



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

Seirbhísí Corparáideacha,  
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh,  
Ceanncheathrú Chorporáideach,  
Cé na gCeannaithe,  
Luimneach

Corporate Services,  
Limerick City and County Council,  
Corporate Headquarters,  
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20<sup>th</sup> May 2025

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**To: The Mayor, Príomh Chomhairleoir and Each Member of Limerick City  
and County Council**

### **Annual Report 2024**

**A Chomhairleoir, a chara,**

The Annual Report 2024 has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and the Local Government (Mayor of Limerick) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2024).

This report sets out details of the policies, programmes, services and other activities undertaken by the Council. It also gives an outline of activities to promote the interests of local communities and twinning.

I attach herewith, for your consideration, copy of the Annual Report 2024 for Limerick City and County Council.

**Is mise le meas,**

**Ciara Farrell,**  
**Senior Executive Officer,**  
**Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services.**



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2024



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae Luimnigh

Limerick City  
& County Council

ATLANTIC EDGE

**LIMERICK**  
EUROPEAN EMBRACE



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## JOINT FOREWORD



**John Moran**  
**The Mayor of**  
**Limerick**

The Annual Report 2024 presents a detailed account of Limerick City and County Council's (LCCC) accomplishments throughout another dynamic year. This report highlights the extensive range of services provided by the council, which continue to enhance the lives of Limerick's residents, elevate the city and county's profile, and foster development with a focus on inclusivity, sustainability, and community enrichment.



**Dr. Pat Daly**  
**Director General**

A landmark event this year was the election of Limerick's first Directly Elected Mayor and a new council in June. Both will serve for five years. This historic change signified a new era in local governance, aimed at improving service delivery and enhancing democratic accountability.

Complementing this historic new role, the introduction of the Príomh Comhairleoir position adds a new dimension to council operations, ensuring effective leadership and oversight. Following the local elections, also in June, we welcomed new councillors who bring fresh perspectives and energy to our council.

The council now operates under two arms of local government with an elected mandate: the elected Limerick City and County Council and the Directly Elected Mayor, giving a renewed focus on improved delivery. The Director General remains responsible for the efficient and effective operation of the local authority supported by management and staff.



2024 also marked a decade since the amalgamation of Limerick City Council and Limerick County Council, celebrating ten years of unified progress and development. Our commitment to addressing housing solutions, enhancing infrastructure, supporting green initiatives, equal opportunity for all, revitalising areas affected by dereliction and vacancy, and promoting tourism and economic growth remains steadfast.

Limerick is now guided by the strategic direction set out in the five-year Mayoral Programme – More for Limerick 2024 – 2029, published early in the term of the new Council. This will also inform the drafting of a new Corporate Plan. Additional statutory innovations to secure delivery of the Mayoral Programme have been introduced including:

- the Limerick Mayoral and Government Consultative Forum, chaired by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage;
- the Limerick Mayoral Advisory and Implementation Committee, comprised of councillor representatives, officials and stakeholders and chaired by the Mayor; and
- the Limerick Project Ireland 2040 Delivery Board and its sub-committees.

The Mayoral Programme sets out over 300 high-level outcomes to be achieved over five years in addition to the other statutory obligations of the Council. A number of enhancements to the delivery capabilities of the Council are now also being introduced, including delivery supports and the development of robust IT tools to track and manage delivery of the various tasks.

The Council agreed on a balanced budget for 2025, totalling €1.68 billion (This includes €694 Million for HAP Shared Services, which the Council manages on behalf of 31 local authorities). This budget aims to fund growth and expand council services, supporting the implementation of the Mayoral Programme and enhancing business supports.

Limerick's economy continued to flourish, with significant investments and job creation underscoring our vibrant economic landscape. Notable milestones in 2024 include Eli Lilly's \$1 billion expansion of its Limerick facility and significant announcements from Everise, Carelon Global Solutions, North American Bancard, Limerick-based AI start-up Mavarick and WHOOP, a wearable health and fitness manufacturer that opened a new office at the Gardens International



site. Retail continues to have mixed fortunes in line with global trends. The revitalisation of our town centres and Limerick city centre remain a priority for 2025.

The council also facilitated the establishment of an SME Expert Group and launched the “Invest in Limerick City” marketing campaign. The Limerick Gift Card was launched by Limerick City and County Council in collaboration with Limerick Chamber to boost the local economy and encourage shopping within the community.

Housing remains a top priority, guided by the Government’s ‘Housing for All’ plan, to deliver diverse and sustainable housing solutions for all residents. Limerick City and County Council continued to lead the way in efforts to tackle vacancy and dereliction, achieving national acclaim and winning a Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Innovation Award. This reflects our dedication to revitalising communities and maximising their potential. Improving delivery of housing will remain a big priority for 2025.

At the same awards, the Limerick Migrant Forum, established by Limerick City and County Council, won the Diversity & Inclusion Award recognising the forum’s significant impact on fostering an inclusive environment and enhancing the quality of life for migrants in Limerick.

Our festival and events team continued to have success and to innovate. Riverfest Limerick celebrated its 20th edition this year, earning the title of Festival of the Year 2024 at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards. This event drew thousands to our city, showcasing Limerick’s vibrant community spirit and cultural heritage. New initiatives for Christmas were launched, including encouraging better shop fronts and home decorations, as well as a “Georgian Christmas” theme for Limerick.

Strategic initiatives by Limerick Twenty Thirty (LTT) progressed significantly in 2024. The One Opera Square project reached its topping out ceremony, marking a major milestone in this €80 million development. Additionally, LTT announced a partnership with the Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) to explore the development of a new university campus at the Cleaves Riverside Quarter.

The council's commitment to creating vibrant, pedestrian-friendly urban spaces and promoting sustainable transportation is evident in ongoing revitalisation projects and the expansion of cycling and pedestrian networks.

Major infrastructure projects, such as the Foynes to Limerick Road scheme (including the Adare Bypass) and the N/M20 Cork to Limerick Project, continue to advance, providing crucial links with the aim of completing the key Adare section of the Foynes to Limerick project by June 2027, ahead of the Ryder Cup at Adare Manor. Other important infrastructure projects were advanced including the critical flood protection works on Kings Island and the Coonagh to Knockalisheen road, to open the western access to Moyross and unlock lands for development.

The anticipation for the Ryder Cup in 2027 continues to build with preparations intensifying in 2024. The LCCC Ryder Cup Office focused on understanding the event's requirements and opportunities and establishing a robust event management structure. The event promises a significant economic impact and a lasting legacy for Limerick.

As we look back on 2024, we express our deepest appreciation to the elected representatives, council staff, community partners, dedicated individuals, and stakeholders. Their unwavering support and collaboration have been instrumental in driving Limerick's progress and prosperity. We also remember fondly of those elected representatives and former colleagues who are no longer with us. Together, we are committed to forging ahead, ensuring a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable future for everyone in Limerick.



# OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

## MORE FOR LIMERICK, MAYORAL PROGRAMME

2024 marked a historic moment for local government in Ireland with the formal establishment of the Office of the Mayor of Limerick, the first directly elected mayoral office in Ireland. Enacted under the Local Government (Mayor of Limerick) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2024, this new governance model represents a transformative shift in how executive leadership is delivered at the local level. Councillors retain all the same reserved powers, but in Limerick, the Head of the Council now takes on the role of *Príomh Chomhairleoir* while a range of functions formerly vested in the Chief Executive now fall to be exercised by the Mayor. It offers an opportunity for Limerick to lead the way in local democracy, civic engagement, and place-based leadership.

As outlined in the Act, the Mayor assumes significant executive powers across housing, climate, economic development, transport, and community development, while also acting as the public face and voice of Limerick.

### More for Limerick

To mark the commencement of this new era in local government, the Mayor launched the 'More for Limerick' Mayoral Programme in October 2024. This document represents a five-year strategic roadmap of priorities and actions designed to enhance the liveability, prosperity, and health of the entire county. The More for Limerick Programme is framed around three overarching pillars—A More Liveable Limerick, A More Prosperous Limerick and A More Healthy Limerick— and is further organised into 27 Priority Areas that contain over 400 detailed objectives. The Mayoral Programme was developed following an extensive consultation and engagement process with Elected Members, senior staff members of

the Council and external stakeholders. It sets a new benchmark for strategic planning in local government. The Programme not only reflects the Mayor's electoral commitments, but also aligns closely with national and regional strategies including Housing for All, Climate Action Plan 2024, the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

The second half of 2024 was dedicated to establishing the systems and structures required to support successful delivery of the Programme. A key component of this is the development of Co-Plan, a dedicated programme reporting tool which will facilitate tracking and reporting of progress. This reporting system will enable real-time tracking of actions, identification of roadblocks, and flagging of opportunities.

Additionally, under the Local Government (Mayor of Limerick) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2024, the Limerick Mayoral Advisory and Implementation Committee was established. This committee, incorporating a diverse and representative group of internal and external stakeholders, was created to provide strategic advice, support and coordination for the Mayor. The Committee meets quarterly to review progress, discuss challenges, and offer recommendations to ensure the momentum of the More for Limerick programme is maintained.

### Progress in 2024

Although the Mayor's term began mid-year, significant progress was made in the second half of 2024. Following the Programme's launch, Quarter 4 was focused on identifying initial priority actions for delivery in early 2025. For the 'More Prosperous Limerick' pillar alone, 66 specific actions were earmarked for Quarter 1 2025, spanning themes such as SME development, skills, public realm investment, tourism and offshore wind infrastructure.

Early implementation also included an “Offsite Day” with senior staff, organised to build shared ownership and clarity around the Programme’s actions. The event was designed to empower staff in their roles as implementers and collaborators, and to embed the Mayoral Programme into the organisational culture of Limerick City and County Council (LCCC). While this was happening, many other milestones were achieved including:

- LCCC has established a SMART Housing Working Group with the Department and an associated governance framework. A full-time LCCC official has been hired and assigned to the project.
- Repairs were carried out on playground in Shelbourne Park and the playground in Castleconnell was cleaned and repaired and a new swing installed.
- In Kilmallock, phase 1 of the Riverside Park was completed with works which included the fencing off of the town wall, the resurfacing of existing paths, construction of new paths, ducting for public lighting, reinforcement of the riverbank and fencing along it, surfacing at the car park entrance and slipway and the installation of street furniture and landscaping.
- As part of Heritage Week, a guided walking tour of the medieval streets and lanes of medieval Limerick City led by a staff member of Limerick Museum was held on 24 August. This tour, which was attended by 70 people, highlighted the surviving and lost medieval thoroughfares of Englishtown and Irishtown, and featured the many archaeological and historic sites along the old streetscapes.
- Limerick City and County lit up with a spectacular Culture Night in September 2024, which celebrated the vibrant arts and creativity that define our community. The night was a resounding success, drawing crowds of residents and visitors to experience dozens of free events. Over 70 events took place around the city and

county, including art exhibitions, performances, slam poetry, music, opera and participatory workshops in printmaking and harp. There were events and activities in the towns and villages across the county including Newcastle West, Abbeyfeale, Knockainey, Rathkeale and Kilmallock.

- SME Taskgroup: I agreed with Councillor Doyle that we would start with an Expert Working Group to review my prior SME report of some four years ago.
- City Centre Taskforce: Chaired by Councillor Maria Donoghue, who helped me find suitable members for the group. This group will be integral in communicating the needs and asks from a city centre perspective, on an ongoing basis and relay these back to the LCCC team, including the night economy team to respond accordingly.
- The Foynes boil water notice was lifted after a meeting with the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and Senior Officials from Uisce Éireann.

## Looking Ahead

The establishment of the Office of the Mayor and the launch of the More for Limerick Programme represents a step-change in ambition for Limerick. As the first Directly Elected Mayor in Ireland, the Mayor of Limerick has a critical role in demonstrating the potential of this new model of local leadership. Early actions have focused on laying the foundations—building partnerships, assigning responsibilities, and mobilising early projects.



John Moran  
The Mayor of Limerick



Councillor Dan McSweeney  
Príomh Chomhairleoir of Limerick City  
and County Council

# LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS







Limerick City night-time aerial view



## METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK

**METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK** (consisting of the Local Electoral Areas of Limerick City East, Limerick City North and Limerick City West) – 21 MEMBERS.

### Limerick City East - 7 Members



Cllr. Peter Doyle  
(FG)



Cllr. Ursula Gavan  
(SF)



Cllr. Seán Hartigan  
(GP)



Cllr. Sarah Kiely  
(FG)



Cllr. Joe Pond  
(FF)



Cllr. Elena Secas  
(LAB)



Cllr. Catherine Slattery  
(FF)

### Limerick City North - 7 Members



Cllr. Sarah Beasley  
(AONTÚ)



Cllr. Sharon Benson  
(SF)



Cllr. Frankie Daly  
(NP)



Cllr. Shane Hickey-O'Mara  
(SD)



Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon  
(FF)



Cllr. Olivia O'Sullivan  
(FG)



Cllr. Pádraigh Reale  
(LAB)

## Limerick City West – 7 Members



Cllr. Daniel Butler  
(FG)



Cllr. Maria Donoghue  
(NP)



Cllr. Fergus Kilcoyne  
(FF)



Cllr. Joe Leddin  
(LAB)



Cllr. Dan McSweeney  
(FG)



Cllr. Elisa O'Donovan  
(SD)



Cllr. Abul Kalam Azad  
Talukder  
(FF)

## Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale – 6 Members



Cllr. Bridie Collins  
(FF)



Cllr. Tommy Hartigan  
(II)



Cllr. Stephen Keary  
(FG)



Cllr. John O'Donoghue  
(II)



Cllr. Adam Teskey  
(FG)



Cllr. Ger Ward  
(FF)





Mayoral Inauguration



## Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock - 7 Members



Cllr. P.J. Carey  
(SF)



Cllr. Gregory Conway  
(FG)



Cllr. Tommy O'Sullivan  
(FG)



Cllr. Eddie Ryan  
(NP)



Cllr. Martin Ryan  
(FF)



Cllr. Noreen Stokes  
(FG)



Cllr. Brigid Teefy  
(NP)

## Municipal District of Newcastle West - 6 Members



Cllr. Michael Collins  
(FF)



Cllr. Francis Foley  
(FF)



Cllr. Liam Galvin  
(FG)



Cllr. Tom Ruddle  
(FG)



Cllr. Jerome Scanlan  
(NP)



Cllr. John Sheahan  
(FG)

# COUNCIL MEMBERS AND MEETINGS







Limerick City and County Council session



# COUNCIL MEMBERS AND MEETINGS

## COUNCIL MEMBERS AND MEETINGS

There are 41 members on the Council – the Mayor of Limerick, 21 Members in the Metropolitan District of Limerick (consisting of the Local Electoral Areas of Limerick City East, Limerick City North and Limerick City West) six Members in the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale, seven Members in the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock and six Members in the Municipal District of Newcastle West. Meetings of the Full Council are normally held on the fourth Monday of every second month, in the Council Chamber at Dooradoyle and virtually. The Full Council met on 18 occasions in 2024.

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS

Title	No. of Members	No. of Meetings
Metropolitan District of Limerick	21	11
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	6	12
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	7	17
Municipal District of Newcastle West	6	12

## LOCAL ELECTORAL AREA BRIEFINGS

	No. of Members	No. of Meetings
Limerick City East	7	12
Limerick City North	7	12
Limerick City West	7	12

## CORPORATE POLICY GROUP

The Corporate Policy Group (CPG) is a Committee of the Council consisting of the Mayor of Limerick, the Príomh Chomhairleoir of Limerick City and County Council, the Chairs of each of the Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) and a representative of the Municipal District of Newcastle West.

Membership is as follows:

- John Moran, Mayor of Limerick
- Councillor Dan McSweeney, Príomh Chomhairleoir of Limerick City and County Council
- Councillor Stephen Keary, Chairperson, Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee
- Councillor Brigid Teefy, Chairperson, Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee
- Councillor Peter Doyle, Chairperson, Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism and Planning Strategic Policy Committee
- Councillor Fergus Kilcoyne, Chairperson, Community, Leisure, Arts, Heritage and Culture Strategic Policy Committee
- Councillor Joe Leddin Chairperson, Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee
- Councillor Liam Galvin, Nominee from Municipal District of Newcastle West

The CPG links the work of the different SPCs, acts as a type of cabinet and provides a forum where policy positions can be agreed for submission to the Full Council, which retains the decision-making authority. The CPG also monitors the performance of the Local Authority and plays a key role in preparing the budget. The CPG met on eight occasions in 2024.

*\*Position as at 31/12/2024*

## COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

Strategic Policy Committee	No. of Members	No. of Meetings
Home and Social Development	24	3
Travel and Transportation	24	2
Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism and Planning	24	5
Community, Leisure, Arts, Heritage and Culture	26	5
Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment	24	2

Other Committees	No. of Members	No. of Meetings
Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	12	4
Rural Water Committee	17	4
Audit and Risk Committee	7	6
Joint Policing Committee	16	2
Local Community Development Committee	19	10

## STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES

Each Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) comprises Elected Members and Sectoral Representatives, working together in a more participative form of democracy, thereby providing a more effective policy focus on the functions and activities carried out by Limerick City and County Council. Each SPC is supported in its work by a Director of Service. While each SPC formulates and develops policy, the final decisions rest ultimately with the Full Council.

*\*Position as at 31/12/2024*

## HOME AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

### Elected Members:

Cllr. Stephen Keary	LCCC Chairperson
Cllr. Sarah Beasley	LCCC
Cllr. Sharon Benson	LCCC
Cllr. Frankie Daly	LCCC
Cllr. Maria Donoghue	LCCC
Cllr. Francis Foley	LCCC
Cllr. Sarah Kiely	LCCC
Cllr. Joe Leddin	LCCC
Cllr. Elisa O'Donovan	LCCC
Cllr. Tommy O'Sullivan	LCCC
Cllr. Tom Ruddle	LCCC
Cllr. Catherine Slattery	LCCC
Cllr. Noreen Stokes	LCCC
Cllr. Abul Kalam Azad Talukder	LCCC
Cllr. Adam Teskey	LCCC
Cllr. Ger Ward	LCCC

### Sectoral Representatives:

Vacancy	Development/Construction
Vacancy	Business/Commercial
Ms. Carol McNamara	Trade Union
Ms. Una Burns	Community/Voluntary*
Vacancy	Community/Voluntary*
Vacancy	Community/Voluntary*
Vacancy	Community/Voluntary*
Ms. Toyin Salom	Social Inclusion*

*\*Are nominated via Public Participation Network (PPN)*

This committee is responsible for the formulation, monitoring and reviewing of policies related to housing and to advise the Council accordingly. There were three meetings of the Home and Social Development SPC held in 2024. Presentations and policy were progressed on the following:

- Housing Delivery Action Plan – Progress to Date
- Update on amendments to Tenant Purchase Scheme
- Presentation by Clúid Housing on Clúid Housing projects delivered in Limerick and highlighted projects in the pipeline.
- Presentation by The Housing Welfare and Traveller Accommodation on the Traveller Accommodation Programme
- Presentation by Housing on “Digital Transformations” which included information on +adjust (system for documenting maintenance and planned maintenance works), Project Díon (system for interaction with DHLGH on housing projects and financial recoupments) and iHouse (replacement/development of system)
- Presentation by Housing on “Defective Concrete Block Scheme”
- Presentation by Housing on the Energy Retrofit Programme providing information on the 2024 and 2025 Schemes.
- Presentation by Housing on LA-led Affordable Housing
- Presentation by Novas on Novas Updates

## TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

### Elected Members:

Cllr. Brigid Teefy	LCCC Chairperson
Cllr. Daniel Butler	LCCC
Cllr. Gregory Conway	LCCC
Cllr. Peter Doyle	LCCC
Cllr. Ursula Gavan	LCCC
Cllr. Seán Hartigan	LCCC
Cllr. Fergus Kilcoyne	LCCC
Cllr. John O'Donoghue	LCCC
Cllr. Elisa O'Donovan	LCCC
Cllr. Tom Ruddle	LCCC

Cllr. Martin Ryan	LCCC
Cllr. Eddie Ryan	LCCC
Cllr. Jerome Scanlan	LCCC
Cllr. Elena Secas	LCCC
Cllr. Adam Teskey	LCCC
Cllr. Ger Ward	LCCC

### Sectoral Representatives:

Vacancy	Agriculture/Farming
Vacancy	Environment/Conservation*
Vacancy	Development/Construction
Vacancy	Business/Commercial
Mr. Dan O'Neill	Trade Union
Ms. Farron Flaherty	Community/Voluntary*
Vacancy	Community/Voluntary*
Ms. Maureen Browne	Social Inclusion*

The Travel and Transportation SPC held two meetings in 2024. Presentations and policy were progressed on the following:

- Presentation and adoption of Traffic Calming Policy.
- NTA Presentation on TFI Bike Scheme in Limerick
- Presentation on Parking Permits for Voluntary Organisations

*\*Are nominated via Public Participation Network (PPN)*

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE, TOURISM AND PLANNING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

### Elected Members:

Cllr. Peter Doyle	LCCC Chairperson
Cllr. Sharon Benson	LCCC
Cllr. Bridie Collins	LCCC
Cllr. Michael Collins	LCCC
Cllr. Maria Donoghue	LCCC
Cllr. Liam Galvin	LCCC
Cllr. Ursula Gavan	LCCC
Cllr. Stephen Keary	LCCC
Cllr. Dan McSweeney	LCCC
Cllr. John O'Donoghue	LCCC
Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon	LCCC



Cllr. Tommy O’Sullivan	LCCC
Cllr. Olivia O’Sullivan	LCCC
Cllr. Joe Pond	LCCC
Cllr. Pádraigh Reale	LCCC
Cllr. Jerome Scanlan	LCCC

**Sectoral Representatives:**

Vacancy	Agriculture/Farming
Vacancy	Environment/Conservation*
Vacancy	Development/Construction
Vacancy	Business/Commercial
Vacancy	Business/Commercial
Mr. Declan Hehir	Community/Voluntary*
Mr. Brian Thompson	Community/Voluntary*
Mr. Vadivel Raj	Social Inclusion*

\*Are nominated via Public Participation Network (PPN)

This committee met three times in 2024. The main items discussed were as follows:

- Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlement Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2024
- Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Update
- Limerick Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023-2028
- Fáilte Programme – Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland
- Update on Limerick Tourism Strategy 2019-2023 and Introduction to new Tourism Strategy 2024-2029 process

## COMMUNITY, LEISURE, ARTS, HERITAGE AND CULTURE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

**Elected Members:**

Cllr. Fergus Kilcoyne	LCCC Chairperson
Cllr. Sarah Beasley	LCCC
Cllr. Daniel Butler	LCCC
Cllr. P.J. Carey	LCCC
Cllr. Michael Collins	LCCC
Cllr. Gregory Conway	LCCC
Cllr. Tommy Hartigan	LCCC
Cllr. Shane Hickey-O’Mara	LCCC
Cllr. Dan McSweeney	LCCC
Cllr. Olivia O’Sullivan	LCCC
Cllr. Pádraigh Reale	LCCC
Cllr. Martin Ryan	LCCC
Cllr. John Sheahan	LCCC
Cllr. Catherine Slattery	LCCC
Cllr. Abul Kalam Azad Talukder	LCCC
Cllr. Brigid Teefy	LCCC

**Sectoral Representatives:**

Vacancy	Agricultural/Farming
Vacancy	Environment/Conservation*
Vacancy	Development/Construction
Vacancy	Business/Commercial
Mr. Pete Moles	Community/Voluntary*
Ms. Marian Hurley	Community/Voluntary*
Vacancy	Community/Voluntary*
Vacancy	Community/Voluntary*
Khurram Iqbal	Social Inclusion*
Vacancy	Social Inclusion*

\*Are nominated via Public Participation Network (PPN)

This committee met five times in 2024. The main items discussed were as follows:

- Limerick City and County Council vacancy and dereliction initiative
- Ukrainian Supports Update
- Library Presentation “Story Seeds – Making headlines in Limerick”
- Museum Services Update
- Inclusive Community Engagement in Local Planning and Decision Making

- Festival & Events Strategy
- Autism Friendly Update
- Update on Migrant Integration Steering Group
- Limerick City Gallery of Art Update
- Draft Public Art Policy 2024-2028

## CLIMATE ACTION, BIODIVERSITY AND ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

### **Elected Members:**

Cllr. Joe Leddin	LCCC Chairperson
Cllr. P.J. Carey	LCCC
Cllr. Bridie Collins	LCCC
Cllr. Frankie Daly	LCCC
Cllr. Francis Foley	LCCC
Cllr. Liam Galvin	LCCC
Cllr. Seán Hartigan	LCCC
Cllr. Tommy Hartigan	LCCC
Cllr. Shane Hickey-O'Mara	LCCC
Cllr. Sarah Kiely	LCCC
Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon	LCCC
Cllr. Joe Pond	LCCC
Cllr. Eddie Ryan	LCCC
Cllr. Elena Secas	LCCC
Cllr. John Sheahan	LCCC
Cllr. Noreen Stokes	LCCC

### **Sectoral Representatives:**

Vacancy	Agriculture/Farming
Vacancy	Agriculture/Farming
Vacancy	Business/Commercial
Vacancy	Business/Commercial
Mr. Bruce Harper	Community/Voluntary*
Mr. Caillum Hedderman	Community/Voluntary*
Vacancy	Environment/Conservation*
Vacancy	Environment/Conservation*

*\*Are nominated via Public Participation Network (PPN)*

This committee met twice in 2024. The main items discussed were as follows:

- Limerick Tree Strategy
- Noise Action Plan
- Limerick Biodiversity Plan
- Clean Air Together Project

# REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES

(\*position at 31/12/2024)

## LOCAL TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Cllr. Frankie Daly  
Cllr. Seán Hartigan  
Cllr. Tommy O'Sullivan  
Cllr. Catherine Slattery

## ASSOCIATION OF IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AILG)

Cllr. Gregory Conway  
Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon  
Cllr. Jerome Scanlan

## SOUTHERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Mayor John Moran  
Cllr. Michael Collins  
Cllr. Frankie Daly  
Cllr. John Sheahan

## LIMERICK MARKET TRUSTEES

Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon (Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick)  
Cllr. Sarah Beasley  
Cllr. Daniel Butler  
Cllr. Frankie Daly  
Cllr. Maria Donoghue  
Cllr. Peter Doyle  
Cllr. Shane Hickey-O'Mara  
Cllr. Sarah Kiely  
Cllr. Fergus Kilcoyne  
Cllr. Dan McSweeney  
Cllr. Elisa O'Donovan  
Cllr. Olivia O'Sullivan  
Cllr. Joe Pond  
Cllr. John Sheahan  
Cllr. Catherine Slattery  
Cllr. Abul Kalam Azad Talukder  
Cllr. Ger Ward

## LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

Cllr. Fergus Kilcoyne

## IRISH PUBLIC BODIES INSURANCE CLG

Cllr. John Sheahan

## LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS' ASSOCIATION

Cllr. John Sheahan

## WEST LIMERICK RESOURCES LIMITED

Cllr. Francis Foley  
Cllr. Tommy Hartigan  
Cllr. John Sheahan  
Cllr. Ger Ward

## BALLYHOURA DEVELOPMENT LIMITED

Cllr. Tommy O'Sullivan  
Cllr. Martin Ryan

## PAUL PARTNERSHIP

Cllr. Shane Hickey-O'Mara  
Cllr. Catherine Slattery  
Cllr. Abul Kalam Azad Talukder

## HUNT MUSEUMS' TRUST

Cllr. Maria Donoghue  
Cllr. Olivia O'Sullivan

## REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM WEST

Cllr. Sharon Benson  
Cllr. Bridie Collins  
Cllr. Michael Collins  
Cllr. Gregory Conway  
Cllr. Francis Foley  
Cllr. Liam Galvin  
Cllr. Elisa O'Donovan



#### **BOARD OF ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL**

Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon

#### **LIMERICK SPORTS PARTNERSHIP**

Cllr. Sarah Kiely

#### **LIMERICK CIVIC TRUST**

Cllr. Abul Kalam Azad Talukder

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF MOYROSS COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE CENTRE LIMITED**

Cllr. Pádraig Reale

#### **BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF ST. MUNCHIN'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED**

Cllr. Olivia O'Sullivan

#### **BOARD OF INNOVATE LIMERICK**

Vacancy

#### **LOCAL SMALL AND MEDIUM EXPERTISE**

Vacancy

#### **LIMERICK 2030 STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT DAC**

Vacancy

#### **DISCOVER LIMERICK DAC**

Vacancy

#### **LIMERICK AND CLARE EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD**

Cllr. Maria Donoghue

Cllr. Peter Doyle

Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon

Cllr. John Sheahan

Cllr. Catherine Slattery

Cllr. Noreen Stokes

Cllr. Brigid Teefy

#### **AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE**

Cllr. Sharon Benson

Cllr. John Sheahan

Cllr. Catherine Slattery

#### **LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr. P.J. Carey

Cllr. Gregory Conway

Cllr. Stephen Keary

Cllr. Joe Pond

#### **RURAL WATER MONITORING COMMITTEE**

Cllr. Stephen Keary

Cllr. Eddie Ryan

Cllr. Ger Ward

#### **LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP) STEERING GROUP**

Cllr. Peter Doyle (Chairperson, Economic

Development, Enterprise, Tourism and Planning SPC)

Cllr. Catherine Slattery

# RESERVED FUNCTIONS

## METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK

Part 8 Approval for Development at Limerick City Fire Station, Mulgrave Street, Limerick.

Approval to the taking in charge of the roads in The Cloisters, North Circular Road, Limerick in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993.

Part 8 Approval for the Gaelscoil Sáirséal Active Travel Scheme, Shelbourne Road, Limerick.

Part 8 Approval for the St. Pauls Roundabout to Ballykeeffe Roundabout Active Travel Scheme, Dooradoyle, Limerick.

Approval to hold the March Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick on 19 March, 2024.

Approval of allocations under the Community Initiative Scheme 2024.

Adoption of Schedule of Municipal District Works 2024 for the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

Approval to the taking in charge of the roads in Kylemore Phase 4, Schoolhouse Road, Castletroy, Limerick in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993.

Approval for the draft Limerick City and County Council Control of Car Clubs Bye-Laws 2024 to go on public display, in accordance with Section 200(1) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

Part 8 Approval in relation to the Moyross Avenue Upgrade, Moyross, Limerick.

Part 8 Approval in relation to Thomond RFC Extension, Moyross, Limerick.

Approval to the taking in charge of the Laneway and Access Roads to the rear of Nos. 4 – 8 Parnell Street, Priors Land, Limerick in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993.

Approval to the taking in charge of the Access Road to The Cloisters, North Circular Road, Limerick in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993.

Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

Adoption of the Draft Limerick City and County Council Metropolitan District of Limerick Control of Car Clubs Bye-Laws 2024, in accordance with Part 19 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended).

Adoption of the Budgetary Plan 2025 for the Metropolitan District of Limerick in the amount of €800,000, which included an increased amount of €50,000, and the amount of €565,000 be reassigned to F04, Community Initiatives, in accordance with Section 102(4) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

Approval for a minor amendment to previously approved Part 8 for Atlas Avenue, Dock Road, Limerick.



Approval for the Limerick City and County Council Control of Stationless On-Street Shared E-Scooter Hire Services Draft Bye-Laws 2024 to go on public display in accordance with Section 200(1) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

Part 8 Approval in relation to the Southside Connectivity Project, Rathbane North and Galvone, Limerick.

Approval to the taking in charge of the roads in Danesfort, Corbally, Limerick, in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

Adoption of draft Standing Orders for the Metropolitan District of Limerick, in accordance with Section 10 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

Part 8 Approval for Proposed Development of six no. Housing Units at Mulcair Drive, Rivers, Annacotty, Co. Limerick.

Part 8 Approval for Proposed Development of six no. Housing Units at 52 New Road, Thomondgate, Limerick.

Approval to the taking in charge of the roads in Belfield Crescent, Farranshone, Limerick in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993.

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CAPPAMORE-KILMALLOCK

Adoption of the Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock for the financial year ending 31 December 2025, in the total sum of €332,500, an increase of €37,500 on the 2024 allocation of €295,000.

Approval of Allocations under the General Municipal Allocation, Development Fund, Community Initiatives Scheme and Community Facilities Grants Scheme 2024. Projects were nominated for the GMA Community Grants scheme totalling €36,000.

Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock.

Adoption of the 2024 Schedule of Works for the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock.

Adoption of Standing Orders 2024.

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE

Approval of allocations under the General Municipal Allocation 2024.

Approval of the Material Alteration of the Draft Adare Local Area Plan 2024 – 2030 in accordance with Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Approval to the taking in charge of the housing estate at Adamswood Avenue, Croagh, Co. Limerick in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993.

Approval to the taking in charge of the housing estate at Beechwood Drive, Ballingarry, Co. Limerick in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993.

Adoption of the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2024 for the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District.

Approval to hold the Annual Meeting on the 25 June, 2024.

Election of the Cathaoirleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale.

Approval to the taking in charge of the housing estate Ros Choill, Pallaskenry, Co. Limerick in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993.

Adoption of the Budgetary Plan 2025 for the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale, subject to the amendment that the allocation remain at €270,000 in order to retain commercial rates at 2024 levels and include the amendment that the total allocation of €270,000 be allocated to Service D05 – Tourism Development Recreation and Amenity, in accordance with Section 102(4) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.

Part 8 Approval for the development of 11 Lismakeera, Askeaton, Co. Limerick.

Part 8 Approval for the remodeling and extension of the Adare Heritage Centre at Main Street, Adare, Co. Limerick.

Approval to extend the duration of the Croom Local Area Plan 2020 – 2026 for a further period of four years, in accordance with the Mayor's Report dated 29th November, 2024 and Section 19 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)".

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST

Part 8 Approval for (a) the development of a services building at Limerick Greenway Hub, Station Road, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick (b) the development of the Limerick Greenway Hub at Ardagh, Ministerland, Ardagh, Co. Limerick, (c) the development of the West Limerick Tourism Hub at Fuller's Folly, Bridge Street, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.

Part 8 approval for the Development of the Limerick Greenway Hub at Abbeyfeale.

Part 8 approval for the proposed Housing Scheme at Radharc Na Ghleanna, Mountcollins, Co. Limerick.

Adoption of the Draft Budgetary Plan 2025 General Municipal Allocation for the Municipal District of Newcastle West in accordance with Section 102 (4) of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended).

Approval of Taking in Charge of Cluain Arra, Newcastle West, in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

Approval of Taking in Charge of Daar River View, Newcastle West, in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

Approval of Taking in Charge of Dunquin, Newcastle West, in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

Approval of Taking in Charge of Glenquin Manor, Newcastle West, in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

Approval of Taking in Charge of Hawthorn Drive, Newcastle West, in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

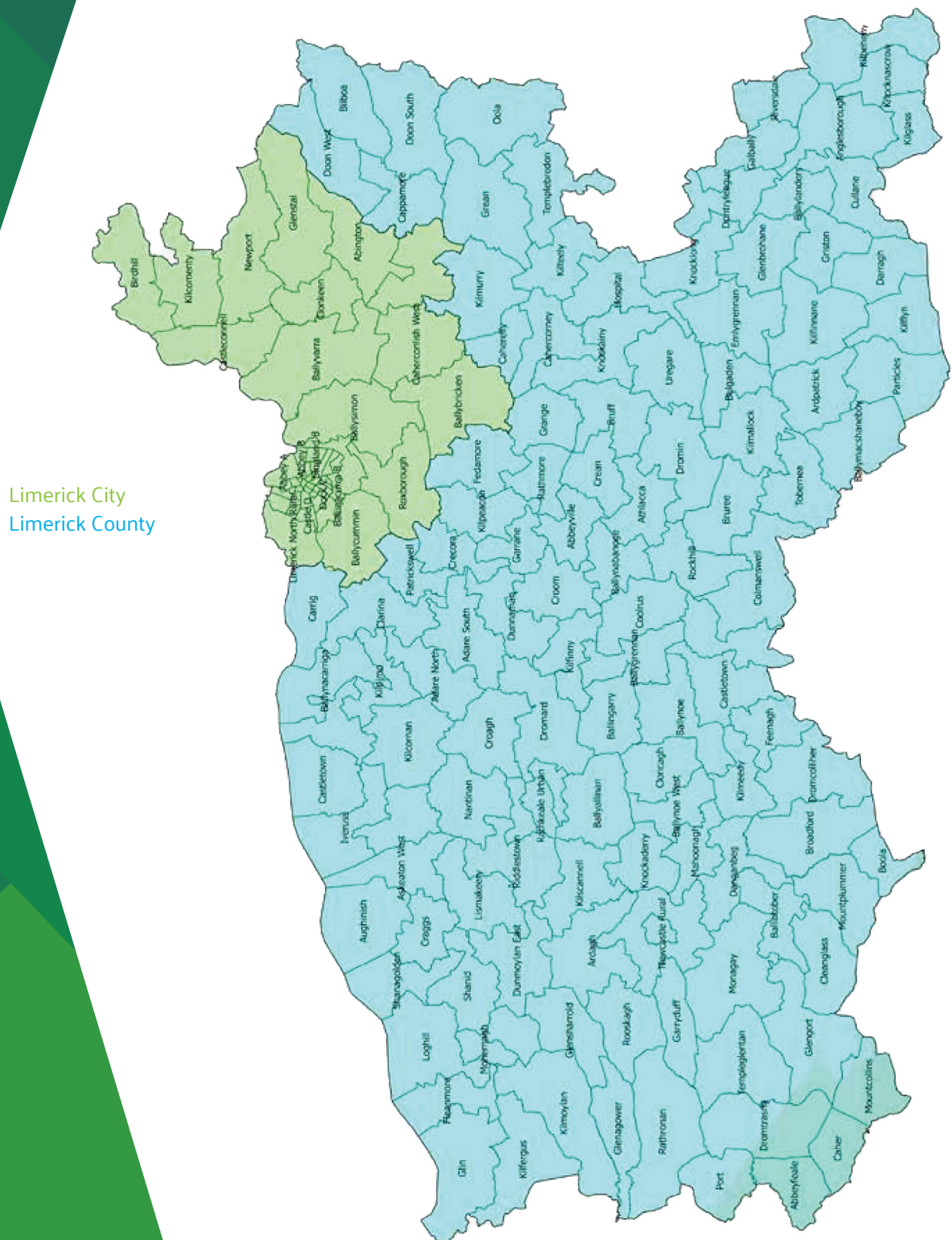




Patrickswell Community Centre  
Official Opening



## DAIL CONSTITUENCIES





# MAYORAL RECEPTIONS







Samhain Festival  
Photo: Brian Arthur



## MAYORAL RECEPTIONS



**19.01.2024**

### **Hospital GAA Club, Pauline Hynan, Ger O'Connell**

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell on 19 January, for Hospital Herbertstown GAA Club, to acknowledge the 40th anniversary of the Limerick County Junior Hurling and Football Championship titles in 1983. Pauline Hynan, in recognition of her lifetime achievement of fostering and sharing a love and knowledge of dance, in particular, her voluntary contribution to Scór and the many successes she has enjoyed with Cappamore GAA and Camogie Club. Ger O'Connell, in recognition and appreciation of his voluntary contribution to his club, Pallasgreen GAA Club and his tremendous contribution as kit man to the very successful Limerick Senior Hurling Team.

Photograph includes L-R: James Hanley, Michael (Doll) Reale, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, Pauline Hynan and Ger O'Connell.



**30.01.2024 - Fr. Séamus Enright**

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell on 30 January, for Fr. Séamus Enright, in recognition of his trojan work and contribution to Mount St. Alphonsus Church in Limerick City and the community in the fourteen years he was in situ there as the Rector of the Redemptorists and also in recognition and appreciation of his huge contribution to the success of the Redemptorist Christmas Hamper Appeal which ensures that families have food on the table for Christmas. Also, in recognition of his involvement in the International effort to help those who have been displaced by the war in Ukraine.



#### **15.02.2024 – John Macnamara**

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell on 15 February for John Macnamara, in recognition of his four Farming National Titles, namely FBD Young Farmer of the Year 2005, Farmyard of the Year 2009, Grassland Farmer of the Year 2018, and the winner of the 2023 National Dairy Council and Kerrygold Quality Milk Awards. Also, in acknowledgement of his tremendous contribution and voluntary work for his local community of Knockaineey, Macra na Feirme, Schools and Ladies Football at both club and county level.



#### **22.02.2024 – Hub Martial Arts**

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell on 22 February for Hub Martial Arts, in recognition of their achievement in kickboxing at the Unified World Kickboxing Championship in Italy in October, 2023, winning 35 gold medals, nine silver medals and five bronze medals in multiple disciplines of Martial Arts.

Photograph includes L-R: Gillian Barry, Paul O'Brien and Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell.



#### **28.02.2024 – Newcastle West GAA**

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell on 28 February for Newcastle West GAA, in recognition of their achievement in winning three-in-a row County Senior Football Titles 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Photograph includes L-R: Councillor Liam Galvin, Jimmy Lee, Limerick Senior Football Manager, Susan Gleeson, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, Councillor Tom Ruddle, Margaret Hannon, James Ahern and Captain Iain Corbett.





### **06.03.2024 – Mungret St Paul's GAA**

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell on 6 March for Mungret St. Paul's GAA, in recognition of their highly successful 2023 season, winning several adult county titles in hurling and football and two National Féile titles in football and ladies football.

Photograph includes L-R: Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell and Donal Fitzgibbon, Chairperson, Mungret St. Paul's GAA.



### **11.03.2024 – Seán O'Sullivan**

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell on 11 March for Seán O'Sullivan, in recognition of his achievement as Overall Winner, BT Young Scientist & Technologist of the Year at the 60th BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition 2024.



### **11.03.2024 – Coláiste Chiaráin**

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell on 11 March for Coláiste Chiaráin, in recognition of the school's commitment to Science, Technology and STEM education, being awarded the Best School Republic of Ireland Award at the 2024 BT Young Scientist and Technology Competition.

Photograph includes L-R: Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, Gerard O'Sullivan, Principal and Ms. Edel Farrell, Teacher, BTYSTE Mentor.



**26.03.2024 - Ballyneety Golf Club**

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell on 26 March for Ballyneety Golf Club, in recognition and appreciation of the extraordinary vision and community ethos which has been cultivated by the members and staff.

Photograph includes, Back Row, L-R: Sheila O Malley, John Leamy, Gillian Stack, Ken Hogan, Donal McSweeney, Tim Hurley.

Front Row L-R Olive Scollard, Gerry O Neill, Theresa O Donoghue, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, Minie O Brien, Pat Fogarty, Mike Garry RIP.

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**10.04.2025 - Limerick Lawn Tennis Club**

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell on 10 April for Limerick Lawn Tennis Club, in recognition of their contribution to Limerick city sporting life for almost one hundred and fifty years.

Photograph includes L-R: Eugene Pratt, Pat Casey, Judy McGill, Ger Tierney, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, Michael Murphy, Jim Cleary, Gerry Clancy, Lucy Warner-Ryan and Tim Connolly.





#### **16.04.2024 – Patrick English, Anthony O'Donnell and Marguerite Quinn**

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell on 16 April for Patrick English, in appreciation of his extensive years of service in various leadership positions within the community, showcasing remarkable dedication and foresight, along with his exceptional commitment to Galtee Gaels and Limerick GAA. Anthony O'Donnell, in recognition of his unwavering commitment to the community of St. Mary's Park, Limerick, as an activist and volunteer on various committees working for the betterment of the people of King's Island, Limerick. Marguerite Quinn, in recognition of her outstanding achievement representing Ireland at the Blind Sports World Games 2023.

Photograph includes L-R: Patrick English, Anthony O'Donnell, Marguerite Quinn and Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell.



#### **12 – 25.04.2024 - Alliance Française Limerick and Dr. Loïc Guyon**

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell on 25 April for Alliance Française Limerick, in celebration of their 80th anniversary and in recognition of their promotion of the French language and culture in Limerick since 1944. Dr. Loïc Guyon, in appreciation and recognition of his contribution, as founder of the Limerick Wild Geese Festival launched in 2019 and as Initiator/Director of the Sarsfield Homecoming Project launched in 2020. Both the festival and project have been facilitated by Alliance Française Limerick since 2023.

Photograph includes L-R: Dr. Paul O'Brien, Alliance Française Limerick, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell and Dr. Loïc Guyon.





**30.04.2024 - Niall Deegan, James Lundon and Liam O'Brien**

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell on 30 April for Niall Deegan, James Lundon and Liam O'Brien, in recognition and appreciation of their voluntary contribution to Gaelic Games in Limerick, particularly for their historic book "1973 – Keeping the Dream Alive", the net profits from which were donated to the Limerick Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) and the Children's Ark Unit at University Hospital Limerick.

Photograph includes L-R: Liam O'Brien, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, James Lundon and Niall Deegan.



**10.05.2024 - Hayleigh Kiely, Fergus Scanlan, Siobhan Walsh**

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell on 10 May for 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.

Photograph includes L-R: Hayleigh Kiely, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, Siobhan Walsh and Fergus Scanlan.



#### **22.05.2024 – Our Lady Queen of Peace Primary School Choir**

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell on 22 May for 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. May their voices continue to inspire and uplift.

Photograph includes L-R: Eoghan Maher, Councillor Daniel Butler, Councillor Sarah Kiely, Orla Burke, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, Eamonn O'Connell, Councillor Catherine Slattery, Patrick Jones, Úna Carmody and James Malone.

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#### **23.05.2024 – Tony Brazil**

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell on 23 May for 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.





### **23.05.2024 Limerick Narwhals**

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell on 23 May for 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.

Photograph includes, Front Row L-R: Ailbhe Healy, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, Mark Dempsey. Middle Row L-R: Ger Purcell, Rosie Foley, Martin Shannon, Joe Diggins, Brian Dillon. Back Row L-R: Aoife McGuinness, Mark Hannigan, Conor Leahy.



### **23.05.2024 - Dominic Taylor, Limerick Writers' Centre**

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell on 23 May for Dominic Taylor, Limerick Writers' Centre, in acknowledgment of his steadfast commitment to advancing poetry and the literary arts in Limerick.



### **30.05.2024 - Bruff R.F.C.**

A Mayoral Reception was hosted by The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell on 30 May for 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.

Photograph includes L-R: Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell and Michéal Leahy, President Bruff RFC.



### **30.05.2024 – Munster Rugby and Thomond Park Stadium DAC**

Mayoral Reception was hosted by The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell on 30 May for 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.

Photograph includes L-R „John Hartery, Munster Board Member and Thomond Park Director, Dr. Pat Daly, Director General, Limerick City and County Council, John Cantwell, Thomond Park Stadium Director, Pat Whelan, Chairman Thomond Park Stadium, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, Michael Carroll, President Munster Branch, Brian Nolan, Brendan Foley, Senior Vice President Munster Branch and Michael Collopy.



### **5.06.2024 - Milford Care Centre**

Mayoral Reception was hosted by The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell on 5 June for Milford Care Centre, in recognition and appreciation of the outstanding dedication, care and support provided by the staff of Milford Care Centre to patients, residents, clients and families who require specialist care at the most vulnerable time in their life.

Photograph includes L-R: Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, Mary O'Brien, Chief Executive Officer, Milford Care Centre and Councillor Kieran O'Hanlon.





**5.06.2024 – St. John’s Hospital**

Mayoral Reception was hosted by The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell on 5 June for St. John’s Hospital, in recognition and appreciation of their achievement in delivering outstanding care to the people of Limerick and the Midwest, living out the hospital’s vision to be a leading provider of healthcare where innovation and excellence are at the heart of the patient experience.

Photograph includes L-R: Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, Emer Martin, Chief Executive Officer, St. John’s Hospital and Councillor Kieran O’Hanlon.

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**17.12.2024 - Tony, Hannah and Siobhan Noonan**

Mayoral Reception was hosted by The Mayor of Limerick, John Moran on 17 December for Tony, Hannah and Siobhan Noonan, in recognition of their community spirit, dedication and generosity in creating the annual Christmas wonderland of lights for Charity.

Photograph includes L-R: Councillor Francis Foley, Mayor of Limerick, John Moran, Tony Noonan and Councillor Liam Galvin.

A hand with long, light blue manicured nails holds a white, ornate lantern. The hand is adorned with a multi-strand pearl bracelet. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with greenery and a building. The image is partially covered by a green geometric overlay on the left side.

# **CORPORATE SERVICES, HUMAN RESOURCES AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**





Culture Night Limerick



# **CORPORATE SERVICES, HUMAN RESOURCES AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

## **HUMAN RESOURCES AND BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT**

In 2024 the Human Resources Department continued to proactively manage the workforce to enable the council to respond and meet its strategic objectives as well as supporting a motivated and committed workforce in the delivery of high quality services. In line with the sectoral People Strategy the HR Department supports managers to meet the strategic and operational goals of Limerick City and County Council. The Human Resources Department continues to also provide a wide range of supports to our most valuable resource – our staff.

### **Business Improvement**

The Business Improvement Unit supports innovation across the delivery of Limerick City and County Council's services. Digitization of business processes in collaboration with business units and technical departments is a key part of innovation and in 2024 a KPI dashboard was developed to assess progress on the Annual Service Delivery Plan and a Mayoral Programme dashboard has been developed to provide oversight on the objectives of this five year programme.

Limerick City and County Council has a large capital infrastructure spend and a new tool- CAPGOV has been developed in Limerick to manage the financial approvals associated with all projects from initiation to completion. The system captures high level risks and issues to provide a central view across multiple projects.

The unit supports internal communication using a Staff App and supports a Communication Portal to allow all departments to carry out public surveys and online consultations on key initiatives.

### **Learning and Wellbeing**

#### **Learning and Development**

The Learning and Wellbeing Unit delivered an extensive range of courses and workshops during the year. The programme is informed by a combination of requests received through the Performance Management Development System (PMDS), and the identified Corporate requirements across the organisation. Delivered through a combination of online and face to face events, over 200 training events were attended by staff during the year (see a summary of the main courses in the table below).

Through our training platform, we have a number of in-house online courses in place which cover some of the key areas of governance, which include;

- Safety Statement
- Financial Governance
- Fire Management
- Cyber security



To support our managers, an innovative Management Development programme was developed in conjunction with a local trainer and delivered to 53 managers at grades 6s, 7s and analogous grades. A supervisory management training course was delivered to 9 of our supervisors and will be rolled out to further groups in 2025.

Another new initiative was the development of a Customer Care Programme for colleagues working in customer facing roles. 39 staff completed this training.

Participation in the Junior Achievement Ireland school education programme continues to be a popular option which has seen benefits for participants and students alike, while also building awareness of the Council as an employer of choice for future recruitment processes.

Continuous education supports remain a high demand area with 14 undertaking the IPA Certificate in Local Government course and 46 staff (mainly new entrants) undertaking the A-Z of Local Government. A further ten staff progressed to the Diploma in Local Government.

19 staff received financial support to pursue their own 3rd level studies.

A strongly supported Induction programme was delivered this year with a collective attendance level of 111 recorded on the two onsite Induction days held. A further 179 completed the online programme prior to their start dates.

Training Courses/ workshops held	No. of Attendees
Staff Induction Day 2	61
Staff Induction Day 1	50
Autism Awareness programme	47
A-Z of Local Government programme	46
Excel Intermediate	45
Communication Skills	42
Customer Care Training	39
Freedom of Information Training	37
Project Management programme	36

Training Courses/ workshops held	No. of Attendees
Excel Advanced	35
Dignity at Work Training (Parks)	28
Excel Introductory	28
E-Tenders	26
Public Works Contract Training	25
Conflict Management	24
Time Management	24
Management Development Programme – Tranche 1	30

Training Courses/ workshops held	No. of Attendees
Management Development Programme – Tranche 2	23
MyPoint Consultation Training	22
Minute Taking courses	21
Presentation Skills	21
Change Management Training	18
PowerPoint Advanced	16
Planning Development Management Fundamentals	15
QGIS Training	15
Chairing Meetings	14
Disability Equality Training (Active Travel team)	14
Local Authority Roads training	14
Negotiation Skills	13
Planning Admin Fundamentals	13
PowerPoint Basic	12
Courtroom Skills (IPA)	11
Excel Training for Housing Staff	11
Word Advanced	11
Word Intermediate	11
Planning Enforcement Fundamentals	10
Grievance & Disciplinary Training (Parks)	10
IOSH PSDP Training	10
Positive Engagement with Young People	9
Report Writing	9
Supervisory Skills - Housing Services Supervisors	9
E-Waste Management Talk	8
Microsoft Project Training	8
Transport Research Arena 2024	8
MyPoint Survey Training	7
Temporary Traffic Management Design Level 1 & 2	6
Information Management Officer Course (IMO)	5

Training Courses/ workshops held	No. of Attendees
Internal Auditor (QMS) Training	5
BE Trailer Licence	4
Road Opening & Reinstatement – Basic Refresher	4
XL Bully Training	4
Bridge Engineering Inspection	3
Certificate in Road Management Programme	3
Derelict Sites & Dangerous Structures	3
Professional Services Withholding Tax	3
Relevant Contracts Tax	3
Road Opening & Reinstatement – Advanced	3
TII Standards Roadshow	3
BIM Coordinator Course	2
Bridge Engineering Course	2
Bridge Inventory Survey/Maintenance Inspection	2
Building Control & Modern Methods of Construction	2
Building Regulations Explained	2
Development Management & Enforcement Planning Fundamentals	2
Forward Planning Fundamentals	2
I.S. 465 Standard	2
IAT Sustainable Road Pavements	2
IPA Local Election Training	2
National Agricultural Inspection Programme Workshop	2
Revit for Landscape	2
Road Services Supervisor	2
Annual Review of Employment Law (Legal Island)	1
Certified Energy Manager Training	1
Climate Action & Sustainability Reporting	1
Creative Ireland Ignite Residential Programme Training	1



Training Courses/ workshops held	No. of Attendees
Data Subject Access Requests	1
Disability Access Officer Training	2
Domestic BER Course 16th - 1st	1
EPPM System Training	1
Garda Vetting Training	1
Housing Practitioners Conference	1
IAT Road Engineering Course	1
Inspection of Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems	1
Introduction to Administrative Law	1
IPA Sustainability and Climate Action	1
LGMA Disability Access Officer Seminar	1
Literacy Awareness Training	1
National Planning Conference	1

Training Courses/ workshops held	No. of Attendees
NDFEM Fire Officer Training	1
NEC Training	1
NEC Training NMAC	1
NZEB Course	1
Onsite Co-Ordinator Course	1
QQI Site Suitability Assessment for on-site Waste Water Treatment Systems	1
REBOUND - Rural Community Resilience in Practice	1
Revit Architecture Essentials	1
Road Opening & Reinstatement - Basic	1
SUDS Training	1
Surface & Storm Water Management	1
VAT Treatment of Services	1



## Wellbeing Programme

The Wellbeing Team delivered a busy and varied programme of supports and events throughout the year which was informed by the Wellbeing Strategy 2024 – 2026 and supported by the newly formed Wellbeing Committee. Expressions of interest for Wellbeing Champions were sought and the 20 successful applicants underwent a two day training session in April. The committee, who meet quarterly, are comprised of a cross representation of staff at varying grades, work locations and indoor/outdoor representatives.

Activities held during year include;	
Health screening programme	180 participants
Wellbeing Champion training	20 attendees
Cancer awareness talks	66 attendees
Stress management sessions (EAP)	42 attendees
SafeTALK(suicide awareness)	48 attendees
Guest speaker on resilience	120 attendees
Bereavement talks	23 attendees
Mindfulness Workshop	26 attendees
Lunchtime EAP health talks	67 attendees
Financial Wellbeing talk	20 attendees
Retirement Planning events	34 attendees
EAP information briefing (NCW)	25 attendees
Cycle to Work Scheme	40 applications
Specsavers vouchers	107 issued

A Flu vaccination programme was delivered to all outdoor grades and those working in front line services. Six clinics were held in three different locations, with 392 vaccines administered in total. An extensive inoculation programme for staff who work in high risk areas was also delivered.

No of clinics held	9
No of staff attending	116

## Equality and Diversity

Two new policies were introduced during the year – the Menopause in the Workplace Policy and the Domestic Violence and Abuse Policy. Both policies outline the supports and referral pathways available in these important areas and serve to strengthen our commitment to provide a safe, supportive and inclusive working environment for all.

In recognition of the increasing diversity of the current workforce, the Council arranged the delivery of training in the following key areas;

- Autism Awareness sessions
- Disability and Equality training
- Dignity and Respect training

## Recruitment

The Recruitment Section continues to contribute to the development of Limerick City and County Council's Workforce Planning process, ensuring that the Council is well placed to provide for the business needs of the organisation and the service needs of our citizens.

Recruitment of new staff into the Council continued in 2024 with 64 competitions held through a combination of both online and face-to-face methods. There were 1,198 individual interviews carried out for positions within the Council in 2024.

2024 also saw the filling of key leadership positions such as that of Executive Accountant, Senior Enterprise Development Officer and Programme Manager. A number of specific niche competitions were held such as Resident Archaeologist, Ecologist, Climate Action Officer, Assistant Arts Officer, Integration Support Co-Ordinator and Integration Support Worker to bring expertise into key service delivery areas such as Climate Action, Arts and Regeneration. Large recruitment processes included those for Clerical Officer, Assistant Staff Officer, General Operative and General Operative/Driver.



In 2024, our recruitment team advertised a wide range of critical roles within the Fire and Emergency Services Department. These positions included management roles such as Chief Fire Officer and Assistant Chief Fire Officer, as well as operational positions like Fulltime Firefighter and Retained Firefighter. We also focused on filling vital support roles, including Principal Emergency Control Operator and Senior Emergency Control Operator. Each of these roles is essential to the smooth functioning and efficiency of our fire services, ensuring that both emergency response capabilities and management functions are effectively supported.

There were also ongoing recruitment campaigns in 2024 for technical, engineering, architectural, planning and ICT staff in particular owing to the challenges faced recruiting these positions not only in the local government sector but also in the wider employment sphere.

Limerick City and County Council also attended numerous Jobs Fairs throughout the year of 2024, and will continue to do so in 2025, in order to further the Council's reputation as an employer of choice.

In 2024 Limerick City and County Council provided opportunities for a record number of students from various third level institution, offering them the opportunity to develop their skills while doing work of real value for the city and county of Limerick. The Council are investing time in the relationship we have with the third level institutions, and ensuring the students have meaningful and successful placements in order to enable Limerick City and County Council to build strong connections with the future work force.

In our continued collaboration with Fast Access to Information Technology (FIT), the Council has further advanced its apprenticeship program in the ICT sector. Building on last year's success, we recruited a Network Engineer Apprentice in 2024, marking the next step in expanding opportunities

within the field. This initiative continues to provide valuable learning experiences, offering hands-on training and mentorship for individuals within Limerick City and County Council. By further developing this apprenticeship, we aim to strengthen our ICT team while providing a pathway for local talent to develop specialized skills in network engineering, contributing to the overall growth and efficiency of the Council's technological capabilities.

Our Recruitment Schedule continues to be updated and revised to ensure continued support to the organisation in meeting the service demands required.

For further information in relation to recruitment in Limerick City and County Council, please visit [www.limerick.ie/council/services/your-council/jobs/recruitment](http://www.limerick.ie/council/services/your-council/jobs/recruitment).

## **Time and Attendance, Payroll, Superannuation, Industrial Relations Work/Life Balance Measures**

A range of work/life balance measures were available to Council employees during 2024. These included Parental Leave, Carer's Leave, Work-Sharing, Shorter Working Year, and the option to avail of a Career Break. 332 applications were received in Human Resources in 2024.

### **Blended Working**

Following issue of a Local Government Blended Working Framework, Policy, and FAQ, Limerick City and County Council approved a Policy for Blended Working based on the national framework. Blended Working was introduced in Limerick City and County Council in 2022. The policy was updated and revised in 2024 based on national review and circulated to all staff. A total of 621 staff are currently approved for remote working.

### Gender Pay Gap

Arising from the enactment of the Gender Pay Gap Information Act 2021 and the subsequent publication of the Employment Equality Act 1998 (Section 20A) (Gender Pay Gap Information) Regulations – May 2022, all organisations, (relevant employers), with greater than 150 employees were required to report on their Gender Pay Gap for the first time in 2022. Local authorities use a 30th June snapshot date which is 12 months retrospective. Relevant employers are additionally required to set out the reasons for Gender Pay Gap differences and the measures (if any) being taken, or proposed to be taken, by the employer to eliminate or reduce such differences.

The regulations provided for reports to be published within six months of the snapshot date. In common with other Local Authorities, Limerick City and County Council published its Report in December 2024.

### Core

Retained Fire Fighters - Following on from Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) guidance and Circular E.L. 03/2023 the Council has worked with The Access Group, MyPay, Chief Fire Officer and Gartan/Mallon Industries to develop new processes to see a fortnightly pay schedule, in line with wages, and the automation of pension calculations. This work is ongoing.

### MyPay Shared Services Centre – Superannuation and Payroll

Since the Council's superannuation function was transferred to MyPay in August 2018, MyPay are now dealing with the majority of queries for superannuation with support from Superannuation Staff in the Council. The Payroll function also continues to be administered by MyPay with support from the Payroll Staff in the Council.

### Superannuation

Apart from the provision of Pre-Retirement Seminars and assisting staff with various queries the following are the transactional details for the Superannuation Team for 2024.

New Starts	223
Leavers	131
Refunds	75
Retirements	39
Preserved Benefits	1
Members Gratuity	9
Retained Fire-Fighter Gratuity	2
Death in Service	0
Deceased Pensioners/Dependent Pensioners	30
New Dependent Pensions	14
Annuity Certs	954

### Payroll

The Payroll department oversees the payment of salaries and wages to existing members of staff and the payment of pensions to retired staff. During 2024, the payroll unit implemented the pay increases applicable on the 1/1/24, 1/6/24 and 1/10/24. At the end of 2024 there were 1,538 employees paid through payroll along with 1,013 pensioners. The Payroll bill for 2024 amounted to €110.1 million.

### Employee Relations

The Human Resources Department, and Limerick City and County Council as a whole, continued to foster a productive relationship with our colleagues in the Unions throughout 2024. This engagement occurred through quarterly meetings of the Partnership Forum and also through regular formal meetings and ongoing dialogue with individual Unions.



### **Transition of Water Services functions to Uisce Éireann**

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD on 24 June 2022 welcomed a new framework for the future of water services developed through an engagement process facilitated by the Workplace Relations Commission. This document built on the Policy Paper on Water Sector Transformation published in 2021.

The Framework will help to ensure a stable operational environment is maintained as the water sector completes the transition to a national water services authority, based on the full integration of public water services within Irish Water. Separate to this a Master Co-Operation Agreement is in place between the Limerick City and County Council and Uisce Éireann. During 2024, following the issue of Circular Letters, eligible Local Authority Water Services staff were offered the opportunity to avail of a Voluntary Redundancy Scheme. This was a national scheme open to all eligible local authority water services staff. The Council continues to engage with local authority water services staff who wish to remain and reassign within the local authority.

### **Directly Elected Mayor**

The creation of the post of Directly Elected Mayor is unique within local government in Ireland. Mr. John Moran was elected Mayor of Limerick in June 2024. The Local Government (Mayor of Limerick) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2024, sets out provisions relating to the establishment of the position of directly elected Mayor. It also outlines the staffing arrangements to support the office of the Mayor. The Human Resources Department has liaised both with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and with the Mayor to ensure such staffing provisions were put in place in 2024.

### **Archivist**

In line with Section 80 of the Local Government Act 2001, Limerick City and County Council Archives Service provides for the preservation of and access to the archival records of Limerick City and County Council. The archives collections relate to the functions of Limerick City and County Council and its predecessor bodies. The collection includes Minute Books, financial records and Manager's Orders reflecting local administration. The collection includes donations of important collections relating to Limerick from private sources.

The Archives Service continued to promote online access to original material through a digitisation programme and new collections were added to this resource in 2024. The P22 Hunt Collection was digitised, along with various maps from the Council collections and more volumes of the Council Minute Books.

In August, the Archives became members of the Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI). This membership will afford the Archives a repository to store the Council's digital archives and ensure their long-term preservation. Also, by extension, membership of the DRI will allow access to their vast knowledge, research, training and advocacy surrounding digital preservation.

The Archives and Records Management Team supported and extended the LITe programme, a cloud-based Records Management System on a MS365 SharePoint Online platform to include project sites and external sites. The system supports mobile and collaborative working with governance of digital records.

## CORPORATE SERVICES, GOVERNANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES

The Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services Department provides a wide range of support services to the Mayor of Limerick, Councillors, staff and management of Limerick City and County Council. A primary role of the Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services Department is administration of Meetings of Limerick City and County Council, the Metropolitan District and Local Electoral Area Briefings.

The Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services Department supports Customer Services and deals with Data Protection, Health and Safety, Procurement, the Register of Electors and Corporate Governance. The Department provides support to the Office of the Mayor and manages Twinning/Sister City Relationships, Civic and Mayoral Receptions, the Irish Language Scheme, Child Safeguarding Policy and a wide variety of ancillary services relating to Council business. The Department supports the development of the five-year Corporate Plan and the Annual Service Delivery Plan.

### Corporate/Mayor Support

#### Mayoral Receptions

- Hospital Herbertstown GAA Club, to acknowledge the 40th anniversary of the Limerick County Junior Hurling and Football Championship titles in 1983.
- Pauline Hynan, in recognition of her lifetime achievement of fostering and sharing a love and knowledge of dance, in particular, her voluntary contribution to Scór and the many successes she has enjoyed with Cappamore GAA and Camogie Club.
- Ger O'Connell, in recognition and appreciation of his voluntary contribution to his club, Pallasgreen GAA Club and his tremendous contribution as kit man to the very successful Limerick Senior Hurling Team.
- Fr. Séamus Enright, in recognition of his trojan work and contribution to Mount St. Alphonsus Church in Limerick City and the community in the fourteen years he was in situ there as the Rector of the Redemptorist and also in recognition and appreciation of his huge contribution to the success of the Redemptorist Christmas Hamper Appeal which ensures that families have food on the table for Christmas. Also, in recognition of his involvement in the International effort to help those who have been displaced by the war in Ukraine.
- John MacNamara, in recognition of his four Farming National Titles, namely FBD Young Farmer of the Year 2005, Farmyard of the Year 2009, Grassland Farmer of the Year 2018, and the winner of the 2023 National Dairy Council and Kerrygold Quality Milk Awards. Also, in acknowledgement of his tremendous contribution and voluntary work for his local community of Knockainey, Macra na Feirme, Schools and Ladies Football at both club and county level.
- Hub Martial Arts, in recognition of their achievement in kickboxing at the Unified World Kickboxing Championship in Italy in October, 2023, winning 35 gold medals, 9 silver medals and 5 bronze medals in multiple disciplines of Martial Arts.
- Newcastle West GAA, in recognition of their achievement in winning three-in-a row County Senior Football Titles 2021, 2022 and 2023.
- Mungret St. Paul's GAA, in recognition of their highly successful 2023 season, winning several adult county titles in hurling and football and two National Féile titles in football and ladies football.



