

Chief Executive's Report

May 2024

THRIVE Funding to Revitalise Properties in Newcastle West and King's Island

Over 6,000 Additions to Limerick's Electoral Register in the Month

More than 130,000 Enjoy Riverfest Events as Giant Pegasus Leads the Charge

SmARTivism Project Explores Creation of Public Spaces in Limerick for Civic, Cultural and Artistic Engagement

Tourism Campaign Injects a Different Kind of Energy into Summer in Limerick

Place Race 2024 Conference in Limerick Considers Key Challenges for Public Bodies

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Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism Directorate

1. Trade and Investment

Limerick-based AI (Artificial Intelligence) start-up, Mavarick, raised €1.3 million in funding to help support its plans for international expansion. Based at the ENGINE Building, Cecil Street, Limerick, the software company helps manufacturers become more sustainable and efficient by tracking sustainability through their operations, predominantly focusing on carbon and energy.

Supported by Limerick City and County Council, the European Young Engineers (EYE) annual conference was held in Limerick in May. The event in Limerick coincided with the 30th anniversary of EYE, which is an international not-for-profit group representing around half a million young engineers from 20 European nations.

“Q-PARK has announced the opening of its newly revamped Cornmarket Square Car Park in Limerick City Centre, marking the third addition to its Limerick portfolio. The Cornmarket Square Car Park was acquired by Q-Park in 2023 after 18 months of closure and underwent extensive refurbishment. The parking facility caters for seven electric vehicle charging points.

Recent City Centre Retail Openings

- SOS Cookies opened a new store in the Limerick Milk Market.
- The Trading Post, a gaming and hobby shop, opened a new store at 103, High Street, Limerick.

Night Time Economy

- Following a call out for applications, a Culture Night Late proposal has been developed for the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to seek funding of €15,000 for three separate late night events. This funding is available for Night Time Economy (NTE) pilot location (in addition to general funding to the Arts Office).

- The Family Sunset Cycle took place on 17 May, which was an initial NTE-supported event in collaboration with Active Travel, Limerick Sports Partnership (Active Cities) and An Garda Síochána. Participation numbers exceeded expectations and the event was successful in realising that community members will participate in evening activities which are not alcohol related.
- Karen Thompson Consulting Ltd. has been appointed to support Limerick City and County Council for the production of a Night Time Economy Action Plan.

2. Digital Services

The National Disability Authority (NDA) completed Ireland's first monitoring report under the EU Web Accessibility Directive for the monitoring period 2018-2021. Digital Services Department has been working to ensure Limerick.ie and mobile apps comply with AA WCAG (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines) 2.1 (equivalent to EN 301 549).

We have now reached a 93.66% compliance level (which is broadly equivalent to Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1 AA standard) from a low compliance score of 21% last year. We are committed to continually improving the user experience for everyone and adhering to the required accessibility standards.

EU Programmes

LIVING-IN-EU EU PROJECT

Limerick City and County Council was recently successful in securing EU funding for consultancy services to develop a 'Digital Roadmap' for Limerick City and County. This EU funding stream is being administered through LIVING-IN-EU. The project is currently at its infancy stage of consultancy engagement in regard to developing this 'Digital Roadmap.' Through the Digital Europe Programme, the European Commission has launched a collaborative

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effort to accelerate digital maturity, with a particular focus on cities and communities that are less digitally ready for digital transformation. These services aim to foster the adoption of local digital twins and other digital solutions across rural and urban areas, ensuring that technology is accessible to all.

SmARTivism EU Project

Limerick City and County Council is partnering with the University of Limerick (UL). This EU Project is about research to better understand how to create public spaces that are positive for civic, cultural and artistic engagement. Research has shown globally that citizens who engage in cultural and artistic activities are typically more engaged in civic and political activities and more generally engaged in democratic life.

SmARTivism is about assessing how to create socially positive, culturally rich and inclusive spaces. EU and global research confirms that education is key to civic engagement generally but marginalised groups may require more context-specific forms of culture and art to develop the same sense of civic and cultural engagement and ownership. Working directly with Limerick City and County Council, UL can strategically assess where they could create new spaces by working with communities to create visions of possible future spaces through art and working with artists.

UL has allocated €66,000 to Limerick City and County Council to work with SmARTivism over the three years of the project with the most engagement in Years 2 and 3 collaborating with focus groups, communities and art workshops and facilitating spaces where the participants can share their art works.

EMERGE EU PROJECT

Limerick City and County Council is also a participant in an Erasmus + EU Project in collaboration with UL. The project entitled EMERGE is a European/University Alliance initiative. UL is hoping to be the Lead Partner with eight other Universities from around Europe. The initiative is being supported by the Irish Government and EU Commission. Seed funding of €20 million is being made

available. UL, if successful in the application process, will receive more funding than the other universities as it would be the Lead Partner.

One of the main aims of the programme is around the themes of social challenges/migration/empowering people and tapping into intercultural skills, leading to pathways to university both for historical and recently marginalised communities. UL is now embarking on Mission 3 which is around the theme of Community Service, where it strives to become a university which is community embedded, giving an educational pathway and access to all communities. To achieve this, the University needs to engage with all our communities, particularly our marginalised society, to provide the opportunities for lifelong learning for all.

THRIVE - Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme - ERDF

Limerick City and County Council was recently successful in securing nearly €400,000 funding under the New THRIVE scheme, co-funded by the European Union and Government of Ireland.

This funding was awarded under Ireland's two European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Regional Programmes. THRIVE was developed by the Southern Regional Assembly and the Northern and Western Regional Assembly, working in close partnership with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. It aims to allow Local Authorities and citizens to reimagine and revitalise town centres through the renovation and reuse of publicly owned vacant or derelict heritage buildings. Funding has been provided for two projects in Newcastle West and King's Island.

The EU Programmes Department continues to support our Departments interested in participating in EU-funded projects across the entire Local Authority, whilst also collaborating with various stakeholders locally and internationally to pursue opportunities to support the Local Authority in achieving its objectives. We are currently looking at other exciting opportunities for other EU-funded projects under Horizon Europe/InterReg/ESPON and URBACT EU Programmes for 2024/2025.

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3. Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Limerick

On 08 May, the Student Enterprise Programme, National Awards, took place in the Mullingar Park Hotel, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, which was the first time the national final had taken place outside of Dublin in a number of years. Limerick was proudly represented by the students of Desmond College, Newcastle West (Senior category), Coláiste Chiaráin, Croom (Intermediate category) and Gaelcoláiste Uí Chonbá, Newcastle West (Junior category).

The National Enterprise Awards, National Final returned to the Round Room of Dublin's Mansion House on 23 May, with teams competing from each of the 31 Local Enterprise Offices around the country. Limerick was proudly represented by Monarú, high spec, bespoke furniture designer and manufacturer located at Watch House Cross.

The Management Development programme, one of LEO Limerick's premier programmes for business owners and managers, concluded its 15-week intensive programme on 08 May. Businesses from all across Limerick City and County participated in this programme which provides meaningful and practical guidance on how to further develop and enhance and existing enterprise.

On 15 May, the Government announced a further suite of supports for small and medium sized enterprise. Some of the supports announced by the Government being rolled out to SMEs in Limerick, directly by LEO Limerick, include:

- Increasing the maximum amount available under the Energy Efficiency Grant Scheme from €5,000 to €10,000 and reducing the business contribution rate from 50% to 25%.
- Widening the eligibility for the Trading Online Voucher, extending it to all sectors up to 50 employees (currently up to 10), modernise eligible expenditure and doubling the grant to €5,000.
- Increasing the lending limit for Microfinance Ireland loans to €50,000 from €25,000.
- Widening the eligibility for the Digital for Business Consultancy Scheme and extending it to all sectors with up to 50 employees – currently only open to enterprises engaged in manufacturing or internationally traded services.
- Launching a new 'Ireland's Best Entrepreneur Programme' to encourage entrepreneurship and start-ups in under-represented groups.

4. Tourism

Tourism General

Articles by Live 95 and The Irish Independent on 12 May and ilovelimerick.ie, The Weekly Observer, The Vale Star and Limerick Post on 14, 15 and 18 May, as well as the Limerick Leader on 16 May, following the announcement by the Department of Rural and Community Development of almost €4 million in Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) funding for the refurbishment of the historic Fuller's Folly building and courtyard in Newcastle West.

Limerick Greenway

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

- Kilcolman Rovers Walk fundraising event from Fenit to Rathkeale from 04 to 07 May.
- Article in Limerick Post on 07 May reporting that Limerick City and County Council, in partnership with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), are reviewing options to connect the existing Limerick Greenway at Rathkeale to the Active Travel network in Limerick City.
- Article by Live 95 on 10 May promoting Limerick Greenway as the ideal location to visit and cycle to celebrate National Bike Week.

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- Articles by Live 95 on 13 May and radio coverage on 14 May and articles by RTÉ; The Irish Independent; Limerick Post; The Vale Star; The Mallow Star; The Weekly Observer; farmersjournal.ie; constructionireland.ie; agriland.ie and ilovelimerick.ie on 13, 14, 15, 16 and 18 May, as well as the Limerick Leader on 16 May, following the announcement by the Department of Rural and Community Development of almost €10 million in Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) funding for Limerick Greenway Hubs Development Project.
- National Bike Week from 11 to 19 May with Bike Repair/Bike Safety events held on Limerick Greenway at Barnagh Greenway Hub on 18 May and on Castletroy Greenway, in partnership with Travel and Transport Strategy Department, on 19 May.
- Article in the Weekly Observer on 29 May promoting the new Glamping Pod added to the two other pods at Greenway Glamping in Templeglantine.
- Article in the Irish Independent on 31 May promoting Limerick Greenway as part of an overall article on Kingdom of Kerry Greenways.
- A post ahead of Darkness into Light 2024, which took place on 11 May, specifically the Newcastle West Darkness into Light event and including the starting location and time.
- Some posts highlighting how accessibility-friendly and mobility-friendly Limerick Greenway is, as well as including details on toiletry services along the route, making Limerick Greenway ideal for a family day out.
- A post encouraging Limerick Greenway users to do Limerick Greenway their way and to share their experiences by tagging the Facebook and Instagram pages and their experiences would be reshared on the pages.
- A post for World Bee Day, on 20 May, enticing Limerick Greenway users to explore and find the five different bumblebee species that call Limerick Greenway their home between Newcastle West and Barnagh.
- Resharing of posts for National Bike Week by local businesses and charities who collaborated with Limerick Greenway team.

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

- A post highlighting the opening hours of Limerick Greenway carparks for the month of May on 01 May.
- A post encouraging the public to visit Limerick and make it a three-day or four-day trip on the May Bank Holiday weekend for the 20th anniversary of Riverfest.
- Posts on Hub/Town Spotlights for May which included Desmond Castle and Banqueting Hall, Newcastle West; Fitzgerald's Farmhouse and Equestrian Centre, Abbotfeale; and Castle Demesne Park, Newcastle West.
- Posts ahead of National Bike Week, which ran from 11 - 19 May, encouraging users to get out and experience Limerick Greenway on their bikes and also noting that Limerick Greenway is part of the EuroVelo, the European Cycle Route Network.

Limerick Greenway Statistics

Social Media Statistics

Statistics for Limerick Greenway socials 01/05/2024 – 31/05/2024

| | Facebook | Instagram |
|--------------------|----------|-----------|
| Reach | 81,100 | 16,100 |
| Profile Visits | 1,500 | 585 |
| New Page Followers | 64 | 224 |

Social Media Ads (Facebook and Instagram advertising statistics combined)

Accounts reached: 38,323
Post Engagements: 1,182
Link clicks: 740

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Google Ads

01/05/2024 - 31/05/2024

| | |
|-------------|--------|
| Impressions | 16,900 |
| Ad Clicks | 2,370 |

TOURISM INDUSTRY TRADE EVENTS

- Staff of Limerick Greenway Section of the Tourism Department attended Trishaw Training on 01 May, provided by Limerick Sports Partnership at Barnagh Greenway Hub.
- Staff of the Tourism Department of Limerick City and County Council attended the Champions Programme - Wild Atlantic Way Workshop in The People's Museum of Limerick on 23 May.

FESTIVAL AND EVENTS

Riverfest

The 20th Riverfest took place over 03 - 06 May and kicked off with the Pegasus Parade, a Giant Silver-winged Horse standing eight metres high, accompanied by acrobats and street performers. It took to the Limerick streets on the Friday night with its unique performance. Riverfest saw over 133,000 people attending numerous events within Limerick City. Centre of Riverfest was the Riverfestival Village, located next to the River Shannon, which had Live Music, Artisan Food, Fabulous Crafts and Street Performers.

For the thrill seekers, a Zip Line over the River Shannon was an exhilarating experience.

There was a wide variety of other events for people such as Fashionfest, which showcased Limerick's talented designers; The National All Ireland BBQ Competition; and The Riverfest Street Party which took place in partnership with Red Bull on Howley's Quay creating a party atmosphere on the streets of Limerick, as well as many more events.

The Riverfest Spectacular Fireworks Display took place on the Sunday night bringing the festival to a close.

Great Limerick Run

The Great Limerick run took place on 05 May, during the Riverfest weekend. Over 17,000 runners and walkers took to the streets of Limerick and ran the Marathon, half-Marathon or 10km, adding a vibrant atmosphere to the City from Sunday morning.

Red Bull Drift Pursuit

In a first for Limerick and Ireland, Red Bull brought a new hybrid designed drift course to Limerick City. The hybrid course was specifically designed and trialed in Limerick and proved an outstanding success. This event received significant support from Limerick City and County Council Festivals and Events. The Red Bull Drift Pursuit took place on 18 and 19 May. The motorsport event saw some of the best drifters in Europe challenge their skills of speed, accuracy and control in a compact course at Limerick's Greyhound Track. 7,000 people enjoyed the two sold-out shows. Reigning Drift Masters European Championship winner, Conor Shanahan, demonstrated why he is one of the best drivers in the world. The Inaugural Title was won by Cork man, Alan Hayes.

The Limerick Opera Festival

The annual event took place from 04 to 25 May. There were numerous events throughout the month. The On-Street Arias took place on the Saturday of Riverfest at Colbert Station; International Rugby Experience; Arthur's Quay Shopping Centre; and Lower Thomas Street. A lecture took place on 16 May on the life of Catherine Hayes, world famous Irish Soprano, at Laurel Hill School. The final Event was on 25 May at St. Mary's Cathedral, a Catherine Hayes tribute Concert, with Soprano, Amy Hewitt, and pianist, Irina Dernova. Earlier that day, local Historian, Sharon Slater, did an informative historical walk on the history of opera in Limerick.

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Fleadh By the Feale 2024

The Annual Traditional Music Festival, celebrating its 30th anniversary, took place over the May Bank Holiday weekend from 03 - 06 May in the historic Market Town of Abbeyfeale. Various local venues held music sessions throughout the weekend with musicians coming from near and far. Friday saw the beginning of the festival with Tour na Fola and Athea Wren Groups performing in the town centre, followed by a Céilí at Fr. Casey's GAA Club. Saturday saw numerous workshops take place, a family fun day and Traditional music session in the town square and Celtic Steps, a spectacular Irish Music, Song and Dance Show performed at Coláiste Ide agus Iosef to a sold-out crowd. Sunday saw the All-Ireland Bones Competition take place and numerous music sessions spread across the town showcasing Traditional Irish Music talent from Limerick and across Ireland.

