Fundraiser Win a Home in Adare.
- Launch of Riverfest Limerick 2024.
- Launch of the Gerry McKeon Memorial Sponsored Seven Bridge Charity Walk.
- Launch of the Limerick Road Safety Plan in the Council Chamber, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Visit to Hub Martial Arts at Northside Youth Centre, Kileely House, New Road, Thomondgate, Limerick.
- Shared Island Event - Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and the Department of the Taoiseach's Shared Island Unit, Launch of a report 'Gender and Labour Market Inclusion Report' at the Economic and Social Research Institute, Whitaker Square, Sir John Rogerson Quay, Dublin.
- Visit to the Children's Ark Unit, University Hospital Limerick (UHL), for the official cheque presentation to them from the proceeds of the sale of the book '1973 Keeping the Dream Alive' at Children's Ark Unit, University Hospital Limerick, St. Nesson's Road, Dooradoyle, Limerick.
- Limerick Opera Festival, Festival Launch and Launch of new book 'River Notes - A History of Opera in Limerick, by local historian, Sharon Slater.
- Bus Éireann, Launch of the first electric regional city bus fleet in Limerick at Colbert Station, Limerick.
- Limerick Musical Society's Production 'Oliver' at Lime Tree Theatre, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick.
- Official Opening of Stage 2 of the Mungret Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) Road at Mungret, Limerick.
- Presentation of awards for St. Patrick's Festival at Council Chamber, Dooradoyle, Limerick.
- University of Limerick and An Garda Síochána, Road Safety Reimagined Poster Showcase and LifeSaver Award Ceremony at University Concert Hall, Limerick.
- Tesco Ireland, opening of new store in Watchhouse Shopping Centre, Kileely Road, Limerick.
- Active Travel, official launch of the Childers Road Active Travel Scheme at Our Lady of Lourdes National School, Rosbrien, Limerick.
- Irish Blood Transfusion Service, Donor Awards Ceremony.
- Final of the Con and Annie Kirby Memorial Stake at Limerick Greyhound Stadium, Greenpark, Dock Road, Limerick.
- Limerick Choral Union (LCU) - Choral Concert, the Verdi 'Requiem' at University Concert Hall, Limerick.
- TUS Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest, Scholarship Awards Ceremony at TUS, Moylish Campus, Limerick.
- Limerick GAA Health and Wellbeing, presentation of health and wellbeing information boards to GAA Clubs.
- Welcome delegation from the Royal Commission for Riyadh City in Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- The Ireland - U.S. Council Spring Corporate Lunch at InterContinental Hotel, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.
- Limerick Person of the Year Gala Awards.

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- Bedford Row Family Project, Celebration of 25 years supporting families affected by imprisonment and addiction in Limerick at Bedford Row Family Project, Lower Bedford Row, Limerick.
- All-Ireland Business Foundation (AIBF), Munster Entrepreneurs Gathering.
- Official opening of new TUS Coonagh Campus in Coonagh.
- Limerick School of Music, Gala Concert at Gardens International, Henry Street, Limerick.
- Irish League of Credit Unions AGM at University Concert Hall, Limerick.
- Mass to celebrate the 200th anniversary of St. Mary's Church in Athlunkard Street, Limerick.
- Munster Senior Hurling Championship, Limerick v Tipperary at TUS Gaelic Grounds, Ennis Road, Limerick.
- Launch of Age Friendly Strategy 2024-2028.
- Team Limerick Clean-Up, Thank You Dinner.
- National Competitiveness and Productivity Council (NCPC) Event in Limerick, "Discuss Competitiveness in Limerick" at University of Limerick, Limerick.
- Photoshoot with Members of Curragower Boat Club at Curragower Boat Club, Merchant's Quay, 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 April:

New Procurement References set up	59
Procurement References extended as per signed contract/arrangement	18

The Unit continued to work with staff of all Departments to ensure procurement to pay cycle was adhered to within the Council through the validation of all requisitions for approval or rejection via the Requisitions Oversight Unit.

Requisitions Oversight Unit

The Requisitions Oversight Unit staff validate all requisitions raised across the entire Council and the Unit provides a segregation of duties to avoid any potential conflict of interest. The following statistics applied for April:

Month	Approved	Rejected	Total Requisitions Actioned
April	1,570	235	1,805

- Approved requisitions accounted for 87% of the total requisitions actioned for this given month.
- Rejected requisitions accounted for 13% of the total requisitions actioned for this given month.

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

Rejection Reason	April
Memo Requisition not raised in advance – omitted/insufficient detail	65
Procurement Reference omitted/incorrect	43
Quotes – omitted/incorrect copy provided	26
Justification for Supplier Selection – omitted/insufficient detail	20
Award Notice – omitted/incorrect copy provided	19

Register of Electors

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

- Additions to the Electoral Register – 2,979.
- Deletions from the Electoral Register – 1,386.
- Modifications to the Electoral Register – 3,226.
- 1,900 requests were received online for adding or 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
Basic Surface Dressing	12
CSCS (Construction Skills Certification Scheme) Slinger Signaller	4
First Aid	11
Landscaping Combi	6
Pole Saw	6
Safe Pass	5
Safety Statement Briefing	9
Total Staff Trained	53

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Schedule of Meetings for April