- Seán O’Sullivan, in recognition of his achievement as Overall Winner, BT Young Scientist and Technologist of the Year at the 60th BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition 2024.
- Coláiste Chiaráin, in recognition of the school’s commitment to Science, Technology and STEM education, being awarded the Best School Republic of Ireland Award at the 2024 BT Young Scientist and Technology Competition.
- Ballyneety Golf Club, in recognition and appreciation of the extraordinary vision and community ethos which has been cultivated by the members and staff.
- Limerick Lawn Tennis Club, in recognition of their contribution to Limerick city sporting life for almost one hundred and fifty years.
- Patrick English, in appreciation of his extensive years of service in various leadership positions within the community, showcasing remarkable dedication and foresight, along with his exceptional commitment to Galtee Gaels and Limerick GAA.
- Anthony O’Donnell, in recognition of his unwavering commitment to the community of St. Mary’s Park, Limerick, as an activist and volunteer on various committees working for the betterment of the people of Kings Island, Limerick.
- Marguerite Quinn, in recognition of her outstanding achievement representing Ireland at the Blind Sports World Games 2023.
- Alliance Française Limerick, in celebration of their 80th anniversary and in recognition of their promotion of the French language and culture in Limerick since 1944.
- Loïc Guyon, in appreciation and recognition of his contribution, as founder of the Limerick Wild Geese Festival launched in 2019 and as Initiator/ Director of the Sarsfield Homecoming Project launched in 2020. Both the festival and project have been facilitated by Alliance Française Limerick since 2023.
- Niall Deegan, James Lundon and Liam O’Brien, in recognition and appreciation of their voluntary contribution to Gaelic Games in Limerick, particularly for their historic book “1973 – Keeping the Dream Alive”, the net profits from which were donated to the Limerick Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) and the Children’s Ark Unit at University Hospital Limerick.
- 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. May their voices continue to inspire and uplift.
- 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.
- 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.
- Milford Care Centre, in recognition and appreciation of the outstanding dedication, care and support provided by the staff of Milford Care Centre to patients, residents, clients and families who require specialist care at the most vulnerable time in their life.
- St. John's Hospital, in recognition and appreciation of their achievement in delivering outstanding care to the people of Limerick and the Midwest, living out the hospital's vision to be a leading provider of healthcare where innovation and excellence are at the heart of the patient experience.
- Tony, Hannah and Siobhan Noonan, in recognition of their community spirit, dedication and generosity in creating the annual Christmas wonderland of lights for Charity.

### **Metropolitan District Receptions**

Councillor Azad Talukder held a Metropolitan District Reception on 28 May 2024 for the following:

- Fasih Khan in recognition and appreciation of his contribution to medicine in Limerick over the last 30 years
- Issa Timan in recognition of his role as Imam in Masjid Al-Noor Mosque Islamic Centre in Limerick
- Abdullah Jaribu in recognition of his role as Imam in Al Furqan Muslim Community Centre in Limerick
- Faisal Azimi in recognition of his achievements in winning national titles in kickboxing
- Khalid Ghafour in recognition of his role as Imam in the Islamic Cultural Centre in Limerick
- Limerick Cricket Club in recognition of the Club's contribution to cricket in Limerick and Ireland
- Limerick Blasters Cricket Club in recognition of the Club's contribution to cricket in Limerick and Ireland
- Perpetua Balberona in recognition of her long nursing career and her contribution to the health sector in Limerick
- Soumen Pahari in recognition of his contribution in promoting diverse Indian culture and multicultural faith in Limerick
- Bangladeshi Youth Football Team Limerick in recognition of the team's achievement in winning the All Bangladeshi Football Tournament in Ireland



**Delegations that Travelled Abroad**

The Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, Councillor Azad Talukder and Councillors Bridie Collins and Daniel Butler and accompanied by the Director of Service, Rural, Culture, Community and Tourism Development attended the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Rockaway Beach, Queens, New York from 1 to 4 March 2024. The Delegation attended the Mass for Peace and Justice in Ireland at St. Francis de Sales Church, Rockaway Beach, where Michael Benn, President of the Parade and a Limerick native, introduced the delegation to the congregation. The delegation represented Limerick at a St. Patrick's Day Breakfast Brunch event at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Rockaway where the councillors met with members of the Irish American Community and local elected and business representatives and officials to discuss the investment and tourism and the importance of developing further linkages between Limerick, the Mid West and Ireland with the United States. Following on from this the Delegation participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. This was led by Grand Marshal, Richard Tully Jr., owner and Principal of interstate Mechanical Services. The honorary grand marshals this year were Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association Secretary and Treasurer Roland Rexha and FDNY Battalion Chief Michele Fitzsimmons. Bishop Robert Brennan, from the Diocese of Brooklyn, was being honoured as Gael of the Year. Other parade participants included Eric Leroy Adams, Mayor of New York City, Jennifer Rajkumar, member of the New York State Assembly and Joann Ariola, Member of the New York Council. Discussions also took place with Michael Benn regarding plans and preparations for the New York St Patricks Day Parade.

Councillor Sarah Kiely led a delegation including Councillors Kieran O'Hanlon, John Egan, Emmett O'Brien, Kevin Sheahan and Conor Sheehan and accompanied the Director of Service, Regeneration, Sports and Recreation and the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services, to Savannah,

Georgia, US, to attend the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah, Georgia, US from 14 to 18 March. This Parade is one of the largest St. Patrick's Day Parades in the world. The visit represented a great opportunity to continue the economic, social and cultural links between Savannah and Limerick. The delegation visited City Hall to meet Mayor Van Johnson. The delegation was delighted to share learnings in relation to commonalities between Limerick and the City of Savannah. Mayor Van Johnson shared his experience and outlined the city's focus on poverty and economic inequality, as well as improving public safety and infrastructure. The delegation congratulated Mayor Van Johnson on his success in the recent election and extended an invitation to Mayor Van Johnson and the Savannah Economic Development Authority to visit Limerick. The delegation travelled to the World Trade Centre Savannah to meet with Manny Dominguez, Senior Director of Economic Development and MarRonde Lumpkin-Lotson, Business Opportunity Manager from the City of Savannah to discuss regeneration activities. The Director of Service, Limerick City and County Council gave a presentation on the Council's approach to Regeneration and outlined some of the challenges and opportunities. Representatives from City of Savannah gave a presentation on regeneration efforts in Savannah. The delegation held a roundtable discussion on the similarities between both regions – successful economic development and near full employment has brought its own challenges in the areas of housing and affordable childcare. The Council delegation took part in the Jasper Ceremonial Parade from Johnson Square to Madison Square where ceremonial remarks were made by the hosts. This parade is a formal ceremony honouring Sgt. William Jasper Green and all military personnel with or without Irish decent. The ceremony was also addressed by Minister Peter Burke, TD. The delegation attended mass celebrated by the Bishop of the Diocese of Savannah, Bishop Stephen Parkes, in the Cathedral Basilica of St. John the Baptist.

The delegation marched in the three hour parade from Forsyth Park on Abercorn Street through the Historic District, the riverfront and finishing at the junction of Bull Street and Harris St. Over 280 entries participated in the parade in front of approx. 500,000 people under the warm Savannah sun. The World Trade Centre Savannah invited the delegation to attend the newly built Enmarket Arena for a sporting event and a tour of the newly built stadium. The arena is a multi-purpose complex built between 2019 and finished in February 2022 by the City of Savannah to replace the Savannah Civic Centre. The arena has capacity for 9,500 seats which can be expanded depending on the event and requirements. It has become a destination venue for concerts and events attracting visitors to the region. The local authority in Savannah worked with private entities to ensure the venue continues to be financially viable and it is an example of successful economic development in the region.

Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Dan McSweeney and Councillors Joe Leddin, Brigid Teefy, Fergus Kilcoyne and James Collins along with the Director of Service, Planning and Place Making and the Head of Marketing and Communications travelled to New York for the Annual St. Patrick's Day celebrations from 14 – 18 March, 2024. The Grand Marshal for the Parade was Margaret C. 'Maggie' Timoney, President and Chief Executive Officer of Heineken USA. Members of the delegation took part in a number of activities and events during their visit with the objective of promoting Limerick, developing deeper business relationships and engaging with the Limerick diaspora community. On 14 March they attended DFA Networking Event in New York City. On 15 March they attended a US Council Meeting at Metropolitan Club, a DFA Meeting, Tourism Ireland Meeting, IDA Meeting and visited the UN Buildings. On 17 March they attended Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade and attended the Limerick Trade and Investment Dinner.

Councillors Olivia O'Sullivan, Sarah Kiely, Sean Hartigan, Francis Foley, Fergus Kilcoyne, Jerome Scanlan, Joe Leddin, along with Active Travel staff members, and Toby Goodwin, Behavioural Scientist travelled to Copenhagen, Denmark, from 4 – 7 November, 2024, to examine successful concepts and designs being used in relation to a fully integrated cycle network within Copenhagen.

The group took part in a number of activities and events with the objectives of:

- Highlighting how the cycle network within Copenhagen compared to Limerick.
- Expanding the depth of knowledge in relation to cycling.
- Exploring future project collaboration opportunities
- Sharing best practices

The delegation met with Thomas Krag, former CEO of Danish Cyclists' Federation who gave a brief Introduction to Cycling in Denmark. This was followed by discussions with Jens Erik Larsen, who is an expert in bicycle route planning and signposting: He discussed cycle route planning and signposting in Denmark and abroad including the history of EuroVelo.

The delegation picked up e bikes and cycled 11km in central Copenhagen, passing Nørrebrogade (among Europe's busiest bicycle streets), visiting the "traffic island" of Nørrebro, the bicycle street Nordre Frihavnsgade and other high-level bicycle facilities.

A discussion on transport as a means to creating liveable cities was then had with Andreas Røhl, former Head of the Unit for Mobility and Public Space in Copenhagen.

A second bicycle trip (3km) then took place, passing a crossing with a diagonal cycle lane, passing the iconic Cykelslangen (The Bicycle Snake) and Bryggebroen.



A third trip (11km) followed parts of the signposted route to Havneringen, the University of Copenhagen, Inderhavnsbroen and ended at Nordre Toldbod. A discussion was then held with Marie Kåstrup and Sidsel Birk Hjuler of 'Urban Cycle Creators' on Copenhagen's cycle planning and bicycle superhighways. The delegation also cycled along cycle superhighway C95 to the town hall of Furesø. The group was then given a short introduction to the state of cycling in Furesø Municipality by Carina Botoft, Municipality of Furesø. The group then made another bicycle trip from the town hall to Farum, 4 km north of Værløse. There, a review of bicycle parking facilities, other bicycle superhighways and various examples of bicycle infrastructure was held. The group took the train back to Copenhagen with bikes on train, followed by a cycle to the Danish Road Directorate. There, a discussion was held with Anne Eriksson, Traffic Safety Engineer, on promoting cycling and cycle safety from the national level. This trip was an excellent opportunity to build relationships and tap into the excellent manner in which pedestrians cyclists and public transport is prioritised in Copenhagen.

Councillor Tommy Hartigan, on behalf of the Príomh Chomhairleoir of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Dan McSweeney, who was unfortunately not able to travel and the, Senior Executive Officer, Trade and Investment travelled to Austin, Texas from 3 to 7 December, 2024 to attend the 2024 Austin Sister Cities International Passport to the World Festival. This was a family friendly event that celebrated cultural diversity and fostered global understanding. The event was followed by a Sister City Sign Unveiling Ceremony at City Hall which was attended by City of Austin Mayor Kirk Watson, Council Members representing Austin Districts and dignitaries representing sister city relationships in Europe, Asia and Latin America. In 2019 a delegation from Limerick travelled to Austin and signed a Memorandum of Understanding between Limerick and Austin. This was the first of a three step process towards an official Sister Cities Agreement. Since then a number of objectives and initiatives

outlined in the MOU have been achieved and relations between the two cities have progressed. Attendance at the 2024 Festival underlined the Council's commitment to building the relationship and progress towards an official Sister Cities City Agreement.

### **Joint Policing Committee**

Two Joint Policing Committee Meetings were held in 2024. The meetings provide an opportunity for co-operation between An Garda Síochána, public representatives and members of the public. Some of the matters discussed include:

- Updates from the Chief Superintendent
- Overview on Crime Statistics from Senior Crime and Policing Analyst
- Presentation by Mr. Tim Willoughby, Information Technology, Garda Headquarters, on body worn cameras
- Update from Alan Dooley, Head of Information Systems, on CCTV and Community CCTV Schemes

On 26 June, 2024, the Minister for Justice gave an update on the Department's plans for the roll out of the cross government initiative to set up Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSP's) in each local authority area as provided for in the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act, 2024. The establishment of a Partnership in each Local Authority is to put a significant focus on the actions that need to be taken to improve community safety. She indicated that these Local Community Safety Partnerships will build upon the work undertaken by the Joint Policing Committees to date.

The Act also introduced important measures that will further support the LCSP's, including a new National Office of Committee Safety which will in turn develop a new National Strategy. This will be overseen by a designated Cabinet Committee and a National Steering Group with officials drawn from relevant departments.

The LCSPs will have a maximum of 30 members and membership will include local councillors, residents, community representatives, business and education representatives and relevant public services in the area. The new LCSP's will meet at least once per quarter but can meet as often as considered necessary to conduct its work effectively.

### **National Day of Commemoration**

The Council hosted a Day of Commemoration Ceremony on Sunday, 14 July to honour all Irish men and women who died in past wars or on service with the United Nations. This was the twelve year in which the ceremony was held at Merchant's Quay. The 12th Infantry Battalion, Sarsfield Barracks performed the Guard of Honour and rendered honours when the National Flag was hoisted to full mast.

Representatives of the Catholic Church, Church of Ireland, the Jewish Community and Quakers conducted the multi faith commemoration, at which, the Príomh Chomhairleoir, Councillor Dan McSweeney presided.

The music for the event was provided by Limerick based Choir 'The Curraghgow Singers' under the direction of Choir Master, Mr. Timothy Schinnick, along with Bulger, Don Phelan, Uilleann Piper, Colleen Shanks and Drummer, Sadhbh Ryan.



National Day of Commemoration



National Day of Commemoration



### **Local Electoral Area Briefings**

The Local Electoral Area Briefings discuss operational issues relating to Limerick city East, North and West electoral areas and are usually held on the first Tuesday and Wednesday of every month, except for the month of August. A total of 36 briefings were held in 2024.

### **Christmas Prayer Services**

A Christmas Prayer Service was held in Istabraq Hall, Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay on 18 December, 2024, at which Councillors and staff participated.

### **Annual Service Delivery Plan**

Section 134 (a) of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended), requires Limerick City and County Council to prepare a Service Delivery Plan annually, which identifies the principal services to be provided to the public following the adoption of its Annual Budget. The Service Delivery Plan sets out the work programme for each Directorate based on the adopted budget.

The Elected Members at their January Council Meeting adopted Limerick City and County Council's Annual Service Delivery Plan 2024. The review of the 2023 Annual Service Delivery Plan was circulated to Members as part of the 2024 Annual Service Delivery Plan.

### **Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty**

Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act, 2014 is a statutory obligation on all public bodies to promote equality, prevent discrimination and protect human rights of their employees, customers, service users, and everyone affected by policies.

In 2024, the Council's published its Public Sector Duty Implementation Policy which establishes the ambition, approach and steps to be taken by the Council in implementing the public sector equality and human rights duty across all our function areas.

### **Official Languages Act**

The Official Languages Act 2003 was signed into law on 14 July 2003. The primary objective of the Act is to ensure the improved provision of public services through the Irish language.

This Act provides for the preparation by public bodies of a language scheme detailing the services which they will provide through the medium of Irish, through the medium of English, and through the medium of Irish and English, and the measures to be adopted to ensure that any service not currently provided by the body through the medium of the Irish language will be so provided within an agreed timeframe.

Limerick City and County Council adopted its second Irish Language Scheme for 2019 – 2022 on 1 February 2019 and continues to deliver on all aspects of its Irish Language Scheme.

The Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021 was enacted in December 2021 to build on the progress made under the Official Languages Act 2003 and to increase and improve the provision of public services through the medium of Irish. In 2024, Limerick City and County Council established a cross departmental Irish Language Working Group, who convened on several occasions to monitor Irish Language advertising, ensuring all requirements set out in Section 10 (a) of the Official Languages Act 2003 (as amended) were met and to continue to deliver on the objectives of the Act.

### **Entertainment and Associated Expenses**

Entertainment and associated expenses expenditure on entertainment and associated expenses included costs associated with Receptions, scrolls for recipients at receptions, catering costs associated with same and corporate gifts.

### **Twinning**

A delegation comprising the Chairperson, Savannah Advisory Board South, President, Bonitz of Georgia, CEO, US Intermodal Corporation and Director of Research and Trade Development, WTCSav., visited Limerick on 27 and 28 August, 2024. During their visit they received presentations on the Ryder Cup 2027, Innovate Limerick, Limerick Enterprise Office, Limerick 2030 DAC and from the Global Product Manager, PBC Bio Med. They visited Adare Manor, which is the location of the Ryder Cup 2027, and had meetings with Shannon Foynes Port Company and Shannon Properties. They also had a meeting with the new the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran, Deputy Director General and Director of Services, Limerick City and County Council.

### **Limerick Women's Caucus**

Limerick Women's Caucus was established in order to support, promote and encourage more women to get involved in local politics, and to endeavour to increase the number of female elected representatives on Limerick City and County Council.

Limerick Women's Caucus is a cross-party forum comprising the elected female Councillors of Limerick City and County Council. These Members come together collectively to inspire women to participate in local politics. The objective of the Caucus is to promote wider inclusivity and diversity in local government and give women a stronger voice in local decision-making.

In 2019, there were eight women elected to Limerick City and County Council, with an additional woman co-opted to the Council in 2020. In 2024, the Local Elections took place on the 7 June, where twelve women were successfully elected to the Council, an increase of 7.5% from the previous Council term.

### **Membership from January to June 2024**

Cllr. Sarah Kiely Caithaoirleach  
Cllr. Sasa Novak Uí Chonchúir Leas Caithaoirleach  
Cllr. Bridie Collins  
Cllr. Brigid Teefy  
Cllr. Catherine Slattery  
Cllr. Elena Secas  
Cllr. Elisa O'Donovan  
Cllr. Olivia O'Sullivan  
Cllr. Sharon Benson

### **Membership from June 2024**

Cllr. Sarah Kiely  
Cllr. Bridie Collins  
Cllr. Brigid Teefy  
Cllr. Catherine Slattery  
Cllr. Elena Secas  
Cllr. Elisa O'Donovan  
Cllr. Olivia O'Sullivan  
Cllr. Sharon Benson.  
Cllr. Ursula Gavan  
Cllr. Noreen Stokes  
Cllr. Sarah Beasley  
Cllr. Maria Donoghue

This initiative is supported by Limerick City and County Council and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, who fund initiatives to increase greater participation by women in politics.



## Governance

### Procurement

Limerick City and County Council Procurement Policy 2024-2028 was adopted in June 2024. Limerick City and County Council recognises its responsibility in adhering to procurement rules as set out in the European Unions' Public Procurement Directive 2014/24/EU. This policy will ensure all procurement undertaken is done so in a manner that is consistent with and in adherence to European Directives, National Legislation, Policy and Guidelines.

The Procurement Unit staff provides support and guidance in respect of procurement activities, managing procurement references and monitoring compliance across all departments of the Council. In 2024, the Council had a 98.63% compliance rate against the annual spend.

The following shows the number of procurement references dealt with from January – December 2024:

New Procurement References set up	447
Procurement References extended as per signed contract/arrangement	168

The Requisitions Oversight Unit, which falls within the remit of procurement, provides a separation of duties in the procurement cycle and the team validate each requisition raised across the local authority to ensure consistency in requisition practice.

20,051 requisitions were handled between January and December 2024.

- Approved requisitions account for 86% of the total requisitions actioned.
- Rejected requisitions account for 14% of the total requisitions actioned.

Period	Approved	Rejected	Total Requisitions Actioned
Jan-Dec 2024	17,312	2,739	20,051

The Unit continues to work with staff of all departments to ensure good practice adherence across the organisation.

### Internal Audit

The purpose of the internal audit function is to strengthen Limerick City and County Council's ability to create, protect, and sustain value by providing the Audit and Risk Committee, and management with independent, risk-based, and objective assurance, advice, insight, and foresight.

The mission of Internal Audit is to provide independent and objective reviews and assessments of the Council's activities, operations, financial systems, internal controls and corporate governance processes. It also provides assurance to ensure the Council is in compliance with policies, accounting standards, procedures and legislation. Each assignment is undertaken by Internal Audit is intended to provide an independent, objective assurance as well as recommendations designed to add value and improve the operations of the Council.

Limerick City and County Council partially outsources its internal audit function, and following a public tender process which commenced in Quarter 3 2023, Internal Auditors from an external firm were appointed, with an effective date during Quarter 1 2024 for a set period of time.

Limerick City and County Council's in-house internal audit team and outsourced Internal Auditors completed a number of reviews during 2024. These reports were presented to Management Team and the Audit and Risk Committee for their review and approval. Internal Audit completes a follow up on these reports until the agreed actions have been implemented.

Internal audit provides regular updates to the Audit and Risk Committee who meets on a quarterly basis. Meetings of the Audit and Risk Committee were held on 26 March, 28 May, 10 October and 10 December.

### **Freedom of Information Requests**

It is the policy of Limerick City and County Council to give members of the public access to information held by the Authority in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2014. Further information and application forms are available on the Council's website <https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/your-council/freedom-of-information>

In 2024 Limerick City and County Council received 237 requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2014. The following is the breakdown of decisions made on these requests:

Open cases at 01/01/2024	10
Requests received in 2024	237
Granted	45
Part Granted	102
Refused	44
Withdrawn (of which 8 were invalid)	38
Transferred	1
Open cases at 31/12/2024	17

### **Ombudsman Requests**

The Office of the Ombudsman was established under the Ombudsman Act 1980. The role of the Office is to investigate complaints about administrative actions, delays or inactions adversely affecting persons or bodies in their dealings with state bodies including Local Authorities.

In 2024 Limerick City and County Council dealt with 55 complaints that were made to the Ombudsman in relation to decisions/actions taken by the Council. Of these 55 complaints the following is the breakdown of the results of the investigations carried out by Office of the Ombudsman:

Cases closed	35
Decisions not yet determined	20

### **Access to Information on the Environment**

Limerick City and County Council comply with Access to Information on the Environment Regulations 2007 to 2014 whereby, subject to certain exceptions, information relating to the Environment must be made available on request. In 2024 Limerick City and County Council received 25 requests. The following is the breakdown of decisions made:

Open cases at 01/01/2024	
Requests received in 2024	25
Granted	8
Part Granted	10
Refused	5
Withdrawn/Out	2
Open cases at 31/12/2024	0

## Customer Services

During the course of 2024, the Customer Services Team worked tirelessly to engage positively with our Elected Members, Public Representatives, Limerick's citizens and visitors. Customer Services, in its role as the first point of contact for the Council, continues to provide a supportive role for the Operational Services for the Council, including Roads, Housing Operations and Maintenance, Parks and Open Spaces, Environmental services etc. As the front-line team engaging with the public on multiple channels, including the Council's telephone contact centre, dedicated emails, MyLimerick.ie, Twitter etc. staff worked to respond to the public's enquiries and service requests as efficiently as possible in line with the Customer Charter.

In 2024 Customer Services in collaboration with the Digital Strategy team rolled out Microsoft Dynamics, a new Customer Relationship Management System for recording all issues that require action by the Council. The Training Officer co-ordinated and delivered a number of training workshops in order to optimise the proficiency in which the CRM platform is used throughout the organisation. Throughout the year, the team continued to respond to service requests including those from other agencies, relating to flooding risks, fallen trees, the need to clear roads after road traffic accidents, requests for pothole repairs, illegal dumping etc. and provided support to the Roads Operations Team when dealing with severe weather events.

In 2024 there was a sustained increase in clients choosing to engage with the Council on a face-to-face basis - total visits to the public counter in 2024 were recorded as 29,334, an 11% increase on 2023. October was the highest month with 2,742-recorded visits against December which had 2,079 visits. The most in demand counter services included the review and validation of Housing Support Services applications, cash receipting, Household Waste Subsidy applications,

signposting individuals to the appropriate offices and teams as well as general enquiries in relation to the hundreds of services provided by Limerick City and County Council. The Merchants Quay and Dooradoyle Offices recorded 15,708 payments of €9.2m in value in 2024. Other activities included managing the call centre and systems - 74% of 125,558 incoming calls were resolved at first point of contact; email activity increased by 19% to 48,727 in 2024 and the team also responded to other social media contacts and requests to post out printed information and application forms. The MyLimerick self-help case creation portal continued to provide an avenue for customers to engage directly with the Council.

The overall total volume of Customer Relationship Management (CRM) cases created throughout 2024 was 38,860 and 83% of the overall total raised were closed throughout the year. The role of Councillor Liaison Officer has ensured that the elected member cases have been managed to an optimum level - 9,871 cases were opened by public representatives advocating for citizens in Limerick.

## Register of Electors

The Register of Electors comprises a list of all persons over the age of 18 years resident in Limerick City and County who are entitled to vote in elections to the Dáil, the European Parliament, Presidential elections, Local Elections, Mayoral Election and Referendums. Individuals can register on-line or download paper forms for completion.

In 2024, there were two Dáil Constituencies in Limerick. The constituencies and number of Dáil seats in each were as follows:

- Limerick City 4 Seats
- Limerick County 3 Seats



As at 31 December 2024 there were 150,757 Presidential Electors and 162,431 Local Government electors on the 2024 Rolling Register of Electors. The Local Government Electorate is broken down as follows between the six Local Electoral areas:

• Adare-Rathkeale	24,979
• Cappamore-Kilmallock	30,312
• Limerick City East	28,401
• Limerick City North	27,964
• Limerick City West	26,505
• Newcastle West	24,270

During 2024 there were three electoral events, a Referendum on 8 March 2024, the Local/ European/Mayoral elections on 7 June 2024, and the General Election on 29 November 2024. The Registration team processed just under 40,000 additions, amendments, and deletions on the Limerick City and County Register of Electors.

## Health and Safety

Limerick City and County Council recognises its obligation to protect as far as reasonably practicable the safety health and welfare of all employees and anyone who may be affected by its' work activities.

The Council's safety management system is continuously improved and updated to achieve this obligation. The Health and Safety Department provides guidance and support, in addition to monitoring and coordinating all health and safety activities. The Safety Management System is based on a continuous "plan, do, check, and act" cycle of improvement providing a structure for the successful management of Health and Safety in Limerick City and County Council.

In 2024, Limerick City and County Council successfully achieved registration to I.S ISO 45001:2018 - the first internationally recognised standard on Occupational Health and Safety in the workplace.

## Health and Safety Training Unit

Corporate Services has a team who administer Health and Safety training. Training requirements are requested by line managers via an on-line form. Health and Safety training requirements are identified through risk assessments conducted by managers. Training is procured through the use of competitive quotes.

See below a list of training arranged by the Health and Safety Training Unit during 2024

Course Name	No. of Attendees
Abrasive Wheels	25
Asbestos Awareness	6
Basic Surface Dressing	12
Chemical Awareness	21
CSCS Location of Underground Services	14
CSCS Health and Safety at Roadworks	10
CSCS Signing Lighting and Guarding at Roadworks	16
CSCS Site Dumper	3
CSCS Slinger/Signaller	4
CSCS Telescopic Handler	14
Dealing with Aggressive Customers/ Aggressive and Violent Behaviour	93
Drivers CPCs	125
Fire Warden	36
First Aid	44
IOSH Safety Health and Environment for Construction Site Training	11
Landscaping Combi	6
Manual Handling	229
Polesaw	11
Safe Pass	112
Safe Use of Pesticides and Herbicides	24
Sharps and Biological Agents	27
Winter Service Operators	25
Woodchopper/Shredder	10
<b>Total Staff Trained</b>	<b>878</b>

## Data Protection

Limerick City and County Council as a data controller must ensure that it processes the personal data of its staff, customers, providers and any other individuals (referred to as data subjects) in compliance with data protection legislation. Under Article 13 of the General Data Protection Regulation, the Council as a data controller is required where personal data is obtained from a data subject, to provide the data subject with specific information. Privacy statements were updated and published throughout the year as required.

The Data Protection Unit received 30 Data Subject Access Requests in 2024. Of these requests, 16 were granted or part granted, one was referred to another Local Authority, 10 were refused, one was withdrawn and two requests remain live at year end. In respect of the 10 requests that were refused, four were more appropriately dealt with by the Freedom of Information Department and in the remaining six the Council held no personal data. In these instances, there were no cameras at the relevant locations and/or there was no relevant CCTV footage available.

The Data Protection Unit received 55 Third Party Data Access Requests in 2024. Of these, 51 requests were from An Garda Síochána, 30 were granted, 14 were refused, as the Council did not have the personal data/footage requested. Four were withdrawn and three requests remain live at year end.

Four requests were received from other Third Parties. Two were granted as relevant records were retrieved and a legal basis to share personal data had been identified. One request was refused as there was no legal basis to share personal data and one request remains live at year end.

The Data Protection Unit received four Internal CCTV Requests in 2024 - three requests were granted as a legal basis to share personal data had been identified, one was refused as no footage was available.

The Data Protection Unit received two Internal Circular Economy CCTV Requests in 2024, which were both granted.

The DPO conducted an audit on Moyross Community Enterprise Centre (MCEC) CCTV Monitoring Centre.

Data Protection training/ briefings were provided throughout the year to the following departments and areas: Customer Services, Housing and Environment and Climate Action, the Staff Liaison Network and Workplace Partnership Committee with regard to Body Worn Cameras for Traffic Wardens Policy and Procedure, Drones Policy, Elected Representative Form (GDPR) and Social Media Policy and Confidentiality.

The DPO held quarterly meetings with the Council's Information and Data Protection Champions. The Data Protection Monitoring Committee met four times throughout the year. The CCTV Oversight Board met three times throughout the year.

The Data Protection Unit assisted in creating and reviewing fourteen Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA).

Our DPO was part of a working group with the National DPO Network that created and reviewed eleven data protection training courses for staff in 2024 and worked to develop the codes of practice for the Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 2022 which were published at the launch of the enhanced WERLA.

## MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

In 2024, the Marketing and Communications team continued to promote Limerick as an ideal city and county to live, work, study, and visit. The Department managed social media accounts for Limerick City and County Council, Limerick.ie, and various Limerick festival accounts, as well as the Limerick.ie website.

The year kicked off with the Limerick Student City social and digital marketing campaign, “There’s No Place Like Limerick.” This was followed by the award-nominated campaign “Limerick - Walk It - Run It - Love It,” which ran from January through February. The team, in collaboration with Tourism and Festivals and Events colleagues, marketed the annual festivals and events program. Major festivals such as the St. Patrick’s Day Festival, Riverfest, Halloween, and Christmas in Limerick were marketed to millions.

This year, a new brand identity was created for Riverfest Limerick, aligning with its parent brand, Brand Limerick, and reflecting the core elements of the festival.

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

This year, the team launched a four-week, multi-platform domestic summer tourism campaign, “Limerick: A Different Kind of Energy,” to highlight the endless possibilities Limerick offers visitors during the summer. This was nominated for a City Nation Place award in London in November.

Throughout May and June, the Communications and Web team worked on the ad campaign for the

election of the Directly Elected Mayor of Limerick, collaborating with the Department of Local Government and Housing. This involved producing videos for social media, managing media queries, and communicating the work of the council.

Following this, the team coordinated the media for the Local Elections in June and worked in the Count Centre to declare results via web and social media. Campaign reports for 2024 showed an overwhelming level of engagement, with Limerick.ie experiencing year-on-year online growth. Looking ahead to 2025, the Marketing and Communications team aims to continue improving communication channels and upholding the reputation of Limerick City and County Council both within and outside the organization. The Communications team worked throughout the year managing media queries, issuing press releases, writing speeches for the Mayor, managing the Council social channels, and producing video content for social media.

## RYDER CUP PROJECT MANAGEMENT

In 2024, preparation for the Ryder Cup 2027 Adare Manor Limerick event went up a level. The emphasis of the Ryder Cup Office was very much on getting an understanding of the requirements and opportunities for the event, in particular with regards to the Council’s functions in traffic management, safety, public realm, road improvements e.g. Adare Bypass, consents/licences, tourism, marketing, communications, community engagement, sustainability, enterprise, trade and investment to name but a few. The event for 270,000 ticket holders with a global audience of 600 million will yield a significant economic impact in terms of its legacy. The possibilities are endless and the key challenge is to harness the opportunity whilst simultaneously managing expectations of the Council, communities and businesses about what is realistic to ensure a lasting legacy for Limerick.



The Council have been instrumental in facilitating the agreement on the key objectives of all stakeholders, agreeing the event management structure for a successful delivery i.e. 25 working groups with a clear hierarchy, communication and decision-making structure. Building relationships with all the key stakeholders in particular Ryder Cup Europe, Adare Manor and Government officials has been pivotal to putting in place the event planning building blocks for the next few years.

Time has been invested understanding the requirements of the Ryder Cup event and the expectations of the Ryder Cup Europe team in terms of the scale and standard of the event itself. The Year To Go Event in New York in 2024 had a media outlet reach of 14.6 billion at a total advertising value of \$135 million over a period of just 5 days in October as a result of the Ryder Cup Captains media event. Promoting mutual understanding of how events run i.e. golf events here and abroad; international sporting events in Ireland such as the UEFA Europa League Final, Aer Lingus College Football Classic, festivals such as Electric Picnic and the biggest national outdoor event of them all, the National Ploughing Championships catering for 244,000 people over 3 days. Learnings include the event consent process, event safety, emergency planning; traffic management, policing, supply chain management, volunteer engagement, community engagement, branding, marketing, use of mobile apps, wifi coverage, quality of food and quality of service i.e. all the things that affect the visitor experience.

The challenges of running such a large scale event in the western part of the country include accommodation supply, transport management and venue supply for ancillary events as part of the Ryder Cup event programme. Whilst the dates for the main event have not yet been announced, the Junior Ryder Cup venue has been announced as being held in the beautiful parkland course of Ballyneety Golf Club and this will no doubt this provide a great opportunity for engaging Limerick and Irish golf fans, young and old in seeing the world's best young talent.

Limerick is extremely excited about the event coming and there is huge public awareness already. The Council's Ryder Cup Office will continue to work closely with all stakeholders to secure the best outcome for Limerick.



Ryder Cup 2027 Planning Meeting with JP McManus - Adare Manor, Catherine Martin - Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht Sport and Media, Guy Kinnings - European Tour Group and DP World Tour, Pat Daly - Director General Limerick City and County Council and officials from the four groups.



Ryder Cup 2027 Planning Meeting at Adare Manor



2 Captains for Ryder Cup 2025 pictured at the Year To Go Captains Event in 2024

# **ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE ACTION AND SHARED SERVICES**







TLC Clean up volunteers



# ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE ACTION AND SHARED SERVICES

## HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT SHARED SERVICES CENTRE

Housing for All outlines the enhanced level of resources that are available by the Government to deliver social housing including Housing Assistance Payment (HAP). The State currently supports over 53,000 tenancies nationally. All financial transactions for both the Landlord and Tenant are the responsibility of the HAP Shared Services Centre (HAPSSC) which is operated by Limerick City and County Council on behalf of the 31 Local Authorities and Dublin Regional Homeless Executive. Total Annual Expenditure on HAP in 2024 was €510m.

The aim of the HAPSSC is to provide greater financial and operational efficiencies to its local authority clients through centralised service delivery; to provide best practice customer service through an ongoing commitment to investment in new SSC management technologies; and, to be a best practice data management and analytics hub for HAP, contributing to better policy, strategy and operations for HAPSSC and its stakeholders.

During the year, HAPSSC delivered the following projects:

- Phase 2 of the National HAP Application Form: enabling greater real-time completion by the HAP recipient and landlord and introduction of additional features as requested by the Local Authorities.
- Phase 2 of HAP APP: this app (available on all mobile phones) enables HAP recipients to make payments, view balances, statements and access documentation on their mobile phones. Phase 2 improved security by enforcing user verification.

- Improved data quality and enhanced cyber security with increased integration of systems.

The principal financial transactions carried out by HAPSSC are:

- As the national customer contact centre for HAP, daily liaison with HAP landlords and tenants, and with local authority clients.
- Set-up of HAP tenancies, in 2024 a total of 8,121 tenancies were completed.
- Payment of monthly landlord rent which in December 2024 was in excess of €53.85 million per month.
- Charge of tenant differential rent for all tenancies which is in excess of €3.05 million per week.
- Management of the debt collection process (99% collection rate for 2024).
- Over 56,400 customer calls and 44,500 customer emails handled by the debt collection department.
- Monthly recoupment of costs from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH).
- Monitoring, reviewing and maintenance of HAP tenancies with over 60,600 amendments completed in 2024.
- Tax clearance checking of landlords.
- Data analytics for stakeholders including local authorities and government departments.
- At the end of 2024 over 125,120 tenancies have been set up since the inception of the scheme.
- 53,742 active HAP tenancies were managed by the HAPSSC as of 31 December 2024.

## SOUTHERN REGION WASTE MANAGEMENT

### National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024 - 2030

The Southern Waste Region comprises 10 local authorities: Carlow, Clare, Cork City, Cork County, Limerick City and County, Kerry, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Waterford City and County and Wexford. The Southern Waste Region (SR) is one of three waste regions in the country. The other Waste Regions are the Eastern Midlands (EMR) & the Connaught Ulster (CUR) Waste Regions.

Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) and Tipperary County Council are the lead authorities for the Southern Waste Management Planning Region. They are responsible for the co-ordination, implementation and monitoring of the “National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030”.



Resource Efficiency Officer for the Southern Region Waste Management Plan Office, is pictured at the same launch event.



Aine Kerr and Diarmuid Hayes: Aine Kerr (MC) and Diarmuid Hayes (Project Manager, Limerick Twenty Thirty) are also pictured at the launch event.



Group National Launch: This photo features various officials at the launch of the National Waste Management Plan for Circular Economy 2024-2030 at Limerick's Gardens International. Attendees include Kevin Swift, Hugh Coughlan, Derek Kelly, Vincent Murray, Anne Moore, Warren Phelan, Mayor Gerald Mitchell, John McLaughlin, Philippa King, and Philip Nugent.

This Local Authority “National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030” was launched nationally in Limerick at the Garden’s International Facility on the 1st March 2024. This Plan is the first National Waste Plan and sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland as well as initiating the transition to a circular Economy for the next six years. A National Work Plan for Year 1 of the Plan has been prepared and new Governance arrangements are being developed.

### **My Waste.ie**

A number of national initiatives were progressed during 2024 including promotion of materials to assist all businesses to better segregate and prevent waste.

Local businesses were supported by the provision of free online training (Modus), waste auditing and free signage from the Commercial Waste Campaign.

MyWaste.ie also manages a voluntary on-pack labelling scheme which over 50 Irish household brands avail of. The labelling scheme is provided free of charge to all businesses for use on their packaging and further information can be found on [www.mywaste.ie](http://www.mywaste.ie)

The two-year Food Waste Recycling Project was completed in 2024 and over 221,000 caddie packs were issued to households nationwide. A final report was published in December 2024 and can be accessed here. As part of this project a number of initiatives with local waste contractors were undertaken across Limerick City and County Council to improve the separation of food waste especially in apartments.

National Food Waste Recycling Week took place from 2-9 June with all local authorities across the region providing advice and guidance to citizens on managing their food waste and local media were active in promoting food waste recycling.

### **Green Hubs**

Adare was chosen to partake in the Green hubs project in 2024 and was officially launched by Mayor of Limerick, John Moran on 13 August. The Green Hub initiative provides resources and support to local businesses looking to adopt more sustainable waste management practices, particularly waste prevention strategies and improve waste separation. With the assistance of Adare Tidy Towns and [www.2gocup.ie](http://www.2gocup.ie), a reusable cup rental scheme was introduced in Adare as part of the campaign.

The Mywaste projects were funded by Department of Environment, Climate and Communications. (DECC).



**Group Adare Green Hub Launch:** This photo includes Mayor of Limerick, John Moran, Niall Collins TD, Councillor Bridie Collins, Councillor Dan Sweeney, Kevin Murphy (CEO 2GoCup), Philip Hall (2GoCup), Ursula Ahern, and various members of the Southern Region Waste Management Planning Office, Adare Tidy Town, and local business owners.



**Adare Green Hubs Launch:** Mayor of Limerick, John Moran is pictured at this event.





Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Day: This event took place in Tralee, Co. Kerry, on September 14, where HHW was collected from the public.

### Haz Waste Collection Pilots

In 2024, the Regional Waste Management Planning Offices (RWMPOs) were allocated funding under the Anti-Dumping Initiative to undertake the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Pilot Project which consisted of a nationwide HHW survey and four HHW collection days. The SRWMPPO coordinated the project with 1,868 customers attending the collection days where 65 tonnes of waste was collected 58% of which was non-hazardous paint. The findings from the pilot project will now be used to plan for 2025 HHW Collections, a requirement of EU Waste Framework Directive.

### Tapmap.ie

Tapmap.ie an initiative to encourage more consumption of tap water and reduce unnecessary plastic bottle usage has over 60 refill points listed for LCCC including 3 on Limerick's Greenway and the Tap Map was funded by the local authorities in the Southern Region.



Promotion of Free Tap Water Refill Points: There are over 60 free tap water refill points across Limerick City and County Council, including three on the Greenway.

### Historic Landfill

Progress on the road map for historic landfill has been achieved, investigations and remediation were funded by DECC and approximately €1.5M was spent in the Southern Region in 2024.

### Waste Capacity Monitoring

The RWMPOs published a quarterly waste capacity report during 2024 and these indicated that Ireland still has a capacity deficit of approximately 300,000 tonnes per annum. Contingency capacity had to be activated during 2024 to assist with construction and demolition and Municipal Solid Waste Deficits.

### Construction and Demolition Waste

The Regional Waste Management Plan Office (RWMPO) is collaborating with Limerick Twenty Thirty to enhance the sustainability of the ongoing Opera Project and other new projects in Limerick City and County Council.

## FIRE AND EMERGENCY

Limerick City and County Council as Fire Authority operates and manages the Fire and Emergency Services in Limerick. Limerick Fire and Rescue Service has responsibility to protect the life and property of circa 200,000 people living in circa 70,000 houses and circa 18,000 commercial premises. Civil Defence is also part of the Fire and Emergency Services Department. This is a volunteer based organisation which supports the frontline emergency services as well as assisting at community events.

The Fire and Emergency Services Department has five broad areas of activity that are mutually supportive in the delivery of an integrated service to the public.

- Fire and Rescue Service
- Fire Prevention and Building Control
- Major Emergency Management
- Civil Defence
- Water Safety

### Fire and Rescue Service



Chainsaw training

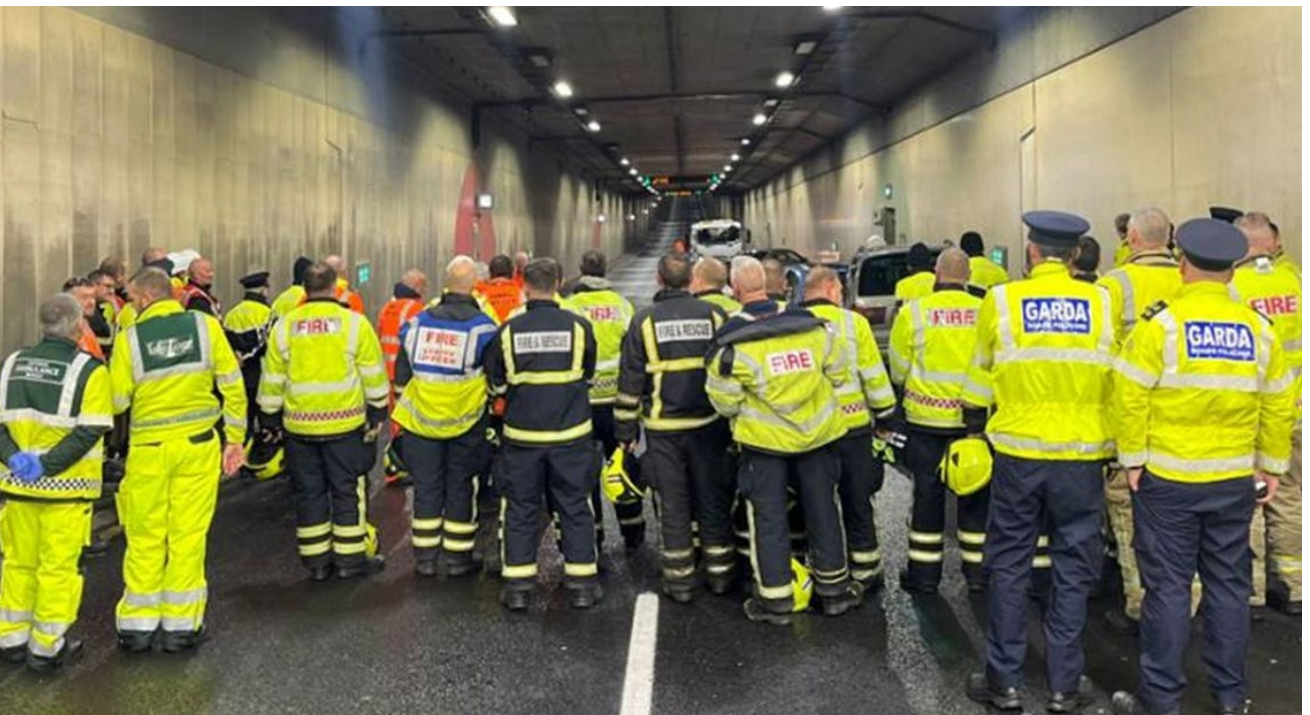




Tactical Ventilation training



Working at Heights training



Major Emergency Interagency exercise in Limerick Tunnel



## Fire Prevention and Building Control

The function of the Fire Prevention and Building Control Department is to ensure the safety, health and welfare of people who occupy or use buildings, through ensuring the reduction of fire risk, proper means of escape, the access for people with disabilities and the conservation of fuel and energy.

To deliver these functions, the work of this department includes assessing Fire Safety Certificate applications and Disability Access Certificates, inspection of commercial buildings and apartment complexes, investigating complaints and giving Community Fire Safety talks.

Fire Safety Certificates	
<b>Statistics</b>	
Total number of fire safety certificate applications received	233
Total number of fire safety certificate applications Granted	231
Total number of applications deemed invalid	19
Buildings inspected as a % of new buildings notified to the local authority	12.9%
Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority	1,260
Number of new buildings notified to the local authority that were inspected	163

Disability Access Certificates	
<b>Statistics</b>	
Total No. of valid Disability Access Certificates received	151
Total No. of Disability Access Certificates Granted	127
Total No. of Disability Access Certificates invalidated	2

Planning Referrals	
Total number of Planning Referrals processed	250
Total number of Valid Commencement Notices received (includes CNs, Short CNs, Opt-out CNs and 7-day Notices)	646

## Major Emergency Management

The functions of the Major Emergency Management section are to implement the provisions of the 2006 Framework for Major Emergency Management in Limerick City and County Council, to review and oversee Limerick City and County Council's Major Emergency Plan and to continually enhance Limerick City and County Council's capacity to respond to a major emergency.

Limerick City and County Council held internal Major Emergency Management Committee meetings and attended the Regional Working Group and Regional Steering Group meetings in 2024.

The work completed during 2024 consisted of:

- Conducted a training needs assessment and developed a programme of training for 2024.
- Review of the Local Authority Risk Assessments.
- Weekly review of weather forecast and tides by the Severe Weather Assessment Team.
- Review of Major Emergency Plan and Sub Plan for Limerick City and County Council.
- Participation in the Mid-West Training Courses such as Information Management Officer, On-Site Co-ordination and Media Liaison Officer.
- Review and testing of External Emergency Plans in accordance with the Control of Major Accidents involving Hazardous Materials Regulations 2015.
- Explosive storage licensing.
- Reviewed and update MEM contacts book.
- Updated communications system for onsite and offsite coordination centres.
- Partner in (ACEMAP) Arctic Communities Emergency Management and Preparedness project.
- Procurement of new items of equipment.
- Reviewing mobilisation procedures.

## Civil Defence

Limerick Civil Defence is a statutory volunteer based organisation that supports the front line emergency services while assisting our local community. Limerick Civil Defence supports the frontline emergency services in dealing with severe weather and flooding events, major accidents and searching for missing people. Limerick Civil Defence also supports community events throughout the year.

Examples of the types of tasks undertaken by Limerick Civil Defence include:

- Assisting the HSE with the transporting of patients to hospitals for appointments and clinics.
- Assisting An Garda Síochána (AGS) with searches with Missing Persons.
- Providing medical cover with many and varied community and sporting events throughout Limerick City and County (European Chess Championship at University of Limerick, providing medical cover and assisting at the St. Patrick's Day Festival in O'Connell Street and Adare, Riverfest Festival, Regeneron Great Limerick Run, Abbeyfeale 5k, Milford 10K, American Football March at University of Limerick, University Hospital Limerick Hospital Group Cycle to name but a few).
- Assisting other Civil Defence Units regionally and nationally with medical cover and searches for missing persons.
- 2024 saw our existing ambulances were donated and transported to the Ukraine in July. The two ambulances were recently decommissioned after the medical response service took delivery of two new purpose built ambulances in January.

Total number of tasking's in 2025 is 124.



New Civil Defence Vehicles



## Water Safety

Lifeguards were employed by Limerick City and County Council for the June bank holiday weekend and from July to the start of September at Glin Pier and Killeary Pier. The lifeguards were busy again this year with the arrival of many visitors to the Piers for their daily swim and a water safety week run by the local area committee.

### Limerick County Water Safety Area Committee Update

Eight Lifeguards were on duty during the summer and they kept the two piers open all summer. Two extra lifeguards were brought on to work on weekends, to give them experience for next year's round of job opportunities in lifeguarding. Lack of instructors was an issue for our county committee. A lifeguard had to teach on one of the summer weeks to ensure the week was able to go ahead. A second week had to be cancelled.

Closure of the Askeaton pool is a major issue at the moment, as the County Committee do not have anywhere to teach lifesaving classes and bring on more instructors and lifeguards for next year.

### Limerick City Water Safety Area Committee Update

A summer week was run by University of Limerick pool with the assistance of Limerick City Water Instructors. Again lack of instructors nearly forced the week to be cancelled. However, it still went ahead with smaller numbers in the classes. Lifesaving classes continue to be run on a Wednesday night by the City Committee during the winter/spring months with just enough instructors to teach the classes. However, this is always last minute as instructors are hard to find, and LWSAC rely on students returning to college to help out with teaching.

Lifebuoy inspections	
No. of lifebuoy replacements	Total
Metropolitan District	14
Municipal Districts	17
No. of lifebuoy sensor activations	Total
Metropolitan District	75
Municipal Districts	53



Lifeguards on duty

## WATER SERVICES

All operational services on public water and wastewater are now under the control of Uisce Éireann. Rural or Group Water Services remain with the Council.

### Subsidy towards the Operational Costs of Group Water Schemes

The operational subsidy grant provides assistance to group water schemes supplying water for domestic use. Group water schemes are entitled to claim an annual subsidy each year. The Council processed €1,574,973.00 in subsidy payments to 30 Group Water Schemes in respect of their operational costs in 2024.

### Private Well Grants

Limerick City and County Council processed 103 individual grants at a total value in grant aid of €379,961.27 in 2024. The purpose of the grant is to help householders provide good quality, potable drinking water for their homes.

### Grants payable under the Domestic Lead Remediation (Financial Assistance) Regulations 2016

The scheme is available to assist owners of premises connected to a domestic water supply with the costs of replacing lead piping or related fittings located within the internal distribution system of the premises, as defined in the Water Services Act 2007. 2 applications were received in 2023, 1 paid to date to the value of €4,937.25.

## METROPOLITAN DISTRICT TEAM

### City Centre Response Team

The City Centre Response Team (CCRT) was established in 2024. The team is dedicated to enhancing the public realm of Limerick City Centre. Comprising four General Operatives and an Executive Engineer, the CCRT has provided essential support to the existing maintenance teams, focusing on minor maintenance issues to

improve the city's appearance and functionality. Throughout the year, the CCRT has successfully completed several projects, significantly contributing to the upkeep and enhancement of Limerick City Centre. Some of the notable tasks include:

### Painting and Cleaning Council Property at 29-30 Cecil Street

Description: The painting and cleaning of this property.



Before and after works



### Refurbishing Quay Seating

Description: The seating along the quay was refurbished to provide a more comfortable and visually appealing space for residents and visitors.



Quay Seats

### Painting O'Callaghan Strand Flood Defence Walls

Description: The flood defence walls were painted to enhance their appearance and ensure they remain in good condition.



O'Callaghan Strand Flood Defence

### Footpath Repairs City Centre

Description: The team undertook minor repairs of footpaths in numerous locations in the city centre.



Footpath repairs



Footpath repairs

The establishment of the CCRT has proven to be a valuable addition to the city's maintenance efforts. With a dedicated team and a clear focus on minor maintenance issues, the CCRT has made a noticeable impact on the appearance and functionality of Limerick City Centre.

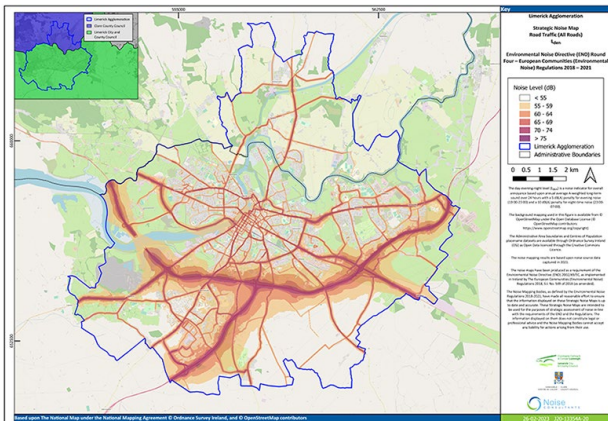


## ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION

### Environment Strategy

#### Noise Action Planning

The fourth round of strategic noise mapping for Limerick was completed in 2024 as required under the Environmental Noise Regulations, 2018. This was the first round of noise mapping that Limerick City and environs (including a small portion of County Clare in the Parteen area) was identified as an Agglomeration, having a population greater than 100,000. Strategic noise maps were prepared for major roads in County Limerick and all roads, all rail and EPA licensed industrial facilities in the Limerick Agglomeration. This is the first time that noise from all transportation routes in Limerick City and Environs have been mapped.



Noise Action Plan

The Council is undertaking a soundscape approach to the identification and investigation of quiet areas (areas that are beneficial to citizens health and well-being). This is an holistic approach to the investigation of sound, considering not only sound levels, but also the quality of sound (or timbre) in areas that provide rest and tranquility.

The Council was awarded funding in 2024 by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications to undertake two pilot studies

to investigate the impact of the 30 kph speed limit reduction in Limerick City (February 2024) to reduce the harmful effects of noise on the population and to assess the potential of the Castletroy Greenway to be designated a Quiet Area based on the Council's soundscape approach. These projects are in progress.

#### Air Quality

The Council continues to monitor air quality and ensures that data is made available to the public from its sensors (available at [www.airquality.ie](http://www.airquality.ie) and [www.airqweb.com](http://www.airqweb.com)). Monthly reports of air quality in 2024 are available on the Council's website. The Environment Section also supports the Active Travel team to undertake nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) diffusion tube monitoring in relation to air quality monitoring related to their projects.

#### Clean Air Together Limerick City

In 2024, the Council has worked in partnership with the EPA in the roll-out of the citizen science Clean Air Together Limerick City project. During September, the project involved recruiting approximately 400 participants within the Limerick Metropolitan area to record levels of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) pollution in their local area. We were successful in recruiting the participants with the assistance of our community contacts.

The results of the project are scheduled to be issued to the public in February 2025. Given that the Council's functional area extends beyond the Metropolitan Area the Council also undertook a NO<sub>2</sub> diffusion tube monitoring campaign for the month of October in County Limerick, in Adare. The results of the study are expected to be available in 2025.



Clean Air Together Limerick City launch



Launch of Clean Air Together Limerick

## GLOBE

Air Quality Monitoring (AQM) Campaign  
Following on from the success of the Clean Air Together Limerick City project, the Council is working in partnership with An Taisce and the EPA to roll-out a pilot Air Quality Monitoring (AQM) Campaign, under the GLOBE program. This is a pilot citizen science project that investigates air pollution outdoors at three schools located in the Limerick Metropolitan Area from December 2024 to February 2025. The Council has tested and installed air quality and meteorological measurement equipment at schools to facilitate and support them with access to environmental data.

## Water Framework Directive (WFD)

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) Team works to ensure the protection and restoration of water quality in Limerick through various initiatives under the Water Action Plan 2024 and the River Basin Management Plan. The third cycle of the WFD, which began in 2023, focuses on preventing and reducing pollution while restoring natural ecosystem functions in water systems.

Here are key activities carried out by the WFD Team:

- 1. Farm Surveys and Support:** The team conducted over 300 farm surveys and collaborated with the farming community to address issues affecting water quality. They ensure compliance with statutory requirements and work on solutions to improve water quality.
- 2. Pollution Incidents:** Investigate pollution incidents applicable to the agricultural sector and undertake river walks to identify potential pollution sources.
- 3. Farm Planning Review:** The WFD Team reviews farm plans submitted to Limerick City and County Council. They apply conditions and provide feedback on applications for forestry activities, including planting, thinning, and felling.
- 4. Collaboration with Local and Sectoral Agencies:** The team actively supports the Local Authority Water Programme (LAWPRO) and attends meetings of the South West Regional Operational Committee (SWROC). They also collaborate with LAWPRO catchment scientists in Limerick and engage with other sectoral agencies such as the EPA, OPW, and Inland Fisheries. Additionally, the team participates in the Deel/Feale Catchment Focus Group, which focuses on addressing pesticides in drinking water.
- 5. Mague River Trust and Fish Passage:** The WFD Team supports the Mague River Trust and participates in discussions related to the Annacotty fish passage project, which aims to address challenges posed by the Annacotty weir.
- 6. Farm Booklet for Limerick:** In 2024, the WFD Team, in cooperation with the Biodiversity Officer, produced a *Farm Booklet for Limerick*. This booklet consolidates valuable information and resources for farmers, highlighting the relationship between farming practices and environmental sustainability.



## Biodiversity

### Non-Native Invasive Species

During 2024, the Council continued with the development of the Council's strategy for dealing with non-native invasive species.

The Smart Phone application for reporting Invasive Plants is now available and more than 1,700 occurrences of invasive species in the City and County have been reported via the app. Further promotion will be carried out to encourage people to use the app and this data will be shared with National Biodiversity Data Centre.

The control programme of Giant Hogweed on the River Loobagh in the Maigue Catchment has been operating for six years now. The Giant Hogweed is now well under control on the River Loobagh, with works progressing in 2024 to the infestation on the River Maigue as far as Bruree. Depending on suitable funding, it is hoped to extend this program further along the catchment in 2025 and into other infected catchments.

Control works for Giant Hogweed have also taken place on the Morningstar River in conjunction with the Maigue Rivers Trust.



Hogweed removal

### EU URBACT 4 - BiodiverCity

URBACT is a European programme which promotes integrated sustainable urban development in cities and towns across Europe. It is primarily funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

Limerick is one of ten partner cities in the URBACT BiodiverCity Project collaborating on finding community based approaches to foster urban biodiversity. A partner network meeting was held in Limerick on June 12 and 13 with the nine international partner cities visiting Baggot Estate and the Castletroy Greenway looking at best practice examples and giving feedback on ways to improve public green space.



Limerick City and County Council welcomes EU URBACT BiodiverCity Partners

### BiodiverCity European partners visit Limerick in June

As part of the project a number of actions have been undertaken throughout the year. These include a Seed saving event in Corbally wildflower Meadow in September with the aim to create a Limerick Council seed bank for future projects. The development of a plant identification swatch specific to Limerick City area. The swatch details the twenty five most common plants and flowers occurring in Limerick urban grass lands.

### **Blue and Green Infrastructure Strategy**

One of the main elements of the Limerick Environs Blue and Green Infrastructure Strategy is the proposed development of a Blue Green Ring encircling and cross-cutting Limerick City, which will be Ireland's first city scale ecological network and planning programme. A consultant was appointed at the start of 2024 to investigate and develop the vision. Work has progressed throughout 2024 with the identification of a route which is currently subject to public and stakeholder consultation.

### **Limerick City and County Tree Strategy**

#### **2024-2030**

Trees are an essential part of the landscape of both Limerick City and County. At the May full Council meeting the elected members adopted an all-encompassing tree policy document which will shape the way the Local Authority deals with trees and forests in their ownership and control over the coming years. The purpose of the document is to define the appropriate guidance needed to enable trees to fulfil their full potential, to provide multiple benefits through maintenance and management in a proactive and planned manner.

The policy is intended to be a reference document for the public, local authority and other relevant agencies to enable informed discussion and to establish a clear, consistent and structured vision for the management of public trees in Limerick. The document is available on [www.limerick.ie](http://www.limerick.ie)

### **Biodiversity Officer**

Limerick City and County Council with support from the Heritage Council employed a Biodiversity Officer through open competition process in February 2024.

### **Limerick Biodiversity Forum**

The development of the Limerick Biodiversity Forum involved connecting and bringing together over fifty stakeholders from a wide range of sectoral interests. This happened in early April 2024. There were a total of four facilitated meetings during the year. These facilitated meetings were supported by the Heritage Council of Ireland.

#### **The Draft Limerick Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2030:**

- Is supported by the Heritage Council of Ireland
- Was screened for Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment in parallel with the writing of the Plan.
- Presented to the Elected Representatives at a workshop in November (prior to public consultation).
- Is available in Irish and English on [LimerickMyPoint](http://LimerickMyPoint) and open to submissions until the 10 Jan.
- Four Face to Face and two online public consultations/information sessions were undertaken in December.

### **Biodiversity Initiatives supported by the National Parks and Wildlife Service**

Biodiversity Initiatives undertaken include; Survey of Limerick Wetlands Phase I, Wildlife Murals- Fox and Siskin, Ecological Survey of the Newcastle West Demense, Invasive Species work on the Loobagh, Mayfly Survey, Circuitscape Mapping for Lesser Horseshoe Bats, support for events run by non-government organisations in Limerick, Biodiversity Projects with Limerick Libraries in addition to many of the events listed below.

## National Biodiversity Week

### – May 2024

- Bat and Moth Walk on the Baggot Estate with wildlife expert Albert Nolan
- Guided walk of the Newcastle West Demense 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
- 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 for the Council staff
- Presentation at the Heritage Council's National Heritage Week Training event in the Absolute Hotel

### Dragonfly Workshop

- In June eighteen people attended the Dragonfly Workshop in Askeaton Community Centre with field training in Curraghchase Forest Park. The workshop was facilitated by Geoff Hunt. This was a joint event with the National Biodiversity Data Centre

## National Heritage Week Events

This year's National Heritage Week's theme was Connections, Routes, and Networks. Four events were registered as Limerick City and County Council biodiversity events for National Heritage Week:

- The Biodiversity and Environment Awareness Officers had a Stand at the Cappamore Show. They engaged with over 300 people during the day on the topics of biodiversity, circular living (waste management), litter and domestic waste water treatment systems
- 'Connect with Nature' along the route of the 'Infinity Woodland Path.' St. Mary's Pipe Band welcomed everyone on the evening and this

was followed by poetry readings among the 5,000 trees planted by the Little Company of Mary in 2020

- Gardening for Biodiversity and Climate Action Workshop with Aoife Munn
- The Sustainability Tent at the Limerick Show where the Biodiversity Community Climate Action and Environment Awareness Officers, along with staff from Air Pollution Strategy and Domestic Waste and Litter, could reach out and engage with citizens on matters such as Biodiversity, the [www.cleanairtogether.ie](http://www.cleanairtogether.ie) Limerick project, household food waste and battery recycling, reusable cup use, litter and domestic waste water treatment systems. In addition, the Council hosted Bat Rehabilitation Ireland, The Limerick Bat Group, The Barn Owl Project, Doon Social Farm, The Urban Co-Op, Ballyhoura Development, West Limerick Resources, Tait Community Enterprise and Cairde Enterprises who also engaged with the citizens on the day. Our colleagues in the Local Enterprise Office also joined us in the Sustainability Tent advising on their recently increased Energy Efficiency Grant and Green for Business supports

## Biodiversity and Farming

- Managing Hedgerows for Nature Event' on Gearoid Maher's farm in Cappamore. Gearoid, a commercial dairy farmer and farming for Nature ambassador, opened his farm as a demonstration site for the event. Participants were treated to presentations from Dr. Aine Lynch, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dr. Catherine Keena, Teagasc, Katie Smirnova, Hedgerows Ireland and the Council's Biodiversity Officer. In addition, there were 'A'- shape trimming and hedge laying demonstrations. The host and Farming for Nature Ambassador, Gearóid Maher, also shared how he keeps a productive dairy farm while reducing inputs and making space for biodiversity
- Biodiversity Officer, presented to the Doon Men's Shed Project at one of their regular meetings on the Doon Social Farm.



## **Parks**

### **Parks and Open Green Spaces**

The Parks Department manage and maintain 23 parks and amenities throughout the City and County as well as working towards the design and construction of additional facilities. The Parks department also maintain the green areas throughout the City and County, which includes grass cutting, tree maintenance and planting. In addition, green spaces in various communities are targeted for enhancement in order to provide much needed recreational opportunities in these neighbourhoods.

The following outlines the projects for 2024:

#### **O'Brien Park**

In 2024, a number of sports facilities were installed in O'Brien Park, providing increased physical activity in the Park. The sports facilities included table tennis, teqball, volleyball and basketball with box up equipment lockers stocked with table tennis rackets, teqball, soccer ball, basketball, dumbbells and skipping ropes which are provided free of charge and can be accessed through the BoxUp app. The project was a collaboration with Limerick Sports Partnership and the Parks Department. The sports equipment was provided and funded by Limerick Sports Partnerships under Active Cities and the civils works elements procured by the Parks department.