Festivals and Events Grants Scheme 2024/2025

The recommendations for Festivals and Events funding for the Limerick City and County Council Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2024/2025 went before the Full Council at the May Meeting. The following recommendations from the Assessment Panel were approved:

Recommendations: Strand 1: Funds Available €33,000

- 27 applications were considered under this strand with a total ask of €170,050.
- The assessment panel recommended the allocation of funding to 12 successful applicants totalling €33,000.

Recommendations: Strand 2: Fund available €170,500

- 18 applications were considered under this strand with a total ask of €367,209.97.
- The assessment panel recommended the allocation of funding to 15 successful applicants totalling €170,500.

Recommendations: Strand 3: Fund Available €4,500

This award is intended to support a step change in the festival's ambition and delivery.

- 15 applications were received with a total ask of €62,950.
- The assessment panel recommended the allocation of funding to two successful applicants totalling €4,500.

5. Innovate Limerick DAC

02 May: Head of Innovate represented Innovate Limerick at the HealthTech Ireland Symposium in Dublin.

14 May: The Rinnovalleys EU project delegation, coordinated by the Community Enterprise Association Ireland, was hosted at the ENGINE for Day 1 of their visit, with welcome speech and presentations provided by the Innovate Limerick team.

24 May: Head of Innovate represented Innovate Limerick at the .ie Digital Town Awards in Athlone, Co. Westmeath, where Innovate Limerick won the runner-up prize in the Digital Business Category.

Film in Limerick

Limerick Film Groups in the Frame at Cannes Film Festival

Two Limerick film projects were recognised for their work developing the film sector in the region, with nominations at the prestigious Global Production Awards that took place at the Cannes Film Festival in May.

The awards celebrate outstanding and sustainable work in the world of film and TV production, locations and studios. Film in Limerick was nominated in the City of Film Category and fellow Limerick film group, Fresh Film Festival, was nominated and won the award in the Community Impact category for outstanding work in developing next generation film talent, both locally and nationally.

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This is the second time that Film in Limerick has been nominated at the Global Production Awards.

Film in Limerick at Marché du Film

Film in Limerick also attended the Marché du Film (film market) at the Festival de Cannes. Putting the spotlight on the Mid-West of Ireland as a Film/TV Location, the regional film manager promoted the region, with a packed schedule of meetings, panels, presentations, talks and receptions.

Local Films and Filmmakers celebrated in Berlin

A partnership between Film in Limerick and Irish Film Berlin Festival saw a focus on films made in the region at the festival in Berlin in May. Irish Film Berlin screened a programme of local shorts that were commissioned by Film in Limerick through their Engine Shorts initiative and invited filmmakers to Berlin to present their films. Nine local filmmakers travelled to Berlin, supported by the festival, to network with other film industry representatives in the city.

Film Work Placements

Film in Limerick and the National Talent Academies arranged three on-set placements on feature film 'Whitetail' in May. The placements were in the production office, art department and assistant director roles and the placements ran for three weeks. Two further work placements were also arranged on the film set of 'Mayfair Witches,' in the video assist department and props department, and these placements also ran for three weeks. Participants were required to set goals, learn new skills and keep a journal during the placement. Participants received a level 6 QQI 10 credit certificate on completion.

Film/TV Job Share Workshop

Film in Limerick and the National Talent Academies, in partnership with Screen Producers Ireland, Screen Guilds Ireland, and Reeltime Media, ran a Film and TV Job Share Workshop in May. A series of panels, workshops and

pairing interviews were delivered to discuss opportunities for the film industry to review roles where job share may be suitable. The workshop was online and in-person, with producers from major companies attending.

Production Support

Production support and locations services were arranged for five companies in May, scouting for future feature production and TV series, and further support was offered for several television programme features.

6. Discover Limerick DAC

Events

A networking reception was held in King John's Castle on the evening of 15 May.

Concerts

Two sold-out concerts took place in King John's Castle during the Riverfest weekend with artists, Qween and Moncrieff, both receiving positive feedback online via our social media channels. These concerts act as a vehicle for opening up the castle to a wider target audience that might not necessarily visit the castle. They generate increased exposure for the castle and enable us to expand our customer reach, hence they are an important element of the castle's Summer programme of events.

Lough Gur held a Bealtaine Festival over the May Bank Holiday, with events such as yoga, healing workshops and a scavenger hunt for children. There was something to appeal to all ages.



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Transportation and Mobility Directorate

1. Travel and Transport Strategy

Compulsory Purchase Order 2021 for Dock Road Improvement Scheme

- Upgrade of Atlas Avenue and Courtback Avenue Junction - An order was made by An Bord Pleanála determining the Compulsory Purchase Order.

National Bike Week - 11 to 19 May

- A family bike ride was held along the UL to City Centre riverbank on 12 May. Families started their cycle from the UL Boathouse and enjoyed an ice-cream in O'Brien Park before returning.
- Over 100 cyclists participated in a Sunset City Cycle on 17 May. The event was organised by Limerick City and County Council in collaboration with Limerick Sports Partnership and Limerick Cycling Campaign. The cycle started at King John's Castle and followed the iconic Three Bridges route. Free bikes were provided for adults and children. Following the cycle, everyone returned to Nicholas Street and enjoyed an ice-cream.
- On 18 May, a bike maintenance workshop was held on the Limerick Greenway at Barnagh Hub where people of all ages learned about how to keep their bikes in top condition. On 19 May, a bike maintenance workshop was held on the Castletroy Urban Greenway.
- A family bike ride and fun day was held in Limerick City on 19 May to mark the end of National Bike Week. A parade of almost one hundred cyclists took to the streets of Limerick. Cyclists left Arthur's Quay Park for a 4km Three Bridges loop route that took in King John's Castle, Thomond Bridge, Clancy Strand, O'Callaghan Strand and Shannon Bridge. Along with the bike parade, the crowds also enjoyed an afternoon of entertainment in the park with music and face painters. Gardaí from Henry Street Garda Station were on hand on the day to provide information on safe cycling. A

bike mechanic was also on hand to provide free bike checks and minor repairs before and after the bike ride.

- Schools around Limerick had the opportunity to apply for funding support to run bicycle-related events throughout the city and county. A variety of events and promotions with staff and students were held, including cycle to school days, bike parades, cycle skills sessions, bling your bike competitions.
- A number of workplaces in Limerick got involved in Bike Week by holding cycling promotions.
- A number of inclusive cycle events were also held throughout the week with various groups from around Limerick.

Adare Transport Plan

Limerick City and County Council has commenced the preparation of a Transport Plan for Adare. The strategic aim of the Transport Plan is to provide for the planning and delivery of transport infrastructure and place making in the village. Limerick City and County Council has published an online survey for local residents and business owners to share their views. The findings from this survey will help inform the development of the transport plan.

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2. Active Travel

Projects on Site

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

Mill Road, Corbally, Limerick: Works continued to progress on site.

Father Russell Road, Raheen, Limerick: Cycle kerbing completed.

Rósmor, Old Cork Road, Limerick: Earth works continued for new pavement construction.

Laurel Hill Avenue, South Circular Road, Limerick: Works substantially completed.

Childers Road (Greenpark to Roxboro Road Roundabout), Limerick: Contract works now substantially completed. Snagging continued.

Other Projects

St. Patrick's Road, Singland, Limerick: Section 38 report completed, detailed design underway.

Ballysimon Road, Singland, Limerick: Draft options report completed.

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

Le Chéile and Our Lady Queen of Peace National Schools, Roxboro Road, Limerick: Planter installation and planting completed at both schools. Natural play area at Le Chéile National School completed.

Bike Parking: Preferred layouts for Cornmarket Row and Cruises Street car parks being reviewed.



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Rural, Community and Culture Development Directorate

1. Community Development

- Funding secured under the THRIVE funding scheme to develop an Integrated Urban Strategy for Newcastle West. The scheme has been co-designed by the Regional Assemblies and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. THRIVE is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union. The scheme promotes a citizen-centred community-led approach to planning, design and project selection under the Town Centre First framework. Funding of €199,115 has been secured to deliver an Integrated Urban Strategy.
- Funding secured from the Department of Rural and Community Development to support the development of Town Teams in Newcastle West, Kilmallock and Askeaton, under the Town Centre Suite of Supports 2024.
- Funding secured to deliver a County Outdoor Recreation Strategy for Limerick from the Department of Rural and Community Development in conjunction with all relevant stakeholders.

Local Community Development Committee

- A meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was held on 07 May.
- Presentations were given on the SICAP 2024 where Annual Plans were approved, the Children and Young People's Service Committee/LCDC Local Area Child Poverty Action Plan Pilot Scheme Funding Application process, the Local Economic and Community Plan and the Community Recognition Fund 2024.

SICAP (Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme)

- The new SICAP Programme, funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the European Union, was updated in May with Limerick receiving €2,979,113 for 2024.
- The SICAP Sub-Committee, in conjunction with the Local Development Companies, agreed the Local Priority Target Group (LPTG) targets and percentages for the three Limerick LOTS at the May LCDC meeting, along with the Local Priority Target Group Templates for Limerick.

Public Participation Network (PPN)

- Membership of PPN Limerick continued to grow and stands at 219 as at end of May 2024. 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 May.
- The PPN, in partnership with the University of Limerick, Cormhairle na nÓg and Limerick Community Education Network, hosted a Citizens' Assembly on 02 May. The attendees at this Assembly voted for three of nine projects developed and presented by UL academics to receive funding. All the projects were required to address a Sustainable Development Goal and have a community engagement component of project delivery.

Integration Supports

- A Migrant Election Information Event was held on 15 May in collaboration with Limerick Migrant Integration Forum. Eligibility, Registration and Proportional Representation were explained to all present.

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EU INTEgreat Project

- Partners from Italy, Spain, Greece and Cyprus visited Limerick for local activity close-off meeting and Executive Board meeting held on 29 May in the Council Chamber, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Partners had the opportunity to observe Migrant Integration Steering Group meeting held on 30 May and meet with representation from the Limerick Migrant Integration Forum.

Africa Day

- The Africa Day Limerick celebration took place on 26 May at the Milk Market where people came together to enjoy a celebration of the diversity of African culture and heritage. This year, the event was organised by Limerick Migrant Integration Forum with support from Limerick City and County Council.
- The event was free-of-charge and celebrated African cultures and the positive impact of the African diaspora in Ireland. Guest performances by the Ukrainian, Indian and Mexican Community showed cooperation and support of all migrant communities in Limerick's celebration of this special day.
- Visitors could witness collaboration and infusion of cultural diversity, glamour, colour, culture, tradition, dance, music, food, Gospel music, choreography, African indigenous arts and craft, traditional food display, drumming, poetry, fashion show, interactive sessions, presentations, kiddies corner, and many more.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Move Well

- MoveWell Breathe Well:** Delivered by Carmell Demello at Moyross Community Centre, in partnership with COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) Support Ireland, on 13, 20 and 27 May.

- Aqua Move for Breast Cancer:** Weekly sessions held at St. Gabriel's Hydrotherapy Pool on 02, 09, 16, 23 and 30 May.
- Aqua Move for Chronic Pain and Arthritis:** Sessions held at St. Gabriel's Hydrotherapy Pool on 02, 09, 16, 23 and 30 May.
- Activator Walking for Neuro Conditions:** Sessions held at Southill Community Hub on 01, 08, 15 and 22 May.

Limerick Growing Communities

- Garden Festival Launch:** took place on 17 May in Limerick Milk Market.
- Drug and Gardening Workshops:** continued across Sláintecare Healthy Community areas. Christine Boland delivered workshop in The Alms Houses on 01 May.
- Community Garden Development:** Infrastructure developed in 10 community gardens, including a new garden in Garryowen. Support provided to existing gardens with funding for equipment and supplies (tools, seeds, raised beds, etc.) across the month of May.
- Open Day:** held on 21 May with over 50 participants, showcasing five community gardens and developments funded under Sláintecare Healthy Communities.

Venture Out

- Theatre Trip:** on 15 May, 25 people attended a show by the Ballynanty Drama Group at the Belltable arts centre.
- Men's Wellbeing Day:** took place on 23 May on the Greenway, offering walking and cycling activities.
- Singing Workshop:** conducted on 23 May at King's Island for people with COPD, with plans for a six-week programme rollout.

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Healthy Relationships

- **Workshop Pilot:** following a literature review and workshop design, three of the seven workshops were piloted across the month of May with three groups at Southill Hub.

Bin Waivers Scheme

- **Applications:** The Household Waste Collection Subsidy Scheme applications continued to be assessed during May. Out of the total applications 4,172 received, 3,880 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 was in progress.

Community Playgrounds

- 19 community playgrounds were availing of the Scheme of Assistance for Community Playgrounds. During May, Q2 Inspection Reports were completed.

IPB Pride of Place Competition

- Limerick City and County Council evaluated Expression of Interest received from community groups interested in being nominated in this year's All-Island IPB Pride of Place Competition.

Age Friendly

Property Marking Machine

Age Friendly Limerick facilitated An Garda Síochána's Community Engagement initiative at the Dromcollogher Harvest Fair and Vintage Rally on 19 May. Our Property Marking Machine was heavily utilised on the day.

National Older People's Council Convention, Kilkenny

This year's theme was 'Ageing with Independence.' The convention addressed technological challenges faced by Older people. Up to 200 people from across Ireland

gathered for the convention giving them an opportunity to discuss topics of interest to older people, to network and learn. The benefit of the convention was to contribute to the work of the Older People's Councils of which there is one for every Local Authority. There were many information stands for people to visit, from Healthy Age Friendly Homes, An Garda Síochána, Fire and Rescue Service, Acorn, Alone, to name but a few. Limerick had five delegates including three of our Older Persons' Executive.

Age Friendly Ambassadors Day/Launch Of Anti-Ageism Campaign

The Age Friendly Ambassadors Day was Held in Slane Castle on 23 May. The day was themed 'Ageism Awareness' referring to the stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination directed towards people based on their age, both young and old. Representatives from Age Friendly in all Local Authorities were present, including Limerick.

Age Friendly Railway Stations

Colbert Station in Limerick is one of 10 railway stations chosen to go through the World Health organisation four-step process to get the Charter to be an Age Friendly Railway Station. Preliminary visit by Age Friendly Limerick to Colbert Station, with representatives from Iarnród Éireann, and meetings, were held in May regarding steps to be taken and committees to be set up to go through the process in Limerick.

2. Culture

Library

City Library at Barrow House

- Europe Day on 09 May was marked with an enhanced Europe Direct Information Stand and a European Elections-themed competition. Europe Direct also hosted a 'Your Voice, Your Vote' voter education event with Fionnaigh Connaughton-O'Connor, Voter Education Co-Ordinator, DALC (Dublin Adult Learning Centre).