Name of Meeting	Date	Location
Operational Briefings		
Limerick City East	02/04/2024	Merchant's Quay and Online
Limerick City North	02/04/2024	Merchant's Quay and Online
Limerick City West	03/04/2024	Merchant's Quay and Online
Municipal District of		
Newcastle West		
Monthly Meeting	03/04/2024	Newcastle West and Online
Adare-Rathkeale		
Special Meeting	08/04/2024	Rathkeale and Online
Monthly Meeting	09/04/2024	Rathkeale and Online
Cappamore-Kilmallock		
Joint Policing Sub-Committee Meeting	18/04/2024	Kilmallock
Monthly Meeting	18/04/2024	Kilmallock
Metropolitan District of Limerick		
Monthly Meeting	15/04/2024	Merchant's Quay and Online
Strategic Policy Committee Meetings		
Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment	09/04/2024	Dooradoyle and Online
Community, Leisure and Culture	10/04/2024	Dooradoyle and Online
Home and Social Development	11/04/2024	Dooradoyle and Online
Travel and Transportation	23/04/2024	Merchant's Quay and Online
Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning	30/04/2024	Dooradoyle and Online
Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Meeting	02/04/2024	Dooradoyle and Online
Discover Limerick DAC		
AGM	16/04/2024	Merchant's Quay
Meeting	16/04/2024	Merchant's Quay
Joint Policing Committee Meeting	26/04/2024	Dooradoyle and Online

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Access to Information

	April	2024 (January to April)
Total Freedom of Information Requests	25	96
Freedom of Information Internal Appeals	1	6
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	0
Total Ombudsman Requests	2	15
Total Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) Requests	6	12

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 April:

- Customer Services Call Centre answered 11,417 calls. This represents an average of 543 per day, with the number of calls reaching as high as 677. 72% of calls were handled at first point of contact.
- A total of 4,547 emails were processed through the Customer Services email platform.
- 3,574 cases were created, with 1,162 of these logged on behalf of Public Representatives.

3,149 cases were closed, with 969 of these being cases logged by Public Representatives.

- Of these 3,574 cases, Customer Services staff logged 73% of same.
- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued, with a total of 357 cases being logged. Of these, 324 were submitted by Public Representatives.
- Customer Services continued to support the Housing Maintenance Department in creating service requests and, throughout the month, 94% of housing maintenance cases for the Limerick Metropolitan District were logged by Customer Services staff in the Dooradoyle and Merchant's Quay offices.
- A total of 134 out-of-hours cases were created.
- Customer Services continued to provide other frontline services to the general public, such as processing applications for Residential Parking Permits, of which 118 were applied for and 83 issued.
- Customer Services staff welcomed a total of 2,545 customers at both the Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle offices.

4. Marketing & Communications

Marketing

Riverfest Limerick

- Launched Riverfest Limerick 2024 marketing campaign at an in-person event on 08 April 2024.
- Developed a suite of digital and social media marketing assets, video content and print and radio advertisements for rollout throughout the multimedia campaign.
- Created a comprehensive print and digital event guide showcasing both flagship and fringe events. Five thousand print copies were distributed to businesses throughout the city and county.

Chief Executive's Report



Comhairle Cathrach
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- Constructed a dedicated festival campaign hub on www.Limerick.ie/Riverfest
- Extensive promotion across local and regional media platforms – Limerick Leader, Limerick Post, Live 95, Spin Southwest and Ireland's Classic Hits, including traditional, social and digital coverage across all platforms.
- Created promotional content for a digital billboard on the approach to the city.
- Coordinated three social media competitions to increase engagement, heighten awareness and promote events and local businesses.
- Created a schedule of publicity pieces to gain additional coverage through sponsored content.
- Engaged content creators to promote the campaign to wider audiences across their social media channels: [Sinead O'Brien](#), [Sarah Neville](#), and [Eoin Sheehan](#).
- Created festival merchandise for further promotion.
- Commissioned festival photography and videography for future promotion.

Other Marketing Activity

- Produced Limerick on Foot 2024 campaign report detailing a performance overview of marketing and PR activities throughout the four-week multimedia marketing campaign. The initiative recently won the Health and Wellbeing Award at Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards. Topline figures include: **Reach:** 759,935 | **Video Views:** 787,590 | **Impressions:** 498,229 | **Hashtag Reach:** 156,000.
- Work continued apace in preparation for the summer tourism campaign to run over four weeks, including content creation, collaboration with local stakeholders and media buying for same.
- Commissioned updates to the Limerick Tourism video with new still photography also created.

- Work continued on Invest Limerick collateral creation.
- Provided branded merchandise to Active Travel and to Mary Immaculate College.

Social Media

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

Limerick.ie Facebook: 34,976

Limerick.ie X: 21,540

Limerick.ie Instagram: 30,813

Limerick.ie TikTok: 1,139

Limerick City and County Council X: 18,487

Limerick City and County Council LinkedIn: 12,229

Limerick City and County Council Instagram: 318

Limerick.ie

In April, there were 206,897* unique site visits to Limerick.ie, a 13% decrease on the same period in 2023. (*Fathom Analytics)

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

- www.limerick.ie/riverfest
- www.limerick.ie
- www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-placemaking/search-for-a-planning-application/search-for-a-planning
- www.limerick.ie/discover/whats-on/kids-family-fun/pegase-parade
- www.limerick.ie/council

Content Report: 93 articles and 149 events were added to Limerick.ie in April.

Chief Executive's Report



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Communications

- Issued 13 news releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and researched and wrote 18 speeches for the Office of the Mayor.
- Posted 130 times on Limerick City and County Council's [X](#) account, @limerickcouncil, with total followers now 18,487. Our tweets earned 101,400 impressions (number of times users saw our post).
- Handled all media queries, which come into communications@limerick.ie and continued to offer Communication support to all Directorates of Limerick City and County Council.

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 April
No. of callouts 01.04.2024 - 30.04.2024	988	194	99	1,182