The installation of the sporting equipment has seen a significant increase in the number of people using the Park. The installation of a full size basketball court in particular is being used on a daily basis and highlights the need for further public outdoor basketball courts to be provided. This is the first public outdoor basketball court in the city.

#### **Castleconnell Community Park**

A community park was provided in Castleconnell in 2024 adjacent to St Joseph's Cemetery, providing recreational opportunity and connecting communities with the village. The park includes two gated access ways, linking the estates

of Scanlon Park and Bruach na Sionna with a tarmac surfaced walkway planted with native trees and hedging. Funding for this project was provided by the General Municipal Allocation of Limerick City East.

#### **Clare Glens**

The Clare Glens amenity has seen a major upgrade in 2024, with the replacement of the two pedestrian bridges over the Clare River. The two pedestrian bridges which provide a viewing



Castleconnell Community Park

point for the waterfalls at Clare Glens have been replaced with new timber bridges, improving access to both bridges and a new walkway has also been added at the upper entrance to Clare Glens. This project was funded by the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.



Clare Glens - One of the two pedestrian bridges

**Lough Gur**

The Lough Gur amenity continues to receive improvements with the installation of a wheelchair accessible area in front of the lake. The area has been provided with a surface consisting of Liscannor Stone, in keeping with the area and jointed to give a level surface. The area has been fitted with wheelchair accessible picnic tables.

Lough Gur has seen an increase in visitor numbers in recent years and at the end of 2024, works are well underway to replace the wastewater storage holding tanks and associated works. The contract has been awarded and all associated works have been agreed.



Lough Gur set down area following addition of Liscannor paving stones

**Ballynanty Landscape Projects**

The Ballynanty Landscape projects comprise of enhancements to two green spaces on the Monabraher Road and at Ballygrennan Road with designs prepared for both sites. On 19 November, an information evening was held in Ballynanty Community Hall to provide the community with details of plans and give an opportunity for the community to have their say regarding future planting on these green spaces. Construction of both sites commenced towards the end of 2024, with the installation of walkways and tree planting now completed. The remaining shrub planting will take place in Spring 2025 when the weather will be more suitable and the community will be requested to become involved in the planting of these green spaces.





Newcastle West Dog Park Official Opening in October 2024



Baggot Estate Dog Park

### **Dog Parks**

There were two dog parks provided in 2024. Dog Parks allow dogs to exercise off leash, enjoy freedom, and engage in social interaction within a safe environment. Following on from the success of the Mungret dog park, a dog park has been completed in the Demesne, Newcastle West. This facility includes 1.8metre high fencing to accommodate both large and small dogs and was officially opened by Mayor John Moran and Henri (the Mayor's dog) on 29 October. Funding for this dog park was provided by the General Municipal Allocation from the Elected Members in the Newcastle West District.

A second dog park was recently completed in Baggot Estate to cater for the number of dog walkers in this amenity. Funding for this project was provided by General Municipal Allocation for Limerick City West.



Mayor of Limerick, John Moran and Henri at the Demesne Newcastle West



## Playgrounds

### Castleconnell Playground

Minor upgrades were undertaken at the playground in Castleconnell with the replacement of the basket swing and the provision of a new inclusive roundabout. The entire playground, including surfacing and play equipment was power washed and the playground equipment was painted, bringing it to an acceptable standard until funding can be sourced for a major upgrade of the playground.



The Ferry Playground Castleconnell after woodwork was painted

### Shelbourne Playground

An inclusive roundabout and a sensory play panel were installed in Shelbourne playground and playground surfacing repairs have been completed. A capital grant was secured from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth through the Play and Recreation Scheme to finance these works. The Council have already installed inclusive play equipment at many of their playgrounds and it is a priority to continue to add inclusive and sensory play equipment to ensure that playgrounds can be a place of enjoyment for children of all abilities.

### Caherdavin Playground

A new playground is required for the Caherdavin community and funding has been secured over the last number of years to deliver the playground. An in person information evening was held in the Community Centre in Caherdavin to give residents and all interested parties an opportunity to find out more regarding the plans for development of a new playground at Caherdavin. A questionnaire allowed the approximate 50 attendees to outline their requirements, expectations and priorities for this playground.

### Go Green Routes

Go Green Routes is a €10.5m EU funded project sowing the seeds for increased nature-connectedness across Europe, Latin America and China, focussing on physical activity, nature connection and nature-based solutions.

On 20th November 2024, Limerick City & County Council together with A Playful City, one of the partners in the project, hosted a fun and play event on the Castletroy Greenway for children and adults. This event was enjoyed by approximately 150 primary school children and 25 adults and included an opportunity to learn about the Go green Routes project, funded under the European Union's Horizon 2020 Innovation Action Programme, and to take part in traditional games from countries across Europe as well as a nature scavenger hunt.



Playful City event which took place in November 2024

On 28 November, Limerick City and County Council took home the award for Public Space and Planning at the 2024 KPMG Property Industry Excellence Awards for the Go Green Routes Project and for their transformation of a brown site on the Castletroy Greenway into a sustainable play space. These Awards, in association with the Irish Independent, celebrate the best in leadership, innovation and sustainability in the Irish property sector.



2024 KPMG Property Industry Excellence Award won regarding transformation of a brown site on Castletroy Greenway

### **EU URBACT 4-Green Place**

Limerick is one of ten partner cities in the URBACT Green Place Project who are collaborating on urban regeneration plans in respective specified areas. The objective of the Green Place project is the urban regeneration of forgotten places, changing urban spaces that have lost their current functionality to be friendly to residents, the environment and the city and to support and enhance the provision of quality green spaces in derelict urban settings. The focus area for the project for Limerick is the City Wall in Irishtown and proximity of green spaces to the City Wall. It includes the green areas of Johnsgate, St. Michael's cemetery and Watergate Flats.

In 2024 and as part of National Tree Week, the URBACT Green Place project together with the local community in Johnsgate village beside the old City Walls, planted a mini orchard with Limerick heritage apple trees. Residents took part in the community planting day and the children were all involved in planting the trees. Community engagement is a

significant part of the URBACT projects and this was the first of three events to engage the locals on the project and to seek their input from the outset on plans for the area.

The project progressed further in April with the third meeting of the URBACT local group, comprising of a number of stakeholders including various departments in the Council, resident groups, Tidy Towns, Gardai, Mary Immaculate College, St. John's Hospital and Limerick Civic Trust, to discuss issues and challenges for the project and to agree on objectives to be progressed as part of an Integrated Action Plan for the project. A landscape plan was prepared for the project area and feedback was sought at the April meeting from the URBACT local group.

A second event, "Medieval May Fair" took place on 25 May in Grattan Court. This was a well received family fun day, with animators from King John's Castle displaying historical scenes, music, games, face painting, ice cream and a historical walk/talk on the Old City Walls. This greatly engaged residents in the area who were not aware of the historical significance of the City Wall on their doorstep. A third event, "Irishtown Heritage Fest" took place on 25 August in Old Clare Street, Limerick City. This street party event was attended by approximately 70 residents of the Old Clare Street, Johnsgate, Grattan Court and surrounding areas and celebrated the Medieval City Wall as well as giving the residents an opportunity to meet each other, view plans to improve the area and learn to dance the set-dance 'The Walls of Limerick'.



Medieval May Fair





Irishtown Heritage Fest in August 2024 as part of Urbact 4-Greenplace Project

### Green Flags

The Green Flag for Parks Award Scheme is an international standard for excellence in management of public parks and green spaces and is operated by An Taisce in Ireland. In 2024, People's Park maintained its Green Flag status and Lough Gur Lakeshore Park and Visitor Centre not only secured a Green Flag Award but also achieved the 2024 Green Heritage Site Accreditation. This additional recognition underscores the park's commitment to preserving its unique landscape and historical significance. A Green Flag application was submitted for the first time in respect of Adare Town Park. In November, it was confirmed that Green Flag status had been awarded to Adare Town Park. In December, the Mayor of Limerick kindly raised the first Green Flag in this park which was achieved not only through the dedication and hard work of the Parks staff but also through the interest and assistance of the Members of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale, volunteers and community groups.



Adare Town Park-gathering of Council officials and community members to celebrate the first Green Flag award for this park

### **Bridges in Bloom and City Centre**

Summer and winter bedding, flower tiers and hanging baskets “Bridges in Bloom” are provided at various locations to enhance the City. The Nursery at Corbally provides the flowers from plugs and work continues for a number of months until the June Bank Holiday weekend when the tiers and baskets are distributed throughout the City. Due to the increase in demand, an additional polytunnel was provided at the Nursery in Corbally.



Bridges in Bloom

### **Grass Cutting Contract**

The Council is responsible for maintaining approximately 300 hectares of grass on an annual basis which is cut fortnightly between March and October with the exception of designated ‘Let it Bee’ sites. In 2024, the Council took over grass cutting operations in the Raheen Dooradoyle area, thus reducing the amount to be contracted for grass cutting throughout the city and county. Many community groups also maintain green areas in their locality, they can apply for a small grant under the Maintenance of Open Spaces Community Grants.

### **Events in Parks**

A number of events take place in Council managed Parks every year and 2024 was no exception. These events included everything from yoga, musical recitals, school sports days, charity walks and runs as well as a wide variety of physical activity programmes ran by Limerick Sports Partnership. Our Parks are becoming increasingly important for our citizens with opportunities for all ages and abilities to avail of services in our Parks.

Tree planting took place in Kennedy Park in February and was sponsored by Clean Ireland. As part of National Tree Week, the Mayor of Limerick planted a tree in Hospital adjacent to the school.



Yoga class taking place in Ted Russell Park during summer 2024



Tree planting at Kennedy Park sponsored by Clean Ireland





Mayor of Limerick planting a tree in Hospital adjacent to the school



Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme won Best CSR Project in a Community

### **Roundabout Sponsorship**

The Council continues to seek expressions of interest on the Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme on an annual basis and in 2024, a sponsor was secured for the Rathkeale roundabout. There was also interest expressed in the Green Park roundabout and a sponsor was secured for the Garryglass roundabout and the Kilmallock roundabout and works will progress in 2025.

The Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme was entered into the All Ireland Community and Council Awards and in February 2024 at the Dublin Royal Convention Centre, Limerick City and County Council took home the award for the “Best CSR Project in a Community” category for the Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme.



Cemeteries

Cemetery Works 2024

Metropolitan District of Limerick	
St. Patrick's Graveyard, Garryowen	Boundary Wall Repairs
St. Johns Graveyard, Limerick City	Tree Surgery Works
Killonan Graveyard	Boundary Wall Repairs
Mt St Oliver Cemetery	Boundary Wall Replacement
Mt St Oliver Cemetery	Footpaths Replacement
Kilmurry Cemetery, Castletroy	Landscaping Works
St. Mary's Cemetery, Patrickswell	Boundary Wall Repairs



Killonan Graveyard\_Boundary Wall Repair



St. John's Graveyard, Limerick City Tree Surgery Works



St. Mary's Cemetery, Patrickswell Boundary Wall Repair



Municipal District of Newcastle West	
Church of Ireland Graveyard, Abbeyfeale	Tree Surgery Works
Abbeyfeale Cemetery	Tree Surgery Works
Calvary Cemetery, Newcastle West	Tree Surgery Works
Calvary Cemetery, Newcastle West	Landscaping Works
Templeglantine New, Graveyard	Tree Surgery Works
Tournafulla Graveyard	Tree Surgery Works
Municipal District of Adare - Rathkeale	
Clonagh Graveyard, Rathkeale	Landscaping Works
Ludden Beg Graveyard	Tree Surgery Works
Askeaton Graveyard	Cemetery Extension
Municipal District of Cappamore - Kilmallock	
Athlacca Graveyard	Tree Surgery Works
Colemanswell Graveyard	Tree Surgery Works
Kilteely Graveyard	Tree Surgery Works
Kilflynn Graveyard	Tree Surgery Works
Adamstown Graveyard	Tree Surgery Works
Abington Graveyard	Landscaping Works
Kilfinane Graveyard	Tree Surgery Works

### Burial Ground Awards 2024

On 13 November, the Annual Burial Grounds Community Awards were held in Knockaderry Community Centre. There was a large community attendance on the night. The Mayor of Limerick was represented by Councillor Jerome Scanlon. 25 Community Groups were awarded prizes ranging from €500 to €1,500 per group. This represented a 300% increase in prize fund from previous years. The Overall Winner in the Ancient Category was Crecora Old Burial Ground and the Overall Winner in the Modern Category was Springfield Burial Ground, Broadford. In addition, there was a new category of “Most Improved Burial Ground” this year, which was awarded to Fanningstown Burial Ground.



Springfield Burial Ground-Overall Winner of Modern Category at Burial Ground Awards held in November



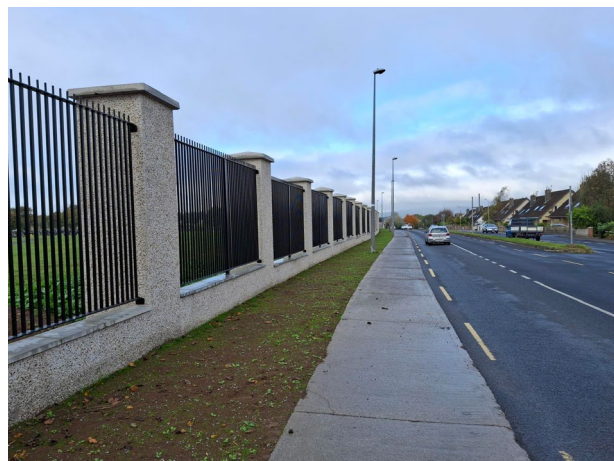
Crecora Old Burial Ground-Overall Winner of Ancient Category at Burial Ground Awards held in November

### **Mount Saint Oliver Cemetery**

The boundary wall and railing for Mount Saint Oliver Cemetery on the Old Cork Road was completed in 2024 as part of the Rosmor contract by the Active Travel department. The boundary consists of a 600mm stub wall and 2.3m high railing, the wall is finished in a pebble dash to minimise maintenance. The majority of the footpaths in the cemetery were also resurfaced.



Mount Saint Oliver Cemetery - Footpath Replacement Works



Mount Saint Oliver Cemetery - New Boundary Wall

### **Askeaton Cemetery**

An extension to Askeaton cemetery was completed in 2024, providing an additional capacity of 355 burial plots and 47 cremation plots.



Askeaton Graveyard - Cemetery Extension

### **New Cemeteries**

The burial ground strategy identified the requirement for new cemeteries to serve Cappamore/Murroe and also Adare. Desktop studies were completed in 2024 to identify suitable sites for these new proposed cemeteries.



### Audit of Cemeteries

An audit of local authority cemeteries has commenced, with work having been carried out at Donoughmore and Robertstown Cemeteries.



Robertstown Cemetery

### Environment Enforcement

The following activities and tasks have been completed by the Commercial Waste Team, and the Air, Noise, and Water Team. These teams have worked throughout the year to address various environmental issues and ensure compliance with relevant legislation and regulations.

No. of cases	527
No. of Inspections	656
No. of Fines	6
No. of Prosecutions	23
No. of Warning letters	49
No. of Notices	60
No. of Directions	43
No. of Fixed Penalty Notices	9
Permits/Authorisations 17 (DECCO; VOC; WEEE; FARM PLASTICS REGULATIONS)	

These efforts demonstrate the teams dedication to environmental protection and sustainable practices, with the successful completion of these tasks being essential for the health and well-being of the community. (Note all of the above

statistics are subject to further verification before submission to the Environmental Protection Agency).

### Litter Management

#### Litter Enforcement

The Domestic Waste and Litter Team includes five Environmental Control Officers supported by an administrative unit. The team take all practical measures for the prevention, control and correct disposal of litter. Working in close collaboration with the Roads Cleansing Team and the Environmental Awareness Officer, staff enforce the law under the Litter and Waste Acts issuing fines and notices where appropriate and encourage community participation in preventing and overcoming litter pollution. The team carry out household and commercial waste management surveys to determine the refuse collection arrangements of domestic units and businesses and where appropriate take enforcement action in cases of non-compliance.

1,230 cases were recorded during the year

5,610 inspections were carried out.

245 on-the-spot fines were issued for litter / presentation of waste offences

794 number of warnings issued

49 cases were referred for legal proceedings under the Litter Pollution / Waste Management Acts

#### Anti-Dumping Initiative (ADI)

Eighteen large scale clean ups of illegal dumping were completed in the City and County in 2024 funded under the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority's (WERLA) Anti-Dumping Initiative (ADI). The initiative supports projects that restore areas where there is persistent illegal dumping and provide funding to enhance enforcement surveillance. Sites in Clondrinagh, Castleconnell, Ballylanders, Newcastlewest, Cappamore and Fedamore were included in this year's programme.

In addition, in 2024, ADI funding was directed towards proactive preventative initiatives to reduce illegal dumping. A free bulky waste collection was offered to all householders in St. Marys Park, Ballinacurra Weston and the Hyde Road area in October in advance of Halloween. Household collections were carried out over five days with approximately 170 households taking up the free service, 22 truckloads of waste (16,140Kgs) were collected and disposed of appropriately. The waste comprised generally of household bulky waste, mattresses, carpets, furniture, toys and trampolines.

Following a disappointing result in the 2023 Irish Business against Litter (IBAL) report, the Domestic Waste and Litter team focused on improving those sites in the city that had been highlighted as litter black spots and that are in private ownership. Through a programme of inspection, enforcement and ongoing engagement with property owners, 2024 saw an overall improvement in Limerick's rankings in the IBAL report, with Limerick South (Galvone) receiving its best ever ranking at 29th. CCTV for Waste and Litter Enforcement.

The installation of CCTV for Waste and Litter Enforcement was set out as an objective in the Litter Management Plan adopted by the Council in 2024. Following the publication by the LGMA of a Code of Practice for the Operation of CCTV for the Purposes of Prevention, Detection and Prosecution of Litter and Waste Offences ten schemes were identified as potential sites for the use of CCTV in enforcement. CCTV for waste and litter enforcement will only be used where it is justifiable and proportionate to do so and where there is evidence of persistent illegal dumping. Data Protection Impact Assessments were carried out on each site and a public consultation process was completed. The ten schemes were approved in Quarter 3 of 2024 and installation of CCTV at these locations is ongoing. It is intended that further schemes will be added in 2025.

## **Environment Awareness**

### **Tidy Towns**

#### **National**

In 2024 the Tidy Towns competition saw judges return to carry out onsite visits to the fifty-one Limerick entrants to the competition. Adare Tidy Towns was awarded a gold medal, Limerick City a silver medal and Newcastle West a bronze medal in the national competition. The Limerick County Awards were; 1st Adare, 2nd Galbally, 3rd Castleconnell. Patrickswell Tidy Towns were awarded the Endeavour Award. Granagh Development group was a new entrant for 2024.

#### **Limerick**

The Annual Limerick Tidy Towns Seminar took place in the Woodlands Hotel on Thursday 1st February. Battery Recycling Boxes (household and retail) were distributed to the groups in addition to information on Greener Cleaning, Dog Fouling, Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (Septic Tanks) Biodiversity and Food Waste.

#### **Going for Gold**

Environmental Improvement Grant

Grants were allocated to 75 groups during 2024 to aid in their local Environment and Climate Action activities.

#### **Competition**

Patrickswell Tidy Towns took first place in the Tidy Towns Category of the Limerick Going for Gold Competition sponsored by the JP McManus Charitable Foundation. The following were also successful, Kilmeedy took 2nd place, Ballysteen 3rd, Glin 4th and Killeely 5th.

Groups from Castleconnell, Glenroe, Askeaton, Athea, Garrienderk and Kilmallock were highly commended. Groups from Broadford, Feenagh, Rathkeale and Rockhill were commended. In the Limerick In Bloom Category, Hospital Tidy Towns was the overall winner, Mountcollins 2nd and Gouldavoher 3rd. Caherdavin was highly commended. In the Residential Estates category



Thomondgate Residents' Association, was awarded first prize and Meadowbrook Corbally 2nd prize. Slugaire, Gurteen/Southville Gardens, Woodhaven and Greater Kings Island Residents Association were Highly Commended with Forest View Kilfinane, Cois Ma Croom and Woodlawn Park Ballysimon in the commended category. Caherconlish won the Endeavour award for social inclusivity at the Millenium Centre in Caherconlish.

The Going for Gold Reuse Award celebrating National Reuse Month was awarded to the Kilcornan Tidy Towns (Rainwater harvesting) and Elton Tidy Towns (Free Little Library).



Patrickswell Tidy Towns – Overall Limerick Going for Gold Winners 2024.

The Service Level agreement continued with Social Enterprises located in Moyross, Southill, St. Mary's Park and Our Lady of Lourdes. This supports Litter Picking, Grass Cutting,

### **Waste Prevention**

There were a number of initiatives under Waste Prevention following the launch of the National Waste Plan for a Circular Economy in March 2024.

The Adare My Waste Green hub project was launched in August 2024 in conjunction with Adare Tidy Towns, and includes the introduction of a reusable cup project and promotion of the toolkit on [www.mywaste.ie/business](http://www.mywaste.ie/business).



Launch of forever cup in Adare

The Re-love paint initiative has progressed further during 2024 as we work in collaboration with Tait House Community Enterprise, Limerick Recycling Centres and Clare County Council to prevent waste paint going to landfill.

Successful Sustainability events were undertaken at Newcastle West Show, Cappamore Show, Limerick Show, TLC9, Howmedica, Limerick ICA federation and Grange ICA, and the Urban Co-op.

Over 1,000 Household food waste caddies and 1,000 Reusable cups were distributed together with information on Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems, Dog Fouling, and Waste Battery Collection.

### **Green Schools and other campaigns**

Following assessment, 24 Limerick schools were awarded their green flags at the Green Schools award ceremony held in Killarney in May. Themes included litter/waste, energy, water, travel, biodiversity and global citizenship. Support is. A total of 161 schools are registered for the Green Schools program. The PickerPals initiative continued during 2024. Environment and Climate Action support is ongoing for all schools in Limerick e.g. school visits, arranging delivery of compost, and advising on using the [mywaste.ie](http://mywaste.ie) toolkit. Secondary schools are being supported to participate in [www.relovetofashion.ie](http://www.relovetofashion.ie) competition for 2024/2025 school year.

A revised Anti-Dog Litter Awareness campaign along with an Anti-dumping campaign was also undertaken in 2024. This included a digital campaign, distribution of dog fouling bags and local radio adverts. Limerick City and County Council continued its bronze level membership of Leave No Trace. The Council also participated in IBEC's National Gum Litter Campaign in conjunction with Limerick City Tidy Towns.



Gum Litter Taskforce, Limerick City Tidy Towns and Limerick City and County Council staff

Training courses were facilitated for the public and staff in relation to sustainability, e.g. Waste (Electronic Waste), Biodiversity (No Mow May).

### **National Waste Segregation Campaign**

The National Waste Segregation Campaign briefing was held on 24 September with the campaign itself launched on 26 September - Take a minute, before you bin it! - My Waste. The aim is to support the circular economy by assisting the public to correctly separate their waste at home and in their workplaces into the 3 bin waste system – Organic, Dry Recycling and Landfill.

### **Fairtrade**

In November Limerick City celebrated its 19th year as a Fairtrade City with the School's Christmas Card Competition. 20 schools across Limerick participated and attended the birthday party in Istabraq Hall. Limerick City and County Council continues to support Fairtrade products Fairtrade Products - Fairtrade Ireland.



The Mayor of Limerick John Moran with Limerick Fairtrade Committee.

## **Climate Action**

The Climate Action Section role is to support the Council and our wider community to address the challenges of Climate Change. This is achieved through:

- The coordination and reporting of the Council's response to the Climate Action Emergency through the implementation of the Local Authority Climate Action Plan and the management of the Community Climate Action Programme.
- The management of the Energy Management Team.
- The management of the Citizen Innovation Lab.
- The coordination of a number of funding initiatives.

The Climate Action Section reached its full staff complement in 2024 with the appointment of the Climate Action Officer whose role is to support the Council's own Climate Action Response. In the course of 2024, the section has:

- Prepared the Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP) which was adopted by Council in March 2024. This included the completion of a Baseline and Emissions Inventory for the entire county and the proposed decarbonisation zone as well as a Climate Adaptation Risk Assessment for the Council.
- Established a Climate Action Team as part of the Senior Forum which meets on a monthly basis.



- Completed returns to the LGMA on Climate Action KPIs.
- Completed and participated in a number of training programmes delivered by the Climate Action Regional Offices as part of building the capacity with the Council.
- Continued to manage the Community Climate Action Programme, by assessing all applications to the fund and allocated in excess of €800,000 to 19 communities across Limerick to implement local climate action initiatives. In support of this, a number of workshops and information sessions were held across the county and online.
- Engaged with the next generation on Climate Action through participation in the Junior Achievers Programme and other initiatives with schools and colleges.

## Energy Management

The Energy Management Team (EMT) is responsible for the monitoring, reporting and oversight of initiatives to reduce overall energy consumption across the Council. The EMT is managed by an Energy Engineer with the support of the Limerick Clare Energy Agency. Over the course of 2024 the EMT has:

- Met on a quarterly basis to review progress on reducing overall energy consumption in accordance with the national target of a 50% reduction by 2030. This data is reported through the SEAI Monitoring and Reporting portal.
- Maintained the Energy Management System (EnMS) to the ISO 50001 standard, including completing internal audits and facilitating NSAI external audit.
- Updated the building register for all commercial buildings associated with LCCC
- Commenced the deployment of an IT solution to automate the collection of energy data from across the Council.
- Worked with our colleagues in Clare and Kerry County Councils to establish an Energy Bureau in the Mid-West that is entering into the “Pathfinder” funding programme from the SEAI.

- Procure the preparation of 3 energy audits for City Hall, County Hall and Lisanalta House.
- Established a single party framework for the preparation of energy audits across the council.
- Oversaw the transfer of electricity accounts to Energia (OGP framework electricity provider) ensuring LCCC is using the best rates available.

## Citizen Innovation Lab

The Citizen Innovation Lab (CIL) is located in the UL City Centre Campus building in Sarsfield Street in partnership with UL. The CIL is designed to be a place for observation, co-creation and experimentation. A place where people can take part in activities to help shape a sustainable future for the city. Through the Citizen Innovation Lab people can work together to explore local responses to the challenges we face. Becoming a climate-neutral city will involve new technologies, new opportunities and changes in our day-to-day lives. The goal of the Citizen Innovation Lab is to help empower people to take part, to co-create this future together. The space includes a Citizens’ Observatory, an Engagement Hub, a digital platform and a programme of events. It is co-located with the School of Architecture at University of Limerick (SAUL) Fab Lab Limerick. The three distinct physical spaces work together with a digital platform to provide a space for citizen engagement and participation.

The CIL is part of the European Network of Living Labs (ENOLL) and has hosted a number of events over the course of the year including; Minister Niall Collins visited the Citizen Innovation Lab in March for a meeting with Limerick and Shannon Chambers, several events for Limerick Life Long Learning Festival including Road Safety for Cyclists Young and Younger, Unlocking Potential: Mastering your Learning Pathway and Understanding Intelligence, the Irish Green Buildings Councils Reducing Carbon Emissions through Compact Urban Growth workshop in June. This workshop focused on the development of a carbon assessment tool for urban development. In addition, the Lab also hosted SMARTLAB smart sensor workshops, drop-in sessions and

information events exploring SRI adoption in Ireland and the Citizen Innovation Lab space was used by LCCC for several public engagement events.

In September the work of the Citizen Innovation Lab was highlighted at the 79th United Nations General Assembly Science Summit in New York. A team from University of Limerick and Limerick City and County Council were invited to the Summit to share the Lab's success in bringing together citizens, researchers, and local government towards innovative climate action in our city. The Lab team participated in a session with representatives from the office of the UN Secretary General and the New York Civic Engagement Commission. As a member of the European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL), the team joined an ENoLL delegation showcasing the work of prominent European living labs specialising in climate action. The team discussed the legacy and current activities of the Lab at the Science Summit and shared lessons learned from projects including:

- Clean Air Together Limerick City - a citizen science project in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), recruiting 400 participants to record air quality in their local areas.
- City Studio - a new laboratory for citizens, local government and university collaboration. The studio is focused on the future of the city and the importance of design as a catalyst for Limerick's climate action plan. The first programme of engagement took place in September.

## **Funding Initiatives**

### **+CITYXCHANGE**

Limerick is one of two EU 'lighthouse' cities selected for a major climate-change pilot programme that will give a lead to the rest of Europe on how to dramatically reduce the carbon footprint of urban areas. Funded by the EU through Horizon 2020, the overall aim is to trial new kinds of technology and community solutions to turn Limerick into a positive energy city – a city that produces more energy than it consumes. It hopes to influence citizen behaviour around energy in order to meet the challenge of moving to a low carbon sustainable future. The project was formally completed in October 2023. However reporting continued on through 2024 with the project being officially approved by the European Commission in December. Over the course of the project a number of project deliverables were completed and are now publicly available on the +CityxChange website [www.cityxchange.eu](http://www.cityxchange.eu)

### **Smart Buildings Lab**

Limerick City and County Council in partnership with UL, Integrated Environmental Solutions Research and Development (IES R&D) and the Convex Lens Commenced a project supported by SEAI to create a smart buildings lab. The project has seen a range of sensors deployed in over 60 buildings in the city centre measuring a range of issues including energy use, temperature, humidity etc. The outputs of the research will provide a better understanding of the performance of the building stock in the city and provide an evidence base for the development of future initiatives to support the refurbishment of the historic building stock.



### **Technical Support Instrument (TSI)**

The TSI programme is an EU initiative that provides direct support to public bodies. Limerick City and County Council with the OPW secured funding for the procurement of expert advice to support the establishment of a sustainable investment fund to accelerate the deep energy retrofitting of the historic building stock in the city centre initially and across the county thereafter. The project has developed a bespoke training programme on historic building retrofitting which will be delivered in January 2025.

### **Creative Climate Action – Síolta Glasa**

Funded by Creative Ireland Síolta Glasa is a Citizen Innovation Lab collaboration between Limerick City and County Council (Arts office and Climate Action), University of Limerick, Mary Immaculate College, Ballyhoura Development, and mentors Javi Buron Garcia and Dr. Veronica Santorum. The project is supporting community-creative partnerships to build capacity around decarbonisation in Limerick city and county. Communities are supported with practical workshops on story telling as well as educational and capacity building training. The project will continue throughout 2025.

### **Intelligent Cities Challenge**

The Intelligent Cities Challenge (ICC) is a European Commission initiative supporting European cities towards the green and digital transition of their local economies, through Local Green Deals.





Limerick  
United  
Against  
Racism

city



## Veterinary

### Control of Dogs

The Veterinary Services Team is tasked with enforcing the Control of Dogs Act 1986 and related Regulations. The Council employs two dog wardens and a kennel assistant that run the Dog Shelter located at the Civic Amenity Site at Mungret.

In 2024 the Dog Control Team dealt with 1,793 SugarCRM cases/complaints during 2024

- 201 dogs were processed in the Dog Shelter during the year, 19 were XL Bullies
- 124 of these were re-homed, 31 were reclaimed and 46 were euthanized
- 8,906 dog licences issued in Limerick in 2024
- 2645 Notices and 14 Fines were issued

The Dog Wardens carried out a planned programme of inspections of each of the 22 Dog Breeding Establishments registered with Limerick City and County Council based on a risk assessment.

In October, a ban on XL Bully Dogs came into force. From October first 2024 it illegal to import, breed, rehome or resell an XL Bully dog. From 1st February 2025 it will be illegal to own an XL Bully without a certificate of exemption.

The Dog Control team increased collaboration with An Garda Síochána in 2024 in particular around enforcement of restricted breeds regulation. The Dog Wardens accompanied the Gardaí on a number of planned operations and in October carried out a programme of joint dog control patrols. A media campaign was launched and new signage erected in the parks to remind dog owners of their responsibilities.

### Control of Horses

The Horse Control Team continues to work in cooperation with other Council departments, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and An Garda Síochána in enforcing the relevant horse control legislation.



Superintendent Ollie Kennedy (Roxboro), Keith McNamara (Limerick Dog Warden), Garda Martin Mulcahy (Roxboro Garda Station), Ollie Moran (Limerick Dog Warden), Garda Rebecca Finn (Roxboro Garda Station), and Chief Superintendent Derek Smart (Limerick Division)

### Key Control of Horse outputs for 2024;

- The Horse Control Team dealt with 89 cases
- 87 horses were processed in the Horse Pound
- 63 of these were re-homed
- 24 were reclaimed by their owners

### Food Safety

The Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) service contract with the Council for the provision of official controls on food safety continued in 2024. The entirety of the food safety and control service will transfer from Limerick City and County Council to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) from January 1st 2025.

### Key Food Safety outputs during 2024;

- Official veterinary controls were carried out at 6 abattoirs, 11 small meat-manufacturing premises and one registered food business
- A Veterinary Inspector inspected all animals intended for slaughter for human consumption before and after slaughter.

## Environment Regulation

### Waste Infrastructure

Some of the infrastructure managed by this Department includes two closed landfill sites currently managed under licenses issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). One site is located at Longpavement in the City area, while the other is situated at Gortadroma near Shanagolden. According to data for the first eleven months of the year, landfill gas at Gortadroma was used to generate nearly 2,497 MW (megawatts) of electricity, resulting in an estimated net income of €136,869 in 2024. Consultants were appointed in December 2024 for further remediation works at Longpavement landfill. Additionally, there are 26 historic landfill sites in Limerick—former landfills operated by the Council prior to the introduction of licensing.

Limerick City and County Council manages 65 recycle bank locations across the county, providing convenient and accessible drop-off points for the recycling of glass, cans, and textile. These banks play a vital role in the Council's overall waste management strategy, encouraging residents to recycle and reduce the volume of waste sent to landfills.

In addition to the bottle banks, the Council operates three recycling centres strategically located in Mungret, Newcastle West and Kilmallock. These centres offer residents a broader range of recycling services, accommodating materials such as cardboard, plastics, metals, and electronics. Each recycling centre is equipped to handle various types of waste, ensuring that residents have the facilities needed to dispose of recyclable materials responsibly.

To further support responsible waste disposal, the Council organises special waste collection days throughout the year. These events cater to the safe and convenient disposal of specific types of waste that require careful handling.

### Waste Regulation

Waste facilities and waste collectors in Limerick are regulated under the Waste Management Act and associated regulations. While waste collectors authorisations are granted by the National Waste Collection Permit Office, they are enforced by Limerick City and County Council. We also have responsibility of the issuing and monitoring Certificates of Registration and Waste Facility Permit Sites within the county.

By the end of 2024, the Council was overseeing and enforcing 25 active Certificates of Registration and 38 Waste Facility Permits. Additionally, it was responsible for the enforcement and monitoring of 78 authorised Waste Collectors. All authorisations must be regularly monitored to ensure compliance with their statutory obligations.

### Air Noise and Water Team

The Air Noise and Water Team is responsible for the implementation of environmental legislation aimed at protecting and improving water quality and air quality and preventing or alleviating noise and other nuisances.

### Air Quality

In 2024, significant efforts continued to raise awareness of the Solid Fuels Regulations and the ban on the marketing, sale, distribution, or burning of smoky fuels. Awareness campaigns were conducted through posters and social media. Council staff carried out inspections of fuel retailers and wholesalers. The Council also led a sampling project involving eight local authorities, where coal and timber products were sent to an accredited laboratory in the UK for testing of sulphur content. Further enforcement actions will follow based on the results of this project.



### Noise

The Department remains proactive in responding to complaints regarding noise nuisance. Throughout the year, several surveys were conducted in areas surrounding industrial and commercial establishments to assess noise levels and identify any issues.

### Water Quality

Specific areas of activity related to water quality in 2024 included implementing the programmes of measures under the Water Framework Directive (WFD), particularly in relation to agriculture, unsewered industries and septic tanks.

The Council completed 61 septic tank inspections assigned to it under the EPA's National Inspection Plan. These consisted of 55 first time inspections and 6 verification inspections. Of these first time inspection 23 were deemed compliant and 32 were issued advisory notices where additional works were required.

### Discharge Licensing

The Council is responsible for licensing the discharge of trade and sewage effluent to water bodies from industries not connected to the public sewer system. Currently, there are 37 active licences in place, covering a diverse range of facilities, including hotels, nursing homes, quarries, and various industrial premises. Each of these licences has been carefully screened to ensure that the conditions attached are in alignment with the Council's obligations to maintain and improve water quality. The screening process evaluates whether the discharge limits and operational requirements set in the licences are compatible with environmental standards and regulations, thereby safeguarding local water resources. The Council continues to monitor these discharges to ensure compliance and to take corrective action where necessary, promoting the sustainable management of water quality in the region.



An aerial photograph of a town, likely in Ireland, featuring a prominent stone church with a small dome and a river in the foreground. The image is partially covered by a green geometric overlay on the left side. The text 'FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, DIGITAL AND ICT SERVICES' is written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on the green background.

# **FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, DIGITAL AND ICT SERVICES**







## FINANCIAL REVIEW

### Annual Financial Statement for Financial Year ended 31st December 2024

#### Balance Sheet Review

The Balance Sheet presented shows that Limerick City and County Council had Fixed Assets of €3,496M and Work In Progress of €225M as at 31 December 2024.

Capital expenditure and income for 2024 & 2023. Capital income amounted to €287.1m in 2024, compared to the 2023 figure of €239.6m. Grants accounted for 85% of total capital income in 2024.

Collection percentages for Commercial Rates was 95% (compared to 94% in 2023) with collection percentages for Housing Loans of 88% and Housing Rents (including HAP) of 95%.

#### Revenue Expenditure Review

Revenue expenditure for the year amounted to €928,251,686 before transfers. Transfer to reserves amounted to €9,649,389 giving a total expenditure figure for 2024 of €937,901,075. Actual income for the year was €937,928,000 leading to a revenue surplus for 2024 of €26,925 This when added to the opening surplus of €956,037 gives an accumulated surplus at 31 December 2024 of €982,962.

Payroll continues to be the most significant cost with a total payroll cost in 2024 of €100,372,491. The change between 2024 and 2023 is mainly due to national pay agreement increases. The pay costs and staff numbers will continue to be examined during 2025 in order to identify further savings where possible.

Expenditure is summarised by main area of expenditure as follows:

	2024 €	% of Expenditure %	2023 €	% of Expenditure %
Payroll	100,372,491	10.7%	90,827,495	9.9%
Operational expenses	783,181,807	83.5%	768,723,678	84.0%
Administration expenses	18,146,422	1.9%	18,188,958	2.0%
Establishment expenses	6,764,837	0.7%	5,150,132	0.6%
Financial expenses	8,765,120	0.9%	7,663,184	0.8%
Miscellaneous	11,021,008	1.2%	8,070,082	0.9%
Transfers to reserves	9,649,389	1.0%	16,689,790	1.8%
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>937,901,075</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>915,313,319</b>	<b>100%</b>



### Income Review

Revenue income for the year amounted to €937,928,000. This represented an increase of €22,590,965 on the total income in 2023 (€915,337,035). The following table summarises the main income sources:

	2024 €	%	2023 €	%
Grants & Subsidies	639,065,761	68%	616,645,310	67%
Contributions from other local authorities	3,206,962	0%	3,630,679	0%
Goods & Services	208,273,022	22%	210,521,608	23%
	<b>850,545,745</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>830,797,598</b>	<b>91%</b>
Local Property Tax	21,329,591	2%	19,691,079	2%
Rates	64,012,409	7%	64,107,619	7%
Transfer from Reserves	2,040,256	0.2%	740,739	0.1%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>937,928,000</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>915,337,035</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Summary

The revenue surplus for 2024 is €26,925. As a result the accumulated revenue surplus at the end of 2024 is increased to €982,962 compared to €956,037 at the end of 2023. The retention of cumulative surplus is a very positive reflection of the efforts of the elected members and staff to manage the financial situation of Limerick City and County Council, and is also reflective of the continuous efforts of the staff of Limerick City and County Council in achieving better value for money and increasing overall efficiencies, which is an important foundation for the year ahead in 2025.

## Statement of Comprehensive Income

### Income Expenditure Account Statement

### For Year Ending 31st December 2024

The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure.

It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year. Transfers to/from reserves are shown separately and not allocated by service division.

#### Expenditure by Division

	Gross Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure	Net Expenditure
	2024 €	2024 €	2024 €	2023 €
Housing & Building	741,932,609	740,824,464	1,108,144	683,655
Roads Transportation & Safety	53,080,569	32,007,009	21,073,560	19,794,643
Water Services	13,767,003	13,670,084	96,919	(336,921)
Development Management	47,766,518	30,719,844	17,046,674	15,148,674
Environmental Services	39,426,523	11,128,941	28,297,582	25,358,962
Recreation & Amenity	16,951,004	1,281,239	15,669,765	14,524,522
Agriculture, Food and the Marine	1,105,478	393,933	711,545	693,876
Miscellaneous Services	14,221,983	20,520,230	(6,298,247)	<b>(8,041,479)</b>
<b>Total Expenditure/Income</b>	<b>928,251,686</b>	<b>850,545,745</b>		
<b>Net cost of Divisions to be funded from</b>			<b>77,705,942</b>	67,825,932
<b>Rates &amp; Local Property Tax</b>				
Rates			64,012,409	64,107,619
Local Property Tax			21,329,591	19,691,079
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers</b>			<b>7,636,059</b>	15,972,767
<b>Transfers from/(to) Reserves</b>			(7,609,134)	(15,949,051)
<b>Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year</b>			<b>26,925</b>	23,716
<b>General Reserve @ 1st January 2024</b>			956,037	932,321
<b>General Reserve @ 31st December 2024</b>			<b>982,962</b>	956,037



## Statement Of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)

### At 31st December 2024

	2024 €	2023 €
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Operational	931,452,132	861,106,312
Infrastructural	2,521,242,907	2,520,873,582
Community	12,228,648	12,363,821
Non-Operational	30,709,952	30,716,274
	<b>3,495,633,640</b>	3,425,059,988
<b>Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses</b>	225,301,480	186,975,279
<b>Long Term Debtors</b>	162,040,710	159,451,892
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Stocks	374,083	335,474
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	61,816,081	53,331,355
Bank Investments	108,089,647	139,888,418
Cash at Bank	1,322,756	1,929,378
Cash in Transit	2,912	2,912
	<b>171,605,479</b>	195,487,536
<b>Current Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)</b>		
Bank Overdraft	-	-
Creditors & Accruals	91,081,318	103,081,758
Finance Leases	-	-
	<b>91,081,318</b>	103,081,758
<b>Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)</b>	<b>80,524,162</b>	92,405,778
<b>Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year)</b>		
Loans Payable	154,872,202	160,943,418
Finance Leases	0	0
Refundable deposits	7,059,239	6,041,057
Other	59,424,238	48,409,254
	<b>221,355,678</b>	215,393,730
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>3,742,144,313</b>	3,648,499,207
<b>Represented by</b>		
Capitalisation Account	3,495,633,640	3,425,059,989
Income WIP	197,294,880	167,482,105
General Revenue Reserve	982,962	956,037
Other Specific Reserves	-	-
Other Balances	48,232,830	55,001,076
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>3,742,144,313</b>	3,648,499,207

## Trade and Investment

The Trade and Investment Unit is tasked with supporting the efforts of state agencies and the business community, ensuring that Limerick is positioned, and has the appropriate ecosystem to attract and facilitate investment and job creation for the city and county. The team works closely with existing business in Limerick to assist them in maintaining and/or increasing employment and encouraging innovation and creativity in the Night-Time Economy. Supporting the retail sector in Limerick's city and town center's is also a key objective for the team

The team also tracks research on industry developments and key trends in local, national and international investment and works to enhance the marketing of Limerick, both domestically and internationally, as a location for investment. Additionally, Trade and Investment take a lead on the internationalisation of Limerick by fostering global partnerships to enhance economic development. This is achieved through participation in international networks, Sister Cities agreements, and collaborating on projects with foreign embassies and international organisations based in Ireland.

Some notable milestones from 2024 include the following:

### Business Development

- Ely Lilly announced a \$1bn expansion of Limerick facility, doubling the firm's investment in Raheen and creating 150 new jobs. The announcement brings Lilly's total Limerick investment to \$2bn. As a part of this expansion, Lilly will create another 150 jobs for highly skilled workers in Limerick such as engineers, scientists, quality assurance professionals and operations personnel.
- Customer Care firm, Everise, announced 100 new positions for its city centre office. Located in Limerick since 2016, the Florida headquartered company operates from a 5,800 square foot office on Thomas Street.
- Carelon Global Solutions announced a further 100 jobs at its Irish R&D hub in Limerick.
- In May, 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.
- North American Bancard (NAB), a US-based fintech, established an R&D centre of-excellence in Limerick City, which will lead to the creation of 54 jobs. Headquartered in Troy, Michigan USA, North American Bancard is a leading payment technology innovator.
- WHOOP, the wearable health and fitness manufacturers, officially opened a new office at the Gardens International site in September. WHOOP is based out of Boston, Massachusetts, and produces technology that tracks science-backed metrics, including heart rate variability, resting heart rate, and respiratory rate.
- Forge Design Factory – In October Trade and Investment participated as part of a bid team led by Limerick School of Art and Design. The application to Enterprise Ireland was to secure priming funding to investigate design infrastructure and the creation of a central hub, based on an International Design Factory Model. The application for €200,000 was successful
- SME Expert Group – Trade and Investment facilitated the establishment of an SME Expert Group for Limerick. The group is co-chaired by Mayor of Limerick, John Moran and Councillor Peter Doyle, is tasked with developing a 5-year action plan to develop the Limerick SME sector. The key objective is to embed and enhance Limerick's pro-business environment, reinforce the role of SMEs as the backbone of our economy, and facilitate growth in the sector.
- Invest in Limerick City Marketing Campaign – The Trade and Investment team has produced marketing collateral, including a video, which captures future vision of the city.



## Retail

**Limerick Gift Card** - A new Limerick Gift Card launched on 27 November at the Strand Hotel, Limerick as part of efforts to support local businesses by locking in spending and attracting new spending to the county. The new Limerick Gift Card provided a substantial boost for the local economy with €118,000 spent on the card in December as part of efforts to support local businesses by locking in spending and attracting new spending to the county. Limerick City and County Council back the Gift Card in partnership with Limerick Chamber. The Gift Card is available as either a physical gift card or an e-card that can be added to digital wallets. Cards can be spent in the city and surrounding towns, including Newcastle West, Adare, Abbeyfeale, Kilmallock and Rathkeale. Over 177 businesses, including independent businesses and well known Irish brands, accept the new Limerick Gift Card. The new Limerick gift card will provide tangible investment into a number of sectors including retail, hospitality, leisure and services, benefiting both the day and night time economy.



Limerick Gift Card



Limerick School of Art and Design Christmas Showcase

**Debenhams** - The Trade and Investment facilitated the temporary opening of the Debenhams building on O'Connell Street in December for the Limerick School of Art and Design Christmas Showcase. The festive showcase had the works of more than 100 talented local artists on display.

**Lidl** - In August the discount retailer, Lidl, announced it is planning to open the new outlet at Towlerton in Ballysimon by next year in a move which will create 30 permanent new jobs. Lidl's store at Towlerton will be its sixth outlet in Limerick.

**The Works** - Retail chain, The Works, announced its plans to open a new store on O'Connell Street. 121 O'Connell Street, which has been vacant for almost two years, is now occupied again.



Austin Texas

### Internationalisation

**Austin Sister City Agreement** - Trade and Investment facilitated and accompanied the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran, on an international visit where the Mayor of Limerick signed a Sister Cities Agreement with Austin, Texas, one of the most culturally and industrially thriving cities in the US. The Agreement, outlining mutual commitments to collaborate in areas such as business development, science and technology, the creative economy, education, tourism, and urban development, was formalised at a ceremony attended by the Mayor of Limerick, John Moran, and Austin Mayor, Kirk Watson, on 5 December. The new Agreement also establishes a framework for maintaining direct communication between the two cities through annual meetings and exchanges of ideas and best practices. The ceremony also featured the unveiling of the Limerick Sister City sign outside Austin City Hall in the Texan city with a population of almost one million people

**Savannah, Georgia** - The Trade and Investment Department hosted a delegation from Savannah, Georgia, US, in August, with a view to developing the economic and cultural relationship between Savannah and Limerick. A delegation from Savannah including their Mayor, Van Johnson will return to Limerick in 2025 to establish a formal 'Friendship City' agreement with Limerick.



Austin Texas

**FDI European Cities and Regions Award** - For the second year running, Limerick ranked first for FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) Strategy in the Micro European Cities of the Future category, which looks at urban areas with an immediate population below 100,000. The city was also once again the overall runner-up in the category, with the Swiss town of Zug retaining the top ranking. Limerick City ranked highly in three other awards, Human Capital and Lifestyle, Business Friendliness and Economic Potential. The awards are hosted by FDI magazine, an international news and foreign direct investment magazine published by FDI Intelligence, a specialist division from The Financial Times Ltd. The awards benchmark European cities and regions according to their economic, financial, and business strengths.



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

### **Night Time Economy**

Limerick City and County Council was successful in being selected as one of nine pilot locations funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, to pilot the two year Night Time Economy (NTE) programme. This commenced with the appointment of a Night Time Economy Advisor in February.

Pursuant to the pilot, the following summary addresses progress made under the six key areas of responsibility:

1. Optimise and collate local data
2. Broad consultation
3. Review of Existing Funding Structures
4. Identification of Challenges / Opportunities and potential solutions
5. Develop a Comprehensive Action Plan to drive the NTE
6. Establishment of a Night Time Economy Committee

Limerick will strive to improve data collection in the context of NTE with recommendations made as part of the Action Plan. Data collection is also a priority at the national level with additional resources sought to support ongoing data collection.

Throughout 2024, a programme of extensive stakeholder consultation was conducted. This included perception surveys from both public and business stakeholders, collaboration with various sectoral partners, and stakeholder engagement presentations and workshops

Achievements in the NTE development included:

- Cruinniú Na Nog programme of late night events in collaboration with Creative Ireland on 15 June
- Collaboration with Limerick Sports Partnership and the Active Travel Team to deliver an evening city cycle event, promoting the use of bicycles and activity in the city centre
- A pop up cinema in three city centre locations over a three-week period
- Late night opening of King John’s Castle during Heritage Week
- A programme of late night opening of the Hunt Museum with entertainment one night per week over seven weeks
- Weekly themed night markets held one night per week over a one month period
- Support to hold an outdoor film screening in collaboration with Film Limerick

Survey results indicated that the wider community feel there is insufficient offering of night time activities and specifically, family friendly events that do not revolve around alcohol consumption. Accordingly, a NTE Innovation Grant Scheme was established to assist with funding business and individuals to trial new concepts in the city centre and to support report on successful initiatives.



Culture Night Limerick

The Action Plan for Limerick's Night Time Economy is currently in draft form and awaiting approval by the Steering Committee before it will be presented to a Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) and signed off by Councillors. The key pillars which are the focus areas of NTE development identified in the NTE Action Plan are as follows:

- Enhancement of events, experiences and activities
- Support for retail and hospitality
- Improvement of place making and public realm
- Improved transport and access
- Clear visibility and communications to support the NTE

Each pillar has an associated objectives and key actions. These are aligned to the Limerick Mayoral Programme to ensure a streamlined approach and input from various relevant departments.

## DIGITAL SERVICES

### Broadband/Telecoms Office

Through 2024, the Broadband/Telecoms Office continued to support National Broadband Ireland for the roll out of high speed broadband in Limerick. To date, €84m has been invested in Limerick. Out of 22,000 premises included in the project:

- 0% of premises have a status of 'Survey Pending'
- 28% of premises have a status of 'Survey Complete', up from 23% in 2023
- 21% of premises have a status of 'Network Build in Progress', up from 4% in 2023
- 50% of premises have a status of 'Available to Pre-Order/Order', up from 45% in 2023

Broadband Connection Points continued to be supported throughout 2024.



## Digital Services

In 2024, the Digital Services team at Limerick City and County Council undertook significant projects to enhance the digital infrastructure and services provided to the community and to Council back-office operations. These projects included the migration to Dynamics 365, the implementation of CapGov, capital project governance tool, the development of the Mayor's Programme reporting tool and the beginnings of data driven dashboards.

### Dynamics 365 Migration

The migration to Dynamics 365 was a major initiative aimed at modernising the Council's customer relationship management (CRM) system. This project involved transitioning from the existing on-premises Sugar CRM system to a cloud-based solution, providing improved scalability, security, and functionality. The migration process included extensive stakeholder engagement, data migration, and system integration. By the end of 2024, the new CRM system was fully operational, offering enhanced capabilities for managing customer interactions and streamlining internal processes.

### CapGov Implementation

CapGov is a financial governance tool designed to support Limerick City and County Council's internal operations. The tool was developed to provide high-level governance for capital projects, ensuring adequate oversight and accountability. CapGov simplifies the management of business cases, project charters, budget allocations, and approvals through streamlined workflows and automated processes. The implementation involved designing and building the application using Microsoft Power Apps, integrating it with existing systems such as SharePoint and Agresso, and ensuring compliance with data protection and security standards. The tool enables better tracking of project statuses, milestones, risks, and issues, ultimately improving the Council's ability to manage its capital projects efficiently.

### The Mayor's Programme App

The Mayor's Programme app was developed as an internal reporting tool to track ownership, progress, and accountability for the implementation and reporting of the Mayor's Programme. The app features a user-friendly interface and real-time updates, allowing for efficient monitoring and management of the Mayor's initiatives. The development process included user research, design, and testing to ensure the app meets the needs of the Council. The app will become an essential tool for tracking the successful execution of the Mayor's Programme.

### Supporting Limerick.ie and Business Systems

Throughout 2024, the Digital Services team continued to support and enhance the Limerick.ie platform, ensuring it remained a reliable and accessible resource for residents and visitors. The platform experienced no unplanned outages, maintaining 100% uptime. Additionally, all major digital applications used by the Council were upgraded to their latest versions, bringing new functionality, addressing security vulnerabilities, and ensuring continued support for key Council services. The team also worked on designing and building a Council dashboard solution for internal and external reporting, which will provide a robust data infrastructure to support the Council's needs for years to come.

## European Projects

The EU Programmes Team continued to support Departments interested in participating in EU funded projects throughout 2024. The team also collaborated with various stakeholders locally and internationally to pursue opportunities to support the local authority in achieving its objectives. Limerick City and County Council are participating in the following EU Projects.

### **+CityxChange (H2020 Project)**

2023 was the final year of the five year Horizon 2020 +CityxChange Project, which Limerick was one of two lighthouse cities and the lead partner in Work Package 4. Major climate change programme.

Some of the key results of the project were:

- All deliverables were submitted
- GKinetic hydrokinetic energy converter Blade Pitching Technology Patent filed
- Recommendation submitted to regulator to enable increased penetration of solar PV onto the grid through inverter clipping
- Work commenced on the scoping of the viability – financial and legal of a sustainable investment fund for historic building retrofit in Limerick through the TSI programme

The Final Project Review meeting with the European Commission was held in January 2024.

The Final Work Package 4 claim was subsequently submitted on the project in 2024 and was fully approved in December 2024 by the European Commission when the project officially closed.

### **INTEgreat(InterReg)**

This €1.6m, three-year project aims to build a stronger integration strategy and ecosystem for migrants and asylum seekers in Europe. In 2024 Limerick City and County Council together with our local partner Doras were able to implement pilot activities in Limerick in four main areas: healthcare, employment, social cohesion, capacity building and training of both migrants and local citizens.

Pilot activities in Limerick in 2024 included among others:

- Creation of Limerick Migrant Integration Forum
- Employment support
- Intercultural awareness training sessions to frontline service providers and employers
- Roundtable discussion with local partners working in health sector
- Online information hub on Limerick.ie

### **PACTE+ (Erasmus+)**

The PACTE+ Project centres around 4 key themes – Active Schools, Active Workplaces, Active Mobility, and Active Governance. The consortium of partners is comprised of Limerick, Graz, Fredrikstad and Angers – and the partner organisations of Sport and Citizenship, Evaleo, TAFISA.

The European Cycling Federation, European Federation for Company Sport, ICSSPE, and the Technical University of Munich.

In 2024 Limerick Sports Partnership attended workshops in both Graz and Paris of the PACTE+ Project on the themes of Active Schools, Active Workplaces, Active Mobility, and Active Governance which was attended by representatives from partner cities and project partners.



### **GoGreen Routes (H2020)**

In November, Limerick City and County Council scooped the top award for Public Space and Planning at the 2024 KPMG Property Industry Excellence Awards for this EU Project.

The focus of the project is to enhance the physical and mental well-being of urban residents by increasing their connection to nature. Limerick City and County Council chose the Castletroy Greenway as a brown site blank canvas to deliver a sustainable, inclusive, co-created design for both the community and nature. The landscape has been reshaped to create mounds covered in wildflowers and swales at low points and along paths with a strong focus on natural play, the area has been remodelled to create a space of interest for young and old.

Limerick City and County Council's historic win highlights its role as a leader in sustainable urban planning and public space development.

This EU project has now been completed and was finalised in December 2024. The only outstanding task will be the final financial claim submission which is to be submitted in the first quarter of 2025.

### **BiodiverCITY: (URBACT)**

BiodiverCITY: (URBACT) led by Hungary, the network includes Limerick and partners from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, Slovenia, and Spain, BiodiverCITY will focus on measuring urban biodiversity and related ecosystem services by exploring community-based approaches for valorisation and measurement of nature-based solutions, greening plans and pro-environmental behaviours.

### **GreenPlace: (URBACT)**

GreenPlace: (URBACT) led by Poland, the network includes Limerick and partners from France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, and Spain (2), GreenPlace seeks to help restore forgotten urban spaces, making such places welcoming to residents, and in an environmentally-friendly way using existing resources. Currently the focus is on our old laneways including the old City Walls.

### **Intelligent Cities Challenge - ICC**

The Intelligent Cities Challenge (ICC) is a European Union (EU) initiative aimed at supporting cities in their transformation towards becoming more intelligent and sustainable. Limerick City and County Council's goal through participation in the ICC will be to create a local green deal to support building retrofitting. A consortium meeting was held in Porto in June 2024 where there was the opportunity to meet with other project partners and cities across Europe who are also creating their local green deals and to take learnings from each other on building retrofitting. In March 2025, the final meeting of this project will take place in Brussels with all project partners and the European Commission.

Throughout 2024 Limerick City and County Council has applied for numerous European Projects and will be notified in 2025 if they have been successful in these applications. Potential Projects across numerous Directorates were applied for under Horizon Europe, URBACT and InterReg project calls.

## LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

The 2024 Annual Employment Survey of Local Enterprise Office (LEO) clients show positive job creation, LEO Limerick surveyed 313 businesses that had previously received financial supports and these businesses created 178 net new jobs in 2024. That puts Limerick as one of the top performing counties for job creation by LEO clients in the country. While recognising this excellent performance by our client base, we also continue to support businesses with a wide range of soft measures as follows:

- General Training Programmes: 55 programmes with 1,200 participants.
- Start Your Own Business Programmes: 8 programmes with 156 participants.
- Management Development Programmes: 5 programmes with 79 participants.
- Mentoring: 502 assignments
- Microfinance Ireland: 10 applications.

### LEO Performance Indicators 2024

Scheme	Output
Financial Support Packages	47
Lean	26
Green	14
TOV	75
Total training	193
SYOB	156
MDP	79
General	1,230
Mentoring	502
RD&I Supports	1
Digital	3
MFI	10
Client Transfers	7
Energy Efficiency Grant	5

The Trading Online Voucher and Technical Assistance for Micro Enterprise ceased in December these have now been replaced by new schemes facilitated by our local enterprise office those include:

- Digital for Business which is a consultancy led support which provides businesses with an audit of their business and an action plan to implement digitalisation and operational efficiencies into their Business.
- Grow Digital is a follow on support from the Digital for Business and is a grant of up to €5,000 to help businesses implement some of their digitalisation objectives.
- Market Explorer Grant which provides Support for Businesses when eligible companies seek to explore either a new geographic market for an existing product/service or an existing geographic market for a new product/service.
- The Energy Efficiency Grant was updated in 2024 to support the investment in technologies and equipment of enterprises following on from a Green for Business Report, GreenStart Report or a SEAI Energy Audit with 75% of eligible costs from a minimum grant of €750 to a maximum of €10,000. The aim of the scheme is to reduce the impact of enterprises on the environment thereby increasing the agility and resilience of these businesses, to operate in a sustainable manner.



## Corporate Building and Estates

A new department titled “Corporate Buildings and Estates” was established in 2024. This department sits within the Finance, Economic Development and Digital Services Directorate.

There are two sections in the department as follows:

- Corporate Capital Projects
- Facilities Management

The focus of the Corporate Capital Projects Team is the delivery of capital works projects to enhance buildings for the citizen and staff of Limerick City and County Council. The upgrade of our buildings also focuses on the challenges associated with Climate Change.

The Facilities Management Team manage the Corporate Buildings portfolio of:

- Corporate Headquarters, Merchant’s Quay;
- Civic Offices, Dooradoyle;
- Lissanalta House, Dooradoyle;
- Barrow House, Michael Street;
- Carlton House, Henry Street;
- Limerick Museum, Henry Street;
- Limerick Regeneration Southside Office, Roxboro;
- Granary, Michael Street.

## Information and Communications Technologies (ICT)

The ICT Section of Limerick City and County Council continued to support sections in achieving their objectives throughout 2024. In addition to the operational activities such as, monitoring security, maintaining infrastructure and systems, and providing user and desktop support throughout 2024, several major projects were undertaken.

Some of these projects undertaken during 2024 were:-

### Cyber Security

Cyber security describes the discipline dedicated to protecting that information and the systems used to process or store that information. The security refers to the body of technologies, processes, and practices designed to protect networks, devices, programs, and data from attack, damage, or unauthorized access

In addition to initiatives introduced during previous years, ICT continued to improve the Councils Cyber Security Posture through the following:-

- **Privileged Access Management (PAM)**

The Council extended Privileged Access Management (PAM) to third-party contractors for access to on-premise servers and systems during 2024:

- Least Privilege on Administration roles
- Full visibility to all privileged accounts and identities, regulate access in one location
- Potential for a security breach minimised – by reduction of attack surface
- Improved compliance

- **Privileged Identity Management (PIM)**

The Council introduced Privileged Identity Management (PIM) for access to privileged roles during 2024. Azure Entra Privileged Identity Management (PIM) offers several benefits for managing and securing access to important resources:

- Just-in-Time Access: PIM provides just-

in-time privileged access to Azure and Microsoft Entra resources, reducing the risk of excessive or unnecessary permissions

- Time-Bound Access: Can assign time-bound access to resources using start and end dates, ensuring that permissions are only granted for the necessary duration
- Approval-Based Role Activation: PIM requires approval to activate privileged roles, adding an extra layer of security
- Multifactor Authentication: Enforcing multifactor authentication (MFA) to activate any role helps ensure that only authorised users can access sensitive resources
- Activity Monitoring: Monitor and review activities performed by users with privileged access, providing visibility and accountability
- Notifications and Alerts: Receive notifications when privileged roles are activated, helping you stay informed about changes in access
- Access Reviews: Conducting regular access reviews ensures that users still need their assigned roles, helping to maintain a secure environment
- Audit History: Download audit history for internal or external audits, ensuring compliance and transparency

#### • **Managed Extended Detection and response (XDR)**

The Council published a tender (RFT) for Cyber Security Managed Extended Detection and Response (XDR) service December 2021, closing date for submission of responses 19/01/2022. This service is live since April 2022, and provides the following:

- Faster Detection of Cyber threats and Response
- Council Data and Systems better protected from Cyber-attacks
- Superior threat expertise, intelligence and analytics
- Dedicated SOC support 24/7 with a 15-minute response time

#### • **Awareness Training\Phishing Campaigns**

A security awareness-training program has many benefits and can fortify the Councils' protection against phishing and other hacking attacks.

ICT continued to undertake "Monthly Phishing Campaigns" during 2024. The number of staff falling victim to these campaigns is constantly reducing, which would indicate that staff awareness is increasing. Staff members falling victim to these monthly campaigns have to undertake interactive online training and complete an online assessment. Repeat offenders are targeted for further training.

In addition to measures mentioned above, ICT continues to ensure all devices are updated with security updates in a timely manner and are continuously monitoring activity on the Councils' infrastructure.

#### **Managed Print Service**

Limerick City and County Council introduced a new Managed Print Service (MPS) following a tender procedure held during Quarter 1 2024.

A Managed Print Service (MPS) has many advantages as set out hereunder:

1. **Cost Efficiency:** MPS helps in reducing printing costs by optimizing printer usage, managing supplies, and reducing waste
2. **Improved Productivity:** Streamlines printing processes and reduces downtime with proactive maintenance and support
3. **Enhanced Security:** Protects sensitive information with secure printing solutions and compliance with data protection regulations
4. **Environmental Benefits:** Promotes sustainable practices by reducing paper and energy consumption
5. **Centralized Management:** Simplifies IT management with centralized control over the entire printing fleet



**6. Follow-Me Printing**

- a. **Increased Security:** Ensures that print jobs are only released when the user authenticates at the printer, protecting sensitive documents
- b. **Cost Savings:** Reduces waste by holding print jobs in a queue until the user releases them, minimizing uncollected prints
- c. **Flexibility and Convenience:** Allows users to retrieve their print jobs from any authorized printer within the network, enhancing mobility
- d. **Improved Productivity:** Reduces wait times and avoids bottlenecks by allowing users to print from the nearest available printer
- e. **Simplified IT Management:** Manages a single virtual print queue, making it easier for IT staff to oversee the printing environment

By combining MPS with Follow Me Printing, organizations can achieve a more secure, efficient, and cost-effective printing environment.

**Video Conferencing**

Throughout 2024, we expanded our technological capabilities by integrating video conferencing facilities into nine more meeting rooms, including the Mayor's Office and six Members Meeting rooms in Dooradoyle. There are now a total of 27 rooms now equipped with this cutting-edge feature. This advancement has paved the way for seamless hybrid meetings, bridging physical and virtual interactions effortlessly. The integration of video conferencing not only amplifies our connectivity but also enhances collaboration, fostering inclusivity by accommodating remote attendees. With this expansion, we enable greater flexibility, allowing participants to join discussions regardless of their location, thereby promoting efficiency, reducing travel costs, and maximizing productivity. Hybrid meetings empower our teams to thrive in a dynamic work environment, emphasising adaptability and fostering stronger connections across distances.