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- A fascinating history lecture entitled 'Maybe I need to talk about it, finally: An Oral History of the Royal Irish Constabulary, by Dr. Brian Hughes (Mary Immaculate College) and Dr. Seán Gannon (Limerick Libraries Local Studies Department), took place on 30 May.
- The Rediscovery Centre visited on 28 May for two Sustainable Toy Workshops for Primary Schools. These hands-on workshops involved games, activities and discussions, exploring hands-on toy repair and brainstorming clever ways to rehome used toys.
- The series of 'Gentle Touch – Happy Feet' reflexology workshops for parents and babies, organised by ABC Start Right, took place on 01, 08 and 15 May.
- Limerick Mental Health Association held their monthly Women's Group meeting on 14 May. Other group meetings included Irish and Spanish language conservation groups and a crafting group from the University of the Third Age (U3A), the Writepace Creative Writing Group and a peer support and wellbeing group for parents.
- Also on 14 May, an English Conversation Club for parents with children attending Scoil Iosagáin (CBS Primary School) visited the branch.
- There were 13 separate class visits in May from primary schools Scoil Iosagáin (CBS Primary School), St. John the Baptist National School, Scoil Íde, St. Michael's Infant School, Stella Maris and Presentation Primary School, and secondary schools Coláiste Mhichíl (CBS Secondary School) and Coláiste Nano Nagle.
- 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 nine visits across the month.
- There were nine book club meetings in May with regulars the First Thursday, Second Wednesday, Phoenix, Spiral, University of the Third Age and Children's books clubs all convening.
- Younger audiences were also royally entertained by the weekly toddler storytimes, which continued to draw huge crowds every Wednesday. Author, Róisín Meaney's monthly Saturday morning story session took place on 18 May.

Kilmallock Library

- A six-week mindfulness-based programme, aimed at those working in any Arts related area, led by Trisha O'Callaghan, continued on each Tuesday.
- Kilmallock Library's Irish Conversation Circle met on 07 and 21 May.
- A two-week Seed Swap initiative, in conjunction with Kilmallock Tidy Towns, was launched on 09 May with a gardening talk from Orla Ahern of Ahern Nurseries and Plant Centre, with 35 participants.
- A new book "From the Darkest Night to the Brightest Day," by Kilmallock native, Deirdre O'Brien, was launched on 14 May by Anne Marie Allen, AMA Coaching Solutions.
- On 17 May, the library showed the documentary "Birdsong," a portrait of Ornithologist, Seán Ronayne, by filmmaker, Kathleen Harris, to mark Bealtaine, Ireland's national celebration of the arts and creativity as we age.
- Our Little Readers session of storytelling, song, rhymes, books and chat met on 22 May with 18 participants.
- On 24 May, Dr. Seán Gannon from the Local Studies department held a talk "Researching Your Family History Online," explaining the available online resources for Irish genealogical research, including census returns, civil and ecclesiastical records, burial records, land records, registers of electors, trades' directories, and local newspapers.
- Weekly Bridge classes for beginners continued on each Wednesday.

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- Weekly Kilmallock Library Craft Group sessions continued on each Thursday morning during May with crafters connecting over a cuppa and working on various projects from needlework to weaving, with an average of 17 crafters at each session.
- Weekly Yoga Community Education Course, led by Ballyhoura Development CLG, continued with two sessions on each Friday throughout May with an average of 13 participants per session.

Newcastle West Library

- Youth Book Club for ages 10 to 13 continued to meet in the library on the second Tuesday of the month.
- Ongoing use of Sensory Space by classes and individual users.
- Regular visits from The Brothers of Charity and Rathfredagh Cheshire Home residents.
- Regular class visits from local National Schools which included Autism Spectrum Disorder class visits to the Sensory Space - 15 in total per week.
- Headway Ireland meeting every Friday morning 10am to 11am.
- Knitting Club continued every Friday morning from 11am to 1pm.
- Spring into Storytime event with the children from Courtenay Boys' National School - 27 attended.
- Healthy Ireland at Your Library events over two days with Limerick Sports Partnership - 185 attended.
- Adult Book Club continued on the last Thursday of the month.

Dooradoyle Library

- The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland held their first monthly support group meeting in Dooradoyle on 03 May.
- On 07 May, the Electoral Commission hosted an information session about voting and the importance of the upcoming Mayoral Election. The event was led by Ms. Justice Marie Baker, the Chair of the Electoral Commission, and its Chief Executive Officer, Art O'Leary.
- Dooradoyle Library's most recent exhibition 'Inspirations' is a collection of works by 16 local artists, craftspeople, photographers and writers. The exhibition was officially opened by Trevor Anderson of Limerick's Live 95 on 10 May.
- Class visits from local primary schools continued throughout the month. These included children from Ahane National School and St. Paul's National School, Dooradoyle.
- On 14 and 15 May, a group of pre-school children from Oakleigh Kids Academy visited the library for storytelling, songs and arts and crafts.
- The Irish Countrywomen's Association had their monthly meeting on 15 May.
- Dooradoyle Book Club held its monthly meeting on 23 May.

Watch House Cross Library

- Storytime for Young Children and Parent/Caregiver and Toddler Group continued with 75 attendees. Local schools visited from Corpus Christi's and Thomond Primary classes. Pre-School groups from Moyross made several visits to prepare them for starting Primary School.

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- On 13 May, library staff visited Thomond Community College and spoke to first year students about the national library service, their local library and the branch's summer plans for teens, and invited and encouraged them to join up.
- A new block of four-week LEGO Club workshops for children, age 7+, started in May with 10 new LEGO experts.
- Crafty Saturday weekly free-play art and craft continued during May, with 43 children.
- Children's Book Clubs met on 29 May to chat about their latest reads. The 7-9 year olds read *Kate on the Case*, by Hannah Peck, and the 9-12 year olds read *Stitch*, by Pádraig Kenny. Pádraig Kenny, the local author of *Stitch*, visited the book club on the day and answered the eager readers' questions on his novels and being a writer.
- Fighting Words returned to Watch House Cross Library with two workshops with Scoil Chríost Rí's First, Third and Fourth classes.
- Bealtaine, a Festival of Age & Opportunity – Events:
 - A talk on 'Keeping Active as We Age' on 08 May with Tracy Mahedy and Laura O'Neill, Sports Development Officers with Limerick Sports Partnership.
 - Tai Chi Taster Class on 09 May.
 - On 10 May, two Relaxed Performances for Adults with Special and Additional Needs by Arran Towers, Tallest, Smallest Theatre, involving puppetry and storytelling. The audience included invited adult users of the Sensory Room, and service users with their support workers from Brothers of Charity, Avista and Resilience.
 - On 18 May, children were invited to bring the special "grand" in their life – Grandma, Grandpa, Nana, Papa, Mamó, Daideo – to the library for this celebration of two generations. There was a special Make a Grand GIF activity, and all of the usual Saturday fun, puzzles, jigsaws, games, toys, chess boards, big bricks.
- Two adult book clubs met in May to discuss *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro.
- Age Action completed its final block of one-to-one computer and smartphone training workshops for this term, with seven pupils completing the training.
- The fortnightly evening Sahaja Yoga Meditation class met twice in May.
- The Sensory Room had 205 visitors in 70 sessions during May.

Local Studies

- There were 52 onsite visits by researchers to the Local Studies Department in May. There were 38 remote queries.
- The Local Studies Department delivered a number of events for Bealtaine Festival of Age & Opportunity during May:
 - Dr Seán Gannon gave an evening public talk in Watch House Cross Library, 'A Repetition of the Irish Show?' The Black & Tans in Pallestine, 1922-1948. He discussed the transfer of 700 disbanded ex-RIC as a striking force/riot squad to Palestine in Spring 1922 and gave an assessment of the extent to which they adopted an 'Irish' approach to their defence of British colonial rule.
 - The Local Studies Librarian gave three Researching Your Family History Online workshops, two in Watch House Cross Library, and one in Kilmallock. 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.

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Other Branches

- Askeaton Library welcomed 27 boys and girls from Happy Faces Crèche for a storytime on 15 May and they were all gifted with a storybook from the library.
- Roxboro Library continued to welcome classes from local primary schools for regular library visits, which included storytimes and book borrowing. On 08 May, the library welcomed Senior Infants pupils and parents from Our Lady of Lourdes School as part of the school's twelve-week 'Doodle Fun' programme. On 09 May, Claire Flynn from Mental Health Ireland gave a presentation on the national *HELLO - How Are You?* campaign which was attended by adults.
- In partnership with Sinead McDonnell, Biodiversity Officer, public information sessions to begin the process of drafting the Limerick City and County Council Biodiversity Action Plan 2024/5-2030, were held in Adare, City Library, Dooradoyle, Kilmallock, Newcastle West, Rathkeale and Watch House Cross Libraries.
- Glin Library hosted a number of events for adults, Book Clubs, Craft Clubs, community singing and chair yoga during the month, attended by 133 library users. Events for children included storytimes, craft sessions and class visits, and were attended by 77 children and parents.
- On 16 May, library staff attended the Joint Annual Seminar of the Western and Munster Regional Sections of the Library Association of Ireland, which took place in TUS. The theme of the seminar was 'EDI (Equality Diversity Inclusion) in the Library.'
- Cloverfield National School was gifted a selection of withdrawn/surplus stock on 17 May.
- As part of the Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme, Limerick Sports Partnership delivered a series of talks on the importance of exercise to local national schools in Newcastle West Library. Roxboro

Library welcomed members of the public for a *Hello, How Are You?* talk from Mental Health Ireland and Glin Library hosted a Tai Chi event for its members, which was a great success.

Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA)

- *Mountains, fall on Us* by Austin McQuinn continued through May and attracted a large and engaged audience. The total number of visitors to the Gallery in May was 5,932. LCGA launched a full colour publication to accompany the exhibition with an "in-conversation" between the artist and Director of Narrative 4, James Lawlor, on 29 May. The exhibition is a reclamation and revisiting of important materials 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.
- The 2024 TEST SPACE Residency artist, Michella Perera, finished her onsite residency at the end of May. Apart from working on her own painting, Michella led three workshops for a group of women from Bangladesh, West Africa and Afghanistan.
- LCGA continued to exhibit a selection of works from the Permanent Collection on a rotation basis to expand the use of separate exhibition galleries within the building. The exhibitions from the Permanent Collection display recent works donated and acquired, as well as works which are firm favourites for local and international visitors.
- LCGA continued negotiations with The Arts Council, The Model Gallery, Sligo, and the Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin, in relation to loaning a number of artworks from the Permanent Collections, including *Rising Swan* by Patrick Collins, *Chairoplanes* by Jack B. Yeats and *Man with a Muck Rake* by Sarah Purser, as well as a drawing of Sarah Purser by John B. Yeats.

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- LCGA also reviewed a request to loan artworks by Walter Osborne to Raclin Murphy Museum of Art, University of Notre Dame, in the United States, scheduled for 2025/2026.
- LCGA interviewed recent graduates from the B. Ed degree course offered by Limerick School of Art and Design (LSAD).
- 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.
- Helium Arts (an organisation that supports children with long-term illnesses) held a workshop at LCGA on 18 May.
- LCGA, in collaboration with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, hosted an exhibition by Brandon Hanley, which was part of the LCETB Arts Festival Week 2024.

Limerick Museum

- On 16 May, Councillor Joe Pond, on behalf of the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, performed the official opening of Pond - A New Photographic Exhibition by Paul Sweeney in Limerick Museum. Paul is a member of Limerick's ForeFront Poets, along with Ciaran O'Driscoll, Jo Slade, and the recently deceased Mark Whelan. He has been a co-founder and organiser of the Cuisle Poetry Festival and was the curator of the 20th Anniversary of the Festival, which involved the transformation of Patrick Street into a gallery space. For the Pond Exhibition in Limerick Museum, Paul traced the changing seasons over the course of a year at the Baths in Corbally in a series of photographs. A respected and distinguished Limerick born poet, he displayed his versatility in this exhibition by expressing himself in the very different medium of photography.
- Limerick Museum collaborated with Limerick Civic Trust to bring a new history festival to Limerick. The Shannonside History Festival commenced on 31 May

with two free events in Limerick Museum. The first was a workshop and handling session on Limerick Silver by the Assistant Curator, who is an authority on the precious metals trade in Georgian Ireland, and Jim Noonan, a renowned Limerick Silver expert. They were assisted by silver experts, Sarah Gough, John Breen and Michael Lynch. The workshop was opened by Dr. Edward Walsh, founding president of the University of Limerick, who is himself a talented silversmith. Limerick Museum has one of the finest collections of Limerick Silver in existence and the large attendance at the workshop was enthralled by the pieces on display. The second event was a free walking tour of the Three Bridges of Limerick given by the Museum's resident archaeologist.

- On 16 May, the Assistant Curator gave a well-attended tour of the Museum to Transition Year students from St. Mary's Secondary School, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.
- On 25 May, the Friends of Lace, Limerick, held a meeting in the Museum.

Limerick Arts Office

Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts Scheme 2024

Limerick Arts Office manages the 2024 Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts Scheme. The purpose of the Scheme is to support the maximising of the leveraging of funding into Limerick from national and international sources and to support a vibrant creative culture. Two Strategic Fund grants were approved at the May Council Meeting awarding a total of €8,089, and a further four letters of support were issued.

Individual Arts, Dolores O' Riordan, and Theatre Bursaries

The recommendations of the Assessment Panel for Individual Arts, Dolores O' Riordan and Theatre Bursaries were all approved at the Full Meeting of Limerick City and County Council on 27 May. These Bursaries support the development of the work of artists based in Limerick City and County.

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- Individual Arts Bursaries were awarded to eight applicants to a total of €22,750.
- Dolores O' Riordan Bursary was awarded to one applicant to a total of €4,000.
- Theatre Bursaries were awarded to four applicants to a total of €17,750.

Grants under the Arts Act Open Call

The recommendations of the Assessment Panel for the Grants under the Arts Act Scheme were approved at the Full Meeting of Limerick City and County Council on 27 May. 27 applications were approved for funding, for a total of €20,000.

CREATIVE IRELAND

Creative Ireland – Creative Health and Wellbeing in the Community

Creative Ireland Limerick, in collaboration with Healthy Limerick, Clare County Council and Tipperary County Council, secured funding from the Creative Health and Wellbeing in the Community Scheme. "Creativity Changing Young Lives in the Mid-West" will be delivered in partnership with Hellium Arts. The project is designed to improve health and wellbeing of all age groups in the area of children with chronic conditions.

ARTS COUNCIL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT PROGRAMME

Visual Arts Ireland Training – How to set up a Studio

Limerick Arts Office delivered professional development training, in partnership with Visual Artists Ireland, on 'How to Set up a Studio,' on 03 May. This training is supported through Limerick Arts Office, allowing Limerick-based Artists to attend for free.

Stony Thursday

Applications for the Stony Thursday poetry book, inviting poets to submit for the annual publication, opened on 15 May. Additionally, Victoria Knennefick was appointed as editor.

Culture Night

On 29 May, registration for Culture Night events in Limerick closed. Limerick Arts Office was awarded €12,500 towards Culture Night Late event in King John's Castle by the Arts Council.

3. Property Management

| Dereliction, Vacancy and Reuse Team | |
|---|-----|
| Site Inspections Completed | 102 |
| Department Notices of Inquiry issued | 9 |
| Derelict Sites Cases opened | 5 |
| Statutory Notices served under the Derelict Sites Act 1990 | 20 |
| Derelict Sites Cases closed through engagement | 13 |
| Properties entered into the Derelict Sites Register | 6 |
| 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 | 22 |

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Regeneration, Sports and Recreation Directorate

1. Regeneration and Sports

Regeneration

Economic Regeneration

Outreach to Employment Programme

The Outreach to Employment Programme has funded two new posts for community mentors who are working with people who are long term unemployed. The programme is bespoke to the individual's needs.