**Business Systems**

ICT worked with our colleagues in Digital Services to implement the following Business Systems:

- Dynamics CRM
- Ethics Register
- AI Assistant for Forward Planning Public Consultations
- Capital project governance tool – CAPGOV
- Mayoral Programme Portal and Reporting Tool
- Upgrade of a number of LGMA Systems

**ICT Service Desk**

The ICT Service Desk dealt with 17,210 tickets during 2024, this is an increase of 2,086 (13.8%) over 2023. The number of tickets for the past three years is a substantial increase on previous years due to remote working.

The Service Desk endeavours to respond to and resolve service requests in a timely and courteous manner. In addition to providing support to users the ICT Helpdesk team also carry out other tasks as set out :-

- Create knowledge base articles for user empowerment.
- Liaise with ICT\Digital Strategy teams to resolve issues and prevent future issues.
- Keep users fully informed of changes/issues.
- Develop and enforce policies and procedures around the provision of services and hardware.
- Office and equipment organisation and maintenance.
- ICT Project support.

## National Mobilisation And Communications System (NMAC)



In 2023 the National Mobilisations and Communications System (NMACS) was established in Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) in partnership with the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management. The NMACS team has a national responsibility for Command-and-Control Systems and Information and Communications technology in the Irish Fire Service with Limerick City and County Council acting as the national contracting authority. The NMACS team currently manages the Munster Regional Communications System providing receipt, dispatch, mobilisation and communications services to the Fire services in the Munster Region and in 2025 have successfully delivered projects replacing current legacy regional command and control platforms with a new national platform.

The NMACS Team works closely with the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency management in supporting the Local Authority and Fire Service response to national and regional events such as major incidents or major emergencies. In 2024 NMACS supported responses to several significant events such as storms and other climate related events.

### Munster Regional Communications Centre (MRCC)

The Munster Regional Communications Centre (MRCC), operating under the direction of NMACS, is located on Cathedral place in Limerick City. The MRCC is a centralised 24-hour service providing rapid response and mobilisation to 999/112 emergency fire calls. Limerick City and County Council is the contracting Authority for this Centre and provides the service on behalf of the seven-member Fire Authorities in Munster (Clare County

Council, Cork City Council, Cork County Council, Kerry County Council, Limerick City and County Council, Tipperary County Council and Waterford City and County Council).

There were a total of 29,554 calls handled during the period 2024 of which 11,486 were mobilisations to incidents.

### Innovate Limerick Dac

Innovate Limerick has had a significant year in 2024. The company's mission to foster enterprise innovation within Limerick city and county, aligns with Limerick City and County Councils key goals of regional economic development, economic growth, and job creation. It involves activities that support the establishment, growth, and sustainability of businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), startups, and international business seeking to re-locate.

This is achieved through four key areas:

1. Enterprise Infrastructure Development - Innovate Limerick developed and manage four Enterprise Hubs throughout Limerick City and County: The Engine Collaboration Centre, ENGINE, The Old Bank and N21 Enterprise Centre
2. Enterprise Collaboration, Networking and Education - promotion of partnerships between local businesses, academic institutions, and government agencies. These collaborations help to facilitate knowledge sharing, innovation, and business development
3. Engine Hubs Network - created and developed a network of 20 Hubs throughout Limerick City and County, as well as the broader Mid-West region
4. Film In Limerick - achieving film and TV production in Limerick city and county and the wider mid-west region



### Enterprise Infrastructure Development

Innovate Limerick's role in providing enterprise infrastructure is crucial for fostering local economic growth and creating opportunities for businesses across both urban and rural areas of Limerick. By owning and managing four enterprise centres, Innovate Limerick is effectively supporting a diverse range of businesses and industries. The Enterprise Hubs of ENGINE and Engine Collaboration Centre are located in Limerick city centre and enable direct access to resources and networking opportunities with local and international markets. The N21 Enterprise Facility in Rathkeale and The Old Bank in Abbeyfeale both play critical roles in the enterprise landscape of West Limerick, providing essential infrastructure for businesses and contributing significantly to local economic growth.



Engine Collaboration Centre, Cecil Street, Limerick.



Engine Collaboration Centre, Cecil Street, Limerick.



Engine Collaboration Centre, Cecil Street, Limerick.



The Old Bank, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.



### **Engine Collaboration Centre**

The Engine Collaboration Centre, Cecil Street, Limerick has made a strong impact on both Limerick City and the broader Mid-West region since its opening in 2022. As the only city centre collaborative workspace and co-working venue in Limerick, it has become a central hub for fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and collaboration, running at 100% capacity.

### **Immediate Benefits to Limerick city and county**

#### **1. Improved Opportunities for SMEs:**

The Engine Collaboration Centre has created an environment where small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) can scale and thrive. This is crucial for growing the local economy and expanding job opportunities in the region.

#### **2. Enhanced Entrepreneurial Culture:**

With a focus on collaboration and innovation, the Centre has significantly contributed to a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem, encouraging the development of new ventures and the exchange of ideas.

#### **3. Increased Skills and Innovation:**

By hosting diverse businesses, the Centre has boosted the skills, knowledge, and innovation capacity within local indigenous and multinational companies, improving long-term job sustainability and regional growth.

### **Businesses Located in the Engine Collaboration Centre:**

The Centre hosts a variety of businesses, each contributing to the innovation and development of Limerick. There are over 40 employees located permanently in the Engine Collaboration Space:

- MDS Global – A provider of BSS-as-a-Service for B2B, MVNO and IoT solutions
- Mavarick – Carbon Accounting & Reporting System Software Platform Providers
- Ministry of Brands – Specializes in technology that integrates international church operations
- Accounting Pro – Online Accounting Software providers
- Film In Limerick – Supporting the growing Film Industry in Mid-West Region

- Axis BIC - prepare business founders for investment and growth
- Sports Tech Ireland- Focused on advancing sports tech innovation
- Shannon Region Conference Bureau - Promoting the Shannon region for conferences and events
- Pulsate HQ -Tech company involved in customer engagement and analytics
- Land Development Management Agency - Focused on land development and management

### **New Podcast Suite**

In 2024, Innovate Limerick launched the Innovate Studio, a state-of-the-art podcast suite within the Engine Collaboration Centre. This suite serves as a valuable resource for businesses in the region, allowing them to create high-quality audio content for:

- Building brand awareness
- Engaging with target audiences
- Sharing expertise and innovations



Innovate Limerick Podcast Studio

### Recognition

The Engine Collaboration Centre's success was recognized in the Digital Town Awards 2024, where it was named a runner-up. This acknowledgment speaks to the Centre's role in driving digital transformation and innovation in the region.

### ENGINE

ENGINE, located on Cecil Street in Limerick, has been a cornerstone of the city's entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem since its establishment in 2018. Operating at full capacity with over 130 people working onsite, ENGINE is a thriving hub for businesses.

### Notable Tenants of ENGINE

#### Vitalograph

Vitalograph is a global leader in the manufacturing and supply of spirometers and respiratory medical devices. The company's presence in ENGINE contributes to Limerick's growing reputation in the medtech sector. Vitalograph's involvement in the region strengthens the city's position as a leader in healthcare innovation and technology.

### Local Enterprise Office (LEO), Limerick

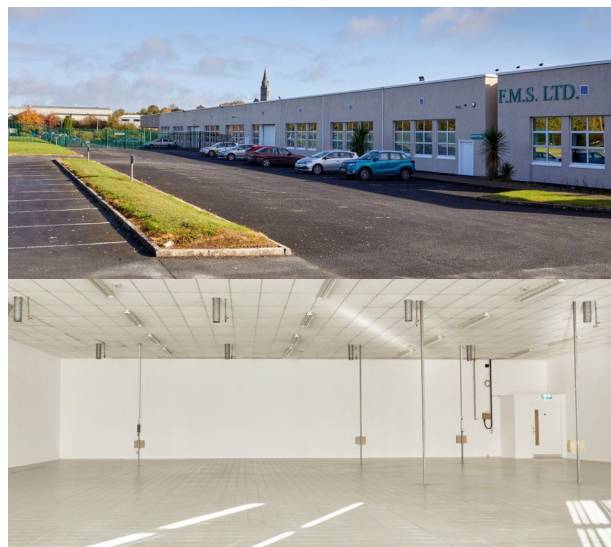
The Local Enterprise Office provides invaluable support to start-ups and SMEs in Limerick. Their co-location at ENGINE brings mentoring, training, and events directly to businesses based in the Centre. This makes it easier for local entrepreneurs to access essential resources and guidance to grow and scale their businesses.



Tour of Vitalograph offices with OECD rural Policy Delegation

### N21 Enterprise Facility, Rathkeale

Rathkeale enterprise space is a 120,000 sq ft comprising of nine enterprise units. It is located directly off the N21 main route between Limerick City and Limerick second main town, Newcastle West. Over 15 business are located in these facilities in West limerick providing employment for over 150 people. Enterprise spaces are in high demand and are running at 95-100% full capacity.



N21 Enterprise Facility, Rathkeale.

### The Old Bank, Abbeyfeale

The Old Bank, Main Street, Abbeyfeale has cemented its role as an important physical space in the town both for enterprise and community with Abbeyfeale Tourist Office re-locating there to welcome visitors to the town during tourist months. All enterprise spaces are in high demand and are running at 95-100% full capacity. Over five business are located in this facilities in West limerick providing employment for over 15 people.

### Enterprise Collaboration, Networking, and Education

Through collaborative projects, networking opportunities, and educational initiatives, Innovate Limerick strengthens the local and regional enterprise ecosystem, benefiting businesses, students, and communities.

## **Key Initiatives in Enterprise Collaboration, Networking, and Education**

### **1. Enterprise Events**

In 2024, the Engine Collaboration Centre hosted over 600 events, with over 1,000 attendees using the event space. These events spanned sectors such as medtech, sports tech, film, and early-stage startups, offering valuable networking opportunities for businesses to collaborate, share ideas, and expand their reach.

Notable Events Hosted:

- Asia Matters Business Summit
- OECD Rural Policy Delegation
- Launch of Skillnet Innovation Exchange SouthWest
- Launch of British Irish Trading Alliance South West (BITA)
- Nighttime Economy Events in collaboration with Limerick City and County Council
- AGS Limerick (Gardai) and HSE Midwest
- RDI Events in partnership with Innovate Limerick
- Visits from the British Ambassador to Ireland and international delegations
- International, National, and Local Political Representatives visits
- Romanian General Elections (hosted over four weeks)
- Food Producers Limerick Directory Launch
- Film Production Space for International Hollywood Film and Irish Film (six weeks)

These events foster local business growth while attracting international attention, positioning the Engine Collaboration Centre as a key player in Limerick's entrepreneurial ecosystem.



ASIA Matters Event



Directory of Limerick Food Producers Launch





Directory of Limerick Food Producers Launch



AXIS Business Event



Launch of BITA Southwest



TUS Start Up Awards



Innovate Limerick St. Patrick's Day Networking



Community Enterprise Association of Ireland



## 2. Partnership and Collaboration

Innovate Limerick partners with government agencies and policymakers, to help create a favourable business environment.

- Enterprise Ireland: Regularly hosts “Meet The Business” sessions, offering essential support for start-ups and business growth
- Axis BIC: Provides weekly guidance on venture capital and business growth strategies, helping businesses secure funding and scale
- Local Enterprise Office (LEO): Co-located within the Centre, LEO provides mentoring, training, and organizes events to support local businesses

## 3. Enterprise Education Initiatives:

By supporting enterprise education through placements and events, Innovate Limerick plays a crucial role in nurturing the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs, equipping students with the skills and experience needed to succeed in their careers.

### Secondary Level Placements:

- Transition Year Students: Innovate Limerick hosted transition year students from local schools such as Coláiste Ciarán in Croom and Hazelwood College in Dromcollogher, Co. Limerick. These placements provide students with hands-on experience and exposure to the fields of innovation, entrepreneurship, and business development.

### Third-Level Placements:

- Cooperative Education (Co-Op) Program: Innovate Limerick collaborated with a final-year business student from the University of Limerick through the Co-Op program. This program offers students practical, real-world experience while completing their degree, providing valuable insights into innovation, entrepreneurship, and business development.
- Innovate Limerick partnered with Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) and the Limerick School of Art and Design (LSAD) to

host student events at the Engine Collaboration Centre. These events foster collaboration, creativity, and business acumen among students in various disciplines, preparing them for successful careers in the innovation and entrepreneurship sectors.



University of Limerick Event



Limerick School of Art and Design



TUS Student Event

### Engine Hubs Network

The Engine Hubs Network has made significant strides in expanding its collaborative impact across Limerick city and county, and the broader mid-west region. Established in 2022 by Innovate Limerick on behalf of Limerick City and County Council, the network began with three hubs and has grown to 20 hubs in 2024. New additions to the network include the Ballybrown/Clarina Community Centre, Co. Limerick; Doon Social Hub, Co. Limerick and The Phoenix in Tralee.

#### Key Features of the Engine Hubs Network:

- **Diverse Hub Types:** The network includes hubs that focus on enterprise, employment, and community development, aligning with the three pillars of the National Hub Network.
- **Integration with National Hubs:** The Engine Hubs Network is fully integrated into the national Connected Hubs network and has contributed to the National Hubs Strategy framework.



Engine Hub Network



Ballybrown/Clarina Community Centre

#### Engine Network Hubs Include:

- Spark Hub, Roxboro, Limerick
- Bruree Food Units, Limerick
- Croom Enterprise Centre, Limerick
- The Boat Club, Limerick
- The Pavilion, Adare, Limerick
- The Yard, Newcastle West, Limerick
- Engine, Limerick
- Engine Collaboration Centre, Limerick
- Broadford Enterprise Centre, Limerick
- Engine Tipperary Digital Hub, Tipperary Town
- Kantoher Enterprise Centre, Limerick
- Rathkeale Enterprise Centre, Limerick
- The Old Bank Abbeyfeale, Limerick
- HQ Tralee, Kerry
- ACM Castleconnell, Limerick
- Ballyhoura Heritage, Limerick
- Doon, Limerick
- Clarina, Limerick
- The Phoenix, Tralee, Kerry



The Phoenix Hub, Tralee

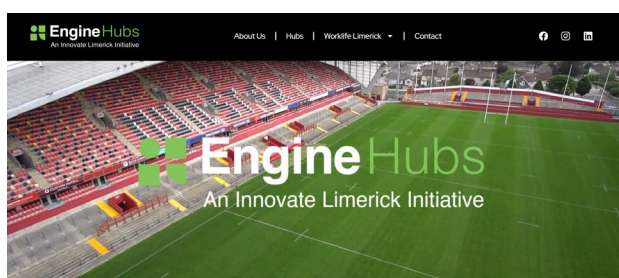


### Achievements in 2024

- Remote Work Marketing Fund: Secured €50,000 from the Department of Community and Rural Development to promote remote work opportunities in Limerick. This funding enabled the creation of the WorkLife Limerick campaign, the launch of a new Engine Hubs website, and a strategic social media campaign across platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. As a result, social media followers more than doubled on LinkedIn, while Facebook and Instagram saw a 100% increase.



WorkLife Limerick



Engine Hubs Website



Engine Hubs Social Media Campaign

- Inclusive and Gender-Diverse Innovation Ecosystems: In May 2024, the Engine Collaboration Centre hosted a Transnational Project Meeting focused on inclusive and gender-diverse innovation ecosystems and supporting innovation in rural areas, with over 15 attendees from across Europe.

### Film in Limerick, Clare, and Tipperary in 2024

2024 was a remarkable year for film production in the Mid-West region of Ireland, with Limerick, Clare, and Tipperary hosting a variety of exciting projects. The region's scenic landscapes and supportive local authorities have made it an attractive destination for filmmakers.

#### Notable Film Projects

Several notable film projects were shot in the region this year.

One of the standout projects was “One Night Only”, filmed at the iconic former Royal Cinema on Cecil Street in Limerick City. Directed by Limerick writer/director David Gleeson, this feel-good movie stars Colin Morgan as the manager of a small-town cinema struggling to keep the peace on a chaotic Friday night in the 1980s.

The film is a loving tribute to the cinema experience and reflects three generations of Gleeson's family's experiences in the cinema business.

Another major production was “4 Kids Walk into a Bank”, starring Liam Neeson. Filming took place in various locations around Limerick City, transforming parts of the city into 1990s USA. Directed by Frankie Shaw, this film is an adaptation of the acclaimed comic book by Matthew Rosenberg and Tyler Boss. Neeson plays Danny, a former bank robber whose teenage granddaughter teams up with her friends to save him from being coerced into one last heist.

## Events

The Film Track event held in Limerick from August 23-25, was a highlight of the year. This three-day showcase celebrated independent filmmaking with a series of film screenings, talks, and networking opportunities. It provided a platform for filmmakers to present their work, share insights, and connect with industry professionals. The event was a testament to the vibrant film community in the Midwest and its commitment to supporting and promoting local talent.

## Training Programmes

Introduction to Creative Producing, a 20-week course led by Oscar-winning producer John McDonnell saw a delegation of producers attend the European film market, in partnership with the Limerick and Clare Education and Training board. This programme equipped participants with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate the business side of film and TV production.

Crew Academy South, in association with Screen Ireland, played a pivotal role in developing the skills of local film crews. The comprehensive training programmes covered various aspects of film production, from sound trainees, health and safety on set, set etiquette, wireless frequencies masterclass and costume department roles. The academy continues to foster the next generation of crew in the region, including the launch of a new programme “Screenability” film training and work experience for adults with complex learning needs.

The ENGINE Short Film Scheme continued to thrive, showcasing six new short films. This initiative, now in its third edition, has been instrumental in nurturing local talent and providing emerging filmmakers with the opportunity to produce high-quality short films. The scheme’s success is evident, with previous films gaining international recognition and awards.

## Delegations and Markets

Film in Limerick continues to provide business development initiatives to profile creative film businesses in the regions at international markets and festivals in Berlin (European Film Market), Cannes (Marché du Film) and Austin (SXSW) and to market the Mid-West as a production location to attract inward production.



Bonhoeffer



One Night Only





4 Kids Walk Into A Bank, Liam Neeson





Screenability



God Spy, Pery Square



4 Kids Walk Into A Bank



4 Kids Walk Into A Bank

Through all of these initiatives, Innovate Limerick helps local and international businesses connect, create, and collaborate in innovative ways, enhancing the region's entrepreneurial visibility and attracting international interest.



# **RURAL, CULTURE, COMMUNITY AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT**







August Fun at the Cescent event



## **RURAL, COMMUNITY, CULTURE AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT**

The Rural, Community, Culture and Tourism Development Directorate, was subject to some organisational change through the past year, a number of additional services were added to the existing Directorate, including Tourism Development and the Discover Limerick Designated Activity Company and a number of newly established functions, such as the Local Authority Integration Teams.

The Directorate has responsibility for overall strategy, policy formulation, operation and delivery of many programmes and services across the relevant areas, which also includes securing funding and project delivery. Limerick City and County Council have worked hard over a long period of time to build community structures across the City and County, which assist the delivery of services and programmes, which are available, however, Limerick has developed into a very diverse place, with a growing population and many new communities emerging. The Council is committed to working with all members of the Limerick community, through the various sections of the Directorate to enhance local communities, support and deliver health and wellbeing initiatives and integrate new communities to our City and County.

The Council continues to work with local communities to support the development of the City, towns, villages and rural areas, throughout Limerick, in terms of fostering greater rural and community development, striving to broaden access to the arts and culture and further deepen the appreciation of arts and culture in Limerick for residents and visitors. Further development of tourism assets is a key focus of the Directorate, working with relevant stakeholders to enhance the offering and the development of strategies and mechanisms to drive Limerick as a key tourism destination, establishing of the Discover Limerick, Designated Activity Company, which has been established to specifically operate and develop key tourism attractions in Limerick that will enhance Limerick's attractiveness as a key tourism destination and attract visitor numbers. The Directorate is also responsible for Property Management Services within the Local Authority, with responsibility for managing sales, disposals, leases and licences on behalf of the Council.

## RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Rural Development section of Limerick City and County Council, continued to build on the work which had commenced in 2023, and works closely with the Department of Rural and Community Development to deliver key projects for Limerick. The emphasis from Government throughout the year was on the revitalisation of town centres, utilising the Town Centre First Policy and supporting the delivery of enhanced quality of life in our towns and villages, seeking to revitalise and invigorate these once vibrant places. Funding is critical to support the delivery of enhanced services and amenities, through various funding streams available, the Council worked with local communities to secure funding in this regard. Development of rural town and village is supported by government policies such as Our Rural Futures and Town Centre First policies. The Council continue to engage with communities to deliver funding through the various funding streams in conjunction with the Department of Rural and Community Development.

### Town Centre First

In line with the Town Centre First policy and through the support of the Department of Rural and Community Development, work ramped up, in this area, following the successful completion of the Abbeyfeale Town Centre First Plan, Rathkeale was announced as the second town in Limerick to receive funding to deliver a Town Centre First Plan, the announcement came at a national Town Centre First event held in the Woodlands Hotel in Adare in February 2024. Work kicked off with the establishment of the Rathkeale Town Team and formulation of a draft plan, which was published in December and is currently on public display,

allowing for input from the residents of Rathkeale and beyond. The draft Plan will be finalised in Quarter 1, 2025, following agreement with the Town Team.

Further funding was received from the Department of Rural and Community Development for the establishment of Town Teams in Newcastle West, Kilmallock and Askeaton, work has commenced, in terms of identifying key stakeholders in the various towns and further work will intensify in Quarter 1 2025.

### Key Programmes and Funding Streams

The delivery of a rural development programme for Limerick is underpinned by a number of funding programmes funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development, the Council continue to work with community groups and relevant stakeholders to identify projects to enhance rural communities. The Department of Rural and Community Development issued a call under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund in October and applications are currently being prepared to meet the call to deliver funding for Limerick. This funding call is a Category 2 call, which is intended to provide funding to allow Local Authorities to undertake and complete the initial planning, design and technical work required to develop a large scale capital project. Limerick City and County Council were successful in securing €13.5 million in 2023, under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund – Category 1, (which provided capital funding) to deliver a number of tourism



projects in Limerick, which will be discussed below. The Council continues to progress projects under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme and the CLÁR programmes.

### **Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme**

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, is provided for the development of new and existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in rural areas with a particular focus on developing amenities for adventure tourism in rural Ireland. Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme builds on the commitment under Our Rural Future and is a key strand to the implementation of Embracing Ireland's Outdoors, the National Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2023-2027. The Scheme provides funding for small-scale repair, development or promotion and marketing in relation to existing infrastructure, medium/large scale upgrade works and new trail or amenity developments as well as a Project Development Measure to provide for the development costs for strategic large-scale projects. Total funding received in 2024 to Limerick City and County Council was €826,264.95, across all the funding measures, projects funded include: installation of steps to provide safe access to the River Shannon, at Castleconnell, development of an accessible recreational eco trail at the Adare Manor Fields and the development of a new trail for off road walking and cycling between the villages of Ashford and Raheenagh. Works have commenced and these projects will be completed in 2025.

A number of projects funded under the Outdoor Recreation and Infrastructure Scheme in previous years, were completed in 2024, including: the replacement of 2 no. pedestrian bridges in Clare Glens, linking the Clare Glens loop between Limerick and Tipperary to provide a safe, more user friendly amenity. The second project completed included the creation of a riverside amenity adjacent to the River Loobagh, in Kilmallock, including riverside access point and upgrade works to the River Loobagh walk surface, and finally



Upgrade of the Pedestrian Bridges in Clare Glens



Creation of a riverside amenity along the River Loobagh, Kilmallock



Creation of a riverside amenity along the River Loobagh, Kilmallock

the upgrade of the Gleann Beg Loop trail, which forms part of the Broadford – Ashford walking trails network was also complete in 2024.

In October 2024, the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2024/25 was announced with a national €20 million fund to support the development of new and existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in rural areas. Submissions under all Measures of the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2024/25 will be submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development by the end of Quarter 1 2025, following a public call for expressions of interest, with local communities.

### **Town and Village Renewal Scheme**

The 2023 Town and Village Renewal Scheme is designed to support the revitalisation of rural Ireland through a renewed focus on town centre economic and social vibrancy and regeneration in line with the Town Centre First policy. The 2023 funding continued to focus on tackling vacancy and dereliction and bringing additional footfall into town and village centres. Under the 2023, funding call, which were announced in 2024, Limerick City and County Council were successful in securing €680,805, for three projects in Limerick, which included (i) Renovation and refurbishment of derelict property in village centre into community centre and meeting space in Garrindeirk, (ii) Accessible community walking trail with lighting, railings, benches, bollards and ballsports wall in Kilcornan community fields and (iii) Facilities upgrade of key community buildings in Rathkeale

including internal works to the community centre and building roof repairs to the local youth space. Works will be complete on these projects in 2025.

Projects completed in 2024, funded under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme included a number of projects including: (i) The development and repurposing of the derelict Railway Goods Shed as the Limerick Greenway Hub, in Rathkeale in conjunction with the Tourism Development Team, (ii) Redevelopment of two vacant and derelict buildings on the Doon Social Farm campus which were restored and renovated with an inter-connecting corner extension built linking the previously separate buildings together, to provide a Community Services and eHub facility in Doon, (iii) Feasibility on the redevelopment of the De Valera Museum in Bruree, which is in community ownership and currently closed, (iv) Feasibility study on the redevelopment/repurposing of a building in the ownership of Athea Community Council, located on the main street in Athea. Works are almost complete on the development of a new parklet in Askeaton, which took a derelict building and replaced it with a public realm space in the heart of Askeaton town and the redevelopment of a derelict property in Ardagh to bring the property back into use as a shop, to serve the local community, the Askeaton and Ardagh projects will be complete in early 2025.



Redevelopment of the Rathkeale Goods Shed





Redevelopment of the Rathkeale Goods Shed



Redevelopment of Doon Community Services building and ehub



Redevelopment of buildings at Doon to provide an ehub

**CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais)** is a targeted investment programme for rural areas that provides funding for small infrastructural projects in rural areas that have suffered the greatest levels of population decline. Total funding received by Limerick City and County Council in 2024 totalled €508,722, with a total of 12 projects funded across the county, which are designated within CLÁR areas. Projects included the provision of a sensory room and multipurpose equipment at Galtee Gaels, refurbishment of club dressing rooms in Mountcollins GAA, upgrade of a basketball court in Glengurt National School, upgrade of carpark and grounds enhancements in Kilfinane and replacement of stage lighting and sound systems in Anglesboro.

Example projects which were funded in 2023, which were complete in 2024, include the following: (i) upgrade of club lighting facilities in Mountcollins AFC, (ii) Delivery of passing bays on the access road to Kiltteery Pier, to enhance accessibility to the amenity, (iii) Development of a community carpark facility, to enhance safety at the school in Templeglentine, (iv) Surfacing the community centre/GAA complex car park in Mountcollins and installation of outdoor gym equipment in Galtee Gaels.



Installation of outdoor gym equipment at Galtee Gaels in Galbally



Installation of lighting at Mountcollins GAA Club

### **THRIVE Funding - the Town Centre First**

Heritage Revival Scheme, which is funded by the European Regional Development Fund Regional Programmes and Government of Ireland funding, supports locally developed plans that take an integrated strategic approach to the regeneration of our towns and from that locally emerging projects are selected, that assist in creating town centres that function as viable, vibrant, and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit while also functioning as the business, service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community.

Limerick City and County Council was successful in receipt of €199,116, under Strand 2 of the funding programme, which is to support the delivery of an Integrated Urban Strategy for Newcastle West. The Rural Development Team have engaged international consultants BUSarchitektur to assist in the formulation of the strategy, building on the establishment of the Town Team and the principals of the Town Centre First policy, extensive consultation has been carried out, over the Autumn in Newcastle West, bringing together all sectors of the town, to identify some key projects, which could be developed to transform the town. Utilising the skills of the consultants, various methods and tools, were used to engage the public, it is intended to publish the Integrated Urban Strategy in Quarter 1 of 2025 and progress the work instigated in 2024, to deliver a robust strategy for the town that can be utilised to leverage funding.



## Culture

### Libraries

Limerick City and County Library continue to deliver innovative and resilient services, providing access to reading opportunities, literacy, lifelong learning, wellbeing and cultural engagement. 2024 saw the launch of number of innovations to enable people to access libraries more easily and make the most of library membership. These include the introduction of the My Open Library service, Digital Tablet lending, Limerick Local Studies Website, Literacy Champions Initiative, Music and Movie streaming apps, to mention a few. Our libraries continue to positively impact the wellbeing of our communities and remain one of the most widely used services of the Local Authority, recording 453,348 visits to 16 libraries and our mobile library, 26,267 public internet Wi-Fi and print sessions and 672,338 stock loans in 2024. Limerick Libraries continue to support people to be informed, connected, literate and skilled for life.

We continue to progress the aims of the Library's Development Plan 2021 – 2025: People- Place- Platform to offer attractive and welcoming spaces where people can reflect, connect and learn. The library service continues to improve and maintain the network of libraries across the city and county. Detailed design plans for the flagship City Library at Opera Square Development on Rutland Street were approved by the Department of Rural and Community Development in July. Contracts were signed in December for the delivery of a new green mobile library vehicle and we completed work to replace auto door operation and heating system at Kilmallock Library. In addition, we progressed a number of service innovations across the library network.

### My Open Library

This innovative service allows access to the library outside of normal opening hours, seven days a week, from 8am to 10pm on a self-service basis. The library remains fully staffed outside of the My Open Library hours. In June Limerick City and County Library introduced this service at Cappamore Library. This service model enables library members to enter and use the library any day from 8am to 10pm, borrow and return books and other items, access to study spaces, printing and public access IT suites. The service is delivered through a fully integrated technological solution for entrance control, membership validation, lighting, public access to computers, print kiosks, loudspeaker announcement and all library lending operations. The service is available to Library members who register to become My Open Library members.



**My Open Library**  
at Cappamore Library

My Open Library (MOL) offers extended opening times to library members on a self-service basis. My Open Library facilitates the use of the library outside of staffed times and operates seven days per week from 8:00am to 10:00pm. Please contact staff during staffed hours if you wish to apply for My Open Library membership.

	Uaireanta le foireann <i>Staffed Hours</i>	Uaireanta Mo Leabharlann Oscailte <i>My Open Library Hours</i>
<b>Luan</b> <i>Monday</i>	—	8am - 10pm
<b>Máirt</b> <i>Tuesday</i>	10 - 1pm & 2 - 5pm	8 - 10am   1 - 2pm   5 - 10pm
<b>Céadaoin</b> <i>Wednesday</i>	10 - 1pm & 2 - 5pm	8 - 10am   1 - 2pm   5 - 10pm
<b>Déardaoin</b> <i>Thursday</i>	10 - 1pm & 2 - 5pm	8 - 10am   1 - 2pm   5 - 10pm
<b>Aoine</b> <i>Friday</i>	10 - 1pm & 2 - 5pm	8 - 10am   1 - 2pm   5 - 10pm
<b>Satharn</b> <i>Saturday</i>	—	8am - 10pm
<b>Domhnach</b> <i>Sunday</i>	—	8am - 10pm

Please note that on **Tuesday to Friday** inclusive, My Open Library (MOL) users are required to exit the library at 1pm and 5pm. MOL users can then re-enter the library using MOL procedures. This will allow the system to register users re-entering the library for MOL purposes.

### Inclusive Libraries

We continue to make our libraries more welcoming to all and have progressed a number of assistive technology offers available to all library members.

- **C-Pens** the C-Pen reader is a portable, pocket-sized device that reads text out aloud with an Irish accented digital voice. The C-Pens are useful for people with visual impairment, dyslexia and other reading challenges. An additional 21 C-Pens were added across our Library network in 2024 with funding from Dormant Accounts Library Supports. These devices are available for lending at all Library branches.
- **Sensory Rooms and Pods** we continue to develop autism and neuro diverse friendly services throughout the library network. In addition to the award winning Sensory Suite at Watch House Cross Library, we have added Sensory Pod and Spaces in several libraries including Abbeyfeale Library and Newcastle West Library. In 2024 we recorded over 4,500 visits to these sensory suite facilities.



Linda Fitzgerald, Student Volunteering University of Limerick, Mayor of Limerick John Moran, Damien Brady, City and County Librarian, Stephanie Casey, Vodafone Foundation

enable older people to access the digital world. 42 Nokia T20 Tablet devices are available for loan across the Library network. This scheme is targeted at older people who can access the Hi Digital self - directed learning developed by Vodafone Ireland Foundation in collaboration with Alone.

- **Touch Type Read Spell** is a multisensory, structured online course, which assists students to learn at their own pace. In addition to developing typing skills, Touch Type Read Spell is designed to benefit students of all ages in particular those who experience challenges in reading spelling or writing. In 2024 we increased the number of licensees to 1,500.
- **Reading Eggs** is an online reading programme to develop the reading skill and support core literacy teaching with a focus on phonics and sight words. Reading Eggs is designed for children from age 3 upwards to become independent readers. In 2024 we increased the number of licenses available to 300.
- **Focus 40 Braille Display Device** The Focus 40 device is a durable portable device which allows for a tactile interface with a computer for anybody who may have a visual impairment. The Focus 40 was funded under the Dormant Accounts Library supports Fund 2024.
- **Literacy Champions Initiative** This project was funded under the Adult Literacy for Life Office Collaboration and Innovation Fund. This collaborative project with Clare County Library and Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board sought to develop Literacy Champions in each of our fulltime libraries to make libraries more accessible and welcoming to all individuals facing a literacy challenge.

- **Digital Tablet** Lending Mayor of Limerick, John Moran launched Digital Tablet Lending at City Library in October. Limerick City and County Library are delighted to partner with the Vodafone Ireland Foundation with a tablet loan scheme for older people. The objective of the scheme is to eliminate barriers and to



### Healthy Ireland at Your Library

In 2024, the Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme at Limerick Libraries demonstrated continued growth, delivering a total of 53 events that attracted a collective attendance of 954 participants. These events, strategically designed to promote health and well-being of our communities, spanned diverse topics such as active ageing, managing chronic illnesses, bereavement and loss in children, nutrition, Tai Chi, yoga for children, healthy hormone management, mindfulness for children, managing a cancer diagnosis and easing the transition to secondary school. A Library Outreach team delivered several chair yoga sessions across a number of Nursing Homes in the City and County.

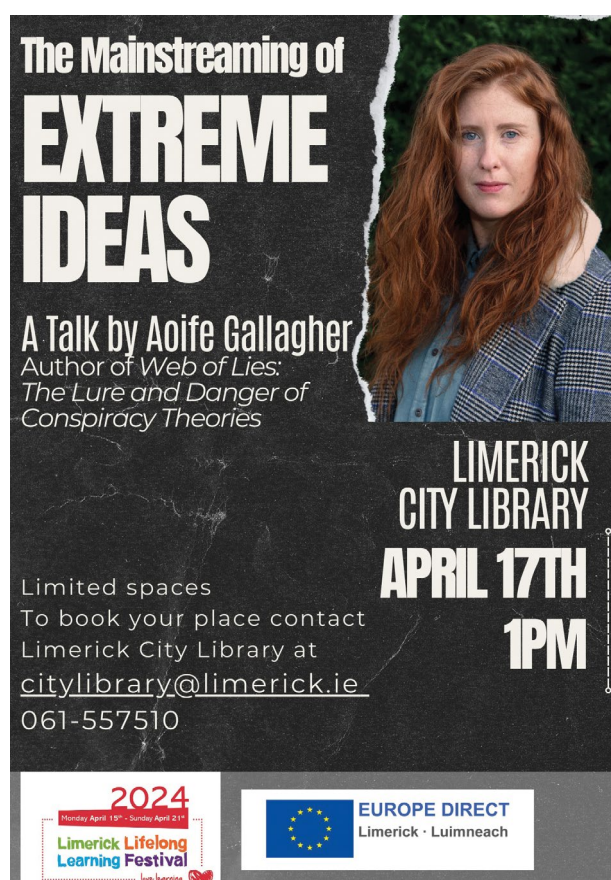


Additional Healthy Ireland at Your Library book titles were distributed to all library branches, enhancing the existing stock of health-related information. Promotional materials were also circulated at outreach events in nursing homes. The Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme involved sustained collaboration with community partners, including the Limerick Mental Health Association, Mental Health Ireland, Women's Sheds, Northside Family Resource Centre, Limerick Sports Partnership, the Health Service Executive, community groups as well as local schools and nursing homes in Limerick. The expansion of the Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme in

terms of strategic collaborations, additional stock and new promotional material all contributed to the objective of fostering community health awareness and promoting well-being in our communities.

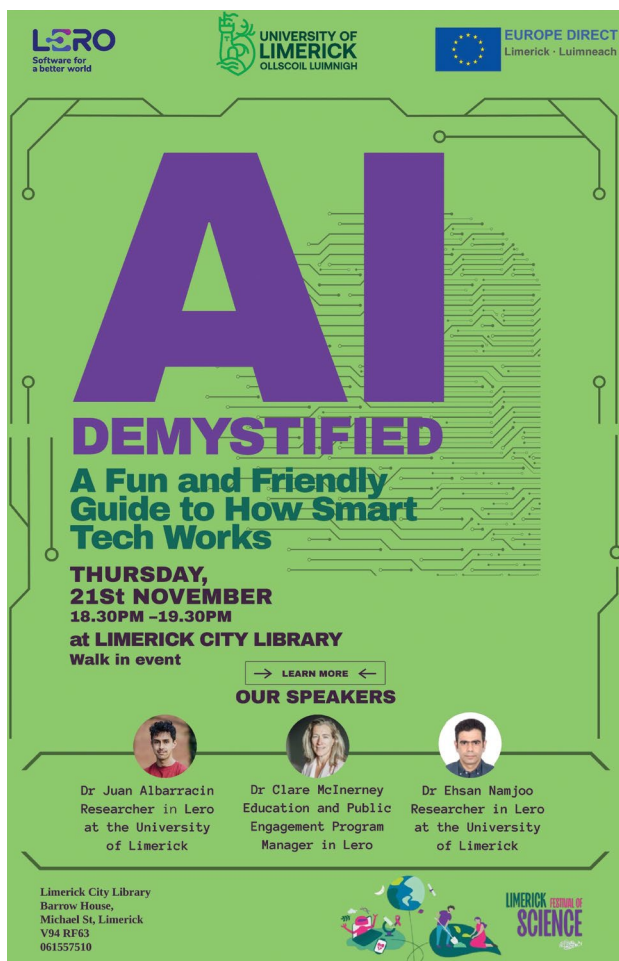
### Europe Direct

The Europe Direct Centre at the City Library answers your questions on the European Union and provides a series of talks, events and competitions throughout the year. Events were



### The Mainstreaming of Extreme Ideas

very well attended during 2024 and included talks on Digital Media Literacy, looking at intersection between far-right extremism, disinformation and conspiracy theories, Retrofitting for Warm and Sustainable Homes, and a talk and panel discussion on the theme of Artificial Intelligence.



### Artificial Intelligence Demystified

Prisca Afolabi from Laurel Hill Secondary School FCJ was the overall winner of the Europe Direct Soapbox Competition in the 16 and under age category and Sean Butler from Nenagh, Co. Tipperary was first placed in the 17 and over age group. Both went on to compete in the National Soapbox final in Dublin at the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland on the 26th November alongside the individual category winners of the seven other regional Europe Direct Centre throughout the country.

### Families and Children

Right to Read is the national initiative to promote literacy and reading development for people of all ages. This includes national seasonal programmes specifically targeted to promote the joy of reading for children – Spring into Story time, Summer Stars, Children’s Book Festival and Family Time at your Library. This year the programme also included the Little Library Initiative in collaboration with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as part of the First 5 Strategy.

- **My Little Library Book Bag**

This wonderful initiative is a collaboration between libraries and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as part of the First 5 Strategy. This is a book-gifting programme for all children who start school in 2024. The Little Library Bag contains books on starting school, making friends and being comfortable to be yourself. Children are able to keep their books and book bag along with their very own library membership with library card and wallet.

- **Spring into Storytime**

The month of April marks Spring into Storytime with a focus on promoting the joy of stories to our youngest library members. With a total number of 41 events with 725 participants in the month of April 2024, Spring into story time 2024 was very successful.



Visitors from Teddy’s Playschool, to Dromcollogher Library for story time





Summer Star Mikail and his Dad with family pass to Foynes Flying Boat Museum

- **Summer Stars**

Summer Stars is all about the joy of reading and takes place from June to August inclusive. Children and families are encouraged to visit the library, borrow lots of books over the summer months and take part in some of the many fun family focused events happening in Libraries throughout the summer months. In 2024, we switched up Summer Stars to take account of UN Sustainable Development Goals. In place of reward merchandise, we offered children the chance to win passes to some of Limerick's finest family experiences. The change was very popular with both families and visitor centres and proved very successful with a record number of 2,847 children taking part in the reading challenge. Our libraries held 151 events for Summer Stars with 3,577 attendees.

- **Children's Book Festival and Family Time at Your Library** are held during the months of October and December. These national programmes are focused on sharing the enjoyment of books and reading among children and families. The Library team together with writers and illustrators bring a programme of workshops, writer visits, talks and conversations to libraries and schools



Adare Library staff with children from Manister NS for Spooky Storytime

throughout the city and county. Children's Book Festival comprised a total of 127 events with 3,121 children attending. Family Time at Your Library ran throughout the month of December with 30 events in total.

### **Writers and Readers**

Our Libraries host bookclubs and creative writing workshops throughout the year in addition to welcoming many writers and illustrators, poets and creative practitioners to our Libraries. Reading and literacy is at the heart of what we do and providing the space and opportunities for writers and readers to meet and mingle is key to nourishing a vibrant literate community. Local writers, international award winning writers, new and emergent writers popped up at our libraries at a variety of sessions, including Readings, Writer Visits, Creative Writing, and Open Mike sessions. Roisin Meaney, Donal Ryan, Jane Clarke, Alan Nolan, Karen Fitzgibbon, Dermot Whelan, Judi Curtin and Writepace Writers Group were some of the fantastic writers visiting our Libraries during 2024.



Poets Michael Dooley and John Carew at Kilmallock Library



Writer Performer Dermot Whelan with full house at Glin Library



### Limerick Local Studies

Local Studies at the Library aims to collect, explore, preserve and celebrate Limerick's cultural memories. In 2024 we finalised the new online infrastructure to enable greater access and engagement. The Limerick Local Studies website [www.limericklocalstudies.ie](http://www.limericklocalstudies.ie) was launched by Mayor John Moran in October. The website has seen excellent engagement and has been described as an 'incredible resource'. A review from Irish Genealogy News advises users to 'dive in, but be sure to come up for air every now and again'. Some interesting statistics since going live include:

#### Top 7 Most Visited Pages

1. Limerick Local Studies Home page: 7430 views
2. Obituaries Newspaper Extracts: 5580 views
3. Obituaries: 4661 views
4. Digital Library: 2028K views
5. Genealogy: 1548 views
6. Trades Directories: 1001 views
7. Journals Collection: 790 views

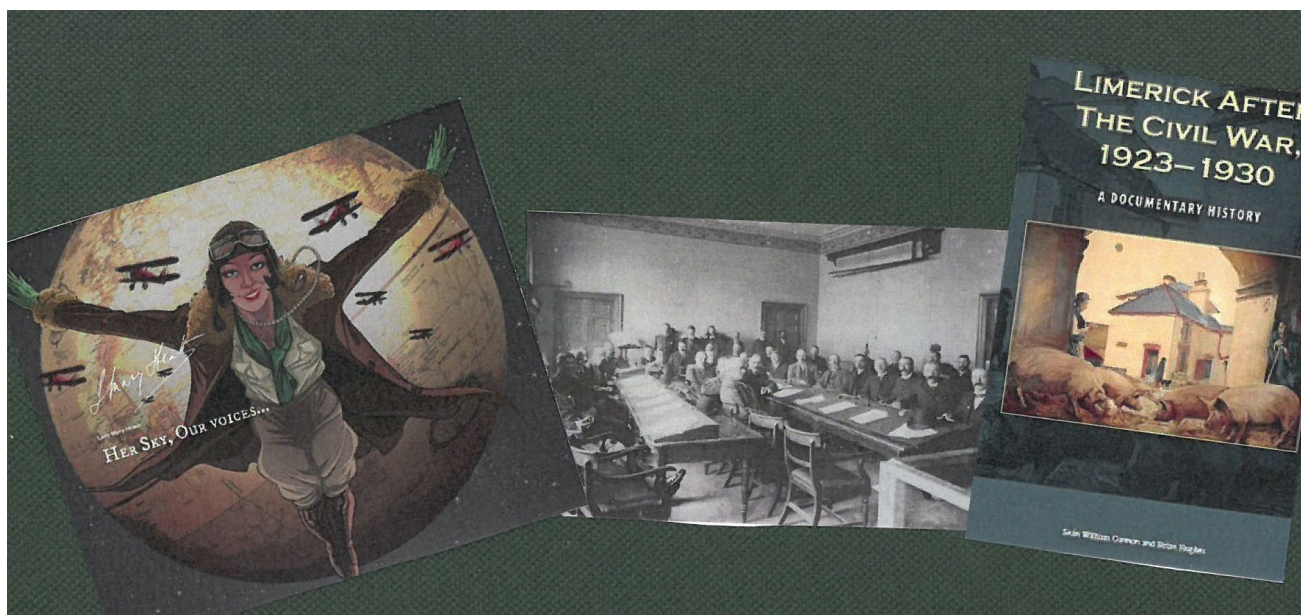
#### Top 7 Active Users Countries

1. Ireland: 5713 users
2. United States: 1042 users
3. United Kingdom: 972 users
4. Australia: 428 users
5. Canada: 194 users
6. Netherlands: 174 users
7. Finland: 108 users



Mike Maguire, Executive Librarian, Mayor of Limerick, John Moran, Damien Brady, City and County Librarian





### Commemorations

Decade of Centenaries funding from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media extended into 2024 enabling the Library service to complete three excellent projects. The publication of the book, *Limerick After the Civil War, 1923-1930* by Seán Gannon, Limerick Local Studies, and Brian Hughes, Department of History at Mary Immaculate College. Marking the 125th anniversary of Irish Local Government, the Library in collaboration with Limerick Museum produced the online exhibition *Limerick Local Government, 1899-1942*. Also in collaboration with the Arts Office a celebration of the work and achievements of Sophie Mary Peirce-Evans (Lady Heath), Irish Aviator and sportswoman, combined with encouraging women in aviation saw young people taking part in a series of creative writing workshops in the Newcastle West Library and the creation of a website dedicated to one of the most interesting women in twentieth century Limerick history Lady Mary Heath – Her Skies, our voices...

### Online Services

In 2024, we expanded the range of online services for Library members beyond e- books, audio, newspapers magazines and graphic novels to include the music and movie streaming with the Freegal (music) and Kanopy (movies) Apps.





Some interesting statistics since going live include:

### **Kanopy (Movies) Most Watched**

1. Normal People
2. Nine Perfect Strangers
3. Shakespeare and Hathaway Season 1
4. Killing Eve Season 2
5. Pure

### **Freegal (Music) Most Downloaded Artist**

1. P!nk
2. James Arthur
3. Joan Baez
4. Beyoncé
5. John Denver

## **Arts**

The Limerick Arts Office programme is funded by Limerick City and County Council, the Arts Council of Ireland/An Comhairle Ealaíon (the national agency for developing, promoting and funding the arts in Ireland) and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Media and Sport under the Creative Ireland initiative.

The adopted Limerick Cultural Strategy Framework 2016 - 2030, the Creative Ireland, Limerick Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023 - 2027 and the Limerick Mayoral Programme 2024 - 2028 inform programme and project development.

### **Bursaries and Grants**

Funding opportunities were advertised through a series of Open Calls, designed to support individuals, creative practitioners and groups organising and engaging in cultural and arts activities that endeavour to deliver the key aims and objectives of the Limerick Cultural Strategy. The Arts Office held a series of grants information sessions online and in libraries around the county including Kilmallock, Newcastle West, Adare and City libraries, in early 2024.

- Grants Under the Arts Act Scheme 2024 - 28 grants were approved from a total allocation of €20,000;
- Limerick Theatre Bursaries 2024 - four bursaries were awarded from a total allocation of €17,750;
- Individual Arts Bursaries Awards Scheme 2024 - eight bursaries were awarded, from a total allocation of €22,750;
- One Dolores O'Riordan bursary of €4,000 was awarded in 2024;
- Limerick Strategic Fund - 11 applications were approved totalling €25,200 and leveraging €362,000 in national funding;
- Michael Hartnett Annual Poetry Award 2024 Call Out.



### **Continued Professional Development for arts and creative practitioners**

A series of opportunities for continued professional development of creative practitioners under seven different mentorship and residency bursaries were announced. These bursaries contribute to growing Limerick's Cultural capacity by supporting focused sectoral training, upskilling and investment for creative's at different stages in their careers.

- Blas International Summer School Bursary;
- Two Meitheal Summer School Bursaries;
- Two Irish Youth Choir Bursaries;
- Drama League of Ireland Summer School Bursary;
- Residency at Culturel Irlandais (Paris);
- Three Tyrone Guthrie Centre Bursaries;
- Irish Writers Centre Bursary.

### **Additional Supports for Creatives/Artists**

Visual Artists Ireland provided six professional training events and opportunities to Limerick based artists, including Guide to Funding Applications, artists networking Event, studios and workspaces, sustainability café, artists in schools, and curator mentoring sessions. Realta ran a one day event in Limerick which outlined the essential elements involved in working with older people in an arts and health context, and featured presentations by some of the most experienced and inspiring practitioners working in this specialised field of practice. Limerick Artists participation in both programmes was funded by Limerick Arts Office.

### **Artist Studio**

An open call to cultural practitioners to apply for the use of one of Limerick's subsidised James Street Artist Studios for one year was announced. The James Street Artist Studios create conditions for affordable studio spaces for individual artists.

### **Artists Residential Apartments**

Two three-year licences were offered to artists following an open call in 2024. The Artists' Apartments create conditions for affordable living spaces for individual artists and attract and keep artists living and working in Limerick City. The apartments provide subsidised living spaces in recognition that artists and many individuals working in the arts are on modest income levels.

### **Artists Short Term Apartments**

In 2024, 38 individual artists stayed in two short-term stay apartments, which offer Limerick Arts Organisations subsidised short-term accommodation for visiting artists.

Other opportunities for professional artistic development offered in 2024 included the Sliabh Luchra Project Call Out, where applications were for the position of Sliabh Luachra Musician in Residence. The project brings together the Arts Offices of Cork County Council, Kerry County Council and Limerick City and County Council. The residency is located in the Sliabh Luachra region, which includes parts of counties Cork, Kerry and Limerick. Aidan Connolly was appointed Musician in residence and launched "Tobar Luachmhar" tune book, a resource for schools to learn tunes in the Sliabh Luachra style.

Stony Thursday Poetry Book Call Out - The Stony Thursday Book is one of the longest-running literary journals in Ireland. Victoria Kennefick was appointed editor in 2024. Over 300 poets submitted work.

### **The Arts Council – Partnership**

Under the Arts Council / City and County Management Association agreement; A Framework for Collaboration (2016 – 2025), Limerick City and County Council signed a three-year work plan agreement highlighting the shared strategic priorities for arts development in Limerick from 2023 to 2025. In 2024 Limerick City and County Council was awarded €135,000 to partner on delivery of programmes under the following agreed actions:

- Supporting Artists and Cultural Organisations;
- Rural Arts and Excellence;
- Young People, Children and Education;
- Culture Night.

Some highlights in 2024 include the following:

- The Éigse Michael Hartnett Literary and Arts Festival took place 3-6 October in Newcastle West. Tara Bergin was awarded a cash prize of €8,000 for the Michael Hartnett Poetry Prize. A number of events, including readings, film, music, parade and tours took place across Newcastle West throughout the weekend.
- Excellence in classical concerts in rural settings: Four concerts were programmed in All Saints Church in Castleconnell under the autumn series. Members of the Degani Ensemble played in August, Rowel Friers in September, Hard Rain Solosist Ensemble in October, and Banbha String Quartet in November. Each concert was hosted on the night by RTÉ Lyric fm's Liz Nolan, and the concerts were recorded and later broadcast on The Full Score with Liz Nolan. The partnership with Lyric FM has developed with the concerts referenced across several programmes and presenters. This increases audiences and makes the concerts accessible to all.
- The acclaimed Vanbrugh String Quartet and Friends played at Glorach, Abbeyfeale, in December. Founded in 1986, the Vanbrugh Quartet has become one of Ireland's leading chamber ensembles, performing internationally and receiving critical acclaim for its diverse repertoire.

### **Contemporary Cities Project**

A new partnership between Limerick Arts Office and Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble, Belfast and Limerick School of Music was commenced. Founded in 2013, Hard Rain is a world class group of musicians dedicated to the performance of modern and contemporary music. The new 'Contemporary Cities' project aims to create partnership music projects between Limerick and Belfast.

Children and young people from two Abbeyfeale national schools and Foróige participated in a morning of interactive contemporary music with Hard Rain in Glorach Theatre on 23 October. The workshop included demonstration of classical instruments and music, techniques, sounds and interactive conducting and song.

### **Arts Industries in Schools**

In response to the identification of a gap in delivery of Arts Office Youth Programmes in secondary schools, Limerick Arts Office piloted a new programme of 'Arts Industries in Schools'. This was delivered in a small number of Secondary Schools, focussed on transition year students, linking to performances and/or work experience in relevant arts industries. It was run with Irish Aerial Creation Centre, Newcastle West Street performance songwriting, and production projects, Gemma Morris Costume making and design, with Mask and Prop making with Lumen Street Theatre. The Arts Office commenced facilitation of an Arts programme in Deis Schools in King's Island, in conjunction with the Paul Partnership. Dance and Paint Punch classes commenced.

### **County Limerick Youth Theatre**

The County Limerick Youth Theatre was granted €23,000 to support their annual programme. Based in the Honey Fitz Theatre in Lough Gur, they appointed Katie O'Rourke as their artistic Director.



### **Dance Limerick Inclusive Dance programme**

The Arts Office supported the development of a specialised training initiative designed for selected dance artists, both with and without additional needs. Dance Limerick commenced the new inclusive dance programme in 2024 and are continuing to develop it to include professional development, choreography, performance and training. This program aims bring individuals together to foster the development of new skills, share experiences, and advance as professional dance artists. 16 dance artists participated over the year. Development of the programme is participant led and guided. Learning is being documented as the model progresses.

### **Decade of Centenaries – “Her Skies, Our Voices”**

Decade of Centenaries – “Her Skies, Our Voices” was launched on 31 October in Newcastle West library. This was a collaborative creative writing project between playwright and producer, Ella Daly, aviation expert Ruth Bagnell and young women from Newcastle West, centred on the life of Sophie Peirce – Evans, also known as Lady Mary Heath. The project explored creative writing in the creative non-fiction genre and included research into the subject’s life, including a visit to Weston Airport to see and sit in an open cockpit aircraft. The website has now available [www.ladymaryheath.ie](http://www.ladymaryheath.ie) and contains the creative writings, biographical information, photos and videos pertaining to Sophie Peirce-Evans all in one place. The project was supported by the community of Newcastle West and the aviation sector. The project was supported through Decade of Centenaries Funding with subsequent private sponsorship from Aero Inspection International and Atlantic Flight Training Academy.

### **Arts and Health supporting artists**

Exhibition of Arts Office Collection on loan to University Hospital.

### **Culture Night 2024**

Limerick Culture Night 2024 programmed over 70 events across the city and county. There were increased activities in the towns and villages with hubs in Newcastle West, Abbeyfeale and Friarsgate delivering programmes throughout the evening. Exhibitions and performances took place at locations across the city and county, including Knockainey, Rathkeale and Kilmallock.

In Limerick City there were hubs of activities in the Milk Market including Hands on Harps, and a celebration of the heart of the traditional Irish pub at Mother Mac’s. A special Celebration of Youth Culture took place at Lava Javas Youth Café in Glentworth Street. The Hunt Museum hosted a night of glitz and glamour with Tóraíocht Taisce and a concert by ICO youth strings. There were art exhibitions, slam poetry and music. Our arts organisations held performances, workshops, and events into the evening, notably, Dance Limerick, Limerick Printmakers, Space Craft Studios, Ormston House.



Celebrating Culture Night

Late Night was a priority for Limerick, with Sionna at King John's Castle and Top 8 and Dance Limerick and the Commercial both in receipt of Arts Council Late Night grants, a further three grants of €5,000 each were awarded to Limerick Opera Festival for arias in Wickham Way, Mother Macs' celebration of the traditional Irish Pub with Sean-nós and seanachai events, and Treaty City Brewery's Pigtown food events, supported through our Night Time Economy Advisor

Limerick Print makers held participatory workshops where children and adults learned to make their own silk screen print and Hermitage Green launched a new album and played Nicholas Street.

Our programme reflected the diversity of Limerick's communities, the Polish Arts Festival presented work at the Hunt Museum, Top 8's event showcased the rich and underground culture of neo-Irish-Afrolism which is a healthy blend of Irish, UK, West-African and American culture with dance cyphers.

#### **Limerick City and County Council Organisation Contributions**

University Concert Hall	€25,000
Dance Limerick	€25,00
Hunt Museum	€25,000
EV+A	€10,000
Belltable	€225,000
Irish Chamber Orchestra	€11,000

#### **Arts Council/Limerick City and County Council Contributions**

Ormston House	€20,000
Irish Aerial Creation Centre	€23,000
Limerick Printmakers	€5,000

A number of additional events were supported and contributed to throughout the year including Hardware 3 in Belltable, Limerick Printmakers 25th Anniversary Exhibition, Limerick Bands Christmas Street Performance and Lunchtime Music in the City Art Gallery – traditional music presented by students from MA Irish World Academy University of Limerick, and Jazz presented by Limerick Jaz in December.

#### **Creative Ireland Limerick**

The Creative Ireland Programme is an all-of-government initiative committed to enhancing access to, engagement with, and enjoyment of Ireland's culture and creativity. The Limerick Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023 – 2027 sets out five strategic priorities for Limerick:

- (i) Place – Making
- (ii) Cultural and Creative Careers
- (iii) Connections
- (iv) Change-Making
- (v) Cultural and Creative Economy

In 2024, the Culture and Creativity Team at Limerick City and County Council secured the following funding for implementation of the Creative Communities Programme:

2024 Core Grant Funding	€177,419.00
2024 Cruinniú na nÓg	€30,000.00
2024 Health & Wellbeing (Live Music)	€45,000.00
2024 Additional Funding (Cruinniú X NTE)	€8,000.00
2024 Additional Funding (Cruinniú X YTI)	€500.00
2024 Additional Funding (Cruinniú)	€141.99
2024 Additional Funding (Cruinniú Consultation)	€2,000.00
2024 Additional Funding (Cruinniú X Shared Island)	€6,400.00
2024 Additional Funding	€4,720.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>€274,680.99</b>



In addition, the Creative Limerick team continued to project manage two three-year projects: Creative Climate Action: Síolta Glasa and Creative Communities on a Shared Island: Laces of Ireland.

In 2024, there were 97 separate projects/initiatives funded through the Limerick Creative Communities programme. A selection includes:

### **Made in Limerick Grants**

Made in Limerick Grants were offered, as a competitive open call, as part of the Limerick Creative Ireland Programme to deliver activities taking place in 2024 that support the Limerick Culture and Creativity Strategy. This grant scheme consisted of three strands:

**Strand 1** - Professional, collective, or organisation: aimed at Limerick-based individual professional creative practitioners, collectives and organisations that wish to develop and deliver collaborative community-centred projects based in the city and/or county of Limerick;

**Strand 2** - Community groups, of place or interest: aimed at Limerick-based community groups of place or of interest that wish to develop and deliver creative projects that promote active participation, understanding of creativity and creative engagement within their communities;

**Strand 3** - Cultural, or heritage organisations: open to Limerick-based cultural and heritage organisations willing to develop and deliver projects that provide a way for the public to learn about, manage and actively connect to our local natural and cultural heritage.

23 Creative Ireland Made in Limerick grant applications were approved for funding in 2024 with a total of €68,000 being awarded to a diverse range of high-quality projects and events.

### **Cruinniú na nÓg 2024**

Cruinniú na nÓg is a national day of creativity for children and young people, that celebrates and encourages participation in culture and creativity through performance, theatre, art and music workshops, readings, screenings, special events and much more. Cruinniú na nÓg is a flagship initiative to enable the creative potential of children and young people. All events are free of charge, child-centred and activity based.

Creative Ireland Limerick, in partnership with Fresh Film and Music Generation, provided a series of free workshops, activities and performances across the city and county which took place on 15 June. The programme was delivered in partnership with other Council departments including the Library Service, Limerick Museum, Limerick City Art Gallery, Limerick Greenway and the Night Time Economy.

Programme highlights included: Rocky Horror Picture Show – An interactive Screening; A celebration of Music and Film at Limerick's Belltable; and Story time and Sock puppets for Toddlers.



Cruinniú na nÓg 2024

Limerick City and County Council secured additional funding of €8,500 to deliver events that targeted at teenagers in the Night Time Economy, and support the Youth Theatre.

### **Musicians on Call**

Limerick secured a grant of €45,000 as lead partner for Musicians-on-Call. This project is delivered in partnership with Music and Health Ireland, the Health Service Executive (HSE) and Clare and Tipperary County Councils. The project brings professionally trained musicians to work in healthcare settings in the Mid-West Community Healthcare Region, to connect music-making opportunities to residents and healthcare staff in Nursing Homes and Community Hospitals.

### **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion projects and partnerships**

Winter Warmer with Dance Limerick: 'Winter Warmer' consisted of an afternoon of dance from a selection of the diverse communities that make up the city. This initiative featured 15 dance artists and had an audience of 100.

A number of new projects commenced in 2024, which focus on working in partnership with community organisations and in the areas of social inclusion, health and wellbeing. Some examples include:

- Arts in Homeless Services with Mid-West Simon: a visual arts project in Oak Lodge Homeless Services provision.
- Theatre for All – King's Island/St. Mary's Youth Drama Pilot Project: drama and theater development with young people in the Nicholas Street Youth Space.
- Newcastle West Music Café with West Limerick Resources: an inclusive informal gathering, which aims to create connections, share stories, songs and music.

## **Gallery**

### **Permanent Collections Exhibitions**

Limerick City Gallery of Art's Permanent Collections featured 8 exhibitions with over 300 artworks exhibited in the East Gallery and the first floor galleries. A notable exhibition opened in February with works acquired through the Friends of the National Collections of Ireland. This exhibition in conjunction with The Crawford Art Gallery, Cork marked the 100th Anniversary of the funding of the Friends of the National Collections of Ireland. Exhibitions from the Permanent Collection continued to highlight artworks from the collections on a rotation basis, including recent loans, donations and acquisition.

### **Acquisitions to Limerick City Gallery of Art Permanent Collections**

- Works by Austin McQuinn, Vivienne Bogan, Tina O' Connell, Sian Costello, Gala Tomasso, Michella Perera.

### **Donations to Limerick City Gallery of Art Permanent Collections**

- The most recent donation from the FNCl was a bust of Sean Keating by Gary Trimble, A.R.H.A.
- Work donated by private collectors include: Vivienne Bogan, Shell/Ter Artists Collective and Eithne Jordan.

### **Permanent Collections Loans out**

- In 2024, works from the Permanent Collection were loaned to Hugh Lane Gallery for a major exhibition of Sarah Purser.
- Loan from the Permanent Collection continued with the Portrait of Michael Hartnett to Newcastle West Library for the official opening of the Eigse Michael Hartnett Festival 2024
- Limerick City Gallery of Art continues to negotiate with other national institutions on the loan of artworks from the Permanent Collection for temporary exhibitions including the Clare County Council, Visual Carlow.





Performance in Progress at Mountains Fall on Us Exhibition

### **Exhibition Programme 2024**

In line with our Arts Council's funding agreement, Limerick City Gallery of Art mounted seven contemporary exhibitions in 2024 reflecting the national significance of this institution. The exhibitions comprised a mix of international (Brigid McLeer), national (Eddie Cahill, Austin McQuinn and Marie Hanlon) and a strong local representation – Vivienne Bogan, the Ceramics Collection from Limerick School of Art and Design which ran concurrently with Limerick Printmakers 25th anniversary exhibition.

Artists' Talks: Brigid McLeer and Aoife Ruane; Austin McQuinn and James Lawlor; Shell/Ter Artists Collective with Cristin Leach; Marie Hanlon, Rhona Clarke and Sheena Barrett; Vivienne Bogan and Nicola Henley.

### **Education/Outreach**

The Shinnors Scholar is a vital cog in the Limerick City Gallery of Art operation. This year's recipient, Aoife Doherty made a significant contribution and developed significant partnerships with EDNIP, Dance Limerick, Creative Ireland and Paul Partnership. The programme has a strong focus on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in line with Arts Council priorities. A number of school tours and workshops were delivered reaching 200 primary school pupils. An open call for applications for a new recipient in conjunction with Limerick School of Art and Design opened in December.

**EVENTS/Meetings**

Limerick City Gallery of Art continued to provide a meeting place for a number of organizations including University of 3rd Age (U3A), University of Limerick, The Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, MA Students in an inter active workshop. Limerick School of Art and Design, and Helium Arts who held a series of art workshops for children with long term illnesses. Limerick City Gallery of Art hosted an event in conjunction with Realta and Age and Opportunity for artists interested in working with older people. Collaboration with Dance Limerick on Creating a Climate for Change in Limerick. LimeTree collaboration on Bualadh Bos, performance and workshops over 3 days. Two residencies in association with Light Moves. Exhibition by Olga Anacka in association with Polish Arts Festival 2024.

Limerick City Gallery of Art received Local Enterprise Office funding to support an initial assessment for energy consumption and followed this with a workshop with Antaris Consulting to assist in the development of Limerick City Galley of Art Climate Action Plan.

Limerick City Gallery of Art recorded 95,180 visitors throughout 2024.

**Museum**

2024 proved a very successful year for Limerick Museum when visitor numbers exceeded 40,000 for the first time. In 2024, Limerick Museum held eighteen temporary exhibitions, the largest number in its 117 year history.

In January, Limerick Museum was accepted into the Museum Standards Programme for Ireland. The purpose of the Museum Standards Programme for Ireland is to benchmark and promote professional standards in collections care and to recognise the achievement of those standards within the Irish museum sector. The programme recognises the achievement of those standards through accreditation. It is used to set a base line for management of collections in not-for-profit institutions that collect, safeguard, hold in trust, research, develop and interpret collections of original objects and items on loan, for the public benefit. On 8 November, two Museum Standards Programme for Ireland assessors carried out their first on-site visit to the Museum and its offsite storage facility.

The Museum enjoyed significant visibility and coverage in local and national media this year of which we give three examples. On 7 February, the Curator appeared on the Today Show on RTE One television, presented by Daithí Ó Sé and Maura Derrane and displayed ten iconic objects from the Museum's collection. On 21 April, the Curator appeared on the Ireland's Hidden Treasures documentary series on RTE One television, discussing the Limerick Meteorite, the largest meteorite that ever fell in Ireland, pieces of which are kept in museums all over the world. Limerick Museum has a piece of this meteorite, which is 4.6 billion year old, on display in Limerick Museum. Also the Curator appeared on the Country House Auction TV programme, broadcast on More4. He was featured purchasing the Florence Vere O'Brien pin cushion for Limerick Museum. Florence Vere O'Brien was one of the greatest figures in the history of Limerick lace.





Artist Elizabeth Cope Etching Exhibition July 2024



Artist Gerry O'Mahony with Mayor of Limerick, John Moran at Continuum Exhibition

Successful collaborations were continued with our existing partners including the Limerick Libraries, Hunt Museum, St. Mary's Cathedral, the University of Limerick, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick Civic Trust, Thomond Archaeological and Historical Society Friends of Lace, Discover Limerick DAC and the Foynes Flying Boat and Maritime Museum. Limerick Museum sponsored the Crafts Section of The Limerick Show, which was held on 25 August.

Limerick Museum had a very successful outreach programme including lectures, workshops and media appearances. One of the most interesting examples was the Museum's collaboration with Limerick Civic Trust was to bring the new

Shannonside History Festival to Limerick. It commenced on 31 May with two free events in Limerick Museum: a workshop and handling session on Limerick Silver opened by Dr Edward Walsh, founding president of the University of Limerick, and a free walking tour of the three bridges of Limerick.

On Culture Night, 20 September, Limerick Museum received a large number of visitors and hosted two special events: an exhibition of photographs by Limerick Camera Club and a short film on Limerick Lace, which had been made by the Friends of Lace Limerick and was shown continuously on a loop all evening.

### Limerick Museum Exhibitions 2024

January	The Art of the Stitch: The Enduring Legacy of Maude Kearney / Grania McElligott
February	Cruthú Ó Mhná / Mná na nEalaín
February	She Summoned a Storm / Sile Walsh
March	Girl Unknown / Éadaoin Glynn
March	Pagan Ireland and St Patrick / Limerick Museum
April	Unboxing / Wilma Vissers
May	Pond - A New Photographic Exhibition / Paul Sweeney
June	Four Winds / Julie Brazil
June – Dec	Objects of the Revolution in East Limerick / UCD School of Archaeology and Abarta Heritage
July	Etchings / Elizabeth Cope
Aug – Dec	200 Year of Achievement: The Dunraven Family and Limerick at St. Mary's Cathedral / Limerick Museum and Dunraven Family
August	Visitaire / Olivia Henchy, Vicki O'Donoghue and Teresa Ellen Fitzgerald
September	Continuum / Gerry O'Mahony
September	Culture Night Exhibition / Limerick Camera Club
October	For Jack / Clare Lyons/ Catriona Osborne
October	Krups Exhibition, Celebrating Krups 25 Years On / Limerick Museum and LEDP at LEDP Roxboro Road
November	Within the Hour of the Slowest Clock / Maurice Quillinan
December	Embodied Space / Kathleen Bartlett

## PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Property Management Services Department covers four specific areas:

- Property – Acquisitions and Disposals;
- Property Management and Digitisation;
- Dereliction, Vacancy, Reuse;
- Rural Limerick Housing Development.

### Property Acquisitions and Disposals

The Section provides a key support to other directorates for the acquisition, leasing and licencing of Council properties. The section is also responsible for all disposals (including freehold and leasehold property interests) under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended).

During 2024 this team acquired Properties for the Housing Directorate under the Social Housing Improvement Programme, Buy and Renew, Part V, under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Tenant in Situ programmes. In addition, the department supported numerous house swaps for Regeneration among other strategic acquisitions and disposals managed during 2024.

#### Acquisitions

Ongoing (all acquisitions – housing and others)	149
Completed property acquisitions	79

Expressions of Interest - completed for the following:

- Unit at Main Street Ardagh – 10 Year Lease to Kevin Barry for Shop Unit/Café – developed under Town and Village Renewal Scheme funding;
- Brewery Lane Cottages – Askeaton Civic Trust, Licence Agreement, renewable annually – developed under Rural Regeneration and Development Funding;

- Harte's Cottage – Ballysteen Community Council, Licence Agreement, renewable annually - developed under Rural Regeneration and Development Funding.

#### Disposals

Completed during 2024	68
Ongoing Property Disposals	119

Significant disposals that were being finalised for disposal during 2024 included:

- Lands at Speakers Corner to Tinwat Holdings Ltd (as nominee for Cluid Housing and Whitebox Ltd;)
- Lands in Ballygrennan to Tinwat Holdings Ltd (as nominee for Cluid Housing and Whitebox Ltd;)
- Lands in Thomondgate to Tinwat Holdings Ltd (as nominee for Cluid Housing and Whitebox Ltd;)
- Lands in Mungret to Cluid Housing Association;
- Lands in Mungret to the Land Development Agency;
- Lands in Rosbrien to the Health Service Executive;
- Lands in Croom to the Health Service Executive.

The Property Management Services section looks after capital works on existing, acquired and vested properties. During 2024 the following projects were procured and completed:

Minor Works (<€ 2,000)	17
Medium Works (€2,000-10,000)	23
Major Works (>€ 10,000 )	9

The section responded to 453 new property related queries in 2024.

The section also prepared legal mapping for 125 Acquisitions, Disposals, Leases and Licenses.



### **Dereliction, Vacancy and Re-use**

The Dereliction, Vacancy and Re-use team is committed to supporting communities by taking a proactive approach to dereliction and vacancy in Limerick City and County. The team works collaboratively with property owners, seeking timely actions and improvements to sites of concern. Staff collaborate closely with Housing Development, Planning and Enforcement, as well as public representatives and communities to bring properties back into use. Owners of derelict and vacant properties are advised in relation to schemes such as Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, Buy and Renew, Repair and Lease, Retail and Business Incentive Scheme and the Council's Paint Scheme that provides funding for property owners to improve the appearance of their properties. Where all reasonable alternatives are exhausted, the Council may commence compulsory acquisitions under the Derelict Sites Act 1990.

### **Outcomes in 2024**

- 1,431 derelict site and vacant homes inspections;
- 544 statutory Notices issued under Derelict Site Act, 1990;
- 49 properties added to the Council's Derelict Site Register;
- 69 properties removed from the Derelict Site Register;
- 21 Compulsory Acquisitions were commenced under Derelict Site Act 1990;
- 26 vesting orders made for properties acquired compulsorily;
- €648,268.48 in Derelict Sites Levies collected in 2024 supported by the Debt Management Unit.



Westfields, North Circular Road in advance of works



Westfields, North Circular Road after works completed

### **Vacant Sites**

There are currently eight sites on Limerick City and County Council's Vacant Sites Register. Limerick City and County Council collected € €385,933.36 in Vacant Site Levies in 2024 supported by the Debt Management Unit.

### **Vacant Homes 2024**

Limerick City and County Council's objective around Vacant Homes is to increase availability of housing supply by assisting property owners to reactivate their properties for social or private housing with relevant supports available. In 2024, the Council continued to identify vacant properties, particularly in areas of high housing

demand, and work with owners to bring them back into housing use. The Vacant Homes Officer works with the Housing Directorate in relation to liaising with owners under Limerick City and County Council supported schemes – “Buy and Renew” and “Repair and Lease”.

### **Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant**

Property Management Services also manages the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant on behalf of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Since the inception of the scheme in July 2022, almost 500 applications have been processed from owners of vacant and derelict properties across the city and county to renovate these back into their principal private residence or to make available to the private rental market. Grants up to €70,000 are available for refurbishment of such properties and the grant may be used in conjunction with the SEAI’s Home Energy Grants.

The Table below summarises the outcomes of the Croí Conaithe – Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant 2024:

Examples of properties which were entered on the Council’s Derelict Sites Register and were returned to family homes with the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant.



O'Callaghan Avenue – before and after

<b>Croí Conaithe - Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Applications Received	227	215
Applications Approved	161	148
Applications Paid	60	10
Value of Grant Payments made	€3,079,335.20	€503,740.48
<b>Total Grant Aid Committed</b>	<b>€14,930,596.38</b>	<b>€9,002,676.51</b>



### **Rural Limerick Housing Development (RLHD) Project**

A successful application was made to the Rural Regeneration Development Fund in 2020 with an allocation of €2,500,000 was initially grant funding toward the regeneration of five towns and subsequently extended to a total of 12 towns and village across Limerick, which were experiencing high levels of dereliction, which was significantly impacting on the town.

This provided an additional approach to tackling dereliction in rural town and villages across Limerick. Properties vested in Limerick City and County Council's ownership via the Dereliction Process, for which there was a limited market in the private sector due to the level of degradation and inherent risks of development, were to be refurbished and either sold on the open market or transferred to Limerick City and County Council's Housing Department for further development.

This is a demonstrator project with Limerick being the first county to receive such funding. 2024 has seen significant advances in this area.

#### **Activity in 2024**

- One property - For sale on the Open Market;
- One property - Sold on Open Market;
- Two properties - Transferred to Limerick City and County Council Housing Department;
- Two properties - Complete and leased to local Community Groups;
- One property - Complete - potential for residential use in future;
- Six properties - Currently on site being refurbished (five due for completion early 2025);
- One property - Design and Tender to main Contractor stage



Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale before renovation



The Saddlery, Abbeyfeale before renovation



Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale after renovation



The Saddlery, Abbeyfeale currently on site





Askeaton before renovation



Brewery Lane Askeaton after renovation



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Engagement with communities is the cornerstone to ensure there is effective delivery of services by the Community Development section and this engagement continued in 2024. The use of online technology and support for communities to adapt to this technology resulted in the continuation of strong community engagement. The Department of Rural and Community Development, and programmes under other Government Departments, continued to support communities. The section is committed to enhancing community services, facilities and wellbeing of the residents of Limerick and continue to work with the communities, to deliver better outcomes for Limerick.

### Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The Framework Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2028 was adopted in May 2024. Local Economic and Community Plans are statutory plans for the Local Authority area and are required to be prepared by all Local Authorities across the state. This is the second iteration of Local Economic and Community Plans, where the first Local Economic and Community Plans were introduced with the reform of local government in 2014 and prepared for the six-year period 2016-2021. Goals and objectives of the Local Economic and Community Plans must be consistent with higher-level national and regional plans. The Local Economic and Community Plan has a Community Plan, an Economic Plan and an Integrated Plan, with shared objectives across Economic and Community elements. The preparation of the Community Plan is led by the Local Community Development Committee, the Economic Plan by the Economic Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) and the Integrated Plan overseen by both Committees. The Community Development Team led the preparation of the Local Economic and Community Plan in cooperation with the Economic Development Directorate. A multi-stakeholder Advisory Steering Group was set up

in to guide the development and delivery of the Local Economic and Community Plan. This Group includes representatives of all the key statutory agencies, the Higher Education sector, community and voluntary sectors partners, including the Local Development Companies, youth services and general community and sectoral interests including environment, agriculture and business, and brought a wide range perspectives to inform the development of the Plan.

The overall aim of the Limerick Local Economic and Community Plan is “to create healthy resilient local communities with good infrastructure and services and a resilient local economy, consolidating successes in recent years, and promoting sustainable economic development”. It is structured around four High Level Goals: (1) People and Community: to promote well-being, inclusion, participation and place-making; (2) Environment and Climate Action: to promote sustainability, adaptation and the “green” transition; (3) Economy: to promote economic resilience and regeneration and development of the city centre and rural towns and villages and (4) Innovation: to promote creativity, expand the application of technology and digitalisation to strengthen the economy and improve quality of life for all.

### Key Programmes and Funding Streams

#### • Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme

The Local Community Development Committee oversaw the delivery of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme. This programme is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the European Union.

The current five-year programme began in January 2024. The value of the Limerick Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme 2024-2028 Framework Contract for the five-year period is some €19.2 million.

Following a successful tendering process, the three local development companies awarded contracts to deliver the 2024-2028 programme are:

- West Limerick Resources CLG for West Limerick rural area (LOT 21-1)
- Ballyhoura Development CLG for East Limerick rural area (LOT 21-3)
- The PAUL Partnership Limerick CLG for Limerick Urban area (LOT 21-2)

The Local Community Development Committee approved payments to the three Local Development Companies contracted to deliver the programme in Limerick.

The programme budget in 2024 was €3,011,977. The core Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme budget was €2,627,372 with an additional €384,605 provided for services targeted on New Arrivals located in Limerick.

The Local Priority Target Groups for each of the Limerick LOTS were agreed and approved by the Local Community Development Committee.

#### • Rathkeale Together

In Rathkeale, linked to the large concentration of the Traveller population living in the town, a specific programme is in place to build cohesion and the relationship between the Traveller and the settled community. The current programme, Rathkeale Together, follows on from an earlier project, the Rathkeale Pre-cohesion Project, delivered with philanthropic funding and subsequently funded by the Department of Justice and the Department of Rural and Community Development. Rathkeale Together is delivered under the management of West Limerick Resources, with specific funding provided for a worker to support the Traveller and settled community to work together.

In keeping with the objectives of the group Rathkeale Together continues to facilitate a wide range of activities in Rathkeale including: engaging with the Women's Group, Men's Shed, Bereavement group, Ladies Fitness Club, Children's Christmas, Easter and Summer Camps, Annual



Keale Krafters and Ladies Fit Club

International Women's Day, Annual Family Fun Day, One to One Information Service, Ecumenical Services, Advocacy for local Halting Site Residents, employ local talented people, Bring national and county agencies to the town, Work with local schools, businesses, youth services, An Garda Síochána, Promote good mental health through workshops, talks, exhibitions and wellness days.

#### • Empowering Communities

In recognition of the extreme deprivation experienced in specific urban areas across the state, the Department of Rural and Community Development made funding available for a specific programme, Empowering Communities, to support participation in community and civic activities and work to empower such communities. An Empowering Communities programme was approved in 2022 for St. Mary's Park, Limerick City with the Department of Rural and Community Development working with the Council and the PAUL Partnership to agree the objectives, work programme and outcomes. The purpose is to build community capacity, harnessing community spirit in the area. Funding was provided for a dedicated worker, employed by and under the management of the PAUL Partnership, to work with local residents, using a community development approach. The Empowering Communities Programme has been a success with a number of initiatives in St. Mary's Park in 2024 with significant community participation. A key success of 2024 was the setting up of an Empowering Communities Advisory Group made up of community stakeholders and community members.



### • **European Union LEADER Programme**

The 2023-2027 EU LEADER Programme; €5.1 million funding to support rural development projects, was launched in 2024. Supports under LEADER 2023 – 2027 will be provided under three main Funding Themes:

- **Economic Development and Job Creation:**  
Projects that promote rural tourism, enterprise development, agricultural diversification, and the green economy.
- **Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion:**  
Initiatives that improve rural infrastructure, accessible services, digital connectivity, and support for rural youth.
- **Sustainable Development and Climate Change:**  
Efforts focused on environmental sustainability and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Limerick Local Community Development Committee in partnership with West Limerick Resources sought expressions of interest under a time targeted call across all programme themes, for funding support and applications from various community and specific interest groups to be evaluated and considered. Projects that proceed to full application will be evaluated with further expression of interest also to continue during 2025.



Launch of the Leader Programme with key stakeholders from West Limerick Resources

### • **Local Enhancement Programme 2024**

In 2024, the Local Community Development Committee secured funding under the Local Enhancement Programme, which provides funding to community groups to support groups in disadvantaged areas. The purpose of this scheme was to assist groups/organisations with grants towards necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities and purchasing of equipment. The Local Community Development Committee on behalf of the Department and Community Development allocated funding under the Local Enhancement Programme 2024. The Local Community Development Committee approved 103 applications to the value of €257,975.47 broken down as follows:

- Metropolitan Area – 27 Applications Approved  
€81,148.70
- West Limerick – 35 Applications Approved  
€90,608.99
- East Limerick – 41 Applications Approved  
€86,217.78

The majority of the projects funded were completed in 2024 and contributed significantly in supporting communities, particularly in disadvantaged areas with projects to improve their buildings and facilities.

### • **Community Recognition Fund**

At the start of 2024, the Department of Rural and Community Development announced the return of the very successful Community Recognition Fund. This fund delivers projects for communities hosting beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and/or International Protection applicants in recognition of their contribution to the emergency response.

In March, the Department of Rural and Community Development approved €1,400,378 for 2024 projects that were recommended to the Department by Limerick City and County Council from across the city and county, based on direct engagement with local communities. Proposals were required to be consistent with the Local

Economic and Community Plan for Limerick and included both existing and new areas welcoming Temporary Protection and/or International Protection applicants. The 2024 Fund pivoted from 2023 to focus on larger projects that deliver much needed, long-term substantial benefits to the community.

Over 74% of the projects have been delivered in 2023 with the final projects concluding in Quarter 1 of 2025. The projects across the Community Recognition Fund have contributed significantly to local communities and include the upgrade sports facilities, playground refurbishments, upgrade of community walkways, improvement of community centres, including energy and heating efficiency upgrades, clubs and community projects and the construction of a childcare facility among other projects.

### **Public Participation Network**

The Public Participation Network Secretariat had six meetings in 2024 with one Plenary meeting held. There are now 231 Public Participation Network member groups across the Municipal Districts and a Memorandum of Understanding was agreed between the Council and Public Participation Network Limerick.

The Public Participation Network Linkage Groups continued to support the Public Participation Network Representatives on the various committees by meeting in advance of committee meetings to discuss matters relevant to their respective committees and give feedback on previous meetings.

Public Participation Network Limerick Partnered with the University of Limerick Engage to deliver the University of Limerick Citizen's Assembly in May. This initiative was a collaboration between the University of Limerick Engage, Limerick City and County Council, Limerick Public Participation Network, Limerick Community Education Network and Limerick Comhairle na nÓg. Its goal was to provide a public focus on sustainability and Sustainable Development Goals focused actions

from the University of Limerick that can have a positive impact for Limerick in addition to providing a public and inclusive forum to share collective knowledge and experience about the kind of projects that the University of Limerick should support. The winning three projects were funded to be delivered within communities in Limerick.

Public Participation Network Limerick collaborated with one of these winning projects, whichcandidate.ie, a service which provides detailed information regarding the views of candidates regarding specific issues, allowing voters to access which of the candidates most aligns with their own views. Public Participation Network Limerick members provided the questions specific to Limerick put to candidates in advance of the Local Elections in June. The Public Participation Network Limerick hosted the sixth National Public Participation Network



Citizens Assembly

Conference at the Strand Hotel Limerick on October 17 and 18. The event marked the 10-year anniversary of the establishment of Public Participation Networks across Ireland.

The conference brought together 170 delegates representing community and voluntary groups, social inclusion and environmental organisations from across the country, alongside local authority officials, elected representatives, and other supporters of the Public Participation Networks work.



The theme for the conference, “Collaboration for Resilient Communities,” highlighted the essential partnerships required for the effective delivery of government programs at both national and local levels. The Public Participation Networks play a crucial role in facilitating these collaborations by providing representatives on committees and steering groups, sharing information, building capacity, and offering support.

The Public Participation Network has nomination rights for the Strategic Policy Committees in Limerick. The 2024-2029 Strategic Policy Scheme was adopted at the full Council Meeting in November. The Public Participation Network conducted its election process for the available seats, including a vacant social inclusion Pillar seat on the Local Community Development Committee. The nominees put forward were ratified by the Plenary at the Public Participation Network Limerick Annual General Meeting. The Nominees for Strategic Policy Committee Seats were appointed at the Special Council Meeting held in December.

### **Community Playgrounds**

Limerick City and County Council continues to provide operational support to 20 Community Playgrounds. Limerick City and County Council also provided financial support to a number of playgrounds in December to carry out minor repair works to the Community Playgrounds.

### **Awards Programmes**

The Community Development Team coordinated and supported community groups to enter national award programmes that acknowledge and showcase the efforts and quality of their activities to improve quality of life and social community and economic benefits to their local communities.



Public Participation Network National Conference

### Pride of Place

Pride of Place is an all-island competition run by Irish Public Bodies and Cooperation Ireland and run in conjunction with Local Authorities north and south. It aims to recognise and celebrate the contributions that communities make to society along with generating awareness, respect and inclusion for every facet of society. It has grown into the largest competition recognising community development achievements on the island of Ireland. Limerick has an impressive record of achievement in this competition. Limerick community groups triumphed at the prestigious Pride of Place community awards on 2 November at a gala ceremony in Monaghan.

- Johnsgate Residents Association took first place in the Urban Neighbourhood under 3,000 category, with judges particularly impressed with the efforts they saw to regenerate the area.

- Dromcollogher Care Centres and Housing for Older Persons took runner up spot in the Age Friendly Communities category.
- The Butterfly Club in Rathkeale was honoured with a Special Award in the Inclusive Communities category.
- Rockhill Bruree Community Council received a nomination and were represented on the night.



Pride of Place Picture winners Johnsgate Residents Association



## **Migrant Integration**

### **Local Authority Integration Team**

The Government White Paper to end direct provision, led to the adoption of the principle of 'integration from day one'. The resulting Integration Model was developed as a collaboration between the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the City and County Managers Association, and the Local Government Management Agency. The overarching aim of the Integration model is to provide a support structure that will lead to better outcomes in terms of empowering members of the migrant community to fully integrate into local communities across Limerick. The model centres on a new national network of Local Authority Integration Teams located in each Local Authority. In April, the Limerick Local Authority Integration Teams was established, and has worked throughout Limerick City and County supporting International Protection Applicants and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection. Some of the key initiatives/work undertaken by the Local Authority Integration Teams in 2024 include:

- Ukrainian Independence Day Celebrations;
- Membership of Migrant Integration Steering Group and various sub groups;
- Membership of Community Integration Forum, administration of meetings;
- Establishment of Migrant Forum, administration of meetings;
- Website pages in both Ukrainian and English language options;
- Back to School Bash;
- Diversity = Strength solidarity walk for International Human Rights Day;
- Publication of weekly newsletter (2000+ circulation).

### **Healthy Limerick**

#### **• World Health Organisation (WHO) Healthy Cities/Counties Network**

In September, Mayor of Limerick, John Moran, met with key officials to discuss Limerick's accreditation

to the European Healthy Cities Network ahead of submitting an official application. The meeting included Minister of State at the Department of Public Health, Colm Burke TD, World Health Organisation Lead for the European Healthy Cities Network Kira Fortune, HSE's Regional Executive Officer Sandra Broderick, and representatives from the Department of Health and Limerick City and County Council.

The Healthy Cities Network, initiated by the WHO in 1987, emphasises the critical role of local governments in health and sustainable development. The programme has grown to include National Networks in 20 countries within the WHO European Region, connecting over 1,800 cities, counties, and towns. The National Healthy Cities and Counties of Ireland Network, accredited by the WHO in 2016, aims to support Local Authorities in implementing the Healthy Ireland Framework.

Healthy cities and counties are committed to delivering benefits for both people and the planet. They engage all communities in the pursuit of peace and prosperity, tackle inequalities, and promote good governance and leadership for health and well-being. Innovation, knowledge sharing, and health diplomacy are key values nurtured in healthy cities.

• **We're Breastfeeding Friendly Limerick** was relaunched in late September just ahead of National Breastfeeding Week. We're Breastfeeding Friendly Limerick is led by Limerick City and County Council's Healthy Limerick in partnership with statutory agencies, third level institutions, the community and voluntary and business sectors in Limerick. The campaign was first launched in 2019. The initiative aims to help improve the health and wellbeing of breastfeeding mothers, babies and their families through the development and promotion of breastfeeding friendly businesses, organisations, communities and workplaces.

Throughout National Breastfeeding Week 2024, a series of informative videos were shared on Limerick City and County Council's social media channels. These videos were based on a new information brochure developed by the interagency group in 2024. The brochure provides detail on changes to legislation in relation to breastfeeding in the workplace, as well as detailing more generally the benefits of breastfeeding for mothers and their babies, businesses, workplaces and wider societal benefits.

• **Not Around Us Campaign:** The campaign aims to de-normalise smoking and vaping for the next generation. It was first created, established and launched in Limerick in 2019 and relaunched in 2023. Given the prevalence of smoking (on the rise again 18% nationally) and vaping especially amongst young people and changes around legislation in relation to vaping, reenergizing this campaign is timely. Ballynanty Rovers joined the campaign in 2024 and has become Limerick's first smoke and vape free soccer club. The club is proudly championing the 'Not Around Us' campaign, aiming to create a healthier environment for their community and beyond. The 'Not Around Us' initiative promotes spaces where it is easier for smokers and vapers to quit, and stay quit, while also helping to de-normalise smoking for the next generation. This health promotion campaign is led by Limerick City and County Council's Healthy Limerick, in partnership with the Health Service Executive and various community and youth organisations.

• **Limerick Food Partnership** - Limerick City and County Council's Healthy Limerick is part funding Limerick Food Partnership to conduct a comprehensive high level analysis of food poverty in Limerick including a comprehensive mapping project in Limerick City and County. An interim report is now available and a further piece to this research is a project called The Food Finder. The Food Finder is a visual depiction of where and what kind of emergency or community food is available in the City and County serving clients

who are experiencing or are at risk of experiencing food poverty and insecurity. Food environment mapping is a valuable tool when conducting an analysis on food poverty because it helps provide a comprehensive understanding of the availability, accessibility, and affordability of food in different areas. It has identified food desserts, highlighting challenges and opportunities to support and expand existing programmes and it demonstrates the need for a collective approach to food poverty. Eighteen Healthy Food Made Easy Programmes were delivered by Limerick Food Partnership both within and outside of Sláintecare areas of Limerick City and Limerick County in 2024.

### **Migrant Health and Wellbeing**

- Marking Mental Health Ireland's "Hello, How Are You" campaign Healthy Limerick collaborated with the Migrant Forum and Mental Health Ireland to run a connect café to mark this campaign in the Clayton Hotel in June.
- Nine art and craft workshops ran over the summer months of June, July and August for adults and children, facilitated by individual artists in collaboration with the Hunt Museum. Feedback from these classes was excellent, with integration of new communities a priority. Each week saw between 50 - 60 adults and children attending, with a waiting list for classes before they commenced. This initiative was funded by Limerick City and County Council's Healthy Limerick.
- Limerick Food Partnership facilitated eight migrant cookery programmes. Four programmes were run in collaboration Doras and the Mid-West Simon. The migrant cookery programmes were enhanced with the inclusion of students from the University of Limerick who completed a research piece entitled "Accessibility and availability of foods to support cultural integration and healthy eating among migrant communities using the kitchen in Tait House." The remaining programmes were in collaboration with the migrant engagement team in PAUL Partnership.



- Community music classes took place in Hospital National School since September to support the integration of children attending that school. Community music programmes can provide numerous benefits to both refugee and local children, particularly in terms of integration including social inclusion, cultural exchanges, language development, emotional and psychological benefits to name just a few of the benefits. A short evaluation of the programme took place in December. This project was a collaboration between Hospital National School, Music Generation and Mid-West Simon and is funded by Limerick City and County Council's Healthy Limerick.

#### **Social Health and Education Project**

- Social Health and Education Project is a community and voluntary organisation/training and development organisation working in Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Clare and Tipperary and the South East. Social Health and Education Project works primarily in the area of adult community education (mostly non-formal education) – with a particular emphasis on experiential group work for the promotion of health and well-being. Through the funding of Healthy Limerick, eight short programmes and six workshops have been delivered in 2024; with the total no. of participants is 129. The main focus of our interventions is to promote resilience and connection for people who are living in local communities that want to enhance their health and well-being.

Social Health and Education Project programmes delivered include “Managing Stress in Our Everyday Lives”, “Caring for Our Wellbeing”, and “Personal Development”. Workshops such as “Supporting Yourself as a Parent”, “Managing Stress” and “Let's Talk about Transition to Secondary School” concluded, as well as “Seasons for Growth” tutor training. Demand for these programmes remains strong in Limerick and programmes align with support actions within Connecting for Life – Ireland's National Strategy to Reduce Suicide 2015-2024.

#### **Play Week 2024**

Let's Play Limerick events were held on 15th, 18th, 19th July in Lough Gur (25 attendees), O'Brien's Park (30 attendees) and Peoples Parks (40 attendees) respectively in collaboration with Limerick Sports Partnership. Despite wet weather and competition with other summer events feedback from was very positive. The theme for National Play Week was 2024 is 'Time to Play!' The aim of National Play Week is to promote play and recreation opportunities for children and young people.

#### **Life Long Learning Festival 2024**

Limerick City and County Council's Healthy Limerick organised a series of health and wellbeing lunchtime talks in collaboration with Limerick Libraries as part of Limerick's Lifelong Learning Festival. Topics included talks on “Heart Health”, and “Minding Ourselves and Building Resilience”, delivered by the HSE's Chronic Disease Team, “Five Ways to Wellbeing” by Mental Health Ireland, “Lifestyle Medicine” by Dr Ray O'Connor and “Living Well at Home” by Health Age Friendly Homes.

#### **Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme**

The Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme in Limerick City and County continued to demonstrate its impact in 2024, addressing health inequalities through innovative, community-driven projects. As part of the Healthy Ireland framework, this place-based initiative focuses on the social determinants of health, working collaboratively with residents, community organisations, and public agencies to improve outcomes where they are most needed. By leveraging strategies, such as the Local Economic and Community Plan, and aligning with Limerick City and County Council's priorities, the programme delivers sustainable health and well-being outcomes for its communities.

#### **MoveWell Programme**

The MoveWell Programme continued to address chronic health conditions through community-based physical activity classes. In 2024, the programme delivered 19 distinct activities, benefiting over 200 participants. Key programmes

included Breathe Well sessions in Ballynanty Community Hall for individuals managing asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Aqua Move and Pilates classes at St. Gabriel's Hydrotherapy Pool and Tait Community Centre for those with chronic pain and arthritis, and Move Steady fall prevention sessions at Moyross Community Centre.

The programme, led by Limerick Sports Partnership has ongoing collaborations with the University of Limerick. MedEx, under Professor Catherine Woods, focused on developing pulmonary rehabilitation in community hubs, while ComEx, led by Professor Karen McCreesh, integrated chronic pain management solutions into community settings. These research-backed interventions enhanced participant outcomes and strengthened the evidence base for future programming.

### **Venture Out Programme**

Addressing social isolation and supporting community connection remained central to the Venture Out Programme. Weekly COPD SingStrong group sessions were delivered across Moyross, King's Island, and Ballinacurra Weston, providing a supportive space for participants to engage in creative activities that improved their mental well-being. A citywide Christmas event for participants from across the programme, creating a strong sense of community and belonging.

### **Limerick Growing Communities**

The Limerick Growing Communities initiative continued to expand in 2024, supporting community integration, mental well-being, and pride in public spaces across the city and county. By supporting 15 active community gardens, the programme empowered residents to take responsibility for their environment while creating safe, inclusive outdoor spaces. These gardens serve as hubs for social interaction, food production, and environmental education, promoting a deeper connection to nature and building resilience within local communities.

Gardening workshops, in person and online, throughout the year focused on practical skills such as winter gardening, fermenting produce, and long-term garden planning. These activities supported food and nutrition security and equipped participants with knowledge to create sustainable, self-sufficient practices.

### **St. John the Baptist Boys School Gardening Geodome Project**

The Gardening Geodome Project at St. John the Baptist Boys School represents a flagship initiative for community integration, mental well-being, and outdoor education. In 2024, the project's working group worked on finalising designs in collaboration with students and are preparing for construction in early 2025. Once completed, the geodome and sensory garden will serve as a unique space where students and families can engage in inclusive, hands-on learning experiences.

The project is designed to provide more than just a space for gardening. It will create a safe, vibrant area that promotes mental health, integration of families and communities, and environmental stewardship. The sensory garden will encourage mindfulness and reflection, offering therapeutic benefits to children and families creating a sense of pride and responsibility for shared public spaces. By linking education, mental well-being, and community development, the Gardening Geodome Project exemplifies how targeted initiatives can transform public spaces into inclusive and impactful environments that benefit the entire community.

### **Enhancement Projects**

The Greenspace Enhancement Project in Ballynanty will transform underutilised areas into vibrant community spaces, with walkways, natural play zones, mature tree planting, and trim trails incorporated into the design. Community consultation ensured the project aligned with local needs, and construction commenced in late 2024.



In Johnsgate, the Green Space Enhancement Project celebrated the heritage and biodiversity of a site near Limerick's historic city walls. Biodiversity-friendly planting, enhanced access points, and educational signage were central features of the project. This revitalised space provided both a recreational amenity and a connection to Limerick's history, earning the project recognition as a winner in the 2024 Pride of Place awards.

### **Waterways to Wellness**

The Waterways to Wellness event, held at Merchant's Quay in October, was an inclusive fishing adventure designed to promote social inclusion, well-being, and accessibility. Delivered in partnership with Sláintecare Healthy Communities, the Integration, Health and Wellbeing Team, Inland Fisheries, Enable Ireland, and Avista CLG, the event provided hands-on activities such as virtual reality boating, simulated fishing, and interactive wildlife displays. Participants, including individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities, engaged in meaningful discussions about improving access to Limerick's waterways. Feedback gathered during the event will inform future access and inclusion policies, ensuring these natural spaces are more accessible to all.

### **Midwest Simon Community Kitchen**

In 2024, the Midwest Simon Community Kitchen Project is progressing, offering an innovative approach to addressing food insecurity, social inclusion, and well-being. Through close collaboration with residents, the facility underwent a complete renovation, culminating in the installation of new kitchen units, electrical work, painting, and flooring. The development stage is expected to be completed in early 2025 with the kitchen being fully operational and ready to host activities in early 2025.

This project represents a hub for community building, empowerment, and skill development. The kitchen will provide opportunities for residents to participate in cooking classes, food preparation workshops, and gardening programmes,

creating a pathway to greater food security and independence. These sessions are designed to promote social interaction and mental well-being, offering participants a sense of belonging and purpose.

As part of the broader initiative, the community garden surrounding the kitchen has been enhanced to include fencing and areas for urban agriculture. This space supports additional activities, including hands-free healing sessions and safe roaming areas for chickens, offering therapeutic benefits to participants. Midwest Simon Community staff, newly trained in January 2025, will play a pivotal role in delivering these sessions, ensuring the project remains sustainable and impactful.

By integrating food production, education, and well-being, the Midwest Simon Community Kitchen exemplifies the power of community-led approaches in addressing complex challenges such as food insecurity and social isolation. The project demonstrates the value of collaboration and inclusivity, setting a strong foundation for future growth and innovation.

### **ADAPT Wellbeing Cabin**

The ADAPT Wellbeing Cabin was completed in December, providing a dedicated space for mental health support, community connection, and skill-building activities for women and children affected by domestic abuse. This thoughtfully designed facility represents a significant milestone in creating safe, nurturing environments that foster recovery and resilience.

The cabin will offer a space for gardening workshops, peer-supported well-being activities, and therapeutic sessions. These initiatives promote mental well-being, integration, and empowerment, allowing participants to rebuild their confidence in a supportive setting. The surrounding garden further enhances the healing environment, with carefully cultivated spaces designed to encourage mindfulness, reflection, and a connection to nature. Through this project, ADAPT has created a model

for integrated mental health and community support, ensuring participants feel safe, connected, and empowered. By blending therapeutic services with practical skills and community engagement, the Wellbeing Cabin is positioned to make a lasting impact on the lives of vulnerable women and children in Limerick.

### **Period Equity Programme**

The Period Equity Programme continued its expansion in 2024, with vending machines providing free menstrual products due to be installed at 20 locations, including libraries, youth centres, and community hubs. Sustainable options, such as reusable menstrual products were introduced, reinforcing the programme's commitment to eco-conscious practices and dignity.

### **Traveller Mental Health and Wellbeing Campaign**

The Traveller Road to Hope and Change Campaign marked Traveller National Mental Health Day with a tree-planting ceremony and garden enhancements, symbolising resilience and recovery. These culturally sensitive initiatives strengthened partnerships with the HSE and local advocates, ensuring continued collaboration in addressing health inequalities within Traveller communities.

### **Clean Air Together Campaign**

In 2024, the Clean Air Together campaign engaged community groups and residents in monitoring and improving air quality. Educational workshops highlighted the health impacts of pollution and promoted sustainable practices such as active travel. The Local Development Officer played a key role in aligning the campaign with Sláintecare Healthy Communities' goals supporting long-term environmental and health benefits for Limerick communities.

### **European Union funded INTEgreat Project**

In 2024, Limerick City and County Council with our local partner Doras continued to work on the implementation of Limerick pilot activities. The pilots align to the Integration Strategy Framework in Limerick Urban Area through a series of activities in four main areas: healthcare, employment, social cohesion, capacity building and training of both migrants and local citizens.

The EU INTEgreat project co-funded by the European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund involves the participation of seven partners with cross-cutting complementary skills from five European countries: Cyprus, Greece, Ireland, Italy and Spain, reflecting a range of geographic and socio-cultural conditions. The project aims to build a stronger integration strategy and ecosystem for migrants and asylum seekers in Europe.

Main Council lead activates included:

- Establishment of Limerick Migrant Integration Forum - Currently Forum has over 40 members from over 20 diverse backgrounds. The main aim of the forum is to empower migrant communities to collaborate, network and represent migrant voice towards achieving social inclusion, integration and participation in the decision-making process.
- Limerick Migrant Integration Forum won Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award in Diversity and Inclusion category.



INTEgreat Project

- Information Hub for New Communities making Limerick their new home is available on Limerick.ie website. The page includes information on: housing and accommodation, childcare/schools, health services, further education and training, employment and more. Information is provided in English and will be available in Ukrainian language.
- Migrant Health and Wellbeing Fairs and Arts and Crafts classes- are a great example of collaboration to deliver the best services and to maximize resources available within Limerick City and County Council. Both activities were delivered as a partnership between Healthy Limerick and INTEgreat.



Migrant Integration Forum

## Africa Day

Africa Day Limerick celebrations took place on 26 May at Limerick's Milk Market, where people came together to enjoy a celebration of the diversity of African culture and heritage. This year's 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. It was a family fun day of traditional African music and dance performances, a fashion show and food sampling, which allowed participants and attendees to gain a richer understanding of the cultural significance of African and other new communities in Limerick. African indigenous arts and crafts, drumming and face painting were also part of the activities. Guest performances by Ukrainian, Indian and Mexican Communities showed cooperation and support of all migrant communities in Limerick's celebration of this special day.

Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Gerald Mitchell, attended and acknowledged all involved for making the event possible.



Africa Day in Limerick



### Comhairle na nÓg

Limerick City and County Council continued to support Comhairle na nÓg in 2024. Comhairle na nÓg worked collaboratively with various stakeholders on their chosen theme of 'Vaping, drugs and smoking.'

Mayor of Limerick, John Moran, opened Limerick Comhairle na nÓg Annual Youth Conference on the 7 November. Over 100 young people from Limerick attended on the day to voice their opinions on the issues that are important to them and to potentially become new members. The theme for 2025, chosen on the day, is Public Transport.



Comhairle na nÓg Youth Conference Limerick

### Life Long Learning

The Learning Limerick Steering Group is a partnership forum that brings together sectoral networks and partnerships and is committed to creating a culture of learning in Limerick. It is made up of statutory, local development, business, community, and voluntary sector partners. Learning Limerick's primary role is to promote the value of learning in Limerick, across all stages of the life cycle, to share information that enhances members and partners' organisational learning, and to support sectoral networks and groups in their efforts to engage communities in positive learning experiences. The Irish Network of learning Cities (INLC) includes Limerick, Dublin, Cork, Derry / Strabane Belfast and Waterford.

The launch of the 14th annual Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival took place in Limerick College of further education, Mulgrave street in March 2024. The event was a precursor to what was a very successful weeklong run of events that spanned a variety of topics and sectors. This year's theme 'learn, grow, explore in 2024' saw a number of events taking place ranging from Art, Cookery, Early Childhood Development, Wellness Clinics and Language Taster Sessions.



Limerick Lifelong Learning

### Age Friendly Limerick

Limerick City and County Council continued to support the Age Friendly Limerick Programme throughout 2024. On 21 October, Mayor of Limerick, John Moran welcomed our Older Persons Executive to his Boardroom in City Hall, Limerick where he outlined some key items from the newly published Mayoral Programme 2024-2029 and held an informal discussion with the Group on issues to continue to make Limerick a model county for growing older.



Age Friendly Strategy Launch

The Age Friendly Limerick Strategic Plan 2024-2028 was launched by Minister Patrick O'Donovan on the 29 April at the Castletroy Park Hotel.

Some of the key Age friendly events that took place include the following:

- The Age Friendly Alliance met on 12 September in the Dooradoyle Council Chamber to discuss ongoing Age Friendly activities and determine objectives to collaborate on in the near future.
- The National Older Peoples Council Convention brings the Older People's Councils together from all across Ireland giving them an opportunity to discuss topics, network and learn from each other. The benefit of the Convention is to contribute to the work of the Older People's Council. The two day convention started on 9 May and concluded on 10 May and was held at the Kilkenny Ormond Hotel. This year's theme was 'Ageing with Independence'
- Members of the Age Friendly team were delighted to attend the Croom FRC Annual Summer BBQ on 19 June.

- In July, Age Friendly Limerick in partnership with the Local Authority Broadband Officer donated a number of Lenovo tablets to various initiatives around the City and County for the benefit of older people, including: Cappamore Community Centre/St. Michaels Day Care Centre, Abbeyfeale Mart and Coolcappa Community.
- On the 17th October, Age Friendly Limerick welcomed the Dementia Bus Tour to Merchants Quay. This tour offers a life-changing experience through mobile simulators. Developed 25 years ago by Professor PK Beville, it allows participants to understand dementia by simulating its effects.
- Age Friendly Limerick in collaboration with Iarnród Éireann and Bus Éireann undertook a walkability audit of Colbert Station on the 13 September. The walkability audit of Colbert Bus and Rail Station will be used to inform the process of the station obtaining Age Friendly status under the World Health Organisation Charter. Members of Step Forward Disability Group, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, Irish Wheelchair Association and a number of visually impaired Limerick residents also took part in the walkability audit.



Age Friendly Walkability Audit Colbert Station





Team Limerick Clean Up 2024

- On the 5 and 6 November, Age Friendly Limerick were delighted to attend The Limerick 50 Plus Show. This show was very well attended and provided a great opportunity to increase our public profile. It was also an ideal opportunity to gather expressions of interest from people wishing to join our Older People's Executive. The 50 Plus Show is designed to be an informative, educational and upbeat event for people who are over 50.

### **School Meals Scheme**

The School Meals Programme (Bun and Milk Scheme) continued in 2024 providing the service to 10 DEIS schools, approximately 1,900 children.

### **Team Limerick Clean Up**

For Limerick City and County Council, Team Limerick Clean-up is a unique collaboration with the general public, public agencies and private partners in terms of an environmental countywide initiative. The collaborative nature of TLC's, with stakeholders including the citizens of Limerick, the National Schools around the county, along with key stakeholders the McManus Benevolent Fund and Mr. Binman, it promotes sustainable environmental goals and lifelong learning in relation to the environment particularly in schools.

To date the overall participation figures are close to the 140,000 mark with record numbers registering in 2024. These include volunteers

from all walks of life schools, colleges, sporting organisations/clubs, community groups, residential groups, businesses, charities, nursing homes and well-known local faces.

Over 22,000 volunteers took part in Team Limerick Clean-up with a 53% increase in sports clubs getting involved. There were more volunteers out and a larger geographic spread than ever before but the total litter collected is down on previous years to 55 tonnes compared to 5 tonnes in 2023.

There were 265 individual litter collection points across the City and County which Mr. Binman collected from using eight trucks and crews. A Christmas Tree Competition was held in December asking pupils across Limerick to decorate a big Christmas tree using recycled and recyclable materials. The aim of the competition was to raise awareness of TLC and highlight the importance of protecting the environment amongst younger generations. This collaborative project also provided pupils with an opportunity to be creative while working together as a team.

### **Bin Waiver Scheme**

Approximately 3,900 waivers were issued to applicants under the Bin Waiver Scheme in 2024, which was funded by Limerick City and County Council.



## **Ukraine Accommodation Response Team**

Limerick Ukrainian Community Response Forum met as a group on a monthly basis throughout 2024. The Forum was initially established to facilitate the coordination of support services to the community-lead response in the provision of assistance to displaced Ukrainians in Limerick. However, due to the rise in International Protection Applicants, coupled with a reduction in the numbers of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection in Limerick, the Forum, chaired by the Director General of Limerick City and County Council, agreed to extend its remit. In doing so, the Forum, with a membership of over 22 organisations across the state, private, community and voluntary sectors, is ensuring that the supports being provided to Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and International Protection Applicants are delivered in a co-ordinated manner, identifying gaps in service provision and addressing where possible, and providing those supports equally to all migrants across Limerick City and County.

## **Ukraine Accommodation Response**

Limerick City and County Council set up a new team in 2022 to respond to the need for emergency accommodation for those fleeing the war in Ukraine. As part of this accommodation solution, the Council;

- Operated three emergency rest centres.
- Sourced appropriate accommodation solutions on behalf of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.
- Supported private operators of accommodation centres in responding to the needs of their clients in Limerick.
- Supported the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth in identifying, placing, transferring and supporting accommodation solutions for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection.
- Supported the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage by examining and proposing refurbishment projects for consideration under the Emergency Refurbishment (Ukraine) Project and appropriate sites for potential Rapid Build Homes.
- Worked with the International Organisation for Migration to facilitate the use of Irish Red Cross pledged accommodation in Limerick.
- Continued the Offer a Home Initiative in Limerick to encourage those with a vacant property to offer a home for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection resulting in 472 Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection being provided with homes since February 2022
- Worked with the Community Response Forum to ensure wraparound services are delivered to the new residents in Limerick.

## TOURISM

### Festival and Events

#### **Festivals and Events Strategy 2025-2030**

Festivals and Events appointed CAAS Ltd. to undertake and deliver a Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment of the 'Draft Festivals and Events Strategy'. The Strategic Environmental Assessment screening was undertaken in compliance with the 2001 European SEA Directive and transposing European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (as amended) and the Appropriate Assessment screening was undertaken in compliance with the 1992 European Habitats Directive and transposing Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011 (as amended). Screening notices were issued to the designated environmental authorities by the Council on 30th September 2024, whereby submissions were sought over a four-week period. It is envisaged that these reports will be circulated to the Members in Quarter 1 of 2025 in advance of the meeting at which it is planned to adopt the Strategy. The determinations will be actioned by the Council prior to the adoption of the Strategy, taking into account the reports.

#### **Festivals and Events Grants Scheme 2024/2025**

Limerick City and County Council provided strategic investment to Festivals and Events via a competitive open call in 2024. This investment was provided as a stimulus to elevate Limerick's Festival and Events offering and has contributed significantly to Limerick's reputation as an exciting and dynamic place through a range of different festivals and events in the City and County. The total fund for the Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2024/2025 was €208,000.

The Scheme was awarded to 27 successful applicants across three strands. These strands were as follows;

- Strand 1 – Delivery and Programming of Small Scale and New Festivals and Events
- Strand 2 - Delivery and Programming of Medium and Large-Scale Festivals and Events
- Strand 3 – Festival Development and Sustainability.

#### **St. Brigid's Day**

Cruthú Ó Mhná (creations from women), a celebration of the ritual of female creation and art making, was showcased in the Limerick Museum from 1 - 5 February to mark St. Brigid's Day. This was exhibited by Mná na nEalain, a collective of Irish Women professional artists and creatives based across Ireland. The group was borne from a revolutionary Creative Europe Training Programme. There was a diverse range of mediums on display including embroidery, drawing, print, embossment and paint.

#### **St. Patrick's Festival**

Limerick welcomed 80,000 visitors across the weekend to the city for the hugely successful Limerick St. Patrick's Festival 2024. Over 50,000 people lined the streets of the city for the flagship event, St. Patrick's Day Parade held on 17 March. Some of the amazing floats included the Pirate Ship from aerial performance company, Fidget Feet. Bui Bolg showcased a large-scale snake that wowed spectators, and various vehicles from service vehicles to the rally cars added some trill, all enhanced by the music from multiple marching bands. The parade theme was 'A Different Kind of Energy' and the Grand Marshal was Sean O'Sullivan, winner of the BT Young Scientist of the Year Award 2024. There were over 1200 participants from 70 groups with a wide range of interests, including Scout Groups, Sports Clubs, cultural and Community Groups.



Limerick St. Patrick's Day Parade

Other events over the weekend included, Street Show Saturday which saw the City streets come alive with a family fun day of high energy acrobatics, magic and comedy on Bedford Row and Thomas Street. City centre streets were also animated with roving stilt walkers and circus figures and the Limerick City Centre Traders' Association spread the fun with a range of amusements on Cruises Street.

The 52nd International Band Championships took place on 18 March. This is a unique event to Limerick. Tens of thousands of viewers lined the streets of Limerick to see the sixteen Marching Bands from Limerick, Ireland and from around the world. The Bands entertained the crowds with their music, choreography and costumes. The overall Champions were Lakeville South Marching Cougars from Minnesota. The Band Championship brought a display of exceptional musical talent and explosive energy and a perfect way to end the St. Patrick's Festival weekend.

### **Riverfest**

The 20th Riverfest which took place over 3 – 6 May was awarded winner of the Festival of the Year Award at the Excellence in Local Government Awards 2024.

A particular highlight of the 20th Riverfest festival was the new initiative of the Pegasus Parade. Acclaimed French street theatre Spectacle Company Planet Vapeur brought 'Pegasus', a giant silver winged horse to Limerick. The giant animation standing eight metres high paraded through the streets of Limerick accompanied by a troupe of 11 acrobats and street performers to wow a crowd of 20,000 who lined the 1.4km parade



Riverfest Limerick 2024 – Pegasus Parade



route along the banks of the River Shannon. Pegasus took to the Limerick streets on the Friday night with its unique performance as an anchor event to open the 20th celebrate of Riverfest.

Over the May bank holiday weekend, 133,000 people attended the festival with 67,000 people passing through the festival village alone over the four days of fun, food and music on the banks of the River Shannon. Families and festival goers were treated to a wide variety of offerings and events including the Pegasus Parade, Fashionfest, Riverfest Village, River Shannon zip-line, Panoramic Wheel and National BBQ Competition. Also included were on-river events and aerial shows from Limerick's own Fidget Feet with their show Bingo Fever 'House' and a new ASD Ireland mobile sensory unit on site adjacent to Arthur's Quay Park.

In addition to Pegasus a number of new and exciting offerings were added to Riverfest 2024. Fashionfest, a new avant garde fashion show, showcased the work of fashion design students from TUS's Limerick School of Art and Design alongside established couturiers at the contemporary surrounding of Gardens International.

Limerick City and County Council Festivals and Events partnered with iconic brand Red Bull for Riverfest to deliver a weekend Street Party. A Red Bull DJ truck was the hub of entertainment on Howley's Quay Boardwalk, with an atmospheric mix of chill out beats and BBQ.

Riverfest is always about the mighty River Shannon. The new Regatta event centred at the St. Michael's Rowing Club held races between Sarsfield Bridge and Shannon Bridge for various ages and had a carnival atmosphere for families on O'Callaghan Strand.

The National All Ireland BBQ Competition seamlessly connected up with The Riverfest Redbull Street Party on Howley's Quay creating

a party atmosphere on the streets of Limerick, as well as many more events. Night-time economy events included, Treaty City Brewery and Dolans live music events at King John's Castle.

The Great Limerick run supported by Limerick City and County Council Festivals and Events took place on 5 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.

Riverfest 2024 was a huge success for Limerick City. Riverfest's social media campaign generated 299,723 total impressions in 2024. The overseas and domestic visitor to Riverfest is estimated to deliver a minimum of €9.3 million to the local economy.

### **Welcome to the Neighbourhood**

Presented by Askeaton Contemporary Arts, this annual residency programme showcases Irish and International Artists, making and displaying art throughout Askeaton. This year's event was curated by Michele Horrigan and artists, Santiago Borja, Jan McCullugh and Frank Wasser. From the 18 to 29 June, various artists held events. The events included artist, Mice Hell, hosting a talk on the history of Irish costume, and a new sign, 'Mussel Lane,' was unveiled by artist, Robin Price, through a collaboration with Askeaton Tidy Towns. Tours were given on the history of the town and public art in the town. A short film was premiered named "Pass Me," a film on the Askeaton Friary and the points of view from characters imbedded in its history. The open day was held on 29 June, exploring the works of the artists in residence.

### **Red Bull Drift Pursuit**

The Red Bull Drift Pursuit took place on 18 and 19 May and 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 trailed in Limerick and proved an outstanding success. This event received

significant support from Limerick City and County Council Festivals and Events. 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.

### **Limerick Summer Proms**

The inaugural Summer Proms took place from 21 to 23 June at the University of Limerick Concert Hall. Friday saw the performance of Shine, which was presented by The Dublin LGBTQ+ Pride Festival in collaboration with the RTE Concert Orchestra. On the Saturday, a Midsummer Magic was performed by the Limerick Chamber Orchestra and presented by Simon Delaney and acclaimed soprano, Anna Devin. The final day of Proms was a child-friendly animated film concert, The Magic Piano and The Chopin Shorts.

### **Samhain: Limerick Halloween Festival**

The Samhain Festival ran from the 24 to 27 October. The festival got under way with Eddie Lenihan and his folktales at Roches Street, and Tall Tales at Treaty City Brewery. The 25th of October had the Death Café in Jack Monday's Café and a Spirits of Samhain historical walk with Paul O'Brien. On the 26th of October, the Samhain swim was held, and the Irish Chamber Orchestra Schools had their live performance in St. Mary's Cathedral showcasing popular and classical music.

Lumen Street Theatre, in partnership with Fáilte Ireland and Limerick City and County Council, presented the Lumen Street Theatre's Fire and Shadows Parade on the 26 October. The parade celebrated the Irish origins of Halloween with illuminated unnatural beings walking the streets of Limerick. Many other events happened throughout the weekend celebrating Samhain in Limerick.

### **Christmas in Limerick**

A Magical Winter's Tale Procession by LUXE Theatre Company took place on the first of December and kicked off the Christmas festivities in Limerick's. The Christmas parade was full of lights, costumed characters and magical figures that floated through the Georgian quarter of Limerick City creating a beautiful and enthralling seasonal street spectacle.

The month of December was filled with events across Limerick. Cruises Street was animated with activities for families every Saturday and Sunday, with stilt walkers, face painting, balloon modelling and kid's discos. The music generation stage had performances from various acts in the City Centre, which all added to the wonderful festive atmosphere in the City Centre.

Festive Workshops at University of Limerick Sarsfield campus introduced children to the Fab Lab's fully functional digital fabrication laboratory where they created Christmas decorations using their laser cutting equipment and 3D printer.

The Treaty City Market which took place on 14 December on Nicholas Street allowing people to wander along the beautiful historical street and support local vendors while listening to local DJ's.

Couture at the Castle seen an upscaling of this annual fashion show organised by Holman Lee Agency which took place on 7 December at King John's Castle. The event showcased the very best of Limerick's fashion. This was a ticketed event with proceeds benefiting the Children's Ark Paediatric Unit at UHL.

Other events included Carols and Arias at Christmas took place on the 22nd of December with the Limerick Opera Festival, Christmas Tales by the Limerick Fireside with Limerick Tales told by storyteller David Collopy. Festival in a Van returned to Thomas Street for the three Sunday's leading up to Christmas. The Van which turns into a stage created a festive soundtrack for the City Centre.

The van showcased local talent such as Evangeline O'Neill, Paddy Dennehy, David Hope, Michelle Grimes, and jaYne.

A Limerick Georgian Christmas took place on the 22 December at O'Connell Crescent. This event was presented by the local neighbourhood of The Georgian Quarter and Mayor John Moran. The Georgian Quarter had street theatre performances, panto choirs, sacred Latin recitals and jazzy melodies transforming the area into an immersive Christmas experience, also providing the opportunity to take a picture with Santa Paws and Henri.

### **Conferencing and Bids for Events**

The Festivals and Events Team continued to work with colleagues and a range of sectoral stakeholders to support the development of conferencing opportunities and the hosting of international events of scale in Limerick in 2024. Significant efforts were made to ensure events had a city centre impact. Closing ceremonies for these significant events were held in the city centre in 2024 assisted by the Festivals and Events Team. Limerick's hosting of the World one wall Handball

Championships was a particular highlight. Wallball is the fastest-growing version of the sport of handball with a significant presence in mainland Europe and the UK as well as in the United States, where there are over 2,000 public courts in New York alone.

This event in Limerick featured an Olympic type village set up for accommodation and utilising nine specially designed temporary courts within the University of Limerick Arena. The Wallball World Championships took place in August with large-scale accommodation on site, a record-breaking entry of 882 for Ball Wall and 12 International Countries participating from all over the World including Ireland, Europe, USA, Canada and Mexico as well as families and spectators.

In collaboration with Shannon Region Sports and Conferencing Bureau, Fáilte Ireland and University of Limerick, Limerick City and County Council once again presented Limerick as a high-quality destination for hosting sporting and conferencing events in 2024.



Christmas Parade in Limerick City Centre



## Tourism Development

### Tourism Strategy

Limerick City and County Council plays a key role in the development of tourism in Limerick City and County, which encompasses a broad spectrum of initiatives aimed at enhancing its appeal and positioning the city and county as a prime tourism destination. This includes the development of unique tourism products, the creation of key capital infrastructure such as Limerick Greenway, and the effective marketing and promotion of Limerick through our established brand, Brand Limerick. We have initiated and established Discover Limerick Designated Activity Company, a dedicated entity for the operation and management of key visitor attractions. Our strategic initiatives extend to the organisation of signature festivals and events, planning, enhancement of public realm, provision of emergency services and maintenance and cleaning of roads, all of which contribute to attracting and providing an unforgettable experience for tourists in Limerick City and County.

In August, the Tourism Department appointed a multi-disciplinary team to develop a new and comprehensive tourism strategy for Limerick to succeed the 2019 - 2023 strategy. The strategic approach aims to transform Limerick into a dynamic and diverse visitor destination attracting domestic and international audiences. This strategic roadmap will leverage Limerick's rich cultural heritage, vibrant arts scene, historical landmarks, natural beauty and warm hospitality and drive economic growth in the region.

Visitor, community and industry surveys were carried out in September and October. Furthermore, consultation sessions were held throughout the month of November, which included visioning and consultation workshops with staff, Councillors and external stakeholders. It is envisaged that a finalised Tourism Strategy for Limerick City and County Council will be published in Q1 2025.

### Tourism Industry Trade Events 2024

Limerick City and County Council Tourism

Department staff attended a number of Tourism Industry Trade Events throughout 2024, including:

- Fáilte Ireland's Champions Programme - Wild Atlantic Way workshop.
- Meitheal 2024.
- Spotlight on Tourism event for tourism undergrads, hosted by the Department of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness in Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) Midwest.
- Local Government Tourism Conference 2024.
- Irish Tourism Industry Confederation (ITIC) 2024 Conference.
- Fáilte Ireland's Clare and Limerick Tourism Industry Networking event.
- Fáilte Ireland and Intreo's Supporting Recruitment and Retention in Tourism and Hospitality event.
- Ireland's Hidden Heartlands Tourism Officers Networking event.



Limerick and Clare Tourism Networking Event 2024

### Milwaukee Irish Fest 2024

The Tourism Department in Limerick City and County Council, in conjunction with Discover Limerick DAC, was privileged to attend the Milwaukee Irish Fest from 15 – 18 August. The team operated a Tourism Information Stand for the duration of the festival and engaged in tourism promotion and cultural and diaspora engagement with over 100,000 attendees at the festival. The team promoted Limerick through the lens of tourism and used the event as an opportunity to showcase landmark visitor attractions in Limerick City and County. Feedback from attendees was extremely positive with a major take-away being the importance of flight connectivity, the availability of direct flights from Chicago into Shannon Airport being a major deciding factor for prospective visitors.



Milwaukee Irish Fest 2024

### Limerick Greenway Marketing and Promotion

In 2024, Limerick City and County Council continued the promotion and development of Limerick Greenway.

Limerick Greenway hosted a number of events throughout 2024 including the following:

- On 8 December, the Limerick City and County Council Tourism Department, in partnership with Limerick Mental Health Association and Fitness Industry businesses Flexitime and Cardio Flourish, hosted Santa's Greenway Fancy

Dress Cycle between Ardagh Greenway Hub and Newcastle West Greenway Carpark along Limerick Greenway with prizes and goodie bags as well as refreshments provided on the day and live music and broadcasting from Live 95. As a surprise, Santa arrived by Fire Engine to Ardagh Greenway Hub before the event;

- Locomotion Bike Hire six-week Walk Run Health Kick Programme;
- Barnagh Greenway Hub Easter Egg Hunt and Halloween Trick or Treat;
- Abbeyfeale United Children Cycle;
- Friends of Limerick Football sponsored 8km Walk from Newcastle West Greenway Carpark to Ardagh Greenway Hub and back;
- Kilcolman Rovers Walk fundraiser event from Fenit to Rathkeale Greenway Hub;
- Three 5km Charity Walk/Run events at Abbeyfeale, Newcastle West and Rathkeale;
- Brú Columbanus 10km Charity Walk;
- Bike Week;
- Lust for Life's The Rising 2024 Cycling Fundraiser;
- Two U-Turn Units Launch event.



Launch of U – turn at Barnagh Viewing Point

In 2024, Limerick City and County Council procured Springboard Communications to lead a national integrated communications and marketing campaign for Limerick Greenway to achieve further success following on from the 2023 campaign. Some of the key objectives of the marketing and communications campaign were:

Building on brand awareness to keep Limerick Greenway top of mind as an amenity of choice for local, regional, national and international tourists; Aligning Limerick Greenway marketing and promotional activity with stakeholders including Fáilte Ireland; Focusing on the nearby Limerick Greenway hub towns and local businesses; and continue widening Limerick Greenway target audiences reach by engaging with events and local business around Limerick. The promotional campaign during 2024 included:

- Three Media Releases throughout 2024 on the following news items: Media Photo Story on Limerick Greenway; two U-Turn Units installed along Limerick Greenway; and Data Collection Report 2023;
- Seasonal photography and videography shoots along Limerick Greenway, with the imagery and videos captured being the key element in driving the marketing campaign;
- An updated online and printed Brochure for Limerick Greenway;
- Influencer Marketing: three influencer visits were coordinated in 2024 along Limerick Greenway, with a series of content created by each. These influences were Clíodhna Twomey, Japhet Ogu and Niamh Webb-O'Rourke;
- Out Of Home (OOH) Advertising which included: two Billboards at Shannon Airport and Colbert Station; two Adshels at Cork Airport and Shannon Airport and five Bus Supersides;
- Radio Adverts proved very successful for Limerick Greenway in 2024 during peak times. The adverts were run over several weeks on both Classic Hits and Live 95;
- Limerick Greenway featured in a number GAA Match Programmes as well as the Limerick Guide, Limerick Life and Limerick Opera Festival magazines/brochures. Also, Native and Non-Native content pieces and adverts featured in the Irish Examiner, Echo, Limerick Leader, Limerick Post, The Irish Times, The Clare Champion, The Independent, Kerry's Eye, VIP Magazine, Weekly Observer, Vale Star and RTÉ Guide;

- Familiarisation trips with journalists from VIP Magazine, Business Plus Magazine, the Irish Examiner, the Sunday World and a Joint Trip in partnership with Kerry County Council on Éigse Michael Hartnett Literary and Arts Festival weekend in October which included a journalist from Irish Country Living Supplement and the Irish Times. These trips involved working with local businesses, including bike hire, hotels, local shops, museums and Limerick's food providers to create authentic experiences that showcased the real people and stories along Limerick Greenway and other areas of Limerick. Limerick City and County Council Tourism Department also organised their own Familiarisation Trip with Cork County Council to show colleagues in Cork the work that has been completed on Limerick Greenway to date and our plans for the future;
- Business Profiling Project, which involved creating a Business Profile of businesses along Limerick Greenway and sharing these through Social Media Postings;
- Four Social Media Competitions
- A comprehensive monthly Social Media postings schedule.

Limerick Greenway 2024 Statistics, including the completed Data Collection 2023 Report that the Tourism Department commissioned in 2022

- **Google Advertising**
  - 241.5K impressions
  - 23.23K link clicks
- **Social Media Advertising**
  - 570,189 Accounts Reached
  - 104,548 Post Engagements
  - 10,715 Link Clicks (to the website)
- **Social Media Platforms Reach for 2024**
  - Facebook page reach: 670,818
  - Facebook profile visits: 14,827
  - Instagram profile visits: 226,647
  - Instagram page reach: 7,288





Cyclists near Barnagh Tunnel along the Limerick Greenway

Data Collection Report – some key findings (which incorporates the 11 footfall counters in place along Limerick Greenway):

- Total Limerick Greenway users in 2023 = 169,000
- Total Footfall Counter activations in 2023 = 618,000
- The average value of an overnight visitor to Limerick Greenway was €128 per night while day visitors generated an average of €28 per day. Overseas visitors to the area generated a higher average overnight spend of €144 per overnight stay.
- Almost nine out of ten Limerick Greenway users are now more physically active as a result of the greenway investment. 29% of the local community stated that they are “extremely more active” due to the ease of access to Limerick Greenway for exercise.
- Average Willingness to Pay of 1 hour of activity/usage of Limerick Greenway = €5.17 per hour
- Annual Socio-Economic Impact of Limerick Greenway = €3.745 million

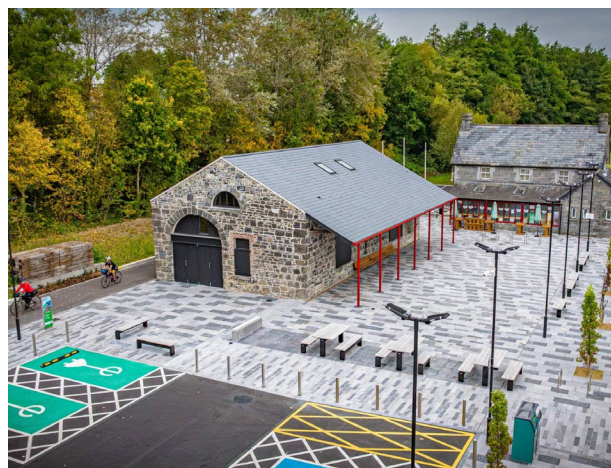
## Capital Delivery And Greenway Maintenance

### Limerick Greenway Operations, Maintenance and Capital Projects

In 2024, Limerick City and County Council continued operations, maintenance and infrastructural development of Limerick Greenway. The maintenance team had a very successful year in maintaining the 40km Greenway. A survey of 1000 greenway users reflected this in that 98% of those surveyed have stated the Greenway met their expectations and 65% stating it exceeded them.