The Programme is led by Limerick City and County Council, in partnership with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board and Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership, PAUL Partnership, Department of Social Welfare and Community and Industry Leaders, all forming part of a multi-stakeholder project team who meet regularly to network and support the programme.

The mentors strive to ensure the delivery of appropriate and innovative employment supports to individuals that will increase their readiness for progression towards employment/training into the future.

Community Mentor Network

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board hosted a site visit for the Community Mentor Network on 30 May to its NZEB (Nearly Zero Energy Building) and Retrofitting Centre of Excellence in Roxboro. This is a newly-established training campus aimed at upskilling individuals to work on retrofitting older buildings to improve their energy performance. Training will consist of NZEB Electrical, Plastering, Plumbing, Bricklaying, and Carpentry, complemented by training in NZEB fundamentals, Air Tightness, Ventilation and Insulation.

Social Regeneration

Limerick Island Community Partners officially launched the Irish Black Bee Museum on World Bee Day, 20 May, in the presence of the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, and His Excellency, Ambassador Mr. Stanislav Vidovic, from the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia.

The official launch of the fundraising campaign for The Irish Black Bee Museum took place on the day. The Irish Black Bees produce King's Island honey which can be purchased at the Alms Houses off Nicholas Street.

The Department of Applied Social Studies at Technological University of the Shannon held a "soft launch" of the Centre for Community Research and Innovation. This took place on 27 May. The Centre aims to build bridges between the local community and the University, to address issues related to disadvantage and disparity. Regeneration staff were in attendance.

Economic and Social Intervention Fund (ESIF) Update

- The Health, Wellbeing and Ageing Well Funding Call was launched on MyPoint on 31 May.
- The Families and Youth at Risk Call closed for applications on 15 May. A total of 34 applications were received.
- The Employability and Work Call closed for applications on 17 May. 28 applications were received for review.
- Assessments of applications received for both the Youth at Risk Call and Employability and Work Call commenced.

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Community Activities

King's Island

- A Gardening Workshop took place in conjunction with Limerick Island Community Partners on 01 May.
- Community volunteers and Limerick Civic Trust completed 15 window boxes for Limerick Island Community Partners.
- Growing Communities visited the Limerick Island Community Partners and 30 people attended on 21 May.
- Work was completed on the local allotments. Peas, strawberries, lettuce and kale were planted with community volunteers and residents of St. Mary's Park.

Moyross

- 'MoyFit' Full Body exercise classes took place in conjunction with Limerick Sports Partnership. These were open to the local community and surrounding areas. The course providers were recent graduates from Limerick Sports Partnership's gym instructors/ personal training programme.
- Each Wednesday, 'Functional Fitness' continued. This is a fun social exercise programme which helps to develop strength, balance and flexibility through a range of movements and activities aimed at all levels of participants.
- Other programmes, including Good2Go, MedX and Boxercise, continued to run weekly in co-operation with Limerick Sports Partnership and were held at Moyross Community Enterprise Centre.

Southill

- 'Fit in the Hill' Community Fitness Classes commenced with Southside Community Mentor at Southill Hub on 15 May and continued weekly. These are free to the entire community of Southill.

- Tait House continued to engage in recreational gardening, with groups of service users from Enable Ireland participating throughout May.
- The Southill Area Tidy Towns Group was assisted by Tait House to develop its 2024 work programme.
- As part of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme, one-to-one support around career progression and guidance was undertaken with clients at TAIT House.

Physical Regeneration

Housing Developments

- Contract commencement meeting held with M. Fitzgibbon Contractors Ltd. in relation to the 24 housing infill units at at Carew Park, Southill; Delmege Park, Moyross; and Hartigan Villas, Moyross.
- A total of 42 units at Cosgrave Park and Dalgaish Park, Moyross, progressed towards phased handover, anticipated to be in Quarter 2/Quarter 3 2024.
- Construction works on the Sheep Street Development, Sheep Street, comprising of eight social housing units, continued.
- 37 housing units at Churchfield, Southill (Phase 2) - works were ongoing. 11 units were nearing completion for a phased handover.
- Preliminary design and follow-up public consultation sessions were undertaken for a new housing project being advanced at Pineview Gardens, Moyross.

Status of Thermal Upgrade Projects

- 47 units at Moyross, Limerick, were progressed under Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 121, with contractor, Icarus Properties Ltd.
- Alan Hart Construction Ltd. progressed Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 123, in Southill, which encompasses 53 properties.

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- 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 plans for housing units in Pineview Gardens, Moyross, under Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 130, continued.

House Refurbishments

Lot 4a Major Refurbishments – Nine Properties

- Dolmen Construction progressed with works to three properties.
- Martins Construction Ltd. progressed with works to six properties.

Lot 4b Major Refurbishments – 11 Properties

- Tender preparation continued for the second tender for five of 11 houses.

Minor Refurbishments

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

Infrastructure Projects

Southside Connectivity Project

- Section 38 process completed for Southside Connectivity Project.
- Surveyor appointed to undertake a topographic survey of the subject works area.
- Consultants were appointed to undertake detailed design and progress the works to tender and construction.

Southside Boxing Academy

- Contractor continued improvement works to the building used by Southside Boxing Academy in the Galvone Industrial Estate.

Moyross Avenue

- A Part 8 was approved for the section of upgrades fronting the Corpus Christi Primary School and Church.
- Section 38 process was completed for the portion of upgrade from the Moyross Health Centre to Pineview Gardens.

Thomond Rugby Football Club Extension

- Part 8 Planning was granted.
- A Consultant was appointed to progress the detailed design of the scheme.

Colivet Court Apartments

- A tender was prepared for a disabled stairs lift and a new intercom system.

Environmental Works

- The removal of redundant hardstanding areas in Salvia Court continued.

Limerick Sports Partnership

- National Bike Week was a considerable success in May (11 -19 May) with Limerick Sports Partnership hosting a weeklong programme of events, in conjunction with Limerick City and County Council. Over 1,200 children and adults participated in cycling initiatives, including Mountain Biking, Greenway Cycles for over 60s, family Greenway cycles, inclusion cycles in partnership with Greenmount Cycling Club and Like Bikes, cyclocross opportunities in city centre parks, mass participation cycles in city centre, bike maintenance workshops and schools' programmes.

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- Limerick Sports Partnership was a panellist at “The Association For International Sport for All” Seminar. Its theme was “Democratising Access to Sport for All,” with 160 participants from over 80 countries in attendance. The discussion topic related to the Global Action Plan for Physical Activity with an emphasis on Active Systems and Active Environments. The work of Limerick Sports Partnership in Clare Street Park and other City Centre parks was featured as part of the discussions.
- Limerick Sports Partnership engaged with outdoor swimming groups to invite submissions to Healthy Ireland’s grant scheme aimed at providing equipment and support for water-based activity. Requests ranged from amphibious wheelchairs, safety access mats, tow floats, changing tents and traffic management bollards. The groups included Kilteery, Glin, Loughill, Narwhals and Limerick Masters.
- A sum of €78,000 was received under the Limerick Sports Partnership’s ESFI (European Structural and Investment Funds) Sport4Empowerment Programme, aided by the EU Social Fund.
- Over 2,500 participants engaged with Limerick Sports Partnership’s suite of Physical Activity programmes and educational initiatives throughout May. They are accessed by schools, community groups and sports hubs.
- For more information on programmes and activities visit www.limericksports.ie

Council Sporting Facilities

Community Engagement

- On 07 May, Council officials met with members of Limerick Cricket Club and Limerick Blasters Cricket Club at Mungret Park. Discussions were undertaken around the development of Cricket Batting Cages within the Park.

Limerick Regional Athletics Hub

- The Limerick Regional Athletics Hub was delighted to host the 2024 Limerick Juvenile Athletics Championships on 12 May. This was extremely successful with over 1,000 people in attendance as participants or spectators.
- The Hub also hosted the local Newcastle West Community Games event which took place on 15 May. Over 100 junior athletes participated in a variety of activities, including track and field events.
- An estimated 200 athletes, from over 40 clubs distributed across 11 counties, registered and took part in “Track and Field Live,” delivered by Athletics Ireland on 29 May. More than 100 spectators enjoyed viewing athletic performances by participants from U8s through to Masters level.
- Over four training sessions, St. Mary’s Athletics Club and West Limerick Athletics Club had in excess of 800 athletes utilise the facility.
- Recreational walking on the perimeter of the track continued.

Chief Executive's Report



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Rathbane Golf Course

- Rathbane Golf Course held the “Play in Pink” competition on 17 May which raised €1,000 for the Irish Breast Cancer Charity.
- Four people were certified as Community Golf Instructors, having participated in Golf Ireland’s Community Golf Instructors Course held in Rathbane Golf Course on 18 May. This is considered a first step to introducing the game of golf to people.
- Extensive work was undertaken on the greens, fairways and bunkers. This was completed with the assistance of Rathbane Golf Club volunteers.
- Green fees records show that nearly 1,000 individual rounds of golf were played during May.
- Several competitions were held in May - Open Singles, Senior Singles and a Singles Qualifier were held for male golfers; and weekly 9 and 18 Hole Competitions were held each Wednesday and Sunday for female golfers.

Swimming Pools

- Expressions of Interest for Operator Contracts for both Askeaton Pool and Leisure and Grove Island Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre, Corbally, were published on 07 May.
- A tender was issued on 20 May to procure an Architect-led Integrated Design Service for future refurbishment works to Grove Island Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre, Grove Island, Corbally, Limerick.



Chief Executive's Report



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Housing Directorate

1. Housing Support Services

Housing Waiting List

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Approved Housing Applicants | 2,813 |
| Approved Tenant Transfer Applicants | 416 |

Closed Housing Applications

| | May | Year to Date |
|---------------------|-----|--------------|
| Closed Applications | 73 | 299 |

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 May | Year to Date |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Adare-Rathkeale | 1 | 5 |
| Newcastle West | 3 | 9 |
| Metropolitan District | 18 | 103 |
| Cappamore-Kilmallock | 3 | 16 |
| Total | 25 | 133 |

Refusals

| | No. of Units May | Year to Date |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Adare-Rathkeale | 0 | 0 |
| Newcastle West | 0 | 0 |
| Metropolitan District | 2 | 8 |
| Cappamore-Kilmallock | 1 | 5 |
| Total | 3 | 13 |

Approved Housing Body Allocations 2024 (year to date)

| Total Nominations | Successful Nominations | Nominations Pending | Unsuccessful Nominations |
|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 103 | 42 | 57 | 4 |

Chief Executive's Report



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Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

| | |
|---|-----|
| Private Tenancies | 676 |
| Capital Assistance Scheme/Rental Accommodation Scheme Tenancies | 571 |
| Part V | 0 |
| New Private Tenancies | 1 |
| New Voluntary Housing Tenancies | 0 |

Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Limerick

2,026 active HAP Tenancies monitored, reviewed and maintained.

| | |
|--|-----|
| No. of HAP tenancies set up this month | 28 |
| No. of Amendments | 707 |
| No. of Cessations | 25 |

Rent Collection

| Rent Collection Limerick City and County Council | | | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Opening Balance | Accrued Income | Total for collection | Receipts | Closing Balance | % Collection |
| €6,731,013 | €8,805,878 | €15,536,891 | €8,248,954 | €7,287,937 | 54% |

Chief Executive's Report



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Home Improvement Schemes

| May 2024 | | Adare-Rathkeale | Newcastle West | Metropolitan | Cappamore-Kilmallock | Total |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Mobility Aid Grants | No. Approved | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| | MAG Expenditure | €2,300.00 | €4,600.00 | €6,000.00 | €0.00 | €12,900.00 |
| | No. Paid | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| | | | | | | |
| Housing Adaptation Grants | No. Approved | 6 | 13 | 28 | 3 | 50 |
| | HAG Expenditure | €11,527.78 | €26,882.10 | €242,898.35 | €47,098.92 | €328,407.15 |
| | No. Paid | 1 | 4 | 24 | 6 | 35 |
| | | | | | | |
| Housing Aid for Older People | No. Approved | 9 | 14 | 39 | 5 | 67 |
| | HOP Expenditure | €34,982.76 | €42,245.92 | €152,547.35 | €20,797.50 | €250,573.53 |
| | No. Paid | 9 | 10 | 39 | 5 | 63 |
| | | | | | | |
| Disabled Person's Grant | DPG Expenditure | €0.00 | €3,138.28 | €27,858.58 | €0.00 | €30,996.86 |
| | No. Paid | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 5 |

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Total No. Approved | 125 |
| Total Monies Paid | €622,877.54 |
| Total No. Paid | 107 |

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Home Improvement Schemes - Year to Date

| January - May 2024 | | Adare-Rathkeale | Newcastle West | Metropolitan | Cappamore-Kilmallock | Total |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Mobility Aid Grants | No. Approved | 4 | 2 | 19 | 1 | 26 |
| | MAG Expenditure | €22,579.00 | €12,150.00 | €46,471.43 | €3,506.48 | €84,706.91 |
| | No. Paid | 7 | 5 | 14 | 1 | 27 |
| | | | | | | |
| Housing Adaptation Grants | No. Approved | 23 | 37 | 133 | 14 | 207 |
| | HAG Expenditure | €100,859.85 | €180,133.69 | €935,098.69 | €181,291.80 | €1,397,384.03 |
| | No. Paid | 11 | 25 | 89 | 23 | 148 |
| | | | | | | |
| Housing Aid for Older People | No. Approved | 39 | 61 | 222 | 42 | 364 |
| | HOP Expenditure | €130,462.76 | €248,486.46 | €676,213.26 | €139,620.74 | €1,194,783.22 |
| | No. Paid | 34 | 59 | 152 | 34 | 279 |
| | | | | | | |
| Disabled Person's Grant | DPG Expenditure | €2,604.83 | €3,138.28 | €119,909.92 | €0.00 | €125,653.03 |
| | No. Paid | 1 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 9 |

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| YTD Total No. Approved | 597 |
| YTD Total Monies Paid | €2,802,527.19 |
| YTD Total No. Paid | 463 |

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Community Sustainment Unit

Tenancy Inductions

| | May | Year to Date |
|---------------------------|-----|--------------|
| No. of Tenancy Inductions | 33 | 138 |

House Visits

| | May | Year to Date |
|---------------------|-----|--------------|
| No. of House Visits | 225 | 1,375 |

Sugar CRM (Customer Relationship Management) Cases

| | May | Year to Date |
|---------------------------|-----|--------------|
| Active cases at month-end | 261 | 261 |
| Cases closed during month | 91 | 374 |

Repossessions

| | May | Year to Date |
|------------------------------------|-----|--------------|
| Repossession of Council properties | 4 | 55 |

Garda Checks

| | May | Year to Date |
|------------------------|-----|--------------|
| Garda Checks processed | 120 | 498 |

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

| Date: 10.05.2024 | | |
|---|---|------------|
| Individuals | | |
| Location | Description | Beds Used |
| McGarry House | Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles | 26 |
| Oak Lodge | Adults without children accommodated in low threshold emergency accommodation | 64 |
| 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 | 10 |
| Total | | 190 |

| Families | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Location | Description | Beds Used | | |
| | | Adults | Children | Families |
| Suaimhneas | Family Emergency accommodation | 6 | 8 | 6 |
| B&B/Hotel Accommodation | Families | 106 | 116 | 61 |
| Twin Oaks Family Hub | Family Hub | 14 | 16 | 10 |
| Totals | | Adults | Children | Families |
| | | 126 | 140 | 77 |