Some examples of the maintenance works completed throughout the year include hedge cutting, grass cutting, weed management, drain clearing, maintenance of carparks and blowing and sweeping off of debris including fallen leaves and branches. There were a number of storms in 2024 and in the aftermath of these storms, the efficiency of the maintenance team ensured that the Greenway was reopened timely and made safe for users to enjoy.

Detailed Design has progressed for the Barnagh Tunnel Masonry Rehabilitation Works Project and this project will go to tender in Quarter 1 2025 with the works progressing thereafter. Some additional works completed in 2024 include: construction of a new access pathway to the Limerick Greenway at Larkins Bridge in Clonagh; installation of emergency kilometre marker post signs; replacement of post and rail fencing; and installation of U-Turnaround Units. The U Turnaround units are an interpretation installation with one being installed at the Barnagh Viewing Point and the other in Tullig Wood.



Limerick Greenway Rathkeale Hub –Fully Refurbished Goods Shed

### Limerick Greenway Trailhead Hub at Rathkeale

In August, Limerick City and County Council Tourism Department opened the public realm area and outdoor facilities available at the redeveloped Limerick Greenway Hub at Rathkeale.

Works were completed in July 2024 to enhance the public offering with a new 29-space car park that includes mobility car spaces; a beautiful limestone paving public realm area that surrounds the Hub building; toilets; electric vehicle charging points; a bicycle repair stand; a water station; a bus stop and picnic benches.

Designed in harmony with the rich heritage of the town, the project complements the Irish Palatine Museum, housed in the adjoining former Railway Station House.

The carpark, public realm works, provision of Greenway services and restoration work to the Railway Goods Shed was funded by the Department of Transport through Transport Infrastructure Ireland, the Department of Rural and Community Development through the Town and Village Renewal Scheme and Limerick City and County Council's own resources and the contract cost was €2.1m.



**Limerick Greenway Hubs Development and West Limerick Tourism Hub at Fullers Folly Newcastle West Successful Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) Category 1 Funding**

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) Category 1 funding was applied for in February for the Limerick Greenway Hub Development Projects. The estimated cost for the 4 projects is €12m and €9.6m was allocated under the RRDF in May 2024. The projects to be developed are Limerick Greenway Hub at Ardagh, Limerick Greenway Hub at Newcastle West (2 projects) and the Barnagh Station House. The appointed multidisciplinary design teams progressed the detailed design and tender documents preparation for the projects in 2024. Barnagh Station House went out to tender in December 2024 with Ardagh and Newcastle West going to tender in Quarter 1 2025. RRDF Category 2 funding is in place for the Limerick Greenway Hub at Abbeyfeale with detailed design for this project progressing in 2025.

A further €3.9M in RRDF funding was granted for the refurbishment of the historic Fuller's Folly building and courtyard in Newcastle West. Limerick City and County Council intend to enhance and support the heritage and tourism offering in the town, alongside Desmond Castle, by creating a gateway to this important asset through the Fuller's Folly site. Working in partnership with the Office of Public Works (OPW), this project will link the town's tourism assets in a coherent manner, improving the visibility and the overall visitor experience in Newcastle West. The appointed multidisciplinary design team progressed the detailed design in 2024 and will go to tender in 2025.

**Ireland's Hidden Heartlands Promotion**

Limerick City and County Council Tourism Department worked with Award-Winning Radio, TV and Podcast Presenter Ed Finn, of Ed Finn Travels, to promote the Ireland's Hidden Heartlands region of Limerick in November. This included radio interviews broadcasted on Classic Hits and Sunshine Radio as well as a podcast episode on the Travel Lounge Podcast and a

1,000-word blog on edfinntravels.com. Ed visited Ballyhoura Mountain Biking, Ballyhoura Apple Farm, Deebert House in Kilmallock, Lough Gur Pottery and the Thomas Fitzgerald Centre in Bruff.

### **Discover Limerick PASS**

Limerick City and County Council Tourism Department continued working on the development of the Discover Limerick PASS in 2024 with the addition of a Discounts and Offers offering where purchasers of the PASS will now receive certain percentage discounts on goods and services of Tourism and Hospitality Industry businesses in Limerick once they show they have purchased the PASS.

### **Irish Dresden**

Limerick City and County Council Tourism Department worked closely with Irish Dresden, who are based in Dromcollogher in West Limerick, in 2024 by assisting the business in both obtaining a Feasibility Study Grant through the Limerick Local Enterprise Office (LEO) and hiring a consultant to conduct the Feasibility Study in order to determine the appetite for expanding their production facility as well as the possibility of having a visitor experience, café, shop, retail park and showroom offering at the site.

### **Kilmallock Tourism**

In April, Shannon International Development Consultants were appointed by the Tourism Department in Limerick City and County Council to undertake the 'Development of a Need-Gap Analysis and Visitor Experience Implementation Plan for Kilmallock'. This project was undertaken in collaboration with the Kilmallock Tourism Board. The project aimed to better understand what Kilmallock as a destination has to offer to both domestic and international visitors alike, and to identify gaps and associated actions to position Kilmallock Tourism to better market and promote the town as a visitor destination in Limerick. On 11 December, the 'Kilmallock Visitor Experience Destination Plan' was presented by the consultants to the Kilmallock Tourism Board in the Deebert House Hotel.



### **Munster Vales**

Munster Vales is a tourism destination of domestic and international significance spanning the Comeragh, Knockmealdown, Galtee, Ballyhoura and Nagles mountain ranges. The Munster Vales proposition is to promote and develop the outstanding walking and heritage product as a regional brand, linking the counties of Cork, Limerick, Waterford and Tipperary. Representatives from the Tourism Department in Limerick City and County Council attended Munster Vales Board Meetings throughout the year, which encompasses research, feasibility studies, infrastructural development and the assignment of tourism marketing expertise to create and maximise tourism business opportunities, stimulate alternative farm enterprise, provide supplementary income opportunities and ultimately maximise the Munster Vales tourism value proposition.

### **Ballyhoura Destination Experience Development Plan**

The first meeting of the working group for the Ballyhoura Destination Experience Development Plan took place in November. The process is being led by Fáilte Ireland's, Ireland's Hidden Heartlands in collaboration with Limerick City and County Council, Cork County Council, Ballyhoura Development and significant stakeholders. Repucon Consulting were appointed as consultants to deliver a Destination Experience Development Plan for the Ballyhoura Region.

## **DISCOVER LIMERICK DAC**

The year 2024 marked significant progress for Discover Limerick DAC and its portfolio of heritage sites. Through strategic initiatives, impactful collaborations, and community engagement, these sites remained buoyant and enhanced Limerick's profile as a key visitor destination.

### **King John's Castle - Visitor Engagement and Events**



King John's Castle

- **VIP Visits and Media Exposure:** On February 12, the Castle hosted Alice Manseragh, Chief Executive designate of Tourism Ireland. Her praise for the immersive visitor experience highlighted the castle's critical role in promoting Irish heritage. RTE Primetime's live broadcast from the castle courtyard on November 14, provided national television exposure.
- **Concert Series:** Collaborating with Dolans, the castle held six concerts, successfully broadening its audience base and enhancing its reputation as a vibrant cultural hub. Positive feedback from social media underscored the events' success in attracting new visitors.
- **Cultural Events:** The "Storytelling Street" on September 20, brought Nicholas Street's history to life through local storytellers and animators. This well-attended event enriched the visitor experience and celebrated Limerick's rich cultural heritage.

- Awards and Recognition: The Castle's excellence was celebrated on February 6, at the CIE Tours Annual Awards of Excellence. With over 92% approval ratings, the site reinforced its status as one of Munster's premier attractions, directly contributing to increased visitor numbers.

## Adare Heritage Centre

2024 involved a continuous onboarding process to welcome and integrate the Adare team - On February 20, 2024, Discover Limerick DAC acknowledging the dedication of the outgoing board, this milestone marked the start of new opportunities to enhance the centre's visitor experience.



Outgoing board and management of Adare Heritage Trust pictured with representatives of board and management of Discover Limerick DAC.

## Lough Gur

Dating back over 6,000 years Lough Gur is one of Ireland's richest archaeological sites, a melting pot of historical significance brimming with nature, archaeology and panoramic beauty. Lough Gur visitor centre appeals to all demographics and this year it catered to that varied audience hosting over forty events such as talks on nature, poetry readings, music, festivals, yoga, meditation, summer camps for children and much more.

- Festivals and events – e.g. Imbolc, Easter, Bealtaine, Heritage week, Thomas Connellan Harp Festival, Halloween, Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Autumn School

- Nature – e.g. talk by Eoghan Dalton "Irish Atlantic rainforest and the magic of rewilding" (06th February). Foraging workshop (22 June), "discovering Aine and the ancient oak" guided walk (23 June), meditation / Summer Solstice dawn (21 June), "Irish Wildlife sounds with Sean Ronayne" (18 August)
- Arts/Poetry – evening of poetry with the late Jon Kenny and guests (27 April), The "Inspirations" Art Exhibition during the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Autumn School in October provided a platform for 16 local artists, reinforcing Lough Gur's role as a hub for creative expression and visitor engagement
- Archaeology – Talk by Joanne Mapp on the "Five fascinating Irish objects found in the British collection" (19th August)
- Summer Camps for kids – over 70 participated in camps over a four-week period in July/ August during the school holidays. Designed for primary school children, these camps offered activities such as kayaking and birdwatching, fostering environmental appreciation and increasing visitation



Pictured are children enjoying one of the Lough Gur Summer Camps held in July 2024.





King John's Castle Masterplan Launch Announcement

## Developing key tourism attractions in Limerick

### King John's Castle Masterplan - Transformational Vision

On March 12, 2024, funding for a new Masterplan for King John's Castle was unveiled. Spearheaded by Galmstrup Architects, this initiative kicked off, aiming to elevate the castle into a world-class cultural attraction.

### Adare Heritage Centre Redevelopment

The Adare Heritage Centre's redevelopment has been a long-standing priority for the local authority, as the current facility is outdated, undersized, and incapable of meeting modern demands. Extensive community engagement has shaped this project, with broad input from neighbours and community groups and stakeholders. This bottom-up approach ensures the redevelopment reflects the needs and aspirations of the local community.

A Part 8 planning application was submitted on September 6 following a public display event

with further public consultation continuing until October 18. The proposal, received strong community approval and was passed by the Adare/Rathkeale Municipal Area's elected members on December 10. Subject to government funding, this project could be completed by 2027 securing long-term economic and social benefits for Limerick.

### Fáilte Ireland Development Partnership

- Digital Transformation - Discover Limerick commenced work on the "Digital That Delivers" program, focusing on replacing our booking engines and websites. These upgrades will drive visitor growth by enhancing engagement and capability.
- Employer Excellence Program - Discover Limerick joined a 3-year Employer Excellence programme in 2024, with the aim of investing in creating an employee-centric organisation.



### **Sales and Marketing - Global Outreach**

2024 was a productive year for Discover Limerick from a sales and business development perspective, Sales and Marketing attended over ten industry workshops and events - both domestically and globally, showcasing Limerick as a vibrant destination to visit, stay and explore.

Meeting with key stakeholders in the industry such as tour operators and travel agents the Sales and Marketing Manager was able to pitch and sell the Discover Limerick sites to these important potential customers and was successful in attracting new tour operator business for the 2025 season.

A snapshot of the events attended as follows;

- Inbound Tourism Operators Association (ITOA) Workshop, Limerick, February 2024
- Meitheal/ Failte Ireland's largest and most important trade event in the Irish tourism calendar, Killarney, April 2024
- Milwaukee Irish Festival, Milwaukee, August 2024
- GB Coach Workshop/ Failte Ireland, Limerick, September 2024
- Canada and US agencies Workshop/ Tourism Ireland, Dublin, September 2024
- Failte Ireland Wild Atlantic Way Workshop, Sligo, October 2024
- Tourism Ireland "Ireland Meets Germany" Trade Workshop, Frankfurt, November 2024.



Tourism Ireland Germany Event - Frankfurt

# **REGENERATION, SPORTS AND RECREATION**







Jobs fair in Ballinacurra Weston



# REGENERATION, SPORTS AND RECREATION

The overall aim of Limerick Regeneration is to create safe and sustainable communities of opportunities where people of all ages enjoy a good quality of life, a decent home, a sense of pride in their communities that are fully integrated with the social, economic and cultural life of Limerick.

## REGENERATION, SPORTS AND RECREATION

### Regeneration Economic

The Economic Development Strategy for Regeneration is focused on the delivery of following key objectives including:

- Ensuring the growth of local capacity through the provision of focused sectoral training and employment opportunities;
- Fostering a culture of social innovation and social enterprise in the areas as well as a programme of interventions to attract, support and grow micro and community enterprise;
- Attracting inward investment, into Limerick City and the Regeneration areas from the private and public sectors, stimulating additional economic activity.

### Outreach to Employment

The Outreach to Employment Programme is an initiative led by the Regeneration, Sports and Recreation Directorate. The objective of the strategy is to address unemployment and disadvantage within the Limerick Regeneration communities and ultimately across Limerick.

The Outreach to Employment Programme is led by the Employment Co-ordinator and implemented by a multi-stakeholder project team including Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB), Department of Social Protection, Technological University of the Shannon (TUS), Paul Partnership, Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership (LEDP), Community and Industry representatives.

The integrated service approach will be delivered via three strategic aims:

- Community Mentorship Programme Development: Working directly with local community to recognise and reduce barriers to employment
- Coordination and Collaboration: Connecting training, industry, and jobseekers
- Governance and Monitoring: Ensuring continued innovation and development through oversight and progress tracking.

A key component of this programme is the role of the Community Mentors. They work within the communities to provide individuals with wrap around supports that enable access to further education and employment opportunities. This pre-employment, person-centred process involves identifying individuals seeking employment and ensuring steps are taken, on a case-by-case basis, to reduce employment barriers. These barriers may include low level of education attainment, training, CV writing skills, access to affordable transportation, addiction issues, driving license skills training or access to elements such as childcare, bank accounts, email address, PPS number or a lack of confidence. The employment mentors engage with the key stakeholders such as Limerick City Build Training Academy and Moyross Youth Academy, who are facilitating the delivery of industry led training through LCETB and employer led programmes.

Additionally, the Mentors have worked with TUS to support individuals into the Access to Apprenticeship Programmes.

Since 2021, 346 people have participated in the Outreach to Employment Programme. Participants have engaged with meaningful employment, training or educational opportunities since the programme began. 15% of people presenting ready for employment, 21% of people have been assisted with pre-development work, 30% of people have been placed in employment and 29% have accessed training and educational opportunities. The programmes success rate is evident with just under 5% having opted out of the programme since 2021.

#### **Jobs Fairs delivered across the four Regeneration areas**

The Outreach to Employment Programme, in partnership with TUS and the LCETB, host a jobs fair in each of the four Regeneration areas. Local community centres and schools are typically

used to host the events with a large emphasis placed on attracting local employers and community residents across all ages to come to the Fair and meet their future potential employer. Over 60 Employers' have engaged with the programme to date.

#### **Junior Careers Fair - including two site visits**

The objective of this initiative is twofold – engaging the children of the regeneration communities on their future employment opportunities while also including their parents.

The programme commenced in 2023 with the 6th class pupils from Corpus Christi school, Moyross and St. Mary's National School and their parents attending an event at Corpus Christi school. Five companies attended in the school hall to demonstrate the work of each company. Interactive stands were staffed by Irish Rail, Takumi Precision Engineering, Johnson & Johnson and H & F Electrical.



A selection of the stands at King's Island Community Centre, St. Mary's Park, during the October Jobs Fair



Children from Corpus Christi Primary School, Moyross, at Analog Devices as part of the Junior Careers Fair



Teachers from Corpus Christi Primary School, Moyross, alongside staff from Analog Devices and Limerick City and County Council's Regeneration Department as part of the Junior Careers Fair

In Part 2 of the Junior Careers Fair in 2024 students and their parents visited both the Analog Devices International and Irish Rail campuses, to gain direct insight of the working environment. Further site visits will take place early in 2025.

### **Employer Roadshow Construction Industry**

focused Event in partnership with Intreo  
The Employer Roadshow, hosted by Intreo and in partnership with Limerick City and County Council, took place on the 10 September in the Strand Hotel Limerick.

The Mayor of Limerick, John Moran opened the event and welcomed the engagement with local employers in the construction industry. Key speakers from Intreo, Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB), Limerick City Build, TUS briefed many local businesses in the construction industry about the supports and services available to them.

A presentation was delivered highlighting the opportunities available to Regeneration communities through the Outreach to Employment Programme. The event was very well attended with over 20 employers from the Construction Industry at the event. It provided



The Intreo Employer Roadshow, in partnership with Limerick City and County Council saw key speakers from Intreo, LCETB, TUS Midwest briefing many local businesses in the construction industry about the supports and services available to them.

the employers with a networking opportunity and also the opportunity to learn more about the Employment and Youth Charter included in the Government's national employment strategy under Pathways to Work 2021-2025.



## Regeneration Social

Under the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan (LRFIP), the Economic and Social Intervention Fund (ESIF) is the main funding vehicle for social regeneration. The fund underpins the LRFIP's primary objectives and aims to close the gaps with the average population. Its goals are to increase access to opportunities for residents of the regeneration areas and adjoining disadvantaged areas. It also aims to improve service provision coordination across the statutory and voluntary / community sector.

Projects supported by the ESIF fall under the following themes:

- Education and Learning;
- Health, Wellbeing and Ageing Well;
- Employability and Work;
- Families and Youth at Risk;
- Community Development and Safety.

ESIF calls are open to projects that meet the objectives under the LRFIP. Valid applications are forwarded for consideration to the Local Strategic Advisory Monitoring Group (LSAMG) and its Sub-committees. The Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government (DHLGH) approves the grants following a recommendation from the LSAMG.

The LSAMG is made up of Chief Officers and Senior Managers from the relevant statutory and public agencies, together with community representatives. It oversees the overall programme and makes recommendations of allocations. The sub-committees operate within the respective themes outlined above. Their membership is drawn from the public service and its service partners.

In 2024, a wide range of statutory and community organisations were funded to deliver projects that support the regeneration communities. Smaller grants were allocated to develop and run local events and programmes, including youth activities and wellness initiatives.

ESIF continued to support core projects that provide targeted services to the regeneration communities, with many organisations using the grant as seed funding to attract other grants. ESIF allows organisations to develop innovative programmes and run outreach programmes into the communities. Relevant community centres were also invited to apply for core costs to support the delivery of a wide range of services and activities within the communities.

Early intervention remains a core priority for ESIF, with many projects taking place in schools. For instance, in the ESIF-funded HAPPEE programme, UL, Limerick City and County Council, St. Gabriel's Foundation and six primary schools collaborate to place UL students training to be physiotherapists, occupational therapists and speech and language therapists directly into classrooms.

Projects under the theme of employability and work also demonstrated a commitment to early intervention, including work experience and mentorship programmes designed to introduce young people to the opportunities of employment, training, apprenticeship and further education.

The social and economic regeneration team works closely with funded organisations and agency partners to ensure a coordinated approach to service delivery. Key agency partners include the LCETB, TUSLA, the Department of Social Protection and the HSE.

A key feature of the work of the Directorate on ESIF in 2024 is supporting, through focussed interventions, the key social infrastructure such as schools, community centres in disadvantaged areas of Limerick City. Working with partners from the other state agencies this has enabled the mainstreaming of some interventions hence reducing any reliance on ESIF that may have developed over the years.

### **St. Mary's National School Nurture Room**

In 2024, St. Mary's National School developed a nurture room on site with the support of ESIF funding. The nurture room creates a secure, homelike environment for children in need of social, emotional, or behavioural support. The nurture room is designed to support children to relax and engage, with a kitchen table, comfortable furniture, and a dedicated teacher to support them.

Children who are supported in the room have been able to re-engage with learning, showing increased participation and concentration. Parents have also seen improvements at home, and regular communication with the families has created a shared sense of purpose, reinforcing the idea that education is a partnership. In its first year, the nurture room has exceeded expectations, demonstrating the benefits of emotional and social development in education.



- St. Mary's National School developed a nurture room on site during 2024

### **St. Gabriel's Foundation – Post Diagnostic Training Support Programme**

With the support of ESIF funds, St. Gabriel's Foundation expanded its Post Diagnostic Training Support Programme through the South City Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) with the addition of a senior psychologist. The programme is designed to support families following a child's diagnosis of a complex physical or behavioural disability or life-limiting condition. The programme offers immediate guidance and assistance to help families understand and cope

with the diagnosis. It also includes ongoing support including one-to-one and group counselling, clinical and planning sessions, as well as aftercare. The grant has allowed St. Gabriel's to provide free assistance to disadvantaged families, ensuring they receive the support they need around their child's diagnosis.

St. Gabriel's is a not-for-profit registered charity that works to improve the lives of children living with disabilities, helping them to reach their full potential and supporting their families. The Foundation is going through the process towards the full refurbishment of the former Southill Junior School to develop a base for its work in Limerick's South City. This programme will strengthen its offering to the south side, including the regeneration areas of Southill and Ballinacurra Weston. Currently, St. Gabriel's South City CDNT works with 432 families and this number continues to grow.



St. Gabriel's Foundation expanded its Post Diagnostic Training Support Programme thanks to ESIF Funding in 2024

## Regeneration Physical

### New Housing Developments

Housing contracts completed in 2024:

- Sheep Street (8 units), King's Island - completed in October.
- Dalgaish Park / Cosgrave Park (57 units), Moyross - final 27 units completed in November.
- Churchfield Phase 2 (11 units), O'Malley Park, Southill - completed in September.

Housing contracts awarded / under construction in 2024:

- Churchfield Phase 2 (26 units), O'Malley Park, Southill - construction continued.
- Limerick Infills (24 units), Carew Park, Southill; Delmege Park and Hartigan Villas, Moyross - construction commenced.

Housing projects at design stage in 2024:

- Cosgrave Park Phase 2 (20 units), Moyross - preparation of Park 8 application in progress
- Pineview Gardens Infill masterplan progressed.
- Cliona Park Phase 4 progressed.

Housing projects at concept stage in 2024:

Outline design to accompany 2025 capital appraisals to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage developed for new infill schemes in St. Mary's Park, Moyross and Southill.

### House Refurbishments

#### Major Refurbishments

- Three units were completed in Southill.
- At the end of 2024, there were a further 14 Major refurbishments ongoing in Southill, Ballinacurra Weston, Moyross and St. Mary's Park.
- Three further units were being designed to accommodate a relocation of Barnardos from Bishop Street to St. Mary's Park.

#### Minor Refurbishments

- 14 houses were refurbished in 2024 - all were allocated.
- Approval has been sought and awaited from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the refurbishment of a further 11 houses.



Houses at Churchfield, O'Malley Park, among a number of units delivered in Regeneration areas during 2024



### Thermal Upgrades

Thermal Upgrade contracts awarded/under construction in 2024:

- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 121, Moyross (47 Units) - works nearing completion.
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 122, St. Mary's Park (19 Units) - works completed.
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 123, Southill (53 Units) - works continued.
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 124, St. Mary's Park (17 Units) - works completed.
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 125, St. Mary's Park (26 units) - works commenced.
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 126, Southill (50 Units) - works substantially completed.
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 127, Ballinacurra Weston (12 Units) - works completed.
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 128/129 St. Mary's Park (25 Units) - works commenced.

Thermal Upgrade contracts at pre-construction stage in 2024:

- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 121A, Moyross (18 Units).

Thermal Upgrade contracts at design stage in 2024:

- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 130, Moyross (55 units).

Thermal Upgrade mop-up contracts at scoping stage in 2024:

- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 131A (29 Units), Southill and Ballinacurra Weston – awaiting Stage 3 approval.
- Thermal Upgrade Contract No. 131B (16 Units), Moyross and St. Mary's Park – awaiting Stage 3 approval.

### Demolitions

There were 12 strategic demolitions carried out in 2024 to facilitate new development and safer communities as per Table 1.1 below:

Area	Total
St. Mary's Park	1
Moyross	1
Southill	10

Table 1.1: Strategic demolitions in Regeneration areas 2024

### Connectivity and Public Realm Infrastructure

Schemes progressed through the planning process in 2024 included:

- Southside Connectivity Project, proposals interfacing with private lands (Part 8).
- Southside Connectivity Project, proposals for public lands (Section 38).
- Moyross Avenue Upgrade, eastern section (Part 8).
- Moyross Avenue Upgrade, western section (Section 38).
- Southill East West Link Road was successful in securing Stage 1 Approval, in Quarter 2, 2024.

### Community and Social Infrastructure

Continued to improve communities by delivering community infrastructure projects including:

- **Southill Play Space and Associated Landscaping**  
A Main Contractor for the provision of the Southill Play Space and Associated Landscaping was appointed in Quarter 3, 2024.
- **King's Island Community Centre**  
An Architect lead Integrated Design Team (IDT) was appointed Quarter 1, 2024. The IDT progressed the design in parallel with the King's Island Community Centre Working Group. The King's Island Community Group endorsed the direction of the design in Quarter 4, 2024.

- **Restoration and Refurbishment of Turner Vinery, Southill House**

Restoration works under the Historic Structures Fund from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, progressed at the Turner Vinery in Southill House with the appointment of contractor James Oliver Hearty & Sons. This project is co-financed by the Council and the Department of Housing under the Limerick Regeneration Programme.



Students from the University of Limerick attended Turner Vinery, Southill House to learn about the ongoing restoration and refurbishment.

- **St. Mary's Park, Multi-Use Games Area**

The proposal for the Muti Use Game area progressed to pre-Stage 2 Approval via the appointed Integrated Design Team.

- **Southside Integrated Youth and Community Centre**

- Southill Site A, Bawnmore / Kilmallock Road. Integrated Sports Campus received Stage 1 approval, Quarter 3 2024.
- Southill Site B1, Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), lands to east of Southill Hub Community Centre received Stage 1 approval Quarter 3, 2024.
- Southill Site B2, St. Gabriels Foundation, Southill Junior School received Stage 1 Approval Quarter 3, 2024.
- Southill Site C, Our Lady Queen of Peace Community Centre received Stage 1 Approval, Quarter 3, 2024.

- **Equine Centre**

The Regeneration Directorate were successful in securing Stage 1 Approval for delivery of the Limerick Equine Centre in Quarter 1, 2024.

- **Southside Boxing Academy**

Major refurbishment works were completed at the Southside Boxing Academy, Galvone Industrial Estate in August. The works were funded by the Limerick Regeneration Programme and included replacement of the existing roof with an insulated metal cladding system. Additional improvements included a new heating system, emergency doors, installation of low energy lighting and improved toilet facilities. The improved facility reopened in September 2024.



The completed Southside Boxing Academy at Galvone Industrial Estate, funded by the Economic and Social Intervention Fund (ESIF).

## **Sports Partnership**

In 2024, Limerick Sports Partnership secured funding in the region of €1,400,000 (includes Core, Education, and programme funding) from multiple funders to assist with its operations and programme delivery. Key funders are the Limerick City and County Council, Sport Ireland, Limerick and Clare Education Training Board's 'UBU Your Place Your Space' Fund, the HSE, Dormant Accounts funding and the European Social Fund programme.

The three key functions of the LSP are to Inform, Educate and Enable, individuals and communities to engage in physical activities. The overall aim is to increase participation numbers by 1% annually and decrease sedentary behaviour by 0.5% annually.

Through the Limerick LSP's initiatives, a total of 22,042 participants engaged in programmes, events, and education initiatives throughout 2024. There was worthwhile success with targeted programmes, resource development and equipment provision to those in disadvantaged communities. Through Active Cities parks development, Club and Community grants and Community sports hubs an additional 30,000 people participated in physical activity in unstructured and structured initiatives.

An extended summer provision across all marginalised groups and additional supports for the Ukrainian community was facilitated through summer camp opportunities. These camps were hosted in Ballyhoura mountain biking, Kayaking on the Shannon, UL Sport Climbing wall and the multi-Sport camps at UL Sport Arena. The additional funds created the opportunity to have more young people experience the weeklong camps at the University of Limerick.

Having access to St. John's Pavilion in the City Centre enabled an accessible facility to target communities for different programmes.

The programmes and initiatives are delivered by the dedicated LSP staff, which is a team of 17. These include seven dedicated Sports Development Officers as well as and a Sports Inclusion Officer

These are supported by two Community Sports Hubs Officers.

The LSP was successful in securing an Active Cities Officer, a Physical Activity for Health Officer (supporting people with Chronic Conditions) and a Sport4Empowerment Officer.

The Sport4Empowerment officer has a remit to support participants from targeted communities using sport for social change. Education and employability are key objectives. The LSP has a Governance and Finance officer and an Education and Communications Officer to support the operational and development team.



## Council Sporting Facilities

The Sports and Recreation Department has responsibility for Limerick City and County Council leisure facilities. These include the Limerick Regional Athletics Hub, Rathbane Golf Course, Askeaton Pool and Leisure Centre and Grove Island Leisure Centre. The Department is also involved with council owned sports pitches, which may be utilised by Sporting Club(s) under an annual Licence agreement. Other pitches are operated by Sporting Clubs under the provisions of a medium to long term lease arrangement.



Two time Olympian, Sarah Lavin puts members of West Limerick A.C through their paces at the Limerick Regional Athletics Hub, Newcastle West



### **Limerick Regional Athletics Hub**

2024 was the first full calendar year of operation for the Limerick Regional Athletics Hub (LRAH). The facility has two anchor volunteer led clubs; West Limerick A.C. and St. Mary's A.C. Both clubs promote Athletics using the resource as their primary training area for their members.

15 schools participated in the National Initiative, Marathon Kids, an eight-week, in-school programme. This focused on nutrition, health, wellbeing and general fitness. It concluded with two training sessions facilitated by Irish Olympian, David Gillick - one session was held in the Limerick Regional Athletics Hub, Newcastle West and the second session was held in the Boro Park, Janesboro, Limerick. Over 200 pupils attended these sessions, with an excess of 500 completing the overall programme throughout the city and county.

In addition, five primary and six secondary schools used the facility for their physical education and sports days - exposing children to this IAAF standard facility.

The 2024 Limerick Juvenile Athletics Championships took place at the track in May. This was extremely successful with over 1,000 people in attendance as participants or spectators. During the same month, the Hub hosted the local Newcastle West Community Games event. 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.

The two anchor clubs, West Limerick A.C. and St. Mary's A.C., trained weekly at the facility. West Limerick used the facilities on Tuesdays and Thursdays, totalling 94 sessions. This was for both adult and juvenile sessions, with an average attendance of 70 children and a further 70 adults using the track and complimentary in-field amenities.

The track welcomed two-time Irish Olympian, and Limerick native, Sarah Lavin, for a training session with Junior members of West Limerick A.C. in early November.

St. Mary's A.C. attendance has been consistent, with an average of 70 training weekly with several athletes competing at both local, provincial and national level in a variety of disciplines.

Limerick Sports Partnership have also accessed the track for some of their suite of activity programmes.

Following essential maintenance of the facility in August, the LRAH recorded an average of 228 individual users per month, from September to December. The track has 1,119 registered individual users, who may access the track seven days a week using the online booking system.

### **Grove Island Pool and Leisure**

A significant investment in Grove Island commenced in 2024 with an expansion of the existing gym and studio facilities. This is phase one of an overall refurbishment programme. Work has commenced on phase 2 the upgrade of pool side facilities with the tender documentation completed in 2024. Phase 2 work is planned to start later in 2025. A new 10-year licence with the operator AURA Leisure was also agreed during 2024. Pay as you go, monthly and annual membership options are available at the facility.

There was an average of over 1,200 casual visits per month recorded for Pool, Gym, Fitness and Aqua Classes.

Aura Swim Academy Swimming Skills programmes were delivered to over a dozen Limerick primary schools, including St. Mary's Primary School, St. Paul's National School and Limerick School of Project.

Swim Clubs, including Limerick Masters, Seal Swim Club and Limerick Swim Club have consistently used the pool for their training programme delivery.

### **Askeaton Pool and Leisure**

In June the contractor commenced the Flood Protection and Mechanical/Energy Upgrade Works to the Askeaton Pool and Leisure Complex.

These works included raising of the existing plant room floor to reduce the risk of future flooding, replacement of mechanical and electrical equipment and the associated water treatment systems.

The project is co-financed by Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund grants of €1.265m.

### **Rathbane Golf Course**

Energy and accessibility improvement works within the Clubhouse were substantially completed in Quarter 4 2024. This work included replacement of existing windows and fire doors, installation of new attic insulation and alteration works to the wheelchair accessible toilet. This project was part funded by a Sports Capital Grants awarded in 2021 to the value of €37,783.00.

For the 5th year in a row the course won the All-Ireland Business Federation public golf course of the year award. The golf course operator Mack Group Ltd. has targeted Students and Junior Golf, using digital marketing and a loyalty programme to increase usage at the course.

Mack Group Ltd reports over 2,000 rounds played by Students and Juniors. This has increased from a low base of just 100 per annum a couple of years ago.

The total number of rounds played at Rathbane during 2024 was 25,351, which compares similarly to both 2023 and 2022. The green fee rounds continued to increase, reaching 9,976 in 2024. Third level students are the largest portion of this accounting for approximately 17.5% (1,736 rounds).

### **Sports Capital Funding**

In 2023 the Directorate applied for Sports Capital Funding for four projects across Limerick City and County. These were approved in September of 2024. All four projects are aimed at improving existing sporting facilities in across a variety of sports, in different areas of Limerick City and County;

- Grove Island Leisure Centre refurbishment works.
- Hospital Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) refurbishment works.
- Kennedy Park floodlighting project.
- Mungret Park playing pitches project

### **Similar Access Policy**

The National Sports Policy 2018 – 2027, adopted by the Government of Ireland, states that: “Sport must be welcoming and inclusive, offering appropriate opportunities for participation and improvement to all.” The Similar Access Policy aims to promote inclusion with equal access to facilities.



# HOUSING





# HOUSING

The Housing Directorate is responsible for the selection, funding and delivery of housing projects under the Government's 'Housing for All' programme and works to fast-track the supply of housing to address homelessness.

The Housing Directorate of Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) is committed to addressing housing needs, enhancing quality of life, and fostering community focussed sustainable development. The Directorate's work is structured into four main divisions: Strategy and Non-Local Authority Housing Construction, Local Authority Housing Construction and Maintenance, Housing Support Services and the Housing Welfare and Traveller Accommodation Unit.

## **1. Strategy and Non-Local Authority Housing Construction:**

- **Housing for All Programme:** Targets for social housing include 2,693 new homes by 2026. Progress from 2022 to end 2024 shows 1,091 build units were delivered and a further with 1,610 units already approved and 1,545 units in proposal stages.
- **Acquisitions and Leasing:** Focus on tenant-in-situ acquisitions to prevent homelessness and various leasing schemes like Repair and Lease and Long-Term Leasing.
- **Affordable Housing:** A pipeline of 653 affordable homes identified for delivery by 2026, exceeding the government target by 389 homes at this time. Pipeline increasing month-on-month.
- **Policy Formation:** Development of housing strategies and policies, including the Limerick Housing Delivery Action Plan and other pilot housing schemes.

## **2. Local Authority Housing Construction and Maintenance:**

- **Build Program:** Delivery of housing on council-owned lands, major refurbishments, and energy efficiency retrofits.
- **Maintenance:** Addressing voids and response maintenance to ensure quality and safety of housing stock.
- **Land Acquisition:** Active in purchasing landbanks for future housing projects, supported by the Housing for All Land Acquisition Fund.

## **3. Housing Support Services:**

- **Homelessness:** Support services to those who are facing/are homeless, expansion of emergency accommodation, and implementation of the Housing First initiative.



- **Disability Services:** Addressing the needs of households with disabilities and providing housing adaptation grants.
- **Tenant Services:** Assessment and allocation of housing, management of rent collection, community sustainment programs, and private rental inspections to ensure compliance with regulations.

#### **4. Housing Welfare and Traveller Accommodation:**

- **Traveller Accommodation:** Provision of suitable housing options and management of the Traveller Accommodation Programme.
- **Welfare Services:** Support for applicants and tenants facing complex issues, including coordination of supported tenancies and nominating applicants for age-friendly developments.

## **Housing for All**

'Housing for All' launched on 2 September, 2021 is the Government's housing plan to 2030. It is a multi-annual, multi-billion euro plan, which will improve Ireland's housing system and deliver more homes of all types for people with different housing needs. The policy has four pathways to achieving housing for all:

1. Supporting home ownership and increasing affordability;
2. Eradicating homelessness, increasing social housing delivery and supporting social inclusion;
3. Increasing new housing supply;
4. Addressing vacancy and efficient use of existing stock.

The pathways contain actions to be taken by government departments, local authorities, State agencies and others. The pathways are supported by actions to enable a sustainable housing system.

#### **Limerick's target under 'Housing for All'**

In Limerick, the delivery target for 2022-2026 is 2,693 new homes. This is twice the target under the 'Rebuilding Ireland' programme from 2018-2021 of 1,365 homes. Build is the main delivery streams to deliver 2,693 new homes with 40% to be delivered by Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) and 60% by Limerick County and County Council.

The table below provides the Government's target for Limerick for each year from 2022 to 2026.

<b>Delivery Type</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>
New Build	9000	9100	9300	10000	10200
Acquisitions	200	200	200	200	200
Long Term Leasing	1300	1200	800	200	0
Mortgage to Rent	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Short Term Leasing	200	200	200	200	200
RLS	120	130	130	140	140
	<b>11820</b>	<b>11830</b>	<b>11630</b>	<b>11740</b>	<b>11740</b>
<b>Limerick Targets Total 2693</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>562</b>

New-Build	Buy	Lease
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SHIP Construction and Turnkey</li> <li>• Regeneration</li> <li>• CAS Construction and Turnkey</li> <li>• AHB CALF Construction and Turnkey</li> <li>• Part V</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SHIP Acquisitions</li> <li>• Tenant in Situ Acquisitions</li> <li>• Buy and Renew Acquisitions</li> <li>• Regeneration Acquisitions</li> <li>• CAS Acquisitions</li> <li>• AHB CALF Acquisitions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repair and Lease</li> <li>• Mortgage to Rent</li> <li>• Payment and Availability Agreements</li> <li>• Long-term leasing (rollover leases from 2020 as Limerick has no target from 2022-2026)</li> </ul>

In 2024, Limerick City and County Council delivered 363 Build Units and 13 Leasing units for a combined total of 376 towards our Housing for All targets. 62 Tenant in Situ acquisitions were also completed in 2024 by LCCC and Approved Housing Bodies.

## HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES

### Assessments and Allocations

#### Housing Assessments

The total number of social housing applicants approved on Limerick City and County Council's social housing waiting list at 31/12/2024 is 6,211. This includes applicants who have secured Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) accommodation and Council/Approved Housing Body tenants who have been approved for a transfer.

The Net Social Housing Need excluding HAP and RAS tenants and Council/AHB tenants that have been approved for housing is 2,778 households.

#### Summary of Social Housing Assessment

The Annual Housing Assessment of Need was successfully completed by the Assessment Team, which consists of contacting approved housing applicants in order to establish if they are still interested in social housing support and to establish if they are still eligible.

This is a statutory requirement to be carried out on an annual basis as notified by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

#### Housing Allocations

Allocation of social housing increased significantly in 2024 with 437 units from Limerick City and County Council housing stock allocated to successful applicants and a further 294 social housing nominations made to Approved Housing Bodies.

#### Housing Rents

Rent collected by the Council is calculated in accordance with the Differential Rent Scheme. The rent is based according to the total income of the household. The rent collected in 2024 amounted to €20.5 million. The overall collection rate was 71%.

The rent assessment unit continued during 2024 with a global review of rent accounts as well as responding to tenant led rent reviews. Arising from the rent reviews, rent changes were applied to over 3,000 rent accounts. An additional 378 new rent accounts were set up during 2024. The number of rent accounts managed in 2024 was 5,816.

### Community Sustainment

The Council's Community Sustainment Unit provides an essential service supporting tenants and residents of its estates and Council accommodation generally. The key objectives of the Unit include Garda vetting of prospective tenants, comprehensive tenancy induction for new occupants, follow-up visits to such tenants to

assist them in bedding into their new homes and communities, setting up of Residents Associations within council owned estates, developing partnerships with other relevant state agencies such as An Garda Síochána, HSE, Tusla etc., and forging closer links with Approved Housing Bodies.

The Unit is comprised of three main strands:

- Estate Supports
- Individual Tenant Support
- Tenancy Enforcement/Anti-Social Behaviour

### **Estate Supports**

The main aim of this programme is the provision of supports with a view to improving quality of life and developing community spirit within Council estates. To this end, the Unit works closely with existing residents' associations and encourages the formation of new such groups, supporting the implementation of key actions identified by them to improve their estates. The support provided varies from assistance in provision of minor infrastructural works such as fencing, walls, signage etc. to softer measures such as committee skills training, contributing towards clean-up days, events for children etc.

There were many projects carried out in 2024 by the Community Sustainment Unit in conjunction with the residents and in collaboration with other units across the Council. These included:

- Johnsgate Revitalisation including themed tree and bulb planting, insertion of nameplate, cleaning of footpaths including at the footprint of Limerick City Walls and engagement with the community in preparation for the Pride of Place Competition. The cross departmental engagement with Johnsgate Residents Association contributed to the success of this group obtaining first place in the Urban Neighbourhood under 3000 Category in November
- Enhancement works at entrance to Corrigg Wood estate, Foynes



Kilmurry View planting works



Hillview Drive Estate Enhancement Works



- Replacement of safety railing at laneway between Kylefea and Glenma Estates, Croom
- Physical improvement works at the front of Kilmurry View Halting Site including deep cleaning, planting of trees and plants/flowers
- Communal area cleaning at The Lime Yard, Pallaskenry, The Gardens, Ballingarry and Gregane Court, Caherconlish.
- Planting with residents in new estates at Station Close Knocklong, Bank Place Hospital and Hillview Drive, Abbeyfeale
- Fence installed at Ballyhoura Heights, Kilfinane
- Clean-up of laneways at Scanlon Park, Castleconnell, Sycamore Drive, Bruff, Riverview Estate, Kilmallock, Mullaly Lawn, Cappamore, De Valera Park, Bruree and Churchview Askeaton
- Continued engagement with Thomondgate Residents Association has resulted in landscaping works being carried out in both Canon Breen and High Road Thomondgate complimented by the painting of two murals in Arlington Terrace and High Road. The landscaping works carried out within the public open green spaces included the planting of trees, plants, shrubs and bulbs and removal of waste.
- Refurbishment of the Pairc Luachra Apartments in Abbeyfeale.

### **Individual Tenant Support**

The Unit provides a service, supported by the Housing Welfare Office, of intensive support for tenants who may be identified as vulnerable or in need of such help for any other reasons. In addition, there is monitoring of individual tenancies that may require particular attention to prevent problems occurring. Tenancy Induction training is provided for all newly appointed tenants. Among other things, the terms of the Letting Agreements, which are signed, are clearly explained so that the obligations of both the tenants and, indeed, the Council, are clearly understood. The number of such training meetings conducted in 2024 was 395. Community Sustainment Officers carried out in excess of 3,128 visits/inspections during the year, and this figure included visits to newly appointed tenants to offer support.

### **Tenancy Enforcement/Anti-Social Behaviour**

The Unit deals with in excess of 600 complaints each year, with approximately half of these relating to anti-social behaviour. The Council's policy is to respond to these issues quickly and firmly and it works in close co-operation with An Garda Síochána where necessary. The Council uses all legislative tools available to it to try to deal with anti-social behaviour. One of the most effective tools is seeking Excluding Orders against individuals barring them from specified estates for periods of up to three years. Limerick City and County Council is one of the most proactive local authorities in the country in the use of this measure. In the period 2013-2024, 25 such orders were secured. The Unit carries out formal Garda checks on prospective new tenants. Approximately 1,246 such formal reviews were undertaken during the year.

### **Tenant Purchase, Loans, Grants, Private Rented Inspections, Title Deeds/Rectifications**

#### **Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016**

71 applications have been received by Limerick City and County Council under the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016. Of these, 44 were deemed eligible to proceed to letter of offer. By year-end of 2024, 14 properties had been sold by Limerick City and County Council under the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016.

#### **Housing Loans**

The Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL) is a government backed mortgage scheme available nationwide from all local authorities. Limerick City and County Council offer first-time buyers' mortgages and Fresh Start Applicants a 90% loan-to-value (LTV) up to a maximum property value of €300,000 in Limerick. €5,590,000 was allocated for new lending approvals in 2024. Loans approved in principle remain valid for six months.

59 applications have been received by Limerick City and County Council under the Local Authority Home Loan Scheme for 2024. Of these 40 are for private purchase, 17 for tenant purchase and two for Affordable Home Scheme. 20 loan applications have been approved in principle to a total value of €2,857,890 of these 10 relate to the Tenant Purchase Scheme, where tenants were approved funding to buy the property they were renting from Limerick City and County Council. Seven loans, based on 2024 approval in principle, to a total value of €1,042,450 have been drawn down by applicants in 2024.

### **Housing Grants – Adaptation, Mobility Aid and Housing Aid for Older People**

A total of 1,107 housing adaptation grants were completed under the Housing Adaptation, Mobility Aids and Housing Aid for Older People grant schemes in 2024. The total expenditure on grant schemes was €6,136,814.07. See table above.

In addition to private grants, adaptation works were completed to a further 64 local authority properties at a total spend of €907,081.18.

The Disabled Persons Grant (DPG) scheme provides funding for extensions and adaptations to existing social housing stock for older people and people with a disability such as grab rails, disabled access ramps, wet rooms, downstairs bedrooms etc. The scheme also provides extensions in cases of overcrowding.

January - December 2024		Total
<b>Mobility Aid Grants</b>	No. Approved MAG Expenditure No. Paid	62 €198,373.66 55
<b>Housing Adaptation Grants</b>	No. Approved HAG Expenditure No. Paid	393 €3,075,034.20 365
<b>Housing Aid for Older People</b>	No. Approved HOP Expenditure No. Paid	814 €2,863,406.21 687
<b>YTD Total No. Approved</b>		1269
<b>YTD Total Monies Paid</b>		€6,136,814.07
<b>YTD Total No. Paid</b>		1107

## Private Rented Inspections

Housing Authorities are required to carry out inspections of private rental properties under The Housing (Standards For Rented Houses) Regulations 2019 to ensure that rental properties comply with the minimum rental standards. Limerick City and County Council has carried out a total of 3,433 inspections in 2024 which is 23% of the private rented accommodation in Limerick and an increase of over 50% of the number of inspections carried out in 2023.

## Deed of Discharge/Consent to Sale/Cottage Purchase Annuity/Ground Rent/Title Deeds

Limerick City and County Council carried out	
Deeds of Discharge	203
Consents to Sale	61
Cottage Purchase Annuities	39
Ground Rent Applications	45
Title Deeds	161
Title Deed Rectifications	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>519</b>

## Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

The number of properties in the private rented sector under the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) was 622 and a further 615 tenancies were supported under RAS in the Voluntary Housing Sector at year-end.

41 Notices to Quit were received in RAS in 2024. Five of these units have been purchased in 2024 and a further two units are at sale agreed status. The Rental Accommodation Scheme is striving to find alternative accommodation for these households via all means, i.e. other RAS properties, Council housing stock and Approved Housing Bodies.

## Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

There were 1,915 active HAP tenancies in Limerick City and County Council at the end of December 2024.

HAP enables Limerick City and County Council to provide housing assistance for households who live in the private rented sector who qualify for social housing support. The HAP Unit set up 203 HAP tenancies in 2024.

118 Notices to quit were received in HAP in 2024. 7 of these units have been purchased in 2024. A further seven properties are at sale agreed status.

## Homeless Operation

Homelessness is currently at the highest level in the history of the Irish State. Locally Limerick City and County Council have experienced high levels of Homeless presentations throughout 2024.

The number of homeless cases as of the 10 December is as follows:

- Individuals - 229
- Families - 96 families  
(144 adults and 163 children)

The Limerick Homeless Action Team continues to operate a multidisciplinary team, staffed by operational clinical staff from the HSE; Support Staff from the Approved Housing Body Sector; Welfare Services from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection and Accommodation/Case Managers from the Local Authority. In the changing homeless environment, prevention of Homelessness has become as important as the delivery of accommodation services. In this regard engaging with those who are at risk of becoming homeless is critical. The rollout of Family Hubs, the Place Finder Service, shared living options, street outreach services and Housing First has added to the service options available and our ability to respond to the issue of homelessness in the Region.



The Homeless Action Team was developed as a direct result of actions arising from the Government's National Homeless Strategy. As part of Limerick City and County Council's Housing Support Services, the team is focused on ensuring that all services to homeless persons are delivered to the highest quality and in a co-ordinated and integrated way. This allows a wide range of supports to be put in place, not only giving people a roof over their heads but also providing elements of health care essential to the needs of homeless persons via a multi-disciplinary team. On presentation to the Homeless Action Team, service users are fully assessed to ensure that all their economic, health and accommodation needs are addressed in line with Homeless Policy.

In 2024, the following services continued to be rolled out in relation to supporting those at risk of or experiencing homelessness in the Limerick region:

- **Housing First**

Housing First targets people who have experienced long-term homelessness and are currently experiencing mental health and/or addiction issues. Housing First has resulted, to date, in 45 tenancies being set up since February 2018, housing individuals in permanent, stable and supported housing units for homeless single persons. The original pilot from 2018-2021 has ended with Housing First becoming an integral part of the 'Housing for All' plan.

- **HAP Placefinder**

Two HAP Placefinder roles were integrated into the Homeless Action Team. The Placefinder Service is also one of the key responses from Limerick City and County Council in the prevention of homelessness, as it engages with HAP tenants and landlords who may be involved in Notice-To-Quit (NTQ) in an effort to avoid the closure of a tenancy. Additionally this year, this team also assess families for CRTiS and TiS schemes.

- **Family Hubs**

Suaimehneas, Childers Road Family Initiative and Dublin Road Family Initiative have been operational throughout 2024 catering to families experiencing Homelessness.

- **Tenancy Sustainment**

Clients access this support through various service providers in Limerick. Tenancy Sustainment Services provide a key response in preventing tenancies from ending and in providing support to clients to maintain their accommodation.

- **Street Outreach**

The Street Outreach team from Ana Liffey have seen an increase in numbers accessing this service throughout 2024, each client is engaged with to ensure a seamless support is offered.

- **Clann Nua**

This is a shared living model of housing that began operating in September 2020. The initial targeted group was males, older clients with predominately mental health issues. This service expanded in 2024 to include a female unit that accommodated four females.

The service was supported in 2024 in acquiring a building through Ship/ CAS construction that will result in 19 new units (seventeen shared) becoming operational early 2025.

- **Mirth**

Ship/CAS Construction project was completed in 2024. This has resulted in 18 single units becoming available. This facility will become operation early 2025.

## HOUSING WELFARE AND TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION

### Housing Welfare

In 2024, the Housing Welfare Team continued to circulate the new revised housing welfare referral form to various internal and external agencies. A housing welfare referral database is in operation in order for housing welfare staff to track referrals. The development of the database in conjunction with the referral form has proved to be a very useful tool when highlighting vulnerable customers to the Allocations Team. 261 Housing Welfare referrals were received in 2024, of which a fifth were housed successfully.

The Housing Welfare team work collaboratively with all departments in Housing. In 2024, the Housing Welfare Team focused strongly on streamlining the Supported tenancy service with staff from the Community Sustainment team and some Approved Housing bodies. The Housing Welfare team liaise with specialised services, statutory bodies, NGOs and Approved Housing bodies in order to explore options and improve the quality of accommodation that vulnerable families and individuals may be residing in.

The Housing Welfare team also assess and nominate suitable housing applicants for age friendly accommodation with Approved Housing bodies and Voluntary Housing associations where vacancies occur. In 2024, the Housing Welfare team successfully nominated 70 housing applicants for suitable accommodation.

### Traveller Accommodation

The Traveller Accommodation Programme for 2019-2024 set out to accommodate 105 Traveller families over its lifetime. By December, 121 families were accommodated in Limerick.

The Council approved the new Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 – 2029 in November. The programme sets out to accommodate 120 families over the next five years.

The new Local Traveller Consultative Committee (LTACC) was formed in September and two meetings have taken place to date.

In 2024, Limerick City and County Council's Traveller Accommodation Unit:

- Have undertaken 39 social work assessments for individual housing applicants.
- Received 614 new requests for maintenance in the Metropolitan area within Traveller Specific Accommodation through Customer Services and Sugar CRM/Dynamics. 504 requests were completed and closed in the same period. The remaining cases are being dealt with by staff in the Traveller Accommodation Unit or have been closed due to the unfounded nature of some requests.
- 12 Traveller Clinics took place in 2024. 28 attended the clinics.
- Worked closely with Community Sustainment team and Local Traveller groups to improve amenities in Traveller specific accommodation in the Metropolitan area, in particular with families in Kilmurry View and Clondrinagh.
- Capital Works undertaken at:
  - **Askeaton**
    - Works completed on knock through and refurb of property in Askeaton
    - Planning permission approved for extension to property in Askeaton.
  - **Hillview Halting Site, Rathkeale Upgrade**
    - Planning approved, works tendered and contract awarded. Works have commenced on the project in December 2024
  - **Childers Road**
    - Refurbishment commenced in 4 living units in November / December 2024
  - **Dormant Account Fund**
    - Works completed in Kilmurry View and Clondrinagh Park.

- **Birch Cottage**
  - Property demolished, with the plan to develop the area to provide improved accommodation to the families who currently reside in Clonlong. This is subject to planning permission and funding.

## LA HOUSING CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

The team is dedicated to delivering the build programme on local authority owned lands and the refurbishment and maintenance of social housing stock.

The Local Authority new build units are funded by the Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP) and are constructed on Local Authority owned land.

Name	No. of Units
Clonmacken	43
Single Units (Build)	18



Clonmacken



Clonmacken

**Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP) has a four Stage approval process.**

Project Name	Phase	Project Status	Total Units Expected
Mary Street – next to Gaelscoil	1/1	Capital Appraisal	30
Mayorstone Drive, Mayorstone	1/1	Capital Appraisal	2
Ferndale, Ennis Road	1/1	Capital Appraisal	5
Kennedy Park Infill	1/1	Capital Appraisal	25
The Rivers, Annacotty	1/1	Capital Appraisal	15
West End, Church Street, Dromcollogher	1/1	Capital Appraisal	2
Bishop Street Limerick	1/1	Capital Appraisal	1
Davin Gardens	1/1	Capital Appraisal	1
Radharc Na Cille Glenfield Kilmallock	1/1	Capital Appraisal	1
Convent Street, Abbeyfeale	1/1	Capital Appraisal	1
East Square, Askeaton, Co.Limerick	1/1	Capital Appraisal	1
Sharwood, Newcastle West	1/1	Capital Appraisal	1
Corgigg Foynes	1/1	Capital Appraisal	1
Thomond Gate Park	1/1	Stage 1 Approved	12
Wolfe Tone, Kilmallock	1/1	Stage 1 Approved	3
Bridge Street Post Office	1/1	Stage 1 Approved	6



**Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP) has a four Stage approval process.**

Project Name	Phase	Project Status	Total Units Expected
Former Garda Station, Galbally	1/1	Stage 1 Approved	4
Former Garda Station, Shanagolden	1/1	Stage 1 Approved	3
Scouthall Site, Bawnmore Road	1/1	Stage 1 Approved	6
Upper William Street	1/1	Stage 1 Approved	7
Michael Street, Limerick	1/1	Stage 1 Approved	9
Ros Mor, Crossagalla Site A & B	1/2	Stage 1 Approved	14
New Road, Thomondgate	1/1	Stage 2 Approved	6
Mulcair Drive, Annacotty	1/1	Stage 2 Approved	6
Cliona Park Phase 4	1/1	Stage 2 Approved	20
Deerpark, Adare South Site	1/1	Stage 2 Approved	18
Mountcollins	1/1	Stage 2 Approved	4
Cluain Dara, Broadford	2/2	Stage 2 Approved	7
Meadowbrook, Mill Rd	1/1	Stage 2 Approved	7
Brugh na Deise, Bruff, Co. Limerick	1/1	Stage 2 Approved	18
O'Connor Park, Ardagh	1/1	Stage 3 Approved	10
Deerpark, Adare North Site	1/1	Stage 3 Approved	13
Barnakyle, Patrickswell	1/1	Stage 3 Approved	24
Sycamore Crescent, Newcastle West	1/1	Stage 3 Approved	31
Church Glen, Ballylanders	1/1	Stage 3 Approved	9
Larch Court, Kennedy Park	1/1	Stage 3 Approved	1
St. Helens, Clancy Strand	1/1	Stage 3 Approved	1
Hyde Road	1/1	Stage 3 Approved	1
Hyde Ave, Ballinacurra Weston	1/1	Stage 3 Approved	1
Glasgow Park, Limerick	1/1	Stage 3 Approved	1
Main Street Croom	1/1	Stage 3 Approved	1
Collinstown, Bruff	1/1	Stage 3 Approved	1
Main Street, Oola	1/1	Stage 3 Approved	1
Lower Maiden Street, Newcastle West	1/1	Stage 3 Approved	1
Wolfe Tone, Deebert, Kilmallock	1/1	Stage 3 Approved	1
Lodge Building at Patrickswell	1/1	Stage 3 Approved	1
Crawford Street, Bruff	1/1	Stage 4 Approved	2
Cluain Dara, Broadford	1/2	Stage 4 Approved	11
Radharc Cillin, Kilfinane	1/1	Contract Awarded	10
Clare Street, Limerick City	1/1	Contract Awarded	7
St. Mary's Terrace Ballinacurra	1/1	Contract Awarded	1
Roseville, Janesboro	1/1	Contract Awarded	1
Hyde Road	1/1	Contract Awarded	1

### Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP) Renew

SHIP Renewal is a housing delivery stream, which is 100% exchequer funded construction on derelict vacant properties. These can be derelict properties acquired or derelict properties vested under a compulsory acquisition. SHIP renewals are managed and delivered by Limerick City and County Council under LA Construction and Maintenance unit.

In 2024, the Local Authority refurbished and delivered 18 units using this funding stream. These units would have detracted from the character and appearance of the neighbourhood.

### Single Units Refurbished Under Other Schemes

Funding Stream	Number of Units Completed
Buy and Renew	4
Part V Off Site	5
SHIP Acquisitions	19
Voids	2

### VOIDS and Planned Maintenance Programme 2024

Limerick City and County Council refurbished 138 units in 2024 at a cost of €1,862,711, of these 73 were partially funded under the Voids Funding Scheme 2024 with €803,000 being recouped from the Department. These units were completed using a combination of direct labour teams and contractors depending on available resources and scale of works required on the unit. Units were returned to stock for reletting throughout the year. Limerick City and County Council completed planned maintenance works on 27 units under the Planned Maintenance scheme in 2024 along with 27 Stock Condition Surveys. The nature of the works included providing new chimneys, windows, doors and roof repairs. Funding of €198,504 was drawn down upon completion of works during 2024. A tender competition was completed in Quarter 4 2024 for Stock Condition Surveys to cover in excess of 6,000 Council properties. A contract will be awarded in Quarter 1 2025 over a three-to-five-year period.

In 2024 this Council commenced an extensive boiler servicing and upgrade programme under Planned Maintenance. In 2024, 1,897 dwellings had their heating system serviced, and repaired where necessary, at a cost of €472,000.



Hillview Grove, Doon

### **Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme 2024**

The Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme (EERP) 2024 provides for the deep retrofit of existing social housing stock and is funded through the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The dwellings are retrofitted to achieve a minimum BER rating of B2 where the fabric of the building is upgraded, and energy efficient heating system is installed. Works were completed to retrofit six occupied housing units with €59,980 being recouped from the Department; 30 units are currently at contract stage while an additional 50 units are at design/tender stage. The units are spread across the four Municipal Districts.

### **Response Maintenance**

Housing Maintenance received 14,165 new requests for maintenance through Customer Services and Dynamics CRM in 2024. An average of 278 requests were closed out per week in 2024. This is an increase of 4.6% in new requests for maintenance from the previous year.

The response maintenance works undertaken during 2024 were completed in compliance with HSE and Health and Safety guidelines. Customer Services provided a vital role in this regard in advising tenants of this in advance.

Though issued in 2020 the Tenants Handbook continues to have a positive impact with regard to additional clarity for tenants of services that are provided under response maintenance.

### **Defective Concrete Block Grant Scheme**

During 2024, Limerick City and County Council continued the administration of the Defective Concrete Blocks Scheme for eligible houses in Limerick within Department guidelines. A total of 44 applicants registered on the Departmental Portal. 30 full applications were received with 27 applications being validated. 28 applications were deemed to have met the damage threshold for eligibility for the Scheme. 18 applicants were approved for a remediation grant option. 3 applicants were refused a remediation grant option by the Housing Agency on the basis that defective concrete blocks were not the cause of the applicants dwelling issues.



### **Communal Areas**

In 2024, a new team was set up to manage maintenance complaints in respect of Communal Areas to deal with hallways, stairs, fire alarms, security alarms, lifts, lighting in Council owned apartments/ flats/group housing. Projects, which were undertaken during 2024 were as follows:-

- Oak Lodge – Roof Repairs, new heating boilers, and internal bathroom repairs.
- Vizes Court – Zinc Roof replacement, and replacement of seven no. smoke ventilation units.
- Convent Street – Painting and gutter cleaning of apartment block.
- Pairc Luachra, Abbeyfeale – Painting and gutter cleaning of apartment block.

Thomond Court – Appointment of Contractor for painting and gutter cleaning of apartment block, in Spring 2025.



Thomond Court



Pairc Luachra, Abbeyfeale

## Strategy And Non La Housing Construction

The team is dedicated to delivering:

- Formulation of Housing Strategies and Policies
- Build programme with Approved Housing Bodies and Private Developers
- Acquisition Programme
- New Build Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme
- Lease Programme
- SMART Housing Programme

### Affordable Housing Fund

The Affordable Housing Fund (AHF), which assists local authorities in developing affordable housing schemes, has replaced the Serviced Sites Fund (SSF).

AHF applications and approval for funding, enabling works, viability reviews, site investigations and preplanning design have been progressed throughout 2024 on each of the following former SSF sites:

- Toppins Field – Proposed development of minimum 284 residential units, of which 143 units are proposed for affordable purchase housing
- Guinness Lands – Proposed development of minimum 285 residential units, of which the majority are proposed for cost rental housing
- Clonmacken Lands – Proposed development of 25 residential units, of which 15 units are proposed to be affordable purchase housing
- Sonny's Lands – Proposed development of 21 residential units, of which 19 units are proposed to be cost rental housing
- Curragower Lands – Proposed development of 6 units, which are proposed to be cost rental units

A proposed 250 unit residential scheme at Dromdarrig, Mungret of which 181 units are earmarked for Affordable Purchase was progressed during 2024 with funding approval received from the DHLGH in November.

The Land Development Agency (LDA) progressed work on delivering 81 cost rental homes at The Mills in Castletroy in Limerick. The 81 homes include 36 one-bed and 45 two-bed apartments. This is the first time that cost rental homes have been delivered by the LDA in Limerick and will be open for applications in January 2025. They have been delivered in partnership with Cairn Homes through the Government's Project Tosaigh initiative.

The Cost Rental Equity Loan (CREL) scheme supports the delivery of Cost Rental homes by Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) in Ireland. Limerick City and County Council has supported AHB's in 2024 in the delivery of the schemes at Castlerock, Castleconnell (four cost rental units) with Respond Housing and The Mills, Castletroy Phase 2 (19 cost rental units) with Circle Housing.

Limerick City and County Council continued to support AHBs throughout 2024 in progressing schemes to be delivered in the future.

### Build Programme with Private Developers

Land owned by Limerick City and County Council that is appropriate for building new housing is finite. The Housing Strategy and Housing Need Demand Assessment (HNDA) informs the policies and objectives of the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, playing a key role in translating national and regional housing policies to the local level.

Following the launch of a Turnkey campaign in 2019, the interest generated will see Turnkeys continuing as a key delivery mechanism in the housing programme. The Turnkey campaign is about getting live planning permissions that have stalled, particularly due to financial issues, up and running. In locations where we have a housing need, Limerick City and County Council enter into a contract with the developer to buy the properties at a price that includes a builder's profit. The current tenure mix policy developed with the elected members is to target a min. 20%

private – presumption in favour of private sale; min 50% private affordable – presumption in favour of affordable sale. This policy has a cap at 30% for social. 30% to now include rightsizing and also Part V (10% or 20%). Therefore 70% min (50%+20%) to be private sale, affordable sale and/or cost-rental for working households. This policy applies to all schemes over 40 units as a target.

### **Pipeline Sites for Social Housing**

Limerick City and County Council recognises the State's requirement for public housing and the target for Limerick of 2,693 new homes by 2026 under 'Housing for All'. The Council are focussed on significantly increasing new build delivery and to move away from delivery via long term leasing and acquisitions that may impact on the first-time buyer market.

After consultation with the DHLGH, the Council published its final Housing Delivery Action Plan in August 2022, which sets a strong delivery pipeline from 2022 to 2026 to ensure that each settlement of the City and County reaches its assigned target.

By 2026, we are confident of meeting our delivery target for social housing of 2,693 homes. In addition, all new Council led schemes are providing for 15% to be designed to a Universal Design standard so that it can meet the needs of widest range of tenancies possible (disability, elderly etc.).

### **Advance Purchase Turnkeys for Affordable Housing and Mixed Tenure**

Two Affordable Housing campaigns were launched in 2024, seeking homebuilders and housing developers in Limerick city and county to consider offering unbuilt houses or apartments with planning permission to Limerick City and County Council under an advance purchase turnkey arrangement. Limerick City and County Council sought to enter into advance purchase arrangements to secure turnkey homes in areas where the need, for affordable housing, was most acute. The campaigns were targeted at advance purchase opportunities for a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 150 dwellings in any one scheme.

Limerick City and County Council sought to agree advance purchase of unbuilt turnkey properties 'off-plan' in the following areas:

- Abbeyfeale
- Adare
- Bruff
- Caherconlish
- Cappamore
- Castleconnell
- Doon
- Hospital
- Kilmallock
- Limerick City (all areas including suburbs)
- Newcastle West

These advance purchase opportunities were put in place to provide for accelerated delivery of housing generally, and primarily, to provide affordable homes for eligible applicants nominated by the local authority in areas where a significant need for affordable has been identified. Affordable purchase schemes in Brú na Gruadán, Castletroy, Limerick (25 affordable purchase units) and Woodfield Manor, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick (21 affordable purchase units) continued to be progressed during 2024. Phases 2 to 4 of Brú na Gruadán, Castletroy, Limerick were launched in 2024 as well as a scheme of seven affordable purchase units (Phase 1) in Castle Place, Newcastle West, County Limerick. An additional pipeline of potential affordable purchase





Woodfield Manor

units, via advance purchase turnkey expressions of interest, were progressed with home builders and developers throughout 2024 with a view to progressing them as affordable housing schemes in the future.

An additional pipeline of potential affordable purchase units, via advance purchase turnkey expressions of interest, were progressed with home builders and developers throughout 2024 with a view to progressing them as affordable housing schemes in the future.

To launch the affordable purchase housing schemes in Castle Place and Newcastle West, an online portal was created for the submission of affordable housing scheme applications.

### **Partnerships with the Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) Sector to Deliver Cost-Rental and Downsizing**

In addition to the targeted provision of social housing units by 2026 under 'Housing for All', the expanded provision of new and affordable homes is another key objective. The Housing Directorate is setting out an ambitious agenda for increasing the supply of new private homes and particularly new affordable homes for starter families and key-workers on suitable sites in its ownership in the city.

### **New Build Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme**

In June, Limerick City and County Council launched the third New Build Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme in Dalgaish Park, Moyross, Limerick. This

scheme targets existing working Local Authority and AHB tenants and households on HAP and RAS and provides the chance to purchase discounted market homes. A new build home can be purchased at 40 - 60% discount depending on income band of eligible applicants. The properties are located close to several schools, including a third level college and is a short walk from Thomond Park. The homes have large back gardens, high levels of floor, wall and roof insulation as well as air to water heat pumps.

The fourth New Build Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme was launched in Baker Place, Bridge Street, Knocklong, Co. Limerick in December. A mix of spacious three and four-bedroom properties are available at discounted prices to eligible applicants. The properties provide a great opportunity for families to put down roots and are located close to Hospital, Kilmallock and Galbally. The homes have spacious, private back gardens and have an A BER rating.

### **Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs)**

Approved Housing Bodies are non-profit organisations that provide and manage good-quality housing at affordable rents for households on the Local Authority housing waiting lists.

Examples of Limerick Based AHBs: Arlington Novas Ireland CLG, Mid-West Simon Community CLG, Athea Voluntary Housing Association CLG, Dromcollogher Community Housing Association CLG, Focus Housing Association CLG, Glin Homes for the Elderly CLG, Cluid Housing Association CLG. AHBs work closely with Limerick City and County Council to meet their housing targets under Housing for All.

The Capital Assistance Scheme provides funding to AHBs to deliver housing to the priority groups of Elderly, Homeless and Disability by way of a loan of up to 100%. These loans are non-repayable, provided that the accommodation continues to be let to eligible categories of persons and is properly maintained.

The Capital Advance Leasing Facility Scheme is a facility available to assist AHBs to access private or Housing Finance Agency (HFA) loan finance for the purchase and construction of units that will then be made available for social housing under the leasing initiative.

Under the Mortgage to Rent scheme (MTR) borrowers who are in mortgage arrears can apply to become a social housing tenant of an AHB. The property is sold to the AHB, which in turn leases the property back to the borrowers.

The Approved Housing Bodies Regulatory Authority (AHBRA) was established in 2021 to regulate Approved Housing Bodies operating nationally. Limerick City and County Council has a local oversight role in the regulation of Approved Housing Bodies and at present there are approximately 53 Approved Housing Bodies operating in Limerick City and County. As per the most recent AHB Occupancy Audit for the year 2022, AHBs collectively own, lease and manage 2,404 homes in Limerick with new units continuously increasing annually via the schemes mentioned above.

### **Acquisitions**

Housing Acquisition continues to be an effective housing delivery mechanism. Mindful of first-time buyers, the need for vacant possession and house price inflation, Limerick City and County Council is focusing on houses that are vacant for long periods and in areas where the private market deems the refurbishment of such properties unviable to reactivate. There was an increase in Notices to Quits in 2024 the Council have delegated sanction from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to purchase homes where the tenant was at risk of homelessness. AHBs can still access funding for acquisitions under Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) and Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF) streams but the national target overall under 'Housing for All' is capped.

### **Tenant in Situ**

Limerick City and County Council operated the tenant in situ scheme throughout 2024. Under this scheme Limerick City and County Council can purchase a property where a tenant who is eligible for social housing (e.g. HAP/RAS recipients, on the Council's social housing waiting list) has been given a valid notice to quit, and cannot provide alternative accommodation.

We enquire if the landlord is willing to sell to Limerick City and County Council. And if they are, we ensure the current house is suitable for the tenants in terms of size and condition. The Council also ensure that the house value is within an independent market valuation range, and it is inspected to determine the level of work required to bring it up to Social Housing Rental Standards.

Once the above has been completed we proceed to bidding on the property and if the owner is happy to accept our offer, we go sale agreed and solicitors are engaged. The process is monitored weekly through internal and external meetings to ensure everything progresses as quickly as possible.

## Leasing

Under 'Housing for All' the following leasing streams were pursued in 2024;

- **Repair and Leasing Scheme (RLS)**  
The scheme is aimed at better utilisation of existing housing stock. Properties must be vacant for at least one year, and property owners and contractors engaged under the scheme must demonstrate that they are tax compliant through the provision of tax clearance certificates on request. The Repair and Leasing target for 2024 was nine.

The ideal units targeted under the RLS will require a low level of investment to bring them to the required standard for renting. Capital repairs cost on a single unit must not exceed €80,000 (including VAT). All direct leases must be for the duration of between 5-25 years. No shorter terms will be eligible. The cost of the repairs shall be offset against the agreed rental payment until the value of the works is repaid.

There was an expansion to the RLS which removed the requirement that a property owner must be unable to fund or access funding to bring vacant properties into compliance with the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019.

This modification applied to certain categories of vacant properties only. These are:

- Vacant commercial properties;
- Vacant units associated with a commercial property (e.g. over a shop);
- Vacant former institutional buildings and
- Unfinished developments where these have been vacant for a significant period of time.

This expansion was on a pilot basis. Approval was required to be granted by the local authority or DHLGH, where appropriate. The pilot period was extended to 30 June 2024.

- **Short Term Rental Agreements (RAS type)**  
Short Term Rental Agreements (RAS type) are used to secure the availability of privately owned property for the purposes of social housing support. The Short Term Rental Agreement target for 2024 was 20. The arrangement takes the form of a series of contracts between a property owner, a housing authority and a tenant. The arrangements are normally for periods of up to 10 years, but can be for the duration of the existing tenancy only. The arrangements are structured so that the housing authority can allocate tenants to the property while the property owner is obliged to be the landlord to the tenant nominated by the housing authority.

- **Mortgage to Rent**  
The Mortgage to Rent (MTR) scheme is a government scheme, which helps homeowners who are at risk of losing their homes due to mortgage arrears. It lets homeowners in mortgage difficulty switch from owning their home to renting their home as social housing tenants.

The MTR scheme is a social housing option only available if one is eligible for social housing support and the mortgage is unsustainable. To qualify for the scheme the property owner must have participated in their lender's Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process (MARP), a process in which the lender and the owner must take part in order to try to resolve their financial difficulties.

Approved applicants will voluntarily surrender possession of their home to their mortgage lender who immediately sells it to a housing association who will then rent it back to the family. The proceeds from the sale of the property to the housing association will go towards the mortgage debt and the applicant makes an arrangement with their lender for any remaining payments owed, if any. There is



potential to buy back the home after a period of 5 years if the household's financial situation improves.

- **Long Term Leasing**

For a percentage of market rent a property owner makes a home available to a housing authority for 10 to 25 years. Under the arrangement, the housing authority is landlord to the sub-tenant (qualified household) and takes on responsibility for the upkeep of the interior of the property. The property owner retains responsibility for the structure of the property. 25 units of the Housing for All Long Term Leasing target have been assigned to the local authority for 2024 and 2025.

- **Research and Policy Formation**

A New National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022–2027 (NHSDP) was launched on the 14 January 2022 and clearly sets out Government's vision for the delivery of housing and related support services for disabled people over the next five years.

Limerick City and County Council finalised the Housing Disability Strategy Plan in early 2022. The vision of Limerick City and County Council's Housing Disability Strategy Plan is to facilitate access, for people with disabilities, to the appropriate range of housing and related support services, delivered in an integrated and sustained manner, which promotes equality of opportunity, individual choice and independent living.

All new Council schemes are designing 15% of total units to Universal Design standard which is a wheelchair liveable standard. 1.8m turning circles for wheelchairs in kitchen, living, bathroom, bedrooms and hallway. Floor areas are +12m<sup>2</sup> above minimum floor area standard.

As part of the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027 and 'Theme 2 – Interagency Collaboration and the Provision of Supports', the first meeting of Regional Interagency Groups was held on the 27 September.

The role of these Groups is to bring together the local authority dedicated disability representatives and the HSE dedicated housing representatives for both Disability Services and Mental Health Services to allow for cooperation and collaboration at an operational level. The Regional Interagency Group offers an opportunity for stakeholders working in local authorities and the HSE to work collaboratively, build relationships, improve knowledge within their organisations, share best-practice methods, and implement effective delivery of housing and supports for disabled people in their areas.

Quarterly meetings of the Housing and Disability Steering Group (HDSG) took place in 2024 with key service providers (HSE, Acquired Brain Injury Ireland, Enable Ireland, Brothers of Charity and other key service providers). A HDSG sub group was also set up in 2024 between Limerick City and County Council and the HSE to discuss priority cases. A memorandum of understanding was agreed between the two stakeholders to deal with disability cases going forward.



Thomond Court



Hillview Drive enhancement works



Clonmacken



Mountcollins



Kilfinane refurbishment



**SMART Housing Programme**

The Limerick Mayoral Programme 2024 – 2029 outlines a clear vision and objective to address the immediate housing shortage through the deployment of short-term, modular “SMART” housing solutions, which will provide affordable rental options as a transitional measure on short life sites as they await the permanent long-term housing solutions. This plan prioritises innovative and sustainable approaches, such as modular housing units, aiming to deliver up to several thousands of units depending on demand in the local housing market being unmet by traditional methods of delivery in the short to medium term.

‘SMART’ stands for short-term modular affordable rental transition housing.

The goal is to begin by activating state lands and establish infrastructure that enables future expansions, ensuring new residents can integrate into existing or developing communities promptly. This model will also work with large employers/ educational institutions who are prepared to invest in land activation for their workforce/students.

Additionally, the plan will leverage upcoming major events, like the Ryder Cup, to accelerate key infrastructure projects, such as modular accommodation for workers, which can be repurposed for Limerick’s stock to alleviate housing pressure.

Work commenced on this programme during 2024 with the following activities being completed:

- Commenced extensive market engagement with manufacturers, designers, architects, professional bodies and other experts experienced in Modern Methods of Construction from Ireland, UK, Europe and the US.
- Completed case studies from the UK and Europe.
- Completed workshop for the Elected Members.
- Set up a working group with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage which meets weekly.
- Completed procurement of consultants for preparation of Preliminary Business Case.
- Completed procurement of town planning consultants for specific advice on SMART Housing and affordability assessment.
- Commenced a marking sounding exercise to assist in gathering industry views on the feasibility of delivering Modern Methods of Construction which will assist in defining a brief for future contracts.



# **TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY**









# TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY

The Transportation and Mobility Directorate plays a vital role in the delivery of transport infrastructure for Limerick City and County.

The Directorate leads in the development of quality transport infrastructure for Limerick, the day-to-day maintenance of the road network and the development of sustainable travel options, thereby playing a major role in climate change mitigations.

The Transportation and Mobility Directorate is responsible for policy and strategy and supports and administers the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee (SPC). The Directorate has the lead role in the prioritisation and funding of all major physical and infrastructure development projects relating to roads and sustainable Travel schemes. The Directorate also incorporates the Mid-West National Road Design Office (MWNRDO), which is responsible for delivering major infrastructural projects including the N/M20 Cork to Limerick Road Scheme and the Foynes-Limerick Road (including bypass of Adare). The MWNRDO also manages the Limerick Greenways on behalf of TII.

The Directorate also works closely with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), the National Transport Authority (NTA) and the Department of Transport (DoT) on the delivery of major road projects and an extensive programme of active travel projects.

The Directorate will also work with the NTA and the consultant team to finalise the draft Limerick City Centre Transport Plan for public consultation early in 2025.

We will continue to work with the NTA into 2025 to facilitate the proposed improved Bus network and services under Bus Connects and to assist in developing and implementation of the Transport Plan for Limerick City as set out in the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS) to enhance sustainable connectivity and mobility through the region.



## TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT STRATEGY

### Limerick City Centre Transport Plan

Limerick City and County Council, in partnership with the National Transport Authority and Jacobs Consultants, have commenced the development of a new Limerick City Centre Transport Plan, as mandated by Objective TR 046 of the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028.

#### Key Objectives

The overarching objective of the Transport Plan is to create a City Centre where people will seek to live, shop, work, invest and socialise. To achieve this objective, the Plan will focus on the transport needs of Limerick City, considering the likely future growth in the central city area and the requirements of the city to facilitate its main commuter routes / corridors.

The work will culminate in the Limerick City Centre Transport Plan which will set down how the provision of transportation will change to facilitate the implementation of both the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 and Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS), outline potential new transport network arrangements to ensure that the transportation provision within the city is balanced towards the movement of people and goods rather than the movement of private vehicles.

#### Preparation of the plan follows seven clearly defined steps:

Step	Status
1. Inception	Complete
2. Establish Scope and Objectives (includes Pre-draft survey, Gap analysis)	Complete
3. Baseline Assessment (Includes retail survey, policy review, Parking and access overview etc.)	Complete
4. Option Identification and Development (Includes modelling and multi-criteria analysis, case studies etc.)	Well advanced
5. Plan Preparation (includes environmental assessments)	Q4-2024
6. Public Consultation (includes Stakeholder engagement)	Q1-2025
7. Plan finalisation	2025

## Bike Week 2024

Bike Week 2024 was an opportunity for Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) to celebrate and promote cycling as a sustainable mode of transport and a fun leisure activity. A weeklong schedule of free bicycling events was hosted from the 11– 19 May throughout Limerick City and County.

Bike Week kicked off with a family bike ride 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.

Primary and Secondary 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.





## European Mobility Week

European Mobility Week took place from 16 -22 September and is an initiative aimed at promoting sustainable and active modes of transport. During this week-long campaign, the Council committed to raising awareness about sustainable mobility and inspiring behavioural change towards active and sustainable travel methods, including walking, cycling, carpooling, and public transport.



European Mobility Week 2024

## ELECTRIC VEHICLE STRATEGY

Travel and Transport Strategy team completed the Limerick Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy. The strategy takes a proactive approach in assessing the expected power requirements on the network and determining the necessary number of charge points needed to support the growing number of electric vehicles across Limerick. In tandem with the development of the strategy document, Transport Strategy have progressed the development and delivery of a pilot EV charging project which will be operational in 2025.

## Limerick Road Safety Plan

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

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

The Limerick Road Safety Plan, spanning the period to 2030, is aligned with the Government's Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030, with a commitment to 'Vision Zero,' ultimately striving for zero deaths and serious injuries on the roads by 2050. The strategy is led by a Safe System approach, which is viewed as best practice globally in the delivery of road safety strategies. Key aims of the Limerick Road Safety Plan include creating safer road environments, improving cooperation among agencies, promoting responsible road user behaviour through education and awareness, and supporting national road safety objectives. The Road Safety Working Together Group, comprising representatives from Limerick City and County Council, An Garda Síochána, Emergency Services, and Community Organisations, played a pivotal role in developing the plan. Their collective dedication reflects a shared commitment to fostering positive change and enhancing road safety in Limerick.



Road Safety Working Together Group



## Bloodmill Road

During 2024 approval was received from An Bord Pleanála for the Bloodmill Road Extension Scheme. The approved development will involve the completion and delivery of a new and improved link road, which will accommodate public transport, cycle and pedestrian connections in the area.

The scheme will encourage the uptake of more sustainable transport options by providing safer road infrastructure for vulnerable road users. The scheme will provide high quality facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and the mobility impaired with a view to encouraging modal shift from private car use to more sustainable, active travel options such as walking and cycling.

The project also includes the construction of a new culvert across the Towlerton Stream.

Construction works commenced in October, 2024 and the project is due for completion Quarter 1 2025.



Bloodmill Road Extension Scheme

## BusConnects Limerick

BusConnects Limerick progressed during 2024 and is a key part of the Government's policies to improve public transport and address climate change in Ireland's major urban centres. In December 2023 the National Transport Authority (NTA) published the final new bus network for Limerick. The new network will be delivered on a phased approach from 2025. Key benefits of the new network include:

- An approximately 70% increase in the amount of bus services in Limerick city and its suburbs.
- An extension of bus services to new areas with more routes.
- A new 24-hour bus service operating between University Hospital Limerick, the City Centre and the University of Limerick.

The Council has commenced liaison, site analysis, route option reviews with the NTA design team with a view to their implementation of the improved services over the next 2 years.

## Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road

The Tender for the Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road Main Works Contract was awarded to Wills Bros Ltd at the end of 2024. Works are expected to commence in Q1 2025. The full scheme will take approximately 24 months to complete broken down into 2 Phases.

Phase One will see the completion of the Mainline Dual Carriageway from Coonagh Cross to Knockalisheen Road including works on the Old Cratloe Road and the new Moyross Link Road- Expected Duration 12 months.

Phase Two is the completion of the full road reconstruction of Knockalisheen Road to Watch House Cross including the reconstruction of Ballynanty Railway Bridge- expected duration 12 months.

## ACTIVE TRAVEL

The Active Travel team, through funding from the National Transport Authority (NTA), has been continuing to upgrade and expand Limerick's cycling and pedestrian networks in 2024. The National Transport Authority allocated €21 million in funding to the Active Travel team for 2023. The actual drawdown of funds from the National Transport Authority for 2024 was €27.3m. This was possible following allocated funding to other local authorities not being drawn down, allowing Limerick to recoup further funding from the Government's overall capital allocation to active travel spend. The surplus funding has been drawn down in respect of eligible incurred expenditure.

It's estimated around 13km of Active Travel infrastructure in the city and county has been completed since the team was established in 2021. A further 21km (approx.) of Active Travel infrastructure is in the design process.

### Completed Schemes

#### Patrickswell Village Renewal Scheme

The works were completed and officially launched in January 2024. Pedestrians have been prioritised in the implementation of the scheme with controlled crossing points and improved sightlines for safety purposes. Traffic calming features have also been provided, along with bus stops in the village centre, providing facilities to encourage a modal shift in the community. Opportunities to link in with current developments in the village were optimised, including opening up a large plaza area in front of the Community Centre to extend out to the road edge, with seating and mature trees provided. This new, improved space provided for under the scheme will be a focal point for the village, enhancing the offering of the community centre to include open air events such as markets and music sessions.



Patrickswell Village Renewal Scheme



Patrickswell Village Renewal Scheme

#### Childers Road Active Travel Scheme

The Scheme was delivered in two phases:

1. from the Kilmallock Road to the Roxboro Roundabout (completed in 2023)
2. from the Roxboro Roundabout to the Ballinacurra Road junction (completed in 2024)

The second phase of the project was completed and the overall works were officially launched in April 2024. The works have included:

- Installing cycle lane separators
- Junction tightening
- New pedestrian crossing points at Roxboro Roundabout
- Footpath widening and improvement works for accessibility





Childers Road Active Travel Scheme



Childers Road Active Travel Scheme

- Associated landscaping works
- Raised tables and junction off selected feeder road
- Front of school improvement works at local schools

Works to improve crossings and footpaths at the entrance to Our Lady Queen of Peace National School in Janesboro and Our Lady of Lourdes National School, Rosbrien Road have also been conducted as part of the Scheme. These works will also benefit children attending the Midwest School for the Deaf campus.

### Father Russell Road Active Travel Scheme

The Scheme was completed and officially launched in October 2024. The link provides segregated cycle lanes on both sides of the road from Quinn's Cross to the junction with the Gouldavoher residential area. The footpath and cycling facilities at Racefield Roundabout have also been upgraded, along with overall improvements to crossing facilities for pedestrians and cyclists at junctions.

Bus stops along the route have been upgraded, enhancing the current 301 Bus Eireann service that stops on the road. Upgrade works to side junctions and new road surfacing has also taken place, enhancing safety for all road users along the Father Russell Road.

Significant landscaping improvements are included in the project, enhancing the visual appeal of the area.



Father Russell Road Active Travel Scheme





Father Russell Road Active Travel Scheme

### Junction Tightening/Pedestrian Crossing Schemes

Junction tightening and Pedestrian Crossing schemes were delivered in the following areas:

- Kildimo National School
- Askeaton National School
- Abbeyfeale
- Newcastle West
- Doon
- Knockainey National School



Askeaton National School



Athlacca Footpath

### Permeability Measures

Permeability measures, to improve ease of movement for people for walking, wheeling and cycling, were delivered in the following areas:

- Bruree
- College Court, Castletroy
- St. Senan's Terrace, Croom
- Courtenay Laneway, Newcastle West
- Athlacca

### Towns and Villages

The Active Travel team, through funding from the National Transport Authority, is tasked with providing new and upgraded pedestrian infrastructure across Limerick City and County Council's four Municipal Districts. Funding for the Scheme is split equally across Limerick's four Municipal Districts. The projects are then delivered through the Roads, Traffic and Cleansing Department. Projects were delivered in the following areas in 2024:

#### Metropolitan Municipal District – Towns and Villages:

- College Park/Janemount Park, Corbally
- Ashleigh Woods, Newtown
- R511 Ballyclough

- Fairgreen, Singland
- Walnut Drive, Caherdavin
- Castleconnell
- Avonmore Road, Raheen
- Clarina
- Drombanna

#### **Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District – Towns and Villages**

- Croom
- Ballyhahill

#### **Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District – Towns and Villages**

- Bruree
- Caherline
- Ardpatrik

#### **Newcastle West Municipal District – Towns and Villages**

- Mountcollins
- Newcastle West Athletics Hub
- Carrigkerry
- Broadford
- Castlemahon
- Athea
- Kilmeedy
- Monagea

### **Safe Routes to School (SRTS)**

Limerick City and County Council's Active Travel team is tasked with delivering the infrastructure to provide the Scheme, following successful funding applications from the schools directly to the National Transport Authority. The following Safe Routes to School projects were delivered in 2024:

#### **Laurel Hill Avenue**

The project was completed in Quarter 2 2024.

The works that have been completed include:

- Areas built out for traffic calming
- A raised table area at the school entrance gates
- A new raised pedestrian crossing and raised table at the entrance to Laurel Hill Avenue



Laurel Hill Avenue Safe Routes to School

- New tactile paving
- Signage restricting traffic to “local access only” during school operational times (8am-9am and 2.30pm-4pm, Mon-Fri)

#### **St. Nesson's National School, Mungret**

These works were delivered in tandem with the ongoing construction of the R510 Raheen to Quinn's Cross Active Travel Scheme.

The works that have been completed include:

- Front of school treatment. These include measures to highlight to road users that they are within a school zone.
- New set down area constructed. This area is located approximately 300 metres adjacent to the school, opposite the Church Road junction.



St. Nesson's National School, Mungret Safe Routes to School



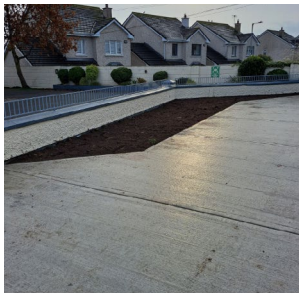
- Upgraded bus stop. This has been constructed opposite the school and is serviced by the 301 Bus Eireann service.
- Pedestrian crossing. A crossing, facilitated by markings and Belisha beacons, has been upgraded and is located approximately 50 metres adjacent to the school gates. The pedestrian crossing located at Lower Church Road remains fully operational.
- The informal one-way 'drop and go' area for vehicular traffic inside the car park in morning time will remain in place.

### **Caherconlish National School**

The works were completed in Quarter 4 2024.

The works that have been completed include:

- A raised Pedestrian Crossing on High Street
- Build outs for traffic calming purposes
- Junction tightening at Hillview Drive
- Footpath widening



Caherconlish Safe Routes to School

### **Hazelwood College, Dromcollogher**

The works were completed in Quarter 4 2024.

The works that have been completed include:

- Build outs for traffic calming purposes
- Junction tightening at Kells Cross (R519 and R515)

### **Crescent College Comprehensive, Dooradoyle**

The works were completed in Quarter 4 2024.

The works that have been completed include:

- A Pedestrian Priority Crossing at the entrance to Crescent College Comprehensive
- Junction tightening
- Installation of new tactile paving

## **Schemes under construction**

### **R510 Raheen to Quinn's Cross Active Travel Scheme**

Construction on this project began in July. The scheme will be approximately 980m in length when completed. It will provide segregated cycle tracks and footpaths, improved/optimised traffic lane widths and dedicated cycle and pedestrian crossing facilities between Quinn's Cross Roundabout and Raheen Roundabout.

Upgrade works to bus stops, side road junctions and new road surfacing are also taking place, along with landscaping works and Safe Routes to School treatments at St. Nessian's Primary school.

### **Mill Road Active Travel Scheme, Corbally**

Construction on this project began in Quarter 4 2023 and has been ongoing throughout 2024.

The project will consist of an off-road shared pedestrian/cycle facility from the junction of Corbally Road to the River Shannon viewing area. The project is 1.4km in length and will include traffic calming measures such as raised pedestrian crossings.



### **Plassey Park Road Improvement Scheme**

Construction on this project began in 2023 and has been ongoing throughout 2024. It is intended to provide the signalisation of the Plassey Road/ Plassey Park Road and Plassey Park Road/ University Road junctions. The works also include dedicated cycle and pedestrian facilities that will be approximately 750 metres in length. Bus lanes along both Plassey Road and Plassey Park Road are to be added, along with bus priority measures at both junctions.

### **Ros Mor Roundabout and**

#### **Active Travel Link**

Construction on this project began in 2023 and has been ongoing throughout 2024. A new three-arm roundabout to the entrance of the housing estate has been constructed. The 400 metre scheme extends to the Willows housing estate and will comprise of an off-road shared/cycle pedestrian facility.

## **Projects under development**

### **Safe Routes to School**

In November, seven more schools were added to the Safe Routes to School programme, following successful funding applications from the schools directly to the National Transport Authority (NTA). For the first time, schools on Higher Speed Rural Roads (HSRR) will be included in the programme. The Limerick schools to have been added to the Scheme are:

#### **School Zone Improvements:**

- Athea National School
- Scoil Mhuire National School , Murroe
- Shanagolden National School

#### **HSRR schools:**

- Carnane National School, Fedamore
- Glenbrohane National School
- Martinstown National School
- Scoil Ailbhe (Caherelly National School)

### **Corbally Road Safe Routes to Schools Scheme**

The Scheme has been undergoing Detailed Design in 2024. Construction is expected to begin in 2025.

### **Wickham Street to Clare Street**

A public information session on the progress of the Scheme was held in January. An independent Economic Assessment in respect of the project was published in September. It is anticipated a Part 8 planning application will be submitted in 2025.

### **St. Pauls to Ballykeefe**

The Scheme was approved by the Elected Members via a Part 8 planning application in February. The Scheme is now progressing through Detailed Design. It is anticipated a tender process for a contractor will begin in 2025, with construction to begin thereafter.



Part of proposed Wickham Street to Clare Street Scheme

### **South Circular Road**

The Scheme has been progressing through Detailed Design in 2024. It is anticipated a tender process for a contractor will begin in 2025, with construction to begin thereafter.

### **TUS Moylish to City Centre**

The construction tender package for this project was issued in Quarter 4 2024. It is anticipated that following this process, a contractor will be appointed and construction will begin in Quarter 1 2025.



TUS to City Centre

### **Castletroy Urban Greenway to National Technology Park**

A non-statutory public consultation period for the project ran from September to October 2024. It is anticipated statutory processes will begin in 2025.

### **Roxboro Road**

Options report completed in 2024. Statutory processes expected to begin in 2025.

### **Ennis Road**

Options report completed in 2024. Statutory processes anticipated in 2025.

### **Old Cratloe Road**

Engagement with stakeholders ongoing at the preliminary stages of the project. Non-statutory public consultation period and statutory processes expected to follow in 2025.

## **Other projects of note**

### **Bus shelters**

The Active Travel team was allocated €900,000 for Bus Shelter Enabling Works across 2024 and 2025. The funding enables works to take place at agreed locations in the following areas:

#### **Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District:**

- Loughill
- Shanagolden
- Askeaton
- Reens Pike
- Rathkeale (The Square)
- Ballyneety
- Foynes

#### **Newcastle West Municipal District:**

- Templeglantine
- Newcastle West
- Devon Cross (x2)
- Abbeyfeale (x2)

#### **Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District:**

- Knocklong
- Galbally
- Murroe
- Ballylanders
- Herbertstown
- Cappamore
- Doon

#### **Metropolitan Municipal District:**

- Caherdavin Church
- O'Connell Avenue
- New Road, Garryowen
- Mulcair Road
- Childers Road
- Clancy's Strand
- Drombanna
- Ballysimon Road
- Castleconnell (x2)
- Dublin Road



NO2 Monitors

## **No2 Air Quality Monitoring**

The Active Travel team has been continuing to monitor nitrogen dioxide levels across the Metropolitan area in 2024.

The locations being monitored are the following:

- Ballycummin Road, Raheen
- R510 Quinn's Cross to Raheen
- Fr. Russell Road, Raheen
- Doordoyle Road
- Childers Road (West)
- Childers Road (East)
- Plassey Park Road, Castletroy
- Corbally Road
- Mill Road, Corbally
- High Street (near Milk Market)
- Bellefield Gardens, Ennis Road
- Ennis Road (Lawn Tennis Club)
- Ennis Road (Gaelic Grounds)
- TUS Moylish
- Old Cratloe Road
- Brookville Avenue
- Scoil Mháthair Dé, South Circular Road
- Roden Street
- Ballykeefe
- Wickham Street
- Gerald Griffin Street
- O'Connell Street / William Street
- Brookville Avenue / Shannamore Park
- Brookville Avenue (no.88)



## Mid-West National Road Design Office

The Mid-West National Road Design Office is a regional road design office working on behalf of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) (formerly the National Roads Authority (NRA)), and Local Authorities, including counties Limerick, Tipperary and Clare. The Office is responsible for the design of new roads and road improvement schemes, bridge management, safety assessments, for the national primary and secondary road network on behalf of TII and the Local Authorities.

## Major Road Schemes

### Foynes to Limerick Road (including Adare Bypass)

This proposed road is 35km in length, and when completed will connect the Core port of Foynes to the motorway network near Limerick city. The road is comprised of the construction of approximately 15.6km of dual carriageway from Foynes to Rathkeale (with approximately 1.9km of single carriageway road between Ballyclogh and Askeaton) along with the construction of approximately 17.5km of motorway from Rathkeale to the existing motorway network at Attyflin. A Service Area is to be provided at Foynes and the proposed motorway will also provide a bypass of Adare village.

An Bord Pleanála approved the scheme with modifications on 30 August 2022. Three separate judicial review applications in respect of the decision were subsequently lodged in the High Court but all three were withdrawn in June 2023. This allowed the Council to formally take possession of the lands required for the Scheme and commence works across the site.

Throughout all of 2024, the Mid-West National Road Design Office oversaw the implementation of many advance/enabling works contracts for civil works, utilities diversions, fencing, hedge clearance, ground and archaeological investigations across the full extent of the project lands. Various contracts for environmental surveys were also implemented during this period.

Along with the forgoing contracts, two notable advance/enabling works contracts were prepared, tendered and awarded during the 2024 period.

Firstly, a Contract to construct the three rail bridges necessary to facilitate the project was prepared, tendered and awarded during the period. Construction commenced on the bridges in July 2024 and will continue into 2026. Two of these bridges are located on the Adare Bypass.

The second notable Contract prepared, tendered and awarded during 2024 was the Contract for the construction of the Adare Bypass. The Contract was awarded to Sisk Sorensen JV in December 2024 and construction is due to commence in early 2025.



Adare Traffic

### N/M20 Cork to Limerick Road Scheme

Limerick City and County Council published the most recent project update for the N/M20 Cork to Limerick Project in June 2024. The transport solution for the N/M20 Cork to Limerick Project is not limited to consideration of a single mode of transport but is based upon a holistic, multi modal view to improving connectivity, safety, and economic links between the cities of Cork and Limerick, and ultimately Galway.

The approach to the design of the N/M20 project is unique in Irish terms. It will not only address the major safety deficiencies on the existing N20 but introduce a suite of sustainable transport options which combined make the project highly innovative. The N/M20 transport solution will significantly enhance safety and journey time reliability for all transport users, improve the health

and wellbeing of the bypassed communities, support regional and local economic growth, and implement transport decarbonisation measures from the government's Climate Action Plan.

The latest project update was published on the 24 June to inform and consult with the public and stakeholders on the following elements:

Dual carriageway M20 motorway with a 120kph speed limit selected, following detailed appraisal of alternative road types. The M20 motorway will be five times safer than the current N20 single carriageway and reduces intercity journey times on average by 30 minutes.

As the largest single active travel project to be undertaken in Ireland, the project will provide up to 100km of safe, shared active travel pathways connecting communities from Blarney to Patrickswell and encourage walking and cycling for work, school, and leisure, linking communities, promoting healthier lifestyles, and reducing transport emissions.

The location of Transport Hubs identified for Rathduff, Mourneabbey, Mallow, Buttevant, Charleville, Bruree and Croom. These transport hubs will feature park and ride facilities for public transport, park and share, EV charging, and will be connected to local communities with the new active travel network.

A Freight Hub in Mallow will provide facilities for parking, welfare and EV charging for heavy goods vehicles in accordance with European and National transport policies.

The project will facilitate efficient public transport options, including the opportunity for quicker intercity express bus services and improved efficiency on existing bus services serving the communities between Cork and Limerick.

To improve existing infrastructure, the project will utilise over 60% of the existing N20 road corridor for developing the dual carriageway motorway or reallocation of existing road space for the new active travel infrastructure.

The project team continue to incorporate best practice for environmental, biodiversity and carbon management.

To encourage sustainable transport choices, support Ireland's climate action plan, and to support the maintenance and renewal of the new transport infrastructure, the project team has recommended demand management measures. These measures include distance-based barrier free tolling, whereby users pay on the basis of distance travelled on the new M20 motorway. Work is ongoing to determine appropriate toll charges for the various classes of vehicles, balancing a number of different factors, including the project objective to remove strategic traffic, especially heavy goods vehicles from the communities along the existing N20 to maximise safety and environmental benefits.



Graphic - proposed N/M20 mainline cross section with active travel.

During 2024 the following surveys and investigations were carried out within the study area:

- Site Investigation including trial pits, boreholes, dynamic probes, geophysical surveys, and groundwater monitoring.
- Archaeological Test Trenching to establish the extent and features of known and potential archaeological features.
- Topographical Survey including watercourse surveys, using traditional survey techniques, mobile mapping, and UAV data capture.
- Environmental and Farm Surveys to establish baseline data.

The project team continues to welcome feedback from property owners, communities, businesses and other stakeholders. Further project update scheduled for Quarter 1 2025 with Business Case to be submitted to Government in 2025. Further information available at [www.corklimerick.ie](http://www.corklimerick.ie).

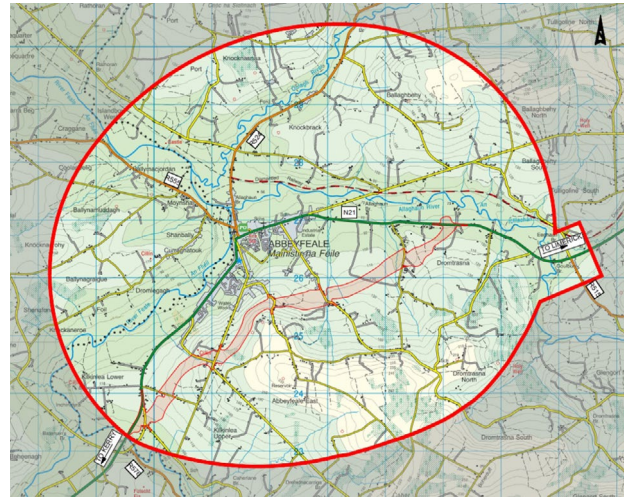
### **N21 Abbeyfeale and N21 Newcastle West Road Schemes**

In 2024, Limerick City and County Council, in consultation with TII, have continued through Phase 3 of TII's Project Management Guidelines which includes design and preparation of statutory documents.

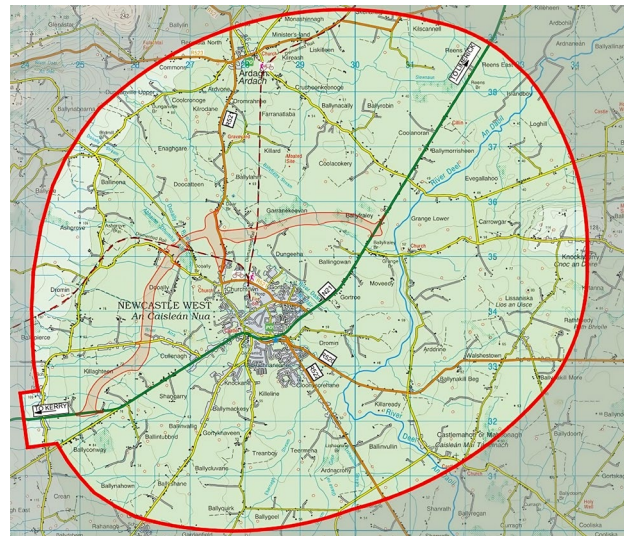
The design and environmental evaluation are substantially progressed to incorporate additional design requirements including consideration of the active travel facility cross section, the impacts of the 2023 speed limit review and the results from additional environmental surveys and additional archaeological test excavations at various locations have been completed.

A further design update will be published early in 2025, and this update will show the proposed mainline, side road realignments and junction designs as well as whether the roads are in cut or on fill.

In addition, proposed access arrangements, material deposition areas, watercourse diversions and the location of drainage ponds etc. will be shown. Further information on these projects is available at [www.N21Abbeyfeale.ie](http://www.N21Abbeyfeale.ie) and [www.N21Newcastlewest.ie](http://www.N21Newcastlewest.ie).



N21 Abbeyfeale Road Scheme - Preferred Route Option



N21 Newcastle West Road Scheme - Preferred Route Option

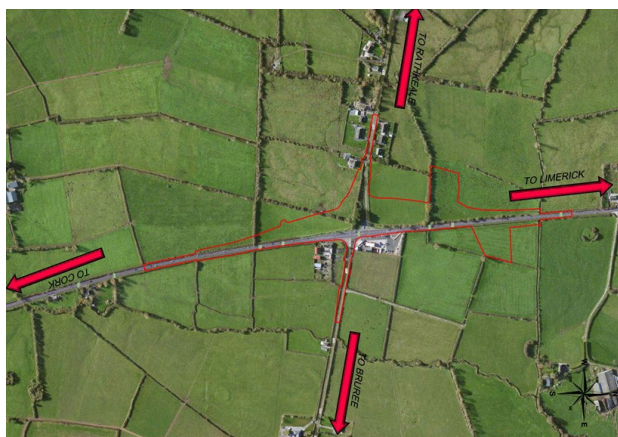


## Road Improvement/ Realignment

### N20 O'Rourke's Cross Road Improvement Scheme

A new roundabout-controlled junction is to be constructed necessitating alterations to the existing junction layout and the construction of new N20 approaches to the junction and the alteration of the existing R518 approaches to the junction at N20 O'Rourke's Cross. An Bord Pleanála confirmed the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) to acquire the land necessary for the road development and a judicial review application by a landowner on the scheme followed in July 2021. The judicial review hearing was held in October 2023 and was conceded by An Bord Pleanála and this necessitated a second oral hearing which was held in October 2024.

The An Bord Pleanála inspector is the process preparing a report and recommendation which will be considered by the board of An Bord Pleanála, who will ultimately make the decision as to whether to approve or not the Compulsory Purchase Order application and this decision is awaited.



Graphic - N20 O'Rourke's Cross Existing Junction



N20 O'Rourke's Cross Proposed Roundabout

### N69 Mungret and Boland's Cross Road Safety Improvement Scheme

This road safety scheme is located along the N69 and its environs between Boland's Cross junction (N69/L1403) and the junction of Moore's Road and the N69 (N69/L1438).

The scheme comprises the realignment of Boland's Cross, junction improvements at Mungret Cross, modified traffic layout and road realignment in the vicinity of Mungret Cross, provision of pedestrian and cyclist facilities and pavement works. The detailed design for the scheme is substantially complete with the procurement for the main works contract to commence in early 2025.

### Road Safety Audits

The MWNRDO continued to undertake road safety audits on behalf of local authorities in the region during 2024. The road safety audit is undertaken to identify potential safety issues within a scheme design or construction as they could affect road users.

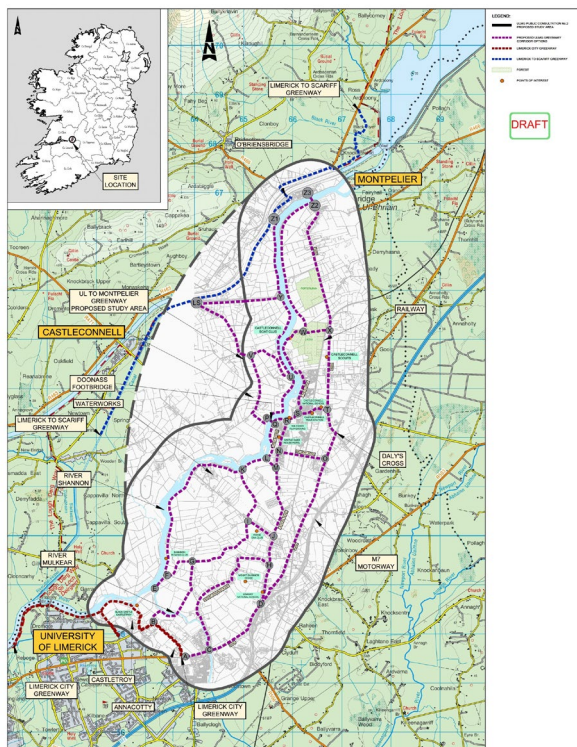
### **Pavement Rehabilitation Works N21 Abbeyfeale to Mount Mahon Pavement Improvement Scheme**

The scheme is approximately 1.0 km in length on the eastern approach to Abbeyfeale Town. The road project includes for traffic calming measures, watermain replacement, drainage improvements, pavement reconstruction, and associated works. Construction works were undertaken by Priority Construction Ltd. The works commenced on site in January and were completed in April 2024.

### **Greenway Projects**

#### **UL to Montpelier**

Following the publication of a network of possible route options in late 2023, the project consultants have been busy developing route options and have now identified an emerging preferred route, based on Multi Criteria Assessment as per TII appraisal guidelines. A further study has also been carried in relation to carbon emission assessment in accordance with newly published TII Infrastructure Guidelines.



Drawing from Public Consultation No. 2 showing the route corridor options

Ongoing stakeholder engagement is taking place to further develop the emerging preferred route.

#### **Rathkeale to Limerick**

Originally this scheme focused on utilising the existing railway corridor to provide a greenway between Rathkeale and Patrickswell. However, these proposals were delayed following Irish Rail plans, announced in 2022, to reopen the track to freight traffic. A study to examine the co-locating of the greenway within the existing railway corridor and adjacent to a future operational railway was progressed, with the assistance of Irish Rails technical advisors. The study has shown that such an arrangement would not be feasible along the entire route from Ballingarrane to Adare.

A tender competition will now be prepared to appoint consultants to examine and appraise other potential route corridors for the greenway between Rathkeale and Limerick.



Ongoing railway works

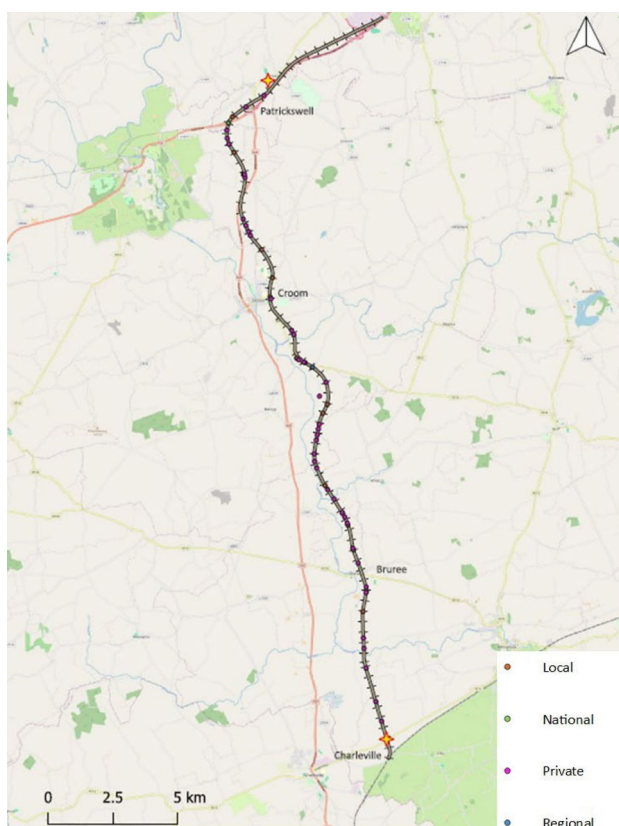
#### **Limerick to Cahir (Limerick to Oola)**

A tender competition was run seeking technical consultants but owing to TII budgetary restrictions, no appointments were made. TII have decided not to progress this scheme for now.

#### **Patrickswell to Charleville**

Consultants began preparing for Phase 1 of the scheme with the intention of holding an initial Public Consultation early in 2024. However, the N/M20 design team developed significant active

travel proposals as part of their scheme and it was recognised there were many similarities between both schemes. The consultants for the greenway were instructed to examine the feasibility of providing the greenway along the route of an abandoned railway but this study identified significant project delivery challenges. Following instruction from TII, the greenway consultant initially had their commission suspended before it was terminated by agreement later in 2024. TII have decided not to progress this scheme for now.



Extract from Railway corridor study

## Other MWNRDO Projects in the Region

### **N19 Shannon Airport Access Road Improvement Scheme**

During 2024, the Mid West National Road Design Office acting as Project Co-Ordinator on behalf of Clare County Council continued to progress the planning and design for the N19 Shannon Airport Access Road Improvement Scheme. The section of the N19 being progressed in this project, is located between Drumgeely roundabout and Knockbeagh Point roundabout on approach to Shannon International Airport. The proposed scheme is approximately 2.2 km in length.

A Design Update for the road and active travel components of the Preferred Option was published in July 2024 with a further Project Update published on the project website [www.shannonaccess.ie](http://www.shannonaccess.ie) in October.

The Design and Environmental Evaluation stage of the scheme (Phase 3) continued throughout 2024. This involved further development of the scheme, including design of the road and active travel components, identifying the land take required and the preparation of the environmental impact assessment report. The project team continues to engage with stakeholders and landowners to inform the design process.

### **N24 Cahir to Limerick Junction Project**

During 2024, the Mid West National Road Design Office acting as Project Co-Ordinator on behalf of Tipperary County Council continued to progress the planning and design for the N24 Cahir to Limerick Junction Project. The section of the N24 being progressed in this project, is located between the M8 motorway, north of Cahir in Co. Tipperary to west of Brooks Bridge in Co. Limerick. Tipperary County Council is the lead authority for the scheme.



In October 2024, Design Update No. 2 for the road and active travel components of the preferred transport solution for the project was published on the project website [www.n24cahirlimerick.ie](http://www.n24cahirlimerick.ie) which included a briefing to the elected representatives of Tipperary and Limerick.

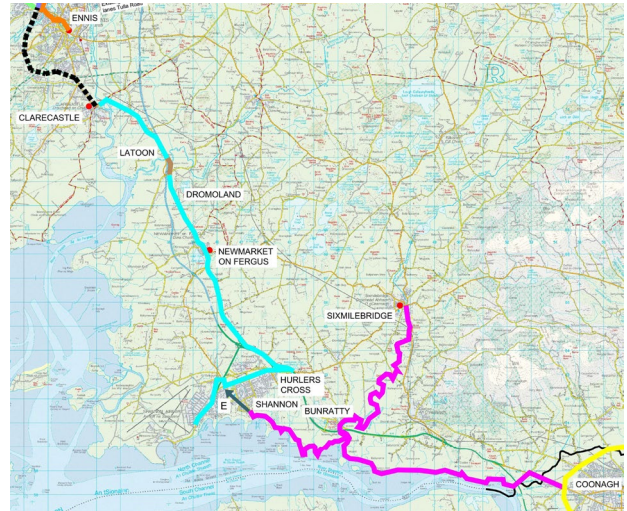
The Design and Environmental Evaluation stage of the project (Phase 3) continued throughout 2024. This involved further development of the scheme, including design of the active travel and road components of the Preferred Transport Solution, identifying the land take required and the preparation of an environmental impact assessment report. The project team continues to undertake a range of engineering and environmental site surveys in addition to stakeholder and landowner engagement in order to inform the design and environmental evaluation process.

### **Pavement Schemes**

During 2024, the Midwest National Road Design Office assisted Tipperary County Council in obtaining Section 38 approval for the N75 Liberty Square to Anner Hotel Pavement Improvement Scheme. The scheme includes for traffic calming measures, pavement reconstruction, drainage improvements and associated ancillary works along a 1.0 km section of the N75 eastern approach to Thurles Town.

### **Ennis – Shannon – Limerick Greenway**

This was a new scheme that was initiated during the year following discussion with TII. The RDO have prepared a draft of the Phase 0 deliverable, the Project Outline Document and this has been circulated to key stakeholders. The project will be further developed in 2025 once TII funding has been approved.



Graphic - Ennis – Shannon – Limerick proposed Greenway

### **Structures**

The Structures Unit is responsible for procuring/ arranging/ organising the maintenance and reconstruction of National Road structures in Munster, in order that they remain functional, safe and visually acceptable. Some works undertaken are;

- Planning and conducting bridge and structure inspections for a new task order.
- Preparing, reviewing and approving bridge and structure inspection and assessment reports.
- Ranking and optimising/prioritising bridges and structures in need of repair, strengthening or replacement; for Task Orders
- Preparing budgets for approval of TII and monitoring expenditure.
- Managing consultants and other council staff carrying out bridge works.
- Preparing, reviewing and approving tender documents for bridge and structure repairs and then monitoring repair works and routine maintenance.
- Maintaining EIRSPAN database.
- Managing third party works to bridges and retaining walls,
- Liaison with statutory bodies,
- Managing the TII Munster Term Maintenance Contract

Below is a small snapshot of some of the schemes currently underway.

### **Term Maintenance Contract – Munster**

The Task Order involves the annual inspection and undertaking of routine maintenance works to all bridges across all counties in the Munster Region over a four-year period. Each of these bridges requires four routine inspections at the start of each year. When data from the inspections is entered into the database.

There were a significant number of bridge impacts to all types of bridges across the network from a single span masonry arch on the secondary road network to a large motorway bridge.



Impact at KY-N70-050.00 Lomanagh South Bridge



Impact at CB-M08-009.00 Knocknahorgan Bridge

### **Task Order 340: Gleensk Embankment in County Kerry**

The successful delivery of a complex slope rehabilitation scheme designed and constructed within considerable constraints was made possible through a collaborative relationship between the Project Team and Contractor. The scheme was fully completed and open to full traffic in April 2024. The completion of the scheme prevented the damage from evolving into a full slope failure, has protected road safety and has minimised disruption to an important tourist route.

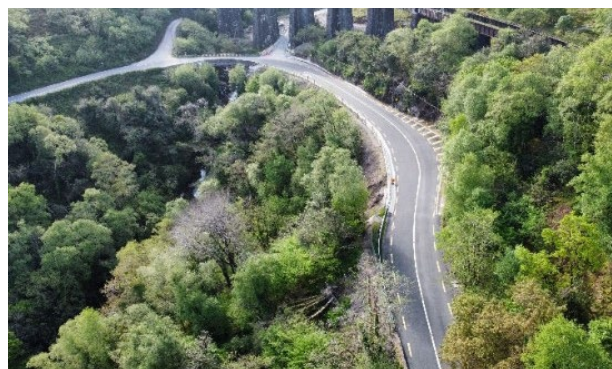


Figure 1 - Aerial view of the completed scheme, looking East

### **Task Order 338**

This task order involves bridges in County Kerry on the N22, N70 & N86. The design works are being undertaken in order to replace 3no. bridges, Strengthen 1no. bridge and Rehabilitation 3no. bridges. The task order has been on going throughout the year, work completed includes topo, Structural investigation, geotechnical investigations, section 50 applications, initial environmental screening and preliminary design. All landowners affected by the scheme have been met and verbal agreements to purchase lands are in place.

## Abnormal Loads

The diverse road network in Ireland presents unique challenges for abnormal load and exceptional abnormal load transport both from a load bearing and geometric perspective. In many situations the existing infrastructure might not be capable of handling overweight and oversized loads. Many historic and legacy bridges have low load-carrying capacity because they either have deteriorated or were designed for lighter vehicles than current standards. Modern bridges, while designed and built to meet specific load criteria, have not been designed to carry some of the exceptional abnormal loads requiring transportation.

The structures team within Transport Infrastructure Ireland, in consultation with the Department of Transport, have developed a flow chart to assist Road Authorities in making decisions in relation to Exceptional Abnormal Load applications involving

superloads greater than 180 tonnes. This process should be used by Local Authorities in respect of all abnormal load applications, where applicable. This has significantly increased the team's involvement in abnormal load transfers.

## dTIMS Database

TII are developing a new bridge management database with a Canadian company called Deighton. This has involved many Technical Meetings with Deighton to discuss the details of our requirements and further develop the capabilities and functionality of the database. There has been much back and forth to teach Deighton about bridge management operations in the context of the requirements of the new database. The year finished on a positive as we had our first hands on training on the new database. In early 2025 we should start user testing with a beta version being rolled out mid-way through the year.

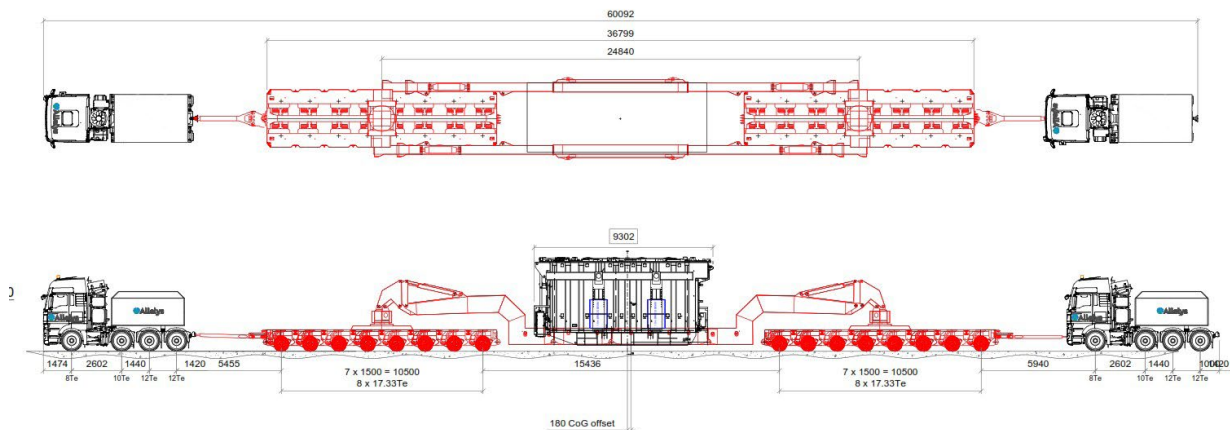


Figure 2 - schematic of 300T load

Registration Number	Structure Id	Structure Name	Region	Maintaining Agent	Construction Year	Reconstruction Year	Date Collected
KK-M09-006.00	KK-M09-006.00	Dunkitt Underbridge	2-Leinster	4-Transport Infrastructure Ireland	2009		
3385	68B183C3-7F02-418C-BE8F-E1631B2478C1	Dunkitt Accommodation Underpass	2-Leinster	999-Missing Field	2009		6/21/2023
3384	49194D04-3389-467D-9EA1-9AFDE57E281E	Dunkitt Railway Underbridge	2-Leinster	999-Missing Field	2009		4/19/2022
3382	B0DD567A-045E-4BA1-A399-2149D942340E	Dunkitt Road Overbridge	2-Leinster	999-Missing Field	2009		6/23/2020

Figure 3 - screenshot of the training database



## ROAD, TRAFFIC AND CLEANSING

The Roads, Traffic and Cleansing Department (RTC) manages most of the Limerick's road improvements across a wide range of services and is subdivided into Sections and Teams.

The primary expenditure area is delivered at District Level and is referred to as Road Maintenance Section. This includes General Maintenance, Safety Maintenance, Road Reconstruction, Road Re-surfacing as well as day to day Patching and Drainage Maintenance for the circa 4,000km of the county and city public road network.

Improvements are delivered through the four No. Municipal District Offices and our Central Services Team based in County Hall. The RTC Department also manage Road Closures, Road Opening Licences, Public Lighting, Road Safety Schemes, Traffic Management and Structures (Bridges and Crash Barriers). It also provides resources for delivery of flood protection schemes, CLAR funded measures, Active Travel schemes and Climate Change Adaption schemes.

Within the RTC Department is the Fleet Management and Machinery Yard Team which has bases in Newcastle West and Limerick City. This team manage the Council's fleet and machinery as well as providing significant resources to facilitate the Roadworks Programme. They also play a key role in the operation of the Winter Maintenance Plan and response to flooding and adverse weather events.

The Insurance Team oversees Insurance, and Public Liability related management on behalf of key operational areas of the Authority.

The Traffic Section manages traffic and parking in the City and provides support to developments, events and new infrastructure. Traffic Wardens provide patrols and enforcement throughout the City. In 2024 the Traffic Warden presence in the suburbs was increased and focused on illegal parking. School Wardens provide supervised crossings at national schools and busy junctions.

The Cleansing Section is responsible for street cleaning and public realm washing, litter bins and road sweeping. In 2024 the Cleansing Section implemented specific planning for cleansing operations arising from various large events which occur throughout the year. The Cleansing Section is currently maintaining several new cycle ways and now regularly sweeps approximately 70km of cycle ways in Limerick City.

The department delivered over €32.1m of expenditure on Roads related projects in 2024.

Expenditure Category	€Million
<b>Non- Core Public Road Expenditure 2024</b>	
MD Delivered Active Travel 2024	€3.4
<b>Core Public Road Expenditure 2024 (primarily grant aided)</b>	
Restoration Improvement (incl. Former National Roads & Own Resources)	€14.1
General Maintenance 4000 km of roads (Patching, Road repairs, drainage etc.)	€4.6
Public Lighting (O&M) -24,000 Lights	€2.0
Restoration Maintenance – 4048km (Surface dressing of Roads)	€3.0
Specific Drainage Grant (Roads related drainage)	€1.4
Bridge Rehabilitation	€0.9
Winter Maintenance – up to 800km per event	€0.6
Safety Improvement Schemes –	€0.5
Community Involvement Scheme*(Total Spend)	
*Primarily to cater for Local Tertiary Roads (CIS)	€0.60
<b>Sub-total Core Public Road Expenditure 2024</b>	<b>€27.7</b>
<b>Non-public Roads</b>	
Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) Grant	€0.992
<b>Total Project Spend 2024</b>	<b>€32.092</b>

Table 1 - Expenditure in 2024 on Non – National Roads Related Projects

## Active Travel Measures 2024 (City Environs and County)

Following on from the significant additional expenditure allocated to Limerick in 2021, further Active Travel projects, including junction tightening and permeability measures, valuing over €3.4m were delivered in 2024 through the District Engineering teams completed throughout the City and County.



Castleconnell National School to village footpath scheme



Walnut Drive Footpath Improvement Scheme 2024



Ballycummin Road Pedestrian Crossing Scheme 2024

## Non-National Roads Programme 2024

### Restoration Improvement (Local and Regional Roads) Expenditure of €14.1m

Typically, the most significant annual expenditure category in this department is termed as Restoration Improvement.

Restoration Improvement works are those deemed necessary to first strengthen and then surface or reseal public roads. There are a variety of methods used including:

- Crushed Stone Overlays (Where the existing structure is weak)
- Recycled Stone Overlays (Using the existing stone to reshape the road)\*
- Macadam Overlays (Structural Improvements typically to trunk roads)

A greater emphasis is now being placed on reducing the transportation of material where this can be avoided. Recycling existing stone road structures are considered where engineering assessments justify such an approach. This approach is consistent with- low carbon and green policies.

In 2024, €14.1M (including €0.6m on former National Roads) was expended on Restoration Improvement schemes throughout the County improving approximately 2% of the road network. This provides for a one in 50-year treatment cycle.





O'Connell Avenue - Crescent Restoration Improvement Scheme 2024

### **Restoration Maintenance (Local and Regional Roads) – Expenditure of €3.0m**

More commonly referred to as Surface Dressing, restoration maintenance works are used to extend the life of a road, protect the road structure from ingress of moisture and provide a durable wearing course for traffic.

These schemes offer best value and provide longevity when the road drainage and roadside hedges/trees are well maintained. The role and responsibility of landowners in this regard is critical and their co-operation is greatly appreciated.

In 2024, €3.0m was expended on Restoration Maintenance Schemes which improving approximately 3% of the network providing for a network maintenance rate of 1 in 34 years.



L8043 Corcamore Restoration Maintenance



### **Minor Public Roads**

Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) 2024  
Department of Transport Grant – Expenditure of €600.000.

In 2024, 21 no. schemes were completed costing an average of €28,600. This scheme is aimed at funding upgrades and resurfacing of roads that would not have been carried out under the annual programme based on current prioritisation.

### **Minor Private Roads**

Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) 2024 Private Roads DCRD Grant – Expenditure of €0.992m.

As a result of funding in 2024 15 no. schemes were completed at an average cost of €66,100 under this programme with grant aid from the Department of Community and Rural Development.



**Bridge Rehabilitation Expenditure 2024:  
Expenditure of €900,000**

The purpose of this programme is to repair existing road bridges. Works are managed through our Central Services Section. Depending on costs, extent of repairs and available funding, we typically repair 10 no. bridges per annum. In 2024, 14 no. bridges were refurbished.



L1330 Sugarhill Doonakenna



Athlacca Bridge

**Fleet Management and Machinery Yard**

RTC continue to invest in our plant and machinery, with €930,000 from 2023 budget and €1.35m in 2024. The Fleet Management team supports all the operational sections in the Council with a significant portion associated with Roads Traffic and Cleansing.



One Of Three New Bucher V50 sweepers



New Phoenix Mk14e Chip Spreader





One of Two New 4 Axle Mercedes Benz Tippers



New Archway Roadmaster Velocity patcher

### **National Roads Expenditure 2024**

- National Primary and National Secondary Geo Apps Total Spend €208,337.07
- HD28 (National Road Safety Resurfacing Works), NP and NS Total spend €685,311.61
- Emergency Pavement Maintenance works N21. Total Spend €174,999.98
- NP/NS Ord Maintenance (Hedge Cutting) Total Spend €109,857.85.
- Road Safety Improvement and Fencing is €69,000
- Ordinary maintenance €144,000 on National Primary, €44,000 on National Secondary



N24 Cloonacunna – National Road Resurfacing Works



N69 Glenbane – National Road Resurfacing Works



# MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE

## Roads

### Regional and Local Roads

Expenditure on maintenance and improvement works on roads in 2024 was financed by way of Government Grants and the Council's own resources.

Road expenditure programmes included:

- Surface Dressing works of 25 kilometres of road network carried out at a cost of €708,500
- Road Reconstruction works were carried out on 17.2km of roadway at a cost of €2.599m
- Road reconstruction works on Tullovin Bridge under Junction and Bend funding on R516 at a cost of €200,000
- Seven Drainage Improvement Schemes totalling €180,000 were undertaken
- Two Schemes were funded via Climate Change Adaption and Resilience Works at a cost of €165,000: Lisamota to Cahernessy Ballingarry Drainage Works and Rosstemple Banogue Drainage Design works
- Winter maintenance of the N21,N20 and N69 (TII funded) and Regional Roads (Department of Transport funded)
- 8 number Local Improvement Schemes and 2 Community Involvement Scheme completed at a cost of €817,544
- 3 number OPW Minor Works drainage schemes at a cost of €334,615



Kyletaun Rathkeale R518 Restoration Improvement Works



Storm Isha January 2024 – Don Bosco Road Pallaskenry



Junction Improvements Works Beabus Adare





Surface Dressing Fleet at Gortroe Coolcappagh



Recycling Machine



Milling works at Granagh

### **Community Involvement Schemes**

Two Community Involvement Schemes was completed at a cost of €112,925.

### **Local Improvement Schemes**

Eight Local Improvement Schemes were completed during the year at a cost of €704,619.



Ballingarry LIS Amenity Scheme

### **Bridge Rehabilitation**

Bridge Rehabilitation works were carried out on an emergency basis on the parapet wall of Kilcoole Bridge Rathkeale early 2024 and also at Graigeen Bridge, Cappagh, where the crown of Bridge collapsed.



Kilcoole Bridge, Rathkeale





Graigeen Bridge, Cappagh

### **Office of Public Works (OPW) Minor Flood Mitigation Works**

During 2024 OPW Minor Works funding was approved for three schemes to the value of €335,000.

These schemes were for surface water sewers and outfalls at Lisbane Shanagolden , Ballyellinan Askeaton and Kilroath Meanus.