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| | May | YTD |
|--|-----|-------|
| Tenant Purchase | | |
| Tenant Purchase Applications: No. received | 5 | 42 |
| Tenant Purchase Applications: No. approved | 6 | 22 |
| Local Authority Home Loans | | |
| Loan Applications: No. received | 7 | 35 |
| Loan Applications: No. approved | 3 | 10 |
| Deed of Discharge | | |
| Deed of Discharge Applications: No. Received | 16 | 93 |
| Consent to Sale | | |
| Consent to Sale Applications: No. Received | 7 | 24 |
| Cottage Purchase Annuity | | |
| No. of Cottage Purchase Annuity Applications | 2 | 16 |
| Ground Rent | | |
| No. of Ground Rent applications | 0 | 21 |
| Title | | |
| Title Deeds Received/Requested | 11 | 62 |
| Title Rectifications Received | 1 | 3 |
| Private Rented Inspections | | |
| No. of Inspections | 132 | 1,538 |

Freedom of Information, Data Requests and Ombudsman

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Freedom of Information requests | 4 |
| Ombudsman Query Cases | 0 |
| Data Access Requests | 0 |

2. Housing Welfare and Traveller Accommodation

* Traveller Accommodation

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| No. of Units offered May | 1 |
| Year to Date | 8 |

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

Housing Welfare Referrals/Visits

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| No. of Referrals / Visits May | 31 |
| Year to Date | 105 |

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3. Local Authority Housing Construction and Maintenance

Local Authority Housing Construction

| House Returns May | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Total | 6 |

| House Returns May By Municipal District | |
|---|----------|
| Adare-Rathkeale | 0 |
| Cappamore-Kilmallock | 0 |
| Newcastle West | 0 |
| Metropolitan District | 6 |
| Total | 6 |

During May, the Local Authority Housing Construction Team was notified of no houses returned in the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale, no houses returned in the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock, no houses returned in the Municipal District of Newcastle West and six houses returned in the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

Current Working Programme

| | Completed in April | In Progress |
|---|--------------------|-------------|
| Local Authority Construction Team | | |
| Major Refurbishments | 7 | 70 |
| Tenant in Situ Works | 3 | 24 |
| Local Authority Maintenance Team | | |
| Minor Refurbishments | 8 | 112 |
| Regeneration Team | | |
| Major Refurbishments | 0 | 19 |
| Minor Refurbishments | 1 | 22 |
| Total | 19 | 247 |
| Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process | 0 | 23 |

In May, work on 10 properties was completed by the Local Authority Housing Construction Team, work on eight properties was completed by the Local Authority Maintenance Team and Work on one property was completed by the Regeneration Team.

There are three teams in Limerick City and County Council assigned to refurbish properties. As of May, the Local Authority Construction Team was in the process of completing works on 94 properties, Local Authority Maintenance was working on 112 properties and the Regeneration Team was working on 41 properties.

Approved Housing Body stock transfer in process - 23 properties.

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Project Updates

Project Updates:

- Stage 1 application was approved by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for eight housing units for Ros Mor, Kilmallock Road, Limerick, and this is currently out to tender for Design Consultants.
- Stage 2 application was approved by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for six housing units at New Road, Thomondgate.
- Stage 2 application was approved by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for six housing units at Mulcaire Drive, Annacotty.
- Stage 1 application was submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for eight housing units at Meat Market Lane, Limerick.
- Stage 1 – 3 application was submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for two units at Clare Street, Limerick.
- Stage 4 application was submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for refurbishment works at property in St. Munchins Terrace, Bruree.
- Type 3 (for Housing Projects greater than 5 Million Euro) - Multi-Party Consultants Framework has been formed and agreement signed.
- Type 2 (for Housing Projects less than 5 Million Euro) - Multi-Party Consultants Framework at the second stage of the two-stage process.
- Contractor appointed for site investigation works at site on Crawford Street, Bruff.
- Contractor appointed for refurbishment works at property in Marian Drive, Janesboro, Limerick.
- Contractor appointed for refurbishment works at two properties in Carn Na Ree, Old Singland Road, and Cois Luachra, Dooradoyle.
- Contractor appointed for refurbishment works at two properties in Mountain View, Kilfinane, and Glenfield, Kilmallock.

Finance

- Applications for funding totalling €2,272,518 issued to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- Limerick City and County Council recouped €562,817 from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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Local Authority Housing Maintenance

Local Authority Houses: Maintenance Complaints dealt with during May

| Housing Maintenance Cases - May | Requests/Cases Created | Cases Dealt With/Closed | Balance of Open Cases at 31.05.2024 |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Metropolitan District of Limerick | 717 | 728 | 1,597 |
| Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale | 80 | 73 | 351 |
| Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock | 124 | 113 | 356 |
| Municipal District of Newcastle West | 109 | 103 | 498 |
| TOTAL | 1,030 | 1,017 | 2,802 |

Grants Inspections

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

| Inspection Types | Pre-application | Initial Inspection | Re-inspection | Final Inspections after Works completed | Total Inspections by Grant Type |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|---|---------------------------------|
| MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme) | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme) | 2 | 25 | 2 | 23 | 52 |
| HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme) | 0 | 36 | 1 | 0 | 37 |
| DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant) | 1 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 9 |
| Total Inspections by Inspection Type | 3 | 67 | 5 | 29 | 104 |

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

| Inspection Types | Pre-application | Initial Inspection | Re-inspection | Final Inspections after Works completed | Total Inspections by Grant Type |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|---|---------------------------------|
| MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme) | 0 | 8 | 0 | 7 | 15 |
| HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme) | 0 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 9 |
| DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| Total Inspections by Inspection Type | 0 | 14 | 1 | 13 | 28 |

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

| Inspection Types | Pre-application | Initial Inspection | Re-inspection | Final Inspections after Works completed | Total Inspections by Grant Type |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|---|---------------------------------|
| MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme) | 0 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 8 |
| HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme) | 0 | 5 | 0 | 6 | 11 |
| DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Inspections by Inspection Type | 0 | 11 | 0 | 9 | 20 |

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

| Inspection Types | Pre-application | Initial Inspection | Re-inspection | Final Inspections after Works completed | Total Inspections by Grant Type |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|---|---------------------------------|
| MAGs (Mobility Adaptation Grant Scheme) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| HAGs (Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme) | 0 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 10 |
| HOPS (Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme) | 0 | 5 | 0 | 9 | 14 |
| DPGs (Disabled Persons Grant) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Inspections by Inspection Type | 0 | 12 | 0 | 14 | 26 |

HOUSE INSPECTIONS UNIT

| Houses Inspected for Refurbishment Works and Re-Letting - May - Categories | No. of Properties Inspected |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Cat 1 – minor repairs needed | 0 |
| Cat 2 – moderate repairs needed | 2 |
| Cat 3 – substantial repairs needed | 2 |
| Cat 4 – major repairs needed | 1 |
| TOTAL INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT | 5 |
| No. of Properties Awaiting Inspection | 9 |

DEFECTIVE BLOCKWORK SCHEME APPLICATIONS

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Applications Registered May | 14 |
| RFI Applications (Request Further Information) May | 4 |
| Applications Referred to Housing Agency | 0 |
| Applications – Damage Threshold Met | 2 |
| Total Applications Registered – Year to Date | 25 |

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4. Strategy & Non-Local Authority Housing Construction

SOCIAL HOUSING – Delivery for 2024

Buy/Build/Lease as of 31.05.2024 is as follows:

| As at 31.05.2024 (01.01.2024 – 31.05.2024) | Complete | In Progress | Overall Complete and In Progress | “Housing for All” 2024 Delivery Target |
|---|-----------|-------------|--|--|
| Build | 12 | 375 | 387 | 513 |
| Buy * | 39 | 107 | 146 | 100 |
| Lease | 3 | 19 | 22 | 44 |
| TOTAL | 54 | 501 | 555 | |

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

Notice of Termination Figures

The following outlines the number of cases received in May and Cumulative to date (CTD) since March 2023 in relation to Notice of Termination properties:

| Category | Activity in May | CTD |
|---|--------------------|------------|
| 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 | 3 | 8 |
| Proposals being reviewed | 4 | 67 |
| Sale Agreed | 0 | 61 |
| Purchase Completed | 0 | 87 |
| 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 | 6 | 342 |
| Owner Reoccupying - Notice of Termination comes into the Council – however, owner or family member wishes to reside in property | 1 | 44 |
| Income above Social Housing limit (i.e., Cost Rental Tenant in Situ) – referred to Housing Agency | 1 | 47 |
| Grand Total | 15 | 656 |

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Social Housing – Project Submissions and Approvals

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

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF) | Approval for 24 units at Windmill House, Dock Road, Limerick - Focus Housing Association. | Metropolitan District of Limerick |
| Social Housing Capital Expenditure Programme - Long Term Leasing | Approval for the leasing of three units in Limerick City. | Metropolitan District of Limerick |
| Affordable Housing | Approval for the delivery of nine affordable units in Newcastle West. | Municipal District of Newcastle West |
| Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) | Approval for the Turnkey delivery of four units at Old Clare Street, Limerick. | Metropolitan District of Limerick |
| Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) | Approval for the Turnkey delivery of four units at Bruff, Co. Limerick. | Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock |
| Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) | Approval for the Turnkey delivery of a four-unit Community Dwelling at Knocklong, Co Limerick. | Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock |
| Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) | Stage 3 approval for the Construction of 23 units at Doon, Co. Limerick. | Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock |
| 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 on the Ennis Road, Limerick. | Metropolitan District of Limerick |
| Notice to Quit - Acquisition | Approval for Notice to Quit Acquisition in Castletroy, Limerick. | Metropolitan District of Limerick |
| Notice to Quit - Acquisition | Approval for Notice to Quit Acquisition on the Shelbourne Road, Limerick. | Metropolitan District of Limerick |
| 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 on the South Circular Road, Limerick. | Metropolitan District of Limerick |
| Notice to Quit - Acquisition | Approval for Notice to Quit Acquisition in Corbally, Limerick. | Metropolitan District of Limerick |
| Notice to Quit - Acquisition | Approval for Notice to Quit Acquisition in Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick. | Municipal District of Newcastle West |

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

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Social Housing Capital Expenditure Programme - Long Term Leasing | Submission for the leasing of three units in Limerick City. | Metropolitan District of Limerick |
| Affordable Housing | Affordable Housing Fund application submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the delivery of 57 affordable units in Newcastle West, Co. Limerick. | Municipal District of Newcastle West |
| Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) | Stage 2 submission for the Construction of eight units at Feenagh, Co. Limerick. | Municipal District of Newcastle West |
| Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) | Turnkey submission for the delivery of four units at Knocklong, Co. Limerick. | Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock |
| 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 of one unit in Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick. | Municipal District of Newcastle West |
| Notice to Quit - Acquisition | Submission for the Acquisition of two units in Newcastle West, Co. Limerick. | Municipal District of Newcastle West |

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Affordable Housing – Delivery for 2023-2026 as at May

| Scheme | District | Type | No. of Units | Proposal Updates in May |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------|---|
| Toppins Field Lands | Metropolitan District of Limerick | Affordable Purchase Affordable Housing Fund | 28 (Phase 1) | <p>Alternative layouts for access and tree retention underway.</p> <p>Additional pre-planning meetings were held internally with Limerick City and County Council Planning Department.</p> <p>The project was selected as a real life test case Appendix for inclusion in the May publication: Examination of innovation/ efficiencies in design of affordable housing – which is a report jointly prepared by The Housing Agency and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</p> |
| Toppins Field Lands | Metropolitan District of Limerick | Affordable Purchase Affordable Housing Fund | 115 (Phases 2-4) | <p>Ongoing liaison with Limerick City and County Council Regeneration Department and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage regarding funding of East-West Link Road.</p> <p>Coordination and briefing meetings held with National Development Finance Agency Team on Public Private Partnership Scheme.</p> <p>Site and brief development advanced throughout May.</p> |
| Guinness Site | Metropolitan District of Limerick | Cost Rental Affordable Housing Fund | 255 | <p>The monthly Project Working Group meeting was held.</p> <p>Land Development Agency preparing a draft of the Project Charter to be appended to the Development Agreement which the Land Development Agency and Limerick City and County Council will enter into.</p> |
| Clonmacken Lands | Metropolitan District of Limerick | Affordable Purchase Affordable Housing Fund | 22 | <p>Viability study being adjusted for justification test analysis (flooding).</p> |

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| Scheme | District | Type | No. of Units | Proposal Updates in May |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--------------|---|
| Sonny's Lands | Metropolitan District of Limerick | Cost Rental Affordable Housing Fund | 19 | <p>Framework contracts were signed with 37 successful consultants in six separate consultancy lots.</p> <p>The winning consultants have been identified and contracts were prepared throughout May.</p> <p>Current activity on site:</p> <p>The second stage archaeological dig was completed in May, and the city wall was found in excellent condition across the site. The site works were completed to put back the streetscape as was originally there pre-archaeological investigations.</p> <p>The project was submitted as an application for the Circular Economy Programme Local Authority Construction and Demolition Funding Call 2024.</p> <p>The project was selected as one of 12 case study projects for inclusion in the May publication: Examination of innovation/ efficiencies in design of affordable housing – which is a report jointly prepared by The Housing Agency and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</p> |
| Curragower | Metropolitan District of Limerick | Affordable Purchase Affordable Housing Fund | 7 | <p>Work continued on the pre-planning design, meetings were held with local stakeholder, and inputs being integrated into a planning application.</p> <p>The project was selected as one of 12 case study projects for inclusion in the May publication: Examination of innovation/ efficiencies in design of affordable housing – which is a report jointly prepared by The Housing Agency and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</p> |
| Speaker's Corner | Metropolitan District of Limerick | Cost Rental Expression of Interest Site with Approved Housing Body | 18 | <p>Work continued on the progression of the land transfer during May.</p> |

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| Scheme | District | Type | No. of Units | Proposal Updates in May |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--------------|--|
| New Road, Thomondgate | Metropolitan District of Limerick | Cost Rental Expression of Interest Site with Approved Housing Body | 22 | Project 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 May. |
| Mungret Site | Metropolitan District of Limerick | Affordable Purchase Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund | 181 | Work continued on the progression of this proposal during May. Land Development Agency/Limerick City and County Council press release in early May. Limerick City and County Council waiting for the Affordable Housing Fund subsidy approval from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. |
| Adare | Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale | Affordable Purchase Self-build plots | 8 | Work continued on the progression of this proposal during May. |
| 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 May for the 25-unit Brú na Gruadán, Castletroy Affordable Purchase Scheme. |
| | Municipal District of Newcastle West | Affordable Purchase in Abbeyfeale | 10 | A proposed 10-unit affordable housing scheme in Abbeyfeale was also progressed during May. |

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| Scheme | District | Type | No. of Units | Proposal Updates in May |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|--------------|--|
| Advance Purchase Turnkey – Campaign 2 | Metropolitan District of Limerick | Affordable Purchase at Raheen | 145 | Work continued on the progression of this proposal during May with valuations and Quantity Surveyor costings. |
| | Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale | Affordable Purchase at Croom | 7 | Currently in planning system. |
| | Municipal District of Newcastle West | Affordable Purchase at Woodfield Manor, Newcastle West | 42 | Processing of applications and the issuing of letters of offer continued throughout May for Phase 1 and 2 (42 units) of the Woodfield Manor, Newcastle West, Affordable Purchase Scheme. |
| Advance Purchase Turnkey – Campaign 4 | Municipal District of Newcastle West | Affordable Purchase at Rathnaneane, Newcastle West | 9 | Approval was received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on 10 May. Work continued on the progression of this proposal during May with valuations and Quantity Surveyor costings. |
| Advance Purchase Turnkey – Campaign 5 | Municipal District of Newcastle West | Affordable Purchase at Castle Place, Newcastle West | 57 | Affordable Housing Funding application submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on 29 May. |
| 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 May with a review of costings proposed and valuations undertaken. |
| | Metropolitan District of Limerick | Affordable Purchase at Newtown Meadows, Castletroy | 36 | Work continued on the progression of this proposal during May. It involves an apartment scheme and costs are being looked at to ascertain suitability for Affordable Sale. Quantity Surveyor appointments and valuations underway. |

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Finance (all funding streams)

- Claims totaling €9,353,384.24 were sent to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- Claims totaling €4,664,803.02 were paid by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

5. Municipal District Offices

Metropolitan District of Limerick

Meetings

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

Briefings/Workshops

Briefings/Workshops were held during May for the Elected Members of the Metropolitan District of Limerick as follows:

- Briefing on proposed Part 8s - Moyross Avenue Upgrade and Thomond RFC Extension;
- Briefing on Housing in Mungret.