This OPW funding covered 90% of the overall costs as follow with the remaining 10% coming from the local Authority;

- €70,313 for proposed works at Ballyellinan, Askeaton, Co. Limerick, which included the construction of storm main access chambers and gullies along the L1220 to manage surface water on both sides of the row of houses, and for the implementation of a storm drain to be located north of the dwellings,
- €128,889 for proposed works to the South East of Shanagolden village, which includes the construction of a storm main along the L1220 to manage surface water on both sides of the row of houses and a soakaway system
- €101,952 for proposed works at Kilroath, Meanus, which involved constructing a 300mm storm main along the R511 to manage surface water on both sides of the road with outfall to adjacent stream

### **Low Cost Safety Improvement Works**

Works were carried out at a number of locations to the value of €76,000 under Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes including:

- R518 at Top of Town Junction, Askeaton - Junction buildout, drainage, lining and warning signage
- Driver Feedback Sign at Ballyhahill National School
- Junction Improvement at Tobermurray, Pallaskenry
- Roadway widening at Ballymakeery, Kilcolman



Junction Tightening under Low Cost Safety Measures Askeaton



Junction Improvement Works Tobermurry, Pallaskenry



## Active Travel

Towns and Villages across Adare- Rathkeale Municipal District have benefitted from €0.85m of investment in Active Travel measures during 2024. With funding from the National Transport Authority , Limerick City and County Council has delivered a range of improvements for Pedestrians.

### Ballyhahill

Footpath connectivity from National School to Fortfield estate to Speed limit at western end including safety improvement measures at National School. Drainage and additional public lighting was also provided.

### Croom

Towerfield Link to Croom Hospital to improve connectivity from Croom Orthopaedic Hospital and Croom Medical Centre towards Croom Town centre,by refurbishment and widening of existing paths together with Drainage works and upgrading of Public Lighting.



Ballyhahill Active Travel Scheme

## Pedestrian Crossings

€75,000 was allocated to Adare Rathkeale District for New/Upgraded Pedestrian Crossings during 2024 - this facilitated works at the following locations:

- **Kildimo National School**  
Controlled Belisha Beacon Crossing
- **Askeaton National School**  
Upgrade existing uncontrolled Crossing at Askeaton National School



Upgraded Controlled Belisha Beacon Pedestrian Crossing Askeaton National School



New Pedestrian Crossing linking Kildimo National School and Creche



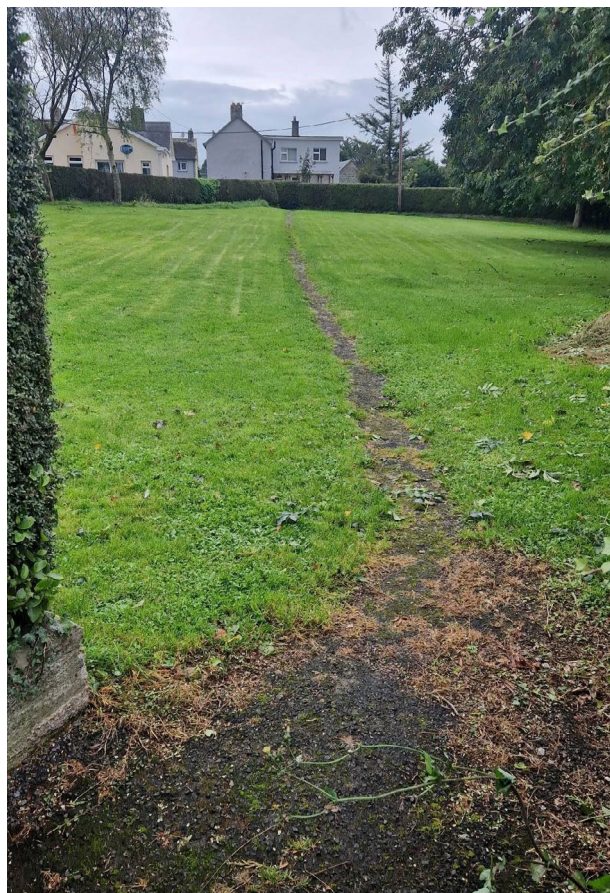
### **Bus Shelters**

Funding was provided for a number of new Bus Shelters during 2024 in Adare-Rathkeale District at:

- Loghill
- Shanagolden
- Askeaton
- Rathkeale
- Ballyneety
- Foynes



Permeability Improvement Works at St. Senan's Terrace Croom



Pre Permeability Works St. Senan's Terrace Croom



New Bus Shelter Askeaton



### Climate Adaption and Resilience Works

€165,000 was allocated in 2024 for two projects in Adare-Rathkeale District under Climate Adaption and Resilience fund, targeting preventative measures such as Drainage works to mitigate road flooding.

Drainage works were carried out at Lisamota to Cahernessy, Ballingarry and detailed Design work was also carried out for future drainage works at Rosstemple Banogue.



N21 Adare- new TII funded footpath on western approach

### Monument Hill Walkway Foynes

Under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme – Project Development Measure, funding was provided for feasibility, detail design and cost analysis work which will form the basis of a project proposal that can be submitted for grant funding in future years to bring the Monument Hill Walkway in Foynes back into use.

The Monument Hill Walkway is a pathway from Marine Cove in the village of Foynes to the hilltop overlooking Foynes, marked by a Celtic Cross dedicated to Stephen Edward Spring Rice. The Spring Rice family were based in Mount Trenchard and the Celtic Cross was originally erected by the local community.

It was used during the Flying Boat Period 1937-1945 as a marker for Pilots coming in to land after



Monument Hill Clearance Works



Monument Hill View over Foynes

their long flight across the North Atlantic. From the hilltop, there are spectacular views of Foynes Island, the Shannon Estuary, Foynes Port, Foynes Yacht Club & Marina and the Flying Boat and Maritime Museum.

In conjunction with the Monument Hill Walkway, there is an opportunity to create a loop walk connecting the Monument Hill Viewing Point to the existing Forest Road for the local community



and visitors to Foynes. As part of the Project Development Measure Clearance of vegetation around the Monument to reinstate the viewing point and open up views of the Estuary took place in early 2024

### **Irish Rail**

Track laying began on the new Foynes rail freight line in May 2024 near Askeaton and this marked a major milestone on the Foynes to Limerick Rail Freight line project.

The existing old track, including rails, sleepers and fixings comprised of jointed track on timber sleepers were life expired and have all been removed. Now, the main contractor on the project, Sisk and their specialist subcontractor Steconefer have started work on behalf of Iarnród Éireann, to replace the existing track with new materials. This involves laying new concrete sleepers and rails to match the existing track alignment, which will be welded to form continuous welded rail.



Irish Rail Track Laying at Askeaton Station



Irish Rail Track Laying at Borrigone Askeaton

Phase two of the project will include the provision of a signalling system for the route, CCTV level crossings, train communications system and track connections and upgrades at Limerick and at Foynes Port. It is anticipated that the route will be ready for operations in December 2025 with freight services commencing in early 2026.

The 42km stretch of railway between Limerick and Foynes originally opened in 1858 but closed to passenger traffic in 1963. Freight services continued until 2001. When these services stopped the line was declared inactive, but the line remained under the stewardship of Iarnród Éireann.





Ballinvira, Croagh



600 tonne Lattice Boom Crawler Crane reinstalling Refurbished Adare Bridge



Reinstalling Adare Rail Bridge

# MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CAPPAMORE-KILMALLOCK

In 2024, investment, including additional grants, of over €17m (with almost €16m on the Roads works scheme) secured by the Municipal district throughout the year for works associated with M20 projects, Climate Adaption, Office of Public Works (OPW) Minor Drainage Works, Community Improvement Schemes (CIS), Local Improvement Schemes (LIS), Outdoor Recreation Improvement Schemes (ORIS) and TII Geo App.

Cappamore-Kilmallock has been very successful in getting funding approved across the Municipal District in 2024.

## Service Operations Directorate - Roads

Expenditure on maintenance and improvement works on roads in 2024 was financed by way of Government Grants and the Councils own resources.

In addition to the additional funding secured throughout the year, road expenditure programmes during 2024 also included:

Road Works Scheme 2024	
Work Category	€
Restoration Improvement (RI) -Road Reconstruction	€3950280
Restoration Maintenance (RM) –Surface Dressing	€550779
Supplementary Restoration Maintenance (SRM) – Surface Dressing	€469464
Drainage Grant	€180,052
General Maintenance (GM)	€1,627,849
Tar Patching (TP)	€554793
Low Cost Safety Improvement Works (LCSI)	€180,325
Taking in Charge (Castlecourt Estate, Kilmallock €50,000 and Cluain Foinse Estate, Hospital €77,000)	€127,000
General Municipal Allocation (GMA)	€295000
Bridge Rehabilitation	€454955
Active Travel Programme	€1,055,000
Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works	€331,786
Former National Road Rehabilitation Works	€340,000
Development Fund Municipal Allocation	€50,000
Community Involvement Scheme	€507,405
Local Improvement Scheme	€119,282
Geo App Schemes	€34,377
ORIS	€218,130
M20 Limerick to Cork	€4,040,000
N20 Rourke's Cross	€100,000
N24 Beary's Cross	€500,000
N20 O'Rourke's Cross HD15/HD17 Minor Works	€5,000
N24 Grange Cross MD15/HD17 Minor Works	€55,000
Charleville to Patrickswell Greenway	€200,000
<b>Total Defined MD Spending</b>	<b>€15,946,477</b>



Examples of Capital Road work projects undertaken in the Cappamore-Kilmallock District in 2024 include:

- **General Municipal Allocation Capital works including:**
  - Sightline improvements L1127 and L5021
  - Caherelly Sports Fence
  - Footpath at Ashill, Kilmallock
  - Footpath replacement Bank Place Hospital
  - Surface replacement Pallasgreen graveyard
- **Active Travel scheme including:**
  - Footpath replacement/extension Athlacca
  - New footpath public lighting and associated works connecting Bruree village to the National School and GAA club
  - New footpaths, parking, public lighting and associated works connecting Caherline national school to Caherline Church and childcare facility
- **NTA Bus Shelters including:**
  - Galbally Bus Shelter
  - Herbertstown Bus Shelter
  - Cappamore Bus Shelter
  - Doon Bus Shelter
- **Low Cost Safety Scheme including:**
  - Safety barrier installation on R513
  - Safety barrier installation on R517
  - Drainage works including
  - Bruff culvert replacement
  - ORIS Riverside Park Redevelopment Kilmallock
  - Climate Action and Remediation Reenavanna



Caherelly Sports Fence



Footpath replacement/extension Athlacca



New footpath public lighting and associated works connecting Bruree village to the National School and GAA club



Sightline improvements L1127 and L5021



New footpaths, parking, public lighting and associated works connecting Caherline national school to Caherline Church and childcare facility





Galbally Bus Shelter



Herbertstown Bus Shelter



Doon Bus Shelter



Safety barrier installation on R513



Safety barrier installation on R517



Cappamore Bus Shelter





Bruff culvert replacement



Climate Action and Remediation Reenavanna



ORIS Riverside Park Redevelopment Kilmallock

## **Service Operations Directorate – Housing**

### **Housing Maintenance**

- The Housing Maintenance crew for the Municipal District of Cappamore Kilmallock is responsible for the maintenance of 842 houses within the District, which is 14.58% of the overall Council housing stock.
- The District had a pre-letting budget of €129,463 in total (€59,376.71 Repairs and €70,086.90 Payroll) for minor works to vacant properties prior to letting in 2024 and €559,227.23 was spent on response maintenance requests from existing tenants.
- The crew received 1,380 service requests in 2024.



## Housing Grants

### Private House Grants

In relation to the ongoing House adaptation grants available to private home owners, 4 Mobility aid Grants were paid, totalling €16673, 42 Housing Adaptation for persons with disability Grants were issued totalling €349065.96 and 86 Housing Adaptation for Older Person Grants were issued totalling €384977.



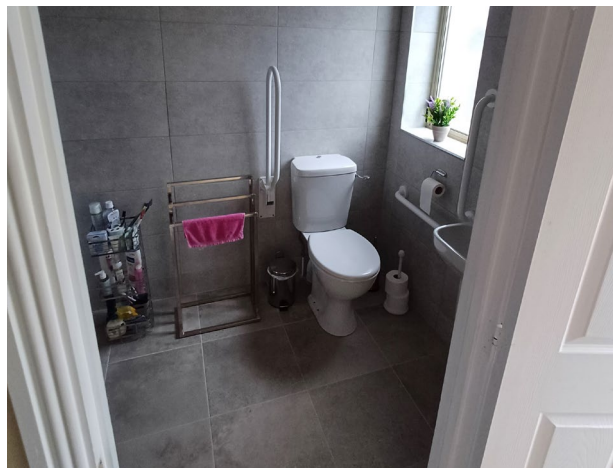
Housing adaptation grant



Mobility Aid Grant

### Disabled Persons Grant

14 Disabled Person Grants were completed for Local Authority tenants totalling €136,283.43.



Mobility Aid Grant



Housing Aid for Older Persons

## Housing Capital

\*As reported at December 2024 Cappamore Kilmallock Municipal District Meeting.

CAS Construction	43 (of which turnkey 8)
CAS Renewal	4
SHIP Renewal	1
SHIP Construction	5
CAS Acquisition	4 (3 tenant in situ and 1 vacant)
LA Acquisition (tenant in situ)	5
Private Mortgage to Rent	1

## Sugar CRM cases

Cases Created		Cases Closed	
Total cases 2024	4721	Total cases 2024	3917
Reps	2122	Reps	1308
Public	2599	Public	2609

Department	Total Cases	Public Cases	Councillors	TDs/Senators
Roads Maintenance	501	208	210	83
Housing Maintenance	384	299	73	8
Public Lighting	84	30	53	31





# MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST

## Roads, Traffic and Cleansing

Expenditure on maintenance and improvement works on roads in 2024 were financed by way of Government grants and the Council's own resources. The Newcastle West roads crew maintains 24% of the county's roads. Road expenditure programmes during 2024 included:

- Road surface dressing of 39km of roadway to the value of € 841,200.
- Road reconstruction works of 33km to the value of € 3,008,000.
- Road overlays at Kilmeedy village, Dromcollogher and New Street, Abbeyfeale.
- Bridge rehabilitation works at L7041 Caherbeg, Mountcollins, L3030 Sugarhill, Templeglentine and R515 Glenquinn Castle bridge.
- Low cost safety improvement works at R522/ L1312/L1305 Castlemahon cross and R520/ L7006/ L7004 Bruff Line.
- Footpath upgrade works at the villages of Kilmeedy, Mountcollins, Athea, Feenagh, Monagea, Churchtown & Athletics hub, Newcastle West, Carrickerry, Broadford, and Castlemahon, with junction tightening at Abbeyfeale and Newcastle West plus a connectivity scheme at Courtenay Lane, Newcastle West. The total expenditure on these schemes was circa €1,000,000 approx.
- Major drainage improvements at Hill road, Abbeyfeale, Glenduff, Ashford and Strand completed to the value of €200,000.
- Winter Maintenance Service operational From October –April annually.
- General road maintenance and Road safety measures carried out as required during year
- Local Improvement Schemes - 4 schemes completed to the value of €60,000.

- Climate Action schemes – 'Schemes at TempleAthea, HuntsHill, Dromcollogher, Knockacaig, Dromcollogher and Cloonpasteen, Kilmeedy. The total spend was €105,000.
- Further improvements were carried out to the Top Yard, Newcastle West and Doonakenna Depots. New canteen and drying room facilities were installed during 2024, while an upgrade of Coolyroe depot is planned for 2025.

The total expenditure on road related projects managed and implemented through the Newcastle West District during 2024 including the above was €7,000,000 approx.

## Housing Directorate – LA Housing Construction and Maintenance

The Housing Maintenance crew for the Municipal District of Newcastle West is responsible for the maintenance of 687 houses within the District, which is 11% of the overall Council housing stock.

The District had a pre-letting budget of €131,655.09 for minor works to vacant properties prior to letting in 2024 and €477,149.20 was spent on response maintenance requests from existing tenants. The crew received 1,432 service requests in 2024.



## **Housing Directorate – Housing Support Services – Housing Grant Scheme**

73 under the Housing Adaptation Grants for People with a Disability were approved in 2024 at a cost of €560,369.85.

Nine applications under the Mobility Aids Grants were approved at a cost of €21,617.61.

One hundred and seventy six applications under the Housing Aid for Older People were approved at a cost of €758,270.45.

Also three Council properties within the District had works completed on them for persons with a disability at a cost of €62,521.78.

## **Support Services Directorate – Motor Taxation**

The Motor Taxation Section in Newcastle West had a total of 14,441 routine transactions during 2024 generating an income of €2,350,390.

## **Support Services Directorate – Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services**

The customer services initiative and the use of the Dynamics CRM system was introduced during 2024. All queries and service requests received at the office are logged on this system by Newcastle West office staff. All staff were trained on the new system and improvements continue to be made on its use.

Under the Special Projects General Municipal Allocation, Newcastle West District Councillors approved funding for 84 projects within the District.

## **Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services Directorate – Water Services**

Irish Water is the organisation with overall responsibility for water and waste water matters throughout Ireland. The water services crew at Newcastle West acts as an agent for Irish Water and on their behalf operates and maintains a large number of water schemes throughout the County.

## **Roads, Traffic and Cleansing – Machinery Yard**

The Machinery Yard at Newcastle West and Park Road depot continues to play a central role in the Council's Roadworks programmes. The Winter Maintenance programmes are operated from the depots at Atlas Avenue, Doonakenna, Kinard and Kilmallock. All bitumen used in the county is distributed through the Municipal District depots and Council vehicles are maintained by the Machinery Yard. The upgrading of the Council fleet of vehicles continued during 2024.

## **Newcastle West Municipal District Projects**

- **Active Travel Programme National Transport Authority**  
Projects at Kilmeedy, Mountcollins, Athea, Feenagh, Monagea, Churchtown and Athletics hub, Newcastle West, Carrickerry, Broadford, and Castlemahon benefitted from funding under this scheme in 2024 with the projects being processed by the Newcastle West Roads Department.

New pedestrian crossings were installed outside the National schools at Castlemahon and at Cois Teampaill, Newcastle West.

## **Regional Athletics Hub Newcastle West**

The Limerick Regional Athletics hub was completed in the spring of 2023 and an official opening took place on the 14 September this state-of-the-art athletics hub, officially opened by An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, represents a significant investment in the region's sporting infrastructure. With a total project cost of approximately €4.2 million, this ambitious endeavor has been made possible through the dedication and collaboration of multiple stakeholders.

This facility contains the following:

- Athletics track to International World Athletics Standard
- Floodlights for the track and a fully lit walking path on the track perimeter
- Field sports such as shot putt, discuss, hammer, javelin, long jump, high jump and pole vault.
- During 2024 in its first year of operation numerous events took place at the track such as Couch to 5k, 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. The Limerick Regional Athletics Hub was delighted to host the 2024 Limerick Juvenile Athletics Championships on 12 May. On 18 June, the Tribal Running event took place with 60 athletes taking part. This was the final leg of a Track and Field Tour in 2024. David Gillick attended the track as part of the Marathon Kids Initiative and Sarah Lavin, two-time Olympian and Limerick native, visited the track on the 6 November to engage with young members of West Limerick AC.





# **PLANNING AND PLACE-MAKING**







# PLANNING AND PLACE-MAKING

The Planning Place-Making Directorate leads in the fields of forward planning, public realm, heritage, conservation, archaeology, development management, place-making, CFRAMS flood relief schemes, protection and enforcement. The department is developing a comprehensive approach to place-making including urban innovation and public realm, delivery of capital projects including roads, streets and buildings.

The Directorate is responsible for policy and strategy in these areas and supports and administers the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee (SPC).

The Directorate comprises of the following Departments:

1. Forward Planning and Public Realm
2. Development Management
3. Place Making
4. CFRAM Flood Relief Schemes
5. Support Directorate for the Limerick Twenty Thirty DAC

## FORWARD PLANNING AND PUBLIC REALM

The Forward Planning, Public Realm and Heritage team is responsible for the preparation of plans to enable the medium to long term development of the City and County. These include the Development Plan, Local Area Plans, Public Realm Plans and masterplans. The responsibility of co-ordinating the heritage, conservation, archaeology and public realm

functions and participating in the work of the Atlantic Economic Corridor also lies within this section. This section also maps and compiles data in respect of development to inform policy and decision-making at local and national level. Through the Forward Planning unit, the Council also inputs into various regional and national spatial and economic strategies.

### Forward Planning

A significant amount of time was spent preparing for the Judicial Review on the Limerick Development Plan, which was held over 3 days in the high court in November.

Under Section 15(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the Planning Authority issued the Mayor's Two Year Progress Report to the Elected Members on the progress made in securing the policies and objectives of the Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028 in the two years since the making of the Development Plan.

A submission was made setting out Limerick's position on the 'Draft Revision of the National Planning Framework'. In addition, under Section 25A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended, a report was prepared and submitted to the Southern Regional Assembly setting out progress made in Limerick City and County in supporting objectives of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) over the period 2022-2024.

Another key piece of work in the Forward Planning unit this year was the adoption and review of a number of Local Area Plans (LAPs) to ensure compliance with the Core Strategy of the Limerick Development Plan. The plans adopted

include Adare Public Realm and Local Area Plan, Patrickswell Local Area Plan and an amendment to the Kilmallock Local Area Plan. The statutory process to extend the duration of the Croom Local Area Plan 2020– 2026 and Kilmallock Local Area Plan 2019 – 2025 was also undertaken.

The team continued work on the preparation and publication of Annual Draft Maps for the Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT). Draft Maps were prepared for 17 settlements across the City and County identifying lands considered to be “in-scope” for the purposes of the tax to activate residential development.

Work commenced on reviewing the existing Development Contribution Scheme and background research was undertaken in advance of the preparation of a new scheme.

A number of public consultation events were held to inform the preparation of an integrated urban strategy for the Kings Island Walled Town area under the THRIVE funding scheme. These included an open consultation event in the Council offices, a pop-up event on Nicholas Street, workshops with Architecture Students from UL and with 6th class students from St Mary’s National School, a tourism focus group and an online survey. The team also had a pop-up event on Culture Night and collaborated with the Hunt Museum, Paul Partnership and Limerick Island Community Partners to hold this ‘Storytelling Street’ event. The ‘Storytelling Street’ saw local people tell old stories which were brought to life with re-

enactments and mini plays. These events informed the selection of the ‘Fireplace site’ for advancing to the preparation of an application under THRIVE 2 funding.

Forward Planning took part in the first Regional Stakeholder Group meeting for PROXIMITIES, New EU Project for the Southern Region. PROXIMITIES – Promoting Accessible Services, Liveable Spaces, and Sustainable Connections in Peripheral Urban Territories – is an ambitious project focused on transforming peripheral urban areas across Europe into thriving, sustainable communities. The Southern Regional Assembly is a project Partner, and will focus on peripheral urban areas of Limerick City, Waterford City and Cork city in consultation with the Local Authority.

## Public Realm

Work continued on a number of guidance documents including the shopfront design guidelines and the Draft Public Realm Plan for the city. An assessment of the emergency parklets in the city centre was carried out and work commenced on the preparation of guidelines for these areas.



Kings Island Framework Consultation



Kings Island Framework Consultation



A Part 8 application was prepared for no. 35 – 39 Nicholas Street for a Design and Innovation Hub to comprise artist studios, workspaces, retail area, exhibition space and café/restaurant with an associated outdoor area. A number of surveys were also undertaken to inform the preparation of a public realm scheme for Nicholas Street.



Part 8 proposal No. 35-39 Nicholas Street

Under the Living City Initiative, the website was updated, a register from 2016 – 2024 was created and 10 no. applications were processed during 2024.

## Heritage

The Heritage Section covers conservation, heritage and archaeology and works across the council providing support and advice on proposed Local Authority developments and strategies; planning applications and forestry files. Assistance on other projects included the Masterplan and the Conservation and Management Plan for King John's Castle and various projects in Lough Gur. The team also provided advice to the public in relation to heritage issues and supported community groups in making various funding applications including the Community Monuments Grants.

In relation to conservation, 52 No. Section 57 Declarations and 1 Section 59 Notice were issued during the course of 2024. 5 Limerick projects received funding under the Historic Structures Fund 2024 with a total funding of €217,988 (and an additional €85,488 from the 2023 allocation). €235,868 was also allocated under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2024 to 26 Limerick projects.

In collaboration with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, two Architectural Conservation Area (A.C.A.) Wonder Wander Walking Trails were created, which will be launched in early 2025. Work also commenced and will continue on the digitisation of over 24 years of conservation files. The statutory process was commenced to add numbers 35-39 Nicholas Street to the Record of Protected Structures and tenders were issued for architectural conservation consultancy services in relation to conservation and repair of historic monuments within the city.

The Heritage Officer continued to work with local community groups and individuals and over the last 12 months has supported 8 local heritage groups to help submit applications for the Community Grants Fund. The Heritage Officer also provided support to host the Heritage Councils heritage week training and publicity event for members of the public and agencies in Limerick and surrounding counties.

Preliminary work has taken place to ensure that in 2025 Limerick will begin involvement in the Irish Community Archives Network, which will mean working with the National Museum in terms of recording local and oral history. Following this preliminary work, the programme will be rolled out in 2025, by inviting local history and community groups to participate in training.

The Local Authority Archaeologist represented the council at a number of events throughout 2024. These included the URBACT Conference in Spain, lunch time lectures to St. Mary's Adult Education Centre as part of the Irish Walled Towns Network Capital Grant, delivery of a lecture to the Institute of Archaeologists Annual Conference and to 'The friends of Derry City Walls'. The Local Authority Archaeologist also contributed to outreach under the URBACT programme in May and during Heritage Week for the 'Dancing the Walls of Limerick day'. Other events during Heritage Week included a tour of 'Kilmallock through the ages' and a tour to the Building Limes Forum.

The team successfully applied for, coordinated and drew down three Community Monuments Grants for capital works in Ballynoe, Bruree (€100,000) and Galbally Church (€100,000) and advanced works for Mahoonagh Church (€12,000). Under the Irish Walled Town Capital Grant for works, €70,000 was received for the City Wall off Island Road. Other work included the co-ordination of a capital project on the clay bank in Johnsgate, increasing its use as an amenity and also coordinated and worked with the researcher for the Visualising Heritage project in Kilmallock in tandem with University College Cork and the University of Bradford.

## DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

### Planning

#### The Planning and Development Act 2024

The Planning and Development Act 2024 was signed into law on 17 October. Key reforms included in the Bill were:

- The introduction of statutory timelines for all consenting processes to give confidence and certainty to applicants;
- A significant reorganisation of An Bord Pleanála, to be known as An Coimisiún Pleanála;
- Greater mandatory alignment of all tiers of planning, improving consistency;
- Improvements to the planning judicial review processes;
- Clearer, more consistent policies and guidance;
- Longer term, more strategic ten-year plans for Local Authorities;
- More agile local implementation, through the introduction of Urban and Priority Area Plans, including new bespoke plans for Gaeltacht and Island communities;
- Creation of Urban Development Zones, which will facilitate a more plan-led approach to development, increasing certainty at the master-planning stage;
- Provisions to deter abuse of planning processes through spurious planning submissions and appeals, as well as a ban on requesting payment for not opposing development and;
- Ability to suspend the duration of a permission while subject to judicial review proceedings, so as not to lose any time available for completing the development.

The Act will be commenced by way of Ministerial Order. This will be done on a phased basis to allow for the smooth operational transition of this updated legislation across the planning system.



### Development Management

The Planning Section is responsible for the evaluation of planning applications received across the county.

A total of 1,625 planning applications were received in the year up to 30 November, an increase of 7% on the same period in 2023. Refusals formed 7.5% of decisions to the end of November.

The Planning Section decided on two Large-Scale Residential Developments in the year to 3 November.

A number of significant planning applications were granted in 2024. The table below contains a sample of these developments.

Planning Reference Number	Description of Development
23/60837	UPMC Ireland in Partnership with Tinwat Holdings Ltd. The development of a new Ambulatory Medical Facility at Ballygrennan, Moyross Avenue, Moyross, Limerick.
23/60842	Philip Collins Large Scale Residential Development Application: In total, the proposed development would provide a total residential gross floor area of 11,749.9m <sup>2</sup> and a creche facility of 352.2m <sup>2</sup> . 122 residential units & apartments at Golf Links Road Newtown, Monaleen, Limerick.
23/563	Johnson & Johnson Vision Care Ireland UC A development that will consist of permission for: (1) The construction of building extensions to the rear (north-east) of the existing facility including roof plant & equipment. (2) The construction/installation of tanks, plant & equipment, equipment enclosures and associated bunds to the existing tank farm & nitrogen compound, to the rear of the main facility. (3) The installation of an access panel in the front (south-west) facade. (4) Modifications/Retention permission to previously as granted scheme under planning ref. no. 18/884, including facade changes, modifications to roof plant and roof access stairs. (5) All associated ancillary site works at Plassey Park Road National Technology Park Rivers Limerick.
24/60010	Loughmore Healthcare No.2 Limited A development including a two storey nursing home, single storey service building and a biodiversity area on a site at Baunacloka, Mungret, Co. Limerick (which has an existing planning permission for a 82 bed nursing home, reference P17/677 & P20/93).
23/60965	Mary Immaculate College Permission for development on this c. 0.79 ha site, on lands at the library and educational complex, within the Mary Immaculate College Campus.
23/60951	Tinwat Holdings Ltd. (part of the Whitebox Group) in partnership with Cluid Housing Permission for the development that comprises (a) 73 no. residential units including (i) 34 no. 2 storey 3 bed units; (ii) 6 no. 2 storey 4 bed units; (iii) 6 no. 3 storey 4 bed units; and (iv) 27 no. 3 storey 3 bed units; (b) a 4 storey neighbourhood centre including (i) 42 no. 2 bed elderly housing apartment unit with communal roof garden; (ii) pharmacy with drive-through dispensary window; (iii) coffee shop with external seating area; (iv) local convenience retail unit; (v) day centre and all ancillary rooms; (vi) ESB-substation, switch room, plant room and bin store; (c) 3 storey 90-bed nursing home at Ballygrennan, Moyross Avenue, Moyross.
23/60794	Ballygrennan Homes Limited Permission for the development that comprises (i) 74 no. residential units at Morningstar River at Ballygrennan, Bruff, Co. Limerick.

Planning Reference Number	Description of Development
23/557	Tribeca Asset Management Limited (Trading as Tribeca Holdings) Large Scale Residential Development Application: , the proposed development will consist of the construction of 167 no. new residential units in 5 new residential buildings ranging in height from 3 storeys to 5 storeys (Blocks 01, 02, 03, 04 and 05), a creche; the refurbishment of Ardhu House (Protected Structure RPS Reg. No. 3281) to provide ancillary residential amenity uses, and the refurbishment of the Ardhu Bar licenced premises at Ardhu House, Ennis Road, Roses Avenue and North Circular Road, Limerick.
24/60159	Croom Medical Permission for the development that consists of an extension to the existing facility consisting of additional light industrial manufacturing area, two storey ancillary office space for staff facilities resulting in additional gross floor area of 3050m2 at Croom Medical, Tooreen, Croom.
23/60703	Can2 Investments Ltd. Permission for development that will consist of: (1) The partial demolition of 1895sq.m of a building currently in use as the South Court Hotel and the construction of a 6 no. storey, 2 no. basement (a total of 8 levels) mixed use development on a 0.935ha site, which will be comprised of 84 no. residential apartments at Southcourt Raheen, Dooradoyle.
23/60706	Rockspring Developments Limited Permission for the construction of a residential development of 53 no. dwelling houses and all ancillary site works at Carrig Desmond, Churchtown Road, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.
24/60032	Riverpoint Construction Ltd Permission for the construction of 99 no. residential units at Clonconane, Old Cratloe Road, Limerick.

### Agent's Workshop

The Planning Section held a workshop with Planning Agents on 14 November. The workshop, the first in what is hoped to be a regular annual event, dealt with topics including the Planning and Development Act 2024; the new Taking in Charge of Housing Estates Protocol; and Roads Section requirements for housing estates. 50 agents attended the event.



Agents Workshop November 2024

### Development Contributions

Circular Letter PL02/2024 extended the period to which the Temporary Development Contribution Waiver would apply to 31 December.

The waiver applies to all permitted residential development that commences between 25 April 2023 and 31 December 2024 and must be completed not later than 31 December 2026.

Monies received to the end of November 2024, in accordance with Development Contribution Scheme, totalled €2,485,872.

### Online Planning

Online Planning is an online portal developed by the LGMA through which planning applications can be made and applicants will be kept updated on the progress of their application. The portal went live in Limerick City and County Council on 15 December 2022. 2024 saw an increase of 73% in the number of applications received via the online portal, in comparison to 59% of planning applications received by the end of November 2023.

The portal also allows for applications for Local Authority development (Part 8 developments) to be submitted and managed online. The Planning Section supported 13 Part 8 proposals in 2024 including housing, active travel, tourism, community and public realm projects.

### Section 179A Planning

The Planning and Development and Foreshore (Amendment) Act 2022 (No. 47 of 2022) and the Planning and Development (Section 179A) Regulations 2023 (SI No. 101/2023) inserted a new section, section 179A, providing an exemption for Local Authorities from the 'Part 8' Local Authority "own development" approval process. This new section also specifies exempted development status for the provision of specified forms of housing developments on designated State lands. Developments advanced under this measure must satisfy certain criteria, and must be commenced by no later than 31 December 2024. Two schemes progressed under this measure in 2024.

### Planning Enforcement

The Planning Section is responsible for the regulation of unauthorised development. The table below sets out the enforcement activity carried out to the end of November.

	30 November 2024	% increase/decrease on 2023
Complaints Received	444	-26%
Warning Letters Issued	306	16%
Enforcement Notices Issued	120	-4%
Prosecutions Initiated	43	16%



### Taking in Charge of Housing Estates

Significant progress was made in 2024 on the taking in charge of housing estates. 12 estates were taken in charge, and the intention of the Council to take an additional three estates in charge was advertised before year-end.

### Licensing

Fees for the placement of tables and chairs on public lands were waived once again in 2024 by the Minister. Nevertheless, the requirement to license street furniture remains. In 2024, the Council issued 85 Licenses under Section 254 to the end of November.

Four licenses for large-scale events issued in 2024;

- St. Patrick's Day Festival
- Riverfest
- Thomond Park
- Gaelic Grounds Concerts

### Place Making

Place-Making is a multi-faceted approach to the planning, design, proactive delivery and management of urban and town-centre areas with the intention of creating quality places, buildings and public space that promote physical, economic and environmental sustainability as well as social inclusion. The current work of the team includes;

- **Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) projects**
  - World Class Waterfront;
  - Active Travel Bridges and Waterfront Infrastructure Works
- **URDF Living Limerick City Centre Initiative;**
  - Georgian Houses Demo Projects 33-34 Thomas Street and 58 O'Connell Street,
  - Market Quarter and Cruises Street Public Realm,
  - Laneways Project, and
  - Market Quarter Food Hub
- Installation of Limerick Wayfinding Signage and Orientation Project phase 1.
- Abbeyfeale Public Realm Scheme
- Cruises Street Meanwhile Use project

- Mungret Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund Stage 3 Road

During 2024, the Place Making Team had the official opening of Stage 2 Mungret Road.

### Market Quarter and Cruises Street Public Realm

The Market Quarter and Cruise's Street project aims to provide a high-quality public realm, improving connectivity between the Milk Market and key locations within the city centre and increase economic growth in the area. The project site is strategically positioned to become a focal point for the city, benefiting from projects such as Opera Square, the Arthur's Quay Framework, O'Connell Street Upgrades, the City Centre Wayfinding and Orientation Signage Project, the Milk Market redevelopment and the implementation of a Food Hub at the Milk Market. The project will actively link the above sites, helping to increase footfall, vibrancy and promote a strong sense of place in the city centre.

Funding for the delivery of this project will come from a number of sources including; Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF), National Transport Authority and Limerick City and County Council. A Preliminary Business Case for the Project received Approval in Principle (Approval Gate 1) in November from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage URDF unit.



Market Quarter and Cruises Street Cornmarket Visualisation

The Place Making Team has advanced the project from concept, to preliminary design and non-statutory public consultation in Quarter 3 2024, to currently developing the design for a Part 8 submission in Quarter 1 2025.

### **The Georgian Laneways**

The Georgian Laneways project is one strand of the Living Limerick City Centre Initiative, supported by the Department of Local Government and Heritage Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF). The aim of the Initiative is to bring life back into the heart of the City.

The Georgian Laneways project builds on the Toolkit document that was developed as part of the Call 1 Living Georgian City Programme. A series of laneways have been identified through the Toolkit to test and demonstrate how interventions can change the public's perception of these underutilised spaces within the public realm and encourage people to use and invest in them. The proposed interventions include paving upgrades, lighting upgrades and the provision of planting and street furniture. Options are currently being developed for a pilot laneway initially and stakeholder engagement will commence in Quarter 1 2025.

### **Food Hub Market Quarter**

€1.45m has been allocated through Call 2 of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) for the implementation of a Food Hub at the Milk Market. Funding is also included for the Limerick Wayfinding and Orientation Signage Project. The overall initiative aims to position the Milk Market as a world-class Food Innovation Hub, which would be a destination for both locals and tourists, by delivering additional food experiences, an expanded portfolio of food related enterprise activity and maximizing the market's potential as a versatile civic / municipal event space.

A Preliminary Business Case for the Project received Approval in Principle in April 2024, and a further will be made to advance the project in 2025.



Schematic of Milk Market from the Limerick Milk Feasibility Study 2020 by Fáilte Ireland

### **Cruises Street Meanwhile Uses**

The Place-Making Team, through consultation with the Cruises' Street Traders, developed a Meanwhile Use Scheme of public realm enhancements for Cruises Street, Chapel Street and Todd's Bow, designed to support the local businesses, make the streets more attractive and strengthen the link between O'Connell Street and the Milk Market.

The enhancements were the first step to a longer-term strategy of comprehensive public realm enhancements for Cruises Street and the Market Quarter area as part of an Urban Regeneration and Development Fund under Project Ireland 2040.





Cruises Street Meanwhile Use Implemented in 2024  
Todd's Bow Archway



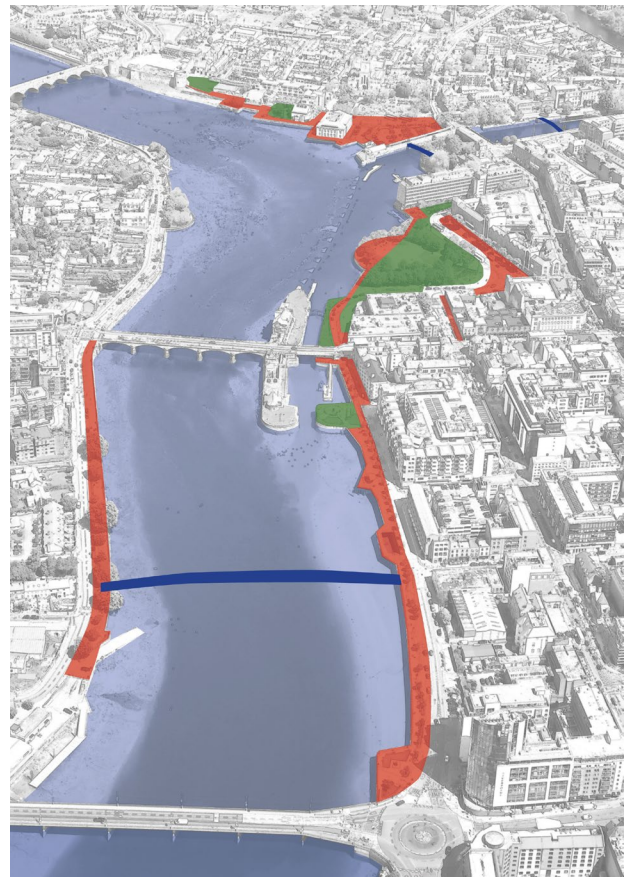
Cruises Street Meanwhile Use Implemented in 2024  
Ground Mural on Cruises Street

### **World Class Waterfront Project – Active Travel Bridges and Waterfront Infrastructural Works**

This project proposes the revitalisation of the City Quays as the main entertainment and leisure destination for Limerick City. By creating a 'World Class Waterfront' it is envisaged that Limerick will become a more active and vibrant urban centre, which is an attractive location in which people want to live, invest, work and visit. Through collaboration with the Office of Public Works (OPW), the design and development of the waterfront is to be progressed in conjunction with the Flood Relief Scheme for the City Centre area to

create a more pedestrian friendly and aesthetically pleasing environment that will maximise the amenity potential of the waterfront in Limerick City.

Funding for the delivery of this project will come from a number of sources including; Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Urban Regeneration Development Fund under Project Ireland 2040 and National Transport Authority. During 2024, an Options Report was prepared and put on Public Consultation and a second in-person public engagement event was held for the Arthurs Quay Framework. The Preliminary Business Case for the Project has been prepared and is with the URDF section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for review.



World Class Waterfront Overview



### Wayfinding Signage and Orientation Project

The key objective of this project is the delivery of contemporary, clear and legible signage to improve the wayfinding to, through and across the city. This will enhance the visitor experience in the city, and it will improve visual accessibility for all who visit Limerick City. Innovative pedestrian signage is a key objective of this project with strong signage design incorporating the Limerick Brand into all signs designed. The Project was progressed in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland under the Destination Towns Scheme and was part funded by Fáilte Ireland and Local Government and Heritage Urban Regeneration Development Fund under Project Ireland 2040.

Following a competitive tender process, Contractors were appointed to install the signage and the project reached substantial completion in September.

The project included the removal of 45 existing pedestrian wayfinding and information signs and the installation of 70 new pedestrian wayfinding and orientation signs comprising 18 Map Totems, 19 Route Markers and 33 Finger Posts and all associated site works. The development took place at numerous locations throughout Limerick City.



Wayfinding Signage

### Living Georgian City Programme

Living Georgian City Programme is one strand of the Living Limerick City Centre Initiative programme, supported by the Department of Local Government and Heritage Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF), which is aimed at the regeneration of the city core. Approval has been given to advance the projects. A historic city centre revitalization process is being piloted in Limerick's Georgian Neighbourhood with a view to possible replication in other neighbourhoods and towns in Limerick and elsewhere in Ireland. The key element of the programme is a Housing Demonstration project for two key sites at 58 O'Connell Street and 33/34 Thomas Street, Limerick to provide residential accommodation in the City Centre. The objective for this project is to provide exemplars of best practice in adaptive reuse of historic buildings.

Following the granting of Part 8 Planning approval, Fire Safety Certificates and Disability Access Certificates in 2023, the council advanced the detailed design and proceeded to tender for works contractors for 33/34 Thomas Street.

Emergency works due to the partial collapse of the building, necessitating temporary stabilisation and works to ensure security of the structure were required and completed in early 2024 by the Councils Property department.



33 - 34 Thomas Street

### Mungret Road Stage 2 Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)

Mungret Road Stage 2 Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) involved the construction of 1,610 metres of new roadway, with a length of 1,210 metres from roundabout to the T-junction, 400 metres from the T-junction to Mungret Gate and the refurbishment of the existing roundabout at the national schools. The new roadway is 26.9 metres wide, consisting of a 6.5 metre wide carriageway, 2.5 metre car parking facility either side of the carriageway, two number 1.2 metre wide verges, two number 2 metre wide footpaths, two number 2 metre wide cycle paths and two number 2.5 metre wide privacy strips. The road includes for pedestrian crossings, bus stops, bus lanes and bus priority at junctions. All services for future housing have been provided within the road corridor including foul, watermain, gas, electrical ducting, spare ducting for future use, communications (broadband) and public lighting.

The Mungret Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) road opens up lands for approximately 1,900 housing units and mixed-use development at Mungret College. A private developer has commenced construction of 200 dwellings and Land Development Agency are due to commence construction of 250 units. The road provided access to a new secondary school for 800 pupils, which opened in September, and access to lands for Mungret GAA and Dooneen Athletic Club for the provision of sports infrastructure. Bus lanes and bus priority measures have been provided at junctions and the National Transport Authority have identified the road as a bus route from Raheen to the City Centre. The combination of houses fronting on to the road and extensive shared surfaces on the road mean that the road helps to join the communities, rather than being a barrier. Sustainable infrastructure, with on-street EV charging and bus priority lanes, together with pedestrian and cyclist priority at junctions provide for the creation of a sustainable community.

The Mungret Stage 3 road, which will link the Mungret Stage 2 to Patrickswell Road R526, is currently at design stage.



Mungret Road Stage 2 LIHAF



Mungret Road Stage 2 - Road Opening 15 April 2024 LIHAF

### Abbeyfeale Public Realm Scheme

The Advance Works Contract for the demolition of O'Riordans Bar, the construction of walls to the rear of Main Street and the demolition of property at junction of Colbert Terrace and New Street to facilitate road widening on Colbert Terrace, was substantially completed in 2024.

The main scheme is divided into two phases:- Phase 1 – The reconstruction of 440 metres of modified traffic lane widths on Killarney Road N21 with new footpaths and build outs, the construction of a new 100 metre road between Main Street and Grove Crescent car park and the upgrading and extension to Grove Crescent car park. Legal agreements for land acquisition and consents were advanced and engagement with utility companies on undergrounding of overhead wires took place.

The detailed design was progressed, and a Restricted Tender for the Suitability Assessment Questionnaire was advertised on e-Tenders, resulting in the submission of eight tenders.

Phase 2 –The reconstruction of 650 metres on Main Street, The Square and Colbert Terrace. The detailed design progressed on this section of the project.



Demolition of O'Riordan's Bar



Demolition of property on Colbert Terrace

### **Blue and Green Infrastructure Strategy**

Progress was made in 2024 in advancing one of the core elements of the Limerick City and County Council Blue Green Infrastructure Strategy with the launch of a non-statutory public consultation on the proposed Blue Green Ring Masterplan. The Blue Green Ring will be an integrated network of blue (water) and green (land) spaces and walking routes, connecting the city centre of Limerick and its neighbourhoods and forming a circuitous route around Limerick City. The public consultation engaged a diverse range of stakeholders and garnered valuable feedback. This masterplan will guide future development in the project area and is set to be finalised in 2025.



Limerick City Centre and neighbourhoods draft Blue Green Ring Vision



## CATCHMENT-BASED FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT (CFRAM) PROGRAMME

### CFRAM Programme – Flood Relief Schemes (FRS)

The year 2024 marked a period of significant progress for our flood relief initiatives across key areas, including King’s Island, Limerick City and its environs, Castleconnell, Adare, and Athea. Through strategic planning, collaboration, and sustainable design approaches, we advanced these complex flood management schemes, ensuring resilience and safety for communities at risk. The sections below provide a detailed account of achievements for each scheme, highlighting our commitment to delivering effective and environmentally sensitive solutions.

#### King’s Island Flood Relief Scheme

The King’s Island Flood Relief Scheme primarily consists of 2,200 metres of 2.5-metre-high earthen flood embankment involving approximately 100,000 m3 and flood defence upgrades to existing quay walls.

The King’s Island Flood Relief Scheme will protect a total of 506 residential and 22 non-residential properties from tidal flooding, providing a 1-in-200 year flood. During the operational phase of the flood relief scheme, King’s Island will be less vulnerable to flooding, which will preserve the residential amenity and promote business and tourism opportunities on the island, making the area more desirable.

The tender for the main contract was advertised on e-Tenders in February with the awarded to Ward & Burke Construction Ltd., for the sum of €32m excl. Vat, with a contract start date of 11 November. The contract duration is twenty-four months.



Athlunkard Boat Club



Contract for construction signing for Kings Island Flood Relief Scheme September 2024, LCCC, OPW and Ward and Burke Construction Ltd.

### **Limerick City and Environs Flood Relief Scheme**

In 2024, significant milestones were achieved for the Limerick City and Environs Flood Relief Scheme:

- Hydraulic modelling and draft flood mapping were completed, forming a foundation for viable flood management options.
- Environmental consultants conducted extensive surveys, including bat, ornithology, terrestrial habitat and flora, and freshwater and estuarine studies, which are vital for options development.
- Initiation of four geotechnical contracts to assess the feasibility of proposed measures.
- The commencement of preliminary public realm design with a technical workshop, an integral part of the scheme that will shape the city's area and enhance its urban environment.
- Option development commenced in Quarter 3 2024, and we envisage having an emerging preferred option by Quarter 3 2025. Following this, we will engage with the public through a number of public consultations throughout 2025 to incorporate community input.

### **Castleconnell Flood Relief Scheme**

In 2024, the Castleconnell Flood Relief Scheme saw key advancements:

- Finalisation of the preferred option, which includes flood walls, embankments, flood gates, and pumping solutions.
- Extensive engagement with landowners, which will continue in 2025 to address their concerns and ensure cooperation.
- Gateway approval from the Office of Public Works to proceed to the planning stage.
- Submission made to An Bord Pleanála for planning approval in Quarter 4 2024, with a decision expected by June 5, 2025.
- Commencement of landowner agreements

### **Adare Flood Relief Scheme**

Significant progress was made on the Adare Flood Relief Scheme in 2024:

- Completion of hydraulic modelling and hydrology early in 2024.
- Presentation of the Emerging Preferred Scheme during the third public consultation event held in May at Adare Town Hall.
- Refinement of the preferred option to include public realm improvements at St. Nicholas School/Church, Turf Quay, and along embankment walkways.
- Advancement of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, which is well underway.
- Preparations for submission to OPW for approval to proceed to planning, scheduled for Quarter 1 2025.

### **Athea Flood Relief Scheme**

The Athea Flood Relief Scheme achieved several significant milestones in 2024:

- Presentation of the emerging preferred option to the public in February at Con Colbert Hall, incorporating their feedback into the final design.
- Completion of ecology and archaeology surveys, enabling the selection of a preferred option.
- Engagement of landscape architects to design public realm enhancements at the town park, a vital feature of the scheme.
- Execution of an invasive species management contract to mitigate ecological challenges.
- Progression of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report to the draft stage, with finalisation expected in Quarter 1 2025.
- Submission for planning approval targeted for Quarter 2 2025.

## LIMERICK 2030 DAC

### Limerick Twenty Thirty (LTT) Strategic Development DAC



CGI Opera Square

#### Opera Square

The 3.7-acre Opera Square project will be a landmark mixed-use development in a regional and national context and one that will reflect Limerick's status as a leading city in sustainability and innovation. Opera Square included the largest new civic space to be created in Limerick City Centre in over 100 years. The project blends new next generation structures with 16 carefully preserved heritage buildings. Set around a large pedestrianised square, it includes library, hotel and leisure spaces, and places to live and work.

The project is now well underway, the completion of the basement structure for One Opera Square marked the midway point in the construction program. This milestone also triggered the investment from Treaty Stone Partnership DAC, a joint venture between Limerick Twenty Thirty DAC and the Irish Strategic Infrastructure Fund (ISIF), for the office building. During the summer of 2024, excavation works for power upgrades took place. Additionally, the ESB initiated works on Rutland Street and Patrick Street.

The Topping out of One Opera Square Ceremony took place on 22 October. Limerick's One Opera Square, a 106,000 sq. ft Grade A office space, is set to create a new standard of office space in the Mid-West. The project will be an employment hub for 1,000 people and it will be the first commercial building in the Mid-West to achieve this level of sustainable design accreditation.

LTT held an open viewing at Opera Square on 9 November. Spots filled up immediately via an online booking system, and LTT and Sisk welcomed 262 visitors on the day. Coverage was shared across social media platforms.

Opera Square will be developed over six years and will employ over 3,000 people across a 450,000 sq. ft. campus. Following the Gardens International development, Opera Square will set high standards in sustainability and architecture, aiming for LEED Platinum, WELL Platinum, and Nearly Zero Energy Building (NZEB) certifications.

The Central Plaza will transition from a daytime employment hub to a night-time destination with dining and entertainment. Opera Square will attract national and international companies, creating jobs and encouraging further City Centre investments in Limerick.



Topping Out of One Opera Square





Parcel 1 Concrete Frame Complete (December 2024)

### **Cleeves Riverside Quarter**

The 10-acre former Cleeves factory site on the northern bank of the River Shannon will be part of the developing city centre. It includes the historic Cleeves factory, the Shipyard site, and the Salesian's site, connecting both sides of the North Circular Road/O'Callaghan Strand. The site's potential has been underscored by the commitment of €12.5m under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) – a pivotal moment for a project of local, regional, and national significance.

The Cleeves Riverside Quarter project made significant progress this year. Early in the year, heritage building surveys were completed and conservation designs for the Flaxmill building began. The design team and planning consultant worked on the planning application, while initial conservation designs for the Flaxmill building started in the summer.

In its ongoing efforts to facilitate city centre regeneration, Limerick Twenty Thirty (LTT) marked a significant milestone by announcing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Technological University of The Shannon (TUS) regarding the development of the 10-acre Cleeves Riverside Quarter.

The TUS element, which will be subject to funding from the Higher Education Authority (HEA) and other sources, is centred on the Cleeves Riverside Quarter Flaxmill Site in Limerick, one of the most historic industrial sites in the city.



Cleeves Riverside Quarter



Draft Masterplan Presentation

The designs for the residential components and public realm have been finalized. With the inclusion of the university campus, this addition will enhance the project, creating a new neighbourhood in Limerick where residents can live, learn, work, and grow.

### **Gardens International**

Gardens International hosted a variety of notable events that brought together professionals and community members alike. These events underscored Gardens International's role as a premier venue for both business and cultural activities. These events included;

- The LSAD Exhibition in February 2024
- The launch of the National Waste Management Plan for Circular Economy
- The LSAD Ceramics Exhibition
- The Limerick School of Music hosted a special Black-Tie Gala Fundraising Concert

- The University of Limerick hosted the UL Citizen Assembly
- The European Young Engineers Council held its 52nd conference
- The IDA Launch for North American Bancard
- The LSAD Fashion Show
- The Community Access Support Team (CAST) event
- The Garryowen Business Leadership Lunch
- An Garda Síochána - Public Speaking Workshop

### **Expression of Interest Sites – Project Management Services in accordance with Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Limerick City and County Council (LCCC)**

#### **Residential Development and Biodiversity Park, New Road Thomondgate**

The Residential Development and Biodiversity Park on New Road in Thomondgate is a remarkable project that seamlessly integrates modern living with nature conservation. This development aims to provide high-quality residential spaces while preserving and enhancing the local biodiversity.

In 2024, An Bord Pleanála (ABP) issued a notification that the planning grant by this Council was upheld.

#### **Ballygrennan Housing and Medical Development**

The Ballygrennan Housing and Medical Development is an innovative project designed to address both residential and healthcare needs in the community. This development aims to provide modern, comfortable housing options while also integrating essential medical facilities to ensure residents have convenient access to healthcare services.

In 2024, planning was granted for Phase 1, which includes a 100-bed day hospital and a 4-story medical centre. Additionally, planning was achieved for Phase 2, which comprises of 115 residential units, a 90-bed nursing home, a creche, and retail units.



Ballygrennan Housing and Medical Development

#### **Askeaton Swimming Pool**

Project Management Services in accordance with Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Limerick City and County Council.

The Askeaton Swimming Pool has seen considerable development throughout 2024, significantly supported by Limerick 2030. At the start of 2024, Limerick 2030 conducted a tender process for Flood Defence Works and Energy Upgrades. The successful tenderer was Martins Construction.

The works, being undertaken by Martins Construction Ltd. will include the upgrading of the plant room, replacement of the mechanical and electrical equipment and the installation of energy efficient heating systems along with minor capital works.

These improvements will minimise any future risk of the resource being closed to the public, due to flooding in the area and also reduce the day-to-day operational costs.



# APPENDICES









## APPENDIX

### CONFERENCES/SEMINARS ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2024

Date	Title	Venue	No.
12th to 14th January	Seminar organised by Celtic Conferences entitled 'The Finance Act 2023'	McKevitt's Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	3
16th May	Seminar organised by Eutopia entitled 'The Place Race Conference, 2024'	The Strand Hotel, Limerick	1
11th to 13th October	Seminar organised by Celtic Conferences entitled 'A Practical Guide to Budget, 2025'	McKevitt's Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	7
13th – 15th December	Seminar organised by Celtic Conferences entitled 'Health Service Entitlement	O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	1

## STATEMENT OF INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROL

### STATEMENT OF INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROL (SIFC)

#### Introduction

I, Dr Pat Daly, Director General of Limerick City and County Council am responsible for the Annual Financial Statement (AFS), prepared by the Director of Finance, in accordance with the accounting code of practice issued by the Minister under section 107 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

I certify that the financial statements of Limerick City and County Council for the year ended 31 December 2024, are in agreement with the books of account and have been prepared in accordance with the accounting requirements of the Minister of Housing Local Government and Heritage.

The AFS is subject to external audit, by an auditor of the Local Government Audit Service, whose purpose is to form an independent opinion of the accounts and state whether the annual financial statement presents *fairly the financial position* of the local authority and of its income and expenditure for the period in question, and whether the transactions of the local authority under which they purport to have been carried out. The AFS reports on the day-to-day activity of Limerick City & County Council in the form of the Statement of Comprehensive Income & Expenditure, summarised by Division. The Statement of Financial Position outlines Limerick City & County Council's overall financial position as of the 31st of December 2024.

The *Statement of Comprehensive Income* represents expenditure and income on the day-to-day running of Limerick City & County Council.

The key sources of income for Limerick City & County Council are as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Goods & Services	208,273,022	210,521,608
Grants & Subsidies	639,065,761	616,645,310
Other Contributions from other local authorities	3,206,962	3,630,679
Rates	64,012,409	64,107,619
Local Property Tax	21,329,591	19,691,079



## STATEMENT OF INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROL

The following table depicts Revenue Expenditure by Division extracted for 2024 compared to 2023:

Division	2024	2023
	€	€
A - Housing & Building excluding HAP	70,564,138	64,378,805
A - HAP Shared Service Centre	671,368,471	685,483,303
B - Road Transport & Safety	53,080,569	55,022,705
C - Water Services	13,767,003	14,684,160
D - Development Management	47,766,518	27,329,904
E - Environmental Services	39,426,523	37,886,038
F - Recreation & Amenity	16,951,004	17,346,961
G - Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,105,478	1,167,997
H - Miscellaneous Services	14,221,983	12,013,447
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>928,251,686</b>	<b>915,313,319</b>

The revenue surplus for 2024 is €26,925. As a result the accumulated revenue surplus at the end of 2024 is increased to €982,962 compared to €956,037 at the end of 2023 which is depicted in the table below. The retention of cumulative surplus is a very positive reflection of the efforts of the elected members and staff to manage the financial situation of Limerick City & County Council, and is also reflective of the continuous efforts of the staff of Limerick City & County Council in achieving better value for money and increasing overall efficiencies, which is an important foundation for the year ahead in 2025.

	2024	2023
	€	€
Income	935,887,745	914,596,296
Expenditure	928,251,686	898,623,529
Transfers from/ (to) Capital/ Reserves	(7,609,134)	(15,949,051)
Exceptional Item	0	0
Surplus/(Deficit)	26,925	23,716
Prior Year Adjustment	0	0
Opening Revenue Reserve	956,037	932,321
Closing Revenue Reserve	982,962	956,037

## STATEMENT OF INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROL

The *Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)* represents the total financial activity of the council for the year together with comparative year figures as appropriate.

The statement includes assets and liabilities as follows:

- Assets both recently constructed/purchased and historical assets
- Work in progress and preliminary schemes- mainly roads and housing
- Long Term Debtors – housing loans
- Current Assets- including Stock, Debtors, Cash at bank
- Current and long term liabilities- mortgage and non-mortgage loan borrowings
- Various Reserves/Balances

The Net Assets of Limerick City & County Council at the end of 2024 totals €3,742,144,313 and are as follows:

	2024	2023
	€	€
Fixed Assets	3,495,633,640	3,425,059,988
Work in Progress	225,301,480	186,975,279
Long Term debtors	162,040,710	159,451,892
Current Assets	171,605,479	195,487,536
Current Liabilities	91,081,318	103,081,758
Net Current Assets/ (Liabilities)	80,524,162	92,405,778
Creditors (Amounts greater than 1 year)	221,355,678	215,393,730
Net Assets/(Liabilities)	3,742,144,313	3,648,499,207

A *Statement of Funds Flow* was introduced as part of AFS 2011. While the guidance of International Accounting Standard 7 Statement of Cash Flows has been followed, the business of local authorities is substantially different to most private sector organisations and therefore some minor changes to the format have been agreed to ensure the data displayed is meaningful and useful within the local government sector.

### System of Internal Financial Controls

As Director General of Limerick City & County Council, I acknowledge my responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated by the Limerick City & County Council. This responsibility is exercised in the context of the resources available to Limerick City & County Council. Also, any system of internal financial control can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance that

## STATEMENT OF INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROL

assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely manner. Maintaining the system of internal financial controls is a continuous process and the system and its effectiveness are kept under ongoing review.

### **Financial control environment**

As Director General of Limerick City & County Council, I confirm that a financial control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- Financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability.
- Reporting arrangements have been established at all levels where responsibility for financial management has been assigned.
- Formal procedures have been established for reporting significant control failures and ensuring appropriate corrective action.
- There is an Audit Committee which as part of its work programme regularly review the internal financial control system.
- Procedures for all key business processes have been documented.
- There are systems in place to safeguard the assets.

### **Administrative Controls and Management Reporting**

As Director General of Limerick City & County Council, I confirm that a framework of administrative procedures and regular management reporting is in place including segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability and, in particular, that:

- procedures for key business processes have been documented
- there are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the ICT systems
- there are systems in place to safeguard the assets of the local authority and
- there are appropriate capital investment control guidelines and formal project management disciplines in operation.

### **Procurement compliance**

Limerick City & County Council ensures that there is an appropriate and ongoing focus on good practice in tendering and purchasing and that procedures are in place to ensure compliance with all relevant procurement guidelines.

### **Internal audit and Audit Committee**

As Director General, I can confirm that Limerick City & County Council has an internal audit function with appropriately trained personnel, which operates in accordance with a written charter. Its work is informed by analysis of the financial risks to which Limerick City & County Council is exposed and its annual internal audit plans are based on this analysis. I am satisfied that there are procedures in place to ensure that the reports of the internal audit function are followed up.



## STATEMENT OF INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROL

I can confirm that Limerick City & County Council has an effective audit committee which carries out an annual effectiveness review of their activities. I can also confirm that an Audit Committee is in place in accordance with the requirements of Section 122 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

The statutory functions of audit committees as set out in section 59 and 60 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 are as follows:

- I. to review financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the local authority that has established it;
- II. to foster the development of best practice in the performance by the local authority of its internal audit function;
- III. to review any audited financial statement, auditor's report or auditor's special report in relation to the local authority and assess any actions taken within that authority by its Director General in response to such a statement or report and to report to that authority on its findings;
- IV. to assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to the local authority's performance of its functions; and
- V. to review systems that are operated by the local authority for the management of risks.

I recognise that the audit committee plays a crucial role in the governance framework of local authorities, particularly in the context of increased public sector accountability. They have an independent role in advising the Council on financial reporting processes, internal control, risk management and audit matters as part of the systematic review of the control environment and governance procedures of the local authority.

I acknowledge the Audit Committee's role in the risk management process and in the continuing review of the control environment and governance procedures in Limerick City & County Council.

### **Risk and control framework**

Limerick City & County Council has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, mitigate those risks.

A corporate risk register is in place which identifies the key risks and evaluates and grades them according to their significance. The register is reviewed and updated by the Management Team on a regular basis. There is also a risk register in place for each service division and these are also reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

## STATEMENT OF INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROL

The outcome of these assessments is used to plan and allocate resources to ensure risks are managed to an acceptable level. The risk register details the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks and responsibilities for the operation of controls are assigned to specific staff.

As Director General, I confirm that key risks and related controls have been identified and processes have been put in place to monitor the operation of those key controls and report any identified deficiencies.

The Statement of Internal Financial Control will be included in the published Annual Report prepared and adopted by the Council by 30 June 2025.

Signed by:



**Director General**

Dated:

06/05/2025



## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

### Purpose

The purpose of this governance statement is to provide relevant information on the governance structures and governance arrangements within the local authority including on council, committees, senior management and related areas. It demonstrates our commitment to effective governance, recognises key legislative and good governance requirements and affirms the Council's compliance with the Local Government Code of Governance obligations.

### Good Governance

Fundamentally, good governance in the local government sector and wider public sector is about delivering priorities, achieving objectives, behaving with integrity and acting in the public interest, in ways that are consistent with legal, regulatory and government policy obligations. Governance refers to the framework of rules, relationships, systems and processes by which the local authority is directed, controlled and held to account and whereby authority within an organisation is exercised and maintained. It encompasses authority, accountability, stewardship and leadership, direction and control.

### Good Governance Principles

**CORE PRINCIPLE 1** - Good governance means focusing on the purpose of the authority, on outcomes that deliver sustainable economic, community and wider societal benefits and on implementing a vision for the local authority.

**CORE PRINCIPLE 2** - Good governance means promoting and demonstrating public service values through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour.

**CORE PRINCIPLE 3** - Good governance means members and officials working together to achieve a common purpose within a framework of clearly defined functions and roles.

**CORE PRINCIPLE 4** - Good governance means developing the organisational capacity and the leadership capability and competencies of members and officials to operate effectively and fulfil the purpose of the organization.

**CORE PRINCIPLE 5** - Good governance means taking well-informed and transparent decisions and managing risks and performance.

**CORE PRINCIPLE 6** - Good governance means engaging openly and comprehensively with local people, citizens and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.

**CORE PRINCIPLE 7** - Good governance means actively contributing to the furtherance and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by delivering on the priorities and actions within the Climate Action Plan and the provisions of the Climate Act.

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

### **Our Commitment to Good Governance**

As the Mayor and Director General of the council, and on behalf of the elected members, management and staff we confirm that;

1. We have adopted the governance principles as the fundamental bedrock and philosophy on how we operate as a governing body and as an executive.
2. The Local Government Code of Governance has been adopted and the extent to which the Council is in compliance with the Code has been reviewed and assessed.
3. The Statement of Internal Financial Control is submitted by the Director General to the Elected Members and to the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee reviews the SIFC and provides an assurance on an annual basis to the Elected Members. Mechanisms are available to the Audit Committee to notify the Elected Members of any issues that arise outside of the normal annual reporting.
4. Compliance with legal and regulatory obligations are acknowledged and adhered to.
5. There is clarity of roles and responsibilities based on the reserved and executive functions and based on committee terms of reference.
6. Codes of Conduct and ethics declarations for members and employees are in place.
7. Procedures are in place for the making of protected disclosures in accordance with section 21(1) of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 and confirmation that the annual report required under section 22(1) of the Act has been published.
8. The Council and Committees review their own performance on a periodic basis.
9. We have instituted appropriate governance oversight arrangements in respect of subsidiary, associated and related companies.
10. As part of our commitment to effective oversight and accountability, we have developed and continue to enhance our overall assurance framework utilising external and internal assurance sources to ensure good performance as part of our governance culture.

## PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

**\*\*TO FOLLOW ONCE APPROVED  
BY NOAC (JULY/SEPTEMBER) –  
10 PAGES APPROXIMATELY**