Operational Area Briefings

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

Road Related Upgrade/Refurbishment Works

Description of Project: Road Widening Scheme - Mill Road;

Location: Mill Road, Ballyclough;

Cost of project: €30,000;

Contractor: Maramba.

Description of Project: Road Widening Scheme - Islandduane, Mungret;

Location: Mungret;

Cost of project: €30,000;

Contractor: Peter Ryan Civil Engineering.

Description of Project: General Footpaths Upgrade - Raheen;

Location: Raheen;

Cost of project: €10,000;

Contractor: Neville Civil Engineering.

Description of Project: Avonmore Road Footpath Improvement Scheme;

Location: Raheen;

Cost of project: €75,000;

Contractor: Peter Ryan Civil Engineering.

Description of Project: Scanlon Park Footpaths;

Location: Scanlon Park, Castleconnell;

Cost of project: €50,000;

Contractor: Limerick City and County Council Direct Labour.

Description of Project: City Centre Footpath Repairs - Honans Quay, Bank Place, Rutland Street, Liddy Street;

Location: City Centre;

Cost of project: €10,000;

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

Description of Project: Metropolitan North Footpath Upgrades - Lanahrone Avenue and North Circular Road;

Location: Corbally and Farranshone More;

Cost of project: €10,000;

Contractor: Limerick City and County Council Direct Labour.

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Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale

The May Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale took place on 14 May in Áras Seán Finn, Rathkeale.

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

- 75 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
- 136 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

Surface Dressing Works completed at following Locations:

Gortroe Coolcappagh, Tallyhoe Rathkeale, Ardnaveagh Rathkeale, Lurriga Cappagh, Ballyhibbin Cappagh, Morenane, Askeaton.

Junction Improvement Works

Junction improvement works completed at Beabus, Adare.

Pedestrian Crossings

Upgrade works at Pedestrian Crossing at Askeaton National School completed.

Road Reconstruction Works carried out at following Locations:-

Carrigeen Croom, Knockfierna Village, Ballingarry, Chawkes Cross towards Granagh, Beabus Adare, Summerville Pallaskenry, Caherheeney and Court, Kildimo.

Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock

Meetings / Workshop

The May Municipal District Meeting was held on 16 May at 3pm.

A Workshop also took place in relation to Mobility Management Plans for Gotoon, Cappamore and Doon on 16 May at 2pm, and a Special Meeting took place on 16 May at 4.30 p.m. regarding Athenacey Graveyard.

Housing and Road Maintenance

- 123 cases were assigned to the Housing Maintenance Team.
- 213 cases were assigned to the Roads Maintenance Team.

Housing Grants

- 11 Private housing grants were paid in May, totalling €67,836.42. Eight private housing grants were approved in May.
- 14 initial inspections, one re-inspection and 13 final inspections were undertaken in relation to Private Housing Grants.

Road Works

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

Restoration Improvement Works

R513 - Tennis Courts, Hospital.
R515 - Thomastown, Kilmallock.
R516 - Ardykeohane, Bruff.
R663 - Ardnamoher, Galbally.
L1414 - Bruff Primary School.
L1504 - Baggotstown, Bruff.

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Restoration Maintenance Works

R514 - Rawleystown, Lough Gur.
 R662 - Ardnamoher, Galbally.
 L1414 - Bruff Primary School.
 L1549 - Rathcannon, Athlacca.
 L1503 - Bulgadenhall, Bulgaden.
 L1505 - Baggotstown, Bruff.
 L1529 - Knockadea, Ballylanders.
 L1538 - Ballyteigue, Bruree.
 L1550 - Ballinculloo, Kilmallock.
 L8537 - Ballinatona, Kilbehenny.
 L8649 - Gibbonstown, Kilmallock.
 L1155 - Kildromin, Kiltelly.
 L1156 - Ballyvouden, Kiltelly.
 L1414 - Garbally, Bruff.
 L1545 - Knocknacreeva, Bruree.
 L5053 - Ballynagrenagh, Kiltelly.
 L8561 - Kilbreedy East, Martinstown.
 L8672 - Loughanna, Kilbehenny.
 5106 - Bohermore National School to Inch St. Lawrence.
 L5070 - Uncle Toms to Dromkeen.
 L1152 - Moymore, Old Pallas.
 L1134 - Clogher, Cappamore.
 L1127 - Bilboa Cross to School.
 L5021 - Garranbane to Glenstal.
 L1124 L1125 Powers Pub to Abington.
 R506 - Five Cross Roads to Murroe.
 R505 - Cahills Cross to Dromcluher.
 R505 - Brittas to N24.

Municipal District of Newcastle West

Meetings and Briefings

- 01 May - Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West.
- 01 May - Briefing to Councillors on the Tree Strategy.

Housing Grants

- 27 grant applications were approved under the Private Housing Grant Schemes during the month. The total value of approvals was €161,582.09.
- Payments of €42,245.92 were made to 10 applicants who completed works under the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.
- Payments of €26,882.10 were made to four applicants who completed works under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme.
- Payments of €4,600 were made to two applicants who completed works under the Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme.

Housing Maintenance

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

Transportation and Mobility

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

Motor Tax

During the month of May, the Motor Tax Section at the Newcastle West Office processed 1,370 routine transactions generating an income of €222,249.

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Planning, Environment & Place-Making Directorate

1. Forward Planning and Public Realm

Forward Planning

- It was announced that the funding application made under the THRIVE, Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme, for the King's Island area of the city, was awarded €200,000. The funding allows the Local Authority and citizens to reimagine and revitalise town centres through the renovation and reuse of publicly owned vacant or derelict heritage buildings. The project promotes the values and working principles of the New European Bauhaus – an initiative of the European Union – in their strategies and projects to ensure their projects are sustainable, aesthetically pleasing, inclusive and accessible.

Archaeology

- The Hidden Heritages project started in Kilmallock on 20 May. Entitled: *Kilmallock – Derry – Bradford: Twinning North-South Irish Walled Towns and UK Cities of Culture*. This project is funded by the UK's Arts & Humanities Research Council with and supported by a wide range of partners from Ireland and the UK, including Limerick City and County Council represented by the Archaeology Section. A team from Bradford University's Department of Archaeology & Forensic Science, the lead institution, used cutting-edge equipment to survey the walled town of Kilmallock. While at the other end of the scale, Dr. Caroline Wilhelmsson, an historical researcher based in University College Cork, started to collate all of the available historical information on the houses of Kilmallock.
- As part of the URBACT GreenPlace Project's family fun day in Grattan Court on 25 May, the works to the City Wall were opened up to the public with

tours and explanations of the works and the history and significance of this section of City defences on demand.

Heritage

- Limerick hosted one of three nationwide Heritage Week Training Events where Heritage Officers from across the country met to discuss heritage issues and share ideas.

2. Development Management and Place-Making

Development Management

A total of 123 new planning applications were received as follows:

| Type | Amount |
|---|--------|
| Part 8 | 0 |
| Housing Developments | 2 |
| Domestic Developments | 98 |
| Agricultural Developments | 7 |
| Commercial Developments/Change of Use | 5 |
| Sporting/Community and Educational Developments | 2 |
| Other Developments | 9 |

The current applications include proposals for:

- Construction of twelve dwelling houses and a two-storey crèche of 333 sq. metres at Kilmallock Road, Crossagalla.

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Place-Making

The Place Race 2024

The Place Race 2024 Conference was held in the Strand Hotel, Limerick, on 16 May. The conference considered some of the key challenges which Local Authorities, State agencies, Regional bodies and organisations involved in regional development, tourism development and economic development face in place development branding and promotion. There were several presentations and panel sessions from place leaders from across Ireland and the UK who spoke about best practise and lessons learned across other Irish and UK cities. The Deputy Chief Executive, Director of Services with responsibility for Place-Making, as well as the Head of Marketing & Communications, took part in presentations and panel discussions.

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

- Poles for hanging baskets painted by Limerick City Build, ready for installation.

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF)

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

- Emergency stabilisation works at 33 and 34 Thomas Street, Limerick, completed.
- Detail design for 33 and 34 Thomas Street redevelopment continued.
- Suitability Assessment Questionnaire for works contractor received and under review.

Strand 3 - Pedestrian Bridges and Waterfront Infrastructural Works

- Preliminary Business Case submitted to URDF and National Transport Authority.

Arthur's Quay Area Framework Plan

- Architects, Metropolitan Workshop, leading a Multi-Disciplinary Team preparing the Arthur's Quay Area Framework Plan. Stakeholder engagement and preparation for Public Consultation continued.
- Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland responses from Statutory Consultees received.

Milk Market Food Hub

- Meeting held with Market Trustees regarding the procurement of the Units and the setting up of a Memo of Understanding (MOU) in this regard.

Market Quarter and Cruises Street Public Realm Upgrade

- Project Supervisor Design Process Consultant Tender issued.
- Topographical and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) Survey Contract awarded.
- Preliminary Design of Road Layout Options continued.
- Technical Working Group Meeting No. 2 held on 21 May.

Capital Projects

O'Connell Street Phase 1

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

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3. Environment and Climate Action

Environmental Awareness

The Environmental Awareness Officer attended the Green Schools Award Ceremony, held in Killarney, Co. Kerry, at which the following Limerick schools received awards -

| | |
|--|--|
| Litter and Waste | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caherelly National School, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick. • Scoil Naomh Muire, Askeaton, Co. Limerick. • St. Michael's National School, Barrington Street, Limerick. • Glenroe Community National School, Spittle, Glenroe, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick. |
| Water | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Templeglantine National School, Templeglantine, Co. Limerick. |
| Travel | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicker National School, Nicker, Old Pallas, Co. Limerick. • St. Patrick's Boys' National School, Dublin Road, Limerick. • Crescent College Comprehensive Educate Together Secondary School, Dooradoyle, Limerick. • Castletroy College, Newtown, Castletroy, Limerick. |
| Biodiversity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Galbally National School, Galbally, Co. Limerick. • Scoil Mhuire, Liscreagh, Murroe, Co. Limerick. • Killoughteen National School, Killoughteen, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick. • St. Fergus's National School, Glin, Co. Limerick. • St. Munchins College, Corbally, Limerick. • John the Baptist Community School, Hospital, Co. Limerick. |
| Global Citizenship – Litter and Waste | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoil Chríost Rí, Caherdavin, Limerick. • Our Lady Queen of Peace, Janesboro, Limerick. |
| Global Citizenship – Energy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaelscoil Chaladh an Treoigh, An Caisleán Nua, Caladh an Treoigh, Luimneach. • Caherline National School, Caherconlish, Co. Limerick. |
| Global Citizenship – Marine | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Nicholas National School, Adare, Co. Limerick. |
| Global Citizenship – Travel | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Anne's Primary School, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick. |
| Global Citizenship – Food and Biodiversity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corpus Christi National School, Moyross, Limerick. |
| Primary Climate Ambassador | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh, Roxborough, Ballysheedy, Limerick. • Kilcornan National School, Kilcornan, Pallaskenry, Co. Limerick. |

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In order to provide support, the following schools were visited, and educational support arranged - to include Battery Tubes, Reusable Battery Bags, Gardening for Biodiversity Books, and Bark Mulch from Mungret Recycling Centre.

- Bruree National School, Bruree, Co. Limerick.
- Patrickswell National School, Patrickswell, Co. Limerick.
- Kilmeedy National School, Kilmeedy, Co. Limerick.
- Kilcolman National School, Ardagh, Co. Limerick.

Training Courses

Two online Environmental and Climate Action training courses were made available to attendees - "E Waste" and "NO Mow May."

Environment Strategy

Activity Tracker for May

| Inspection Type | Number of Inspections | Inspection Details |
|---|-----------------------|--|
| Farm Re-Inspections | 20 | Follow-up to see programmed works completed and preparation for court case. |
| Septic tanks | 3 | New septic tanks selected for survey |
| Sugar CRM (Customer Relationship Management) Complaints | 9 | 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 | 16 | Review agricultural planning applications and comment back to Planning. |
| Forestry | 35 | Desktop – review applications received from Forest Service |
| Local Catchment Assessments | 4 | Priority Catchments |
| Farm File Reviews | 10 | Review farm files, Farmyard Management Plans and write out advisory/warning letters accordingly. |
| Meetings | 3 | Meeting with Deel and Feale Focus Group. Moorepark Critical Source Area walk and Bandon Dairygold Water. Attended a Nature-Based Solutions Conference. |
| Cross Reports | - | Reports to Department of Agriculture – Breaches of GAP Regulations. |

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Biodiversity

- Public Consultation on the Discussion Document for Limerick's Biodiversity Action Plan 2025/30.
- Ten face-to-face public consultations/information sessions.
- Seven presentations to Limerick City and County Council Municipal Districts and Metropolitan District Meetings.
- Promotion at events during National Biodiversity Week.
- Twenty-eight submissions/observations were received to end of May.

National Biodiversity Week

- Five in-person and one online public event/s were organised by the Limerick City and County Council's Biodiversity Officer during National Biodiversity Week:
 - Bat and Moth Walk on the Baggot Estate Nature Park, Ballinacurra, Limerick, with Wildlife Expert, Albert Nolan.
 - Dawn Chorus on the Castletroy Greenway (organised by GreenRoutes).
 - Guided walk of the Newcastle West Demesne with Local Wildlife Expert, Geoff Hunt.
 - Invasive Alien Species in the Community, an Online talk with expert, Colette O'Flynn, of the National Biodiversity Data Centre.
 - Learning about Raised Bogs on Griston Bog with the Irish Peatland Conservation Council's Chief Executive, Nuala Madigan (in collaboration with Ballyhoura Development).
 - Pollinator Hunt in Curraghchase, led by Biodiversity Expert, Áine Ní Fhlatharta.

- Two staff training events were organised by the Limerick City and County Council's Biodiversity Officer during National Biodiversity Week:
 - Invasive Alien Species and the Local Authority, an Online teams talk with expert, Colette O'Flynn of the National Biodiversity Data Centre.
 - Lesser Horseshoe Bat Training with Dr. Kate McAney of the Vincent Wildlife Trust.
- Presentation at the Heritage Council's National Heritage Week Training event in the Absolute Hotel, Limerick.

Parks

Clare Glens

- The tender for the main contractor to replace two footbridges at Clare Glens at tender award stage.

Lough Gur

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

GoGreenRoutes

- GoGreenRoutes for Biodiversity Week hosted a Dawn Chorus walk, 5am- 7am, 18 May, along the Castletroy Greenway. 14 people attended and 22 bird species were recorded. During the walk, an audit of the acoustic environment along the Greenway was undertaken to investigate sound measurements and participants' perceived experiences (e.g. pleasantness, eventfulness), in accordance with best practice soundscape analysis.

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URBACT IV Green Place

- 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. Medieval May Fair family event was held on 25 May at Johnsgate/Grattan Court at the old City Walls of Limerick to engage with stakeholders and local community as part of the URBACT Programme.
- Works ongoing in preparation for the third meeting of the URBACT local group comprising a number of stakeholders, including various Departments in Limerick City and County Council, Residents' Groups, Tidy Towns, Gardaí, Mary Immaculate College and Limerick Civic Trust to discuss issues and challenges for the project.

Cemeteries

Number of Burials in City Cemeteries

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Mount St. Lawrence | 24 |
| Mount St. Oliver | 17 |
| Castlemungret | 3 |
| Kilmurry | 6 |

Environment Enforcement and Litter Management

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

| ENVIRONMENT ENFORCEMENT | |
|---|-----|
| SUGAR CRM (Customer Relationship Management) cases received | 163 |
| Inspections undertaken CRM | 663 |
| Warnings issued | 108 |
| Directions of Authorised Officer issued | 4 |
| Statutory Notices issued | 25 |
| Prosecutions initiated | 8 |
| Fines issued | 29 |
| Authorisations issued/reviewed | 10 |
| DOMESTIC WASTE AND LITTER TEAM | |
| SUGAR CRM (Customer Relationship Management) cases received | 111 |
| Inspections undertaken CRM | 591 |
| Warnings issued | 95 |
| Directions of Authorised Officer issued | 2 |
| Statutory Notices issued | 17 |
| Prosecutions initiated | 2 |
| Fines issued | 23 |

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The following is a list of areas that were cleaned up during the month of May:

- Tullgoline North, Templeglantine, Co. Limerick.
- Buffanokey, Cappamore, Co. Limerick.
- Maiden Street, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.
- Lenihan Avenue, Limerick.

The updated Frequently Asked Questions about election posters for the Local Election, European Election and Mayor of Limerick Election were circulated to all Council Members and Customer Services and posters were being monitored.

Climate Action

Climate Action

- The Climate Action Unit spoke at the Revolutionising Sustainability event in the Bernal Institute, University of Limerick, on 02 May.
- The Energy Management Team held its quarterly meeting on 20 May.
- The Climate Action Unit participated in a workshop to review the Local Authority Climate Action Charter in Portlaoise, Co. Laois, on 28 May.
- The Community Climate Action Officer took part in an interview for Limerick's Live95 on the Community Climate Action Programme.
- The Climate Action Team launched the first monthly internal newsletter.
- The Community Climate Action Officer attended the Climate Change Education Seminar in Cloughjordan EcoVillage, Co. Tipperary.

Citizen Innovation Lab

The Citizen Innovation Lab hosted the launch of the Northstar Family Support Service on 03 May.

Veterinary

| | |
|--|----|
| No. of dogs processed in the Dog Shelter | 15 |
| No. of horses seized | 3 |
| No. of samples taken | 8 |

- In light of a significant increase in dog attacks nationally in recent months, Veterinary Services, in co-operation with An Garda Síochána in Limerick, took part in a public awareness campaign on local radio to remind dog owners of their general responsibilities regarding controlling their dogs.
- Particular emphasis was placed on dangerous or controlled breeds of dogs and the legal requirements in force that such dogs be muzzled and on a leash in public places. In addition to this, the Department of Rural and Community Development also recently embarked on a new awareness campaign entitled – 'It's not your dog's fault, it's yours' - aimed at increasing awareness of the harm that out-of-control dogs can do to people and to livestock.

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

Castleconnell Flood Relief Scheme

- A steering group meeting was held on 28 May 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.
- Site Investigation tender pack received.

Adare Flood Relief Scheme

- On 29 May, a Public Participation Day event was held in Adare Village Hall between 4pm-7.30pm. The emerging preferred scheme was presented on the evening and the public feedback was very positive. Questionnaires were distributed at the event to gather additional feedback and observations prior to finalising the scheme before planning.
- A Steering Group meeting was held on 29 May 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

- Tender assessment for two-year detailed ecological studies underway with two lots awarded following pre-contract meetings.
- Ongoing management of Ornithology and Invasive Species treatment contracts.
- The second Site investigation contract was awarded to IGSL for Limerick City North.
- Tenders were published on eTenders for the six remaining Site Investigation packages.
- Geophysical survey ongoing with almost 50% complete.
- A Steering Group meeting was held on 20 May to assess the project progress.
- Options Development Stage commenced.
- Flood maps under development.

Athea Flood Relief Scheme

- The Options Report was received; Planning Design, including Environmental Impact Assessment Report, commenced.
- Engagement with landowners affected by the scheme continued.
- Public realm design at Park finalised.

King's Island Flood Relief Scheme

- Tenders were received for the construction of the King's Island Flood Relief Scheme and the tender evaluation process commenced.

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5. Limerick Twenty Thirty (LTT) DAC

Opera Square

Project Update

- The rising elements (lift, stairs, structural walls/ columns) at the first floor were completed. 50% of the second-floor slab has been poured. The permanent vehicle access ramp off Michael Street into Basement was poured and in use. The remainder of the Basement and bearing piles for hotel, 14 storey, library and Four Opera were complete. The public realm podium slab concrete pour was progressing. ESB excavation works for the ESB power main upgrade from William Street to Michael Street via little Ellen Street progressing, Limerick Twenty Thirty continued to engage with Sisk, Limerick City and County Council and business owners to minimise impact.

Project Media Engagement

- A drone video showcasing the progress on One Opera Square and promoting its capacity as a letting space was released to Limerick Twenty Thirty socialmedia on 15 May.
- A second drone video was uploaded to Limerick Twenty Thirty social media on 23 May showcasing the progress of One Opera Square.
- The Limerick Probus Group had their annual visit to one of Limerick Twenty Thirty's sites on 14 May. This year, they received a presentation and update on Limerick Twenty Thirty in the Granary of Opera Square by the CEO, Limerick Twenty Thirty.

Cleeves Riverside Quarter

Project Update

Cleeves Riverside Quarter Designs and Planning Application

- Stage one design complete for the residential zones; Flaxmill and public realm design now completed, representing a significant milestone for the project.

Project Media Engagement

- To celebrate 'Riverfest', a post was reshared to Limerick Twenty Thirty (LTT) social media promoting the assembling of Pegasus at Cleeves Riverside Quarter.
- Commitment was made in May with collaborators for the creation of a large-scale mural at Cleeves Riverside Quarter.

Gardens International

Project Media Engagement

- Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board held an exhibition, as part of the Arts Festival, in the retail unit at Gardens International until 07 May.
- The annual "University of Limerick Citizens' Assembly" took place in the foyer of Gardens International on 02 May.
- Limerick Twenty Thirty hosted and sponsored 'Fashion Friday' on 05 May. The Fashion Show was the opening event to the annual Riverfest celebration.
- Limerick Twenty Thirty hosted The European Young Engineers 52nd Conference in The Vault at Gardens International on 17 May.
- Both the Foyer and the Vault at Gardens International was promoted on Limerick Twenty Thirty social media platforms for event and meeting space throughout May.

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Other Projects

Progress Update

Askeaton and Grove Island Corbally Swimming Pools

Tender for Capital Works at Askeaton Pool and Leisure Centre

- The successful tenderer was appointed in May and a pre-commencement meeting scheduled.

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

- Two separate Expressions of Interest processes were published on the eTenders platform on 07 May.

Other Media Engagement

- The CEO of Limerick Twenty Thirty presented at the Place Race 2024 Conference in the Strand Hotel in Limerick on 16 May and led a panel discussion on place-making and the outputs of the Limerick 2030 Plan.
- The Urban Land Institute press release regarding its visit to Limerick was posted on the [LTT website](#) and Limerick Twenty Thirty Social Media Platforms on 05 May.
- Limerick Twenty Thirty sponsored The Opera Square festival lecture on Catherine Hayes, given by journalism lecturer, Kathryn Hayes. There was a social media posted on 21 May.



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National and Regional Shared Services Centre Directorate

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

- There were 55,412 active HAP tenancies nationally, managed by the HAP SSC at the end of May.
- A weekly average of 171 HAP tenancies have been set up during 2024.
- The May landlord payment run was €53.82 million.
- The weekly tenant charge at the end of May was €3.072 million.
- The Debt Management Unit of the HAP SSC collected a total of €65.62 million in differential rent to end of May.
- The HAP tenant rent collection rate at the end of May was 98%.
- The Debt Management Unit issued 10,851 HAP debt reminder letters in May.

2. Fire and Emergency

Statistics

| | No. of Fire Related Calls | No. of Non-Fire Related Calls | Total |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|
| No. of callouts 01.05.2024 – 31.05.2024 | 54 | 51 | 105 |
| % of calls where on scene in < 10 mins from time of call | 75% | 52% | |
| % of calls where on scene between 11 and 20 mins from time of call | 14% | 37% | |
| % of calls where on scene in > 20 mins from time of call | 11% | 11% | |

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| | No. Received/ Assigned | No. Validated/ Acknowledged | No. Invalidated/ Refused | No. Granted | No. Completed |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Fire Certificate Applications May | 22 | 17 | 0 | 24 | 17 |
| Disability Access Cert Applications May | 15 | 13 | 0 | 20 | 13 |
| Licensing Applications May | 3 | 3 | | | |
| Commencement Notice May | 25 | 18 | 4 | 0 | 18 |
| Completion Certificate May | 10 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| Planning Referrals May | 21 | | | | 24 |
| Sugar CRM Cases May | 11 | | | | 6 |

Fire and Emergency Training Events

- A Station Officer attended the two-week National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) Road Traffic Collision course in Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.
- An officer attended a one-week National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) Fire Service Management course in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.
- Two firefighters completed a two-week course to become Bronto Aerial Platform operators.
- Seven members of staff renewed their Emergency First Responder medical certification.
- Two firefighters completed Emergency Services Driving Standard recertification.
- A number of officers attended the Serious Incident table top exercise, delivered by the Health and Safety Department, in the Radisson Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick.

Civil Defence attendance at Events

The following activity took place in May:

- Medical cover at the Riverfest BBQ, Limerick City - 1 Day
- Medical cover at the Great Limerick Run, Limerick - 1 Day
- Boat cover at the Riverfest Fireworks, Limerick - 1 Day
- Medical cover at the Sports Ability Day in University of Limerick - 1 Day
- Medical cover at the Primary School Athletics in University of Limerick - 1 Day
- Patient Transfer – Limerick Residence to St. Camillus' Hospital, Shelbourne Road, Limerick - 1 Day
- Medical cover for the Opening Ceremony for the European Chess Championship in University of Limerick - 1 Day
- Medical cover at the European Chess Championship in University of Limerick - 1 Day

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Water Safety

| No. of Lifebuoy Replacements | January - April | May | Total 2024 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----|------------|
| Metropolitan District | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Municipal Districts | 6 | 9 | 15 |

| No. of Lifebuoy Sensor Activations | January - April | May | Total 2024 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----|------------|
| Metropolitan District | 18 | 9 | 27 |
| Municipal Districts | 16 | 6 | 22 |



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Support Services Directorate

1. Finance

Commercial Rates and Loans

Draft Collection Figures

| Commercial Rates 2024 | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| As at 31st May 2024 | |
| Opening Balance - 1 Jan € | 4,949,138 |
| Accruals € | 64,125,052 ** |
| Vacant Property Adjustment € | 262,211 |
| Writes offs/ Waivers € | 2,431,488 |
| Total for Collection € | 66,380,491 |
| Amount Collected € | 36,744,363 |
| Arrears € | 29,636,128 |
| Specific Doubtful Arrears € | 1,213,358 |
| % Collected | 56.4% |

| Debtors Loans | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| As at 31st May 2024 | |
| Opening Balance - 1 Jan € | 295,007 |
| Accruals € | 650,121 * |
| Writes offs € | - |
| To Collect € | 945,128 |
| Receipts € | 793,171 |
| Arrears € | 151,957 |
| % Collected | 84% |

* Accruals for May 2024 not processed

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

Recourse to Overdraft Facility

No. of days in overdraft 0

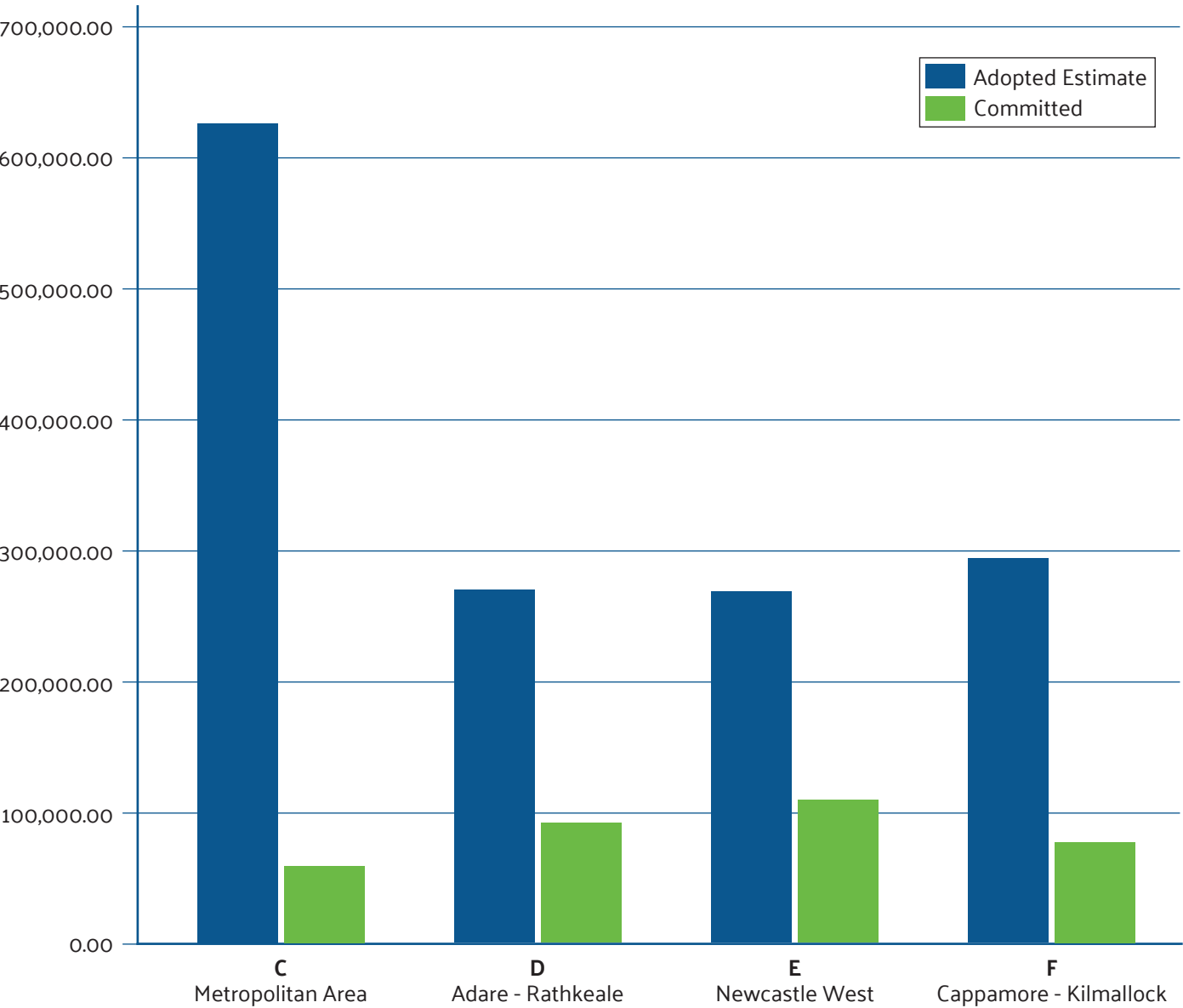
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General Municipal Allocation 2024 Adopted Estimate €1.463 Million

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



| Municip (Code) + (Text) | Value Adopted Estimate (€) | Value Committed (€) |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| C Metropolitan Area | 628,000.00 | 58,883 |
| D Adare - Rathkeale | 269,500.00 | 92,894 |
| E Newcastle West | 270,500.00 | 109,118 |
| F Cappamore - Kilmallock | 295,000.00 | 75,144 |
| | 1,463,000.00 | |

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2. Business Improvement

- Stakeholder Meeting was held for the CAPGOV system, which will be replacing Cora.
- Business Improvement attended Public Service 2024 'Delivering transformation at scale.'
- Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards were uploaded by Business Improvement.
- Business Improvement worked with Travel and Transport Strategy to launch a survey on MyPoint for the "Transport Plan for Adare."
- Business Improvement aided Regeneration to build an Economic and Social Intervention Fund (ESIF) application form on MyPoint – "Health, Wellbeing and Ageing-Well Call."
- A total of 927 active users now live on the Employee App.
- Services on Service Catalogue = 699.
- 435 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:

Hayleigh Kiely

In recognition of her recent achievement in kickboxing, winning an ISKA (International Sport Kickboxing Association) World Title.

Fergus Scanlan

In recognition of his extraordinary contribution and leadership in raising necessary funds for St. Ita's Community Hospital and Friends of St. Ita's, Newcastle West, for the past twenty years.

Siobhan Walsh

In recognition of her 30 years of service to humanitarian relief and development work to help create a better world for the most vulnerable communities across the globe.

Our Lady Queen of Peace Primary School Choir

In recognition of winning the RTÉ Lyric FM 'Choirs for Christmas Competition' and their captivating performance at the RTÉ Lyric FM 25 year anniversary concert. Their dedication and talent have brought pride to their community.

Tony Brazil

In recognition of putting Limerick and the Shannonside Region on the world map and his involvement in local and national organisations for over 50 years with outstanding leadership in the field of tourism and education.

Limerick Narwhals

In recognition of their contribution to open water and winter swimming, organising 'The Island Swim' and for their charitable donations to local causes.

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Dominic Taylor, Limerick Writers' Centre

In acknowledgment of his steadfast commitment to advancing poetry and the literary arts in Limerick.

Bruff R.F.C.

In recognition of their promotion of rugby and team sport for men and women of all ages over the last 50 years in County Limerick.

Munster Rugby

In recognition of their positive contribution to sport and rugby in Limerick.

Thomond Park Stadium DAC

In recognition of the significant economic and social benefits they have provided for Limerick since been redeveloped in 2008.

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

- Mayor's Charity Ball.
- Launch of Fleadh Cheoil Limerick 2024 at Old Chapel Rooms, Ballyroe Lower, Kilfinane, Co. Limerick.
- 20th Riverfest Limerick Festival.
- Regeneron Great Limerick Run.
- Sports Ability Day, Athletics Day for children with additional needs at the University of Limerick.
- Press Launch for Live at the Docklands Festival 2024 at Dolans, Dock Road, Limerick.
- Ballyhoura Development CLG, Youth Led Local Development - Strengthening Young Voices within the Community Event, at Deebert House Hotel, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick.
- Pieta 'Darkness into Light' event at TUS, Moylish, Limerick.
- Limerick Central Rotary Club, Don Reddan Charity Golf Classic, at Ballyneety Golf Club, Ballyneety, Limerick.
- Limerick North Munster Rotary Club, a celebration of 40 years of service to rotary by three of its long-standing members, Pat Kearney, Stephen Ryan and Tom McDonnell.
- Launch of Limerick Cruinniú na nÓg 2024 at Friars Gate Theatre, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick.
- Limerick Panto Society, launch of the production 'Goldilocks: The Circus Panto' at TUS Millennium Theatre, Moylish Park, Limerick.
- Business Breakfast Fundraiser for Limerick Mental Health Association.
- Conference - The Place Race 2024.
- Extern Ireland, launch of new disability respite facility at Cratloe Respite Centre, Stonepark, Meelick, Co. Clare.
- Griffith College 50th Anniversary Celebration.
- TUSLA Midwest and TUS, evening reception on the eve of their joint conference on "Trauma Informed Practice" at TUS Moylish Campus, Moylish Park, Limerick.
- Opening of Photography Exhibition by Paul Sweeney at the Limerick Museum, The Old Franciscan Friary, Henry Street, Limerick.
- Launch of 5th Limerick Garden Festival at the Milk Market, Limerick.
- BROTHERHOOD: A Special Evening of Poetry, at The People's Museum, 2, Pery Square, Limerick.
- European Young Engineers' Gala Dinner.

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- National Famine Commemoration, in memory of those who suffered during the Great Famine, at Edgeworthstown, Co. Longford.
- Limerick Island Community Partners, official launch of fundraiser to build an Irish Black Bee Museum and to mark World Bee Day, at The Garden Area, The Alms Houses, Nicholas Street, Limerick.
- Emerging Limerick Filmmakers (ELF's), short film screening at Belltable Theatre, O'Connell Street, Limerick.
- Unveiling of Wave Form sculpture, created by Limerick born artist, Jim Flavin, at its new location in the Hunt Garden, Hunt Museum, Limerick.
- Presentation of certificates to pupils of Corpus Christi Primary School, Moyross, who won prestigious European Union History Award for school project in history education. Students created an hour-long movie telling the story of the Flight of the Wild Geese.
- Network Ireland Limerick, Business Women of the Year Awards 2024.
- Reception on board FS Lynx, French Navy Ship, at Limerick Harbour.
- Ballybrown GAA Club, opening of new astro turf and ball wall at Ballybrown GAA Club, Clarina, Co. Limerick.
- Irish United Nations Veterans' Association, Post 6, Limerick - United Nations Peacekeepers Day, wreath laying ceremony and service of remembrance for those who died on United Nations Service at UN Memorial, in the grounds of Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick.
- Africa Day 2024 at Milk Market, Limerick.
- Afternoon of Music to celebrate the press launch of Inaugural Limerick Summer Proms at University Concert Hall, Limerick.
- Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the formation of Limerick City and County Council, marking the 10-year anniversary with tree planting in the Garden of Merchant's Quay, Limerick.
- Junior Achievement Ireland 'School to Work' Day event for students from Presentation Primary School, Sexton Street, Limerick.
- Opening Ceremony of the European Schools Chess Championships 2024 at University Concert Hall, 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 May:

| | |
|---|----|
| New Procurement References set up | 36 |
| Procurement References extended as per signed contract/arrangement | 13 |

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 May:

| Month | Approved | Rejected | Total Requisitions Actioned |
|-------|----------|----------|-----------------------------|
| May | 1,613 | 188 | 1,801 |

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- 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.

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

| Rejection Reason | May |
|--|-----|
| Procurement Reference omitted/incorrect | 55 |
| Memo – Requisition not raised in advance | 36 |
| Approved Officer's Order omitted / incorrect | 25 |
| Award Notice – omitted/incorrect copy provided | 24 |
| Quotes not attached | 19 |

Register of Electors

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

- Additions to the Electoral Register – 6,164.
- Deletions from the Electoral Register – 1,223.
- Modifications to the Electoral Register – 1,992.

Health and Safety Training

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

| Course Name | Numbers Trained |
|--|-----------------|
| CSCS (Construction Skills Certification Scheme) Locating of Underground Services | 14 |
| CSCS (Construction Skills Certification Scheme) Signing Lighting and Guarding at Roadworks | 4 |
| Derelict Sites and Dangerous Structures | 3 |
| Drivers CPCs (Certificate of Professional Competence) | 46 |
| First Aid | 6 |
| Flood Plan and Incident Response | 89 |
| IOSH Safety Health and Environment for Construction Site Managers | 11 |
| Manual Handling | 20 |
| Safe Pass | 6 |
| Total Staff Trained | 199 |

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Schedule of Meetings for May

| Name of Meeting | Date | Location |
|--|--|--|
| Full Council Bi-Monthly Meeting of Limerick City and County Council. | 27/05/2024 | Dooradoyle and Online |
| Operational Briefings Limerick City East Limerick City North Limerick City West | 07/05/2024 07/05/2024 08/05/2024 | Merchant's Quay and Online Merchant's Quay and Online Merchant's Quay and Online |
| Municipal District of Newcastle West Monthly Meeting Adare-Rathkeale Monthly Meeting Cappamore-Kilmallock Monthly Meeting Special Meeting | 01/05/2024 14/05/2024 16/05/2024 16/05/2024 | Newcastle West and Online Rathkeale and Online Kilmallock Kilmallock |
| Metropolitan District of Limerick Monthly Meeting | 20/05/2024 | Merchant's Quay and Online |
| Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Meeting | 07/05/2024 30/05/2024 | Dooradoyle and Online Dooradoyle and Online |
| Corporate Policy Group Meeting | 20/05/2024 | Online |
| Party Leaders' Meeting | 24/05/2024 | Online |
| Protocol Committee Meeting | 24/05/2024 | Online |
| Audit and Risk Committee Meeting | 28/05/2024 | Merchant's Quay and Online |
| Strategic Policy Committee Special Meeting Home and Social Development | 30/05/2024 | Dooradoyle and Online |

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Access to Information

| | May | 2024 (January to May) |
|---|-----|--------------------------|
| Total Freedom of Information Requests | 20 | 116 |
| Freedom of Information Internal Appeals | 0 | 6 |
| Information Commissioner Appeals | 0 | 0 |
| Total Ombudsman Requests | 2 | 17 |
| Total Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) Requests | 0 | 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 May:

- Customer Services Call Centre answered 11,699 calls. This represents an average of 531 per day, with the number of calls reaching as high as 614. 72% of calls were handled at first point of contact.
- A total of 4,434 emails were processed through the Customer Services email platform.
- 3,469 cases were created, with 1,114 of these logged on behalf of Public Representatives. 3,112 cases were closed, with 1,015 of these being cases logged by Public Representatives.

- Of these 3,469 cases, Customer Services staff logged 75% of same.
- The logging of cases through the MyLimerick portal continued, with a total of 360 cases being logged. Of these, 316 were submitted by Public Representatives.
- Customer Services continued to support the Housing Maintenance Department in creating service requests and, throughout May, 97% of housing maintenance cases for the Limerick Metropolitan District were logged by Customer Services staff in the Dooradoyle and Merchant's Quay offices.
- A total of 94 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 82 were applied for and 71 issued.
- Customer Services staff welcomed a total of 2,631 customers at both the Merchant's Quay and Dooradoyle offices.

4. Marketing & Communications

Marketing

Summer Tourism Campaign

- Launched a four-week, multi-platform domestic summer tourism campaign – Limerick: A Different Kind of Energy - to highlight the endless possibilities that Limerick has to offer the visitor this summer.
- The campaign aims to engage audiences through a variety of promotional activities including dynamic TV advertising, national radio competitions, social media influencer partnerships, comprehensive Public Relations efforts, e-newsletters and digital marketing.

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- Additionally, the campaign features an exclusive Spotify playlist, allowing visitors to immerse themselves in Limerick's unique atmosphere with a curated all-Limerick soundtrack.
- A dedicated hub has been created on Limerick.ie featuring new reasons to visit and a compelling range of itineraries across events and festivals, sports and recreation, dining and nightlife, creative and culture and outdoor and adventure.

Sockies 2024 Award Win

Limerick's official Instagram page won a prestigious Gold award at the National Social Media Awards or Sockies 2024, celebrating excellence in social media. Limerick also secured a silver award for the Limerick Student City campaign in the Best Multi-Platform Campaign category (In-House) and a silver award for the Limerick on Foot campaign in the Best Behaviour Change Campaign category.

The Place Race Conference 2024

Brand Limerick was showcased at The Place Race Conference at the Limerick Strand Hotel on 16 May. The conference told Limerick's success story in enhancing place attractiveness for Foreign Direct Investment, Education and Tourism.

Other Marketing Activities

- Marketing support provided to colleagues in Pride of Place, Place Making and Public Realm, Tourism and Human Resources.
- Secured ORIS (Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme) funding for the future marketing and promotion of three rural Limerick walking trails.
- Marketing and Communications attended a one-day social media masterclass.
- Created both Brand Limerick and Limerick City and County Council branded merchandise.

- Continued progress on Invest Limerick promotional assets.
- Provided branded collateral to delegations from Mary Immaculate College, Limerick.

Social Media

- Management of Marketing & 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 now as follows:

Limerick.ie Facebook: 35,042

Limerick.ie X: 21,555

Limerick.ie Instagram: 31,637

Limerick.ie TikTok: 1,744

Limerick City and County Council X: 18,522

Limerick City and County Council LinkedIn: 12,335

Limerick.ie

In May, there were 242,098* unique site visits to Limerick.ie, a 56% increase on the same period in 2023. (*Fathom Analytics)

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

1. www.limerick.ie/riverfest
2. www.limerick.ie
3. www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-placemaking/search-for-a-planning-application/search-for-a-planning
4. www.limerick.ie/council/newsroom/news/15-candidates-in-race-for-historic-mayor-of-limerick-role-as-90-hopefuls-seek
5. www.limerick.ie/discover/whats-on/kids-family-fun/pegase-parade

Content Report: 73 articles, 215 events and five new amenities were added to Limerick.ie in May.

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Communications

- Issued 19 news releases from the Marketing and Communications Department and researched and wrote 25 speeches for the Office of the Mayor.
- Posted 155 times on Limerick City and County Council's X account, @limerickcouncil, with total followers now 18,522. Our tweets earned 83,097 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 May |
|---|--|-------------|---|---------------------------|
| No. of callouts 01.05.2024 – 31.05.2024 | 865 | 149 | 99 | 1,014 |